

PH000078

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Alabama
COUNTY:	Coffee
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 26 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: **Boll Weevil Monument**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Center of Intersection of Main and College Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Enterprise** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **District II**

STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01** COUNTY: **Coffee** CODE: **031**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Monument</u>
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **City of Enterprise**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Enterprise** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Enterprise** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

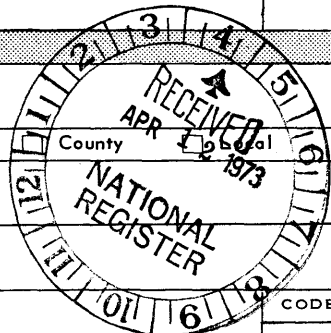
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

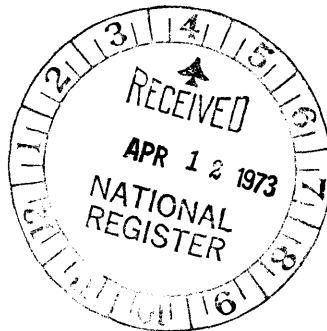
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Boll Weevil Monument is located on the main street of Enterprise and stands approximately 13 feet high.

The main portion of the statue consists of a 3-foot female figure of cast lead holding up an aluminum boll weevil. The original monument did not include a weevil and the present weevil figure was added in 1949. The female figure and weevil rest on a graduated base of cast iron which is situated in the center of a concrete pool approximately 15 feet in diameter.

The base of the monument is inscribed:

IN PROFOUND APPRECIATION
 OF THE BOLL WEEVIL
 AND WHAT IT HAS DONE
 AS THE HERALD OF PROSPERITY
 THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED
 BY THE CITIZENS OF
 ENTERPRISE, COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

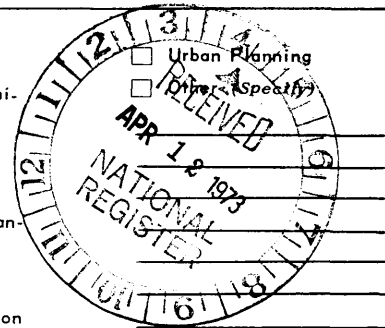
- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1919

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boll Weevil Monument, the only known statue created to commemorate a detrimental insect, was erected by the citizens of Enterprise in appreciation of the role this destructive insect played in diversifying the local economy by abolishing one-crop agriculture.

The boll weevil, which is thought to have originated as a species in Central America or Mexico, entered Texas between 1890 and 1892. By 1922 it had spread to most of the cotton-growing area of the United States.

Like many other cotton producing areas in the South, Coffee County had based its economy almost solely on the production of cotton. Before the coming of the boll weevil, the yield of cotton in the county averaged around 35,000 bales each year. In the late summer of 1915, the boll weevil made its appearance in the area and in that year the cotton yield was cut to about 60% of the normal amount. But in spite of the ravages wrought in 1915, the farmers planted for a bumper cotton crop in 1916 and every conceivable method was employed in combating the weevil. These efforts proved futile as less than one-third of the crop was harvested.

The decline of cotton production signaled the beginning of a new era and a new economy for the county. For the first time an attempt was made to grow other farm crops in sufficient amounts to market as cash crops. Ironically, the soil of the county, never a rival of river deltas or red prairies for cotton production, was to be well suited for peanut and soybean production. In just a few years, Wiregrass America (Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia and Panhandle Florida) became the world's leading producer of peanuts. Today the economy of the county is diversified and includes both industry and agriculture. Peanuts and peanut products are the main produce but the area also produces poultry, livestock, and timber as well as cotton. Industrial centers manufacture textiles, steel, aluminum and electronic equipment.

The idea of the monument was conceived by R. O. Fleming, then a merchant and a member of the City Council of Enterprise. Without solicitation, the citizens contributed half the amount needed to erect the monument, which cost \$1795. Fleming paid the rest of the amount. The monument, which had been cast by the Bama Foundry Co., was unveiled on December 11, 1919.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, "Boll Weevil Monumnet", Ledger Printing, Inc: Enterprise, 1970.
 Information supplied by Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, February, 1973.
 Watson, Fred S., Coffee Grounds: A History of Coffee County, Alabama, 1841-1970, Higginbotham, Inc: Anniston, Alabama, 1970.

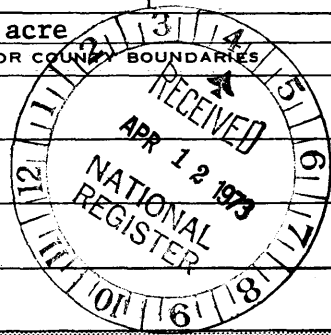
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		31 18 51	82 51 45	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **3-30-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery, Alabama** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>W. B. Howard Jr.</u></p> <p>Title <u>SLO for Historic Preservation</u></p> <p>Date <u>April 5, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>4/26/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>2 24 73</u></p>
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