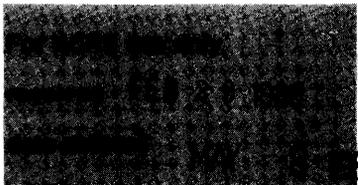


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Burton, Robert Wilton, House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 315 East Magnolia Street not for publication

city, town Auburn vicinity of congressional district 3

state Alabama code 01 county Lee code 081

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>X</u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
		<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u>X</u> other: none

4. Owner of Property

name The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (The Real Estate Department)

street & number 510 East North Temple

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of state Utah 84150

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lee County Courthouse

street & number South 9th Street

city, town Opelika state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1970-present federal X state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Burton House is a severely plain Queen Anne cottage located in a mixed neighborhood of churches, apartment complexes and a few remaining residences. It is one-and-one half blocks from Auburn's downtown commercial district.

It is a one-story, wood frame building with a steeply-pitched hip roof over the main structure and multi-gabled projecting bays. Most prominent are the gabled right front bay, with nicely detailed bay window, and the west gabled bay, which was added after 1916. Walls are clapboard and rest on a brick foundation. Four chimneys pierce the asbestos-shingled roof, which replaced the original one of wood shingles. The original front porch with simple bracketed cornice and supported by Tuscan columns was extended to wrap around the south side, when the west gabled bay was added. Entrances to the building include the main front single doorway with sidelights and fixed transom, the south and north entrances to the west wing, the east entrance to the hall, and two rear entrances to the main structure. The original front door no longer exists and most windows are 3' x 6', double hung and have louvered shutters.

The interior has an "L" shaped central hall that runs north and east from the front entrance. Windows and doors have molded architrave trim and like the baseboards and picture moldings are painted, while five mantels of simple design (see photograph) are darkly stained. The walls and ceilings are plastered and the latter are approximately 12' in height.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1885 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Burton House is significant for its associations with Robert Wilton Burton (1848-1917), a locally noted poet. Additionally, it is a good example of late 19th century vernacular cottages.

Burton, a native of Camden County, Georgia, was one of Auburn's most prominent and beloved citizens. From 1880 to 1885, he published four poems - "Fleetwood", "The Bell Ringer of Brinsely", "Q.K." and "The Master of Parton Place". With the money gained from these poems, Burton built this house which he affectionately called "The Four Story Cottage". It remained his home until his death in 1917. In addition to his literary efforts, Burton served the city of Auburn in a variety of positions. At the request of the Board of Trustees of Alabama Polytechnic Insititute (now Auburn University), he opened a bookstore to serve the students of the city. In addition to operating the bookstore, he served as clerk of the Town Council (1892-1917) and as secretary for the API Board of Trustees (1899-1917), twice refusing appointment to the board.

On his death, the property passed to his daughter Miriam Burton Langston, who retained it until 1977, at which time she sold it to the Church of Latter Day Saints. The property is currently for sale.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Miller, Laurie. Visual inspection. May, 1979.
 Stewart, Gladys Steadham. Robert Wilton Burton: a Biographical Sketch including a Selection of His Writings. Unpublished Master's thesis. Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn. 1932.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
 ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property .9 acres
 Quadrangle name Auburn Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>624880</u>	<u>3608500</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning 71.7 feet from the intersection of Burton Street and East Magnolia Avenue, proceed easterly 178 feet; thence northerly 230 feet; thence westerly 178 feet, thence southerly 230 feet to point of beginning. (This includes house and lot.)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laurie Kathleen Miller (Auburn University) Ellen Mertins/ Jack Stell
 organization Alabama Historical Commission date February 28, 1980
 street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6621
 city or town Montgomery state Alabama

