

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 04000232

Date of Listing: March 23, 2004

Property Name: Vance C. Larmore House

County: DeKalb

State: Alabama

none
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Daniel J. [Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

March 23, 2004
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance
Ca. 1880 is hereby removed as a significant date.

The Alabama State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Larmore, Vance C., House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 810 County Road 606 not for publication N/A
city or town N/A vicinity Hammondville
state Alabama code AL county De Kalb code 049 zip code 35989

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Elizabeth Ann Brown Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer February 12, 2004
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Daniel J. Hill 3/23/04

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>4</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>4</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
	<u>Secondary Structure</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
	<u>Secondary Structure</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: I-house

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: stone, concrete block

roof: metal

walls: wood

other: _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance c.1845

Significant Dates c.1845, c.1880

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Larmore, Vance C.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.47 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>623220</u>	<u>3821580</u>	4	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	5	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	6	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Moore, consultant, and Christy Anderson, AHC Reviewer

organization Private Consultant date August 28, 2003

street & number Post Office Box 1140 telephone 205-755-7739

city or town Clanton state AL zip code 35046-1140

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name James R. Howell Jr. and Karma Howell

street & number 810 County Road 606 telephone 256-635-6124

city or town Valley Head state AL zip code 35989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

VII. Narrative Description

The Vance C. Larmore House is located at 810 County Road 606 (Wade Gap Road), in the vicinity of Hammondville, in central DeKalb County, Alabama. The property is situated just east of U.S. Highway 11, halfway between the City of Fort Payne and the Town of Hammondville. The large majority of the parcel (2.72 acres on the north/east side of County Road 606) falls within an unincorporated area surrounded by the towns of Hammondville on the northwest and Valley Head on the northeast; a small portion (0.75 acres on the south/west side of County Road 606) lies within the corporate limits of Fort Payne. The property is included in the Hammondville police and fire jurisdiction, and it receives mail at a Valley Head address. Set in a predominantly rural landscape of the Big Wills Valley, lying between Big Ridge on the northwest and Little Ridge on the southeast, the resource comprises the remaining 3.47 acres of a settlement period homestead that included as much as 1700 acres by 1860. Remaining resources are a contributing residence and three contributing outbuildings. The house, a mid-nineteenth century, two-story, frame, I-house with Victorian period stylistic influences, remains as one of the earliest and most intact examples of its type in the region. Its vernacular I-house form is characterized by a side-gabled roof, prominent end chimneys, symmetrical five-bay façade, and central passage plan's two stories in height and one room in depth. A one-story rear gabled ell completes the plan and appears to date from the same period. Consistent with the time and place of construction, ornamentation is simple but highly notable for the local setting. Significant features include original 9/6 and 6/6 wood windows with molded surrounds and corner blocks, Classically inspired mantels, paneled doors, paneled wainscot, and molded door surrounds. Victorian period scrollwork decorates the porch. An original smokehouse and slave cabin further enhance the significance of the resource, and a dilapidated outhouse evokes a by-gone necessity. Original materials are overwhelmingly intact and alteration is minimal. Encroachment by modern industrial, residential, and recreational development of the nearby towns of Fort Payne, Hammondville, and Valley Head, as well proximity to a proposed Memphis-to-Atlanta interstate highway, increasingly threatens the rural setting.

Access to the Vance C. Larmore House is gained from U.S. Highway 11 by turning southeast on paved County Road 606, proceeding through a recent residential development of spacious neo-eclectic houses on large rolling lots carved out of the original Larmore acreage. The wide expanse of landscape reflects the historic agricultural use of the land. Upon reaching the northern boundary of the nominated resource, the road narrows. The roughly rectangular 3.47 acre lot runs in a northwest to southeast orientation, with the house facing west-southwest (generally westward) and being centrally located on the property. The narrow county road runs directly in front of the house, separating it from an outbuilding originally used as a slave cabin. Leaving the property, the gravel road changes to dirt and continues in a southeasterly direction, becoming increasingly rural in ambience as it moves toward the Little Ridge and eastward to Railroad Valley where it joins Gault Avenue North, a major north/south thoroughfare linking Fort Payne and Valley Head. Meandering generally along the western property line and forming the lowest elevation of the lot is a stream fed by a spring located just outside the southernmost corner of the lot. This has been a significant source of water for the farmstead and is one of the numerous streams feeding Big Wills Creek. The property rises gently to the northeast, to a hillside covered in a natural landscape of cedar and hardwood trees. This natural barrier encloses the complex along the rear property line and extends around the southeast boundary as it decreases in elevation until reaching the spring. A large grove of walnut trees was planted during the 1970s on open land on either side of the house, with roughly 100 trees on the north and 25 trees on the south side. A narrow gravel drive leads eastward from the county road along the north side of the house, terminating between the rear ell of the house and the south-facing smokehouse. Landscape

