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7.	DESCRIPTION							
					(Chec	ck One)		
	CONDITION	🗌 Excellent 🕱 Good 🔲 Fair [Deteriorated		🗌 Ruins	Unexposed	
					(Che	ck One)		
		🗋 Alter	ed	X Unaltered			Moved	🗙 Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The simple geometric shapes employed, the stuccoed flat arch over the entrance, the restrained cornice and the general tightness of the design of this structure identify it as being Federal in style.

At present the building is a two-story brick structure stuccoed over and scored to imitate stone. A frame portico and rear wing are later additions which will be removed during restoration. No evidence of an original portico has been found.

The original building consisted of a brick rectangle 22'8" by 45'8". This rectangle was divided by brick interior walls into a central stair hall and two rooms on both ground and second floors. Front and rear doors allowed access to the stair hall from the exterior. A door in the end of the northeast room on the ground floor indicates that this room probably served as the office or administrative area from which the owner operated his plantation. At present a second door from this room leads to the wooden structure at the rear. In all probability this was originally a window as the wing is of much more recent construction.

The exterior of the building, though now stuccoed, was originally brick of English bond. A belt course of quarter rounded rolocks allows the 14" foundation wall to reduce to 12" at about the first floor line. This belt course is on front and rear walls but not on the end walls. However it does appear on the ends of the two chimneys that rise at the center of the end walls.

The original front entrance consisted of a 6-paneled door surmounted by a four-lite transom. The opening was spanned by a flat brick arch one and one-half bricks deep that flared at the top and was stuccoed to simulate stone. Lower floor window openings were probably spanned with one and one-half brick flat arches that flared outward at the top, and the second floor windows spanned by a single rolock course.

The cornice consisted of a bed mould, an unadorned box eave extending out about a foot from the surface of the wall, and finally a fascia mould carrying the roof deck and shingles. The bed mould and eave return to the wall at both ends of front and rear elevations, and only the fascia mould extended up the rake. Possibly, some of this millwork still exists on the rear of the building, though the original treatment on the rakes has been replaced.

The stylistic continuity extends to the interior. The mantels consist **5**of 6 single paneled pilaster on each side of the fireplace surmounted by architrave frieze and cornice. The top member of the cornice is of **1**(fifteenet and proportions and serves as the shelf. All four mantels are DEC 7 197

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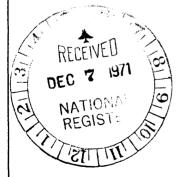
Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE ALABAMA county SHELBY FOR NPS USE ONLY				
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES					
	INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM					
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7. Description--Mansion House

The ground floor is framed with puncheons, hewn from 8 to 10 inch diameter logs on roughly 24 inch centers. They span from end walls to interior dividing walls. The second floor is framed with sawn 8 x 8's on 28 inch centers, spanning from front to rear walls. In both cases a single layer of flooring spans between joists. The flooring is tongue and grooved, and adazed on the underside of each support.

The roof is framed with hewn 3 x 6 ceiling joist and sawn 3 x 4 rafters. These rafters were originally stripped to receive wood shingles. At present the stripping has been filled, creating a solid deck for composition shingles.

Plaster is applied directly to the masonry walls and against split wood lath on the ceilings of both floors.



PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	 16th Century 17th Century 	18th Century 19th Century	20th Century
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applical	ole and Known) 1/13		······································
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Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
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Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mansion House is one of the earliest masonry structures still standing in the state. The crispness of the design and the refinement of detail are not at all common for middle Alabama in the 1820's.

The house was built in 1823 by Edmund King. A native of Virginia, he had first moved to Griffin County, Georgia, where he married and began life as a planter. King moved his family to Alabama in 1817, after first building a small cabin on land purchased from Indians and the U. S. Government. Prosperity in his business as a merchant and planter led to the construction of Mansion House in 1823.

Both a religious and progressive man, he donated considerable land for churches, public roads and schools. Chief among his projects was the Industrial School. His own home became a refuge for orphaned boys and young men whose home ties were broken. Later during the Civil War the house served as a refuge for the sick and wounded of both sides.

Upon his death in 1863, the house passed to a son-in-law, Judge George B. Shortridge, a distinguished lawyer and author. It was during his ownership that the house was used briefly as the headquarters of General Wilson during his raid through Alabama in 1865.

The house remained in the family until purchased by French Nabors, one of the young boys taken in by the King family. In 1908 the house was deeded to the Alabama Girls Industrial School which eventually became the University of Montevallo. The building has been used by the school for a variety of purposes and recently the board of trustees has approved the restoration of the house as a visitor's center.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES												
Alabama Members of the National League of American Pen Women, <u>Historic Homes</u> of <u>Alabama</u> and <u>Their Traditions</u> , Birmingham Publishing Co. : Birming- ham, Ala., 1969.												
Alabama Sunday Magazine, February 8, 1970. Holmes, Nicholas H., Jr., "Preliminary Report on the King House," unpublish- ed architect's report, 1971.												
Owen, Thomas M., <u>History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama</u> Biography, Chicago: The S. J. Clark Publishing Co., 1921, Vol. IV.												
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA			1	ATITUDE				ES .				
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