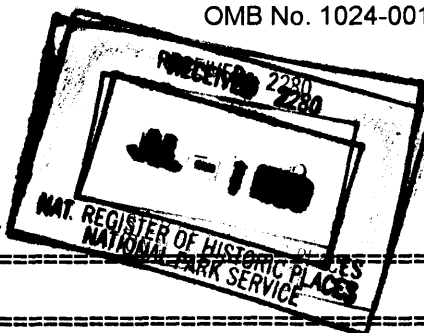


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



888

1. Name of Property

historic name Cobb House

other names/site number Waite House, Jackson House

2. Location

street & number North side of US 84, 1.4 mi. West of US 43 not for publication N/A

city or town Grove Hill vicinity X

state Alabama code AL county Clarke code 025 zip code 36451

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide x locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Elizabeth Ann Brown 6-22-99  
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

John 7/28/99  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edouard H. Beall

John \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====

**5. Classification**

=====

<b>Ownership of Property</b> (Check as many boxes as apply.)	<b>Category of Property</b> (Check only one box.)	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			<u>2</u> Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Historic and Architectural Properties of Clarke County, AL

None

=====

**6. Function or Use**

=====

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in progress Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====

**7. Description**

=====

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: I-house

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Concrete

roof Asphalt

walls Wood: weatherboard

Wood: flush board

other Stone: limestone

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

=====

**8. Statement of Significance**

=====

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) n/a

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** circa 1865-1870 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates** circa 1865-1870 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder** unknown \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)** N/A
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- Primary location of additional data:** N/A
- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other state agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

**Acreage of Property** 5 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>424020</u>	<u>3508150</u>	3
2	_____	_____	4	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

name/title Johnathan A. Farris/Survey Coordinator with Trina Binkley/National Register Reviewer

organization Alabama Historical Commission date 3/30/99

street & number 468 South Perry Street telephone (334)242-3184

city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130-0900

=====  
**Additional Documentation**  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Harvey H. III and Suzanne B. Jackson

street & number 407 Rocky Ridge Road NE telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Jacksonville state Alabama zip code 36265

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Cobb House  
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

=====

**Architectural Description**

The Cobb-Waite House sits facing south in an open and elevated five-acre lot overlooking the Grove Hill/Coffeerville Road (State Highway 12/US Highway 84). It is a two-story wood frame end gabled house with a single pile deep core (i.e. it is an I-house). On the first story, the house possesses three rear enclosed shed rooms and a one-story front-full facade shed porch. The roof is asphalt shingled and the remaining east end chimney is limestone ashlar with a brick cap. The original foundation is of fieldstone piers and at a later point acquired concrete block infill and, on the front elevation, a stuccoed surface treatment. The attached shed front porch is supported by plain wooden piers dating from a circa 1950 restoration of the house, which rest directly on the porch floor. The balustrade on the front porch was also added circa 1950 but actually dates from 1899: it came from the gallery of the county courthouse in Grove Hill before its demolition in the 1950s. The front steps are of poured concrete and date from the early 20th century. The walls are weatherboarded except for underneath the front porch where flush board was utilized. Front and rear elevations of the house are five fenestration bays (three structural bays) wide. The first story of the front elevation possesses large six over six sash windows. Nine over six sash windows punctuate the second story of the front elevation. The front door is a double door with a seven-pane transom and four-pane sidelights. The eastern side elevation contains two nine over nine sash windows flanking the chimney, one six over six sash window in the rear shed, no second story windows, and two 20th-century fixed louvre attic vents. The fenestration of the rear elevation of the shed rooms consists of two nine over nine sash windows in the eastern structural bay, two four over four sash windows flanking a central single leaf door with a door hood in the central structural bay, and a six over six sash window and a nine over six sash window in the western structural bay. The central bay of the rear shed is also clad in narrower weatherboard than the flanking structural bays, having been enclosed at a later date. As in the front elevation, the second story windows of the rear are five nine over six sash windows. The western side elevation contains one large six over six sash window in the bay closest the front, two nine over six sash windows in the second story, and one twentieth-century fixed louvre attic vent.

The interior of the Cobb-Waite House contains many intact historical elements of finish, is missing other elements, but really has no modern additions or alterations dating from the last fifty years. Interior walls are of flush board. The central passage on the first floor largely appears today much the same as the day it was built. The passage features wide beaded baseboards, plain door surrounds, and an unusual L-shaped stair. The bottom section of the stair is a straight running closed stringer stair. The upper section of the stair turns the corner and is an open stringer stair. Both sections are tied into a common rectangular post which is the center point of the turn in the stair. Both sections are bedecked with a beaded stringboard. The stair balusters are plain and rectangular. The stair rail is rounded. The newel post is chamfered and has a low-pitched pyramidal cap. The original rear door is now a door that leads onto the central back shed room. It does, however, maintain its original double doors, seven-pane transom, and four-pane sidelights so that it matches nearly exactly the front door, with the exception that the stair is visible behind the most westerly of the transom panes.

The eastern first floor front room is the most elaborately appointed of the house. This room is wrapped by a dado formed with a baseboard and a chair rail both surmounted by a prominent protruding bead and connected by vertical planks which were clearly meant to suggest simple recessed panels. The window surrounds rest directly upon the chair rail component of the dado and are plain except for a bead formed by nailing narrow planks with rounded off sides to the interior of the window jamb. The mantel piece is of simplified Greek Revival inspiration, with two heavy pilasters surmounted by a thick and sparsely molded lintel. The hearth stone is a single large block of limestone. Four paneled doors occur in this room and throughout the house. The western first story front room had been altered at one time to contain a bathroom, which is currently being dismantled to establish the original dimensions of the space. The rear shed rooms are very plain, with the eastern one having been converted into kitchen space. The central shed room was enclosed around the turn-of-the-century (it would have originally been a recessed porch) and has narrow beaded board wall cladding on the interior face of the north (exterior) wall.

The upstairs interior is in most respects very plain. The upstairs window surrounds are unornamented, but there are beaded baseboards throughout. The upstairs passage is distinguished by a zig-zag shaped railing which marks the edge of the stairwell. The railings are rounded and supported by simple rectangular balusters like the stair rails. The three newels which mark the corners of the railing are very plain and rectilinear, with the middle one being a continuation of the post into which the corner angled stairs are tied. The upstairs passage also features two attached cabinets from the first half of the twentieth

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

Name of Property: Cobb House  
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

=====

century flanking the front window. The eastern upstairs room features a heavy, Greek Revival inspired mantel like the one in the room directly below it.

The yard contains mature oaks, magnolias, and camellias. Two non-historic outbuildings sit on the property. One is a small and rather damaged prefabricated metal building on a concrete slab. The other is a front gabled wooden frame shed with a simple post framing system tied together with wood plank siding and surmounted by a seam metal roof.

Although no archaeological survey work has been conducted on the property associated with the Cobb House, there is the potential that the resource could include archaeological remains which yield information on domestic life in Reconstruction-era Southwestern Alabama.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Name of Property: Cobb House  
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

=====  
**Statement of Significance**

The Cobb-Waite House is significant under criterion C for architecture as the only extant example of a rural extended I-house in Clarke County.<sup>1</sup> The Cobb-Waite House maintains its extended I-house form and possesses the one-story front shed porch and one-story rear enclosed shed that gives this I-house its "extended" characteristics which are widely typical of the house form in the Deep South. The Cobb-Waite House is also significant under criterion C for architecture as one of the few examples of Reconstruction/immediate post-bellum architecture in the county; it is, therefore, not only characteristic of, but also one of two houses (the other being the Jessie Pickens Pugh House nearby) definitive for rural architecture of that era in the county. The Cobb-Waite House is also significant under criterion C for architecture for its examples of naive interior finishes, representing the scarcity of joinery skills in the area during the period. No ornamental reeding or finely carved detail is present in the house, although the mantels and dado in the east downstairs room are attempts to simulate the antebellum I-houses of the region. It appears that these details were in fact executed by a carpenter with little or no joinery experience. The unusual combination closed stringer and open stringer staircase probably relates to the comparative rarity of two-story houses before the turn-of-the-century in Clarke County and hence the relative inexperience of local craftsmen in building conventional stairs.

**Historical Summary**

The Cobb-Waite House was built by Enoch S. Cobb between 1865 and 1870. Cobb was born around 1828 in Monroe County, Alabama, the son of Samuel Cobb, an early settler of the region from North Carolina.<sup>2</sup> Before the Civil War, Enoch Cobb fit into the small planter class of Clarke County, with \$6,000 of real estate and \$18,951 of personal estate (a large percentage of which represents his eight slaves) in 1860.<sup>3</sup> In some respects, Cobb's household in 1860 resembled more a yeoman farmer model than a typical South Alabama planter household, with his large family of his wife and six children and a hired day laborer all living in his house. Unlike many of the planter class, Enoch Cobb's business circumstances did not truly suffer during the Civil War. He in fact does not lose his labor force immediately upon emancipation. From the 1870 census, it appears that at least three of Cobb's former slaves stay on (one of which starts his own family), adopt his surname, and presumably work for him.<sup>4</sup> In the later 19th century, Cobb would become known as "one of the principal monied men of the county."<sup>5</sup> It is unclear what sources of income gave Cobb this status, but he clearly aimed to imitate planter architecture in the dwelling which he had constructed. In 1880, Cobb's farm was valued at \$1000.<sup>6</sup> At that time only 30 acres of his land was tilled, the other 620 acres being wooded. The tilled acres produced 160 bushels of corn and limited amounts of oats and sweet potatoes. Cobb also had cattle, hogs, and chickens on the farm. At some point in the 1880s, Cobb in fact bought an antebellum I-house in Grove Hill proper (the Alston-Cobb House, NRHP 4/30/79). The I-house clearly was the domestic form that represented social success to Cobb.

