

7. SODALITY CHAPEL

Built in 1850 in a simple Greek Revival style, this Roman Catholic chapel is the oldest surviving building on the Spring Hill College campus. It stands apart, south of the Administration Building. The frame structure contrasts with a green expanse of trees and shrubs. A landscaped shrine to St. Francis Xavier stands to one side of it. A Fan light above the entrance and a cross at the gable are its major architectural adornments. The colored glass of the double hung windows forms the pattern of a cross in light tinted panes.

8. SPRING HILL COLLEGE QUADRANGLE

This grouping of historic structures is part of the Spring Hill College campus. The original main building was constructed in 1831 in the Greek Revival style, but after an 1869 fire, was replaced by a new main building in a Neo-Renaissance style. St. Joseph’s Chapel was built c.1910 in the Gothic Revival style on the northern side, with the main building on the southern side. The perimeter is enclosed by an open arched arcade, topped by crenelation.

9. ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHAPEL

This small church was designed and constructed under the supervision of Albert Stein and John Dawson. It was consecrated in 1861 and has served as a chapel since 1964 when the new, adjacent building was completed. St. Paul’s combines classic influence (round-headed windows, portico) with that of A.J. Downing’s Gothic Revival (board-and-batten siding, twin lancet window muntins). It stands on its original site, with an air of assertion which is whimsically and charmingly out of proportion to its actual size.

10. MCKIBBON HOUSE

Henry McKibbon built three houses on Franklin Street downtown, and by 1884 he was living in this one. It is now being further enlarged to meet contemporary needs. While its increased size and style suggests classic influence, its simplicity of door and window trim reflects the Creole cottage style. The square stuccoed piers of the first-story galleries are lightened by the delicately turned balusters of the second story galleries.

11. KEINER HOUSE

This small cottage was built by Henrietta Keiner and rented to James Glennon and his mother, Katherine Hannan, until they purchased it in 1868. The Glennon family ownership continued until 1924. About 1963, the house was moved and reconstructed. It was then enlarged, a right wing was added, and the rear floor was raised to accommodate an upper story. The simple lines of the original cottage have been preserved in the front and side elevations. Despite the uncharacteristic board and batten exterior, the Creole cottage form is evident.

12. MARSHALL ESLAVA DIXON HOUSE

This Greek Revival Design house was built by Mobile merchant B.F. Marshall in 1853. Twelve years later the house was purchased by Don Miguel Eslava II, son of the last Spanish officials to preside in Mobile. The house remained in the Eslava family until about 1915. The McMillan family has owned the house ever since.

13. BEAL-GAILLARD HOUSE

Gustavus Beal built this raised country home in a Creole cottage style in 1836. During the Emanuel Jones ownership (1849-96), the dining room was enlarged, the kitchen wing was added on the North, and the octagonal summer house was built. Samuel Gaillard bought the house in 1903 and enlarged the north wing and added the south rear wing. The house features slender chamfered posts that form five bays across the front gallery and French doors. These predate classical influence. Beautiful cypress doors feature paneling of Georgian design, and all have their original Carpenter locks.

14. MARX TOWN HOUSE

This town house was built by Isaac Marx. Due for demolition to make way for Interstate Highway 10, it was moved and reconstructed in 1968 to serve the Art Department of the University of South Alabama. Some changes were necessary for its adaptive use, but the exterior mass and first story were accurately rebuilt, with all wood work carefully reinstalled. Plaster moldings that could not be saved were recast from templates and molds made from the originals. Interior trim is Greek Revival.

15. SEAMAN’S BETHEL

Built as the Seaman’s Bethel soon after the trustees obtained the land in 1860, this building served that institution until 1923. The building then became the Little Theatre, forerunner of the Joe Jefferson Players. Removed from its original site downtown in 1968 for construction of Interstate Highway 10, the building has been put back in theater use by the Drama Department of the University. It is one of the few surviving Gothic Revival masonry buildings in Mobile. Due to the Union Blockade of Mobile, no foreign seaman had need of this facility. Therefore, it was the ideal facility to assemble the Confederate submarine Hunley during the Civil War.

16. TOULMIN HOUSE

This large plantation style home is important architecturally and historically. It is the earliest surviving example of the rural frame dwelling in this area, raised high on its brick ground story. The roof spreads out over the long nine-bayed gallery, on which the jigsaw detailing was later added. The house was built by Theophilus Toulmin, state legislator and Mobile postmaster. His father was appointed by President Jefferson as the first U.S. Judge of the Tombigbee District in 1804, and his son was Judge Harry T. Toulmin.



Spring Hill has been a very desirable community of Mobile for over two centuries. It is located 6 miles to the West of Mobile on a high, broad hill. Originally a summer retreat community, it gained its name from the number of natural springs in the area.

Among its first inhabitants were former French Bonapartists. With the city plagued by extreme humidity, heat and yellow fever epidemics during the warm months,

1. PALMETTO HALL

Built in 1850 by John Dawson, brother of William Dawson, builder of Carolina Hall. Palmetto Hall is a large, two story Greek Revival raised cottage style home with typical ground floor masonry construction and main floor (2nd) construction of wood. It has undergone significant remodeling since its original construction and is currently owned by the Altmayer family since the early 1960’s.

2. CAROLINA HALL

Carolina Hall is the outstanding example in Mobile of the adaptation of late Georgian refinements that infiltrated the Gulf States from Charleston, South Carolina and the neighboring southeastern Atlantic seaboard localities. William Dawson, a wealthy cotton merchant from Charleston, constructed the house from 1832-1840. The house is said to have closely resembled the Dawson family home in Charleston. It has been owned by many, including Alphonzo Luling (1891-1900), H.H. Wefel (1900-1904), Springhill College (1904-1917), and Dr. and Mrs. William C. Perdue. In 1959 the Perdues received the Mobile Historic Preservation Society’s award for restoration of an antebellum landmark.

3. COLLINS-MARSTON HOUSE

Built in 1832 in the Gulf Coast Cottage style, the Collins-Marston House is a one-and-a-half story wood-frame structure on a raised brick foundation. The 20th century saw additions to the rear that roughly tripled the original house size. The Marston family was instrumental in the original construction of Old Shell Road, from Broad Street to Spring Hill, and also the construction of St. Paul’s Episcopal Chapel.

people began to realize that the hills west of the city remained relatively free of fever and disease. Many wealthy Mobilians soon built summer residences in Spring Hill. The earliest houses tended to be cottages, with many in the Gulf Coast cottage style. Large country houses in the Greek Revival style came to dominate by the 1840’s and later.

In 1830, Michael Portier, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Mobile, established Spring Hill College. Cardinal Fesch, Uncle of Napoleon, along with several others assisted Portier in this endeavor. The college continues to function on its original site and later acquired other adjacent properties including the Stewart Field house and its gracious avenue of oaks.

There are many historic homes and buildings in the Spring Hill Area. Sixteen of these are featured in the Self Driving Map along with many other points of interests. Also, there are numerous restaurants and shopping venues in this same area.

*Private residences may be viewed from public right of way and are not open for public tours.*

4. COLLINS-ROBINSON HOUSE

It appears that this raised cottage was built by the Collins family, who owned the property from 1832-43. Purchased by the Marstons in 1870, the house remained in possession of the Marston family for over a century. In earlier days, several guest cottages, the kitchen and dining room, were situated north of the house, with the stairway giving entrance to the gallery from both sides, but not the front. Quite unaffected by refinements of the Greek Revival, the detailing is simple and unpretentious on both the interior and exterior.

5. COLLINS-AUSTILL HOUSE

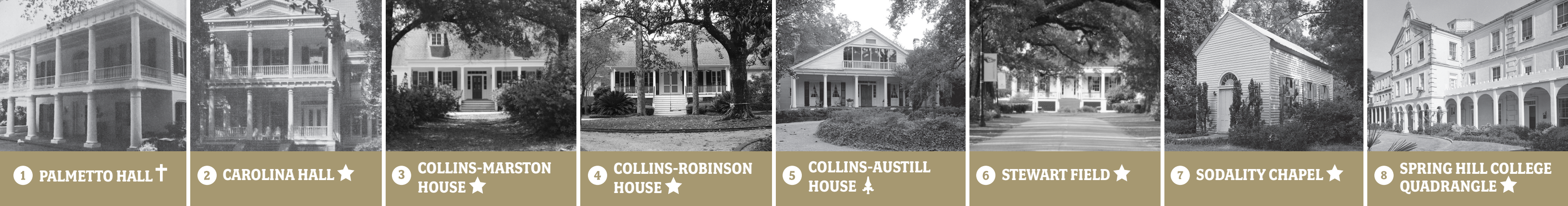
This house has been the home of the Austill family since 1879 and was built some years earlier by Darling Collins. It began as a simple three-room cottage and later underwent three periods of enlargement and remodeling, including sophisticated detailing of the Greek Revival entrance door and the additional back half of the hall with reverse staircase. Ruby Bohemian etched glass in floral motifs is set in the transom and side lights of front and rear doors. The bowed rear wall of the hall is an unusual feature.

6. STEWART FIELD

This Greek Revival raised cottage probably received its present form soon after the fifty-six acres tract was purchased by Robert and Isabella Stewart in 1848. According to college records, it was named after two owners, Roger Stewart and his daughter Annie Stewart Field. Finely fluted Doric columns support the five bayed gallery and delicate dental molding accent the entablature. The large unusual semicircular room on the south side was built and used as a ballroom. The floor joists were slung unpinned with U shaped supports, thus giving a resilience to the floor while dancing.







1 PALMETTO HALL †

2 CAROLINA HALL ★

3 COLLINS-MARSTON HOUSE ★

4 COLLINS-ROBINSON HOUSE ★

5 COLLINS-AUSTILL HOUSE †

6 STEWART FIELD ★

7 SODALITY CHAPEL ★

8 SPRING HILL COLLEGE QUADRANGLE ★

Other Points of Interest:

- A Spring Hill College Golf Course
- B Spring Hill Cemetery
- C Charles Wood Japanese Garden
- D Mobile Museum of Art
- E Mobile Botanical Garden
- F Mobile Tennis Centre
- G Azalea City Golf Course
- H USA Archaeological Museum
- ★ Holiday Place



Historic Homes & Buildings:

- ★ National Historic Registry
- † Historic American Building Survey
- ‡ Historic Preservation Society - City of Mobile

9 ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL ★

10 MCKIBBON HOUSE †

11 KEINER HOUSE ‡

12 MARSHALL ESLAVA DIXON HOUSE ★

13 BEAL-GAILLARD HOUSE ★

14 MARX TOWN HOUSE †

15 SEAMAN'S BETHEL †

16 TOULMIN HOUSE ★

