

5-21-73

PH0010227

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

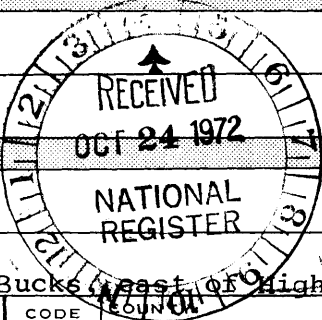
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| STATE: Alabama | |
| COUNTY: Mobile | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | APR 11 1973 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ellicott Stone

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Ellicott Stone



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
About 1 mile south of Bucks (west of Highway 43)

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Mobile CODE: 97

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input 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 |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Mobile

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall, So. Royal Street

CITY OR TOWN: Mobile STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
So. Royal Street

CITY OR TOWN: Mobile STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
APR 11 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 Ellicott Stone located about a mile from Bucks in Mobile County is made of rough sandstone. The stone stands about two and one-half feet high.

On the north side it is inscribed "U. S./Lat. 31° / 1799" and on the south side "Dominios/DE S.M. Carlos IV/Lat. 31° / 1799."

It was broken in the 1920's by a careless timberman who felled a tree across it. It was repaired and enclosed inside iron palings to protect it.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

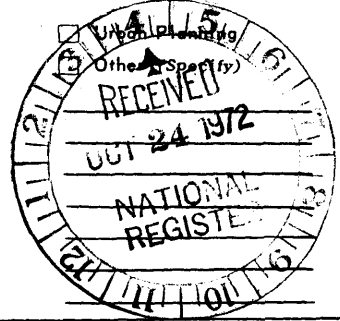
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Ellicott Stone is the only remaining marker placed by Andrew Ellicott on the 31st parallel line that he surveyed between 1797 and 1800. It is the point of origin for all land surveys in southern Alabama and Mississippi and all townships in the area are numbered from the Ellicott Stone.

Following the American Revolutionary War there were conflicting boundary claims by Spain and the United States. The Spanish claimed 32° 28' latitude as the northern boundary of their Florida possessions but agreed in the Treaty of San Lorenzo, October 27, 1795, to accept the American claim of the 31st parallel. Since the new boundary was unmarked a joint Spanish and American surveying commission was created. In 1796 President George Washington appointed Andrew Ellicott as the American Commissioner. Ellicott had a distinguished career prior to this appointment as an officer in the Revolutionary War, as a Maryland legislator, and as the surveyor of part of the Virginia-Pennsylvania boundary and the western boundaries of Pennsylvania and New York. He also collaborated with Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant in planning the city of Washington and he laid out the towns of Erie, Franklin, Waterford, and Warren in Pennsylvania. Governor Gayoso of Louisiana appointed William Dunbar and Stephen Minor to represent the Spanish on the Commission.

The survey actually began on April 9, 1798 at the Mississippi River. As they moved eastward they tried to make observations and corrections every ten miles or so but soon they ran into impenetrable terrain. They then began the policy of following a compass course east until they reached a point where the astronomical instruments could be carried by water and new observations made.

On March 18, 1799, the base line reached the Mobile River and during the next twenty-one days Ellicott made six satisfactory observations on each of four stars. The compass line was found to be about a mile and a half too far north so the compass line to the west was corrected and the stone since known as Ellicott's Stone set up at the point of termination. The stone is approximately five seconds or 500 feet north of the true 31st parallel but considering that he used crude homemade instruments, Ellicott was remarkably correct.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ellicott, Andrew. The Journal of Andrew Ellicott. Philadelphia 1803.

Gallalee, Jack C. "Andrew Ellicott and the Ellicott Stone," in The Alabama Review. Vol. XVIII, No. 2. April 1965. Tuscaloosa, University of Alabama Press, 1965.

McMillan, Malcolm C. The Land Called Alabama. Austin, Texas: Steck-Vaughn Co., 1968.

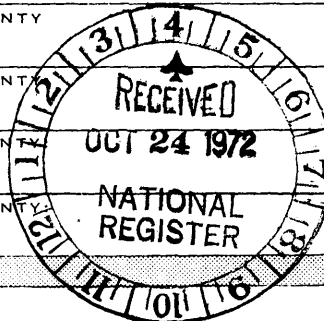
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 31 ° 0' 5" | 88 ° 0' 2" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1

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: Oct. 4, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 S. Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

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

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Miss B. Howard</u></p> <p>Title <u>SLO</u></p> <p>Date <u>October 5, 1972</u></p> | <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert A. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>4/11/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. Warner Floyd</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>4 4 73</u></p> |
|---|--|

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

(Continuation Sheet)

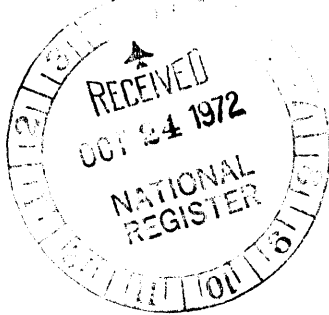
| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE | |
| Alabama | |
| COUNTY | |
| Mobile | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

(Number all entries)

#8 - Significance (Continued)

From Mobile, Ellicott moved eastward to the Chattahoochee River after much difficulty with both the Spanish and the Indians.

Although the surveyed line was an international boundary only until 1813 when the Spanish lost Florida, the Ellicott line is still used as the boundary between Mississippi and Louisiana and between Alabama and Florida.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE | |
| Alabama | |
| COUNTY | |
| Mobile | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | APR 11 1973 |

(Number all entries)

#9 - Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Pickett, Albert J. History of Alabama. Birmingham, Alabama:
Roberts & Son, 1962.

Summersell, Charles G. Alabama. Montgomery, Viewpoint Publications,
1970.

