

3-2-73

PH0021334

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: MONTGOMERY | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER JUL 3 | DATE 1972 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
GOVERNOR'S MANSION

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1142 South Perry Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Montgomery

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE Alabama | CODE 01 | COUNTY: Montgomery | CODE 101 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Alabama

STREET AND NUMBER:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery | STATE: Alabama | CODE 01 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery | STATE: Alabama | CODE 01 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

| | | |
|---------------|--------|-------|
| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE: |
|---------------|--------|-------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

JUL 3 1972

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 |
| | (Check One) | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The mansion is two stories high, surrounded on three sides by raised terrace. It is Classic Revival of the early twentieth century. The main entrance has a beautifully proportioned portico with four wood fluted columns of the Composite order extending the full height of the building with roof pediment and an intermediate balcony at the second floor level. The entablature of the main portion of the house has a plain frieze with dentils, modillions and cornice in the classic style. The main facade is flanked on one side by a porte-cochere and on the other by an enclosed sun-porch. The porte-cochere roof is supported by wood fluted circular columns of the Ionic order with entablature, cornice and open wood balustrade around the perimeter of the roof.

The mansion contains approximately 4500 square feet on the first floor and 4000 square feet on the second floor. The first floor contains a large reception room with a beautiful massive open stairway, a library, drawing room, formal dining room and sunporch which are open to the public on a continuous basis throughout the year. Also, a small study, breakfast room, and kitchen facilities are located on the first floor. The Governor and his family occupy living quarters on the second floor which contains five bedrooms and four baths.

The interior of the building has some beautiful hand carved mouldings and trim. This work, together with the wood floors (some inlaid), ornamental cornices, decorative ceiling mouldings, mantels and huge mirrors with gold leaf trim are all original.

The mansion complex contains a guest house, a carriage house which has been converted into servant's quarters, parking for approximately thirty cars and a completely fenced-in formal garden area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Governor's Mansion, which has served as the official state residence of six Alabama governors, is also recognized as one of the finer examples of Neo-Greco-Roman Classic Revival architecture in Alabama.

The mansion was built in 1907 by Robert F. Ligon, Jr., subsequent to his move to Montgomery from Tuskegee, where he had been mayor. The son of a Lieutenant Governor of Alabama, Ligon served as Clerk of the State Supreme Court and also as adjutant general of Alabama during the Spanish American War.

A Montgomery architect, Weatherly Carter, designed the mansion which was built on land deeded from the U. S. Government to Rachel Hatchett and her husband in 1818.

In 1950, the Ligon heirs sold the home to the State of Alabama for \$100,000. Since that time, six Alabama governors have lived in the mansion, several of which have been nationally-known political figures.

Governor Gordon Persons (1951-55), the first chief executive to occupy the home, officially opened the mansion for his inaugural reception. He was succeeded by James E. ("Big Jim") Folsom (1955-59) who was serving his second term as governor. Folsom, a nationally-known figure, was an early Southern advocate of the "one man-one vote" principle. John M. Patterson, (1959-1963), later to be the first Southern governor to promote John F. Kennedy for the presidency, followed Folsom. George C. Wallace occupied the mansion in 1963 and quickly became one of America's most outspoken and best known advocates of State's Rights.

Wallace was succeeded by his wife, Governor Lurleen B. Wallace, the third woman in the nation's history to serve as governor of a state and the first woman to serve as Governor of Alabama. Her death from cancer in 1968 placed Lieutenant Governor Albert P. Brewer in the executive mansion.

At present the mansion is occupied by George C. Wallace, serving his second term as governor. Wallace has achieved international renown for his three presidential bids.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Alabama Historical Commission, The Alabama Department of Archives and History, "The Governor's Mansion of Alabama," Montgomery, 1969.

Howard, Milo B., Jr., Biographical Sketches of Alabama Governors Montgomery: The Montgomery Advertiser, February, 1966 - April, 1966.

Junior League of Montgomery, A Guide to the City of Montgomery, Montgomery; Walker Printing Company, Inc., 1969.

NO WITHIN

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | OR | 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 | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 32 21 43.084 | 86 18 26.336 | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

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 |
| | | | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **May 18, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name Milo B. Howard, Jr.

Title State Liaison Officer

Date May 19, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/3/72

ATTEST: William M. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

3/2/73

The Ligon House, now known as the Governor's Mansion was the residence of Robert Fulwood Ligon, a prominent figure in state and local government during the last two decades of the nineteenth century and the first two decades of the twentieth century. Additionally, it is one of the two better known examples of Neo-Greco-Roman Classic Revival architecture in Alabama.

The house was designed for Robert Ligon by a Montgomery architect, Weatherly Carter in 1907.

Ligon was born in Tuskegee in 1864, the son of a lieutenant governor of Alabama. Ligon served as mayor of Tuskegee (1886-1888) before moving to Montgomery to become the law partner of Tennant Lomax. In 1898 he was elected clerk of the State Supreme Court and reelected in 1904 and 1910. He also served as a trustee of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute after 1900.

He was adjutant general of Alabama (1896-99) during the Spanish American War. Governor Jelks appointed him inspector general of the Alabama National Guard in 1903 with the rank of brigadier general. He served in that post until 1911 when Governor Emmet O'Neal appointed him quartermaster general. Ligon was a delegate to the 1912 Democratic National Convention in Baltimore that nominated Woodrow Wilson.

Ligon died in 1936 and the house remained in the family until 1950 when it was sold to the State of Alabama for \$100,000. Since that time, six Alabama governors have lived in the mansion, several of which have been nationally known political figures.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

| | | |
|------------------|------|------------|
| STATE | | ALABAMA |
| COUNTY | | MONTGOMERY |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE | |
| JUL 3 | 1972 | |

(Number all entries)

No. 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Owen, Thomas, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography
Volume II, Chicago: the S. J. Clark Publishing Company, 1921.