

**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 Colonel Green G. Mobley House

and/or common The Magnolia

2. Location

street & number SE Corner Webster and Pearl Streets ___ not for publication

city, town Gainesville ___ vicinity of congressional district 7

state Alabama code 01 county Sumter code 119

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Daisy Allison McLelland Falls

street & number P. O. Box 35

city, town Gainesville ___ vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sumter County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Livingston 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	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The is a large, two story frame house on a brick foundation with a gabled roof, double end interior chimneys and central, pedimented portico. It is a very sophisticated example of Greek Revival domestic architecture. It occupies a large corner lot in a small town and is secluded from the street by a century-old brick wall. Gardens and dependencies occupy the most of the rest of the block. The grounds are enhanced by extensive plantings, most of them post-dating 1935. The kitchen at the southeast corner of the house and a brick smokehouse at the northeast corner are the sole remaining original dependencies. Formerly there was a large barn to the southeast. The kitchen and smokehouse have been painted white and adaptively reconditioned inside.

The three-bay pedimented portico is composed of four fluted Ionic columns; two center columns support a second-floor balcony enclosed by a wheatsheaf or "bowknot" balustrade similar to those found elsewhere in the city. A denticulated cornice is carried completely around the house. Both the main doorway and the doorway directly above, leading into the balcony, are enframed with a neo-classical architrave. The design of the upper doorway is taken directly from a plat in Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter (Boston, 1830) for a "Venetian entrance." As with many other finery frame houses of this period in central and southern Alabama, the facade of the Mobley House is "rabbeted" -- an early finish akin to shiplap siding. Originally the house was a rectangular box with one story brick dependencies located some 20 feet behind the house. Sometime between 1854 and 1875 a one story gabled wing at the rear was constructed to link the main portion of the dwelling with the brick dependencies by means of an encircling porch.

The interior arrangement follows the traditional four-over-four plan with a broad central hall between. To the right of the main hallway is a double parlor connected by sliding doors. A graceful reverse-flight stairway, with a continuous handrail terminating in a scrolled volute, ascends from the rear of the hall to the second floor. As with other decorative features of the house, most of the interior woodwork appears to be based on the published designs of Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever. Perhaps the most unusual interior feature of the house is the massive double-leaf doorway connecting the two upstairs bedrooms on the north side of the house.

Except for moderate renovations to the rear wing and adaptations of the brick dependencies for other use, the house remains basically unchanged.

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

Specific dates c. 1845 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecture: The Mobley House is significant as one of West Alabama's most sophisticated essays in domestic Greek Revival-style architecture and as the most imposing extant ante-bellum mansion in Gainesville, a town noted for its antebellum homes. The distinguishing features of the Mobley House are the pedimented Ionic portico, and both exterior and interior trim based on the published designs of Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever, leading exponents of the Greek Revival in Early 19th century America.

* * * * *

The house was constructed around 1845 for Colonel Green G. Mobley (1806-1877) from Fairfield District, South Carolina and his Vermont-born second wife--Henrietta. The similarity between the Magnolia and the Major John C. Whitesett residence (burned 1910) on nearby Main (Yankee) Street would seem to indicate that they were constructed by the same hand. After the death of the Mobleys in the 1870s, the house was maintained as a boarding house until it was purchased in 1935 by the father of the present owner, and subsequently restored. It acquired the name "The Magnolia" in recent years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deeds
Cemetery records

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3 1/4 acres

Quadrangle name Gainesville

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UMT References

A

1	6	3	9	1	3	8	1	0	3	6	3	1	5	3	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

Blocks 46 & 47

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 Robert Gamble & Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date October 6, 1981

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

Chiles B. Howard Jr.

title SHPO Alabama

date October 6, 1981

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the

National Register

date 1/15/82

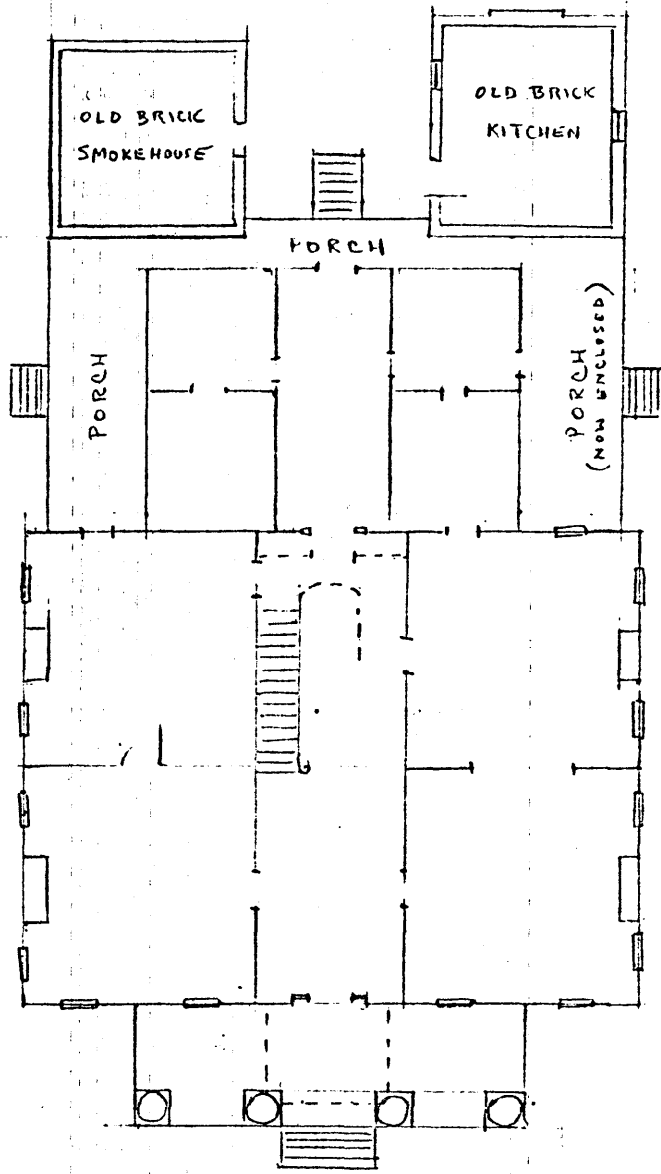
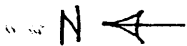
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

GARDENS



21.6
38.6

50.6

BRICK WALK

BRICK WALL

PICKET FENCE

GARDENS

PEARL ST.

WEBSTER ST.

0' 8' 16'

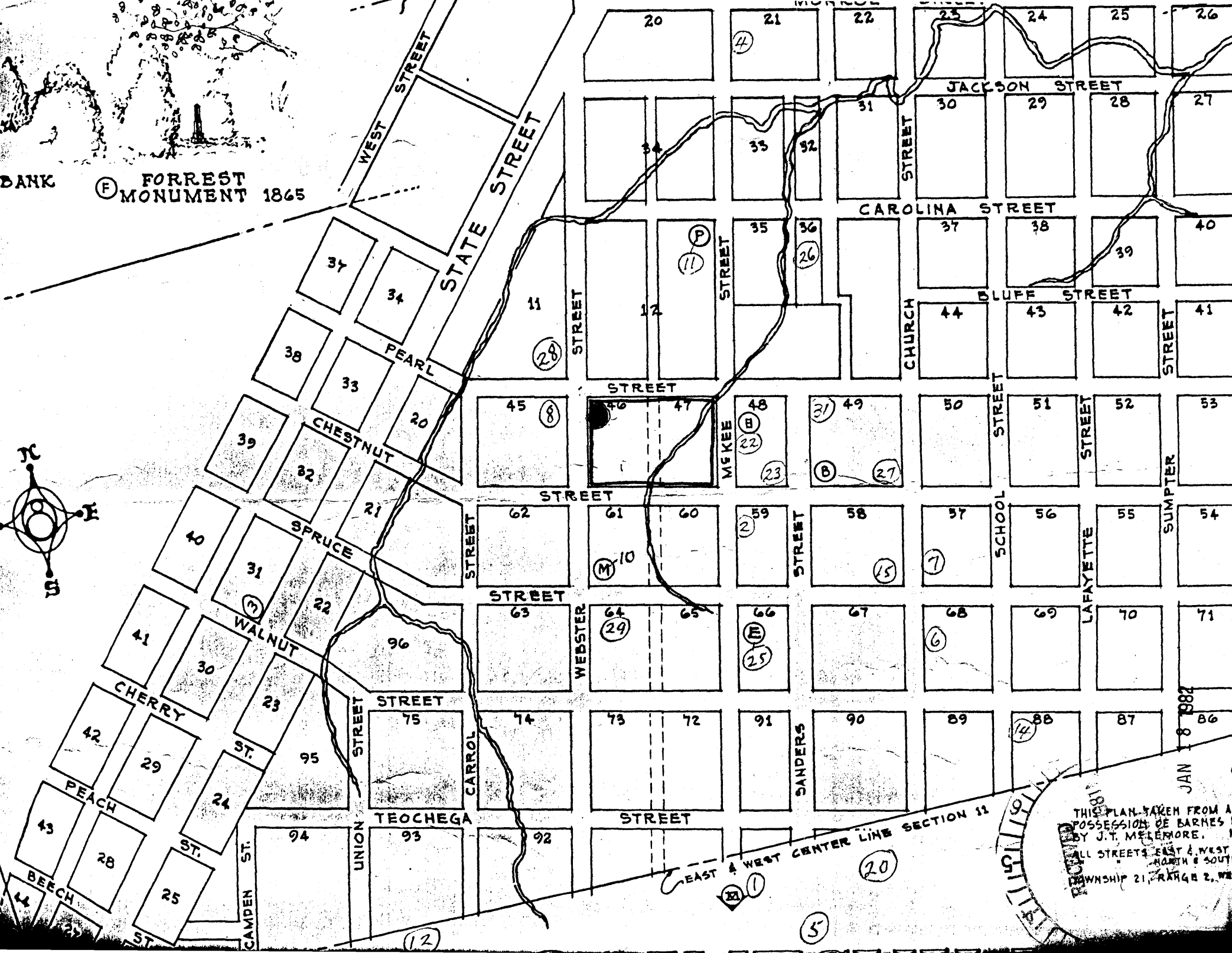
RECEIVED

DEC 14 1981

NATIONAL REGISTER

JAN 18 1982

BANK (F) FORREST MONUMENT 1865



EAST & WEST CENTER LINE SECTION 11

RECORDED 1878

THIS PLAN TAKEN FROM A POSSESSION OF BARNES BY J. T. MELEMORE. ALL STREETS EAST & WEST NORTH & SOUTH TOWNSHIP 21, RANGE 2, W. 2.

JAN 8 1884