

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 15 1987

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received **JAN 12 1988**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Jacob Magee House

and/or common Sturtevant House

2. Location

street & number Mobile County Highway #45 north of Kushla McLeod Rd. NA not for publication

city, town NA X vicinity of Kushla Congressional District 1

state Alabama code 01 county Mobile code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" 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 Mrs. Margaret Sturtevant

street & number Rt. 9, Box 168

city, town Eight Mile NA vicinity of state Alabama 36613

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mobile County Courthouse

street & number 109 Government Street

city, town Mobile state Alabama 36602

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Alabama Inventory X
title Mobile County Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1970-present X
1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

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

The Magee-Sturtevant House in Kushla was built as an H-shaped structure, but with full-length front and rear porches, the building has the appearance of being rectangular in massing. The house is raised on brick piers and capped by a side gabled roof. Two gabled dormers are present on both the front and rear, and exterior end chimneys extend above the roofline.

The central door is flanked by 6/6 windows to either side which abut projecting side rooms. These rooms each have doors accessing the central entrance alcove as well as windows to the front and side. The main door leads to a central hall. On the left (west) is the parlor with double pocket doors and a simple Greek Revival mantel.

To the right (east) of the hall is another large room with a simple mantel. This room has doors into the front east room, the hall and the rear east room. The rear east room opens into the stair hall centered on the rear of the house, which in turn, leads into a room to the west on the rear as well as into the main central hall. The winding double flight stairs are very steep and lead to a second-story central hall flanked by a room to either side. The flooring in the upper story is laid in random width pine boards.

Evidence (exterior siding in the hall and patched siding to the outside) suggests the rear arrangement was similar to the front and that the stair hall was originally open and recessed between two rear rooms. A single room addition with an exterior end chimney has been attached to the left side at the rear. It is reached by way of the west (left) rear room; the addition was one large room which a letter from 1878 suggests may have been added by the original builder of the house to serve as a school room for his children. The second-story hall has been partially enclosed for a pass-through bath.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1846-1847; 1865 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion A: Military History

The Magee-Sturtevant house achieved national significance as the meeting place where the groundwork was laid for the surrender of Confederate forces of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana which, in effect, brought the War Between the States to an official close. It was here that Generals Taylor (C. S. A.) and Canby (U. S. A.) met on April 29, 1865 at which time a two-day truce was arranged. During the truce, news was received of the surrender by Johnston of his army and the repudiation of the Johnston-Sherman convention by the Federal Government. Canby then contacted Taylor requesting a meeting to discuss surrender terms. On May 4, 1865 the two men met in Citronelle, Mobile County, where General Taylor surrendered his army.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Magee-Sturtevant house, built 1846-1847, is architecturally significant due to its unique blending of a plan indigenous to the South Atlantic coast with the local Gulf Coast Cottage. The South Atlantic plan consists of a central hall with a room to either side and rooms to the front creating a recessed entrance with inset porch, and, in this case and not atypical of the Atlantic coast plan, a recessed rear porch between rear cabinets. The Magee-Sturtevant house is the only known example of this type in Mobile County. The structure also incorporates the full-length front and rear galleries with simple Greek Revival details found in the Gulf Coast Cottage. The origin of the two styles in one structure may be explained by the facts that Jacob Magee, the builder, was from Alabama and that his wife Mary was from North Carolina.

* * * * *

Integrity:

The Magee-Sturtevant house remains essentially as originally constructed. The most distinctive feature, the deep front porch with recessed entranceway, remains. The rear recess has been infilled, but in such a manner as to leave the original integrity and design clearly visible; it therefore has little effect. The addition to the west side was, according to a letter from 1878, probably built by Magee as his children's schoolroom, and is an early and essential part of the building's growth. The original kitchen/dining room to the east of the rear porch fell into ruin and was taken down in the 1930s. Evidence (exposed beams, patched siding, walls abutting windows and the locations of foundation piers) suggests that the recessed porches may have been larger and the protruding rooms would consequently have been smaller. However, the flooring and the staircase do not indicate any major changes. Therefore, a logical assumption is that the original design was altered during the construction phase. To conclude, despite the minor modifications made over time, the plan and fabric of the Magee-Sturtevant house remain intact and the building retains its essential integrity.

* * * See Attached * * *

9. Major Bibliographical References

* * * See Attached * * *

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Kushla

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	8	8	7	0	0	3	4	1	0	2	3	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is the house and immediate surrounding lot measuring 100' x 175' being 0.15 mile north down the private drive located on the east side of Mobile County

* * * See Attached * * *

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

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Devereaux Bemis, Architectural Historian

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date July 9, 1987

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

city or town Mobile state Alabama 36633

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-5-88

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 date 2/12/88

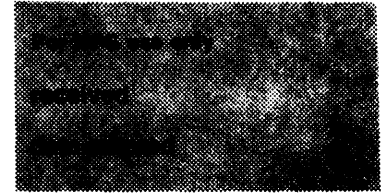
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Magee-Sturtevant House Item number 8. Significance Page 1

Historic Summary:

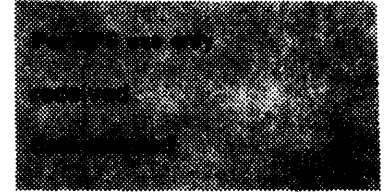
Jacob Magee, a lifelong resident of Mobile County, was a leader in local political events from 1838 to 1867, twice serving in the General Assembly. He held several positions in the City (deputy sheriff and clerk at Union Press among them) before moving to the country (1847) where he presumably farmed. He is credited with the founding of the community of Whistler where he donated 80 acres to the Mobile and Ohio Railroad for their shops, which served as the focal point of the area.

The Magee Homestead briefly entered the national spotlight toward the end of the Civil War. In his memoirs, General Richard Taylor, C. S. A., described the last few days of his part in the War. The same scene at the Magee Farm in present day Kushla was also described by Max Heyman in his biography of General Canby, U. S. A. At noon on April 29, 1865, Canby and Taylor met at Magee's farm north of Mobile. Reflecting the fortunes of the two, Canby arrived with a brigade of men, a military band and a number of officers while Taylor arrived by rail on a handcar propelled by two Negroes and escorted by one officer. A table was spread outside with a "bountiful luncheon" and champagne flowed. Canby and Taylor met inside and arranged for a two-day truce. During the truce, news arrived of the surrender of Johnston and the repudiation of the Johnston-Sherman convention by the Federal Government. On May 4, 1865, General Taylor surrendered the last organized Confederate force to Canby in Citronelle, thereby effectively bringing to a close the Civil War.

Upon Magee's death, the estate was cared for by a court-appointed administrator who sold the house and lands at auction in 1886 to Winnifred W. Peckham, a daughter of Jacob and Mary Magee. She maintained it for a short time, until 1887, when she sold it to John Bowen. The estate of Bowen sold it to Maria B. Armistead in 1893, who then conveyed it to Alfred Sturtevant in 1898. It remains in the Sturtevant family and the house is currently occupied by Margaret Sturtevant, the daughter-in-law of Alfred.

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Continuation sheet Magee-Sturtevant House Item number 9. Page 1.

Delshaw, Winnie Brown. 1878 letter in possession of the Sturtevant family.

Heyman, Max L., Jr. Prudent Soldier: A Biography of E. R. S. Canby, 1817-1873. Glendale, California: The Arthur H. Clark Company. 1959. Pp. 232-234.

Mobile City Directories. 1839-1870, intermittent.

Mobile Daily Register. Friday, November 9, 1883. Obituary of Jacob Magee.

Taylor, Richard. Destruction and Reconstruction: Personal Experiences of the Late War. New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1879. Pp. 224-227.

United States Census Records. 1840-1880.

