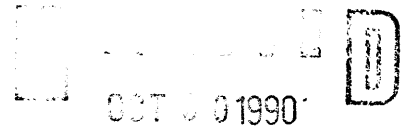


1808

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jemison, Robert, Servants' House
other names/site number same

2. Location

street & number 2303 13th Street not for publication
city, town Tuscaloosa vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Tuscaloosa code 125 zip code 35403

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] 10-25-90
Signature of certifying official Date
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 11/29/90
 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 the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade/Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls stucco

roof shingle

other frame

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated on the southwest corner of Thirteenth Street and Twenty-Third Avenue, the Jemison Servants' House is a three-story, single pile, modified Italianate building executed in brick and covered with a stucco veneer scored to simulate ashlar. The house was constructed between 1860 and 1862 for use as the servants' quarters for the Senator Robert Jemison House, 1305 Greensboro Avenue (NRHP 4/19/72)), also begun in 1860. The Jemison Servants' House has retained much of its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling and association. Only a few of the simple Italianate details were removed during the 1920s and 30s, including the overhanging eaves and brackets.

Crowned with a shallow hipped roof breaking into a gable above the middle bay, the house has a raised basement that can be entered at ground level on the north side. Painted brick chimneys project from the roof near the sides of the house. Supported by slender posts, the one-story porch displays scroll-cut brackets. Concrete steps with modern railing lead to the porch. The three bay front (west) facade has a centrally located entrance with double paneled doors, louvered shutters and slender sidelights. Fenestration on the front facade includes five rectangular windows with 6 over 6 sash, wood surrounds and sills, and louvered shutters. The side (north and south) facades are devoid of fenestration. The rear (east) facade has three, evenly spaced rectangular windows on the upper level, two on the second level, and two on the basement level. These windows have six over six sash, wood surrounds and sills, and louvered shutters.

The interior exhibits a central hall plan and has a cantilevered staircase with turned balustrades, paneled doors, moldings, baseboards, and wide pine. Four original mantels and much of the interior hardware are also intact.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1860-62

Significant Dates
1860-62

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Significant Person
NA

Architect/Builder
John Stewart

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

CRITERION C (Architecture):

Constructed between 1860 and 1862, the Jemison Servants' House is a representative example of a modified Italianate residence. Some of the details of the ornate main house (now the Friedman Library, NRHP 4/19/72) are subtly displayed in the servants' house including the overall shape, central gable, the one-story, full-length porch, and similar rhythm created by the porch supports and brackets.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

The Jemison Servants' House was constructed behind the residence of Robert Jemison, Jr., owner of six plantations and over 500 slaves. Involved in industrial and commercial enterprises, Jemison invested in stagecoach lines, operated a livery stable in Tuscaloosa, owned a lumber and mill, operated coal mine, and built and invested in plank roads and covered bridges. He also entered politics in the 1830s on the Whig ticket. (#1) A leader and businessman, Jemison amassed one of Alabama's largest fortunes. His wealth is reflected in one of the finest residences and servants' quarters in Tuscaloosa.

The servants' house was designed by the architect of the main house, John Stewart, formally of the Philadelphia firm of Sloan and Stewart. The firm was also responsible for the design of the Alabama Insane Hospital (1853), now known as Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa, as well as "Longwood," an octagonal mansion in Natchez, Mississippi.

Around 1940, the main and servants' houses were acquired by Jemison's daughter, Cherokee, and her husband Circuit Judge Adrian S. Vandergraff, member of the Alabama House of Representatives and professor of Law at the University of Alabama. In 1945, the houses were purchased and then later sold by J. P. Burchfield. Although the main house was restored and then converted into the Friedman Library, the servants' house became dilapidated until Mr. and Mrs. Louis Borghese purchased the house (by 1974) and restored it for use as an office. The house currently is owned by James A. Cowden who has converted it into an interior design studio.

1) Joan Ladd, "Hearing Set on Creating Historic Area Around Jemison House," The Tuscaloosa News, pg. 5B.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # AL-205
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property about 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	6	4	4	7	4	4	0	3	6	7	3	6	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property were determined by the legal description, as recorded in the Tax Assessor's office, City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Melanie Betz, Architectural Historian

organization Alabama Historical Commission

street & number 725 Monroe Street

city or town Montgomery

date October 1, 1990

telephone 205 242-3184

state Alabama zip code 36130

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Robert Jemison Servants' House**THE ITALIAN VILLA STYLE:**

The Italian Villa style, which was used for the design of both the Robert Jemison House as well as the servants' house, was originally inspired by the architecture of the Italian countryside. At the end of the 18th century, devotees of the Picturesque became intrigued by the asymmetry and irregularity of these Italian Villas. (#2) John Nash designed Cronkhill, the first English house in this style, in 1802. In the United States, Scottish-born architect, John Notman, built an Italian Villa for Bishop Doane at Burlington, New Jersey. This house was published and described by A.J. Downing (1815-1952) in his Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adapted to North America (1841) (#3). With its prominent towers, wide overhanging eaves adorned with brackets, verandas, long rectangular windows which frequently displayed hoodmolds, and irregular massing, Downing recommended the "Italian style" as being both "picturesque and practical." (#4)

Samuel Sloan (1815-1884), a Philadelphia architect, is believed to be the first to introduce the "Italian style" to the south. (#5) Around 1851, Sloan, or his partner, John Stewart, designed the Joseph S. Winter House in Montgomery, Alabama (now demolished). Plans and perspectives of this house were published in Sloan's book, The Model Architect (1851). (#6) Sloan (-or John Stewart-) may have also been responsible for the Italian Villa style residence, the Samuel Swan House in Montgomery, which was built around 1854. With its organic and asymmetrical layout, the Swan House was one of the earliest attempts in southern domestic architecture to move away from the rigid floor plan and external symmetry of traditional neoclassical houses. (#7) Sloan's partner John Stewart later designed the Robert Jemison House (1860-62) and the Servants' House (1860-62) located to the rear. Although designed with a central hall plan, the Servants' House still displayed many Italianate features including decorative brackets and overhanging eaves.

2) Marcus Whiffen. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1969), pg. 71.

3) Downing, A.J. Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adapted to North America. (1841).

4) Whiffen, pg. 71.

5) Robert Gamble. Alabama Catalog. Historic American Buildings Survey: A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. (University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1987), pg. 93.

6) Sloan, Samuel, The Model Architect. (1851).

7) Gamble, pg. 98.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1 Robert Jemison Servants' House

Downing, A.J. The Architecture of Country House (1850).

Gamble, Robert. Alabama Catalog. Historic American Buildings Survey: Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. University, Alabama: The University of Alabama Press, 1987.

Ladd, Joan. "Hearing Set on Creating Historic Area Around Jemison House", The Tuscaloosa News. pg. 5B

Senator Robert Jemison Papers, Special Collections Library, University of Alabama.

Sloan, Samuel. The Model Architect (1851).

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

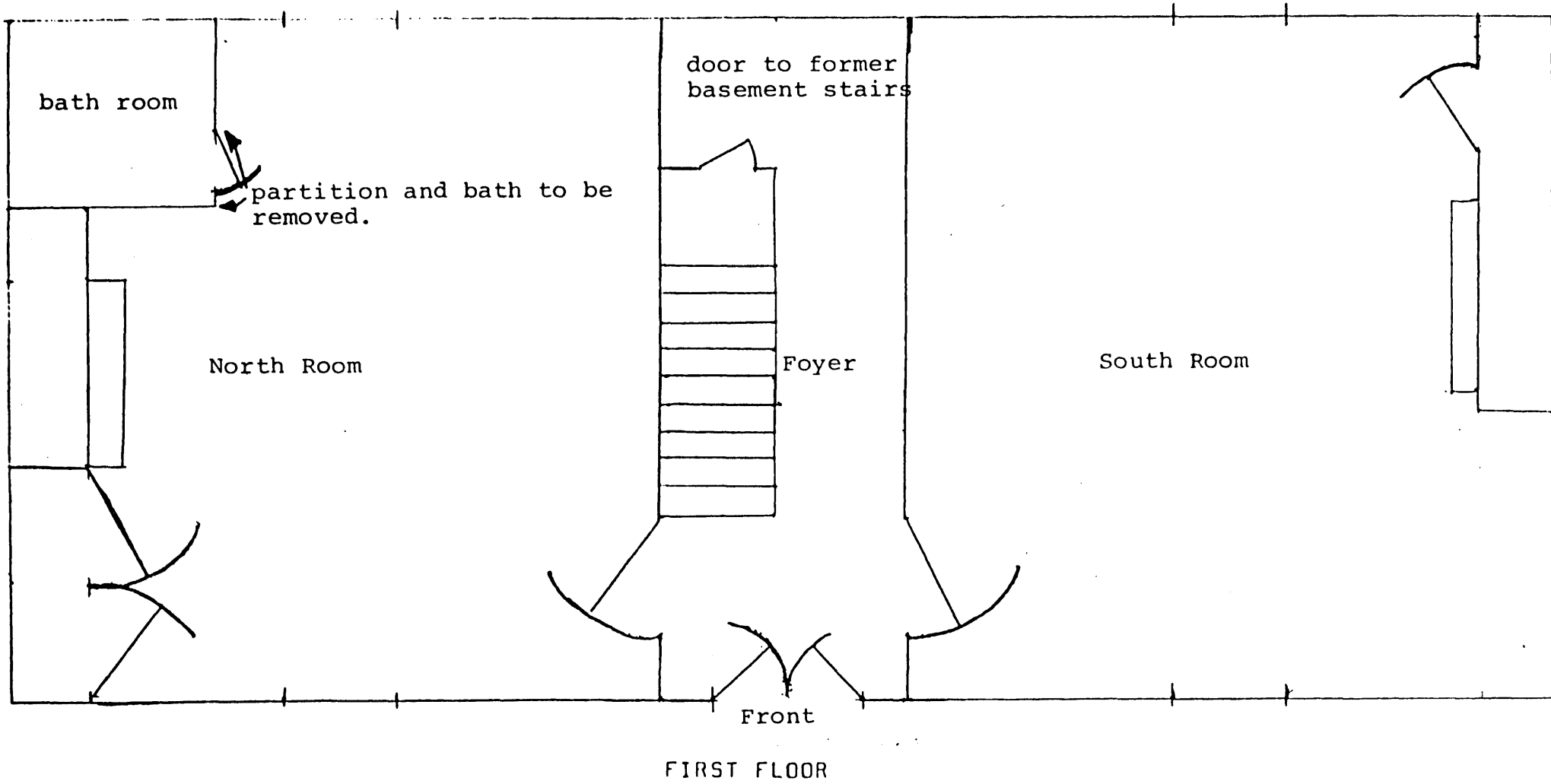
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1 Robert Jemison Servants' House

