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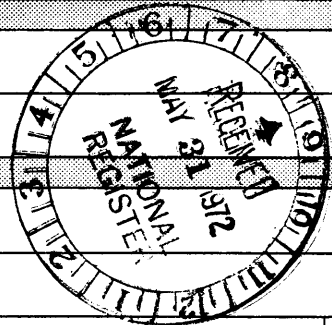
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>ALABAMA</b>	
COUNTY: <b>MONTGOMERY</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>SEP 27 1972</b>	DATE



#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**SEMPLÉ HOUSE**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Rice-Semple-Haardt House**

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**725 Monroe Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Montgomery**

STATE  
**Alabama**

CODE  
**01**

COUNTY:  
**Montgomery**

CODE  
**101**

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input 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 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 _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**State of Alabama**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Montgomery**

STATE:  
**Alabama**

CODE  
**01**

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Montgomery County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Montgomery**

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

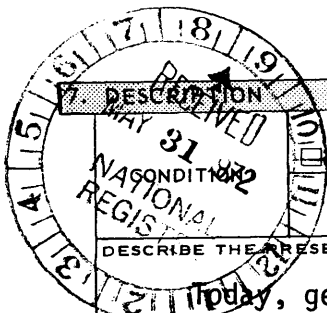
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:

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ENTRY NUMBER  
**SEP 27 1972**

DATE



DESCRIPTION

Excellent		<input type="checkbox"/> Good		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair		<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins		<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
(Check One)						(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered				<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Today, generally speaking, the house is a large, 15-room, rectangular wooden structure measuring 65 feet in width, two full stories in height with a shallow pitched, hip roof. The roof protrudes beyond the edge of the two-story, L-shaped porch on the front and west ends as it does on the rear and east end walls. The eave-overhang on all four sides is approximately four feet. Wooden brackets, evenly spaced under the eaves, are used as decorative features to create a pleasing esthetic effect. Between each bracket is a cast iron air vent which provides air circulation to the attic from all four sides.

The wooden porch decks on both the first and second floors are laid with boards perpendicular to the house. On the first floor, the deck is framed with sills and joists resting on brick piers and the second floor is framed with joists that rest on the first floor porch columns and are morticed and tenoned into the front and west walls of the main structure. The first story porch ceiling is covered with board and batton laid horizontally to the front of the structure and the second story ceiling is lathed and plastered. Brick piers support the 12 large, square first floor columns, the top three courses of brick that project are an interesting feature. The projection was apparently incorporated into the design of the piers in order to accommodate the size of the column base on the first floor of the porch. Both the column bases and capitals are very light as compared to the massiveness of the column. The columns are joined together by a balustrade which passes on the inside of the columns along the entire length of the porch. Conversely, on the second story, the balustrade is an integral part of the supporting posts and is obviously an original design characteristic. The 12 second story porch support posts are completely different than the first story in that they are not square, large, or boxed and in comparison, they are very delicate. To partially offset this airy feeling, rounded arches of lattice work adjoin each column and extend to the boxed cornice. In the center of each rounded arch is a dropped finial providing a point of emphasis between each porch post. These posts are chamfered.

Except for the brick foundation piers and walls, and the four brick chimneys, the building is entirely of frame construction, studded to a girt at the second floor level and above to a girt at the eaves level. It is impossible to describe the interior framing pattern and the position of the summer and chimney girts without removing interior plaster. All corner posts appear to be braced on the first and second floors, and the present roof rafters are joined by scabbed-on collar beams which appear to have been added for structural reasons. Most of the joining of the frame work is accomplished by mortice and tenon; however on the rear wall, a considerable amount of joining is accomplished simply by abutting timbers with large, pennyweight nails and spikes. Some of the original framing lumber and joinery has a casual or poor quality appearance but in spite of this casualness, the house is reasonably plumb and true except for the east end wall where it has suffered from weather or insect damage and neglect. Exterior walls are covered with clapboard, much of which on the east, west, and front walls of the structure appears to be early, if not original. The majority of wood siding on the rear is of a more recent vintage.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
ALABAMA	
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	SEP 27 1972

Page 2

(Number all entries)

(1. Description)

The basic lines and proportions of the front of the house appear to be balanced and represent considerable control having been exercised by its builder. Windows and doors on the front are cased and appear to have been well placed. The net effect is one of being almost a classic quality of mid-19th century houses.

All windows retain either shutter hardware or shutters which are a simple, two- or three-paneled, louvered style. The wide, two-paneled front door is balanced and framed by a box transom and sidelights with five panes. The second story porch is accessible through a glass and wood double door.

The front entrance opens into a center hall which is eight feet wide. Toward the rear of the hall there is a steep staircase leading to the second floor with a landing which covers a rear hall interior door. The stair has a handsome, post-bellum newell and railing. The design characteristic of the round-based newells is softly intricate with the base capped with a cushion collar, an extended portion capped with a cushion collar, knob and cushion collar, a second extended portion tapering slightly to a small knob with cushion collars, then tapering to one-half the diameter of the base and joining the flat, half-round hand railing. The octagonally shaped newell post at the beginning of the stair is in sharp contrast to the design of the newells. The staircase is enclosed by a stud-lathed, plaster wall which forms an entrance to the basement at the rear of the hall.

Each room on the first floor is entered from the hall. The dimensions of the rooms are a typical to one another and there seems to be no coherent floor plan. The west front room contains a fireplace off-center against the west wall and has a door off-center on the north wall leading into the dining room. The east front room shares a chimney with the east rear room. Adjoining, and accessible from these two rooms, is a rear addition with storage room and bath which is also accessible from the hall. A door from the west front room leads into the dining room which adjoins the pantry and kitchen and is accessible to the rear hall either through the dining room or the kitchen. At the north end of the hall, an exterior door leads to a small courtyard adjoining the servants' quarters and an automobile garage. The servants' quarters are attached to the kitchen by a breezeway.

In the main part of the house all rooms have fireplaces with the fireplace in the parlor being the most decorative. The most striking feature about the interior of the house are large plaster cornices and ceiling medallion located in the large parlor, the hall and the right front room. The floor length window in the parlor adds to spaciousness of the parlor.

The arrangement of the second floor rooms, including fireplaces, is somewhat similar to the first floor except for minor variations. The two east bedrooms are identical in layout to the first floor east rooms. Both rooms are accessible from the hall and the two front bedrooms as well as the rear west bedroom. At the north end of the east wall are three small rooms forming a sleeping porch, bath, and a small bedroom accessible only through the front bedrooms. The bath is also accessible from the stair landing. The rear

(Continued)

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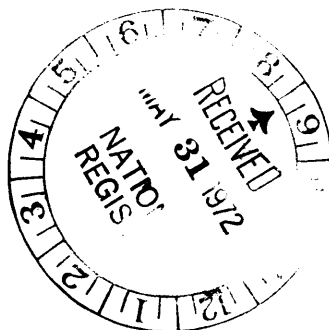
(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

( 7. Description)

sleeping porch exists onto a deck that, at one time, was accessible to ground level by a staircase at the far north end of the entire structure. On the west wall are two bedrooms with the front room containing a fireplace in the identical position as the fireplace in the main parlor on the first floor. The dividing partition contains a door leading from one bedroom into the other. Both are also accessible from the hall. Behind these two bedrooms are three rooms: one large and one small bedroom and one large, walk-in closet. The dimensions of the large bedroom are the same as the first floor dining room. The bedroom has access through the rear bedroom to the deck which connects the rear of the house with the ground level and a door leading onto the second story porch. There are no architectural features of note in the late addition to the structure.

The servants' quarters are connected to the rear of the main house by a breezeway 15 feet long enclosed with latticed sides. At the exterior north-west corner of the servants' quarters is a small, outside privy with shed roof and louvered window. The servants' quarters is a two-story, frame structure approximately 20 feet by 18 feet with a shallow pitched hip roof that projects beyond the east wall forming a cover for a two-story, wooden porch with an exterior staircase. The east and west walls are balanced with window and door openings on both floors. On the interior north wall of both floors is a small brick fireplace with wooden mantle.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input 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"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Semple House, for many years the residence of Samuel Farrow Rice, Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, is one of Montgomery's outstanding buildings. Located in the Capitol Hill district, it is the last antebellum residence still standing in the area. Rice built the home in the early 1850's, possible as early as 1851, making the structure a contemporary of the State Capitol. Architects for the project were said to be Montague and Thompson.

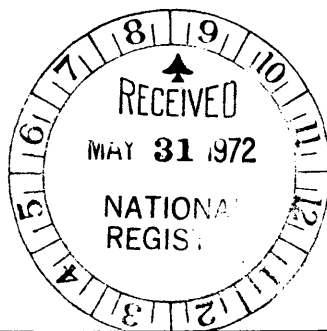
Originally a native of South Carolina, Rice immigrated to Talladega County in the late 1830's where he practiced law and edited a local newspaper, the Talladega Watcher, for six years. He was politically active, serving two terms as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives (1840-41, 1854-55), and one term as a State Senator (1861-65). During his long political career he was at times a Democrat, a Whig, a Secessionist, a Republican, a member of the Southern Rights party and a "Know Nothing" party candidate.

In 1853 he was elected to the Supreme Court, and one year later became Chief Justice, a position which he held for three years.

In the late 1860's, he sold his home to his former law partner Henry Churchill Semple, a native of Williamsburg, Virginia. Semple, who practiced law with Rice after 1845, served as a major in the Civil War. He died in 1894 and members of his family inhabited the house until 1924.

Later the house was used as the offices of John Haardt, a prominent Montgomery realtor. In 1970 the home was purchased by the State of Alabama to be used as both a museum and a state office building for the Alabama Historical Commission. It is currently being restored.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Junior League of Montgomery, A Guide to the City of Montgomery,  
Montgomery: Walker Printing Co., Inc., 1969.

Materials on file, Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery.

Owen, Thomas, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography,  
Vol. II, Chicago: The S. J. Clark Publishing Co., 1921.

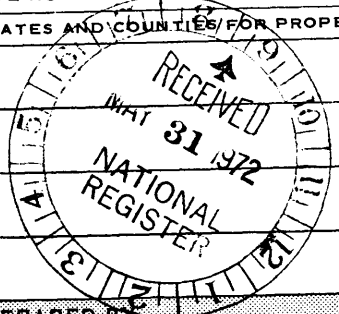
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		32 ° 22 ' 43.756	86 ° 17 ' 56.335	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: May 16, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

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

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:

National  State  Local

Name Milo B. Howard, Jr.

Title SLO

Date May 17, 1972

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

Robert K. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/27/72

ATTEST:  
William Huntley  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 9/28/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS