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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

DEC 16 1994

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

Ala. Historical Commission

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

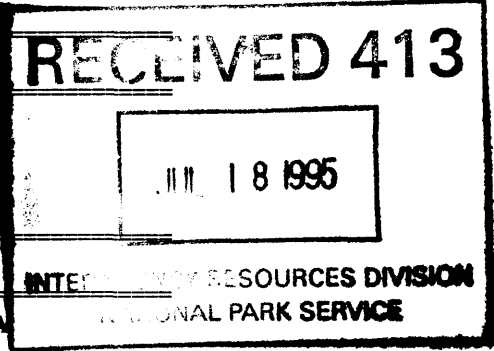
1. Name of Property

historic name Brunell House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 12113 Jessamine St. not for publication N/A city or town Magnolia Springs vicinity N/A state Alabama code AL county Baldwin code 003 zip code 36555



3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date July 10, 1995

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office) State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register

Edson H. Beall 8/22/95

Entered in the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

roof Asphalt

walls Weatherboard

other Wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance c. 1910

Significant Dates c. 1910

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Mobile Historic Development Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>425390</u>	<u>3363240</u>	3
2	_____	_____	4	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Devereaux Bemis

organization _____ date August 15, 1994

street & number 200 S. Cedar Street telephone (205)438-7281

city or town Mobile state AL zip code 36602

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Frances S. Cleverdon

street & number P. O. Box 132 telephone (205)965-7857

city or town Magnolia Springs state AL zip code 36555

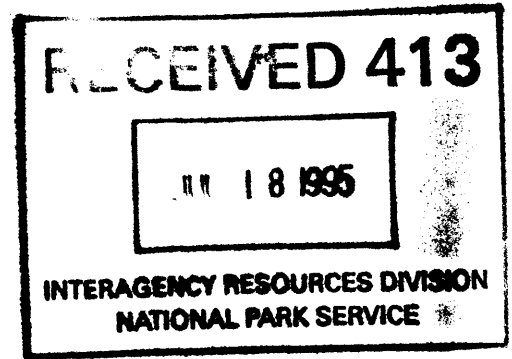
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 Brunell House
name of property
Baldwin County, Alabama
county and State



Description

This is a one story, frame, vernacular cottage with Neoclassic detailing as seen in the Tuscan columns on the hipped, attached porch. On the asphalt hipped roof is a front hipped dormer which allows light into the attic space. The three bay front consists of 1/1 windows and a half glass door which allow ample light into the hall-less interior. The house is divided axially with two wider rooms on the north side and three slightly narrower rooms on the south side. The front door opens into the large living room which has two rooms off the left (south). A door to the rear (west) of the living room leads to a kitchen off which a bedroom opened to the left (south). This bedroom also had access into the middle west room which serves as the bathroom.

The house had suffered from long years of neglect particularly evident in the termite damage to the kitchen, bath, and bedroom areas and the foundation underpinnings. A recent restoration by the current owner has repaired much of the damage caused by years of neglect and made the house habitable again. The interior is constructed of pine with curly pine accents and mouldings throughout, providing a rich, warm interior. During the restoration, a small hall was created in the bathroom space to allow privacy from the living room and give access to the bedroom from the living room via this new hall. A doorway from the kitchen to the bedroom was enclosed and the door and frame relocated to the bath.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPONENT

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of the Brunell House property, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2 Brunell House
name of property
Baldwin County, Alabama
county and State

Statement of Significance

Criterion C: Architecture

This building is representative of a modest type of building constructed in rural settings during the Neoclassic period. Particularly interesting is that this building is located in what was a resort community noted for its larger homes and hotels. The Brunell house was located away from the river and springs which were the major attractions of the area. However, the house was built in the style of the times showing a desire to be fashionable and contemporary. Interestingly, the materials were of a type obtainable locally yet by finishing this relatively modest house with a much more elegant material, the curly pine, Mr. Brunell probably exceeded local expectations. In fact, this was probably a rental house for Mr. Brunell whose own house was also finished in curly pine. Therefore, this building shows particular architectural importance in the dichotomy of being representative of a modest type of structure through its size and scale, and its use of fashionable elements (the Tuscan columns) and elaborate materials (the curly pine).

Historic Context

The Brunell House is located in a rural area which has remained unspoiled by excessive construction. Magnolia Springs is the location for the narrowest and shallowest passage across the Magnolia River. In addition, it is the farthest navigable point upriver. This has resulted in the area being important for many years. It can trace its European connection back to 1800 when a Spanish land grant ceded a large section of land to Joseph Collins. Mr. Collins maintained ownership of this huge parcel until 1855 when the lands were transferred to Kennedy, Moore and Company which operated a turpentine business in the area. The turpentine business was destroyed at the close of the Civil War. Six years later the land was sold for fifty cents an acre to Mrs. Lizzie Breed, a widow from Vermont. With her friends and family a thriving colony of Northerners was soon in place. An inn was soon opened. In 1892 the first Magnolia Springs Post Office was opened. The area still has mail delivery by boat to serve the public who live along the River.

By the turn of the century, Magnolia Springs was a thriving winter resort for people from the north. Several hotels were opened and land was changing hands. In 1894, a large parcel of land along and back from the River was subdivided into the Lyman's Addition to Magnolia Springs creating 52 lots and several streets. One of the purchasers of several parcels was Mr. F. H. Brunell of Chicago who built a spacious home for himself and his family on the River as well as a number of houses on the main street which he furnished and rented to guests. The little village thrived during the winter months until fires destroyed several hotels and changes in taste left the community behind as people sought different places to vacation. Mr. Brunell eventually sold all his property and moved away.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3 **Brunell House** _____
name of property
Baldwin County, Alabama _____
county and State

HISTORIC CONTEXT (Continued)

Since its heyday as a resort, the community of Magnolia Springs has been little more than a scenic crossroads community. Full time residents are now the norm though some people have weekend places on the water. With U.S. Highway 90 running virtually through the area, the community has become a somewhat idyllic residential spot for people who work in the area. The Springs and River still attract people who wish to live in this bucolic setting and the community has been experiencing some growth through the years and the community has been declared a preservation district by the Baldwin County government.

Historic Summary

The Brunell House being nominated was one of the rental properties built after the turn of the century by Mr. Brunell to capitalize on the tourist attractions that the Springs and River offered along with a warm climate. Because this was a rental house in a resort area, the house is finished with attractive detailing. Also, since it was built to stand alone and not act as a hotel, it was relatively modest in scale. This made it unusual to a certain degree to many of its neighboring buildings, but brought it more into the mainstream of Baldwin County as a whole.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 4 **Brunell House** _____
name of property
Baldwin County, Alabama _____
county and State

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Probate records located in the Baldwin County Courthouse.

Cleverdon, Frances. Interview held at her house in Magnolia Springs. May 21, 1994. Interviewer, Devereaux Bemis.

Rasmussen, Col. E. L. "Rambling Notes, Magnolia Springs, Alabama." Unpublished manuscript. 1963.

Mobile Press Register. Various undated articles located in the files of the Mobile Historic Development Commission.

Foley Onlooker. Various undated articles located in the files of the Mobile Historic Development Commission.

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 5 **Brunell House**
name of property
Baldwin County, Alabama
county and State

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The property nominated is an irregular parcel of roughly 222' x 186' located at the northwest intersection of Jessamine and Gates Streets in Magnolia Springs, Baldwin County, Alabama. The legal description is as follows:

Commencing at the center corner of Section 28, Township 7 South, Range 3 East, Baldwin County, Alabama; run thence south, along the half section line 1980.0 feet to a point; thence run West, 25.0 feet to a steel rod on the west right-of-way of Jessamine Street (50.0 foot right-of-way) for the point of beginning of the property herein described; run thence south 00 degrees 47' 47" east, along said west right-of-way line, 222.03 feet to a steel rod on the north right-of-way line of Gates Avenue (50.0 foot right-of-way); thence run south 66 degrees 57' 54" West, along said north right-of-way line, 186.72 feet to an iron pipe; thence run north 00 degrees 02' 46" east, 115.45 feet to an iron pipe; thence run North 00 degrees 00' 44" east, 179.65 feet to a steel rod on the south right-of-way line of a 50.0 foot roadway easement (not open); thence run south 89 degrees 59' 23" east, along south right-of-way line 168.61 feet to a steel rod and the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is based on the legal description of the parcel on which the house is located. These are the current boundaries of the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

