

**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 Meaher - Zoghby House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5 N. Claiborne Street N/A not for publication

city, town Mobile N/A vicinity of congressional district 01

state Alabama code 01 county Mobile code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Victoria Zoghby

street & number 5 N. Claiborne Street

city, town Mobile N/A vicinity of state Alabama 36602

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 109 Government Street

city, town Mobile state Alabama 36601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970 - present federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state AL

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two story brick Meaher House occupies most of its urban lot except for a small fenced front lawn and a narrow green strip along the alley on the south. The plan of the building is irregular with a one story bay projecting from the south bay (left) of the front elevation. From this level there are three receding planes, stepping back through a two story pavilion, the plane of the entrance and finally to the offset north wing. Each section is accented by a different roof line, by a wide corbelled cornice which has an understated dentil table at its base, and by corner quoining done in brick work set in courses of alternating length. There is a one story brick extension of the offset wing which houses the kitchen.

The porch has two bays of unequal width and extends from the north edge of the bay across the plane of the entrance doorway. Cast iron forms the balustrade of both porch and deck above the bay window. Very thin cast iron posts support the porch deck and the frieze connecting them has corner brackets forming a shallow segmental arch. The design of the frieze and brackets is made of thin iron parts giving a delicate type of effect. The gable over the left pavilion of the house is infilled with fish scale shingles, a decorative motif borrowed from the Queen Anne. The eclectic design of the house combines details from all the various forms and styles that were common to 19th century Mobile architecture.

The interior of the house has retained its integrity over the years. Upon entering the stairhall, the focal point is the paneled pine staircase. Beaded board wainscoting runs along each wall of the stairhall and continues up the staircase to the second floor. This wainscoting occurs in every room of the house. There are two parlors to the left of the stair hall which were once connected by pocket doors. At some point in time, these doors were removed, although the framing was left, and the opening sealed to create a bedroom in the back parlor. The mantels of the parlors are done in a related organic design. Door and window framing is typical of much turn of the century construction--having a slight entablature which rests on plain framing.

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

ARCHITECTURE:

The 1901 Meaher House at 5 N. Claiborne Street combines the various vernacular influences of the late 19th century that were found in Mobile with decidedly early 20th century elements. The broken massing, established by a succession of receding planes, suggests a relationship with the Queen Anne without incorporating turrets and complex chimneys that are features of that style. The workmanship of the brick coursing is excellent. Especially well done are the alternate layers of quoining. There is variety in the windows with those on the facade having the traditional contrast set up between the white lintels and the red brick while the side windows are headed by segmentally arched framing. The type of control found in this design provides a marked change from the complication and exuberance of the Victorian.

Integrity

The Meaher House stands on its original site facing to the east. It has retained all of its exterior and interior detailing with the exception of the removal of a set of pocket doors between the double parlors in order to convert the rear parlor into a bedroom.

The building was constructed at a turning point in architectural history when older traditions were lingering but were being used in a new way, suggesting, but not yet presenting, new forms.

The building is associated with the Meaher family whose family history is intimately associated with the history of Mobile. Tim Meaher was a Maine sea captain who came to Mobile and established a lumber business, a steamboat company and also owned land near Mt. Vernon. His son, Augustine, married Anna Dahm, daughter of the well-to-do merchant who constructed the house at 7 Claiborne Street. The young couple built their own home on a lot to the south of the Dahm House. Even after the death of his first wife, Augustine Meaher continued to live in this house.

The Meaher House is a combination of influences found in Mobile at the turn of the century. Traditional influences include the color contrast of the rich red brick work with the white trim and the Italianate influence seen in the quoining laid in alternating short and long courses. Twentieth century influences can be seen in the large single light window sashes and the design of the door framing with small fluted pilasters that illustrates a new freedom in the use of classical motifs. The house is also one of the last homes built within the commercially developing area of the inner city at a time when residential construction was concentrated west of Broad Street.

Constructed at the turn of the century, the Meaher House illustrates the lingering importance of traditional building schemes in homes of the upper middle class.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deeds and plat maps from the records of the Mobile County Probate Court; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Tax Assessment Records; City Directories.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ~~(.11 ac.)~~ less than one

Quadrangle name Mobile

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>116</u>	<u>319198110</u>	<u>3139156110</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning 132.5' north of the northwest corner of Dauphin and Claiborne Streets and running north on the west side of Claiborne for a front of 43.8' with a depth of lot of 110'. Bounded on the south by a 10' alley.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth B. Gould, Architectural Historian

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date April 21, 1983

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

city or town Mobile state Alabama 36633

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 11/21/83

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the

National Register

date

1/5/84


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration