

STATE OF ALABAMA



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA INVENTORY AND WORKSHEET FOR LANDMARKS

COUNTY WilcoxPRESENT NAME Beck-Darwin HISTORIC NAME Franklin King BeckLOCATION (Street and number) Clifton RoadTOWN (Give directions if rural) Camden, Alabama 36726PRESENT USE residence HISTORIC USE annual pilgrimageOWNERSHIP: Public Private Public acquisition being considered OWNER'S NAME Mr. and Mrs. W.N. DarwinMAILING ADDRESS Clifton RoadCamden, Alabama 36726CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Ruins INTEGRITY: Original Site Moved When? _____

From where? _____ Give details in significance.

THREATS: No Yes By What? _____RESTORATION WORK: Being considered Underway Completed Not planned SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land Woodland Scattered buildings
High building density Commercial Industrial
Residential Rural If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a
Historic District? yesSIGNIFICANCE: Why is this important associated with events, persons, or movements
Local State National *
 a good example of a type or style of structure
 otherExplain: (Expand on the significance of the building. If architecturally significant,
give details being very specific. Additional data on what aspects of the
community's development the building represents, or a specific event, trend
or person related to the building's importance.)

The Beck-Darwin Home is one of the few homes in Wilcox County exemplifying the T-plan. The house is an excellent example of a Greek Revival Cottage. In addition to the traditional characteristics of this type of architecture, there are many unique features.

* see attached biography

Date of Construction: c. 1840
Builder or Architect: (Give names and biographies, if known)
exact builder; unknown

Original Owner: (Give name and biographies--attach additional sheet if necessary)

The original owner of the Beck-Darwin Home was Franklin King Beck. (May 21, 1814 - October 12, 1864)

(see attached biography selected from Memorial Record of Alabama, pp. 1026, 1029.) *

Franklin King Beck was the son of Margaret King and John Beck. His uncle was the distinguished Alabamian, William Rufus King. Franklin King Beck was married to Martha Tait, daughter of James Asbury Tait and the granddaughter of Judge Charles Tait, the first Federal Judge of Alabama.

Subsequent Owners (Give name and biographies)

- 2 James Tait Beck - son of Franklin King Beck
(see attached biography from Memorial Record of Alabama, p. 1030.) **
- 3 Charlotte Vass Tait Beck - (Mrs. James Tait Beck) daughter of Captain Robert Tait C.S.A. and the great-granddaughter of Judge Charles Tait, Alabama's First Federal Judge. Mrs. Beck inherited the house at the death of her husband in 1906.
- 4 W.J. Bonner bought the estate after the death of Mrs. James Tait Beck. The latter died in June of 1938.
- 5 W.N. Darwin and his wife purchased the house from the Bonner family in 1966.

State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:

Wilcox County Will Records: Volume V. pp. 150, 151, 152. Volume VII. p. 78., Volume. IX. pp. 295, 296.
Cemetery Records: Camden Cemetery, Camden, Alabama.
Interview: Mrs. W.N. Darwin- November, 1978.
Interview: Mr. and Mrs. L.Y. Sadler Sr. (deceased) January, 1976.

SECTION III: DESCRIPTION (In each category please state if elements are not original)
YOU MUST PROVIDE US WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE STRUCTURE, SHOWING FRONT, SIDE, REAR AND NOTABLE DETAILS.

The Beck-Darwin Home is listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey which was published for the Library of Congress, March 1, 1941. (Alabama: Wilcox (66) Camden., p.3) Beck House. Wood, one story, mid 19th C. 7 photos (1936-1937)***

Number of stories one and attic Foundation brick
Basement none Interior framing or structural system pine

Exterior wall material and design: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another)

Exterior wall material is overlapping clapboards of heart pine.

(For additional discription on wall design see photographs.)

Roof type and covering: The present roof is covered tin. Hardwood shingles, the original roof covering, can be found underneath the tin.

