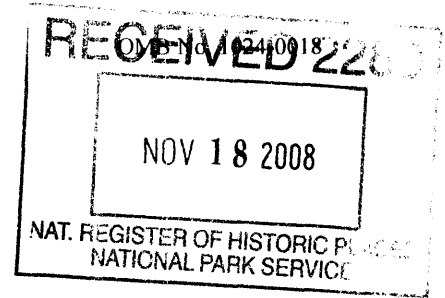


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1252



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Knox, Ross, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 102 Hillwood Road not for publication N/A
city or town Mobile vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Mobile code 097 zip code 36608

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Riannah Ann Brown November 13, 2008
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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.
- other (explain): _____

Elson H. Beall

[Signature] _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: concrete

roof: asphalt shingles

walls: brick veneer
stucco

other: _____

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 1929

Significant Dates 1929

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Roberts, John Platt, architect

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 < 1 acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>389860</u>	<u>3395410</u>	4	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	5	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	6	_____	_____

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 Shaun Wilson/ Preservation Consultant (reviewed by Susan Enzweiler, AHC NR Coordinator)

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date 1/29/2007

street & number P.O. Box 1827 telephone 251-208-7281

city or town Mobile state AL zip code 36633-1827

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 John and Lynn Roberts

street & number 102 Hillwood Road telephone 251-344-8485

city or town Mobile state AL zip code 36608

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 name of property Knox, Ross, House
county and State Mobile County, AL

Narrative Description

The Ross Knox house is situated on a large, informally landscaped lot in Country Club Estates, a 1920's suburban development that features a golf course and country club. The lot is divided between the front and back yard by an 8' tall masonry wall connected to the house. The house sits at the peak of a hill facing north. It is sited within the southwest corner of the tee-intersection created by Drury Lane ending at Hillwood Road.

The house, built in 1929, is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style. Although its interior arrangement offers two full stories inside, its exterior presentation gives the appearance of a 1½-story house. The first story is brick veneer covered with stucco (added in 2001), while ornamental half-timbering is present in the peaks of the gable faces. The roof is covered in asphalt composition shingles, colored a rustic brown. The house is irregularly massed but is essentially an ell shape. The entrance is recessed under a gabled porch. The doorway is round-arched, and its single entry doorway employs vertical boards and strap hinges. A chimney is present on the east elevation. Windows are metal casement with board and batten shutters on the façade and west elevations. Two additions were added in 2001. These are located on the west elevation and correspond to the master bedroom and kitchen. These additions utilized like materials and a compatible design aesthetic, in order to be sympathetic to the rest of the building. The enclosure of the original sun porch was done by a previous owner circa 1955, and is now an historic feature in its own right. A raised, flagstone-floored patio was also added to the rear of the house in 2001.

The interior retains its integrity of style and design. The house is one room deep with an ell. The entrance leads into a central hall with a stairway. A basket-handled arch leads into the dining room. A living room is located on the east side of the house, and a kitchen is located on the west. The master bedroom is contained in the ell. The interior features original oak flooring and crease molded paneling. The living room features a cathedral ceiling with exposed rafters and open truss work. The ceiling in this room was painted in the space between the rafters in 2001. This was done in off-white with the rafters and truss work remaining unpainted. This treatment echoes the ornamental half-timbering on the exterior. Additionally, this treatment only covers the original materials, which remain. A round-arched chimney is also present in the living room. A small sunroom with slate flooring is located behind the living room on the south side of the house. The kitchen contains new cabinetry, but is in keeping with the design of the original. A 2001 addition lies behind the kitchen to the south side. The master bedroom contains a bath, which, though in its original location, was expanded in 2001 to include more modern features. The upstairs consists of a series of bedrooms and a bath. A Juliet balcony overlooks the main entrance from the upper story. An original basement houses utilities and wine cellar, which had been used by a previous owner as a fallout shelter.

There is one non-contributing outbuilding. It is a brick veneer garage/ apartment that replaces an earlier utility shed, which was board and batten. The outbuilding closely matches the house in style and materials but is non-contributing due to age (added in 2001).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 name of property Knox, Ross, House
county and State Mobile County, AL

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this area, the potential for subsurface remains is good. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3 name of property Knox, Ross, House
county and State Mobile County, AL

Statement of Significance

The Ross Knox House is significant under National Register Criteria C in the area of architecture, as it constitutes one of the finest Tudor Revival houses in Mobile. The building exhibits many features of the style, including steeply pitched gables, casement windows, a prominent chimney and ornamental half-timbering. The building is further significant for its intact interior, which employs Tudor Revival themes in its doorways, hardware and fireplace.

