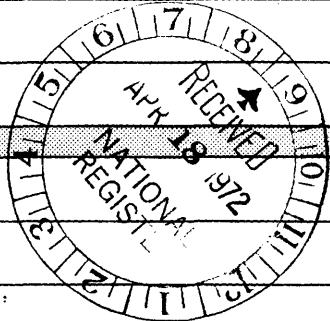


PH0028835

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>ALABAMA</b>	
COUNTY: <b>MOBILE</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>14</b>	<b>SEP 1972</b>



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Georgia Cottage**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**girlhood home of Augusta Evans Wilson**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**2564 Springhill Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Mobile**

STATE <b>Alabama</b>	CODE <b>01</b>	COUNTY: <b>Mobile</b>	CODE <b>097</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mrs. Edward S. Sledge**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**2564 Springhill Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Mobile</b>	STATE: <b>Alabama</b>	CODE <b>01</b>
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Mobile County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**South Royal Street**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Mobile</b>	STATE: <b>Alabama</b>	CODE <b>01</b>
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1935**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Washington</b>	STATE: <b>D. C.</b>	CODE <b>08</b>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

14 SEP 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**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 type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Georgia Cottage, a small one-story Greek Revival cottage, is situated at the end of a long avenue of live oak trees. The driveway makes a turn in front of the house to circle a flower bed centered with a small round lily pond.

The frame house is composed of a central block and two wings, all with their own porches. A short flight of steps lead to the main front porch which is supported by 6 square columns with square molded capitals and plain bases. Between the columns is a wooden railing with square balusters and a cypress handrail.

Both wings have similar porches, columns, and railings.

The front and rear exterior walls are plastered, but the side walls are of clapboard.

The main entrance double doors are flanked by pilasters and sidelights. A transom is divided into small rectangular lites. There are two windows on either side. Beneath these windows is a small section from the sill to the floor which is hinged and opens outward, allowing the windows to function as doors. All of the windows are double hung, and the sashes are divided into 12 lites. These windows have pedimented architraves.

The front door opens into a wide hall extending from front to rear and which opens onto a back porch identical to the front.

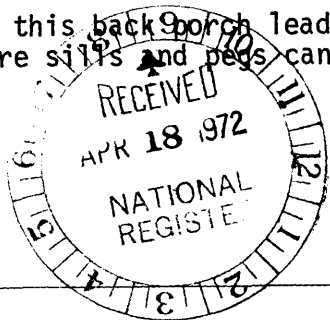
On the right of the hall is the front parlor and dining room with sliding doors between. A doorway in the rear room leads to the east wing.

The wooden mantels and slate hearths are original.

The ceilings are 13 feet high and original floors are hand-sawn pine boards. Plaster is original, made of ground oyster shells, sand, and pig bristles. The interior trim at the windows and doors is flat, wide with a molded edge, being much narrower at the top than bottom. Locally, this is called Egyptian molding.

The house remains much the same as when it was built. The solid wooden panels in the front door have been replaced by glass panels, a bathroom has been added on each wing and three small rooms have been added on part of the back porch. A modern kitchen has also been added along the lines of the porch.

Steep steps off of this back porch lead to a wine cellar, where the hand-hewn one-foot square sills and pegs can be seen.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

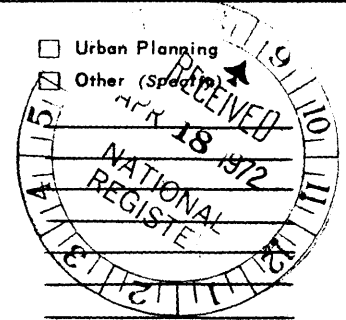
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- 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"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering           | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture          | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                 |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Georgia Cottage is best known for its most famous resident, Augusta Evans Wilson, the first woman in America to earn in excess of \$100,000 from her writings. Additionally the house is of architectural merit, having been built in the Greek Revival style.

Augusta Jane Evans was born in Columbus, Georgia on May 8, 1835. Her parents were Matt and Sara Howard Evans. Because of financial difficulties, the family moved to San Antonio in 1845 and to Mobile in 1849, where Mr. Evans became a cotton factor. In 1857 Matt Evans bought Georgia Cottage from Alfred Batre, trustee for William A. Hardaway and his wife Mary Jane.

The house had been built about 1840 by John Murrell for his daughter Mary Jane on the land acquired by Spanish land grant in 1804.

Augusta Evans lived here from 1857 until her marriage in 1868. It was while living in this house that she wrote three of her novels, Macaria, St. Elmo, and Vashti. The wing on the right of the house served as her study, and she was married in the front parlor of the house to Lorenzo M. Wilson on December 2, 1868.

Mrs. Wilson's career as a writer spanned more than a half a century. Her first novel, Inez: A Tale of the Alamo, was published in 1855 and her last book, Devota, came out in 1907, two years before her death. She was one of the most popular American authors of her day, and at least three of her books became all-time best sellers.

One of her most popular books, Macaria, written during the Civil War, was published with a Confederate copyright and was dedicated to the Southern soldiers. Although it was banned by the Federal Army, copies were smuggled through the lines and it was well received by the public in the north.

The Evans family continued to live in Georgia Cottage until 1879, when the property was sold to Albert N. Bamrell, U. S. Engineer in charge of the Mobile District, whose heirs sold to J. N. Brownlee in 1926, and in turn to the present owners, Dr. and Mrs. E. S. Sledge, in 1935.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Alabama Members of the National League of American Pen Women, Historic Homes of Alabama and Their Traditions. Birmingham, Alabama, 1969.

Delaney, Caldwell, Remember Mobile. Mobile, Alabama, 1969.

Ellis, Augustine, Federal Writers Project, Dist. 6, WPA Project 694, Mobile, Alabama #0149-13763.

Personal Interview with present owner.

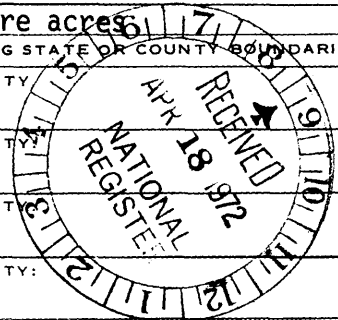
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30 ° 41 ' 45 "	88 ° 05 ' 58 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6 square acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Jack C. Gallalee, Research Chairman  
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director Mobile Historic Preservation Society  
 ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: March 31, 1972  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 Milo B. Howard, Jr.  
 Title SLD  
 Date April 3, 1972

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

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

Date 9/14/72

ATTEST:

Bradford  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 9/13/72