

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received SEP 18 1984
date entered OCT 18 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ^{19th} ~~Nineteenth~~ Century Spring Hill Neighborhood Thematic Resource Nomination
and/or common

2. Location

Blocks bounded by Wacker Lane on the east, Border Street West on the west; a line continuing the line of Spring Hill Avenue on the north and to approx- street & number imately Dauphin Street Extension on the south. NA not for publication

city, town Mobile NA 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (see individual inventory forms)
street & number
city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mobile County Courthouse, Probate Court; Archives City of Mobile, Deed Acquisition book
street & number 109 Government Street
city, town Mobile state AL 36603

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Continuation Sheet, Item 6 has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____
depository for survey records _____
city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Spring Hill is located approximately 6 1/2 miles west of Mobile, encompassing a hilly terrain of which the highest point is 215 feet above sea level. The City of Mobile is located on the flood plain, at sea level, and during the 19th century was surrounded by swamps and bayous. The western hills were free of swamps, were heavily forested with oak and pine and were also supplied with a number of springs that furnished an abundant supply of pure, fresh water.

The buildings that have survived from the 19th century illustrate the 60 year evolution of the area from a summer retreat to a permanent neighborhood. Nine buildings are being nominated. Each has been individually documented. For purposes of a general description, they have been grouped into three categories: cottages, large country homes, and religious buildings.

Cottages, numbered according to inventory sheet number:

1. The Pfau-Creighton Cottage - 3703 Old Shell Road
8. Collins-Marston Cottage - 4703 Old Shell Road
9. Collins-Robinson Cottage - 56 Oakland Avenue

The cottages represent the summer residence period and were adapted later for year-round living. They have a common characteristic of a rectangular massing with the long axis running parallel with the street. They are of frame construction on brick pier foundations and either 1 or 1 1/2 stories in elevation. All have full width front galleries with their rear galleries either completely or partially infilled in later times. The columns are simple, of square section, without bases and with a simple molding for capitals. Windows are double sash, 6/6 lights. Entrance doorways have plain framing and may or may not have a transom. In plan, the interior is divided up into four main rooms, usually two on either side of a central hall. Interior moldings are plain, without any Greek Revival motifs. All were built by carpenters, trained in basic construction but without the refinements of an architect's assistance.

Large country homes:

2. 3500 The Cedars, the Center-Gaillard House
3. 111 Myrtlewood Lane, the Beal-Gaillard House
4. 152 Tuthill Lane, the Marshall-Hixon House
7. Spring Hill College, Stewartfield

The large country homes can be divided into two time groups--those built during the early development at the beginning of the 1830s and those built during the golden years of the 1850s. Of the first group, numbers 2 and 3, the style precedes the Greek Revival influence, while the houses, numbers 4 and 7, are excellent examples of the Greek Revival modification of the older cottage form. Regardless of the time or style differences the homes have some common characteristics. They are large, with offset matching wings or some other balanced extension of space. They are well constructed with heavy framing that has pegged, mortise and tenon joinery that is visible in either the sub-structures or in the garrets, depending on the height to which the main floor is raised. Except for the Center-Gaillard house, #2, they are raised high enough to have important central stairways leading up to the floor of the 5-bay galleries. The columns vary in style from the earlier chamfered or square types to the later Greek Revival Doric order without bases

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1) National Register of Historic Places:

Carolina Hall (Dawson-Wilson House), 7 Yester Place (formerly #76 McGregor); placed on the Register August 17, 1973.

Spring Hill College Quadrangle, 4307 Old Shell Road; January 18, 1973.

Administration Building - 1869

Central Supply Building - 1905

Dining Hall and Kitchen - 1885

Moore Hall - 1866

St. Joseph Chapel - 1909

Yenni Hall - 1909

2) HABS:

Beal-Gaillard House - 1836, 111 Myrtlewood Lane; four photographs

Marshall-Hixon House - 1853, 152 Tuthill Lane; eight drawings, fifteen photographs

Carolina Hall - 1845, 7 Yester Place; six drawings, nine photographs

Spring Hill Quadrangle; five drawings, ten photographs

3) Nineteenth Century Mobile Architecture, An Inventory of Existing Buildings, City of Mobile, 1974:

Beal-Gaillard House, 1836, 111 Myrtlewood Lane; page 64, number 144

Chinaberry (Pfau-Creighton House) - 1862, 3703 Old Shell Road; page 64, number 143

Collins-Robinson Cottage - 1830s, 56 Oakland Avenue; page 67, number 155

Marshall-Hixon House - 1853, 152 Tuthill Lane; page 64, number 145

Saint Paul's Chapel - 1859, 4056 Old Shell Road; page 65, number 148

Sodality Chapel, Spring Hill College - 1850; page 66, number 150

Stewart-Field, Spring Hill College - c. 1850; page 66, number 151

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and with the typical echinus curve in the capitals. As with the columns, the entrance framing changes from a plain surround with transom and side lights to a highly sophisticated Greek Revival influence, such as classic colonnettes or the Greek Key door with eared architrave and slightly battered jambs. The front rooms lead on to the gallery through either doors, slideby windows or windows with jib doors beneath.

These large homes were built by wealthy merchants and located on extensive parcels of land. Two of the existing buildings still stand on their original five-acre tracts, platted in 1828 (number 3 and 4). Skilled craftsmen built the houses and at least one (number 4) has all the refined detailing that suggests it was designed by a trained architect, though there is no proof for this. In addition to the main house, originally there were additional buildings and such luxury attractions as the race course of Mr. Stewart at Stewartfield (number 7)) that added to the entertainment possibilities of the neighborhood.

Religious buildings:

5. 4056 Old Shell Road, St. Paul's Chapel
6. Spring Hill College, Sodality Chapel

Several Protestant Churches were erected during the course of the forty years but the only one to survive is the Episcopal Chapel of St. Paul. It was erected as a community effort under the supervision of two land owners, William Dawson of Carolina Hall (number 8 on the map, and put on the National Register Aug. 17, 1973) and Albert Stein, the hydraulic engineer who developed the Stein waterworks.

The Catholic community was well served by Spring Hill College, of which the 6 buildings of the Quadrangle were put on the National Register Jan. 18, 1973. The little Sodality Chapel was not included in the Spring Hill Quadrangle but is the oldest building on the campus to survive intact from the fire of 1869.

Both buildings are single aisled in plan, both formed of a simple rectangular mass with the gable at right angles to the facade. While the St. Paul's Chapel has a central front tower, and a porch, neither one was originally given embellishments. The windows of St. Paul's Chapel are those removed from the old St. Johns Episcopal Church that once stood on Dearborn and Monroe. The presence of these religious centers increased the viability of the area as a permanent neighborhood.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) urban development

Specific dates 1827-1889 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significance: Architecture, Urban Development

Within the boundaries of Spring Hill, there have survived nine 19th century buildings significant both because of their individual architectural value and because they collectively record the growth of a community from its inception as a summer colony made up of cottages to its mature development as a permanent neighborhood. Within a limited area, virgin forests were transformed into estates, trappers cabins into cottages that in turn were enlarged, and in the final years, large homes with highly refined Greek Revival detailing were added to the community.

Old Shell Road, the connecting link with the city, bisects this historic area with the buildings located within a mile and a half on either side of the road and scattered along about a two and a half mile stretch. The early community was closely knit, not only by location but by common bonds of social class and economic status, with merchandising, especially cotton, being the profession of the landowners. This homogenous quality can be seen in the development of the architecture in which even the cottages were well sited on large tracts, averaging five acres in extent.

The original purpose of the colony was to establish a healthy resort, less subject to the plagues of the yellow fever that ravaged the swamp surrounded city. Cotton wealth added to this the development of a permanent community. With the decline of cotton in the 1860s, growth stopped but the original purpose, that of a retreat from disease, remained as exemplified by the nine well preserved buildings under nomination.

* * * * *

Historical Summary:

The historical development of Spring Hill covers a time span from the middle of the 1820 decade to the 1880s. From 1820 to 1827, the City of Mobile acquired portions of the public lands by acts of the United States Congress. Of these purchases, 3/4 of section 14, T4S, R2W is included in the Spring Hill area. In addition, private investors also purchased public lands. In 1828 all of section 13 (640 acres) was platted for Mr. William Robertson, the section being divided up into 121 five-acre parcels with lanes leading into various areas. Joshua Collins purchased 160 acres, of which 80 acres were platted in 1839 and divided into 8, ten-acre parcels. By these purchases the boundaries of the historic Spring Hill neighborhood were established.

As early as 1820, it was noted that the summer epidemics of yellow fever hit hard in the downtown area but that the western hills remained relatively free from the devastating disease. Because of this, summer cottages began to dot the recently purchased land. By the late 1820s families were spending long summer months in the country, the time extending from April to as late as early December. Many family letters have survived telling of the "journeys" out on wagons carrying household furniture, silver, china, etc. The men of the commercial class who built the homes, traveled into the city daily by means of horseback or horse and carriage. Thus the development was never of an agricultural nature, but purely one that served as a summer retreat for health reasons.

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Methodology:

In preparing this nomination the following was undertaken:

- A) A windshield survey was made along all the Spring Hill streets to ascertain what buildings should be considered for the nomination.
- B) Local residents were interviewed both for information that they might have and for assistance in locating buildings not visible from the street.
- C) Initial research was begun into the following sources:
 - 1) Archives of the County Court, Probate Division.
 - 2) Maps were procured that covered the time period included in the nomination.
 - 3) Minutes of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen were read.
 - 4) Minutes of the County Board of Education for the years from 1833 to 1860 were read.
 - 5) Records in the archives of Spring Hill College were consulted.
 - 6) The Local History Division of the Public Library files and prime sources were consulted.
 - 7) The records in the City Planning Commission that contain the research done for the publication, Nineteenth Century Mobile Architecture, an Inventory of Existing Buildings.
- D) Selection of the nine buildings was made based on these findings and in consultation with the Director of the Mobile Historic Development Commission.
- E) Each building was then studied individually for:
 - a) dating: arrived at by obtaining a chain of title, records in the City Directories, tax records if applicable, newspaper accounts and private letters.
 - b) an architectural description was made based on on-site inspection.
 - c) significance was established for each building based on its architectural integrity, its stylistic purity, its dating and its contribution to the thematic scheme and its importance in the development of the neighborhood.
 - d) each building was photographed.

Buildings Included:

- ✓ 1. Pfau-Creighton Cottage
- ✓ 2. Beal-Gaillard House
- ✓ 3. Center-Gaillard House
4. Marshall-Hixon House
- ✓ 5. St. Paul's Chapel
- ✓ 6. Sodality Chapel
- ✓ 7. Stewartfield
- ✓ 8. Collins-Marston House
- ✓ 9. Collins-Robinson Cottage

The two already listed on the National Register are:

1. Carolina Hall, The Dawson-Wilson House
2. Spring Hill College Quadrangle

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Bibliography

General:

City Planning Commission, City of Mobile, Nineteenth Century Mobile Architecture, An Inventory of Existing Buildings; City of Mobile, 1974.

Father M. Kenny, S. J., The Torch on the Hill; American Press, 1931.

Oscar Lipscomb, The Administration of Michael Portier, Vicar Apostolic of Alabama and Florida, 1825-1829, First Bishop of Mobile, 1829-1859; Catholic University, Washington, D.C.; University of Michigan, microfilm, 1963.

Prime Source Material:

Mobile Commercial Register, issues from 1821 to 1865

Archives, Spring Hill College

City Tax Records, 1829 to 1900

County Tax Records, 1885 to 1900

Maps: City Engineers Office; Troost Map, 7 volumes, and the Pillans Map

Minutes of the County Board of Education, 1830 to 1850; Volume 1 and 2

Minutes of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, 1829 to 1864

Probate Court records

Private maps of property owners

Title Insurance Company archives and records

Interviews:

The Misses Mary and Flora Gaillard, 111 Myrtlewood Lane (#2 on map)

Dr. Wilson Gaillard, 2300 The Cedars (#3 on map)

Ms. Charlotte Robinson, 56 Oakland Avenue (#13 on map)

All of the above are residents of the area since birth and all living in homes that have been in their families for generations. All made family records available for inspection.

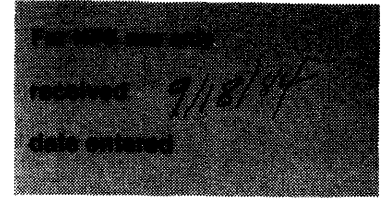
Miss Ann Creighton, 1651 Dauphin Street, owner of 3703 Old Shell Road (#1 on map)

Father Mulcrone, former archivist of Spring Hill College

Father Roy Wollenweider, present archivist of Spring Hill College

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Continuation sheet

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name 19th Century Spring Hill Neighborhood Thematic Resources

State Mobile, ALABAMA

Conn 10/18/84

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Beal-Gaillard House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i>
Keeper | <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10-18-84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. Center-Gaillard House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i>
Keeper | <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10-18-84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. Collins-Robinson House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i>
Keeper | <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10-18-84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. Collins-Marston House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i>
Keeper | <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10-18-84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. Pfau-Creighton Cottage | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i>
Keeper | <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10-18-84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. St. Paul's Episcopal Chapel | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i>
Keeper | <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10-18-84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. Sodality Chapel | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i>
Keeper | <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10-18-84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. Stewartfield | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i>
Keeper | <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10-18-84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |