

62-14-8097-61

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Shoppach House

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

508 North Main

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Benton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Saline

CODE

125

## 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

Benton Art League, c/o David Demuth

In the process  
of being re-  
stored for  
civic use.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Gingle's Hardware

CITY, TOWN

Benton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Saline County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Benton

STATE

Arkansas

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

\_\_\_EXCELLENT

☒GOOD

\_\_\_FAIR

\_\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_\_RUINS

\_\_\_UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒UNALTERED

\_\_\_ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_\_MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

In 1852, John W. Shoppach built a house in the central Arkansas community of Benton. The house was the first brick home to be built in Saline County. As originally planned by Shoppach, the house was to be of two large rooms connected by a "breezeway" or large central hall, characteristic of Arkansas ante-bellum homes. Plans for the house were altered and a wooden "ell" consisting of three rooms, was added at right angles to the main portion of the house, the inside angle having a covered porch along its entire length.

The Shoppach House is a one and one-half storey structure with a gable roof. Except for three rows of corbelling at the roofline, the exterior surface is plain. Extending from the facade is a portico over the entrance door with transom and sidelights. Paired, double-hung windows flank the entry.

Windows are double-hung sash with nine lights in the upper sash and six in the lower. The inset windows are trimmed in white with natural wood at the wall surface. Chimneys extend from each gable end of the roof. Two small square windows, each with four lights, are also found in the gable ends.

~~Extending from the rear elevation is a one storey "ell" shaped frame wing sheathed in clapboard. The same style windows with nine over six lights are found in this frame wing. A one story open porch is set into the "ell" shape of the house. The shed roof of the porch is supported with plain posts and terminates with a reverse scalloped bargeboard.~~

Except for wainscotting, the interior is relatively simple in design. The mantel in the dining room, standing to the ceiling, is hand carved of native pine, and is faced with the original hand-made brick. The rear entry, opposite the main front door, features double panels in the lower portion of the double doors and clear round cornered lights in the upper portion. An unusual transom features a narrow band of horizontal lights beneath a wood panel. The entry doors are flanked by clear side lights.

The only alteration to the house has been the replacement of deteriorated boards; otherwise the Shoppach House remains as it was at its construction in 1852.

The Shoppach family occupied the house through five generations. In 1959, the house was purchased by the present owners from one of the last descendants of the Shoppach family. The first brick house constructed in Saline County, the Shoppach House stands as a historic landmark to the community.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

TOPIC		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
1400-1499	ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
1500-1599	ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
1600-1699	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1700-1799	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1800-1899	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
1900-	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		INVENTION		Settlement	
				German Immigrants	

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shoppach House on North Main Street in Benton, is one of the oldest structures in the central Arkansas community. Built in 1852, the house was the first brick home to be constructed in Saline County. The brick house is two large rooms connected by a "breezeway" with a wooden "ell" at right angles to the main portion of the house. The house features corbelling at the roofline and simple window trim. Five generations of the Shoppach family have lived in the house and it remains practically unchanged since its construction. The significance of the Shopach House lies in its representation of local history to the surrounding community. The Shoppach family were among the early German settlers in Arkansas. The ancestry of the Shoppach family has been traced through thirteen successive generations from Kurt Shoppach, a weaver from Alsfeld, Germany, who was born in 1535. The Shoppach's were noted for their sturdy integrity and business sagacity, as proven by the prominence attained by the family upon settling in Saline County. The house is also a tangible local reminder of the Civil War. Two of the Shoppach's, John F. and James Henry enlisted in the Confederate Army early in the war and attained distinguished service records. In 1862 the Shoppach home was the scene of a flag presentation to the Confederate troops from Benton. When Federal troops occupied Benton in the fall of 1863, they made their headquarters across the road from the Shoppach House and the officers stayed in the house itself.

John W. Shoppach, the builder of the house, was born in Hessen, Germany in 1809. He studied at Heidelberg University in Berlin. In 1834 Shoppach came to America and settled in Saline County, Arkansas. In July of 1838 he married Sibly Pelton, whose parents had moved from Illinois to Arkansas in 1818 to homestead a farm on the Saline River. In 1852 Shoppach moved his family from a large farm to the town of Benton and built a brick house. Also in 1852 Shoppach was elected county clerk of Saline County, the first of his five terms. He became one of the most well-known German pioneers in Arkansas. Before his death in 1861, Shoppach had served the city of Benton as mayor, alderman, justice of the peace and as county and circuit judge of Saline County.

One of the Shoppach's six children, James Henry was considered a vital citizen in the development of the community in which he grew up. He was born March 26, 1845 on the family farm in Saline County. His district school education was supplemented by attendance at St. John's College in Little Rock. In January of 1862 he enlisted in the Confederate Army at Benton as a private in Company E First Arkansas regiment. His first battle was at Shiloh and was followed by the battles of Corinth, Perryville, Murfreesboro and Chickamauga, where he was severely wounded.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

At the close of the Civil War, James H. Shoppach returned to Benton and taught in the school system. In 1868 he was one of only ten Democrats in the State Constitutional Convention. In 1874 he was elected county clerk of Saline County and served three terms in this capacity. Shoppach was elected to the state legislature from Saline County in 1887. In 1892 he moved to Little Rock and for the next four years he worked for the United States Land Office at Little Rock. Shoppach was one of the clerks of the State Senate, 1891-1893, and in 1899 was appointed to a position in the State Treasurer's Office. He served as Deputy Chancery Clerk and in 1904 became Deputy Circuit Clerk and Recorder, in charge of the first division of the circuit court of Pulaski County.

As the home of one of the early German settlers in Arkansas, the Shoppach House is one of the more significant structures in Benton. Its builder, John W. Shoppach, was one of Benton's most prominent residents. He spent most of his ~~lifetime in the Arkansas community and took an active part in community affairs.~~ His sons also made important contributions to the area in their lives and military involvement. The Shoppach House stands as an important historic landmark to the community.

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Arkansas Gazette, May 20, 1954.

Benton Courier, March 25, 1937.

Confederate Military History.

Hempstead, Fay. Historical Review of Arkansas. Vol. II. Chicago: Lewis

Publishing Company, 1911.

## 10

#### UTM REFERENCES

[illegible][illegible]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE



Sandra Taylor, Historian

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

6-10-75

## Little Rock

## Arkansas

STATE



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.

~~OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE~~

DATE 6-10-75

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

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

