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 INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tunstall, Levi, House

other names/site number Sledge, Augusta, House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number County Road 12 N/A not for publication

city or town Newbern  vicinity

state Alabama code AL county Hale code 065 zip code 36765

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant:  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] June 1, 1994  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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.

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper  
Edson H. Beall  
 Entered in the National Register Date of Action  
5.7.94

Sledge House

Hale County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Plantation Houses of the Alabama Canebrake and their associated outbuildings (1818 - 1942)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Metal

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

A. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1855-1900

Significant Dates

ca. 1855

ca. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

Sledge House  
Name of Property

Hale County, Alabama  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 15 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	4 4 6 4 7 0	3 5 9 8 1 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 6	4 4 6 7 5 0	3 5 9 8 0 1 0

3	1 6	4 4 6 6 8 0	3 5 9 7 8 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 6	4 4 6 4 0 0	3 5 9 8 0 0 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeff Mansell

organization Cahaba Trace Commission date August 24, 1993

street & number Route 1, Box 147 telephone (205) 665-7982

city or town Brierfield state Alabama zip code 35035

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Augusta Sledge

street & number 1801 Main Street telephone (205) 624-8352

city or town Greensboro state Alabama zip code 36744

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to allow the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470) to apply.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Sledge house  
Newbern vicinity  
Hale County, Alabama

The James Levi Tunstall/Augusta Sledge house is located off County Road 12, west of the intersection of County Road 12 and Alabama Highway 25 near what was once known as the Laneville community. Resting in a grove of fruit trees, the house faces north with the remnants of farm buildings located to the rear of the structure. Constructed circa 1855, the dwelling served as the plantation residence for James Levi Tunstall, a prominent planter whose principal residence was located in Greensboro.

The Sledge house is basically a square building which could be categorized as a Greek Revival cottage which has been embellished with sawnwork detailing in an attempt to convey a feeling of the picturesque, a movement popular in the mid-nineteenth century. The dwelling is similar in form and plan to numerous structures constructed in Greensboro during this time, such as the Lupton-Grote-Cobbs house, ca. 1860. The dwelling is of frame construction resting on a foundation of brick piers and features a moderately pitched hipped roof with two interior chimneys. The foundation has been enclosed with concrete blocks. Located in the middle bay of the five bay facade, the entrance door surround incorporates a full multi-pane transom and sidelights set in a Greek key or shouldered molding. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash with the second and fourth bay windows resting on jib doors allowing access onto the three-quarter width porch. All windows feature shouldered moldings. Flush boarding is located on the wall of the facade protected by the porch roof. The porch features a shallow hipped roof supported by four supports of pierced woodwork. Classical pilasters are located at the corners of the structure and a broad cornice encircles the structure. The rear of the dwelling features a five bay facade with three entrance doors. As with the other bays, these are also encased in shoulder moldings. The rear central entrance is identical to the front entrance. The rear elevation is protected by a full width half hipped roof porch which rests on unfinished wooden timbers rising from a bricked patio. Three sets of wooden steps rise from the ground to the entrance doors. The rear porch is not original to the house; the house may have featured a porch which rested on brick piers, similar to the front porch or there may not have been any type of rear porch since the wall material is simple weatherboarding and not flush boarding as is found on the facade.

The floorplan of the house is based on a central hall plan with flanking double rooms. All window and door surrounds are identical to the shouldered moldings on the exterior windows and doors. A bathroom has been constructed in the front northwest room. The mantles throughout the house are simple Greek Revival in style except for the northeast room which features a tripart Federal style mantle which may be from an earlier house.

Located behind the main house is one contributing outbuilding, the ruins of a shed, a garage, and a tenant house. All of the outbuildings were constructed ca. 1900. The nomination for the Sledge house contains 2 contributing building and three non-contributing sites.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Sledge house  
Newbern vicinity  
Hale County, Alabama

### Criterion A: Architecture

The Sledge house is a significant example of a Canebrake plantation house, a Greek Revival cottage with a porch embellished with sawnwork supports, reflecting the widespread use of decorative detailing in an effort to achieve a picturesque effect. The house yields information regarding the styles, form, construction methods, techniques and craftsmanship utilized by the residents of the Canebrake from 1830-1942. The house retains a high degree of integrity in regard to design, materials, workmanship, feeling and setting.