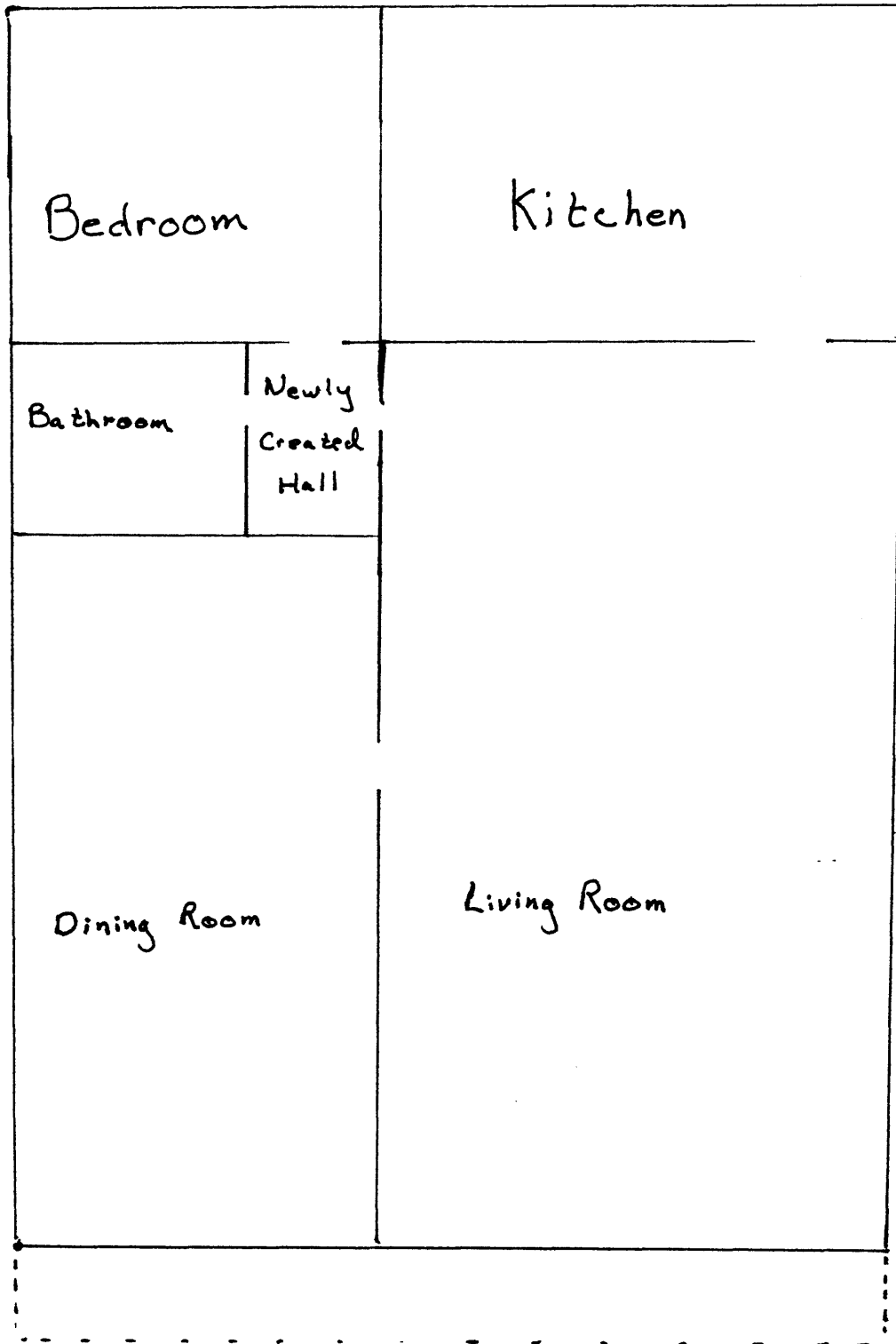
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 6 Brunell House
name of property
Baldwin County, Alabama
county and State

Photographs taken May 1994
Brunell House
12113 Jessamine Street
Magnolia Springs
Baldwin County, Alabama

Photographer: Devereaux Bemis
Location of Negatives:
Mobile Historical Development Commission

1. Facade, Camera facing W
2. South elevation, Camera facing N
3. North elevation, Camera facing S
4. Rear, Camera facing E
5. Living room, Camera facing W
6. Living Room, Camera facing E
7. Detail of living room floor, Camera facing S
8. Dining room with mantel, Camera facing W
9. Detail of interior doorway (living room), Camera facing S
10. Bedroom, Camera facing SW
11. Kitchen, Camera facing SW
12. Bathroom, Camera facing S



Not to Scale

Brunell House
Magnolia Springs
Baldwin County, AL