

PH0020192

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alabama	
COUNTY: Dallas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JAN 18 1973	DATE



1. NAME

COMMON:
Sturdivant Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Watts-Parkman-Gillman Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
713 Mabry Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Selma

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Dallas CODE: 047

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Selma

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall,

CITY OR TOWN: Selma STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Dallas County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
105 Lauderdale

CITY OR TOWN: Selma STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
HABS

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934,35 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER: C

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
COUNTY:	JAN 18 1973	
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sturdivant Hall is located in downtown Selma, with the mansion grounds covering nearly a city block. The basically rectangular two-story structure is crowned with a cupola.

The house utilizes the Corinthian order held to severe restraint. The six fluted columns across the front use only a single band of acanthus leaves around the lower extremities of the capitals which are fashioned from cast iron. Columns are equally spaced and are 30 feet high. A lacy grille balcony runs the sixty-foot length of the porch.

There are four windows on each floor across the facade. These windows have shutters and small panels beneath the windows from the sill to the floor. The panels are hinged and open outward, allowing the windows to function as doors. All windows are double hung and the sashes are divided into six lites.

The front doorway is recessed and two small Corinthian columns similar to the larger ones are in the doorway. A similar doorway gives access to the balcony.

A second entrance at the left of the house features a single story porch with iron-grille trellises designed with grape clusters and leaves, serving as posts.

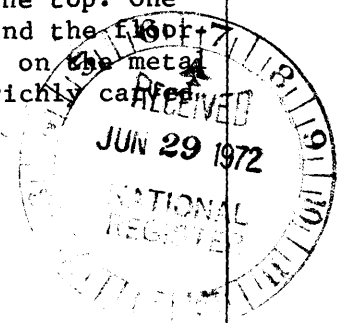
The rear facade has a veranda with two Doric columns, and an upstairs porch guarded by a richly ivy patterned iron-grille railing, crested with small fleur de lis. The veranda, unlike the one at the front, does not run the full breadth of the house, but is bound at either end by a small room on both the first and second floor. An outside staircase winds up from the first floor veranda to the porch above.

The roof is hipped and there are three chimneys. A small cupola on the roof has two windows on all sides and is encircled with a baluster.

Both upstairs and down, a T-shaped hall divides the arrangement of the rooms. A central hall runs the full length of the mid-section, and the left side is cut into half by still another hall.

The large drawing room (20' x 30') on the first floor is formed by this division of halls. The cornice of this room has large plaster rosettes widely spaced at the bottom and tiny ones closely formed at the top. One large metal piece serves as the cornice for the pier mirror and the length windows at the front. This same pattern is carried out on the metal cornices of the side windows and the mirror overhanging the richly mantel.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Alabama	
COUNTY	
Dallas	
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	JAN 18 1973

(Number all entries)

7. Description continued

Across the hall at the front, the parlor is separated from the dining hall by a broad opening with a free-standing Corinthian column on either side.

The staircase, which is a straight-run stairway, flanks, not the central hall, but the abbreviated one at the backside of the drawing room.

A spiral staircase connects the second floor with the cupola. This staircase is constructed around a central core post which extends the entire height of the stair-well, and around it the treads wind.

The house has been furnished with appropriate antiques.



SIGNIFICANCE

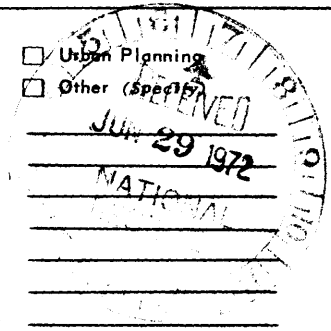
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sturdivant Hall is one of Alabama's best known examples of Greek Revival architecture. It was built in much the same variation of style as several of the Natchez mansions, with a striking similarity in parts to historic Stanton Hall.

The mansion was erected in 1853 on land purchased by Edward T. Watts. Architect for the structure was Thomas Helm Lee of Selma, a cousin of General Robert E. Lee. Watts, who was a member of the Selma City Council in 1857, lived in the home with his family until he moved to Texas in 1864.

At that time the property was sold to John Parkman, President of the First National Bank of Selma, for \$65,000. The bank, which had on deposit large sums of government money, became engaged in cotton speculation. Losses sustained from this speculation caused the Commander of the Federal troops in Selma, to take possession of the bank and arrest its president. Parkman was imprisoned in Cahaba and drowned attempting to escape.

In 1870 the property was sold to Emile Gillman, a prominent Selma merchant for \$12,500. It remained in the hands of the Gillman family until the fall of 1957, when it was purchased by the City of Selma from Mrs. Augusta Gillman Bibb and Mrs. Adolph Gillman Russell for \$75,000.

Much of the money for the purchase of the home came from the estate of Robert Daniel Sturdivant, whose will made provisions for setting up a museum in the City of Selma. The remainder of the money came from the City Council of Selma and the Dallas County Board of Revenue.

Sturdivant Hall is operated as a museum by the Sturdivant Museum Association.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hammond, Ralph: Antebellum Mansions of Alabama, New York: Bonanza Books, 1951.

Material on file at the Alabama Historical Commission

HE
16/35860

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32°	24'	46"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	87°	01'	44"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: June 16, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence St.

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Phil B. Howard, Jr.

Title SLD

Date June 17, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert K. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/18/73

ATTEST: Wm. S. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date 1.9.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS