

# ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

Alabama Historical Commission  
725 Monroe Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Pratt Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON Pratt Park

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Old U. S. Highway 411

CITY, TOWN Centre NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Alabama  VICINITY OF  
CODE COUNTY Cherokee CODE

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>Burial</u>

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Pratt Centre Business and Professional Club

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Centre VICINITY OF STATE Alabama

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cherokee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN Centre STATE Alabama

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historical Sites Survey

DATE 1971  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS East Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission

CITY, TOWN Anniston STATE Alabama

## 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pratt Park, originally known as Pratt Cemetery, has not been used as a burial ground since the last known burial in 1905. From 1905 through 1936, the grounds were neglected until the ladies of the American Auxiliary of Centre cleared the area and had columns erected at the cemetery's entrance.

In 1959, the owner of the property, Mrs. Mary Smith, donated one acre of land to the Pratt-Centre Business and Professional Club of Centre. Since that time the club has purchased an additional five acres of land and has continued the effort to develop the area into a park. Plans for the area include building an outdoor theater that would fit into the natural terrain.

After the donation of the original one acre, work was begun to clear the area of undergrowth. Gravesites were covered with grass, some landscaping was done, and erosion prevention measures were taken.

Pratt's grave marker is well-preserved and is surrounded by an ornate wrought iron fence.

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

SPECIFIC DATES      1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pratt Park near Centre in Cherokee County, originally a one-acre cemetery, is the burial place of John Pratt, inventor of the pterotype. The forerunner of today's typewriter, the writing machine was developed by Pratt between 1861 and 1863 near the Centre area.

As part-owner of Centre's newspaper, Pratt developed the machine to reduce the massive amount of handwriting required in his jobs as reporter, editor, and Register in Chancery.

Feeling that a Southerner would never secure the protection of a patent from Washington, D.C. during the Civil War years, Pratt went to England sometime during 1864. In 1866, he secured patents for his machine in England and in France.

The first American patent for Pratt's machine was issued to Glidden and Sholes, the company who manufactured the first practical typewriter in the world. Many of Pratt's rivals in the production of the typewriter were inspired by his efforts. Pratt was pensioned by Glidden and Sholes, the firm who took his patent from him.

Pratt did patent in the United States an improved pterotype about one month after Glidden and Sholes' patent was issued. Pratt died in 1905 and was buried in the cemetery bearing his name.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal interviews

Martin, Will, If Memory Serves, Gadsden, Al., 1947.

Newspaper files

Our Cherokee: A Bicentennial Publication, written by students of Cherokee County, 1976

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 6 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Centre

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 61185140 3780200  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David Baldwin, Historic Resource Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Alabama Historical Commission

1/2/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

725 Monroe Street

832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Montgomery

Alabama

## 12 FOR ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION USE ONLY

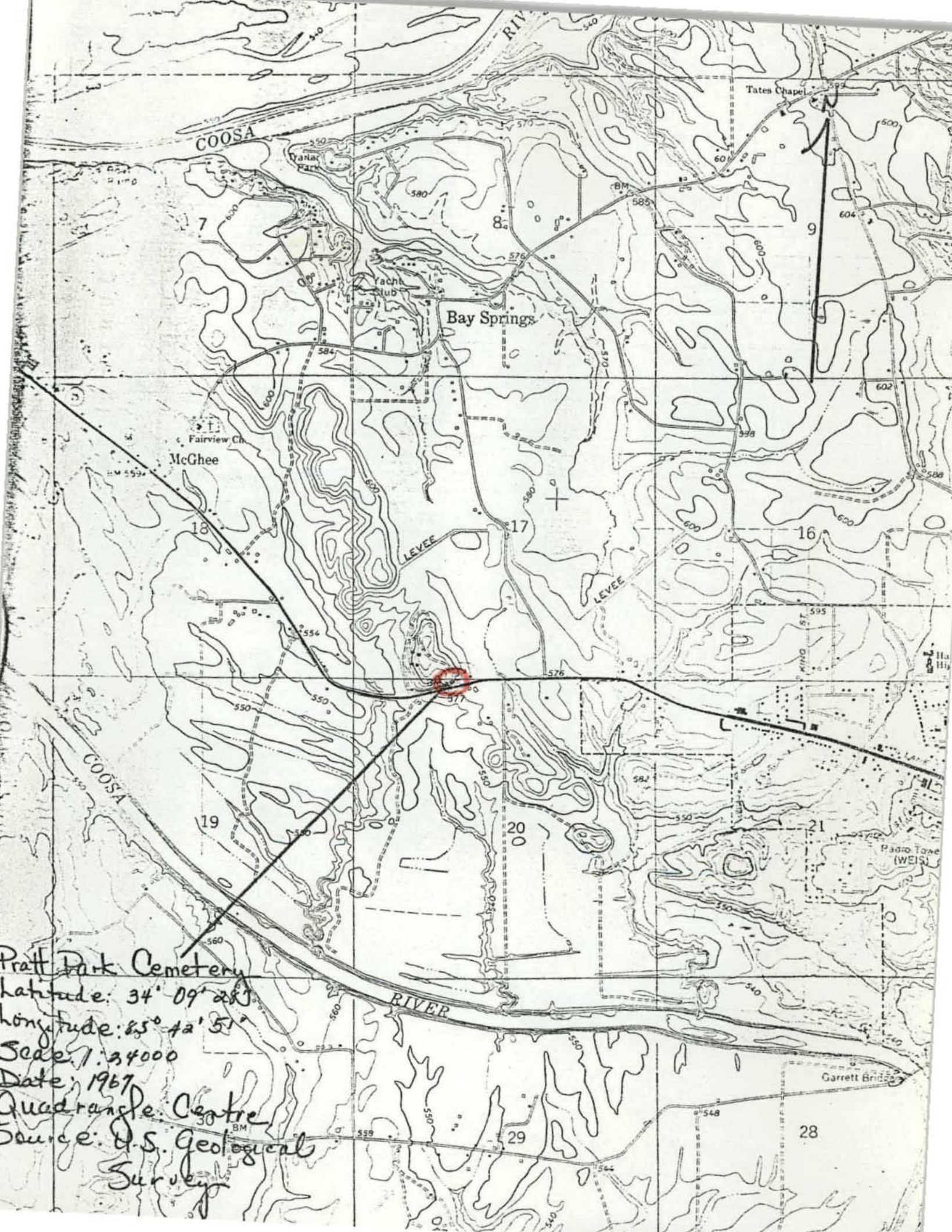
Staff Member David Baldwin

ADDED \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_

Thematic Category Society, Religion and Technology

National Register Potential

Added to National Register \_\_\_\_\_



Pratt Park Cemetery

Latitude:  $34^{\circ} 09' 28''$

Longitude:  $85^{\circ} 42' 51''$

Scale: 1:34000

Date: 1967

Quadrangle: Centre

Source: U.S. Geological Survey