

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92001090

Date Listed: 9/4/92

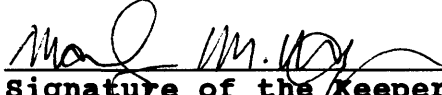
Howard, John W., House and Outbuildings  
Property Name

Butler  
County

ALABAMA  
State

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

10/19/92  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

The nomination is amended to indicate Criteria Consideration D (for the contributing cemetery), rather than Criteria Consideration E.

This change was confirmed by phone with the Alabama SHPO (9/4/92).

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1090

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Howard, John W., House and Outbuildings

other name/site number: Raybon House; Sewell House

2. Location

street & number: Highway 10 East

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Greenville

vicinity: X

state: AL county: Butler

code: 013

zip code: 36037

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria.      See continuation sheet.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

7/21/92

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):

*[Handwritten Signature]* 9/4/92

*[Handwritten Signature]* for Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic:	<u>Domestic</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>Domestic</u>		<u>secondary structure</u>
	<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>		<u>agricultural outbuilding</u>
	<u>Funerary</u>		<u>cemetery</u>
Current :	<u>Domestic</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>Vacant/Not in Use</u>		
	<u>Funerary</u>		<u>cemetery</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Greek Revival

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Brick roof Shingle  
walls Frame other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : E

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c.1859-60 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: c.1859-60 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Wright and Rouse, builders  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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: About 1 acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>16</u>	<u>551240</u>	<u>3512650</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The nominated property encompasses an area extending approximately 140 feet north (which extends to the right-of-way for Highway 10), 100 feet east, 100 feet west, and 350 feet south of the main house which is located in the Northwest quarter of the Southwest quarter, Section 16, Township 9, Range 16, Greenville, Butler County, Alabama.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The boundaries of the property were delineated to include the main house, the kitchen, the barn, and the family cemetery.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Melanie Betz/National Register Coordinator

Organization: Alabama Historical Commission Date: May 12, 1992

Street & Number: 725 Monroe Street Telephone: 205/242-3184

City or Town: Montgomery State: AL Zip: 36130

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National Park Service

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Characterized by its formal, symmetrical facade, the John W. Howard House, Greenville vicinity, is a one-story, frame (-east and west facades have modern siding-) Greek Revival residence with a central hall plan. The house, resting on brick piers, has four brick chimneys and is constructed of hand-hewn, virgin heart-pine timbers assembled with square nails and wooden pegs. According to a descendent of the Howard family, the doors and windows were made by inmates of the state penitentiary in Wetumpka and then hauled by mules and wagons to the Howard property. The hip roof was once covered with wooden shingles but is now of composition shingles. Measuring approximately 48` X 10`, the front porch extends the length of the front facade. The porch roof is supported by four fluted Doric columns. With their decorative frame surrounds, the front and rear entranceways are flanked by multi-sash sidelights and are crowned with multi-sash transoms. These entranceways have large double doors assembled with pegs and square nails. Fenestration also includes long rectangular 6/6 sash rectangular windows with decorative frame surrounds. Much of the original glass is still intact.

On the interior, the walls are plaster, the ceilings are 14` high, and the floor boards are 6 inches wide (the dining room also has three 12" boards). Rooms flank the wide central hall which extends the depth of the building. To the east of the hall, there is a bedroom, dining room and kitchen; to the left, there is a parlor, bedroom, and bathroom. Hand-carved wood mantels are located in the parlor, bedroom west of the hall, the dining room, and bedroom right of the hall. There was originally another chimney and fireplace in the kitchen area.

Contributing outbuildings include a frame barn (19th-century) and a frame, two-room, kitchen (19th-century) both located south of the house. The kitchen was originally connected to the main house by a walkway. A family cemetery is located a few yards east of the barn.

Archaeological Component:

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this property, the potential for subsurface remains is high. Plantations of this type were sited within a constellation of dependencies, and areas of high activity such as privies, wells, tenant houses, etc. Although many of these structures are no longer standing, buried portions may contain significant information that could be important in interpreting the entire property.

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John W. Howard House

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Criterion C, Architecture:

Characterized by its formal, symmetrical massing, the John W. Howard House, Greenville vicinity, is a good representative of a one-story Greek Revival residence with a central hall plan. This once ubiquitous architectural style was popular in Alabama from the 1830s through the 1860s and later. Constructed c. 1859-60, the John Howard House is one of the few surviving examples of this style in the Greenville area. The house has retained its most significant features including its overall shape and form, front porch with fluted Doric columns, some of its siding (-north and south facades original-), fenestration with 6/6 sash (-much of the glass is original-) and decorative frame surrounds, centrally located front and rear entranceways with frame surrounds and multi-sash transoms and sidelights, hand-carved mantels, plaster walls, and 14' high ceilings.

Criterion Exception E:

Located east of the barn, the family cemetery is an integral part of the John W. Howard House complex. The site contains the graves of John Howard and other family members.

Historical Summary:

The original owners of the house were John W. Howard (1822-1875), who was the son of Major James Howard and Tabitha Motley, and his wife Elizabeth Rebecca Penn (1837-1924). After their marriage in 1852 in Macon County, the Howards moved to the Taluca community in Butler County. Taluca, located 12 miles east of Greenville on Alabama Highway 10, thrived during the 1850s with a large mercantile store, a post office, Lodge Hall, a camping ground and a horse-drawn cotton gin and sawmill. The Howards first lived in a two-room log cabin (no longer standing) until their fine, one-story Greek Revival residence was constructed. (1) Wright and Rouse served as builders, and their inventory of building materials used for the house survives today. (2)

John Howard became a prominent planter in the county and later attained distinction as the inventor of a plow called the "Subsoil-Plow" (Patent number 136,726, March 11, 1873). (3) John and Elizabeth Howard raised a large family of five daughters and five sons. John W. Howard, Jr. and his daughter, Kate Howard Raybon were later occupants of the house. Mrs. Raybon and her husband, continued to maintain the property as a farm. Gradually, the land was used primarily to grow pine trees. Today, the property is owned by a 4th generation descendant, Emily Kate Raybon Sewell, and the house is furnished with family antiques and heirlooms.

Greek Revival Architecture:

The John Howard House, Greenville vicinity, is a good and intact representative of Greek Revival architecture, which was popular in Alabama from the mid-1830s to the 1860s and later. The style emerged during the early 19th century when the Western World, and especially the new republic, supported and were inspired by the struggles of Greece during her war for independence. (4) First utilized for public buildings throughout the United States, the style "would become indelibly linked with the plantation legend..." in the Deep South, according to Architectural Historian, Robert Gamble. (5)

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Greek Revival architecture is characterized by formal, symmetrical massing of both plan and elevation (-the side-hall plan is simply half of a symmetrical unit-) and classical detailing. Other characteristics of the style include low-pitched or even flat rooflines and the use of wide, heavy entablatures with gable ends often treated as triangular pediments. Engaged antae or pilasters articulate wall surfaces. (6) The grand pillared mansions often displayed bold, heavy interior trim, and applied Grecian-inspired ornament such as acanthus leaf, palmette, and egg-and-dart molding. If a standard Greek order was utilized, it was usually Doric, or less often Ionic or Corinthian. The rectilinearity of line and a general heaviness of scale characteristic of Greek Revival architecture contrast with the more delicate lines and details of Federal period architecture. (7)

In Alabama, the Greek Revival style appeared fully developed, at opposite ends of the state, soon after 1835. The style then spread rapidly, especially in the architecture of the rich Black Belt counties of central Alabama, where its introduction coincided with the first wave of cotton prosperity. (8) Eventually, the Greek Revival expressed itself in countless buildings from the pillared mansion to the modest church finished off at the front gable end with a wood pediment, entablature, and raking cornice.

The monumental colonnade with pedimented temple form and related temple-with-wings dwelling remained relatively rare in Alabama; the encircling or peripheral colonnades so common in Louisiana were even rarer. (9) A notable exception was the Forks of Cypress plantation house, Florence vicinity, which is today a ruin after a 1966 fire. More common than the domesticated temples was either a pedimented central portico projecting from a broad-bodied, gabled main block, or else a wide hipped roof, without a pediment of any kind, that swept down over a colonnade running the length of the front. The later variation was used for the John W. Howard House, Greenville vicinity.

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1  
Family records.

2  
Inventory, Wright and Rouse (from Howard Family Records).

3  
United States Patent Office, "John W. Howard, of Greenville, Alabama. Improvement in Subsoil-Plows." Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 136, 726, dated March 11, 1873.

4  
Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. New York: Dover Publications. 1964, page xvi.

5  
Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog. Historic American Buildings Survey. A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: The University of Alabama Press, 1987, page 57.



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6  
Gamble, page 79.

7  
To illustrate this point further, the square-headed door and window openings and rectangular transoms characteristic of Greek Revival architecture contrast with the fanlights and Palladian windows of Federal period architecture.

8  
Gamble, page 57.

9  
Gamble, page 61.

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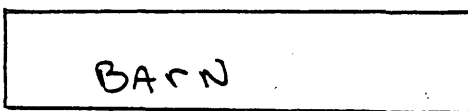
John W. Howard House  
Greenville vicinity, Alabama (Butler County)  
Fern Nix, Photographer  
1991 (Cemetery, Barn and Kitchen photos, 1992)  
Alabama Historical Commission and Fern Nix --- negatives

- Photo #1: Front Facade, looking south
- Photo #2: Rear Facade, looking north
- Photo #3: Side Facade, looking northwest
- Photo #4: Interior, Parlor
- Photo #5: Interior, Parlor
- Photo #6: Old Kitchen, looking south
- Photo #7: Barn, looking south
- Photo #8: Family Cemetery
- Photo #9: Family Cemetery, showing John W. Howard's tombstone

Howard, John W. House  
description of lot site of  
house. Greenville vcn., Butler Co.



CemeterY



BARN

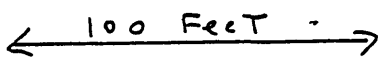


300 feet



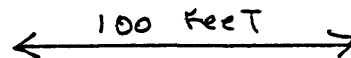
old  
kitchen

SOUTH



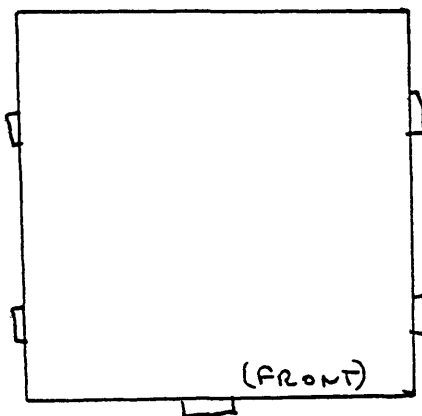
100 Feet

EAST



100 Feet

WEST



(FRONT)

NORTH



140 FEET

(TO RIGHT OF WAY)

(RT. OF WAY)

HIGHWAY 10



N

Sketch of Floor Plan JOHN W. Howard House Raybon House Sewell House  
 Greenville vcn., Butler County

