

PH0501115

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 14 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 3 1978

**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

Spring Villa

AND/OR COMMON

Spring Villa

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

six miles southeast of Opelika on Spring Villa Road

(Lee County 36)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Opelika

X VICINITY OF

3

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alabama

CODE

01

COUNTY

Lee

CODE

081

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Water Works Board of Opelika

STREET & NUMBER

Municipal Building

CITY, TOWN

Opelika

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Opelika

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1936

X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Spring Villa is a one-and-a-half story, frame residence influenced by the Gothic Revival style. Constructed in the 1850's as the center of William Pen Younge's plantation, it was originally surrounded by elaborately landscaped grounds with rare plantings, a 30 acre man-made lake bordered with willow trees, a race track and small dependencies including a guest house. Of the original buildings only the main house, restored in 1934 by the C.W.A., remains.

The symetrically organized structure was originally raised on low brick piers, but now rests on a low stone foundation and measures 52 by 20 feet with the long side forming the main (western) facade. The Gothic influence is found primarily in the treatment of the gabled roof which has extended eaves trimmed with jigsaw work and three high pitched gabled with finials and pendants at the apex. The central gable is dominant and has a pedimented, single, four-panel door which opens onto a small jigsaw-trimmed balcony. The smaller flanking gables have french windows, with wooden panels in the lower half, opening onto smaller, but similar balconies. In 1970, the lattice work balcony railings were replaced with the present square balusters.

On the ground floor a central, single door with a pediment, transom and side-lights is flanked by double hung, 6/6 windows with slight pediments. During the 1934 restoration, evidence of half-hipped verandas spanning the eastern and western elevations was found. They were not reconstructed due to the uncertainty of date and appearance.

The rear elevation repeats the facade with one exception - the substitution of a simply framed, four-panel door for the southern window. The gable ends have balconied upper floor windows, jigsaw trim and apex finials and pendants. The plastered and scored, end-exterior, brick chimneys pierce the wide overhanging eaves.

Like the exterior, the interior is symetrically arranged with a central hall approximately 11'10" wide opening into a 19'x19' room on either side. Interior trim is somewhat severe with backband trim for windows and doors and simple wooden mantels with a slight tudor arch incorporated into the freize. The most notable feature of the interior is the enclosed spiral stair with treds radiating from a central post. The second floor repeats the first, except for the enclosing of the rear portion of the central hall. Walls throughout are of plaster on lathe and most of the original wide pine flooring remains.

In 1934 the building, which had been slightly damaged by fire, was restored to its earlier condition. At this time the new foundation was constructed, a low stone stoop added to the front and a rear wing was constructed. The rear wing, which measures approximately 50' by 20 feet, is situated 15 feet from the rear of the house and is attached by a wooden breezeway. The second floor central balcony was removed, allowing a passage from the second floor of the main house to the second floor of the new addition. This addition received the same exterior treatment with balconied gables and contains kitchen, bath and additional sleeping facilities.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The house and grounds have been used as a public recreation facility for the past half century. A swimming pool, camping grounds, picnic shelters, nature trails and ball fields have been constructed throughout this period but are not visible from the main house.

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 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 c.1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Spring Villa is one of the more noted examples of the early influence of the Gothic Revival style in domestic architecture in Alabama and has long been a popular recreational spot for the citizens of the surrounding area. Constructed by William Penn Younge as the focal point of his magnificently landscaped 455 acre plantation, it was the scene of numerous lavish entertainments during the antebellum and reconstruction periods. In the early 20th Century the property and house were acquired as a public recreation facility and the house was restored as a C.W.A. project.

Younge, a native of Virginia who migrated to Alabama in the early 1840's, married Mary Ann Godwin of Girard in 1848 and soon began the construction of a house. While the Historic American Building Survey ascribes three dates for the house - 1850, 1868, or 1878, the construction and interior trim tend to support an 1850's date. Like most of the mid-19th Century homes in Alabama which were influenced by the Gothic style, Spring Villa exhibits only a few of the elements of the style. Although Younge probably served as his own architect, he may have been assisted in the construction of his house by Horace King, a noted black builder of covered bridges and other structures and later a state representative, who had been emancipated by Younge's father-in-law in 1848.

Younge, who operated a lime kiln, a grist mill, a cotton gin and a wine press, entertained frequently and during his lifetime the grounds were elaborately landscaped with rare plants, a 30 acre man-made lake and a race track encircling the house. One of the more noted events staged at Spring Villa was the centennial celebration held on July 4, 1876, which featured Henry W. Hilliard as the main orator, and which, according to one newspaper account, was attended by 2,500 people from the surrounding counties.

Younge died in 1878 and the house remained in the family for the next ten years until it was purchased by the Chewacla Lime Company, with which the Younge family had been associated. During the late 1920's the property was acquired by the City of Opelika which utilized the numerous springs as a city water supply, and during this period the house was slightly damaged by fire. In the early 1930's the property was deeded to the Alabama State Forestry Commission as a state park and in 1934 the house was restored under a C.W.A. project as a club house. At this time the present rear addition was added. Four years later the property was deeded back to the city which subsequently leased it to the Department of Parks and Recreation. The house continues to serve as the focal point for a large public park and is rented for meetings, parties and family reunions.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Building Survey, #16-508.

Morman, Richard T. "History and Background of Spring Villa". Unpublished manuscript in Opelika Public Library.

Thompson, A.S. "Gothic Revival Architecture in Antebellum Alabama." Unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Alabama, 1963.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 150'x250'

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,6</u>	<u>6,5,8</u> <u>4,6,0</u>	<u>3,6</u> <u>0,6</u> <u>6,4,0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

150'x250'

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

June 27, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama 36130

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

Milo B. Hayward Jr.

TITLE

SHPO Alabama

DATE

June 29, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Warner Floyd

DATE

1-3-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles Allen

DATE

1-3-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER