

PH0021296

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	ALABAMA
COUNTY:	TUSCALOOSA
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 14 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Old Observatory

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Observatory

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North of University Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN:
University

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Tuscaloosa CODE: 125

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>office of the consulting engineer</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
University of Alabama

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: University STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
714 Greensboro Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Tuscaloosa STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old observatory, located on the western portion of the campus of the University of Alabama, is a small white Greek Revival building. The eastern wing of the one-story T-shaped structure has a gabled roof ending in pediments on the north and south sides. The front of this wing comprises the main facade which has four square pilasters. Two eight foot windows and a central double door cross the front. These windows and door have similar architraves. There are pilasters at each of the corners of this wing. The interior has been divided into two rooms.

The west wing is made up of three adjoining compartments, two of which flank the central compartment. This central square segment measures 23'8" and is three feet wider on either side than the two flanking segments. This central compartment is surmounted by a revolving dome of 18' internal diameter. The north side has one double door and two windows, and the south side has two windows. This compartment once contained elaborate equipment including an equatorial telescope, all of which was wrecked during the Civil War. The other two compartments have flat roofs and two windows on the south side and three on the north.

Two windows on the compartment to the west of the dome are later additions. Located on the north and south side of this compartment, they consist of a vertical row of six lights, and cut through the cornice.

The building is in excellent structural condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The observatory on the campus of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa was one of only four buildings which survived the Federal raid by General John T. Croxton's troops in 1865. It was built in 1844 under the supervision of Frederick A. P. Barnard, professor of chemistry and mathematics (1837-54) and later president of Columbia University. The apparatus for the observatory was wrecked during the raid; however, some valuable papers relating to the history of the university and a few library books had been hidden under a pile of rubbish and were later recovered.

The building is now used as offices of the Consulting Engineer of the University.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clinton, N. W., "A Self-Conducted Tour of Historic Tuscaloosa" Annual Labor Day Program. Tuscaloosa Central Labor and Industrial Union Council AFL-CIO, September 5, 1966, Tuscaloosa.

Moore, A. B., History of Alabama, Nashville: Benson Printing Co., 1934.

Owen, Thomas, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, Vol. II, Chicago: The S. J. Clark Publishing Co., 1921.

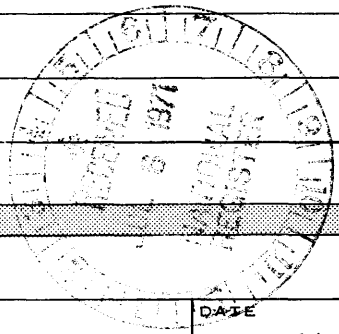
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33°	12'	40"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		87°	32'	60"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION
Alabama Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Montgomery

STATE
Alabama

DATE
June 14, 1971

CODE
01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Wils B. Toward, Jr.

Title SLO

Date July 1, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
JAN 14 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:

W. M. Bradford
Keeper of The National Register
Date Jan 12, 1972

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

9. Bibliography

Sellers, James B., History of the University of Alabama, University,
Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1953.

