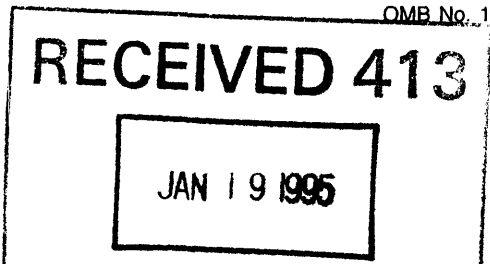


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each section by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Seminary/O'Neal Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number See inventory N/A not for publication

city or town Florence N/A vicinity

state Alabama code AL county Lauderdale code 077 zip code 35630

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

[Signature] 1-6-95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register 2/17/95

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
16	3	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
16	3	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)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Other: Foursquare

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Wood

roof Asphalt

other Concrete

Stucco

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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JAN 19 1995

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
Seminary-O'Neal Historic District
name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
county and State

#7 DESCRIPTION

THE SEMINARY-O'NEAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Seminary-O'Neal Historic District contains 13 houses of historic and architectural significance. The houses were constructed during a period from 1908 to 1943 and are of three major types: Bungalow; Sears, Roebuck "American Four-Square"; and Vernacular Cottage. The district joins the Wood Avenue Historic District (which contains 55 structures and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places) at two points: at the intersection of North Seminary Street and Hermitage Drive and at the intersection of East Irvine Avenue and Wood Avenue. It is bounded on the west by the intersection of North Seminary Street and East Irvine Avenue.

North Seminary Street is lined on both sides by huge trees, sidewalks, and evenly and closely spaced houses. East Irvine Avenue has the same amenities and ambience. North Seminary Street extends approximately two blocks beyond East Irvine Avenue (there are trees and sidewalks--no structures, only parking lots--in these two blocks) to the spacious, attractive campus of the University of North Alabama.

Five houses line the western side of North Seminary Street; four houses are on the eastern side. Two houses are on both sides of East Irvine Avenue (two on the north side and two on the south side).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District

name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
county and State

One of the most unusual features of North Seminary Street is that two of the nine houses are "American Four-Square" designed by Sears, Roebuck and Company which shipped the necessary construction materials to Florence on flat-bed railcars. To have two such houses in such a concentrated space is certainly uncommon in Florence. And these two houses are large, attractive structures in near-pristine condition, having had loving attention through the years from their owners.

East Irvine Avenue has three fine examples of Vernacular Cottage, also in near-pristine shape. Two are of American vintage while the third is of English origin. These three are complemented well by a Bungalow that was recently restored to its original look.

Because the O'Neal-Seminary Historic District is set immediately between the Wood Avenue and Sannoner Historic Districts, it solidifies a geographic section of Florence by having all of it listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the final small gem that is needed to make the historic jewel complete.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District
name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
county and State

INVENTORY OF STRUCTURES

- #1 513 North Seminary Street (contributing), 1924; Two-story red brick with hipped roof and asphalt shingles; rectangular front porch with two sets of double, fluted wooden columns and decorative dentil work at porch's roof line; multi-paned front door with 12-paned side-lights; separate garage (contributing) with matching brick.
Builder: A German carpenter (name unknown)
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Ray Walker
Name of house: Walker Home
Current owner: Mr. Robert W. Walker (descendant of original owners)
- #2 517 North Seminary Street (contributing), 1926; Two-story red brick with hipped roof and large dormer on top of second floor; rectangular front porch with four square columns; house ordered from Sears, Roebuck under the name "American Four-Square"; decorative brackets under eaves; separate frame garage (contributing).
Builder: Ray Koonce
Original owner: Lula M. Jackson
Name of house: Bower House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Byron Bower
- #3 520 North Seminary Street (contributing), 1943; One-and one-half-story red brick cottage; rectangular front porch with no roof; single gable over front door; small rectangular side porch with two square wooden columns; gabled roof with asphalt shingles; separate frame two-car garage (non-contributing).
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: Emma Hannah
Name of house: The Little House
Current owner: Betty Calloway

