

**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 Metzger House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 7 N. Hamilton Street N/A not for publication

city, town Mobile N/A 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. Irvin & Theresa Grodsky

street & number P.O. Box 2945

city, town Mobile N/A vicinity of state Alabama 36652

**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 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 AL

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Metzger House is a one-story brick home oriented to face the east. In plan the rectangular building has its long axis perpendicular to the street with its uneven rear wings forming a shortened "U" shape. The five bay porch extends the full width of the facade and is supported by square columns with molded capitals and square bases. Above each column, dividing the entablature into sections, are twin scrolled brackets behind which runs a taenia molding that separates the architrave from the frieze. A hip roof covers the main section of the building with a lower gable on the rear wing.

The main entrance has Tuscan pilasters framing the door with a three light transom above and very narrow side lights extending the full height of the door frame. The three panels of the door leaf are unusual, having one long rectangular panel above and two smaller ones below, all with clipped corners. The windows of the porch wall are double sash, extending to the floor, with the larger lower sash a slide-by. All windows are now closed by the shutters. While the building has suffered over the years, no changes have been made in the original fabric since its construction in 1875.

The interior of the building, though deteriorated, has undergone no alterations. All of the original door and window framing, window units, doors (both exterior, interior hall and sliding pocket doors) still remain. The original mantels remain, their design reflects the square Tuscan columns on the exterior. Floors are wide pine. There is a tiny picture molding throughout the house which appears to be a later feature - perhaps added at the turn of the century. The rooms of the northwest wing have a simple wainscoating.

## 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/
<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** 1875 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### Architecture:

The Metzger House is an excellent example of an inner city one story brick middle class house. It illustrates the continuation of the 1860s Mobile building tradition of harmoniously combining classic and Italianate characteristics. In this instance the builder chose to combine classical porch and door detailing with an Italianate configuration in the bracketed entablature. The shuttered, floor length porch windows, however, give the building a definite Gulf Coast feeling. The house is sited on a very small urban lot and utilizes a central hall plan which maximizes interior space. The refinements of the porch detailing--the well spaced columns, the moldings of the entablature and the subtlety of bracket design--point to the fact that skilled craftsmen were available to construct the modest homes of the Reconstruction era.

#### Integrity:

The Metzger House has not been altered in either massing or in detail since the time of its construction. The original brick walls are still sound and the frame porch with window and door framings remain unaltered. The interior trim is intact with all the original door and window moldings and the large pocket doors between the parlor in place.

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For several decades following the Civil War and Reconstruction, there was less demand for the extremely large, expensive homes that had been built in the 1850s. At this time middle class housing came into prominence. The Metzger House is a case in point. It is an example of the type of home that was refined, but lacking ostentation and that was large enough to house a family but not so large that servants would be a necessity.

The house was constructed by George Metzger who was a cab or hack driver. The house was occupied by a relative, John Metzger, who clerked at a mercantile. That people in this economic bracket could build such attractive homes points to the fact that this was a time in which there was opportunity for personal advancement in independent occupations.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Deeds and plats from the Mobile County Court House, Probate Division; Tax Assessments; Sanborn Maps from 1880, 1885, 1891, 1924; 1878 City Atlas.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property (.14 ac.) less than one

Quadrangle name Mobile

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

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1	1	6
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3	13	9	15	5	15	10
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Lot beginning 185' south from the southwest corner of Hamilton & St. Francis, extending south for a front on the west side of Hamilton of 56.8' and a depth of lot of 110.42'.

### 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 August 9, 1982

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

city or town Mobile state Alabama 36633

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

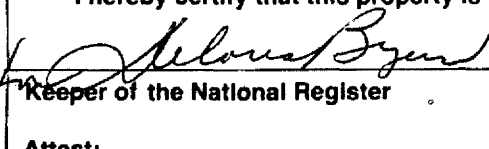
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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

<b>For HCRS use only</b> 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	