Roof Trim: (Cornices, vergeboard, brackets, etc.) Free of brackets and ornamentation of any type, the cornices and vergeboard of this house are very simple and are similar to those of the Charles Batre House and Oakleigh in Mobile.

Chimneys: (Give number, location, and material) There are four chimneys on the main house: two are exposed, while two are interior and concealed. The two that are exposed serve fireplaces in the guest and master bedrooms. The concealed chimneys each serve two rooms.

Porches: Front (type and description) The house has a pediment-prostyle central gallery with six square Tuscan columns of solid pine. These are attenuated, widely-spaced and connected by a banister railing. Flush boards are on the wall
Rear (type and description) of the facade of the central and T-plan porches.

The rear porch was a recent addition. (see photograph.)

Front-Side (type and description) Flanking the front or central gallery are two front-side porches, one on each side. (see photo.) Each of these smaller galleries are supported by three columns like those of the main porch.

Doors: Main entrance (location, description) The main entrance is incorporated in the form of one of the window-doors on the central gallery. A three pane transome
Other entrances: (location, description) is above the door, which is off center (i.e. Oakleigh- Mobile.)

The entrances of the front-side porches are off center and are simple in design

Windows: (Give types, number for each floor of facade, describe trim)

Central gallery: The Beck House reflects the casualness of the Black-Belt life in the amalgamation of window-doors and by these being four in number; whereas, they open out onto a five-bayed porch. (For windows side and rear see photos.) (Give types, number per floor for rear and sides)

INTERIOR FEATURES

Mantels: (Number, location, and description): Five mantels (originally six) located in the parlor, den, dining-room, master bedroom, and guestroom are of natural pine. All are simple in design except those found in the parlor and dining room; these Describe interior window and door trim: are Adam-like in style.

All wood work in the dining room and parlor is natural heart pine in the Luxor style. The "Temple of Karnak" door and window facings show a wave of Egyptian Stairways (types, locations and features) influence. Treatment in other rooms is simple. The stairway leading to the attic is located in the hall behind the parlor. The small stairs are made of pine. (Only the railing is original.)

Wall and ceiling finish: (Include wainscoting, plasterwork, cornices, etc.)

The wall and ceiling finish in the house is very plain. All of the plaster is original except for the ceiling in the parlor. Originally there was no molding on the twelve foot ceilings.

Flooring: heart-pine boards 6 3/4" w. Notable hardware: The only original hardware are small brass knobs on sliding doors between parlor and dining room.

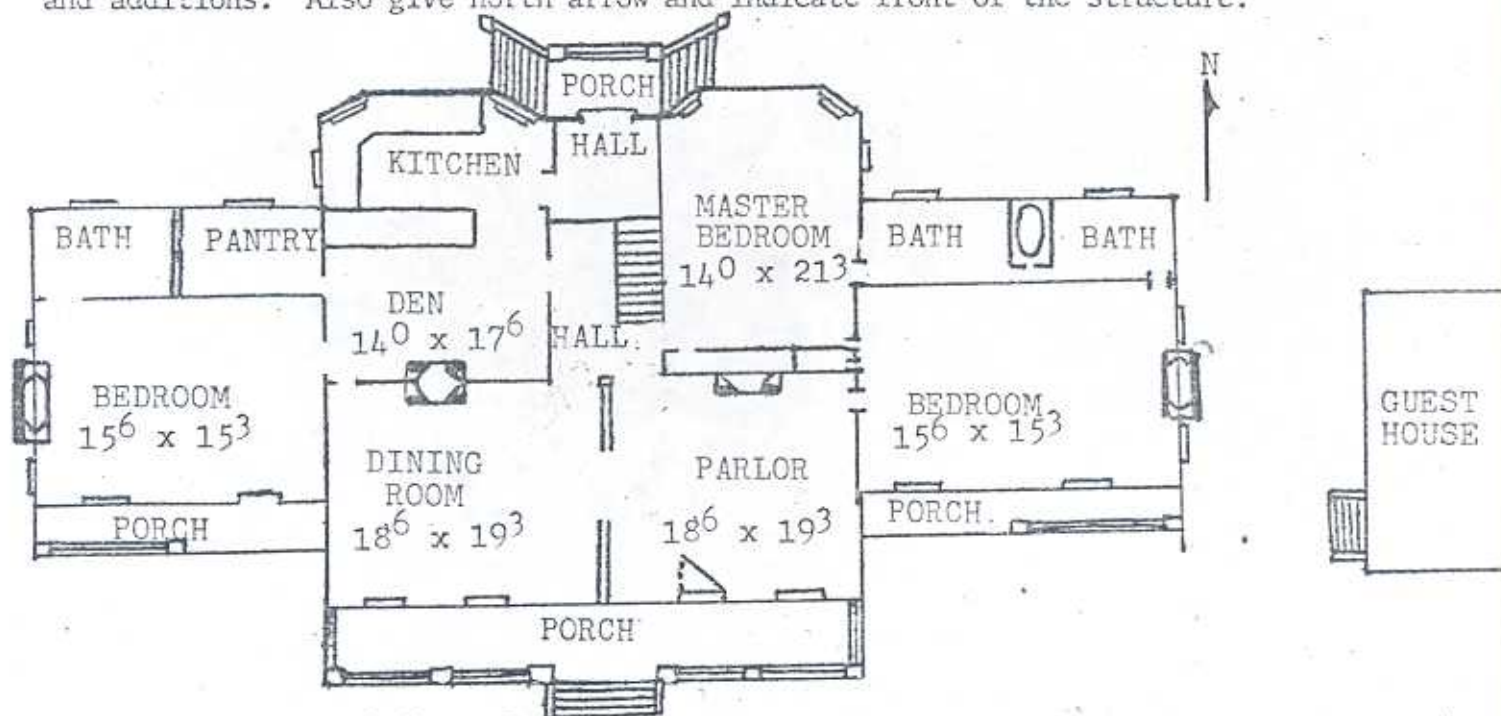
General setting and orientation: The Beck-Darwin House is situated on a four acre planted knoll facing south. Clifton Road, a very early street, runs in front of the old brick entrance which is flanked by large trees. Located near the Sterrett- McWilliams House, the Beck-Darwin House is within five blocks of the Wilcox County Court House square.

Outbuildings:

The "Guest House", originally known as the "quilting room" was moved from the rear of the main house to the east side lawn.

Give all alterations and additions: (Be specific, give date of change and original appearance when known) Bathrooms and a kitchen were added to the house by the Darwins in 1966. At this time the entire house was in very bad repair; therefore, a complete restoration was made. Several rooms that seemed to be added after the original house was constructed were removed. Porch floors, railings, steps, etc. had to be replaced. Only the lines of the rear of the house were changed.

Make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions, related structures, and additions. Also give north arrow and indicate front of the structure.



Form prepared by Daniel Fate Brooks for Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Date February 15, 79

Address Mr. and Mrs. W.N. Darwin Clifton Road Phone 205/682-9404

Town Camden, Alabama 36726

Organization Wilcox County Historical Society Phones: 205/ 682-4899 ; 682-46

Daniel Fate Brooks, Pres. 401 Mayo Street
Camden, Alabama 36726

upon as one of the best citizens of the county. In politics he is a democrat. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, south. He is a Mason, and a member of the order of Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the order of Improved Red Men. He is of an excellent family of Scotch-Irish descent, and is highly respected by all.

Dr. B. W. WHITFIELD, a popular physician of Walker county, Ala., was born in Lenoir county, N. C., March 27, 1828. He graduated from the university of North Carolina in 1849. He came to Alabama when a child, and settled in his former home in Marengo county. He went to the university of Pennsylvania, in 1851, and graduated in medicine there, in 1853. He then returned and took charge of his practice at his former home, which became one of the largest in the county. He is president of the Marengo county Medical association, of which he is also junior counselor. He is also a Mason of high standing, and a member of the Episcopal church. He was married June 7, 1855, to Mary A., daughter of Augustus Fortescue, deceased, of Marengo county. They were the parents of thirteen children, and the following eight are living: Bessie A., wife of Dr. James B. Whitfield; Jesse George, Augustus F., Bryan W. Jr., Nathan B., Alice H., wife of L. H. Compton; Hettie B., wife of Thomas L. Sharpe, and Mary E. The mother of these children died in March, 1889. Mr. Whitfield's father was Nathan B. Whitfield, of North Carolina, and a member of the legislature of that state, and his wife was Bessie Whitfield. Both are dead. Mr. B. W. Whitfield has a brother in Portland, Ore., a sister, Edith J., wife of Gen. Charles Dustin, of New York; another, Bessie, wife of Maj. Berry, of Memphis, Tenn., and another, by name of Natalie A., wife of Col. N. G. Winn, of Marengo county.

WILCOX COUNTY.

* COL. FRANKLIN K. BECK, was born in Duplin county, N. C., May 21, 1814. His great-grandfather came from Wales, and was a colonel in the British service, in colonial times. He settled in North Carolina, and resided and died in Duplin county previous to the Revolutionary war. His son, William, was a captain in the service of his state, during that long and memorable struggle. Upon the close of the war, and return of peace, he engaged in mercantile business in the pursuit of which he made a large fortune. His goods were purchased in Philadelphia, to which place he would journey on horseback, and, having made his purchases of such articles as were suitable to his trade and business, they were shipped by schooners to Wilmington, he returning home in the same manner as he went. He was extensively engaged in planting. John Beck, a son of Capt. William Beck, and the father of Col. Franklin K. Beck, was born in Duplin county, N. C., on October 14, 1776, and on January 11, 1801, married Margaret King, a sister of Hon. William R. King, United States senator

from Alabama for many years, and who was elected vice-president on the democratic ticket with Franklin Pierce in 1852. John Beck represented Duplin county in the legislature of North Carolina in the years 1812 and 1813. In 1820 he moved to Alabama, settling in Wilcox county. He represented this county in the legislature in 1822 and 1824, and died in the latter year at Cahaba, then the capital of the state. Franklin K. Beck matriculated at the university of Alabama among its earliest students, but went from there to college at Georgetown, D. C. In 1837 he attended the law school of Yale college, and in 1841, having been admitted to the bar, located for the practice of law at Camden, Wilcox county, Ala. He was elected solicitor of the second judicial circuit, in 1843, for a term of four years, at the expiration of which he entered regularly upon the practice of the profession in all its branches. In 1851, with Judge D. W. Sterrett, he was elected to the lower house of the legislature of Alabama, on the union or compromise ticket, over Capt. Thomas E. Irby and Robert Tait, the candidates of the states' rights party. The democratic party having soon after re-organized upon the principles enunciated in the Georgia platform, he fully re-established his relations with it in the presidential campaign of 1852. In 1855 he was again elected to the legislature with Capt. George Lynch, as his colleague, over the candidates of the American or Know Nothing party, and at the ensuing session was assigned to the honorable position of chairman of the committee on foreign relations. Col. Beck was elected a member of the secession convention of 1861, and took a decided stand in favor of pledging the support of Alabama to the resistance by force of any attempt on the part of the United States government to coerce any state that might secede or withdraw from the compact of union. He fully understood and believed that war would follow secession, but was willing to meet the issue with all its responsibilities. When war became imminent, and Alabama appealed to her patriotic sons to sustain her rights and honor, Col. Beck promptly responded by tendering his services, and was elected colonel of the Twenty-third Alabama regiment of infantry. This regiment was with Gen. Braxton Bragg in his invasion of Kentucky, and subsequently actively participated at Fort Gibson and Baker's Creek in resisting the advance of Grant's army upon Vicksburg. Col. Beck was ordered to hold the bridge on Big Black in the retreat of the Confederates into Vicksburg, and, receiving no orders to retire, there held in check the advance force of the Federal army for twelve hours, and until relieved by orders to withdraw. His regiment participated in the defense of Vicksburg. Soon after its surrender, and the parole of the officers there captured, Col. Beck received a severe injury of his leg from the kick of a horse, which disabled him for a time. Before his entire recovery, and against the advice of his physician, he left home and rejoined his regiment under Gen. Hood in Georgia, and began the march with the Confederate army into Tennessee. On October 12, 1864, while making a

reconnaissance, a cannon ball struck the limb of a tree, and glancing downward passed through Col. Beck's thigh and killed his horse. He survived this wound but a few moments. Col. Beck was a man of means, cultivated mind, cordial manners and decided character. He ranked among the foremost of the lawyers at the bar of Wilcox, and was an earnest and effective advocate. He was liberal, hospitable and public spirited, and his loss was felt throughout the state.

JAMES T. BECK is a native of Alabama, born in Camden, Wilcox county, February 26, 1851. He is a son of Col. Franklin K. Beck, a sketch of whom appears in conjunction with this. James T. Beck graduated from the Virginia Military institute at Lexington, July 4, 1873, and on his return to Camden read law under Col. R. H. Dawson, and also under Jones & Jones. Being admitted to the bar in 1875, he began practice at Camden, and in 1880 was elected to the lower bench of the state legislature as a democrat, and in 1882, was re-elected. While serving in this body he was placed on several important committees and was chairman of that on local legislation. He introduced the bill providing that a defendant might testify in his own behalf, which may be considered as one of the most humane laws on the statute book. On retiring from the legislature Mr. Beck resumed his law practice at Camden, but still continued to be active as a member of the democratic party, and in 1884 was elected alternate presidential elector. In 1886, he was elected judge of probate for Wilcox county, and in August, 1892, was re-elected. Besides these positions Judge Beck has filled several offices of honor and trust in the county, having been county solicitor for Wilcox county, and three terms superintendent of education. In 1876, Judge Beck was made a Mason and became the W. M. of his lodge; next, H. P. of his chapter; then thrice illustrious master of his council; next, grand H. P. of the grand chapter of Alabama; next, thrice illustrious G. M. of the grand council of the state of Alabama, and has always been a bright, and active and an ardent member of the fraternity ever since initiation. He has also been prominent as a K. of P., ever since the organization of that body in the state. In 1867, he organized the first military company in Wilcox for the state troops after the war closed, and was commissioned its captain by Gov. George S. Houston; he is now captain of the Wilcox Mounted Rifles, First regiment Alabama state troops, which is one of the only three cavalry companies of the corps. In religion Judge Beck is a Episcopalian.

HON. SOLOMON D. BLOCH.—This gentleman is one of the most progressive and enterprising natives of the state of Alabama, or, indeed, of the entire south. He was born in Camden, Ala., January 16, 1855, and in that town, and in the city of Mobile, received his schooling. His father, Daniel W. Bloch, was a native of Germany, came to the United States in 1843, and in 1844, located first at Prairie Bluff, Ala., then the largest town in Wilcox county, but, shortly after, removed to Camden,

ATHENS VICINITY

Limestone County (42)

Rowe House, Browns Ferry Road, 3 miles off highway to Athens. Brick, two stories, early 19th C. 4 photos (1935).

AUBURN

Lee County (41)

Drake-Samford House, Drake Avenue and Gay Street. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C., mansion type, Greek Revival. 2 photos (1934).

Holliday-Cary House, North College Street. Wood, one and a half stories, mid 19th C. 5 sheets (1935); 8 photos (1934).

McElhany House (now Jones Hotel), 131 College Street. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C., Greek Revival. 4 photos (1934; 1935).

Meadows House, 342 North College Street. Wood, one story, mid 19th C. 4 photos (1935).

Perry-Cauthen House, East Drake Avenue. Wood, one story, mid 19th C. 3 photos (1934; 1935).

AUBURN VICINITY

Lee County (41)

Frasier-Brown House, Shelton Mill Road, 3 miles north of Auburn. Stone and stucco, two stories, mid 19th C., mansion type, Greek Revival. 3 sheets (1934); 4 photos (1934). 5

Moore-Whitley House, 2 miles SE. of Auburn. Wood, one story, mid 19th C. 3 sheets (1934); 2 photos (1934).

BIFFINS

Limestone County (42)

Governor Bibb House. Brick, two stories, early 19th C., mansion type, Greek Revival. 7 sheets (1934); 7 photos (1934).

BENTON

Lowndes County (43)

Masonic Hall. Brick, two stories, mid 19th C. 2 photos (1934).

BIRMINGHAM

Jefferson County (37)

"Arlington" (Munger House), 331 Cotton Avenue, SW. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C., mansion type, Greek Revival. 14 photos (1937).

Walker House (now Smith House), 200 Broad Street, Elyton. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C., mansion type. 10 photos (1937).

Worthington House, Avenue F, South. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C., mansion type, Greek Revival. 12 photos (1937).

BOLOGEE VICINITY

Greene County (32)

"Hill of Howth" (McKee-Gould House). Log, one story, early 19th C. 9 photos (1934; 1935).

Weston Plantation, two miles south of Bologee. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C., mansion type. (Also top smokehouse). 4 photos (1936).

BRICK VICINITY

Colbert County (17)

Presbyterian Church, 1 mile south of Brick. Brick, mid 19th C. 1 photo (1935).

BUCKSVILLE

Tuscaloosa County (63)

Tannehill Furnace. Stone, early 19th C., (ruinous). 5 photos (1936).

BURKVILLE

Lowndes County (43)

Stone-McCarty-Robinson House. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C., mansion type, Greek Revival. 3 photos (1935).

BURKVILLE VICINITY

Lowndes County (43)

Stone-Young Plantation House. Brick and stucco, two stories, mid 19th C., formal composition, mansion type, Greek Revival. 9 sheets (1934; 1936); 28 photos (1934; 1935; 1936).

Conecuh Co

BURNT CORN VICINITY

Conecuh County (50)

Watkins House. Wood, two stories, early 19th C., two-story veranda. 3 photos (1934).

CAHABA

Dallas County (24)

Bell House. Wood, one story, early 19th C. 4 photos (1934).

Corcheron House. Brick, early 19th C., (ruinous). 1 photo (1934).

Gayle House. Wood, two stories, early 19th C. 1 photo (1934).

Kirkpatrick House. Brick, two stories, early 19th C., mansion type, Greek Revival. 6 photos (1934).

Negro Methodist Church, Walnut Street. Brick, with cupola, mid 19th C. 6 sheets (1936); 3 photos (1934).

CAMDEN

Wilcox County (66)

Bagby House. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C. 8 photos (1936).

Baptist Church, Broad Street. Wood, mid 19th C., Greek Revival. 3 photos (1937).

***Beck House. Wood, one story, mid 19th C. 7 photos (1936; 1937).

Black Store No. 2 (now McMillan Store), Broad Street. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C. 2 photos (1937).

Block House. Wood, one story, early 19th C. 4 photos (1937).

Coster House. Brick and stucco, one story, mid 19th C. 2 photos (1937).

Court House. Brick, two stories, mid 19th C., Greek Revival. 11 photos (1937).

Dr. Black Store No. 1, Hill Street. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C. 2 photos (1937).

Dr. Moore Office (Old Law Office). Wood, one story, mid 19th C. 3 photos (1937).

Dunn House, Broad Street. Wood, two stories, early 19th C., two-story veranda. 2 photos (1937).

Episcopal Church. Wood, with spire, mid 19th C., Gothic Revival. 4 photos (1936)

Female Academy (now Camden High School), Broad Street. Brick, two stories with cupola, mid 19th C., Greek Revival. 6 photos (1937).

General Jones House, Broad Street. Wood, one story, mid 19th C., Greek Revival. 7 photos (1937).

Hanley House, Carmel Street. Wood, one story, early 19th C., Greek Revival. 5 photos (1937).

Jones Office (Old Law Office). Wood, one story, mid 19th C. 3 photos (1937).

Masonic Temple. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C., Greek Revival. 9 photos (1936).

McIntosh House. Wood, one story, mid 19th C. 8 photos (1937).

McMillan House, Broad Street. Wood, one story, mid 19th C., Greek Revival. 2 photos (1937).

McWilliams House. Wood, two stories, mid 19th C., two-story veranda. 13 photos (1936).

Miller Office (Old Law Office), Broad Street. Wood, one story, mid 19th C. 4 photos (1937)

Newspaper Plant. Wood, one story, early 19th C., Greek Revival. 1 photo (1937)

Sperlin Store, Broad Street. Wood, one story, mid 19th C. 3 photos (1937).

Wilcox Hotel. Brick, two stories, mid 19th C. 2 photos (1936)

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

Alabama Historical Commission
725 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Franklin King Beck House

AND/OR COMMON

Beck-Darwin House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Clifton Road

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Camden

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

CODE

COUNTY

Wilcox

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Darwin

STREET & NUMBER

Clifton Road

CITY, TOWN

Camden

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wilcox County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Camden

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

March 1, 1941

FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

D. C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Beck-Darwin House, an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture, is one of the few houses in Wilcox County featuring a T-shaped floor plan. Built c. 1840, the house features a pedimented front porch with plain entablature. The porch's roof is supported by 6 slender Tuscan columns connected by simple balusters. Centered in the gable of the porch's pediment is a lunette window divided into 3 sections by vertical mullions.

Extending to the right and left sides of the center porch are 2 smaller porches, also with pediments and plain entablatures. Each of the smaller porches has 3 columns identical to those found on the central, larger porch.

The main entrance to the house is a single leaf door topped with a 3-paned transom. The 5 facade windows are 6/6 double hung sash type. The four side windows are of the same type as those of the facade with the exception of one very small 6/6 double hung sash window. The 2 wings flanking the central portion of the house each have 2 of the smaller 6/6 double hung sash windows in the rear of the structure, and 5 of the larger 6/6 windows. Four of the rear windows are found in 2 bays that extend from the main portion of the house. In the rear center of the house is a small central portico with pediment that is a recent addition to the house. A complete restoration of the structure was completed in 1966, including the addition of a kitchen and bathrooms. Several rooms thought not original to the structure were removed. Only the lines of the structure's rear were changed.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original owner of the house was Franklin King Beck, nephew of William Rufus King, who served as Vice President of the United States, and visited the home frequently. The home remained in the Beck family estate until 1938 when it was purchased by W. J. Bonner. The current owners bought the house in 1966 from the Bonner family.

The house's main significance is architectural, being an excellently preserved example of a Greek Revival cottage.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wilcox County Will Records: Vol. V, pp. 150, 151, 152. Vol. VII, p. 78. Vol. IX, pp. 295-296.
Cemetery Records, Camden Cemetery, Camden, AL.
Personal interviews with Mrs. W. N. Darwin and Mr. and Mrs. L. Y. Sadler
Memorial Record of Alabama, 1892, pp. 1026, 1029.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Camden South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 472490 3539540

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Daniel Fate Brooks, President

ORGANIZATION

Wilcox County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

401 Mayo Street

CITY OR TOWN

Camden

Feb. 15, 1979

DATE

682-4899

TELEPHONE

STATE

AL.

12 FOR ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION USE ONLY

Staff Member David W. Baldwin

ADDED _____ Number _____

Thematic Category Architecture

National Register Potential

Added to National Register _____

CAMDEN SOUTH
ALABAMA—
7.5 MINUTE SERIES



Rear

Beck-Darwin

Camden



Front

Beck-Darwin Camden



Side

Beck-Darwin

Camden

