

Old City Hospital  
Mobile, Alabama

HABS No. 16-13

Mobile Co.

HABS  
ALA,  
49-MOBI,  
14-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 16

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

ALA

OLD CITY HOSPITAL  
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.  
Upper St. Anthony St.

HABS  
ALA,  
49-MOBI,  
14-

Ownership:

Present Owner: City and County of Mobile.

Date of Erection: 1825 - 1830

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Unknown.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Three.

Materials of Construction: Brick and Masonry; six columned portico flanked by double-decked corridor on front.

Other Existing Records:

See: Birmingham, News for September 16, 1934.

"BROUGHT IRON RECREATES OLD CHARM"

By Varian Feare, (Mrs. E. Walter Burkhardt)

See:

"HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF MOBILE"

By John F. Glennon.

Pen and ink drawings done by  
Chici Glennon Lasley.

This book is an advertisement of the First National Bank, of Mobile, Alabama.

Oil Paintings:

"Front City Hospital"

By Roderic McKenzie,

Under W.P.A. PWA A.P.  
1934.

Additional Data: This magnificent old structure located on St. Anthony Street between Broad and Jefferson was built by the City of Mobile in 1825, 110 years ago. The original structure was smaller than the one we see today- the two wings and most of the rear extension having been added in later years. It's massively beautiful architecture has made it a Mobile landmark for many years.

Although the hospital has seen a century of service, little of its history is recorded. Minutes of conferences of city officials scarcely mention it except for matters of appropriations. Old timers, however, say that during earlier days yellow fever and small pox patients were not admitted to the institution. During the Civil War it was crowded with sick and wounded from the battlefields.

Perhaps the most striking bit of information concerning this building is the price paid by the city for the building site; On December 8, 1824, Mobile city officials bought a 6-acre tract fronting on the north side of St. Anthony from Wm. E. and Joshua Kennedy for only \$150. The city soon sold all of this tract except the land on which this hospital was built. Thirteen years later Mobile County paid the Kennedys over \$11,000 for an adjoining tract- the 215 feet of the square lying between Broad and Jefferson Streets, on the south side of Congress Street.

This hospital was built by slave labor, and contained a dead house where dead people were left over night, for burial next day. There were also cells for prisoners and insane people.

The old building is still maintained as a hospital today. Though extensively added to in recent years it shows evidences of the unique use of the Greek Doric order. As a building it possesses unusual hospital characteristics. It's extensive verandas create the effect of shade and cool shadowe and lend the building a less austere appearance than is characteristic of many of our painfully plain hospital structures which are almost factory like in appearance.

Source of Material:

Miss Emma Roche  
167 N. Lafayette Street,  
Mobile, Alabama.  
Dr. Toulmin Gaines.  
Toulminville, Alabama.

Compiled by:

Katherine Floyd.  
Auburn, Alabama.

Approved:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS.  
Auburn, Alabama.

Date: 10-2-1936.

Rev. Dec. 4 '36 - HW

ALA.

49- Mobile

14-

OLD CITY HOSPITAL  
St. Anthony, Broad and Jefferson Streets  
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Probably the longest portico in Alabama is the Greek Doric one at the Old City Hospital in Mobile. The porch measures one hundred eighty feet in length. The central part projects and has a pediment with an elliptical window. The first floor is raised so high above the ground that the porch has the appearance of a balcony. There is also a second floor balcony.

The plan is symmetrical: the main part of the building has a cruciform hallway and long flanking wings. Only the original building has been measured, the extensive additions of recent years having been omitted from the Survey.

Source of Material:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Administrator, HABS.  
Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

(Revised at HABS Headquarters,  
Feb. 16, 1936 - H.C.F.)  
(Original sheet in field notebook).

Addendum to:

HABS No. AL-13

City Hospital  
(Mobile City Hospital,  
Old City Hospital)  
900-950 St. Anthony Street  
Mobile  
Mobile County  
Alabama  
in HABS CATALOG (1941)

HABS-  
ALA,  
49- MOBI,  
14-

PHOTOGRAPHS

*Redund Copies of Measured Drawings*

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243