

PH 36165x

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 10 1976  
DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

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

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HISTORIC  
"The Oaks" (Abraham Ricks House)  
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 4, Ricks Lane  
CITY, TOWN  
Tuscumbia  
STATE  
Alabama  
VICINITY OF  
X  
CODE  
01  
COUNTY  
Colbert  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
4 5  
CODE  
033

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Kimbrough  
STREET & NUMBER  
Route 4, Ricks Lane  
CITY, TOWN  
Tuscumbia  
STATE  
Alabama  
VICINITY OF  
X

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Colbert County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Tuscumbia  
STATE  
Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Historic American Building Survey  
DATE  
c. 1936  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Photographs, Library of Congress  
CITY, TOWN  
Washington, D.C.  
STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One of the finest plantation homes in the Tennessee Valley, The Oaks is located on a small rise in the center of a seven-acre tract of the original plantation. The house as it stands, is a framed and log structure in an "H" plan developed from a story-and-a-half log structure and a framed, two-story late Georgian house connected by a framed, one-story section now used as a dining room. Directly east of the main house is a small log cabin with a massive stone chimney which originally served as the kitchen.

The earlier structure, predating the main house by approximately 10 years, is of log construction with weatherboarded exterior. Constructed by an unknown occupant of the land, it is one of the finest and best preserved of the weatherboarded, story-and-a-half log structures which were built in this area of North Alabama during the early years of settlement, and is fairly typical with its gabled roof, end-exterior chimneys and box cornice. A shed roof porch, possibly added by the Ricks family, crosses the southern facade and continues around half of the eastern elevation. On the south, the central door is flanked by a shuttered, double-hung window on one side, and on the other by a flight of stairs leading to a door approximately three feet above the level of the porch floor. These stairs continue inside the house leading to a small landing between the two upstairs rooms, and provide the only access to the upper half floor. This floor is served by two small, four-light windows located on the southern elevation. A similar window is located on the ground floor in each gabled end. The ground floor is divided into two rooms, measuring 16 x 16 and 16 x 13, each room having a simple wooden mantel.

The log house is connected to the main structure by a one-story, gabled roof section south of the main house. Single doors with three light transoms open to the exterior on either side of this wing and are flanked by shuttered, double-hung windows.

The main house is a framed, two-story structure over a full brick basement. The gabled roof structure with its five bay facade, two end-exterior chimneys, and central hall plan with a single room on either side, is similar to many late Georgian houses constructed in the Tennessee Valley during the late 1820's and has particularly fine window trim.

A central one-story portico with square columns and simple balusters, defines the entrance, which consists of a two-leaf door flanked by pilasters and side lights and topped with a transom and entablature. A similar door flanked by side lights gives access to the balustraded area above the portico. The wall treatment above the portico is unusual and consists of a paneled section terminated by pilasters. A small pediment above the cornice was originally surmounted by a stepped parapet with finials. Double-hung, 12/12 windows with fine, deeply fluted trim and corner bosses flank the central portico.

In the central hall, a fine double-run staircase with a paneled landing has simple square balusters and scroll trim. Beneath the stairs, double doors framed by engaged Tuscan columns supporting an entablature lead into the dining wing which connects the two structures. Interior window and door trim is similar to that of the exterior, being deeply fluted with corner bosses; wooden mantels of the ground floor have finely executed Tuscan columns.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Interior modifications have been minimal, consisting of the introduction of a modern kitchen and bath in the basement, the construction of closets in two bedrooms and sheetrocking in the front hall. A small, frame shed was constructed next to the log kitchen in the mid-20th Century.

# 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 Log House - c. 1816-20 BUILDER/ARCHITECT  
Main House - 1828-32

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oaks, or Abraham Ricks Plantation, consists of two structures, a large frame home connected to an earlier story-and-a-half log house, and is one of the finest remaining plantation homes in the Tennessee Valley. Built within approximately 10 years of each other, the two sections of the house illustrate the rapid transition from the frontier to the plantation era in this section of the state. The log house is a particularly fine and well preserved example of an early structure built by the first settlers in the northern part of the state, while the frame home, with its fine interior and exterior trim and small classical pediment, reflects the taste and prosperity of the planter class during the flush period of the late 1820's.

Abraham Ricks arrived in the area during the early 1820's bringing his family, possessions and slaves from Halifax, North Carolina. Shortly after his arrival, Ricks acquired a large plantation, later known as Cotton Garden, which he sold in 1826 in order to purchase nearby lands on which a small log house had been constructed some years earlier.

Ricks moved his family into the small house and within two years contracted with a local builder, Mr. Dial, to construct a large, fine home. This structure, connected to the earlier house, was completed by 1832 and soon became one of the social centers of the area. Over the years, Ricks consolidated his land holdings and prospered, and at his death in 1852 was considered to be one of the wealthiest planters in the area, owning several thousand acres of land and over 300 slaves.

The house remained in the Ricks family until 1966 when it was purchased for restoration as a private residence by Mr. and Mrs. William Kimbrough.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Saunders, James E., Early Settlers of Alabama. New Orleans: Graham & Sons, 1899.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.7 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 4,4,5 | 6,4,0 | 3,8 | 3,6 | 8,6,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery,

DATE

April 27, 1976

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

STATE

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

*Phil B. Howard, Jr.*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

May 3, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*W. Warner Floyd*

DATE

11/9/76

DATE

11/1/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER