

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

For NPS use only

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

received APR 17 1986  
date entered MAY 15 1986

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

**1. Name**

historic Paterson House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 1673 Government Street NA not for publication

city, town Mobile NA vicinity of congressional district 1

state Alabama code 01 county Mobile code 097

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Ken and Suzanne Montgomery

street & number 1673 Government Street

city, town Mobile NA vicinity of state Alabama 36604

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mobile County Courthouse

street & number 109 Government Street

city, town Mobile 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 state Alabama

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

**Check one**

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Located on the south side of Government Street, the Paterson estate consists of approximately two acres. The estate is composed of the main residence, garage/apartment, garden pavilion, stone gazebo, cast iron arbor, marble fish pool, marble walkways, stone artesian well, creek and pond. Since constructed in 1927, the complex has received no significant alterations with the exception of a contemporary kitchen. Recently rehabilitated, the house is in excellent condition.

This limestone stucco, two-story, six-bay, U-plan house retains its original floor plan. With nearly symmetrical arrangement, the rectangular main block features a two-story porte cochere with a quoined arch off the east wall, a two-story kitchen and servant's quarters off the eastern end of the south (rear) wall, and a one-story arcade off the western end of the south wall.

A marble terrace with masonry balustrade serves as an entryway to mahogany double doors and fanlight on the north (front) facade. The front door is located mid-way between a series of double, 12-light French doors with lunettes that extend across the facade. Above the entrance, double French doors flanked by sidelights open onto a masonry balcony with a wrought iron railing. Second-floor windows consist of metal frame, eight-light, double casement windows with a four-light transom.

On the south (rear) wall, an arched doorway with roundheaded French doors and quoined surround provides access to the patio area. This entrance is flanked by double, 12-light French doors and the rear wings. Four French doors with a hoodmolding open onto a masonry balcony located above the rear entrance. A metal frame roundheaded window is placed between the balcony and east wing. Access to the servant's quarters on the second floor of the east wing is provided via a masonry stair with a stepped wall along the west wall. The west wing is composed of a one-story arcade with French doors and fanlights with wrought iron inserts.

The main block, porte cochere and wings are capped by a hipped, Spanish tile roof with wide, bracketed eaves. Four rectangular, tile-capped, limestone stucco-covered chimneys are located at each corner of the main roof. Three dormers are exhibited on the north (facade) side of the roof. These dormers have hipped tile roofs and double, three-light casement windows.

As one enters the building from the front, two mahogany paneled doors and fanlight open onto the main entrance hall. The entrance hall provides a centralized passage through the house and divides the living room and two studies from the parlor, dining room and kitchen. This hall displays a mahogany freestanding staircase with a wrought iron railing. An outstanding and unusual floor is constructed of teak boards, each separated by a thin strip of ebony, and held together with dove-tailed ebony ties and fastened to a cork insulation with ebony pegs. The teak floor extends from the hall into the living room, parlor, side hall and dining room.

From the hall an arched doorway with roundheaded mahogany paneled doors and frame leads to a formal living room featuring a vaulted ceiling, teak floor, marble fireplace and recessed lunettes. Three mahogany French doors open onto the front terrace.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1927 **Builder/Architect** architect - Platt Roberts

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

Criteria B and C - Architecture:

Uncommon to southern Alabama, the house is one of the few Mediterranean Revival structures built on a monumental scale and is perhaps the only grand estate in Mobile intact with original acreage, dependencies and landscape features. Utilizing materials manufactured by the owner's business, the house exhibits outstanding craftsmanship and materials. The Paterson House was designed by Platt Roberts, one of Mobile's early 20th century architects.

As Mobile's city limit expanded westward during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Government Street was established as the city's major east-west corridor. As a main thoroughfare, Government Street became the location for many of Mobile's grand estates. Constructed near the end of the trolley line as the city limit was extended past the loop area in the early 1930s, the Paterson House serves as an anchor and western terminus for Government Street's remaining residential area.

\* \* \* \* \*

Built in 1927, this Mediterranean Revival house was designed by Platt Roberts for William and Patty Paterson. A well-known businessman, Paterson was president of the Robinson Land and Lumber Company and owned Paterson Clay Company. In addition to the Paterson House, Platt Roberts was responsible for designing other early 20th century structures in the area such as the Waterman Building, Louisville and Nashville Railroad Depot, Grand Hotel, Seaman's Club and Merchant's National Bank.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Mobile County Courthouse - Probate Court  
Mobile City Archives - Tax Records  
Mobile City Directories  
1925-1955 Sanborn Map

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres  
Quadrangle name Mobile

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	3	9	6	6	2	0	3	3	9	4	2	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Current (original) property line - beginning on the east side of Breamwood 384' south of Government Street - E214' - N486' 2" - W228' - S290' - W120' - S94'

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kevin A. Hunter, Architectural Historian; Tom Dolan, Architectural Historian

organization Alabama Historical Commission date November 8, 1985

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-7-86

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5-15-86

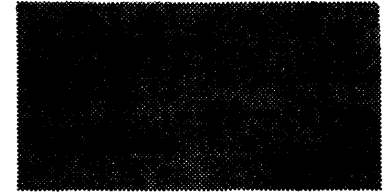
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

Above the doors are the recessed lunettes with plaster moldings. Additional recessed lunettes are symmetrically arranged on the wall opposite the French doors. Another paneled mahogany door on this wall leads to a study off the living room. The study contains a tiled floor, cypress ceiling and an elevator.

Across the hall from the living room, a second set of roundheaded mahogany paneled doors open into the parlor. The parlor exhibits a black marble fireplace, teak floor, mahogany cornice molding and mahogany bookcases. A pair of mahogany paneled doors lead from the parlor into a vaulted hall (running from the entrance hall to the side entrance - dividing the parlor and dining room).

The dining room displays two sets of walnut doors, teak floor and walnut cornice molding.

Across the entrance hall from the dining room, a second study contains a sandstone fireplace (a second similar fireplace is located in the room above), walnut wainscoting, walnut cornice molding and original wallpaper. Walnut wall moldings provide a framing for the wallpaper, which features a Spanish galleon motif.

A less elaborate second floor contains bedrooms and three bathrooms with original tile floors and walls. These rooms have oak floors, plaster walls, plaster ceilings and a marble fireplace in each of the end bedrooms. Tile baths have porcelain fixtures, tile shower (one), tile wainscoting and tile floors.

Total Contributing Properties: 5