

PH 014/194

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>ALABAMA</b>
COUNTY: <b>AUTAUGA</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>OCT 25 1974</b>

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Whittaker, Jack, House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Montgomery-James-Whittaker House (HABS ALA-695), ('Buena Vista')**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **S of Prattville off AL 14**  
**County Road No. 4, or Reynolds Mill Road (Three miles south of Downtown) Prattville by Washington Ferry Rd. and one mile east on County Rd. No. 4**

CITY OR TOWN: **Prattville vicinity** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **3**

STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01** COUNTY: **Autauga** CODE: **001**

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Mr. Jack Whittaker**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Reynolds Mill Road or County Road No. 4**

CITY OR TOWN: **Prattville** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: **Fourth and Court Streets**

CITY OR TOWN: **Prattville** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

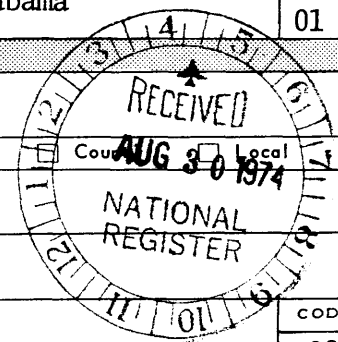
TITLE OF SURVEY: **Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1934**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D. C.** CODE: **08**



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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

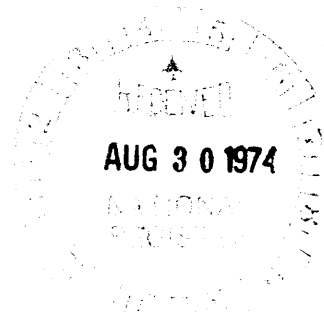
The Montgomery-Janes-Whittaker Home is a frame weatherboarded, two-story ( with finished attic ) structure. Rectangular in shape, the home has a gabled roof with two interior chimneys and a large fanlight in each end gable. Four unfluted Ionic columns support the full height front portico, which has a flat roof and five bays. Both levels of the facade have a central double-doored entrance with fanlight above and sidelights, flanked by two windows on each side. The second floor doors open onto a cast ironwork balcony. At the rear the half-hipped one-story verandah is supported by six tapering Tuscan columns that rest on paneled rectangular pillars. All windows are double hung, with twelve panes per sash, and have shutters. The side elevations are identical with four windows per floor.

In plan the house is a typical central hall type with two rooms on each side of the hall, both upstairs and down. A circular staircase rises from the rear of the entrance hall to the second floor and from there spirals on to the upper banquet hall level. The stair balusters are plain in design as is the one piece mahogany handrail. Downstairs on the west side of the hall is a large double-parlor, or ball room, with two marble mantels. On the opposite side of the hall is the dining room (formerly the library) and behind it a kitchen-den (the original dining room). The second floor consists of four bedrooms and the hall, while the upper level is one large finished room - the banquet hall. Each of the first floor rooms and the hall has different and elaborately executed plaster ceiling medallions and cornice treatments. Throughout the house all the ceilings are twelve feet in height. The materials and workmanship represent the finest available, as evidenced in the excellent woodwork and other outstanding features previously noted.

The two-story portico and the balcony on the front were added 1910 to 1934. The original front portico was probably very much like the rear portico, as inspection of the weatherboarding suggest some type of roof construction just above the first floor windows; the rear elevation, with its Federal style verandah appears unaltered and indicates the probable style of the entire house. A history of the home composed in 1939 by a member of the builder's family mentions that the kitchen (long since removed) was located behind the house and connected by a covered walkway and that a heart-pine fence formerly surrounded the hosue.

Interior modifications have been limited to the construction of the kitchen downstairs and two baths upstairs.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  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 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 checked="" 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 Montgomery-Janes-Whittaker Home is Federal in design. It is significant in the cultural development of the Central Alabama Region as one of the very earliest examples of the elegant plantation homes which incorporated European fashions and materials into an essentially pioneer pattern of life and resulted in the indigenous "Deep Southern" architecture. The most interesting features of the structure are the delicately crafted fanlights over the front entrances and in the gable ends.

William Montgomery, who built the home about 1822, was a close friend of Alabama's first great industrialist, Daniel Pratt and, according to the family story, of General Andrew Jackson, both of whom visited in the home. It is said Jackson so highly regarded the staircase that he had it copied for the Hermitage in Nashville. A comparison of the two staircases shows them to be almost identical and the Hermitage staircase was constructed in 1834, twelve years after the Montgomery house was built; the staircase in the Dr. Edgar Pope home in Prattville is also very similar.

According to the family history by Mrs. Annie Mae Montgomery Martin, many materials for the house were prepared in Birmingham, England and shipped to Washington Landing on the Alabama River, where they were transferred to wagons and drawn by six mule teams to the site. Hardware bears a Birmingham hallmark. The craftsmen that executed the elaborate plaster cornice mouldings and ceiling medallions reportedly came from England to complete the on-site construction and finishings.

"Buena Vista" as the home was called by the Montgomerys, remained in their possession until 1910 when it was purchased by Mary Emma Scott Stewart, who held title to the house until 1932 when the Federal Land Bank foreclosed a mortgage. The Stewarts added the present portico and a balcony as well as three gables. In 1936 the home was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whittaker. Over a period of years the latter owners removed the gables added by the Stewarts. The house has been restored and furnished with appropriate period pieces. Jack Whittaker is the present owner.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Buildings Survey, 1934.

Martin, Annie Mae M. "History of the Montgomery Family"  
(Unpublished manuscript, 1940)

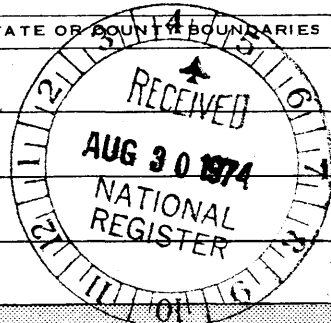
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32°	25'	28"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	86°	27'	7"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **Oct. 18, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P.O. Box 1611, Garrett Coliseum**

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 SNPO

Date August 16, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Moseley  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/25/74

ATTEST:  
Compton  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-26-74