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| DESCRIPTION | Τ | | | (Check One) | | |
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| CONDITION | Excellent | 🕱 Good | 🔲 Fair | Deteriorated | 🔲 Ruins | Unexposed |
| | | (Check Or | ne) | | (Che | eck One) |
| | Alter | red | 🔀 Unaltered | 4 1 | 🔲 Moved | X Original Site |

The Collier-Overby home is a two-story wooden building with a brick foundation. The house is basically Federal with some early Greek $\rm R_evival$ influences.

The front portico has a wide planked floor and a stuccoed facade. Six square paneled columns support the projecting cornice. Two matching pilasters are set at either end of the portico.

The front door has a square transom and side lights. On either side of the door are two applied colonnettes. A balcony directly above the door links the two center columns and is rimmed by an intricate wooden railing. A door similar to the ground floor gives access to this balcony. Four evenly spaced windows between the columns cross the front on both floors. These windows have shutters and Federal lintels.

The roof is hipped and there are end-interior chimneys on each side.

Originally the house was one room deep, a feature which was common on the eastern seaboard but very rare in the deep south. The entrance halls and the two parlors have marble fireplaces and wide planked floors.

The ell on the north side is a later addition and has a screened-in porch and smaller windows than the original part of the house. One story columns matching the front ones run the length of this porch.

The house is in good structural condition.



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| | SIGNIFICANCE | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------|----------------|------------------|
| | PERIOD (Check One or More as A | ppropriate) | | | |
| | Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | | 🔲 18th Century | 20th Century |
| | 15th Century | 17th Century | | X 19th Century | |
| | SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable | and Known) 1820's | | | |
| | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec | k One or More as Appropri | ate) | | |
| | Abor iginal | Education | x | Political | 🔲 Urban Planning |
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Collier-Overby Home is one of the older homes in Tuscaloosa. It was the longtime residence of Henry Watkins Collier, governor 1849-53 and chief justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama. He was also the first president of the Alabama Historical Society.

The house was built in the 1820's by James Walker. In 1826 Henry W. Collier purchased the house. Collier was born in Virginia in 1801, and came to Tuscaloosa from South Carolina in 1823. He served 18 years on the Supreme Court of Alabama and 12 of those years as chief justice. In 1849 he was elected governor. In 1851 he was re-elected, defeating B. G. Shields, William L. Yancey and Nathanial Terry.

During his second term as governor, Miss Dorothea Dix, who had first met Collier at his home several years before, addressed the legislature. The result was new legislation for the care of the mentally ill. A mental hospital was established in Tuscaloosa of which Dr. Peter Bryce was the first superintendent. His use of non-restraint treatment for the mentally ill made the hospital a model institution known throughout the United States.

After his last term Collier was offered a U. S. Senate seat, but declined and retired to private life. He died shortly afterwards in 1855.

Brigadier General Phillip Dale Roddey lived in this landmark after the Civil War. He was a Confederate hero and was called "the Defender of the North (Alabama)" for his opposition to the Federal forces in the Tennessee Valley.

In 1871 Mrs. Sally C. Fort purchased the mansion. In 1901 it was sold to the Clairborne P. Whitt family. Mrs. Whitt and a group of Tuscaloosa women organized a community charity, called the Associated Charities. The Collier-Overby home became the headquarters for this first organized charity group in Tuscaloosa.

In recent years the house has been owned by Virginius Overby and his wife. At her death in 1965 the house passed to Mr. Billie Palmer, the present owner.

| MAJOR | BIBLIOGR | RAPHICA | AL RE | FERENCI | ES | | | | | | | | | |
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