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

features include a stone walk leading from the road through an arched iron pipe arbor to the front porch, a walkway on the south side of the house bordered in wood planks and filled with wood chips, and terraced beds on the south and east sides. Two large cedar trees on each side of the front walk were lost in a recent ice storm (c.1980). Other small beds are located in the front yard, and wood plank curbing borders small beds beside the smokehouse. Grass covers the open areas of the yard and walnut grove. Historic horizontal wood fencing across the front yard appearing in the c. 1880 photograph has been lost, but remnants of a wire fence remain along the rear of the property. In spite of the loss of original acreage, the setting maintains its rural character, signified by the intact condition of the built resources, the natural appearance of the landscape, the unimproved condition of the county road, and the lack of modern intrusions.

The setting is dominated by the handsome simplicity of the mid-19th century vernacular I-house. The building faces generally west and rests on foundation piers of native stone and concrete block (on only a small portion of the south façade), partially enclosed by lattice and ranging in height from 3.5 feet on the west to less than a foot on the east. The stones supporting the front façade are giant single blocks of native rock, painted green. Exterior wall covering is original weatherboard siding painted white. The large majority of windows are double-hung wood sashes, with 9/6 lights on the ground floor and 6/6 above. Window ornamentation includes upper corner blocks, a molded casing, and beaded stool. Louvered wood shutters (painted green) have been removed and stored in the smokehouse, and ground floor windows have been covered with aluminum storm windows. The two-story side-gabled house is intersected on the south side of the rear (east) facade by a one-story gabled ell. The roof bears a medium pitch and is covered with standing seam metal dating from the 1970s. The current owner believes the original roof covering to have been wood shingles. A plain cornice encloses the roof eaves. Wood-floored porches measure six feet in depth and include a one-story, three-quarter width shed-roof porch on the front façade, an inset gabled porch along the north side of the rear ell, and an attached shed-roof porch on the south side of the rear ell. Two massive brick end chimneys, the hallmark of the I-house, serve four fireplaces, and a brick interior chimney of the rear ell serves two additional fireplaces. A cellar is located beneath the rear kitchen.

Access to the residence is up three shallow steps of the natural stone walk to a narrow open porch stair consisting of seven wood steps and a single wood rail. The stair leads to the three-quarter-width one-story shed-roof porch supported by square wood posts and ornamented with a Victorian period scrollwork rail and corner brackets. Much of the scrollwork appears to be original, but some pieces date from a 1970s renovation. The principal westward-facing façade features five/five symmetrical bays reflecting the interior central passage plan. Four double-hung 9/6 wood sash windows comprise the ground floor fenestration, with five 6/6 sashes on the second story. Entrance is through single-panel double-leaf doors covered with screened doors and flanked by 4-pane sidelights.

The north elevation of the two-story portion of the house features the massive brick end chimney, occupying roughly the central one-third of the end wall before narrowing inward at the attic level. This wall is void of fenestration. The remainder of the north façade bears the one-story inset gabled ell porch supported by square wood posts, wide horizontal tongue-and-groove wall covering (matching the interior walls and ornamented with a chair rail and base mold), two secondary entrances (each a two-panel single-leaf wood door covered with screened doors), and a 6/6 light window enclosed in a molded casing but void of the decorative corner blocks. Two notably wide uncut stone steps provide access to the porch. Foundation piers of the rear ell, likewise, are native stones.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

Located on south half of the east (rear) elevation is the one-story gable end of the rear ell. This rear wall features a symmetrically located replacement window (paired 6/6 double-hung wood sashes) and the ends of the attached and inset porches. This window appears to have been replaced during a 1970s kitchen renovation. The two-story portion on north side of the east (rear) façade features four original windows, symmetrically arranged with two 9/6 sashes on the ground floor and two 6/6 above, and a two-panel door leading from the inset porch to the rear of the center hall.

The south façade contains the two-story gable end and prominent end chimney on the west side, the south side of the rear ell, and the attached rear shed-roof porch on the east side. Fenestration of the two-story portion includes original windows on the east side of the end chimney, a 9/6 double hung sash below and 6/6 above. On the rear ell are two original sash windows, a 9/6 on the west side and a 6/6 on the east, the easternmost lacking the ornamental corner block. A six panel door provides access to the attached porch. Replacement concrete foundation blocks support a small section of the rear ell, near its joint with the main house.

The small cellar located under the kitchen is accessible by wooden steps leading underneath the floor of the attached south porch. The area measures approximately eight by twelve feet and is constructed of a wall of large stones joined with mortar, unlike the dry-laid stone foundation piers.

Like the exterior, the interior elements are remarkably intact. In the two-story main portion of the house, the central passage plan features a wide center hall (8' x 17.5') flanked by spacious rooms (15' wide x 17.5' deep). The south room continues to function as a parlor, and the north room was used historically as a bedroom and currently as an office. Floors are original pine tongue-and-groove boards (6" - 6.5") wide, and walls and ceilings are original pine tongue-and-groove boards of even greater width (6" - 8"). Square nails and pegs join the wood, and a rounded threshold separates interior rooms. Floor and ceiling boards run in a north/south direction, and wall boards are horizontal; floors are varnished and covered with a light polyurethane coating, and walls and ceilings are painted, with the exception of the parlor wainscot. First floor ceilings are eight feet high. Interior doors vary slightly in design and size, with a four-panel door leading to the bedroom/office and two-panel doors opening into the parlor from the center hall and the rear ell. Original hardware is intact. A small closet constructed of plywood paneling and measuring 8.5' wide and 3' deep was added on the south wall of the bedroom/office during the 1970s renovation. Though decorative trim is void in the center hall, it is quite notable in the flanking rooms, including stained and paneled wainscot, a narrow rounded chair rail, a six-inch molded base, and four-inch molded door and window casing. Mantels are good examples of mid-nineteenth century vernacular ornament, with square pilasters supporting a Classically-inspired tripartite entablature and a plain shelf. Brick surrounds and hearths remain in the fireplaces, but both chimneys have been sealed. The north fireplace also bears a new brick firebox and gas logs, dating from the 1970s renovations. A closed quarter-turn stair situated at the south end of the center hall leads to the second floor, separated from the hallway by a six-panel door at the third step. A two-panel door leads to a rear ell porch. The current owner has installed ceiling fans in the parlor and office and a gas heater on the north wall of the center hall.

Twelve steep narrow steps, measuring five feet wide, nine inches high, and 11.5 inches deep, make a quarter-turn before reaching a wide (13.5 feet) center hall flanked by two bedrooms roughly measuring 13 feet wide and 17 feet deep. The stair well was originally enclosed on the west and south with a simple rail of one-inch square posts. Later, the rail on the south side was removed to accommodate a closet addition. Also added at this time were the walls of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

south bedroom, both constructed of four-inch vertical tongue-and-groove wall board, appearing to date from the early twentieth century. A small door on the east wall of the south bedroom was formed out of the wall boards to provide a concealed access to the attic of the rear ell. The plywood-paneled wall of the north bedroom appears to date from the 1970s. Though primarily depicting a mirror image of the first floor, the second floor is executed in a slightly less ornate style. Floors, walls, and ceilings are of the same wide tongue-and-groove as used downstairs, but a simple chair rail replaces the paneled wainscot, the molded base board is not present, door and window cases lack the molded trim, and mantel entablatures do not possess the decorative center panel. One deviation from this is the four-panel grained door leading to the north bedroom. As this wall appears to have been added in the 1970s, the door would have been moved from another location. The current owner added bath facilities on the west end of the center hall, installing an antique tub in keeping with the historic character of the house and choosing to leave the space open to better reflect the original plan. A folded screen provides privacy. On the front (west) wall of the second floor center hall, an original door opening surrounds the window, suggesting that the house likely possessed a two-story porch at one time, though exterior evidence is lacking. An historic photograph from 1880 depicts a one-story porch with a second-floor window, indicating the change was made prior to that date.

