

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 15 1987

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received **JAN 12 1988**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Azalea Court Apartments

and/or common Azalea Court Apartments

2. Location

street & number 1820 Old Government Street N/A not for publication

city, town Mobile N/A vicinity of Congressional District 1

state AL code 01 county Mobile code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: multi-family

4. Owner of Property

name R & R Properties

street & number P. O. Box 6334

city, town Mobile N/A vicinity of state AL 36660

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 109 Government Street

city, town Mobile state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970-present federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION:

Azalea Court Apartments, constructed in 1928-29 by the Apartment Realty Company, were designed in the Mission Revival style by Mobile architect, J. Platt Roberts. The apartments are three stories in height covered by a hipped roof finished in red tile. U-shaped in plan, a T-shaped covered walkway has been introduced in the courtyard to provide covered access between the main and secondary entrances. The walkway has a flat roof which is paved with square terracotta tiles and its wall coping covered in the same tile as the main roof. The walkway surface beneath this covering is brick laid in a herringbone pattern. Small courtyard areas are formed to either side of the main entrance by this walkway. These are highlighted by diamond-shaped tile patterns. At the entrance to the complex the walkway is emphasized by the name Azalea Court in mosaic tile.

Azalea Court's overall design is balanced, symmetrical, varied yet restrained. Each of the courtyard elevations has a central focus above the entrances at each point where the T-shaped walk intersects these elevations. Gabled parapets define these points with elaborately detailed windows placed beneath the gables. The window openings are round headed and flanked by pilasters surmounted by urn-like finials. Decorated window sills are supported by small brackets. The street facades of each of the projecting wings displays heavy stuccoed quoining. Smooth stuccoed bands define the cornice and basement levels.

Window treatments are varied throughout the building which contributes to the overall design interest of the apartments: casement windows, round headed 4/1 and square headed 6/1 light wood sash windows are used. An interesting variant is found on the projecting wings. Here twin wood sash windows are emphasized by a semi-circular headed arch with a brick soldier course. The arch tympanum is slightly recessed, stuccoed and detailed with three diamond-shaped tiles. These tiles echo the tile pattern found in the interior courtyards.

Side and rear elevations of the apartments are quite plain, each bay defined by square headed 6/1 light windows with stuccoed sills. Small subsidiary entrances under shed covers can be found along these elevations.

Located at the rear of the lot is a parking area provided for residents of the building. This partially enclosed structure is divided into stalls for cars with enclosed storage at either end. The end wall facing the street is stuccoed and parapeted and decorated with tile along its coping, thus harmonizing with the main building.

Included in the apartments are 23 units: 3 efficiencies, 14 one-bedroom units and 6 two-bedroom units. These apartments share a common lobby space behind the main entrance with secondary entrances opening into small stair halls.

(continued)

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Units have retained their original features including ceiling heights, window and door mouldings, baseboards, flooring, original kitchen cabinets and bathroom fixtures. In some instances the original black wrought-iron light fixtures, a distinctly Spanish style element, exist. Copies of the original plans are available at Mobile Municipal Archives.

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

Specific dates 1928-29 **Builder/Architect** Apartment Realty Co./J. Platt Roberts

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion C--Architecture

Azalea Court Apartments is significant as the only large scale Mission Style apartment constructed in Mobile in the 1920s. Its locally unique scale, plan and design are the work of architect J. Platt Roberts who incorporated many elements of the national style in his design -- red tile roof, arched openings which spring from large square piers, stuccoed quoins and highly decorated windows as well as parapets which mimic Spanish Colonial mission buildings.

Azalea Court Apartments are unlike any other extant local apartments known to date from the 1920s to 1930s. The Windsor-Warwick Apartments, constructed in 1928-29, located at 1600 Government Street are twin U-shaped buildings with red tile roofs and Spanish influenced wrought iron balconies. Although related in style to Azalea Court, they are simpler and of a more distilled local interpretation of the style. Another large apartment is the St. Charles located at 963 Government Street designed by C. L. Hutchisson, Sr. which is classically detailed. Smaller 4-plex brick apartments are more commonly found in Mobile's historic districts. These are essentially two story boxes with covered open front porches and are detailed in any of a number of styles including classical, Tudor or Mediterranean (7 S. Monterey, 1750 Government, 53 N. Monterey).

Although a thorough study of Roberts' work has not been undertaken, he appears to have undertaken residential projects essentially in the 1920s at the beginning of his architectural career. One residence designed by Roberts in 1926, the Paterson House at 1673 Government Street, is also done in the Mission style. It appears that after the 1920s Roberts worked primarily on numerous institutional buildings which included such things as the Ann Street School (known today as Craighead School), Mobile Infirmary, the Waterman Building, the Mobile Police Building and the Seamen's Building. Two projects in Baldwin County which have been identified with Roberts are the main reception building and some guest cottages at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear and the Daphne School in Daphne.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Records of the Mobile County Probate Court; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Tax Assessment Records; City Directories; Records of the Mobile Municipal Archives; Mobile Register Trade Editions; Index at Donnell & Froom, Architects.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .49 (Less than one)

Quadrangle name Mobile

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	9	6	2	6	10	3	13	9	14	2	14	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Lot located at the ne corner of Old Government and Keenan Streets, run 100 ft. to the east for the front footage of the lot, run north 215 ft., run west for the rear 100 ft., run south 215 ft. to the place of beginning.

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 Anne Sieller, Assistant Director

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date May 15, 1987

street & number P. O. Box 1827 telephone (205) 438-7281

city or town Mobile state Alabama 36633

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 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-5-88

For NPS use only

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

of the
National Register

date 2-11-88


Keeper of the National Register

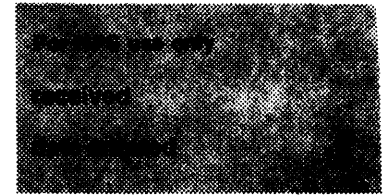
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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APPENDIX

Roberts is listed in Koyl, George S. ed., American Architects Directory, 2nd edition, R. R. Bowker Company, New York: 1962.

p. 591

Roberts, (John) Platt* AIA 24 Alabama Chapter Platt Roberts & Co., Merchants Bank, Merchants Bank Building, Mobile, Alabama.
b. Mobile Feb. 6, 97. Educ: Univ. Mil. Sch., 10-15; Univ. of Pa, B.S. Arch 15-19. Medals: 2 1st Medals & 1 3rd Medal, Des, Beaux-Arts Inst. of Des. Prev. Firms: Platt Roberts, Archits, 22-36, Mobile, Ala; Dittmar & Roberts, Archits, 36-40, Montgomery; Platt Roberts, Archits, 40-46, Mobile. Present Firm: Platt Roberts & Co., Mobile, org. 46. Reg: Ala, Miss. Gen. Types: 1, 2, 5, 7 9 (Reference to residential, commercial, educational, health facilities, and public buildings). Prin. Wks: 16 story Off. Bldg, Waterman Steamship Corp, 48; Seamen's Club, 49; Police Bldg & Jail, 50; Mobile Infirmary, 300 Bed Gen Hosp. 52; all Mobile, Ala; Jesuit Ho. of Studies, Spring Hall [sic] Col, S.H. Ala, 52; Passenger Sta, L&NRR, Mobile, 55. Platt Roberts & Co., 1010 Merchants Nat. Bank Bldg, Mobile, AL.