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District

name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
county and State

-
- #4 521 North Seminary Street (contributing), 1908; Two-story red brick with large dormer atop second floor; rectangular front porch with three wooden half-columns mounted on brick bases; low brick wall on front porch; hipped roof with asphalt shingles; house ordered from Sears, Roebuck under the name "American Four-Square"; decorative brackets under eaves.
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: Dr. Joseph C. Conner
Name of house: Conner Hardy Place
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Martin H. Hardy, Jr.
- #5 525 North Seminary Street (contributing), 1919; One-and one-half story stucco in bungalow genre; unusual front porch with decorative arches of stucco supported by two large stucco columns and two wooden posts; large dormer on front of house; hipped roof with asphalt shingles; separate 10' x 15' storage building (contributing) with wood siding and asphalt roof.
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Kleitz
Name of house: Kleitz House
Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Scott Sloan
- #6 528 North Seminary Street (contributing), 1922; One-story frame bungalow with clipped gable roof and asphalt shingles; three wooden, fluted Doric columns on front porch; covered stoop over center of front porch with open bower over one half of it; red brick chimney with white border of fire brick; separate frame one-car garage (contributing).
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: Mr. Joseph I. Simmons
Name of house: Thomas House
Current owner: Mr. Charles B. Thomas
- #7 529 North Seminary Street (contributing), 1920; One-story brick bungalow with gabled roof and asphalt shingles; front gable covered in cedar shake; 12-paned front door with eight-paned sidelights; two large, square wooden columns resting on brick bases; wide front steps of matching brick; separate garage of concrete block (non-contributing).
Builder: Mr. Schamagle
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Jackson
Name of house: Jackson-Muse Home
Current owner: Mr. Robert Muse, Jr.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District

name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
county and State

-
- #8 532 North Seminary Street (contributing), 1943; One-story brick bungalow with asphalt shingles and gabled roof; covered stoop with arched roof and two square wooden columns in center front; red brick chimney.
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Foy
Name of house: The W. L. Foy Home
Current owner: Ms. Beth O'Steen Kasmeier
- #9 536 North Seminary Street (non-contributing), 1948; One-story brick (painted gray) bungalow with 12-paned front door and two eight-paned sidelights; gabled roof with asphalt singles; above front entrance is an oversized overdoor with brackets; large fireplace chimney on front of house.
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Williams
Name of house: Williams Neese House
Current owner: Ms. Shirley G. Neese
- #10 213 East Irvine Avenue (contributing), 1937; One-story frame cottage with gabled roof and asphalt shingles; rectangular front porch with covered stoop in center over front door; four brick bases on front porch with wooden fluted columns resting on two; decorative gable atop the roof of house.
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: Mr. Joe S. Redd
Name of house: Redd Cottage
Current owner: Ms. Jennifer L. Wilson
- #11 214 East Irvine Avenue (contributing), 1929; One- and one-half story English cottage of red brick with tile roof; gable motif repeated three times on front of house; rectangular front porch with two arched, brick entrances; front door of multi-paned glass repeats arch design; two sets of casement windows on front.
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: Mr. Floyd Hill
Name of house: Truda's Cottage
Current owner: Ms. Truda J. Whitaker

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District

name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
county and State

- #12 217 East Irvine Avenue (contributing), 1924; One-story red brick vernacular cottage with gabled roof and asphalt shingles; rectangular front porch with low brick wall and two square wooden columns resting on brick bases; wooden front door with three vertical windows in top section and dentil work underneath them.
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: The Ashcraft Family
Name of house: Ashcraft-Whitten Cottage
Current owner: Mr. Robert W. Whitten
- #13 218 East Irvine Avenue (contributing), 1920; One-and-one-half story bungalow of red brick with gabled roof and asphalt shingles; large dormer on front roof covered in cedar shake; rectangular front porch with one square, wooden column resting on brick base; low brick wall on front porch.
Builder: Unknown
Original owner: The Huston Family
Name of house: The Nagel Inn
Current owner: Mr. James Nagel

Seminary/O'Neal HD
Name of Property

Lauderdale County/Alabama
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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. 1908- c. 1943

Significant Dates

See inventory

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

See inventory

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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:

Seminary/O'Neal HD
Name of Property

Lauderdale County/Alabama
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approx. 5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 43,8 04,0 3,8 5,1 4,90
Zone Easting Northing
2

3 Zone Easting Northing
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 Dawn Hardy/ Seminary-O'Neal Representative

organization N/A date 1-14-94

street & number 521 North Seminary Street telephone 764-8910

city or town Florence state AL zip code 35630

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District

name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
county and State

#8 SIGNIFICANCE

SEMINARY-O'NEAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

The criterion for registration for this District is the following:

"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."

The emergence of North Seminary Street and East Irvine Avenue is closely associated with national, regional and local economic trends from the turn of the twentieth century through the early 1940's since Florence, Alabama, underwent the same booms and declines during those years that other sections of the country were experiencing. The coming to the area of TVA (1933) and Reynolds Metals Company (1941) gave Florence the economic jump-start it needed to get itself moving following on the heels of the effects of World War I and the Great Depression.