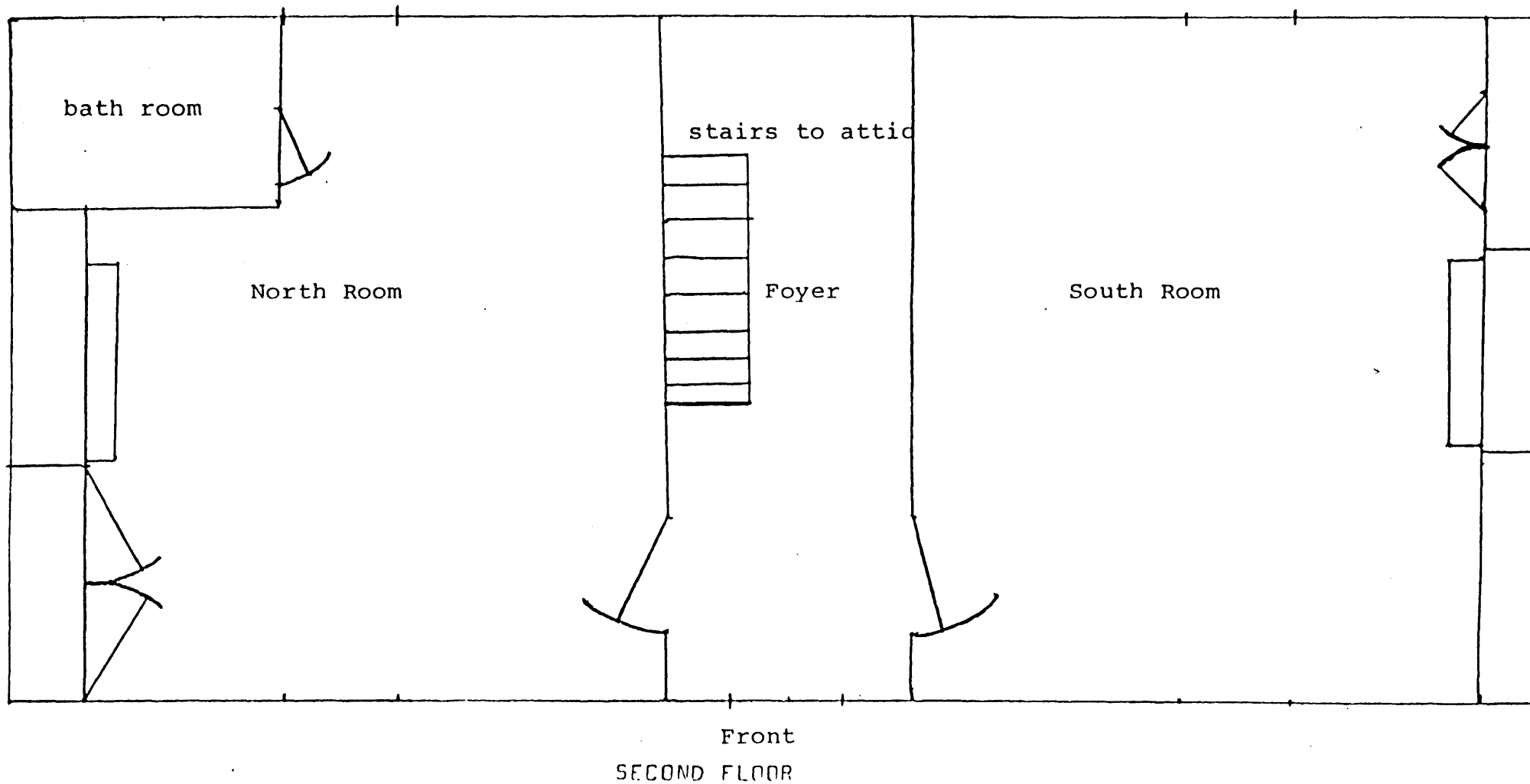
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

As a point of beginning, start at the Northeast corner of Block 478 of the original survey of the City of Tuscaloosa, said corner being the intersection of the South boundary of 13th Street and the West boundary of 23rd Avenue. From said point of beginning run Westwardly along the North line of said Block 478 and the South boundary of 13th Street for a distance of 112.5 feet to a point; thence with an interior angle of 89 degrees 57 minutes, run Southwardly for a distance of 62.0 feet to a point; thence with an interior angle of 90 degrees 03 minutes, run Eastwardly for a distance of 112.5 feet to a point on the East line of said Block 478 and the West boundary of 23rd Avenue; thence with an interior angle of 89 degrees 57 minutes run Northwardly along the East line of said Block 478 and the West boundary of 23rd Avenue for a distance of 62.0 feet to the point of beginning.

Drawing # 2, Floor Plan of the Jemison - Cowden House



Drawing # 2, Floor Plan of the Jemison - Cowden House



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photo-
graphs Page 1 Robert Jemison Servants' House

Information in items 1 - 5 is the same for all photographs listed.

- 1) Robert Jemison Servants' House, 2303 13th Street
- 2) Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama
- 3) Betsy Hayslip
- 4) 1989
- 5) Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County

No. 1

- 6) Front elevation of house, West elevation

No. 2

- 6) Northwest elevation

No. 3

- 6) Back elevation of house, East elevation

No. 4

- 6) Southwest elevation

No. 5

- 6) Double front doors with screened louvered doors

No. 6

- 6) Exterior window detail

No. 7

- 6) Back door detail

No. 8

- 6) Example of painted mantel

No. 9

- 6) Plaster walls and ceiling in the first floor south room

No. 10

- 6) Example of painted mantel

No. 11

- 6) Stairwell

No. 12

- 6) Front foyer showing double front doors

No. 13

- 6) Staircase