

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| STATE:<br><b>Alabama</b>    |
| COUNTY:<br><b>Talladega</b> |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY            |
| ENTRY DATE:                 |

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Talladega College - Swayne Hall**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Same**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Talladega College**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Talladega**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE:  
**Alabama**

CODE:  
**01**

COUNTY:  
**Talladega**

CODE:  
**121**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br> | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|   |                                     |  |  |                                   |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural           | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial             | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | _____                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         | _____                                    | _____                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment          | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        | _____                                    | _____                             |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Talladega College**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**same**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Talladega**

STATE:  
**Alabama**

CODE:  
**01**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Talladega County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Talladega**

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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STATE  
COUNTY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |   |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                   |   |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input 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

Talladega is a small liberal arts college located in Talladega, Alabama. The college's well landscaped 50 acre campus contains approximately 26 buildings. As is the case at most older schools, the structures span the school's history presenting a variety of architectural styles.

At Talladega the oldest and most venerable building is Swayne Hall. This three story structure with its full height, pedimented portico is intimately associated with Talladega's founding. Swayne Hall was completed in 1857 as a Baptist men's college. Funds to construct the building were secured by subscriptions among the Baptist community. Some slave owners consigned slaves to labor on the building in order to work out their subscriptions. One Abrose Headen was a slave so consigned. Remembering the time spent working on the future Swayne Hall, Headen later reminisced,

I had four children of my own, and I thought that it was hard for me to work out this \$900 when I could have no privilege of educating my own children...but God has turned things about so... when I worked out this subscription I was building a college for myself and my family. Oftenwhile hard at work, I prayed, yet hardly dared hope, that the Lord would bring the day when my boys and girls should serve no master but God.

When the American Missionary Association selected Talladega as the location of one of its schools, the association purchased the Baptist men's college building. It was named Swayne Hall after General Wagner B. Swayne of the Freedmen's Bureau. General Swayne had helped negotiate the purchase. The children of the slaves that built Swayne Hall became Talladega's first pupils.

Swayne Hall has undergone no substantive alteration since its construction. The exterior remains the same. With the exception of the installation of modern heating and lighting systems, the original interior including floor plan has been retained. The struture is excellently maintained.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" 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"/> Abariginal     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Palitical      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religian/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | <input type="checkbox"/> lasophy        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cammerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Talladega College in the history of black education is that it is one of the few black colleges that pursued a strong liberal arts program during a period when vocationalism dominated Negro education.

Talladega was founded in 1867 by the American Missionary Association with the assistance of the Freedmen's Bureau. Like the other black colleges established immediately after the Civil War, Talladega was a school of higher learning in name only. Before entering on higher education the black children of the South had first to pass through the elementary and secondary grades. Starting with four teachers and 140 pupils in the elementary grades, Talladega slowly evolved into a full fledged institute of higher learning. An outline of a course of collegiate grade first appeared in the catalog in 1890 and in 1895 the first class was graduated with the bachelor's degree. At the time, and until well into the 20th century, Talladega was the only institution in Alabama equipped to offer Negroes a true undergraduate education.

In 1917, when the Department of Education published Thomas Jesse Jones' landmark study entitled Negro Education, Talladega was described as still containing elementary, secondary, and collegiate sections. Elementary and secondary education remained a part Talladega's program until the State of Alabama offered effective public education to its black citizens. The courses taught at the college level in 1915-16 illustrated Talladega's commitment to a liberal arts curriculum. They included biology, history, German, Latin, Greek, mathematics, economics, and sociology. "The course," the Jones study stated, "is intended to prepare pupils for active service in teaching or for further study in progressive professional schools."

From 1890 to the middle of this century Talladega placed itself in the main stream of American education. Together with Atlanta University, Fisk, and until 1904, Berea, Talladega resisted the trend to vocationalism. In so doing the school helped give reality to W. E. B. DuBois' "talented tenth." It was this "tenth" that formed the core of the small black middle class in the South that provided the black community with social, economic, and cultural leadership. This "tenth" provided the nation with outstanding black scholars, scientists, doctors, and lawyers. And it was out of this "tenth" that the leadership came that would later become a civil rights movement. Talladega sent a greater percentage of its undergraduates on to graduate schools and professional study than any other Negro college. Talladega sustained quality liberal arts education in a sea of vocationalism.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ballard, Allen B., The Education of Black Folk (New York, 1973).  
 Bullock, Henry A., A History of Negro Education in the South (New York, 1967).  
 Dabney, Charles, Universal Education in the South (Chapel Hill, 1936).  
 Holmes, Dwight, The Evolution of the Negro College (New York, 1934).  
 Jones, Thomas J., Negro Education (Washington, 1917).

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R                   | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |                          | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |                          | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |
| NW   | 0 ' "                   | 0 ' "                   | UTM<br>16.582035.3699050 | 0 ' "   | 0 ' "                   |
| NE   | 0 ' "                   | 0 ' "                   |                          | 0 ' "   | 0 ' "                   |
| SE   | 0 ' "                   | 0 ' "                   |                          | 0 ' "   | 0 ' "                   |
| SW   | 0 ' "                   | 0 ' "                   |                          | 0 ' "   | 0 ' "                   |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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:  
**James Sheire**

ORGANIZATION **Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation,**  
**National Park Service**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1100 L Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington, D.C.**

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: **11**

DATE: **August 1974**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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