

Introduction

The Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society (TCPS) is applying for local historic designation for the John R. Drish House. Also known as “Monroe Place,” the Drish House, built in 1837, is located at 2300 Seventeenth Street in Tuscaloosa, Alabama (Figure 1). This location is at the heart of the historic Southside neighborhood just two blocks south of 15th Street. Per the City of Tuscaloosa requirements for historic designation, the TCPS conducted a survey of the Drish House. The following document represents the results of the survey. Contained in this report are a physical description, statements of significance, a map delineating the boundaries of the property (Figure 1), justification of the boundary, historical context, and representative photographs (Figures 7-28).

Physical Description

Exterior

Located on the south side of downtown Tuscaloosa, the Drish House features attributes from Classical Revival and Italianate architecture. The early nineteenth-century residence is constructed of brick, wood, plaster, and stone. It is situated on a 221' wide, circular lot located at the hub of a series of radiating streets (Figure 1). Rising to a height of two stories with a three-story tower, the residence measures 61' 2" across the façade (north and south elevations); 67' 10 ½" deep; and 60' high (ground elevation to the top of the tower). The vacant residence has not one but two major porticos. One featuring Ionic-capped columns and a later-appended tower faces north while the other porch with Tuscan columns faces south. Incorporated into the exterior walls of all four sides of the house are Tuscan pilasters.

The exterior walls of the Drish House are constructed of bricks, as are the portico columns and pilaster bases (Mellown 2001:61). John R. Drish's craftsmen hand crafted these bricks. His craftsmen carved the stone capitals featured at the top of the Tuscan pilasters (Mellown 2001:61). The original stucco coating the exterior of the walls, columns, and pilasters was stripped and restuccoed in the 1940s (Mellown 2001:87).

At the very crown of the Drish House is an asphalt shingle-covered hip roof. Exterior appointments include fascia and soffit boards. Wide eaves wrap around all four sides of the roof. Presently the eaves lack stylistic details. Beneath the asphalt shingles and plywood decking is a structural support system consisting of hand-hewn and fastened king posts and hip rafters. Additionally, the framing system consists of common rafters and purlins (Mellown 2001: 57).

A distinctive three-story Italianate tower visually divides the north façade into three sections. Built circa 1860 to 1862, the tower rises approximately 60' from the ground to the peak of its hip roof. Like the main roof of the house, the tower roof features wide eaves that wrap around all four sides of the structure. The eaves are decorated with brackets. Egg and dart molding and composite ornaments accentuate the spaces between the brackets. These decorative details rest atop four Ionic pilasters, one pilaster set at each corner of the third-story tower room. Arches resting atop additional Ionic pilasters define the walls between each of the corner pilasters. Once encasing windows, these arcuated openings were enclosed with brick in the early twentieth century.

The second story of the tower features only two arch top voids (now encased in brick). They face north. The west and east side walls are solid while the south side wall has two openings that permit entrance/exit to/from the second floor interior of the house.

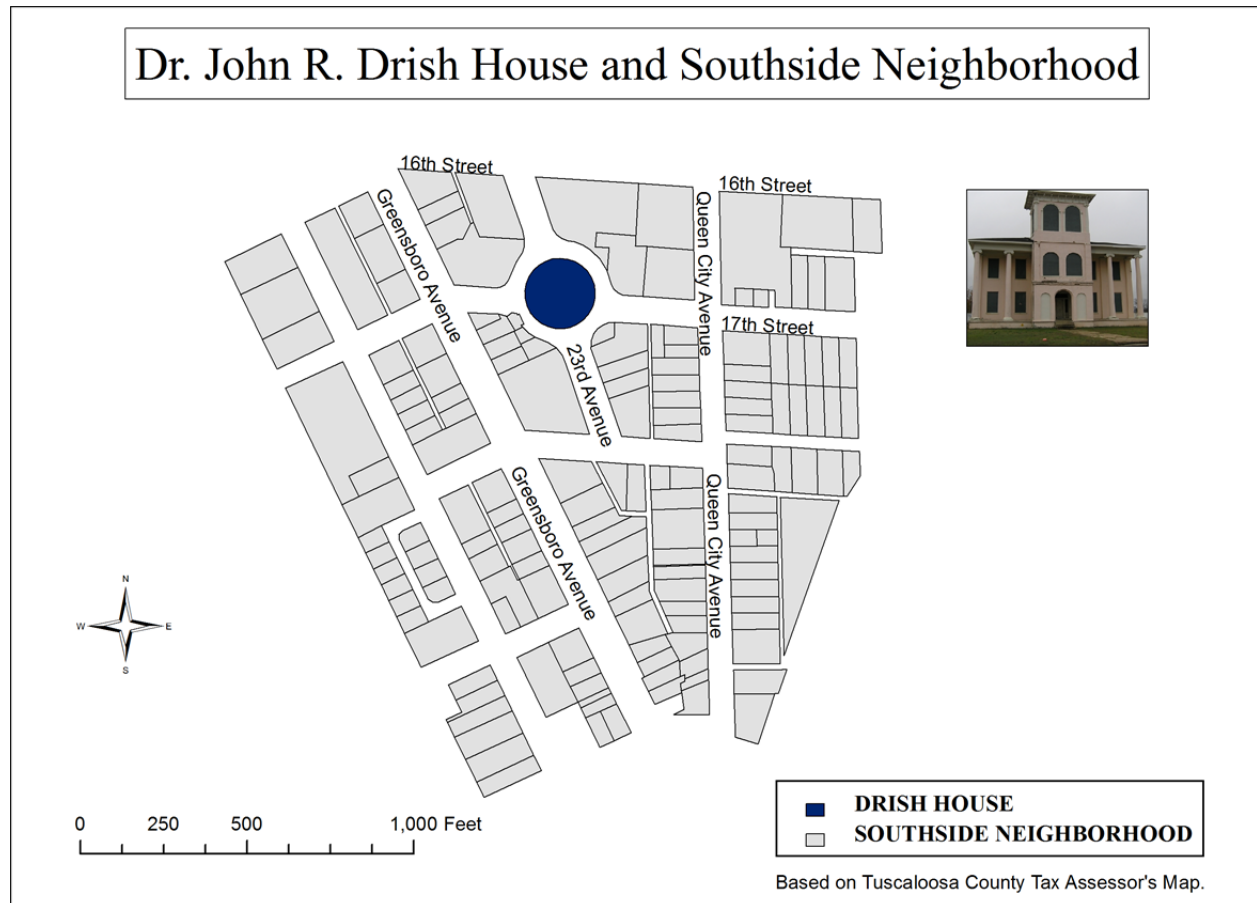


Figure 1. Dr. John R. Drish House and Southside Neighborhood map.

Arches define three sides of the tower's first story. Single open arches in the west and east walls permit lateral movement across the full extent of the house's north portico. The tower lacks a south side wall, making the main entrance to the Drish House visible through the three open arches. An arcade featuring a central open arch and two enclosed flanking arches marks the north wall. Above the arcade, a denticulated cornice delineates the division between the first and second floors.

The central component of the main entrance, or frontispiece, is a double leaf paneled door. Sidelights with inset panels, decorative corner blocks, and fluted moldings flank the doors. In turn, fluted Doric pilasters stand on either side of the sidelights. Above the door in succession are a transom and a pediment, the crowning piece of the composition. The double doors were added by the Southside Baptist Church during remodeling in the 1940s and 1950s (Mellown 2001:60).

The fenestration on either side of the tower consists of two windows per floor. Covered with plywood, the windows date to the 1950s. The stone window sills are original, however.

Five pilasters divide the west elevation into four bays. On the second floor, three windows occupy spaces between the pilasters. On the first story, four windows punctuate the wall mass. Like the north façade, the windows have protective plywood covers.

Similar design principles determine the composition of the east elevation; however, four, not five, pilasters exist on the east side. The space between each pilaster features a window on the second story. Bay openings on the first enclose two doors and one window.

Like the north façade, the south side of the Drish House has a colossal portico. The portico consists of an engaged roof, two pilasters, and six Tuscan columns. In addition to supporting the roof, the columns and pilasters visually frame the five-over-five bay façade. On the second story, two windows flank either side of a central window/jib door. The windows are appointed with stone lintels, drip edges, and a protective sheet of plywood. The second-story fenestration pattern repeats on the first story. In this instance, two windows flank either side of a central door. The door has a transom but no sidelights.

