NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



408

1. Name of Property		
historic name International Longshoreman's Association Hall other names/site number ILA Hall		
2 Location		
2. Location		
street & number 505 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave city or town Mobile		not for publication N/A vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Mobile	code <u>97</u>	zip code <u>36603</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
the National Register of Historic Places and meets the proced 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the considered significant nationally statewide local procedure of certifying official/Title Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the additional comments.)	he National Register Crily. (See continuation officer Office)	iteria. I recommend that this property in sheet for additional comments.) May 13, 2011 Date
Signature of commenting or other official		Date
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification		10
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):	Signature of Keepe	r Date of Action

5. Classification					
Ownership of Pr (Check as many box private public-lo public-S public-F	es as apply) ocal tate	Category of Propert (Check only one box) building(s) district site structure object	у	Number of Re Contributing 1 1 1	Noncontributing O buildings sites structures objects Total
AT/ 4	erty is not part of a	erty listing multiple property listing.)	in the Nati	ional Register:	ources previously listed
6. Function or U	se				
~ ~	ns (Enter catego	ories from instructions) Sub: Mee	ting Hall		
	ons (Enter catego	ories from instructions) Sub: Mee	ting Hall		
7. Description					
Architectural Cla Art Moderne		er categories from instruct	ions)		
Materials (Enter of foundation: roof: walls:	Concrete Tar, Gravel Brick	instructions)			

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

name of property <u>International Longshoreman's Association Hall</u> county and State <u>Mobile County</u>, AL

7. Narrative Description

The ILA (International Longshoreman's Association) Hall is located at 505 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue on the south side of MLK. The property is relatively flat and the building, facing north, occupies nearly the entire lot. The ILA Hall is a two-story, Art Moderne styled structural tile and brick veneer building. It has a concrete foundation and gravel on tar flat roof. The building was constructed in 1949.

The north facade, which is offset at an angle parallel to the Avenue, features a slightly projecting central bay with a flat, metal canopy and metal, double-doors. A large, rectangular paned window is located on the second floor of the bay. Two additional entrances, of which one is inset, are located on the west end of the facade. The facade features the same treatment on the east end. The first floor windows are plate glass on the west end of the facade, and a combination of sash and plate glass windows is present on the east. The second floor windows are one-over-one, double hung sash windows with six on the west end and five on the east. The windows are modern replacements, circa 1995.

The west elevation features a variety of window treatments. On the first floor, there are seven window units in total with three plate glass windows, two sash windows and two casement windows near the south end. Two fire exits are located on the first floor of the building's west elevation, one near the facade and the second located midway along the building's exterior. The second floor features nine plate glass windows. The windows are modern replacements, circa 1995.

The east elevation is similar to the west with the exception that only one casement window is present on the first floor, near the south end. Also, a fire escape is located on the second floor, at the south end of the elevation. The second floor windows are identical to those on the west elevation. These windows are also replacements.

The south elevation, which fronts State Street, features two plate glass windows on the first floor and two on the second. A single entrance with canopy is located on the first floor. A diner operated out of the rear portion of the building as recently as 2009.

The lobby can be entered from the centrally located double-door. The ILA office is entered from the inset door at the east end of the facade. A gameroom can be entered from the inset door at the west end. The ILA office features interior detailing such as wood paneling, business counters, and floor tiles. The gameroom features plastered walls and a concrete floor. The ceilings of both rooms are plaster.

From the lobby, a pair of double doors leads to the first floor hall that was once the location of a nightclub. The floor is concrete. The ceiling has exposed metal rafters. Columns support the ceiling. A door at the rear of the hall leads to the diner. The floors of the diner are carpeted. The ceiling is drop tile. The interior walls of both the first floor hall and diner are painted.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _7 Page 2

name of property <u>International Longshoreman's Association Hall</u> county and State <u>Mobile County</u>, AL

The second floor auditorium is reached by a double staircase in the main lobby. The auditorium is entered by way of a glass door. A hallway near the east elevation leads to adjacent offices and bathroom. A raised stage with dressing rooms at the rear is located at the south end of the auditorium. A fire exit is located to one side of the stage. The floor of the auditorium is concrete, while the stage is wood with carpet. There is no fixed seating. The interior walls are plaster with an applied chair railing. The walls have been painted below the railing. The ceiling is acoustical tile.

