

PH0351300

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | APR 2 1976 |
| DATE ENTERED | AUG 13 1976 |

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 *me*

****** Cassimus House
AND/OR COMMON

Cassimus House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

110 North Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Montgomery

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

2

STATE

Alabama

CODE

01

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

101

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Alabama State Employees Association

STREET & NUMBER

836 Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama 36104

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

142 Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 Cassimus House is a two-story frame structure with a hipped roof with several gables extending from it. Stylistically it is highly eccentric late Victorian combining an asymmetrical, domed front porch with articulated Greek Revival detailing on cornices and bay windows. There has been some alteration to the exterior of the house, but the interior is in excellent and original condition. All moldings, hardware, doors, mantels and floor are either intact or in storage.

The exterior alterations were done when the house was converted to two apartments in 1935. A kitchen and bath were added onto the rear of the second floor, a porch was added onto the front of the second floor, and a new entry was cut into the side of the house where no opening previously existed. None of these alterations obscure the original appearance of the house, which can easily be restored.

Though the house is now painted white, the initial color scheme was a cream with white trim, green shutters and green latticework. The turned metal roof has been replaced with composition shingles.

The building site is one of the most prominent in Montgomery, being on the crest of a hill which rises two blocks above and behind the State Capitol. Much of the original landscaping remains along with many of the plants brought by Cassimus from Greece. An iron fence surrounds the front yard which is divided by a front walk. Two brick octagons flank the walk and are surrounded by a border of grass and flowers. The back yard was terraced, featuring an upper terrace devoted to grass and flowers, and a lower terrace separated by a brick wall which still remains, given to the growing of vegetables.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cassimus House is one of the few remaining examples of eccentric late Victorian architecture in Montgomery. Constructed in what was one of the finer residential areas in late 19th century Montgomery, the house not only reflects the newly-acquired prosperity of its Greek immigrant builder, but is one of the earliest landmarks associated with the Greek community in Alabama. When Speridon Cassimus built his home at 110 Jackson Street in 1893, he was a newly successful businessman and he wanted his neighbors to know it. Yet there is a curious reticence about the overall design of his house since, except for the front porch he rejected ornate, Gothic-inspired detailing for the dentil molding and egg-and-dart associated with the more classical styles of architecture.

Speridon Cassimus came to the United States on December 28, 1888. Funds for his trip were provided by money saved by his father and brother, both named Alexander M. Cassimus. Alexander and his oldest son had arrived in Mobile, Alabama on October 23, 1873, where they had opened a fruit store. After about a year, for unknown reasons, they moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where they lived until 1878 when they moved to Montgomery.

Speridon Cassimus, a married man with two children, left his native home of Othonior, Corfu, and his family, with the promise that once enough money was earned, he would return to bring them to America. From the profits of the successful wholesale fruit business which he operated on Bibb Street he accomplished this goal in 1892 and was successful enough to have purchased the lot and begun construction of the home. When he returned from Greece with his family, he brought with him fig trees, flowering Sparta bushes and many other garden variety plumb to use around his home.

The older Cassimus, who resided with his son, Speridon, after the completion of the house in 1893, was the first Greek immigrant to settle in Montgomery where he was known as the "father of the Greek community" and was one of the first Greek immigrants in the state. The Greek communities in the state have little or no physical heritage dating much earlier than the early 20th century, when their churches were built; and the Cassimus House, currently under restoration for office use, is possibly the oldest remaining landmark associated with the early history of the Greeks in Alabama.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

City Directories, Montgomery, Alabama: 1883-1897.
 Interviews with Helen Cassimus Wilson and Sophia Cassimus Capenis, daughters of Speridon Cassimus, granddaughters of Alexander M. Cassimus.
Montgomery Advertiser, July 11, 1938.
 Fifteenth Anniversary Consecration Book, Church of the Annunciation, Greek Orthodox Community, published February 3, 1963.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|----------------|-------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1, 6 | 5 6, 6 1, 8, 0 | 3, 5 8, 2 4, 2, 0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

March 23, 1976

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

STATE

Alabama 36130

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Miss B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE

SHPO Ala.

DATE

March 26, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Charles ...*
 Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/13/76

DATE

8-13-76