

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0683 250

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  
Ashe Cottage  
AND/OR COMMON  
Ely House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
307 North Commissioners  
CITY, TOWN  
Demopolis  
STATE  
Montgomery AL

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
01

7  
COUNTY  
Marengo  
CODE  
001

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. P. Turner  
STREET & NUMBER  
307 North Commissioners  
CITY, TOWN  
Demopolis

STATE  
Alabama 36732

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Marengo County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
101 East Coats Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Linden

STATE  
Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



# DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> BLIND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE 1971
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ashe Cottage is a small frame structure typical of the early Gothic Revival residences in Alabama. Constructed in 1858 as the residence of Dr. William Cincinnatus Ashe, it was originally located a few blocks away, nearer the business section of Demopolis.

The frame structure, raised on brick piers, is rectangular measuring 44 feet by 57 feet and is symmetrically organized, both on the interior and exterior. Twin gables and projecting bays flank a central entrance and are the strongest Gothic influences. The gables feature paired, diamond pointed windows crowned with a quatrefoil design, and are trimmed with a festoned bargeboard which is repeated beneath the cornice of the porch roof. Carved finials and pendants pierce the apex of the gables and are repeated on the corners. A side porch appears to be a later addition with trim dating in this area from the late 19th Century.

A central door has a glass inset just above the brass knob and even with the single sidelights, and is topped with a broad carved panel with Gothic detailing.

The interior of the original portion consists of a wide central hall with four rooms opening on to it. The front rooms serve as parlors and have an unusual door arrangement. Three folding doors and a single door provide the entrance to each room. Trim for the doors, windows, mantels and the arches leading to the bays is Italianate. Windows have small hinged panels beneath the sill which open inward providing ample ventilation. The Gothic motif appears in these rooms primarily in a carved quatrefoil on the window panels. To the rear of the parlors are two bedrooms with simple classical trim and summer windows with quatrefoil panels.

Shortly after the structure was removed to its new location a rear wing was added by extending the central hallway to form a link with the older section. Exterior treatment of this new addition conforms with the earlier section of the house; the jigsaw wood decoration matches the old, the siding was cut to the dimensions of the original and the four corner pilasters duplicate the earlier ones.



# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-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 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ashe Cottage is a fine example of the early influence of the Gothic Revival style in domestic architecture in Alabama. Constructed by Dr. William Cincinnatus Ashe, it is one of the few ante-bellum Gothic homes which remains in the Canebrake section of the state. Like many of the mid-19th Century homes in Alabama which aspired to the new look, the Ashe Cottage is Gothic more in its detailing rather than its overall conception. Gothic influences are found in the twin peaked gables of the facade, the pointed windows of the gables and the decorative bargeboard.

Dr. Ashe was one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Demopolis in the decades 1840-1860. Born in 1815, he was the son of a North Carolina native, Pasca! Paoli Ashe who moved to Hale County during the early years of the 19th Century. Dr. Ashe married Sarah Grimes of Choctaw County, but the couple had no children. A niece of Mrs. Ashe, Miss Camilla Waters, one of the celebrated belles of the Canebrake, made her home with Dr. and Mrs. Ashe. Another niece, Julia Tutwiler, became one of Alabama's most noted educators and social reformers. Ashe, who practiced medicine in Demopolis until his death in 1867, was deeply involved in the community. Although a devout Episcopalian, he donated the land for the Presbyterian Church.

The house was originally located on Strawberry Street, a high-density section of town which by the mid-1960's had become commercial. In 1971, when the structure was threatened by demolition, it was purchased by Joe and Martha Turner and moved to its present location one block north and three blocks west of the Strawberry Street address. The new location is along the riverfront and was formerly the site of two, two-story frame, early 20th Century homes in deteriorated condition. Along with the restoration of Bluff Hall, the relocation and restoration of Ashe Cottage served to stabilize a historic section of the town and refocus attention on the White Bluffs.

After its relocation, the house was restored to its original condition and an addition was constructed to the rear under the supervision of Mobile Architect Nicholas Holmes, Jr.



**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Keating, A.J., The Architecture of County Houses, Dover Publications, 1968 (reprinted from 1850 edition).

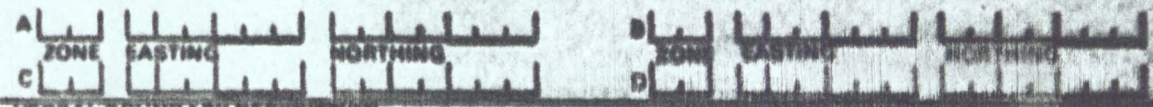
Dallas, Jonathan Witherspoon, "Chronicles of the Cavaliers." Unpublished chapter in Alabama Department of Archives and History, 1917.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 ACRES

LATITUDE 32 51' 09"  
 LONGITUDE 87 50' 25"

UTM REFERENCES



VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

November 18, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama 36130

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-663), 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Wils B. Howard, Jr.*

TITLE

*SHPO Alabama*

DATE

*November 18, 1976*

FOR MPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA

Blank area for additional notes or signatures.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

Smith, Dr. Winston, "Historic Denopolis." Unpublished ms. in private collection  
of author, c. 1955.