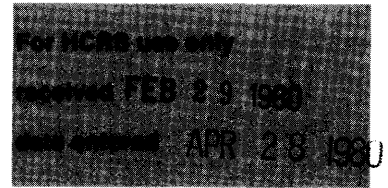


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Dancy, Col. Francis House

and/or common Dancy-Polk House

2. Location

street & number 901 Railroad Street, N. W. _____ not for publication

city, town Decatur _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5

state Alabama code 01 county Morgan code 103

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Pamela M. Anderson

street & number 901 Railroad Street, N. W.

city, town Decatur _____ vicinity of _____ state Alabama 35601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morgan County Courthouse

street & number 301 Ferry Street, N. E.

city, town Decatur _____ 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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered (slightly)	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dancy-Polk House is located on the northwest corner of Railroad and Church streets and occupies a small lot measuring 132' x 165'. The house is set back approximately 17 feet from the street.

The structure is a braced frame, two-story residence on a full basement story of brick masonry. A central, two story, five bay section is covered with a hipped roof and is flanked by one-story wings with hipped roofs abutting the endwall frame of the second floor. The roofs have been newly re-covered with cedar shingles. The house measures approximately 90' x 22'. It is symmetrically arranged and has a central, two-story portico on brick masonry piers. The portico columns are solid post Doric with half-column wall pilasters behind. The floor construction has been altered and the railings and balusters substituted. The rear portico does not survive; however, on site evidence indicates the general form and design - single story and similar to the front portico. The exterior wood frame was covered with beaded popular siding and some of it remains. Most of the exterior trim and cornices survive. All original chimneys are standing and are aligned on the transverse axis of the plan. The two interior chimneys are three story and flue high and the exterior are two story and flue high. They are masonry and built outside the wall frame. Each chimney has a fireplace at each floor level, making a total of 10.

Interior: the plan is that of a symmetrically arranged single-pile house with interior room to room circulation. Most of the original doors and window frames survive. The wood, double-hung sash are 9/9 and are replacements. The two central stairways from the basement to the entrance hall and from the entrance hall to the second floor remain in excellent condition. An original stairway from the left basement room to the first floor room above has been removed. The floor frame of this stair opening survives. The interior wood trim is mostly original and was installed in two separate design patterns. The trim of the secondary rooms is late Georgian with backbanded flat architrave casing and thumb moulded base. Some of these rooms have chair-rail mouldings with plastered wainscot. The primary rooms are trimmed with Adamesque trim with broad moulded casing and corner bosses of concentric turnings using flat baseboard with an applied panel mould top. The house is fully plastered on the interior with the plaster applied to hand-split oak lath. There is no wood paneled wainscot in the house and no evidence that any was originally used. Eight of the ten mantels are replacement mantles, copied after the two which remained.

Most of the rooms have painted plastered wainscot under wood chair-rails applied to the wall frame. Some wallpaper appears to have been painted with trim and wainscot contrasting from a painted upper wall. In most rooms the ceilings were decorated with gometric stenciling not tastefully done. The use of primary colors on the interior is more common than encountered in other houses of the same period in the area.

A one-story frame house is located on the back of the lot. It was constructed on the lot next to the house around 1870 and will be returned to its original location in the near future. The current restoration effort by the owners is attempting to return the house to its original condition and appearance.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1829 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dancy-Polk House, the oldest remaining structure in Decatur, Alabama, is representative of the earlier and finer houses constructed in North Alabama and exists with enough detailed evidence to render it capable of an almost authentic and exact restoration. Stylistically, it reflects an earlier association with South Carolina Georgian architecture, which was introduced into the Tennessee Valley of Alabama through eastern Tennessee. Few examples survive in the area.

The house was constructed in 1829 for Colonel Francis Dancy, an early and wealthy settler in the area, and is one of two early homes in Decatur to survive the Civil War. The house remained in the Dancy family, serving as a boarding house after 1872, until 1898 when it was acquired by B. P. Wallace. Wallace added a wing of eight rooms which were recently removed as part of the on-going restoration, and sold the building in 1908 to John G. Finley. In 1972, the house was acquired by its present owners who are slowly restoring it.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fuller, Douglas. Visual inspection, 6/27/78, report filed at Alabama Historical Commission.
 Jenkins, W. H. and Knox, J. The Story of Decatur, Alabama. Decatur Printing Co.:
 Decatur, 1967.
 Old photographs on file at Alabama Historical Commission.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than one

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Decatur

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	0	1	2	8	0	3	8	3	0	0	6	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

Lot 77 of the plan or plat of the town of Decatur referred to as Old Town Decatur, measuring 132' x 165'.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins/Doug Fuller

organization Alabama Historical Commission date February 28, 1980

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 Mike B. Howard Jr.

title SHPO Alabama date Feb. 28, 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for W. Ray Juice</u>	date <u>4/28/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Carol A. Dubie</u>	date <u>4/25/80</u>
Chief of Registration	