

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NR 9-5-75

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED 070014  
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Sheeks House

AND/OR COMMON

E. Foster Brown House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

502 Market Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Corning

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Clay

CODE

021

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Ed V. Sheeks, Jr. & ~~Louise Scott, Bicentennial~~

STREET & NUMBER

502 Market Street

609 Olive

CITY, TOWN

Corning

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Clay County Courthouse, Western District

CITY, TOWN

Corning

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 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		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sheeks House is a two storey white frame structure with a hipped roof. Dominating the facade is a massive two storey portico which covers the projecting center bay. The house is sheathed in white clapboard with doors, window and porch screens trimmed in black.

The three bay facade is symmetrical with the portico accentuating the projecting center bay. The portico is supported by two round columns with Ionic capitals. Ornamental brackets on the cornice of the portico are identical to those found around the cornice of the house. Beneath the portico is a one storey flat roofed porch extending across the entire facade. An iron railing spans the space between the slender round columns.

A simple entablature covers the windows on either side of front bay and on both side elevations. The projecting center bay has entries on both floors, with the second storey entry opening onto the roof of the lower porch. The main entry is especially interesting with flush board on either side of the bay facade. The panelled door is surrounded with sidelights and a transom of red etched glass.

A one and one-half storey "U" shaped wing is located at the rear (north) elevation of the house. The east leg of the "U" consists of a screened porch similar to the one storey porch on the facade. The west leg of the "U" is enclosed, as is the gable roofed rear section.

Early photographs show that the Sheeks House has been greatly altered since its original construction in 1872. Two photographs made circa 1900 show the structure as having a gable roof with a pitch similar to that of the gabled dormers on the east and west elevations of the present house. A boxed cornice with returns featured the same brackets that are preset on the house today. Though no documentary evidence is available, it appears that when the house was remodeled in early 1900 its size was almost doubled by adding a two storey addition across the rear elevation. This addition would have enclosed the one storey rear wing visible in one of the early photographs. The front portico was added about 1908.

The interior of the Sheeks House is relatively plain, with two exceptions. A two flight stairway rises to the second floor at the rear of the entry hall. Turned balusters between square posts support the handrail. The square newel post is decoratively carved and topped with a figurine. In the rear parlor the mantelpiece has Ionic capiteled columns flanking the bracketed mantel shelf. Displayed throughout the house is the present owner's large collection of glassware.

Though the original house was remodeled in the early twentieth century, the Sheeks House has remained unchanged since 1908. It retains many original features and still rests on its original site across from the Clay County Courthouse. The 1908 alteration illustrates the adaptation of a structure to changing architectural styles.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sheeks House is an important historic landmark in the small northeast Arkansas community of Corning. The house was built in 1872 by a prominent Arkansas attorney, E. Foster Brown. In 1879 Brown moved to Jonesboro and sold his home to Edward V. Sheeks, one of Corning's early businessmen. Since 1878 the house has remained in the Sheeks family.

E. Foster Brown was born in Tennessee in 1844. At age fourteen he moved with his family to Randolph County, Arkansas. In 1862 he enlisted in the Confederate army and served throughout the Civil War. Afterwards he returned home to complete his education by studying law. Brown was admitted to the Arkansas Bar in 1871. After a year of further study in Lebanon, Tennessee, Brown began practicing law in the newly organized Clay County (On March 24, 1873, Clayton County was created from portions of Randolph and Green Counties. The name was later shortened to "Clay").

Despite his youth and inexperience, Brown was elected as a delegate to Arkansas' 1874 constitutional convention. His active participation contributed to the formulation of the document which still governs Arkansas a century later. In 1875 Brown served as state senator from the first district, and in 1878 he was elected as prosecuting attorney for Arkansas' Second Judicial District. In 1883 Brown moved to Jonesboro in Craighead County, thus terminating his political career in Clay County.

In the early 1870's Foster Brown built a two storey frame home in Corning. On the lot just west of the house was his law office. According to the present owner, Brown sold his house to E. V. Sheeks in 1878 (The present owner is the daughter-in-law of Mr. Sheeks). The house was ideally located for Sheeks whose mercantile store was located just east of the house.

Edgar Van Buren Sheeks was a native of Indiana who moved to north Arkansas as a young man. On arriving in Clay County in the late 1870's Sheeks opened a saw mill just north of Corning. Later he went into partnership with George W. Stephens to open Sheeks-Stephens Store on the northeast corner of Corning's courthouse square. Sheeks and Stephens also owned the first cotton gin in Corning. In 1906 Sheeks was manager of the electric light plant in Corning. His many successful business ventures made E. V. Sheeks an important factor in the early economic life of Clay County.

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The Sheeks House was originally a provincial style house distinguished by the projecting center bay. The two storey house had a one storey wing on the rear elevation, thus giving the structure an ell-shape floor plan. In 1908 the house was remodeled by adding both a two storey and one storey addition at the rear, and a two storey portico and one storey porch on the facade. The alteration of the house made it more in vogue with early twentieth century architectural styles.

Though architecturally interesting, the significance of the Sheeks House lies in its association with two men prominent in Clay County history. The house typifies the home of a successful northeast Arkansas businessman at the turn of the century.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1906-1907. Vol.X. Detroit: R. L. Polk and Company, 1907.

Clay County Courier (Corning, Arkansas), March 6, 1975.

Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891.

# GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	7	1,6	6,6,0	4,0	1,3	3,8,0	B							
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING		
C								D							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

6-10-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

# 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE William E. Henderson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6-10-75

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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House, J. W. "Constitutional Convention of 1874 - Reminiscences." Publications of the Arkansas Historical Association, Volume 4, 1917. Microfilm, Arkansas History Commission.

Sheeks, Mrs. Edgar V., Jr. Interview at Sheeks House, Corning, Arkansas, April 21, 1975.