

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

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

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

For NPS use only  
received FEB 7 1985  
date entered MAR 7 1985

**1. Name**

historic Carson Place

and/or common Cox-Mayfield-Sutley House

**2. Location**

street & number 610 36th Avenue NA not for publication

city, town Tuscaloosa NA vicinity of Congressional District 7

state Alabama code 01 county Tuscaloosa code 125

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Lawrence P. Sutley

street & number 610 36th Avenue

city, town Tuscaloosa NA vicinity of state Alabama

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Probate, Tuscaloosa County Courthouse

street & number 714 Greensboro Avenue

city, town Tuscaloosa 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

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Carson Place is a two-story frame structure which may have evolved from a simple two-story double dogtrot. Its current highly eccentric Classical appearance dates from the mid-1850's.

The plastered front facade is spanned by a full height hexastyle portico with octagonal columns. A large scale, plaster cove cornice encircles the house and is one of its most eccentric details. Large wooden curved dentils or scallops appear on the lower part of the cornice, while delicate rectangular dentils appear at the top, just below the line of the hipped roof. The central entry in the five-bay facade has side lights and transom surrounded by an eared architrave with a heavy, denticulated raking cornice. All first floor six-over-six windows on both sides of the entry are fitted with jib doors and decorative wooden surrounds similar in design to the entry architrave. The second floor of the front facade has a central doorway leading out onto a balcony which is cantilevered over the central entrance on the first floor below. All second floor openings have very simple, eared wooden surrounds. On either corner of the facade is a two-story wooden pilaster. There are two interior chimneys on either end of the house. Across the back facade is a two-story gallery with full height, square wooden columns.

The interior has a standard Greek Revival floor plan but like the exterior has highly eccentric detailing which reflects the growing eclectic taste of the mid-century. These include modified Greek Revival door trim with scalloped molding, flat scroll-sawn ballustrades, stair treads with stylized volutes, and unusual mantels. The interior is intact.

## 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** c. 1850's **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Carson Place is an excellent example of the freedom taken in the 1850's with the academic forms that had dominated classical revival architecture during the 1830's and 1840's. This is expressed in the use (on a standard house plan) of such highly exaggerated classical forms as the entablature and hoods over the door and window surrounds and in the application of eclectic detailing such as the cornice dentil course, the octagonal columns with alternating narrow and wide flutes, the scalloped interior door moldings, flat scroll-sawn ballustrades, stair treads that terminate in stylized volutes, and eccentric mantels.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Clinton, Matthew William. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: Its Early Days, 1816-1865. Tuscaloosa, AL, The Zonta Club, 1958.

McCormick, Thomas Carson. Carson-McCormick Family Memorials. There is a copy to the Ala. State Department of Archives and History Library in Montgomery.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .25

Quadrangle name Tuscaloosa

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	4	4	5	6	2	0	3	6	7	4	0	1	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

Lots 275 and 276 of Newtown, lot size - 148' x 200' x 135' x 200'

### 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 Betsy Tierce, Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa Co.; Tom Dolan, Ellen Mertins, Bob Gamble

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date July 1984

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 January 29, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in  
National Register

date 3-7-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

HISTORICAL SUMMARY  
CARSON PLACE

Deed book one (1821), page 101, shows a deed made from the American Institute for the Deaf and Dumb of Hartford, Connecticut to 12 local people including George and Benjamin Cox. This land included about 4½ sections (approximately 2,800 acres). The sale price was \$42,112.65. Before the year was over the land had been surveyed and laid out into streets and building lots. Three men were appointed as commissioners of this parcel of land which came to be called Newtown. Among the early purchasers of lots was George Cox who was a commander in the U. S. Navy in the war with Tripoli (1798-1800) and the War of 1812. George Cox's purchase included lots 275 and 276 on which the Carson Place now sits.

The house is believed to have been begun in 1822-25 and later enlarged in 1827 by Mary Cox after the death of her husband, George. Mrs. Cox had the house enlarged again by a local contractor, John J. Webster, in 1835. Nothing is known about the appearance of the house after this renovation. Mrs. Cox remarried and lived with a son and his family in the house until 1869. Subsequent deeds show the house as "The Old Carson Place" up until 1895 when it was occupied by Mrs. Sarah V. M. Carson, presumably a daughter-in-law of Mrs. Cox.

The present modified Greek Revival features suggest that it was renovated in the 1850's.

The Ozment, Trimm and Leach families occupied the house after the Carsons. Judge J. J. Mayfield bought the house from the Leach family in 1923 and lived there until 1962 when the present owner, Lawrence P. Sutley, purchased it.