

RECEIVED

DEC 6 1989

MAY 17 1990

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Ala. Historical Commission NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Starke, Lewis, House other names/site number Shonts House, Delaney House

2. Location

street & number 2103 Old County Road city, town Daphne state AL. code AL. county Baldwin code 003 zip code 36526

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [ ] public-local, [ ] public-State, [ ] public-Federal. Category of Property: [X] building(s), [ ] district, [ ] site, [ ] structure, [ ] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1. Name of related multiple property listing: N/A. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: May 7, 1990. State or Federal agency and bureau: Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

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: [X] 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:). Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 6/14/90

Entered in the National Register

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-Single Dwelling

---

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-Single Dwelling

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Gulf Coast Cottage

---

Mid-19th Century Greek Revival

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls Wood

---

roof Asphaltother 

---

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

---

The Lewis Starke House sits on a high bluff overlooking Mobile Bay. The house may be reached by a long gravel driveway from Old County Road. The rear portions of the lot are left in a natural, wooded state. The house itself is a 1½ story, frame, 5X3 bay Gulf Coast/Greek Revival Cottage with a gable roof to the sides. The building rests on brick piers. A recessed porch covers the facade and is supported on octagonal columns with capitals and entablature. The porch is balustraded. Pilasters are at each end of the facade. The central entrance features sidelights and transoms with an eared architrave surround. The 6/6 windows feature eared architrave surrounds as well. There are three gable dormers at both the front and rear elevations, each pedimented with 6/6 window flanked by pilasters. A kick-off shed roof porch, supported on box columns, runs across the rear of the house and was added in 1986. In addition, the off-set garage at the north rear of the house was added in 1986. The garage features an arched carport and a recessed porch on the west elevation. Other than these sympathetic changes, the exterior integrity of the house is excellent.

The interior plan features a wide central hall with a room to either side, and three rooms across the rear, the middle one opening out from the hall. Hardwood floors are throughout and all windows and doors have eared architrave surrounds. On the interior, the windows have wooden panels below the sash, though the outside is clapboarded here. There were probably originally jibbed windows here. The fireplaces, against the end wall in each front room, have simple frame mantels. Almost all the ceilings and walls are sheathed in pressed tin, added at the turn of the century. The center rear room features clapboarded walls and was originally an inset porch, filled in about 1900. The stairs run up from the south end of this room. The upstairs plan includes a lateral hall and three rooms, each with a dormer. There are pressed tin ceilings here as well. Interior integrity is excellent. The kitchen (NE rear room) has modern cabinets and appliances. Otherwise the house is in near original condition.

**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  
c. 1850-1902

Significant Dates  
c. 1850  
1902

Cultural Affiliation  
NA

Significant Person

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

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

The Lewis Starke House is significant under National Register Criterion C as one of the finest Gulf Coast/Greek Revival Cottages in Baldwin County. Its octagonal columns, classical dormers, and eared architrave door and window surrounds are rare high style elements in a county dominated by vernacular building traditions.

Despite these high style elements, the Starke House is well within the tradition of the Creole/Gulf Coast Cottage folk type. The Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages of Baldwin County are significant as distinctive regional forms of Alabama vernacular architecture. The Creole style is distinctive for its massed floor plan with no interior passageways, a French building preference, whereas the Gulf Coast Style is distinctive for its central hall and exterior chimneys, Eastern Seaboard influences.

The Creole Cottage derives from a long tradition stretching back to the 17th century houses in Normandy. French settlers in the West Indies and Canada added full length galleries and more steeply pitched gable roofs to the house form they had known in Europe.

These houses featured central chimneys, one on the front slope and one on the rear slope of the roof. The lack of interior passageways was one of the most distinctive features of the style; four interconnected square rooms with smaller "cabinets" at the rear, often containing a stairway to the half story. Benjamin Henry Latrobe commented on this plan in 1819 and noted that the French employed their space to better advantage by excluding interior hallways. These Creole Cottages were popular in Mobile and New Orleans from 1790 to 1850 and continued to be built all along the Gulf Coast well into the 20th century.

