

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
Carriage Block and Hitching Post
Mobile, Alabama

Mobile Co.

HABS No. ^{ALA}~~15~~-36

HABS
ALA,
49-MOBI,
37-

PHOTOGRAPHS

District No. 16

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

HITCHING POSTS
 GAS LAMP POSTS
 Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.

HABS
 ALA, 37-
 49-MOBI,
 37-

Ownership:

Present Owner: Various property owners.

Dates of Erection: See below.

Materials of Construction: Cast iron and wrought iron
 hitching posts.
 Cast iron gas lamp posts.

Additional Data: It was a custom in earlier days of owners to place permanent iron hitching posts in front of their residences and sidewalks, near the curb, for tethering horses.

Most of them were cast iron and many of these were splendidly modelled and moulded in design which suggests their purpose; other of cast iron seem to be - improvised fence posts, or at least from the same moulds or patterns.

Those of wrought iron were comparatively simple, and generally of a heavy round, square or hexagonal bar, ornamented with cube or ball head, more or less - faceted or flattened; some were little more than a heavy round rod. It has been stated, and it seems reasonable to believe, that the square and hexagonal types were improvised from wagon axels.

Almost invariably all posts were provided with two loose rings suspended from lugs on opposite sides or with one or more rings, in the same manner, with lugs extended above to form a hook.

Obviously in the case of gas lamp posts we find a similarity approaching a standard type. Frames and glass of the original lanterns, above the cross-arms are not in existence. These cross-arms were not merely for ornamental purposes but served as a rest for the lamp lighters ladder. At twilight he travelled on foot from post to post, carrying his ladder, and climb to light each jet.

ALA
49- Mobi

37-

Additional Data: (cont'd) City records of 1855 reveal the fact that various petitions from citizens requested the placing of these posts on designated corners. It may be assumed therefore that many were placed about that time. It is believed that some may have been placed as early as 1836, for it is known that this city, among the earliest in the country to have artificial gas for lighting purposes, was so provided many years ago before the above date.

Other Existing Records:

Source of Material: Mr. John Glennon
205 St. Francis Street
Mobile, Alabama.
Mobile City Records
City, Hall.
Mobile, Alabama.
Mr. G. Chaudron Jr.,
258 Stocking St.
Mobile, Alabama.

Compiled by: Katherine Floyd.
Auburn, Alabama.
Glennita Broach
Mobile, Alabama.
Approved: E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS
Auburn, Alabama.
Date: 8-31-1936.

W