

By: Representative Middleton

To: Public Buildings,
Grounds and Lands;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1251

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF THE HISTORIC SHAIFER
2 HOUSE AND ACCOMPANYING LAND LOCATED ON THE PORT GIBSON BATTLEFIELD
3 FROM THE GRAND GULF MILITARY MONUMENT COMMISSION TO THE
4 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY; TO AUTHORIZE THE
5 DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY TO PRESERVE AND DEVELOP THE
6 HISTORIC SHAIFER HOUSE AND ACCOMPANYING LAND; TO AUTHORIZE THE
7 DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE
8 AGREEMENTS WITH ENTITIES INTERESTED IN THE PRESERVATION AND
9 DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHAIFER HOUSE AND ACCOMPANYING LAND; TO AMEND
10 SECTION 51-15-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE
11 PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

13 SECTION 1. The Department of Finance and Administration, on
14 behalf of the State of Mississippi, may convey all right, title
15 and interest in certain state-owned real property located in
16 Claiborne County, Mississippi, to the State of Mississippi, for
17 the use and benefit of the Mississippi Department of Archives and
18 History, the property being known as the historic Shaifer House
19 and accompanying land located on the Port Gibson Battlefield, and
20 being more particularly described as follows:

21 Tract No. 1: That certain tract of land known
22 as the old Shaifer house tract; for survey,
23 begin at point on the southerly side of the
24 public road, whereit is intersected by the
25 line between Parcels 1 and 2 of the partition
26 of the Shaifer Estate property as described in
27 partition deed executed by us and now recorded
28 Book 10-B, page 177 of the land records of
29 said county, and which partition deed together
30 with the plat recorded therewith is here
31 referred to for full description of the

32 location of said starting point, and run
33 thence in a northeasterly direction along said
34 old Port Gibson and Rodney public road, 1307
35 feet to point where said road is intersected
36 on its North side by a fence, and which point
37 is point of beginning for survey of this tract
38 (and which point is further located as being
39 North 88° 45' East 1434.67 feet from the most
40 eastern corner of Section 16, Township 11
41 North, Range 2 East). From said point of
42 beginning run thence along fence, North 35°
43 West 134 feet; thence continue along fence,
44 South 35° West 15 feet, South 86° West 16 feet
45 to fence corner; thence along another fence,
46 North 40° West 191 feet to fence corner;
47 thence along another fence, North 40° East 160
48 feet; thence continue along fence, North 64°
49 East 217 feet to point on private farm road;
50 thence along said road, South 31° 45' East 372
51 feet to point where the same forks; thence
52 along the fork going southwesterly 100 feet to
53 old Port Gibson and Rodney public/road; thence
54 along said old Port Gibson and Rodney public
55 road, in a southwesterly direction, 225 feet
56 to point of beginning. Said tract contains
57 3.0 acres, more or less, and lies in Section
58 Twelve (12), Township Eleven (11) North, Range
59 Two (2) East. Said land is the same as is
60 fully described in Section V of said above
61 mentioned partition deed executed by the
62 grantors, now recorded Book 10-B, page 177 of
63 the deed records of said Claiborne County,
64 which is here referred to in aid of
65 description and for all purposes. All of the
66 above is in accordance with survey made by
67 R.D. Wade, Jr., and copy of plat of his survey
68 is attached hereto and made a part hereof by

69 reference.

70 Tract No. 2: That certain tract of land being
71 the site of the old Magnolia Church; to arrive
72 at point of beginning for survey of this
73 tract, begin at the most eastern corner of
74 Section Sixteen (16), Township Eleven (11)
75 North, Range Two (2) East, and run thence
76 South 74° 34' East 2,917.7 feet to stake on
77 South side of public road, and run thence
78 South 84° 45' East 49 feet to fence corner
79 on South side of said road, which is point of
80 beginning for survey of this tract; and which
81 point is also the point where the East line of
82 Parcel 2 in the partition of the Shaifer
83 Estate property as described in partition deed
84 executed by us and now recorded Book 10-B,
85 page 177 of the land records of said Claiborne
86 County, intersects said public road, and which
87 partition deed, together with plat recorded
88 therewith, is here referred to in aid of
89 description of location of said starting
90 point. From said point of beginning, continue
91 thence along road, South 84° 45' East 282.04
92 feet to stake in fence and property line;
93 thence along fence and property line, South
94 46° West 396 feet to stake in fence corner;
95 thence along fence (which is the East line of
96 Parcel 2 of the partition above referred
97 to), North 17 East 109 feet, North 16°
98 East
99 69 feet, North 2°, West 52 feet and North 16°
100 West 78 feet to point of beginning. Said tract
101 contains 1.29 acres, more or less, and lies in
102 Section Twelve (12), Township Eleven (11) North,
103 Range Two(2) East.

104 The Secretary of State shall approve this conveyance and join
105 in this conveyance for all purposes.

106 SECTION 2. The Mississippi Department of Archives and
107 History is authorized to secure, preserve, restore, develop,
108 interpret, operate and maintain the historic Shaifer House and
109 accompanying land located on the Port Gibson Battlefield, subject
110 to the appropriation of adequate funds by the Legislature.

111 SECTION 3. The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi
112 Department of Archives and History is authorized to enter into
113 cooperative agreements with the National Park Service, state and
114 local governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, and any
115 other groups, organizations or individuals that may be interested
116 in the preservation and development of the Shaifer House and
117 accompanying land and the Port Gibson Battlefield.

118 SECTION 4. Section 55-15-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
119 amended as follows:

120 55-15-25. Said commission is authorized, empowered and
121 directed to make careful study and examination of the battlefields
122 of the Grand Gulf Military Area, located in Claiborne County,
123 Mississippi; to make all necessary surveys in preparation to the
124 acquisition of the Grand Gulf Military Area; to identify and
125 establish the battle lines, maneuvers and positions; and to
126 designate such historic, memorable areas with markers, monuments
127 or other suitable means of identification.

128 Said commission is hereby authorized to receive any
129 contributions in money, property of any kind, or donations of land
130 that might be made by patriotic citizens to carry out the objects
131 and purposes of Sections 55-15-21 to 55-15-31; to acquire options
132 or titles to parts or all of said Grand Gulf Military Area and to
133 exercise the right of eminent domain in acquiring said lands in
134 the manner now provided by law; and to hold same in the name and
135 for the benefit of the State of Mississippi, all to the end that
136 the Grand Gulf Military Area may be ultimately established and
137 permanently maintained and operated as an historical park.

138 Certain property of the commission may be conveyed under Section 1
139 of House Bill No. _____, 1999 Regular Session.

140 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
141 and after its passage.