

**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 Tschienner House (Damus School)

and/or common Damus School

2. Location

street & number 1120 Old Shell Road _____ not for publication

city, town Mobile _____ vicinity 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Doug Helms and John Peavy

street & number P. O. Box 1827

city, town Mobile _____ vicinity of _____ state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 101 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 excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered
(slightly)**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Damus School is a one and one-half story frame building in the Carpenter Gothic style. It is asymmetrical in plan with an offset wing to the west. Both the facade of the house and the wing have full width porches. The steeply pitched roof has a gable which faces the street. The roof of the wing runs at right angles to the ridge of the main roof. There is a small gable over the central bay of the wing porch. The main porch consists of five bays, the wing porch of three. On each porch the bays are articulated by posts which are very slender and have Tuscan capitals. Each bay is topped by a perpendicular style arch with a simple acorn shaped pendant hanging in the center. On each porch the central bay is emphasized. On the facade porch, the emphasis is given by the metal canopy which projects over the front steps. The canopy has jigsaw work in a quatrefoil design which runs around the eaves. This same jigsaw work is found on the projecting gable over the central bay of the wing porch, as well as on the eaves of the wing. The jigsaw is also featured on a smaller canopy which projects over a small window in the front gable above the larger canopy.

The house is sided with 6" wide clapboarding. Although the floor plan is asymmetrical, the arrangement of the fenestration is formal with one window located on each side of the two front doors. Each door opens directly onto an interior room; there is no interior hall. The windows and doors feature a graceful projecting lintel which steps out in a series of convex curves. The windows are double sash with 6/6 lights.

There have been several alterations to the original building. The attic was converted to living space in the early 20th century, at which time the dormers were added. The rear porch was enclosed, and over the years various rooms have been tacked on. The jigsaw work at one time extended around the entire house, but much of it was torn off by Hurricane Frederick in 1979. The current owners are in the process of restoring the house and intend to replace the jigsaw, as well as remove the unsightly later additions.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 c. 1866 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Tscheiner House/Damus School is architecturally significant as an early and very good example of the Carpenter Gothic style as it developed in Mobile. It features especially fine detail and careful craftsmanship. At a time when most Mobilians were recovering from the Civil War and were constructing buildings in the Italianate style, this small building foreshadowed the very popular Victorian style which was to come. It is very likely that the designs were copied from one of the popular workbooks, such as Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses (1850).

Additionally, it is significant for its associations with a locally prominent school for young women, The Damus School, which operated in the building from 1867 until the first decade of the 20th century.

* * * * *

The building was constructed in 1866 by F. Tscheiner, a ladies shoemaker. In 1867, he sold the property to Frederick and Fannie Damus. Reverend Damus operated a very select school for girls in the building until 1880, when he moved to California with one of his students. Fannie Damus continued to operate the school, which Damus eventually (1888) deeded to her along with the adjacent house. In 1911, Mrs. Damus deeded the building to Dr. Claudius Mastin. Until the recent restoration was begun, it had been used for rental housing, with numerous additions made from the 1920's through the 1940's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deeds

10. Geographical Data

~~UTM NOT VERIFIED~~
~~ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED~~

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Mobile

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	B							
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing					
C								D							
E								F							
G								H							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jan Connelly, Historian Mobile Historic Development Commission & Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission date October 6, 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Chico B. Howard Jr.

title 54PS Alabama date 10-6-81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for atty</u> <u>Helena Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>1/18/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Beginning at a point on the north side of old Shell Road 384' east of the northeast corner of Old Shell Road and Herndon Avenue, which point is where the east line of the lot heretofore conveyed by Clara L. Mastin, et al., to C. R. Shannon by warranty deed dated September 7, 1926, intersects the north side of Old Shell Road; running thence eastwardly along the north side of Old Shell Road 64 feet, more or less to the west line of property of August Buerger; thence northwardly along the west line of said property of Buerger 360', more or less, to the south line of property now or formerly of Cowles; thence westwardly along the said south line, 66 feet, more or less to a point, thence southwardly along the east line of property now or formerly of Cowles and continuing southwardly along the east line of the lot heretofore sold to C. R. Shannon 360 feet, more or less, to the north side of Old Shell Road and the point of beginning, EXCEPTING, that portion of the above described property heretofore conveyed by Robert & Bessie Eddins to Otto Neese by deed dated December 30, 1931, and recorded in Deed Book 324 N.S., page 697 of the probate Records of Mobile County, Alabama.

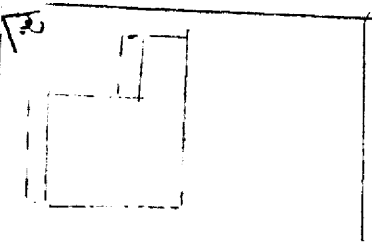
HERNDON

OLD SHELL ROAD

1904 Sawborn
P. 36

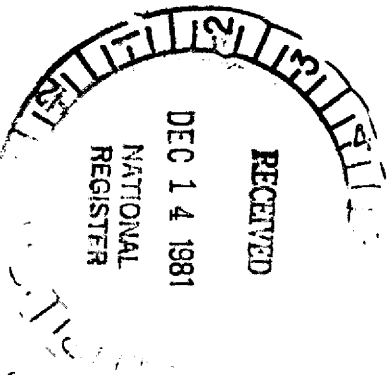
1156

1120

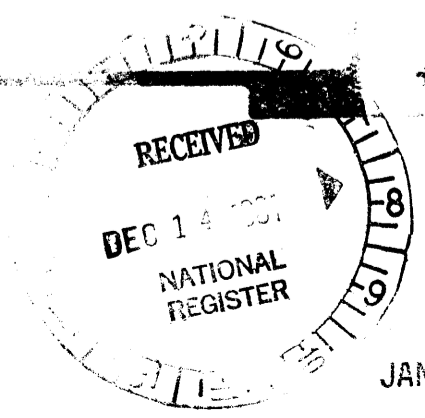
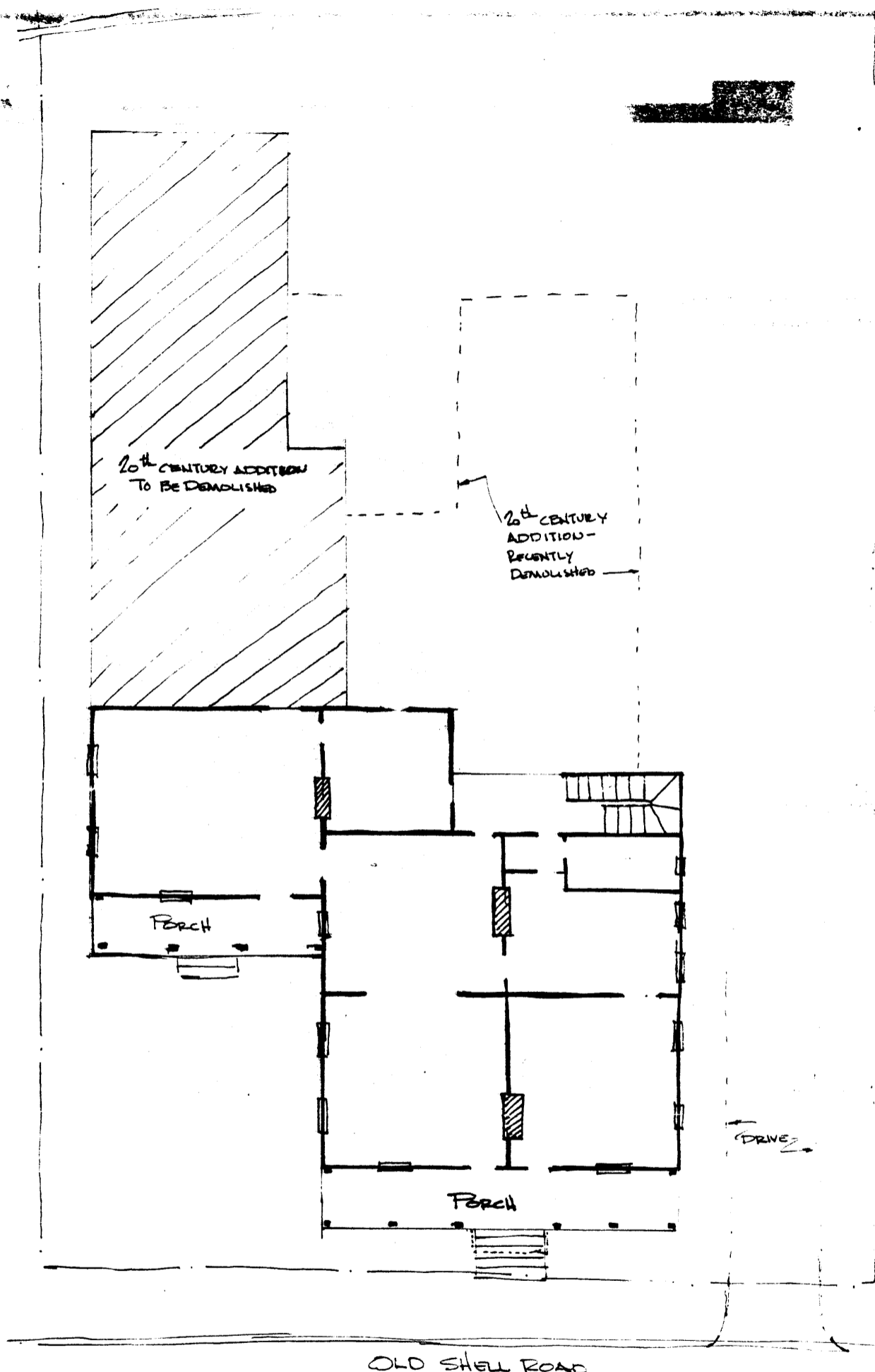


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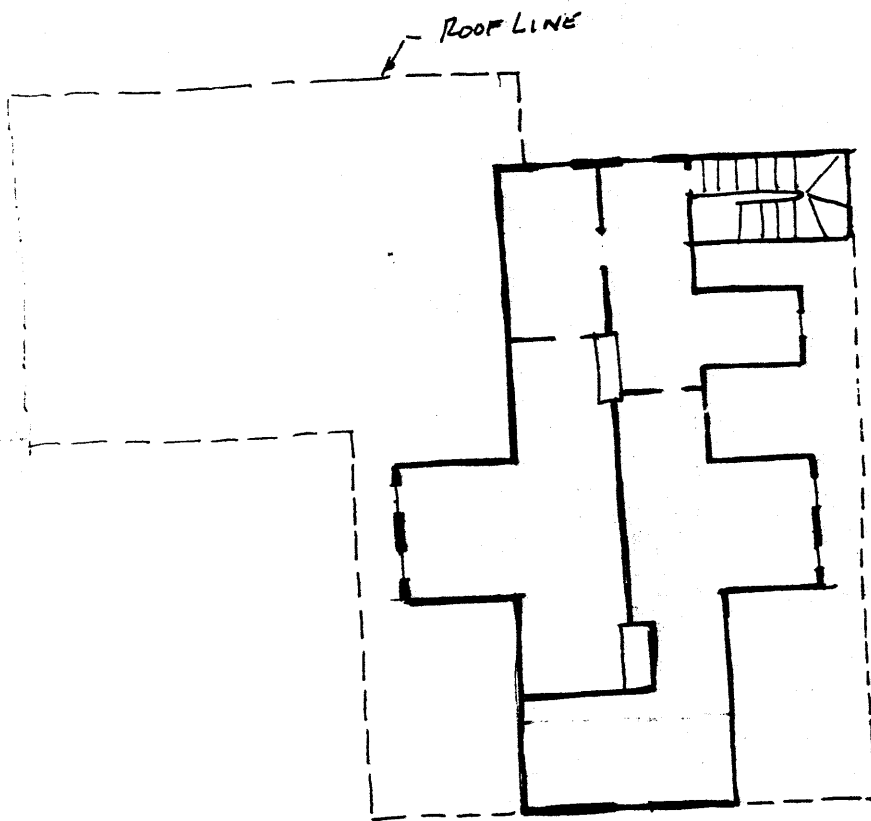
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JAN 18 1982



JAN 18 1982



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
1120 OLD SHELL RD



JAN 18 1982