

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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received

APR 18 1984

date entered

# 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 Jefferson Franklin Jackson Home

and/or common Jackson-Community House

## 2. Location

street & number 409 South Union Street

NA not for publication

city, town Montgomery

NA vicinity of

02

state Alabama

code 01

county Montgomery

code 101

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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: social/humanitarian

## 4. Owner of Property

name City Federation of Women and Youth Clubs

street & number 409 South Union

city, town Montgomery

NA vicinity of

state AL 36104

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number 142 Washington Avenue

city, town Montgomery

state AL 36104

## 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 AL

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 (minor)	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Standing on a tree-shaded hill and set back from South Union Street, within sight of the State Capitol, the Jackson-Community House is a two-story clapboard structure capped with a low hipped roof. Originally rectangular in shape, the addition of a two-story, gabled roofed rear wing prior to 1900 and the enclosure of a two-story rear porch have changed the configuration of the house. With the exception of an altered door and replaced balusters, the basic structure remains remarkably unchanged.

A one-story, half-hip, wide verandah extends across the western facade and around the north side. Slender chamfered collonettes with simple brackets and detailed balusters provide modest adornment. Other decorative elements are the small brackets under the eaves of the house. On the lower north and west exposures floor-length French windows with transoms open onto the verandah. Louvered shutters offer protection from the sun while admitting air into the interior. Plain facings surround the windows, but the front door, defined by sidelights and transom, has a Greek key architrave. The original door has been replaced by a wooden door with two horizontal lights. Several of the sidelights retain etched panes while others have been replaced with clear glass. Windows on the south, rear and upstairs are 6/6 and are also shuttered.

Because of the contour of the land, the front elevation is higher than the rear. High brick piers on the front have been plastered; cement blocks in-fill the interstices. On the south side, two exterior chimneys are adorned with a diamond pattern formed by breaking the regular bond with a Flemish bond of stretcher-header. The header bricks carry a glazed, bluish hue. One interior chimney serves the rooms on the north.

The interior follows the "dog-trot" plan with rooms opening off wide halls on both levels. On the first floor, a decorative arch divides front hall from rear hall. The stairway makes a straight run from the rear hall; turned balusters and newel post adorn it. The wall under the stairwell is in-set with an arched niche appropriate for statuary or urn. A simple vertical board door allows access to space under the stairs.

Front rooms on both sides of the front hall are entered through French doors with sidelights and transoms. There is some indication that pocket doors originally were in these locations. On the south, pocket doors separate front from back parlor. The woodwork around doors and windows, although wide, is simple in detail. Wooden mantels repeat this simplicity. On the north, a fireplace wall separates the rooms, but access is provided by doors to each side of the fireplace.

Floors on the lower level are covered with modern carpet except for the north rear room which is narrow hardwood. The stairs and upper hall and rooms are the original six inch heart pine. Baseboards in the downstairs are 10 inches high with a beaded moulding. A shallow crown moulding and a picture moulding are in the front south parlor. There is also a modest plaster medallion in this room. Except for the French doors and windows, interior doors are four paneled.

The 1900 Sanborn Map of the City of Montgomery shows the two-story addition to the rear of the house, a shotgun house and a building utilizing masonry as wall material.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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** 1853 **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Jackson-Community House is significant for its association with Jefferson Franklin Jackson, a prominent Montgomery attorney during the 1850s, and with its association with the City Federation of Women and Youth Clubs.

Area of Significance

Criterion A - Social/humanitarian

Exception to the fifty-year criterion. The Federation of Women and Youth Clubs was formed in 1939 as the City Federation of Colored Womens Clubs which purchased the house in 1943. It has served the black community as an Old Folks and Orphans Home, a site for meetings and seminars and during one period as the home for the only library available to the black community until public library facilities became accessible.

Criterion B - Law

Jefferson Franklin Jackson was appointed U. S. Attorney for Alabama's Middle District by both President Zachary Taylor and President Millard Fillmore and was admitted as an attorney and counselor of the U. S. Court of Claims in Washington, D.C. in April 1856.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.40

Quadrangle name Montgomery South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6
---	---

 Zone 

5	6	5	9	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

 Easting 

3	5	8	1	7	8	0
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 Northing

B 

--	--

 Zone 

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 Easting 

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

C 

--	--

 Zone 

--	--	--	--

 Easting 

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

D 

--	--

 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

E 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

F 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

G 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

H 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, Hale's Plat, Plat Book 1, Page 30  
East side, South Union Street, 395 feet North of High Street  
Lot dimensions: 230' x 265'

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ann Neeley and Michael Bailey

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date January 23, 1984

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 205 261-3184

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-12-84

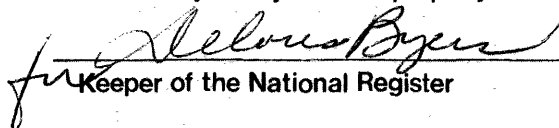
### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

5/17/84

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The shotgun house has clapboard exterior walls with a shed-roof porch extending partially across the facade. There are brick piers with lattice fill-in on the facade elevation.

The masonry building, which was a smoke house, has two windows that were converted from doors, and there is one door in front on the south end that has late Victorian moulding.

Jackson-Community House  
Historical Summary

The Jackson-Community House is the only structure in Montgomery occupied by the prominent Whig lawyer Jefferson Franklin Jackson. Built in 1853 during the time Jackson was serving as U.S. Attorney for the Alabama Middle District, the house incorporates simple but stylish elements which combined with its siting and plan, blend harmoniously for the comfortable life-style befitting a man of Jackson's station in the Montgomery of the 1850s.

Jackson, born in 1821 in what was then Pike (now Barbour) County, received his early education in the schools of Sumter County where he grew up. Determined to further his schooling, he taught school and farmed until he had accrued funds enabling him to attend Yale University from which he graduated in 1846. The following year he earned a law degree from Cambridge School of Law in Boston. While there he met and married Eleanor Clark Noyes, daughter of an outstanding New England family.

Returning to Alabama Jackson settled in Montgomery and entered law practice with Thomas Hill Watts, a local attorney. In 1848 Governor Reuben Chapman appointed Jackson an agent of the state to go to Washington for the purpose of investigating and settling Alabama's account in a question involving the distribution of funds by the Federal government from the sale of public lands. Jackson was publicly commended by Governor Henry W. Collier in 1850 who stated that "the services of Mr. Jackson have been eminently beneficial to the state...but for the industry and perseverance of himself...the errors he discovered might never have been brought to light..." The state, as a result of Jackson's diligence, was awarded \$104,729.66.

Jackson was appointed by presidents Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore as U.S. Attorney for Alabama's Middle District. It was during this tenure, in 1853, that he built his home on South Union Street.

Early in his occupancy of the home, Jackson was visited by his Yale classmate, future landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, on the latter's journey through the South. Olmsted wrote a mutual acquaintance in Connecticut that "Jackson has been and is making a fortune; built a fine house, fine as yours (in Southern style)." In commenting on Mrs. Jackson, Olmsted went on to say that "She was a nice woman, his wife, and they were kind to me at home."

Mrs. Jackson, although a northerner, devoted herself to the Southern cause when the Civil War came. Local legend has it that she presented Jefferson Davis with his first bouquet of roses on his arrival in Montgomery.

Jackson himself did not live out the War, dying of a lung ailment in 1862. Prior to his death, he had invested heavily in Montgomery real estate and had, in 1860, donated with other leading Montgomerians a site for an orphans' home. Several years later, Mrs. Jackson married her late husband's former law partner, Thomas H. Watts, who had served in Jefferson Davis' cabinet and as a war-time governor of Alabama.

The house remained in the family until 1943 when it was purchased by the Federation of Women and Youth Clubs. Organized in 1939 as the City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, the group is dedicated to the strengthening of individual clubs in their goals and roles in the community. An integral part of their operation is the Community House which is not only its headquarters but also served as a library, before a public one was available, for blacks and as a Head Start School. It is the site of meetings, seminars and programs as well as being used for parties and receptions.

In 1979 the Jackson-Community House was designated as an Historic District of the city of Montgomery.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Public Records:

Records of Conveyance: Book 5, page 411; Book 14, page 120: Montgomery County Courthouse, Montgomery, Alabama

Tax Records: Montgomery County, 1852, 1853, 1854: Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. (microfilm)

