DEC - 9 1983

For NPS use only

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

## **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	Liberty Hal	L					
and/or common	The John Ro	obert Mc	Dowell I	Place			
2. Loca	ation				AL.221		
four mil street & numbe	les west of the	e town o	f Cander	<del>1 on State</del> -		N/A	not for publication
city, town	Camden		N <u>/A</u> vi	icinity of		01	
state A	Alabama	code	01	county	Wilcox		code 131
3. Clas	sificatio	n					
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	districtpublic Xbuilding(s) _Xprivate structureboth site <b>Public Acquisiti</b>			bied supied in progress <b>le</b> estricted inrestricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainmen government industrial military	nt	museum park z private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owr	ner of Pro	pert	V				
name Sa street & number	ara N. Harris, Route 2, Bo		. (Ret.)	)			
city, town	Camden		N/A_ vi	cinity of	st	ate	Alabama
5. Loca	ation of I	.ega	l Des	criptio	n		
courthouse, reg	istry of deeds, etc.	Wilco:	x County	Courthous	e		
street & number		Broad	Street				
city, town	Camden				st	ate	Alabama
6. Rep	resentat	ion iı	n Exi	sting S	Surveys		
title Histor	ric American Bu	ilding	Survey	has this prop	erty been determine	d eligi	ible? yes _Xno
<b>date</b> 1937					_ <u>X</u> federal	state	county local
depository for s	urvey records	Library	of Cong	ress			
city, town	Washington	·	-		st	ate	D. C.

# 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent _X good	deteriorated ruins	unaltered	<u>_x</u> original s lor) moved	site
fair	unexposed			

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

Located four miles from Camden on Alabama Highway 221, Liberty Hall is frame with clapboarding, 56' 5" (five bay front) x 36' 3" plus a semi-detached central rear wing. The main block is two stories while the wing is one. It has a hipped roof with modillioned cornice, two interior chimneys, a full-height pedimented three bay tetrastyle portico composed of two paneled outer piers and two fluted inner columns of Ionic order, and a long cantilevered balcony at the upper level. Semi-elliptical fanlights top the central door on each floor and unusual segmentally arched architraves with a fan motif frame the facade windows.

An exceptionally broad central hall on the first and second levels separates the equal proportions of two large rooms on either side. The main hallway on the first level which opens onto a transverse rear porch has ornamental plaster ceiling medallions and cornices. A medallion is also located in the ceiling on the front parlor. The parlors have Greek Revival-style woodwork and notable eclectically derived mantelpieces. Original stenciling remains on the plaster walls on the upstairs hall. A unique feature of the upstairs hall is the open semielliptical louvre over the double doors leading to the balcony. There is no evidence that glass has ever been used in this opening.

The rear dining wing features original French windows which open onto the surrounding porch. In 1925, the porch on the back of the rear wing was partially enclosed to provide a kitchen and bath. Another bath was added off a downstairsbedroom in the early 1950s.

### 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architectur	e religion
1400–1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500–1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600–1699	<u>X</u> architecture	education	military	social/
1700–1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
<u>     X   1800–1899</u>	commerce	exploration/settlement	t philosophy	theater
1900–	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)
·				

Specific dates c. 1855

Builder/Architect Unknown, possibly W. W. Robinson

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

#### Architecture:

Liberty Hall is architecturally significant as a good local interpretation of late Greek Revival architecture, distinguished by its central tetrastyle portico, its deep cornice with heavy modillions, its fanlit doors and fanshaped window surrounds, and notable interior ornamental plaster cornices and medallions, and woodwork. The house is also noted for an unusual regional variation--a semi-detached rear central dining room with encircling porch. Also unusual is the apparently original lack of glass in the louvered upper floor fanlight.

The house is believed to have been constructed in 1855 for John Robert McDowell and his wife Harriet Sellers Pritchett on land acquired by Mrs. Pritchett the year before her marriage to McDowell in 1854. Family traditions hold that W. W. Robinson, a local builder, constructed the house. The couple lived at Liberty Hall until their deaths in 1897. The house then passed into the possession of their son, Samuel William McDowell, and his wife, Julia, who actually bestowed the name "Liberty Hall." William Angus McDowell, a son who served as sheriff of Wilcox County, inherited and occupied the house until his death in 1920. Five years later, his widow sold it to his sister, Narcissa Goree McDowell Harris and her husband, William Peyton Harris. The current owner is Lt. Col. (Ret.) Sara N. Harris, who served in World War II, the Korean War and the Viet Nam War.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

N/A

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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

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

From the point of beginning, thence meander ditch South  $71^{\circ}45'$  West 3.785 chains, South 51°41' West 2.320 chains, South 22°08' West 2.178 chains, South 47°31' West 1.934 chains, South 68°36' West 1.90 chains to the  $\frac{1}{4}$  section line between the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ; thence West a distance of 7.03 chains to a branch; thence meander branch S 50 40' W 6.80 chains S 1°50' W 2.785 chains, S 23°35' W 1.10 chains S 38°55' W 1.818 chains to an 18" Gum marked "X"; thence East a distance of 19.07 chains to the West E. 0. M. of State Highway No. 221; thence N 0°20' E a distance of 7.42 chains to a R.O.W. Marker at Sta. 61 + 31.4; thence along a 11.419.2' rod curve concave Northwesterly a distance of 10.84 chains to R. 0. M. Marker at Sta. 54 + 14.7; thence N 3°15' a distance of 0.375 chains to the point of the beginning.

The above described parcel of land containing 24.96 acres, more or less and lying in the  $W_2^L$  of NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> of NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 35, T 12, N, R 7 E as per map of Victor S. Gaines dated 4-1-67 and recorded in Book Map #1, page 10. The above being a part of the homeplace of Narcissa McDowell Harris Cook, deceased.

This includes house and all land under one ownership.