

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 9 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAY 4 1976

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
\* \* \* Opp Cottage *ll*  
AND/OR COMMON  
Opp Cottage

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
33 West Jefferson Davis Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Montgomery  
STATE  
Alabama

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
01

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
2

COUNTY  
Montgomery

CODE  
MONTGOMERY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Martha Ann McInnis  
STREET & NUMBER  
3422 Ridgefield Drive  
CITY, TOWN  
Montgomery  
STATE  
Alabama

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Opp Cottage is located on a corner lot in one of Montgomery's older residential neighborhoods, and is no doubt the work of a local carpenter. The structure is a raised cottage with a masonry ground floor and frame construction on the upper level, which is not apparent in viewing the front elevation, is free standing with an area way beneath the porch. The front of the porch rests on brick piers which stand on a brick retaining wall.

The house consists of a simple rectangular block with the long (five bay) side facing north onto West Jeff Davis. Construction of the main level is of wide clapboard, painted white. A half-hipped roof porch extends the length of the facade and is trimmed with unusually light, delicate fretwork between the porch columns and on the balustrade. Originally the balustrade detailing was carried through in a railing along the front steps.

The hipped roof has extended eaves and a well defined frieze. The two interior chimneys are covered with stucco and are proportionately very broad. All windows are double hung with 6 lights per sash, simple trim, and most have retained the original shutters. The four panel central door is flanked with side lights.

A front central hall gives access to a parlor on either side and a small room to the rear. The front rooms have simple wooden mantels and the windows have panel sections beneath the sill extending to the baseboard. The house is finished throughout with plaster walls and wideboard heart pine flooring.

The small room directly behind the entrance hall contains an enclosed staircase on the eastern wall, and gives access into a small room on either side as well as to a two story central rear portico. The rooms on either side have simple wooden mantels, and the room on the east is smaller than the western room.

The stairway descends to a small landing which has two steps descending into a long (27'4") room on the west, and two steps descending into the front room on the east. A door beneath the stair leads into a small (11'x9") room on the east. Neither of these two rear rooms has a fireplace, while the two front rooms (approximately 16' x 14½") have simple wooden mantels.

The remains of a one story frame kitchen is located directly behind the house. Originally there was also a two room frame servants house located on the grounds.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1860 - 1866

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Opp Cottage is one of Montgomery's few remaining raised cottages. A modest but well crafted structure, it reflects the taste and means of a middle class merchant who settled in Montgomery after the close of the Civil War.

In all likelihood construction of the Opp Cottage was started in 1860 by T. J. Wilson and his wife Eliza Deeds indicate that Valentine Opp and his wife Catherine purchased the property from Eliza C. Wilson on July 28, 1866 and according to family records the cottage was not fully completed at the time of its purchase.

Valentine Opp was a native of Austria who emigrated to Benton in Lowndes County where he met and married his wife Catherine Hart, an Irish immigrant. After the close of the Civil War Opp and his wife moved to Montgomery. Opp was a merchant tailor by trade and operated a successful tailoring business downtown on Court Square. Opp had seven children, two of whom distinguished themselves as lawyers.

Henry Opp, who received his degree from the University of Alabama in 1878, served as the county solicitor of Covington County, as the mayor of Andalusia, and as a delegate to the constitution convention of 1901. Opp was hired as an attorney by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad to settle a dispute and in this capacity he was instrumental in that railroad being extended through the present day city of Opp, which was named in his honor.

Another son, Frederick Opp, also an attorney, resettled in Texas and was appointed by U. S. President Grover Cleveland as Consul to Breslau, Germany.

The Cottage remained in the Opp family until it was recently purchased by Martha McInnis who plans to restore the house for office use.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Owen, T.M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Chicago. S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921.