

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 8 1988

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

RECEIVED

received MAR 29 1988

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Point Clear Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

No street addresses at present. District lies on the west side of U.S. Highway 98,
Eastern Shore Boulevard from south of Grand Hotel to north boundary Grant 37,
street & number NA not for publication

city, town Point Clear N/A vicinity of Congressional District 1

state Alabama code 01 county Baldwin code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Probate Judge's Office, Baldwin County Courthouse

street & number P. O. Box 651

city, town Bay Minette state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Baldwin County Historic Site Survey/ Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 / 1970-present federal state county local

depository for survey records Mobile Historic Development Commission/Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Mobile/Montgomery 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Description-Point Clear

The Point Clear Historic District extends along the east shoreline of Mobile Bay approximately 3/4 of a mile from the south lot line of the Grand Hotel to the north boundary line of Grant 37. The shoreline forms the district's southwestern border, falling steadily southeast from the Point. The district is bordered on the northeast by U.S. Highway 98 (Scenic Route) with the exception of two properties which lie on the northeast side of the highway. Public access to the shoreline is possible via Zundel Road, a dirt lane running west from Highway 98 to the bay, opposite County Road 32 and some 1/4 mile south of the district. From Zundel's Road a public walk, which varies from dirt to paved to board, extends all the way to the hotel.

Most of the houses are oriented southwest with the shore and have picket fences along the northeast side of the walkway and private piers on the water. Contributing houses are predominately 1-and-1 1/2 story frame cottages with recessed porches, dating from the mid-19th century to the 1930s. Nearly half of these historic houses exhibit the rain porch, an attached shed roof porch extending beyond the recessed gallery, with posts meeting the ground. Other climatic concessions include wide central halls, floor-length windows, and slatted porch ceilings for attic ventilation. Non-contributing houses are of similar scale and setback but brick is more frequently employed.

To the s.w. of the walk is the actual beachfront, in some areas overgrown with grass and sandspurs, though the northern lots are exclusively sand. The beach gently shelves to the water, which is not the case at Battles, Fairhope, Montrose and Daphne where spectacular bluffs tower over the bay. Live oaks, cedar, magnolias, cypress and pine line the walk and most of the houses have manicured lawns with shrubbery. Those closest to the hotel are essentially unlandscaped and left in a natural state with gnarled oaks and sand. Rear portions of these lots are well kept with trimmed lawns and gardens the norm. Long drives lead back to the highway and many lots have gates with the property name on a shingle.

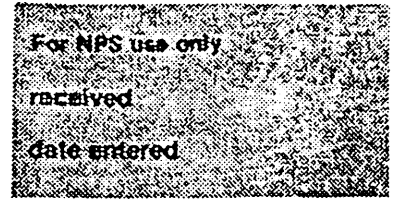
On the n.e. side of Highway 98 is a small, one-story Victorian cottage with an abandoned, stuccoed 1930s commercial building to the s.e. side. With the exception of this building, the district is overwhelmingly residential in character. Modern commercial and residential construction extends well to the south of Zundel Road.

The integrity of Point Clear's historic buildings is good. Some of the porches have been winterized but facades remain visible. Aluminum and vinyl siding are not present and there is only one case of asbestos siding, and that on an outbuilding. As previously noted, non-contributing buildings are of similar scale and setback though more varied in their use of materials (example, redwood, brick etc.).

(continued)

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Survey Methodology

The Point Clear Historic District is a direct outgrowth of the Baldwin County Architectural Site Survey. This survey was conducted from October 1985 to October 1986 by John Sledge, Architectural Historian with the Mobile Historic Development Commission. The survey consists of photographs and architectural descriptions of over 1300 buildings over fifty years of age in Baldwin County, all referenced with U. S. Geological Survey maps.

Due to the grass roots interest in and heavy concentration of historic resources along the Eastern Shore, the MHDC initiated its Baldwin County National Register Nominations in that area.

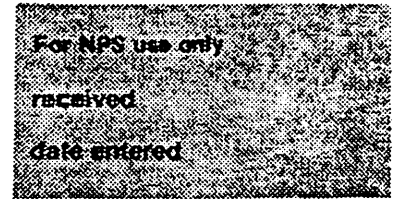
Information on the history of Point Clear was gathered from oral interviews, old newspapers, promotional pamphlets, photographs and maps.

Buildings in the nomination have been categorized as follows:

Contributing buildings	38
Non-contributing buildings	<u>13</u>
Total	51

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Building Descriptions:

Contributing (28)

Lot 194, 1911

BA-123-17

One story; miscellaneous Victorian; low hip roof; gabled bay northwest corner facade, shingled with louvered vent and pent; attached hip roof porch extends from gabled bay south across facade; turned posts; brackets; balusters; 6/6 windows; leaded glass front door with transom; interior brick chimney; 1x1 bay, gabled wings south side; southeast rear wing with low gable on hip roof probably a later addition.

Lot 194, 1930

BA-123-18

One story clay tile, stucco commercial building south side lot facing highway; parapeted roof; two entrances, one recessed; display windows, wood with glass window doors; canvas awnings across facade.

Lot 94, c. 1900

BA-122-3

Miscellaneous Victorian; one story; 3x6 bays; low hip roof; clapboarded; recessed porch covers full facade, turned posts and balusters; shed roof rain porch with turned posts meeting ground, exposed rafters; side entrance hall, french doors with sidelights, transom; windows shuttered; ornamental concrete block piers; lattice infill; interior brick chimney with corbeled cap; boxed, wide eaves.
(Southeast rear corner porch stucco and louvered window infill).

One story dependency south rear; low hip roof; tin; 2x3 bays; 2/2 and 4/4 windows; shed roof porch continues off the hip roof to cover facade, square posts.
(Asbestos siding).

Lot 93, c. 1910

Ba-122-4

One story; drop siding; gable (with louvered vent) on high hip roof; recessed porch covers entire facade; pair french doors in facade (modern), pair 6/6 windows, and two single 6/6 windows; brick piers; wide eaves with exposed rafters; central brick chimney; one story gable wing south side, drop siding and aluminum crank, horizontal windows.
(Porch winterized with plastic).

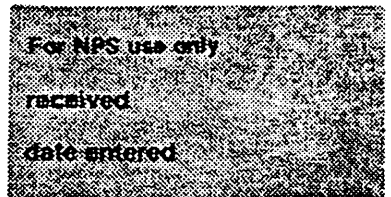
Lot 92, 1883

BA-122-5

Englund House. 1½ story; clapboarded; prominent steep gable front with cross gables to the rear; front gable has palladian window (1980s addition) with sunburst carving in peak of gable, attached hip roof porch wraps around three sides, turned posts and balusters; facade concealed by canvas shades; modern

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brick chimney northwest front and modern bay windows north and south side; palladian windows in side gables (1980s addition); boxed cornice, closed return; brick piers, lattice infill.

Lot 89, c. 1905

BA-122-6

One story; gable on hip roof sides; hip roof bay with 2/2 windows north side facade protrudes through the recessed hip roof porch which wraps around two sides, chamfered posts and balusters, screened; french doors and central hall; hip roof wings north and south sides; two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps; brick piers.

Two story board and batten dependency south repair; gable roof front with shutters and 4/4 windows; exterior stairway up west (front) side.

Lot 88, c. 1900

BA-122-7

Victorian cottage; one story; gable on hip roof sides with prominent projecting gabled bay just off center; hip roof portion splays farther out south side; recessed screened porch with square posts, stick balustrade begins on south side projecting gabled bay and wraps around facade and south side, (south side filled), exposed rafters; north of gabled bay set four 9/9 windows; gabled bay has louvered vent, pair 9/9 windows in the face with a 9/9 window either sides; brick piers.

Lot 87, 1912

BA-122-8

One story; gable on hip roof sides; interior brick chimney with corbeled cap; attached hip roof porch wraps around three sides, chamfered posts, stick balustrade, screened, canvas shades, french doors, central hall; brick piers.

One story, gable front dependency attached north rear, 3x2 bays with 2/2 windows; exposed rafters.

Lot 82A, c. 1900

BA-122-9

One story; clapboarded; high hip roof, slate; 4x3 bays; recessed screened porch covers full facade, chamfered posts and plank railing; shed roof rain porch with diagonal bracing on porch posts (whereas most have independent posts meeting ground); 6/6 windows; hip roof bay south side.

Lot 82, c. 1890

BA-122-10

1½ story; gable roof sides; clapboarded; brick piers; 6/6 windows with shutters; 5x5 bays; recessed, screened porch with chamfered posts and balusters covers full facade; 2/2 windows in facade; central hall; hip roof rain porch with chamfered posts and brackets meeting the ground; flush boards on facade; full length infilled rear porch.

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Dependency north rear; gable sides; one story rectangular; attached, screened shed roof porch.

Lot 81, 1876

BA-122-11

1½ story; board and batten; gable roof sides; central hall; recessed porch covers full facade, square posts with balusters; scalloped bargeboard along eaves; pair dormers; each with 6/6 window, frame window surround and scalloped bargeboards; one story shed roof bay south side.
(Porch winterized with plastic).

Lot 80, c. 1895

BA-122-12

1½ story; clapboarded; gable roof sides; attached hip roof porch wraps around three sides; Tuscan columns on paneled bases, canvas awnings; french doors across five bay facade; pair gable dormers each with pair 6/6 windows; modern chimney north side; pair 6/6 windows in gable; one story, hip roof addition north rear.
(Aluminum window porch infill).

Lot 79A, 1835, moved closer to bay 1900

BA-44-6

Greek Revival; one story; high hip roof; recessed porch, screened, covers full facade, square posts and lancet balustrade; central hall; french doors; attached shed roof rain porch on square posts wraps around facade on north and south sides to a one story, flat roofed wing on either side; decorative wooden festoons along eaves; brick piers.

One story dependency south rear; high hip roof; recessed, screened porch covers full facade, square posts and balusters; festoons along eaves.

Lot 77, 1906

Two story; low hip roof; clapboarded; attached two story shed roof porch, attached one story shed roof rain porch covers facade and wraps around south side; exterior stairway south side.
(Tinted glass first and second stories).

House to rear; one story; high hip roof; recessed glassed in porch covers full facade.
(Moved in 1960s).

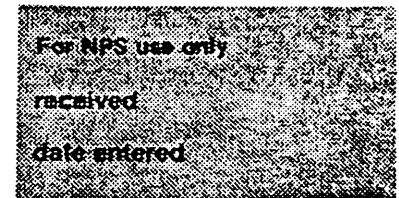
Lot 76, c. 1900

BA-44-17

Two story; 3x2 bay; board and batten; gable on hip roof with subordinate gable staggered south; two story gable ell south side; two story attached shed roof porch, turned posts and balusters, screened first and second stories; side hall; attached one story shed roof rain porch with square posts wraps around three sides of attached porch.

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Lot 75, c. 1900

BA-44-15

Near duplicate of Lot 76; two story; gable on hip roof with subordinate gable south side; board and batten; two story gable ell south side; two story attached shed roof porch, turned posts and balusters; attached hip roof rain porch balustraded and screened, with piers, effectively extending the porch, turned posts visible behind screens; three bay facade, side hall; 6/6 window. Built for rental purposes c. 1900
Frank L. Ross.

Lot 72, c. 1850, Bestor Place

BA-122-19

Greek Revival; five bay facade; one story; high hip roof; recessed porch covers full facade, turned balusters, boxed columns with capitals, entablature along eaves; wide balustraded stairs, full length 6/6 windows with frame surround, shutters; double leaf front doors with sidelights and transom; flush boards on facade; raised on brick piers; hip roof wings north and south sides; exterior brick chimney added 1986. Lot 72 Troost survey.

One story dependency south side; low hip roof; rectangular with five bay facade (south bay probably added later), attached hip roof porch covers four bays, boxed columns with capitals, entablature; flush boards under porch; full length windows; exterior chimney north side.

One story; gable roof sides dependency north rear; recessed porch covers full facade, filled with tinted glass; exterior brick chimney north side.

Lot 71, 1922

BA-44-24

Slaton House; one story; high hip roof; 5x1 bay ell off north side; main mass has a central hall, french doors with sidelights, transom, full length 6/9 windows all across facade; recessed porch across main mass and around side two bays then across facade of the wing, turned posts, balusters, southwest corner screened; exposed rafters all around; small hip roof wing south side corner screened with turned posts and baluster; one interior brick chimney; one exterior north side; gable roof dependency attached north rear, one story, casement windows.

