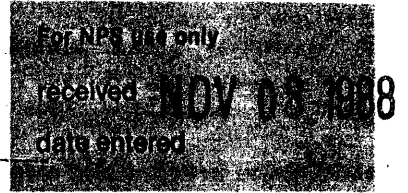


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NOV 19 1987



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 Thematic Group Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages in Baldwin County

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

NA not for publication

city, town See individual forms.

N/A vicinity of

Congressional District 1

state Alabama

code AL

county Baldwin

code 003

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 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	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 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

street & number See individual forms.

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Probate Judge's Office, Baldwin County Courthouse

street & number P. O. Box 651

city, town Bay Minette

state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Baldwin County Historic Building Survey/
Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 1987 / 1970-present federal state county local

depository for survey records Mobile Historic Development Commission/Alabama Historical Commission

city, town

Mobile/Montgomery

state Alabama

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>1907 Texas-Dryer-Brunell House</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages represent some of Alabama's most distinctive folk housing. Though these cottages differ in detail, they share some basic characteristics. These include a distinguishable one-and-a-half story gable roof profile and a recessed porch which covers the full facade. The Creole Cottage is noted for its massed floor plan with no interior hallways, a French building preference. Chimneys are typically interior with back to back fireplaces. Gulf Coast Cottages feature a central hall plan (an Eastern Seaboard influence) and exterior chimneys (as heat was not desired in the hall).

Many of these houses are raised three to six feet on piers, this being one of the hallmarks of Gulf Coast residential architecture. This is particularly true for urban residences in Mobile and New Orleans where crowding and poor drainage necessitated lifting the houses off the ground. In the countryside however, this is not always a feature of either style. Of the Baldwin County examples, only the Captain Adams-Stone House (1850 Daphne) and the Walker-Goldsby-Warren House (1850 Daphne) are significantly raised.

The overlap between the Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages is not surprising. The distinctive central hall was an influence from the Eastern Seaboard which was easily adaptable to the same basic house form of the Creole Cottage. Central hall houses became popular in Alabama during the 1830s and in New Orleans were referred to as American Cottages, different from the French and Spanish-influenced residences. American, or Gulf Coast Cottages retained the basic form of the Creole Cottage but with a central hall dividing the four rooms, exterior chimneys and more generally a five-bay facade to the Creole's three or four-bay facade. Baldwin County's rural Gulf Coast Cottages are more generally three bays whereas those along the Eastern Shore are five bays.

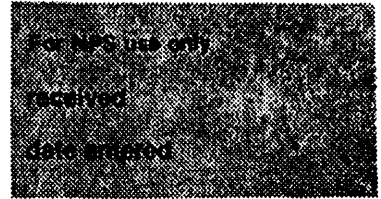
Twenty-four Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages were inventoried in the Baldwin County Architectural Site Survey.* Half of these were constructed before 1880 and the other half between 1880 and 1912. With only one exception, the Atkinson-English Place (1840, Tensaw), all the pre-1880 cottages are located along the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. The McMillan-O'Neal-Nordman House (1835, Daphne), represents the earliest appearance

(see continuation sheet)

*Note: Of 24 cottages surveyed, 10 are included in this nomination. Five are already on the National Register and the others were either unsympathetically altered or owner permission was withheld. For a full enumeration see Appendix I.

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Item number 7

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of the type in Baldwin County. Two other early examples are two storied, a deviation from the common one-and-a-half story form, and feature two tiered balconies (The Texas-Dryer-Brunell House, 1835, Daphne and the Atkinson-English Place, 1840, Tensaw). Despite their two-story height, these houses retain the distinct gable profile of the one-and-a-half story examples.

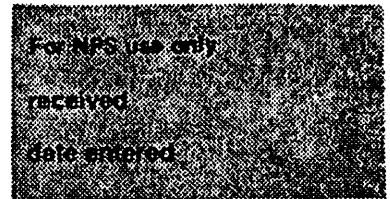
Gulf Coast and Creole Cottages proved popular along the Eastern Shore and served well as summer retreats for prominent Mobilians. Indeed, this type reached its highest architectural expression along the bay. The Captain Adams-Stone House (1850, Daphne) BA 1333 and 1334 (1850, Montrose) and BA 1336 and 1340 (1855, Montrose), as well as the Fry House (1856, Point Clear) all feature five-bay facades and varying use of Greek Revival details. The Captain Adams-Stone House and the Fry House are significantly raised on brick piers.

In addition, the innovative rain porch was employed along the Eastern Shore. This was an "extra" porch attached to a recessed gallery which provided protection from sun and rain. Early examples (McMillan-O'Neal-Nordman House, 1835, Daphne; The Texas-Dryer-Brunell House, 1835, Daphne; the Fry House, 1856, Point Clear) are simply one to three-foot extensions of the roof with diagonal bracing on the porch posts. By the turn of the century the rain porch had become a fully developed element with posts of its own meeting the ground (Street House, 1906, Point Clear).

After 1880 less formalized, rural examples of the house type appeared in Bon Secour and inland east of Point Clear. By the turn of the century it had become a common rural house form and featured a three-bay facade, drop siding, and chamfered or even turned posts (Nicholson-Nelson House, 1885, Bon Secour; BA 1685, 1900, Bon Secour; Orrell-Burnette House, 1900, Bon Secour; BA 1660, 1900, Point Clear). The latest surviving examples date from 1906 and 1912, with the latter house being significantly inland (Street House, 1906, Point Clear; Nelson-Reynolds House, 1912, Latham). The type has experienced a resurgence of popularity along the Eastern Shore with modern replicas appearing in some numbers.

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Survey Methodology

The Thematic Nomination of Baldwin County's Gulf Coast and Creole Cottages is a direct outgrowth of the Baldwin County Architectural Site Survey conducted from October 1985 to October 1986 by John Sledge, Architectural Historian with the Mobile Historic Development Commission. This survey inventoried over thirteen hundred buildings over fifty years of age in the County.

Because of the regional importance and nature of Gulf Coast and Creole Cottages, the MHDC elected to document these structures more fully by placing them on the National Register in a thematic group. Research was conducted on the evolution and form of these styles. Though there is scholarly debate over the origin of the Creole Cottage, the MHDC concentrated on the enduring popularity of this style which lasted well into the 20th century in Baldwin County. The Gulf Coast Cottage is better understood and formal versions betray Greek Revival influences.

To the disappointment of the MHDC, a number of property owners of Gulf Coast and Creole Cottages withheld their permission. In addition, several other examples lie within the Point Clear Historic District. See Appendix I for a full enumeration of cottages not nominated and those included in other nominations.

Buildings in this nomination are categorized as follows:

Contributing structures:	10
Noncontributing structures:	<u>0</u>
Total structures:	10

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 checked="" 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 1835-1912 **Builder/Architect** Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C-Architecture:

The Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages of Baldwin County are significant as a distinctive form of Alabama vernacular architecture. Major characteristics include a distinguishable one-and-a-half-story gable roof profile with a recessed porch covering the full facade. The Creole Cottage is notable for its massed floor plan with no interior passageways whereas the Gulf Coast Cottage displays a central hall and exterior chimneys. Further climatic adjustments like the rain porch are significant as highly localized architectural variations.

Historical Summary:

The Creole Cottage, so distinctive to Alabama's Gulf Coast, 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 and concentrations of these houses remain in New Orleans and Saint Genevieve, Missouri.

The early examples of French Colonial architecture were frequently brick between posts or plastered brick, flat on the ground with no basement. Three types of foundation were most common: poteaux en terre (house of posts in the earth), poteaux sur solle (house of posts on a sill) and maison de pierre (house of stone). By the early 19th century frame construction became common. Urban examples frequently lacked the front "galerie" but had an abat-vent or overhang along the eaves. Chimneys were central, one on the front slope and one on the rear slope (as in the Nelson-Reynolds House) and the rooms were almost square. The lack of interior passageways was one of the most distinctive features of the style; four interconnected 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 New Orleans from 1790 to 1850 and continued to be built all along the Gulf Coast well into the 20th century (Nelson-Reynolds House, 1912).

The Gulf Coast or American Cottage is distinguished by its central hall and five bay facade (Hamner-Roberts House, Walker-Goldsby-Warren House, Captain Adams-Stone House) 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 near or outer walls as no heating was desired in the hall. Gulf Coast Cottages were generally of frame construction with drop siding becoming popular in the late 19th century (Orrell-Burnette House). These houses were popular from 1830 to 1870 though the style endures to this day and has enjoyed something of a renaissance on the Eastern Shore of Baldwin County.

(see continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHMENT

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property See individual forms.

Quadrangle name Gulf Shores, Point Clear, Vaughn, Daphne.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C

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

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The Gulf Coast and Creole Cottages are all located within Baldwin County.

