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DEC 4 1979



State of Mississippi
Department of Archives & History
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

Historic Sites Survey

163

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

One-story, five-bay frame construction; beaded horizontal board siding; raised on brick piers. Slightly recessed entrance with cornice and pilasters; paneled door with side lights and transom. Front veranda supported on square columns. Shaped window heads on all facades; louvered shutters. Side-facade window balcony in danger of collapsing hip-roof; chimneys with corbeled caps on northern and southern facades. The house is built in to the hillside so that rear facade has two-tiered veranda on two facades; northern facade (with staircase) is enclosed behind lattice screen.

ALTERATIONS:

OUTBUILDINGS:

Rear wing connected by gallery was probably an original outbuilding.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

Large yard with numerous bushes, generally overgrown and neglected.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Dials are an important Meridian family among the early settlers, and J. R. Dial, original owner of the house, operated the first cotton gin and saw mill after the Civil War. In 1872 J. R. Dial sold forty acres for a fairground to the East Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical Association, at that time the only agricultural society in this part of the state. This fairgrounds became the site of the Meridian Fair and Exposition Association in 1890, which later (1908) deeded the land to the City, for creation of a park (Highland Park, entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979).

E. H. Dial was mayor of Meridian from 1893 until 1901. It was during his term that the city installed a sewerage system and began the first street paving. Dial was also a federal court clerk attorney. The present owner of the house, Kate Dial Sanford, is the daughter of E. H. Dial.

(continued)

NAME: Dial House

STREET NO: 1003 30th Avenue

TOWN/VIC: Meridian

COUNTY: Lauderdale

BLOCK/LOT: Ball's block 13, lots 7 and 8

PRESENT OWNER: Kate Dial Sanford

ADDRESS Same as above

PRESENT USE: Residence

FORMER USE:

DATE: Ca. 1870

STYLE: Antebellum/Italianate elements

ARCH/BUILDER:

SOURCE OF DATE: Land rolls/tax assessments

ENVIRONMENT: Residential

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL x

STATE

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:

The Dial House is known locally as the oldest house in Meridian and is the only remaining example of this cottage type. E. H. Dial, former Meridian mayor, built the house in the 1870s. The Dial family has owned and lived in the house since its construction, and Mayor Dial's daughter and granddaughter still reside here.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Deteriorated

THREATS:

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Ball's block 13, lots 7 and 8 plus NE quarter less 30' N and S by 48' E and W in NE corner.

ACREAGE: Less than an acre.

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FORM PREPARED BY:

Jody Cook

DATE

February, 1979