

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



32

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

1. Name

historic Dudley Snow House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 704 Snow Street not for publication

city, town Oxford vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state Alabama code 01 county Calhoun code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. George R. Mizzell tel. 205-831-1255

street & number 704 Snow Street

city, town Oxford vicinity of state AL 36203

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Probate Office, Calhoun County Courthouse

street & number 11th Street & Gurnee Avenue

city, town Anniston state AL 36201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1935 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

city, town Washington state DC 20540

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENDANGERED
<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 Snow house occupies a low wooded knoll about 100 yards east of the branch which bears the same name. Facing north toward Snow Street, the house is five bays wide. It measures 49'-6" across by 43'-0" deep, and is covered by a broad gable roof broken at the front and rear slopes to extend over the shedroom additions to the nucleus. A kitchen wing added to the southeast corner of the house around 1900 has been incorporated into a porch and garage addition built after 1962. Brick chimneys at each gable end have been partially dismantled.

The original house -- two hewn log "pens" with open passage between -- rests, like the attached frame shedrooms, on low brick pier-supports. Modern siding has partially replaced or now covers much of the 19th-century weatherboarding, while most of the early sashing has likewise been replaced. The latter was variously six-over-six or six-over-nine.

Three rooms lie to either side of the hall -- the middle or original rooms measuring approximately 18 by 18 feet; the flanking shedrooms, 18 by 11. From one corner of each of the two largest rooms, an enclosed stairway leads to the upper floor. Here, the circa 1832 log construction is still visible. Synthetic paneling now covers the walls of the east middle room, while the mantelpiece has been removed and the fireplace sealed. Elsewhere, chairrails, narrow reeded windowfacings, flush-board walls, and mantelpieces survive generally undisturbed. Among changes made in the 1960's, however, was the removal of the double doors and sidelights in the central hall, and the construction of a modern stoop which now shelters a replacement entry. Other changes have been more cosmetic in nature, concealing but not destroying the historic fabric underneath. Thus, beneath a new floor covering, the original floor survives intact.

All early dependencies have been destroyed, while commercial encroachment threatens the historic setting of the house. Yet the dwelling remains structurally sound and susceptible of restoration.

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

Specific dates ca. 1832-1840 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dudley Snow house embodies a significant evolutionary pattern found in rural Alabama architecture: the recurring metamorphosis of the hewn-log dwelling into a more commodious, weatheredboarded house oftentimes displaying rudimentary elements of "style." As the home of a small slaveholder, the Snow house also represents a class — neither planter nor small farmer — frequently overlooked in studies of the Old South. The log core of the house evidently dates from the early 1830's. It marks the first extension of settlement onto the northeastern Alabama lands ceded by the Creeks in 1832. The Snow house is quite possibly the oldest structure standing in Calhoun County today, and one of the earliest extant dwellings anywhere in the Coosa River basin.

* * * * *

Immediately following the Creek cession, the brothers Dudley and Fielding Snow made a reconnaissance of the newly opened country in search of arable and well-watered farmland. Born in North Carolina, the Snows were then living in Roane County, East Tennessee. Dudley Snow selected a level tract at the mouth of the Choccolocco Valley, and entered it at the Federal land sales for the region.¹ In anticipation of his family's arrival from Tennessee, he also began the construction of the hewn-log "dogtrot" which was a few years later expanded into the present dwelling. As Snow prospered, and milled lumber became available in the area, he enlarged and improved his house by adding four frame shedrooms, a pair each at the front and back. The open hall was accordingly lengthened to the front and enclosed at either end by a pair of double-leaf doors with sidelights and rectangular transom. The space between the two rear shedrooms was, however, left open as a recessed porch — a characteristic feature of early Alabama domestic design. The entire house was clapboarded and sash windows installed, flanked by louvered blinds hinged to narrow fluted frames. Inside, log walls were sheathed with horizontal matched boarding, to which was affixed a chairrail and beaded baseboard. In the hall there was a paneled dado; in the adjoining rooms, mantelpieces of a primitive Federal character.

The Snow house was the center of a complex which, in the mid-19th century, included a separate kitchen to the southeast, with cellar beneath; a smokehouse; three barns; a cottonseed house and a gin; a grist mill, a tannery, a blacksmith shop, and slave quarters. Tradition holds that the first post office for the area, antedating the present community of Oxford, was established at the Snow house. Perhaps testifying to the veracity of this story is a large, pigeon-holed wooden cabinet still situated in the southeast shedroom. The U.S. Census for 1850 lists Dudley Snow as the owner of a dozen slaves, with real property valued at the then not-inconsiderable sum of \$6,000. Of Snow's eight children, five were sons and all served in the Confederate army. A local military company purportedly outfitted by Dudley Snow was known as "Snow's Rangers."

¹Fielding Snow settled thirteen miles north, at Jacksonville, where his own circa 1850 two-story frame house still stands at 201 Murphy Street. It was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1935.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic American Buildings Survey. Photographs of the Dudley Snow House (1935).
 Division of Prints & Photographs, Library of Congress.
 Snow, Dudley, House (file folder on). Oxford Room, Oxford Public Library, Oxford,
 Alabama.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 73
 Quadrangle name Oxford Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A	<u>116</u>	<u>6019</u>	<u>11010</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>91010</u>	B						
	Zone	Easting		Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing		
C							D						
E							F						
G							H						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Begin S.W. corner Snow Street and Farmer Lane:
 w. 151.4' to a point of beginning: then S. 230'; W. 138'; N. 233.7'; E. 138';
 to a point of beginning (see attached plat).

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert S. Gamble, Architectural Historian
 (for) Alabama Historical Commission date Jan. 1981
 street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205-832-6621
 city or town Montgomery state AL 36130

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 Chico B. Zoward Jr.
 title SHPO Alabama date 10/6/81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u>Delores Byers</u>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>2/4/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Dudley Snow House

Item number 8

Page 2

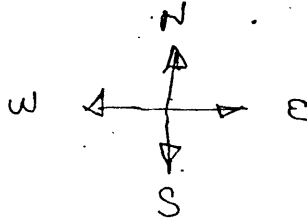
Continuously occupied by the Snow family, the house had changed little -- but for a turn-of-the-century kitchen wing -- when it was photographed by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1935. Renovations carried out between 1962 and 1970 marred the house, but did not destroy its fundamental character. Despite these changes, no other dwelling standing today in the Oxford-Anniston area so clearly reflects the developmental process from Jacksonian frontier to settled agrarian existence.

State of Alabama
County of Calhoun

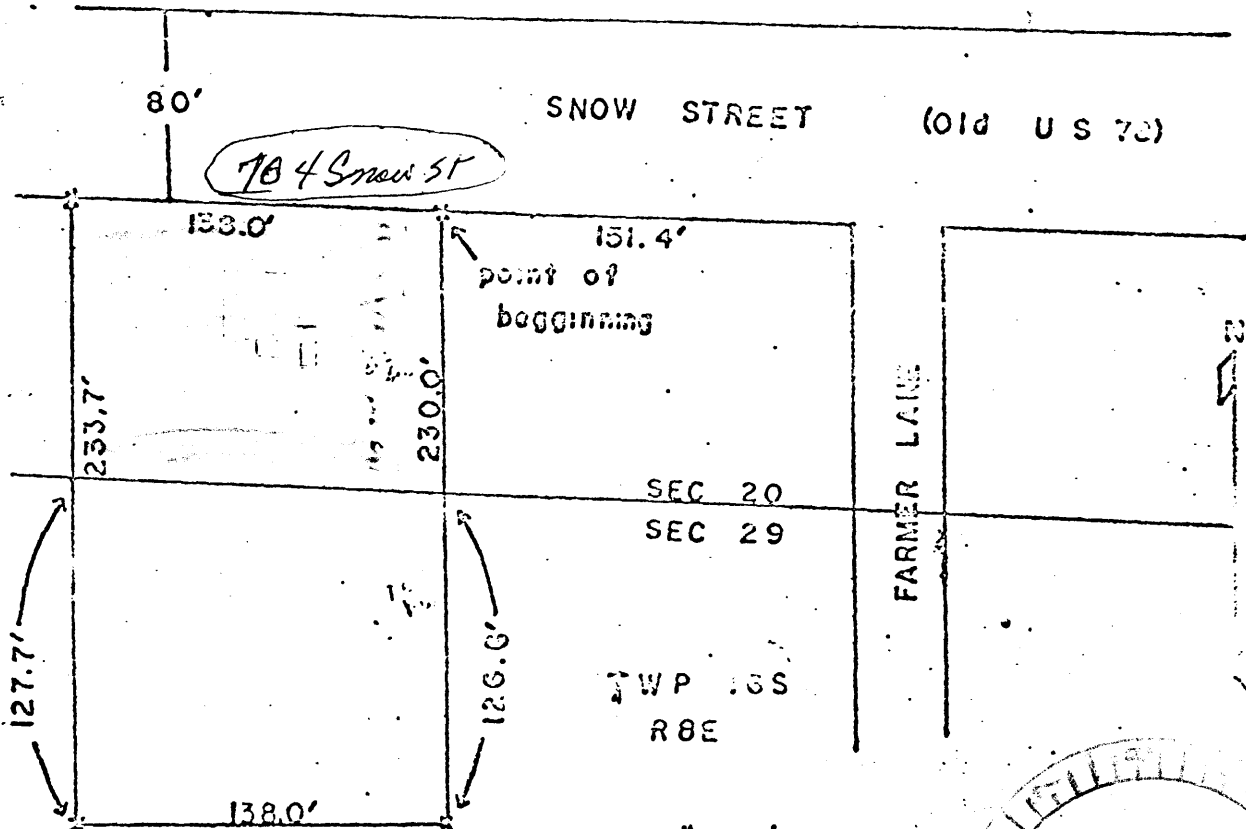
To All interested parties

A parcel of land lying principally in the $\frac{1}{2}$ of the $\frac{1}{2}$ of the $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29 and partly in the $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, all in Township 16S, Range 8 East, Oxford, Calhoun County, Alabama.

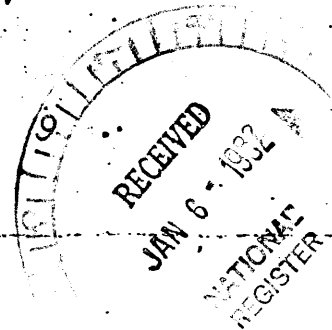
Being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the SW corner of the intersection of Snow Street (also known as Old U S 76) and Farmer Lane; thence west along the south side of Snow Street a distance of 151.4' to the Point of Beginning; thence south on a line parallel to the west side of Farmer Lane a distance of 230.0' to a point; thence west on a line parallel to the south side of Snow Street a distance of 138.0' to a point; thence north on a line parallel to the west side of Farmer Lane a distance of 233.7' to a point; thence east along the south side of Snow Street a distance of 138.0' to the point of beginning, also as shown on the plat hereto attached and made a part hereof.



FEB 4 1982

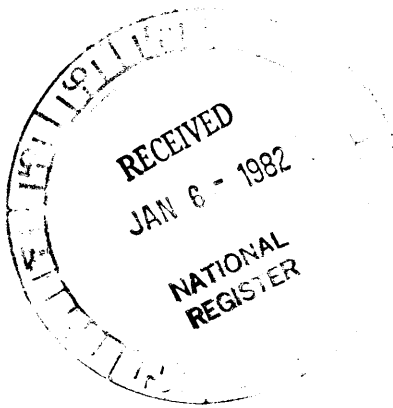


SCALE 1" = 64'



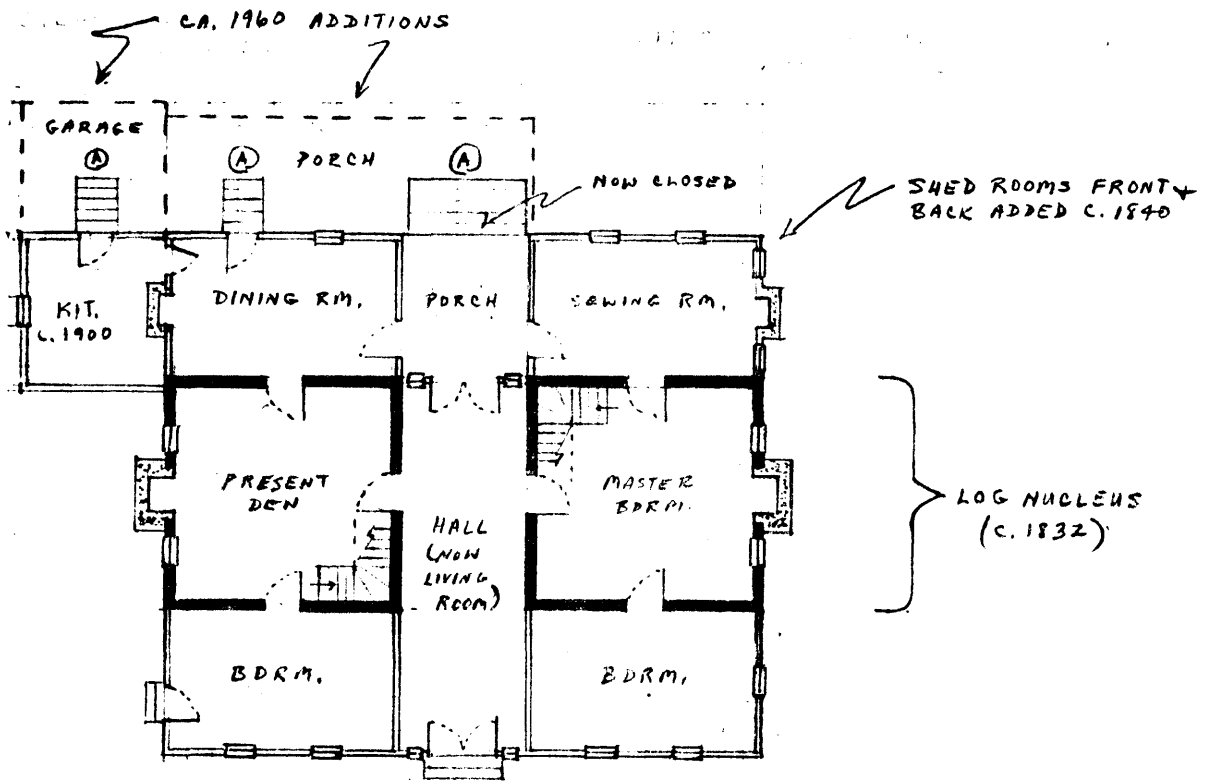
DUDLEY SNOW HOUSE
704 SNOW STREET
OXFORD, AL.

GEO. MIZZELL, OWNER

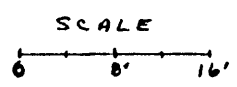


FEB 4 1982

(A) = STEPS ELIMINATED IN LATEX RENOVATION



(B) ORIGINAL DOORS, SIDELIGHTS & TRANSOM REMOVED C. 1960; STOOP ADDED.



MEASURED BY R GAMBLE



SNOW ST.