

PH0000621

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Alabama	
COUNTY:	Madison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JUN 20 1974	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Steele-Fowler House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Oaks Place

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
808 Maysville Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Huntsville 5th Congressional District

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Alabama	01	Madison	089

**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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
East Huntsville Baptist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
808 Maysville Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Huntsville

STATE:  
Alabama

CODE:  
01

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Madison County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Huntsville

STATE:  
Alabama

CODE:  
01

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

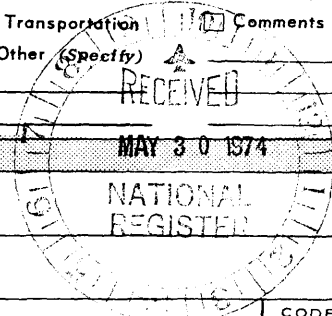
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D. C.

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER: 201974

DATE: JUN 20 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Steele-Fowler House in Huntsville is an interesting Greek Revival style home designed by the noted architect George Steele for his own use. The stone and stucco structure is built on three levels although from the front it appears to be a two story building with a basement. The front is well porportioned with stone exterior walls at the basement level and stucco over brick used above this level. There is a one story portico across the middle of the building outside the entrance. The flat roof of the portico is supported by two square doric columns at the corner and two round fluted Doric columns in the middle. There are two square pilasters at the back of the portico behind the square columns. The entablature above the Doric capitals is the only highly decorated part of the rather severe front. Above the plain architrave is a triglyph decorated frieze with guttae below and mutules above on the otherwise plain cornice. The front doorway and the two front windows on the first floor all have the same treatment with square pilasters surmounted by Doric Capitals and plain entablatures and cornices. The front doors are double and have these panels inserted. The upper floor has three windows with plain stone sills and simple wood lintels. Plain two story pilasters with Doric capitals are used on both front corners. The structure has a metal sheet hipped roof.

The other sides of the structure utilize Greek Revival influences but George Steele made no attempt to retain classical porportions on any facade except the front. The east side is three stories in height. There is a two story uncentered portico with four square Doric columns. At the basement level there is a double door glass paneled entrance to the banquet facilities. Above the doors are a glass transom and wood lintel. On the main floor level there was a double door entrance to a cross hall from the porch. This porch has been enclosed. On the west side and rear of the house there was an entrance loggia that was built at the ground level. The flat roof at the first floor ceiling level was supported by seven square columns. At the first floor level there was a balcony with a wood balustrade. On either side of the balcony were steps down to the loggia. From the balcony there was a window to the ballroom and a glass paneled double door leading to the rear stair hall. The loggia has been enclosed to make a stucco covered addition to the rear. Except for the two enclosures mentioned the house has remained largely as George Steele built it.

The principal entrance to the ground floor was from the east side portico. To the right of the entrance hall was a reception room and to the left was a banquet hall with a kitchen beyond it. At this level there were two servant's rooms and a store room. There was also an entrance under the balcony to the entrance loggia. On the main floor there is a ball room to the right of the entrance hall off the front portico. On the left side and up a half story are the family living room, dining room, and kitchen. On the second floor are four bedrooms. Except for the ceiling plaster work in the ballroom the interior is not ornate. The original "carpenter" brand locks are still in place and the glass is probably mostly original.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1840**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input 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 Steele-Fowler House is primarily significant for its architecture. George Steele was one of the more outstanding architects in the anti-bellum South. Several of his structures still survive in Huntsville including the old State of Alabama Branch Bank building built between 1835 and 1837 and which still stands on the Courthouse square. He also designed the Madison County Courthouse which was completed in 1840 and which was used until it was razed in 1914. This structure was modeled after the Parthenon in Athens and was considered to be one of the finest public buildings in the South by some architectural experts. Among the homes that he designed that still stand in Huntsville are the Leroy Pope home built in 1834 on Echol's Hill, the Clay home built in 1830 which originally was a boarding home for the Huntsville Female Seminary, and the Cabaniss-Roberts Home built in 1838.

The Steele home was built in 1840 on a wooded site near what was then the outskirts of Huntsville. George Steele who also operated a brick kiln and a cotton factory in Huntsville lived in the house until his death in 1857. His family continued to live in the house until 1883 when it was sold to George W. Lane.

At the present time the structure is owned by the East Huntsville Baptist Church who use it as a church school building. They are considering demolishing it to make way for a new building.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Glimpses into Ante-Bellum Homes of Huntsville, Alabama published by Huntsville branch of American Association of University, Revised Edition, 1968.

HABS Drawings and Worksheets, 1935.

Summersell, C. G., Alabama, Montgomery, Viewpoint Press, 1971.

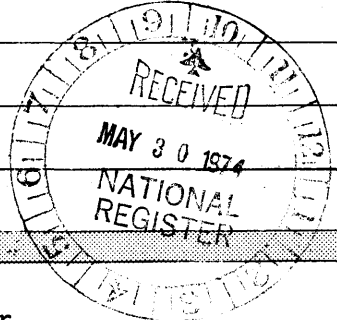
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 44' 39"	86° 33' 52"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd, executive director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: May 3, 1973

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: Wils B. Howard Jr.

Title: SAPO

Date: May 15, 1973

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

Emmet A. Curran  
 Chief of State Historic and Historic Preservation  
 Professional Services

Date: JUN 20 1974

ATTEST:

Charles R. Herring  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6/18/74

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