

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0683710

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DATE ENTERED

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

Marion Institute President's House

AND/OR COMMON

same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

110 Brown Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Marion

VICINITY OF

7

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Perry

105

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Marion Military Institute

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Marion

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Perry County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Marion

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1912, the Marion Military Institute President's House was designed in the popular Neo-Classical style. It is a 3-bay, 2-story frame structure located in the heart of the campus, at the north side of the quadrangle. Along with two Classical Revival structures, the Chapel and Lovelace Hall (nominated to NRHP, 2-23-78), the home has been significant in establishing a common architectural theme for the campus.

Facing south, the house has a full-width two-story portico with a central balustraded balcony. Four fluted Ionic columns support a heavy modillioned cornice which extends around the east and west sides of the house. Entrance is through single-panelled double-leaf doors. Wide sidelights and a transom, decorated with Gothic-influenced tracery, surround the ground floor and balcony doors. Flanking the center bay are 12/1 sash windows with a cornice trim. The house has a hipped roof with a center hipped attic dormer. The roof is shingled and features decorative block elements along the ridge. There are four exterior end chimneys.

A one-story screened porch is attached on the east and extends the full width of the house. It is decorated with slender Doric pilasters and a modillioned cornice which coheres with the cornice along the roofline.

On the west is a centrally located one-story porte-cochere with a single-leaf multi-paned door surrounded by a transom and sidelights. Slender fluted Ionic columns and a heavy modillioned cornice enhance the porch.

On the rear, the back porch and upstairs sleeping porch have been enclosed. A one-story kitchen extends outward on the east side. Two outbuildings, a 3-car garage and a storage house (former garage), are located behind the house.

The interior, both upstairs and down, features a central hall flanked by four symmetrically arranged rooms. At the end of the hall is a dog-leg stairway which is divided at the second floor. Behind this is the enclosed area, the kitchen, and a back stair. Modest trim, such as a molded ceiling cornice, modillioned mantel piece, and panelled wainscot, adorns the interior.

The house has been maintained in its original condition except for the addition of several closets, the enclosure of the back porch, and the installation of central heating.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE
110 Brown Street, Marion, Alabama, Perry County

ADDENDUM TO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1912, the Marion Military Institute President's House dates from one of the school's major periods of growth during which the military training program received national recognition. Architecturally, the home is a typical example of the Neo-Classical Revival style which was popular in the early 20th century, and it has been important in setting a precedent for maintaining the Classical feeling of the original campus structures.

The present campus contains seventeen structures, with nine of them clustered around a spacious quadrangle. Though several buildings were constructed prior to 1930, only the Chapel and Lovelace Hall (NRHP 9/13/78) and the President's House maintain an architectural or historical significance of National Register quality. These were submitted as separate nominations because they are physically separated by a cluster of three later buildings and because their architectural and historical integrity is derived from two separate phases of the school's development. Though seven other campus structures were built prior to 1930, there is no potential for a district nomination. Two of these have been drastically altered and five were not constructed as a part of the campus but only incorporated into it in later years. Two outbuildings, a garage and storage house, were mentioned in the President's House nomination because they are located on the lot. Photographs of these structures are enclosed.

Founded in 1887, Marion Military Institute was established as a private male academy to fill the educational vacuum created by the removal of Howard College from Marion to Birmingham. Howard's former president, Colonel James T. Murphee, remained in Marion as the first president of the new academy. He instituted the program for military training which, except for the period 1907-15, has been maintained to the present and for which the school has been nationally recognized.

Construction of the President's House in 1912, a quarter-century after the school's founding, marked the onset of the physical expansion of the campus. Prior to that time, the campus consisted of four mid-19th century buildings (two barracks, a chapel, and a dining hall), of which the Chapel and Lovelace Hall remain. The Neo-Classical Revival style of the house emulated the fine antebellum homes in Marion which remained from that Black Belt community's period of greatest economic wealth. Also, it was designed to blend with the Classical appearance of the Chapel and Lovelace and thereby established an architectural theme for the campus which has been carried out to the present.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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This period of growth for the school, largely accelerated by the threat of World War I, resulted in the expansion of both the physical facilities and the enrollment. The Military Department, which had been abolished in 1907, was reinstated in 1915, and a pilot R.O.T.C. program was established in 1916. Under these programs, graduates of Marion Military Institute were prepared for admission to one of the service academies, and the school was selected by the War Department as one of a few civil institutions to maintain a Military Science and Tactics Department under the direction of an active Army officer trained at the West Point Academy. Today, Marion Military Institute remains as one of the nation's six military junior colleges which offers a complete R.O.T.C. program.

Colonels Hopson O. and Walter L. Murfee, the first two residents of the President's House, served as presidents of the school from 1909-19 and 1919-44, respectively, during two periods of great national crisis. During their administrations, the school's military training program emerged as a valuable resource upon which the nation drew for military leadership and service. Of the men who graduated from Marion Military Institute between the onset of H. O. Murfee's term (1909) and 1930, 128 achieved a flag or general rank in the armed forces and many others lost their lives in active service. Through the years, graduates of the school have continued to make outstanding contributions to our society in both military and civil fields.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1912, the Marion Military Institute President's House is a two-story frame structure with a Neo-Classical facade. It is located on the north side of the quadrangle, in close proximity to the Chapel and Lovelace Hall (nominated to NRHP, 2-23-78), the only buildings remaining from the 1854-58 Howard College Campus. The home was designed to blend with the Classical style of these early structures, a theme which has been carried out throughout the campus.

As early as the mid-19th century, the Marion community became one of the state's leading educational centers, with three fine antebellum schools. The Baptist-affiliated Howard College, established in 1841, was the only male school in the area, but it was moved to Birmingham in 1887 following a period of rapid expansion. The old campus then became the nucleus for a new male academy, the Marion Military Institute, which was headed by Howard's former President, Colonel James Thomas Murfee, I.

The Murfee family became known for its leadership in education, and in fact, provided Marion with its first four Presidents. Colonel James Thomas Murfee, formerly a professor of math and Commandant of Cadets at the University of Alabama, came to Marion as President of Howard College in 1871. As founder of the Marion Military Institute, he served as its first president from 1887 to 1906. Hopson Owen Murfee, son of J. T. Murfee, succeeded his father as head of the school. He held the position until 1919, at which time his brother Walter Lee Murfee was named to the post. Succeeding him in 1944 was his son, James Thomas Murfee, II, whose death in 1953 marked the end of over a half-century of service to education by the Murfee family.

The first family to reside in the President's House, therefore, was to be connected with it for four decades. Though the home was not built during the lifetime of James T. Murfee, it was completed in 1912 during the term of his son Hopson O. Murfee. There is a discrepancy over the design and construction of the house, as both Hopson O. Murfee and his brother Walter L. have been attributed with it.*

Members of the Murfee family continually occupied the house until the death of James T. Murfee, II, in 1953. Since that time, the six succeeding presidents have resided there, and currently it is the home of Major General Thomas Barfield.

* This is not for publication.

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Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of Brown and Perry streets, proceed in a northerly direction along the eastern boundary of Perry Street for approximately 350 feet; thence in an easterly direction along the rear property line of the President's House lot for approximately 258 feet to a point; thence in a southerly direction along the western boundary of said lot for approximately 350 feet to the northern boundary of Brown; thence in a westerly direction along said boundary for approximately 258 feet to the point of beginning.

1.91 acres

1 inch = 1 mile

LATITUDE: 87° 18' 59"
LONGITUDE: 32° 37' 48"