

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

Nomination Form

Added 2-6-98

1. Name

historic Charles G. Partridge House and associated resources
and/or common Partridge House Complex

2. Location

street & number 4631 County Road 7
city, town Goodwater ---vicinity of Brownville community
state AL county Clay zip 35072
(0.2 mile from intersection of East Mill Road & Co Rd 7; 0.4 mile from Brownville Cemetery)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Pearl C. Partridge Estate, c/o Ann B. Clark Phone number 205-997-0941
street & number 1404 Mountain Brow Road East
city, town Fort Payne, AL ---vicinity of zip 35967-7421

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet. Attached

Owner of Dr. McDiarmid's office:
Dr. Miriam Carmichael Lingo
3818 Seminary Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227
804-262-8860

6. Description (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.C.G. Partridge House, Clay County (Goodwater vicin.)--description

Two story double pile frame hipped roof house, three structural bays in width, novelty board sided on front, asbestos shingle sided elsewhere, brick pier foundation with concrete block infill, seam metal roof, two brick interior chimneys between first and second piles, one story wrap-around front porch on battered piers, overlapping two story portico on battered two story piers in front of central bay, small rear ell with end gable, rear shed porch on battered piers wrapping around rear elevation and ell, fieldstone piers in addition to brick piers form rear ell foundation, cast concrete full facade front steps, first floor front door originally had one large glass pane, single light transom over first floor front door, second story front door has three horizontal stacked panels surmounted at one time by a large single pane window, windows throughout are one over one sash types with the exception of one nine over nine sash window on the end of the rear ell.

Central passage plan, narrow flush board wall cladding on first floor interior except in front east room where early to mid-20th century wallpaper is present, straight run stairs occupy the central passage, turned ballusters and newel posts ornament stairs, all mantles but one have been stolen--the remaining one being a simple turn of the century type, most interior doors have two short panels surmounted by two tall panels and maintain their original door knobs and locks, second floor is only finished in the westernmost three rooms, the central passage and eastern room (never divided) are open to the attic roof structure, notable recycling of structural members is evident in the presence of planed mortise and tenon beams in roof structure and floor joists under rear ell as well as the presence of planed flush board as wall cladding in western rear second story room and the nine over nine sash window in rear ell, shakes can be seen under the metal roof in attic area.

Outbuildings include one low shed roofed metal and plank sided frame outbuilding with a corrugated metal roof and a front gabled frame transverse barn with standard pens and loft on interior. The yard contains notable historic plantings including symmetrically planted holly bushes, holly trees, oaks, and a prominent juniper bush.

Dr. McDiarmid's Office--Clay County (Goodwater vicin.)--description

One story front gabled frame office structure, rear fieldstone chimney with brick cap, fieldstone pier foundation under main structure, corrugated metal roof, front shed porch which is likely a later addition with simple supports and a plank floor resting on log piers, single leaf front door, one six over six sash window on front facade covered by two wooden shutters, one side doorway with missing door, rear four over four window, simple mantle constructed from narrow beaded boards.

7. Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

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"/> 1600-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1913 **Builder/Architect** Designed by John M. Partridge; built by Fitzhugh Swindall of Goodwater
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).

The Partridge House Complex is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criterion C in the area of architecture. A fine example of rural vernacular architecture, the house depicts the influences of the Neoclassical Revival style. The complex also includes Dr. McDiarmid's office, a simple utilitarian structure dating from the post Civil War period (probably c.1880), the ruins of the early 20th century East Mill and an early 20th century barn constructed in conjunction with the house. Together they comprise the early buildings remaining in the Brownville community which were associated with the Partridge family and house. Other early resources in the vicinity include an altered (vinyl siding) turn-of-the-century church & early cemetery.

