

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Shelby
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE NOV 6 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:  
~~The~~ Magevney House (8th District Rep. Dan Kuykendall)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
198 Adams Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Memphis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Shelby CODE: 157

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"/> Object	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> 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 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Memphis (Memphis Park Commission) - administered by

STREET AND NUMBER:  
232 Tilton Road Pink Palace Museum

CITY OR TOWN:  
Memphis

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Shelby County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Memphis

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

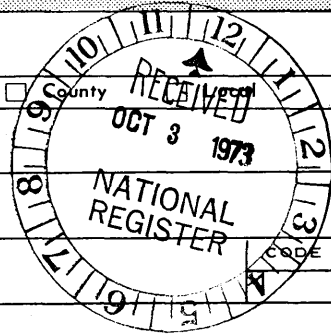
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Shelby

ENTRY NUMBER: 101

DATE: 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Magevney House is located in downtown Memphis in a neighborhood which is now predominantly commercial. During the Nineteenth Century, however, the area contained upper middle class residences. The house is a six room, white clapboard frame structure with a cypress shingled roof and green shutters. The shingles and the colors of the house and shutters have been duplicated to coincide with the original appearance. In 1838 when Eugene Magevney purchased the lot, the structure had four rooms (two upper and two lower) and a downstairs hall. It had probably been erected by John M. Manning about 1836. During his lifetime (he died September 30, 1873) a two room wing was added to the house. A carriage house and a separate kitchen were built at the rear of the lot. Mr. Magevney erected a brick wall at the rear of the lot, and developed the back yard into a formal garden. Presently the back wall and one rear house remain. The garden, its walks, and grape arbor have been restored.

The interior of the house has four fireplaces with painted wooden mantels, one in each room on the first floor. There are six windows on the first floor, each with twelve panes (six upper and six lower). The second floor has four windows with four panes each (two upper and two lower). The flooring throughout the house is pine, some of which is thought to be original. The eight doors of the house (three exterior and five interior), the china door knobs, the brass nameplate on the front door and even the key to the front door are original. The dining room table is set with the Delft china place settings Mary Smyth brought with her from Ireland in 1840. The kitchen contains the chair Magevney used when he was a schoolmaster, Magevney's deed to the property and Magevney's naturalization papers. Also in the kitchen is a pew from the original St. Peter's Catholic Church, which is located next door to the house. The parlor has portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Magevney and their son-in-law, Hugh A. Hamilton. There is a photograph of the younger daughter, Kate Magevney Hamilton. The downstairs bedroom has a portrait of the elder daughter, Sister Mary Agnes. There is also in this room a replica of the bureau on which the first Catholic mass was said. One of the upstairs rooms contains the leather trunk brought by Mary Smyth on her journey to Memphis. The other furnishings in the house are suitable to its architecture.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 significance of the Magevney House is primarily that it is the oldest surviving dwelling in Memphis. It is an excellent architectural example of a modest, middle class structure of the early Nineteenth Century. It is important to the history of Memphis in that it was the scene of the first Catholic mass celebrated here (1840), the first Catholic wedding (1840), and the first Catholic Baptism (1841). As mentioned in the description of the house, there are several original articles in it which deal directly with its history. In addition, it was the residence of one who figured prominently in several facets of Memphis history. Eugene Magevney was one of the first educators in the city and helped establish the public school system and Christian Brothers College, which is still in existence. From 1842 until 1849 Mr. Magevney served as an alderman in the city government. When the Bank of Commerce (presently named the National Bank of Commerce) was opened in 1873, Magevney was one of six prominent Memphians who were directors and charter applicants. The establishment of the Catholic church in Memphis, especially the present St. Peter's, was also due in great part to him. Though he became wealthy from his extensive real estate holdings, Magevney resided at the Adams address until his death. The Magevney House, possessing significance in many fields, is important to the downtown Memphis area, and is operated as a museum house, open to the public without charge, as stipulated by the Magevney descendant who donated the property to the City of Memphis in 1941.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

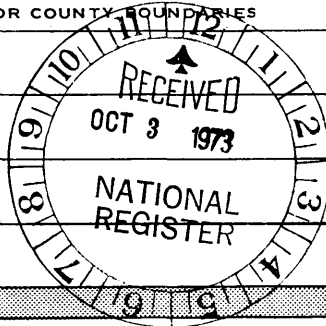
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		35 ° 08 ' 50 "	90 ° 02 ' 53 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

UTM  
15/76894  
389318C  
CD

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Robert P. Sullivan, Director

ORGANIZATION: Memphis Pink Palace Museum      DATE: Sept. 18, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
232 Tilton Road

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis      STATE: Tennessee      CODE: 47

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: Michael J. Smith

Title: Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: September 28, 1973

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

Ernest A. Connolly  
~~Director, Office of Professional Services, National Register of Historic Places~~  
Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: NOV 6 1973

ATTEST:

Wm. H. Keeney  
Keeper of the National Register

Date: 11-1-73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 6	1973

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brandau, Roberta Seawell, editor, History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee. Nashville: The Parthenon Press, 1936, p. 319.

Capers, Gerald F., Jr., Biography of a River Town: Memphis, Its Heroic Age. Chapel Hill: Gerald M. Capers, Jr. publisher, 1939

Crawford, Charles and Robert McBride, "The Magevney House, Memphis", Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Winter, 1969. Tennessee Historical Society, 1969.

Delta Review, "Memphis Anniversary Issue", February, 1969, Vol. 6, No. 1, Memphis: William King Self, publisher, p. 93

Keating, John M. and Vedder, O. F. History of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee. Syracuse: 1888. Part III, p. 41.

McManus, H. J. Memoir of Saint Peter's Diamond Jubilee, St. Peter's Catholic Church, 1940. Memphis, Tennessee

Memphis Commercial Appeal, "Sesquicentennial Edition", May 25, 1969.

Memphis Press-Scimitar, "Sesquicentennial Edition", May 28, 1969.

Stanton, William M., "The Irish of Memphis", The West Tennessee Historical Society Papers, No. VI, 1952. Memphis: The West Tennessee Historical Society.

Williams, Samuel Cole. Beginnings of West Tennessee. Nashville: The Blue and Grey Press, 1930.