Interior

The first floor interior of the Drish House contains five rooms. The largest of them, measuring 55' 8 ½" wide and 24' 0 ½" deep, is a former auditorium. It extends across the width of the north side of the house (Figure 2). This large space was once divided into three rooms, a parlor, a sitting room and, a hall, which extended the full depth of the house (HABS 1934; Mellown 2001:67) (Figure 3). The Southside Baptist Church removed the interior walls, supported the second floor with I beams, and created the auditorium (Mellown 2001:67; Ayers 1940) (Figure 2).

The remaining rooms on the first floor include three former classrooms and a center stairwell. Located in the southwest corner, the largest of the three classrooms measures 19' 6" wide and 18' deep. A wide opening in the north wall of this room, originally a parlor, permits traffic flow between the auditorium and classroom. An opening featuring a single leaf door in the east wall permits traffic flow between the classroom and the central hall.

The central hall measures 13' 9 ½" wide and 18' deep. At its south end is a door way (the aforementioned central door of the south face), which facilitates ingress/egress to/from the south portico. An opening in the north wall of the hall leads to the auditorium, and one in the east wall to the other two classrooms (Figure 2). The central corridor houses twin stairs. They rise to a landing and from there a single flight of stairs rises to the second floor. Built prior to 1934, the stairwell replaced the original "unique double elliptical staircase that swept up in two sensuous curves to a landing where, making a reverse curve, they joined into a single flight to the second floor" (Mellown 2001:67).

Formerly, the southeast corner room of the first floor measured 20' 3" wide and 18' deep (HABS 1934) (Figure 3). The Southside Baptist Church converted the former dining room into two classrooms via the construction of a 6" partition wall (Mellown 2001:69; Ayers 1940) (Figure 2).

First floor interior finishes include wood and plaster. "The floors on both levels of the mansion are heart pine. The original flooring is still intact underneath the present quarter sawn oak floors installed in the 1940s" (Mellown 2001:67). Windows and doors feature fluted side trim and architraves and corner block paterae. Plaster covers walls. Lath work in the ceiling of the auditorium is visible, the plaster having been removed by the Southside Baptist Church (Mellown 2001:88). Southside replaced the plaster with acoustic tiles. The tiles are no longer intact.

Like the first story, the second story once featured a double pile floor plan: two rooms flanked either side of a central hall (HABS 1934) (Figure 4). The Southside Baptist Church eliminated the central hall and flanking rooms (Mellown 2001:90; Ayers 1940). In their place, the Church built central assembly rooms, flanking halls, and classrooms along the outer walls (Figure 5). This room layout remains intact today. The present two-panel doors with frosted glass and hopper transoms in the classrooms were added during the Church's alterations.

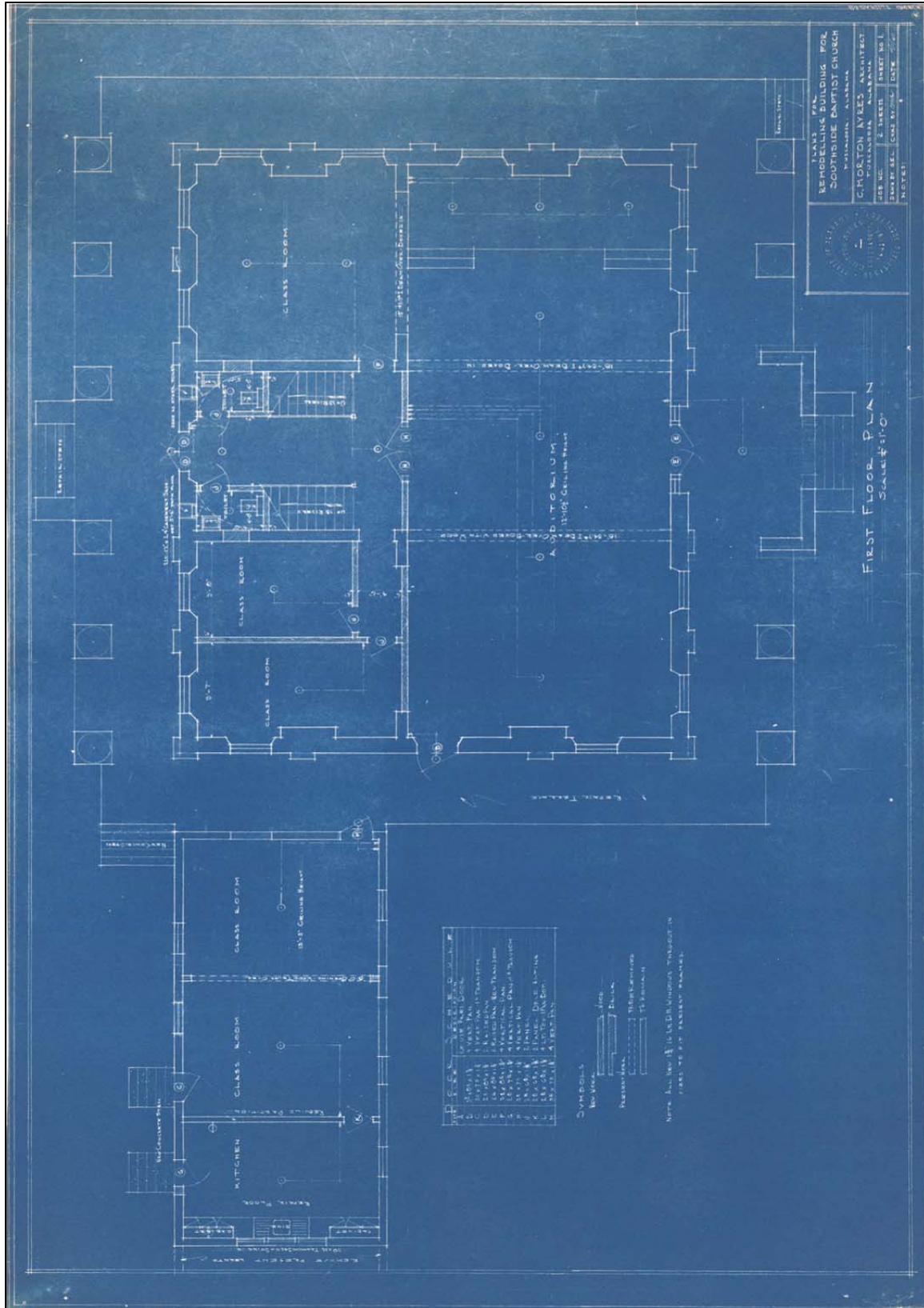


Figure 2. First Floor Plan, Southside Baptist Church alterations to the Drish House (Ayers 1940).

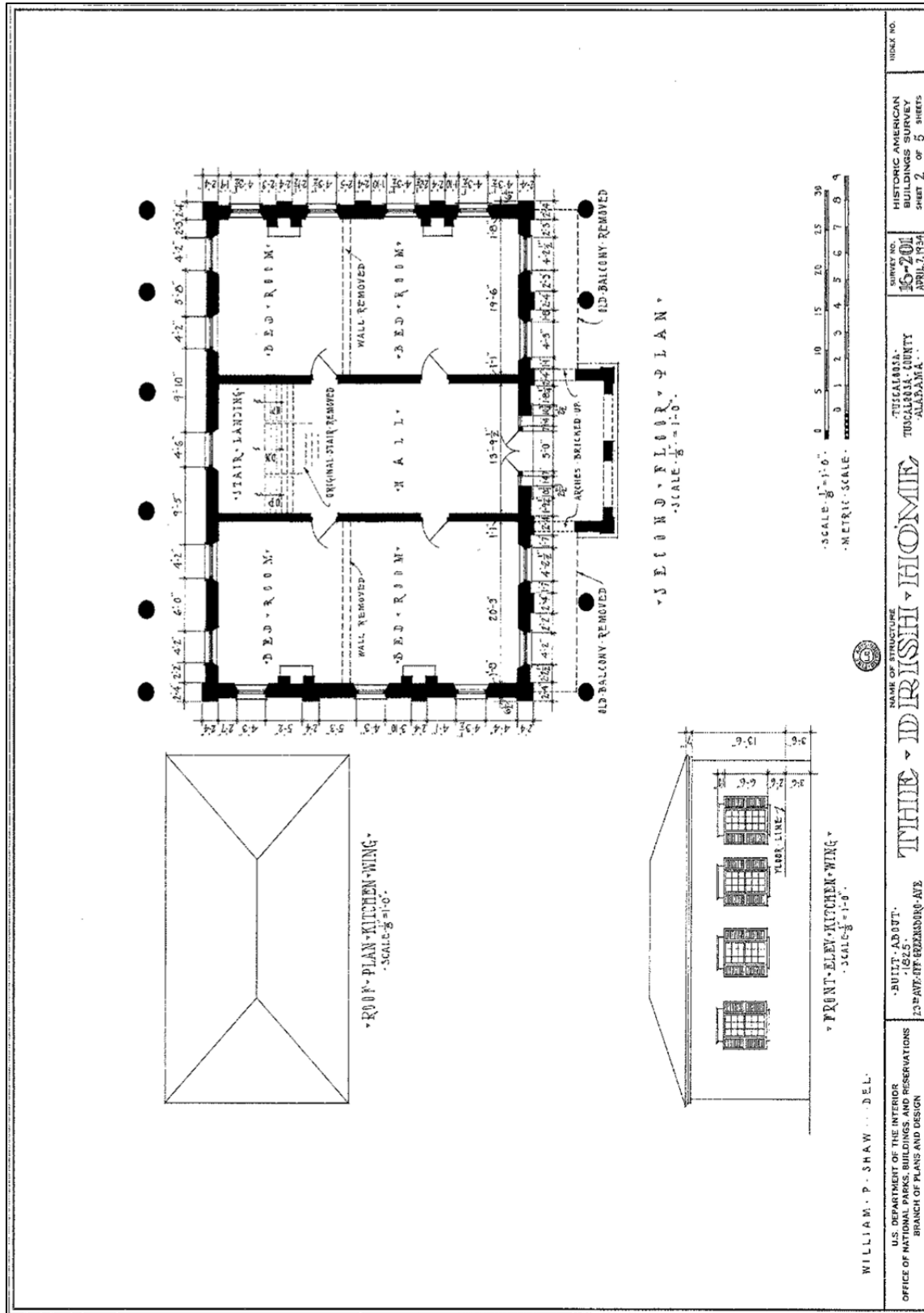


Figure 4. HABS Second Floor Plan, The Drish Home (HABS 1934).

Southside Baptist altered the second floor interior of the Italianate tower (Figure 5). By constructing a partition extending between the north and south walls of the tower, the church divided the space into two classrooms of equal size (Mellown 2001: 90). Portions of original ceiling plaster and the cornice are visible through the remnants of a drop ceiling constructed for the church.

Statements of Significance

The John R. Drish House is significant in the area of architecture at the local level. The Drish House is a rare example of an architectural style known as “Bracketed Greek Revival.” Built in 1837 and remodeled in the late antebellum period, the Drish House is part Greek Revival and part Italianate. Original Greek Revival details include not one, but two colossal porticoes. The portico on the north side features an Ionic colonnade while that on the south side features a Tuscan colonnade. Tuscan pilasters are incorporated into the walls on all four sides of the residence. The north side entrance consists of a double leaf door with flanking Doric pilasters and a pediment. An arcuated Italianate tower is attached to the north side of the house. Corinthian pilasters mark the four corners of the upper level of the tower. Brackets and ornaments adorn the eaves of the tower’s pyramidal roof. Vestiges of Classical details remain in the second-story tower interior. These include egg and dart ovolo molding and an egg, tongue, and dart ceiling cornice. The tower conceals a Doric pilaster encased and pedimented doorway similar to that of the first floor main entrance. “The Drish House is “one of Alabama’s most unusual antebellum mansions. Neither purely Greek Revival nor Italianate, this curious and eccentric house has never ceased to intrigue viewers” (Mellown 2001:74).

The John R. Drish House is significant in the area of community planning and development at the local level. Monroe Place represents the aspirations and development strategies of the Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron and Land Company. In 1887, the Land Company transformed the Drish plantation into suburban lots. Company planners established the Drish House as the focal point of the Southside neighborhood by isolating the show place house on a circular parcel at the center of the development and creating a road network that radiated outward from the Drish lot, much like spokes from a hub (Figure 6). The street plan “created the most dramatic setting for any building—residential or public—in Tuscaloosa” (Mellown 2001:85). With the Drish House as its centerpiece, Southside enjoyed popularity well into the twentieth century.

The John R. Drish House is significant in the area of history at the local level. The story of the Drish House is very much that of Tuscaloosa, spanning the history of the house and town from settlement to the present. In its earliest incarnation, Monroe Place was at the head of a plantation. John R. Drish, like a number of his contemporaries, cultivated the red clay soil of Tuscaloosa for profitable gain in the early to mid-nineteenth century. Like the fictional plantation and house Tara of *Gone With the Wind*, Monroe Place tells the story of genteel poverty faced by the former planterocracy after the Civil War. As the plantation era came to an end, a group of Tuscaloosa businessmen stepped forward to rebuild the local economy, converting lands at the edge of town, including the former fields of Monroe Place, into residential lots. In later decades, the Drish House passed through a series of uses, each successive use of which accelerated its decline. This decline paralleled that of the surrounding neighborhood. This is a common tale for properties located in the urban core in the second half of the twentieth century. Most recently, the Drish House has been the subject of preservation efforts. These efforts, it is hoped, will spark a renaissance of Southside.

The John R. Drish House is locally significant as an excellent example of early nineteenth-century craftsmanship. A planter, physician, and one of Tuscaloosa’s leading businessmen, John R. Drish was also a master builder/contractor. Drish and his slave craftsmen built many significant buildings in the

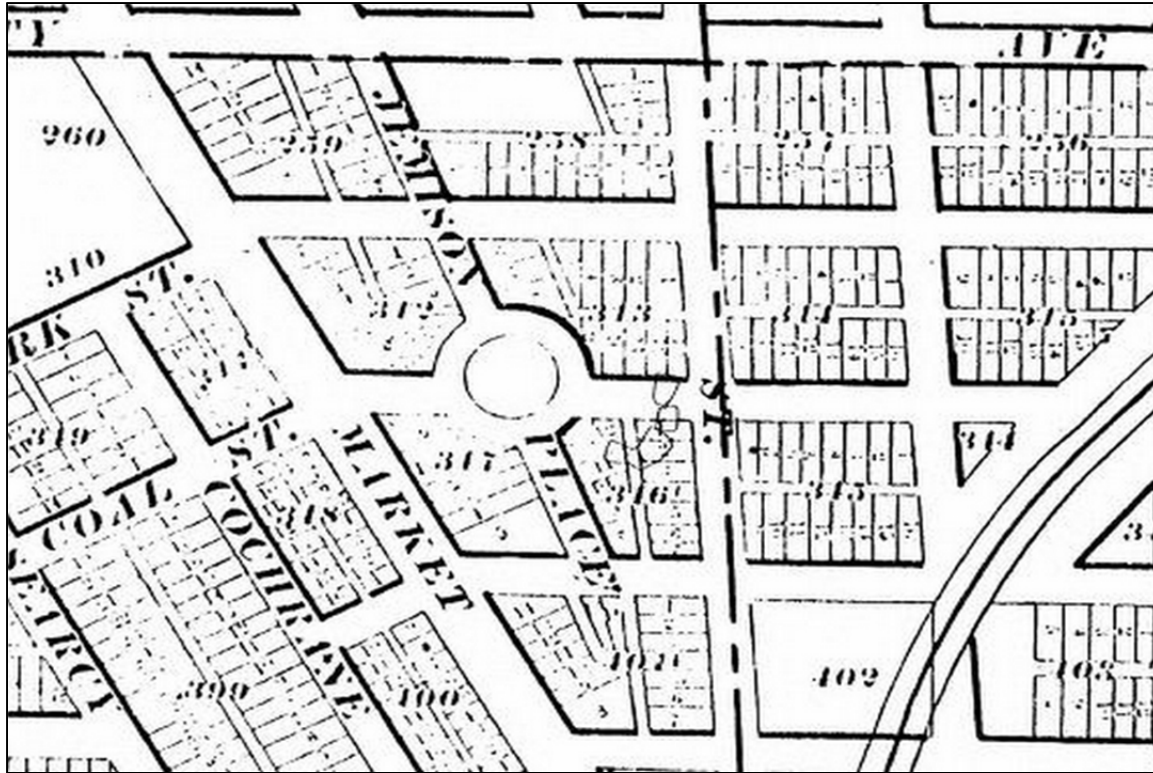


Figure 6. Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron and Land Company map showing the circular parcel of the Drish House.

early years of Tuscaloosa's history. Drish's labor force had a hand in the construction of Jefferson and Washington halls (1831), Barnard Observatory (1840), and the President's Mansion (1841) on the University of Alabama campus. One of John R. Drish's craftsmen, William Drish, painted and plastered the Jemison House in 1860 (Mellown 2001:24). The Drish House is a masterpiece in craftsmanship. Drish and his workers hand built every part of the house from the foundation to the roof. Drish's masons handmade the bricks that form the foundation, walls, and columns. They fashioned not only rectangular bricks, but also wedge-shaped bricks, which give the columns their circular form, and bull-nosed bricks for a drip edge near the base of the house. Drish's carpenters handcrafted the joists, boards, rafters, and other wooden components that compose the floors and roof framework. Other craftsmen plastered the exterior and interior walls, columns, and pilasters, created its fine details, and painted the house. Stone workers deftly carved the home's many window sills and the stones comprising the slender shafts of the Tuscan pilasters. That the Drish house has survived 175 years of use and abuse and vacancy and vagrancy is a testament to the fines skills of its builders.

Legal Description and Justification

The Tuscaloosa County tax parcel identification for the Drish House is as follows:

31-08-27-1-020-001.000

This parcel is legally defined by the Tuscaloosa County Tax Assessor's Office and is represented in the Drish House and Southside Neighborhood map represented in Figure 1.

Historical Context

The following context is excerpted from Dr. Robert Mellown's *Historic Structure's Report, John R. Drish House, 2300 17th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama* (2001).

Dr. John R. Drish built the Drish Mansion, "Monroe Place," in 1837 as the nucleus of a working plantation. Eventually, with the expansion of Tuscaloosa in the late 1880s, it was transformed into a suburban house isolated on a circular lot from its former fields and pastures. The construction and subsequent changes made to the Drish Mansion reflect the desires and aspirations of some of the most interesting early settlers of Tuscaloosa and their descendants. The following pages chronicle the lives of the people who lived in this house from its construction in 1837 until 1906 when it was transformed into a city school building.

Charles Drish (b. ca. 1763/ d. Aug. 14, 1837, Blount Springs, Alabama) was the patriarch of the branch of the family that immigrated to Tuscaloosa in 1822. His vocation in Leesburg [Virginia] has not been discovered, but it is likely that he was a landowner and businessman of some sort. His family consisted of his wife, Susanna (b. ca. 1785/ d. Oct. 4, 1835, Tuscaloosa, Ala.), one son, and four daughters.¹ Drish's children's marriages aligned the family with some of the most prominent families in Virginia and in early Tuscaloosa.

His son, John R. Drish (b.1795 Loudoun Co., Va./ d. 1867 Tuscaloosa, buried Greenwood Cem. Tuscaloosa), had trained as a doctor before marrying on October 20, 1818, Catherine Washington, the daughter of Washington John Washington, a resident of neighboring Prince William County. After their marriage Dr. Drish may have practiced medicine there, for the 1820 Virginia census lists him as a resident of that county with one female child less than 10 years of age and three slaves. Mrs. Drish died earlier that year, possibly in giving birth to their daughter, Catherine M. Drish (b. ca.1820, Va.). Later, in Alabama, Catherine married William Woodson King in Tuscaloosa, March 18, 1840, in Dr. Drish's home, Monroe Place. King (b. 1813, Griffin Co., Ga./d. 1881 New Orleans, La.) was from Montevallo, Ala.²

William R. Smith in his *Reminiscences of a Long Life* gives an account of Dr. Drish's professional life:

Dr. John R. Drish came to Tuscaloosa in 1822. He was not long in getting into a fine practice. He was able and successful, and commanded a very extensive business. His reputation was such as to make his presence at the sick bed eagerly sought from the farthest corner of the county, and even from other counties. It is said by his professional friends who knew him well that he seldom opened a medical book. His popularity as a practitioner with the people was kept alive by his unmistakable successes, which were attributable more to his strength of native intellect than to his scientific knowledge.

Dr. Drish never lost his high popularity as a physician, but withdrew from the practice voluntarily and almost forcibly, to the great regret of his friends.³

Little has been recorded about Dr. Drish's personal life during his first years in Tuscaloosa. Apparently, the widower left his infant daughter Catherine in Prince William Co., Virginia to be cared for by his Washington in-laws when he and his Drish relatives immigrated to Alabama.⁴ William R. Smith recalled that Dr. Drish was a striking looking individual:

In appearance, when a young man, Dr. Drish was fine looking, with a handsome face and graceful figure. His manner in society was at once bold and deferential, but in the practice of medicine his will was indomitable. There his positiveness amounted to austerity.

On the street he was always pleasant. In his manner of greeting a friend he was extremely cordial, and nobody, while grasping his hand, could have had the faintest idea of the amount of ice that lay beneath the summer surface of his bland and genial smiles.⁵

Dr. John R. Drish married Sarah Owen McKinney on January 6, 1825.⁶ Though this was a second marriage for both, and clearly a marriage of convenience, it proved to be a happy one. Even before his marriage Dr. Drish was beginning to grow wealthy. He invested his money in real estate and slaves. In 1825, among other acquisitions, he purchased a large farm on the south margin of town as well as 160 acres of Federal lands in Tuscaloosa County. With Sarah McKinney's \$20,000 inherited from her first husband, Drish was able to buy even more property and slaves.

It is not known where Dr. Drish lived on first coming to Tuscaloosa. As early as 1823, however, he had acquired property on East Margin Street (Queen City Ave.) on which he eventually built a house. It may be that he built it in anticipation of marrying Sarah Owen McKinney and providing a home for his daughter Catherine.⁷

The Drish house faced Queen City Ave. but Dr. Drish's small brick office whose portico was supported by two wooden columns faced north towards University Boulevard. No doubt Mrs. Drish enjoyed living in her new house, especially since it was next door to that of her brother and their aged mother. The Drish's did not live there long, however. At the beginning of 1835 Drish rented his house to Huntsville native, Clement Comer Clay, who had been elected governor and who needed a house in Tuscaloosa since the state did not provide an executive mansion.⁸

According to William R. Smith, Dr. Drish was "energetic" and "untiring" in his diverse business interests. "He invested extensively in lands and negroes, but was not exclusively a farmer. Many of his slaves were first-rate mechanics-masons, carpenters, plasterers, and blacksmiths."⁹ By literally owning his labor force Drish was able to make even greater profits as a building contractor. Over the years his interest in business and construction took precedence over his less remunerative profession as a physician.

In the mid-1820s Drish must have employed many of his slaves on the construction of his above-mentioned house on East Margin Street. After completing that project his slave craftsmen were kept busy with a project on the campus of the University of Alabama then under construction. Dr. Drish and a Mr. White received the brick contract to build the first two dormitories on the campus. These were designed by Captain William Nichols, an English-born and -trained architect who designed both the state capitol and state university campus. Washington and Jefferson halls were completed by April 18, 1831, the opening day of the new institution. Both were destroyed on April 4, 1865, when the campus was burned by Union troops under Gen. John T. Croxton.¹⁰

Between 1837 and 1839 Drish's best workers and craftsmen would have been employed on the construction of his new home, "Monroe Place." By June 1839 it was complete and he was actively looking for construction jobs for his slave workmen. On June 4, 1839, he bid on the plastering and stucco contract for the President's Mansion at the University of Alabama. In it he stated that

I take the liberty of again to say to you on the subject of the Contract for the plastering of the Contemplated President's House that I will certainly have the work done by competent workmen, & that it shall be done in the very best manner and that it shall Compare with any Job done in the City. All Cornicing & Centerpieces which is [sic] desired to be done I will do in accordance with my first proposition, at so much less for each Centerpiece & so much less per foot for the Cornicing. I am able to furnish any pattern round or Square for Centerpieces, free of cost to the institution, as also any moulding for Cornices that may be desired.¹¹

Drish was also involved with another construction project at the University. In 1840 he provided the bricks for the construction of the observatory which had been designed by the brilliant young professor, F.A.P. Barnard.¹²

In the same year Drish is reputed to have constructed Magnolia Grove in Greensboro, Alabama for Isaac and Sarah Croom. According to family tradition, "Some of the slaves [who built the house] were well trained and there were expert carpenters among them. Dr. Drisch [sic], a prominent physician who also was a noted building contractor, furnished the plan and design of the building and in great measure superintended the work of construction. His home was in Tuscaloosa."¹³ No records or documents have so far been discovered to verify that Dr. Drish had a hand in the construction of the mansion. However, it seems entirely likely that he was involved in this project.