The rear gabled ell is accessed from the south parlor. This section contains two large rooms: a dining room and kitchen, both measuring approximately 17.5 feet square. Floors again are original pine tongue and groove boards (6"-6.5") wide, and, likewise, walls and ceilings are original pine tongue-and-groove boards of even greater width (6" - 8"). Windows are original 6/6 wood sashes, with the exception of an original 9/6 wood sash on the west side of the south façade of the rear ell, and the 6/6 paired sashes on the east wall of the kitchen. The passageway from the dining room to the kitchen has no door and only minimal molded trim. A large interior chimney serves two brick fireplaces; the dining room side possesses a mantel matching those in the parlor and first floor bedroom, and the kitchen fireplace bears a wide limestone hearth and large twelve-inch square timber mantel shelf. The chimney fell into disrepair during the years the house served as rental property. Hence, a wood stove has been installed in the dining room and gas logs in the kitchen. In the dining room, original built-in cabinets are located on the south end of the chimney; similarly, an original pantry is located on the south side of the kitchen fireplace. Family lore holds that these built-in cabinets are made of the barge that brought the Larmore family to De Kalb County. The china cabinet contains two sections, a double leaf one on the north side and a single leaf on the south, with the upper half having 8-light doors and the lower half having single panel doors. Two narrow drawers separate the upper and lower sections. The pantry is made of narrow vertical flush board, with a narrow door on the north side. It has been plumbed and wired to accommodate laundry facilities. The east wall of the kitchen contains modern appliances and cabinets. Ceiling fans have been installed in both rooms, and an antique light fixture is centered over the dining room table. The bathroom on the southwest corner of the dining room dates from the 1930s and currently bears large plywood-panel walls and a four-panel door.

Directly across the road from the house is a one-story outbuilding measuring thirty-four feet across by sixteen feet deep. Constructed of wide (eleven-inch) vertical tongue-and-groove wood siding and a corrugated-metal-covered side-gabled roof, it is believed to have originally been a slave cabin. Two vertical-board doors provide access to the east façade, now opening to a single room. A large square stone hearth is centrally located and contains brick rubble of a former firebox and chimney and suggests that the cabin originally might have been constructed as a saddle bag plan.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

On the rear (west) façade, two openings consist of small lower doors with upper panels hinged at the top and opening outward. A shed-roof porch extends along the rear. The building is currently vacant.

Facing generally south and situated at the end of the gravel drive, opposite the inset porch of the rear ell of the house, is an original gable-front weatherboard smokehouse. The corrugated-tin gabled roof projects outward from the façade, supported by plain brackets. A vertical-board door provides access. On the interior, original wood pegs served to hold cured meats, and clerestory windows along both side walls provided ventilation. The building is currently used for storage.

Just a short distance behind the smokehouse, to the northeast of the house, is the remains of an outhouse, a shed-roof, vertical-board construction appearing to date from the early twentieth century and currently in a dilapidated condition.

Archaeological Component

Although no archaeological survey has been conducted in association with the Vance C. Larmore House, there exists the potential for subsurface remains on the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

VIII. Statement of Significance

Criterion A: Settlement

The Vance C. Larmore House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of exploration/settlement. Possessing historic materials and an architectural form consistent with regional examples of the settlement period and documented by family tradition and historic evidence, the house is believed to date from the early-to-mid-1840s, yielding a c.1845 construction date. It is the first permanent residence and only remaining resource associated with Vance C. Larmore, who came with his wife Margaret into the Big Wills Valley around 1838, during the period of earliest settlement of the county. Local historians cite the couple as early pioneers of the Big Wills Valley and credit Vance with significant contributions to the development of the county's architecture, agriculture, and transportation. Documentary evidence confirms that he was married in Washington County, Virginia, 8 January 1838, his eldest child was born in Alabama in 1839, he held patents to 440 acres by 1845, including the quarter-section on which the nominated residence is located, and, by 1850, he had improved 300 acres of land and become one of the county's most affluent heads of household. The residence ultimately formed the nucleus of a settlement-period homestead comprising as much as 1040 acres acquired by government patent between the years 1845 to 1859 and totaling as much as 1700 acres by 1860.

Because of its mountainous terrain and the lingering presence of the Cherokee, De Kalb County remained as one of the last areas of the state to be settled, following the Treaty of New Echota in 1835 and removal of the Cherokee and creation of DeKalb County in 1836. The Big and Little Wills Valleys became the most attractive sections of the county, as they possessed the most fertile land, even though geophysically more conducive to small farmsteads than to large plantations. Sparse settlement of the county began in the 1830s, significantly increased mid-decade, and finally intensified to a population of 5929 in 1840. It continued to rise to 8245 the following decade, and, by the 1850s, most of the available land in the Big and Little Wills Valleys had been cleared and cultivated (Thomason, p.16, p.43).

Local historians record Hammondville and Valley Head as two of the earliest settlements in the county, naming Dr. James Gardner and William Overton Winston as the first settlers in 1828 and 1836, respectively, and listing Colonel Vance Cummings Larmore among other early notables. Other settlement period activity in the Valley included the Willstown Mission for the Cherokee from 1823 to 1838 located in what is now Fort Payne, and Fort Payne, a federal post established in 1836 to expedite the Cherokee removal. The first courthouse was built in Lebanon in 1842 (Heritage, p.2-4, 22; Thomason, p.43).

Though no comprehensive county-wide architectural survey exists, results of two recent area reports reveal the Vance Larmore House to be one of the only extant and intact mid-nineteenth-century, settlement-period residences in the Big Wills Valley and indicate the resource to be even furthermore significant for the presence of increasingly rare original outbuildings. The 1999 Thomason and Associates' *Historic Landscape Study of the Big and Little Wills Valley* comprises an inventory of 147 (one hundred forty-seven) properties located in an area between Fort Payne on the north and Etowah County on the south, Thomason states that only a few antebellum structures were located in the survey

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

area. Of eleven pre-1860 structures surveyed, only two were recommended for National Register listing, these being the c. 1850 Samuel D. Warren House (#111) and the c. 1850 McBroom House (#23).

Though not as intensive a study, Gene Ford's 2000 *Windshield Survey of the Sand and Dugout Valley* reports similar findings in the area north of Fort Payne to the Georgia state line. Of fifty-seven surveyed resources, only three ante-bellum buildings were documented. Of these, only the Larmore House (#55) and the c. 1850 Davenport House (#57) are recommended for NRHP listing. However, the Larmore House (#55) cited in this report is incorrectly identified as the Vance Cummings Larmore House, as the description fits that of the nearby Thomas Jefferson Larmore House, a three-bay I-house believed to have been constructed by Vance for his son, Thomas Jefferson Larmore (1850-1906). These two properties were listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in the late 1970s, the T. J. Larmore House in 1978 and the V. C. Larmore House in 1979. Since that time, around 1988, the T. J. Larmore House has been severely damaged by fire and recently reconstructed in modern materials. Today, only the exterior shell of the original structure remains. The survey did not extend beyond the main U.S. 11 Highway; hence, the Vance Larmore House was overlooked.

Other properties attributed to and associated with Vance Larmore have been lost, including the White Hall Academy, a gable-front school dating from the mid-nineteenth century and extant until the mid-twentieth century, and original Larmore grave markers that have been vandalized or removed from the Willstown Mission Cemetery in Fort Payne. Vance, his wife, and four of his children are buried in the cemetery. His marker is now in possession of family members for the purpose of ensuring its preservation. A new granite marker denotes the grave. Family tradition holds that Larmore also constructed homes for two other sons, operated saw and grist mills and a coal mine, and was instrumental in bringing the first railroad, but the properties associated with these enterprises are neither extant nor documented. Therefore, the Vance C. Larmore House remains as one of the few settlement period residences remaining in the region and the only remaining resource associated with settler Vance C. Larmore.

