

PH 0010031

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA	
COUNTY: COVINGTON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
The William T. Shepard Home

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Poley Road (No number)

CITY OR TOWN:
Opp

STATE Alabama	CODE 01	COUNTY: Covington	CODE 039
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Opp Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o The Opp News, Covington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Opp	STATE: Alabama	CODE 01
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Covington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Town Square

CITY OR TOWN: Andalusia	STATE: Alabama	CODE 01
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

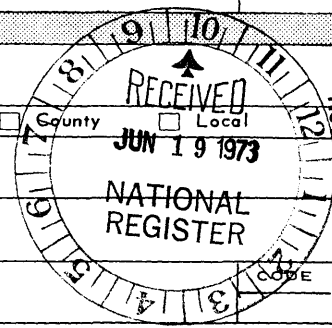
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Shepard House is a two-story frame structure, constructed in a U-shape around a large dogwood tree which no longer stands.

Brick piers covered with wooden lattice work form the foundation. All three sections of the roof are gabled with wide overhangs. There are three chimneys. Two interior chimneys are located on either wing toward the rear, and one large nine-foot wide chimney is located on the rear wall of the central section of the building.

A one-story porch crosses the front of the house and is connected to two recessed side porches. Wooden columns with dutch arches support the roof of the front porch and give support to the second floor above the recessed side porches. A wooden balustrade with rectangular balusters connects the columns. Access to the building is from side stairs leading onto the recessed porches.

The main entrance is a central double door with a twelve light transom above. Two French windows with similar transoms, one on either side of the central doorway, also give access to the front room. Three additional windows, one at either end of the recessed porches and one on the left leading into the front room, give access to the interior.

On the second floor a center gable contains three double casement windows. Two casement windows are located, one on either side of this gable.

The interior consists of a ballroom, a dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, five bedrooms, a storage room, a playroom, and two baths, one on each floor.

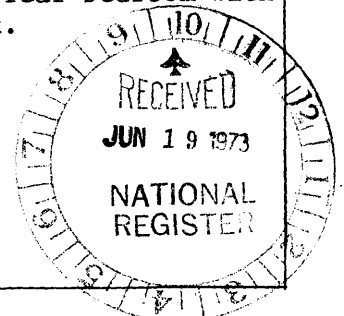
The ballroom and two recessed porches comprise the front sections of the ground floor. This ballroom which measures 31' by 20' rises two floors. A stairway to the right leads onto a second floor balcony which overlooks the entire room and leads into the rooms of the second floor.

On the rear wall of the ballroom is a nine-foot wide fireplace with French windows on either side which view the terrace. A second fireplace on this chimney is located on the second level.

The left wing consists of two bedrooms and a bath. Both bedrooms view the terrace. In the right wing are a dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, pantry and covered well.

The second story consists of two front bedrooms, a rear bedroom with adjoining bath, and a playroom with storage space behind it.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1908

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Local history</u> |
| <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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shepard House is the only remaining structure of Poley, Alabama, a sawmill community thought to have been one of the larger in the United States in the early 1900's. The house, which is unusually elaborate for this area of the state, was built for entertaining and was an important social center for South Central Alabama in the early 1900's.

Poley was a town of some 1,000 to 1,500 people, complete with hotel, two boarding houses, an ice house, a barber shop, a very large commissary, a church, school, cemetery, and entertainment center.

The main feature of the town was the Miller-Brent Lumber Company which employed some 600 to 750 men. It consisted of a large saw mill, a large planter mill, a large boiler (steam power) plant for each of these two, a large machine shop and a complete railroad system that extended some 25 miles in all directions from the mill. As far as can be determined, a sawmill was operated in this location since 1856.

In the early 1900's William T. Shepard, originally from Pensacola, Florida, bought 50% interest in the operation and moved to Poley. His house, constructed in 1908, was large and unusual for the area and soon became the social center for the surrounding counties, with balls and orchestras imported from as far away as Montgomery.

The mill hit its peak in the early 1920's and began to decline for lack of available timber. The operations ceased and the mill equipment, even foundation bricks were sold. There is nothing left of the town except the Shepard House, which was occupied by the family until 1972. At that time, it was sold to the newly formed Opp Historical Society which plans to restore it as a museum and headquarters.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Unpublished materials in possession of John Burgess, Chairman,
Opp Historical Society, c/o The Opp News, Opp, Alabama.

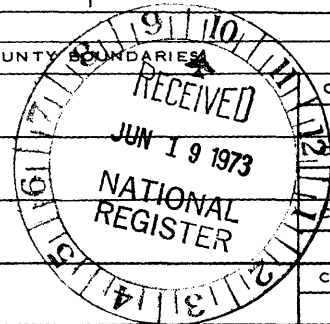
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		31° 16' 44"	86° 17' 50"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: June 7, 1973

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 Philo B. Howard Jr.

Title SAPO - Ala

Date June 11, 1973

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

Robert W. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/14/75

ATTEST:

Carroll Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8 6 73