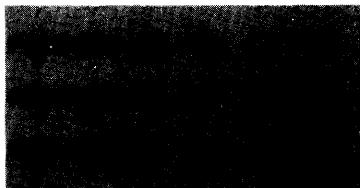


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Kartus-Vance <sup>House</sup> (Dr. Thomas McAdory Owen House)  
and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 510 North 18th Street \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Bessemer \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 6 7  
state Alabama code 01 county Jefferson code 073

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b> ___ district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) ___ structure ___ site ___ object	<b>Ownership</b> ___ public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private ___ both <b>Public Acquisition</b> ___ in process ___ being considered	<b>Status</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied ___ unoccupied ___ work in progress <b>Accessible</b> ___ yes: restricted ___ yes: unrestricted ___ no	<b>Present Use</b> ___ agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial ___ educational ___ entertainment ___ government ___ industrial ___ military	___ museum ___ park ___ private residence ___ religious ___ scientific ___ transportation ___ other:
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**4. Owner of Property**

name Furner, Boyce & Nave  
street & number 510 North 18th Street  
city, town Bessemer \_\_\_ vicinity of state Alabama

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse  
street & number  
city, town Birmingham \_\_\_ vicinity of state Alabama

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no  
date 1970-present \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local  
depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission  
city, town Montgomery \_\_\_ vicinity of state Alabama

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered (slightly)	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kartus-Vance House is a two-story frame, vernacular Victorian structure with Queen Anne influences. It has a gable and wing plan with a partial hip roof over the gable section at the front facade. The gable section is one double-bay wide by two bays deep and has a center chimney and an attic. A second chimney is located at the rear west corner of the gable. The 1 1/2-story wing section which has a "salt box" roof line, is two bays wide with two small windows offset to the right at the second floor. There are two one-story shed roof additions on the rear of the structure. The house sits on a 3' high brick and block foundation, and is located on an urban lot amidst other residential and commercial structures.

The exterior has wood clapboard siding. The front facade has two horizontal bands of different siding; one of "fish scale" shingles at the second-story floor line, and one of flat-sawn boards at the first-story floor line. The front facade has a pedimented wall dormer, containing a semi-circular fan-light, below which is a double-window bay set about 3" in relief from the wall and "supported" on 3 small simple brackets. The entablature is a wide flat board topped by a crown-moulding cornice. A one-story porch with a hip roof wraps around the front and part of the east facades. All roof areas are covered in metal shingles.

Most of the windows retain their original 4/4 sash, with simple flat trim. The front door is offset to the right, in the wing. It is a single large light with beveled glass, below a transom.

INTERIOR: Interior finishes are drywall over plaster, mouldings, and some wood wainscotting. Floors are pine. There are four fireplaces - two up and two down - on the center chimney of the gable section. The mantels on the first floor are wooden, carved with columns; one in the living room with pink ceramic tile (not original), and one in the dining room with brown/green tile (original). Both second floor bedrooms have cast iron mantels. The stairway, at the front, west end in the wing is a scissor return with landing, and has late Victorian turned ballusters and large turned newel posts.

To the rear of the house there is a stable which was partially altered to accommodate an automobile. The center partition for feed storage for horses is still intact.

A one story kitchen wing, with shed roof and reproduction six-over-six windows was added (date unknown), along with a one-story shed-roofed porch (now enclosed); both are located at the rear of the house. Changes to the front porch, made in the 1950s and 1960s, include replacing the wooden floor with a concrete slab, and the columns with simple box columns. Other changes include metal shingles on the roof and drywall place over plastered walls.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Local History

**Specific dates** 1892                      **Builder/Architect** Natchez Land & Improvements C.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

LITERATURE AND POLITICS/GOVERNMENT: The Owen House is primarily significant for its associations with Thomas McAdory Owen, the founder and first director of the Alabama State Department of Archives and author of numerous historical publications, and Marie Bankhead Owen, his wife and successor as director of the Archives and author of several plays and publications. The house served as their first home together, and is the only known remaining house in Alabama associated with their life together.

LOCAL HISTORY: The house is also significant as an example of speculative housing in an industrial community toward the end of the 19th century. Additionally, it served as the home of Sam Kartus from 1904-the 1930s. Kartus was a successful Bessemer merchant and his store, "Kartus Korner" established in 1902, is still in operation.

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The house was constructed by the Natchez Land and Improvement Company between February 1890 and December 1892. On January 14th 1893, Thomas M. Owen, then practicing law in Bessemer, purchased the house which he occupied with his wife after their marriage in April of that year. Owen practiced law in Bessemer from 1887 until 1894 and was the city solicitor from 1890 to 1893. In May 1894 he and Mrs. Owen sold the house and moved to Washington to become chief clerk division of Post Office inspectors. He returned to Alabama and as a direct result of his efforts, the Alabama State Department of Archives and History was created in 1901 by the Legislature. He served as the first director until his death in 1920.

His most noted work was the History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, published in 1920. On his death, Marie Bankhead Owen was elected to succeed him as director. She retired in 1955. Her major historical work was the four-volume The Story of Alabama-A History of the State. She died in 1958.

After the Owens sold their Bessemer house back to the Natchez Land and Improvement Company, there is no indication of its occupancy until 1900 when it was purchased by an A. I. Brown. In 1904 it was purchased by Sam Kartus, a succesful Bessemer merchant, whose store-Kartus Korner - still operates today. The house is currently being used as the law offices of Furner, Boyce, Nave and Thomason.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Deeds. Probate Office, Jefferson County Courthouse  
 Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography.  
 S. J. Clark Publishing Company; Chicago, 1921.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
 AREA NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 (45' x 100')

Quadrangle name Bessemer

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 2, Block 308 Bessemer, 45' x 100'. House and lot.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael E. Thomason (Owner) Ellen Mertins/Barry Loveland  
 organization Alabama Historical Commission date October 26, 1981  
 street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6621  
 city or town Montgomery state Alabama

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Wesley B. Dillard Jr.*

title SHPO Alabama

date 10/26/81

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Braithan</u>	date <u>1-21-82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Carl Dubsie</u>	date <u>1/21/82</u>
Chief of Registration	