

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 16 1996

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Walnut Street Historic District (Second Boundary Expansion)

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number see inventories not for publication NA
city or town Florence vicinity NA
state Alabama code AL county Lauderdale code 077 zip code 35630

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 12/18/95
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
 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: Edson H. Beall]

National Register

[Signature] 2/16/96
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Walnut Street Historic District (2nd Boundary Expansion)

County and State Lauderdale, Alabama

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5. Classification
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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
X district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 49

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Table with 2 columns: Cat, Sub. Row 1: Domestic, single dwelling. Row 2: secondary structure.

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Table with 2 columns: Cat, Sub. Row 1: Domestic, single dwelling. Row 2: secondary structure.

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Bungalow/Craftsman

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof asbestos

walls wood

brick

other N/A

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1870 - c. 1930

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder see inventory

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance on continuation sheet/s.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 4 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	438300	3851770	3	_____	_____
2	16	438440	3851500	4	_____	_____
_____ See continuation sheet.						

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Billy Ray Warren, President, and AHC Reviewer

organization Walnut Street Historic District date August 25, 1992

street & number 501 North Walnut Street telephone 334/242-3184 (AHC)

city or town Florence state AL zip code 35630

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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7. Physical Description

Narrative Description

Walnut Street Historical District (original nomination, all contributing)

The northern block of Walnut Street forms a well-defined neighborhood district with single family homes on closely spaced lots. Facade lines are even, structures are situated toward the front of the lots, and large trees line the broad street which is bordered with sidewalks. The character of the district is further heightened by its compactness and the contrast with the surrounding areas which have succumbed to modern construction and the subdivision of older houses into apartment buildings. Adjacent to the district is the one modern intrusion in this block, a one-story brick YWCA building.

Fifteen houses are located on the eastern side of the street, twelve on the western side, and two face Hermitage Drive. Constructed during a period of 40 years, from 1889 to 1930, the buildings reflect the changing stylistic influences of the period. Three major house types predominate: large, frame structures with Victorian and/or Classical details dating from the earliest years of the district's development; small, frame and brick cottages with either Victorian massing and detail or strong California Cottage influences; and later (c. 1918-1930) two-story, brick structures derived from the Georgian Revival of the early 20th century.

Of the earlier frame structures, the most notable are the Howell-Jones House (18) and the McGee House (12). The Howell-Jones House (c. 1904) is a two-and-a-half story structure influenced by the Queen Anne style and featuring an octagonal turret, while the McGee House (c. 1890) is less ornate and exhibits a bracketed cornice and turned posts supporting a three-sided verandah. More typical of the earlier structures is the rather severe Price Homestead (2) with its comparative simple massing and restrained ornamentation consisting of scalloped siding separating the second and first floors, Tuscan columns for the portico and decorative scroll work on the gabled bay.

Of the early cottages the most notable is the Young House (7). Constructed in 1904 of rusticated cement block, it is finely treated with decorated lintels, dentiled cornice, egg and dart moulding below the frieze and stamped metal ornamenting the front gable. The influence of the California Cottage or bungalow style is most strongly marked in the 1920 Scarborough-Wallace House (3), with its large front-gabled porch and extended, open eaves.

Among the later structures, the Jackson House (19), a rectangular brick structure with quoins, symmetrical window placement, an off-center portico with fluted box columns and dentiled cornice is most clearly derived from the Georgian Revival style of the early 20th Century. Employing the same boxlike shape and fenestration, the Swinea House (14), the Redd-Morris House (17), and the Hitchcock-Koonce House (16) are less literal adaptations which employ distinctly 20th Century features such as wide eaves, porticos with tapered box columns on piers, and large dormers.

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Original Inventory

1. Dowdy-Holley Place (602 N. Walnut): c. 1930, one and a half stories, brick, gabled roof, gabled central dormer, entrance framed with pilasters.
2. Price Homestead (502 N. Walnut): c. 1889, Victorian, two-story, frame, combination gabled and hipped roof with tin shingles, course of scalloped siding separates first and second floors, vergeboards in some gables, Tuscan columns.
3. The Scarborough-Wallace House (514 N. Walnut): c. 1920, California Cottage, one and a half stories, stucco over wood, wide, open eaves, gabled front portico supported by square columns on tapered brick piers.
4. The Norquist-Ingram House (510 N. Walnut): c. 1919, California Cottage influences, one and a half stories, stucco over wood, gabled roof, hipped front portico, wide eaves.
5. The Henley Cottage (506 N. Walnut): c. 1900, Victorian Cottage, one and half stories, frame, two brick chimneys.
6. The Karney Cottage (512 N. Walnut): c. 1902; Victorian Cottage, one and a half stories, frame, combination gabled and hipped roof, gable-ends have shingles and vergeboards, turned posts support porch on three sides, gabled bay window.
7. The Young House (446 N. Walnut): c. 1901, late Victorian Cottage, one and a half stories, rusticated cement block, complex roofline, dentiled cornice, egg and dart moulding below frieze, decorated lintels.
8. The Lynn-Perry House (442 N. Walnut): c. 1903, Victorian Cottage, one and a half stories, frame, cross-gabled roof, central chimney, porch columns replaced with metal ones.
9. The Shepard-Kerr House (438 N. Walnut): early 20th Century, one and a half stories, frame, pyramidal and gabled roof, gabled dormers, stamped tin shingles.
10. Koonce-Callaway House (434 N. Walnut): c. 1924, one and a half stories, brick ground floor, shingled half story, gabled front porch, shed dormer.
11. Prosser-Johnston Place (430 N. Walnut): c. 1926, Georgian Revival influences, rectangular shape, hipped roof, wide eaves, central portico with fluted Tuscan columns, ornate brick work forms arch above ground floor windows.
12. McGee House (424 N. Walnut): c. 1890, Victorian, two-story, frame, one-story porch with turned posts extends around side of house, bracketed cornice, vergeboards in gable.
13. The J.A. Koonce Residence (414 N. Walnut): c. 1920, influenced by Colonial Revival, double verandah with heavy, paneled box columns on brick piers.
14. The Swinea House (410 N. Walnut): c. 1922, Georgian Revival influences, two-story, brick, rectangular shape, hipped roof, wide eaves with box cornice, paired windows, three-quarter width front porch with tapered columns, and square brick piers, hipped dormer.

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15. The Ashcraft House (404 N. Walnut): c. 1920, two-story, brick, stuccoed second floor, extended bracketed eaves, hipped roof, porch with brick piers.
16. The Hitchcock-Koonce House (401 N. Walnut): c. 1922, Georgian Revival influences, two-story, brick hipped roof, porch with square piers.
17. The Redd-Morris House (405 N. Walnut): c. 1923, two-story, brick with stucco, rectangular shape, hipped roof, wide eaves, tapered box columns, support half hipped porch.
18. The Howell-Jones House (411 N. Walnut): c. 1904, Queen Anne influences, two and a half stories, frame, large front gable, octagonal turret, Ionic columns.
19. The Jackson House (419 N. Walnut): c. 1918, Georgian Revival influences, two-story brick, hipped roof, wide eaves, quoins, classically detailed portico and porte cochere, hipped central dormer.
20. Nance House (425 N. Walnut): c. 1905, two-story, frame, hipped and pyramidal roof, severely plain, one central chimney.
21. The Ingram-Nance House (429 N. Walnut): c. 1902, two-story, frame, gabled roof, metal shingles, gabled front bay, portico with Tuscan columns on pedestals, shingled gable ends.
22. The Koonce-Collum House (433 N. Walnut): c. 1924, two-story, frame, gabled roof, irregular massing, beveled glass entrance.
23. The Shepard-Murray Cottage (439 N. Walnut): c. 1900, one-story, gabled front L porch with heavy paneled box columns on paneled pedestals.
24. The Shepard House (447 N. Walnut): c. 1907, late Victorian, two-story, frame, complex roofline and massing, gabled front bay, shingled panels, paired Tuscan columns for porch.
25. The Trousdale-Warren Place (501 N. Walnut): c. 1925, two-story, brick, front L, hipped roof, wide bracketed cornice, Tuscan columns.
26. The Lucas-Nance House (507 N. Walnut): c. 1890, Georgian Revival influences, two story frame, hipped roof with front gable, stamped tin shingles, dentiled cornice, front verandah topped with balustrade, hipped dormer with diamond-shaped panes.
27. The Newsom-Jackson House (515 N. Walnut): c. 1922, one and a half stories, frame, gabled roof, gabled front portico with wide, open eaves, tapered box columns on pedestals.
28. The Camper-O'Neal House (330 Hermitage Drive): c. 1890, Victorian, two-story, frame, combination gabled and hipped roof, bay windows, shingled gable ends, intricately carved front entrance door.
29. McKelvy-Pool House (316 Hermitage Drive): c. 1920, one and a half stories, frame, recessed full width portico, gabled roof, central gabled dormer.

