

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Missouri	
COUNTY: Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Benjamin House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Benjamin (John Forbes) House, "Vesper Place"

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 322 South Shelby Street \*

CITY OR TOWN: Shelbina

STATE: Missouri 63468	CODE: 29	COUNTY: Shelby	CODE: 205
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP *	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Tours by advance arrangement

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Robert E. and Betty Lou Crist, H.W.

STREET AND NUMBER: 322 South Shelby Street

CITY OR TOWN: Shelbina	STATE: Missouri	CODE: 29
	Missouri 63468	

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of Recorder of Deeds, Shelby County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Shelbyville

CITY OR TOWN: Shelbyville	STATE: Missouri	CODE: 29
	Missouri 63469	

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: 1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society of Missouri

STREET AND NUMBER: Corner, Hitt and Lowry streets

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE: Missouri	CODE: 29
	Missouri 65201	

\*Congressional District #9 House of Representatives,  
The Hon. William L. Hungate

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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6. #1 BENJAMIN HOUSE

Inclusion in other surveys

2. Missouri Architecture: Rural, Town & City (state)  
1969  
Missouri State Council on the Arts (W. Philip Cotton, Jr.,  
Architect)  
Suite 213  
7933 Clayton Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63117 Code: 29

3. Missouri State Historical Survey (state)  
1972  
Missouri State Park Board  
P.O. Box 176  
1204 Jefferson Building  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Code: 29

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

The John Forbes Benjamin house is an unusual example of Italian Villa style in outstate Missouri. The design is notable for its generous proportions and ornamentation, applied to a basic form that is a standard, classically-derived house style common to Missouri. The house was constructed between May 22, 1872 and March 5, 1873.<sup>1</sup>

EXTERIOR

Over-all Dimensions

The house is 35 feet wide and 60 feet deep excluding the porches and a recent lean-to shed at the rear. It faces east onto South Shelby Street at the northwest corner of the intersection of South Shelby and West College streets on Out-lot 48, in the southwest quadrant of Shelbina, Shelby County, Missouri.

The house is three stories high over a full basement. It has a square-plan front block and a rectangular-plan rear ell. A central cupola is located above the attic level.

Foundations

The foundations are cut stone, facing a roughly squared, and coursed core.

Wall Construction, Finish and Color

Exterior walls are brick laid in common bond. The exterior was painted yellow at an undetermined past date, but the present owners are allowing the paint to flake off to return the house to its original orange-red brick color. A brick belt course divides the attic from the two main stories.

Structural System, Framing

Interior partitions walls are brick, except for two second story walls which are wood frame. The floors and roof are supported by a wood-frame structural system resting on the brick, exterior, bearing walls.

Porches

The house has three porches--a three-bay front porch on the east, a one-bay side porch centered on the first story of the front block's south wall, and a rear porch at the northwest corner of the house filling in approximately half the area adjoining the rear ell.

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The front porch and the south porch are wood construction and both are in need of repair. The front porch deck at second story level has an ornamental ironwork railing centered above the front doorway. This railing appears in an old view of the house.<sup>2</sup>

The rear porch floor has been rebuilt in brick, and cement; the posts and roof are wood construction.

Chimneys

There are five chimneys corresponding to the locations of both true and false fireplaces in the basement and on the first and second floors. The two westernmost chimneys appear to have been cut down in size and are not topped with brick belt courses and dentil courses as are the three eastern chimneys.

Openings

Doorways and doors. The front door is centered on the east facade and is recessed within a small entry chamber with built-in winter doors which hook to the sidewalls for warmer months, forming paneling. The exterior masonry opening for the front door is 6'0" x 10'8".

Windows. Fenestration pattern is regular in five bays on both the east and south facades. The exterior masonry openings are 3'3" x 8'0". All of these windows have cast iron, bracketed canopies. The north wall of the main block varies somewhat with only two windows on each floor and a bracketed canopy at the west end on the first floor which differs from the others.

A blind window occurs on both first and second floors at the easternmost bay of the south wall.

Windows on the rear ell have simple cast iron lintels. Some replacements of the original, exterior shutters have been hung on the rear ell windows.

Attic windows are paired for each bay, occurring between each pair of heavy, wood brackets under the cornice. These windows are round-arched, and match the size and shape of the windows in the cupola above.

Windows throughout are wood, double-hung, with two-over-two light sash. Aluminum storm sash have recently been installed over most windows.

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7. #2

BENJAMIN HOUSE

Windows throughout the main block have interior, wood, louvered shutters.

Roof

The main block roof is almost flat, being a low-pitched hip roof, truncated by the cupola. The rear ell has a low-pitched, ridge roof. The main roof is tar-coated asphalt. The roof on the rear ell is painted, standing seam metal.

Cupola

This area, approximately 6 x 6 feet, has three round-arched windows with double-hung sash, on each of the four sides. The roof is a low-pitched pyramid. The cupola provides a view of the surrounding town and countryside.

INTERIOR

Floor Plans

Basement. The house has a full basement divided into rooms by the stone bearing walls for the brick partition walls above. The basement has been made into liveable space with flooring, and in several rooms, ceiling installation. The original summer kitchen located in the west rear ell is the only portion of the basement still to be renovated. The present owners plan to revert this room to a kitchen.

