

PH 0685844

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	OCT 10 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 8

**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

Leech-Hauer House

AND/OR COMMON

Hauer House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

502 Governors Drive

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Huntsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Alabama

VICINITY OF

CODE

01

COUNTY

Madison

CODE

089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Drs. Thomas H. and R. Parker Griffith

STREET & NUMBER

930 Franklin Street, Suite 209

CITY, TOWN

Huntsville

STATE

Alabama

VICINITY OF

35801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Madison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Huntsville

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Huntsville Architecture

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Huntsville Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

Huntsville

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 Leech-Hauer House is a detached, two-story, brick structure built in an L-shape. A gable roof with ridge parallel to the street covers the main part of the house and another gable intersects it at a right angle over the back ell. Box eaves finish the horizontal edges while the gable ends are flush with the wall; all roofs are shingled. The three brick chimneys are centered, one in each gable; those of the principal facade are exterior and the third in interior. The facade brickwork is of plain stretcher bond while the side and back walls have headers every sixth row. The symmetrically placed windows are double hung with six lights per sash and plain wooden sills and lintels. The entrance is framed by a rectangular toplight of seven panes and side-lights of three panes each. The wide, two-panel, Greek Revival door has been moved to the porch. A bungalow type, one-story porch with low masonry wall, brick piers, and hipped roof was added across the front during the first quarter of this century and has now been enclosed with multipaned windows and the Greek Revival door. The house is painted white.

Inside the house retains its original mantles, stairway, woodwork and floors. Four of the six mantles have a single, unfluted, tapered column at each side rising directly from the hearth to support a high, plain entablature and mantle shelf. The two mantles of the ell have fluted pilasters instead of detached columns. All have been converted to coal burning and are painted white as is all the woodwork. The stairway, located in the entrance hall, rises to a landing which extends the full width of the hall then continues to the second floor having made a full half-turn. There are two rectangular balusters per step, a round hand rail, and brackets on each stair end. A narrow, enclosed stairway with winders connects the two rooms of the ell. The frames of the east front parlor and the hall are deeply fluted with square corner blocks incised with a circle. All other frames are butted flat boards with plain corner blocks. Only those doorways which lead to the exterior have transoms. Most interior doors are gone but those that remain are Greek Revival. The original wide plank floors have not been covered by later flooring, but some have been painted. All six original rooms are approximately twenty feet square while the entrance hall measures twelve feet by twenty feet. There is a doorway and door at the back of the hall under the stair landing and a window above on the landing.

Probably during the 1920's or 1930's, several rooms were added within the angle of the 'L'. These two-story brick additions contain the kitchen and bathrooms and have ribbons of bungalow type windows. A one-story windowless room was added in 1974 to the back of the ell.

Two outbuildings are also situated on the property. One is an old, ten foot square, one-story structure of handmade brick with a pyramidal roof which was possibly a smokehouse or wellhouse. The other is a 20th century frame barn (30' x 40') with a metal sheathed, gambrel roof.

The house is situated on a one acre lot facing south onto a major highway, but it is sheltered by large trees and numerous plantings.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1830

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Leech, carpenter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Leech-Hauer House appears to be a very early example (c. 1830) of Greek Revival domestic architecture in Huntsville, Alabama. William Leech purchased 29 acres of land southwest of the Huntsville city limits in 1825; in 1833 he made his will in which he stated that he was residing on the property at that time. An L-shaped house appears on the 1861 Huntsville map and a later deed of 1879 mentions that the structure was of brick construction. Each deed after 1833 mentions the presence of a residence. This early date is reinforced by the presence of exterior Federal features, particularly the five-bay facade with central entrance, gable roof with box eaves and gable end chimneys, and twenty foot square rooms with a central stair hall. However, the rear ell, the mantles, the surviving doors, and the entrance lights are typical of the Greek Revival. The 1861 map indicates that the house had a small entrance porch which would be appropriate to an 1830 date. The house appears to be a transitional structure retaining the Federal features on the exterior while introducing Greek Revival details on the interior.

William Leech was a professional house carpenter. His only recorded contract states that he, or his journeymen, would complete all the carpentry work on a brick house, dividing it "in such a number of rooms and finished in such style as (the owner) may direct."¹ It is reasonable to assume that Leech also did all the carpentry work on his own house. The auction of the personal property belonging to his estate contained a great number of woodworking tools and nearly three hundred pounds of cut nails.² Leech also is listed in a long account of early Huntsville, published in 1881, as one of several local builders, although of less importance than George Steele.³

Although additions have been made to the rear, the original structure itself has not been altered since the kitchen and bathrooms were located in the new rooms. This is one of the few early Huntsville houses that still retains its original mantles, woodwork, stairway, and floors in an unmodernized condition.

John G. Hauer purchased the house and 26 acres in 1904, and the property remained the family residence until 1974 when it was sold to Bishops Flower and Garden Center for their shop. Bishops glassed in the front porch, added track lighting and extra electrical outlets, but did not structurally alter the original portion of the building. They sold the property consisting of one acre to Thomas and Parker Griffith in September, 1977.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- ¹ Deed Book, vol. P, p. 336. Madison County Courthouse.
- ² Probate Record Book, vol. 8, p. 453. Madison County Courthouse.
- ³ Prof. Leroy J. Halsey, D.D., LL.D., The Huntsville Independent, March 7, 1881, p.1.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.04 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME 7.5' Series Huntsville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 5,3,7,8,1,0 3,8,4,1,9,2,0

B

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

1.04 acres of Block 403, fronting 146 feet along the north side of Governor's Drive.

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 Ellen Mertins, Alabama Historical Commission
Linda Bayer, Huntsville Planning Commission

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Alabama Historical Commission

September 27, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

725 Monroe Street

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Montgomery

Alabama 36130

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

Miss B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE SHP.O

DATE Sept. 28, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

John P. Charles
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12 8 78

ATTEST: *Jann H. Gilmore*

DATE 12/6/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION