

# *MONTVALLO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS*

**WILL LYMAN HOUSE** (1886) is a two-story Victorian wood structure in the simple Eastlake style. In 1896 when Alabama College was founded, the Lyman's housed boarding students. Mr. Will Lyman worked with the local citizens on the formation of Alabama College for Women. The house has been in the hands of Alabama College since the 1930's when it served as a private home for faculty. It was later used as a co-op residence for students who could not afford to live on campus. It has also served the University as a speech and hearing clinic and then as art studio space. It was restored in the 1990's and now houses the UM Public Relations Department.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** (1907) is a two-story raised Gothic revival structure with the main sanctuary structure over a full basement. The older part of the building is brick with a tile roof. The main sanctuary ceiling is Gothic arched with beaded 1x4 wood ceiling.

**PETERSON HOME** (1900) is a two-story elaborate Eastlake style home built by Mrs. Lucy Cary. It was bought in about 1908 by the second president of the school that has become the University of Montevallo, Dr. Peterson. Mrs. Charlotte Peterson, the long-time principal of the elementary school, lived in the house until 1970 when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Hall. Many years later they sold it to the University.

**CARY-CALKINS HOUSE** (1850) is a one-story wooden Greek revival structure with a porch supported by four single wood columns. The Cary family purchased the home in the early 1900's. The house was purchased by Mr. Calkins in 1919 when he served as chairman of the music department. It is now owned by the University and rented to employees.

**MERONEY HOME** (1886) is a two-story wooden Eastlake style Victorian structure built by C. L. Meroney. Mr. Meroney was involved in the educational environment of Montevallo throughout his life and the home served as a boarding home for early college students. The Meroneys' four daughters were graduates of Alabama College. Mr. Meroney served on the committee that persuaded the governor to locate the college in Montevallo. The house was a bequest from Eloise Meroney to the University and it is now used as the business office.

**PURYEAR HOUSE** (1896) is a one-story Victorian cottage of wood construction. It was built by Mrs. Drucilla Meroney McMath. Ethel McMath Dawson, a daughter of the builder, was a student at Alabama College and taught there. The house was purchased by Miss Sarah Puryear, who taught at Alabama College for 37 years. The house was later purchased by the University and is presently used to house the human resources and risk management departments.

**MULKEY-SIMS HOME** (1880) was originally a one-story late Victorian cottage. Built in the 1880's to be the Methodist parsonage, the house was purchased and lived in by Mrs. Walter Mulkey. It has been modified from its original 1880 architecture. The University now owns the house. Cross Middle St. and enter the campus.

**REYNOLDS HALL** (1851) is one of three antebellum structures on campus. It is a two-story white painted brick building with four ionic columns. The brick was made locally for the purpose of constructing a school. It was originally built as a private-boys school, but in 1896 it became the first instructional building for Alabama Girls Industrial School. It is named for Montevallo's first president, Captain Henry Clay Reynolds.

**CALKINS HALL** (1917) was originally the music building and has fine detail of dentils, fan windows, and a cupola that make it an excellent example of Georgian architecture. The size of the building was slightly decreased from its original design because of shortages of building materials caused by World War I. Calkins Hall was renovated for administrative offices during the 1972-73 school year. The president's office is currently located in Calkins Hall

**MAIN HALL** (1897-1908) is a women's residence hall and at one time, was said to have been the largest female resident hall in the Deep South. The West Wing was built first, followed by the central portion and finally the East Wing. The facades of the two wings feature large two-story columns. The central portion is known for wisteria covered rounded arches over the main entrance. Cornices have intricate designs that were popular in Victorian architecture. The west side has arches and the east side has straight lines with modified Doric columns.

**BECOMING** is a sculpture by Ted Metz that portrays the teaching-learning process. It features two hands cast in bronze, the younger hand that of the student reaches skyward. The more mature hand, that of the University as a teacher, appears to have been guiding the student's hand, but has now fallen back, representing a new role of support of the student. The space separating the two represents the student's graduation. Two antique keys are tied to the index finger of the student hand. They represent the possession of knowledge and the long history of the University. The pedestal is limestone and red brick. Some 40 art students over a 22-month period were involved in constructing the sculpture. There were 90 individual molds to cast 5,000 pounds of bronze using the art department's gas-fired furnace to heat to metal to over 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

**KING HOUSE** (1823) was built of bricks made at nearby Shoal Creek and featured the first real glass windows used in the area. The house is Federalist style. It was the home of Edmund King. Born in Virginia, he moved to Georgia where he met and married his first wife, Nancy Ragan. King made an exploratory trip into Alabama and in 1817 returned to Georgia, gathered his family and moved to what is now Montevallo. During the Civil War, soldiers from both the Union and the Confederate armies took refuge here. Aaron Burr once slept at King House. After the death of Edmund King's sons, the house and property was sold to a family friend who later sold it to the Alabama Girls Industrial School. In 1973, thanks to the involvement of Mrs. Kermit Johnson, the first lady of UM at the time, the House was restored with funding from a federal grant. It is now UM's official guest house. Cross the street and leave the campus.

**LEEPER-GARRETT HOME** (1928) was built by Miss Georgia Leeper and is a one story frame bungalow style structure. Ms. Leeper was the manager of the Alabama College Book Store. Mr. Garrett bought the house in 1936. It is currently rental property.

**COLLEGE VIEW APARTMENTS** (1928) were built by the same contractor who built Hanson Hall and were planned for faculty rental property. The building is basic brick veneer construction that exhibits early twentieth century bleeding mortar brick joints. The contractor, because of financial problems, was unable to finish the building. The faculty members who planned to occupy the apartments contributed to complete the structure and moved in. Shortly after its completion, Dr. A. W. Vaughan, head of the English department, purchased the building. He and his family lived there until his death. The apartments were restored in 1988 for rental to faculty and students.

**RIDDLE-FLATT HOUSE** (1850) is a two-story wooden Greek revival structure with a portico supported by four square wooden columns. Dr. G. I. Riddle, longtime professor of education at Alabama College and later president of Judson College, reconditioned this house. It was later occupied by Dr. Aris Merjianian, former chairman of the Chemistry department at the University of Montevallo.

**NABORS-WILLS-SEARS HOME** (1910) is a wooden one-story structure of late Victorian style and mixed bungalow characteristics built by Mr. Nathaniel Nabors. The house was later bought by Mr. Houston Wills who was, at that time, business manager of Alabama College. His wife served as assistant dean of women in charge of Reynolds Hall until her retirement. Mrs. Wills continued to live there after her husband's death until her own death. It is now occupied by Kathy King, a member of the English Department faculty.

**SHARPE/ALPHA TAU OMEGA HOUSE** (1936) Dr. Cleveland Sharpe, chairman of the biology department at Alabama College, built this neo Greek revival home. It is of solid brick construction with wood over concrete floors. It has a large parlor and dining area with a magnificent staircase. Dr. Sharpe retired in 1958. He served as mayor of Montevallo for several years. The house was occupied by the Sharpe family until it was sold to the Pi Kappa Phi social fraternity and later to ATO fraternity.

**LYMAN-SAYLOR HOUSE** (1858) is a two-story simple Federal Style house of solid brick construction with wood floor and ceiling joists. The first and second floors are connected by a large wooden stair in the central hall. On Feb. 6, 1858, the Montevallo Male and Female Institute opened. The young women were taught in the building now known as Reynolds Hall, the young men in the new structure built by the citizens of the town. It was later named Lyman Hall and is now known as Saylor House. During the latter days of the Civil War these schools were closed. During the occupation by Federal troops it is thought that Saylor House was used by the Yankee troops for living quarters and/or kitchen facilities. Upon the establishment of Alabama Girls Industrial School 1896, Saylor House was used as the home economics kitchen for the school. Judge Lyman, who was an early founder of Alabama College and who served on the educational committees and groups to establish the school, later purchased the house and he and his family lived there for many years. The house is now owned by the University and used for faculty housing.