A photograph (circa 1975) contained in Paulette Horton's book, <u>The Avenue</u>, shows awning windows along the facade of the building. This is consistent with buildings constructed during the 1940's and associated with this style of architecture. But, a number of Art Moderne buildings in Mobile do utilize various combinations of plate glass and/or sash windows. The replacement of the original awning windows with a combination of plate glass and sash windows is in keeping with historical precedent. However, apart from the replacement of the original windows, the building otherwise retains full integrity of location and setting, and a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

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.

8. Statement of Significance		
	more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Nationa	
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 si	gnificant in our past.	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	s of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the	
work of a master, or possesses high artistic valu	ies, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose	
components lack individual distinction.		
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield informa	tion important in prehistory or history	
D Troperty has yielded, or is fixely to yield information	tion important in premisiony or instory.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that app	du V	
그들이 있는 그 사람이 하나 하다 하는 것이 되었다면 하는 것이 되었다면 하는 것은 사람이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없다면 했다.		
A owned by a religious institution or used for relig	gious 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	e within the past 50 years.	
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)		
Ethnic Heritage: Black		

D ' 1 CC' 'C 1040 1061		
Period of Significance 1949-1961		
0		
Significant Dates 1949, 1959		
6: 16 . 18		
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A	i-	
C. le 1 A CCI e		
Cultural Affiliation		
4. 12. (D.311. 31/4		
Architect/Builder N/A		
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significan	nce 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):	Primary Location of Additional Data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	☐ State Historic Preservation Office	
CFR 67) has been requested.	Other State agency	
previously listed in the National Register		
	Federal agency	
previously determined eligible by the National	Local government	
Register	University	
designated a National Historic Landmark	Other	
recorded by Historic American Buildings	Name of repository: Mobile Historic Development	
Survey #	Commission	
recorded by Historic American Engineering		
Record #		

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

name of property International Longshoreman's Association Hall county and State Mobile County, AL

8. Statement of Significance

The ILA Hall is locally significant under Criterion A for ethnic heritage; black. The International Longshoreman's Association, which established a local chapter in Mobile in 1936, represented African-Americans who were employed in one of the few relatively well-paid occupations available to them during segregation. The ILA occupied a two-story building during its early years but soon required a larger building due to World War II and the expansion of Mobile's port facilities. This new building, which was constructed in 1949, is not only significant as a meeting hall for the ILA, but also as a social gathering place. Famous African-American entertainers held concerts in the building's auditorium. The building is further significant because of its use as a focal point for civil rights gatherings. The ILA Hall was the location of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sole appearance and speaking engagement in Mobile on January 1, 1959.

The ILA Hall is locally significant under National Register Criteria C in the area of architecture, as it represents an example of Art Moderne design. Its stylistic elements included curving wall planes and decorative "speed lines". Window treatments emphasized the use of modern material in the form of plate glass or use of awning windows. Examples found in Mobile include Grand Central (built c. 1909 but remodeled c. 1940), a late 19th early 20th century 2-part commercial block building whose facade has been altered to include the characteristic "speed lines" associated with the style and curved balcony in place of a curving wall plane. Another example, the Neisner Building (built c. 1940), is a 20th century commercial building utilizing curved entryways with plate glass curving window displays, awning windows on the second floor and "speed lines". The Greyhound Bus Terminal (built c. 1940, demolished 1996) was Mobile's best example with all the stylistic elements named above, but it is no longer extant. When compared with the above examples, the ILA Hall represents a similar treatment in its use of material and stylistic elements as applied to a union hall/recreational facility.

Historical Summary

Lodges and societies closely followed family, church, and school in relative importance to Mobile's African-American community. Their purpose and rituals are similar to those of their white counterparts; however, their role in the African-American community is more prominent (Merritt 1984, 45). Of particular importance were the meeting halls, which served as centers of social and economic life (Ibid 1984, 47).

Since African-Americans in Mobile were excluded from the larger white society by segregation in fact and later by law, an entire community, essentially a city within a city, developed along Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. Beginning in the late 19th century and progressing into the early 20th, the community developed, and became known colloquially as "The Avenue". By 1920, "the Avenue", complete with its own churches, schools, recreational facilities, and businesses, reached its height and would continue to thrive and grow. The size of the African-American population in Mobile in 1940 was around 29,000 out of a total population of 79,000. By the 1950's the number had increased to 46,000 out of 129,000 (Remington & Kallsen 1997).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

name of property International Longshoreman's Association Hall county and State Mobile County, AL

This was due in part to World War II and the influx of workers, both white and black, into the city. The majority of the African-American population lived in "the Avenue" while a smaller number lived in other areas south of Mobile's downtown.

Several societies existed in the Avenue community including the Knights of Peter Claver (1909), the Elk's Lodge (1920), the International Longshoreman's Association, or ILA (1936), the Colored Carnival Association (founded in 1939 and now called the Mobile Area Mardi Gras Association), and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (1939). However, only two of these societies, the Elk's Lodge and the ILA, maintained large meeting halls for their own members and for use by others. Early meeting halls were usually two-story frame structures (Ibid 1984, 46). The Elk's Lodge is a two-story frame structure built in the Second Empire Style. The society moved into the building at 601 State Street in 1920. The building originally served as a residence. During Mobile's annual Mardi Gras, the King of MAMGA (Mobile Area Mardi Gras Association) is crowned at the Lodge (*Mobile Register* 9 April 2000). It is ineligible for nomination due to non-historic alterations.

The local chapter of the International Longshoreman's Association was established in Mobile in 1936. Longshoremen are responsible for the loading and unloading of ships, which was one of the few positions available to African-Americans at the Alabama State Docks. Local 1410 of the ILA originally occupied a two-story frame building at 507 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, next door to the ILA's current location. The building is no longer extant, having been demolished circa 1980. The current building was constructed in 1949. Two other ILA Halls, Local's 1284 and 1516, are listed in the City Directories during the period of significance, both listed as African-American. Both of these were absorbed into Local 1410, which would eventually reach a membership of at least 600 members (Bass February 1st 2011) during the period of significance. The absence of white ILA members or a union hall is no surprise. In his study on labor and equality, the labor historian, Bruce Nelson, discovered that the ILA often followed "separate but equal" unionism (Nelson 2001, 48-49). Additionally, African-American longshoremen often maintained the status quo for fear of losing their jobs. Working on the docks had provided them with a relatively high paying job, and they were determined to maintain their position in African-American society as a "working class aristocracy" (Ibid 2001, 106-108).

The Hall served not only as a meeting place for the local union, but also as an important social gathering place for the African-American community of the Avenue. It was the largest meeting space in the community for African-Americans. The upstairs auditorium hosted numerous entertainers, from Billie Holiday to Ray Charles. By far the most important event in the history of the ILA Hall and for African-Americans living along Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, and in the greater Mobile community, occurred on January 1, 1959. On this day, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his only appearance in Mobile. After a march down the Avenue, Dr. King spoke at the Emancipation program held in the auditorium (Bivens 2004, 264). The Emancipation program was apparently an annual event but little information survives. His visit prompted only a single article in Mobile's *Press Register*. Mobile's *Beacon*, the only African-American owned newspaper during this period, lost its archives in a fire.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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name of property <u>International Longshoreman's Association Hall</u> county and State <u>Mobile County</u>, <u>AL</u>

However, oral interviews suggest thousands participated in the march and the auditorium was filled to capacity to listen to his speech afterward. He spoke of three responsibilities for African-Americans: 1) to rise to a "broader concern for all humanity" 2) "achieve excellence in various fields of endeavor", and 3) "no matter what happens in the course of a struggle, never let yourselves become bitter. If you retaliate with bitterness, our new age will become the duplicate of the old age." (Horton 1991, 356-357) The impact this one speech had is difficult to ascertain. But, the message was in keeping with his views on non-violence. It should be noted that this speech also took place shortly before he left to study in India. Dr. King made a later attempt to return to Mobile during the early 1960's but was met at the bus depot and asked to leave. This has led many Mobilians to believe that Dr. King never visited Mobile (Finley January 14th, 2011). Instead, the Civil Rights movement in Mobile is dominated by the efforts of local groups such as NOW (Neighborhood Organized Workers) and individuals such as John L. Leflore.