---

<sup>1</sup>There is one other rural house in the extreme northeastern area of the county which currently has the exterior appearance of an extended I-house, but it was constructed as (and still structurally is) a two story log dogtrot.

<sup>2</sup>1860 Alabama Federal Census, Clarke County Household 925. and Ball, Rev. T.H. Clarke County, Alabama, and its Surroundings. (Grove Hill, AL: Clarke County Historical Society, 1972 [originally published 1882]). p. 351.

<sup>3</sup>1860 Alabama Federal Census, Clarke County Household 925.

<sup>4</sup>1870 Alabama Federal Census, Clarke County Households 111, 112.

<sup>5</sup>Ball, Rev. T.H. Clarke County, Alabama, and its Surroundings. p. 351.

<sup>6</sup>Data on Cobb's farm in 1880 come from the 1880 Alabama Agricultural Census, Clarke County, p. 2.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8/9 Page 4

Name of Property: Cobb House  
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

When Enoch Cobb died in 1891, the property passed to his son, Dr. Jesse M. Cobb, who in 1901 sold the property to Mrs. Betty Pugh Waite. William Waters Waite, a sheriff and later U.S. Deputy Marshal in Mobile, traditionally bought the property and put it in his wife's name so that the family would retain the property if something were to happen to him in the course of his law enforcement duties.<sup>7</sup> In the decade or two after the Waites purchased the house, they added a gabled wing to the front to help accommodate their eight children and updated the porch with bungalow-type battered piers on brick bases. The west chimney was apparently also removed during this period and an exterior door was added to the second fenestration bay on the west elevation. The enclosure of the central rear shed bay also probably dates to the early period of the Waite occupation of the house. Around 1950, Mary Waite Tucker, a daughter of Bettie and William Waite, inherited the house and subsequently restored the house to its original I-house form by removing the front gabled wing. She also added the current porch railings, which were obtained upon the demolition of the turn-of-the-century Clarke County Courthouse. The absence of interior details in the western rooms of the house no doubt partially relate to the 20th-century renovations of the house. About 1980, Mary Waite Tucker died and the property was inherited by her daughter, also named Mary Waite Tucker. The current owner, Harvey Jackson, is a Waite descendant and inherited the house in 1992.

**Bibliography**

1880 Alabama Agricultural Census.

1860 Alabama Federal Census.

1870 Alabama Federal Census.

Ball, Rev. T.H. Clarke County, Alabama, and its Surroundings. (Grove Hill, AL: Clarke County Historical Society, 1972 [originally published 1882]).

Jackson, Harvey H. Personal Correspondence to Ellen Mertins. April 15, 1996.

---

<sup>7</sup>Information on the Waite occupation of the house is derived from a letter to Ellen Mertins from Harvey Jackson (the current owner and Waite descendant) dated 4/15/1996.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10/photos Page 5

Name of Property: Cobb House  
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

=====

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning 1520' south of the northwest corner of section 32 of township 9 North/Range 3 East, proceed easterly 535' to northerly right of way of US 84, then southwesterly 550' along said right of way, then northerly 590' to the initial point.

**Boundary Justification**

The National Register Boundaries for the Cobb-Waite House include five acres of land historically associated with the house that make up the current legal boundaries of the property.

**Photographic Log**

Cobb House  
Clarke County, Alabama

Photographer: Johnathan Farris  
Date: February 3, 1999  
Location of negatives: Alabama Historical Commission

1. South elevation of house, looking north
2. House, looking northeast
3. East elevation of house, looking west
4. North elevation of house, looking south
5. Staircase, looking west
6. Staircase (detail), looking northwest
7. Second-story stairwell railing, looking northwest
8. Original rear doors, looking south
9. Early twentieth-century north wall of central bay, looking north
10. First story eastern room., looking east
11. First story western room, looking west
12. Second story central passage, looking south
13. Second story eastern room mantle, looking east
14. Second story western room, looking south
15. Outbuilding (nc), looking northwest
16. Outbuilding (nc), looking northeast