First floor. The front door opens into a small vestibule through which one enters into the main hall. The central hall is "L" shaped, turning toward the south where the main stairway is located. The hall opens into a main parlor on the north and a smaller parlor on the south. Through two west doors of the hall one enters the formal dining room which connects to the former butler's pantry (the present kitchen) in the eastern half of the rear ell. A former maid's room now serves as a downstairs bathroom at the northwest corner of the main block. The original winter kitchen at the rear of the west ell is now a study. A dumbwaiter (removed) originally connected the summer and winter kitchens. A back stairway opens into the hallway in the rear ell leading to the former winter kitchen. The first story ceiling is 12'6" high.

Second floor. The plan of this floor is almost the same as that of the first floor. The principal bedroom at the northeast corner was originally Col. Benjamin's library. The western wall of this room does not occur

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7. #3

BENJAMIN HOUSE

directly above the west wall of the large parlor below and is of frame construction rather than brick. A modern bathroom has been installed in the former valet's room located between the northeast and the south-east bedrooms. Each bedroom in the main block has a commode with running water. Commodes are original in all except the southwest bedroom where a modern replacement was made by a former owner. Original commodes have marble tops and basins on carved wood cabinets. The fixtures are sterling silver. From the time of construction the house had hot and cold running water.

One tier of a set of matching glass-front bookcases originally built for Col. Benjamin's library, survives in the house. It is now located in the downstairs hall at the base of the stairway.

The second story ceiling is 12 feet high.

Attic. The attic is over the main block of the house only. It is a large, unfinished area broken only by a central structure to support the cupola and provide a musicians' stand for the never completed ballroom.

A water tank to provide running water in the house was originally located in the attic.

Stairways

The main stairway is an open-well, "U" plan stairway, with heavy, turned newel and balusters typical of the period. The back, attic, and cupola stairways are all narrow, steep, and winding within boxed enclosures.

Flooring

Hardwood has been laid over the original wide boards. Asphalt tile has been used in some areas.

Wall and Ceiling Finish

Wallpapers and painted plaster are used throughout the two main stories.

Doors and doorways

Doors are paneled. Doorways are consistently framed in millwork of high relief in a non-classic style used frequently in Missouri during the decade of the 1870's.

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7. #4

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Trim

Ceilings throughout have all or most of the original plaster cornices and central medallions. The ceiling of the southwest bedroom of the main block has been lowered, obscuring these features from observation.

Lighting

Appropriate, non-original crystal chandeliers (electrified) have been installed in the main parlors by the Crists. Elsewhere appropriate, non-original, electrical fixtures are also used.

Heating

The house is heated by a forced air system which is less than 20 years old. It was originally heated by a furnace in the basement. The elaborate fireplaces are made of several kinds of marble, and of cast iron enameled to emulate marble. Three fireplaces are false.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS

The house was built as one project, and survives with little change from the original design. A first floor exterior doorway on the west wall of the rear wing has been bricked in. A one-story western extension shows in an old view<sup>3</sup> of the house. Access to this area was apparently provided through the now bricked-in, west doorway.

A basement doorway at the south end of the west wall has also been sealed.

A five foot high, lean-to, wood-frame, tool storage shed has been added to the west rear wall of the house.

The steps to the front (east) porch originally spanned the central three bays on the front facade. The steps were flanked by projecting pylons which, together with the broad stairway, gave the front of the house a more monumental appearance<sup>4</sup> than do the present, narrow front steps which span only one bay and are centered in front of the principal entrance. The current owners plan to reconstruct steps of the original width.

The same old view shows antifixae above each bay of the front block. These features, presumably made of cast iron, were removed at an unknown past date.

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Interior alterations include transformation of the original butler's pantry into a modern kitchen, use of the original winter kitchen as a study, and closure of a doorway connecting the winter kitchen and butler's pantry; altering a maid's room to make a downstairs bathroom and altering the valet's room to make a second upstairs bathroom.

Although the plaster ceiling cornices survive with a remarkable degree of completeness, some of the rooms lack one or more of the series of mouldings, the result of removal to prevent the hazards of falling plaster.

THE SITE

General Setting

The original lot has been trimmed down by the sale of lots at the north-east and southwest corners. The present owners have removed dead elm trees and planted replacement trees of several kinds. An herb garden is located along the south edge of the property in the back yard.

Outbuildings

All the original outbuildings, including greenhouse, barn/carriage house, smoke house, chicken house, ice house, and privy, have been torn down. These appurtenant structures were reputed to have been of a design harmonious with the house. Locations of the dependency structures have been noted by excesses of brick in the back and side yards. Their approximate former locations are noted on the attached Site Plan Map.

Walks

A concrete walk connects the front porch with South Shelby Street. A gravel driveway follows the north boundary of the property at the east end. A brick patio installed by the Crists connects the driveway with the back porch at the rear. An original, 8' wide, brick walk connects the south porch to W. College Street.

This summary description of the physical appearance of the Benjamin house has been based, in part, on data included in the field report of architectural consultant James Bock, A.I.A., September 1969. The report was contracted by the Missouri State Park Board and is filed at its central

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7. #6

BENJAMIN HOUSE

office, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City,  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

FOOTNOTES

1. The Shelbina Democrat, May 22, 1872, p. 2, and March 5, 1873, p. 4.
2. Benjamin House, old view, n.d., in possession of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Crist, Shelbina, Missouri.
3. Benjamin House, old view in possession of the Crists.
4. Benjamin House, old view in possession of the Crists.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                        |                                       |                                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Constructed 1872-1873

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                                  |                                                 |                                              |                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                              |                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                                 |                                              |                                                |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Forbes Benjamin House, "Vesper Place," constructed 1872-1873,<sup>5</sup> is a purely designed and well-preserved example of Italian Villa residential architecture dating from the 1870's in outstate Missouri.<sup>6</sup>

The house represents early acceptance of nineteenth century technological benefits in outstate Missouri because it originally had a circulating hot and cold water system (partially removed) and a central heating system (replaced).

The Benjamin house is the most prominent example of residential building art in Shelby County. The original owner-builder was the wealthiest man in Shelby County.<sup>7</sup> He developed the floor plans and hired a St. Louis architect, Henry G. Isaacs, to design the residence.<sup>8</sup> The design was reputedly inspired by a residence in Washington, D.C. which Benjamin particularly admired.<sup>9</sup>

The cast iron, bracketed canopies on the windows of the front block are unusual in Missouri. To date no other examples have been noted by the State Historical Survey and Planning Office or by Heritage/St. Louis, the survey of St. Louis City. The only other house in Shelbina of noteworthy architectural design, the W.O.L. Jewett House, is a later example of the Italian Villa style. It is located north of the Benjamin House on the same block of South Shelby Street. This house, however, has been altered and is in deteriorating condition.

A noteworthy quantity of documentary information relating to the life of John Forbes Benjamin survives, lending further importance to the house because of the gain in accuracy of reporting made possible by these kinds of data. The materials include the record of Benjamin's congressional career published in The Congressional Globe during the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, and Forty-first congresses. Benjamin being one of the most prominent men in northeast Missouri during the late 1860's and early 1870's, is included in numerous biographical collections published at that time, and frequent mention of him was made in the Shelby County newspapers during the

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8. #1 BENJAMIN HOUSE

1860's and 1870's. The inventory of Benjamin's estate (listed by room of his residence), and an appraisal of the inventory were filed May 10 and 11, 1877.<sup>10</sup> Nineteenth century household inventories are extremely rare in outstate Missouri. This detailed listing of household goods provided a guideline for the furniture selections of the present owners.

ORIGINAL AND SUBSEQUENT OWNERS

John Forbes Benjamin

The original owner-builder of the house, John Forbes Benjamin, was a notable political figure and entrepreneur in northeast Missouri. He was born in Cicero, Onondaga County, New York, January 23, 1817. He moved to Texas in 1845 and to Missouri in 1848. He was admitted to the bar and began practice in Shelbyville, Shelby County, Missouri in 1848.<sup>11</sup> In 1849, he went to California for the Gold Rush.<sup>12</sup>

He was a member of the Missouri State House of Representatives, 1850-1852, and a presidential elector on the Democratic Ticket of Buchanan and Breckenridge in 1856. In 1861 he entered the Union Army as a private. Subsequently he attained the ranks of Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Brigadier General. He was Provost Marshal of the Eighth District of Missouri in 1863-1864. In 1864 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Baltimore. He was elected, as a Radical Republican representing northeastern Missouri counties, to the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, and Forth-first congresses (March 4, 1865 - March 3, 1871), but he was not a candidate for renomination in 1870.<sup>13</sup>

He moved from Shelbyville to Shelbina in 1870.<sup>14</sup> September 16, 1871 he paid \$500 for Outlot 48 on which he built his house in Shelbina.<sup>15</sup> During this period he resumed legal practice in Shelbina and established the first bank in Shelby County, the First National Bank of Shelbina, of which he was the president.<sup>16</sup>

In about May 1872, he began building the house.<sup>17</sup> That same year he was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress from northeast Missouri.<sup>18</sup> Local sentiment arose against Benjamin when he sold his bank in 1874.<sup>19</sup> He was shot and injured during a fight with a bank colleague who was acquitted in the ensuing trial.<sup>20</sup> In the autumn of 1874, Benjamin moved to Washington, D.C. where he established a banking

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8. #2

BENJAMIN HOUSE

business, Bigelow and Benjamin, in partnership with Otis Bigelow.<sup>21</sup> Mrs. Benjamin remained in Shelbina at "Vesper Place."

Benjamin died March 8, 1877 at Washington, D.C., his wife, Diana Benjamin, died in Shelbina the following June 3rd.<sup>22</sup> His will, made the day before he died, left the home in Shelbina to his wife. Additional property was to be distributed to others including Mrs. Guy H. Allen, his "adopted daughter," said to be his mistress, of Washington, D.C.<sup>23</sup> The validity of the will was contested by his brothers and sisters, and those of his wife who were the legatees of her will.<sup>24</sup>

After a hotly contested series of trials in Missouri,<sup>25</sup> the will was upheld by the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. on April 15, 1886.<sup>26</sup> Diana Benjamin's estate was settled in February, 1890.<sup>27</sup> Her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Hasbrouch, purchased the house from the estate, November 30, 1889.<sup>28</sup> Elizabeth Hasbrouch lived in the house during 1890-1895, taking in boarders from the Shelbina Collegiate Institute formerly located across College Avenue to the south.<sup>29</sup>

Other Owners

James H. Carmichael purchased the property in August, 1895.<sup>30</sup> Carmichael made a second floor apartment for his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Authur Jones.<sup>31</sup> W. A. Dimmitt bought the house in May, 1910 and sold it May, 1929 to E. W. Jewett and Elmer Magruder. Magruder bought out Jewett the following year and held the property until March, 1950, when Thomas F. Lindsay purchased it. Subsequent owners were C. W. Deremiah, who owned the house from March, 1950 to July, 1953; Charles A. Long, owner from July, 1953 to May, 1956; Paul Todd, owner from May, 1956 to May, 1960, when the present owner Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Crist, acquired the house and what remains of the original parcel, portions at the northeast and southwest corners having been sold during earlier periods of ownership.<sup>32</sup>

ARCHITECT

Henry G. Isaacs is mentioned briefly in John Albury Bryan's Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture:

Henry G. Isaacs came to St. Louis and began work in the office of Mr. Barnett. [George I. Barnett]. Born in Philadelphia in

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8. #3

BENJAMIN HOUSE

1840, Mr. Isaacs was educated at Trinity School in New York, and after his graduation there, he entered the office of Richard Upjohn, one of the really great Gothic designers in the early history of American Architecture. In later years Mr. Isaacs practiced independently in St. Louis and designed the church of the Holy Communion (Episcopal), the Parchen Residence at 23rd and Locust, and the Mercantile Library Building...<sup>33</sup>

The Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat described the plans for the house in glowing terms:

The location is the summit of an elevated prairie ridge, gently sloping to the East, South and West, and commands a broad and varied view of the town and surrounding country. It is sufficiently removed from the railroad and business centres, [sic] to escape turmoil, and yet near enough to give ready access to both. The location is a most sightly one, and when the proposed structure shall come up from the surface in perfect architectural proportions and highly ornamented, and the grounds shall have received the appropriate decorations designed, it will be hard to find a more elegant and imposing edifice for individual use, and difficult to conceive of a more desirable home.

.....  
All architects and builders who have examined the drawings concur in pronouncing it an edifice superior, both in architectural beauty and the conveniences of its internal arrangements, to anything in North East Missouri.<sup>34</sup>

The contractor was P. Brink, Son & Co., of Hannibal, Missouri, who was to accomplish the total job of construction for \$16,750. The completed house, plus grounds was valued at \$30,000.<sup>35</sup>

An architectural design for a pavilion and arbor for the Shelbina property, prepared by Thomas M. Plowman, architect, Washington, D.C., have been discovered in the Benjamin estate papers on file at the National Records Center. It is not certain that the pavilion was ever built.<sup>36</sup>

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8. #4 BENJAMIN HOUSE

PRESENT STATUS

The house is in very good condition. It is furnished appropriately with both antique furniture of the period and reproductions. Draperies, carpets, wallpapers, paint colors and the life style of the current owners enhance the architectural design of the house.

Robert Crist practices law in Shelbina. The Crists purchased the house to provide a home for their five children. Mrs. Crist dresses in period costume and conducts tours by arrangement in advance. There is a \$1 entrance fee.

FOOTNOTES

5. The Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, May 22, 1872, p. 2, and March 5, 1873, p. 4.
6. A facade design for an "Ornamented Villa," and the floor plan for the villa published in Samuel Sloan, The Model Architect, (Philadelphia: E.S. Jones & Co., 1852), pls. XLIX and L, include many points of similarity with the Benjamin House design.
7. W.O.L. Jewett, "Historical Sketch of Shelby, County, Missouri," Missouri Historical Review, VIII, No. 3 (April, 1914), p. 158.
8. Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, May 22, 1872, p. 2.
9. Noel Clark Holt, "The Benjamin House" (unpublished research paper, Central Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri, 1955), p. 6.
10. Estate of John F. Benjamin (Dec'd) Inventory, filed May 11th, 1877, Shelby County, Missouri, Record of Inventories, Book D, pp. 412-417.
11. Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971 (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1971), p. 579.
12. Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, March 14, 1877, p. 1. Benjamin's obituary.
13. Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971, p. 580, and William E. Parrish, Missouri Under Radical Rule 1865-1870 (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1965), pp. 292-294.

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8. #5 BENJAMIN HOUSE
14. Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, March 14, 1877, p. 1.
15. Abstract of Deeds to the property, in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Crist, p. 18.
16. Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, March 14, 1877, p. 1.
17. Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, May 22, 1872, p. 2.
18. Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971, p. 580.
19. Shelby County [Mo.] Herald, May 1, 1872, p. 1., The Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, September 16, 1871, p. 2; and A.J.D. Stewart, ed., History of Bench and Bar of Missouri (St. Louis: Legal Publishing Co., 1898), p. 60.
20. Stewart, 1898, p. 60; and The Herald [Shelbyville, Mo.] May 27, 1874.
21. George H. Benjamin et al vs. Joshua M. Ennis et al, Petition for revocation of the will of John F. Benjamin, Shelby County Circuit Court Records, Shelbyville, Missouri, filed February 12, 1878.
22. Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, June 6, 1877, p. 1.
23. John Forbes Benjamin, Will, March 7, 1877, filed April 10, 1877, in the Probate Office of Shelby County, Missouri, Will Book B, p. 121.
24. Diana Benjamin, Will, May 19, 1877, filed June 5, 1877, in the Probate Office of Shelby County, Missouri, Probate Order Book D, p. 132.
25. "The Great Benjamin Will Case," History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, Missouri (St. Louis, Mo.: National Historical Company, 1884), pp. 787-793. "Benjamin's Heirs v. Dubois, Administrator," United States Reports (New York and Albany, N.Y.: Banks and Brothers Law Publishers, 1886), pp. 46-48. Stewart, 1898, p. 60. George H. Benjamin et al vs. Joshua M. Ennis et al, Notice of Publication, Shelbina Democrat, February 27, 1878. George H. Benjamin et al vs. Joshua M. Ennis et al, Petition for revocation of the will of John F. Benjamin, Shelby County Circuit Court Records, Shelbyville, Missouri, filed February 12, 1878. George H. Benjamin et al vs. Joshua M. Ennis et al, Answer of the Defendant, George Truesdale, Shelby County Circuit Court Records, Shelbyville, Missouri, filed March 14, 1878. George H. Benjamin

