



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Other names/ site number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
*(Enter N/A if property is not part of a multiple property listing)*

### 2. Location

Street & number: 432 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE  
City/Town: Fayette State: AL County: Fayette  
Not for Publication: \_\_\_\_\_ Vicinity: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request  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.

I recommend this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

National  Statewide  Local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Lee Anne Wofford /Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer July 9, 2018  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Alabama Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official Date  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper 8/3/18 Date of Action

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

**5. Classification / Ownership of Property:** (check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-Local
- Public-State
- Public-Federal

**Category of Property:** (check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources Within Property:** (do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
2		Buildings
		Sites
1		Structures
		Objects
3	0	<b>TOTAL</b>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use / Historic Functions:** (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions:** (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Architectural Classification:** (enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals / Neoclassical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions)

**Principal exterior materials of the property:** Brick, wood, asphalt  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The John Clifford Grimsley House is a two-story brick veneer dwelling that is located northeast of the downtown area of Fayette. The character of the surrounding area is transitional, with modern strip commercial and residential development to the north and west and agricultural lands to the east and south. The property is generally flat. The house is sited approximately two hundred feet south of 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE and is surrounded by lawns that are landscaped with mature trees and shrubs. A dirt drive loops from the street to the front of the house. The site retains the ruins of a shed immediately southeast of the house and the ruins of a barn approximately 125 feet to the south of the house.

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### Narrative Description

The John Clifford Grimsley House is a two-story brick veneer Neoclassical style dwelling with a hipped composition shingle roof with decorative front and rear-facing gable dormers with broken pediments. The front dormer has a central round arched window and the rear window has a central ten-light window. Two tall exterior chimneys with corbelled caps are located along the east wall and a similar interior chimney is centered at the west side of the house. The house has a rectangular five by four-bay core with a secondary rear one-story wing at its west side. A full-height recessed porch extends the full width of the façade and is supported by four full-height Ionic Columns, referred to in the architect's specifications as "Grecian Ionic in design, fluted and to have attic bases and Greek Erechtheum compo. caps."<sup>1</sup> The porch has a wood deck supported by a low brick foundation that wraps to the east elevation and is accessed by a central limestone staircase. A simple screened porch extends to the east of the rear wing along the rear elevation and both the wing and porch are below a common hipped composition shingle roof with a central deck with a pipe railing. A one-story porch with similar Ionic columns is centered at the east elevation and has a flat roof deck with a pipe railing. A modern wood accessibility ramp has been added at this porch. An open wood pergola with rough stuccoed columns is centered at the west elevation.

Exterior walls are red brick, referred to in the specifications as "Sibley-Menge #1 Red selected face brick," set in stretcher bond over a wooden framing system with diagonal board sheathing. A wide entablature cornice surrounds the entire house as does a continuous limestone water table. The principal entrance is centered at the north facade and has a fifteen-light door set within a segmental arched opening with a fanlight and eight-light sidelights. Two wooden nine-over-one light double hung sash windows flank the entrance to either side. Each window has a limestone sill and a limestone lintel consisting of a compound central keystone flanked by alternating voussoirs. Slightly recessed segmental arched panels above each window are stuccoed and have limestone keystones. A similar entrance door is centered at the second-floor level within a rectangular opening and has a nine-light transom and five-light sidelights. The entrance opens to a narrow entrance bay cantilevered balcony that is supported by decorative consoles and has a turned balustrade with paneled end pedestals with ball-on-pedestal caps. Two nine-over-one windows flank the entrance to either side and have limestone sills. The heads of these windows abut the soffit of the porch roof.

A rectangular entrance opening at the second bay (from the north) of the east elevation has French doors with ten-light leaves below a common four-light transom. Single nine-over-one windows with limestone sills and lintels are set within the three remaining bays. A single fifteen-light door is located at the second bay of the second floor and has a three-light transom. Single nine-over-one windows with cast sills and heads that abut the roof cornice are in the remaining bays. The west elevation has similar windows at the two northern bays of each level. Shorter double and single windows are set within the remaining bays at the first-floor level with similar single windows at the second floor. The rear wing obscures the two western bays of the rear of the core. Its rear elevation has an off-center double nine-over-one window flanked to the east by a single nine-light awning window. An entrance with a fifteen-light door is centered at the rear elevation of the core within

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<sup>1</sup>John David Gullett, "General Specifications of a Colonial Residence, to be Built At Fayette, Alabama, for Mr. J. C. Grimsley," circa 1916, originals in the possession of Rebecca Matkov.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

the screened porch and is flanked by a nine-light awning window and two nine-over-one light windows. A double nine-over-one light window is centered at the upper level and is flanked to the east by two similar single windows. An entrance with a fifteen-light door and a three-light transom and a nine-over-one light window are in the two western bays.

The first floor of the interior of the house is divided into living and dining rooms, a bedroom, a stair hall, a breakfast room, a kitchen, and a small pantry. Three bedrooms and a bathroom surround a central stair and hall at the second floor. The principal entrance opens into a wide living room that extends to the east side of the house and is approximately one-half the depth of the core. A set of pocket doors in its west wall open to a dining room that extends to the west side of the house and is slightly deeper than the living room. An entrance with double-leaf glazed doors at the west end of the living room opens to a stair hall that extends to the rear of the core. An open-well staircase has a single flight of stairs that rises along the west wall to an intermediate landing along the rear wall before returning along the east wall to the second floor. The stair has a molded handrail and turned balusters. A bathroom and closet flank the stair hall to the east and separate it from a bedroom at the southeast corner of the core. Pocket doors at the south wall of the bedroom return to the living room. A breakfast room and kitchen are located to the south of the dining room. The principal rooms at the first floor typically have plaster wall and ceiling finishes, wooden crown molds, molded wood door and window surrounds, and wood baseboards. Woodwork typically retains its natural finish. Doors are typically single panel wood doors of birch that are varnished. Original decorative fireplace mantels with tile inserts and hearths remain at the living room, dining room, and bedroom. The flooring described in the original specifications remain and includes oak in the living, dining, bedroom, and stair hall that was originally "finished with one coat of grain alcohol shellac, and one coat of Johnsons hard wax well rubbed out with a weighted brush." Remaining floors are yellow pine. The first-floor bathroom retains its historic porcelain tub and sink and hex tile flooring. Woodwork at the breakfast room and kitchen has been painted and vinyl has been applied to the floors. The breakfast room retains an original butler's cabinet and built-in seating. A similar built-in cabinet is located at the north wall of the kitchen and remaining cabinets along the south wall are modern.

A central hallway bisects the second floor and widens at its south end to the west to provide passage to the west of the stairwell. Two bedrooms flank the hallway to the east and a larger master bedroom flanks it to the west. A small service staircase to the attic and a bathroom are located to the south of the west bedroom. An original built-in linen cabinet remains along the west wall of the hallway. Closets separate the two eastern bedrooms and another closet for the west bedroom is located to the rear of the service stair. Ceiling, wall, and floor finishes are like those at the first floor except that there are no crown moldings and bedrooms have picture moldings.

The Grimsley House has seen very few alterations over time. Changes have typically been limited to the application of a composition shingle roof to replace the original slate roof (1950s), the addition of a simple accessibility ramp to the secondary east porch, and the installation of vinyl floor coverings to the breakfast room and kitchen.

The house is in generally good condition with some minor water damage evident on the interior.

The property retains the ruins of a former barn to the south of the house and a shed to the southeast of the house. Both are in near total ruin.

### **Integrity**

The John Clifford Grimsley House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The house is at its original location. The design of the building is essentially unaltered from the time of its construction in 1916. The building's setting has changed to some degree with the loss of associated outbuildings and the encroachment of modern commercial and residential development, but is otherwise like its historic conditions. The house building retains its original materials and workmanship. Given the overall retention of its historic appearance and character, the resource also retains integrity of feeling and association.

### **Archaeology**

An archaeological assessment of the study area was not completed as part of this project. However, given the nature of the area's history, there is potential that subsurface remains could provide additional information about the historical development of the area.

## **8. Statement of Significance**

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

**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)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance:** (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance:**

1916  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates:**

1916  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person:** (complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

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

**Cultural Affiliation:**

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

**Architect / Builder:**

John David Gullett  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph:** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

### Period of Significance (Justification)

The period of significance for the resource is 1916, the year of its construction and the year the resource achieved significance in the areas of and architecture and commerce.

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The John Clifford Grimsley House is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture as an excellent example of high style Neoclassical architecture in Fayette County, Alabama and for its association with architect John David Gullett.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### Criterion C: Architecture

The John Clifford Grimsley House is locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture as an excellent example of high style Neoclassical architecture and for its association with architect John David Gullett. Grimsley, a prominent local businessman who was associated with successful business enterprises in Fayette during the first half of the twentieth century, contracted with architect Gullett to design a house befitting his status in the community. It is the only high style Neoclassical style residence in Fayette County. The style was extremely popular in the United States around the turn of the twentieth century, especially in the Post Reconstruction South. The classical styling evoked an increasingly idealized antebellum South and the power and control exhibited by the Greek Revival style, so popular before the Civil War. Writing about Neoclassical architecture in the state in *The Alabama Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey*, Robert Gamble stated: "most Alabama ventures of the time seem to have attempted to make up in bluster what they lacked in command."<sup>2</sup> Gullett's design for the Grimsley House is more refined and falls more within the examples that prompted Gamble to add that "a few managed to be urbane and persuasive." Gullett practiced in Alabama and North Carolina from circa 1908 until his death in 1935. Despite practicing in the state for more than a decade, the Grimsley House is presently the only documented work of Gullett in the state. Gullett is known principally for his work in North Carolina, where he designed brick residences, school, and commercial buildings in the Colonial and Classical Revival styles.

#### Narrative History

John Clifford ("J. C.," "Cliff") Grimsley (1872-1959) was born on February 20, 1879 and was the son of Felix Alva Grimsley (1839-1917) and Dora McGriff Grimsley (1846-1912). The 1880 census records Grimsley, age seven, living in Henry County, Alabama, with his parents and three brothers, Virgil H. Grimsley (age nine, 1870-1909, later known as Dr. V. H. Grimsley), Alva McGriff Grimsley (age six, 1874-1948, later known as A. M. Grimsley), and Everett Miller Grimsley (age 3, 1876-1964, later known as E. M. Grimsley). Virgil graduated from the Memphis Hospital Medical College, Memphis, Tennessee, in 1895 and was practicing as a physician when he died from pneumonia in Nashville, Tennessee in 1909.<sup>3</sup>

J. C. ("Cliff") Grimsley married Emily ("Em") Itasca Maund (1877-1977) in 1896. The couple had four children, three of whom, Ashley J (1899-1900), Lewis P. (1901-1903), and one unnamed child, died as infants. One daughter, Emily Grimsley Roper (1919-2013), reached adulthood. In his early career, Grimsley worked with his brothers A. M. and E. M. Grimsley in the naval stores industry along the Chattahoochee River in south Alabama and Florida.