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Walnut Street Historic District (First Expansion)

In November 1990, a survey was completed of the area surrounding the Walnut Street Historic District in Florence. This survey identified several buildings along North Poplar Street between Tuscaloosa and Hermitage Drive that were eligible for the National Register. It was decided that the Walnut Street Historic District be expanded to include thirteen (13) additional residences located on North Poplar Street between 415-609 (odd numbers).

Retaining their original architectural integrity of location, design, date of construction, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, these residences date from 1887 to 1922 and fall within the original period of significance for the district (1880-1930). Twelve of the thirteen buildings are contributing. In addition, there are eight (8) contributing garages or outbuildings.

Inventory of First Expansion

30. 415 North Poplar Street, 1910 (c); One-and-a-half story frame bungalow crowned with a gable roof; front porch extends the full length of the house; supported by four wood columns resting on brick bases; bay window on the south side; double front doors topped by three-paned narrow windows; shed roof dormer. Builder: Unknown; Original owner: Andrew Terrell, businessman; Name of House: Belle Fleur; Current Owner: Mr. John D. Turner
31. 421 North Poplar Street, 1910 (c); One-and-a-half story frame late Victorian cottage with combination gable and hip roof; front porch (screened) extends the full length of the house; supported by seven square wooden columns; bay window on second floor; 15 pane front door; original frame two-car garage (contributing) with side-entry door located to the rear. Builder: Unknown; Original owner: H.L. and Lula Reeder, educators; Name of house: Porchtower
32. 433 North Poplar Street, c. 1905 (c); One-story frame bungalow crowned with gable roof; front porch extends the full length of the house; supported by four columns made of brick and resting on rock-faced brick; foundation and front steps of rock-faced brick; roof of composition shingles. Builder: F.B. Dudley, businessman; Original owner: F.B. Dudley; Name of house: The Lovell House; Current Owner: Mr. Jimmy Lovell
33. 437 North Poplar Street, 1904 (c); One-and-a-half story frame late Victorian cottage with gabled tin roof; front porch extends the full length of the house; supported by four Doric wooden columns resting on square brick bases; two dormers; transom over front door; original frame one-car garage (contributing) located to the rear. Builder: Unknown; Original owner: Jacob Winston McGee, businessman; Name of house: Winnsome; Current Owner: Mr. and Mrs. J.N. Winn, III
34. 447 North Poplar Street, 1910 (c); Two-and-a-half story brick Neo-Georgian with gabled tin roof; L-shaped front porch, supported by six brick columns; carport on the north side; balcony with wooden balustrade extends the full length of the house and carport; full length glass in front door flanked by sidelights; original one-and-a-half story frame barn (contributing) with gable roof located to the rear. Builder: Homer L. Reeder; Original owner: Homer L. Reeder, educator; Name of house: Stockard House; Current owner: Ms. Amy Winston Stockard