Criterion C: Architecture

As an outstanding example of a mid-nineteenth-century I-house with rear ell, the Vance C. Larmore House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The resource is signified by its overwhelmingly intact original design, materials, plan, outbuildings, and setting, altered only by its Victorian period porch details and twentieth-century kitchen, baths, and closet amenities. It possesses the characteristic features of the I-house: a form of two stories high and one room deep, massive end chimneys, and a center hall plan. Interior detailing includes Classically-inspired molded mantels, paneled wainscot, molded door and window surrounds, and a built-in china cabinet and pantry. As the residence of one of DeKalb County's earliest settlers, the house depicts the transition of the vernacular I-house form from the Eastern states to the rural frontier and its subsequent proliferation as a prototype for local domestic architecture. It also reveals the level of refinement in detail that was achieved by this vernacular house form, as it became the preferred residence of the upper-middle- and upper-class rural nineteenth-century Alabama landholder (Gamble; Ford, Ward House).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

The Vance C. Larmore House remains as one of four ante-bellum I-houses cited in the recent Thomason and Ford architectural survey reports of the DeKalb County valley regions, and, of these, as one of only three that remain intact (also the Davenport House, #57, Ford report; the Warren House, #111, Thomason report). Other significant resources trace their origins to the I-house but display later dominant stylistic influences, such as the McBroom House (#23, Thomason report) and Winston Place in Valley Head (NRHP, 3/19/87), both of which were remodeled around the turn-of-the-century to the Classical Revival. That the I-form continued to dominate the landscape throughout the nineteenth-century is evidenced by the c. 1870 and 1890 residences at 45000 U.S. Highway 11 (#17, Ford report) and 6192 U.S. Highway 11 (#13, Ford report), respectively. Vance Larmore is credited with the design and construction of the nominated resource, possibly influenced by the tradition of his native Abingdon, Virginia, and the English-based I-house form that would have been imported from the Tidewater region. Vance Larmore is also credited by local historians and family descendents as being the builder of the Thomas Jefferson Larmore I-house, possibly around 1880 (ARLH 7/28/78). The present building located at this site contains only the exterior shell of the original building that burned c.1988 and was recently reconstructed of modern materials.

Historical Summary:

Vance Cummings Larmore was born in 1809 in Abingdon, Washington County, Virginia, the son of John Larimore and Jane Vance Larimore. On 8 January 1838, in Abingdon, he married Margaret Lyle McSpadden, who was ten years his junior, born in 1819 (Larmore family papers; Lyle). According to family tradition, he came by barge down the Tennessee River, with his bride, slaves, and lumber to build a new home, landing first in Stevenson, Alabama, crossing Sand Mountain, and, finally, settling in the Big Wills Valley of the newly-created DeKalb County (Lilla Larmore, "Vance Larmore"). According to family and census records, Larmore's oldest child was born in Alabama 17 January 1839 and was eleven years old in 1850, placing the family in the state during the DeKalb settlement period (1850 census; "Early Settlers"). He and his wife Margaret produced twelve children between the years 1839 and 1861, eight of whom survived to adulthood.

During the ensuing decades, he gained title to 1040 acres of land by government patent, beginning with one-hundred-sixty acres in the northeast quarter of Township 6 South, Range 9 East, Section 11, the section in which the nominated resource is located. The patent was recorded 01 May 1845, but settlement most likely preceded this date. By 01 January 1859, his holdings included 680 contiguous acres in Sections 1, 2, 3, 11, and 12 of Township 6 South, Range 9 East, DeKalb County; four non-contiguous quarter-sections in DeKalb County (160 acres); two non-contiguous quarter-sections in Clay County (80 acres); and three non-contiguous quarter-sections in Cleburne County (120 acres), totaling 1040 acres (GLO records). He also acquired additional property, as family and census records indicate he held as much as 1700 total acres by 1860 (1860 Federal Census of Agriculture; Scott).

Census records indicate that he had only one slave in 1850, a fourteen-year-old mulatto, but he amassed real property valued at \$6000, placing him among the four wealthiest men in the county. In that year he reported 300 acres of improved land and 325 acres not improved; farm cash value of \$6000, farm implement value of \$500; livestock value of \$1665, including horses (18), mules (5), milk cows (6), oxen (4), other cattle (5), sheep (15), swine (125); crop production in bushels of wheat (180), Indian corn (2500), oats (2000), peas & beans (10), Irish potatoes (25), sweet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

potatoes (100); wool (40 pounds); butter (400 pounds); hay (20 tons); value of homemade manufacturing (\$200) (Federal Census of 1850: agriculture census and slave schedule).

