

10-18-73

PH 0000175

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

TO BE

STATE:	Alabama	
COUNTY:	Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	OCT 9 1973	

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

#### 1. NAME

COMMON: Hugo Black ~~Home~~ House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Same

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: <sup>AL</sup> Highway 77, South of Ashland Court Square, South 2nd Street, E.

CITY OR TOWN: Ashland

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Alabama	01	Clay	027

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>unoccupied home</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Oliver White

STREET AND NUMBER: 309 S. 2nd Street, E.

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Ashland	Alabama	01

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clay County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: Court Square

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Ashland	Alabama	01

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

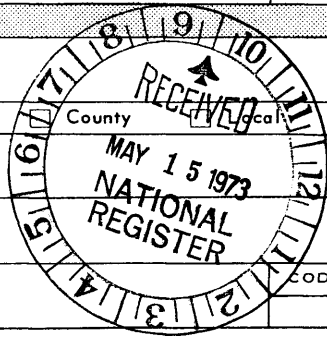
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

✓ The Hugo Black Home is a one and a half-story frame structure raised on brick piers. A porch extends across the front where two double windows, one on either side of a central door are located. This door is framed with side lites and a transom.

The roof of the front section of the building is gabled and has two gabled dormer windows. A smaller gable is located close to the ridge line of the roof between these dormer windows.

Originally, there were two end-exterior chimneys on either end of this section of the building. The chimney on the right has been removed. An interior chimney is located toward the rear left of the house and serves both the kitchen and middle bedroom. The roof of the rear section of the house is hipped.

✓ Lee Black made several changes to the house after 1913. Originally, the house was only one story. The dormer windows were added when the attic was converted to bedrooms. The porch was smaller and the double front windows were originally single windows.

✓ The interior of the first floor is changed very little. A central hall runs the length of the house with two rooms on either side. A kitchen is located on the rear left of the house. On the right was an L-shaped porch with a well. This porch was enclosed to make an additional bedroom. The only other addition to the interior was the addition of stairs leading to the second floor.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

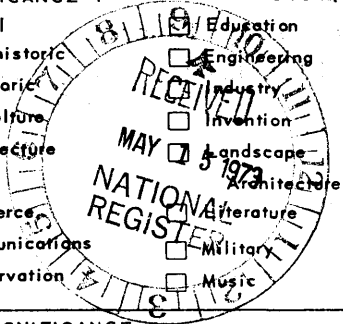
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><u>Law</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

✓ The Black Home, which is typical of the homes constructed during the late 1880's in rural eastern Alabama, was the residence of Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black. Black, who died recently, has been listed as one of the most influential Justices ever to occupy a seat on the Supreme Court, and has been considered by many jurists and historians as one of the finest legal authorities ever to serve on the Court.

✓ Black occupied the house from 1893 until 1903 and again in 1906 through 1907. Although he maintained other residences during his long career, he always considered this house his home, and it was here that he spent his formative years.

Black was born in February of 1886 in the Harlan Community, a rural community in the southwestern portion of Clay County. In December of 1889 his parents, William LaFayette and Martha Black moved to Ashland which was the county seat so that their children might attend a more substantial school. On October 24, 1893, William Black purchased this home, and resided there with his family until his death in 1900. After his death, his oldest son, Robert Lee Black, took over the family business, a general merchandise store, and moves his family into this home.

In 1903 Hugo Black enrolled in Birmingham Medical College, but did not pursue a medical career very long. He entered the University of Alabama Law School in 1904 and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1906. In that same year, he returned to Ashland and established a law practice.

