

PH 0020087

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:	Colbert
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 24 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Colbert County Courthouse Square Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Tuscumbia** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **5th Congressional District**

STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01** COUNTY: **Colbert** CODE: **033**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple Private & Public

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

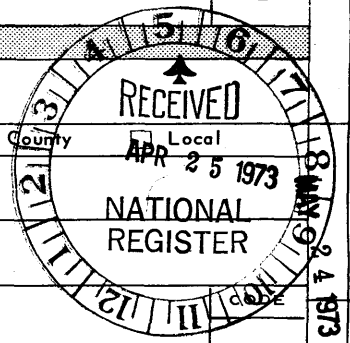
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1935** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

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 type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Colbert County Courthouse Square Historic District has a variety of architectural styles. The homes are mostly Victorian as is the railroad terminal. Most of the churches display strong Gothic features. The most distinctive structure in the district is the courthouse itself. Originally, the 1881 building was a two-story brick Italianate structure. After the 1908 fire, the courthouse had Greek Revival influences added. Porticos with four Ionic columns were added to each side as well as the clock tower. The tower is octagonal shaped and has eight, open arches on the lower level and four clocks on the upper level. In recent years one portico was removed and a two-story brick wing added.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

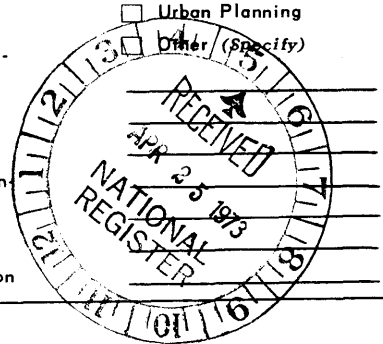
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Colbert County Courthouse Square Historic District comprises a variety of types of structures - public, commercial, religious and private. The central structure in the district is the courthouse built in 1881. William Dowling of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was the building and Edward Laurent of Nashville was the architect. In 1908 the building burned and the interior was gutted. A Mr. Peckinpaw of Nashville was the restoration architect in 1909. He retained the original walls with their arched windows and added porticos with four Ionic columns each on all four sides. He also added a clock tower. In recent years the east side portico was removed and a wing added to the building.

The most significant buildings in the twenty-two building district are the seven adjoining structures known as Commercial Row. These HABS listed properties are located on the north side of Fifth Street between Water Street and Main Street. The buildings were constructed in the late 1840's and originally housed the Tuscumbia commission merchants. The buildings have remained in continuous use and have housed many kinds of businesses over the years. Helen Keller's father, Captain A. H. Keller, published the North Alabamian in the building located on the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Jewelry stores, restaurants, saloons, and furniture stores have also been situated in Commercial Row. The structures are located near the Tuscumbia Railway Depot which was built in 1888 and which is located at the end of Fifth Street. The Tuscumbia Railroad Company was chartered by the State Legislature in 1830 and was one of the first railroads built west of the Appalachian Mountain and was extended by 1834 to Decatur. This railroad overcame the obstacle to river transportation presented by the Muscle Shoals barrier. The original frame depot was replaced in 1888 by the present structure which the Southern Railroad gave to the City of Tuscumbia in 1948 for use as a community center.

Across West Third Street from the courthouse sits one of the oldest homes in Tuscumbia, the Godley House, which was built in 1839 using slave made brick. The Episcopal Church used the home for meetings before St. John's Church was built in 1852. The exact date of the Henderson home next door to the Godley Home is not known. The home was probably built by the same Mr. Young who built the Young's Coach Shop. The home was damaged in the tornado of 1874 but repaired. It was remodeled in the early 1920's and covered with red brick. It is now used for law offices.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holder, Eleanor, Series of Article on District, "Colbert County Reporter, 1972
 Historic Muscle Shoals, published by Tennessee Valley Historical Society, 1962
 Leftwish, Nina, Two Hundred Year at Muscle Shoals
 Abstracts of Title, filed in Colbert County Courthouse.

