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Tookes House Name of Property		Leon Co., FL County and State			
5. Classification	······				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resou (Do not include any pre	Irces within Proper	r ty in the count)	
⊠ private □ public-local	 buildings district site structure object 	Contributing	Noncontribut	ling	
public-State public-Federal		1	1	buildings	
		0	0	sites	
		0	0	structures	
	•	0	0	objects	
		1	1	total	
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of contril listed in the Nation	buting resources p onal Register	previously	
"N	/A"	0			
6. Function or Use			·····		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instr	ructions)		
DOMESTIC: single dwelling		HEALTH CARE: halfw	ay house		
DOMESTIC: hotel					
			······································		
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	n instructions)		
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY	AMERICAN	foundation BRIC	K		
MOVEMENTS: Bungalow		walls WOOD			
		roof ASPHALT	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
		other			

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.) A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive character	ristics
of a type, period, or method of construction	or
represents the work of a master, or possess	ses
high artistic values, or represents a significa	int and
distinguishable entity whose components la	ck
individual distinction.	

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- **C** a birthplace or grave.
- **D** a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- **F** a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data: Previous documentation on file (NPS): State Historic Preservation Office preliminary determination of individual listing (36 Other State Agency CFR 36) has been requested previously listed in the National Register Federal agency Local government previously determined eligible by the National Register University ☐ Other designated a National Historic Landmark Name of Repository recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

	recorded	by	Historic	American	Engineering	Record
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Areas	of	Sigr	nifica	nce	
(Enter ca	ateg	ories	from i	nstructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

Period of Significance

1930-1950

Significant Dates

1949

Significant Person

Tookes, Dorothy

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hunter, Leroy builder, 1948 addition

Leon Co., FL County and State

Tookes House Name of Property	Leon Co., FL County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property less than one1	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 6 7 6 0 6 0 3 3 7 1 1 2 0 2	3 Zone Easting 4 See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Ronald J. McCoy/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Spec	cialist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date December 2000
street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street	telephone (850) 487-2333
city or town Tallahassee	_ state Florida zip code 32399-0250
Additional Documentation	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name William Shelmon	
street & number 19070 Roseland Court	telephone 248-569-8657
city or town Lathrup Village	state Michigan zip code 48076

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

TOOKES HOUSE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

SUMMARY

The Tookes House is located at 412 West Virginia Street, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida. The pre-1916 house is a one-story (with basement), frame vernacular, hipped roof cottage with bungalow influences. The irregularly shaped residence rests on a continuous masonry foundation and its exterior is horizontal wooden siding. It has a cross-gabled, shingled roof. The residence contains one operable gas brick chimney. The east bay of the three bay porch is enclosed.

SETTING

The Tookes House fronts south onto W. Virginia Street, which runs east/west. Four large, historic Sago palms dominate the front yard. A few shrubs including azaleas surround the house. A date palm tree is centered on the west elevation, and mature oak trees are on the periphery of the property. The surrounding neighborhood is composed of residential dwellings and some vacant lots. A major thoroughfare, Tennessee Street, runs east/west, and is located one block south of Virginia Street. A neighborhood thoroughfare, Macomb Street, runs north/south, and is located on the western edge of the block of the Tookes House. The house is seven blocks northwest of the state capitol in Frenchtown, Tallahassee's largest traditionally Black neighborhood.

The property deed between James Tookes and James W. Ferrell, dated June 8, 1914, indicates Tookes agreed to pay Ferrell \$700 (Leon County:1914). The price indicates a building was already on the lot since vacant lots were selling for much less than that amount. The earliest Sanborn map confirms a house was on the property in 1916. The current character and configuration of the Tookes House dates to 1948, when the hotel addition was made.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION Exterior

The <u>south (main) façade</u> has a incised porch spanning two-thirds of the elevation, under a broad hip roof with hipped dormer vents centered in the roof (Photo #1). The west half of the porch has two battered columns that rise from brick piers, and are joined by hand rails and square balusters. Four concrete steps with concrete cheeks access the porch. The east half of the porch is enclosed with horizontal wooden siding and double hung sashes. The main entrance is a single wooden door with two panels and a top window light, and is bordered by two 2/1 double-hung, wooden windows. The broad hip roof is surfaced with composition shingles, and has a hip dormer centered in the south slope. The dormer contains a louvered vent.

On the <u>west elevation</u> a northern extension that was added in 1948 for visitor accommodations, projects from the wall of the main house (Photo #2). A southerly facing side porch with a door is located half way back along the elevation. A sidewalk leads from the street to the porch steps. The porch has concrete steps and

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

- TOOKES HOUSE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

cheeks, and a wooden railing. There are four paired, and four single double-hung wooden sashes along the elevation.

The <u>north elevation</u> is the rear of the house (Photo #3). The northerly extension is to the west. Three windows are on the first story level of the extension, and two are in the basement level. There are steps leading down to the basement on the extension's east side (Photo #4). To the east is a rear, screened-in porch at the center of the house (Photo #5). Further to the east is the gable end of a small extension that has two windows.

The <u>east elevation</u> has a driveway alongside of the house (Photo #6). Wooden steps and a small porch access a single side door. Two paired and one single window line the elevation. All of the windows are original. The enclosed portion of the front porch is visible to the south.

Interior

Within the main door is the living room with a fireplace and mantel canted into the northeast corner of the room (Photo #7). The floors are wooden, and the walls and ceiling are plaster. Separating the living room from the dining room to the east are two French doors. Two wooden doors with nine lights (Photo #8) separate the dining room and enclosed front porch. The east side of the house, in addition to the dining room, contains the service areas. To the north of the dining room are the kitchen (Photo #9), a small storage area, laundry room, and entry hall for the side door. This hall opens onto the rear porch. On the west side of the house are bedrooms. One in the southwest corner is currently used as an office, but is typical of the other rooms (Photo #10). Along the central hall (Photo #11) of the addition are eight bedrooms and two baths. At the northern end of the hall is a stairwell that goes to two bedrooms and a bath in the basement (Photo #12).

ALTERATIONS

The French doors in the living room were installed sometime in the 1930s or 1940s. In the 1940s, the east third of the front porch was enclosed and Mr. Tookes ran it as a restaurant. In 1948 and 1949, a large addition was made to the northwest corner of the house to adapt it as a hotel. In the early 1950s, two rooms extended the addition to the north, and the laundry room was added to the north of the east-side hall. In 1954, the pine floors in the main portion of the house were replaced with oak. The final four rooms, including the basement, were added to the hotel addition in 1971. In 1993, when the house was adapted to serve as an assisted living home, the kitchen and bathrooms were renovated, new windows were installed in the enclosed front porch, and a side door off of the porch into the enclosed porch was removed.

OUTBUILDINGS

The small, shed roofed concrete block shed on the north side of the home dates to the early 1950s (Photo #13). It was originally a wash house but is now used for storage. The Tookes Hotel neon sign is stored here along with the iron tub that was in the main hotel bathroom.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1

TOOKES HOUSE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

SUMMARY

The Tookes House is nominated to the National Register for its local significance under Criteria A and B in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black, and for its biographical association with Dorothy Nash Tookes. Tookes helped initiate, and was crucial to the establishment of Bond Elementary, a local school for Blacks. Perceiving another social need within Tallahassee's racially segregated society, she established the only hotel at that time for Black visitors to the city. The Tookes Hotel was incorporated into the Tookes residence, and was a part of a commercial infrastructure that kept Tallahassee's largest Black neighborhood self-sufficient.

CONTEXT

The Tookes House is located in a historic section of Tallahassee known as Frenchtown. In 1824, the United States Congress under President James Monroe, gave the Marquis de Lafayette an award of \$200,000 and land in the new Territory of Florida. The land, 36 square miles or one township, located just east of Tallahassee, was to repay Lafayette for his services to America during the Revolutionary War. In the 1830's, Lafayette sent a colony of French farmers to the northeast section of his land, hoping to make it productive and profitable. These colonists attempted to grow grapes, figs, olives, mulberry trees and silk worms. Their efforts were unsuccessful. Some of the colonists returned to France or moved to New Orleans, while others settled in the area of Tallahassee known today as Frenchtown, located in Tallahassee's Northwest Addition (Historical and Architectural Survey, 1987: 21-28). After the Civil War, freedmen began to reside in Frenchtown. By the 1870's, this area became predominately African-American and remains so today (Historical and Architectural Survey, 1987: 46). The area thrived as an economic hub for Tallahassee's segregated African-American community until its decline in the 1960's. In its heyday, there were grocery stores, Dr. Campbell's medical office, dentists, a shoe store, a department store, a dry cleaners, numerous restaurants, barber shops, dance clubs, an antique/grocery store, and a movie theatre. In the last half of the twentieth century, the only African-American owned hotel in Frenchtown was the Tookes Hotel. Many of Frenchtown's historic residences and most of the historic commercial buildings no longer remain.

Educational opportunities for Black children in Tallahassee and Leon County were not consistently available. Lincoln High School, established in 1869 south of Frenchtown, was relocated in the neighborhood in 1929 (Morris, "Early Leon," 1989). This was the only high school for Blacks in Leon County. One-room frame schools had been developed in various communities throughout the county since the late nineteenth century. In the early part of the twentieth century neighborhoods adjacent to Florida A and M University developed. The private Lucy Moten School was created in association with the University as a school for the children of professors and employees. Many children in an adjacent neighborhood known as Bond had no opportunity for an education.

A similar situation existed for Black travelers. During Florida's years of racial segregation, most Blacks that needed to travel arranged to stay with friends, slept in their cars, or traveled in such a way that they reached their destination during the day. In many Florida cities, Black communities contained a boarding house or

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2

TOOKES HOUSE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

small hotel. The first African-American hotel in Tallahassee, the Boulevard Hotel, opened in 1888, but it had been closed many years by the middle of the twentieth century (Historical and Architectural Survey, 1987: 81).

SIGNIFICANCE

Dorothy Nash Tookes

Mrs. Dorothy Nash Tookes was born February 19, 1904 in Tallahassee, Florida. She attended Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama (Talladega: 1924), and Florida A & M University, in Tallahassee, where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education followed by a Degree in Nursing Education on May 24, 1928 (Florida A& M: 1928). She married James Tookes on September 26, 1930 (Duval: 1930). To this union, two children were born, Delores and James. She lived with her family at 412 W. Virginia Street from the date of her marriage, September of 1930, until her death on December 12, 1988. In addition to her work for Bond School and the Tookes Hotel, Dorothy Tookes worked as a nurse at the Florida A & M Hospital, and as a public school teacher in Gadsden County (Homegoing Celebration: 1988).

James Tookes was an accomplished chef. He worked for the Phipps family, and at the Governor's Mansion during the terms of governors Sholtz and Caldwell. He operated a small neighborhood restaurant in the front of the Tookes house in the 1940's, and later ran a restaurant in the community known as "The Hot Spot."

Bond School Founding

In 1935 Mrs. Tookes helped establish Bond School. She was the first certified teacher, and first principal of the school. For this achievement, Mrs. Tookes was posthumously honored in an official City of Tallahassee Proclamation dated February 19, 1990, and also a Leon County Commission Resolution.

Beginning in 1927, a Mrs. Sweet Upson privately began offering kindergarten level schooling for Bond Community children. This saved the young children a trip across town to the Lincoln school. According to notes written by Dorothy Nash Tookes, a Jedson Brown went repeatedly to see then Superintendent of Schools, Frank S. Hartsfield to advocate a public school for the community (Tookes, History of Bond: 1954). He told Hartsfield "*There are a number of students in Bond Subdivision, and we need a qualified teacher for the job, but we don't have a place to teach.*" Hartsfield contacted Mrs. Tookes and told her, "...you may have the job if you like and can find a place to teach" (Tookes, Personal Papers: 1954). The year was 1935 and resources to start the school were very slim for the then thirty-one-year-old Mrs. Tookes, but she accepted the job and pursued it with determination and confidence saying "if I am given the job everything else will take care of itself." (Tookes, Personal Papers: 1954). She enlisted the assistance of the St. John's Missionary Baptist Church to provide a meeting place. The church is still in existence today. Tookes walked the streets of the Bond Community encouraging parents to send their children to the new school (Van Houter: 2000). The first teachers at the school were Tookes, Lillie Smith-Davis, and Lucinda Lawrence (City, 1990). The Leon County School Board minutes for December 20, 1935 reflect a payroll entry for Mrs. Tookes in the amount of \$50. At

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

TOOKES HOUSE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

that time, Bond School had been opened for about one month. An entry for August 4, 1936 includes payroll entries for Mrs. Tookes and Mrs. Smith in the amount of \$400 each.

Tookes' influence in the community was far reaching. Her outreach to the community was personal, and resulted in an increased student population. One of her students, Mrs. Ruth White Van Houter, fondly recalls Tookes committment to preparing the children for high school. Upon learning that young Van Houter had dropped out of Lincoln in the seventh grade, Tookes went to her home and encouraged her to enroll in trade school at Florida A & M University. Van Houter studied there to be a beautician and continues in that trade today (Van Houter: 2000).

As enrollment increased at Bond, Tookes needed another location to house additional grades. She secured the assistance of Flipper Missionary Baptist Church. The first six grades were located in the two churches and Tookes now had two teachers assisting her, Mrs. Lillie Smith and Mrs. Lucinda Lawrence.

In a short while the need for a permanent school site became apparent and Tookes, along with her staff of two teachers, and the community, set out on a fund raising drive. Mrs. Lessie Sanford, cousin of Tookes, fondly recalls her selling candy and peanuts throughout Tallahassee in support of the school (Sanford: 1999). From this effort, \$250 was raised, but it was never used toward the purchase of the property for the new school. Instead, the county purchased the needed property, and in 1938 constructed the first school building which consisted of four rooms. The \$250 was used for instructional materials (Tookes, History of Bond: 1954). Tookes served Bond School until 1940.

Tookes Hotel Founding

In 1948, perceiving another community need, Mrs. Tookes chose to modify her home to accommodate it as a public rooming house. The earliest record regarding the hotel is the contractor plan dated July 26, 1948 to add three rooms to the west rear of the home along with a bathroom (Tallahassee Federal: 1948). From the same time there is the mortgage note that she and her husband signed to cover the cost of construction.

According to the Tookes' daughter, initially the home was known as Tookes Rooming House (McCoy: 2000). In the early 1950's, Tookes had her home officially licensed as Tookes Hotel. The 1954 Tallahassee City Directory lists Tookes Hotel. The landmark Tookes Hotel neon sign was erected in 1952 (Historical and Architectural Survey, 1987: 21-28). It was quite an attraction, because at that time, there were few neon signs in Tallahassee (McCoy: 2000). The hotel served a social need and prospered as evidenced by the additions of more bedrooms to the rear of the house. Hotel records reflect the names of a couple of notable African-Americans who stayed there, James Baldwin and Lou Rawls

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Sub of lots 13 – 18 NWA, Lot T, DB 202/477

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundary encompasses the historic property associated with the home of Dorothy Tookes, AKA Tookes Hotel.

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Page 1 TOOKE

TOOKES HOUSE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

- 1. Tookes House, aka Tookes Hotel, 412 West Virginia Street, Tallahassee
- 2. Leon County, Florida
- 3. Ron McCoy
- 4. January 2000
- 5. McCoy
- 6. Main, south façade, looking north
- 7. Photo #1 of 13

Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs.

- 6. West elevation, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #2 of 13
- 6. North elevation showing northwest extension, looking south
- 7. Photo #3 of 13
- 6. Basement steps, east wall of northwest extension, looking northwest
- 7. Photo #4 of 13
- 6. North elevation showing east gable end, looking south
- 7. Photo #5 of 13
- 6. East elevation, looking southwest
- 7. Photo #6 of 13
- 6. Living room, looking east
- 7. Photo #7 of 13
- 6. Dining room and enclosed front porch, looking south
- 7. Photo #8 of 13
- 6. Kitchen, looking east
- 7. Photo #9 of 13
- 6. Southwest, front room, looking southwest
- 7. Photo #10 of 13

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TOOKES HOUSE, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

- 6. Center hall of hotel extension, looking north
- 7. Photo #11 of 13
- 6. Stairway to the basement, looking north
- 7. Photo #12 of 13
- 6. Non-historic outbuilding, looking north
- 7. Photo #13 of 13



Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida

Mile

North



TOOKES HOUSE Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida





TOOKES HOUSE

XIRGINID ST