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35. 501 North Poplar Street, c. 1887 (c); One-and-a-half story late Victorian townhouse; five gabled tin roof; L-shaped front porch with six Ionic wooden columns resting on square brick bases; two foot-high brick retaining wall frames the front porch; bay window on north side; dentil work and decorative brackets under wide eaves of roof; two front doors of full-length glass with transoms above them. Builder: U.O. Redd, Sr.; Original owner: John Tuthill, businessman; Name of house: Thompson Homeplace; Current owner: Dr. and Mrs. John A. Thompson

36. 515 North Poplar Street, 1922 (c); One-and-a-half story brick bungalow with gable roof; front porch extends the full length of the house, supported by four decorative wrought-iron posts resting on square brick bases; two foot-high brick retaining wall frames the front porch; windows on the second floor mounted into gables; front door with 15 panes of beveled glass; decorative brackets under wide eaves of roof; original frame two-car garage (contributing) located to the rear. Builder: Unknown; W.S. Eastep, businessman and mayor; Name of house: Eastep Grisham; Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bevis

37. 601 North Poplar Street, c. 1898 (c); Two-story frame late Victorian house with gable roof; L-shaped front porch supported by ten wooden columns; two foot-high wooden balustrade frames front porch; sunburst design carved into gable over front porch; original two-story concrete block garage (contributing) located to the rear. Builder: Dr. Percy Price; Original owner: Dr. Percy Price, physician; Name of house: Augazella; Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ford

38. 605 North Poplar Street, 1917 (c); One-and-a-half story stucco bungalow house with gable roof and gabled dormer; rectangular front porch covers one-half the length of the house; two foot-high stucco retaining walls frame the front porch; one massive square stucco column supports porch at the corner; decorative planter of concrete rests on the stucco base as part of the front porch's retaining wall; exposed rafters and brackets visible under the wide eaves of the roof. Builder: U.O. Redd, Jr.; Original owner: U.O. Redd, Jr., businessman; Name of house: Redd Flippo; Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Larry Flippo

39. 609 North Poplar Street, 1916 (c); One-and-a-half story frame Queen Anne Revival house with hip roof; three square brick bases; square-shaped front porch covers one-half of the front of the house; two large dormers; bay window on the south side; brackets and exposed rafters visible under the wide eaves of the roof; original two-car frame garage (contributing) located to the rear. Builder: Florence Lumber Company; Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. M.F. Barker, businessman; Name of house: Barker House; Current owner: Mr. and Mrs. Todd Howell

40. 431 North Poplar Street, 1920 (c); One-and-a-half story white frame and stucco house with two gables on the front; multi-paned front door with sidelights of beveled glass; two sets of triple windows flank entry of wide concrete steps; two outbuildings (both contributing): one is white frame with a central entry, exterior chimney, and composition roof; the other is yellow frame with brick steps, wooden front door with eight small panes in the upper portion framed by an arched stoop with fluted pilasters on either side, a small side porch, and brown composition hipped roof. Builder: unknown; Original owner: Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Henley; Name of house: Henley House; Current owner: J.C. Collum

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41. 511 North Poplar Street, 1908 (c); Two-story late Victorian; rectangular concrete porch with three tapered wooden columns on rock-faced brick bases; frame clapboard construction with decorative wooden strip between the two floors; front door with carved wood at the bottom, and leaded glass on the upper half; green composition roof; one-over-one windows throughout. Builder: unknown; Original owner: unknown; Name of house: Burkey Place; Current owner: Raymond Burkey

42. 519 North Poplar Street, 1908 (nc); One-story frame with two-story addition in the rear connected by a breezeway; three single windows across front with five small windows on both sides of the house; the front door has wooden lower section and single pane of glass at the top; the carport on the side runs the full length of the house; gray composition roof. Builder: unknown; Original owner: unknown; Name of house: Davis House; Current owner: William M. Coussons

Second Expansion

The second Walnut Street Historic District Expansion encompasses eight structures (seven houses and one outbuilding). Five of these are on the western side of Poplar Street which is located in the central core of the city of Florence, Alabama (Lauderdale County). By adding these five houses to the National Register of Historic Places, all 18 houses on the western side of Poplar Street between Tuscaloosa Street and Hermitage Drive will become part of the Walnut Street Historic District (NRHP 1976). Three structures (two houses and an outbuilding) on the eastern side of Poplar Street are also part of the Expansion.

