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Form 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTE						1	TATE:			\neg		
(30.7 . 707)	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES					ALABAMA COUNTY:						
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	INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM						FOR NPS USE ONLY					
							ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	一		
	(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)								APR 11	197	3	
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	Object	☐ Both		Being	Considered		Preservation work		Unrestricted			
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PRESENT	USE (Check One or N	fore as Appropriate)	*									
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7.	DESCRIPTION							,		
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ESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Domestic Science Building is located on a rocky mountainside site. The building faces in a southwest direction overlooking historically famous Green Springs Valley.

The central portion of the structure, 30 feet wide by 50 feet long, is a three-story section with solid masonry walls, and a ridged roof running completely from front to rear forming a gable and pediment at the front and rear The front or southwest facade has approximately 11 feet at the front, forming an arcade with brick enclosing walls on the first floor which forms the base for a colonnade on the second floor porch level. Four Classical Ionic columns extend two stories. The second floor porch is accessible through double doors from the front foyer-type room, and a balcony from the third floor level has a wooden porch floor partially let-in the back side of the columns with a cast iron railing between the columns but which does not anchor into the sides of the columns. The architrave and cornice of the center of this section are heavily molded and both dentils and mutules are used for the cornice treatments of the pediment gable end as well as the cornice around the perimeter of this entire section. This portion of the building has a standing seam metal roof which appears to be in good condition and is, perhaps, an original installation. There are symmetrical wings on either side of the main body of the building, these being approximately 26 feet in width and extending 35 feet from the main body in each direction. These two wings are two stories in height, and the ridge line of these roofs is perpendicular to the main body with a heavy red tile roof. The ribbed tile of these wings is of special shape and terminates at the gable end with an ornamental finial. The cornice and gable ends of these two wings is in a modified, less pretentious scale, the same as for the main body with the principal difference being the omission of mutules. The exterior walls appear to be solid brick masonry 16 to 20 inches in thickness on the ground floor at the central portion, and these appear to become one brick less thick on the second floor and an additional brick less in thickness for the third floor walls. windows have limestone treatment for lintels and sills. The columns at the front are wooden. All windows are double hung wooden sash in the usual four 11te, wide pattern, while some of the windows in the central portion are three lites wide. The central portion consists of two rooms 27 by 18 feet on the first and second floors with the divided partition omitted on the third floor, forming one room 28 feet by 38 feet. Immediately on either side of the central portion are two stairways leading to the second and third floors symmetrically. Between the stair landings on the second floor and the southwest or front wall are portions of the stair hall area which form small toilet areas. The remainder of the wings are made up of single rooms approximately 24 feet by 22 feet 8 inches. The stair framing, the floor framing, and apparently the roof framing are wood timbers. The ceilings are plaster on lath, and the walls are plaster on brick.

The building is a typical example of the academic concept of Classical Architecture prevalent at the beginning of the twentieth century. The architect for the structure has not been determined to date, however, there is a drawing of the building which was published prior to its construction, approximately 1911, and efforts are being made to determine the original designer through the donor of this building which was the McCormick family.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	🔀 20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	iate)	
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Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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Agriculture	Invention	Science	
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☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Humans D	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	12 142
Communications	Military	☐ Theater 6	
Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	

The Domestic Science Building is one of the oldest buildings located on the campus of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, a relatively early institute for the training of Negro teachers. The building, which was donated out of the personal wealth of the Robert R. McCormick family, served as the Domestic Science Building. Additionally, the University encouraged families in North Alabama to bring their fruits and vegetables and meats to the building for canning under the supervision of teachers and students, thus rendering service to a substantial area of

North Alabama.

The charter for Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University was approved in 1873, but the school did not open until 1875. Through the initiative of William Hooper Councill, an ex-slave, the Huntsville Normal School became a reality with the specific purpose of training Negro teachers. The school remained on its original site within the corporate limits of the city of Huntsville, until February, 1891, when the campus was relocated on its present site. That same year the name was changed to Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes and the institution became a land-grant college.

In 1909 Walter S. Buchanan became the second president of the University. The school continued to grow under his administration. Through his initiative, the Robert R. McCormick family of Chicago donated funds for the construction of a home economics building which was erected in 1911. It is significant to note that this building was given by the McCormick family prior to the founding of the McCormick Foundation and is the only building on a predominately black college campus given directly out of the family's wealth.

From 1911 until 1968, the Domestic Science Building was the only facility on the campus for home economics. In the spring of 1968, the department was moved into new quarters and the building was used in part by the Art Department until 1970. Since that date the building has been vacant.

The University plans to restore the building and use it for archives, museum, and exhibit purposes. Presently, artifacts from the early days of the school are being restored and will be placed in the museum along with objects from North Alabama which represent the culture of the area.

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