

The King House

1823 – 2023 at 200

Reprinted from *White Columns & Red Brick* by Lucille Griffith, Ph.D.
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King House, erected in 1823, originally was the plantation home of Edmund King, a Virginian who came to Alabama by way of Georgia about 1817. Built of brick made from local clay and erected by Mr. King's own men, it was the most elegant home in Central Alabama and the first house in the area to have imported glass windows.

After Mr. King died (1863) and his children had scattered, the property passed into other hands. In 1908, the Alabama Girls Technical Institute (the forerunner of the University of Montevallo) purchased the house and 43.40 acres of land from Mrs. Frank Nabors for \$8,502.

The house has been called by various names: "The Mansion;" "Kingswood;" "Nabors Hall;" and "King House;" It has been a classroom building and office building, the infirmary, home economics "practice home;" a summer home for men students, and just be-



Alabama Girls Technical Institute students gather on the front porch of King House in 1908, the year the school purchased the house and 43 acres of surrounding land from the Nabors family.

Be sure to read a more extensive and detailed account of the 200th anniversary of the King House at www.historicmontevallo.org. You'll also find a slide show of color photos taken during the 1973-74 restoration by Dr. Mike Mahan.



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King house as it looks today, 50 years after it was completely restored inside and out by preservation professionals.

fore renovation, the home of Financial Aid to Students.

Mrs. Golda Johnson, wife of former UM President Kermit Johnson, is chiefly responsible for the restoration to its present beauty. With the eventual backing of the Board of Trustees and a \$40,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the exterior was restored to its original appearance and the interior was renovated, using the same staircase, much of the original flooring and hardware, and some window glass. The architect for the renovation was Gene Jones of Evan Terry, Architects. Nicholas Holmes of Mobile was consultant and Lewis Mayson, supervisor of the actual work. Mr. Mayson says it is the best example of Federal Architecture in its part of Alabama.



In 1932 the Alabama Writers Conclave held a ceremony at which descendants of the King family placed a bronze tablet on the old house which points out its uniqueness as an historical landmark.

Veterans Wreaths will be laid this year at Montevallo City Cemetery on December 16, 2023. Order your wreaths now for \$17 each at:

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