The eight structures are rather closely spaced since they are situated on city lots which are basically fifty feet wide. Some have the luxury of being located on spaces composed of two city lots (100 feet wide), thereby giving them larger side yards. They sit back from the street at approximately the same distance, giving the street a trim, uniform look even though the houses themselves vary interestingly in design. The street is lined with trees, primarily pin oaks and dogwoods while individual houses have a variety of plantings: azaleas, boxwoods, various kinds of hollies and cherry laurels. The designs of the plantings are in keeping with the period of the houses--not the contemporary style of close, manicured shrubs surrounding the front facade in "moustache" fashion (as landscape architects refer to it). Sidewalks and curbs on the street date from the period of the houses, but the street lights are of the contemporary mercury vapor variety. Interestingly, the residents in the original Walnut Street Historic District have purchased dual-globe Victorian-style wrought metal lamp posts and installed them in their yards in such a way that one globe is in the yard and the other is over the sidewalk. Sixteen such lamps have been installed at the owners' expense, with the monthly utility charge for them also being paid by the owners. The mercury vapor lamps are still in place but they "disappear" because the Victorian lamps keep the eye focused on them. In the Expansion the owner of the house at 503 East Tuscaloosa Street has already installed similar lamp posts; plans call for other owners to follow suit.

Although the 1870 structure at 414 North Poplar Street is ten years older than the oldest house currently in the Walnut Street Historic District (the Price Homestead, 1880), it, along with most of the others in this expansion, contributes to the district in location, design, material, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Specifically, these contributions include: (1) The same range of architectural styles found in the existing District (from late-Victorian to bungalow) is to be found among these eight structures; and (2) Just like the houses in the existing district, these reflect a slice of life in Florence in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries since people who lived in them (e.g., Miss Ada Coffee and Mr. and Mrs. William Graham, well-known Florence educators; Mr. Alonzo D. Lewis, a distinguished local businessman; Mr. Alan McRae, owner of one of Florence's very first automobile dealerships; and Miss Mary Graham, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church currently serving a church in the state of Kentucky) have made lasting contributions to the city.

Inventory of the Second Expansion

43. 611 North Poplar Street, (contributing) 1901; two-story frame late Victorian with three identical gables (diamond shaped decorative element, single-paned window flanked with leaded glass over another single pane); composition shingle roof; extra-wide concrete walk leading to wide concrete steps with concrete sides enclosing them; front porch with wooden floor extending full width of house; three columns of two square posts connected by lattice work in each; central chimney; rock-faced concrete block underpinning; no outbuilding.

Builder: Unknown

Original owner: Mr. John Jackson, businessman

Name of house: The Gables

Current owner: Mr. Kenneth Winter

44. 615 North Poplar Street, (contributing) 1898; Two-story frame late Victorian; L-shaped front porch with seven turned wooden posts on concrete slab; spindled frieze at top of porch and continuing to two corners of two-story bay; one chimney on north side; front door with large pane surrounded by strips of stained glass surmounting ornately carved wood panel; one-paned transom over door; four-paned sidelights; separate entry door in the shorter section of front porch "L" with nine panes over a wood panel and a one-paned transom; combination of gabled and hipped roof of composition shingles; no outbuilding.

