

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Dahm House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 7 N. Claiborne Street N/A not for publication

city, town Mobile N/Avicinity of congressional district 01

state Alabama code 01 county Mobile code 097

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Zoghby

street & number 7 N. Claiborne Street

city, town Mobile N/A vicinity of state Alabama 36602

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 109 Government Street

city, town Mobile state Alabama 36601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nineteenth Century Mobile Architecture;
an Inventory of Existing Buildings has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records City Planning Commission

city, town Mobile state Alabama 36633

7. Description

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" 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 _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dahm House is a two-story brick building which is basically cubic in mass with an offset two-story north wing. A two story glassed addition, dated post 1919, infills the former space in front of the offset wing. The plainness of the wall surface is broken by the dentil course accenting the moulded cornice of the hip roof and by the brick rain table that marks the level of the foundation.

There is a cast iron front porch with balustraded deck. There are three bays defined by twisted posts on stilt blocks with brackets, frieze and accent pendant in each bay span. The balustrade at both levels is geometrically conceived. The porch floor has green and pink marble tiles. There is a double leaf entrance door with transom and sidelights infilled with colored leaded glass. To the left of the main entrance are two French doors with four light transoms which have replaced the original 6/6 light windows. A similar French door is centered at the second story, and leads out onto the porch deck. The windows of the south side are plain 1/1 lights.

A second story porch along the rear wing has been infilled with windows and asbestos siding.

The interior of the house has incurred very few alterations over the years. The stairway in the entrance hall makes a straight run between the first and second floors and is composed of delicately turned balusters and large turned newel posts. French doors, like those on the exterior of the house, open from the hall into the front parlor on the left. The front and rear parlors are connected by a large, simple arch which does not quite span the entire width of the room. The parlor floors are a narrow pine with an inlay perimeter of a Greek fret design in a darker wood. The mantels found in these parlors are of marble and are identical in design. Mouldings around doors and windows on the second floor have the same back band as the first floor openings. All mantels are wood on the second story.

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 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 1873 **Builder/Architect** Bassett Capps

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecture:

The 1873 Dahm House is an excellent example of a transitional building which uses traditional building forms for inspiration but contains elements which reflect characteristics of early Victorianism. In many ways the building is similar to the Federal and Italianate houses of the adjacent DeToni Square Historic District. The cubic massing of the building, dentil table at the cornice line, the arrangement of three openings along the facade at each level, the side hall plan with double parlors to one side are all features in keeping with traditional mid-century building form. In this case the entrance door transom and sidelights are infilled with colored leaded glass. The cast iron porch and balustraded deck have detailing and an over-all geometric feeling which herald the Victorian period and is in marked contrast to the free-flowing forms and arabesques of earlier cast iron of the 1850s. A cast iron porch and deck of very similar design can be found at the Bush House, 254 St. Anthony Street, which dates from 1868-69.

Integrity:

The Dahm House, having been used continuously as a residence from the time of its construction, has had no adaptive changes made on the interior. The plan and architectural features remain intact.

The primary change to the building occurred in 1929 when a two-story sunroom was added on the north portion of the facade infilling the space between the main block and the offset wing. Despite the prominence of the addition, the fact that it is constructed of wood rather than brick clearly differentiates it from the original building. Other alterations over time include the changing of window lights from 6/6 to 1/1 and the modification of three facade windows into French doors.

* * * * *

John Dahm was a dry good merchant who employed Bassett Capps, a local carpenter, to construct his house. A receipt has survived stating the cost to be \$2,666.00, paid to Bassett Capps, carpenter and builder. The house represents both the architectural style popular at the time among the upper middle class and illustrates the skill of local craftsmen. The formal design, clean cut silhouette and simplicity of massing are all a tribute to the skill and workmanship of local builders.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nineteenth Century Mobile Architecture, Mobile City Planning Commission, 1974;
 Deeds and wills from the records of the Mobile County Probate Court; Sanborn Fire
 Insurance Maps; Tax Assessment Records; City Directories

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property (~~.15 ac.~~) less than one

Quadrangle name Mobile

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

| | | |
|------|-----------|-------------|
| 116 | 391981015 | 31391561210 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

B

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

C

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

D

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

E

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

F

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

G

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

H

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

Verbal boundary description and justification Lot on the west side of N. Claiborne Street, commencing 176.3' north of the northeast corner of Dauphin and Claiborne Streets, running north 59.8' for a front, with a depth of 110' on the south line and 108' on the north line.

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, Architectural Historian

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date September 15, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 1827 telephone (205) 438-7133

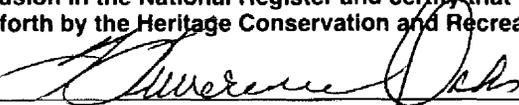
city or town Mobile state Alabama 36633

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

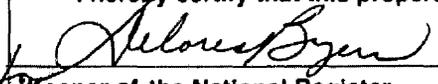
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/29/83

| | |
|---|---|
| For HCRS use only | |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | |
|  Keeper of the National Register | Entered in the National Register date <u>1/5/84</u> |
| Attest: | date |
| Chief of Registration | |