Dr. John R. Drish was the major investor in the Warrior Manufacturing Company, later known as the Black Warrior Cotton Factory, and also a large stockholder in an antebellum railroad that would later become the Alabama Great Southern. Drish served as the contractor for the large cotton factory, a (150 foot by 50 foot) brick building which was equipped, like the paper mill, with the latest Northern machinery. It was well lighted with 150 windows. According to local historians, "the main output of this factory was coarse osnaburgs, a tremendous amount of which was annually sold to the plantations of this section for the purpose of making clothes for slaves." Most of the building was destroyed by a fire just before the Civil War. What remained was bought and rebuilt by Baugh, Kennedy, and Co. which operated it during the war years. Drish's slaves were employed in grading the roadbed for the railroad.¹⁴

One of Dr. Drish's largest commercial buildings which he built with his own money remained intact until February 1987 when it was demolished by the city of Tuscaloosa which planned to construct a hotel/civic center at that location. The complex was never built and the site remains empty. Located on the northwest corner of the intersection of University Boulevard and Greensboro Avenue, the two-story brick building dominated the main intersection of antebellum downtown. Known as the "Drish Building" or the "Drish Corner," the upstairs housed doctors, dentists, and lawyers. The lower floors contained clothing and drygoods stores and even an auction house.¹⁵

William R. Smith noted that many of Dr. Drish's slaves were skilled craftsmen.¹⁶ Identifying individuals is extremely difficult, however. Only in exceptional circumstances, as when a slave was sold, hired out to someone else, or escaped, was he or she recorded by a first name in official records. A slave's last name was generally assumed to be that of his or her master.

Only one of Drish's slave craftsmen has so far been positively identified by name. William (Drish) appears to have been one of his master's most skilled plasterers since Drish hired him out in Montgomery in 1848 to William Knox to execute the elaborate plasterwork for Knox Hall, Mr. Knox's grand town mansion.¹⁷ William's work was so well liked that he was hired to work on the ornate plasterwork of the interior of the state capitol.¹⁸ Still later, in 1860 back in Tuscaloosa, William was hired from Dr. Drish by Sen. Robert Jemison, Jr. to plaster and paint his elaborate new Italianate villa on Market Street (Greensboro Ave.). He is probably the same William Drish who, after the war abandoned his slave name and assumed the name William Murphy. Murphy became the first pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Tuscaloosa which was founded in 1866.¹⁹

In 1836 Dr. Drish sold his house on East Margin Street and built a much larger structure, "Monroe Place." Monroe Place was not just a house, but also a working farm of 450 acres located immediately adjacent to the southern city limits of Tuscaloosa. The road leading to the mansion was an extension of Monroe Street (hence the name of the plantation). On the west side of the entrance gate on the corporation line was a porter's lodge. According to a contemporary, James Thomas Maxwell, it was "occupied by a family of negroes that were the property of Dr. Drish. Someone was supposed to be

always in attendance to open and shut this gate as needed. The style was that of an Englishman's country estate, and this large plantation was well cultivated at all times."²⁰

Some idea of the scope of farming that took place on Monroe Place is given by the 1860 Agricultural Census. Drish declared that the cash value of it was \$41,800. He estimated that his livestock—four horses, 5 asses and mules, fifteen milk cows (whose milk produced 400 lbs. of butter), 19 cattle, and 34 swine—were worth \$2,065. His slaves produced 125 bushels of wheat, 40 bushels of rye, 2000 bushels of "Indian corn," 25 bushels of oats, 500 bushels of peas and beans, 25 bushels of Irish potatoes, 800 bushels of sweet potatoes, and \$500 worth of orchard products. The farm also produced 16 tons of hay and 5 bushels of grass seeds. Drish's field hands also managed to produce 199 cotton bales (400 lbs. per bale).²¹ According to Maxwell, "In the large field...perhaps 200 yards west of[the] Greensboro road, was the gin house and long-armed wooden screw press to gin and press all the cotton raised on the place and that of many neighbors contiguous with smaller farms."²²

When Alabama seceded from the Union in 1861, Dr. John Drish was one of the wealthiest men in West Alabama. In Tuscaloosa County, alone, he owned real estate valued at over \$150,000, and personal property valued at \$250,000 (this figure presumably reflects the value of his 43 Tuscaloosa slaves). To get an accurate picture of Drish's net worth, one would have to add to these figures the large numbers of slaves and extensive land holdings in Pickens County, Alabama and in Mississippi. Despite his wealth, Smith recounts that "Dr. Drish was a man of sorrows. He encountered great family afflictions; and in the later part of his life he was retired in his habits and of sad and melancholy appearance."²³ Drish's views about secession are not recorded, but being an astute businessman, he, like his near neighbor, Sen. Robert Jemison, Jr., must have dreaded the inevitable turmoil war would bring to his secure and privileged world that he had spent a lifetime constructing.

William R. Smith recorded that Dr. Drish was "in the latter part of his life...retired in his habits and of sad and melancholy appearance."²⁴ Robert Little in his "Facts and Legends about the Drish House," stated that Dr. Drish "had two unfortunate weaknesses--he gambled and he drank and he was constantly unlucky in his gambling. He took boatloads of cotton to Mobile and lost the proceeds in a few nights' wild play at the cards accompanied and followed by heavy drinking."²⁵ Little went on to say that "Dr. Drish drowned [his] sorrows as well as that of the diminishing of his wife's estate under his ruinous management in constantly increasing draughts of alcoholic liquors."²⁶ One cannot substantiate Little's comments because he cites no sources in his manuscript and there appears to be no written evidence concerning Drish's gambling or alcoholism.

It is also impossible to verify Little's account of Dr. Drish's death in August 1867. According to Little:

Delirium Tremens came to add its horrors to the troubles of the house and in a final attack he jumped from the bed in which several negroes were trying to hold him, and rushed down the beautiful curved stairway, uttered a terrible cry and fell dead midway down.²⁷

Dr. Drish may have been an alcoholic but he was also suffering from other serious health problems as well. Perhaps recognizing that the end was near he made out his will on July 13, 1867, just weeks before he died.²⁸ The will indicates that Dr. Drish was unaware of (or unwilling to admit, even to himself) his serious financial difficulties. Possibly, he hoped to live long enough to recoup his fortunes so that the various bequests could be honored by his executor, his eldest grandson and namesake, John R. Drish King.

At Drish's death it was discovered that there was not enough money to pay the claims against the estate. Settlement took more than two years. Drish's extensive real estate had to be sold at public auction.

Even Monroe Place was sold out from under Mrs. Drish. Thanks to her husband's will, however, she was not left homeless. The land and the house (but not its contents) were sold at a sheriff's sale on May 3, 1869, to E. A. Powell, a Northport merchant and lawyer, for \$5,150.00.²⁹ Because of the wording of the will, however, Mrs. Drish retained the "Dower or live estate" and was allowed to live there during her lifetime. For the next fifteen years Sarah Drish, who used to be one of the richest women in West Alabama, lived in genteel poverty-her only possessions consisting of her clothing and a house full of expensive furniture, china, and silver.

Catherine Drish King continued to live with her stepmother after the death of her father for she is listed in the 1870 Tuscaloosa census. At some point after Dr. Drish's death, Mrs. Drish's niece, Virginia Green, her husband, and their three children came to live with Mrs. Drish and Catherine. Little gives a touching account of life in Monroe Place in the 1870s:

A niece of Mrs. Drish with several little children had come to live in the house and Catherine showed at once a deep affection for them and a pathetic interest in their childish games. When they first came she tried to read fairy stories to them or little tales, but after a few pages she could not control her fleeting fancies and she would close the book and begin her incomprehensible mutterings and broken ejaculations. The children were never afraid of her in the least. One, a little boy who was her favorite, would often beg when looking up time came: "Aunt Sarah, let Cousin Catherine stay up a little longer. We want her to play with us. I'll take her up to her room after a while." And Aunt Sarah, Mrs. Drish, would consent and Catherine would stay, not to play, but to look and listen with apparent pleasure till the children's bedtime and then the little boy would take her hand and say: "Come on, Cousin Catherine, its time to go up for the night. She never spoke but one connected sentence after the time of the arrival of these children. One night as the family was sitting before the fire, Mrs. Drish said to her, "Catherine, do you know who made you?" Catherine looked at her fixedly for a moment, then replied, "He who had the burning coal laid on the lips of the prophet Isaiah made me."³⁰

As Mrs. Drish grew older, she was no longer able to care for Catherine. At some point in the 1870s, according to Little, one of her sons (he does not state which) took his demented mother to live with him and his family. The subsequent fate, death, and final resting of this unfortunate woman have not been ascertained.