Builder: Alan McRae, businessman

Original owner: Mr. Alan McRae

Name of house: McRae House

Current owner: Mr. Kenneth Winter

45. 619 North Poplar Street, (contributing) 1902; One-and-one-half story stone; gabled, composition shingle roof; rectangular front porch with concrete slab and concrete steps flanked by concrete sides; two stone columns and one wrought-iron post on stone base with all three connected by low decorative stone wall; front door with large pane and decorative wood which divides the pane into nine sections; large bay with three one-over-one windows and gable with stucco and ornate wooden "gingerbread" work; large gabled dormer on front roof with three vertical one-over-one panes; no outbuilding.

Builder: J. C. Long

Original owner: Mr. J. C. Long

Name of house: Preuit House

Current owner: Ms. Kay Preuit

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46. 409 North Poplar Street, (contributing) 1912; One-and-one-half story frame bungalow; front porch with wood floor extends full width of house; front door of eight panes over carved wood panel flanked by two 18-paned sidelights; three square wood columns resting on square brick bases; gabled composition shingle roof; gabled dormer with decorative brackets and three six-paned hinged windows; one central chimney; no outbuilding.

Builder: Unknown

Original owner: Mr. James Henderson

Name of house: Casement Cottage

Current owner: Mr. George H. Young

47. 423 East Tuscaloosa Street, (contributing) 1898; Two-story frame late Victorian; rectangular front porch with concrete floor and flat roof which serves as balcony for second floor; three square wooden columns; front door with large oval glass over carved wood; gabled composition shingle roof; no outbuilding.

Builder: Unknown

Original owner: Mr. John Minor

Name of house: The Corner House

Current owner: Mr. J. C. Collum

48. 503 East Tuscaloosa Street, (noncontributing) 1885;

One-story brick cottage; rectangular front porch with concrete floor; two square wooden columns; solid wood front door with four panels; one concrete front step flanked by two concrete sides; casement windows on front; gabled area with chimney on front; gabled, composition shingle roof; no outbuilding.

Builder: Unknown; Original owner: Miss Ada Coffee; Name of house: Blasingame House; Current owner: Mr. Jim Blasingame

49. 414 North Poplar Street, (contributing) 1870; One-story frame cottage; 12-paned front door flanked by two multi-paned sidelights surmounted by multi-paned transom; four windows on front (two six over six on each side of front door); front porch with wooden floor extending entire width of house; six plain square posts on porch; brick-paved walk and steps from sidewalk to front porch; two chimneys (one on north end and one on south end); one-story outbuilding of wood frame with metal roof, two doors and one window (contributing).

Builder: Mr. Alonzo D. Lewis, businessman

Original owner: Mr. Alonzo D. Lewis

Name of house: The Cypress Inn

Current owner: Mr. Jim Blasingame

Archeological Component

Although no formal archeological survey has been made of the Walnut Street Historic District, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the historic district.

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Lauderdale County, Alabama

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8. Statement of Significance:

The period of significance for the new Walnut Street Historic District which encompasses the original Walnut Street Historic District, the first expansion of the district and the proposed second expansion of the district is 1870 - c. 1930. The period of significance has been expanded so that the Alonzo D. Lewis House at 414 North Poplar Street, which was constructed in 1870, may be listed as a contributing element in the historic district. This house, along with most of the other resources in the second expansion, contributes to the Walnut Street Historic District in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The expanded period of significance also encompasses those contributing resources that fell within the previous periods of significance. Finally, it clarifies the period of significance for the Walnut Street Historic District by superseding all previous periods of significance among which there had been discrepancies.

Statement of Significance for Original Nomination

The historic significance of the Walnut Street Historic District lies in its reflection of the economic growth of Florence during the four decades from 1890 to 1930, reflected in the three distinct waves of construction which took place within the district and its comfortable upper-middle class nature. The twenty-nine structures concentrated on the northern end of the Walnut Street Historic District comprised one of the town's more fashionable residential areas during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and reflects the tastes, fortunes and lifestyles of the prominent merchants, business and professional people who built their homes along the street. Spanning forty years in their construction dates, the residences of the district reflect the changing stylistic influences of the era, and the district contains several large and notable examples of late Victorian architecture, numerous brick residences strongly influenced by the Georgian Revival style, and small well-crafted homes with either Victorian or California Cottage influences. The development of the district took place during a period of great urban and industrial growth for Florence and its emergence is closely associated with the national, regional, and local economic trends of the period.

The tides of industrialization and urbanization began to rise in Florence in 1889. In that year, George Goethals, later chief engineer of construction for the Panama Canal, completed his project to build canals around Muscle Shoals, making the Tennessee River even more important in the economic life of Florence. N.C. Elting came to establish the First National Bank, a main monetary artery of the city, and Florence enjoyed an even greater boom when the famous Florence Wagon Works moved to the city. Railroading, iron foundries, and cotton mills also figured into the development of the city, which increased in population five-fold between the years 1880 and 1900.

During the 1890s members of the professional and business elite began building their homes to the east of the older residential sections of the town and Walnut Street rapidly became a choice location. The first residence was that of Dr. W.F. Price, one of the leading physicians of North Alabama. His home, the Price Homestead (2), was a large imposing structure which boasted the first telephone in the city. N. Camper, who established The Florence Times in 1890, was not long in constructing his fine home (28) on the street, and was followed by H.P. Lucas, one of the largest grocery wholesalers in the area, who erected his home shortly after 1890. During this period the McGee House (12), a large, Victorian influenced structure, was completed.

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The great economic boom in Florence cooled somewhat in the early 1900s and although large, fine homes continued to be constructed (notably the Howell-Jones House (5), a Queen Anne influenced home built in 1904 by T.A. Howell, superintendent of the Florence Water Department), smaller and less pretentious cottages began to dot the street. After 1907 construction halted until 1918 when prosperity was again on the rise. In the 1920s, however, Florence began to experience a second great economic boom. In 1925 Wilson Dam was completed, Gardiner-Warring Knitting Mills commenced operation two years later, and Henry Ford sparked speculation that his plants would locate in Florence and would merge the city with Huntsville as one continuous urban area.

Walnut Street is as much a reflection of the second period of great prosperity as the first and the remaining 15 houses, the majority of which are large two-story, brick residences, were constructed during this period. Eugene Prosser, one of the owners of the Florence Lumber Company, located on Walnut Street (11), as did Arthur Chandler, a timber buyer and land speculator. Although a considerable number of the new structures were built by businessmen, other newcomers to the neighborhood represented the professions of law, ministry, teaching, and medicine. Dr. A.A. Jackson, who constructed a substantial and classically-detailed brick home in 1918, established the first medical clinic in Florence along with another Walnut Street resident, Dr. W. J. Callaway.

The most noted district resident was Edward A. O'Neal, who purchased the Camper-O'Neal House (26) in 1931. O'Neal headed the American Farm Bureau and was Roosevelt's most important farm advisor during the first years of the New Deal.

No new construction has taken place in the district since 1930 and the street, which has retained its comfortable middle-class community, is in excellent condition, the homes are well kept, and the residents have formed a strong neighborhood association to prevent the rapid decline and commercial encroachments which have overtaken the surrounding neighborhoods and to halt the threatened expansion of the nearby University of North Alabama into the area.

First Expansion

CRITERION C (ARCHITECTURE)

The residences in the expanded Walnut Street Historic District reflect popular architectural styles dating from 1887-1922, including Bungalow and late Victorian cottages. Like many of the other buildings in the original district, these homes were constructed by noted residents of Florence including physicians, businessmen and educators. The buildings in the expanded district have retained their original architectural integrity and contribute to the Walnut Street Historic District in location, design, material, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Second Expansion

The Walnut Street Historic District is being expanded to include eight additional structures (seven houses and one outbuilding) dating from 1870 to 1912. All of these resources, except for 503 East Tuscaloosa Street, have retained their architectural integrity. Although the 1870 structure is ten years older than the oldest house currently in the District (the Price Homestead, 1880), it, along with most of the other properties in this expansion, contributes