The ILA Hall is still the central meeting hall for Local 1410 of the International Longshoreman's Association. Members meet regularly in the first floor meeting hall, while the offices of the president are located adjacent to it. Retired ILA members also use another adjacent room as a game room. The upstairs auditorium is currently vacant. However, the current president of Local 1410 has expressed his desire to see the room utilized in accordance with its primary function.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 5

name of property International Longshoreman's Association Hall county and State Mobile County, AL

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Bass, Mark. Interview by Shaun Wilson, 1 February 2011. Transcript kept in the MHDC Files.

Bivens, Shawn. Mobile, Alabama's People of Color: A Tricentennial History: 1702-2002. Victoria, Canada: Trafford Publishing, 2004.

City Directories (1935-1961), Municipal Archives. Mobile, Alabama.

Finley, Dora. Interview by Shaun Wilson, 14 January 2011. Transcript kept in the MHDC Files.

Horton, Paulette. <u>The Avenue: The Place, The People, The Memories, 1799-1986.</u> Mobile, Alabama: Horton, Inc., 1991.

Merritt, Carol. <u>Historic Black Resources</u>. Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1984.

Nelson, Bruce. <u>Divided We Stand: American Workers and the Struggle for Black Equality</u>. Princeton University Press, 2001.

Remington, W. Craig, and Thomas J. Kallsen. <u>Historical Atlas of Alabama, Volume 1</u>. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1997.

1955 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Mobile, Alabama, Municipal Archives. Mobile, Alabama.

Property Name: International Longshoreman's Association Hall County and State: Mobile County, AL Page 4
10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property less than 1 acre
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing 1 16 399475 3396000 4
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/titleShaun Wilson/ Preservation Consultant, reviewed by Susan Enzweiler, AHC NR Coordinator
organizationMobile Historic Development Commission date03/28/11
street & number P.O. Box 1827 telephone 251-208-7281
city or townMobile stateAL 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 International Longshoreman's Association

telephone251-438-4668

stateAL zip code 36603

street & number505 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave

city or townMobile

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 6

name of property International Longshoreman's Association Hall county and State Mobile County, AL

10. Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast corner of State and Lawrence Streets and running thence eastwardly 159 feet to a point, thence northwardly 103 feet to a point, thence running eastwardly 48 feet to a point, thence northwestwardly 132 feet to a point, thence southwardly 83 feet, thence westwardly 110 feet, thence southwardly 103 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel, which has been historically associated with the International Longshoreman's Association Hall since its construction.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section (photos) Page 7

name of property <u>International Longshoreman's Association Hall</u> county and State <u>Mobile County</u>, AL

Photographic Key

ILA Hall Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama Shaun Wilson, photographer February- April 2005

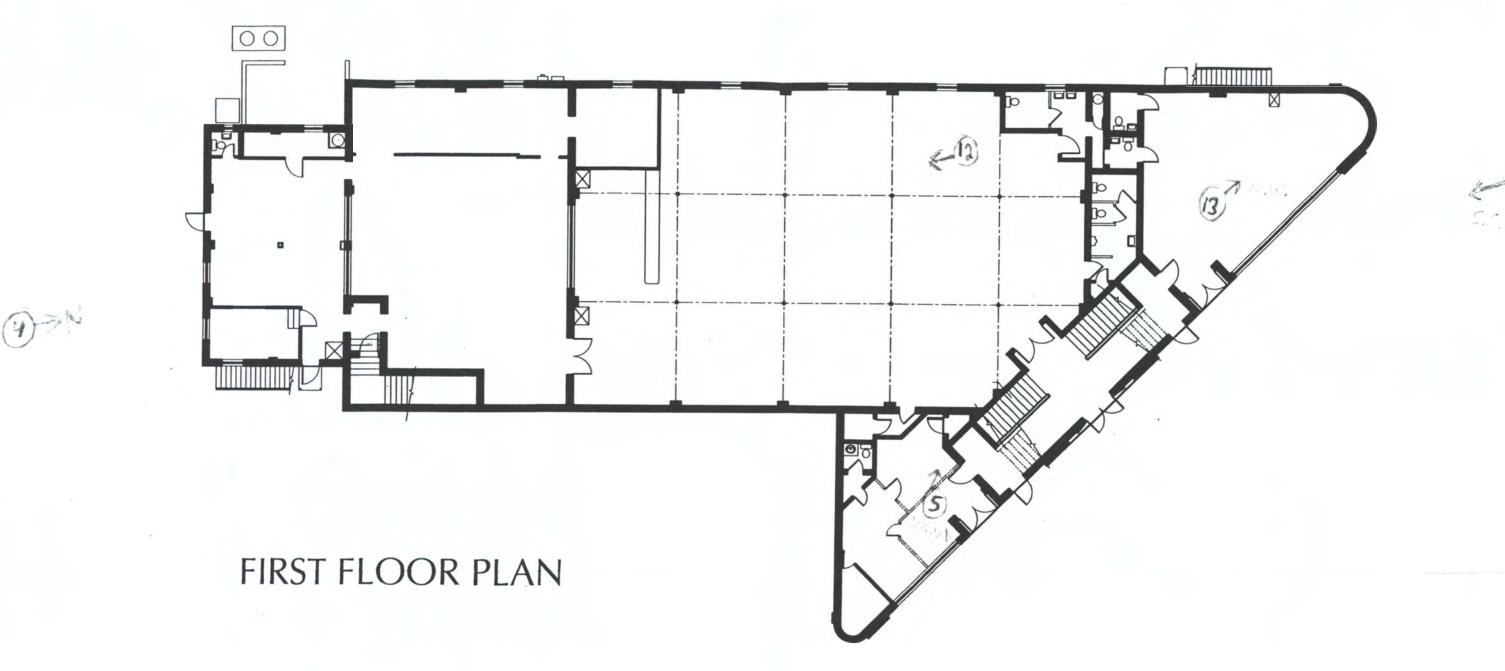
Location of Images: Alabama Historical Commission

M i . H	Description
Photo#	Description
4.	ILA Hall, front facade, camera facing west northwest
	(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall1.tif)
2.	same, front facade, camera facing south southeast
	(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall2.tif)
3.	same, side elevation, camera facing east
	(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall3.tif)
4.	same, rear elevation, camera facing north
	(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall4.tif)
5,	same, 1st floor/ office, camera facing west northwest
	(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall5.tif)
6.	same, 2 nd floor/ auditorium, camera facing south
	(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall6.tif)
7.	same, 2 nd floor/ hallway, camera facing east
	(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall7.tif)
8.	same, 2 nd floor/ auditorium, camera facing north
	(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall8.tif)
9.	same, 2 nd floor/stairwell, camera facing south
	(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall9.tif)
10.	same, 2 nd floor/ dressing room, camera facing west
	(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall10.tif)

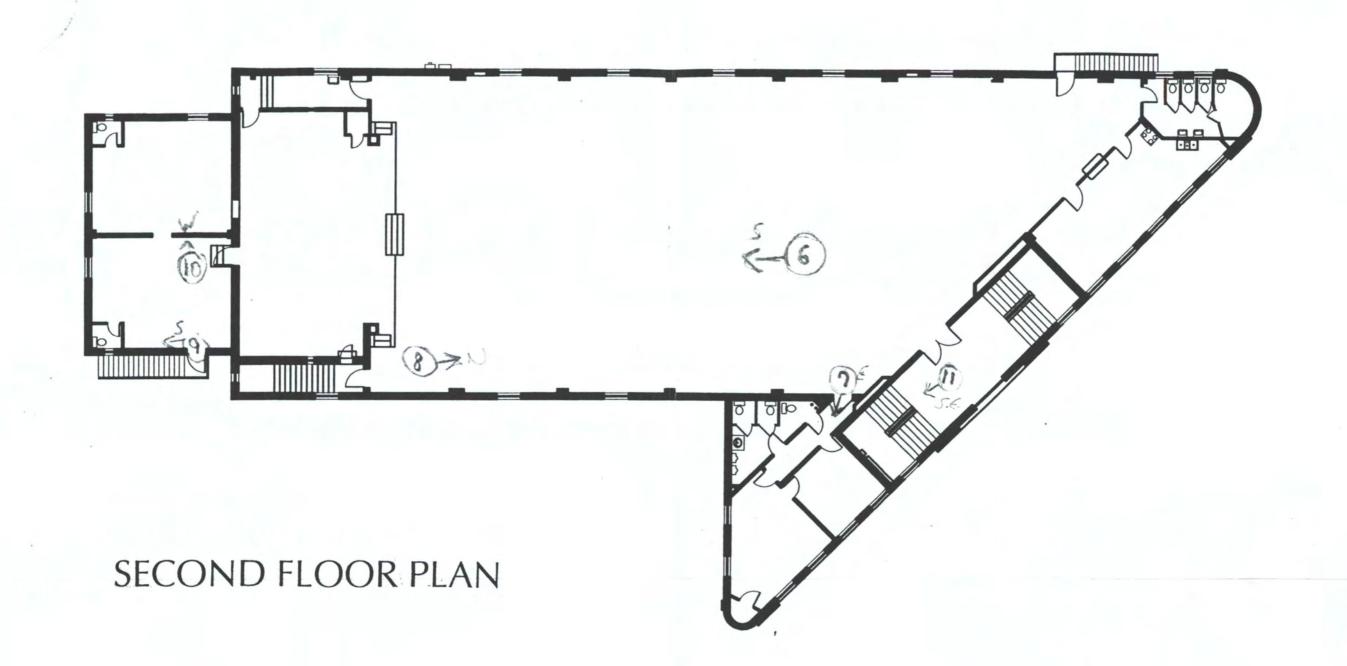
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

CONTINUATION SHEET		name of property International Longshoreman's Association Hall	
Section (photos)	Page 7	county and State Mobile County, AL	
11.		same, staircase, camera facing southeast (AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall11.tif)	
12.		same, 1st floor/ meeting hall, camera facing south southeast	
		(AL_MobileCounty_International Longshoreman's Association Hall12.tif)	
13.		same, 1 st floor/ gameroom, camera facing northwest (AL MobileCounty International Longshoreman's Association Hall13.tif)	









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY International I NAME:	ongshoreman's Association Hall
MULTIPLE NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: ALABAMA,	Mobile
DATE RECEIVED: 5/20/ DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/27/ DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	
REFERENCE NUMBER: 1100040	18
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
OTHER: N PDIL:	N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N	A = 2
ACCEPTRETURN	REJECT6.27-1/DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	
	Entered in The National Register of Historic Places
RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE	DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached	d comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
	ed to the nominating authority, the



Mobile, Mobile County, AL MLK/MPS 2/31



Mobile, Mobile County, AL MLK/MPS 2/32

ILA Hall









6









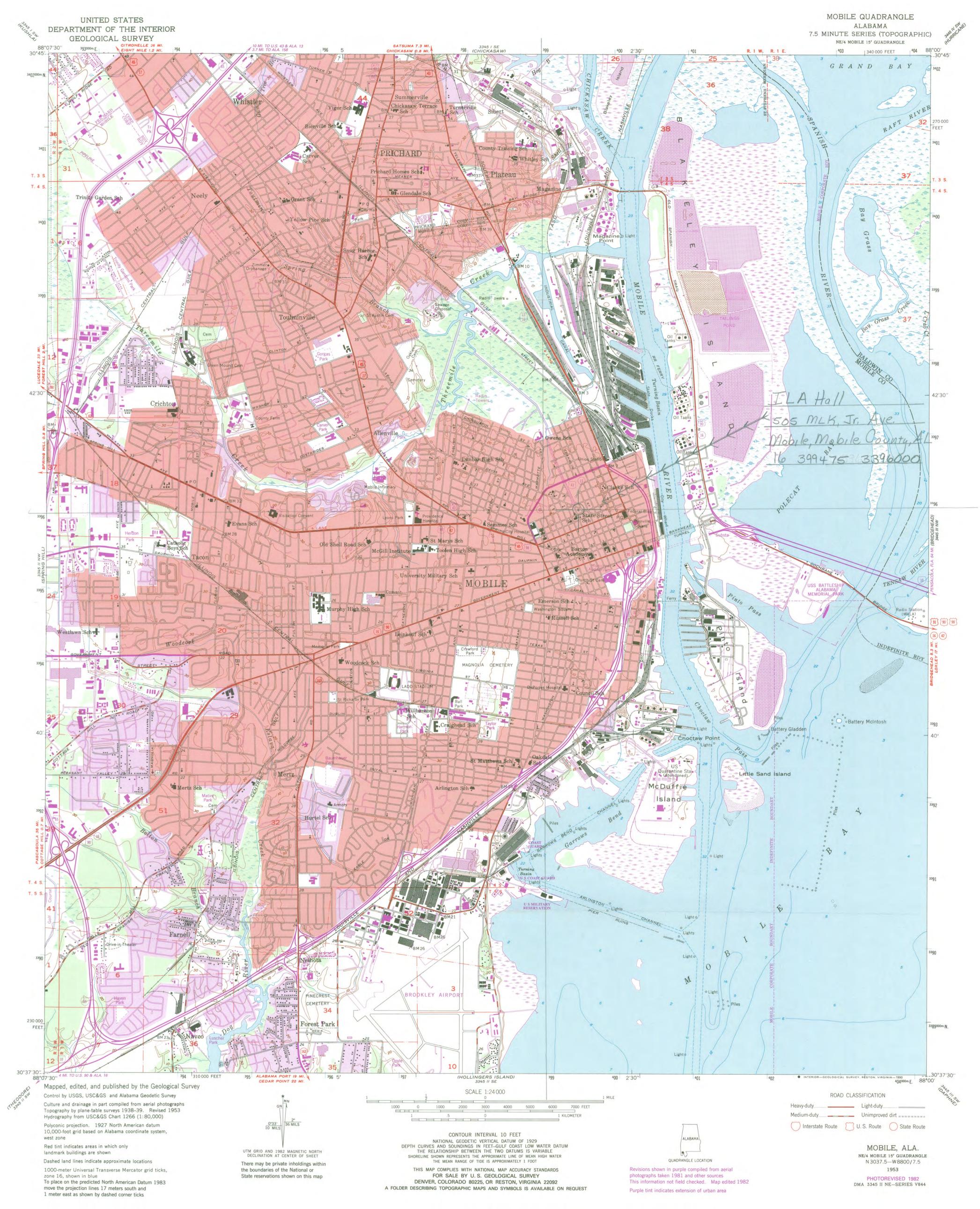
1











ILA Hall 505 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Are. Mobile, Mobile County, AL



MAY 2 0 2011

STATE OF ALABAMA NAT. REGISTER CE HISTORIC PLACES
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

468 SOUTH PERRY STREET MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

FRANK W. WHITE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR May 13, 2011

Tel: 334-242-3184 Fax: 334-240-3477

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
U. S. Department of the Interior, NPS
Cultural Resources
National Register, History & Education Programs
1201 "I" Street NW (2280)
Washington, D. C. 20005

RE: Reference #08001117

Dear Ms. Shull: Caval:

Enclosed please find the nomination and supporting documentation to be considered for listing the following Alabama resource in the National Register of Historic Places:

International Longshoreman's Association Hall Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama

Your consideration of the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination is appreciated.

Truly Yours,

Elizabeth Ann Brown

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

EAB/sme/nw

Enclosures