When Mrs. Drish died in 1884, the contents of the house were sold at public auction on June 4, 1884, by the administrator of her estate, William G. Cochrane.³¹ The inventory and appraised value of the items gives an intimate glimpse of the furnishings of this once grand mansion.

Mrs. Drish's house and the tract of land on which it was located actually belonged to E. A. Powell who had allowed her to live there. Ezekiel Abner Powell (1817-1892) was a self-made man. He grew up in modest circumstances in Fayette Co., Alabama where he received only six months of formal schooling. Nevertheless, he later became a merchant in Northport, studied law, and was admitted to the bar. He served in the house and senate of the state legislature in the late antebellum period. During the Civil War he was a captain in the Confederate Army. In later years he became a Methodist minister and wrote about the history of Alabama.³² Powell sold the property soon after Mrs. Drish's death to the Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron and Land Company.³³

The Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron, and Land Company was founded in January 1887 by twenty-five citizens of Tuscaloosa who were owners of land surrounding the city. The main object of the company was to expand the city and develop the surrounding property. The company was incorporated the following month and investors were encouraged to buy stock in the company. William G. Cochrane of

Tuscaloosa was one of the founding members, a major stockholder, and legal council for the corporation. Recognizing the potential value of the Drish mansion, Cochrane bought it for his family residence.³⁴

According to the May 3, 1888, *Tuskaloosa Gazette*, "Mr. W.G. Cochrane is having many valuable improvements made on the old Drish place which will add much to the grandeur of that beautiful old mansion. It will be ready for occupancy about the 15th of May when Mr. Cochrane will move into it." Judge William Gilbert Cochrane (b. March 20, 1848, Tuscaloosa) had grown up in another large antebellum house, the "Cochran Place," built across town in Newtown by his parents. He was the son of William Cochrane, a New York attorney, who moved to Alabama and married Sophia Safina Louisa Perkins, daughter of Major Hardin Perkins, a pioneer Tuscaloosan who had been born in Washington Co., Virginia in 1791.³⁵

A month earlier, on April 19, 1888, a reporter for the *Tuscaloosa Gazette* recorded:

During the past week the Tuskaloosa Coal, Iron and Land Company have sold over \$60,000 worth of land principally on the Drish place and on Cochrane and Market streets [Figure 6]. All the lots belonging to the Land Company on the Drish place has [sic] been sold but three, and most of the lots that have been purchased will have improvements put on them right away. This has been the biggest week for Tuskaloosa since the 20th day of last April and has caused a better feeling to pervade our entire community. The men who have purchased this property are able to do what they say and the people of Tuskaloosa will shortly see scores of modern residences going on these lots. The Tuskaloosa boom likes a good deal of being dead.

A month later on July, 1888, a reporter for the *Tuscaloosa Times* reported that "a few days ago a *Times* scribe stood in the neighborhood of the Drish place and counted twenty houses that had been built within a year."

On October 22, 1902 he [Judge W. Cochrane] and his wife, Lily T. Cochrane sold their house to D. Clay Lilly for five dollars. The Rev. David Clay Lilly (b. 1870) had served as the minister for Tuscaloosa's First Presbyterian Church from 1896 to 1900. The Rev. Lilly may have become aware of Judge Cochrane's financial difficulties at this time and loaned him money with his house as collateral. It is not clear whether the Lilly's ever lived in the "old Drish Place" as the Cochrane house continued to be called, for they sold it within a year to the Snedecors, another Presbyterian family.

On November 23, 1903, D. Clay Lilly and his wife Mary G. Lilly sold for seven thousand dollars, the Drish mansion to the Rev. James George Snedecor (b. June 21, 1885, Louisville, Miss./ d. Nov. 20, 1916, Tuscaloosa), a lawyer and Presbyterian minister and his wife Emily Alston Estes Snedecor (b. 1858/ d. Sept. 7, 1942, Tuscaloosa).

The Snedecors sold Monroe Place and the adjacent property on Sept. 8, 1906, to the Mayor and Aldermen of Tuscaloosa for \$8,000. The city planned to convert the house into a school building. According to a newspaper account three months earlier, the city had negotiated an option to buy the property and was hoping to have it ready for use when school opened in the fall. According to the reporter, "This is the property known familiarly as the Drish place on Southside and is one of the handsomest of the houses in Tuscaloosa. Its rooms are of exceedingly generous dimensions and some will not need enlarging for use as school rooms right away."³⁶

Two decades of use as a public school from 1906 to 1925 caused serious damage to the historic mansion. A photograph of the school in October 1907 shows little change. However, within a few years modifications were made on both the interior and exterior of the building. On the inside the delicate main staircase probably succumbed to the pounding of hundreds of school children's feet and was replaced with

a simpler utilitarian flight of stairs. The unusual spiral staircase in the tower was also a casualty. No doubt, it was removed by administrators to keep the children out of the tower. The marble mantles throughout the house were also probably removed at this time. On the exterior the balconies on the north facade and the iron two-story porches on the east and west were eventually demolished and probably sold for scrap. The unusual balcony that extended around three sides of the tower was probably deemed unsafe by school officials and removed. As portions of the woodwork decayed, such as the pinnacle on the tower, they were not replaced. By the time the Jemison School moved to new quarters in 1925 the once grand Drish mansion was a battered wreck. Worse was to come.³⁷

In 1925 the Board of Education leased or rented the property to Charles Turner who operated an automobile wrecking company out of the house, its former landscaped yard long since stripped as a playground, was now littered with wrecked cars and assorted junk-some of which was stored behind high board fences and even inside the mansion itself. It was being used in this capacity when Sydnia Keene Smyth recorded the house in her 1929 Master's Thesis at the University of Alabama.³⁸

It was still being used as a junkyard when the house was documented in precise measured drawings by a Historic American Buildings Survey team in 1934. Though they contain some curious omissions and minor inaccuracies, these plans form an invaluable documentation of many now destroyed portions of the Drish mansion.³⁹

The H.A.B.S. material was supplemented by a data page and photographs in 1936. In that same year the noted American photographer, Walker Evans, working for the Farm Security Administration took a number of photographs of the exterior of the mansion. One of them entitled simply "The Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company," has since become one of his most famous works. In 1938 he included an over scale print of this image in an exhibition held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.⁴⁰

The house was photographed about two years later by yet another famous American photographer, Frances Benjamin Johnston (1864-1952). Johnston, one of the first women to receive prominence as a photographer, included the Drish mansion in her Survey of the Architecture of the South sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation. By the time she photographed the house, the wrecking company had moved elsewhere and the now empty house had reverted back to ownership by the City of Tuscaloosa Board of Education.⁴¹

In September 1940 the Board of Education sold the Drish House and adjacent property for four thousand dollars to the Southside Baptist Church.⁴² The Southside Baptist Church had begun in the 1890s as a Sunday School created by Tuscaloosa's First Baptist Church in the vicinity of the Alabama Great Southern Depot. It was located in a still extant building located on the corner of 25th Ave. and 18th St. partly built with timbers donated by the A.G.S. railroad. Sunday School was held there until 1921 when it became an independent church. By the late 1930s the congregation had outgrown the building and it was seeking a new location. In September 1940 the Southside Baptist Church bought from the City Board of Education the old Jemison School property which had for many years been used by Charles Turner to house his Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company. The church paid the city \$4,000 for the property; \$1,000 as a down payment, the remainder to be retired in annual payments. The building was in a dilapidated condition and required considerable work. It was not until May 15, 1942 that the congregation moved into the building. In the meantime they sold their old church to the Salvation Army for \$5,000. This enabled them to pay for improvements on the old Drish Mansion. In April 1942 the old kitchen wing was repaired and renovated as a church kitchen and Sunday school room. The church held its services on the first floor of the interior which it remodeled by removing the walls of the center hall and the northeast and northwest rooms to create a large sanctuary. The upstairs of the house was gutted and reconfigured into numerous small Sunday school rooms. Even the tower room on the second floor was subdivided. Throughout the building (but not the kitchen wing) the remaining six over six window sash were removed

and replaced with modern windows. The Southside Baptist Church used the Drish House as its main building until 1952 when it erected a new red brick "Georgian Colonial Style" sanctuary immediately adjacent to the west side of the old building.⁴³ This was followed some years later by the erection of a one story red brick structure to the east containing additional Sunday school rooms.

By the nineteen eighties, the congregation of the church had decreased as the Southside area of Tuscaloosa deteriorated. The upkeep of the now very large building complex became a burden and church officials closed off the Drish House and used it for storage. By the early nineteen nineties they investigated the possibility of demolishing the old mansion and using the land for a parking lot. Fortunately, the cost to demolish the structure, estimated at about \$30,000 was prohibitive, and the church decided against demolition. Faced with the dilemma of owning a structure that it could not afford to demolish, the Southside Baptist Church approached the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County and the Preservation Society of Tuscaloosa County for advice. After lengthy negotiations the Heritage Commission entered into a ninety year lease of the building.⁴⁴

References Cited

Physical Description and Statements of Significance

Ayers, C. Morton. Plans for Remodeling for Southside Baptist Church. Tuscaloosa, 1940.

Historic American Buildings Survey [HABS]. The Drish Home. April 7, 1934.

Mellown, Dr. Robert O. *Historic Structure's Report, John R. Drish House, 2300 17th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama*. Alabama Historical Commission and The Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County. Tuscaloosa, 2001.

Historical Context

1. Birth dates for Charles and his wife can be established by the 1820 Loudoun Co. Census and the 1830 Tuscaloosa Co. Census. Death dates are given in Anson West, *A History of Methodism in Alabama* (Nashville: Publishing House Methodist Episcopal Church South, 1893), 315. Charles' wife's first name, "Susanna" is recorded in Deed Book K, 284, Tuscaloosa Co. Court House. Charles Drish died in Blount Springs, Blount Co., Ala., where he had gone in an unsuccessful attempt to regain his health. The Drish's were probably buried in Tuscaloosa's first cemetery once located between 45th Street and 27th and 28th avenues. It was destroyed in 1911 with the construction of a railroad track.

2. The first Mrs. John R. Drish's first name, "Catherine" and her maiden name, "Washington," had been completely forgotten in Tuscaloosa. It was revealed to me by a Washington descendent, Judy Schwank on "King Family genealogy Forum. <http://genforum.genealogy.com/king/messages/5402.html>. These two names proved to be the key to unraveling the complex Drish/Washington genealogy in Tuscaloosa. Dr. John R. Drish and Catherine Washington married on Oct 20, 1818 according to the Loudoun Co., Va. *Genius of Liberty*, Nov. 10, 1818. Their daughter Catherine M. Drish's birth year can be established by the 1820 Loudoun Co. Va. Census. Her death date and final resting place have yet to be discovered. Catherine's marriage is recorded in Marriage Records Book, 150, Tuscaloosa. Co., Ala. Court House.

3. Smith, *Reminiscences*, 143. See "1825 John R. Drish and William Owen Co-Partners in the Practice of Medicine," Record of Civil Cases, *Book D*, 581, Tuscaloosa Co. Court House. "Drs. Beall and Drish, having united in the practice of MEDICINE, offer their professional services to the citizens of Tuscaloosa and its vicinity. They may always be found at the old stand of Drs. Griffin and Davenport, unless out on

professional business...Dr. Beall, to give his friends additional proof of his zeal for the restoration of the health of those entrusted to his or their care. John R. Drish. *Flag of the Union*, July 11, 1833.

4. Information provided by Judy Schwank.

5. Smith, *Reminiscences*, 145.

6. *Marriage Records Book I*, p. 47. Tuscaloosa Co. Court House.

7. The property had been bought on Feb. 11, 1823 by Aaron Jones (d. ca. 1825) and William Todd. Soon after they bought it, however, they subdivided it into smaller lots and later that year Dr. Drish acquired a portion of the land. In 1830 he bought an adjacent portion. For some reason the early purchases of University lands adjoining the city corporation were recorded by the University land agent in a ledger (now in the Special Coll. Library, Univ. of Ala.) but they were not recorded downtown in the probate office of the county court house. This lack of proper registration inevitably led to later land disputes. In 1832, the administratrix of one of the original purchasers of University Lot 5 claimed that she was the rightful owner of the entire lot. Drish had to go to court to prove his ownership. The fact that the university land agent was his brother-in-law and his next-door neighbor, no doubt helped him to win his case. It was at that time that Drish recorded his deed to portions of Lot 5 in the probate office. This has misled Tuscaloosa historians to assume that Drish's house and office, once located on the property could not have been built prior to 1833 when, in all likelihood, they were built seven or eight years earlier.

8. Ruth Ketring Nuerenberger, *The Clays of Alabama, a Planter-Lawyer-Politician Family* (Lexington: Univ. of Kentucky Press, 1958), 75. On Dec. 13, 1836 Clay bought a house on the west side of town nearer the capitol where he resided for about a year before resigning as governor to serve in the U.S. Senate. *Deed Book M*, 221-222. Tuscaloosa Co. Court House. Later known as the "Mansion House," it became a famous tavern in the antebellum period and the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity was founded there in 1856. William C. Levere, *The History of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity* (Menasha, Wis.: George Banta Publishing Co., 1923).

9. Smith, *Reminiscences*. 144.

10. *Senate Journal*, 100. Suzanne Wolfe, *The University of Alabama, A Pictorial History* (Tuscaloosa: Univ. of Ala. Press, 1982), 12-13.

11. "Proposal from John R. Drish to the Board of Trustees, June 4, 1839," University of Alabama Records, box b, folder 45, W.S. Hoole Special Coll. Library, Univ. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

12. Univ. of Ala., Records, Observatory File, 1218a, W. S. Hoole Special Coll. Library, Univ. of Ala., Tuscaloosa. J. W. Pearce and L. B. Granger were the contractors for the project.

13. Joe Hobson, Greensboro, Ala., June 12, 1964, to Mrs. Chas. Caine, Saffold, Ala. A xerox of this letter is in the possession of Jackson R. Stell, Alabama State Historical Commission, Montgomery.

14. "Early Industries of Tuscaloosa," *Illustrated Industrial Edition*, *Tuscaloosa Times Gazette*, -Oct. 7, 1907, p. 4. *Independent Monitor*, July 28, 1846. George Little, *Memoirs of George Little* (Tuscaloosa: Weatherford, 1924), 21-22.

15. "Law Partnership, Peter Martin & Joshua L. Martin...Office in Dr. Drishes [sic] new building, upstairs three doors above the bank." Also, "L.S. Skinner...Dentist...has taken rooms in Dr. Drish 's new building upstairs. Entrance third door above the Bank, Main St.," *Independent Monitor*, Jan. 18, 1849.

"New Auction & Commission house in Tuscaloosa, Cummings & Eaton...in the *corner storehouse* of Dr. Drish's new building...," *Independent Monitor*, Jan. 6, 1848. Thomas P. Clinton, "Clinton Tells How Broad Street Looked Back in Ante Bellum Days," (unidentified newspaper clipping), T. P. Clinton Scrapbooks, I, p. 127 (microfilm), W. S. Hoole Special Coll. Library, Univ. of Ala., Tuscaloosa.

16. Smith, *Reminiscences*. 144.

17. "Former Ante-Bellum Home to Give Way Before Building of New South," *Montgomery Advertiser*, Feb. 28, 1915.

18. *Ibid.*

19. "Accounts 1859-1863," Robert Jemison, Jr. Papers. W.S. Hoole Special Coll. Library, Univ. of Ala., Tuscaloosa. "Colored Churches and Societies, A.M.E: Zion Church," Special Edition, *Tuscaloosa Times*, Oct. 28, 1896, p. 10. See also: James Benson Sellers, *The First Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 1818-1868* (Tuscaloosa: Weatherford Printing Co., 1968), 124; and Robert L. Glynn "How Firm a Foundation," *A History of the First Black Church in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama* (Friends of the Hunter's Chapel African American Episcopal Zion Church and City of Tuscaloosa, Ala. Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 4.

20. James Thomas Maxwell, *Autobiography of James Thomas Maxwell of Tuscaloosa, Alabama* (New York: Greenberg, 1926), 19. No visual record of this "porter's lodge" has been discovered. It does not appear on the 1887 Perspective Map of Tuscaloosa.

21. Like many plantations, the fields and pastures of Monroe Place were not all adjoining. *Agriculture Census of Tuscaloosa County, 1860*. The 1860 Pickens Co. Census records the production on Dr. Drish's much larger (911 acres) plantation located in that county. Drish estimated its cash value at \$40,000. His livestock-5 horses, 25 asses and mules, 12 milk cows (whose milk produced 500 lbs. of butter), 4 working oxen, 25 cattle, 200 swine-were valued at \$4,300. His slaves produced 30 bushels of wheat, 6000 bushels of "Indian corn," 40 bushels of peas and beans, 600 bushels of sweet potatoes, as well as 7 tons of hay. They also produced 60 bales of ginned cotton bales (400 lbs per bale).

22. Maxwell, *Autobiography*. 20.

23. Louis F. Herzberg, "Negro Slavery in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, 1818-1865," (Master's Thesis, Univ. of Ala., 1955), 135, 140, 160. Smith, *Reminiscences*, 144.

24. Smith, *Reminiscences*. 144.

25. Little, "Facts and Legends."

26. *Ibid.*

27. *Ibid.*

28. *Will Book 3*, pp. 204-206, Tuscaloosa Co. Court House.

29. *Deed Book 12*, Lewis, T. P., Sherriff to Powell, E. A., May 3, 1867, p. 394, Tuscaloosa Co. Court House.

30. Little, "Facts and Legends."

31. *Tuscaloosa Times*, June 4, 1884.
32. Owen, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography*, IV, 1381.
33. *Deed Book 24*, p. 463, Tuscaloosa Co. Court House. E. A. Powell and his wife sold the property to W. G. Cochrane and W. C. Jemison (representatives of the Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron, and Land Co.), for \$10,000. "NE1/4 Section 27, Township 21, Range W West, known as the residence of the late Dr. John R. Drish including the brick dwelling and outhouse."
34. *Deed Book 26*, p. 404, July 6, 1887, Tuscaloosa Co. Court House. "Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron and Land Co. to W.G. Cochrane: Lots # 8, 6 Block 314; Lots 13, Block 346; Lot 14, Block 313; and the circle #210 Old Drish Residence."
35. Smyth, "Ante-Bellum Architecture... ", 15. "Judge William Gilbert Cochrane," Special Souvenir and Industrial Edition, *Tuscaloosa Times*, Oct. 28, 1896, p. 13. These improvements probably included the east and west cast iron, two-story porticos since they do not appear on the 1887 Perspective Map of Tuscaloosa.
36. *Deed Book 68*, Sept. 8, 1906, n. p., Tuscaloosa Co. Court House. "James G. Snedecor and Emmie A. Snedecor to the Mayor and Alderman of the City for \$8,000. Lot 6, Block 347; Lot 14, Block 313; Lots 2, 13, Block 346; also Circle #210 including the residence building now situated thereon." "City Buys Snedecor Home, will be Converted into a Public School early as Practicable," *Tuscaloosa Times Gazette* (July 4, 1906).
37. "Having...outgrown [the Stafford School] the City Council in 1906, bought the handsome building on Twenty-Third Ave., now called the Jemison School. This added five excellent grade rooms, four of which were utilized during the session which closed last May." "The Tuscaloosa Graded Schools", Illustrated Industrial Edition, *Tuscaloosa Times-Gazette*, Oct. 7, 1907, p. 6.
38. Sydnia Keene Smyth, "The Ante-Bellum Architecture of Tuscaloosa," 46.
39. H.A.B.S., Ala, Microfilm, Cambridge, England: Chadyck-Healey, 1981. Univ. of Ala. Library, Tuscaloosa. They may also be accessed on the Internet at: HABS/HAER. American Memory Library of Congress. <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ramnem/hhhtmlhhhome.html>.
40. James R. Mellow, *Walker Evans* (New York: Basic Books, 1999), 384. "America from the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs from the SFA-OWI, 1935-1945," American Memory Library of Congress. "Tuscaloosa." "Converted home." <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/lmdbquery.html>.
41. Frances Benjamin Johnston, "Carnegie Survey of the Architecture of the South," ed. Janet M. Galtney. Microform (Alexandria, Va.: Chadwyck-Healey Pub., 1984). Univ. of Ala. Library, Tuscaloosa.
42. *Deed Book 204*, p. 436. Tuscaloosa Co. Court House.
43. W. M. Olive, *History of Southside Baptist Church* ((Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1947), 2, 7, 12. Southside Baptist Church *Bulletin* (April 2, 1955). *Tuscaloosa News*, Oct. 5, 1952.
44. Drish House File. Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County.

Photographs



Figure 7. North elevation.



Figure 8. Northwest corner.



Figure 9. West elevation.



Figure 10. Southwest corner.



Figure 11. South elevation.



Figure 12. East elevation.



Figure 13. Northeast corner.



Figure 14. East side of north portico looking west.



Figure 15. First story tower arcade.



Figure 16. North elevation frontispiece or main entrance.



Figure 17. First floor interior from the stairwells looking to the north side front door.

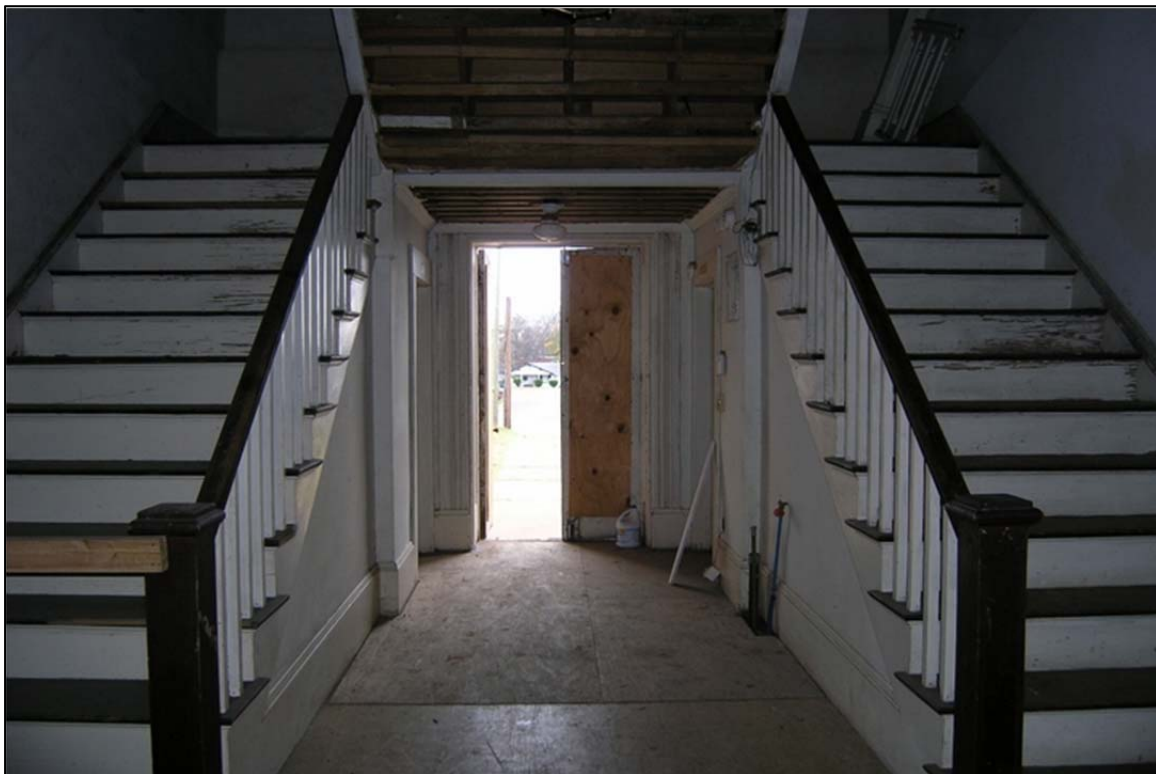


Figure 18. Stairwells looking out the south elevation frontispiece or back door.



Figure 19. Exposed brick work underneath the stairwell.



Figure 20. Auditorium looking at the front door.



Figure 21. Auditorium looking at the west side of the room.



Figure 22. Northeast corner of the auditorium.



Figure 23. Second story rooms.



Figure 24. View of original decorative details through frame work of former drop ceiling in tower.



Figure 25. View of original decorative details and plaster work in second story.



Figure 26. Second story north side frontispiece in tower.



Figure 27. Second story stair rails and landing.



Figure 28. Google aerial view of Drish House in 2012 sans Southside Baptist Church additions.