

910

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUN 16 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shea, John F., House  
other names/site number Shea, John F., House (BL-1557)

2. Location

street & number On Old Walland Highway in Townsend. N/A not for publication  
city, town Townsend N/A vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Blount code 009 zip code 37882

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Hist. & Arch. Resources of Blount Co.  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Hubert L. Bryan 6/13/89  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Deputy SHPO, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Alton Bryan Entered in the National Register 7/25/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

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walls Wood

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roof Asphalt

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other Wood

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The John F. Shea House is a two-story, frame, rectangular plan, two-bay, Queen Anne style residence built in 1904. The house has a gable roof of composition shingles, brick foundation, interior brick chimneys and shiplap siding. On the main (south) facade is a one-story porch with ca. 1960 square columns and a railing with square balusters. The main entrance has a ca. 1960 glass and frame door and original single light transom. Windows are rectangular one-over-one sash.

On the main facade is a prominent octagonal tower with a conical roof, finial and single light fixed windows. In the gable fields are original square wood shingles, added ca. 1960 asphalt shingles, and one-over-one attic windows. On the west facade is a one-story bay window. At the rear is a ca. 1960 one-story frame addition with a metal standing seam roof and shiplap siding. The interior of the house retains its original woodwork with oak paneled pocket doors, five panel doors, original mantles with Ionic pilasters, and a staircase with a square newel post and balusters. Interior photographs were not possible. The house sits on an urban lot in the community of Townsend.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1904  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1904  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
 \_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The John F. Shea House is significant under criterion C as the only example of a high style Queen Anne residence in the rural areas of Blount County. The house was built in 1904 by John F. Shea of the Little River Lumber Company. The house designed for Shea was a towered Queen Anne residence with a prominent octagonal tower on the main facade and other detailing of this style such as a bay window and decorative shingles. The house is the only notable residence to survive from this period in Townsend and is the only example of the Queen Anne style outside Maryville in the county. The house has not been significantly altered and retains its original design.

Tradition states that this residence was built in 1904 by John F. Shea. Shea was in the lumber business with the Little River Lumber Company when they began to timber the eastern section of the county in the early 1900s. The Little River Lumber Company was chartered in 1901 and the mill town which formed around its operation was named Townsend in 1902 in honor of W. B. Townsend, the managing-president of the corporation. The company acquired approximately 100,000 acres of land on the waters of Little River and the company was involved in logging operations for many years.

Soon after the establishment of the company Shea had this Queen Anne design residence built adjacent to the lumber mill. When it was completed the house was a fine example of the Queen Anne style and the only design of this style known to have been built in the county outside of Maryville. The house originally stood on a lot to the south of its present location and was owned by the Shea family for many years. In the 1930s, the Little River Company sold much of its land to the U.S. Government for the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The construction of a new highway through Townsend resulted in the displacement of several properties. In 1953, the house was purchased by the present owners and when the road was improved they moved the house approximately two hundred feet across the highway to its present location.

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

John F. Shea House

**Section number** 8 **Page** 2

Hist. & Arch. Resources of Blount County

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The majority of pre-1940 properties in Townsend have either been razed or lost their original site and setting. The Little River Lumber Company was the only building remaining in Townsend which remained from the original plant operation. This building was listed on the National Register in 1974 but the property burned in 1986. Several properties were razed or moved when the present highway was constructed through Townsend in the 1950s. The Shea House is the only significant residential property remaining in Townsend associated with the early development of the community. The property is being nominated for its architectural design and craftsmanship. Although the house has been moved the present site and setting differs little from its original location.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Blount County Deed Records. 1800 - 1989. Blount County Courthouse, Maryville, Tennessee.

Burns, Inez E. History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip. Tennessee Historical Commission, Mary Blount Chapter DAR, 1957.

Morgan, John. Blount County Cultural Resource Survey. Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 1.3 acres.

UTM References

A 

17	250610	3951425
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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Kinzel Springs Quad

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the John F. Shea House is illustrated on accompanying Blount County tax map 96-K-A, lot 1, which is drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the John F. Shea House includes the entire city lot which has been associated with the property since it was moved in 1953.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Philip Thomason  
organization Thomason and Associates date 3/30/89  
street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-383-0227  
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs Page 1 Hist. and Arch. Resources of Blount Co.

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John F. Shea House  
Old Walland Hwy., Townsend, Blount County, TN  
Photographs By: Thomason and Assoc.  
Date: Fall, 1988  
Location of Neg: THC

View: South and west facades.  
Photo # 1

View: South and east facades.  
Photo # 2

View: North facade.  
Photo # 3

JOHN F.  
# 1557 - SHEA HOUSE



ADDITION →



