

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0179370 DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 20 1975
DATE ENTERED AUG 19 1975

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
Battle House Royale
AND/OR COMMON
Battle House Hotel

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
26 North Royal Street
CITY, TOWN
Mobile
STATE
Alabama
VICINITY OF
CODE
01
COUNTY
Mobile
CODE
097
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Cassada Development Company (Mr. Frank Cassadea, President)
STREET & NUMBER
2200 Lake Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Fort Wayne
STATE
Indiana
VICINITY OF
46805

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Mobile County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
South Royal Street
CITY, TOWN
Mobile
STATE
Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Battle House is a seven story steel framed structure designed in the Georgian Revival style of the early 20th Century. The building is U-shaped and measures 151 feet on the west and 166 feet on the north with the main entrance (western) fronting onto North Royal Street.

Window treatment, texture, and color divide the structure into three distinct units; the 1st and 2nd floors, the 3rd - 6th floors, and the 7th floor. The western elevation is divided into three major bays, each of which consists of three bays. An a-b-a rhythm established in the major bays is repeated throughout the facade.

A central one story portico forms the main entrance of the building and is three bays wide with four sets of paired Tuscan columns supporting an entablature surmounted by a balustrade. Originally this story, like the one above was of light brown brick with every 9th row recessed giving it a banded effect. The western elevation and approximately 1/3 of the northern elevation have been covered with black marble and large display windows cut into the wall.

The second floor is divided into three major bays composed of three windows each. The three central openings are deeply recessed with Tuscan columns in antis, and open onto the balustraded area above the portico.

Windows on either side of the central section are recessed and below each is a balustrade set flush with the outer plane of the wall. Windows are double hung, 8/8, with transoms above. Lintels have exaggerated keystones and end voussoirs. A heavy white entablature separates this section from the one above.

The 3rd - 6th stories are of red brick in flemish bond with brown brick used at the corners to create the appearance of quoins. Windows of this section have lintels with accented keystones and white sills. The upper halves of the 2nd and 8th windows are flanked with small side lights which have brick sills beneath. The 4th, 5th and 6th windows have similar side lights but each of these has a white lintel with an accented keystone. The space below the sills is filled with red brick, stretchers only. A white sill extends across the bottom of the central windows and the two side windows holding the three together in a unit. On the third floor cast iron "balconies" extend across the 1st and 3rd windows together, the 4th - 6th windows individually, and the 7th - 9th windows together.

A heavy white string course separates the 6th from the 7th floor which is of light brown brick. A heavy overhanging cornice with egg and dart molding and heavy dentils caps the structure.

The northern elevation is similar to the western. Two main entrances with pilasters to either side and entablatures above are located in the central part of the 11 bay elevation. Windows on the 3rd and 7th floor have individual iron work "balconies".

Although the interior has been renovated several times since the construction of the hotel, the outstanding domed lobby with its fine plaster molding, marble columns and art glass panels in the dome light, is basically unaltered.

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 type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1906-1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT F. M. Andrews and Co.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Battle House Hotel is the fourth hotel to occupy this site and the second to be known as the Battle House. Designed by F. M. Andrews and Company of New York, it was one of the earliest buildings in the state to make use of steel framed construction.

The first hotel on the site was known as the Franklin House. The owner Daniel White moved his Inn from Cahaba to Mobile on flatboats after the severe flood in 1825 almost destroyed the state capitol. Next to the Franklin House, an inn known as the Alabama Hotel was constructed, but both hotels were destroyed by fire in 1829.

That same year a larger hotel, the Waverly, took their place and served until it too was destroyed by fire in 1850. In the fall of that year, James Battle, his brothers, and several other prominent Mobilians formed a company to build a hotel. Isaiah Rodgers, a noted Greek Revival architect, was hired to design the building, which opened in 1852 as the Battle House. The hotel was a popular establishment in the city attracting a large clientele until it burned in 1905.

In 1906 a company composed of a number of leading citizens was formed with D. R. Burgess as president, and raised \$1,350,000 for the purpose of rebuilding the Battle House. The structure was completed in 1908. President Woodrow Wilson was entertained here in 1913 after announcing his corollary to the Monroe Doctrine to delegates to the Southern Commercial Congress.

The hotel continued to serve the distinguished visitors to Mobile until recently when it was forced to close for financial reasons. Plans are currently being made for the possible restoration and reopening of the hotel.