The cohesive neighborhood known as the Seminary-O'Neal Historic District contains good and representative examples of residential architecture from 1908 to 1943. From Vernacular Cottages of both American and English origin to Bungalows to Sears, Roebuck's "American Four-Square," the architectural collection is both varied and well maintained. The neighborhood has, in fact, remained practically unchanged during the past 50 years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District

Name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
County and StateSection number 8 Page 8

Moving through this comfortable neighborhood, one is struck by the beauty of the tree-lined sidewalks as they guide the eye toward the president's home (constructed in 1930) on the campus of the University of North Alabama. Beyond that--still in the line of vision--sits Bibb-Graves Hall, the main administration building at the University (which causes Seminary Street to come to a dead-end because it is located squarely in the center of what would be Seminary if the street could continue). The vista created is quite impressive.

The architectural blend in the neighborhood is pleasing to the eye even though it includes several styles. Bungalows are the most prominent (as one might expect, given the time period in which home construction in the neighborhood was most active). This genre is interpreted in a variety of materials: wood frame, brick and stucco.

The Vernacular Cottage is also represented, reflecting both American and English origins. Of the three examples, one is constructed of wood while the other two are brick. All three have been lovingly cared for by their series of owners, giving them an almost-pristine appearance.

But for many who discover this delightful gem of a neighborhood for the first time, the architectural piece de resistance is the Sears, Roebuck "American Four-Square." There are, in fact, two examples of this style in this compact district of 13 houses. They are different enough from each other not to appear as if they were produced by the same plan, but

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District

name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama

county and State

Section number 8 Page 9

they are similar enough (both are brick, both are two story, both have hipped roofs) that their kinship is easily recognizable. Both houses have been well maintained and, to this day, are owned by the families who live in them--neither has become an apartment house.

Through the years denizens of the Seminary-O'Neal Historic District have made significant contributions to the betterment of life in Florence, Alabama. Mr. C. H. Jackson, for example, was, for many years, the director of the local Chamber of Commerce. Besides holding that important post, he was on the Board of Directors of the North Alabama State Fair, one of the most popular annual events in the geographic region that includes northwest Alabama, northeast Mississippi and southwest Tennessee. Two spinster sisters, Nell and Ethel Peerson, figured prominently into the educational fabric of the city: Ethel as head librarian of the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library and Nell as director of the Laubach Literacy program for non-reading adults. Inez Wright became a legend in her own time as an authority on fine antique furniture and accessories, operating Cabin Antiques, a shop that became known throughout the area and beyond. School teachers in the neighborhood were, among others, Miss Mary Rogers, Miss Mary Little and her twin sister, Ruth (Little) Williams who taught at Coffee High School for decades. Mr. Byron Bower, a prominent developer of local shopping centers and residential subdivisions, as well as an influential member of the Florence-Lauderdale Industrial Planning Board, still lives on

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District
name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
county and State

Section number 8 Page 10

North Seminary Street as do Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hardy. Mr. Hardy is in management at the local installation of Reynolds Metals Company and is very active in the local Chamber of Commerce, the organization known as Leadership Shoals (Florence is part of a larger region known, variously, as Muscle Shoals or the Shoals), and the Alabama Renaissance Faire which is located in Florence. Mrs. Hardy is on the staff of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), serves on the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and is quite active in the Alabama Renaissance Faire. Thus the Seminary-O'Neal Historic District continues to demonstrate its historical significance. Some residents are descendants of those who established North Seminary Street and East Irvine Avenue; others are enthusiastic newcomers who are attracted to the neighborhood's historical importance and graciousness.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District
name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
county and State

Section number 9 Page 11

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- a. Original plans furnished by Sears, Roebuck for the 1926
"American Foursquare" house at 517 North Seminary Street owned
by Mr. and Mrs. Byron Bower, Jr.
- b. National Registry documents for Wood Avenue Historic District
(NRHP 1981).
- c. National Registry documents for Sannoner Historic District
(NRHP 1972).
- d. Property deed of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hardy, 521 North Seminary
Street.
- e. Oral interview with Mr. Billy Warren, president of Heritage
Preservation, Inc., on November 20, 1993.
- f. Oral interview with Mr. Byron Bower, III, member of the Board
of Directors of Heritage Preservation, Inc., on December 1,
1993.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 12

Seminary-O'Neal Historic District
name of property
Lauderdale County, Alabama
county and State

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See the accompanying sketch map

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Seminary-O'Neal Historic District is situated between the Wood Avenue and Sannoner Historic Districts. The district's proposed boundaries correspond to what is viewed as a distinct, cohesive neighborhood within the larger, residential area of Florence.

KEY

1. Contributing w/separate contributing garage
2. Contributing w/separate contributing garage
3. Contributing w/ separate non-contributing garage
4. Contributing w/separate contributing storage building
5. Contributing w/ contributing garage
6. Contributing w/non-contributing garage
7. Contributing
8. Non-contributing
9. Contributing
10. Contributing
11. Contributing
12. Contributing
13. Contributing

SEMINARY - O'NEAL

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Florence
Lauderdale County, AL

SCALE:
1 inch = 150 feet

