

PHQ 36160X

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 10 1976  
DATE ENTERED OCT 8 1976

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  
Noble Cottage  
AND/OR COMMON  
Noble-Roberts-Morris Cottage

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
900 Leighton Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Anniston  
STATE  
Alabama

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
3

--- VICINITY OF  
CODE  
01

COUNTY  
Calhoun

CODE  
015

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Architects Office

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Joe M. Morris  
STREET & NUMBER  
3225 Brookwood Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Mountain Brook  
STATE  
Alabama

--- VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Calhoun County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
100 West 11th Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Anniston  
STATE  
Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The architectural style of the Noble-Roberts-Morris Cottage is derived from the innovative early work of Henry Hobson Richardson, the pioneer of a truly distinctive American architectural expression. It was constructed in 1887 and was designed by L. B. Wheeler for Samuel Noble, founder of the city of Anniston.

The structure is a two-story cottage executed in the manner of late medieval English country inns. The lower story is constructed of native sandstone, while the upper story is clad in scalloped cedar shingles. There is a strong horizontal emphasis in the lines of the house, characteristic of Richardson's work, which is emphasized by the rusticated stone base and sculptured treatment of the shingled top, which has been modulated to create flared surfaces with bow windows on the north elevation. The stretching of the roof planes beyond the mass of the house to form the front porch and the lifting of roof planes to form dormers are a feature of Richardson's style which can be seen in his 1875 house for Ward Willets at Newport, Rhode Island.

The shingles on the upper story are painted in a somber autumnal color of a rich red tone, an exterior scheme first introduced by Richardson.

Notable interior details of the house include the heart pine woodwork used in the grooved chairrails, and deep-set beaded casework around the windows and doors. The staircase is, perhaps, the single most outstanding feature of the house with its handsomely detailed mouldings and ruggedly elegant bannisters. Beautiful, hand-carved mantels are a feature of each room in the house. The southeast room downstairs features a paneled and upholstered window seat beneath double windows which project on the exterior to form a "witches hut." An arched opening above the window seat is cast or ornamental plaster, as are the crown mouldings throughout the house. The paneled doors, intricate decorative brass hinges, transoms and panel divisions of the windows were all carefully custom designed by the architect and have been restored to their original beauty.

Alterations to the house have been minor, including only the glassing in of a screen porch on the west (rear) and the addition of a bathroom in the upper floor.

# 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

1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

L. B. Wheeler

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Noble-Roberts-Morris Cottage is a mature expression of the architectural style of Henry Hobson Richardson, and is one of the only two examples of this style in the state. In architectural style and detail, the cottage is nearly identical to the nearby Crowan Cottage (National Register, May 16, 1975) although the former is smaller and more compact, heightening the overall sculptural qualities characteristic of the design. Commissioned by Samuel Noble, one of the founders of the city, the Noble-Roberts-Morris Cottage is significant not only for its architectural features but for its associations with the early history of Anniston.

Although local tradition has asserted that the two buildings were designed by Stanford White, recent research has determined that L. B. Wheeler of Atlanta, Georgia, was the architect of the Noble-Roberts-Morris Cottage and considering the strong similarities, he may well have designed the Crowan Cottage.

Samuel Noble, along with his brothers and General Alfred Tyler, pooled their knowledge and resources in the 1870's to form the Woodstock Iron Company, a venture which proved highly successful and formed the basis for the establishment of the City of Anniston, "The Model City." It was a totally planned industrial community from the beginning; land was set aside for parks, churches, industry and municipal buildings, and various public amenities, such as water and sewer systems. Broad tree-lined boulevards and well-planned residential areas completed the scheme.

In 1887, Noble commissioned L. E. Wheeler of the Atlanta firm of Wheeler and Parkins to design the cottage at 900 Leighton, which was initially used as a guest cottage to house many distinguished visitors and potential investors interested in the town's future. The first occupant of the cottage was a Mr. Wrenshaw, General Superintendent for the Anniston and Cincinnati Railroad, then being constructed.

At his death in 1888, Noble deeded the house to a married daughter, Kathrine Roberts, who occupied it with her husband from 1892 until 1898. Around the turn of the century the house came into possession of Samuel Ruhms. During the 20th Century the house had a succession of owners until it was purchased in the 1950's by Joe Morris of Birmingham. In 1974, Morris and Anniston architect, George O. Parker, restored the house for office use.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anniston City Directories. 1892, 1902.

Anniston Daily Hot Blast. February 11, 1887.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6	6	0	8	9	2	0	3	7	2	4	4	0	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

C 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

D 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

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 Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

May 27, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

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

*Wils B. Howard Jr.*

TITLE SHPO

DATE

*May 28, 1976*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*10/8/76*

DATE

*10/7/76*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 10 1976
DATE ENTERED	OCT 8 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

---

Hagerty, J. P., Jr., "Early History of the Industrial City of Anniston, Alabama, 1872-1889." Unpublished masters thesis, Auburn University, 1960.

Parker, George, "The Noble-Roberts-Morris Cottage," privately printed, 1975.