

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Common Street District

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 959-1002 Dauphin Street; 7-19 Common Street not for publication

city, town Mobile vicinity of congressional district 01

state Alabama code 01 county Mobile code 097

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Records Division, Probate Court

street & number Mobile County Courthouse, 101 Government Street

city, town Mobile state Alabama

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1974-present  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Historic Common Street Historic District is located in a primarily residential neighborhood. It comprises a T-shaped area containing one block of Common Street which dead ends into Dauphin Street on the north where it projects east and west on Dauphin Street to encompass six structures. The entire area creates a visual and architectural unity which is unique to this area.

There are nineteen structures in this district with styles representative of residential architecture from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. These structures provide an architectural record of the evolution in building styles spanning more than a century, and give within the distance of one block examples of vernacular Greek Revival, Italianate, Victorian, Neoclassical, and Bungalow styles. Construction dates range from 1854 to 1945 with most being in the 1890 to 1920 period.

Alongside two storied houses of grand proportions, stand one story cottages of modest size but exceptional detail. Most of these buildings have not been externally altered. Several of the earliest houses were updated in the late nineteenth century with details popular in that era, and one has a facade of brick covering its Victorian front which fortunately could be removed to expose the original house.

Most of the buildings in this neighborhood are in excellent to good condition but one or two have minimal deterioration with great restoration potential.

### Justification of Boundary

The four houses on the north side of Dauphin Street serve as the northern boundary of The Historic Common Street District, as they present a visual unity when looking north from the south end of Common Street. (See photo H)

East and west boundaries are established by the points at which the concentration of historic buildings begins to sharply disintegrate into vacant lots and modern structures.

The southern boundary of the district is created by the intersecting of Caroline Avenue with Common Street, which establishes a break between residential Common Street and the commercialized portion which continues to the south, and the vacant land on the southwest corner of Caroline Avenue and Common Streets.

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Structures which contribute to the District

1. Nettles-Hartmann House (1002 Dauphin Street) 1915: Two story frame house representative of the Neoclassic style popular in Mobile during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The one story front porch is articulated by classical Tuscan Doric style columns, hipped roof.
2. Aldrich-Grubbs House (1000 Dauphin Street) 1854-1894: This house has an interesting building history. Originally a large Greek Revival townhouse, it burned almost to the ground in 1884. The owners rebuilt it almost exactly as it had been although they were in the midst of the Victorian era. It is believed that the brackets in pediment and under the cornice, not typical of the Greek Revival style, may have been added at that time. Large fluted Doric columns made of cypress rise the height of the facade to support the pediment. French doors date from a later period.
3. Aldrich-Kennedy House (962 Dauphin Street) 1854-1898: Two story side hall plan frame townhouse. This exuberant Victorian facade was added at the later building period to what was probably a Greek Revival townhouse similar to its next door neighbor, #2, also built by Aldrich. Wing is also Victorian in style. The turned columns on the front porch support spindle brackets which in turn support a spindle frieze. Identical turned columns support the second floor porch roof. The front gable contains a small window under a bracket supported peak decoration. Row of bull's eye motifs define the verge board.
4. Herpin-Smith House (960 Dauphin Street) 1860-1861: Two story frame side hall plan townhouse with west wing to the rear. Vernacular Italianate in style. Four slender hexagonal columns rise from the porch floor to the cornice. These are echoed in the half columns attached to the body of the house. Paired brackets support an overhanging cornice. The front door is Greek Revival in feeling with Tuscan pilasters which define the transom and narrow sidelights. Detail row decorates door lintel simple square balusters and hand-carved rail on first and second floor porches.
5. Stewart-Klotz House (959 Dauphin Street) 1859: Two story side hall plan townhouse with set back east wing. The low hipped room with brackets imparts and Italianate feeling. The front door and interior door and window framings are Greek Revival in style with battered jambs and Greek key mouldings. Floor length windows open from the parlor onto the front porch which is Neoclassic in style and probably dates from c. 1909 when the curving wing was added.

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6. Marshall-Van der Giessen House (7 Common Street) 1901: One story frame cottage with central hall plan. Victorian in style with notable details--bay windows with stained glass inset, interesting color scheme (salmon w/white detail), and brackets on either side of the stilt blocks above column capitals. These have applied relief designs similar to those in the gables.
7. Aunspaugn-Thompson House (9 Common Street) 1901: One story frame bungalow. Neoclassic porch with Tuscan columns and simple balustrade. Attractive color scheme of tan body with white trim.
8. Parker-Woods House (11 Common Street) 1907: One story frame bungalow with a cross gable roof and left hall plan. Turned columns with Victorian jigsaw cut acanthus leaf brackets connected by a tear drop frieze.
9. Parker-Clark House (13 Common Street) 1907: One story frame bungalow. Porch has simple square posts connected by a balustrade with an arched design. Porch was somewhat modified in a 1974 restoration. Attractive color scheme of deep blue with white trim.
10. Talbot-Park House (15 Common Street) 1865: One story frame mid-nineteenth century vernacular cottage. The porch has square Tuscan columns with astragal mouldings about two inches below the capitals. The canopied wing bay on the left of the facade has twin floor length windows opening onto a balcony with jigsaw urn shaped balusters. Intersecting gable roof with main ridge parallel to the street.
11. Parker-Powell House (17 Common Street) 1925: One story frame bungalow typical of the 1920s. The front porch offset to the left. Projecting rafters. Simple understated detail.
12. Koppersmith House (19 Common Street) 1921: One story frame bungalow. Double gables with jerkin headed roofs face the street. Notable details include use of board and batten construction in the gables.
13. Faith-McLoed House (18 Common Street) 1892: One story frame Victorian Queen Anne style with central hall plan. Projecting gable is in the form of a broken pediment with imbrication and pierced panel at the apex. Spindle valance is supported by delicately turned posts and jigsaw brackets.
14. Herpin-Dixon House (16 Common Street) 1896: One story frame Queen Anne Victorian cottage. Front porch is decorated with carved brackets and turned posts on high plinths. The very steeply pitched roof has projecting gables. Central hall plan.

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15. Turner-Calloway House (14 Common Street) 1892: Designed by local architect, Rudolph Benz, noted for his Victorian designs. One story frame cottage. Projecting bay on right facade is imbricated in rows of differently shaped shingles. The front porch posts are chamfered with incising and bull's eye detail. Jigsaw brackets support a valance with alternating beaded spindles and pierced panels. The spindles are repeated in the porch balustrade. The porch pediment has shingles of imbricated design below and nail head pattern above. Central hall plan and gabled roof.
17. Klosky-Sweet House (10 Common Street) 1928: One story frame vernacular cottage derived from the Creole Cottage style. Hipped roof. Three bay porch articulated by four square wood posts with capitals reminiscent of Doric columns.
18. Williams-Blass House (8 Common Street) 1928: One story frame vernacular cottage typical of the 1920s. Basically shotgun floor plan. Steeply pitched gable roof with projecting rafters. Gable end faces street.

Structures which do not contribute to the District

16. Nordine House (12 Common Street) 1945: One story frame bungalow with asbestos siding. Roof is comprised of intersecting gables.
19. Cameron-Sanders House (1001 Dauphin Street) 1894: Two story frame Victorian Queen Anne house with side hall plan. Present facade is bricked over. Gabled roof and typically Victorian massing. Some Victorian detailing remains, notably the small square tower room with fancy lightening rod and gable decorations on side elevations. Imbrication and oculus window. Spindle work and turned posts remain on rear porch.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1860-1950      **Builder/Architect** most unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Located in the Old Dauphin Way Preservation District, the major area of late 19th and early 20th century residential development in Mobile, Common Street is significant as an intact concentration of buildings which illustrate the slow development of this section of the city. Architecturally, it presents a visual record of the evolution of building styles as they developed in Mobile - almost every decade between 1854 and 1945 is represented by a building reflecting the taste of that time. In a single block of single family residences, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Victorian, Neoclassical and Bungalow styles stand in testimony to the architectural diversity of the mid-19th to 20th century. One of the structures, the Turner-Calloway House (#15) is the work of Rudolph Benz, a locally prominent architect who worked in Mobile in the late 19th century.

Additionally, the district is significant for its associations with several prominent merchants and civil leaders, one of whom - Gideon Parker-served as Mayor in 1873.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Historic Common Street District is situated on land which was part of a grant from the King of Spain to Thomas Price for his service as an Indian interpreter.

In 1806 William Kennedy purchased large amounts of the Price Tract lying to the immediate west of the boundary of the city of Mobile including the portion which is now the Historic Common Street District. It appears that the Kennedy family never built on any of the property which now constitutes this district. Instead, they frequently leased the land and allowed the leasee to build his own structure while continuing to rent the land, or sold off individual building lots.

By 1860 all the land which lies along the north side of Dauphin Street and forming the northern boundary of the Historic Common Street District had been sold by the Kennedy family. Two of the large and impressive homes which stand here today were built by that date.

#2 The Aldrich-Grubbs House (1854) was built by Daniel C. Aldrich and soon afterward sold to Erastus S. Perryman, a member of the firm of Perryman and Sons, grocers and commission merchants. This large townhouse is derivative of the Greek Revival style. #3 The Aldrich-Kennedy House (1854-1898) was also built by Aldrich. Records indicate major building activity at this house in 1898, which explains the late Victorian addition and facade which this has today. #4 The Herpin-Smith House (1860) was built by Edward P. Herpin in the vernacular Italianate style. Herpin was a well known dry goods merchant in the city of Mobile who had a large store downtown. The Herpin family occupied this house for ninety-two years.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet)

NO. 107 107 107 107  
NO. 107 107 107 107  
UTM 107 107 107 107

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6

Quadrangle name Mobile, Alabama

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	3	9	8	7	8	0	3	3	9	5	3	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	6	3	9	8	7	6	0	3	3	9	5	1	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	6	3	9	8	6	6	0	3	3	9	5	1	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	6	3	9	8	6	2	0	3	3	9	5	2	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

1	6	3	9	8	6	4	0	3	3	9	5	3	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation sheet)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jan S. Connelly, Architectural Historian; Joy Klotz, property owner

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date December 3, 1980

street & number P. O. Box 1827 telephone (205) 438-7281

city or town Mobile state Alabama

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

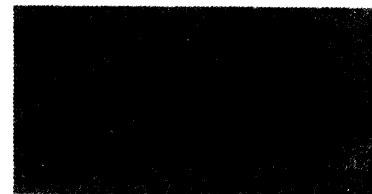
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Milo B. Howard, Jr.

title SHPO date Dec. 7, 1981

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register
<u>Delores Byers</u>	date <u>2/4/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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In 1859 John E. Brown of Sumterville, Alabama purchased the land on the south east corner of Dauphin Way and the new street called Common Street for his daughter and her husband, Charles Somerville Stewart, from William Kennedy's heirs. Stewart subsequently built #5 The Stewart-Klotz House (1859). He was a commission merchant in the city of Mobile, who made frequent trips into upstate Alabama taking orders from plantation owners and handling their cotton sales from the port of Mobile.

Although he was from Carthage, New York, Charles Stewart had fully adopted the south as his home for he was a slave owner and an officer of the Alabama 21st Regiment's Mobile Cadets. He was promoted at Shiloh to Major and at Corinth, Mississippi to Lieutenant Colonel of the Army of the Confederacy. He was serving in April, 1863 as Commanding Officer of Fort Morgan, Alabama at the mouth of Mobile Bay when an overloaded gun exploded, killing him instantly.

Charles Stewart's house sold once before it was purchased by Gideon Marsena Parker in 1866. Parker was a wholesale grocer and liquor merchant in Mobile. Parker and Stewart were probably well acquainted, as he, too, was in the Alabama 21st Regiment, and they were both members of one of Mobile's first Mardi Gras societies, the Strikers. Parker was captured at Shiloh, returned to Mobile in a prisoner exchange, and served as Mobile's provost marshall until the end of the war. He was a respected man in the business community, a leader in the reconstruction era, and served as Mayor of Mobile in 1873. Gideon Parker and his descendants are responsible for much of the development of the east side of Common Street.

Shortly before Parker purchased his house, Richard Talbot, a hardware clerk, leased a lot of land from William Kennedy's heirs on the east side of Common Street, just behind the Stewart estate, and built a house. In 1869 Marsena Robert Parker, Gideon's son and business associate purchased Talbot's house and began to enlarge and improve it in order to make a suitable home for his new bride. Members of the Parker family occupied this cottage, #10 The Talbot-Park House (1865) until 1975.

About the same time Marsena Parker was remodeling his house, a man named Simon Klosky leased a lot of land on the west side of Common Street from William Kennedy's heirs and built #17 The Klosky-Sweet House (1870). Klosky was the proprietor of The Cotton Exchange Oyster Saloon. By 1881 he owned the popular Delmonico's Restaurant in Downtown Mobile. The one story vernacular cottage which he built was the first house on the west side of Common Street.

It was twenty years before the west side of Common Street saw further building. #13 The Faith-McLeod House (1892) in the Victorian style, has seen continuous occupation by descendants of Edward P. Herpin, who lived on Dauphin Way, since 1909. #15 The Turner-Calloway House (1892) was designed by local architect, Rudolph Benz, noted for his Victorian designs. #14 The Herpin-Dixon House (1896) completed this row of three Victorian cottages, notable for their variations on a theme. Miss Cora O. Herpin, the daughter of Edward P. Herpin, had this house built for herself.



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#19 The Cameron-Sanders House was built by John D. Cameron in 1894 on the southwest corner of Dauphin and Common Streets. It is a two story frame Victorian Queen Anne House. Today the facade is covered by a wall of brick where it once sprouted small and suprising balconys in several places. Photographs of this structure as it looked originally are available for restoration assistance.

In 1894 John B. Marshall purchased Gideon Parker's house from his widow. He built the one story frame Victorian Queen Anne style cottage #6 The Marshall-Van der Giessen House (1901) on the back portion of his lot so that it faced Common Street and rented it immediately.

In 1874 Marsena Parker purchased all the land surrounding his lot, making the entire east side of Common Street Parker property. This land remained vacant until 1907. #8 The Parker-Woods House and #9 The Parker-Clark House were built in this year by Marsena Parker and his wife Alida. They were originally quite similar, but #9 was somewhat modified in a 1974 renovation. #8 retains the original late Victorian detail. #7 The Aunspaugh-Thompson House (1909) was built by Frank E. Aunspaugh a son-in-law of Marsena Parker, for rental property.

#1 The Nettles-Hartmann House (1915) built by Thomas D. Nettles represents the Neo-classical style of the early twentieth century.

In 1921 Arthur J. Koppersmith built #12 The Koppersmith House, a small frame bungalow typical of that period. This house is presently occupied by his daughter. #11 The Parker-Powell House (1925) is very similar in style to its next door neighbor and was the last residence to be built by the Parker family on Common Street.

The west side of Common Street was filled in later years by the addition of #18 The Williams-Blass House (1928) which is a doll-like one story frame vernacular cottage, and by #16 The Nordine House (1945) a small one story frame bungalow.

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Mobile County Registry of Deeds, 1819-1978, Probate Division, Mobile County Courthouse,  
Mobile, Alabama

Mobile County Tax Assessment Books, 1832-1920, Records Division Brookley Aerospace  
Industrial Complex, Mobile, Alabama

Mobile Daily Register, 1863-1884

Mobile City Directories, 1855-1928, Mobile Public Library

Magnolia Cemetery Burial Records, Mobile Public Library

Pioneer Families of Sumter County, Alabama - 1961

Nelle Morris Jenkins

Willo Publishing Co., P. O. Box 284, Tuscaloosa, AL

Alabama: Her History, Resources, War Record, and Public Men - 1964

W. Brewer

Willo Publishing Co., P. O. Box 284, Tuscaloosa, AL

Sumter County, Alabama Census for 1850 and 1860

Mobile County, Alabama Census for 1850, 1860, and 1870

Interviews:

Miss K. C. Willia - former resident of 7 Common Street

Mrs. Marsena Walsh - great granddaughter of Gideon Marsena Parker

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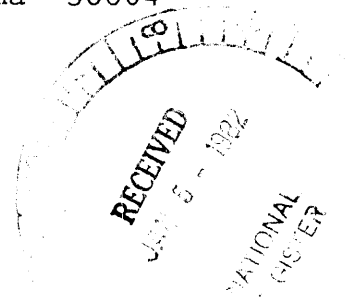
Item number 10

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Beginning at a point on the north side of Dauphin Street, the southwest corner of #1, thence running 272.5' north along the west property line of those buildings which face south on Dauphin Street to the northwest corner of #2, thence running east along the back property lines of those buildings which face south on Dauphin Street 287.5' to the northeast corner of #4, a building facing south on Dauphin Street, thence running south 302' along said east line to a point on the south side of Dauphin Street at the northeast corner of #5, thence south along the east property line of that building which faces north on Dauphin Street and continuing south along the back property lines of all those buildings which face west on Common Street 270' to the southeast corner of #12, thence west 170' to a point on the northwest corner of Common Street and Caroline Avenue thence running west 150' to the back property line of #13, thence running north along the back property lines of all those lots and buildings which face east on Common Street 303.84' to the west property line of #19, a building which faces north on Dauphin Street, thence north 237' along said line to the point of beginning.

Common Street

1. Dr. J. J. Hartmann, Jr.  
1002 Dauphin Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604
2. Tom U. Grubbs  
1000 Dauphin Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604
3. Hunter Kennedy ✓  
962 Dauphin Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604
4. Jerome L. Smith  
962 Westbury Drive  
Mobile, Alabama 36609
5. John W. Klotz ✓  
3408 Alba Place  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
6. Warren Herlon  
7 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604
7. Carey M. Thompson  
9 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604
8. Orlo W. Woods  
11 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604
9. Burton Clark ✓  
13 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604
10. Bert E. Park, M. D.  
15 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604



11. Gene Marler  
17 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

16. V. A. Nordine  
12 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

12. Miss Eleanor F. Koppersmith  
19 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

17. Harold J. Sweet  
10 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

13. Charles Thurley McLeod  
18 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

18. Dr. Aubrey White  
1406 Brown Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

14. John E. Dixon  
16 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

19. Wilbur Sanders  
1001 Dauphin Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

15. D. G. Callaway  
14 Common Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