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Continuation sheet Magee-Sturtevant House

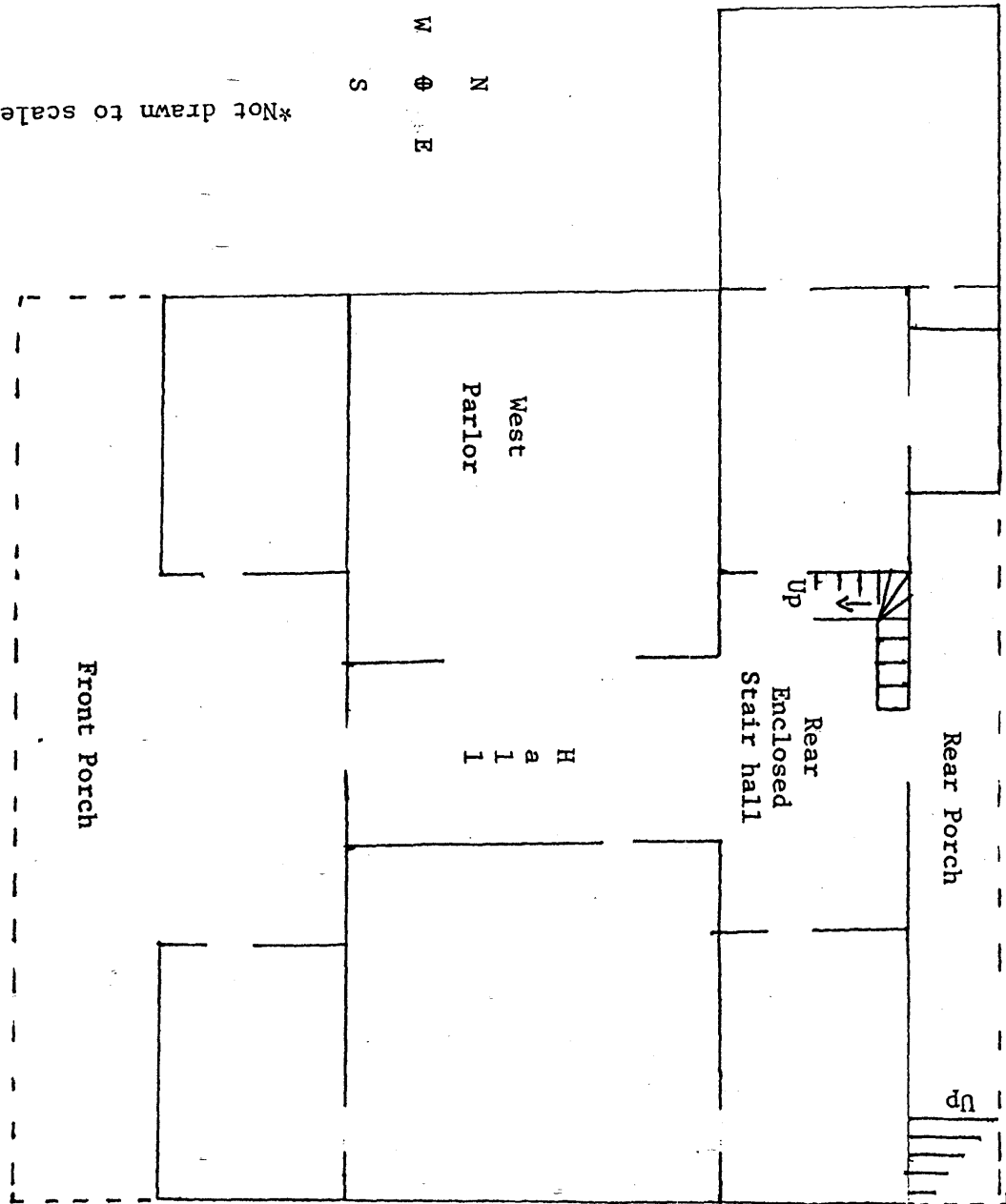
Item number 10.

Page 1.

Highway 45, said drive being 0.1 mile north along Highway 45 from the intersection of the Kushla McLeod Road. This house and lot being a part of the 9.5 acre tract described as follows: Beginning on the south line of section 34, T2S, R2W at the center line of Magee Creek, running thence northwesterly along the creek 475 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence west 600 feet along the creek; thence south 300 feet to the section line; thence east 555 feet; thence north 230 feet to the Point of Beginning.

MAGEE/STURREVVANT HOUSE

FLOOR PLAN*



*Not drawn to scale