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Ala. Historical Commission

Added to AP 3-13-96

Alabama Register Property Information

1. Name

historic CALDWELL HOUSE

and/or common EDWARD SMITH HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 719 ALEXANDRIA RD., SW

city, town JACKSONVILLE _____ vicinity of

state ALABAMA county CALHOUN

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

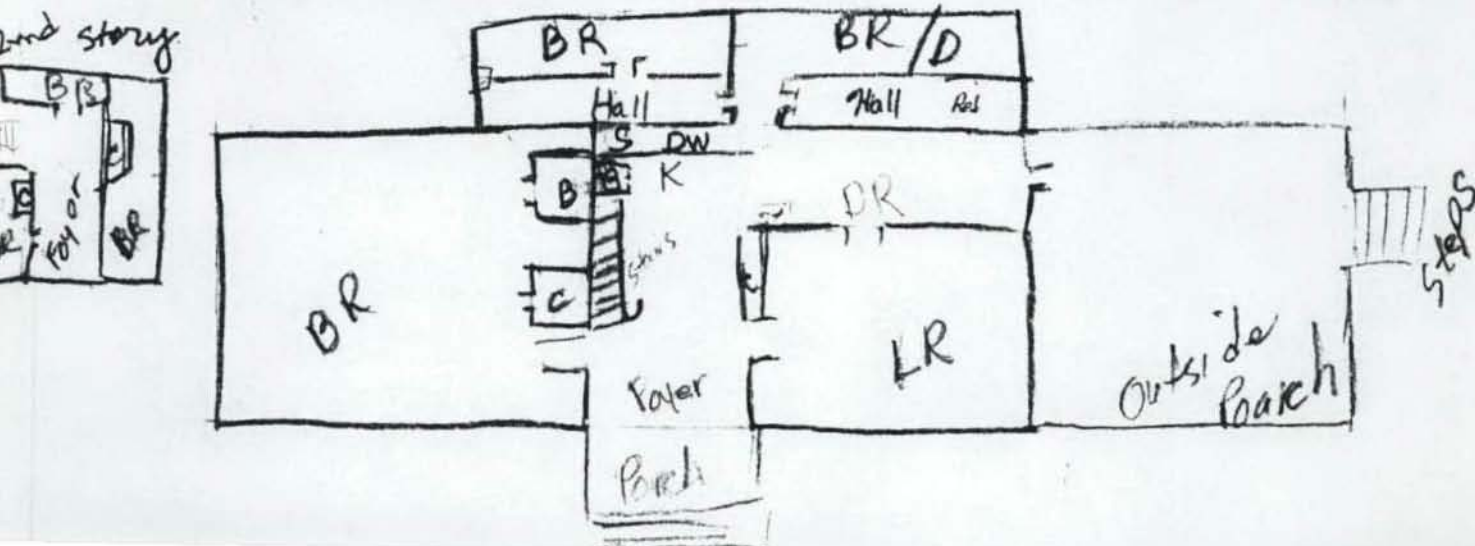
4. Owner of Property

name EDWARD & VIVIAN SMITH

street & number 717 ALEXANDRIA RD., SW

city, town JACKSONVILLE _____ vicinity of state ALABAMA 36265

5. Please use space below to sketch floor plan/site plan.



6. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date MARCH 1984

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

THE CALDWELL HOUSE IS TWO STORIES WITH AN 18-INCH BLOCK FOUNDATION WITH HAND-HEWN PEGS AND BEAMS.

IT HAS MANUEL VENTILATORS.

THE INTERIOR FRAMING IS MADE OF WOOD. THE EXTERIOR IS THE ORIGINAL WEATHER BOARDING WITH WIDING. THE EXTERIOR ALSO HAS ORIGINAL DECORATIVE WOOD TRIM AROUND THE WINDOWS AND DOORS.



7

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 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

THERE IS NO APPARENT NEED FOR MAINTENANCE. SINCE PURCHASING THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY ALTERATIONS EXCEPT FOR VINYL SIDING.

THE BUILDING WAS MOVED TO THE PRESENT LOCATION, MARCH, 1984, FROM SOUTH CHURCH STREET IN JACKSONVILLE, APPROXIMATELY 1½ MILES.

THE CALDWELL HOUSE IS IN BETTER NOW THAN BEFORE THE MOVE. IT WAS MOVED IN ORDER TO PUT A NEW FIRE STATION ON THE FORMER SITE.

MANY FINANCES AND EFFORT WAS USED IN PRESERVING THIS HISTORICAL STRUCTURE.

8. Major Bibliographical References

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property of 1 acre

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

10. Form Prepared By

name/title VIVIAN SMITH

organization _____

date 8/10/92

street & number 831 Alexandria Rd., SW

telephone 205-435-3333

city or town Jacksonville,

state AL 36265

11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form to:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130

CALDWELL HOUSE
719 Alexandria Road, SW
Jacksonville, Calhoun County

SUMMARY

The Caldwell House is a 1.5 story frame structure with an extended center hall plan, dating from 1845. It is situated on approximately 1 acre of semi-rural property at the southwest edge of the city of Jacksonville. Originally located in the center of town, the structure has been moved twice--1976 and 1984--to avoid demolition. It has been altered to an extent that it lacks much of its integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Caldwell House may be eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criteria A and C, settlement and local history and architecture. It was one of the primary structures dating from the early community. Though it has been altered extensively, it retains the core of an antebellum structure, a type which is rapidly disappearing. It also deserves merit for its role in generating local preservation interest when it was threatened with demolition by Hardee's Restaurant in 1976. The Jacksonville Heritage Association was born out of efforts to save the structure, but this group has not found adequate funding to maintain the structure.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Caldwell House was built by Col. John H. Caldwell in 1845 for his wife Mary Greer and their three sons. Upon the death of the elder Caldwells, their son Ed maintained the home as his bachelor residence until his death in the 1930's. At that time, it was purchased by Dr. Ed Rayfield, and it was used as a rental property until 1975 when it was sold to Hardee's Restaurant. In 1976, in response to local preservation efforts, the City of Jacksonville purchased the house and relocated it for use as municipal offices and a local museum and later a Parks & Recreation building. In 1984, the city sold the structure in order to locate a fire station on the property. At that time it was moved to its present location where it is used as a residence.

DESCRIPTION

Today the structure bears little resemblance to its original appearance. Vinyl siding covers the original wood, all porches and chimneys have been removed, and replacement shutters and possibly replacement windows have been used on the exterior. On the interior, the ceilings have been lowered and accoustical tile installed, the wood floors are covered with wall-to-wall carpet or vinyl, and the walls are covered with contemporary wallpaper. Original elements include the Greek Revival entrance, with transom, sidelites and double doors intact. The interior doors and door surrounds are also intact.



(JACKSONVILLE EAST)
3851 / SW

WHITE PLAINS 5.8 MI.