

Edmund King House
Montevallo, Alabama.
Shelby Co.

ALA
HABS No. 36-438.
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59-MONVA
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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, Alabama.

ALA
Project # ~~10~~-438
EDMOND KING HOUSE
Montevallo, Alabama

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HISTORICAL DATA:

Built in 1823.

Ownership:

Edmond King built this home in 1823.

Today owned by the Estate of Edmond King.

Present Occupants:

Used as a social relief center.

Edmond King:

A rich landowner of Montevallo, Alabama. He was quite generous, donated some of the land for the college at Montevallo.

This home of his is at present on the College Campus (Alabama College). The College seems to have grown around this, his home.

Mr. King was a writer of some note.

Inscription on Bronze Tablet on House:

King House - Built 1823

This tablet placed by the descendants of Edmond King, Jr.

And the Alabama Writers Conclave
To commemorate his life and services
First brick house and first with glass windows
Built in this section of the State.
Formally known as The Mansion House.

June 14, 1932.

Source of Material:

J. T. Latimer, of the measuring force, Birmingham, Alabama.

Revised 1936, H.C.F.

EDMOND KING HOUSE
Alabama College Campus
Montevallo, Shelby County, Alabama.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This two storey brick residence was built more in the pure colonial tradition than in the Greek Revival style. The quarter-round watertable brick on front facade and chimney, the first floor windows with upper sash larger than lower, the smaller panes in the second floor windows, the low door under the stair landing, and the mantel with the reeded pilasters indicate a strong colonial influence--perhaps from the Virginia country.

Its early date (1823) strengthens these indications.

(Revised and rewritten at HABS
Headquarters, Feb. 19, 1936 -

H.C.F.)
(~~Original sheet in field notebook~~).

ADDENDUM TO
EDMUND KING HOUSE
(University of Montevallo, Guest House)
Birmingham Industrial District
Highland & Bloch Sts.
Montevallo
Shelby County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-438

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

APPENDUM TO
EDMUND KING HOUSE
(University of Montevallo Guest House)
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ADDENDUM TO
EDMUND KING HOUSE
(University of Montevallo Guest House)
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EDMUND KING HOUSE
(University of Montevallo Guest House)

This report is an addendum to a 2 page report previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

Location: NW Corner Highland and Bloch Sts., University of Montevallo Campus, Montevallo, Shelby County, Alabama. To reach Montevallo, take I 65 23 miles south of Birmingham to the Calera exit at Shelby County 25. Proceed west on Shelby County 25 to the intersection with Shelby County 119. Right on Shelby County 119 one-half mile to the community whose commercial center flanks this road. Turn left at Vine St. and proceed two blocks to the University of Montevallo campus.

Present Owner: University of Montevallo

Date Constructed: 1823, additions c. 1900

Builder/Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Project Information: This report is based upon written documentation donated by the Birmingham Historical Society, reformatted to HABS/HAER guidelines.

Description: The original two-story brick residence with two exterior end chimneys, gambrel roof and center-hall plan includes a three-story bay porch with scroll-cut balustrade, a one-story ell, and rear porch dating to the turn of the century. In the mid-19th century, the exterior was stuccoed and scored to look like stone. A 1973-1974 reconditioning for use as the university guest house removed the external stucco and reconstructed some interior spaces using original woodwork. The house sits on extensive grounds within the University of Montevallo campus. The King Family Cemetery is nearby.

Significance: This substantial brick house is associated with Edmund King, a planter and businessman who financed the earliest ironworks in the District. Edmund King was involved in the 1820 Thompson's Mill Forge on Shoal Creek near Montevallo. The primary remaining structure associated with King, the house represents the divergent economic outlook of the planter class in Alabama.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Edmund King, the Montevallo area's most extensive planter, started the District's earliest known ironworks c. 1820. King, the fifth child of his father's third marriage, was born in 1782 in Virginia and reared in Griffin County, Georgia. In 1817, with Indians as guides, King brought his family in two covered wagons to a place called Wilson Hill, later Montevallo. (Wilson, one of Andrew Jackson's soldiers, was the owner of the hill, claimed to be located at the exact center of the state.) In the area were many fine springs, nut-bearing trees and Shoal Creek, a tributary of the Cahaba River. King prospered as a merchant, planter and financier of Thompson's Mill Forge. King also ran a grist mill at the site which was later called "Valley Forge." Located two and one-half miles from Montevallo, the water powered forge, contiguous to area coal formations and the Alabama and Tennessee Rivers Railroad, manufactured "a superior article of bar iron" and due to its favorable location did an extensive business. In 1823, King erected a fine residence, the first brick structure built in Shelby County. Known as the "Mansion House," the two-story plantation-made brick (later stuccoed and scored to look like stone) residence served the King, Shortridge (King's daughter married George Shortridge), and later French Nabors families. Deeded by the Nabors to the Alabama Girls' Industrial School, later Alabama College and the University of Montevallo, it has served as Infirmary, Home Economics Building, classroom and guest cottage for these educational institutions.

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