

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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NATIONAL REGISTER

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Hatch, Alfred, Place at Arcola  
other names/site number Arcola Farms

### 2. Location

street & number Route 1, Hale County Road #2  not for publication  
city, town Gallion  vicinity Demopolis  
state Alabama code 01 county Hale code 065 zip code 36742

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>6</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 8-31-87  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain: \_\_\_\_\_)

Amy Schlager 1/6/88  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwellingAgriculture

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwellingAgriculture

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stuccowalls brick

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roof other 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Alfred Hatch House is a two-and-a-half-story, asymmetrically-massed brick residence with a gable roof pierced by two dormers and two chimneys. The living area is raised on brick walls, with a dugout cellar below the central mass of the house. A framed-in kitchen was added to the rear of the house (1940s) by enclosing an area formerly functioning as a porch.

Located to the north of the residence is a small brick structure that reportedly predates the house. Originally a gable-roofed, two-room building (Photo #5), it has been successively remodeled into a four-room, hipped roof house with aluminum casement windows. No interior evidence of the building's antebellum construction remains.

Both buildings are located on the south bank of the Black Warrior River, where they are visible to visitors across the river and to boaters. A kitchen, formerly located to the east of the residence in proximity to the dining room, and all additional, early outbuildings have been removed or replaced by owners throughout the 20th century. Their locations could be determined best by archaeological examination. A family graveyard, once associated with the property, is now under separate ownership and is surrounded by agricultural fields.

The Hatch House is a rare local example of a Greek Revival form more common to the Northeast Region of the country. The source of the house form may be related to North Carolina models familiar to its builder, or it may be attributed to builders pattern books such as Minard Lefever's The Modern Builder's Guide (1833) which illustrates a "Design for a Country Villa." The house is stylistically related to patterns for temples or temple-with-wings designs and to other Greek Revival houses in West Central Alabama by its use of a tetra-style temple format. Similar regional variations in this style include: the 1846 Northrup-Bateman House in Wetumpka; the 1850 Mabry-Jones House (NRHP 5/3/78); the Goldsby House and the 1826 Kenan House (NRHP 1/18/78) all in Selma; and the Stoutenborough House at Shepardsville, which is a near twin to the Hatch House.

The tetra-style temple-front facade features evenly-spaced, stucco-covered battered brick columns that support an undercut, marble-tiled gallery at the first floor and a cast-iron balcony at the second floor (Photo #27). The use of the two round colossal columns paired with square columns was a popular regional variation.

An entry with a single-leafed, glazed and paneled door located at the west end of the first floor gallery (Photo #6), is surrounded by a multilighted transom and side-lights, while triple-hung 6/6/6 windows open onto the iron balcony.

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The wide, side entry hall which extends the full depth of the house prominently features a curving cantilevered staircase defined by a hand-turned newel and bannister rail and turned double balusters (Photo #6). Throughout the interior, window and door moldings have battered vertical boards, eared architraves and double-hung, 6/6 windows recessed into angled bays (Photo #8). Additionally, there are heart pine floors and joists, chimneys built inside the 18-inch thick walls and paneled wood mantels.

Tudor-arched and shuttered, 9/6 double-hung windows are featured in each gable end, and a meticulously-constructed dentil molding enriches the otherwise plain fascia.

In addition to the imposing temple-front, the home has a substantial filigree cast-iron porch on the west elevation (Photo #3), a closed-in, shed-roofed rear porch facing the Black Warrior River, and a modern carport attached to the east elevation. There is also physical evidence of a second-story, river-view porch at the rear with a triple-hung 6/6/6 window (Photo #4) similar to the one on the facade.

Two stuccoed brick chimneys (Photo #5) on the east elevation serve first- and second-story living and sleeping rooms. A third chimney located on the western elevation of the house between a window and a single-leafed door which opens onto the cast-iron gallery was removed in the 20th century. Reportedly, it had no opening into the home's interior and is often cited, locally, as evidence that Hatch intended to "balance" the house with the addition of a wing on the west elevation, but never followed through.

132 acres extending south from the banks of the Warrior River have been included in the nomination. Within the boundaries of this acreage are the 1856 structure and its grounds, the river landing, evidence of structures and fields that likely contain evidence of plantation activities and structures, such as slave quarters and tenant houses, as well as indications of a variety of agricultural processes. Identified structures and sites are itemized below and referenced on the attached scaled map.

Contributing:

- 1) Greek Revival residence, 1856
- 2) Tenant house, early 20th century
- 9) Evidence of horse-powered mills

Noncontributing:

- 3) 4-room, hipped roof frame structure with aluminum casement windows, c. 1850s
- 4) Metal shop building, c. 1964
- 5) Shed, c. 1964
- 6) Catch pens
- 7) Concrete block milk barn, c. 1961
- 8) Pole constructed hay barn, c. 1970

3 contributing  
6 noncontributing  
9 total

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1856  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1856  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Hatch, Alfred

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

CRITERION C - ARCHITECTURE

The Alfred Hatch House at Arcola is significant as a rare example of a tetra-style, temple-front Greek Revival residence in south central Alabama. Possessing a form more commonly attributed to domestic architecture in the Midwest and Northeast Regions of the country, the structure is comparatively rare among Alabama antebellum houses and is one of only five pedimented temple and temple-with-wing residences documented in the state's Black Belt region.

The house is also significant as showing the gradually increasing impact of eclecticism upon late antebellum-period architecture in Alabama. The 1856 structure exhibits a subtle departure from puristic Greek Revival detailing with the incorporation of anomalous Tudor-arched windows in the tympanum of the neoclassical pediment, while the battered and eared door and window surrounds, the splayed window reveals and the mantel pieces are of conventional Greek Revival design. Use of elaborate cast-iron balustrades at the side porch and balcony signifies the elaboration of architecture made possible through advances in the mass-production of adornment. The Hatch house also attests to the domestic building boom that occurred in Alabama's major cotton-producing area during the 1850s.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Owen, Thomas. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, 1921.  
Taylor, Hannis. "Political History of the State," Memorial Record of Alabama Vol. 2, 1893.  
Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog, 1987.  
Warren, A. P., Jr. "Hatch House at Arcola." Unpublished paper, University of Alabama, 1971.  
Whitfield, Emma Morehead. Whitfield, Bryan, Smith and Related Families. n.d.  
"Old Homes of Hale County," Greensboro Watchman. 12/1941.  
Shelton, C. T. Archaeological Site Survey: Arcola Site (#1 HA 42), Hale County, Auburn University at Montgomery (U.S. Corps of Engineers, Mobile District). August 10, 1978.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 132

UTM References

A 1 6 4 2 8 4 3 0 3 6 0 3 5 6 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 1 6 4 2 7 8 7 0 3 6 0 2 7 1 0

E 1 6 4 2 7 6 6 0 3 6 0 3 6 8 0

B 1 6 4 2 8 4 2 0 3 6 0 2 7 1 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 1 6 4 2 7 5 8 0 3 6 0 3 1 1 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the NE corner of Sec. 3 T 18N R3E Run S along the E Sec. line 2770.02'; W 1879.02' to the E side of Vandorn-Arcola Road; Northerly along the E side of road 1103.52'; Westerly along road 850.08'; then N 1899.48' to the Black Warrior River; Easterly along the river 3300' to the NE corner of Sec. 3 T 18 R3E, the True Point of Beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes 132 acres extending South from the banks of the Black Warrior River and encompassing land in the NE 1/4 of Sec. 3, T 18N, R3E that is historically associated with the 19th-century plantation presently under one ownership and that has maintained integrity. (See the red line drawn on the attached scaled sketch map.)

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joan Embree/Consultant; and Shirley Qualls/Reviewer-Editor

organization Alabama Historical Commission date May 5, 1987

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130

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### HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Hatch House at Arcola was built in 1856 by North Carolina native Alfred Hatch. The history of the house and the land historically associated with it chronicles the early settlement of Alabama's Black Belt region beginning c. 1818 and extending throughout the 30-year "flush" of cotton prosperity in the state.

Up to 1867, the area surrounding the Hatch House was a part of the central section of Marengo County. (In 1867 approximately 100 miles of the county extending roughly to the northeast were taken to form Hale County.) In 1817 a U. S. act of Congress granted four townships of public land (92,160 acres) near the confluence of the Tombigbee and Black Warrior rivers in the Alabama Territory to French exiles after Bourbon King, Louis XVIII regained the French throne. The land was granted to the exiles at \$2.00/acre (payable in 17 years) on the condition that they settle and cultivate at least 40 acres of each section with vineyards and other vegetable products -- thus the name the Vine and Olive Colony.

The settlers immediately set course for the White Bluff site and upon their arrival, they named the settlement Demopolis (Greek - "city of the people"). They laid streets, constructed buildings and began setting out plants before they discovered that the White Bluff site lay just outside the boundary of their grant. The colonists moved east a mile or two to a site on the Black Warrior River and established a new village called Aigleville (Eagleville) in honor of Napoleon's ensign, the eagle. Each settler was assigned a lot in the town, a small vegetable plot near town and a larger section (sometimes distant) to be farmed.

A group of dissenters from Aigleville, dissatisfied with their farmland assignments, resolved to establish residences closer to their farms. They moved farther east across French Creek and up the Black Warrior River to found a still smaller village called Arcola in honor of a Napoleon victory. Until recently, the only documented evidence of the Arcola French settlement was the old trail from Aigleville to Arcola which provided access to a ferry operated by Colonel Nicholas Raoul, the former commander of Napoleon's advanced guard. The completion of a Corps of Engineers Survey (HA 42 site; 1978) has, however, yielded a variety of cultural materials which are scattered with varying degrees of density, and the site has been declared eligible for the NRHP as "the single most impressive site found during the Demopolis Survey." (C. T. Sheldon, Investigator-Auburn University at Montgomery: Archaeological Site Survey, Hale County, Site #1 HA 42 - Arcola, 8/10/78)

After 10 years, the grape and olive crops failed and shortly thereafter came the death of Napoleon. In 1824 pardons for the exiles resulted in many of the French settlers abandoning the Marengo County area to return to France. The 1819 White Bluff Association's (American businessmen from St. Stephens) purchase of the Demopolis site set a precedence for the American settlement of cotton planters. Their success with the

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fertile Marengo County soil helped attract many wealthy east coast planters to the Tombigbee district during the formative period of the state. In fact, this period was strongly marked by the massing of farms and plantations in the state's four river districts.

This area of Arcola, later identified as the "Hatch House and Yard," was granted to Frederick S. Ravemies, land agent to the Vine and Olive Colonists in 1833. In 1851 Ravemies sold his land holdings to Alfred Hatch, the son of North Carolina planter and Militia General Durant Hatch and his wife, Elizabeth. Members of the Hatch family moved to Alabama in 1833. Settling first at Newbern, Alabama, Hatch moved farther west toward the rich loam along the Black Warrior River at this site to develop his large cotton plantation. His brother, Lemuel Durant Hatch, a distinguished Presbyterian minister, apparently continued a bit farther north to Greensboro, and in 1835 he helped organize the Presbytery of Tuscaloosa.

Alfred Hatch married twice and was the father of eight children. After the death of his first wife, Elizabeth Vail of North Carolina, Hatch married Mrs. Victoria Walker. Among his children was Jane Hatch Benners, the wife of state legislator and attorney Augustus Benners, Sr.

The first residence Hatch constructed for his family was, reputedly, a small, brick two-room structure with a gable roof. This building still stands near the northeast corner of the 1856 house but has been severely altered and bears little evidence of the original structure. Drawing, most probably, from the east coast-type architecture which was more familiar to him, he proceeded to construct a grand temple-front residence high on the banks of the Warrior River amidst his 2,400-acre plantation. Although there is physical evidence that most of the materials and labor in the house are of local origin, the ironwork, marble and glass used in the construction are believed to have been imported and/or mass produced. Local historians state that the brick used in the construction were molded on-site and that Hatch had originally planned a west elevation wing extension, therefore suggesting that the structure was never completed. But, the marble tablet attached to the facade which reads "A.H. 1856" suggests that Hatch took pride in the completion of this main section and aborted, or at least postponed, additional construction.

Hatch, his descendants and relatives retained ownership of the 2,400 acres of land and the house until 1909. Title records indicate that the acreage remained intact until 1914 when later owners began to sell off portions of land.

With the advent of new ownership, there also came new, "interpretive" alterations. The son of John W. Riley is said to have given the house a brick-colored wash and painted the mortar lines back in between 1926 and 1935. Wiring and plumbing were incorporated in the 1950s when C. C. Cheshire attempted to convert the residence into a riverfront casino. Cheshire also added the crystal chandeliers, enclosed the back

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portico for a kitchen, screened the cast-iron gallery, and removed the unused chimney at the west elevation. Then, between 1951 and 1963, Judge William Staton and his wife, Eliza, added a room at the rear enclosing the porch while occupying the house. The present owners have made many changes in the collection of outbuildings associated with the property apropos to the operation of their cattle ranch. Most notably are the removal of the kitchen connected to the house by a latticework walkway at the northeast rear of the house and the slave quarters that once lined the west side of the road in front of the house. However, the owners have resisted the temptations to further alter the structure.