

PH6351237

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 8 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 11 1977SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

* * Curtis House
AND/OR COMMON

Howze-Culpepper House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

510 North Main

CITY, TOWN

Demopolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

CODE

01

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

COUNTY

Marengo

CODE

091

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

T. M. Culpepper, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

502 North Main

CITY, TOWN

Demopolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama 36732

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Marengo County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Linden

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	RUINS	X ALTERED	MOVED DATE
FAIR	UNEROSSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Curtis House is a substantial but severe two-story town house most noted for its late Georgian massing and sparsely of detailing. Located in a residential section with closely spaced structures, it occupies a corner lot and has a minimal set back.

The house faces west onto Main Street and displays a five bay facade and hipped roof with a simple cornice and delicately banded architrave. Exterior walls and foundations, which are constructed of locally made red brick laid in common bond, are 18 inches thick. Interior walls, with one exception are also of brick and measure 13 inches.

The central entrance on the west is a single door flanked by sidelights and heavy Doric pilasters and topped by a rectangular transom and broad architrave with banded molding. Windows of the first floor are 6/6 with flat arch lintels, while those of the upper floor are 9/6. During the early 20th Century a three bay portico was added to the facade and at the same time the central upper window was cut into a doorway. A single entrance on the north is treated with a small transom and gives access to a rear room.

Originally the house was L-shaped, consisting of two front rooms divided by a central hall which led directly into a rear room on the north. In the early 20th Century a wooden two-story addition on the southeast completed the rectangle. A central interior chimney is located between the northern rooms, while a single exterior chimney on the south serves the southern rooms.

Like exterior, the interior is noted for its severity. A single run stair ascends the northern wall of the central hall, and except for the first eight or ten steps the stairs are enclosed. Balusters are simple and rectangular, while the newel is in the shape of a tapered obelisk. Window and door trim throughout is unadorned; however, the mantels of the front rooms have banded molding. The upstairs plan follows the lower, with the hall extending the length of the house, dividing the floor into three rooms of equal size. Ceiling height for the first floor is 10'2" and 9'4" for the second; flooring throughout is the original 7" wide heart pine. The house has been well maintained and the only alterations consist of the previously mentioned portico and the rear addition which houses modern facilities.

II SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE			CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ART/ARTISTRY	PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHAEOLOGY/HISTORIC		CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE		ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE		EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART		ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X 1800-1899	COMMERCE		EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900	COMMUNICATIONS		INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
			INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Curtis House is a fine example of a town house constructed during the early years of the expansion of the cotton plantation system in the Black Belt section of Alabama. Constructed in the 1830's or early 1840's, the house served as a town residence of Samuel Curtis, a prominent cotton planter who maintained a large plantation in Old Spring Hill, approximately 12 miles southeast of Demopolis.

Curtis, who acquired the property in 1836, was a veteran of the Revolutionary War and a native of North Carolina. In 1805 he moved into Washington County, at that time part of the Mississippi Territory. By 1819, the year Alabama was admitted to the Union, he had established himself in Old Spring Hill and had begun to acquire vast acreage. In his later years he acquired the two lots in Demopolis. One reference to the building in early court records refers to it as "a building known as the old brick store" suggesting the possibility that it was used commercially at one time.

Whether or not Curtis constructed the home, he established it as his town residence and like many prosperous planters divided his time between the farm and town. At his death in 1848, he left his plantation home and personal property to his wife; the rest was to be divided equally among the 13 heirs. As the town house and lots could not be equally divided they were sold at auction to Thomas Buford, a lawyer. In the 1850 census, Buford was listed as living here. Subsequently the house changed hands twice before it was acquired in 1931 by T.M. Culpepper, Jr.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Marengo County Deeds, Marengo County Courthouse, Linden, Alabama.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ADDRESS OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 of an acre.
UTM REFERENCES

Based on map
LATITUDE 32° 31' 44" N
LONGITUDE 87° 50' 25" W

A [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Bertins
 ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission
 STREET & NUMBER: 121 Monroe Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery
 DATE: November 22, 1976
 TELEPHONE: (205) 832-6621
 STATE: Alabama 36130

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE: *[Signature]*

TITLE: *[Signature]* DATE: November 22, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF: *[Signature]* DATE: 4/11/77
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *[Signature]* DATE: 3.15.77
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

