

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 9 1982

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Greene-Marston House

and/or common Termite Hall

2. Location

street & number 2000 Dauphin Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Mobile

N/A vicinity of

state Alabama

code 01

county Mobile

code 019

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Eleanor Marston Benz and Adelaide Marston Trigg

street & number 2000 Dauphin Street

city, town Mobile

N/A vicinity of

state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mobile County Courthouse, Probate Court

street & number 109 Government Street

city, town Mobile

state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Nineteenth Century Mobile Architecture

title Inventory of Existing Buildings

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1974-present

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City Planning Commission Office, Box 1827

city, town Mobile

state Alabama

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>8/25/81</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

2000 Dauphin Street is a complex structure formed by a 2 1/2 story main building of central hall plan with a 1 1/2 story attached cottage on the west. In 1851 the Greene family of farmers built a 1 1/2 story cottage that faced on Old Shell Road. This early cottage is incorporated into the first story of the present main house. What remains visible of it can be seen in the clapboarding of the sides and rear of the house, the presence of porches front and rear and an original window on the present rear porch that is a double sash over jib doors.

Information obtained from a study of the deeds of sale, from the County tax records and from family history establish that in 1903 Martin Van Heuval enlarged the house, making it into the 2 1/2 story building it is today. At this time the house seems to have been reoriented to face on to Dauphin, the front porch was enlarged by a bay wrapping around the southeast corner. Late Victorian details are used in the construction. The porch columns are heavy, of round section with incised lines decorating the shafts near the top and bottom. The decorative brackets are solid with an applied motif in low relief. A pendant centers the bay where the brackets join. Other Victorian Queen Ann characteristics can be seen in the shingle siding of the attic story and in the jigsaw work in the gables. It seems that it must have been at this time that the small 1 1/2 story cottage was attached to the main house for its porch and gable decoration match that of the 1903 period of the house itself. The interior wall treatment of the attic of the main house and the attached cottage is the same, a narrow beaded wood siding. A small photograph of the building was included in the Mobile Daily Register of 1906 and establishes the fact that the basic massing and major decorative elements of the existing building were present at that date.

The third period of change was in 1910. William Syson, an Englishman, was President of a local (?) lumber company. His alterations of the exterior were limited to the replacement of most of the porch windows by French doors and the infilling of two of the western bays of the porch with glass. A small porch was added on the northeast side of the house. It has since been removed with only the foundation remaining intact. It was the interior of the first story that received major renovations. High panelled oak wainscoting was installed in the central hall and dining room on the left. The same oak lumber was used in the library wall bookcases on the right. A heavy molded cap crowns the wainscoting that rises to within about a foot of the ceiling. Heavy oak beams crisscross the ceilings of the dining room and hallway. An impressive oak stairway rises in a double flight with a leaded window at the landing. The resulting effect of the Syson renovations recalls a Jacobean Manor House. Fireplaces survive in many rooms. The one in the dining room, carved from the same oak as the wainscoting continues the panelled design of wall and doors.

Foundations of outbuildings from the Syson period survive, though the buildings have been removed. Memory of an elaborate child's playhouse is still vivid to a friend of the Syson's daughter who still lives in Mobile.

In conclusion, the house complex is a rich record of the various styles of architecture appearing in Mobile over a period of 130 years, and the various uses which the building served, from simple farm house to home of a wealthy family.

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

**Specific dates** 1851, 1903, 1910      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

ARCHITECTURE: Termite Hall is a good example of a small antebellum farmhouse updated and expanded in the early years of this century. The late Victorian detailing of the partial wrap-around porch, the gable decorations and the chimneys are good local examples. The fine oak paneling of the interior, added during the second decade of the 20th century, is possibly the finest example of Jacobean paneling in the city.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Mobile County Courthouse: Deed Books from 1831-1952; County Tax Records from 1881 through 1919; City Directories from 1840-1916; Sanborn Maps, 1925, 1956; Mobile Daily Register, Sept. 1, 1906; oral history of the Marston family.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.50

Quadrangle name Mobile

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 16 395740 33952000  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beg. N/S Dauphin St. 75 ft. E of the SE cor. Michaeloffskys add. to Dauphin Heights, Dbk. 137, pg. 36, then N 150 ft. Then W 75 Ft. Then N 175 ft. then E 70 Ft. then N 35 ft. then E 76.4 ft. then N 15 ft. then E 25 ft. then S 25 ft. then E 55 Ft., then S 338.5 Ft. to N/S Dauphin then W 145 ft. to Pt. of Beg.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth B. Gould, Mobile Historic Development Commission & Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission date October 27, 1981

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6621

city or town Montgomery state Alabama

# 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Elizabeth B. Gould*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12-8-82

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 1/11/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration