



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - DATE ADDED: 12/16/10

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: William Sherman Rivers House
and/or Common Name:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 300 Spruce Street
City: Anniston
State: Alabama County: Calhoun Zip: 36202-
Is the property located within the city limits? Yes No
USGS Quad Map: Anniston Township/Section/Range: 16S-7-8E

3. CLASSIFICATION

Category: Building(s) District Structure Site Object
Ownership: Public Private Both
Status: Occupied Unoccupied Work in progress
Public Acquisition: In process Being considered
Accessible: No Yes: restricted Yes: unrestricted

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: Mrs. Corine Tuttle Telephone: 256.238.8077
Street & Number: 1329 Kilby Terrace
City or Town: Anniston State: AL Zip: 36207-
Email:

5. FLOOR PLAN & SITE PLAN

Attach sketched floor plan. If the property includes more than one building, submit a site plan showing the locations, dates of construction, and uses of the buildings.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Construction Date:	c. 1905	Source:	See attached
Alteration Date:	c. 1955	Source:	
Architect:		Builder:	
Physical Condition: (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)	excellent	Remaining Historic Fabric: (High, Medium, Low)	high
No. of stories:	two	No. of front bays:	three
Historic use of property:	residence		
Current use of property:	residence		
Architectural Style:	Late Victorian	Building Form:	irregular
Main roof configuration:	Hip on cross gable	Roof finish material:	Composition shingles
Exterior wall materials:	Asbestos shingle		
Porch type:	attached	Foundation material:	Continuous brick
Window type and materials:	Various/multi-pane/4 over 4		
Describe alterations:	Asbestos shingle siding added c. 1955		
Number and type of all outbuildings:	n/a		
Total number of man-made structures on the property:	1		
Exterior Architectural Description:	See attached		
Description of Setting:	See attached		

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria (check all that apply and explain below). See Instructions for more information.

Criterion A: Associated with historical events and activities relating to the property that are important to the history of the community, state, or nation.

Criterion B: Person or group with whom the property is associated is important to the history of the community, state, or nation.

Criterion C: Type, period, or method of construction represents architectural features that are significant in the development of the community, state, or nation.

Criterion D: Property has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in Alabama's history or prehistory (archaeological component).

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (check all that apply and explain below)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary art | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>ethnic history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For each area of significance checked above, explain why this property is important. Use additional sheets as necessary.

See attached

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Use attached sheets as necessary

See attached

9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of nominated property: 1

Attach a map showing the location of the property.

10. FORM PREPARED BY

Name: David Schneider

Organization: Schneider HP, LLC.

Street & Number: 411 E. 6th Street

City or Town: Anniston

Email: dbschneider@bellsouth.net

Date: December 13, 2010

Telephone: 256.310.6320

State: AL Zip: 36207

11. PHOTOGRAPHS:

Images are essential to the review process. They can be 4x6 color prints or digital images on a CD/DVD. All photographs will become the property of the AHC and will not be returned.

12. REMINDER:

Along with this completed application, include attachments for Items 5, 9 and 11 and send them to:

Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: Lee Anne Wofford
468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
State Historic Preservation Office
Preliminary Information Form

The Preliminary Information Form (PIF) is used by the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) to aid in the evaluation of properties for listing in the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage. The PIF is not an application to nominate a property for listing in the register; it is only used for judging eligibility. Listing a property requires in-depth research on part of the applicant. AHC staff will determine if a property is eligible before time, effort and cost are expended. After a PIF is received, AHC staff will review and evaluate the property as eligible or not eligible for the Alabama Register. Multiple photographs of the exterior and interior of the building are **REQUIRED** for staff to review a PIF. If eligible, an Alabama Register nomination will be sent to you to begin the second stage of the registration process. If you would like to nominate a cemetery to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, do not fill out this form. Instead, contact Lee Anne Wofford (see contact info on the bottom of this page), or visit our website at <http://preserv.ala.org/cemeteryprogram.aspx>

Name of Property:		Rivers, Sherman, House	
Location/Street Address:		300 Spruce Street	
City/Zip:	Anniston, 36202	County:	Calhoun
Your Name:	David B. Schneider, Scheider Historic Preservation, LLC	Telephone #:	256-310-6320
Address:	411 F. 6th St.	City/State/Zip:	Anniston, 36207
Email:	dbschneider@bellsouth.net		
Do you own this property? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. If not, give the name, address & telephone number of the owner.			
Name of owner:	Mrs. Corine Tuttle	Telephone #:	256-238-8077
Address:	1328 Kirby Terrace	City/State/Zip:	Anniston, AL 36207
Is the property threatened in any way? If so, describe how or from what source the property is threatened. Attach additional sheets as needed.			
No.			
What is the construction date?	ca. 1905	Source for construction date:	Documented, See Attached
Is the property part of an area that contains many structures of the same age or construction type? (i.e. a neighborhood, downtown area, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. If yes, please include multiple photos of the surrounding area.			
Has the property been altered in any way since originally constructed? If so, please describe these alterations in detail, including when they occurred. Attach additional sheets as needed.			
Minimal, asbestos shingle siding added ca. 1955			
Original use of property:	Boarding		
Current use of property:	Residence		
In your opinion, why is this property important and why should it be considered for inclusion in the historic register? Attach additional sheets as needed.			
Please see attached			
Map Requirements: Attach a clearly labeled map indicating the precise location of the property. If available, attach a floor/site plan.			
Photography Requirements: Attach current photographs of the resource (both interior and exterior) and all outbuildings. It is essential that multiple photos be included to fairly and adequately represent the historic resource. Photos may be submitted in any size, finish, or color (Polaroid photos are not accepted) as long as significant character-defining features, including alterations and additions, are shown. CDs will be accepted. The photographs will not be returned, but will become a permanent part of our inventory records.			

Return this Form and Attachments to:
 Alabama Historical Commission
 Attn: Lee Anne Wofford
 468 S. Perry Street
 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
 (334)233-2659
www.preserv.ala.org

Rivers, William Sherman, House

Significance

The two-story residence at 300 Spruce Street was constructed circa 1905 for William Sherman Rivers. Rivers was a prominent African-American businessman in the early 20th century. In addition to being a grocer and merchant, he served as the treasurer of the Negro Business Men's League, and as Vice President of the Alabama Penny Savings Bank. This is one of the few houses in Anniston documented as being associated with African-American professionals of the early 20th century. The house is also a good example of a late-Victorian style residence and remains substantially unaltered from its original appearance.

Narrative history

According to the annotations for a photograph of the house in the Russell Brothers photography collection at the Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County, W.S. Rivers & Co. was established in 1890. William Rivers is listed in the 1899 city directory as a colored porter at the Anniston Inn. The 1896 directory lists the W.S. Rivers & Co. selling general merchandise at the corner of Spruce and W. 3rd Streets with Rivers residence listed as 20 W. 3rd. The 1900 edition lists W.S. Rivers & Co. (W.S. Rivers, J. Burnett Rivers, & William Culberson) as grocers, "Hay, Corn, & Oats a Specialty – Free Delivery," at 230 Spruce Street. The 200 block of Spruce Street is not shown on the 1900 Sanborn map and no house is shown at 300 Spruce. Rivers is listed in the 1900 census living on Walnut Street with his wife Eliza and daughters Mattie, Sherman, and Eliza. According to the census, he was born in 1867 in Georgia and his occupation was as a merchant. Eliza was born in 1875 in Alabama and the two were married in 1894. The 1905 Sanborn map shows the present house at 300 Spruce Street and Rivers is listed in the 1905 city directory residing at this address.¹ The business had moved to 2 Constantine Avenue by that time and then to 2 Spruce Street by the 1913-1914 edition.

Rivers is also listed in 1913-1914 as the Vice President of the Alabama Penny Savings Bank at 920 Noble Street. The Alabama Penny Savings Bank was founded in 1890 by William Reuben Pettiford, a Birmingham pastor, primarily to serve the "laborers, the working class, and the common men and women."¹ The bank eventually opened branches in Selma, Montgomery, and Anniston and was known as "the largest, strongest African-American-owned bank in the United States before it collapsed in 1915."² A photo of Rivers with him being listed as the treasurer of the Negro Business Men's League is printed in *Attractive Anniston*, published in 1913.³

Rivers moved the business to 301 Spruce Street by 1917 as indicated in the city directory and Sanborn map of that year. A house is shown at the site on the 1925 Sanborn map. The listing in the 1929 city directory states that the company was celebrating "39 years of Successful Merchandising, Staple and Fancy Groceries, Fresh Fish and Oysters in Season, Piece Goods, Overalls, Shirts & Pants, & Notions."

Description

The Sherman Rivers House is an irregular-shaped two-story frame dwelling with a hipped composition shingle roof with cross gables and one interior brick chimney. The house faces east onto Spruce Street with its south side elevation fronting along W. Third Street. Narrow lawns surround the house on all four sides of a gently sloping site that is raised about three feet higher than Spruce Street and tapers at grade along W. Third Street. The house has a one by three bay rectangular core oriented from east to west with a cross-gable bay projecting southward from its west end and a two-bay deep rear gable wing to the west. An L-shaped frame enclosure is attached to the southwest in the L formed between the rear wing and the southern projection. A less-than full façade hipped porch with turned wood posts and sawn frieze and brackets wraps to the south elevation. The building is clad with composition tile siding that was applied over original weatherboards circa 1955 with wood shingles at the front and south gable ends. The house sits on a continuous brick foundation.

The principal facade is two bays wide and has a slightly projecting gable bay to the north with a single oversized multi-light-over-one double hung sash window at its first floor level and a single two-over-two light double hung sash window at its second floor level. The principle entrance has a rectangular transom and is set within a rectangular opening at the north side of southern bay of the first floor level. A similar two-over-two window is centered at the southern bay of the second floor level. The gable end has a boxed cornice with returns, is clad with wood shingles, and has a central decorative attic vent.

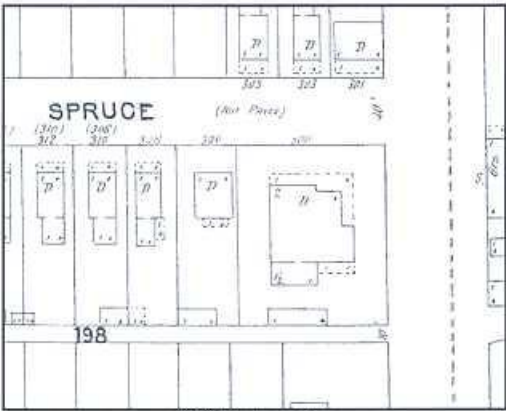
The south elevation is four bays deep with a projecting gable bay at its second bay (from the east) with a single oversized window at its lower level and a similar two-over-two light window above. A small window is located at the eastern side of the eastern bay corresponding to an interior first floor staircase. A two-over-two light window is centered at the eastern bay of the second floor level. Smaller similar windows are set at both levels of the south elevation of the L-shaped enclosure at the third bay. Grouped windows are located at each level of the western bay. The west elevation of the rear L-shaped enclosure has an entrance at its first floor level flanked by a grouped window similar to that on the south elevation with a similar grouped window above. The north elevation is six bays deep with three two-over-two light windows at each level of the core, three similar windows irregularly-spaced at the lower level of the rear wing (the easternmost window being smaller than the others), and two similar windows centered at the upper level of the rear wing.

The interior first floor plan consists of two parlors at the core flanked to the south by a stair hall and a room at the southern bay to its west separated by a cased opening with columns on pedestals. The staircase rises at the southeast corner of the hall two steps before turned west to a single long flight along the south wall. The stair retains its original square carved newel posts and turned balustrade. A kitchen and anteroom are located within the rear wing and a bathroom and secondary staircase are located within the L-shaped rear enclosure. The upper floor plan is similar with bedrooms flanking the stair hall to the north and west and at the rear wing. Surviving historic interior finishes include smooth plaster walls and ceilings, molded wood window and door surrounds, baseboards, wood flooring, and mantelpieces.

Alterations have generally been limited to the addition of the composition tile siding and the loss of a decorative sawn gable detail at the south elevation. The house is in generally good condition.



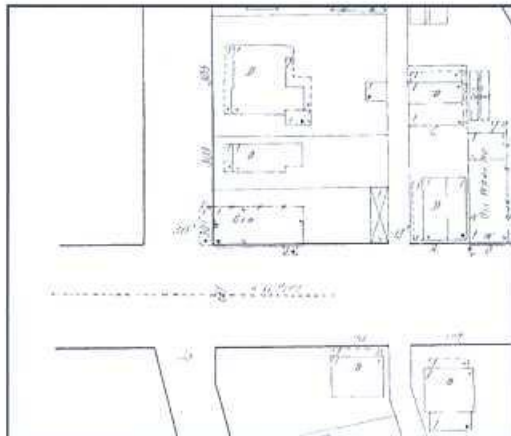
"Home of W. S. Rivers Family--standing in front --right Mrs. Rivers--Left-Sherman Rivers. 300 Spruce Street." Copyrighted photo, Russell Brothers Collection, Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County.



1905 Sanborn Map



"Black Family – Home portrait. William Sherman Rivers...Left to Right; Sallie Rivers Blocker, W.S. Rivers, Sherman Rivers Hill, Mrs. Annie Seay Rivers (mother), Mattie Douglas Rivers Trammel." Copyrighted photo, Russell Brothers Collection, Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County.



Store, 1917 Sanborn Map

Notes

¹ John N. Ingham and Lynn B. Feldman, African-American Business Leaders: A Biographical Dictionary (Westport, CT : Greenwood Press, 1994), p. 551.

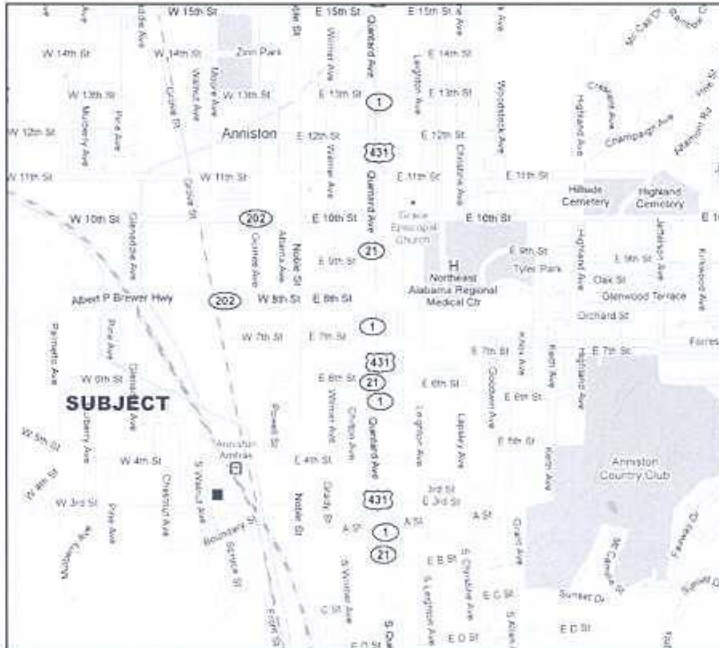
² *Ibid.*, p. 553.

³ Attractive Anniston (Anniston, AL: Norwood Publishing Co., 1913, p. 31.

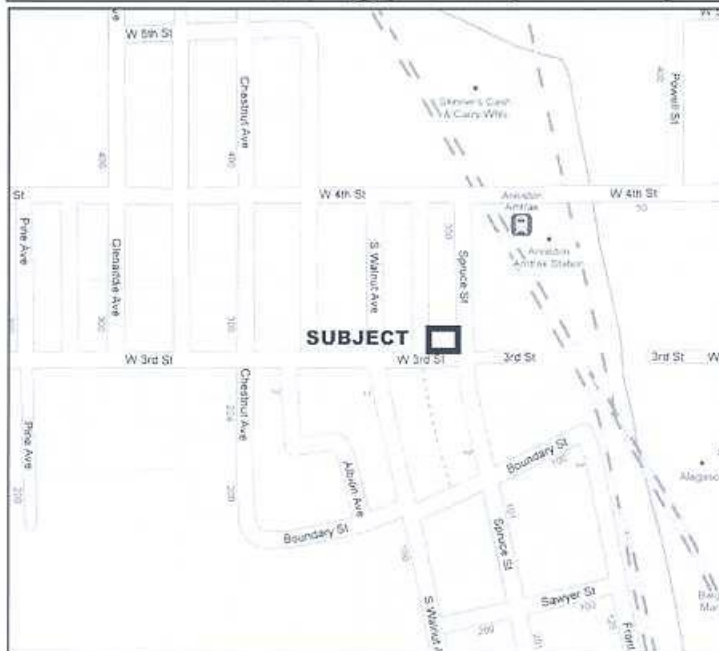
Sherman Rivers House

300 Spruce Street, Anniston, Calhoun County, Alabama

CITY MAP



DETAIL



SCHNEIDER Historic Preservation, LLC

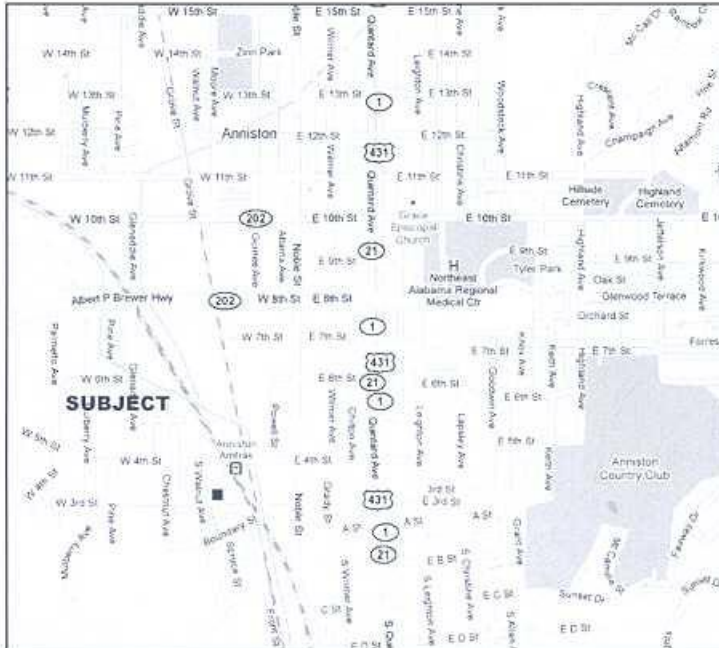
411 East 6th Street, Anniston, AL 36702 • Phone: (256) 310-6320
Fax: (334) 323-5633 • e-mail: sb@schneider@calhoun.net

www.sphistoric.com

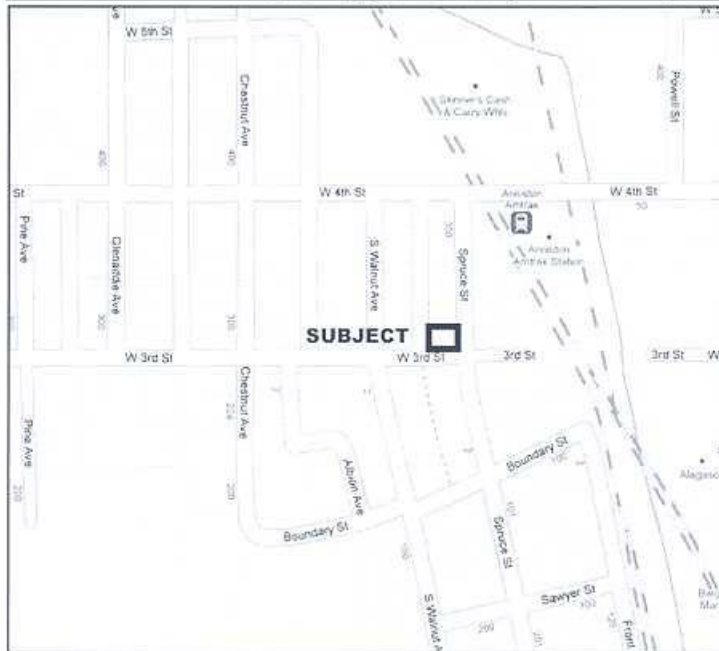
Sherman Rivers House

300 Spruce Street, Anniston, Calhoun County, Alabama

CITY MAP



DETAIL



SCHNEIDER Historic Preservation, LLC

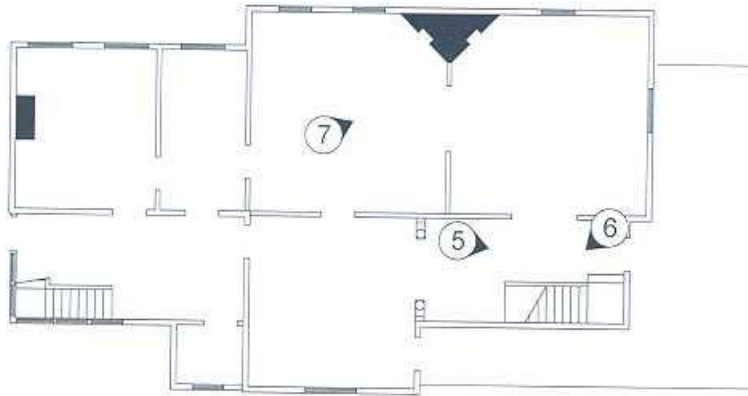
411 East 6th Street, Anniston, AL 36702 • Phone: (256) 310-6320
Fax: (334) 323-5633 • e-mail: sbischnider@calhoun.net

www.sphistoric.com

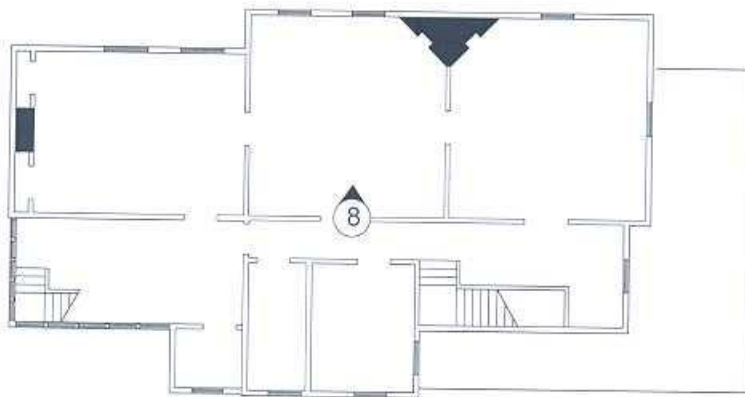
Sherman Rivers House

300 Spruce Street, Anniston, Calhoun County, Alabama

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



Sketch Plans. Not to Scale



SCHNEIDER Historic Preservation, LLC

411 East 6th Street, Anniston AL 36207 • Phone: (256) 310-6320
Fax: (256) 323-5631 • e-mail: dschneider@bellsouth.net

www.shahistoric.com















