

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alabama	
COUNTY: Walker	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 18 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bankhead House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Sunset

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1400 7th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Jasper

STATE Alabama	CODE 01	COUNTY: Walker	CODE 127
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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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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:
Charlotte C. Taggart (Mrs. John K., Jr.)

STREET AND NUMBER:
1400 7th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Jasper

STATE:
Alabama

CODE:
01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Walker County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Jasper

STATE:
Alabama

CODE:
01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

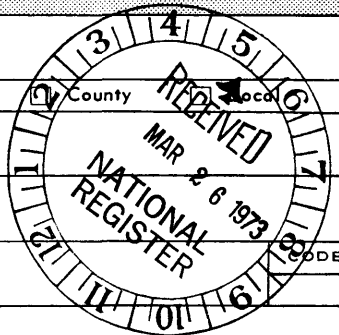
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bankhead home is a two-story frame structure influenced by the Neo-Classical Revival style of the late 19th century. Basically rectangular in plan, the structure is built on a stone foundation and has a hipped roof. Originally, there were five chimneys and nine fireplaces. Two chimneys remain. One, an end-interior chimney, is located on the south side of the house. The other is located in the master bedroom toward the rear of the house.

A veranda crosses the front of the house and continues partially around the two sides of the house. Eighteen classical columns support this veranda which has a projecting cornice ornamented below with a row of dentils. On the north side, this veranda has been enclosed to form a sun parlor, and on the south side a porte cochere projects from it. The veranda itself projects in front of the central doorway to form a two-story portico.

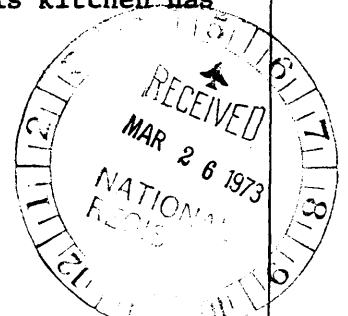
Four double hung windows with plain moldings and one large lite per sash are located on either side of the central doorways on the first and second floors of the facade. All other windows are similar with the exception of three windows located on the south side of the building. One ground floor window has two side lites, and a window above it on the second floor has two side lites and a transom. Additionally the south wall of the master bedroom projects to form a bay window.

The main entrance is a large single door with a leaded glass panel, and two engaged columns separating the door from the two side lites. A three lite transom above is separated from the door and side lites by a horizontal molding with dentils. A central upper door, which gives access to the second portico, is composed of stained glass.

Interior woodwork features heavy cornices with dentil molding. A plain round medallion is located in the dining room ceiling. Originally, the ground floor had central front and rear halls. The front hall was combined with the room on the left to make the now existing large living room. The back hall was closed off and part of it made into a large closet. A stair hall, which is perpendicular to the central hall, separates this living room from the master bedroom behind it.

To the right of the central hallways are three rooms. There is a front parlor which opened onto the front hall (now part of the living room) with double sliding doors and opens onto the dining room behind it with similar doors. A small breakfast room behind the dining room opens both onto the rear central hall, the dining room, and a rear kitchen. This kitchen has a latticed well porch projecting from it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

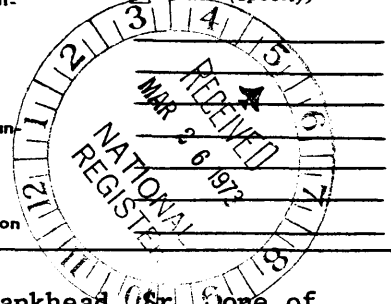
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input 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 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

This is the longtime residence of John Hollis Bankhead, Sr., one of Alabama's noted United States Senators and the founder of one of Alabama's most prominent political dynasties which influenced American politics for more than half a century. Bankhead occupied the landmark from 1906 until his death in 1920. Additionally other prominent members of the Bankhead family have occupied the house at various times.

Senator Bankhead was born in Lamar County, Alabama, on September 13, 1842. He was a Confederate soldier, a state legislator, a member of the United States House of Representatives for 20 years, and Senator from Alabama for 13 years until his death.

Due to his efforts, the government made the first survey of Muscle Shoals for hydroelectric power. During his term of office and through his influence, the Warrior River became the world's longest canalized waterway and Mobile became a deep seaport. The accomplishment for which he is most widely remembered, however, is his initiation of federal aid to highways. Because of this legislation, he was known as the "Father of Good Roads." The Bankhead Highway, an east-west national thoroughfare, was named in his honor.

His son, Senator John Hollis Bankhead, Jr., also made his home here from 1922 until his death in 1946. Born in 1872, he began his political career in the Alabama legislature in 1903. He served in the United States Senate from 1930 until his death and was chiefly known for his legislation to improve rural life.

His brother, William Brockman Bankhead, also spent time here intermittently. He, too, was a lawyer, member of the State of Alabama legislature, and a member of the United States Congress from 1917 until his death in 1940. During his tenure in the Federal Congress, he was Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1936 to 1940.

Upon his death, his nephew, Walter Will Bankhead, a lawyer in Jasper, Alabama, was appointed to fill his unexpired term. This attorney also lived in this home.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National League of American Pen Women, Historic Homes of Alabama and their Traditions, Birmingham: Southern University Press, 1969.

Owen, T. M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, Vol. IV, Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921.

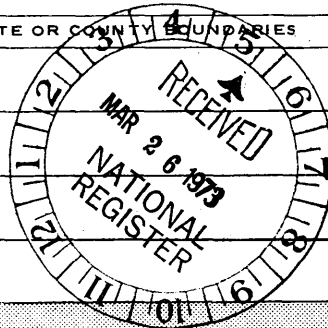
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		33 50 14	87 17 04	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.44 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: March 13, 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: Mildred B. Toward, Jr.

Title: SLO for Historic Preservation

Date: March 15, 1973

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

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

Date: 6/15/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: June 5, 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Alabama	
COUNTY	Dallas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JUN 18 1973

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Continued)

Tallulah Bankhead, internationally known actress and personality, was the daughter of William Brockman Bankhead and spent her childhood here, as her mother died shortly after her birth and her grandmother reared her. She is reputed to have done her first acting in the attic of this landmark.

Another Bankhead of note, who spent some time in this house, is the late Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, a daughter of the senior senator, who together with her husband, Thomas M. Owen, was largely responsible for the development of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the first state supported archives department in the nation. After her appointment as Director, she served in that capacity until her death.

