

PH0020168

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	ALABAMA
COUNTY:	MONTGOMERY
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 25 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
First White House of the Confederacy

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
First White House of the Confederacy

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
644 Washington Avenue

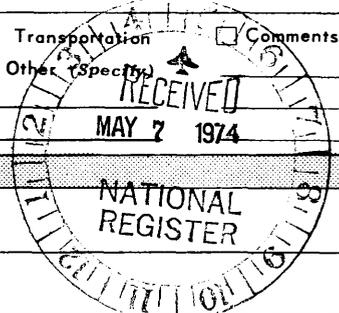
CITY OR TOWN:  
Montgomery

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Montgomery CODE: 101

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Alabama

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Montgomery

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
142 Washington

CITY OR TOWN:  
Montgomery

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a two story wooden frame house painted white with green shutters. The main portion of the house is two story with two end-exterior chimneys on either side. There are five bays across the facade and four on either side.

A one story wing projects on either side of the rear of the main section of the house. There are two end-exterior chimneys, one on either side of the wing.

The foundation is of brick piers, and across the front of the house the lattice work between the piers has been replaced with brick. The exterior walls are of weather boarding, and the roof is hipped.

A heavy cornice with bracket drops encircles the house. An unusual feature of this cornice is the ventilators which are ornamented with a unique Liberty Cap design. A similar cornice adorns the one story wing, but here the ventilators are ornamented with a flower design.

There is a small central portico which extends the width of three bays across the facade. This portico features fluted columnettes connected by a balustrade. Within the area defined by the portico, the facade is faced with wood which is cut to simulate long stone blocks. The central entrance consists of a single door framed with two pilasters on either side which are interspaced with side lights. A transom above the door is surmounted by an architrave which features a dentil molding.

The central stairhall opens into a double parlor on the left, two bedrooms on the right and terminates with an arched opening which leads into a small rear cross hall.

The parlors have simple wooden mantels, paneled wainscoting and are connected by double sliding doors. The bedrooms have similar wooden mantels.

Woodwork throughout the house is extremely simple except in the cross hall which features paneled walls, Greek Revival door frames with an egg and dart molding and an elaborate cornice with a dentil molding.

This hall opens into a study on the right and a dining hall on the left. Both have relatively simple wooden mantels. A small side porch gives entrance into the dining room through a window which contains a section from the sill to the floor that is hinged and opens to allow the window to function as a door.

Both the dining room and the study open onto rear porches which are enclosed with louvered screens.

The second floor contains four bedrooms and a central hall which terminates in front with a small room, probably used as a nursery.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 White House of the Confederacy served as the first official residence of President Jefferson Davis during the months Montgomery was the Capital of the Confederacy.

The house is believed to have been constructed in 1825 by William Sayre one of Montgomery's early merchants. It later came into the possession of Col. J. G. Winter who remodeled it and shortly before the war sold it to Col. Edmond Harrison.

Jefferson Davis arrived in Montgomery on Saturday, February 16, 1861, two days before his inauguration as president of the Confederacy. On February 25, 1861 the provisional congress passed a resolution authorizing the committee on government buildings to lease a furnished mansion for the residence of the President.

The government leased the house from Col. Edmond Harrison and shortly after the arrival of Mrs. Davis in March, the Davises moved into the house which Mrs. Davis deemed "a gentleman's residence".

The rent was \$5,000 a year for the house furnished. An additional \$987.58 was appropriated for furnishings which included silver, china, and linens. Some furniture was also brought from the Davis home in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The house was the scene of many entertainments during the Davises stay in Montgomery. The first major social event was a reception for the ladies of Montgomery which Mrs. Davis held during her first week in Montgomery. Contemporary accounts record the event as both lavish and well managed.

On May 27, 1861 the Davises left this house and moved to Richmond, Virginia where the Confederate Capital remained until the end of the War Between the States. The last day that the congress met in Montgomery, May 21, a resolution directed the Secretary of the Treasury to sell "the unexpired lease of the President's house" as soon as the seat of government should finally be removed from Montgomery.

After the War the house passed to William Crawford Bibb and then to the Tyson family in 1871.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Brewer, Maude W., "The First White House of the Confederacy" Pamphlet published by The Old South Historical Society.  
 Owen, T. M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921.  
 - Historic American Buildings Survey, Ala. - 624.  
 McMillan, M. C., Alabama Confederate Reader. University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1962.  
 Strode, Hudson, Jefferson Davis: American Patriot. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1955.  
 - "The First White House of the Confederacy, Montgomery, Alabama" (continued)

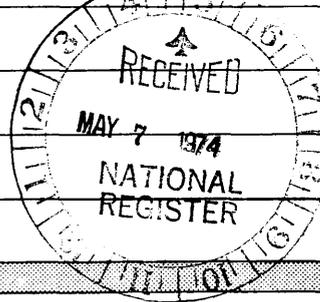
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		32 ° 22' 33 "	86 ° 18' 00"	
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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: April 1, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 Miss B. Howard J.

Title SHPO Ala.

Date April 26, 1974

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

Arthur ...  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/25/74

ATTEST:  
Charles ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 6/21/74

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(continued) 8. Significance

In order to preserve the house a group of patriotic women met on July 1, 1900 and organized the White House Association. The Charter members were later joined by many others who fought first to secure funds to purchase the house and then to move the house to another location, as the property was to have a filling station erected on it.

In 1919 the Legislature passed and Governor Thomas E. Kilby signed an appropriation of \$25,000, and the house was moved to its present location.

Dedication of the White House took place on June 3, 1921.



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(Continuation Sheet)

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Continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

pamphlet published by The First White House Assn., 1930.

