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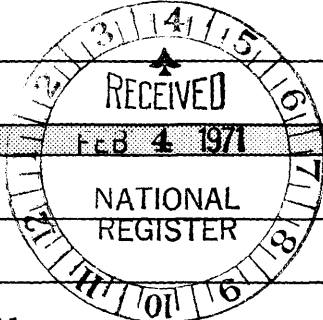
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA	
COUNTY: Mobile	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.5.01.0007	5/29/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Oakleigh

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Oakleigh

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
350 Oakleigh Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Mobile

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Mobile CODE: 097

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Headquarters for Historic Mobile Preservation Society</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Mobile - leased to Historic Mible Preservation Society for 99 yrs.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Mobile STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Mobile County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Government Street

CITY OR TOWN: Mobile STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:

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ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

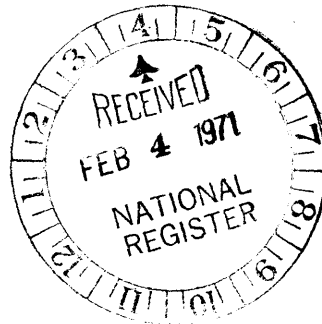
Oakleigh is a two-story frame raised cottage built on the T-plan. It has a high basement story of local hand-made brick. Stucco or cement facing has been applied to this basement level. The kitchen and dining room are at the rear and to either end of the cross bar of the T. Galleries with square pillars form a pedimented portico at base of the T and on front of wings.

A staircase curves from the center of lower level of the portico to the side of the front door which opens into a large hall running the length of the double parlors. Narrow hall at right angles connect the four rooms across the rear. From center of this another short narrow hall leads to small single room placed in center of cross bar. Small enclosed circular stair leads to basement level from this hall.

Originally, the basement level had exposed brick on outside walls. The rooms under the double parlors were unfinished and had dirt floors. Also a flight of steps led from the cross bar to the basement. They were removed and a floor installed to allow passage to a small bedroom added in the center of the main floor. The two present interior staircases were added later.

Windows facing galleries on both wings are double sash above panels which open from the center affording exit to the galleries as well as ventilation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1831-32

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oakleigh is one of Alabama's largest, oldest, and finest examples of T-shaped, off-center hall plan architecture. The T-plan of architecture was indigenous to this section of the United States. It's wide acceptance was due to the fact that it afforded the maximum ventilation and light for the humid climate. The placement of the curved staircase from the center of the lower level to the portico to the side of the front door is a unique treatment. The split and hinged panels under the windows opening onto the galleries are another feature peculiar to houses in this region. Oakleigh was built in 1831-1832 by James W. Roper. In 1840 Roper lost this property to the bank and it was sold in 1852 to Alfred F. Irwin. Mrs. Irwin was descended from Irish nobility and displayed a British flag on the front gallery at Oakleigh during the Union military occupation of Mobile at the end of the Civil war. This kept the officers of the Union army from using Oakleigh as living quarters.

The Irwins' two sons, Thomas Kilshaw Irwin and Lee Fern Irwin were colonels in the Confederate army. Both were in the battle of Atlanta. Thomas later served as aide to President Davis and was with the President at the time of surrender at Irwinville, Georgia. At the end of the war Thomas E. Irwin was made a General by the Alabama State Legislature.

In 1878 President Garfield was entertained at Oakleigh by General Thomas K. Irwin.

In 1916, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Cole purchased this Mobile landmark and the property changed ownership several times until it was purchased by the City of Mobile in 1955. The property is leased to the Historic Mobile Preservation Society, which operates it as an area period house museum. The museum contains a collection of Madame Octavia Walton LeVert's belongings, as well as period furniture and accessories of museum quality, all carefully documented. Madame LeVert never lived at Oakleigh though she did live in Mobile and her home has been destroyed. She entertained famous people from all over the world in Mobile, and traveled to Europe where she was received at the English and French courts.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smith, J. Frazer, White Pillars, The Architecture of the South, New York: Bramhall House Publishing Company.
 Brown, Virginia P. and Helen Morgan Akens. Alabama Heritage. Huntsville: The Strode Publishers, 1967.
 Hammond, Ralph. Ante-Bellum Mansions of Alabama. New York: Bonanza Books, 1951
 Lancaster, Clay. "Greek Revival Architecture in Alabama." Alabama Architect, January-February, 1968.

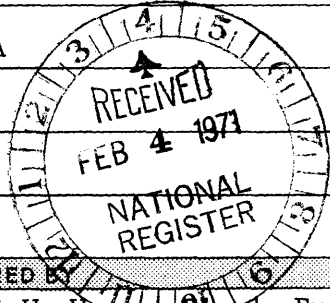
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30 ° 40 ' 52 "	88 ° 3 ' 38 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	Approximate acreage -.2					

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
ALABAMA		MOBILE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Lloyd, Executive Director, Alabama Historical Commission and Margaret Rose Inage of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: January 15, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery, Alabama STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Miss B. Howard Jr.

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: February 1, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

E. Ernest A. Connerly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 MAY 27 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:
William H. Staley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 8 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS