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

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 2 1984
date entered AUG 3 0 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Nam	ie			
historic McK1	Leroy-Wilson-Kirb	y House		
and/or common	McKleroy Home	Place: Kirby Hous	e	
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	1604 Quintard A	ven <del>ue</del>	Ŋ	IA_ not for publication
city, town	Anniston	NA vicinity of	congressional dis	strict 3
state	Alabama d	code <sup>01</sup> cou	inty Calhoun	code 015
3. Clas	sification	-		
Category  district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered NA	Status occupiedX unoccupied work in progre Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestrict	entertainment government	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation X other: vacant
4. Own	er of Prop	erty		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
name T-Jon	Properties, Joh	n Hipp, President		
street & number	P. O. Box 5593			
city, town	Columbia	NA vicinity of	state	SC 29250
5. Loca	ation of Le	gal Descrip	tion	
		alhoun County Cour	thouse	
street & number	25 West 11th	Street		13.1
6. Repr	Anniston	n in Existin	a Surveys	Alabama 36201
		IIII EXISTIII	g our veys	
title Alabama	1 Inventory	has this	s property been determined el	igible? yes _X no
date 1970-pr	cesent		federal X sta	te county local
depository for su	rvey records Alaba	ma Historical Comm	ission	
city, town Mo	ontgomery		state	Alabama

## 7. Description

Condition  excellent deteriorated  X good ruins  fair unexposed	Check one  unaltered  altered	Check one  X original site  moved date	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kirby property is situated on a prominent sloping hill on the west side of Quintard Avenue. The house is a frame, irregularly shaped two-and-one-half story structure with a one-story north wing, a porte-cochere on the south, polytextural exterior wall treatment, and a jerkinhead roof with subordinate cross gables. Dominant features of the Queen Anne Victorian house include the three-story tourelle at the southeast corner with rounded windows at each stage and topped by a conical roof with a bracketed cornice; and the wrap-around porch along the front or east side and the south side with turned column supports, a pedimented entry and denticulated cornice, the latter feature being repeated at the roof line.

The only alterations include the removal of the wrought-iron roof cresting, the porch balusters and other ornamental porch trim, and the replacement of the round third-story window with a rectangular louvered vent.

The transomed, trabeated front entrance leads to an interior with modified center-hall arrangement with a side hall, flanking formal rooms, and an inglenook in the foyer. An eclectic character prevails throughout, though with a predominantly Queen Anne and Neo-Renaissance format. Of special note is the precise detailing of ornamentation with the use of ornate plated brass hinges, etched glass, parquet floors, and other refinements.

The shallow vestibule is floored with polychrome encaustic tile. The foyer and stairhall are dominated by the stairway and an ornate turned balustrade, closed and paneled stringer, and unusual brass dust-catchers on the stair treads, and a large stylistic artglass window on the landing, featuring a sailboat design in the center panel.

The three major formal rooms on the first floor: the parlor on the northeast front, the music room on the southeast front, and the dining room directly behind the parlor, all have ornate fireplaces with bas-relief glazed-tile hearths. The music room mantelpiece pilasters have applied lion's heads and claw feet. The kitchen has an unusual marbleized wainscoting.

The second floor essentially repeats the layout of the first floor. The four large bedrooms opening off the hallway all have ornamental mantelpieces, crystal door knobs, and corner protectors. An unusual low door with a triangular head in the upstairs back hall leads to storage space beneath the roof of the one-story north wing.

The third floor is made up of open space with small ancillary storage rooms and may have been designed as a ballroom.

Just west of the main house is situated a frame one-story guest house or servants' quarters with clapboard walls, pyramidal roof, cross gable, side bay window and a central chimney. A one-and-one-half story board and batten stable or carriage house is located to the north, with a gabled roof and a central clipped gable. The grounds are covered with a variety of flowering shrubs including azaleas, dogwood trees, and bulbs, while thrift lines the rock wall to the south.

The house and the dependencies are structurally sound and remarkably unaltered.

## 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications		landscape architectur law literature military music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dates	1888	Builder/Architect J	John Moser (according	to tradition)

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

Architecture: Criterion C

The McKleroy-Kirby house is architecturally significant as the last remaining mansion on Anniston's premier 19th century boulevard - Quintard Avenue. A good example of Queen Anne architecture, it retains its carriage house and guest house, and is noted for its fine use of detailing on the interior.

#### Politics/Industry/Business: Criterion B

The McKleroy-Kirby house is significant for its associations with John Martin McKleroy and his son, William Henry, both of whom occupied the house. The elder McKleroy was associated with a number of the major industrial concerns in the city and prior to moving to Anniston in the 1880s, was a powerful politician — serving as chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee in 1886. His son served as mayor of the city and was president of both the Anniston National Bank and the Oxford National Bank.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

The McKleroy-Kirby house is the last remaining mansion constructed in the boom times of the late 1880s on Quintard Avenue, Anniston's finest residential street at the time. Lots on the 160 foot wide boulevard, named for a close family friend of the town's founder, Samuel Noble, were originally sold only to purchasers who promised to build houses costing at least \$5,000. Moreover, each of the four men who lived in the house during the 95 years it was used as a residence was an outstanding business leader who greatly contributed to the growth of Anniston in his time.

During the 1880s the industrial town of Anniston not only grew more rapidly than any other city in Alabama but achieved prominence second only to Birmingham as a manufacturing center of the New South. During the midst of these flush times in 1887, the owners of Anniston's parent industry, the Woodstock Iron Company, reorganized their business interests with the introduction of new capital into two separate companies. One of these was the Anniston City Land Company, headed by John Martin McKleroy, a new business partner from Eufaula. He selected the highest hill on Quintard Avenue and built his house in 1888.

McKleroy, born in 1843, had already gained prominence before moving to Anniston. A Confederate veteran, he was an attorney, elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1874, member of the state legislature in 1876-1878, twice a gubernatorial candidate, and chairman of the powerful State Democratic Executive Committee in 1886. In Anniston he was not only president of the new three-million-dollar corporation, but a director in the Woodstock Iron Company and the Anniston and Cincinnati Railway Company. He also led the legal fight for the railroad in a famous court battle with the town of Jacksonville over a proposed right-of-way. He helped organize the town's first gas company and the Anniston Bureau of Information, and was one of the directors of the town's first pipe shop. After his death on August 30, 1894, his son, William Henry McKleroy, occupied the house until he died on July 7, 1919.

9. Major Bil	oliographica	il Referenc	ces	
Huntsville: The	Strode Publishers	, Inc., 1978.	Anniston, Alabama 1872	<del></del>
10. Geogra	phical Data			
Acreage of nominated prop Quadrangle name <u>Annis</u> UTM References	erty approximately 2	2.5 acres	Quadrangle scale $\underline{}$	: 24000
A 1,6 6 0,8 7,0 0  Zone Easting  C	3 <sub>1</sub> 7   2 <sub>1</sub> 5   4 <sub>1</sub> 6 <sub>1</sub> 0   Northing	B   Zone D   F   H	Easting Northing	
<b>Verbal boundary descri</b> See continuation she	- -			
List all states and coun	ties for properties over	lapping state or cou	inty boundaries	
state	code	county	code	
11. Form Pr	epared By			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	istorical Commissio	on dat	e May 11, 1984	
street & number 725 M	onroe Street	tele	phone 205 261-3184	
	omery	sta-		
12. State H	istoric Pres	ervation C	officer Certific	ation
The evaluated significance				
	storic Preservation Officer s property for inclusion in d procedures set forth by	the National Register a	(1/h)	
title State Historic	Preservation Office	er	date July 26,	1984
For NPS use only I hereby certify that the	is property is included in	the National Register Entered in the National Regis	ier date 8/3	vjey
Keeper of the National  Attest:	Register /		date	

**Chief of Registration** 

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 younger McKleroy served as mayor of Anniston in 1899 and was president of both the Anniston National Bank and the Oxford National Bank. Other business activities included heading the Anniston Cooperage Company and Stuckey Valve Company.

McKleroy's widow, Susan, sold the property in 1920, and it was bought at public auction by William Coleman Wilson, a leader in Anniston's foremost industry at that time, castiron pipe. He was manager, then president of the Emory Foundry Company until his retirement in the mid-1940s.

After Wilson's death on February 10, 1949, Frank and Robbie Kirby purchased the McKleroy home place. Kirby was founder, president, and chairman of the board of the Anniston Electric Company. He also served on the boards of directors of the Anniston Federal Savings and Loan and the Methodist Children's Home. He was an active leader in the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, and the First Methodist Church. His wife, Robbie, was a leading musician in the community and active in women's civic affairs. Kirby died on January 20, 1981, and Mrs. Kirby's death occurred in 1983. The house was purchased in 1984 by a developing firm planning to use the property as an inn and restaurant.

The architectural detailing of the Kirby house has long been a symbol of Anniston's opulence during its primary growth period of the 1880s. It is a highly visible landmark, not only because of its physical location on the hill on Quintard Avenue and its position as the last surviving 19th century Victorian mansion on the street, but because each of its occupants has been a highly visible and contributing leader of the community.

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

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"The McKleroy Home Place, more particularly described as, all of Block Ten (10) in the City of Anniston, Alabama, as shown by the Anniston City Land Company's map of said City, extending on the south to Sixteenth Street as now located, except Lots 1, 2, 11 and 12, and a strip of land immediately south of and adjoining Lot No. 2, and fronting 48.8 feet on the west side of Quintard Avenue, and extending back west of uniform width 190 feet."

Sketch Map
McKleroy-Kirby House

