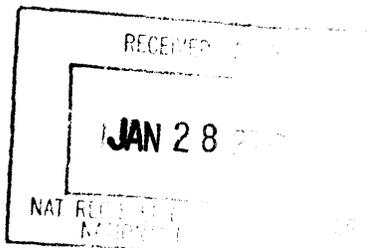


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



RECEIVED

130 AUG 14 1998

1. Name of Property

Ala. Historical Commission, Inc.

Historic Name: Wright, Bernice L., Lustron House

Other Names/Site Number: Moore, Harvey, House

2. Location

Street & Number: 2424 Cahaba Road Not for Publication: N/A

City or Town: Birmingham Vicinity: N/A

State: Alabama Code: AL County: Jefferson Code: 073

Zip Code: 35223

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Alabama Historical Commission  
Signature of certifying official (State Historic Preservation Office) Date 1/20/00

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official State or Federal agency and bureau Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 2/24/00  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Bernice L. Wright Lustron House  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama  
County and State

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.):

Lustron Houses In Alabama

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category:  
DOMESTIC

Subcategory:  
Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category:  
DOMESTIC

Subcategory:  
Single Dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Lustron House

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Concrete</u>
roof	<u>Metal: Steel</u>
walls	<u>Metal: Steel</u>
other	<u>Metal: Steel, Glass</u>

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

(See Continuation Sheet Section 7 Page 1)

Bernice L. Wright Lustron House  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama  
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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Engineering

Period of Significance

1949

Significant Dates

1949

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder:

Koch, Carl and Associates (Architect)

Lustron Corporation (Builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

(See Continuation Sheet Section 8 Page 3)

Bernice L. Wright Lustron House  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama  
County and State

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>165205703705510</u>	<u>3</u>	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Gene A. Ford, Architectural Historian; Susan Enzweiler, AHC Historian; Trina Binkley, AHC Reviewer

Organization: The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Services Date: September 9, 1997

Street & Number: 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park Telephone: (205) 348-7774

City or Town: Moundville State: Alabama Zip Code: 35474

Bernice L. Wright Lustron House  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama  
County and State

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Mr. Harvey E. Moore

Street & Number: 2424 Cahaba Road Telephone:

City or Town: Birmingham State: Alabama Zip Code: 35223

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United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Bernice L. Wright Lustron House  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama  
County and State

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The Bernice L. Wright Lustron House, located in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama, is a one story, metal, prefabricated house. Built in 1949, the Bernice L. Wright Lustron House features a metal side gable roof. Exterior siding consists of 2 ft. square porcelain enamelled metal panels. Two aluminum frame windows, which coincide with a bedroom and the living room, respectively, punctuate the front facade of the house. A portion of the front facade and adjoining side wall are inset forming a porch with an engaged roof. A single metal post supports the roof on the porch. There is a downspout attached to the porch support. A metal and glass panel door and an aluminum frame window pierce the east side of the all metal house. The porch has been enclosed with screens. Fenestration on the rear facade includes three aluminum frame windows and a metal and glass panel door. Two small aluminum frame windows punctuate the west side of the prefabricated home. The home rests on a concrete block foundation. Inside, the Lustron features metal wall and ceiling panels and built in cabinets, shelves, and a vanity. The Bernice L. Wright Lustron House, a fine example of the two bedroom Westchester model (one of nine in Alabama), retains a high degree of integrity and is in excellent condition.

The Bernice L. Wright Lustron House is situated on a 66 ft x 196 ft lot in a post World War II subdivision of Birmingham, Alabama. The all metal prefab is surrounded by numerous wood frame minimal traditional cottages. The Westchester model measures 31 ft x 35 ft and resembles the quintessential ranch house with its low profile, side gable roof, and sleek rectangular configuration. One must make a double take to realize that this prefabricated house is slightly different than its neighbors. A scattering of foliage embellishes the associated yard.

A side gable roof of metal panels crowns the Lustron House. The panels are fashioned to imitate the look of ceramic tiles. Painted brown, the porcelain enamelled metal panels are bolted to metal roof trusses. Vertical metal panels cover the gable ends. Attached to the roof and extending along the entire front facade is a metal gutter. A downspout conducts rain water from the gutter to the ground below.

The exterior skin of the Bernice L. Wright Lustron House consists of porcelain enamelled panels. Painted a permanent tan, the panels measure 2 ft. square. The tan finish of the exterior is factory produced and represents one of the seven basic stock colors of the Lustron palette. There are no signs of rust, fading, or other deleterious effects from the elements.

