

PH0000035

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA	
COUNTY: LAUDERDALE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 13 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rogers Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Courtview

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North end of Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Florence

STATE Alabama	CODE 01	COUNTY: Lauderdale	CODE 077
------------------	------------	-----------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Florence State University

STREET AND NUMBER:
Wesleyan Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Florence

STATE: Alabama	CODE 01
-------------------	------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Florence

STATE Alabama	CODE 01
------------------	------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

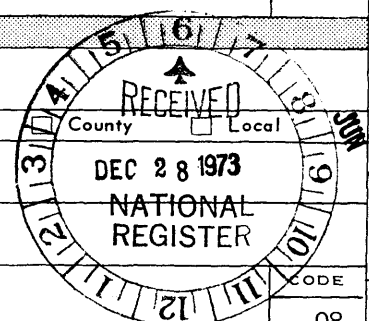
DATE OF SURVEY: 1935 Federal State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE 80
-----------------	------------



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Rogers Hall is a rectangular, three-story Greek Revival mansion which faces southeast from the northern terminus of Court Street, thus commanding a view of the main street of the city. It was built by George Washington Foster between 1854 and 1855.

29/10/00
Palmer
The house consists of three floors. The first floor is a basement above the ground, the second and third are the main living areas. There is a full-length piazza on the front of the second story which is supported by an enclosed arcade. In the middle of the piazza is the portico which features four fluted Ionic columns rising from the porch to the broad dentiled entablature which supports a hipped roof. A broad flight of stone steps ascend to the portico. The capitals of the columns feature the egg and dart design.

The entrances on the second and third floors are recessed and feature side windows and flanking pilasters and a square transom. The third floor entrance gives access to a free-standing balcony. The windows on the second floor are sliding casement windows on the front and regular casement windows on the back. The windows on the west side of the second floor and of the third floor are six pane sash windows. The east wall of the second floor features two false windows which break the monotony of the solid brick wall.

The floor plan consists of two rooms on either side of a broad hall. On the second floor double parlors are on the right of the hall and two rooms separated by a small kitchen are on the left. The double parlors are separated by panelled, sliding doors. The floors are narrow hardwood oak. The third floor duplicates this plan, but dressing and bath rooms separate the rooms here. The basement basically follows this same plan but has in recent years been divided into smaller rooms.

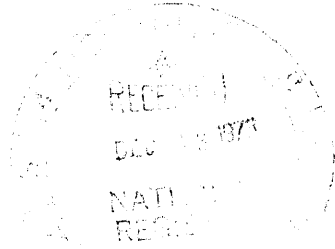
The second floor entrance hall features a broad center stairway rising to a landing where it divides into two flights to the third floor. The first floor is reached only from the outside.

Each of the second floor rooms has a marble mantel which is in keeping with the Greek Revival design. The chimneys are end interior.

The cornices, one of the building's most important features, are delicate plaster moldings of acanthus leaves and grapes, oak leaf and acorn clusters, and other designs.

The roof of Rogers Hall is hipped with a flat pinnacle which once bore a cupola.

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) 1855-1973

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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art		<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

George Washington Foster was one of the wealthy planters of the Oakland Community, in the Colbert Reserve. He owned plantations in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. In the 1850's, when he wanted to build a town house, he chose the highest point in the downtown Florence area, the present northern terminus of Court Street. Because of the location, Foster had to obtain a special act of the Alabama State Legislature to close the street.

The house was probably begun in 1854 or 1855. In the 1920's, when it was being remodeled, a board was found signed "John Ballinger, Carpenter and Builder, August 24, 1855." Although Foster moved into the house sometime before 1860, some sources state the full original plans were never carried out because of the Civil War.

Mr. Foster engaged Hastings of Atlanta to landscape the gardens and the lawns.

According to the diary of Sarah Independence Foster, a daughter of Foster, troops from both the Union and Confederate armies camped on the grounds. On November 3, 1863, officers of the Union Army, under Sherman's command, stayed in the Foster home. A year later General Beauregard, General Forrest and General Stephen D. Lee visited the home. General Forrest and his wife and son, Lieutenant W. Forrest, spent several days with the Foster family.

In 1878 George Washington Foster died and the home passed to Sarah Independence Foster who married Sterling Payne MacDonald. He had been a Captain in the Confederate Army and had visited in the home several times during the Civil War. They lived in the home until 1900 when it was sold to Emmett O'Neal, a local lawyer.

In 1910 Emmett O'Neal was elected Governor of Alabama and the people of Florence formed a torch light parade which proceeded from the Court-house to Courtview where they met the governor-elect on the porch. After leaving office in 1915, O'Neal made his home in Birmingham and the house in Florence was rented out as a boarding house.

When Governor O'Neal died, in 1922, Courtview was sold to Thomas

more

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Acts of the Legislature, 1851-2. Act No. 214
 Craig, Mrs. Ben, Sr., Interview with, 14 August 1972, Florence, Alabama.
 _____, Interview with, 23 August 1972, Florence, Alabama
 Foster, Sarah Independence, Diary, Collier Library, Florence State Univer-
 sity, Florence, Alabama.
 Garrett, Jill K., History of Florence, Alabama, Columbia, Tennessee, 1966.
Historic Muscle Shoals: A Guide to Places of Historic Interest, Tennessee
 Valley Historical Society, Sheffield, Alabama 1965.
Memorial Record of Alabama, in Two Volumes, Brant and Fuller, Madison,
 Wisconsin, 1893.

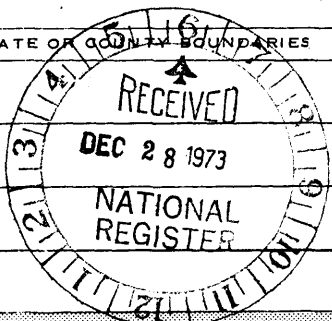
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		34	48	21
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		87	40	46
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director
 ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: 12-7-73
 STREET AND NUMBER:
Garrett Coliseum
 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Mike B. Howard, Jr.</u></p> <p>Title <u>St. Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>December 17, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connally</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Professional Services</p> <p>Date <u>JUN 13 1974</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Charles A. Herrington</u> Acting Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>6/12/74</u></p>
--	--

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE ALABAMA	
COUNTY LAUDERDALE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 13 1974

(Number all entries)

8. Significance - Rogers Hall

M. Rogers, Sr. He and his wife remodeled and renovated the house and used it as their home until 1948 when Mrs. Rogers sold it to Florence State College. The college, now Florence State University, uses the home as a social center.

In 1935 Courtview was placed on the Historic American Buildings Survey. A description of its appearance was placed in the Library of Congress.