The Gulf Coast Cottage is distinguished by its central hall and five bay facade which became popular in Alabama during the 1830s. This plan came from the Eastern Seaboard and owed its genesis to the Georgian architectural traditions of England. This American, or more popularly, Greek Revival, floor plan nevertheless continued Creole traditions of building a full length recessed porch under a sweeping gable roof. Chimneys were located along or near outer walls as no heating was desired in the hall. Gulf Coast Cottages were generally of frame construction and were raised two to three feet off of the ground on brick piers. These houses were popular from 1830 to 1870.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Mary O. Carney. "The Yanks Take Over the Eastern Shore." Unpublished manuscript. Daphne, Alabama. 1949.

Francis Scott. Daphne. Privately printed. No date.

Deed books, various. Baldwin County Courthouse, Bay Minette, Al.

1850 Free and Slave Schedules. Census. Baldwin County, Al.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

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 9.3

UTM References

A 

1	6
---	---

4	1	2	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	8	6	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The 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 4 December 1989  
street & number P.O. Box 1827 telephone 205-438-7281  
city or town Mobile state Al. zip code 36633

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

---

The Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay has a long tradition of summer residences, many of them Gulf Coast Cottages, owned by wealthy men of affairs. Daphne, perched atop the tall bluffs, early attracted Mobilians fleeing the brutal summer heat and disease. There were also many permanent residents as well, making Daphne the most important town on the Eastern Shore before the Civil War. Much of the choice land overlooking the bay was part of a Spanish Land Grant. Beginning during the 1820s and 1830s, this large land grant began to be sold, resold and subdivided. In the mid 1830s one Lewis Starke, a native South Carolinian, acquired a tract which included several hundred feet on the bay.

Starke was a man of some means. By 1850 he owned 23 slaves and was variously listed in the census as a merchant and lumberman. Starke was a year round resident in Daphne and built his house overlooking the bay c. 1850. Architecturally Starke's effort was well within the tradition of the Gulf Coast Cottage folk type. Yet he added Greek Revival details to achieve a more formal expression, rare in Baldwin County.

The property changed hands numerous times over the years. Starke sold it to a fellow South Carolinian in 1857 named William Hudson. Hudson sold it in 1863 as a fifteen acre parcel. In 1902 the house was conveyed to Theodore Perry Shonts and wife. Shonts served as chairman of the Second Isthmian Canal Commission (1905-07) and moved to New York with his wife shortly thereafter. Though the Shonts' never lived in the house year round, they added the pressed tin ceilings and walls throughout.

The house has remained essentially unaltered since and was acquired by Celia and Mike Delaney in 1986. They have maintained the house in excellent condition.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

---

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at a point on the West side of Eastern Shore Blvd., said point being 40 feet West and 1203.42 feet North of the Southwest corner of Section 17, Township 5 South, Range 2 East, Baldwin County, Alabama; thence run South 89 degrees 45 minutes 10 seconds West 1800 feet more or less to a point on the West boundary line of the right of way of the County Road to a point for the point of beginning; thence continue South 89 degrees 45 minutes 10 seconds West 1228 feet more or less to the margin of Mobile Bay; thence in a general Northerly direction along the margin of Mobile Bay 347.34 feet more or less to a point, which point is South 89 degrees 37 minutes 10 seconds West from the Northeast corner of the property herein described; thence North 89 degrees 37 minutes 10 seconds East 1125 feet more or less to a point on the Western boundary line of the County Road; thence Southwardly and along said Western boundary of said County Road 330 feet more or less to the point of beginning, according to a plat of survey for Estate of Horace Turner dated September 11, 1956.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photo-  
graphs Page 1

---

1. Starke, Lewis, House
2. Daphne, Baldwin County, Alabama
3. John Sledge, photographer
4. September 21, 1989
5. MHDC Negative File--MB #172

Photo # Description (Frame #)

1. Facade, Camera facing E (1)
2. General, Camera facing NE (7)
3. General, Camera facing SE (2)
4. Rear, Camera facing W (9)
5. Interior, Entrance Hall, Camera facing W (10)
6. Entrance hall, Camera facing E (11)
7. Rear center room, Camera facing S (18)
8. SW room, Camera facing S (15)
9. NW room, Camera facing N (12)
10. Upstairs N room, Camera facing N (21)