Historical Summary:

The Partridge House was constructed in 1913 by Charles G. Partridge, a substantial farmer, mill operator and general store owner in the Brownville community. Partridge moved to this location from a smaller home located in the vicinity. Designed by his son, John M. Partridge, and constructed by Fitzhugh Swindall of Goodwater, the house was locally renowned for its size and style. Its seemingly grand scale was planned to accommodate the large Partridge family--four girls and two boys. Interestingly, the two boys became Presbyterian ministers and three of the girls married Presbyterian ministers. The upstairs of the house was never completed, however, as the children married and left home very soon after the family occupied the new house. Members of the Partridge family occupied the house until the early 1950s, when it was rented to a tenant. In 1958, John M. Partridge retired and returned to Brownville to reside in the home. Upon his death in 1967, his wife remained in the home until her death in 1980. For another decade, local tenants inhabited the structure, but since around 1990, it has been vacant. Partridge's granddaughter, Ann Clark, currently owns the house and hopes to sell it to someone interested in its restoration.

Partridge owned a substantial amount of property, approximately 180 acres, which included the house and barn, the store, the mill, several tenant houses, and the doctor's office. Today, only the house, barn, and doctor's office remain intact. The mill was severely damaged by Hurricane Opal in 1995 and, only in the past month, collapsed. The tenant houses are gone, and the store is in ruins. Local historians believe that, as early as 1800, a mill known as East Mill had been built on Hatchett Creek. It was significant to the community for providing corn meal, generating electricity, and powering a furniture factory and saw mill located at the site and operated by Partridge. For a number of years, from around 1920-1940, the mill generated electricity for the Partridge house, supplying power to the house much earlier than it was available to the surrounding community. The doctor's office dates from the post-civil war period, probably around 1880, and, from census research, likely was the office of John C. McDiarmid. McDiarmid, a physician born in North Carolina in 1832, lived in Clay County with five adult children. He lived in a house built on the site of the present Partridge House. The office, since the time it served McDiarmid, was used during the early 20th century as the home of Virgil Patterson, an ex-slave, and during later years (1930s-40s) as the home of the Partridge family cook. Since the early 1950's, it has been vacant.

See additional material submitted by Mrs. Clark for details in alterations to house.

8. Major Bibliographical References

Clark, Ann. Draft nomination and telephone interviews.

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ___ approx 64 acres ___

Quadrangle name _____

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)
Attached.

10. Form Prepared By

Sally Moore (AHC)

name/title Ann B. Clark

organization _____

date Feb 6, 1998

street & number 1404 Mountain Brow Road East

telephone 205-997-0941

city or town Fort Payne

state AL zip 35967-7421

11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

Color slides are essential to the review process.

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:

Alabama Register Coordinator
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

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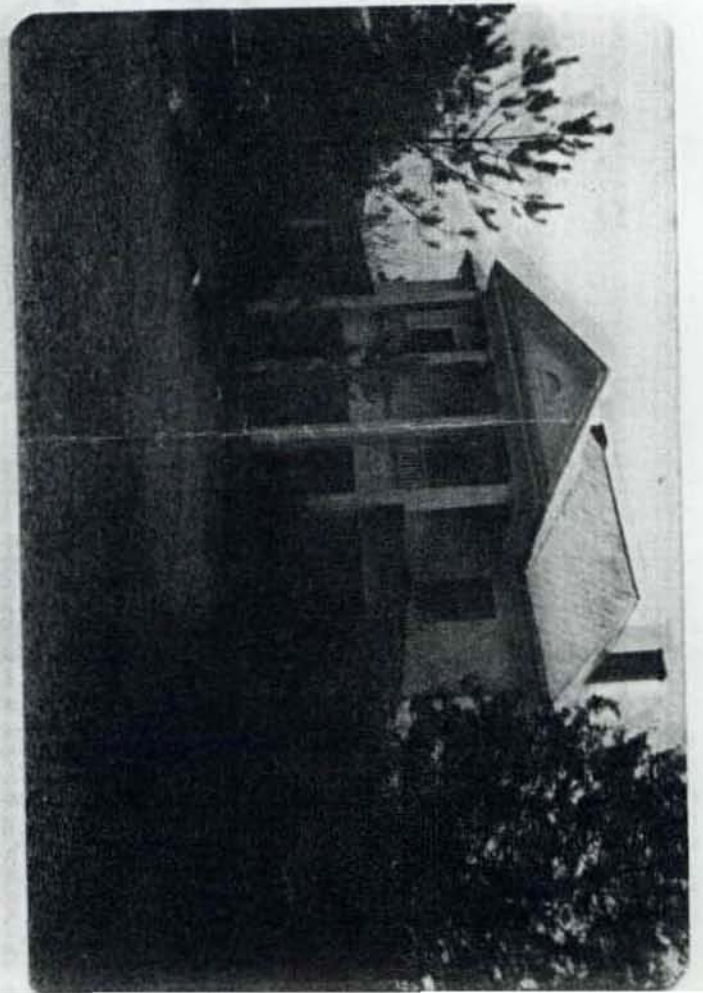
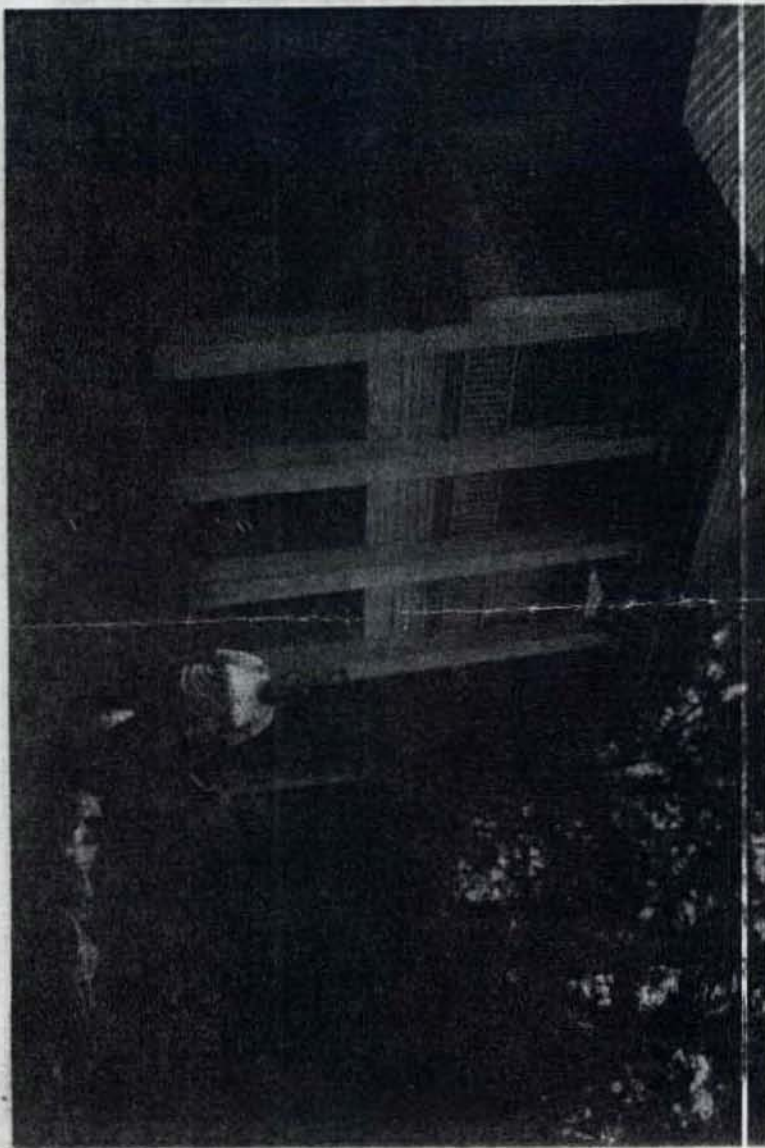