### Historical Summary

In 1856, James Levi Tunstall purchased a tract of land from James Morisette which included the property associated with the Sledge house. While the deed from Morisette to Tunstall does not mention a dwelling house, family tradition as relayed by Augusta Tunstall Sledge, a direct descendent of James Levi Tunstall, has always maintained that a house was already located on the property when purchased by the Tunstall family. Since its purchase by James Levi Tunstall in 1856, the land has remained in the possession of the Tunstall family. The present owner, Mrs. Augusta Tunstall Sledge is the great-granddaughter of James Levi Tunstall and received the house and the surrounding 1000 acres during the division of the Tunstall estate in 1951. Today, the property is maintained as a hunting camp. <sup>1</sup>

### Archeological Potential

Although no formal archeological survey has been made at the Sledge house, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Properties of this type were sited with a constellation of dependencies such as kitchens and other buildings. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

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<sup>1</sup>Interview with Augusta Tunstall Sledge, May, 1991; V. Gayle Snedecor's Map of Hale County, 1870, Boston: Walling & Gray, 1870.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 3

Sledge house  
Newbern vicinity  
Hale County, Alabama

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### **Bibliography**

Sledge, Augusta Tunstall. Interview with author, May 1991.

Snedecor, V. Gayle, "Map of Hale County, 1870." Boston: Walling and Gray, 1970.

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

That tract of land, comprising approximately fifteen acres lying in the southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 22, Township 18N, Range 5 East, being part of the property owned by Mrs. Augusta Sledge. For exact boundaries, please refer to tax map.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were drawn to include all of the historic resources associated with the Sledge house.

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_\_\_ Page 4

Sledge house  
Newbern vicinity  
Hale County, Alabama

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### Photographs

The information contained in items #1-5 is the same for all photographs. There have been no changes to the site since August 21, 1993.

1. Sledge house
2. Newbern vicinity (old Laneville community), Hale County, Alabama
3. Jeff Mansell, Photographer
4. Summer, 1993
5. Negatives on file with the Alabama Historical Commission.

Photograph #1, facade, camera facing south

Photograph #2, northeast corner, camera facing southwest

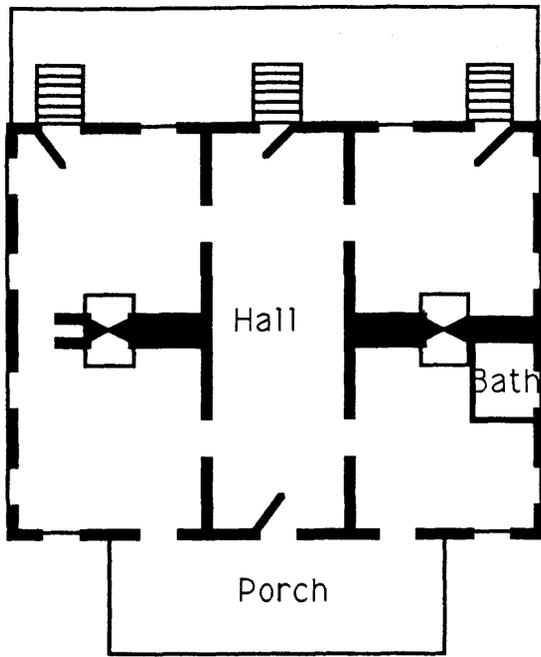
Photograph #3, detail of front entrance, camera facing south

Photograph #4, detail of front window with jib panels, camera facing south

Photograph #5, northwest corner, camera facing southeast

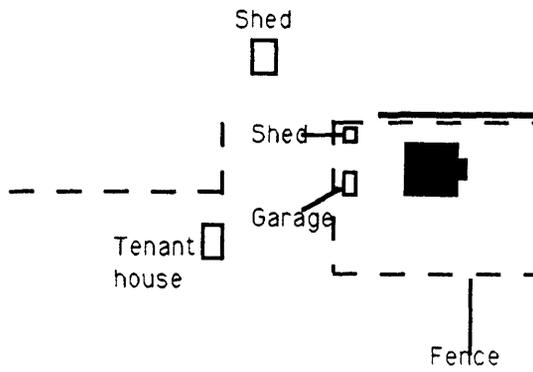
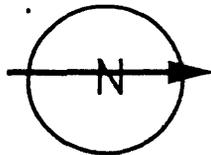
Photograph #6, detail of rear central entrance, camera facing north

Photograph #7, deteriorated shed located immediately behind the main house



Floor Plan

Site and Floorplan  
 Tunstall-Sledge House  
 ca. 1855  
 Newbern vicinity  
 Old Laneville Community  
 Hale County, Alabama



Site Plan

County Road 12

Alabama Highway 25