Two windows constitute the fenestration of the front facade. Measuring 6 ft x 8 ft, these windows feature a large, fixed, central, plate glass window flanked on either side by a four-light casement window. The frames are constructed of aluminum. The east most of the two slightly projects beyond the wall much like a bay window.

The northeast corner of the Lustron House is recessed, creating a 12 ft x 5 ft inset porch. Supporting the end of the engaged roof over the porch is a metal post to which the factory issue downspout is attached. A metal and glass panel door is located at the southeast corner of the porch; the door leads to the living room. The porch has been enclosed with screens, part of which project beyond the end of the house. Covering this section of the screens is a metal shed roof. Clearly, the screened porch is not a Lustron stock item; the porch represents a minor concession with respects to the original look of the all metal house.

United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Bernice L. Wright Lustron House  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama  
County and State

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A window opening is cut into the east wall of the prefabricated house. It is fitted with a window similar in design to those of the front facade. The window coincides with the dining room.

Fenestration on the rear facade of the Lustron House consists of four openings. The kitchen window opening measures 4 ft square and is fitted with a six light casement window. A doorway is fitted with a metal and glass panel door similar in design to that of the front door. The door leads to the utility room and kitchen. A 4 ft x 2 ft, three light casement serves as the bathroom window. The bedroom window is like those of the front facade.

Two rectangular openings pierce the west wall of the Lustron House. They each feature six light casement windows; the windows measure 4 ft square.

The interior of the Bernice L. Wright Lustron House appears much as it did when it was erected in 1949. The ceiling and wall panels have not been covered or replaced with sheetrock, wood paneling, or other nonoriginal material. Emitting from the porcelain enamelized panels is a lustrous sheen that glows as much as the day the panels were removed from the Lustron Corporation plant ovens in Columbus, Ohio. Throughout the interior, there is indoor/outdoor, mohair, or tight and short napped carpet. While the carpet is not a Lustron stock material, it is a minor concession with respects to the original look of the all metal house.

Intact in the interior of the house is an array of built in creature comforts. The living room features a built in book shelf and a complimentary cabinet. The wall divider between the dining room and kitchen has space saving metal cabinets, drawers, and shelves. Metal cabinets line the walls of the kitchen. The original furnace located in the utility room gave out a number of years ago; it has been replaced with a contemporary heating unit. The master bedroom retains its built in vanity and closets. Metal closets are also featured in the second bedroom. The oval, metal, Lustron identification placard bearing the serial number of the house, #1969, is present on one of the utility room walls.

A detached garage stands on the lot as well. Built circa 1955, the garage features concrete block construction. A metal gable roof crowns the outbuilding. A garage door fills the greater part of the east wall.

#### Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been conducted, there is the potential for subsurface remains.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Bernice L. Wright Lustron House  
Name of Property

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Significance

The Bernice L. Wright Lustron House meets the standards established by Criterion C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and falls under the "Lustron Houses in Alabama" MPS. The Lustron House is significant in the areas of architecture and engineering for its associations with the prefabricated housing industry and nation wide housing shortage immediately following World War II. The Bernice L. Wright Lustron House rates as an outstanding example of the component part technology and all steel construction that the Lustron Corporation utilized in the manufacture of its prefabricated houses from 1946 to 1950. The prefabricated house is the sum total of a critically acclaimed engineering process that included a state of the art factory, production line, storage and distribution system, and marketing strategy. Additionally, the Lustron House embodies the distinct characteristics of post World War II architecture, such as an overall design that was at once contemporary and historic, durability, easy maintenance, and built in creature comforts. It is historically linked with Realty Investment, the dealer of Lustron Houses in Birmingham, which played a critical role in sales and dissemination of information. As one of only eleven extant Lustrons in the state of Alabama, the Bernice L. Wright Lustron House is part of a small yet significant group of houses that represent the development of prefabricated housing in the state. As Lustron promotional information boasted, the Bernice L. Wright Lustron House has retained a high degree of its original appearance through its history and is likely to do so for the next half century as well.

Historical Summary

In terms of its individual history, the Bernice L. Wright Lustron House is one of three extant Lustron Houses in Birmingham, Alabama. The house was one of three Lustrons marketed by Realty Investment. Realty Investment owned the Lustron distribution rights for Birmingham (Lustron Corporation 1950). The Bernice L. Wright Lustron House was erected on the same street as the John D. and Katherine Gleissner Lustron House. A wood frame ranch house stands between the two Lustrons.