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. #6

BENJAMIN HOUSE

- et al vs. Joshua M. Ennis et al, the separate answer of Mrs. Guy H. Allen to the petition, Shelby County Circuit Court Records, Shelbyville, Missouri, April Term, 1878.
26. United States Reports, 1886, pp. 46-48.
27. Settlement of John W. Miller, Executor of estate of Diana Benjamin, February 19, 1890. Recorded in Shelby County, Missouri, Court Record, Book F, p. 127.
28. Abstract of Deeds to the property, p. 48.
29. Information received in an interview with Mrs. Robert E. Crist, November 26, 1971.
30. Abstract of Deeds to the property, p. 50.
31. Information received in an interview with Mrs. Robert E. Crist, November 26, 1971. Mrs. Crist knew the late Mrs. Arthur Jones and received this information from her.
32. Abstract of Deeds to the property, pp. 18-76.
33. St. Louis, Missouri: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928, p. 50.
34. "A Splendid Home," Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, May 22, 1872, p. 2.
35. Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, May 22, 1872, p. 2; and March 5, 1873, p. 4.
36. Thomas M. Plowman, Architect, Washington, D.C., "plan, elevation, and section of pavillion and arbor for Hon. B. [sic] F. Benjamin, Shelbina, Missouri," n.d., included in the records, "In the Matter of the Estate of John Forbes Benjamin, Administration No. 8064, Old Series," on file at the National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland. This information is reported in a letter addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Crist from James A. Pemberton, Jr., January 10, 1972.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Abstract of Deeds to the property, Benjamin House.
2. Benjamin, Diana. Will. May 19, 1877, filed June 5, 1877, in the Probate Office of Shelby County, Missouri, Probate Order Bood D, p. 132.
3. Benjamin, George H., et al vs. Joshua M. Ennis et al. Answer of the Defendant, George Truesdale, Shelby County Circuit Court Records, Shelbyville, Missouri, filed March 14, 1878.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	39°	41'	23"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	92°	02'	47"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.7

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
M. Patricia Holmes, Chief Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board, State Historical Survey & DATE: February 11, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: Planning Office

P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri CODE: 65101

CODE: 29

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    State <input type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Joseph Jaeger, Jr.</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. #1 BENJAMIN HOUSE
4. \_\_\_\_\_. Notice of Publication, Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat, February 27, 1878.
5. \_\_\_\_\_. Petition for revocation of the will of John F. Benjamin, Shelby County Circuit Court Records, Shelbyville, Missouri, filed February 12, 1878.
6. \_\_\_\_\_. The separate answer of Mrs. Guy H. Allen to the petition, Shelby County Circuit Court Records, Shelbyville, Missouri, April Term, 1878.
7. Benjamin House. Old view in possession of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Crist, Shelbina, Missouri.
8. Benjamin, John Forbes. Will. March 7, 1877, filed April 10, 1877, in the probate Office of Shelby County, Missouri, Will Book B, p. 121.
9. \_\_\_\_\_. Estate Inventory. Filed May 11, 1877, Shelby County, Missouri. Record of Inventories Book D, pp. 412-417.
10. "Benjamin's Heirs v. Dubois, Administrator." United States Reports. New York and Albany, N.Y.: Banks and Brothers Law Publishers, 1886.
11. Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971. Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1971.
12. Bryan, John Albury. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture. St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928.
13. Crist, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Information received in interview with M. Patricia Holmes, November 26, 1971.
14. "The Great Benjamin Will Case," History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, Missouri. St. Louis, Mo: National Historical Company, 1884.
15. Holt, Noel Clark. "The Benjamin House," (Unpublished research paper). Central Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri, 1955.
16. Jewett, W. O. L. "Historical Sketch of Shelby, County, Missouri," Missouri Historical Review, VIII, No. 3 (April, 1914), pp. 154-164.

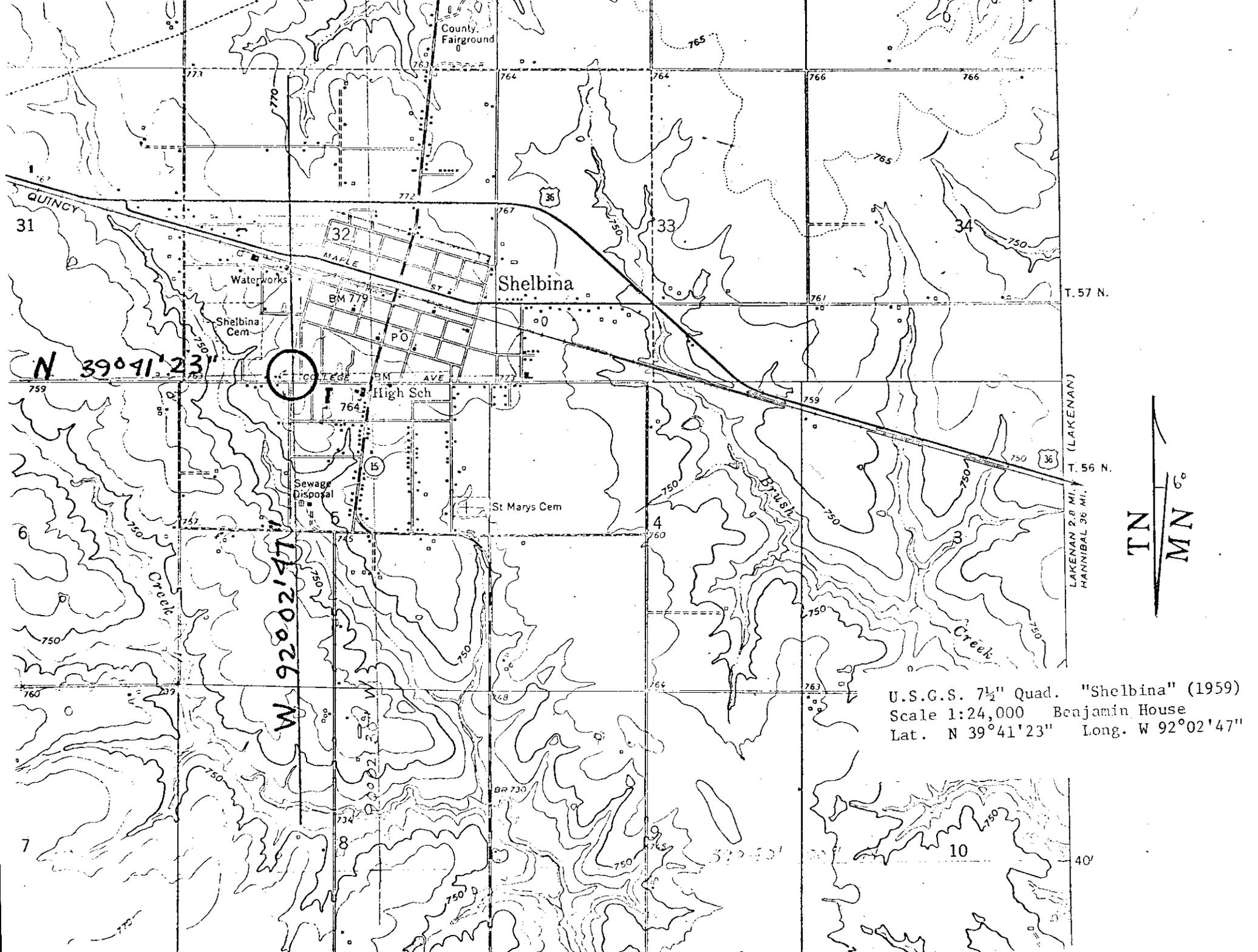
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Shelby	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

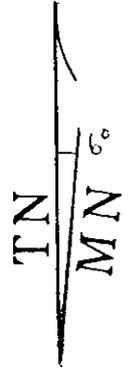
(Number all entries)

9. #2 BENJAMIN HOUSE
17. Miller, John W. Settlement of Executor of estate of Diana Benjamin, February 19, 1890. Recorded in Shelby County, Missouri, Court Record, Book F, p. 127.
18. Parrish, William E. Missouri Under Radical Rule 1865-1870. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1965.
19. Pemberton, James A., Jr. Letter to Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Crist, Shelbina, Missouri, January 10, 1972.
20. Shelbina [Mo.] Democrat. May 22, 1872.
21. \_\_\_\_\_. March 5, 1873.
22. \_\_\_\_\_. September 16, 1871.
23. \_\_\_\_\_. March 14, 1877.
24. \_\_\_\_\_. June 6, 1877.
25. Shelby County [Shelbyville, Mo.] Herald. May 1, 1872.
26. \_\_\_\_\_. May 27, 1874.
27. Sloan, Samuel. The Model Architect. Philadelphia: E. S. Jones & Co., 1852.
28. Stewart, A. J. D., ed. History of Bench and Bar of Missouri. St. Louis: Legal Publishing Co., 1898.



N 39°41'23"

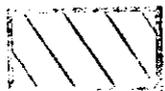
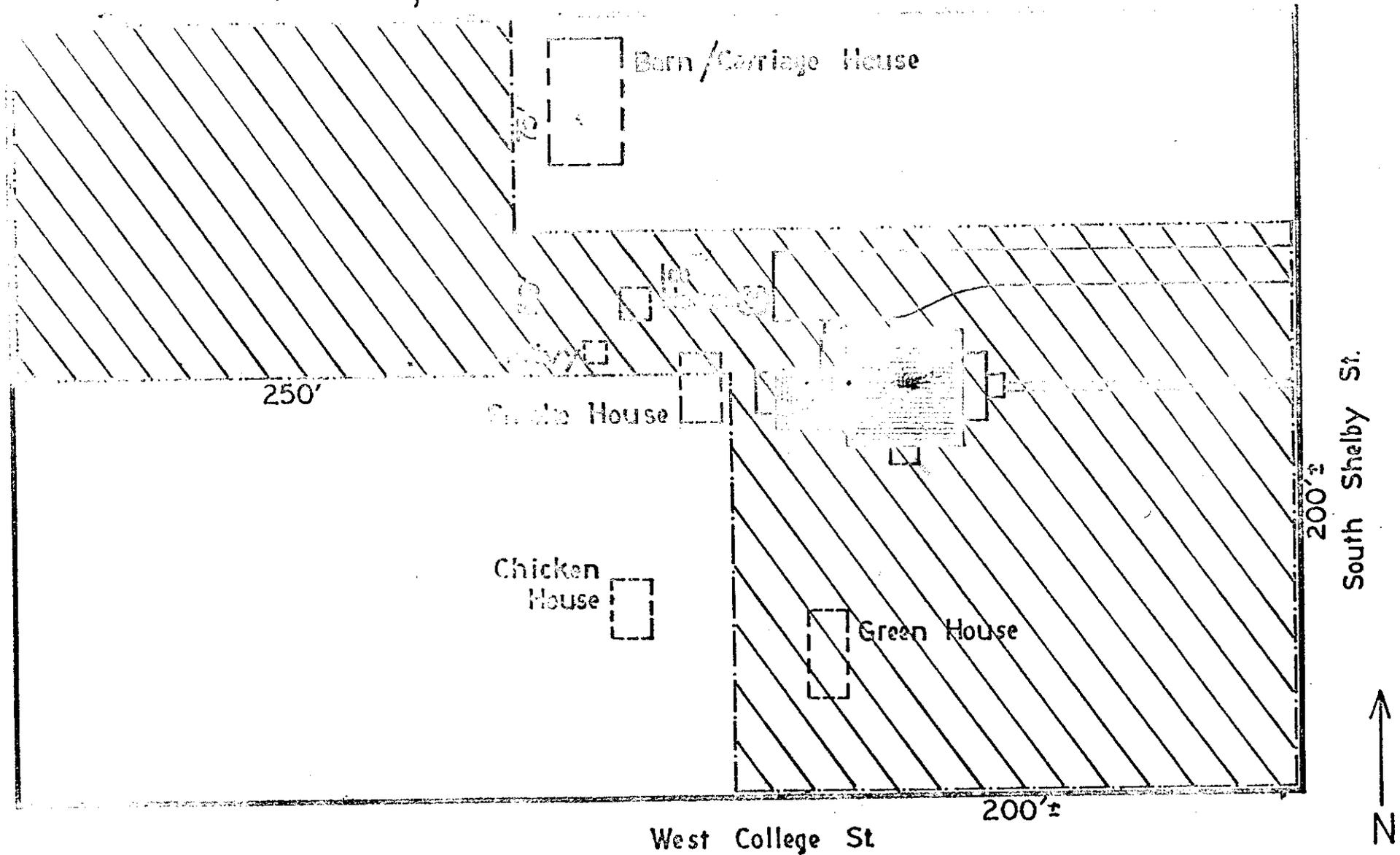
W 92°02'47"



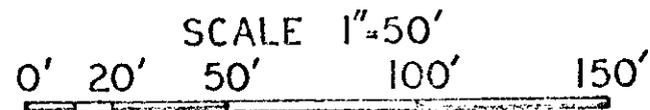
U.S.G.S. 7½" Quad. "Shelbina" (1959)  
Scale 1:24,000 Benjamin House  
Lat. N 39°41'23" Long. W 92°02'47"

# JOHN FORBES BENJAMIN HOUSE

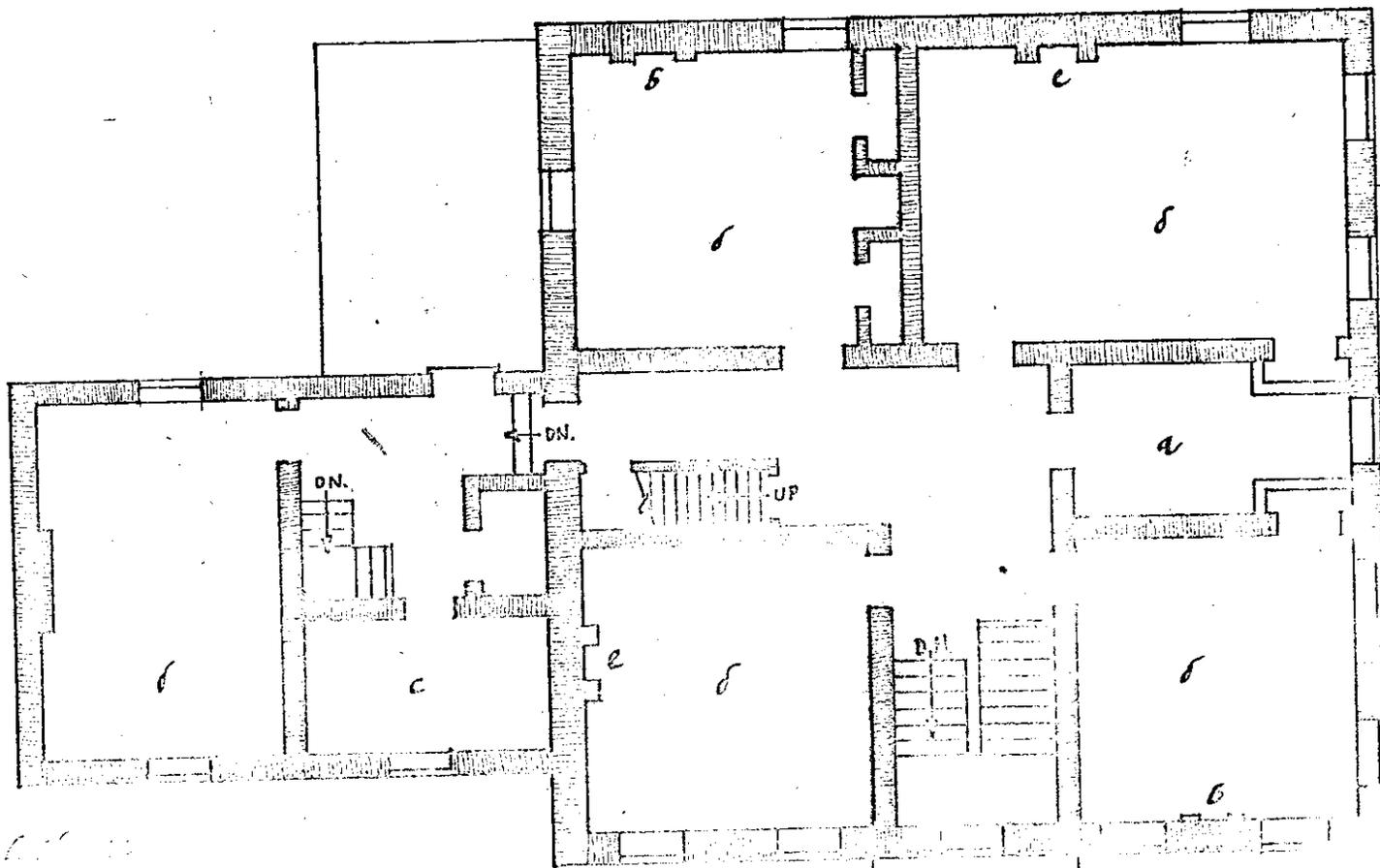
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS - 322 SOUTH SHELBY ST.



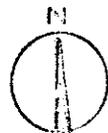
DENOTES AREA BEING NOMINATED TO  
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.



M.S.H.S. FEBRUARY 9, 1972.

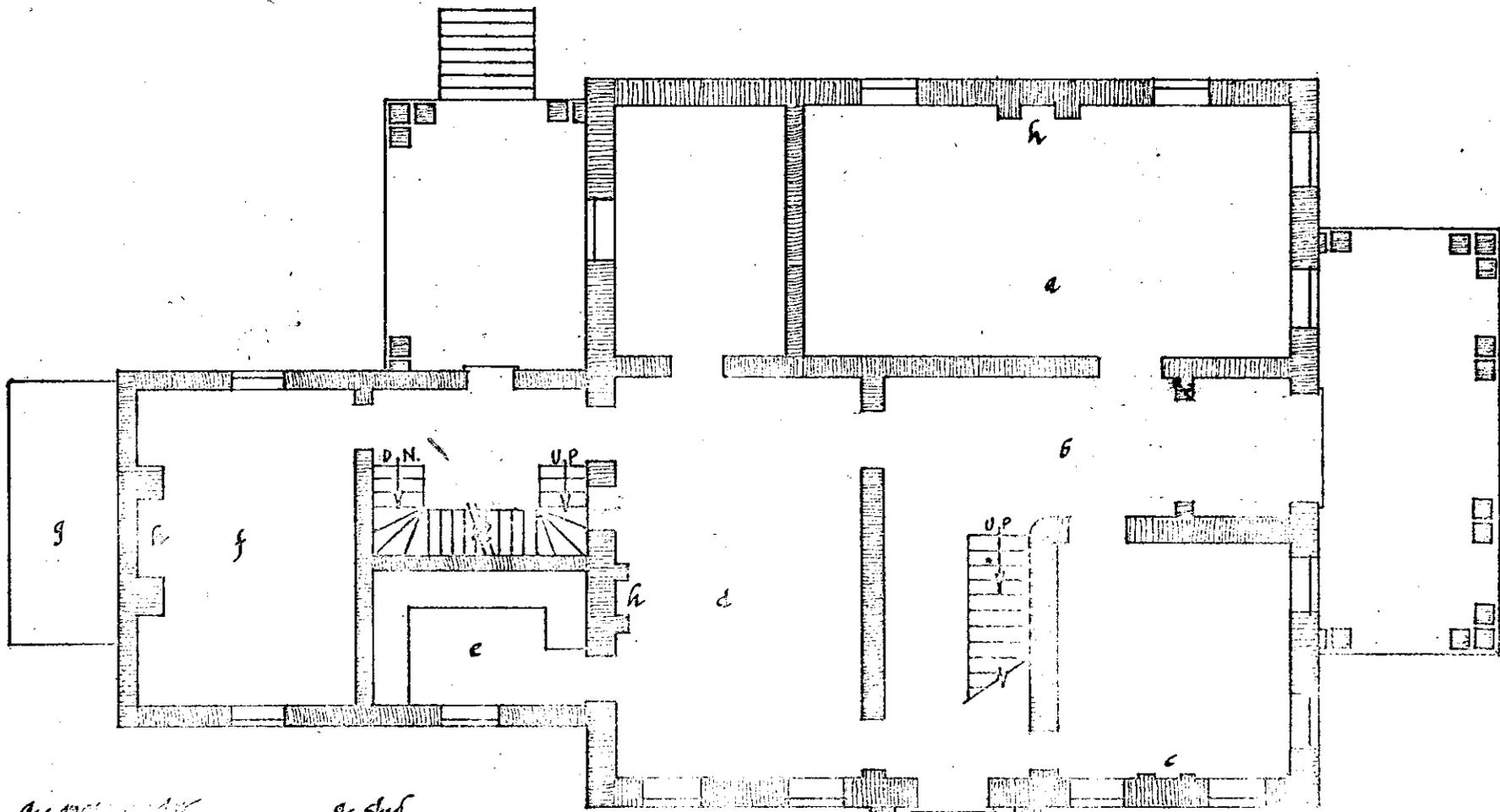


- a living room
- b bed rooms
- c bathroom
- d bedrooms
- e fire places



JOHN FORD'S BENJAMIN HOUSE - 2ND FLOOR PLAN  
 SHELBYVILLE, MISSOURI - 322. 50. SHELBYVILLE, MO.

Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"



- a - main parlor
- b - hall
- c - ornamental fireplace - decorative function only
- d - dining room
- e - present kitchen - old butler's pantry
- f - original bedroom - also one in basement below
- g - shed
- h - fireplace

JOHN FORBES BENJAMIN HOUSE - 1ST FLOOR.  
 SHELDON, ILLINOIS - 322 SO. SHELDON ST.

0 5' 10' 20'  
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