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

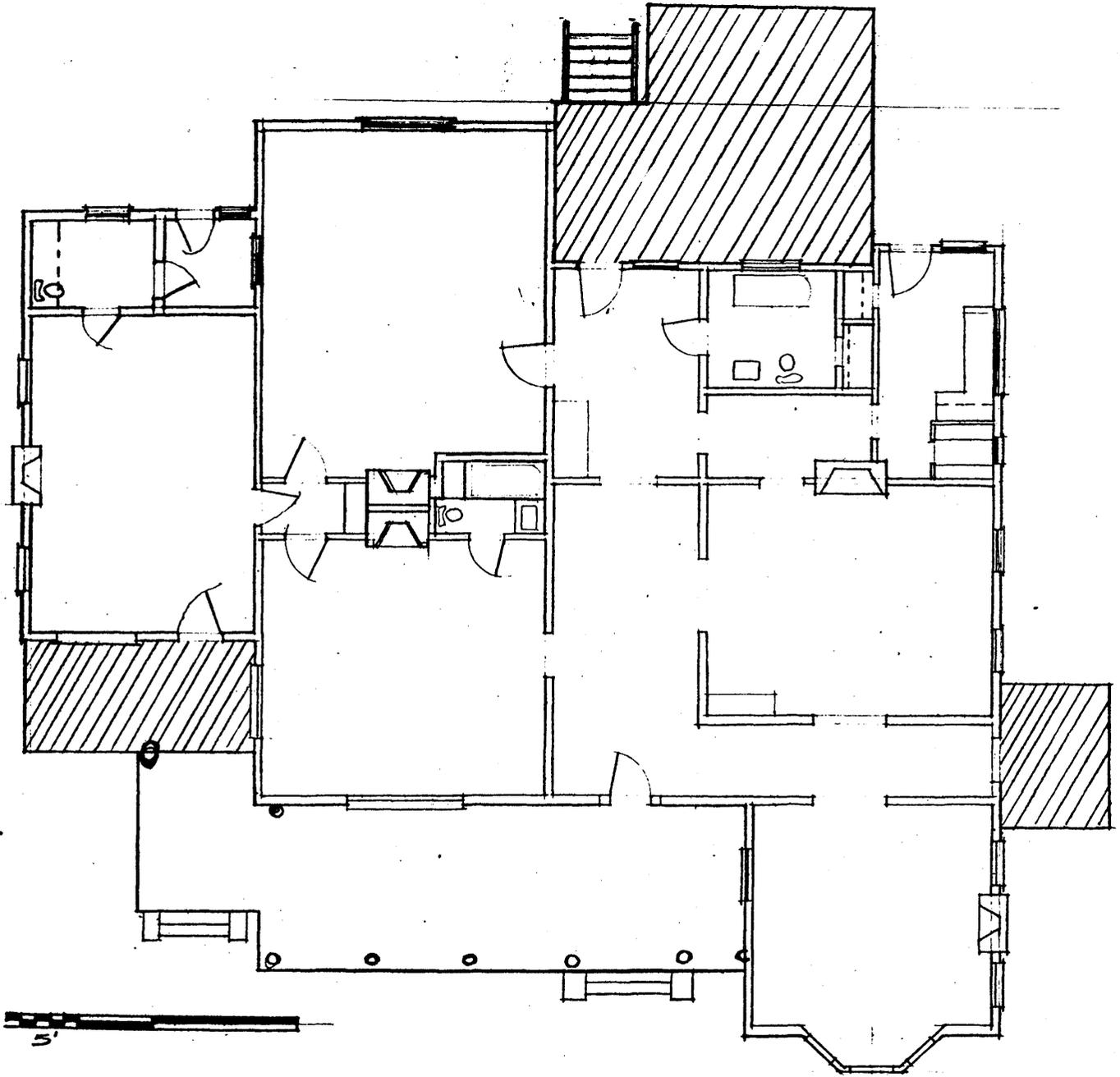
national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Miss B. Seward, Jr.
 title SHPO Alabama date Feb. 28, 1980

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>W. Ray Luce</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>5/8/80</u>
Attest: <u>Carol A. Dubois</u> Chief of Registration	date <u>4/25/80</u>

FEB 29 1980



R. W. BURTON HOUSE
315 EAST MAGNOLIA STREET
AUBURN, LEE COUNTY
1885