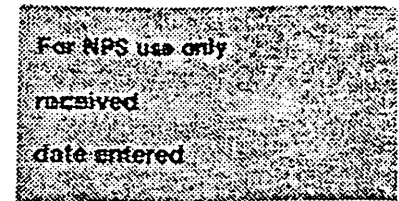
Lot 70, 1856

BA-122-22

Fry House, Gulf Coast Cottage; one story; five bay facade; central hall; raised six feet on brick piers; southwest corner filled for living with 6/6 windows between piers; recessed porch covers full facade, roof line extends beyond this with diagonal braces meeting square porch posts, plank railing; wide stairway; full length 6/9 windows; double doors with sidelights, transom; two interior brick chimneys with caps; widows' walk on roof modern; wooden slats under porches for ventilation; recessed porch rear center; louvered lunettes in gable. Lot 15 Troost survey.

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Dependencies north and south rear. One story, frame, gable roof sides. Ca. 1885.

Lot 69, 1895

BA-122-23

One story; gable on hip roof sides; clapboarded; main mass five bays; gable wings south and north side, 3x2 bays; full length windows with shutters; french doors; recessed porch wraps around three sides, turned posts and balusters, screened; attached shed roof rain porch wraps around three sides, square posts meet ground, exposed rafters; brick piers; boxed cornice.

Lot 65, c. 1890

BA-122-24

One story; gable on hip roof sides; concrete block foundation; recessed porch wraps around two sides, square posts and screened; attached shed roof rain porch two sides with square posts meeting ground, exposed rafters; floor length 6/6 windows; facade vertical beaded board; wood slats porch ceiling.
(House turned on lot so ends go E-W, 1940s).

Lot 64, 1926

BA-122-25

Two story, Four Square plan; clapboarded, low hip, slate roof; two story filled hip roof porch, attached shed roof skirt around first story, corner braces, wide eaves; exterior brick chimney ell side.
(Porch filled with aluminum casement windows).

Lot 63, 1875

BA-122-26

One story; gable roof sides; brick piers; recessed porch covers full seven bay facade, square posts and balusters, screened; central hall; attached shed roof rain porch covers full facade, chamfered posts and brackets; two interior ridge chimneys, one with caps; gable wing south side.

Lot 62, 1893

BA-45-15

1½ story; gable on hip roof sides, brick piers, 1x2 bay gable wing south side; recessed porch wraps around three sides, turned posts, balusters; attached rain porch curves around three sides, square posts; central hall, french doors with windows; full length windows 2/2; boxed cornice; three shed roof dormers with aluminum casement windows; interior brick chimney.

Lot 61, 1898, two houses merged 1920

BA-122-28

Two story; gable roof sides, exposed rafters; brick piers; clapboarded; six bay facade; attached shed roof porch, knee braces north and south sides; 6/6 windows with frame surrounds, shutters; one story gable bay south and north side; exterior brick chimney north side.
(Porch bricked and glassed in).

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Lot 60, 1855, George Roger's Alterations 1930

BA-122-29

Two story; clapboarded, gable roof sides with two story 2x2 bay gable wings north and south sides; five bay facade; 6/6 windows; french doors with side-lights and transom; recessed two story gallery with square posts, balusters, second story screened; attached shed roof (one story), rain porch with square posts and capitals covers facade; pent across gable and around wings as a wide eave; gables shingled, louvered vents; each wing has interior brick chimney; mass has two interior brick chimneys; brick piers.

Lot 59, c. 1920

BA-122-30

Two story; clapboarded; gable roof sides; 4x3 bays; 6/6 windows with shutters; attached flat roof porch with hipped eaves wraps around two sides, brick columns and screened; exterior brick chimney north side, metal pot.

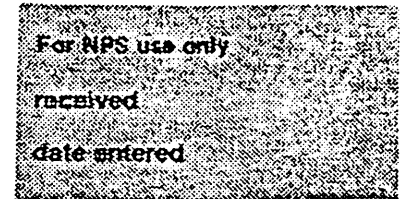
Lot 58, 1869

BA-45-21

1½ story; Gulf Coast Cottage; clapboarded; brick piers; gable roof sides, exposed rafters; three bay facade; flat roof wing north side; recessed porch covers full facade and the wing; Tuscan columns, screened; shed roof rain porch with exposed rafters, square posts; pair gabled dormers, each with 6/6 window and flanking pilasters; single window in gable half story 6/6; gable roof kicks off slightly both front and rear; interior brick chimney with corbeled cap rear slope; shed roof dormer rear, flat roof additions.

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Non-contributing (13)

Lot 91, 1945

BA-43-18

One story; board and batten; gable roof sides; interior chimney; recessed screened porch covers full facade; french doors.

Lot 90, 1945

BA-43-20

Two story; frame; gable roof sides; two story attached flat roof porch with square posts covers full facade; 6/6 windows; one story wings north and south.

Lot 86, 1975

No photo

One story; gable sides; board and batten; recessed, glassed in porch.

Lot 85, 1975

No photo

Two story; brick first story, shingled second story; two story recessed, colonnaded porch; low hip roof.

Lot 84, 1965

No photo

Two story; brick; gable roof sides; two story recessed porch, second story porch glassed in.

Lot 83, 1980

No photo

Two story; board and batten; shake hip roof; front deck.

Lot 79, c. 1890

No photo

One story; low hip roof; attached, filled porch; hip roof addition rear; asbestos siding; probably 19th century but major unsympathetic.

Lot 78, 1970

No photo

Two story; brick; hip roof; recessed two story porch with square brick columns first story and second story end bays enclosed.

Lot 74, 1975

No photo

Two pairs joined hexagonal, one story cottages; board and batten; flaired hip roofs.

Lot 73, 1975

No photo

One story; rectangular; gable roof sides; board and batten; attached, glassed in porch.

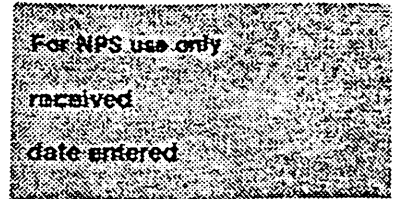
Lot 68, 1910

BA-45-1

One story; low hip roof; vinyl siding; glass louvers in porch.

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Lot 67, 1975

No photo

One story; gable roof front; board and batten; recessed, screened porch; rain porch.

Lot 66, 1975

No photo

One story; gable roof front; board and batten; recessed, screened porch; rain porch.

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/ humanitarian
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Entertainment/Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1835-1930 **Builder/Architect** Unknown/Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C-Architecture:

The Point Clear Historic District is significant for its collection of summer residences in a variety of local (example-Gulf Coast Cottage) and national (example-Greek Revival) styles which span the years from c. 1835 to c. 1930. These houses are unified by the bayfront, which served as the focus for the community's life, as seen by the buildings' main entrances facing out to the bay. Concessions to climate and location include wide central halls, slatted porch ceilings to allow attic ventilation and rain porches (shed roof porches extending beyond recessed galleries, with posts meeting the ground).

Criterion A-Entertainment/Recreation:

The Point Clear Historic District is significant as a summer resort for Mobilians dating back to the early 19th century. Prominent merchants, lawyers and bankers built summer cottages (the cottages were overwhelmingly single-family owned and occupied) south of the Grand Hotel. Today at least 30% of these homes continue to serve as summer residences. The public walkway along the bayfront of the Historic District is significant for its role in linking the community together with a water orientation. Originally a road which served wagons delivering supplies from the bayboats, it now possesses an exclusively pedestrian status which has preserved the sense of community among the waterfront residents.

Historical Summary

Point Clear is a distinctive cape on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. The shore falls away sharply to the southeast for a little over a mile before straightening out and is therefore ideally placed to capture the southwestern prevailing winds off the Gulf. In a near semi-tropical climate, this natural setting is of great significance. As a resort, and an escape from summer diseases prevalent in Mobile, Point Clear had no equal. In 1882 a physician articulated its advantages, "The Gulf breeze on this side of the bay must be felt to be appreciated. The Atlantic Coast has no wind that can be compared with it for health or agreeability. It's temperature is the same whether it rises into a gale, or blows lightly. For this reason it is allowed to blow night and day through the cottages, where the doors and windows are left open continually to receive it." (James F. Sulzby, Jr. Historic Alabama Hotels & Resorts. University of Alabama Press, 1960. p. 141).

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Scott, F.D. Battles Wharf and Point Clear. Mobile, Alabama: Lithographing by Interstate 2, 1971.

Sulzby, James F., Jr. Historic Alabama Hotels and Resorts. University of Alabama Press, 1960.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 68

Quadrangle name Point Clear

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

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D

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E

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3	3	7	2	3	8	0
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F

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Verbal boundary description and justification The Point Clear Historic District stretches from the south lot line of the Grand Hotel to the northern boundary of Grant 37. With the exception of one lot east of the highway, the district lies between Mobile Bay to the southwest and U.S. Highway 98, Eastern Shore Boulevard to the northeast.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Sledge/Architectural Historian

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date November 23, 1987

street & number P. O. Box 1827 telephone (205) 438-7281

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Thomas R. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date March 23, 1988

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 4-28-88

Alvin ...
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

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The waterfront lots at Point Clear were drawn off by Louis Troost during the 1840s with a standard width of three chains (198 feet). These lots were so valuable that they were often handed down through families and if necessary, subdivided. The Point Clear Historic District encompasses the entire Troost survey plus some property to the south and east. Five Troost lots have not been subdivided; these are numbers 1,3,13,14,15. Though all five of these lots contain contributing buildings, at least two (the Fry House, Troost Lot 15 (70) and the Bestor Place, Troost Lot 13 (72) are probably the first houses to be erected on these lots. Indeed, as late as 1878 the original twenty lots had yet to be subdivided. The Point Clear Historic District contains at least seven buildings constructed on or before 1878 so the original character of the settlement may be seen to be preserved.

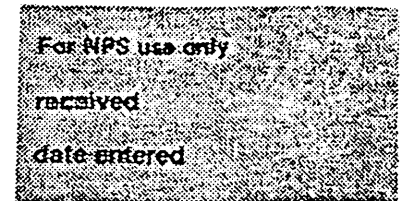
Point Clear's development did not really begin until the 1830s, though as early as 1822 there was a resort hotel on the point itself. In 1847 this early hotel was replaced by the Grand Hotel. This two-story, forty-room hotel catered to the elite of Mobile and New Orleans who were brought to its wharf by steamboats. With the completion of the Troost survey, prominent Mobilians came over to build summer homes in increasing numbers. Among these was John A. Campbell, the first U. S. Supreme Court justice from Alabama, who built his Greek Revival house on Lot 13 in the late 1840s (see Lot 72 Bestor Place BA-122-19). Lawyers, physicians, merchants and cotton factors summered along the shore as well.

During the Civil War the Confederate army took advantage of the area by quartering wounded soldiers along the shore, the Fry House served as a hospital. One officer wrote that "...the hotel and cottages awaited their reception, and no soldiers of the Confederacy enjoyed a happier destiny than these." (137. James F. Sulzby, Jr. Historic Alabama Hotels and Resorts. University of Alabama Press, 1960). After the Battle of Mobile Bay, Federal gunboats shelled Point Clear in retaliation for guerilla actions.

After the Civil War, Point Clear began to develop into a more permanent settlement. A Post Office was established in 1877 and by the early 1880s there was a general store operated by the Zundel family. Nevertheless, the resort character of Point Clear, and the entire Eastern Shore, continued to dominate. Prominent Mobilians who spent the post-war years at Point Clear included Admiral Raphael Semmes, ex-commander of the "Alabama", and the usual collection of cotton factors, merchants, bankers and lawyers. A physician noted in 1882 that "The whole shore, for twenty miles is studded with cottages and handsome residences, which are filled to their utmost capacity during four or five months of the year." (Ibid.).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