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to the District in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Specifically, these contributions include: (1) The same variety of architectural styles found in the existing District (from late Victorian to bungalow) is to be found among these eight structures; and (2) Just like the houses in the existing District, these reflect middle-class life in Florence at the turn of the century. Residents of the proposed second expansion have included Miss Ada Coffee and Mr. and Mrs. William Graham, well-known Florence educators; Mr. Alonzo D. Lewis, a distinguished local businessman; Mr. Alan McRae, owner of one of Florence's very first automobile dealerships; and Miss Mary Graham, an ordained minister in the state of Kentucky in the Presbyterian Church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Second Expansion

- (1) Deed/Abstract, Property of Mr. Alonzo D. Lewis, 414 North Poplar Street, Florence, Ala.
- (2) Interview with Mr. John Darby, resident of the Expansion neighborhood between 1910 and 1917, April 14, 1995.
- (3) Interview with Ms. Marie Lacefield Shanks, local historian and resident of the Expansion neighborhood between 1912 and 1920, April 17, 1995.
- (4) Interview with Ms. Sue McRae Watts, local historian and resident of the Expansion neighborhood between 1910 and 1925, April 14, 1995.

10. Verbal Boundary Description

Original District

Beginning at the intersection of Tuscaloosa and Walnut streets and proceeding northerly along Walnut Street for 90 feet, thence easterly along the southern lot line of the J.A. Koonce residence, thence northerly along the eastern lot line of the J.A. Koonce residence for 50 feet, thence easterly along the southern lot line of the Swinea House, thence northerly along the rear lot lines of the houses facing west on Walnut. Then westerly along the northern lot line of the Dowdy-Holley Place to the center of Walnut Street, then northerly to the center of Hermitage Drive, then westerly along Hermitage for 290 feet, thence southerly 780 feet to the southern lot line of the Jackson House, thence easterly 50 feet, thence southerly along the rear lot lines of the houses facing east on Walnut to the center of Tuscaloosa Street, thence easterly to the point of origin.

First Expansion

The expanded Walnut Street Historic District includes thirteen buildings on the west side of Poplar Street between Hermitage Drive and Tuscaloosa. These buildings include the odd numbered residences between 415 - 609 N. Poplar.

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Second Expansion

The second expansion of the Walnut Street Historic District is comprised of two discontinuous areas that are contiguous to the original historic district and/or its first expansion. Please see the enclosed sketch map.

The boundary of the north area begins at the northeast corner of the first expansion and continues in a north/northwest direction down Poplar Street to the junction of this street with Hermitage Drive where it turns southwest down Hermitage Drive for approximately 100 feet. At this point, the boundary turns south/southeast and follows the rear property line of 619 North Poplar Street. The boundary then turns west and south until it reaches the northwest corner of the boundary for the first expansion. The northern boundary of the first expansion forms the southern boundary of this portion of the second expansion.

The boundary of the south portion of the second expansion begins at the southeast corner of the first expansion and proceeds east/northeast to the rear property line of 414 North Poplar Street. The boundary turns south/southeast, following the rear property line of 414 North Poplar Street and the east (side) property line of 503 East Tuscaloosa Street until it reaches the center of East Tuscaloosa Street. The boundary then heads in a southwesterly direction down East Tuscaloosa Street for about 188 feet where it turns north to follow the rear property line of 423 East Tuscaloosa Street. It then turns southwesterly to connect with a southeast corner of the original historic district. The western boundary of this south portion of the proposed second expansion is formed by the eastern boundary of the original historic district.

10. Boundary Justification

First Expansion

The 12 contributing residences that were added to the Walnut Street Historic District are located directly east of Walnut Street and contribute to the existing district in date of construction, location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Second Expansion

These boundaries were drawn to form a cohesive historic district that includes the greatest number of contributing resources and the least number of noncontributing resources dating from the period of significance.