In February of 1907, fire destroyed his law office and he moved to Birmingham. Black rose to prominence in Birmingham very rapidly. In 1911 he was appointed recorder's court judge. Black received much local publicity for his efficient handling of the minor cases that came before him. He resigned in 1912 and in 1914 he unseated "Cotton Tom" Heflin's brother, Harrington, as county solicitor. Black was a staunch foe of the convict labor system and the fee system for paying law enforcement officials. When he took office there were 3,268 cases awaiting trial. His first action as solicitor was to nol-pros some 500 minor cases in which he considered the defenders victims of the fee system. In 1915 the fee system was abolished in Jefferson County. Black became known

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Davis, Hazel Black, Uncle Hugo: An Intimate Portrait of Mr. Justice Black, Amarillo, 1965.  
 Hamilton, Virginia Vander Veer, Hugo Black: The Alabama Years, Louisiana State Press, 1972.  
 Interview and material supplied by Mildred Black Faucett.  
 Summersell, C. G., Alabama, Viewpoint Publications, Inc., Montgomery: 1970.

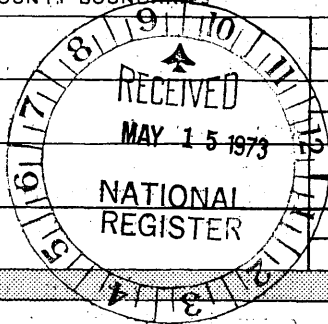
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		33	15	44
SE	° ' "	° ' "		85	50	00
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission**      DATE: **3-30-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**305 South Lawrence Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery**      STATE: **Alabama**      CODE: **01**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name: Neil B. Howard Jr.

Title: SHPO

Date: May 1, 1973

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

Ernest A. Connelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Associate Director  
 Professional Services

Date: OCT 9 1973

ATTEST:

Walter S. Gandy  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-3-73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

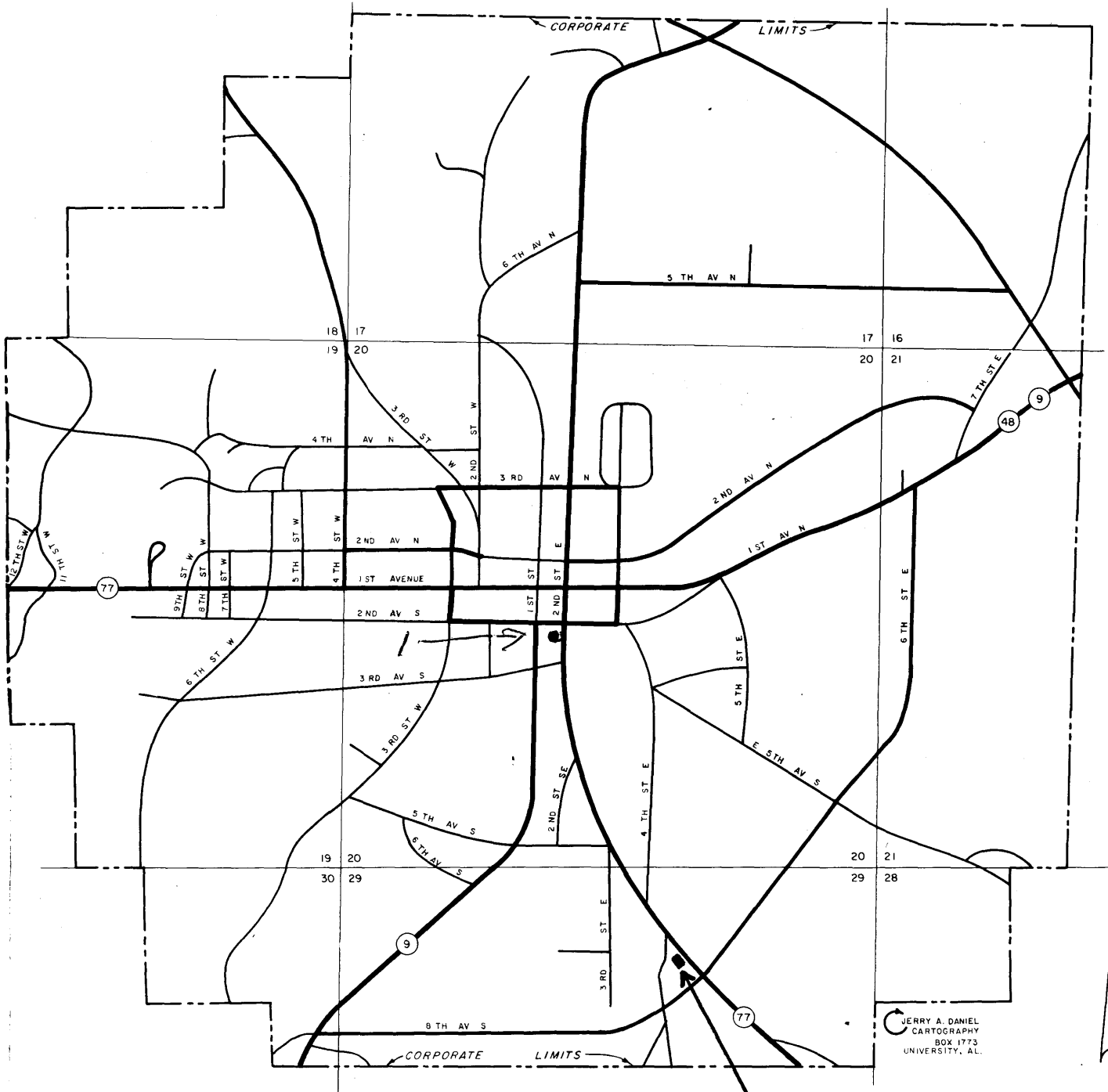
STATE	
Alabama	
COUNTY	
Clay	
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(Number all entries)

