

PH 0141241

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alabama	
COUNTY: Mobile	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-2-01-0509	DATE 2/26/70

1. NAME

COMMON: Bishop Portier Home

AND/OR HISTORIC: Bishop Michael Portier Residence

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 307 Conti Street

CITY OR TOWN: Mobile

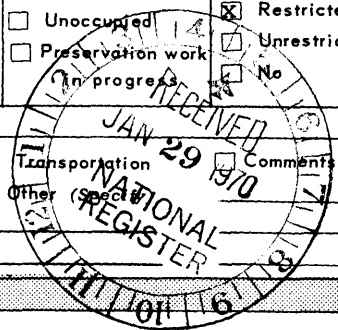
STATE Alabama	CODE 01	COUNTY: Mobile	CODE 097
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work (In progress)	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Mobile, Alabama

STREET AND NUMBER: 400 Government Street

CITY OR TOWN: Mobile

STATE: Alabama	CODE 01
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Mobile County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: South Royal Street

CITY OR TOWN: Mobile

STATE: Alabama	CODE 01
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935, 1963, 1965 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY: Mobile
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

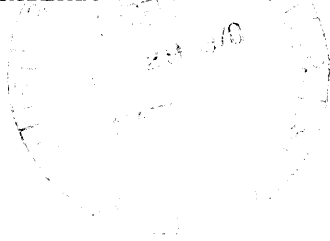
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

STYLE: Creole cottage with ~~Creek Revival~~ Federal style detailing.

PLAN: Square with porches full length of structure, front and back. Central hall on first floor full length and on axis of entry. Rooms three deep on first floor; rooms two deep on the second with wider central hall.

MATERIALS: Methods of Construction: Wood frame on masonry foundation. Roofing: tin and wood shingle.

EXTERIOR APPEARANCE:



Story and a half with symmetrical placement of doors and windows in main facade. Three dormers with delicate flanking columns and segmented semi-circular pediments. Double chimneys. End walls simple clapboards with asymmetrical window placement including high semi-circular window at both ends.

SCALE AND PROPORTION:

Delicate detailing, especially the six slender columns. Equally refined porch balustrade and central doorway. Doorway exceptional.

INTERIOR APPEARANCE:

Wood floors and plaster walls and ceiling. Semi-circular stair rear end of entry hall. Unique "arrow" balusters, hand carved. Wood door trim and moldings. Rooms share back to back chimneys.

PRESENT:

Left hand front door added during occupancy of Bishop Portier.

Renovated c. 1958-1959. Shutters added but basically unchanged.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bishop Portier Home, 307 Conti Street, was the residence of the ranking prelates of the Roman Catholic Church in Alabama from 1833 until March, 1914.

Bishop Michael Portier, a native of France, became the First Bishop of Mobile in 1829 and moved into this residence four years later. Bishop Portier was responsible for the activities of the Catholic Church in both Alabama and all of Florida. He served as Bishop of Mobile for 30 years until his death in 1859.

During his tenure in Mobile, Bishop Portier led in the building of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and founded Spring Hill College (1830), Visitation Convent and Academy and St. Mary's Orphan Asylum which are still in existence, plus an additional number of girls' schools and parochial schools.

From this house were sent many missionaries and visitors who became responsible for the growth of the Catholic faith in the early days of Alabama and Florida. Throughout a succession of four subsequent bishops of Mobile, the home was the center of diocesan administration. It sheltered, as well, a number of internationally important figures in the Catholic Church as they visited in the southland. Notable among these were Rev. Abram J. Ryan, poet-priest, who resided here for six years and James Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore.

Other Bishops who resided in the Bishop Portier house were: John Quinlan (1859-1883); Dominic Manuci (1884-1885); Jeremiah O'Sullivan (1887-1895) and Edward P. Allen (1895-1914).

This structure was used for the Catholic Youth Club, the United Services Organization (USO) from 1914 to 1945 and for other purposes following World War II. It was restored as a residence in 1958-1959. Since December, 1967 the home has been the residence of Representative Robert S. Edington, the Alabama Legislator who sponsored the bill which created the Alabama Historical Commission.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamilton, Peter. Colonial Mobile. Boston & New York: Riverside Press, 1897.
 LaTourette, John. Map. Mobile: City of Mobile, 1838.
 Lipscomp, Rev. Oscar H. "The Administration of John Quinlan, Second Bishop of Mobile, 1859-1883," Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia, Volume LXXVIII (March-December, 1967).
 Lowery, Walter, ed. American State Papers, Volume 5, Special Report No. 4, February 25, 1828. Washington: Duff Green, 1834.
 Mathews, C.C., ed. Highlights of 75 Years in Mobile. Mobile: Gill Printing Company, 1953.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30° 41' 27"	88° 02' 07"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	30 41 27	88 02 27				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

14/399910
3395510
CD
4/13/75

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *.396 acres*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
All in Alabama (Mobile)	01	Mobile	097
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director, Alabama Historical Comm.; Margaret R. Ingate, Mobile; Michael Fazzio, Architect, City Planning Comm.

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: December, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *W. B. Howard, Jr.*

Title: *Chmn. Alabama Historical Commission, SLO*

Date: *Jan. 25, 1970*

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Caspally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **FEB 26 1970**

ATTEST:

William G. Minter
Keeper of The National Register

Date: **FEB 17 1970**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Alabama	
COUNTY	
Mobile	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
10-2-61-800	2/24/70

2

(Number all entries)

BISHOP PORTIER HOUSE

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Summersell, Dr. Charles G. Alabama History for Schools. Birmingham: Colonial Press, 1961.

_____ Archives of the Sacred Compelu de Propaganda de Fide Rome, Screttute oreginali riferite nei congressi, Americce Centrale, Colume 12, Report from Folio 860r to 869r.

_____ Archives of the Catholic Diocese of Mobile. Mobile: Catholic Diocese of Mobile.

