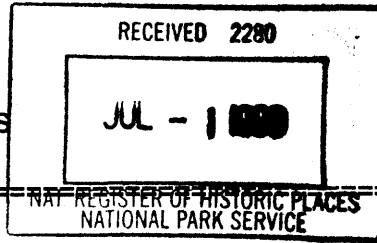


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



885

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Bush House

other names/site number Plummer House

2. Location

street & number 168 North Church Street not for publication n/a
city or town Grove Hill vicinity n/a
state Alabama code AL county Clarke County code 025 zip code 36451

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 6-22-99
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

for [Signature] 7-28-99
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

1 buildings

_____ sites

1 structures

_____ objects

2 Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

Historic and Architectural Properties of Clarke County

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: central passage double pile house with

Colonial Revival influences

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof asphalt shingle

walls wood (weatherboard)

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) *n/a*

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Period of Significance 1912 _____

Significant Dates 1912 _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation N/A _____

Architect/Builder Bush, Preston Randolph _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) *n/a*

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: *N/A*
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other state agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
 Name of repository _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property approx. 2 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>426530</u>	<u>3509000</u>	3
2	___	___	___	4
	___ See continuation sheet.			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Johnathan A. Farris/Survey Coordinator with Trina Binkley/National Register Reviewer

organization Alabama Historical Commission date April 15, 1999

street & number 468 South Perry Street telephone (334)242-3184

city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130-0900

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Charles K. Bush, Jr and Beverly Ann Webb Bush

street & number 168 North Church Street telephone _____

city or town Grove Hill state Alabama zip code 36451

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Bush House
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

=====

Narrative Description

The Bush House sits facing east on an open, approximately two-acre lot in the town of Grove Hill. The wood frame Bush House rises to a two-story height and possesses a jerkinhead roof. The main block of the house is two rooms in depth, and there is a detached rear wing joined to the main block by an open breezeway. The Bush House is weatherboarded and possesses two brick interior chimneys with decoratively corbelled caps. It has a full brick foundation. The porch is two-tiered with the first tier shed roofed and stretching across the entire front facade and the second tier with a front gable and only covering the central bay. The porches are supported by Ionic colonnettes (three of which have currently been removed to be refurbished but will be resituated in their proper place). The volutes of the column capitals are turned at forty-five degree angles to each other. The colonnetts are single between the outer bays and paired around the central bay. There is a historic central cylindrical metal roof vent on top of the house. The house has a full length one-story rear shed which contains three rooms and dates from the 1940s. All windows are of one-over-one sash configuration. The front double door displays sidelights and transom, and beveled glass top panels. The second story front door is single leaf and only has a transom and a glass top panel. The ghost of what was the second story rear door remains on the rear facade, as does the transom of that door.

The plan of the main block of the house is essentially a central passage double pile one. Four rooms flank a central passage. The passage is divided into two spaces, a front stair hall and a rear room probably initially used as an informal dining room or familial common space. The rear shed addition contains three small rooms including a bathroom. The upstairs floor plan is centered upon the upstairs passage, which is flanked by two chambers on either side and terminates in a bathroom on the rear wall of the house. Bull's-eye molding door and window frames occur throughout the house. Most doors into living spaces (first floor parlors/dining rooms) and chambers are single leaf and four paneled, and are surmounted by a single pane transoms. The stairwell is a combination open and closed stringer with an open rectangular stairwell cut through the second story floor. The stair and the railings around the stairwell all possess turned balusters, including the wall side of the stairs from the landing to the second floor. From the first floor to the landing, however, there is simply vertical beaded board paneling instead of a rail with balusters. The newel posts on the stair are rectangular with recessed panels. One original mantel exists in the house, in the front south room. It is probably a mail ordered mantel from a manufactory and features a mirrored overmantel, urn-shaped colonnettes with Ionic capitals, and swag and sunburst ornaments revived from American Federal era architecture. The rest of the original mantels were removed by the Plummer family after they obtained the house in the 1920s. They have been replaced by the current owners with historically appropriate salvaged mantels from the circa 1910 era. The original stone hearth facings and the ones in the upstairs chambers are carved with the initials of the original inhabitants of the rooms.

The detached rear wing is front gabled, with a central brick chimney between two rooms. The front room possesses a narrow closet with a full-length mirror and both rooms feature simple mantels. Windows of the rear dependency are three vertical pane sash over one pane sash. The dependency also possesses an enclosed side shed on its south side. A 1940s concrete block garage sits on the south side of the main block of the house. It has a side gabled seam metal clad roof and three garage bays. Its south structural bay is enclosed and has a pedestrian door and steel paned windows. On the north side of the house is a 1970s swimming pool which is a non-contributing structure.

The property associated with the Bush House has a slight potential to yield significant archaeological data.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

Name of Property: Bush House
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

Statement of Significance

The Bush House is significant under criterion C for architecture as one of the most substantial residential buildings from the first two decades of the early twentieth century in Grove Hill and as a structure largely representative of the state of building techniques in Clarke County during the period. Most houses from the era of 1890 to 1920 in Grove Hill and the surrounding countryside are modest "National Folk" forms such as L- and T-cottages and pyramidal roofed one-story dwellings. The Bush House illustrates what options were open to an inhabitant of Grove Hill when a larger house was desired. The two-story double pile central passage house form is a traditional type of dwelling seen occasionally throughout south Alabama from nearly the settlement period on. The stylistic details of the Bush House, however, illustrate a range of finished details that were available from manufacturers via the placing of an order. Although of no recognizable architectural style, the house uses elements and details that at the time of construction would have been thought of as a revival of "Colonial" architecture. The jerkinhead roof, the Ionic porch colonnettes, and the turned stair balusters all draw upon eighteenth-century (or at least what was thought to be eighteenth-century) precedents, and the one remaining original mantel draws upon both Georgian and American Federal period motifs in its ornament. All the stylistic elements of the house are ordered pre-manufactured elements, with the exception of the jerkinhead roof. When the elements arrived to be installed, they were simply inserted into a traditional house form with varying degrees of success. The stairway is in some respects an oddity, with its combination closed and open stringer form and with the balusters and railing on the walled side of the landing and upper flight being flush with a wall while the bottom run is simply railing on top of vertical beaded board. The stair seems to reflect that the local building expertise was not at all at home with building elaborate or even moderately detailed staircases. The Bush House is in some respects characteristic of Clarke County architecture in general since the 1860s, with its mix of manufactured details for stylistic allusions, but also with its reliance upon local craftsmen with somewhat less than high-style abilities or aspirations.

Historical Summary

The Bush House was built in 1912 by Preston Randolph Bush. Bush was a prosperous farmer who owned a still extant antebellum plantation house in Gosport, but in 1912 he decided to construct a town house in the county seat of Grove Hill. Traditionally Bush built this house so that his children could go to school in Grove Hill. This is not implausible, because in 1909 the old town school was torn down and replaced by a new school building based on a school plan from the State Board of Education, which must have looked "state of the art" from a Clarke County perspective.¹ Bush evidently took great pride and enthusiasm in this undertaking, as the present owners report finding his very large signature (and the much smaller signature of the contractor) that had been covered up over one of the fireplaces. The Bushes apparently also allowed other families' children to be boarded in the house in order that they could attend school. The 1920 Federal Census finds the Bush family in residence at the house, including forty-nine-year-old Preston R., his forty-nine-year-old wife Hattie, two sons and two daughters ranging in age from twelve to twenty-one, and Preston's older bachelor brother K.Y. Bush, aged fifty-two. In the later 1920s the Bush family sold the house to the Plummers, who owned the house until the late 1980s. The Plummers were responsible for the removal of all but one of the original mantels. The somewhat dubious reason given for this occurrence locally was that the Plummers were Quaker and acting out of some sort of conviction in favor of plainness. One of the current owners who purchased the house in 1993 descends from the original builder. The owners have replaced the missing mantels with salvaged turn-of-the-century mantels which are much in keeping with the rest of the house details.

¹Enzweiler, Susan M. "Historic and Architectural Properties of Clarke County, Alabama". Multiple Property Listing. Section E, p. 27.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10/photos Page 3 Name of Property: Bush House
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

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Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for the Bush House is within Section 33, Township 9 North, Range 3 East as follows: beginning where the west margin of Old Highway 5 intersects the north lane of the NE 1/4, south along Old Highway 5 for 268', then west 312' to east margin of Highway #43, northeast along Highway 43 for 265', and then east 305' to the point of beginning. Reference: Original Town of Grove Hill Plat Book D, Page 112.

Boundary Justification

The National Register Boundary for the Bush House was drawn to include the current legal lot associated with the dwelling, which was the lot historically associated with it.

Photograph Log

Bush House
Clarke County, Alabama

Photographer: Johnathan Farris
Date: February 4, 1999
Location of negatives: Alabama Historical Commission

1. House and lot, looking west
2. East elevation, looking west
3. South elevation, looking north
4. North elevation of main block, looking south
5. West elevation, looking east
6. North elevation, looking south
7. Porch (detail of column capitols), looking west
8. Front door, looking west
9. First story central passage with staircase, looking west
10. Newel post and balusters, looking north
11. Second story central passage with stairwell, looking east
12. Original southeast first floor room mantel, looking west
13. Sympathetic replacement mantel in northeast first floor room, looking west
14. First story door from middle northern room, looking south
15. Second story door from central passage, looking south
16. Second story hearth stone detail displaying initials of original resident
17. Interior of front room of dependency, looking west
18. Outbuilding (nc) facing south southwest