

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1980

DATE ENTERED

SEP 15 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Elliott-Donaldson House

AND/OR COMMON

Beauwood

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

109 Church Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Okolona

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

29

COUNTY

Chickasaw

CODE

17

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. White, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

109 Church Street

CITY, TOWN

Okolona

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 38860

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Chancery Clerk
Chickasaw County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Okolona

STATE

Mississippi 38860

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1976

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Elliott-Donaldson House, situated on a two-and-one-half-acre lot on Church Street (U.S. Hwy. 45) in Okolona, Mississippi, is a five-by-three-bay two-story frame structure with gabled roof and central entrance. Projecting from the house is a three-bay portico supported by octagonal columns. The central bay of the portico projects beyond the other bays, is gabled, supported by matched octagonal columns, and contains doorways on the first and second floors. The second-story door provides access to a balcony.

The basic form of the house maintains the traditional symmetry of the Greek Revival style, but gives evidence of construction at a time when that tradition was being altered by the introduction of whimsical modes. Such elements as the turned balusters of the balcony railing, octagonal columns, pedimented windows and doorways, and large window panes all give the building the eclectic architectural flavor of the years 1855-60.

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 ca. 1855-60

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elliott-Donaldson House, at Okolona, Mississippi, is one of two pre-Civil War structures in Chickasaw County. Although the early history of the house is uncertain, local tradition holds that it was built by a man named Sheppherd. The house is locally known as the place to which Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest was brought to recover from a wound sustained in a Union raid on Okolona in January, 1865.

In 1976 the Elliott-Donaldson House was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. White, Jr. The owners have since completed a restoration of the house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chickasaw County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book JJ:321-22.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Chickasaw County. Beauwood.

Works Progress Administration. Chickasaw County, Antebellum Homes. Mississippi Historical Records Survey sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and

History, Jackson, Mississippi, 1940.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 1/2 (from section 7)

QUADRANGLE NAME T204, SE

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 337763 3764100

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lot No. 7, Block No. 24, according to the Randolph Survey and Map of the City of Okolona, Chickasaw County, Mississippi, being a part of Lot No. 445, Block No. 60, according to the Tift Survey and Map of the said City of Okolona County and State, as same is presently laid out and situated.

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

Norman Chronister, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

October, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-7326

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Robert J. Bailey

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 24, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/15/80

ATTEST:

And Dubie
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

9/12/80

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7-DESCRIPTION

Elliott-Donaldson House
Okolona, Mississippi

The Elliott-Donaldson House is a two-story gable-roof frame structure situated on Church Street (U.S. Hwy. 45) approximately one-hundred feet back from the right-of-way. A portico supported by continuous, two-story, octagonal columns occupies three bays of the five-bay facade. The central bay of the portico is ornamented by a broken-bed pediment which projects beyond the other bays and is also supported on octagonal columns. This composition frames pedimented double-leaf doorways on both the first and second floor levels with the second-story doorway providing access to a balcony. The facade windows are sash-type with two-over-two glazing configuration, and each is shuttered and has pedimented window heads. Those of the first story extend to floor level.

The plan of the original portion of the house, built ca. 1850, was that of the typical, two-story, single-pile "glorified pioneer house" containing a central stair-hall flanked by a room on either side. This section of the house is constructed of heavy timber frame and has massive hand hewn beams and sash sawn studs of oak, all of which are mortised and pegged together. The most unusual feature of the house is that its two chimneys were not located at the ends of the building, but, rather, exterior to the rear wall.

About 1880 a shed-roof addition was made along the rear of the house. The roof of this addition extended the rake of the original gable to produce a saltbox form which was a very unusual practice in Mississippi. The entire building was roofed with wooden shingles (most of which remain under later roofing) at that time. In the 1940's another addition, consisting of a shed-roof section built parallel to the former addition (but with different roof pitch) and of a gable-roof garage which formed an ell with the rest of the house, was constructed onto the rear elevation.

Both the exterior and interior of the original house were likely decorated in very simple Greek Revival style when first constructed but were remodeled in the late nineteenth century, probably when the first major addition was made. The main entrance is composed of double doors with segmental-arched windows in the upper portion of each and leads to the central hall which is flanked on the north by a dining room and on the south by a parlor. The quarter-turn stairway (with winders), located in the central hall, has turned balusters, a rosewood rail, and a tapered octagonal newel with faux-bois panels, all of which appear to have been added to the stair during the Victorian remodeling. Each doorway in the hall is ornamented by a pediment made from the same wood moulding used to produce the pedimented window heads on the facade. The simple, pilastered mantels of the four original rooms remain in place, however, the ones located in the parlor and dining room have been altered

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by application of Victorian, foliated, plaster medallions.

In the late 1970's, the Elliott-Donaldson House was refurbished with the original portion of the structure being basically preserved in its Victorian form. The additions were remodeled at that time to create a modern kitchen, breakfast room, bedroom, den, study, and bath. No significant interior details remain in the additions.

*Description based on inspection of the Elliott-Donaldson House, May 27, 1980 by Kenneth P'Pool, Architectural Historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

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8-SIGNIFICANCE

Elliott-Donaldson House
Okolona, Mississippi

Architecturally the Elliott-Donaldson House is one of the finest houses in Chickasaw County and possibly the finest in Okolona. Due to the ravages suffered by the county during the War Between the States, very little of a tangible nature is left of its antebellum history. This is especially true of Okolona which was burned twice by Union soldiers during the course of the war, leaving only two known antebellum structures (Olga Reed Pruitt, "Okolona: The Jewel of the Prairie Lime Belt of Northeast Mississippi" in A History of Chickasaw County, Mississippi Houston, Mississippi: The Times-Post, 1936 , p. 31).

The oldest portion of the house was probably built about 1850 and is entirely constructed of heavy oak timbers joined by mortise and tenon joints, a practice which was waning by that date. The design of the structure was typical for the period with the exception of the chimneys which were placed along the rear wall rather than at the ends of the building. In 1876 the house was acquired by Edgar S. Elliott (Chickasaw County, Mississippi, Deed Book JJ:331-2), and it is likely that he effected the Victorian remodeling shortly after the purchase. It was during this renovation that the portico, facade windows, and several doorways received their pedimented treatment. The octagonal columns probably were also added at this time in imitation of several antebellum buildings in nearby Columbus which had skillfully conscripted octagonal columns as well as other Gothic details, for their otherwise typical white-pillared design. The two-story saltbox form of the house, created by a shed-roof addition across the rear elevation, is also quite unusual for northeast Mississippi.

The Elliott-Donaldson House
Okolona, Mississippi
Approximate plan of first floor
May, 1980