By 1860, he held eight slaves and reported a farm cash value of \$10,000, with 600 acres of improved land and 1100 acres of unimproved land. Farm implements were valued at \$1000; livestock at \$2000, including horses (12), mules (4), milk cows (14), oxen (4), other cattle (20), sheep (40), and swine (100); crop production in bushels of wheat (300), rye (10), Indian corn (4000), oats (400), peas (50), Irish potatoes (50), sweet potatoes (100); wool (60 pounds); butter (300 pounds); hay (50 tons); molasses (50 gallons); hones (20 pounds); value of homemade manufacturing (\$2000); value of animals slaughtered (\$310) (Federal Census of 1860: agriculture census and slave schedule).

Vance Larmore is credited with being "one of the best and most successful farmers" in the county. His homestead stood "near the sources of the stream which waters the Big Wills Valley . . . In each of the valleys which run north and south through the county are broad fields which he cleared, tended, and enriched. There, too, are the houses he builded, the comfortable homes that he founded, which, later on, he bequeathed to his children." He is noted as a public-spirited man who did more for masonry in DeKalb County than any other single individual, being listed as a member of the Valley Head Lodge, F. A. A. M. ("Col. Larmore"). He was later remembered as "the leading spirit [in the county] in all movements for advancement and progress. He advocated soil and timber conservation, fertilization of crops, stock raising, and improved equipment of cultivation. It is claimed that the first cradle that was ever used in the [county] for harvesting grain was used on the Larmer farm" (Raley). He is also reported to have purchased the first cook stove in the county and the first sewing machine (Lilla Larmore). Larmore is also listed as a founding partner of the Wills Valley Railroad, chartered 03 February 1852, the oldest of the constituent companies forming the Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company (Owen, vol. I, p.24).

Vance C. Larmore died tragically on 28 January 1886, at the age of 75, when he was crushed by a falling tree. His wife Margaret survived him until 04 June 1898, when she died at the age of 79. The homestead passed to his son Charles Theodore Larmore (born 13 March 1857, died 07 February 1930), to C.T.'s son M. F. Larmore, to M.F.'s nephew Carl H. Jerden (great-grandson of Vance). In the early-twentieth-century, probably in the late-1920s, the house and small acreage surrounding it became rental property, but ownership still was held by the family for another half-century. During this period, family members continued to farm the large surrounding acreage, primarily raising wheat, and cattle and, in the mid-century, pine (Jerden; Scott).

Plumbing and electrical improvements were made during the 1930s, kitchen appliances were updated and a bath installed around 1950, and some restoration was begun in the 1970s by Carl Jerden, including the insulation of the exterior walls by the careful removal and replacement of the weatherboard siding and the reconstruction of deteriorated porch ornament. The walnut grove around the house was planted in the 1970s (Howell; Scott).

The homestead remained in the family until April 1993, when Carlos Jerden sold 251 acres to Abe Clark, who in turn sold this property to the Big Wills L.L.C. in October 1993. In July 1996, James and Karma Howells rented the 3.47 acre tract containing the house and outbuildings and began a sensitive restoration of the property. The work has included removing several layers of linoleum and carpet from the floors, restoration of the chimneys, rewiring, installation of gas heaters and ceiling fans, installation of the upstairs bath, and updating of kitchen appliances. They

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8,9 Page 10 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

purchased the property in August of 2000 and are seeking National Register listing to bring about recognition of the property and make it eligible for a façade and conservation easement (Howell, Thomas).

