

**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 Miller-O'Donnell House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1102 Broad Street not for publication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
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> X </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> X </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
		<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> X </u> private residence
			<u> </u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John O'Donnell, Estate

street & number 2001 Point Legere

city, town Mobile vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mobile County Court House, Probate Court

street & number 109 Government Street

city, town Mobile state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nineteenth Century Mobile Arch has this property been determined eligible? yes X no
Inventory of Existing Buildings

date 1974 federal state county X local

depository for survey records City Planning Commission Office, City Hall, Box 1827

city, town Mobile state Alabama

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

1102 Broad is a raised cottage typical of the Gulf Coast development as it was modified by the early years of the Greek Revival. The pre-classical style can be seen in the basic form with its frame second story raised above a high masonry ground level. The classical influence is reflected in the formal balance, the central hall plan, the symmetry of fenestration and the square columns with molded capitals. The main entrance to the cottage is on the second level, with a steep, 17 tread stairway that creates a dramatic and monumental quality to a rather simple treatment of the facade. Originally the stairway was in 2 runs, with about 5 steps leading up to a narrow landing only as wide as two of the treads, then the second run continued the steep pitch to the porch. About 1927 this stairway was replaced by the present concrete one that has no balustrade. The original stair balustrade was similar to that still extant on the porch, with a simple oval top rail and balusters square in section. Some of the balusters of the porch still have their early swallowtail cut at the base where the baluster joins the bottom rail.

The central second story front porch has 3 bays formed by the square columns that rise to a classic entablature with a taenia molding still extant on the north side. The gabled porch roof is at right angles to the main gable over the house. Another small gable covers the rear dormer. The present porch roof has a rather deep overhang that may be an alteration from the original.

The main entrance at the upper level has a single leaf door with narrow side lights in which there are 4 glazed panels above a wood panel. The pattern of the glazed section is unusual in that the 4 rectangular glass areas are separated by narrow bands of glass set in very thin muntins. Slender panelled Tuscan pilasters frame the door while the outer casement has a narrow molded edging. The entrance at the ground level, beneath the overhanging porch, is a modern French door. The open area formed by the high brick piers has been partially infilled in the front by screening and under the rear porch has been infilled with brick to form a bathroom. All windows have simple framing with 6/6 lights.

While there have been minor alterations on the exterior of the building, they do not detract from the original massing and the basic fabric of the cottage. The architectural elements remain true to the 1837 date and present an excellent example of the type.

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 checked="" 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 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 1837 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

ARCHITECTURE: The Miller-O'Donnell House is an exemplary surviving example of the Gulf Coast cottage built during the 1830s, in which a frame second story is raised high above a masonry foundation. The main entrance on the second level and the early form of railing are typical of its time of construction. Although simple in detailing and small in comparison with the large plantation houses, its pleasing proportions and high, central stairway gives it a monumental quality.

AGRICULTURE: Constructed and inhabited by small farmers who sold their produce in the City Market at City Hall, the Miller-O'Donnell House is one of the few remaining farm houses located within the city limits, and is representative of the many small produce farms which once encircled the city and which were absorbed by it.

* * * * *

The house was built in 1837 for James P. Miller, a small farmer who sold produce grown on his 29 acre farm in the city. After his death the house was acquired from his estate by Thomas Kavanah in 1858 and remained in his family as a small farm until 1879 when it was purchased by John O'Donnell. It has remained in the O'Donnell family, but ceased being used as a farm in the first decade of the 20th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic American Buildings Survey
 Deed Books from 1831 to 1925; Tax Records from 1836 to 1851;
 Will Book 2/371; Family records of the John O'Donnell family;
 City Atlas of 1878; Sanborn Maps 1904 and 1925; Tax Assessor's Map.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .7 acres

Quadrangle name Mobile

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	3	9	8	7	5	0	3	3	9	2	7	0	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 Begin W. side Broad 261 ft. from SW corner Broad and Baltimore, then SW 84 ft, then W 227.75 ft., then N 145.42 ft., then E 33.5 ft., then N 35', then E. 83 ft., then SW 103 ft., then E 150' to the point of beginning

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 Elizabeth B. Gould, Architectural Historian

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date November 1981

street & number P. O. Box 1827 telephone (205) 438-7133

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 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-6-82



1102 Broad Street

City Tax AssessorsMap : 02-29-10-37-0-007; Choctaw Point Tract