Significance (cont.)

primarily for the many murder trials he prosecuted. The state attorney general assigned him a special prosecutor to try a major whiskey ring in Girard. When six defendents failed to show up, Black ordered \$600,000 in confiscated liquor destroyed. This clean-up of Girard, one of many, brought Black statewide renown. In 1917 Black resigned as solicitor. Black was a well known Alabama figure long before he became a national figure as a United States Senator in 1927 and as a Supreme Court Justice from 1937 to his retirement in September, 1971, shortly before his death.





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1. PRESENT LOCATION

# ASHLAND

AUG 1978

NEW SITE FOR  
HUGO BLACK HOUSE -  
4 ACRES

JERRY A. DANIEL  
CARTOGRAPHY  
BOX 1773  
UNIVERSITY, AL.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 6 1978
DATE ENTERED	<i>None approved 11/22/78</i>

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

HUGO BLACK HOME, ASHLAND, ALABAMA, CLAY COUNTY

1. Present site - Black house is located on small lot fronting on U.S. Highway 77 South. The lot is level on a well suited for residential development. The location is not subject to flooding and is well drained during storm conditions. There are no unusual geological features associated with the site. Vegetation is that commonly found in the area (common weeds and grasses with hardwood trees). There are no unusual or endangered animals who inhabit the project site. The Black House must be moved from the present site because the property owners will not sell the house as it is located.
2. New site - located on Highway 77 south of the present site. Site contains four acres of land and very well suited to the proposed move. Slope conditions at the new site closely match the original site, ranging from 0 to 5% slope. There is a small wood frame house located on the new site (north east corner of the lot) which is approximately 40 years old. The wood frame house is similar in construction to the Black House and would not be unharmonious with the Black structure following restoration. The new site is generally open land, excluding the wood frame dwelling, with some common grasses, hardwoods and pine trees. The new site is as close geographically and physically (appearance) to the original as any site available in Ashland.
3. Impact of moving the Black House to new site - there will not be any demolition associated with the proposed move. The Black House will be carefully prepared for moving, with the advice and assistance of appropriate organizations and individuals. The house would be located on the new site and would face U.S. Highway 77, as it had on the original site. There will be some minor disruption of traffic during the move but no long-term adverse effects will be created. The wood frame dwelling located on the new site would remain in its existing location or could be moved to the lot's northwest corner if need be.
4. Why move is required - the Black House is located on property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Oliver White of Ashland. The White's have constructed their home on a site adjacent to the Black House and do not feel that the restored Black Home would be compatible with their home. The White's will not sell the Black House site and unless the house is acquired and moved very soon it will deteriorate further to a dangerously dilapidated condition. There is no alternative to moving the Black House if it is to be retained and restored.