

PH0034240

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Alabama
COUNTY:	Etowah
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 27 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Alabama City Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Howard Gardner Nichols Memorial Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1 Cabot Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Gadsden

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
IV

STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01** COUNTY: **Etowah** CODE: **055**

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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Unoccupied</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
1 Cabot Avenue (P. O. Box 674)

CITY OR TOWN:
Gadsden

STATE:
Alabama

CODE:
01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Etowah County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Gadsden

STATE:
Alabama

CODE:
01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local

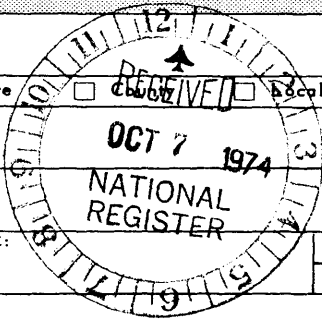
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 Alabama City Library is a small rectangular brick building of eclectic design with an interesting blend of neo-classical and Victorian elements.

The structure is three bayed across the facade and two bayed on the side elevations with two end-exterior chimneys which pierce the overhanging eaves. The roof is hipped and the eaves are supported by wooden brackets which rest on a brick string course. A water table capped with stone encircles the lower section of the building at a height of approximately 4 feet.

A semi-circular, three-tiered marble portico with six Ionic columns is located in the center of the facade. These columns support the entablature which is ornamented with a dentil course and small brackets which support the cornice. The entrance is located in the center of the portico and is flanked by pilasters and side lites.

Windows are round arched with hood moldings which are emphasized by the use of alternating black with red brick. The lower sash of the windows consists of 8 lites while the mullions of the upper sash are curved to form interlocking lancet arches. Below each window are ventilators with flat arches.

The interior consists of one large room which is elaborately paneled. Mantels are located at each end of the room and are flanked by wooden window seats. A small section of the rear of the building encloses the bookshelves and the librarian's desk is located in front of this section.

In recent years additions have been made to the rear of the building.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

5. 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" 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

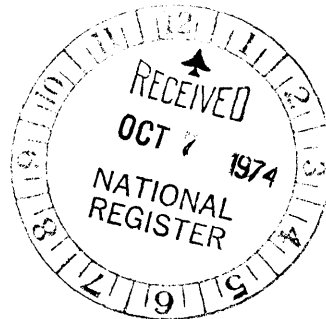
The Howard Gardner Nichols Memorial Library was one of the earliest free public library buildings constructed in the state.

The library was built and supported by the J. Howard Nichols family of Massachusetts as a memorial for a son, Howard Gardner Nichols who was accidentally killed in 1896 while supervising the construction of the mill and mill town of the Dwight Manufacturing Company, a family concern.

For several years after the death of young Nichols, the family worked with their architect and carefully assembled materials for the library; almost all of the building material including the brick was shipped from New England.

Construction was completed in 1902 and the library which was opened to the public was absolutely free of charge and was furnished with a large number of books, magazines and newspapers. Hours were from seven to nine each evening and from one to three on Sunday afternoon.

In the 1920's the library was moved to the Alabama City Post Office and the building was used for a variety of purposes until it was purchased by the Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society in 1973.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Etowah County Commissioners Court Records
2. Materials filed at 1 Cabot Avenue, Gadsden.
3. Owen, Marie Bankhead. The Story of Alabama, a History of the State.
New York: Lewis Publishing Company, Inc. 1949.

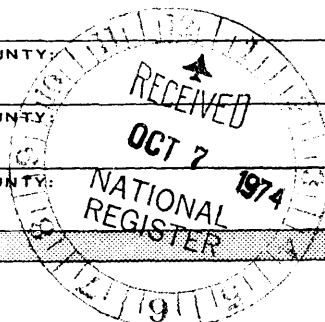
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 01' 32"	86° 02' 40"	
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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: 19/25/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
725 Monroe Street

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 Nils B. Howard Jr.

Title 2 NPO Ala.

Date September 30, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

Date 12/27/74

ATTEST:
W. Warner Floyd
Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 26 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE ALABAMA	
COUNTY ETOWAH	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 27 1974

(Number all entries)

ADDENDUM - Alabama City Library

8. Significance

The Alabama City Library is a turn-of-the-century structure which draws freely from several styles of architecture. Although newspaper articles of the era attribute the design to a Boston architect hired by the Nichols family, further research has failed to uncover his name.

The structure faces the apex of a triangular lot across from which is located the Dwight Manufacturing Plant, a large red brick building. The streets which radiate from this triangular lot contain small unpretentious white frame houses, constructed for the plant workers. Visually, the building relates to the houses around it by virtue of its size, but its location, materials and styling make it the focal point of this small area.