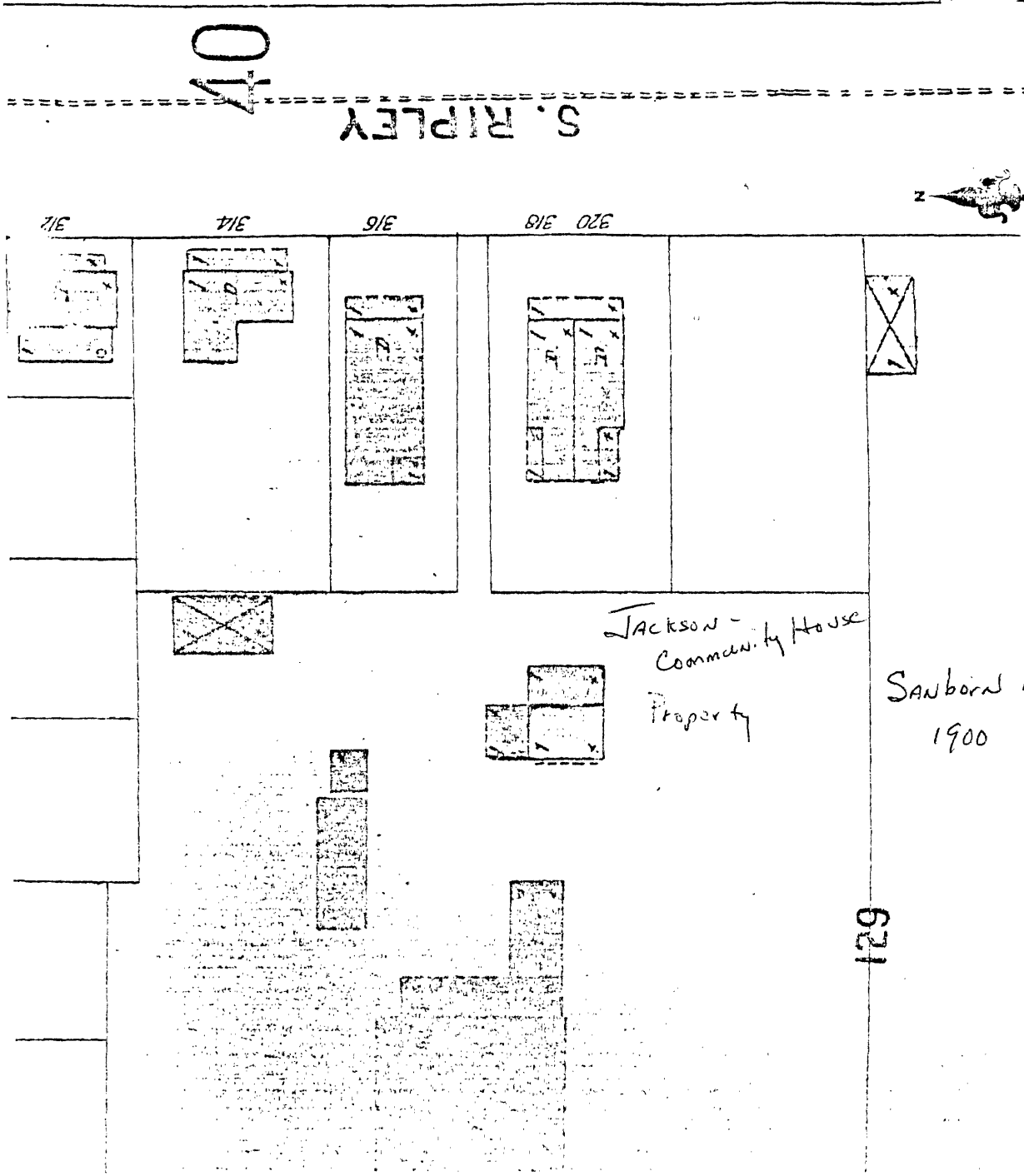
State Documents: Report to the Alabama Legislature from Governor Henry W. Collier, January 2, 1850. In Folder #6, Jackson Family, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

Newspapers: "Jackson Family Still Owners of Home Built in 1853." Montgomery Advertiser, May 18, 1941.

Letters: Frederick Law Olmsted to F. J. Kingsbury of Waterbury, Connecticut, February 26, 1853. Frederick Law Olmsted Papers, American University, Washington, D.C.  
F. J. Kingsbury to Frank Jackson, August 12, 1903  
Correspondence of Jefferson F. Jackson, Manuscript Division, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

Books: Montgomery City Directories, 1859, 1878, 1899.  
Olmsted, Frederick Law. Journeys and Explorations in the Cotton Kingdom. 2 vols. London: Sampson Low and Son, 1861.  
Owen, Thomas M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Chicago: S. J. Clark Publishing Co., 1921.

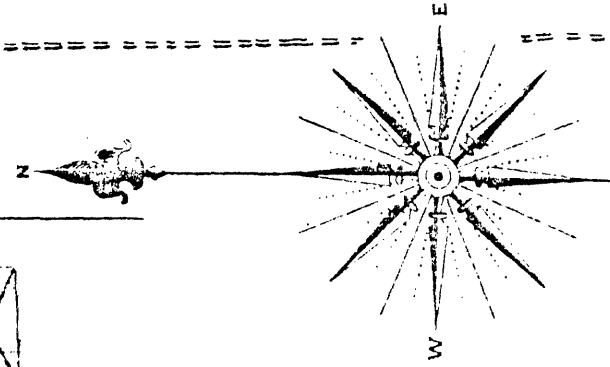
Interviews: Zelia Evans, Montgomery, Alabama  
Howard, Milo B., Montgomery, Alabama.



S. RIPLEY

40

31E 31A 31E 320 31E 02E



Jackson -  
Community House  
Property

Sanborn Map, City of Montgomery,  
1900

629