

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC - 9 1983  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Liberty Hall

and/or common The John Robert McDowell Place

2. Location

~~four miles west of the town of Camden on State Highway 222~~ AL 221  
street & number N/A not for publication

city, town Camden N/A vicinity of 01

state Alabama code 01 county Wilcox code 131

3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership  | Status  | Present Use   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private          | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                   | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both                        | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                            | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process                  | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   | N/A  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|   |  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

4. Owner of Property

name Sara N. Harris, Lt. Col. (Ret.)

street & number Route 2, Box 253

city, town Camden N/A vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wilcox County Courthouse

street & number Broad Street

city, town Camden state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Building Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1937  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D. C.

## 7. Description

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                                    | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <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 (minor) | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 tetra-style 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 downstairs bedroom in the early 1950s.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

N/A

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 24.96

Quadrangle name U.S.G.S. Camden South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing   |

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| B | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing   |

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| C | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing   |

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| D | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing   |

|   |                   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| E | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing  |

|   |                   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| F | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing  |

|   |                   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| G | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing  |

|   |                   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| H | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Starting at the NE Corner of SE1/4 of NE 1/4 of Sec. 35, T 12 N, R. 7 E, thence North 10.056 chains; thence West 18.21 chains; thence South 3 15' East 3:35 chains to a ditch at the true point of beginning. See continuation sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

|       |            |      |            |        |            |      |            |
|-------|------------|------|------------|--------|------------|------|------------|
| state | <u>N/A</u> | code | <u>N/A</u> | county | <u>N/A</u> | code | <u>N/A</u> |
|-------|------------|------|------------|--------|------------|------|------------|

|       |            |      |            |        |            |      |            |
|-------|------------|------|------------|--------|------------|------|------------|
| state | <u>N/A</u> | code | <u>N/A</u> | county | <u>N/A</u> | code | <u>N/A</u> |
|-------|------------|------|------------|--------|------------|------|------------|

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel Fate Brooks, Wilcox Historical Society & Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission date March 16, 1982

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone (205) 832-6621

city or town Montgomery state Alabama

# 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 

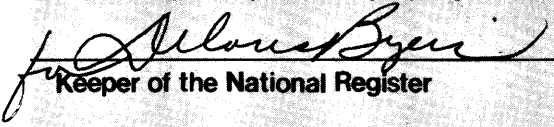
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-28-83

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 1/5/84

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ 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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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

From the point of beginning, thence meander ditch South  $71^{\circ}45'$  West 3.785 chains, South  $51^{\circ}41'$  West 2.320 chains, South  $22^{\circ}08'$  West 2.178 chains, South  $47^{\circ}31'$  West 1.934 chains, South  $68^{\circ}36'$  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  $50^{\circ}40'$  W 6.80 chains S  $1^{\circ}50'$  W 2.785 chains, S  $23^{\circ}35'$  W 1.10 chains S  $38^{\circ}55'$  W 1.818 chains to an 18" Gum marked "X"; thence East a distance of 19.07 chains to the West E. O. M. of State Highway No. 221; thence N  $0^{\circ}20'$  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. O. M. Marker at Sta. 54 + 14.7; thence N  $3^{\circ}15'$  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 $\frac{1}{2}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and E $\frac{1}{2}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  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.