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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 26 1991

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

Alabama Historical Commission

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Stewart, Amelia, House  
other names/site number Wilkinson, Carol O. House; Hallett, William R., House

2. Location

street & number 137 Tuscaloosa Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town Mobile N/A  vicinity  
state Alabama code AL county Mobile code 097 zip code 36633

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

*Lawrence Oak* 4-7-92  
Signature of certifying official 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.

other, (explain:)

*Alton Byers* 5/29/92  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the National Register

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

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walls weatherboard

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roof Asphalt

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other 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Hallett/Stewart House sits on a large informally landscaped lot between Spring Hill Avenue and Old Shell Road in mid-town Mobile. The area was sparsely settled until well after the Civil War, after which much of the original large lot was subdivided.

The house itself consists of two distinct elements, the raised rear section, originally built in 1835 and the front section constructed in 1871. From Tuscaloosa Street the front portion dominates, with only a few feet of gable betraying the rear section. This rear section was originally a garconniere, or Texas, built to accompany a house facing Spring Hill Avenue. When the main house burned during the Civil War, a new house was constructed facing Tuscaloosa Street (or College Street as it was then called) with the Old Texas immediately behind.

The 1871 house is a one story Greek Revival cottage with a three bay front, resting on brick piers. It features a pedimented gable, recessed porch, boxed columns with capitals and balustraded. The balusters feature a swallow tail cut where they join the rail, a circa 1830's technique. This indicates that the railing may well have been transferred from the older Texas when the two were joined. The facade features a side hall entrance with sidelights and transom, six pane triple hung sash windows with original shutters and a plastered facade. The house features hip roof rear wings to the north and south, each one bay square. These combined with the gable front portion make the house a somewhat smaller copy of Oakleigh (1833).

The older rear portion features a gable to the front, three by eight bays, with six over six windows. A portion of the east gable is visible over the front portion, and includes a louvered vent. The Texas is raised at least two feet higher than the front section on brick piers. There is an entrance with shed roof porch on the south side. This building originally had a porch which wrapped around all four sides. The front portion was lost when the buildings were joined and the other porches were filled in.

See continuation sheet

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The interior of the 1871 section features a side hall with double parlors separated by pocket doors. There are eared architrave door and window surrounds and original baseboards and hardware. The original marble mantels are black with gold veining. At the rear of the hall are four steps leading up to the Texas. Original Federal mantels are present in this section.

The Hallett/Stewart House retains its integrity of location, style and design. There are no significant exterior alterations. Minor interior alterations include carpeting in the 1871 portion and linoleum floors in the rear portion.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1835-1871

Significant Dates

1835-1871

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Hallet/Stewart House is significant under Criterion C as a notably intact Greek Revival country house. It is further significant as a copy of Oakleigh (1833), demonstrating that house's influence on local architecture and the persistence of the Greek Revival style. In addition, the rear Federal portion of the house is an unusual feature.

During the 1830's the mid-town portion of Mobile was far beyond the city limits and consisted of scattered farms and country houses. The area was crossed by Old Shell Road and Spring Hill Road (now Spring Hill Avenue). These roads led on up to Spring Hill, a popular resort spot for wealthy Mobilians.

In 1835, a Mobile commission merchant named William R. Hallett constructed a large house in Summerville, as the area was then called, facing Spring Hill Avenue. Among the dependencies of this house was a Texas for the family's sons. The Hallett house burned sometime between 1860 and 1870, but the Texas survived on the property.

In 1871 Amelia A. Stewart purchased the site and began construction of a new house. Her design was heavily influenced by that of Oakleigh, closer in to town. The side hall plan with double parlors, columned portico and flanking wings betray this influence. Though the house was designed as a unit, Stewart attached the old Texas to the rear, making for extra room in an awkward configuration. Her new home faced College Street, to the east, rather than Spring Hill Avenue to the north. College Street would later be renamed Tuscaloosa Street.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Mobile County Deed books, Various

Mobile Press Register, 3/11/81

Elizabeth Gould, From Fort to Port, University of Alabama Press 1988

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Mobile Historic Development Commission

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property App. 1 acre

UTM References

A     
Zone Easting Northing

B     
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Commence at a point on the W. side of Tuscaloosa St. 300' S. of the SW. corner of Tuscaloosa St. and Spring Hill Ave., running thence S. 150', thence W. 315' thence N. 150', thence E. 315' to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary conforms to the present legal dimensions of the lot.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title John Sledge/Architectural Historian; Melanie Betz/AHC Reviewer  
organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date Sept. 1, 1991  
street & number P. O. Box 1827 telephone (205) 438-7281  
city or town Mobile state AL zip code 36633

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At the time of construction it is very probable that Stewart salvaged the balustrades from the Texas and added them to the front portico of the main house. This is because these balusters feature a swallow-tail cut, more usual of 1830's houses than 1870's houses.

In 1915 the house was purchased by John Wallace O'Gwynn, a miller. The house has been in the family ever since, and is now owned by one of his daughters.

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**THE GREEK REVIVAL IN MOBILE**

As Mobile began to prosper during the 1830's as a cotton port, money was available in both the public and private sectors for building projects. This coincided with the early flowering of the Greek Revival style. Many private homes were built in the style, most notably Oakleigh (1833). This decade also saw the construction of such major local Greek Revival landmarks as Government Street Presbyterian Church (1836, Gallier and Dakin), Christ Episcopal Church (1836) and the Marine Hospital (1833). The style remained important throughout the ante-bellum period and was manifested in commercial, residential and governmental buildings. The effects of the Civil War and changing architectural taste eclipsed the style by 1865, though the Stewart House (1871) is a significant holdover. Interestingly enough, the house is an imitation of Oakleigh, one of the first Greek Revival houses to be built in Mobile.

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1. Hallett/Stewart House
2. Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama
3. John Sledge, photographer
4. August 9, 1991
5. MHDC Negative File--MB#197

Photo #	Description	(Frame #)
1.	Facade, camera facing W	(14)
2.	General, camera facing SW	(16)
3.	Side view, camera facing N	(22)
4.	Porch detail, swallow-tail balusters, camera facing SW	(18)
5.	Interior, Federal mantel, camera facing W	(12)
6.	Entrance hall, camera facing W	(1)
7.	East parlor viewing west parlor, camera facing SW	(14)
8.	East parlor mantel, camera facing S	(10)
9.	South wing, camera facing N	(7)