

PH0010065

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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: LIMESTONE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 19 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:
City Superintendent's Home

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Robert Donnell House *used to be*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
601 ^A South Clinton Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Athens District 5

STATE Alabama	CODE 01	COUNTY: Limestone	CODE 083
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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 type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Storage</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Athens Board of Education

STREET AND NUMBER:
313 East Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Athens	STATE: Alabama	CODE 01
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of Judge of Probate, Limestone County, Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House Square

CITY OR TOWN: Athens	STATE: Alabama	CODE 01
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

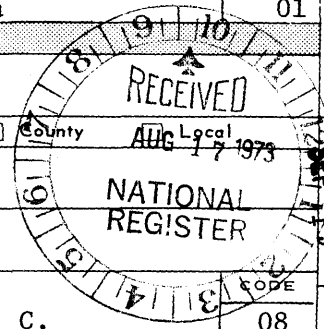
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935-36 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 08
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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 type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Donnell House is a two story frame structure with a two story portico across the front. Originally the house was T-shaped, consisting of a front section and a central wing. Rooms have been added onto either side of the rear wing, making the house roughly rectangular.

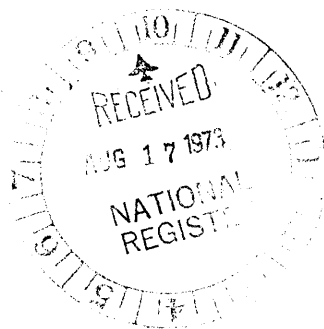
The structure measures 54'6" by 54'6". The roof is gabled and there are two end-exterior chimneys, one on either side of the front section, and a rear exterior chimney.

In the center of the facade four square columns support a simple pediment. Matching pilasters are located at either end of the portico. The main entrance is framed with a transom and sidelights with a heavy rectangular architrave above. A similar doorway above gives access to a small balcony with wooden balusters.

The original windows, four of which remain across the front, are given an unusual treatment. Each window consists of a central double hung window with 9 lites per sash, and two narrow side windows, also double hung, which are one lite wide and 6 lites tall. These side windows are covered by the shutters.

The interior of the building originally consisted of one room on either side of a central reception hall. These rooms measure 19'6" by 19'6", and have large matching mantels. The entrance hall, which measures 13' by 19'6" contains a plain classical double run staircase. The bannister rail is curved and there are two slender carved balusters per tread.

To the rear of this entrance hall is a rear hall which contains a similar staircase. Immediately to the rear of the cross hall is a large dining room with a mantel similar to those in the front rooms. A long porch is thought to have extended the length of the rear wing on the left side. The second floor duplicated the first.



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3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Early 1840's

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Donnell Home was the residence of Robert Donnell, an early religious leader in North Alabama. Later the house served a variety of educational purposes.

Robert Donnell was born in North Carolina in 1784 and in 1798 he emigrated to Tennessee. There in 1810 he was received as a candidate for the ministry by the Cumberland Presbytery at the first meeting after its reorganization and was ordained by the same in October 1811. Donnell was one of the compilers of the Confession of Faith and Discipline of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and was an enlightened exponent and an invincible defender of its doctrines.

In the 1820's he moved south and established the Presbyterian Church in Athens. He spent the rest of his life as a religious leader in this north Alabama town, constructing his home in 1840. Upon his death in 1855 the house passed to his son, James W. S. Donnell who occupied the house during the Civil War.

In 1869, Judge Joshua P. Coman raised \$2,500 by public subscription to establish the Athens Male College in the Donnell home. Ten years later the house was purchased by the City of Athens and became part of the city Public School campus.

In 1889 it was deeded to the North Alabama Experiment Station and Agricultural School. In 1936 the City of Athens became the owner and the structure was used as an educational facility of the city high school.

At present the Donnell House is threatened by the Athens School Board's desire to demolish this HABS landmark, even though it is structurally sound and architecturally significant.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Material on file, Alabama Historical Commission. Supplied by Mrs. Thomas E. Edwards, President, Limestone County Historical Society.

Marks, Henry S. Who Was Who In Alabama, Huntsville: The Strode Publishers, 1972.

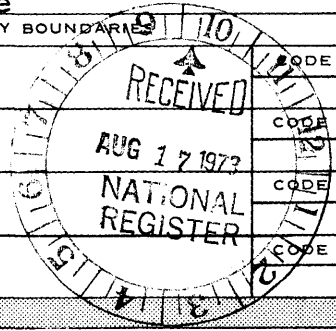
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	34	°	47	'	46	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	86	°	58	'	03	"
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



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: August 1, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 S. Lawrence St.

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>Nils B. Howard, Jr.</u></p> <p>Title <u>SHPO - Ala</u></p> <p>Date <u>August 8, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert H. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>9/19/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>9 10 73</u></p>
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