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### CREOLE AND GULF COAST COTTAGES IN BALDWIN COUNTY

(Thematic Group)

RECEIVEN

NATIONAL REGISTER

Owner: Joseph P. Warren 905 Captain O'Neal Drive Daphne, A1. 36526

Historic Names: Walker House Goldsby House

Common Name: Warren House

Location: 905 Captain O'Neal Drive, Daphne

# Verbal Boundary Description:

Begin at a point 174 feet north of Deer Avenue on the west side of Captain O'Neal Avenue. Thence proceed west 980 feet to Mobile Bay, thence proceed north following the meanderings of the shoreline 104 feet to a point, thence east 980 feet to a point, thence south 104 feet to the beginning.

Acreage: 2.3

UTM: 16/412/340/3384/300

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Date of Construction: 1850

Statement of Significance

### Criterion C-Architecture:

The Walker-Goldsby-Warren House is significant as one of two high style Gulf Coast Cottages in Baldwin County. Its central hall and three foot brick piers are classic features of the Gulf Coast style while the jibbed windows and entablature reflect Greek Revival influences. It is also significant for its single outbuilding, a rare survival in Baldwin County.

# Integrity:

The Walker-Goldsby-Warren House retains its integrity of location, materials and plan. Exterior alterations are minor. The rear shed roof dormer was added in 1907 when the house became a year round residence and the south half of the shed roof back porch was filled in as well. Later additions and alterations include knee braces in the gables (c. 1935), asbestos siding on the sides of the dormers (c. 1955) and glassing in the north half of the back porch (c. 1970).

Interior integrity is excellent. Some interior walls have been sheetrocked but all floors and ceilings are original. The entrance from the hall into the south front room has been sealed and turned into shelves.

The kitchen has a laundry room which was added to the rear (north side) by the present owners.

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#### Description:

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The Walker-Goldsby-Warren House occupies a magnificent location on the steep bluffs overlooking Mobile Bay. The Captain Adams-Stone House is on the lot to the north. The Walker-Goldsby-Warren House is a one-and-one-half story, frame Gulf Coast Cottage resting on three foot brick piers. The five by four bay structure has a gable roof to the sides. A recessed, balustraded porch with boxed columns and capitals covers the full facade. There is a simple entablature above. The eaves extend slightly over the porch and have exposed rafters. The central entrance consists of a wood door (two lights replace solid panels) with sidelights and transom. The six over six windows to either side are jibbed. Three gable dormers with casement windows and exposed rafters rise from the facade. There are a pair of end chimneys each side, the rear ones shorter, and all double shoulder with corbeled caps. The half story windows are casement and the gables have knee braces. The rear elevation presents a long shed roof dormer and a back porch that has been filled in on the south half and glassed in on the north half. A shed roof extension connects with the kitchen, which is a one story 4 x 1 bay building with a gable roof perpendicular to the house. A recessed porch covers the full facade and has square posts and plank railing. Two front doors each lead directly into one of the two rooms. A massive central chimney has back to back fireplaces.

The interior of the house presents a central hall plan with a room to either side, wide rear open space with a smaller room to either side. The interior sides of the hall and rear walls of the front rooms are clapboarded, indicating that the house may have been a dogtrot at one time.

The hall runs back the width of the front rooms, then there is an interior transom and behind that a larger open space with stairs and a room to either side. The rear doors, opposite the front entrance, are vertical planks with a transom. A beaded board arch delineates the north rear room from the rear hall. The two front rooms are sheetrocked with four panel doors onto the hall and vertical plank doors to the rear rooms. The north front room has a simple wooden mantel whereas the south front room has a more elaborate marbel one, probably brought over from Mobile in more recent times. The north rear room has wide beaded board ceilings and walls. A simple wood mantel is present in the south rear room and the walls here are sheetrocked with wallpaper. A bath has been added where the back porch has been filled.

The simple balustraded staircase leads to an upstairs which features garrated ceilings and three front rooms with the shed roof dormer acting as a passage for the rooms. Upstairs walls are sheetrocked except for the interior of the shed roof dormer which has beaded board.

The interior of the kitchen presents back to back rooms, each with a fireplace. The west room has modern cabinets and the east room has wide floorboards and is open.

#### Historical Summary:

In 1849 a Mobile businessman named Daniel Walker bought a lot of land overlooking Mobile Bay on the Eastern Shore. Shortly thereafter Walker constructed a summer house but sold it in 1852. Thereafter the house was sold every few years, being owned by Mobile merchants and businessmen. In 1904 it was purchased by Joel Walker Goldsby, a Mobile Circuit Court Judge. Goldsby and his wife made it a summer home until 1907 when they moved over permanently. The Goldsby's added the rear dormer for more room and filled half the back porch as well. They held the house until 1937, after which it passed through various hands. The house is presently on the market again.

