

## STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
725 MONROE STREET  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130  
PHONE: 832-6621



## ALABAMA INVENTORY AND WORKSHEET FOR LANDMARKS

COUNTY BULLOCKPRESENT NAME Homestead (Since 1935) HISTORIC NAME Kennon-Paulk-Shanks HomeLOCATION (Street and number) 117 Kennon StreetTOWN (Give directions if rural) Union SpringsPRESENT USE Residence HISTORIC USE \_\_\_\_\_

OWNERSHIP: Public ( ) Private (x) Public acquisition being considered ( )

OWNER'S NAME Mrs. C. G. Shanks (Elizabeth Poole Shanks)MAILING ADDRESS 117 Kennon StreetUnion Springs, Alabama 36089

CONDITION: Excellent ( ) Good (x) Fair ( ) Ruins ( )

INTEGRITY: Original Site (x) Moved ( ) When? \_\_\_\_\_

From where? \_\_\_\_\_ Give details in significance.

THREATS: No (x) Yes ( ) By What? \_\_\_\_\_

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered ( ) Underway ( ) Completed (x) Not planned ( )

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land ( ) Woodland (x) <sup>Back of Home</sup> Scattered buildings ( )  
High building density ( ) Commercial ( ) Industrial ( )  
Residential (x) Rural ( )

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a  
Historic District?

SIGNIFICANCE: Why is this important ( ) associated with events, persons, or movements  
Local ( ) State ( ) National ( )  
(x) a good example of a type or style of structure  
( ) other

Explain: (Expand on the significance of the building. If architecturally significant,  
give details being very specific. Additional data on what aspects of the  
community's development the building represents, or a specific event, trend  
or person related to the building's importance.)

See attached sheet No. I

Special events; The home was included in the Bullock County Historical Tour in 1976  
and 1977. It is located two blocks from the Bullock County Courthouse District which  
was added to the National Register in 1976.

Date of Construction: 1860  
Builder or Architect: (Give names and biographies, if known) Richard William Hines Kennon  
See attached Sheet No. II

Original Owner: (Give name and biographies--attach additional sheet if necessary)  
Richard William Hines Kennon

Subsequent Owners (Give name and biographies)

1. James A. and Jane Pitts Paulk, their children and grandchildren. See attached sheet No. III for Paulk biography.
2. Cecil Goode and Elizabeth Poole Shanks. See attached Sheet no. IV for biography.

State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:  
Sources of information is given on Sheets No. II, III, and IV with biographies.

SECTION III: DESCRIPTION (In each category please state if elements are not original)  
YOU MUST PROVIDE US WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE STRUCTURE, SHOWING FRONT, SIDE, REAR AND NOTABLE DETAILS.

Photographs enclosed

Number of stories one Foundation Brick  
Basement None Interior framing or structural system Laths and plastered walls, 2" x 4" studs. 2" x 12" floor joist.

Exterior wall material and design: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another) Wood, outside weather boarding, drop siding. Wood cornices, crown molding. Exterior wall material and design are all in the original state except the back which was made into a Family sitting room.

Roof type and covering: Original - Wood shingles. Later metal shingles, Hip roof

Roof Trim: (Cornices, vergeboard, brackets, etc.)  
(cornices are boxed) with crown molding

Chimneys: (Give number, location, and material) Five; Living room, dining room and three bed rooms. originally made of brick: Restored in 1935 and covered with stucco.

Porches: Front (type and description) Original extends the width of the house.  
Original double doors with glass transoms over doors and glass sidelights

Rear (type and description) The original back porch has been enclosed for a sitting room.

Side (type and description) None

Doors: Main entrance (location, description) Original double matching doors on front. Original Pine and Panelled

Other entrances: (location, description) Kitchen, on South side of house, sitting room on West side. These doors have glass panes at top, not original. Door to bedroom on West side of house.

Windows: (Give types, number for each floor of facade, describe trim)  
The four large windows on front are original. They have 9 over nine panes and were made as Dutch doors to open to front porch. The panels hinged.

(Give types, number per floor for rear and sides) Living room, dining room, front and middle bed room have original nine over nine pane windows. Other windows were added during restoration for two bedrooms, sitting room and kitchen.

#### INTERIOR FEATURES

Mantels: (Number, location, and description):

Four of the five original mantels remain. All are made of pine, now painted color of woodwork in the rooms. Picture molding was used through out the house.

Describe interior window and door trim:

Windows have 6 in. casing with 1" x 2" back band. Doors, pine. Four panels. Front and back hall have double matching doors  
Stairways (types, locations and features)

None

Wall and ceiling finish: (Include wainscotting, plasterwork, cornices, etc.)

Walls and ceilings are plastered. Original (restored in 1935) Parlor has frieze in center of ceiling. Rooms and hall have 12" baseboard. Hall and front bedroom are papered. Other rooms painted.

Flooring: Original- 7 in. pine boards (heart pine) Notable hardware: Originals were porcelain. Most replaced with brass

General setting and orientation: House is located on a lot 200' x 330' x 160' x 350' It is 140' from the street. Faces east. Has laurel hedge planted on front and on North side Magnolia, pine oak, and dogwood trees are on front and back lawn. Wooded area back of home

Outbuildings:

Detached kitchen was moved to North side of the home and remodeled for guest house. Two small houses back of home (west side) used for rental property. Small antique shop in back.

Give all alterations and additions: (Be specific, give date of change and original appearance when known)

See plan drawn by architect when the house was remodeled in 1935, and my rough sketch showing original plan.

Make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions, related structures, and additions. Also give north arrow and indicate front of the structure.

plan enclosed.

Form prepared by Elizabeth Poole Shanks Date May 18, 1977

Address 117 Kennon Street Phone 738-2615

Town Union Springs, Alabama 36089

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

No. I

The Kennon Ante-Bellum home was built in 1860 by Richard William Hines Kennon from lumber he had cut from his plantation in Bullock County. Hand hewn sills, wooden pegs, and square nails were used on construction. A wide front porch extends the width of the one story house and has six, fourteen inch, square columns. The porch wall is made of 8" tung and groove boards and has a 12 in. baseboard. There are four large windows on the front with over nine panes and Dutch doors at the bottom, making it possible to walk onto the porch from the living room and front bedroom. The front entrance has large double, parreled, doors with glass transom and glass side lights. Brick steps, with iron grill balustrade, were added in 1935, and a brick walk leads to the driveway.

The house has ten rooms including a "Parlor", dining room, four bedrooms, two baths, sitting room and kitchen. A wide central hall extends the length of the house and opens into the sitting room at the back, which originally was a large open porch. Doors in the hall open to the parlor, dining room and two front bedrooms. Large windows provide cross ventilation. Ceilings originally through out the house were 16 feet high. (Bedroom ceilings were lowered to 12 feet when the house was restored.) The parlor has a plastered rosette in the ceiling and originally had an oil chandelier. The original six inch pine board floors and other woodwork, doors and windows have been preserved and are in good condition.

The house has five large chimneys and fireplaces can still be used in three rooms. The rooms, with fireplaces, all have the original mantels.

Originally a detached kitchen was located back of the house. When restoration was done in 1935 this room was moved to the North side of the house and made into a small guest house.

The house is located on Kennon Street which was named for the Kennon family. The street is two blocks from the Courthouse District that was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 (See clipping from Union Springs Herald)

No. III

### Paulks

In 1889 James A. Paulk and his wife Jane Pitts Paulks purchased the Kennon home. They were the parents of ten children and for almost fifty years three generations of Paulks owned and lived in the house.

One son, Livingston Paulk and his wife Bonnie (Brown) began the Bonnie Plant Farm here. The young couple, who had met and married in Palm Beach, Florida moved to Union Springs, Alabama in 1918 and lived in the old Paulk home. With the purchase of 2 pounds of cabbage seed and a small garden back of the house, Bonnie Plant farm was begun. In 1919 ten pounds of seed were bought and planted. At first plants and seeds were peddled from a horse and buggy in the surrounding rural area. Later a Model T car was used. During this time the Paulk family was growing also until there were six children: four boys and two girls.

James Paulk, the oldest son, was the first one to have a truck bought for him to help with the family business. Later he became President of the Bonnie Plant Farm which is now the largest industry in Bullock County and the largest grower of vegetable plants in the United States.

When Mr. Livingston Paulk bought more land and moved to his farm, two of his sisters, Katherine Paulk and Imogene Paulk Jones inherited the home in Union Springs. It was from them that Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Shanks purchased the place in 1935.

Bonnie Paulk Farm is named for Mrs. Livingston Paulk who lives in her home on the farm near Union Springs, Alabama. Mr. Paulk died in 1963. Information on Paulk Family was given by Annie Mae Paulk Turner, (Mrs. W. H.) Union Springs, Alabama, granddaughter of James A. and Jane Pitts Paulk.

No. IV

Cecil Goode Shanks was born August 4, 1898 in Richview, Ill. (Washington County). His parents were Hayden Roy Shanks and Annabel Gore Shanks. He was the youngest son in the family of four boys and one girl. He received his education in the Public schools in Richview and when twenty years old he moved to Michigan City, Miss. to work on a game preserve for Mr. George Payton. In 1925 he came to Union Springs, Alabama to be manager of the Maytag game preserve. It was here he met Elizabeth Poole\*, who was teaching in the Union Springs Elementary school. The couple were married September 8, 1931. They lived on the Maytag place until 1935 when they purchased what was then known as the Paulk home. Mr. Shanks continued to work with bird dogs until 1943 where he purchased a farm in Bullock County and began cattle farming. In 1968, due to ill health, he sold his farm and retired. Mrs. Shanks who had returned to teaching in 1943 retired also.

The couple were blessed with two sons, Thomas Cecil and George Payton, and now have three grandchildren.

Mr. Shanks died July 27, 1968. Mrs. Shanks continues to live in the old Kennon Paulk Shanks home on Kennon Street in Union Springs.

\*Elizabeth Poole was born February 25, 1906 in Greenville, Alabama. Her parents were Elisha Calvin and Annie Fowler Poole. She was the youngest daughter in the family of four boys and four girls. After graduating from Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, in 1927 she came to Union Springs, Alabama to begin a teaching career. She married Cecil Goode Shanks September 8, 1931.

By Elizabeth P. Shanks



*Kennon - Paulk - Shanks Home*  
HISTORIC NAME: Bullock County Courthouse  
Historic District  
COMMON NAME: Same *Homestead*  
LOCATION: Union Springs, Bullock County  
Alabama  
SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey  
SCALE: 1:24000  
DATE: 1973

A. ~~16/621000/3556840~~ B. ~~16/621000/3557360~~  
C. ~~16/621190/3557360~~ D. ~~16/621190/3556840~~

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3556930

Union Springs