

(Richmond+Pearson+Hobson Home)
Greensboro, Alabama

Hale Co.

Magnolia Grove

HABS No. ~~33~~-219

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

"MAGNOLIA GROVE"
(RICHMOND PEARSON HOBSON HOME)
Greensboro, Hale County, Alabama.

Ownership:

Present Owner: Margaret, Joseph and Anne Hobson.

Previous Owners: Richmond Pearson Hobson.
Colonel Isaac Croom

Date of Erection: Early 1830's.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Colonel Isaac Croom.

Present Condition: Very good state of preservation.

Number of Stories: Six columned; stucco front; brick left exposed
in rear; two story galleries front and rear.

Other Existing Records:

See: "HISTORIC HOMES OF ALABAMA & THEIR TRADITIONS"
By Alabama Members, National League of American
Pen Women:

See: Birmingham News, February 24, 1935.

"CHARMS OF OLD STAIRCASES RETAINED"
By E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
H.A.B.S.

See: "OLD SLAVE QUARTERS CHARM HISTORIAN"
By Varian Peare (Mrs. E. Walter Burkhardt)
Birmingham News, September 30, 1934.

See: "MAGNOLIA GROVE KEEPS EARLY CHARM"
By Varian Peare, (Mrs. E. Walter Burkhardt)
Birmingham News, September 27, 1936.

Additional Data: Admiral Richmond Pearson Hobson spent a happy boyhood at Magnolia Grove, enjoying all the sports dear to the heart of a boy. Of a studious nature and brilliant mind, he entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis at the age of fourteen years.

In 1933 he was awarded the Congressional Medal for the daring feat performed in June 1898, during the Spanish American War, which has been pronounced one of the most brilliant deeds in the entire military history of the nation.

In 1934 he was retired from the U. S. Navy with the title of Rear Admiral and still resides in New York. Today he is an author and lecturer.

Source of Material:

Peter A. Brannon, Dept. of Archives & History,
Montgomery, Alabama.
Joseph Hobson
Greensboro, Alabama.

Compiled by:

Katherine Floyd,
Auburn, Alabama.

Approved:

H. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS.
Auburn, Alabama.

Date: 11-11-1936.

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RICHMOND PEARSON HOBSON HOME "MAGNOLIA GROVE"
Greensboro, Alabama

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HISTORICAL DATA:

Built about 1830.

Ownership:

Colonel Isaac Croom and Sarah Pearson Croom,
were the original owners of this home.

Judge J. M. Hobson and Sally Croom Pearson Hobson
were the second owners of home.

Judge and Mrs. Hobson left this home to their
children, Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson,
S. A. Hobson, Joseph M. Hobson, Sarah Ann Hobson,
Major J. M. Hobson, U.S.A., Mrs. Florence Hobson
Morrison and Margaret Hobson. These are the
present owners.

Present Occupants:

Miss Sarah Anne Hobson, Miss Margaret Hobson and
Mr. Joseph Morehead Hobson.

Colonel Isaac Croom:

Married Miss Sarah Pearson, sister of Chief Justice
Richmond Pearson of North Carolina. About 1830,
Colonel and Mrs. Croom moved to Alabama and built
Magnolia Grove in Greensboro.

They also owned a very large plantation near
Newbern, just south of Greensboro. Colonel Croom
was one of the wealthiest planters in Alabama. He
owned five hundred slaves.

The bricks of which Magnolia Grove is built were
made by Colonel Croom's slaves a short distance
from the house.

Colonel Croom was one of the five founders of the
University of the South at Sewanee. They each
gave \$100,000.00 to start the College. He was
Senior Warden of St. Paul's Parish, Greensboro,
for thirty years.

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Judge James Marcellus Hobson:

Married Sallie Croom Pearson, daughter of Chief Justice Richmond Pearson of North Carolina. The Hobsons moved to Alabama and resided with Colonel and Mrs. Croom for a while. After the death of Mrs. Croom, Mrs. Hobson bought the home from the estate.

Judge Hobson was appointed Probate Judge by Governor Houston during the Reconstruction Period. He held this office about twenty years. He was appointed Post Master by President McKinley in 1898.

During the War Between the States, before moving to Alabama, Mr. Hobson was an officer in the Confederate Army from North Carolina.

Judge Hobson's mother was Annie Moreland, sister of Governor ~~Moreland~~ of North Carolina.
ANNE MOREHEAD
JOHN M. MOREHEAD

Richmond Pearson Hobson:

Born in Greensboro, Alabama in 1870. The son of Judge and Mrs. James Marcellus Hobson.

He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1889. He studied at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines and Ecole d'Application du Genie Maritime, Paris.

In the Spanish American War he served on the flagship New York. He commanded the collier Merrimac, which he sank in Santiago harbor to prevent the exit of the Spanish fleet. As a result he was captured and kept a prisoner in a Spanish fortress from June 3 to July 6, 1898.

From 1899 to 1900 he was on naval duty in the Far East. He resigned from the United States Navy in 1903.

Captain Hobson was a member of Congress from Alabama, 1907 to 1915. He was the first to introduce into Congress an amendment for national prohibition.

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Richmond Pearson Hobson Continued:

Among his writings we find: The Disappearing Gun Afloat, The Sinking of the Marrimac, Why America Should Hold Naval Supremacy, Buck Jones At Annapolis, Fortification of the Panama Canal, The Great Destroyer, Our Country's Destiny, etc.

Major J. M. Hobson:

Son of Judge and Mrs. James Marcellus Hobson, Graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Was in the Great War, served at the front in France.

Miss Sarah Anne Hobson:

Missionary worker of the Episcopal Church. Served five years, from 1921 to 1926, as missionary to the mountain people in Waynesville, North Carolina.

Daughter of Judge and Mrs. James Marcellus Hobson. Lives at present in the old home, Magnolia Grove, in Greensboro, Alabama.

Source of Material:

Joseph Morehead Hobson, Greensboro, Alabama, son of Judge James M. Hobson, and brother of Richmond Pearson Hobson, lives in this home today.

Lincoln Library of Essential Information, The Frontier Press Company, Buffalo, New York, 1926.

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.

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RICHMOND PEARSON HOBSON HOME
"Magnolia Grove"
Greensboro, Hale County, Alabama.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The six columned front porch gives the house a frank and severe expression, softened only by the light use of the pediment. This house is a curious example of stuccoing the front and columns only, and leaving the sides and rear exposed in brick.

The rear still has the porch and slave quarters, both of very striking appearance. The interior has an interesting winding stairway, but otherwise is rather plain.

Source of Material:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Administrator, HABS.
Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

(Revised at HABS Headquarters,
March 1936 by H.C.F. Original
sheet in field notebook).