

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92001827

Date Listed: 2/3/93

Plattensburg, Wesley, House
Property Name

Dallas
County

ALABAMA
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper

2/3/93
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 7

This nomination is amended to show stucco as the material of the walls and foundation, since that is the material that is visible.

This change was confirmed by phone with the Alabama SHPO (2/3/92).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1007

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 22 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Plattensburg, Wesley, House

other name/site number: Kirkpatrick, Dr. Samuel, House

2. Location

street & number: 601 Washington Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Selma

vicinity: N/A

state: AL county: Dallas

code: 047

zip code: 36701

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-state, local

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

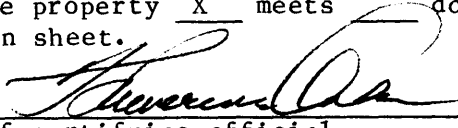
Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.



Signature of certifying official

12-14-92
Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
 See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
5. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this 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

Michael M. Wynn 2/3/93

 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

Current : VACANT/NOT IN USE

Sub: _____

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

19th Century Vernacular

Other Description: raised cottage

Materials: foundation brick roof shingle
walls brick other weatherboard
stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1855

Significant Dates : ca. 1855

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # ALA 24-SEL 13-1,2,3
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>16</u>	<u>497900</u>	<u>3586110</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Lot 10, Block 63, Washington Subdivision, Deed Book 1071, pg. 236, as recorded in the tax accessor's office, Selma, Dallas County, Alabama.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

The boundaries were delineated by the legal description of the property as described above.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Chloe S. Mercer/National Register Intern; Melanie Betz/AHC Reviewer

Organization: Alabama Historical Commission Date: August 1992

Street & Number: 725 Monroe Street Telephone: (205)242-3184

City or Town: Montgomery State: AL ZIP: 36130

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Description Plattenburg House Page #1

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The Plattenburg House was built on what was once known as the northern outskirts of Selma. Today the ca. 1855 raised cottage is located on the corner lot of Washington Street and Furniss Street in Selma. The house is significant for its style, which hardly exists in central Alabama.

The first story of the L-shaped raised cottage is constructed of brick and rests on an above-ground stuccoed brick basement. The low pitched hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Several ca. 1930 frame additions account for the overall rectangular shape. Three interior end brick chimneys pierce the roofline.

The two-story recessed porch or gallery wraps around the south and east elevations. Ten massive piers support the second level porch, and ten slender, square columns support the bracketed cornice. The last bay on the south end of the upper gallery has a frame enclosure, and the main stairway on the north end of the east porch is enclosed with lattice. The rear porch, which covered the angle of the L-cottage, is believed to have been similar to the front porch and was removed for the construction of the frame additions. An attached shed roof on the first level gallery is a recent addition, and at some point, the balustrade was removed.

The eastern three-bay facade includes the main entrance, a single door with transom and sidelights, on the main level. The entrance is flanked by 6/6 sashes which are also found on the basement level. The south elevation has four bays, and the main level features full length 6/9 sashes.

The L-shaped plan of this raised cottage is made up of three rooms and a hall on each level. Two basement level rooms with storage closets, fireplaces, and porch entrances face Washington Street. A narrow hall with front and rear porch entrances separates the southeast room from the rear ell. This rear room has a fireplace and rear entrance.

The main level is reached by an enclosed exterior staircase on the north end of the front porch. The main entrance leads to a central hall and matching rear entrance. Two rooms with fireplaces flank the central hall. The southeast room shares a door with the rear room. This rear ell is the only main level room that has entrances from either or both porches. Although the interior of the house is badly deteriorated, some decorative elements are still evident. The doors and windows have simple trim, and the doors have four panels. Most of the ceilings appear to have narrow flushboard, and there is some evidence of wainscotting, now removed.

A historic frame outbuilding occupies the corner of the lot on Furniss Street. Due to the house's deteriorated state, the property was in danger of demolition. The new joint ownership by the Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society and the Alabama Historical Commission will hopefully allow the rehabilitation of the Plattenburg House.

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Section number 8 Significance Plattenburg House Page #1

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CRITERION C (ARCHITECTURE):

The Plattenburg House in Selma is an excellent and intact example of a raised basement coastal cottage, a style not usually found in central Alabama. This ca. 1855 house features a hipped roof, a high masonry foundation, massive piers supporting a porch, and floor-length windows on one facade. Slender, square columns and a bracketed cornice accent the raised porch. This raised cottage has some Greek Revival and Italianate detail.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

Wesley Plattenburg was born in Maryland in 1803 and settled in Virginia with his family two years later. He settled in Selma, Alabama, in 1829 as a merchant tailor. Plattenburg nurtured an interest in cotton cultivation after he purchased a two-thousand-acre tract in 1842.(1) He married Anna Maples approximately one or two years later and built his plantation house on his land ca. 1855. A reference to a non-descript dwelling in the 1842 deed raises questions of whether the ca. 1855 house may have been the addition to the original dwelling or an entirely new house. As prominent members of the Selma community, Mr. Plattenburg was trustee of Dallas Academy in the 1840s, and Mrs. Plattenburg led several organizations for the Confederate cause during the Civil War.(2) The 1860 Dallas County census estimates the Plattenburg's wealth in real and personal property as \$150,000 or more.(3)

The Plattenburgs sold their house and a small surrounding parcel of land in 1866 to Mrs. Emily C. Bayne for \$3,000.(4) The family remained in Selma for an unknown period of time and eventually moved to Giles County, Tennessee.(5) Wesley Plattenburg was buried in Selma in the Old Live Oak Cemetery after he died in 1882. The original property passed to several owners before it was purchased in 1904 by Dr. Samuel and Mary Kirkpatrick for \$4,500. In 1934, the Department of the Interior photographed this house and 13 other structures in Selma for the Historic American Buildings Survey.(6)

THE RAISED COTTAGE:

The Plattenburg House is a good representation of the rural raised cottage that was characteristic of the Gulf Coast during French occupation and after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. The raised basement type house is found in coastal areas from the Chesapeake Bay to Savannah to New Orleans. However, the type of raised cottage with the large, overhanging hipped roof and wraparound porch is found generally in the Gulf Coast area. It is unusual to find these houses so far inland; however, the presence of South Carolina settlers in Selma may account for the appearance of this type in the area. By 1860, the popularity of these coastal-type cottages diminished and have since become one of the rarest historical resources in the country.(7)

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Section number 8 Historical Summary Plattenburg House Page #2
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Raised cottages are characterized by hipped roofs and deep porches supported by a high masonry foundation and massive piers. Porches covering two or three elevations are common as are external stairways under the porch. Often, slender columns support an engaged porch roof or dual-pitched roof. The main body of the house is generally half-timbered and stuccoed. The basement is constructed of brick to keep this level cool in summer and warm in winter, and the main level has tall ceilings and floor-length windows opening onto the gallery for cross-ventilation.(8) Most of the rooms would have doors on the gallery rather than doors on an internal hall; rooms often open directly into each other. However, a central hall may occur in more formal examples.(9)

The Plattenburg House is a rare example of a Gulf Coast raised cottage in central Alabama. Few others are known to exist except in the Louisiana and Mississippi area. This style is closely associated with the type known as the Carolina Cottage found on the Gulf Coast and Southern Atlantic Coast.(10) Very similar examples are found in New Orleans and elsewhere in Louisiana including the early 19th-century Riche House, which also has a hipped roof supported by slender columns and a second level porch supported by massive masonry piers.(11)

1
Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, vol.IV, Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1978, pp. 1327.

2
Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society and the Alabama Historical Commission. Rehabilitation Proposal for the Plattenburg House. 1991.

3
Dallas County Census, 1860.

4
Dallas County Land Deed, 1866.

5
Owen, pp. 1327.

6
Rehabilitation Proposal...

7
McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide To American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, pp. 121-126.

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Section number 8 Historical Summary Plattenburg House Page #3

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8
McAlester, pp. 121-124.

9
Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog. (Historic American Buildings Survey). A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1987, pp. 37, 41.

10
Gamble, pp. 37, 40.

11
McAlester, pp. 126-127.

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Section number 9 Bibliographical References Plattenburg House Page #1
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Dallas County Census, 1860.

Dallas County Land Deed, 1866.

Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog. (Historic American Buildings Survey). A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1987.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, vol.IV, Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1978.

Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society and the Alabama Historical Commission. Rehabilitation Proposal for the Plattenburg House. 1991.

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Section number Photographs Plattenburg House Page #1

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Plattenburg, Wesley, House
601 Washington Street
Selma, Alabama
Dallas County
David Harris (AHC), Photographer
August 1991
Negatives at Alabama Historical Commission

- 1) Looking west at front and side facades.
- 2) Looking south at front facade and rear additions.
- 3) Looking north at side facade and rear elevation.
- 4) Interior; second level central hall, plaster walls.
- 5) Interior; full length windows, flushboard ceilings, removed wainscotting.
- 6) Interior; SE room with storage closet on lower level.