Historical Summary

During the 1920's, a new suburban development was launched at Spring Hill, approximately six miles west of downtown Mobile. Spring Hill had long been a retreat for Mobilians seeking refuge from the frequent Yellow Fever outbreaks (Gould 1988, 50). By the 1920's, automobiles had made the area more easily accessible to the city, and residential development, previously scattered and sparse, increased. An area south of Old Shell Road was developed as a residential neighborhood, golf course, and country club in 1926. Initially named Wimbledon, the development was subsequently known as Country Club Estates (Dragonwick, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 29 October 1994). A Mission Revival clubhouse was constructed (not eligible due to alterations) and individual lots were sold. Though several house were constructed, the Depression slowed progress. The majority of the houses are post-1945 (Ibid).

The Knox house was among the earliest constructed in Country Club Estates. Built in 1929 (Mobile Register, 24 October 1999), the house was purchased by Ross Knox in 1933 (Deed Book 246, 62). Ross Knox was president of the Lucas E. Moore Stave Company of Georgia, a cooperage and supply company (City Directory). A Mobile architect, John Platt Roberts, designed the Tudor Revival house. Platt Roberts, as he is usually known, was the brother of Ed Roberts, Chairman of the Board for Mobile's prominent Waterman Steamship Company. He began his practice in 1922, becoming a member of the American Institute of Architects in 1924. He received his state license in 1931, the first year that Alabama required architects to be licensed (State Board of Architects, 1931). Although obviously a competent architect, Platt Roberts' close connection with the locally influential Waterman Steamship Company undoubtedly helped him to become the dominant architect in Mobile during the 1940's and '50's (Interview with Nick Holmes, Jr., 26 October 2006). His work includes the Mobile Metro Jail (circa 1950) at the foot of Government Street (no longer extant), the L&N Railroad Station (circa 1955, but demolished in March of 2007) at the intersection of Water and Government Streets, and the Waterman Steamship Building (61 St. Joseph Street) in conjunction with the noted architect, Paul Cret. By far his most significant work, the 18-story Waterman Steamship Building was constructed during a four-year period between 1945 and 1949. All three of these building were constructed in the International Style.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4 name of property Knox, Ross, House
county and State Mobile County, AL

The Tudor Revival Style became popular just after World War I with moderate imitations becoming part of the American vernacular during the 1930's (Foster 2004, 320). It was initially popular with the upper- and upper-middle class (Ibid), a class whose ethnic origins were still predominately British in origin (Baker 1994, 100). Nevertheless, the Tudor Revival Style was never popular in Mobile during the early 20th century, although several examples do exist in both the Old Dauphin Way and Ashland Place Historic Districts. An orphanage was constructed along Old Shell Road in Spring Hill in 1914 by the Episcopal Diocese. Yet, the style was never really popular in Mobile, probably because the city's Latin heritage and semi-tropical climate made it seem inauthentic or inappropriate (Dragonwick, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 29 October 1994). However, the Knox House's use of the Tudor Revival style fits with the upper-middle class origins of Country Club Estates' residents, and its superficial rustic character is in keeping with the suburban development's wooded appearance.

Ross Knox sold the house in 1942. The house passed through two owners before being purchased by Judge Herndon Inge, Jr. in 1959. Judge Inge occupied the house for 43 years until selling it to its current owners, John and Lynn Roberts. The Roberts have added two additions to the west and restored the interior. As the house still occupies its original site, and since Country Club Estates has maintained, in an uncompromised state, its wooded residential character, the house retains not only its integrity of style, but also its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9&10 Page 5 name of property Knox, Ross, House
county and State Mobile County, AL

Major Bibliographical References

Baker, John Milnes. American House Styles: A Concise Guide. New York/London:
W.W. Norton and Company, 1994.

City Directories, Municipal Archives. Mobile, Alabama.

Deed Books, Probate Court. Mobile, Alabama.

“Dragonwick”. National Register of Historic Places nomination.
29 October 1994.

Foster, Gerald. American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home.
Boston/New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004.

Gould, Elizabeth. From Fort to Port: An Architectural History of Mobile, Alabama,
1711-1918. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1988.

Holmes, Jr., Nick. Interview by Shaun Wilson, 26 October 2006. Transcript kept in
the Mobile Historic Development Commission files.

