

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only
received **JUL 30 1979**
date entered **SEP**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stay House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 631 South Hull Street _____ not for publication

city, town Montgomery _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 2

state Alabama code 01 county Montgomery code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Henry K. Buckner AND Mrs. B. Willis Starr
street & number 2513 Ridgewood Drive Philadelphia, Pa. 19118
Nashville, Tennessee 37215 1014

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number Washington Street

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

The Stay House is a two-story, brick-veneer building of restrained late Victorian design with modest Eastlake trim. Located in a late 19th century middle class neighborhood, it faces west and occupies a small lot (100' x 138') informally landscaped with trees and shrubs. A low brick retaining wall, topped by an iron fence made by the Springfield Architectural Iron Works, extends across the front of the property and a flagstone path leads to the marble front steps.

Essentially L-shaped, it has a gabled front wing projecting approximately 10 feet from the rectangular massing of the gabled central block (28' x 41'). A wraparound porch on the northern half of the facade, a central tower and a bay window on the front wing intensify the asymmetry of the plan. A one-story, gabled kitchen wing on the rear is abutted by a recently enclosed porch. The house rests on brick foundation which ranges from a crawl space in front to an unfinished basement beneath the kitchen. Small ventilators with ornate metal grills pierce the foundation which is defined by a rockfaced water table. The projecting cornice of the gabled roof and the pyramidal tower roof are supported by simple brackets and are continued across the base of the gables. The roof was recovered with composition shingles in the late 1960's. Four end-interior chimneys have simple corbeled caps; one on the south appears to have been rebuilt. Large horseshoe-shaped ventilators, located on each of the gables and the upper portion of the front tower are the most noted feature of the building. Originally they contained small wrought-iron troughs to catch water for birds. In addition to the ventilators, the front and side gables have apex trim. Windows are predominately single, 1/1, with rockfaced stone sills and lintels. Paired windows with shared sills and lintels occur to the north of the tower and on the upper floor of the front wing. All windows originally had louvered shutters, but most have been removed and placed in the basement. The double front door, located in the tower, is topped with a four-segment fanlight and trimmed with alternating rockfaced voussoirs. Newer brass fittings replace the original hardware.

Interior: The ground floor is basically a central hall, four room with kitchen wing plan modified by a small entrance vestibule in the front tower. This entrance has paneled wainscot and gives access to the central hall with a simple chairrail. The full-turn stair with heavy newel and turned balusters is located in an alcove to the left of the hall. To the right (south) of the hall is the double parlor connected by a sliding door and entered through single doors; to the left (north) is the dining room with its paneled, built in cabinets. Originally access was gained from the hall by a double sliding door which has been replaced with a single door and the remainder of the opening closed. The original surround, however, was not removed. To the rear of the dining room is the pantry which has been converted to a bathroom. The upper floor consists of four rooms, a central hall and a flight of partially enclosed stairs leading to the attic. A small partition, added in 1918, created a small bedroom at the front of the hall. The original bath, located in the northeast corner, was modernized in the late 1940's.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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Mantels are intact and vary from room to room; the most ornate, an Eastlake design with a small beveled mirror, is in the front parlor. Others are simpler, though well-designed, wooden and metal mantels. Each has colored tile hearths and trim. Original small hobnailed glass and brass chandeliers are located in the parlors. Interior trim consists of heavily reeded surrounds with corner bosses, 10 inch baseboards, and four-panel doors with beveled panels. Windows of the parlor and dining room have panels extending from the sill to the baseboard. Downstairs floors are of hardwood, now covered with carpet, while the pine floors on the second floor are exposed.

The house has undergone only moderate alteration, with the major changes being reversable. In recent years central heating was installed, with a basement unit and an attic unit utilizing floor and ceiling registers, respectively.

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	1893	Builder/Architect	unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stay House is significant as one of the few brick-veneer, Victorian period residences in Montgomery and as the home of Dr. John Hazard Henry, a locally noted physician and politician. Although smaller and less ornate than the few masonry houses of the period, it reflects the owner's desire to have a home with substantial appearance. Because of the unique ventilators in the gable and tower, the building is known locally as the "Horseshoe House" and serves as a landmark in both the neighborhood and the city.

The son of one of Montgomery's earliest physicians, Henry was born in the city in 1829. He studied medicine with the famous Dr. J. Marion Sims and eventually graduated from the University of New York City. Later he earned a degree from the College of Homeopathy in Philadelphia and returned home to become one of the first to practice that discipline in Alabama. On the death of his father in 1857, he moved to Selma and became active in local politics. Toward the end of the Civil War, he served as mayor of the city and negotiated with Union Forces after its capture. During Reconstruction, he joined ranks with the Republican Party and his activities included the organization of the first white southern Republican Convention. In the early 1880's, he abandoned his political career and returned to Montgomery to practice medicine. In 1893, he constructed his fine home which he occupied until his death in 1906. The house has remained in the family and was occupied by his daughter, Martha Falconer Henry, and her husband, Ernest W. Stay, a chief accountant with Alabama Fidelity and Casualty Company in Montgomery. For several years the house was used as a rehabilitation center for alcoholic women. Empty now, it is currently for sale.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alabama Journal, May 13, 1868.

Blue, Matthew P. City Directory and History of Montgomery, Montgomery: T.C. Bingham, 1878.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Montgomery South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	6	5	5	6	0	3	5	8	1	4	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 5 and 6, Gaboury Plat, measuring 100' x 138'.

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 Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date July 17, 1979

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Phil B. Howard, Jr.

title SHPO Alabama

date July 19, 1979

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register

date 9-10-79

Attest: Wesley A. Dubsie

date 9/8/79

Chief of Registration

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Correspondence. Mrs. Henry K. Buckner to Ellen Mertins, April 7, 1978.

_____. Mrs. B. Willis Starr to James Loeb, January 16, 1979.

_____. _____ to Mary Ann Neeley, February 16, 1979.

Montgomery City Directory. 1912.

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