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 11 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 12 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

X. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Vance C. Larmore House are defined by the Plat of Boundary from the Big Wills Development, L.L.C. to James R. Howell, Jr., Deed Book 686, pages 96 and 97, DeKalb County, Alabama, as follows:

Commence at an existing concrete monument marking the northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼) of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) of Section 2, Township 6 South, Range 9 East of the Huntsville Meridian and proceed South 63 deg 50' 30" West for a distance of 110.41 feet to an existing iron pin on the southeast right-of-way boundary of US Highway No. 11 (80 ft. ROW); thence proceed South 19 deg 43' 10" East for a distance of 3,315.22 feet to an iron pin set with cap (PLS #11568), said point being the point of beginning;

Thence proceed North 86 deg 08' 15" East for a distance of 199.23 feet to an iron pin set with cap (PLS # 11568); thence proceed South 38 deg 12' 30" East for a distance of 213.34 feet to an iron pin set with cap (PLS #11568); thence proceed South 26 deg 20' 05" East for a distance of 170.14 feet to an iron pin set with cap (PLS# 11568); thence proceed South 28 deg 31' 35" West for a distance of 220.01 feet to an iron pin set with cap (PLS #11568); thence proceed North 40 deg 15' 25" West for a distance of 231.42 feet to an iron pin set with cap (PLS #11568); thence proceed South 58 deg 53' 15" West for a distance of 59.94 feet to an iron pin set with cap (PLS# 11568); thence proceed North 50 deg 01' 25" West for a distance of 187.22 feet to an iron pin set with cap (PLS # 11568); thence proceed North 33 deg 22' 10" West for a distance of 198.89 feet to an iron pin set with cap (PLS # 11568); thence proceed North 54 deg 34' 10" East for a distance of 109.26 feet to an iron pin set with cap (PLS # 11568); thence proceed North 85 deg 49' 40" East for a distance of 63.74 feet to the point of beginning.

Said parcel of land lying in the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section 11, Township 6 South, Range 9 East, DeKalb County, Alabama and containing 3.47 acres, more or less.

Less and except that part lying with the right-of-way for Dekalb County Road No. 608 (unpaved) traversing through the west portion of said parcel.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant historic property associated with the Vance C. Larmore House and its associated outbuildings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section photos Page 13 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

Photographs:

The following information is the same for photograph #s 1-27:

1. Name of property: Vance C. Larmore House
2. Location of property: 810 County Road 606
De Kalb, AL
3. Name of photographer: Sally Moore
4. Date of Photograph: December 2002
5. Location of original negatives: Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

Photo #:

- # 1) View of resource setting, camera facing southeast.
- # 2) View of front (west) and north facades and smokehouse, camera facing southeast.
- # 3) View of front (west) façade, camera facing east.
- # 4) View of front (west) and south façades, camera facing northeast.
- #5) View of south and east facades, including slave cabin and smokehouse; camera facing northwest.
- #6) View of east and north facades, camera facing southwest.
- #7) View of front porch detail, camera facing northeast.
- # 8) View of first floor front window (south side of front façade), camera facing northeast.
- # 9) View of foundation, southwest corner of house; camera facing northeast.
- # 10) View of front (west) entrance, camera facing east.
- # 11) View of front (west) entrance from interior, camera facing west.
- #12) View of Bedroom/Office, camera facing northeast.
- #13) View of interior door opened to Bedroom/Office from center hall, camera facing southwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section photos Page 14 name of property: Larmore, Vance C., House
county and State De Kalb County, AL

- # 14) View of floor detail at threshold between center hall and parlor, camera facing south.
- # 15) View of parlor mantel showing paneled wainscot and window surround, camera facing south.
- #16) View of interior door opened to parlor from dining room, camera facing east.
- #17) View of dining room showing fireplace and built-in cabinet, camera facing east.
- #18) View of dining room showing bath addition, camera facing southwest.
- # 19) View of kitchen, showing fireplace and pantry, camera facing southwest.
- # 20) View of kitchen, showing detail of floor and north exterior door, camera facing north.
- # 21) View of interior stairs from downstairs center hall, camera facing east.
- # 22) View of upstairs hall and stair rail, camera facing southeast.
- # 23) View of upstairs north bedroom mantel, camera facing north.
- # 24) View of upstairs south bedroom showing detail of front windows and ceiling, camera facing west.
- # 25) View of smokehouse, camera facing northwest.
- # 26) View of slave cabin, camera facing southwest.
- # 27) View of slave cabin and main house, camera facing southeast.

Information remains the same for photograph #s 28 and 28, with the exception of the following:

4. Date of photograph: August 2003.

- # 28) View of outhouse, camera facing northeast.
- # 29) View of outhouse setting from northeast corner of rear ell porch, camera facing northeast.