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<sup>2</sup> Robert Gamble, *The Alabama Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey* (Tuscaloosa, AL: The University of Alabama Press, 1987), p. 134.

<sup>3</sup> Tennessee State Library and Archives; Nashville, Tennessee; Tennessee Death Records, 1908-1959; Roll #: 31, from Ancestry.com, Tennessee, Death Records, 1908-1958 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA; Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011; Directory of Deceased American Physicians, 1804-1929 [database on-line].

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

The Grimsley Brothers Naval Stores Company, with its principal place of business located in Brownell Hill, Florida, was incorporated in 1904 with \$65,000 capital stock.<sup>4</sup> A 1910 letterhead for the A. M. Grimsley & Bro., "manufacturers of naval stores," lists A. M. and E. M. Grimsley and indicates that the company's express offices were in Laurel Hill, Florida and shipping point was in Falco Junction, Alabama. An article in the Dothan Eagle from 1909 records that Cliff was then living in Falco, Alabama, indicating that he was participating in the business by that time.<sup>5</sup> In a letter dated March 15, 1910, Cliff Grimsley wrote to his wife that the company had acquired a new piece of property that he was developing and requesting that she send his papers to him at Laurel Hill, Florida, where he anticipated staying until December of that year.<sup>6</sup>

In 1909, A. M. Grimsley acquired controlling interest in the Fayette County Bank, which had been organized in 1900. The reason for the brothers' move to Fayette is uncertain, but according to an unpublished article "The Grimsleys – Helping to Build Fayette":

Somewhere in the recesses of the family's memories is a tale of a travelling salesman coming through Columbia who was talking about the need for a good bank in Fayette, Alabama. He said Fayette had a bank "but it wasn't much of one" and the owners were looking to sell.<sup>7</sup>

A. M. Grimsley and his brothers took over as the company's officers and soon relocated to Fayette, Alabama. The January 1911 edition of the Rand McNally International Bankers Directory lists the Fayette County Bank with A. M. Grimsley, President, J. C. Grimsley, Vice-President, and E. H. Thomason, Cashier, with \$30,000 in paid-up capital and \$60,000 in deposits.<sup>8</sup> The Grimsleys built a one-story brick bank building that was lost in a 1911 fire that also destroyed much of the city's downtown area. The April 19, 1911 edition of The Mountain Eagle noted in an article entitled "Contracts Let for A Greater, New Fayette": "Within the next few days Grimsley Brothers will let contracts for a two-story brick hotel building 100x115 feet and a two-story brick bank building 33x50 feet." Both buildings, the Turner Hotel and the bank (now Regions Bank), still stand.<sup>9</sup> Also in 1911, the Grimsley brothers founded the Berry Bank in the nearby town of Berry.<sup>10</sup> In 1913, the Fayette County Bank was reorganized as the First National Bank and capital stock was increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000.<sup>11</sup> The bank began issuing its own currency and by 1917 its deposits had grown to \$125,000.<sup>12</sup> The company's letterhead in 1931 stated that the bank had capital of \$100,000 and surplus and undivided profits of \$60,000 in addition to being a designated depository of the State of Alabama and a depository for the County of Fayette.<sup>13</sup>

While Cliff and his brother Everett served as officers of the bank, they also started a horse and mule dealership. According to "The Grimsleys – Helping to Build Fayette":

Both men were known to have a good eye for mules and sold high quality mules which they purchased in St. Louis, Mo. They would ship 2 to 3 train car loads of mules at a time to their barn located at the site of the Golden Eagle Syrup building. The barn would later move to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in an area between what is now the pool hall and Nichols Studio and Frame Shop. Mules in those days were the farm family's livelihood and means of transportation. High quality mules sold for as much as \$800 to \$1,000 each and were a source of pride for their owners much like an expensive, sleek automobile is today.

A 1924 letterhead for the Grimsley Brothers Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Horses and Mules indicates that it was based in Fayette and had offices in Millport, Winfield, and Sulligent. All three of the Grimsley brothers are listed on the letterhead.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Report of the Secretary of State of the State of Florida (Tallahassee, FL: Capital Publishing Co., 1904), p. 212, <https://books.google.com>.

<sup>5</sup> Dothan Eagle, September 12, 1909, p. 12.

<sup>6</sup> Correspondence from J. C. Grimsley to Mrs. J. C. Grimsley, February 15, 1910, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>7</sup> "The Grimsleys – Helping to Build Fayette," <http://fayetteal.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/The-Grimsleys.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Rand McNally International Bankers Directory (Chicago: Rand McNally & Co., January 1911), p. 30, <https://books.google.com>.

<sup>9</sup> "Contracts Let for a Greater, New Fayette," The Mountain Eagle, April 19, 1911, transcribed in: Robin Sterling, People and Things from the Walker County, Alabama Mountain Eagle (1910-1913) (by the author, 2016), p. 131.

<sup>10</sup> Fayette County Heritage Book Committee, The Heritage of Fayette County (Clanton, AL: Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., 1999), p. 13.

<sup>11</sup> Herbert Moses Newell, Jr., History of Fayette County, Alabama (Fayette, AL: Newell Offset Printing, 1960), p. 63.

<sup>12</sup> American Bank Reporter and Attorney List (New York: Steurer Publishing Co., Vol. XCVI, March-April 1917), p. 5, <https://books.google.com>.

<sup>13</sup> Correspondence from A. M. Grimsley to Mrs. H. B. Propst, August 5, 1931, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>14</sup> Correspondence from Grimsley Brothers Horses and Mules, March 8, 1924, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

According to "The Grimsleys – Helping to Build Fayette":

Upon arriving in Fayette, Cliff Grimsley and his wife lived in the Turner Hotel. When the hotel burned in the fire that destroyed Fayette, Cliff rebuilt the building that houses the storefronts from the corner of Temple Avenue and Columbus St. (Central Drug Store) and extends past Standard Furniture today. This building includes the Turner Hotel located above these businesses. Mrs. Kate Turner (Jimmy Gullett's aunt) ran the hotel. Emily had not wanted to move from South Alabama to Fayette. After living in the hotel for five years she issued cliff an ultimatum. Either he built her a house or she would move back to South Alabama. Cliff bought the land that the family still calls the farm (located across from Fayette shopping center). The beautiful Grimsley home that sits at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> street was the result of that ultimatum.

Cliff Grimsley purchased the nineteen-acre parcel of land "bounded on the north by the old Tuscaloosa Elyton Road" from J. M. McConnell on August 21, 1915 for \$2,500.<sup>15</sup> He hired Birmingham architect John David Gullett to design the house and family tradition holds that its construction was completed in 1916. In 1919, Grimsley acquired approximately 440 additional acres to the east of the house site on which to develop a farm.<sup>16</sup> The 1920 census recorded the Grimsleys living in the house on Elyton Road and Cliff (age forty-seven) Cliff's occupation as horse and mule trader. Grimsley added several lots totaling just more than an acre adjacent to the west side of the property in 1920 and an additional eighty acres in 1928.<sup>17</sup>

The Fayette Mill, Gin and Ice Company was originally established in 1903 or 1904 as the Sipse Valley Oil and Fertilizer Company and later added a light plant that provided the city's first electric lights.<sup>18</sup> In 1923, the company was broken up and Alabama Power Company acquired the light plant and Cliff and Everett Grimsley and C. V. Matthews purchased the rest of the company. They reorganized in 1924 as the Fayette Mill, Gin and Ice Company. An entry for the company in the American Fertilizer Handbook of 1937 lists J. C. Grimsley as President, E. M. Grimsley as Vice President, and J. J. Taylor as Secretary-Treasurer and recorded the plant's capacity at sixty tons per day.<sup>19</sup> In addition, the company operated a cotton gin and later started a wholesale grocery business. The company's letterhead in 1943 referred to the company as the Fayette Mill, Gin & Ice Company, "manufacturers of high grade fertilizers, stock and dairy feeds, corn meal, gingers and seed buyers, ice and ice cream."<sup>20</sup> By 1944, the Commercial Fertilizer Year Book recorded that the plant's capacity had reached 3,000 tons per day.<sup>21</sup>

The 1930 census lists Cliff Grimsley (age fifty-seven) as the manager of a mill and general ice company living with his wife and daughter Emily at 511 Elyton Road along with two African-American servants: Rheba Riddle, age thirty-one, a cook, and Baldwin Irwin, age forty, a servant. The house was valued in the census at \$20,000.

The Grimsleys are again recorded in the house in the 1940 census and the entry records that Cliff had completed one year of high school and was occupied as a manufacturer in a gin and ice company. The property was then valued at \$15,000. Riddle, their cook in 1930, is listed separately in the next entry as renting a dwelling for \$3 and being employed as a maid in a private house. It is not recorded if she was still employed by the Grimsleys. The next two entries are for Mac Riley, a Negro farm laborer, and his wife Georgia, a maid in a private house, and Cleve Haley, a Negro laborer in a lumber mill, and his wife Vista Mae, also a maid in a private house.

During World War II, Cliff Grimsley wrote to his daughter that war taxes were "getting so heavy until it seems like it is going to take all anybody makes to pay taxes. If we make \$1,000 at the mill, it takes \$900 to pay income taxes." He further lamented that "the country after the war would be in the same shape that the south was after the war between the states which a lot of business men think will be true."<sup>22</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Fayette, AL, Fayette County Judge of Probate, Deed Book 32, p. 107.

<sup>16</sup> Deed from J. M. McConnell to J. C. Grimsley dated August 13, 1919, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>17</sup> Deed from M. A. Jenkins, et. al. to J. C. Grimsley dated March 19, 1920 and deed from D. O. McConnell to J. C. Grimsley dated December 28, 1928, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>18</sup> History of Fayette County, Alabama, pp. 59-60.

<sup>19</sup> American Fertilizer Handbook, Ware Brothers Company, Volumes 30-37, 1937, page A-4, <https://books.google.com>.

<sup>20</sup> Correspondence from J. C. Grimsley to Emily Grimsley Roper and Thomas Russell Roper, October 5, 1943, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>21</sup> Commercial Fertilizer Year Book (n.p.: W.W. Brown & Company, 1944), p. 61, <https://books.google.com>.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

According to "The Grimsleys – Helping to Build Fayette":

Cliff Grimsley was the most colorful character of the three [brothers]. Although Cliff died in 1959, one month shy of his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday, stories still surface occasionally around Fayette about him. According to Emily Roper of Hickory, North Carolina, 91-year-old daughter of Mr. Cliff, he arose early every morning and went to the mill at 4:00 a.m. He would come home fore breakfast at 8:00 and return for lunch precisely at 12:00 Except on Sundays, he was rarely seen in anything but his "mill clothes." When the dignified and always immaculately dressed A. M. Grimsley would call a meeting of the bank's board, Mr. Everett would always go back home and dress for the meeting, Cliff, however would go in his rumpled and stained clothes looking just like a mill hand. Each time he would get a lecture from his brother about his appearance.

Active in a variety of civic affairs, the Grimsleys were also members of the Fayette Baptist Church and Cliff served on the building committee for the current church building that was constructed in 1924. Cliff Grimsley is also recalled as a local philanthropist. According to Emily Roper Grimsley as related in "The Grimsleys – Helping to Build Fayette": "Mother and I never knew of many of the things he did to help people until after he died and people would come up to us and tell us about his help."

In addition to his business and civic affairs, Grimsley was also a successful farmer, raising mostly cotton on his farmland for more than thirty years. An undated newspaper clipping noted that, at age 79, Grimsley "made a record crop last year, despite the attacks of hordes of boll weevils."<sup>23</sup>

On October 22, 1957 Grimsley transferred ownership of the property to his wife.<sup>24</sup> He passed away on January 14, 1959 and is buried in the Grimsley family plot in Columbia Cemetery in Columbia, Houston County, Alabama.<sup>25</sup>

In April 1962, Em Grimsley sold a three-acre parcel from south end of the home tract to Jake Hollingsworth.<sup>26</sup> She subsequently gave the remainder of the property to her daughter Emily Roper in 1971.<sup>27</sup> Emily had married Thomas Russell Roper, Sr. (1917-2013) in 1943. Roper was a World War II veteran and a noted lawyer who served as an administrative law judge for the Department of Defense and the Interstate Commerce Commission.<sup>28</sup> Emily Roper graduated from Fayette High School and Judson College, where she majored in drama and sociology. She met Roper while attending graduate school in sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.<sup>29</sup> The couple had three children, daughters Rebecca and Elizabeth, and a son, Thomas Russell Roper, Jr., (1946-1966) who died in a traffic automobile accident while in college in 1966.<sup>30</sup> The Ropers lived in McLean, Virginia until after Thomas's retirement when they relocated to Hickory, North Carolina in 1986. During this period, the house was rented to various families.

Emily Grimsley died on July 31, 1977 and is buried next to her husband.<sup>31</sup> Emily Roper retained ownership of the property until September 2003, when it was transferred to the Emily Grimsley Roper Revocable Trust with her daughters Rebecca Roper Matkov and Elizabeth Roper Venable serving as Trustees.<sup>32</sup> Roper passed away at the age of ninety-four on November 2, 2013 at her home in Hickory, North Carolina.<sup>33</sup> After Emily's death, ownership passed to her two daughters who continue to own the property, now under the name RG Heritage, LLC.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>23</sup> "Farmer, 79, Learns Trick Of Bale-To-Acre Cotton, The Post-Herald (possibly Birmingham, AL), undated clipping in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>24</sup> Deed Book 100, p. 141.

<sup>25</sup> Ancestry.com. U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

<sup>26</sup> Deed Book 112, p. 2.

<sup>27</sup> Deed Book 126, p. 755.

<sup>28</sup> Find A Grave Index, Thomas Russell Roper, Sr.

<sup>29</sup> Find A Grave Index, Emily Grimsley Roper.

<sup>30</sup> "PSC Student Succumbs to Injuries," The Robesonian (Lumberton, NC), April 25, 1966, p. 3.

<sup>31</sup> Find A Grave Index, Emily Grimsley.

<sup>32</sup> Deed Book 2003, p. 4439.

<sup>33</sup> Find A Grave Index, Emily Grimsley Roper.

<sup>34</sup> Deed Book 2014, p. 4065; Deed Book 2014, p. 4071.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

John David Gullett (1873-1935) was born in Amite City, Louisiana on July 5, 1873.<sup>35</sup> According to research conducted by Penne Smith for a National Register nomination form for the Mount Olive School in Mount Olive, North Carolina, designed by Gullett in 1924: "Gullett's 1935 obituary stated that he trained as an architect in Mississippi but where he trained is not presently known."<sup>36</sup> He appears to have moved to Birmingham by the time he married Marie Catherine Lantham there on June 10, 1907.<sup>37</sup> According to Smith, Gullett became a partner in an architectural firm with Daniel Helmich (1854-1919), "an older architect" who "designed the 1901 Birmingham City Hall."<sup>38</sup> The 1910 city directory lists Gullett as an architect with an office in the Brown-Marx Building. In the 1911 through 1916 directories, Gullett is listed as a draftsman for the architectural firm of H. B. Wheelock. He is again listed as an architect in the 1917 directory with an office in the Chamber of Commerce building. Gullett's 1918 draft registration form listed his occupation as structural engineer for the U.S. Government Picric Acid Plant in Brunswick, Georgia.<sup>39</sup> Construction of the \$7 million plant to produce a key ingredient in explosives started in 1917 and employed 5,000 workers before construction was halted due to the end of World War I.<sup>40</sup> Gullett's wife Marie remained in Birmingham during this time.

Gullett's independent architecture work in Alabama is undocumented except for the Grimsley House, for which his original plans and specifications survive. Family tradition holds that the house was designed and constructed in 1916.

Gullett relocated to Goldsboro, North Carolina in 1920 and his works from that time are better recorded. Gullett's reasons for moving are unknown, but Smith's research suggests that "in competing against longtime Birmingham architects, [he] was not getting the number or type of commissions he needed to successfully establish himself."<sup>41</sup> According to Smith:

On February 19, 1920, Gullett, listing himself as a resident of Goldsboro, North Carolina, passed the North Carolina Board of Architecture's written exam and was granted license number 108. Gullett's earliest known North Carolina commissions are the Lee-Gaylor House of Goldsboro, North Carolina, and the John R. Taylor House of New Bern, North Carolina, both of which were designed and built in 1922. The Lee-Gaylor House and the John R. Taylor House, both striking examples of Colonial Revival style, are, like Gullett's other known commissions, constructed of brick.<sup>42</sup>

According to the Goldsboro Daily Argus of July 26, 1921:

Mr. Jno D. Gullett, the popular and efficient architect of our city, who is supervising the erection of the handsome home of Dr. Ralph Daniels, in New Bern, which he designed, has returned to the city from a trip to New Bern, to look after the work on the handsome home of Mr. E. B. Borden here, of which also he is the supervising architect.<sup>43</sup>

Among his known works in North Carolina are: the Harry Fitzhugh Lee House, Goldsboro (1922, National Register); the Jesse S. Claypool House, New Bern, (1925); the Dr. William R. Hand House, New Bern (1925-1926); the Faison Thomas House, New Bern (1929); the Mount Olive School, Mount Olive (1924, National Register); the Nahunta School (1928); and the Eureka Teacherage (1928).

Gullett died in Goldsboro on October 19, 1935 and is buried next to his mother in Woodlawn Cemetery in Birmingham.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Date via Ancestry.com. U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.; place via Ancestry.com. North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

<sup>36</sup> Penne Smith, National Register of Historic Places, Mount Olive School, Mount Olive, NC, National Register #98001266.

<sup>37</sup> Ancestry.com. Alabama, Select Marriages, 1816-1942 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2014.

<sup>38</sup> Smith, Mount Olive School.

<sup>39</sup> World War I Draft Registration Cards.

<sup>40</sup> "Picric Acid Plant," www.glynncounty.com.

<sup>41</sup> Smith, Mount Olive School.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Goldsboro Daily Argus, July 26, 1921, p. 3.

<sup>44</sup> North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

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Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

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**Previous documentation of 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84:

Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places.

1. Latitude:	33.697093	Longitude:	-87.825819
2. Latitude:		Longitude:	
3. Latitude:		Longitude:	
4. Latitude:		Longitude:	

**OR**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

**NAD 1927** or  **NAD 1983**

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary includes sufficient land to include the house and its immediate residential grounds. The boundaries include the property's historic northern and western property lines, a 50-foot buffer to the east sufficient to maintain an existing tree line, and sufficient land to the rear to incorporate any archaeological remains at the site of the ruinous barn and an existing tree line. The tree lines form effective visual boundaries from the adjoining lands to the east and south. The remaining property to the east and south was formerly part of an associated farm that does not contribute to the primary significance of the house as it was developed after its period of significance, has lost integrity, and no longer retains a visual relationship to house due to the surrounding tree lines.

**11. Form prepared by:**

Name/Title: David B. Schneider, Rebecca Matkov, Collier Neeley, AHC Reviewer

Organization: Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC

Street & number: 411 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street

City/Town: Anniston State: AL Zip Code: 36207

Email: dbschneider@bellsouth.net Phone: 256.310.6320

Date: May 5, 2016; revised September 6, 2017 and July 6, 2018

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name or Property: Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
City or Vicinity: Fayette  
County: Fayette State: AL  
Photographer: David B. Schneider  
Date Photographed: February 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0001.tif)  
North Façade, Camera Facing South.

Photo #2 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_000.tif)  
Site, Camera Facing Southeast.

Photo #3 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0003.tif)  
North Façade (Left) and West Elevation (Right), Camera Facing Southeast.

Photo #4 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0004.tif)  
East Elevation, Camera Facing West.

Photo #5 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0005.tif)  
East (Right) and South (Left) Elevations, Camera Facing Northwest.

Photo #6 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0006.tif)  
South Elevation, Camera Facing North.

Photo #7 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0007.tif)  
South (Right) and West (Left) Elevations, Camera Facing Northeast.

Photo #8 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0008.tif)  
West Elevation, Camera Facing East.

Photo #9 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0009.tif)  
South Façade, Detail of Entrance, Camera Facing South.

Photo #10 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0010.tif)  
South Façade, Detail of Column Capital, Camera Facing South.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette, AL  
County and State

- Photo #11 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0011.tif)  
Site, Barn Ruin, Camera Facing South.
- Photo #12 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0012.tif)  
Site, Shed Ruin, Camera Facing Southeast.
- Photo #13 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0013.tif)  
Site, Camera Facing Northwest.
- Photo #14 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0014.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Living Room, Camera Facing Southeast.
- Photo #15 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0015.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Living Room, Detail of Mantelpiece Camera Facing East.
- Photo #16 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0016.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Dining Room, Camera Facing Southwest.
- Photo #17 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0017.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Stair Hall, Camera Facing South.
- Photo #18 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0018.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Stair Hall, Detail of Staircase, Camera Facing Southeast.
- Photo #19 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0019.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Stair Hall, Detail of Staircase, Camera Facing Southeast.
- Photo #20 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0020.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bathroom, Camera Facing South.
- Photo #21 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0021.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Breakfast Room, Camera Facing Northwest.
- Photo #22 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0022.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bedroom, Camera Facing South.
- Photo #23 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0023.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hallway, Camera Facing North.
- Photo #24 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0024.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hallway, Camera Facing Southwest.
- Photo #25 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0025.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hallway, Detail of Linen Cabinet, Camera Facing Northwest.
- Photo #26 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0026.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Master Bedroom, Camera Facing Southwest.
- Photo #27 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0027.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bedroom, Camera Facing Southeast.
- Photo #28 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0028.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bedroom, Camera Facing Southwest.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

























































National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Resubmission

Property Name: Grimsley, John Clifford, House

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: ALABAMA, Fayette

Date Received: 7/11/2018      Date of Pending List: \_\_\_\_\_      Date of 16th Day: \_\_\_\_\_      Date of 45th Day: 8/27/2018      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: RS16000834

Nominator: State

Reason For Review: \_\_\_\_\_

X Accept       Return       Reject      8/3/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: AOS: architecture, POS: 1916, LOS: local

Recommendation/ Criteria: Criterion C.

Reviewer Lisa Deline      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239      Date 8/3/18

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

# WILLIAM OSWALT

PROBATE JUDGE

P.O.Box 670

FAYETTE COUNTY COUTHOUSE

OFFICE: 205-932-4519

E-MAIL:woswalt@cyberjoes.com

FAYETTE, ALABAMA 35555

FAX: 205-932-7600

September 22, 2016

Alabama Historical Commission  
Attn: Lee Anne Wofford  
468 S. Perry Street  
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900



Re: John Clifford Grimsley House, 432 10<sup>th</sup>. Street  
Fayette, Fayette County Alabama

Dear Ms. Wofford:

I am pleased to hear the Grimsley house is being considered for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

As you may or may not know, we in Fayette County place a high value on protecting and preserving our history. Both the City of Fayette and Fayette County have made a continuing commitment to preserving the historical character of this area. This effort is well documented by the significant investment in various aspects of the Fayette area history such as:

- The complete restoration and renovation of the 1911 Historic Fayette County Courthouse. Built after the fire, this is one of the, if not the most beautiful courthouses in the State of Alabama.
- The re-purposing of the 1930's era post office into the present modern and functional Fayette City Hall.
- The complete redevelopment of the downtown Fayette main street which included renovated store fronts, drainage, sidewalks, street paving and plantings.
- The early 1900's train depot has been fully restored and now serves as home to our historical society.

As you can see, history is important to the people of Fayette County. The Grimsley house is a vital portion of Fayette History. It should be preserved. It should be recognized for its historical significance.

Thank you for affording me the opportunity of sharing my thoughts.

Sincerely,

*William Oswalt*



# ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900  
334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer



October 24, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Toothman  
Keeper of the National Register  
U. S. Department of the Interior, NPS  
Cultural Resources  
National Register, History & Education Programs  
1201 "I" Street NW (2280)  
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Ms. Toothman:

Enclosed please find the nomination and supporting documentation to be considered for listing the following Alabama resource in the National Register of Historic Places:

Grimsley, John Clifford House  
Fayette, Fayette County, Alabama

Your consideration of the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/nw

Enclosures

October 21, 2013

834

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Grimsley, John Clifford, House

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 432 10th St.

City or town: Fayette State: AL County: Fayette

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A     B X C     D

Returned

Dee Anne Wofford /Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 10/24/16  
 Signature of certifying official/Title: Date  
Alabama Historical Commission  
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of commenting official: Date  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
 Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
 County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register
  - determined eligible for the National Register
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register
  - other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Returned

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

---

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Returned

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Neoclassical Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, WOOD, ASPHALT

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The John Clifford Grimsley House is a two-story brick veneer dwelling that is located northeast of the downtown area of Fayette. The character of the surrounding area is transitional, with modern strip commercial and residential development to the north and west and agricultural lands to the east and south. The property is generally flat. The house is sited approximately two hundred feet south of 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE and is surrounded by lawns that are landscaped with mature trees and shrubs. A dirt drive loops from the street to the front of the house. The site retains the ruins of a shed immediately southeast of the house and the ruins of a barn approximately 125 feet to the south of the house.

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#### Narrative Description

The John Clifford Grimsley House is a two-story brick veneer Neoclassical style dwelling with a hipped composition shingle roof with decorative front and rear-facing gable dormers with broken pediments. The front dormer has a central round arched window and the rear window has a central ten-light window. Two tall exterior chimneys with corbelled caps are located along the east wall and a similar interior chimney is centered at the west side of the house. The house has a rectangular five by four-bay core with a secondary rear one-story wing at its west side. A full-height recessed porch extends the full width of the façade and is supported by four full-height Ionic Columns, referred to in the architect's specifications as "Grecian Ionic in design, fluted and to have attic bases and Greek Erectheum compo. caps."<sup>1</sup> The porch has a wood deck supported by a low brick foundation that wraps to the east elevation and is accessed by a central limestone staircase. A simple screened porch extends to the east of the rear wing along the rear elevation and both the wing and porch are below a common hipped composition shingle roof with a central deck with a pipe railing. A one-story porch with similar Ionic columns is centered at the east elevation and has a flat roof deck with a pipe railing. A modern wood accessibility ramp has been added at this porch. An open wood pergola with rough stuccoed columns is centered at the west elevation.

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<sup>1</sup>John David Gullett, "General Specifications of a Colonial Residence to be Built At Fayette, Alabama, for Mr. J. C. Grimsley," circa 1916, originals in the possession of Rebecca Matkov.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

Exterior walls are red brick, referred to in the specifications as "Sibley-Menge #1 Red selected face brick," set in stretcher bond over a wooden framing system with diagonal board sheathing. A wide entablature cornice surrounds the entire house as does a continuous limestone water table. The principal entrance is centered at the north facade and has a fifteen-light door set within a segmental arched opening with a fanlight and eight-light sidelights. Two wooden nine-over-one light double hung sash windows flank the entrance to either side. Each window has a limestone sill and a limestone lintel consisting of a compound central keystone flanked by alternating voussoirs. Slightly recessed segmental arched panels above each window are stuccoed and have limestone keystones. A similar entrance door is centered at the second floor level within a rectangular opening and has a nine-light transom and five-light sidelights. The entrance opens to a narrow entrance bay cantilevered balcony that is supported by decorative consoles and has a turned balustrade with paneled end pedestals with ball-on-pedestal caps. Two nine-over-one windows flank the entrance to either side and have limestone sills. The heads of these windows abut the soffit of the porch roof.

A rectangular entrance opening at the second bay (from the north) of the east elevation has French doors with ten-light leaves below a common four-light transom. Single nine-over-one windows with limestone sills and lintels are set within the three remaining bays. A single fifteen-light door is located at the second bay of the second floor and has a three-light transom. Single nine-over-one windows with cast sills and heads that abut the roof cornice are located in the remaining bays. The west elevation has similar windows at the two northern bays of each level. Shorter double and single windows are set within the remaining bays at the first floor level with similar single windows at the second floor. The rear wing obscures the two western bays of the rear of the core. Its rear elevation has an off-center double nine-over-one window flanked to the east by a single nine-light awning window. An entrance with a fifteen-light door is centered at the rear elevation of the core within the screened porch and is flanked by a nine-light awning window and two nine-over-one light windows. A double nine-over-one light window is centered at the upper level and is flanked to the east by two similar single windows. An entrance with a fifteen-light door and a three-light transom and a nine-over-one light window are located in the two western bays.

The first floor of the interior of the house is divided into living and dining rooms, a bedroom, a stairhall, a breakfast room, a kitchen, and a small pantry. Three bedrooms and a bathroom surround a central stair and hall at the second floor. The principal entrance opens into a wide living room that extends to the east side of the house and is approximately one-half the depth of the core. A set of pocket doors in its west wall open to a dining room that extends to the west side of the house and is slightly deeper than the living room. An entrance with double-leaf glazed doors at the west end of the living room opens to a stair hall that extends to the rear of the core. An open-well staircase has a single flight of stairs that rises along the west wall to an intermediate landing along the rear wall before returning along the east wall to the second floor. The stair has a molded handrail and turned balusters. A bathroom and closet flank the stairhall to the east and separate it from a bedroom at the southeast corner of the core. Pocket doors at the south wall of the bedroom return to the living room. A breakfast room and kitchen are located to the south of the dining room. The principal rooms at the first floor typically have plaster wall and ceiling finishes, wooden crown molds, molded wood door and window surrounds, and wood baseboards. Woodwork typically retains its natural finish. Doors are typically single panel wood doors of birch that are varnished. Original decorative fireplace mantels with tile inserts and hearths remain at the living room, dining room, and bedroom. The

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

flooring described in the original specifications remain and includes oak in the living, dining, bedroom, and stairhall that was originally "finished with one coat of grain alcohol shellac, and one coat of Johnstons hard wax well rubbed out with a weighted brush." Remaining floors are yellow pine. The first floor bathroom retains its historic porcelain tub and sink and hex tile flooring. Woodwork at the breakfast room and kitchen has been painted and vinyl has been applied to the floors. The breakfast room retains an original butler's cabinet and built-in seating. A similar built-in cabinet is located at the north wall of the kitchen and remaining cabinets along the south wall are modern.

A central hallway bisects the second floor and widens at its south end to the west to provide passage to the west of the stairwell. Two bedrooms flank the hallway to the east and a larger master bedroom flanks it to the west. A small service staircase to the attic and a bathroom are located to the south of the west bedroom. An original built-in linen cabinet remains along the west wall of the hallway. Closets separate the two eastern bedrooms and another closet for the west bedroom is located to the rear of the service stair. Ceiling, wall, and floor finishes are similar to those at the first floor except that there are no crown moldings and bedrooms have picture moldings.

The Grimsley House has seen very few alterations over time. Changes have typically be limited to the application of a compatible new composition shingle roof over the original wood shake roof, the addition of a simple accessibility ramp to the secondary east porch, and the installation of vinyl floor coverings to the breakfast room and kitchen.

The house is in generally good condition with some minor water damage evident on the interior.

The property retains the ruins of a former barn to the south of the house and a shed to the southeast of the house. Both are in near total ruin and are classified as noncontributing resources.

#### Integrity

The John Clifford Grimsley House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Please see the expanded discussion of integrity in Section 8.

#### Archaeology

An archaeological assessment of the study area was not completed as part of this project. However, given the nature of the area's history, there is potential that subsurface remains could provide additional information about the historical development of the area.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

## 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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Commerce

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

**Period of Significance**

1916

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

**Significant Dates**

1916

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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

**Architect/Builder**

Gullett, John David

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

Returned

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

### Period of Significance (Justification)

The period of significance for the resource is 1916, the year of its construction and the year the resource achieved significance in the areas of and architecture and commerce.

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The John Clifford Grimsley House is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture as an excellent example of high style Neoclassical architecture in rural Alabama and for its association with architect John David Gullett. The Grimsley House is also significant under Criterion A in the area of commerce for its association with John Clifford ("Cliff") Grimsley, a prominent local businessman who was associated with successful business enterprises in Fayette during the first half of the twentieth century.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### Architecture

The John Clifford Grimsley House is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture as an excellent example of high style Neoclassical architecture in rural Alabama and for its association with architect John David Gullett, who practiced in Alabama and North Carolina from circa 1908 until his death in 1935. Despite practicing in the state for more than a decade, the Grimsley House is presently the only documented work of Gullett in Alabama. Gullett is known principally for his work in North Carolina, where he designed brick residences, school, and commercial buildings in the Colonial and Classical Revival styles.

#### Commerce

The Grimsley House is significant under Criterion A in the area of commerce and for its association with John Clifford ("Cliff") Grimsley, a prominent local businessman who was associated with successful business enterprises in Fayette during the first half of the twentieth century. Grimsley's brother Alva McGriff ("A. M.") Grimsley acquired the Bank of Fayette County in 1909 and Cliff Grimsley served on its board of directors. Cliff Grimsley also founded a horse and mule dealership in association with his brother Everett Miller ("E. M.") Grimsley and the three brothers later acquired and operated the Fayette Mill, Gin and Ice Company. The brothers were instrumental in the rebuilding of downtown Fayette after its was largely destroyed by fire in 1911 and were responsible for the construction of a new and larger bank and a block of storefronts with an upper level hotel.

### Narrative History

John Clifford ("J. C.," "Cliff") Grimsley (1872-1959) was born on February 20, 1879 and was the son of Felix Alva Grimsley (1839-1917) and Dora McGriff Grimsley (1846-1912). The 1880 census records Grimsley, age seven, living in Henry County, Alabama, with his parents and

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

three brothers, Virgil H. Grimsley (age nine, 1870-1909, later known as Dr. V. H. Grimsley), Alva McGriff Grimsley (age six, 1874-1948, later known as A. M. Grimsley), and Everett Miller Grimsley (age 3, 1876-1964, later known as E. M. Grimsley). Virgil graduated from the Memphis Hospital Medical College, Memphis, Tennessee, in 1895 and was practicing as a physician when he died from pneumonia in Nashville, Tennessee in 1909.<sup>2</sup>

J. C. ("Cliff") Grimsley married Emily I. Maund Grimsley (1877-1977) circa 1895. The couple had four children, three of whom, Ashley J (1899-1900), Lewis P. (1901-1903), and one unnamed child, died as infants. One daughter, Emily Grimsley Roper (1919-2013), reached adulthood. In his early career, Grimsley worked with his brothers A. M. and E. M. Grimsley in the naval stores industry along the Chattahoochee River in south Alabama and Florida.

The Grimsley Brothers Naval Stores Company, with its principal place of business located in Brownell Hill, Florida, was incorporated in 1904 with \$65,000 capital stock.<sup>3</sup> A 1910 letterhead for the A. M. Grimsley & Bro., "manufacturers of naval stores," lists A. M. and E. M. Grimsley and indicates that the company's express offices were located in Laurel Hill, Florida and shipping point was located in Falco Junction, Alabama. An article in the Dothan Eagle from 1909 records that Cliff was then living in Falco, Alabama, indicating that he was participating in the business by that time.<sup>4</sup> In a letter dated March 15, 1910, Cliff Grimsley wrote to his wife that the company had acquired a new piece of property that he was developing and requesting that she send his papers to him at Laurel Hill, Florida, where he anticipated staying until December of that year.<sup>5</sup>

In 1909, A. M. Grimsley acquired controlling interest in the Fayette County Bank, which had been organized in 1900. The reason for the brothers' move to Fayette is uncertain, but according to an unpublished article "The Grimsleys - Helping to Build Fayette":

Somewhere in the recesses of the family's memories is a tale of a travelling salesman coming through Columbia who was talking about the need for a good bank in Fayette, Alabama. He said Fayette had a bank "but it wasn't much of one" and the owners were looking to sell.<sup>6</sup>

A. M. Grimsley and his brothers took over as the company's officers and soon relocated to Fayette, Alabama. The January, 1911 edition of the Rand McNally International Bankers Directory lists the Fayette County Bank with A. M. Grimsley, President, J. C. Grimsley, Vice-President, and E. H. Thomason, Cashier, with \$30,000 in paid-up capital and \$60,000 in deposits.<sup>7</sup> The Grimsleys built a one-story brick bank building that was lost in a 1911 fire that also destroyed much of the city's downtown area. The April 19, 1911 edition of The Mountain Eagle noted in an article entitled "Contracts Let for A Greater, New Fayette": "Within the next

<sup>2</sup> Tennessee State Library and Archives; Nashville, Tennessee; Tennessee Death Records, 1908-1959; Roll #: 31, from Ancestry.com, Tennessee, Death Records, 1908-1958 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA; Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011; Directory of Deceased American Physicians, 1804-1929 [database on-line].

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Secretary of State of the State of Florida (Tallahassee, FL: Capital Publishing Co., 1904), p. 212, <https://books.google.com>.

<sup>4</sup> Dothan Eagle, September 12, 1909, p. 12.

<sup>5</sup> Correspondence from J. C. Grimsley to Mrs. J. C. Grimsley, February 15, 1910, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>6</sup> "The Grimsleys - Helping to Build Fayette," <http://fayetteal.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/The-Grimsleys.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Rand McNally International Bankers Directory (Chicago: Rand McNally & Co., January 1911), p. 30, <https://books.google.com>.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

few days Grimsley Brothers will let contracts for a two-story brick hotel building 100x115 feet and a two story brick bank building 33x50 feet.” Both buildings, the Turner Hotel and the bank (now Regions Bank), still stand.<sup>8</sup> Also in 1911, the Grimsley brothers founded the Berry Bank in the nearby town of Berry.<sup>9</sup> In 1913, the Fayette County Bank was reorganized as the First National Bank and capital stock was increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000.<sup>10</sup> The bank began issuing its own currency and by 1917 its deposits had grown to \$125,000.<sup>11</sup> The company’s letterhead in 1931 stated that the bank had capital of \$100,000 and surplus and undivided profits of \$60,000 in addition to being a designated depository of the State of Alabama and a depository for the County of Fayette.<sup>12</sup>

While Cliff and his brother Everett served as officers of the bank, they also started a horse and mule dealership. According to “The Grimsleys – Helping to Build Fayette”:

Both men were known to have a good eye for mules and sold high quality mules which they purchased in St. Louis, Mo. They would ship 2 to 3 train car loads of mules at a time to their barn located at the site of the Golden Eagle Syrup building. The barn would later move to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in an area between what is now the pool hall and Nichols Studio and Frame Shop. Mules in those days were the farm family’s livelihood and means of transportation. High quality mules sold for as much as \$800 to \$1,000 each and were a source of pride for their owners much like an expensive, sleek automobile is today.

A 1924 letterhead for the Grimsley Brothers Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Horses and Mules indicates that it was based in Fayette and had offices in Millport, Winfield, and Sulligent. All three of the Grimsley brothers are listed on the letterhead.<sup>13</sup>

According to “The Grimsleys – Helping to Build Fayette”:

Upon arriving in Fayette, Cliff Grimsley and his wife lived in the Turner Hotel. When the hotel burned in the fire that destroyed Fayette, Cliff rebuilt the building that houses the storefronts from the corner of Temple Avenue and Columbus St. (Central Drug Store) and extends past Standard Furniture today. This building includes the Turner Hotel located above these businesses. Mrs. Kate Turner (Jimmy Gullett’s aunt) ran the hotel. Emily had not wanted to move from South Alabama to Fayette. After living in the hotel for five years she issued cliff an ultimatum. Either he built her a house or she would move back to South Alabama. Cliff bought the land that the family still calls the farm (located across from Fayette shopping center). The beautiful Grimsley home that sits at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> street was the result of that ultimatum.

<sup>8</sup> “Contracts Let for a Greater, New Fayette, The Mountain Eagle, April 19, 1911, transcribed in: Robin Sterling, People and Things from the Walker County, Alabama Mountain Eagle (1910-1913) (by the author, 2016), p. 131.

<sup>9</sup> Fayette County Heritage Book Committee, The Heritage of Fayette County (Clanton, AL: Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., 1999), p. 13.

<sup>10</sup> Herbert Moses Newell, Jr., History of Fayette County, Alabama (Fayette, AL: Newell Offset Printing, 1960), p. 63.

<sup>11</sup> American Bank Reporter and Attorney List (New York: Steurer Publishing Co., Vol. XCVI, March-April 1917), p. 5, <https://books.google.com>.

<sup>12</sup> Correspondence from A. M. Grimsley to Mrs. H. B. Propst, August 5, 1931, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>13</sup> Correspondence from Grimsley Brothers Horses and Mules, March 8, 1924, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

Cliff Grimsley purchased the nineteen-acre parcel of land "bounded on the north by the old Tuscaloosa Elyton Road" from J. M. McConnell on August 21, 1915 for \$2,500.<sup>14</sup> He hired Birmingham architect John David Gullett to design the house and family tradition holds that its construction was completed in 1916. In 1919, Grimsley acquired approximately 440 additional acres to the east of the house site on which to develop a farm.<sup>15</sup> The 1920 census recorded the Grimsleys living in the house on Elyton Road and Cliff (age forty-seven) Cliff's occupation as horse and mule trader. Grimsley added several lots totaling just more than an acre adjacent to the west side of the property in 1920 and an additional eighty acres in 1928.<sup>16</sup>

The Fayette Mill, Gin and Ice Company was originally established in 1903 or 1904 as the Sipsley Valley Oil and Fertilizer Company and later added a light plant that provided the city's first electric lights.<sup>17</sup> In 1923, the company was broken up and Alabama Power Company acquired the light plant and Cliff and Everett Grimsley and C. V. Matthews purchased the rest of the company. They reorganized in 1924 as the Fayette Mill, Gin and Ice Company. An entry for the company in the American Fertilizer Handbook of 1937 lists J. C. Grimsley as President, E. M. Grimsley as Vice President, and J. J. Taylor as Secretary-Treasurer and recorded the plant's capacity at sixty tons per day.<sup>18</sup> In addition, the company operated a cotton gin and later started a wholesale grocery business. The company's letterhead in 1943 referred to the company as the Fayette Mill, Gin & Ice Company, "manufacturers of high grade fertilizers, stock and dairy feeds, corn meal, ginnings and seed crushers, ice and ice cream."<sup>19</sup> By 1944, the Commercial Fertilizer Year Book recorded that the plant's capacity had reached 3,000 tons per day.<sup>20</sup>

The 1930 census lists Cliff Grimsley (age fifty-seven) as the manager of a mill and general ice company living with his wife and daughter Emily at 511 Elyton Road along with two African-American servants: Rheba Riddle, age thirty-one a cook, and Baldwin Irwin, age forty, a servant. The house was valued in the census at \$20,000.

The Grimsleys are again recorded in the house in the 1940 census and the entry records that Cliff had completed one year of high school and was occupied as a manufacturer in a gin and ice company. The property was then valued at \$15,000. Riddle, their cook in 1930, is listed separately in the next entry as renting a dwelling for \$3 and being employed as a maid in a private house. It is not recorded if she was still employed by the Grimsleys. The next two entries are for Mac Riley, a Negro farm laborer, and his wife Georgia, a maid in a private house, and Cleve Haley, a Negro laborer in a lumber mill, and his wife Vista Mae, also a maid in a private house.

During World War II, Cliff Grimsley wrote to his daughter that war taxes were "getting so heavy until it seems like it is going to take all anybody makes to pay taxes. If we make \$1,000 at the mill, it takes \$900 to pay income taxes." He further lamented that "the country after the war

<sup>14</sup> Fayette, AL, Fayette County Judge of Probate, Deed Book 32, p. 107.

<sup>15</sup> Deed from J. M. McConnell to J. C. Grimsley dated August 13, 1919, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>16</sup> Deed from M. A. Jenkins, et. al. to J. C. Grimsley dated March 19, 1920 and deed from D. O. McConnell to J. C. Grimsley dated December 28, 1928, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>17</sup> History of Fayette County, Alabama, pp. 59-60.

<sup>18</sup> American Fertilizer Handbook, Ware Brothers Company, Volumes 30-37, 1937, page A-4, <https://books.google.com>.

<sup>19</sup> Correspondence from J. C. Grimsley to Emily Grimsley Roper and Thomas Russell Roper, October 5, 1943, in possession of Rebecca Matkov.

<sup>20</sup> Commercial Fertilizer Year Book (n.p.: W.W. Brown & Company, 1944), p. 61, <https://books.google.com>.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

would be in the same shape that the south was after the war between the states which a lot of business men think will be true.”<sup>21</sup>

According to “The Grimsleys – Helping to Build Fayette”:

Cliff Grimsley was the most colorful character of the three [brothers]. Although Cliff died in 1959, one month shy of his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday, stories still surface occasionally around Fayette about him. According to Emily Roper of Hickory, North Carolina, 91 year old daughter of Mr. Cliff, he arose early every morning and went to the mill at 4:00 a.m. He would come home fore breakfast at 8:00 and return for lunch precisely at 12:00 Except on Sundays, he was rarely seen in anything but his “mill clothes.” When the dignified and always immaculately dressed A. M. Grimsley would call a meeting of the bank’s board, Mr. Everett would always go back home and dress for the meeting, Cliff, however would go in his rumpled and stained clothes looking just like a mill hand. Each time he would get a lecture from his brother about his appearance.

Active in a variety of civic affairs, the Grimsleys were also members of the Fayetteville Baptist Church and Cliff served on the building committee for the current church building that was constructed in 1924. Cliff Grimsley is also recalled as a local philanthropist. According to Emily Roper Grimsley as related in “The Grimsleys – Helping to Build Fayette”: “Mother and I never knew of many of the things he did to help people until after he died and people would come up to us and tell us about his help.”

On October 22, 1957 Grimsley transferred ownership of the property to his wife.<sup>22</sup> He passed away on January 14, 1959 and is buried in the Grimsley family plot in Columbia Cemetery in Columbia, Houston County, Alabama.<sup>23</sup>

In April 1962, Emily Grimsley sold a three-acre parcel from south end of the home tract to Jake Hollingsworth.<sup>24</sup> She subsequently gave the remainder of the property to her daughter Emily Roper in 1971.<sup>25</sup> Emily had married Thomas Russell Roper, Sr. (1917-2013) in 1943. Roper was a World War II veteran and a noted lawyer who served as an administrative law judge for the Department of Defense and the interstate Commerce Commission.<sup>26</sup> Emily Roper graduated from Fayette High School and Judson College, where she majored in drama and sociology. She met Roper while attending graduate school in sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.<sup>27</sup> The couple had three children, daughters Rebecca and Elizabeth, and a son, Thomas Russell Roper, Jr., (1946-1966) who died in a traffic automobile accident while in college in 1966.<sup>28</sup> The Ropers lived in McLean, Virginia until after Thomas’s retirement when they relocated to Hickory, North Carolina in 1986. During this period, the house was rented to various families.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Deed Book 100, p. 141.

<sup>23</sup> Ancestry.com. U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

<sup>24</sup> Deed Book 112, p. 2.

<sup>25</sup> Deed Book 126, p. 755.

<sup>26</sup> Find A Grave Index, Thomas Russell Roper, Sr.

<sup>27</sup> Find A Grave Index, Emily Grimsley Roper.

<sup>28</sup> “PSC Student Succumbs to Injuries,” The Robesonian (Lumberton, NC), April 25, 1966, p. 3.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

Emily Grimsley died on July 31, 1977 and is buried next to her husband.<sup>29</sup> Emily Roper retained ownership of the property until September 2003, when it was transferred to the Emily Grimsley Roper Revocable Trust with her daughters Rebecca Roper Matkov and Elizabeth Roper Venable serving as Trustees.<sup>30</sup> Roper passed away at the age of ninety-six on November 2, 2013 at her home in Hickory, North Carolina.<sup>31</sup> After Emily's death, ownership passed to her two daughters who continue to own the property, now under the name RG Heritage, LLC.<sup>32</sup>

John David Gullett

John David Gullett (1873-1935) was born in Amite City, Louisiana on July 5, 1873.<sup>33</sup> According to research conducted by Penne Smith for a National Register nomination form for the Mount Olive School in Mount Olive, North Carolina, designed by Gullett in 1924: "Gullett's 1935 obituary stated that he trained as an architect in Mississippi but where he trained is not presently known."<sup>34</sup> He appears to have moved to Birmingham by the time he married Marie Catherine Lantham there on June 10, 1907.<sup>35</sup> According to Smith, Gullett became a partner in an architectural firm with Daniel Helmich (1854-1919), "an older architect" who "designed the 1901 Birmingham City Hall."<sup>36</sup> The 1910 city directory lists Gullett as an architect with an office in the Brown-Marx Building. In the 1911 through 1916 directories, Gullett is listed as a draftsman for the architectural firm of H. B. Whitecock. He is again listed as an architect in the 1917 directory with an office in the Chamber of Commerce building. Gullett's 1918 draft registration form listed his occupation as structural engineer for the U.S. Government Picric Acid Plant in Brunswick, Georgia.<sup>37</sup> Construction of the \$7 million plant to produce a key ingredient in explosives started in 1917 and employed 5,000 workers before construction was halted due to the end of World War I.<sup>38</sup> Gullett's wife Marie remained in Birmingham during this time.

Gullett's independent architecture work in Alabama is undocumented except for the Grimsley House, for which his original plans and specifications survive. Family tradition holds that the house was designed and constructed in 1916.

Gullett relocated to Goldsboro, North Carolina in 1920 and his works from that time are better recorded. Gullett's reasons for moving are unknown, but Smith's research suggests that "in competing against longtime Birmingham architects, [he] was not getting the number or type of commissions he needed to successfully establish himself."<sup>39</sup> According to Smith:

<sup>29</sup> Find A Grave Index, Emily Grimsley.

<sup>30</sup> Deed Book 2003, p. 4439.

<sup>31</sup> Find A Grave Index, Emily Grimsley Roper.

<sup>32</sup> Deed Book 2014, p. 4065; Deed Book 2014, p. 4071.

<sup>33</sup> Date via Ancestry.com. U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.; place via Ancestry.com. North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

<sup>34</sup> Penne Smith, National Register of Historic Places, Mount Olive School, Mount Olive, NC, National Register #98001266.

<sup>35</sup> Ancestry.com. Alabama, Select Marriages, 1816-1942 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2014.

<sup>36</sup> Smith, Mount Olive School.

<sup>37</sup> World War I Draft Registration Cards.

<sup>38</sup> "Picric Acid Plant," www.glynncounty.com.

<sup>39</sup> Smith, Mount Olive School.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

On February 19, 1920, Gullett, listing himself as a resident of Goldsboro, North Carolina, passed the North Carolina Board of Architecture's written exam and was granted license number 108. Gullett's earliest known North Carolina commissions are the Lee-Gaylor House of Goldsboro, North Carolina, and the John R. Taylor House of New Bern, North Carolina, both of which were designed and built in 1922. The Lee-Gaylor House and the John R. Taylor House, both striking examples of Colonial Revival style, are, like Gullett's other known commissions, constructed of brick.<sup>40</sup>

According to the Goldsboro Daily Argus of July 26, 1921:

Mr. Jno D. Gullett, the popular and efficient architect of our city, who is supervising the erection of the handsome home of Dr. Ralph Daniels, in New Bern, which he designed, has returned to the city from a trip to New Bern, to look after the work on the handsome home of Mr. E. B. Borden here, of which also he is the supervising architect.<sup>41</sup>

Among his known works in North Carolina are: the Harry Fitzhugh Lee House, Goldsboro (1922, National Register); the Jesse S. Claypoole House, New Bern, (1925); the Dr. William R. Hand House, New Bern (1925-1926); the Faison Thomas House, New Bern (1929); the Mount Olive School, Mount Olive (1924, National Register); the Nahunta School (1928); and the Eureka Tea Storage (1928).

Gullett died in Goldsboro on October 19, 1935 and is buried next to his mother in Woodlawn Cemetery in Birmingham.<sup>42</sup>

#### Integrity

The John Clifford Grimsley House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The house is at its original location. The design of the building is essentially unaltered from the time of its construction in 1916. The building's setting has changed to some degree with the loss of associated outbuildings and the encroachment of modern commercial and residential development, but is otherwise similar to its historic conditions. The house building retains its original materials and workmanship. Given the overall retention of its historic appearance and character, the resource also retains integrity of feeling and association.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Goldsboro Daily Argus, July 26, 1921, p. 3.

<sup>42</sup> North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

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Grimsley Brothers Horses and Mules. Letter. March 8, 1924. In possession of Rebecca Matkov.

Grimsley, J. C. Letter to Emily Grimsley Roper and Thomas Russell Roper. October 5, 1943. In possession of Rebecca Matkov.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

- \_\_\_\_\_. Letter to Mrs. J. C. Grimsley, February 15, 1910. In possession of Rebecca Matkov.
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Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (# assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

Returned

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.1 ac.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or

NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 423470 | Northing: 3728674 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated boundaries are indicated on the submitted scaled drawing that was based on Fayette County tax maps and aerial imaging.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes sufficient land to include the house and its immediate residential grounds. The boundaries include the property's historic northern and western property lines, a 50-foot buffer to the east sufficient to maintain an existing tree line, and sufficient land to the rear to incorporate any archaeological remains at the site of the ruinous barn and an existing tree line. The tree lines form effective visual boundaries from the adjoining lands to the east and south. The remaining property to the east and south was formerly part of an associated farm that does not contribute to the primary significance of the house as it was developed after its period of significance, has lost integrity, and no longer retains a visual relationship to house due to the surrounding tree lines.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: David B. Schneider, Rebecca Matkov (reviewed by Collier Neeley, AHC staff)  
organization: Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC  
street & number: 411 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
city or town: Anniston state: AL zip code: 36207  
e-mail: [dbschneider@bellsouth.net](mailto:dbschneider@bellsouth.net)  
telephone: 256-310-6320  
date: May 5, 2016

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
City or Vicinity: Fayette  
County: Fayette State: AL  
Photographer: David B. Schneider  
Date Photographed: February 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0001.tif)  
North Façade, Camera Facing South.

Photo #2 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_000.tif)  
Site, Camera Facing Southeast.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

Photo #3 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0003.tif)  
North Façade (Left) and West Elevation (Right), Camera Facing Southeast.

Photo #4 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0004.tif)  
East Elevation, Camera Facing West.

Photo #5 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0005.tif)  
East (Right) and South (Left) Elevations, Camera Facing Northwest.

Photo #6 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0006.tif)  
South Elevation, Camera Facing North.

Photo #7 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0007.tif)  
South (Right) and West (Left) Elevations, Camera Facing Northeast.

Photo #8 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0008.tif)  
West Elevation, Camera Facing East.

Photo #9 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0009.tif)  
South Façade, Detail of Entrance, Camera Facing South.

Photo #10 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0010.tif)  
South Façade, Detail of Column Capital, Camera Facing South.

Photo #11 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0011.tif)  
Site, Barn Ruin, Camera Facing South.

Photo #12 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0012.tif)  
Site, Shed Ruin, Camera Facing Southeast.

Photo #13 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0013.tif)  
Site, Camera Facing Northwest.

Photo #14 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0014.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Living Room, Camera Facing Southeast.

Photo #15 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0015.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Living Room, Detail of Mantelpiece Camera Facing East.

Photo #16 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0016.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Dining Room, Camera Facing Southwest.

Photo #17 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0017.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Stair Hall, Camera Facing South.

Photo #18 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0018.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Stair Hall, Detail of Staircase, Camera Facing Southeast.

Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State

Photo #19 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0019.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Stair Hall, Detail of Staircase, Camera Facing Southeast.

Photo #20 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0020.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bathroom, Camera Facing South.

Photo #21 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0021.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Breakfast Room, Camera Facing Northwest.

Photo #22 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0022.tif)  
Interior, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bedroom, Camera Facing South.

Photo #23 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0023.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hallway, Camera Facing North.

Photo #24 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0024.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hallway, Camera Facing Southwest.

Photo #25 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0025.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hallway, Detail of Linen Cabinet, Camera Facing Northwest.

Photo #26 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0026.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Master Bedroom, Camera Facing Southwest.

Photo #27 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0027.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bedroom, Camera Facing Southeast.

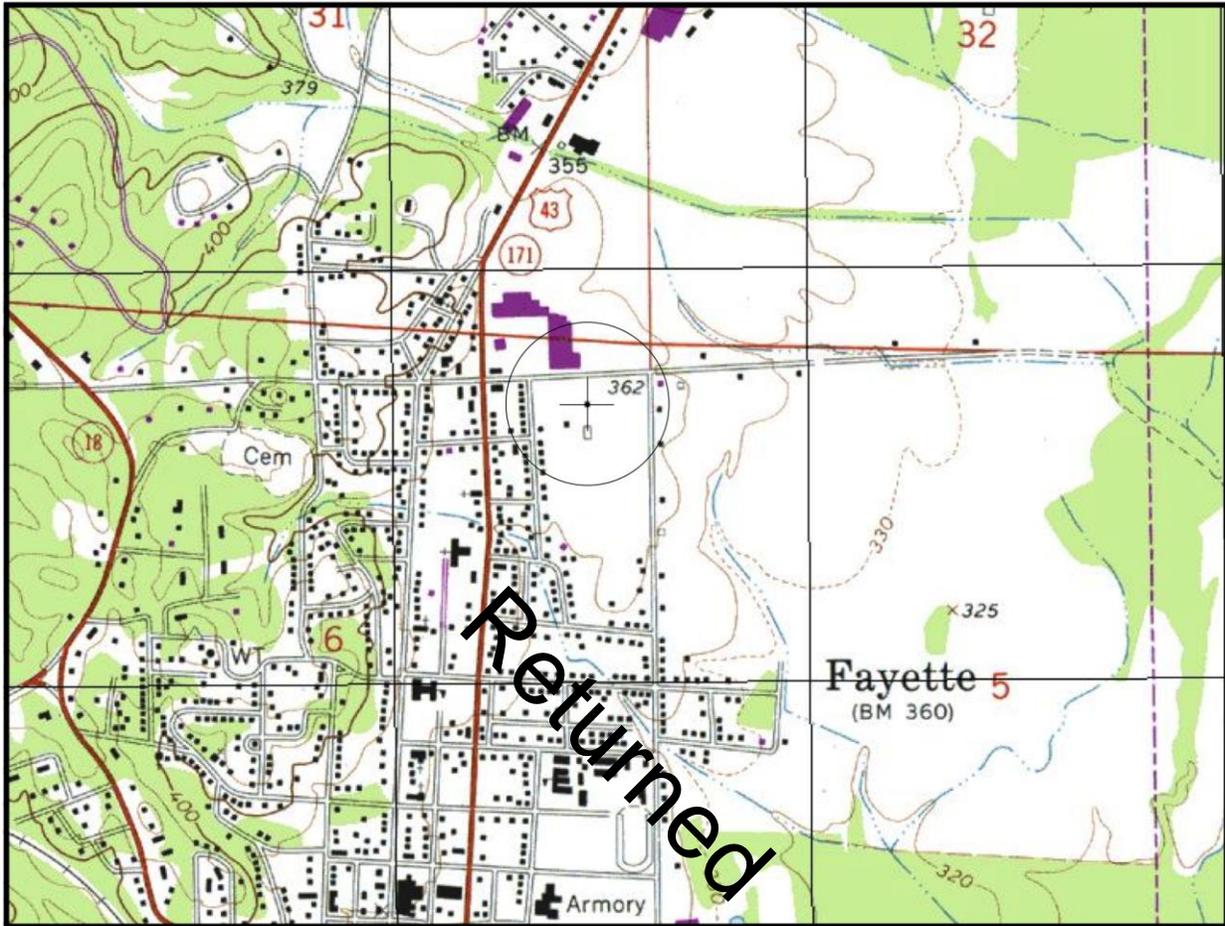
Photo #28 (AL\_FayetteCo\_JCGRimsleyHse\_0028.tif)  
Interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bedroom, Camera Facing Southwest.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

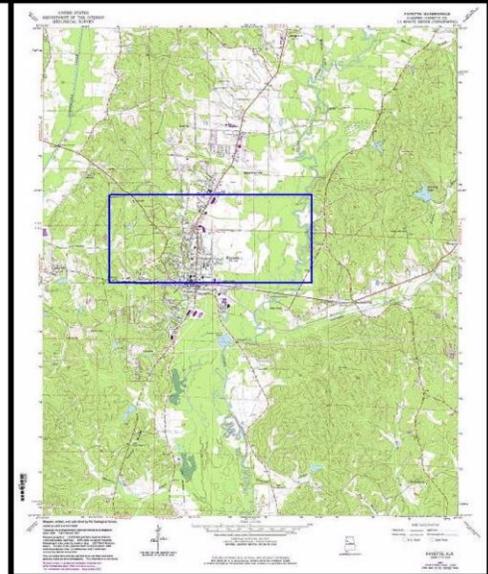
Grimsley, John Clifford, House  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., AL  
County and State



U.S.G.S. Topographic Map  
Fayette Quadrangle

UTM: 16 / 423470 E / 3728674 N  
Lat/Lon: 33° 41' 49" N, 87° 49' 33" W  
Township 16S N, Range 12 W, Section 6

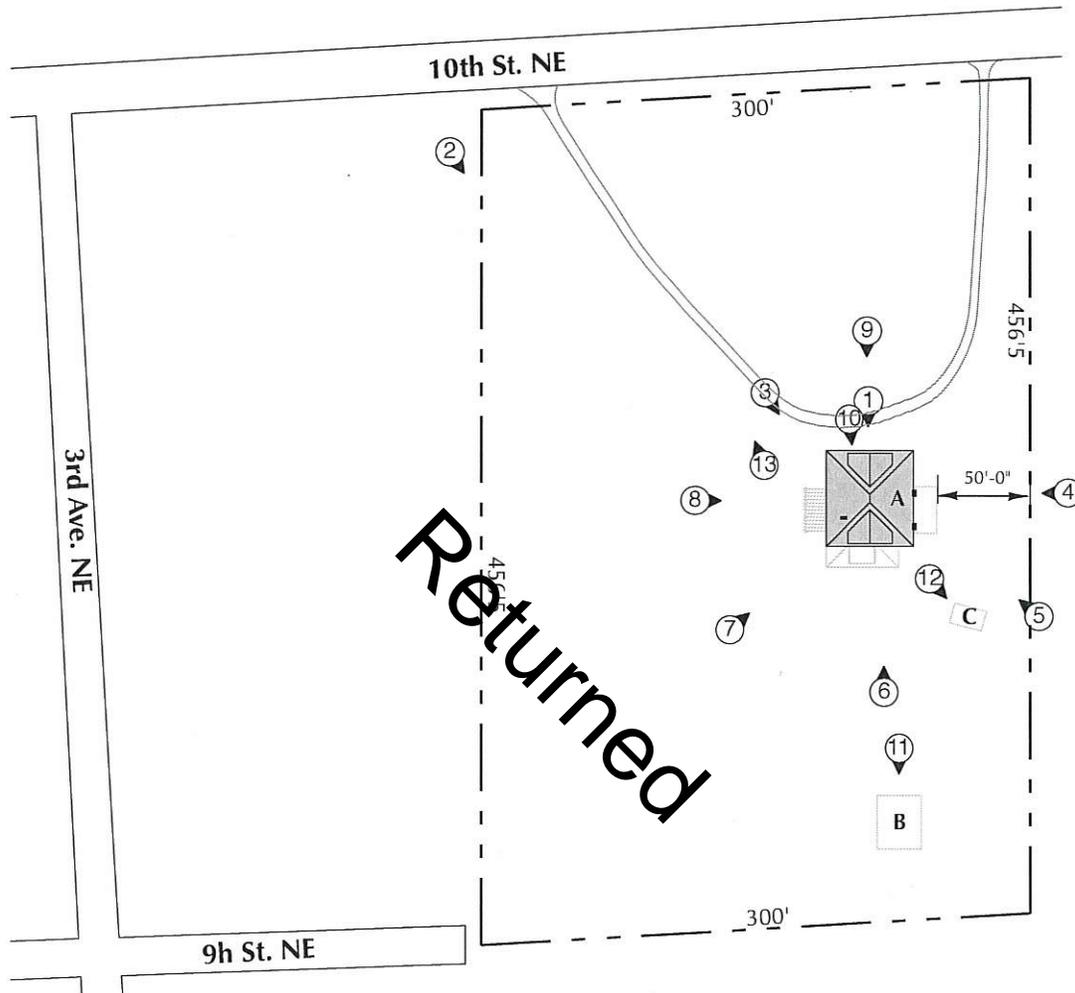


# John Clifford Grimsley House

432 10th Street NE, Fayette, Fayette County, Alabama

SITEPLAN, EXISTING

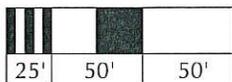
6/30/2016



- A John Clifford Grimsley House) - Contributing
- B Barn (Ruin) - Noncontributing
- C Shed (Ruin) - Noncontributing

Nominated Acreage: 3.1 acres

SCALE: 1" = 100'



**SCHNEIDER** Historic Preservation, LLC

411 East 6th Street, Anniston AL 36207 • Phone: (256) 310-6320  
Fax: (334) 323-5631 • e-mail: obschneider@bellouth.net

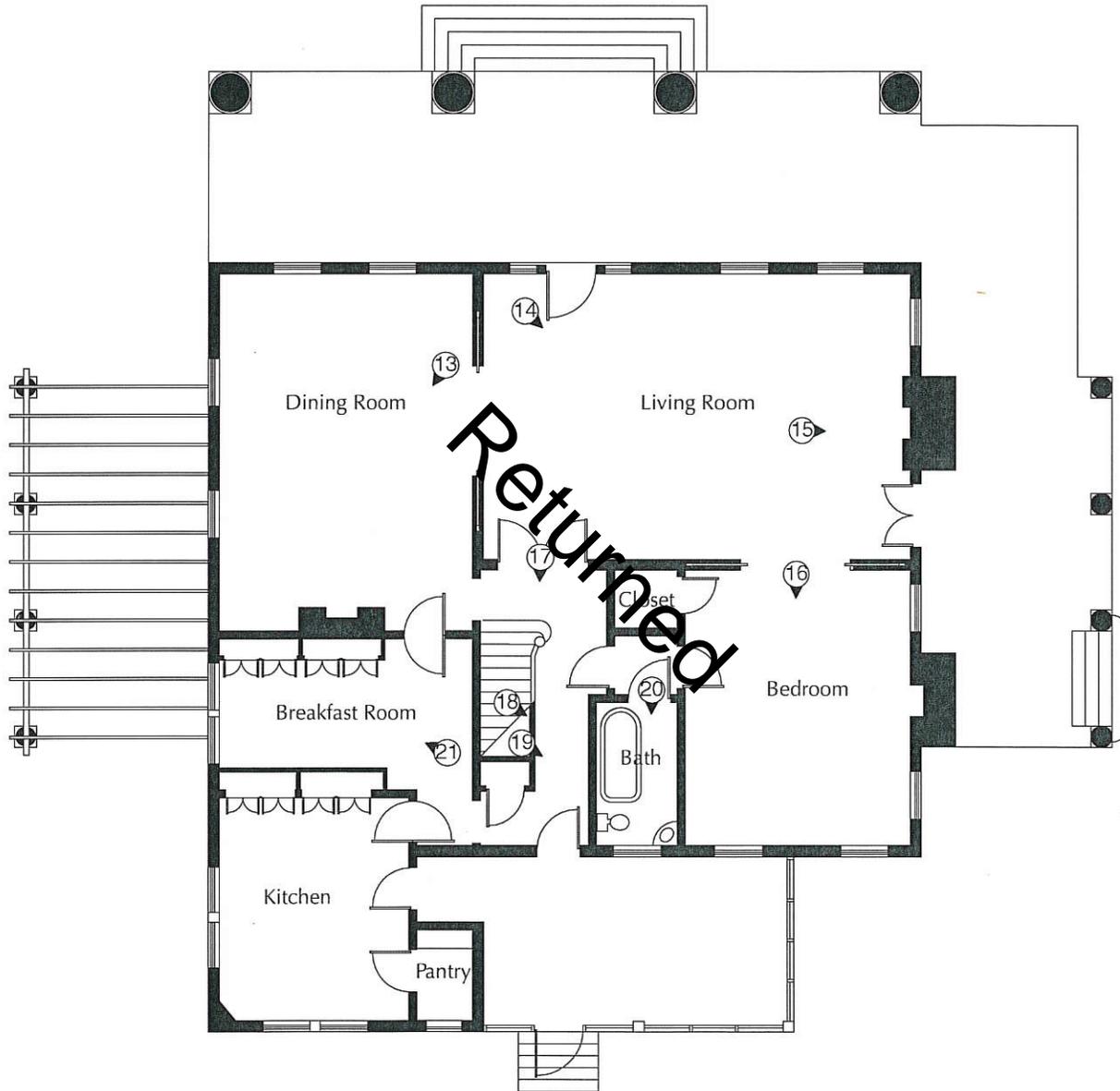
[www.shphistoric.com](http://www.shphistoric.com)

# John Clifford Grimsley House

432 10th Street NE, Fayette, Fayette County, Alabama

## FIRST FLOOR PLAN

4/1/2016



**SCHNEIDER** Historic Preservation, LLC

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Fax: (334) 323-5631 • e-mail: dbschneider@bellsouth.net

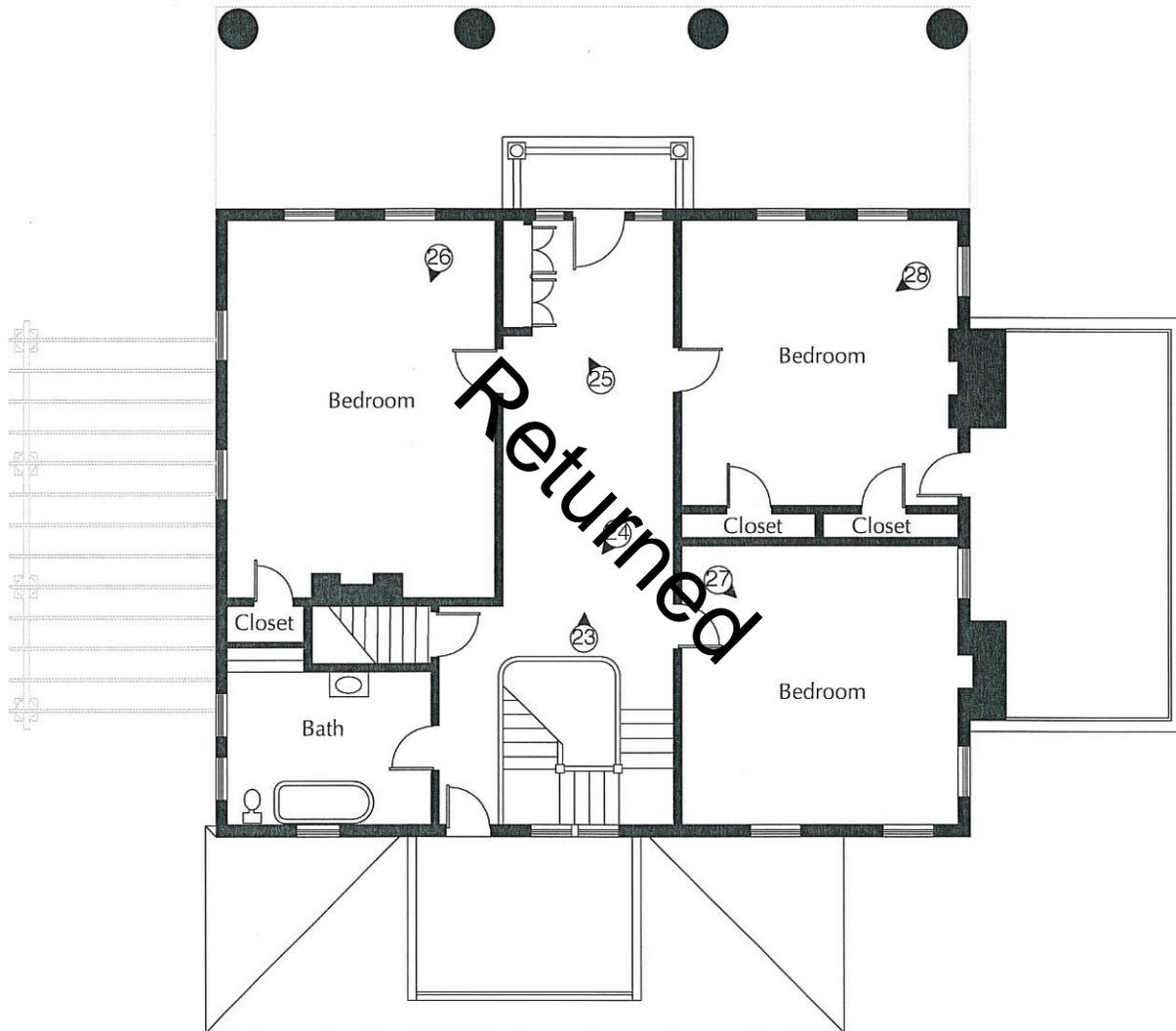
[www.shphistoric.com](http://www.shphistoric.com)

# John Clifford Grimsley House

432 10th Street NE, Fayette, Fayette County, Alabama

## SECOND FLOOR PLAN

4/1/2016



**SCHNEIDER** Historic Preservation, LLC

411 East 6th Street, Anniston AL 36207 • Phone: (256) 310-6320  
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[www.shphistoric.com](http://www.shphistoric.com)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Comments  
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

**Property Name:** John Clifford Grimsley House

**Property Location:** Fayette Co., AL

**Reference Number:** 16000834

**Date of Return:** 12/16/16

**Nomination Summary:**

The John Clifford Grimsley House is being nominated under Criteria A and C for the 1916 Neoclassical Revival style house designed by architect, John David Gullett. The 3.1-acre property is being nominated at the local level for significance in architecture and commerce.

**Issues:**

The registration form does not provide sufficient justification to demonstrate that this building meets Criterion A for significance in Commerce. The nomination does not demonstrate that this property is where Grimsley conducted significant commercial activities, but rather that Grimsley and his brothers were instrumental in establishing several downtown Fayette business enterprises and that they were largely involved with the rebuilding of Fayette businesses after the 1911 fire. Therefore, these downtown resources would best convey significance in commerce.

Under architecture, please provide some additional local context to understand the significance of this rural example of a Neoclassical Revival style house. What makes it an excellent rural example? Were most Neoclassical Revival high style houses mainly found in more developed areas of the state? The level of significance is marked "local" but the narrative references "rural Alabama." Please clarify.

Technical Issues

Ruins of historic resources are counted as contributing sites and add to the overall setting of the property. Please adjust the number of contributing resources in Section 5.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Lisa Deline  
Lisa\_Deline@nps.gov



# ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street  
P.O. Box 300900  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900  
334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer



July 9, 2018

Ms. Joy Beasley  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Room 3316  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find a revised nomination as requested by Lisa Deline for the:

John Clifford Grimsley House  
Fayette, Fayette County, Alabama  
Reference No.: 16000834

The original nomination for this historic district was sent to the National Park Service on October 27, 2016. It was returned to and received by our office on December 16, 2016 with a request for clarifications. We believe the nomination is now in order. Your consideration of this revised nomination is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/nw

Enclosure