“Mobile Press-Register”, 24 October 1999.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Mobile, Alabama, 1925 and 1955, Municipal Archives.
Mobile, Alabama.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Knox House is represented as Lot 1, Block 3 of Wimbledon, according to a map of
the said subdivision recorded in Map Book 2, page 44, Mobile County Records.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel, which has been historically associated with the Knox House
since its construction.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section (photos) Page 6 name of property Knox, Ross, House
county and State Mobile County, AL

Photographic Key

Knox, Ross House
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama
Shaun Wilson, photographer
January 17, 2007
MHDC Negative File – AL_MobileCounty_Knox1-13

Photo #	Description (Roll/ Frame #)
1	Knox House, facade, camera facing south (AL_MobileCounty_Knox1)
2	Knox House, facade, camera facing southwest (AL_MobileCounty_Knox2)
3	Knox House, west elevation, camera facing east (AL_MobileCounty_Knox3)
4	Knox House, south elevation, camera facing northwest (AL_MobileCounty_Knox4)
5	Knox House, garage/apartment, facade, camera facing south (AL_MobileCounty_Knox5)
6	Knox House, entryway, camera facing west (AL_MobileCounty_Knox6)
7	Knox House, living room/parlor, ceiling detail, camera facing east (AL_MobileCounty_Knox7)
8	Knox House, sunroom, camera facing east (AL_MobileCounty_Knox8)
9	Knox House, kitchen/addition, camera facing south (AL_MobileCounty_Knox9)
10	Knox House, master bedroom, camera facing north (AL_MobileCounty_Knox10)

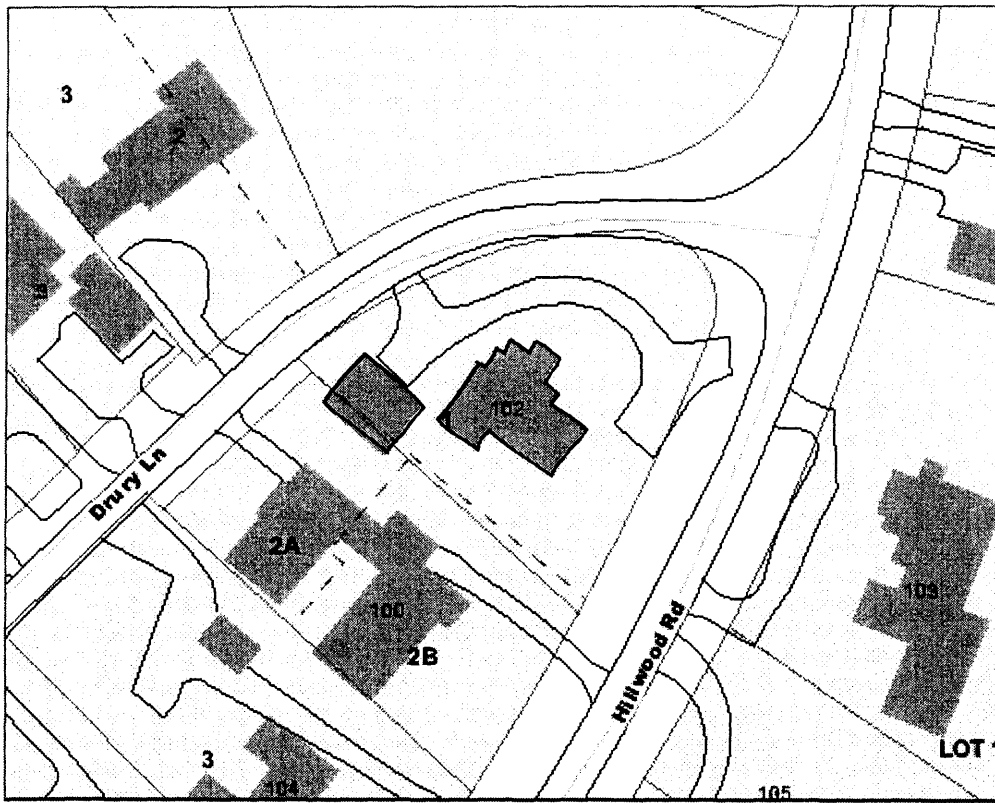
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section (photos) Page 7 name of property Knox, Ross, House
county and State Mobile County, AL

- | | |
|----|---|
| 11 | Knox House, dining room, camera facing south
(AL_MobileCounty_Knox11) |
| 12 | Knox House, 2 nd floor bedroom (west side), camera facing west
(AL_MobileCounty_Knox12) |
| 13 | Knox House, "Juliet Balcony", camera facing south
(AL_MobileCounty_Knox13) |

Help Main Map Search Map Data Info GIS Home



Select information type

Property Information

Parcel#:

Key#:

Owner Name:

Site Address:

Owner Address:

Subdivision:

Zoom In Zoom Out Pan Identify Facility Search School Search

Zoom Factor: 8x

1/2 Mile

Elementary

1/2 Mile

Refresh Map

Legend

Full Extent

Print Map

2006 Aerial Photo
10/09/2008

102 Hillwood

Ross Knox House outlined in black / including garage / apartment