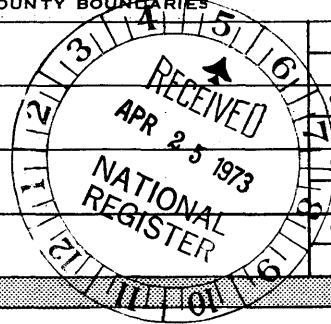
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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	34°	44'	06"	87°	42'	23"			
NE	34°	44'	06"	87°	41'	57"			
SE	34°	43'	51"	87°	41'	57"			
SW	34°	43'	51"	87°	42'	23"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 72 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

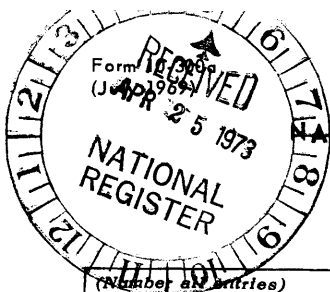
ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **3-30-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
305 S. Lawrence Street

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

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Nils B. Laward, Jr.</u></p> <p>Title <u>SLO for Historic Preservation</u></p> <p>Date <u>April 13, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert H. Utley</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>5/24/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>5/23/73</u></p>
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Alabama	
COUNTY	
Colbert	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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Significance (cont.)

Across Main Street from the courthouse stands the First Methodist Church, the Clark Building, and the Abernathy Home. The church was built in 1926. The church was organized in the 1820's and had several buildings before the present one. The Clark Building next to the church was built in 1926 by O.B. Clark, a former mayor of Tuscumbia. The building is now owned by Colbert County and houses the extension service and other agricultural agencies. The Abernathy Home on 204 North Main Street is next to the Clark Building. Exact date of construction is not known but it is constructed of hand-hewn beams put together with square nails and pegs. Dr. Robert Towns Abernathy moved into the house in 1855. Besides being a medical doctor, he edited the Tuscumbia Constitution and engaged in farming. He was a surgeon with the Fifth Alabama Infantry Regiment during the War Between the States. His granddaughter still lives in the house.

Across Water Street from the courthouse are Womble, Scruggs and Leggett homes. The Womble Home was built in the early 1890's by Charles Womble who was the first probate judge of Colbert County. His son lived here until his death a few years ago and the building is now used as a law office. Frank Scruggs and his wife built the Victorian house next door in the 1890's on a lot purchased from Judge Womble. The home was used as a boarding house during the 1930's, but at present it is the private residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. S. Burns. The Leggett Home at 207 North Water Street was built at the same time on formerly Womble land by Abner Ligon who was Colbert's first sheriff in 1869. In 1870 Ligon became probate judge. Sam Leggett bought the house in 1912 and his family still resides there.

The Dirago House on Fourth Street faces the courthouse on the fourth side. This red brick house was built in 1912 by Mrs. Alice Bowen and later owned by O.B. Clark and the Dirago family. It is still in residential use.

The First Baptist Church, located on North Dickson Street, was organized in 1823. Originally, the structure was a plain New England type rectangular structure, but was remodeled and enlarged in 1903. The First Presbyterian Church on the corner of Fourth and Broad Streets was built in 1824. The hand-made brick building which is listed in HABS has a slave gallery on three sides of the sanctuary. The building was damaged in the tornado of 1874 and the walls were reinforced with heavy iron rods. St. John's Episcopal Church on the corner of Third and Dickson Street was built in 1852. The church had been organized in 1838. The original furnishings and pump organ are still in use. The Union army used the building as a stable during the Civil War. After the war, it was used as a school. The building was partially damaged in the 1874 tornado and exterior concrete buttresses were added to support the walls.

The Julian Home at 104 North Dickson Street was moved to its present site in the late 1840's or the early 1850's from Cherokee. William Reese Julian served in the Civil War as a lieutenant colonel under General Nathan Bedford Forrest. The house has always remained in the Julian family.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
ALABAMA	
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(Number all entries)

ADDENDUM

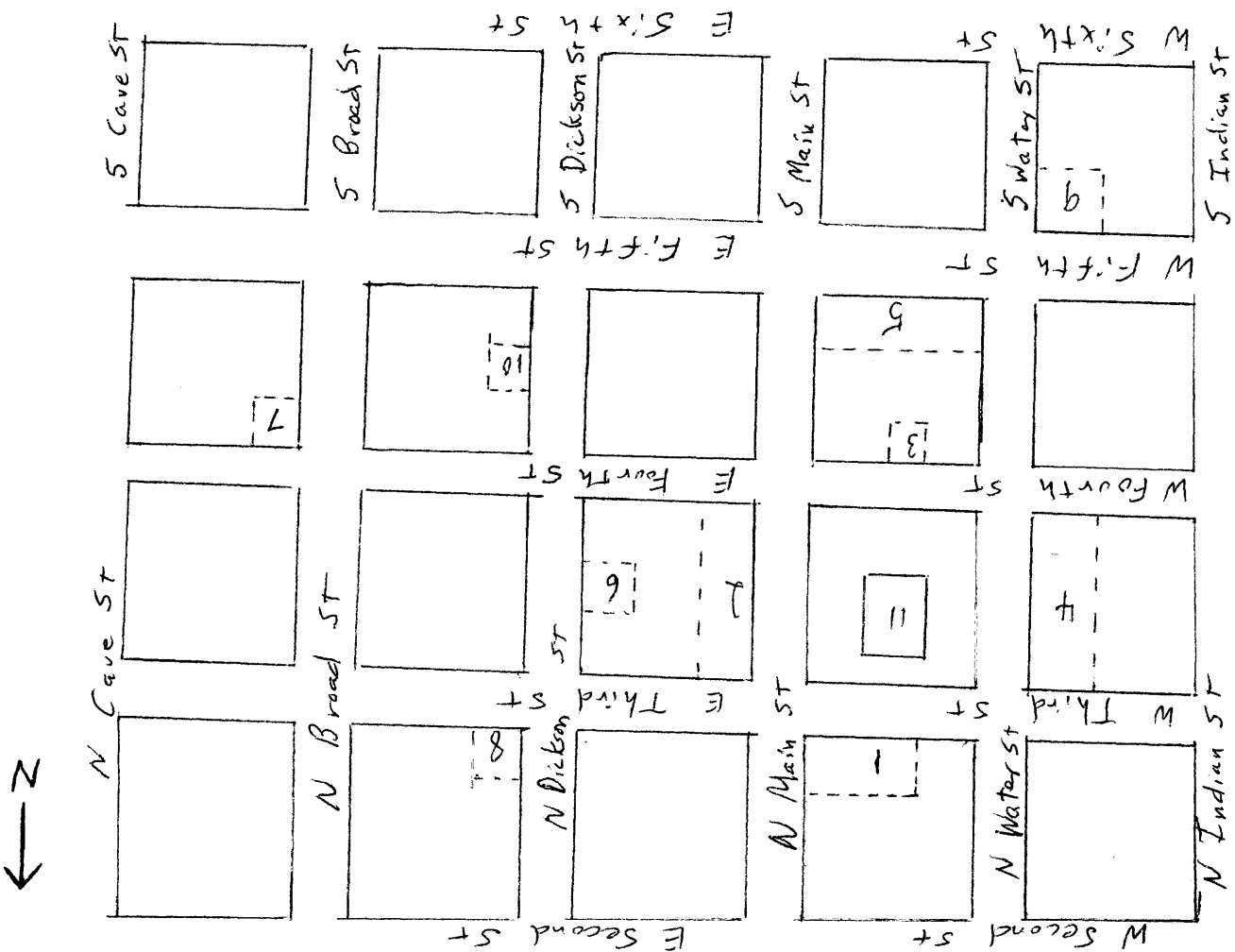
LIST OF STRUCTURES IN COLBERT COUNTY
COURTHOUSE SQUARE
HISTORIC DISTRICT, TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA

Colbert County Courthouse, W. Third, W. Fourth, N. Main, N. Water Streets
Godley House, Third Street between Main Street and Water Street
Henderson House, Corner Third Street and Main Street
Dirago House, Fourth Street between Main Street and Water Street
Womble Home, 201 N. Water Street
Scruggs Home, 203 N. Water Street
Leggett Home, 207 N. Water Street
First Methodist Church, Corner Third Street and Main Street
Clark Building, Main Street between Third and Fourth Streets
Abernathy Home, 204 N. Main Street
Commercial Row, (7 structures), W. Fifth Street between Water and Main Streets
First Presbyterian Church, Corner Fourth Street and Broad Street
First Baptist Church, Dickson Street between Fourth Street and Third Street
St. John's Episcopal Church, Corner Third Street and Dickson Street
Tuscumbia Railroad Depot, Main Street at end of Fifth Street
Julian Home, 104 N. Dickson Street



COLBERT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

SQUARE DISTRICT



1. Godley House and Henderson Home

2. First Methodist Church, Clark Building, Abernathy Home

3. Dirago House

4. Womble Home, Scruggs Home, Leggett Home

5. Commercial Row (7 adjoining buildings)

6. First Baptist Church

7. First Presbyterian Church

8. St. John's Episcopal Church

9. Tusculum Railway and Depot

10. Julian Home

11. Colbert County Courthouse