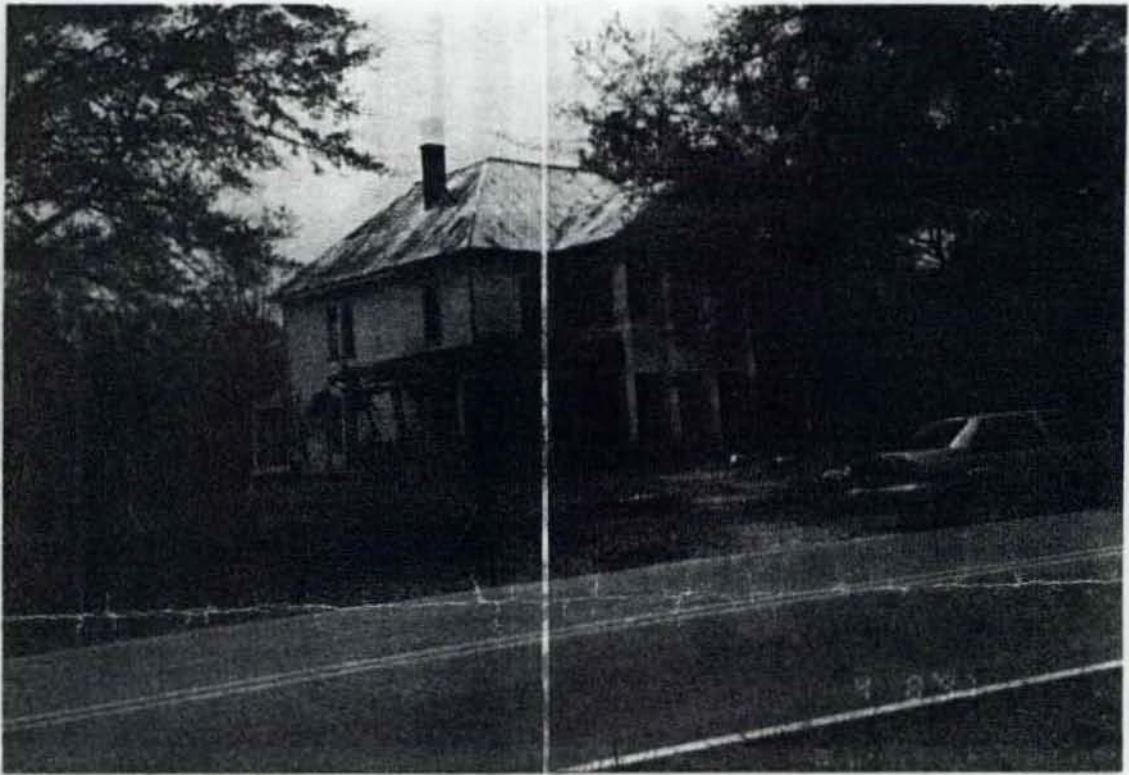
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INFORMATION SHEET, C.G. PARTRIDGE PLACE, CLAY COUNTY, AL

Location: Hwy 7, five miles from Goodwater toward Talladega.

Directions to property: From Montgomery, entering Goodwater on Highway 9 north toward Ashland, cross the railroad overpass and turn left on Highway 7. (There is a small ice cream shop/restaurant just before you turn left.) Go approximately five miles and the house is on the left. (You will pass Hatchett Creek Presbyterian Church on the right and cross a bridge over a creek just before you get to the Partridge house.)

Description: Two-story, white, frame house, four big square white columns with two smaller square columns across the front, built in 1913.

There is a shed and a barn some distance behind the house. Across the road from the house is a very small one-room house which was a Doctor McDiarmid's office (this office is on the property of one of our cousins). Doctor McDiarmid had a home on the same site as the Partridge house. The Partridge house was built over the McDiarmid home site. In fact, some of the foundations for the McDiarmid house can be seen under the Partridge house.

A blacksmith shop was located near the old office. Further down the road on the right are the remains of a little store run by C. G. Partridge, the very few remains of another house, and, near a spring, is a small shed. The location of East Mill is on the banks of Hatchett Creek, at the intersection of Highway 4 (East Mill Road) and Highway 7. There was an old cabin at the intersection also, but it was burned by vandals in the late 1950's. We have verbally in 1994 donated the mill house to the Coosa County Historical Society to have it moved to the covered bridge near Alexander City. However, they have been unable to find anyone to move it. They, as we, are anxious to preserve the mill so any suggestions will be welcome.

The big house was designed by my father, John M. Partridge, and built by Mr. Fitzhugh Swindall from Goodwater with help from my father. Mr. Swindall's daughter still lives in Goodwater. I hope to contact her and get any information she may have. There are two brick chimneys in the house with a total of eight fireplaces, four in each chimney - two upstairs and two downstairs. I was told just last year that the people quietly ridiculed my father for building such a big house. It was unusual for the area and for the time to build a house like that, but there was a reason which I will go into later.

When the house was built, it was not painted and remained unpainted until 1958 when my father retired and moved there. It originally had a porch around three sides. The well was on the porch, near the kitchen door. When my father and mother moved back, they filled in the well for safety reasons and drilled a well in another location. They also took down the porch on the side of the house, leaving only enough of the roof for an attached carport. It is now falling in as you can see from the photograph. They added

C. G. Partridge Place information continued

asbestos siding just on the sides of the house. The front and back were painted white. The original wooden-shingle roof has been covered with metal roofing. There is a square area at the top of the roof which had a wooden bannister all around it. It had a special name which I cannot remember. That square area was covered with regular roofing shingles in 1958. The front porch roof was covered with regular roofing shingles at the same time.

On the inside, the kitchen was moved to the dining room. The old kitchen became a storage area and laundry room. The dining room was then placed where a bedroom had been. French doors were placed between the living room and dining room. Two bathrooms were added in an area that had originally been designed as a bathroom area near the back staircase. The walls of the master bedroom were covered with sheetrock. The other walls in the house were either papered or left as they were and painted. The front bedroom is the only one with the original wallpaper in it. The wide hallway had French doors added to make a foyer area at the front and a den area at the back. A cover was devised for the front staircase at the top so the upstairs could be closed in the winter. The floors in the house are the original floors with only rugs or linoleum added in certain areas.

The barn had a metal roof added at the same time. Other than that, it remains the same.

Now, as to the reason for the big house:

C. G. Partridge and his wife, Eliza Patterson, had six children. Their first home was on a farm about four miles from the present location. At the time my grandfather and grandmother were moving into the "big house", there were four unmarried girls at home so they needed a larger place. Before the upstairs to the house was finished, all the girls had married. The upstairs was never totally completed. Just a little trivia here:

John Morton Partridge, Sr. (my father)	- a Presbyterian minister
Claude Partridge	- a Presbyterian minister
Minnie Partridge Pharr	(married a Presbyterian minister)
Katherine Partridge Walker	(married a Presbyterian minister)
Mary Partridge Carmichael	(married a Presbyterian minister)
Sarah Partridge (?)	(married a Texan - what a rebel)

The area around the church and school and the many homes in the area - the Watts, the Pattersons, etc. - was known as Brownville. The Carmichael family lived in an area nearby on what is now Highway 4 or East Mill Road. All were Presbyterians.

Members of the Partridge family lived in the big house from 1913 until the early 1950's, sometimes with other families living there as their caregivers. I believe there was a tenant in it until my father moved back there in 1958. He lived there until his death in 1967, and my mother lived there until 1980. Two or three different local families lived there until 1990. It has been vacant and vandalized since then. I have had people tell me they were married in the house - my father performed some marriage ceremonies at the house for

C. G. Partridge Place information continued

local couples after his retirement. One couple, the McDonalds, live nearby in the Shady Grove area, and tell about being upset when they discovered a few years later that he put the wrong date on their marriage certificate. Now they think it is just amusing that they have been married either a week more or a week less than the certificate shows.

I'm sure this is more information than you want or need. We will appreciate anything you can do to help us.

house contains elements of earlier house
mortise + tenon timbers in attic
9" sills