

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 30 1986
date entered 8-28-86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Agee House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1804 12th Avenue South NA not for publication

city, town Birmingham NA vicinity of congressional district 6

state Alabama code 01 county Jefferson code 073

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. J. Clayton Davie

street & number 1804 12th Avenue South

city, town Birmingham NA vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 716 21st Street North

city, town Birmingham state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Southside-Highlands Survey X
title Alabama Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no
1981
date 1970-present ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local
depository for survey records Birmingham Historical Society
Alabama Historical Commission
city, town Birmingham
Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Agee House is a turn-of-the-century Shingle style residence situated on a very steep slope on Birmingham's southside near the crest of Nabob Hill. The front of this high style house is very close to the street, but the back, supported by a very high foundation wall due to the abrupt drop-off of the terrain, extends back approximately 60 feet from the front of the lot.

The exterior is typically Shingle style in its overall, rambling, asymmetrical shape completely covered with wooden shingles applied to the walls in an irregular pattern. The large multi-dormered roof disguises the fact that the house is actually two stories. The most prominent street facade feature is a two-story rounded bay with a conical roof which blends smoothly into the main house roofline. Wrap-around porches on both the front and rear facades are another important feature.

The asymmetrical interior plan features original dark stained woodwork including period mantels, doors, baseboards, architraves and window surrounds. All original wooden floors exist throughout as does an enclosed dogleg staircase leading to the second floor. Some portions of the interior have modern paneling and recent partitioning to accommodate a doctor's office that currently occupies the entire building. A rear porch has been enclosed. All 1/1 original wooden window sash are intact.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 c. 1900 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

CRITERION C - ARCHITECTURE:

The only existing example of fully-developed Shingle style architecture in Birmingham is the Agee House (c 1900). The house features important features identified with the style such as an overall free form entirely covered with textured shingles, a hipped roof with multi-cross hipped dormers, a half round two-story bay with a roof which blends into the volume of the main house roofline, banded windows and wrap-around porches. Dissemination of the academic Shingle style across America during the late 19th century was widespread but never highly popular, and it is especially rare in Alabama.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Birmingham Historical Society, Southside-Highlands Report: Architectural and Historical Resources, 1981.

Burkhardt, Ann M. "Town Within a City: The Five Points South Neighborhood 1880-1930," Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, November, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Birmingham South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification P O B 106.3 ft. NE of the inter of NE line 18th St. S & NW line 12th Ave. S th NE 106.3 ft. alg ave. to alley th NW 162.5 ft. to alley th SW 106.3 ft. th SE 162.5 ft. to P O B being pt. of Blk 777, B'ham.

Lot size 106.3' x 162.5'.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Dolan, Architectural Historian

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date 5/86

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama

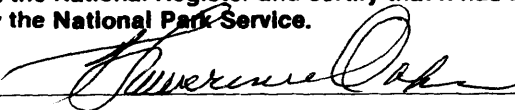
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 89-665), 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/23/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/28/86

for 
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

The Agee House was built c. 1900 as one of a pair of houses that General Edmund Winchester Rucker gave as wedding presents to his two daughters. (The other house, next door, is still standing but has been completely clad in brick.) The house remained in the Agee family until the middle 1950s; it was purchased by its present owner, Dr. J. Clayton Davie, in 1975, and he has refurbished it for his professional offices, enclosing and reflooring some of the porches but leaving the interior intact and restoring and painting the exterior.

This house is the finest remaining property opposite Nabob Hill (now the site of Ramsay High School) on the north. This area and the families that lived in it represent a major part of the history of the Five Points residential district and the development of Birmingham itself. General Rucker was perhaps the original nabob, with impeccable Civil War credentials—he had served with Nathan Bedford Forrest and lost an arm at the Battle of Nashville.

The architect of the Agee House is not known, but the distinction of its style has been noted by the Birmingham Historical Society, who have conjectured that it may have been the only example of its type built in the city. It is certainly the only one now existing.