

Staylor Place  
451-53 St. Francis St. and  
13 N. Hamilton St.  
now John Craft house  
Mobile, Mobile Co.  
Alabama

HABS ALA-22

HABS  
ALA,  
49-MOBI,  
24-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Auburn, Alabama

STAYLOR PLACE  
451 St. Francis Street  
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.

HABS  
ALA,  
49-MOBI,  
24-

Ownership:

Present Owner: John Craft.

Previous Owners: Thaddeus Sanford  
William Staylor.

Date of Erection: Early 1830's.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Thaddeus Sanford.

Present Condition: Fair.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Brick; interior walls are of  
plaster over wooden laths; wood trim; iron gallery rail to  
the second story balcony.

Other Existing Records:

See: "HISTORIC HOMES OF OLD MOBILE"  
Compiled by John F. Glennon.  
Pen and ink drawings done by  
Chici Glennon Lasley.

TW 6/14/57

Additional Data: This quaint structure at No. 451 St. Francis Street is thought to be one of Mobiles earliest apartment houses, as it is divided into distinctly separate living quarters. Early records show that it was occupied in 1836 by George Parrot, who rented it from William Staylor.

Staylor had bought this property from Thaddeus Sanford, who is listed in the Mobile City Directory for 1839 as Editor and Proprietor of the Register and Journal. Sanford later became Collector of Customs for the Port of Mobile. The Customs House, incidentally, at that time was located on the east side of Royal Street between Government and Conti.

This house is built in early French style, with the building covering virtually the entire lot and coming flush with the sidewalk. In accord with the custom of that day, servant's quarters in the rear are separated from the main dwelling by a courtyard, and the iron gallery rail of the second story balcony resembles many still seen in New Orleans' Vieux Carre.

Although in outward appearance this early type of apartment house bears little resemblance to those built in recent years, its underlying principles of design and construction are substantially the same as today. Despite a century of continuous occupation this house is still in sound and serviceable condition.

Source of Material:

John F. Glennon.  
Mobile, Alabama.

Compiled by:

Katherine Floyd.  
Auburn, Alabama.

Approved:

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

Date: 10-8-1936.