According to Harvey Moore (1996), he is a second owner; his wife (deceased), the former Mrs. Wright, was the original owner. Bernice L. Moore sold the home to her husband Harvey on April 28, 1970 as recorded by Deed Book 609, Page 332.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Sections 9.10 Page 4

Bernice L. Wright Lustron House  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama  
County and State

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Bibliography

Alabama Property Record Card. Tax document maintained on file at the Jefferson County Courthouse,  
Birmingham, Alabama. 1997.

Deed Book 609, Page 332. Document maintained on file at the Jefferson County Courthouse,  
Birmingham, Alabama. 1997.

Lustron Corporation. Dealer Performance Report. Columbus. 1950.

Moore, Harvey E. Phone Interview. 1996.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Bernice L. Wright Lustron House is demarcated in Figure 2, which is derived from  
Jefferson County Tax Map #28-00-06-04-022.

Boundary Justification

The delineated boundaries include the house and lot historically associated with the Lustron House located  
at 2424 Cahaba Road, Birmingham, Alabama.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photographs Page 5

Bernice L. Wright Lustron House  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama  
County and State

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Photographs

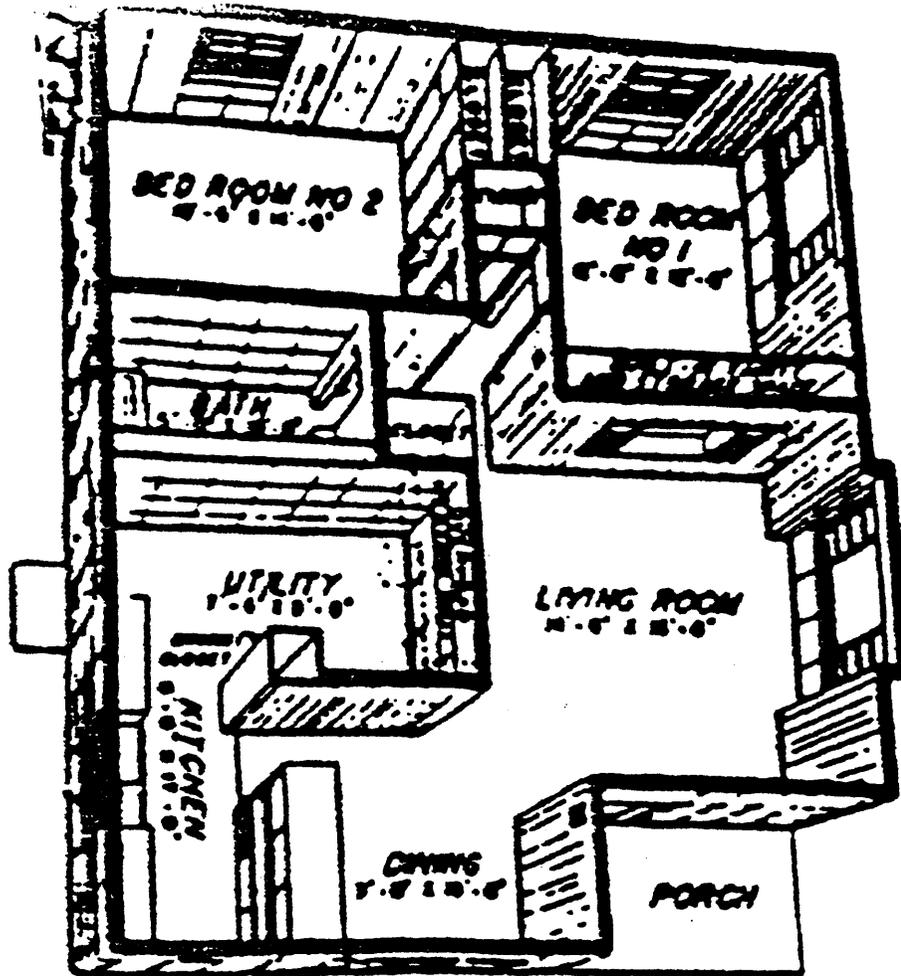
Bernice L. Wright Lustron House  
Jefferson  
Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama

Photos By: Gene A. Ford  
Office of Archaeological Services  
Moundville, Alabama 35474

Negatives: Alabama Historical Commission  
468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Date: December 26, 1996

1. Front and East Elevations.
2. Rear and East Elevations.
3. Rear and West Elevations.



Floor plan,  
Westchester two-bedroom  
model.

Figure 1.  
BERNICE L. WRIGHT LUSTRON HOUSE, JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA