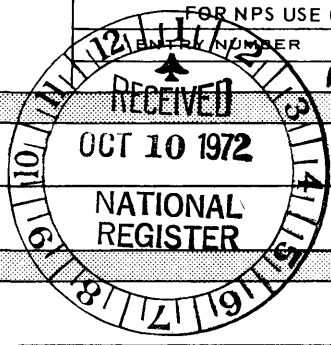


PH 0020281

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alabama	
COUNTY: Bibb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 2 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:
Montebrier

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Brierfield

STATE: Alabama	CODE: 01	COUNTY: Bibb	CODE: 007
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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 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Stanley Michael Mahan, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Montebrier - Route 1

CITY OR TOWN: Brierfield	STATE: Alabama	CODE: 35035	CODE: 01
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Centreville	STATE: Alabama	CODE: 01
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
APR 2 1973

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 overall effect of Montebrier is simple, early domestic Gothic. It is a wood framed and wood finished structure, one and one-half stories high. The gabled roof is large and high-pitched with wide overhangs. A wide veranda extends across the facade and right side of the house. Slender wooden colonnettes support the roof of this veranda and are connected by wooden rails and wooden arches.

Four floor length windows across the front have shutters and are topped by two large lites above. The front central double door is flanked by two long side lights and topped by four lites similar to the ones above the windows. The house also features several bay windows and windows with bracketed awnings.

Structural indications are that the original floor plan was fairly typical of southern country home arrangements. The front portion, approximately 48 feet by 37 feet, consisted of a 10 foot wide center hall with two rooms on each side. Between each pair of rooms was a chimney with a fireplace in each room. Most probably, the rooms to the left were bedrooms while the rooms to the right, which opened onto the side veranda, were the living room and dining room.

Behind the front portion of the house was a 10-foot wide crosshall, opening to the exterior at each end, forming a T with the center hall. Behind this hall were two more rooms separated by a walk-through closet and a chimney with a fireplace in each room. The room on the left was probably a bedroom. The one on the right was obviously a kitchen connected by a lean-to pantry to a side porch where the well was located. This rear portion, including crosshall and side porch is approximately 42 feet by 28 feet.

During restoration miscellaneous exterior additions have been removed and the exterior has been restored to its original appearance. No attempt has been made to restore the interior to its original condition, arrangement, or use.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



5. SIGNIFICANCE

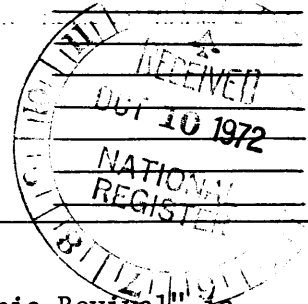
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <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)

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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" 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 Architecture | <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

Montebrier is an excellent example of early "Gothic Revival" in Alabama. With the exception of the floor plan, the inspiration for the design could have easily been taken from A. J. Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses. Additionally, the house was, for a brief period, the post-war home of General Josiah Gorgas, Chief of Ordnance for the Confederate States of America and consequently the childhood home of William Crawford Gorgas, who was instrumental in the conquest of yellow fever.

When Montebrier was constructed, Brierfield, now a village of less than 1,000, was the third largest city in the state and the site of the prosperous Brierfield Iron Works.

Construction was begun in the early 1850's by S. W. Mahan, with Archimedes Mahan serving as carpenter. Although the house was not completed until after the Civil War it was occupied by 1855.

In 1866 Mahan sold the house to General Josiah Gorgas for \$320. Gorgas mortgaged it the following year to Broter and Lyon, trustees for the Brierfield Iron Works. Although Gorgas moved to the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee in 1869, his wife and family stayed in Brierfield until June of 1870.

Gorgas defaulted on the mortgage in 1880 and the trustees sold the property to C. C. Huceby, a top official with the iron works before the war. Huceby, in turn, gave the property to his daughter, Anna McCalley.

During the 1920's the house was converted into a country club and served as such until the crash of 1929 when the house was taken over by the Merchants and Planters Bank of Montevallo. In 1932 John Steelman, executive secretary to President Franklin Roosevelt, bought the house for back taxes and lived there with his wife until they separated in 1938. Ms. Steelman continued to live in the house until she sold it to Ms. Ruby Lee Latham of Montgomery. In 1962 Dr. and Mrs. S. M. Mahan purchased the house and have restored the exterior to its original condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Armes, Ethel Marie. The Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama. Birmingham, Alabama: Published under the Auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, 1910.

University of Alabama. Tuscaloosa, Gorgas, Josiah. Manuscripts (1818-83) GMSS

Vandiver, Frank, Everson. Plowshares into Swords: Josiah Gorgas and Confederate Ordnance. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1952.

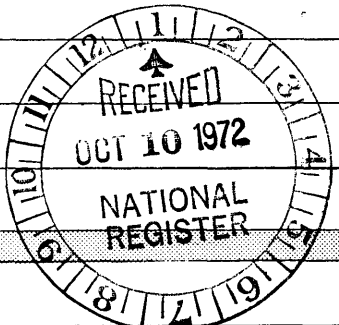
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	33°	02'	32"	86°	54'	11"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6 acres**

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: 9/29/72

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE:

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 Nils B. Daward Jr.

Title SLD

Date October 3, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/2/73

ATTEST: Wm J. Smutz
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3.26.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS