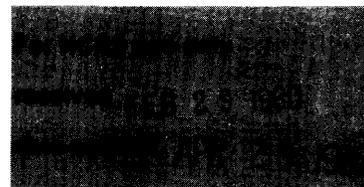


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Wheeler House

and/or common Wheeler-Chism & Way House

2. Location

street & number 2703 7th Street _____ not for publication

city, town Tuscaloosa _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 7

state Alabama code 01 county Tuscaloosa code 125

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Chism & Way

street & number 2703 7th Street

city, town Tuscaloosa _____ vicinity of _____ state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Probate, Tuscaloosa County Courthouse

street & number 714 Greensboro Avenue

city, town Tuscaloosa _____ state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978-present _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery _____ state Alabama

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

The Wheeler-Chism & Way House is a two story, wood frame structure built in 1890 in the Capitol Park area of Tuscaloosa. It contains the irregularity of plan and massing of the Queen Anne style, but not the variety of textures and materials. Located on a shady corner lot in a middle class neighborhood of frame residences built between 1890 and 1920, it is one of the finest houses in the area.

Crowned with a balustraded deck on a high hip roof, gabled bays with pents project at the northwest and southwest corners and from the central sections of the east and west sides. The projecting bays on the northwest corner and east side are beveled and contain windows on the end and beveled corners. A one story hip roofed porch wraps around the east and north sides terminating against the projecting northwest bay. The porch is supported by slender Tuscan columns that rest on brick pedestals. Entrance is through the single front door on the north side, which has side lights and a transom, or the single door with transom on the east side. A new rear door with side lights is located in the shed roofed addition at the southeast corner.

The interior retains its original dark stained woodwork which consists of post and lintel door and window facings, picture moldings, doors, and baseboards. The staircase which ascends from the front left of the hallway and three mirrored overmantles are also darkly stained. The mantels all have Tuscan columns supporting the shelf and a decorative solid iron grate surrounded by blue and white mottled tile. All windows have one over one lights.

Care was taken to retain the architectural integrity of the structure when it was recently restored by the present owners as offices. Changes to the structure were minimal and basically include only the installation of modern necessities. A contemporary hip with gable roofed garage and storage building is located behind the house.

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 1890 **Builder/Architect** M. J. Wheeler

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1890 as the home of M. J. Wheeler, a prominent brick manufacturer, this is one of the finest houses in the Capitol Park area of Tuscaloosa and one of the first structures to have been built in the city after a long period of depression. With its multi-gabled projecting bays and encircling Tuscan columned porch it was typical of the type of buildings which would be constructed in this section of town between 1890 and 1920.

The Capitol Park area, developed as a middle class residential neighborhood during this period, was proposed as a district in 1976. Intense opposition to the district resulted in the recall of the nomination and it seems unlikely that it will be forwarded to Washington in the near future. The current owners of the building have renovated it for office use and local sponsors of the nomination hope that it will serve as an inspiration for other restorations in the area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clinton, M. W., Tuscaloosa Alabama, Its Early Days 1816-1865.
Tuscaloosa: The Zonta Club, 1958.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 115' x 132'

Quadrangle name Tuscaloosa

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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3	6	7	4	1	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot #248

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 Jackson R. Stell/Marie S. Ball - Executive Director

organization Alabama Historical Commission date February 25, 1979

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6621

city or town Montgomery state Alabama

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 Miss B. Howard, Jr.

title SAPO Alabama date Feb. 26, 1980

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register for <u>W. Ray Juce</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>4/28/80</u>
Attest: <u>W. J. Dubie</u> Chief of Registration	date <u>4/25/80</u>