

**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 Gerald-Dowdell House

and/or common Gerald-Dowdell House

2. Location

street & number 405 South Hull Street ___ not for publication

city, town Montgomery ___ vicinity of congressional district 2

state Alabama code 01 county Montgomery code 101

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Joseph T. and Susan Carpenter

street & number 33 South Street

city, town Montgomery ___ vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number 142 Washington Avenue

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HABS has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1930s federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D. C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gerald-Dowdell House is located at the corner of South Hull and Scott streets, in what was once a fashionable neighborhood four blocks from the downtown business district. A very low (c. 6") brick wall separates the front lawn from the city sidewalk, and a picket fence on the south and a wrought iron fence on the north define the property edge. A gravel walk leads to the ground floor entrance, and a brick and gravel drive are located on the southside of the lot.

The house was constructed as a rectangular block (42' x 26' 8") with a hipped roof, deep bracketed eaves and an applied double veranda. The ground floor is brick covered with stucco and detailed at the four corners with quoins. The upper floor is frame covered with lapped siding. The front veranda echoes the main block with square brick piers on the ground floor and slender octagonal posts with modified Doric caps on the second. The ground floor bays are filled with lattice. Segmental arched openings are located in the second and fourth bays and on the end bays, allowing entrance to the porch. The upper story is ornamented with a sawn balustrade and the posts are decorated with sawn trim.

Paired brackets of the main cornice alternate with round ventilators. Windows are 6/6 with simple framing and louvered wooden shutters. The entrances on both floors have sidelights, transoms and simple enframements with restrained console brackets. The upper floor door has two vertical panels, while the ground floor door has four panels.

Interior: Four rooms open off a central modified T-shaped hall on both floors. The first story brick floors are original as are the 6" heart pine boards of the second floor. In one room on the ground floor the bricks have been taken out. Two chimneys service the back-to-back fireplaces which were originally in all room; one - in the southeast downstairs room - has been enclosed. Interior elements include seven simple mantles of modified Greek Revival design, metal coal burning grates, restrained door and window facing, four paneled doors inset with mortise or rim locks, metal keyhole covers and porcelain knobs. In the northeast room on the second level, wooden panels are set beneath the window sills. The baseboards have moulded crowns; walls are plaster over lathing.

There have been additions and alterations to the house. In 1953, it was converted to apartments and the staircase, originally on the interior, was moved to the front porch, providing for separate entrances. It retains its rather simple newel post and balustrade. At the same time a large room was built at the rear and the lower back porch extended and screened. Closets were added in the first floor entrance hall. The southeast rooms on both floors have been converted into bathrooms and large closets. The rear door on the ground floor was flanked by french doors.

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

Specific dates mid 1850s **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The distinctive character of the Gerald-Dowdell House, one of the few raised cottages in Montgomery, has made it a landmark in the city. Its unique appearance is the result of a strong Gulf-Coast influence mixed with elements of popular mid-19th century styles. It has a raised, brick basement that serves as a ground floor and an upper main wooden floor. The difference in materials is repeated in the porch which has brick piers below and slender posts above. Stylistically, Italianate influences predominate and are most evident in the bracketed cornice and the quoined ground floor.

The house was most likely constructed in the mid-1850s for Perley S. and Camilla Gerald, among the more colorful figures in early Montgomery history. Gerald was a native of New York and settled in the area in the 1830s. During the Gold Rush of 1849, he went west, traded with the miners and amassed a small fortune. Returning to Montgomery, he constructed one of the city's finest mansions. Financial reverses led to its sale in 1856, and it is probably then that Gerald constructed the house on Hull Street. In 1859, he sold the Hull Street house to W. J. Clopton, a house painter, and moved to New York.

In 1867, Eugenia and Herman Kenneworth bought the property from Clopton. Kenneworth was a dealer in home furnishings at the time of the purchase but later was in the lumber business. In 1891, the Kenneworth's daughter Edna, inherited the the house, and in 1903 she married John Moffat who later managed the Gay-Teague Hotel. In 1939 her son sold the house to Mrs. Annie S. Dowdell, whose husband was an employee of Weil Cotton Company. Since 1976 the house has belonged to Joseph T. and Susan Carpenter.

Through the years, the house has had many occupants. While there is no documentation to substantiate it, local traditions hold that Herman Arnold, who conducted the orchestra at the Montgomery Theater was an occupant of the house. In 1861, he arranged "Dixie" as a march and led the Montgomery Brass Band in the inaugural parade of Jefferson Davis. Another notable inhabitant was Robert T. Simpson, an Associate Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court who lived in the cottage from 1940–1949.

The northeast corner of the property contains a small grocery store of board and batten design. It was constructed around 1913 and originally occupied by T. F. McAdams.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Blue, Matthew P. City Directory and History of Montgomery. Montgomery: T. C. Bingham, 1878.
 City Directories of Montgomery: 1859-60; 1866; 1883; 1910; 1942
 Montgomery Mail. October 2, 1860.
 Owen, Thomas M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1921

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acree of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Montgomery South

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	6	5	5	6	0	3	5	8	1	8	4	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot number one (1) of square number two (2) of the Goldwaite Plat; 122.5' x 85'

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins/ Mary Ann Neeley (Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery)
 organization Alabama Historical Commission date February 26, 1980
 street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6621
 city or town Montgomery 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mrs. B. Howard, Jr.

title SHPO Alabama date February 26, 1980

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

for W. Ray Luce date 4/25/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Carl Dubie date 9/25/80
 Chief of Administration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED APR 28 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

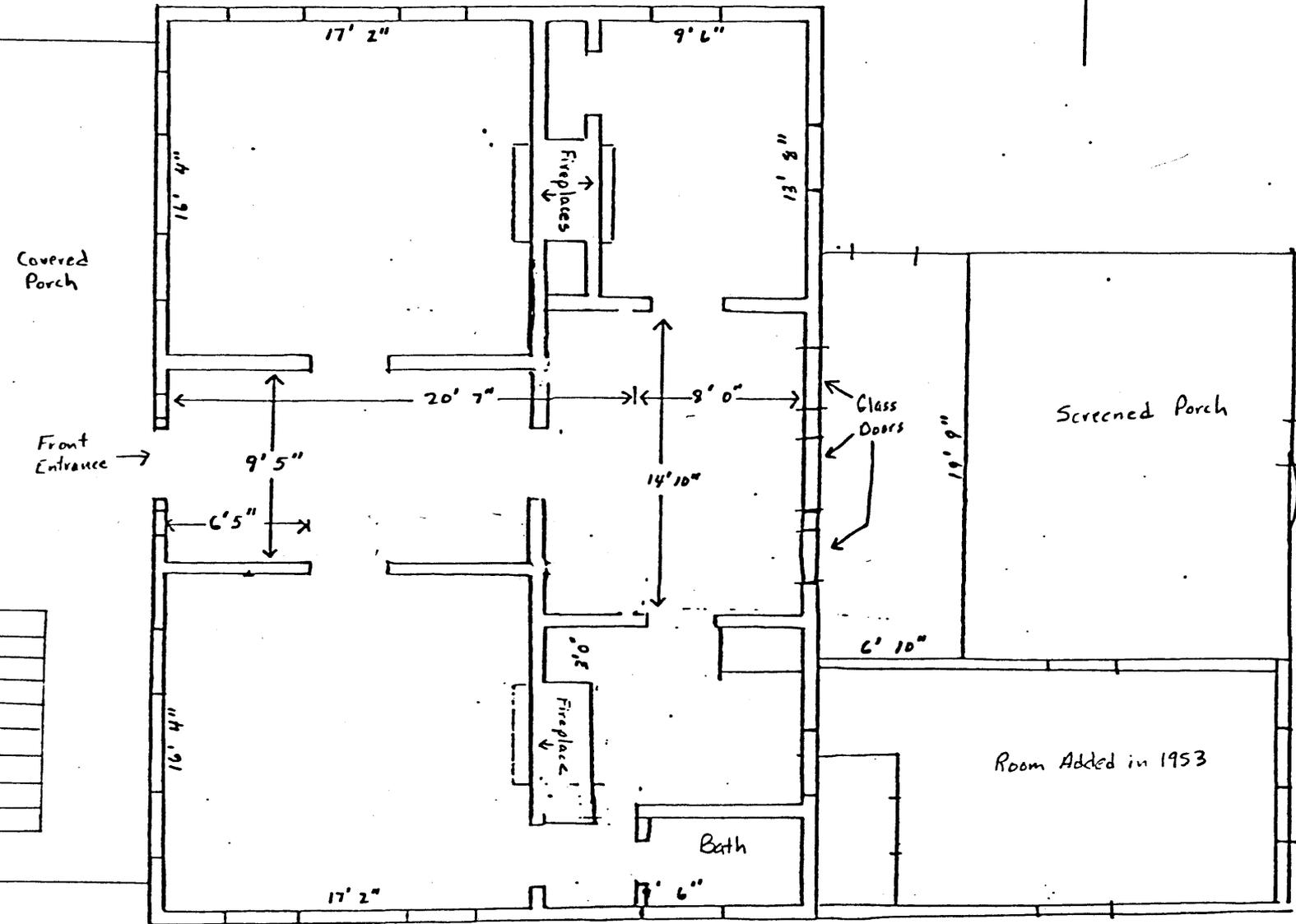
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title Alabama Inventory

date 1978 ___ federal ___ X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city,town Montgomery state Alabama



405 South Hull Street
First Floor
Floor Space 1400 Sq. Ft.

Attachment 1

