

PH0664391

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 8 1978

DATE ENTERED SEP 13 1978

**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

HISTORIC

**

Dickinson House

AND/OR COMMON

Dickinson House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

101 Dickinson Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Grove Hill

VICINITY OF

1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Clarke

025

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Henri Francis Dickinson

STREET & NUMBER

101 Dickinson Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Grove Hill

VICINITY OF

Alabama 36451

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clarke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Grove Hill

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built around 1845, the Dickinson House in Grove Hill, Alabama is an early example of the influence of the Italianate Style during an era when the Greek Revival prevailed. The simple four-room two-story frame house features the central hall plan commonly used for structures in the area, but it was embellished with the application of Italianate details. On the exterior these appear in the intricately carved doorway, paired windows, bracketed cornice, and central wall gable, while on the interior they are found in the octagonal parlor. The setting appears to be rural since 70 of the original 170 acres of Dickinson land remain.

Most elaborate of the Italianate details is the round-arched doorway with its intricately carved fanlight. The double doors are of heart pine, featuring round-arched and circular panels. The rich red and blue glass in the fanlight and side-lights is original. An arched moulding encases the doorway.

Symmetrically arranged on the three-bay facade are pairs of round-arched windows, two on each side of the doorway and three upstairs. The ground floor ones are 4/6 double-hung sashes, while the second-story ones are similar but have only four lights in the lower sashes. Each window is framed with the same carved moulding as that around the doorway. In addition, a rectangular casing groups the pairs of windows, featuring a plain lug sill below and carved spandrels above. Similar windows are repeated on the single bays of the north and south, though the second floor of the south side has a simple paired rectangular window.

Further enhancing the facade symmetry are the center gable of the hipped roof and the circular attic window. Originally, a full-width porch extended across the facade, though neither the style of the porch, the number of stories, nor the date of removal is known. Intricately carved brackets support a plain cornice which extends around the original portion of the house. Together with the fanlight, these give the house its characterizing delicacy.

The interior has for the most part been maintained in its original condition. It features a simple central hall plan, with an octagonal parlor and a bedroom downstairs and two more bedrooms upstairs. Two interior chimneys on the east have fireplaces opening into each room. The parlor mantel is made of white Italian marble, with the rest being of pine. The beautiful walnut circular stair in the central hall highlights the interior and reflects the carpentering background of the architect. All flooring and woodworking is naturally finished heart pine. The octagonal shape of the parlor, the marble mantel, and the circular stair give a distinctive quality to the otherwise simple interior.

Around 1900 a one-story frame addition was constructed on the east end of the house to provide more comfortable living quarters. The second story addition and the east and south porches appear to have been added at a later date. In 1950 the interior was renovated, and the work included replacing the deteriorated plaster walls with sheetrock. The original outbuildings include a kitchen, dining room, and walkway, all of which have disappeared. An old well house and a one-room servants house with a brick chimney remain. Today the house is in good condition, and it retains its original appearance except for the removal of the front porch and the additions on the rear.

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Structurally a typical antebellum country dwelling, the Dickinson House is unusual in its application of Italianate ornamentation as a refining device. Its notable features include an elaborate fanlight, paired windows, finely carved brackets, an octagonal parlor, and a circular stairway. The house was constructed around 1845 for Colonel James Shelton Dickinson, one of Clarke County's leading mid-19th century citizens, and it has remained in the family to the present.

The architect is believed to have been an English-born carpenter named James Newman. After working as a builder in Virginia, Newman moved to Grove Hill to construct the home for Dickinson. His carpentering skills are visible in the Italianate ornamentation.

In 1821 James S. Dickinson (1818-1882) came to Clarke County from Virginia with his parents. His father, Richard Dickinson, operated a successful plantation and was active in state politics. As a child, the younger Dickinson was educated by private tutors and in private schools, and himself taught at a school near Grove Hill. He completed his education at the University of Virginia, where in 1844 he was awarded a law degree. In that same year, in Louisa County, Virginia, he married his cousin Mary Frances Dickinson, and shortly after settling in Grove Hill they contracted for the construction of their home.

During his career, Dickinson operated a law practice as well as involved himself in political affairs. In 1853 and 1854 he served in the Alabama Senate, and from 1863-65 he was a member of the Confederate Congress in Richmond. At the onset of the Civil War, Dickinson organized and financed a Confederate company from Grove Hill known as the "Dickinson Guards". The company was actively engaged throughout the war, and though Dickinson himself was not enlisted with them, he received the honorary rank of Colonel, presumably a state militia title. At the close of the war, he returned to Grove Hill and practiced law with the firm of Dickinson and Kilpatrick. He married Alice Savage following the death of his first wife in 1864, and he continued to live in Grove Hill for the remainder of his life.

The Dickinson House continues to be occupied by direct descendants of Colonel James S. Dickinson. It has been kept in good condition, and, except for the rear additions and the removal of the front porch, it maintains its original appearance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ball, Rev. T. H. A Glance into the Great South-east, or Clarke County, Alabama, and its Surroundings, 1540 to 1877. Reprinted by the Clarke County Historical Society, 1973.

Brewer, Willis. Alabama: Her History, War Record, and Public Men. Spartanburg, S.C.: The Reprint Co., Publishers, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1½ acres

QUADRANGLE NAME _____ QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES See addendum sheets.

A

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B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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F

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G

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H

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See addendum sheets.

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 Sally Moore

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

February 23, 1978

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

W. B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE

Alabama SHPO

DATE

March 3, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

R. B. Rettig

DATE

9/13/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William J. Lebovich
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

Sept 11, 1978

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

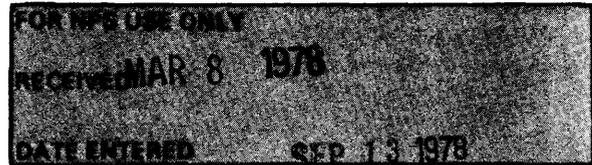
Finlay, Louis M., Jr. Conversations and correspondence, Oct., 1977-Feb., 1978.

Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography.
Vol. III. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921.

Pugh, Minnie May. Bibliographical Sketch of Col. James Shelton Dickinson,
Sept., 1977.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

LATITUDE 32° 37' 12"
LONGITUDE 87° 19' 09"

Starting at the northeast corner of the intersection of Polk Street and Murfee Avenue and extending 216 feet in a northerly direction; then 24 feet in an easterly direction to a point which is the true point of beginning; then turning north for 453 feet; then east for 91 feet; then southeast for 60 feet; then south for 368 feet; then east for 171 feet; then south for 79 feet; then west for 213.5 feet; then north ofr 36.5 feet; then west for 81 feet to the true point of beginning.