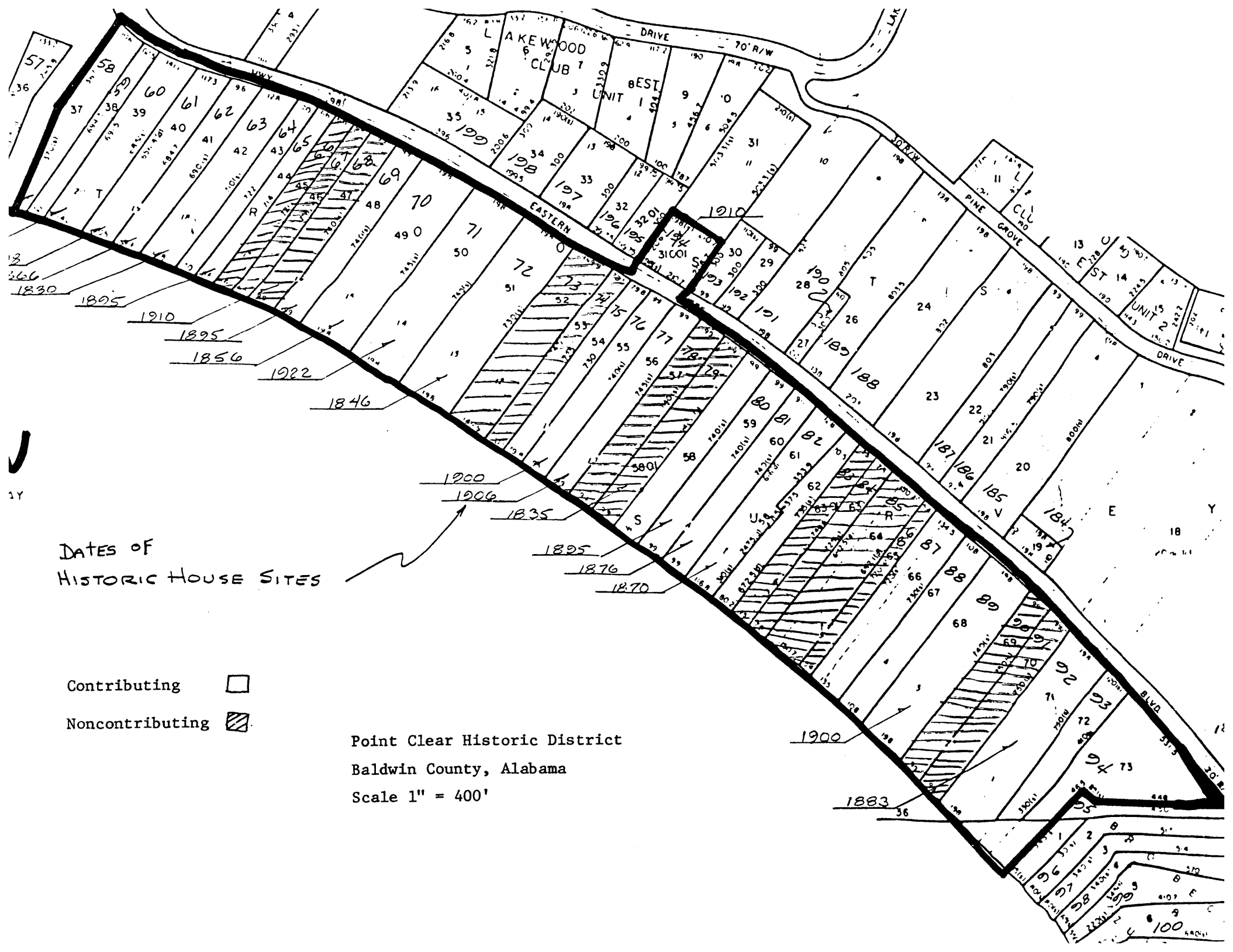


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Point Clear retains its resort ambience to this day. Some thirty percent of the houses are vacant during the winter months and are protected during this off season by canvas blinds along the porches. Modern houses along the bayfront continue the earlier tradition through designs that make the most of the area's natural advantages. Porches, large windows and decks are common features on these modern houses. The area remains the preserve of the wealthy.



DATES OF
HISTORIC HOUSE SITES

- Contributing
- Noncontributing

Point Clear Historic District
Baldwin County, Alabama
Scale 1" = 400'