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 John Sledge/Architectural Historian

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date November 10, 1987

street & number P. O. Box 1827 telephone 205-438-7281

city or town Mobile 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 31, 1988

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

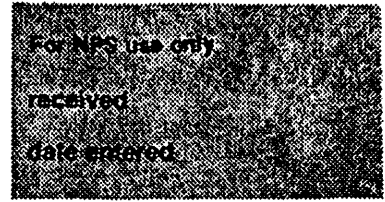
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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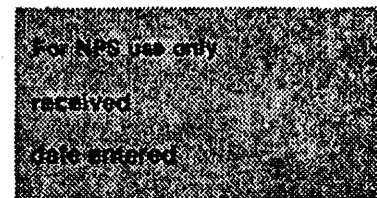
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Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages were common in Baldwin County throughout the 19th century. Lowstyle examples are located along the Bon Secour River and inland while high style examples are confined to the Eastern Shore. The Captain Adams-Stone House betrays strong Greek Revival influences yet reflects its Gulf Coast origins in the raised piers.

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Appendix I

Complete Enumeration of Creole and Gulf Cottages in Baldwin County

	ALABAMA	
Currently on National Register	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	5
Potentially eligible for National Register		16
Not eligible	JUL 8 1988	<u>3</u>
Total Surveyed		<u>24</u>

RECEIVED

Breakdown of potentially eligible Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages

Nominated in thematic group	10
Withheld by owner's request from thematic group	4
Nominated in Point Clear Historic District	<u>2</u>
Total potentially eligible	<u>16</u>
 Total potentially eligible nominated	 <u>12</u>

Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages by Baldwin County Architectural Site Survey Numbers:

-Currently on National Register (Montrose Historic District)

BA 1326 BA 1333 BA 1334 BA 1336 BA 1340

-Not Eligible

BA 1661 (moved and raised) BA 1685 (vinyl siding) BA 1687 (moved)

-Nominated in Thematic Group

BA 1033 (Nelson Reynolds)	BA 1663 (Street)
BA 1284 (Walker-Goldsby-Warren)	BA 1681 (Nicholson-Nelson)
BA 1286 (Captain Adams-Stone)	BA 1683 (Hamner-Roberts)
BA 1301 (McMillan-O'Neal-Nordmann)	BA 1684 (Orrell-Burnett)
BA 1308 (The Texas-Dryer-Brunell)	BA 1689 (Allen-Marshall)

-Nomination from Thematic Group withheld by Owner's Request

BA 1024 BA 1659 BA 1660 BA 1664

-Nominated in Point Clear Historic District

BA 1625 (Lot 70) BA 1634 (Lot 58)

II. Descriptions of those withheld by owners request

- 1) BA 1024 UTM: 16/423/760/3446/550
 East side Highway 59, Tensaw Owner: Ana-Beth Slaughter
 Construction date: c. 1840 Tensaw, Al.
 Recorded by HABS as Thomas Atkinson House.

Two story, gable roof sides, five bay facade, clapboarded, 6/6 windows. Two tiered, recessed balustraded porch with central entrances first and second story. Sidelights and transom both entrances. Two pair exterior end chimneys. Central hall plan, paneled dado, graining and original hardware present. See Alabama Catalogue p. 195.

- 2) BA 1659 UTM: 16/411/990/3370/300

East side Highway 98, adj. "The Gallery," Point Clear
Construction date: c. 1885
Owner: Unknown
(Refused through an intermediary)

One and a half story Creole Cottage. Gable roof to the sides. Four bay facade features two front doors. The building is only one room deep but has a rear ell. A recessed front porch covers the full facade and is supported on turned posts.

- 3) BA 1660 UTM: 16/411/000/3370/220

East side Highway 98 just N. Bailey's Creek Owner: Ira R. Calloway
P. O. Box 44
Construction date: c. 1900 Point Clear, Al. 36564

One story Gulf Coast Cottage. Gable roof sides with a recessed porch covering the full facade. Chamfered posts support the porch. Three bay facade and a central hall plan make this building's form identical to BA 1685 (non-eligible) and BA 1684 (Orrell-Burnette House).

- 4) BA 1664 UTM: 16/413/700/3370/010

East side County 3, adj. water tower, Point Clear. Owner: Colleen Yenne
Construction date: c. 1900 Point Clear, Al. 36564

One and a half story, frame Creole Cottage. Gable roof sides with a pair of gable dormers. Recessed front porch with chamfered posts covers full facade, attached rain porch with posts meeting the ground. Five bay facade, two front doors. The chimneys have been removed.

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Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages in Baldwin County TR
State Baldwin County, AL

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

Substantive Review

Keeper

Amy Schlager 12/20/88

SLV
S

1. Adams, Captain, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Amy Schlager 12/20/88

Attest

2. Allen House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 12/20/88

Attest

3. Hamner House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 12/20/88

Attest

4. McMillan House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 12/20/88

Attest

5. Nelson House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 12/20/88

Attest

6. Nicholson House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 12/20/88

Attest

7. Orrell House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 12/20/88

Attest

8. Street House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 12/20/88

Attest

9. Texas, The

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 12/20/88

Attest

10. Walker House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 12/20/88

Attest