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NATIONAL REGISTER
Ala. Historical Commission

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Morrison, James Arthur, House
other names/site number Walker, James & Nancy, House

2. Location

street & number 159 Hillwood N/A not for publication
city, town Mobile N/A vicinity
state Al code Al county Mobile code 097 zip code 36608

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>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Spanish Revival Residences in Mobile, 1904-1929
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 of certifying official [Signature] Date 5-22-91
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.
 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 the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 7/12/91

Entered in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls Stucco

roof Ceramic Tileother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Morrison-Walker House sits on a large, informally landscaped lot on the southwest corner of Old Shell Road and Country Club Road in the exclusive Country Club Estates. The house is a seven by four bay two story stucco building with a hip roof, flanking one story hip roof wings and a one story ell off the west elevation. The hip wings project one bay out from the facade and a low stucco wall encloses a central courtyard, entered by a central decorative iron gate. The courtyard features a flower-bed, benches and tile pavers. The actual facade is dominated by an outset entrance stoop with roundheaded doorway, flanked by 6/6 windows. The wings feature round top casement windows at the facade with decorative tile semi-circular vents above, and paired 4/4 windows along the sides. There are two interior stucco chimneys. The one story hip roof ell off the west rear has 1/1 windows and a simple back entrance. There is an attached one story hip roof porch across the back of the two story central block. The porch features square stucco supports and broad arches, almost flat, and decorative ironwork. The east elevation of the two story block features a mission parapet with coping, hardly visible from the ground.

There is a two story hip roof garage with flanking one story flat roof carports to the rear of the house. The garage features paired 6/6 windows in the second story and wooden tri-fold port doors with three four pane windows. The central carport is arched.

The interior plan is an open one featuring a pleasant play of open arches. The two story central block is a large room with a staircase running up the east wall, set off by a stucco wall with three stepped arches. The wings include hardwood floors, stucco walls and ceilings and panel wood doors with pressed glass doorknobs.

Integrity

Exterior and interior integrity is excellent. Some rooms in the west wing and ell have been carpeted.

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

1926

Significant Dates

1926

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

The Morrison-Walker House is significant under National Register Criterion C as one of the finest Spanish Revival houses in the City of Mobile. Its stucco walls, Mission parapet, round headed openings, iron grillwork, tile porches and interior arches are classic features of the style. The Morrison-Walker House is a rare residential high style expression of the Spanish Revival in Mobile.

* * * * *

Country Club Estates, an exclusive suburban development in Spring Hill, was platted in May of 1924. Lot 1, at the southwest corner of Old Shell Road and Hillwood Road, was purchased by restaurant magnate James Arthur Morrison in April of 1926. Morrison immediately began construction of a new home, which was valued in 1927 at over fifteen thousand dollars.

Morrison's new house was constructed in the Mission Revival style, similar to the country club house then under construction as well. Though Morrison's house featured a front courtyard, the family focus was to the rear as witnessed by the back porch and fanciful garage. Though the house faced Old Shell Road, Hillwood Road provided the access. Morrison reportedly preferred the more exclusive address of Hillwood Road, rather than Old Shell Road.

The house has passed through several hands and continues to be well maintained.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alan Gowans, The Comfortable House. Cambridge, Mass. The MIT Press. 1986.

Mobile County Tax Records, Mobile County Courthouse, Mobile, Alabama.

Mobile city Directory, 1927.

Deed books, various.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Mobile Historic Development Comm.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property App. 1.5

UTM References

A 16 389890 3396050
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Begin at the SW corner of Old Shell Road and Hillwood Road, proceed thence S 245 feet to a point, thence W 342 feet to a point, thence N 135 feet to a point on the S side of Old Shell Road, thence along the south edge of Old Shell Road 270 feet E to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary conforms to the present legal dimensions of the lot.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Sledge/Architectural Historian; Steven Kay/AHC Reviewer
organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date October 1, 1990
street & number P O Box 1827 telephone (205) 438-7281
city or town Mobile, state Al zip code 36633

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photo-
graphs Page 1 Morrison-Walker House

1. Morrison-Walker House
159 Hillwood Road
2. Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama
3. John Sledge, photographer
4. January 1990
5. MHDC Negative File--MB #176

Photo #	Description (Frame #)
1.	Facade, camera facing S (5)
2.	General, camera facing SW (4)
3.	Rear, camera facing N (1)
4.	Garage, camera facing W (11)
5.	Interior, staircase, camera facing E (15)
6.	Dining room, camera facing N (13)