

PH 0503 487

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 31 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 10 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC ~~Mansfield (Cheatham House)~~

AND/OR COMMON Simmons House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
7th Avenue West

CITY, TOWN
Springfield

STATE
Tennessee

VICINITY OF
Fifth

COUNTY
Robertson

CODE
47

CODE
147

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Martin French

STREET & NUMBER
7th Avenue West

CITY, TOWN
Springfield

STATE
Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Robertson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Public Square

CITY, TOWN
Springfield

STATE
Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE
March 1976

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN
Nashville

STATE
Tennessee

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

The Cheatham-Simmons House is an imposing two-story brick located on an original town lot. There is a total of 9.1 acres, one of the largest lots in the city with an older home remaining intact. *FAMILY OWNS 9.1 ACRES BUT ONLY ONE ACRE IS NOMINATED - INCLUDES KITCHEN, BARN, ETC. MOBILE 1/4/97*

According to tradition, the oldest section of this house was probably the east room. A basement located beneath the east room has hand-hewn joists, a dirt floor, and fireplace which appear to be early. Extensive changes took place during the ownership of W. L. Simmons in 1905 to bring the house to its elaborate Neo-Classic design.

The house is a two and one-half story rectangular shape. The central mass is fronted by a columned porch extending across the front and colossal central portico with second-story balconies at either side. The portico features Neo-Classic fluted Ionic columns supporting the triangular pediment. The porte-cochere on the east side repeats the columned porch design. The formal entrance features tall double oak doors enhanced by a decorative arched transom set with clear, beveled leaded glass lights, flanked by clear beveled glass side lights and framed by heavy carved oak moldings. The windows above the entrance features a round-headed arch transom with side light panels of clear glass, also framed in oak moldings. The window is fronted by a curved balcony set between fluted pilasters. Following the balanced plan, the rectangular shaped windows are uniform in size and have double sashes and large glass panes. There are two dormers on each side of the pediment and one small window in the pediment.

In its present form the house has a one-story back wing extending from the southeast wall. The wooden porch on the south ell has been enclosed and is used as an entrance. The old sun porch on the southwest corner was enclosed in 1916 to make additional space. A recent two-story addition on the south wall was built to accommodate bathrooms. The southeast room contains the present kitchen, hall, and pantry and is accessible from the dining room or porch.

The main section of the brick is laid in flemish bond, and the new additions are laid in stretcher and common. The house is designed in a balanced plan, two rooms deep with a central hall dividing the four large rooms. The pattern is repeated on the second floor. There is a fireplace in every room, and the four balanced stacks extend above the hip roof. All of the bearing walls are constructed to the attic, and doorways have been cut through the bearing walls to connect the upstairs bedrooms. The parlor entrance is from the foyer to the back stairway and is approximately 15' x 40'. To the left side are the parlor and dining room which are connected by wide sliding doors through the party wall. To the right side of the hall are identical rooms used as bedroom chambers. A long narrow room is located off the side of the last bedroom created by the enclosure of the sun porch. The upstairs floor plan is indential with four bedrooms. The rooms throughout the house are twenty-foot square. The downstairs has fifteen-foot ceilings and upstairs the ceilings are twelve feet. The upstairs is reached by a dogleg staircase, solid oak with a turned wood balustrade. The woodwork throughout the house was carved by Mr. Poole, a local craftsman, out of Robertson County oak.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 31 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 30 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Located on the estate is a 36' x 38' frame barn. It was used as a stable for horses when wagons were used to pull the tobacco to the nearby warehouse. The frame structure has three dormers, two double door entrances in the front, and a single rear entrance, in addition to a stone foundation. Another small frame building with three single door entrances is said to have been used as a coal house. The oldest outbuilding is a small outside kitchen. The brick building is 28' x 23' with a pegged front and back door entrance. The brick appears to be very old and the dressed stone matches the main section of the foundation on the house. It has a large 4' x 13' fireplace. The kitchen is one large room with beaded ceiling joists and the remains of newspaper that have been white washed to create a wall covering.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION	
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE	
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE	
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION	
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		___INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1833 - 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cheatham House is significant to the city of Springfield because its owners provided leadership to the city and state. It also served on two different occasions as one of the better educational facilities in the state. In its final stage of glory it was the home of one of the most prominent and wealthy tobacco dealers in Springfield.

In 1798 Archer Cheatham, Jr., or as many people referred to him by his honorary title "Colonel Archer," sold to the newly developing city thirty acres of his land grant No. 120 on which part of the town of Springfield was to be built. From this land and other properties acquired by the town commissioners, the town site was surveyed and sold at the price of \$8.00 per lot. In turn, Archer Cheatham Sr. and his son bought several of the original lots. On December 29, 1798, Colonel Cheatham was appointed a town commissioner; he was responsible for planning the city and aided in the construction of the second courthouse.

The Cheatham name continued to grow in esteem as Richard Cheatham, son of Archer Cheatham, Jr., stepped into the position of wealthy landowner, businessman, and politician. By 1830 Richard Cheatham and the Conrad Bros. practically had a monopoly on the town's mercantile business and owned many of the original town lots. He dealt in the farming and livestock business; operated a cotton gin and grist mill; had half interest in the Sycamore Powder Mill; and owned hundreds of acres of land in this and other counties.

In spite of his active involvement in business, Richard Cheatham still found time for his family, political and military service. On September 24, 1817, he married Susan Sanders and together they reared eight children. Around 1833 Cheatham built a brick home known as Mansfield which stayed in the family until 1878; the house is now incorporated into the W. H. Simmons House. Richard Cheatham was officially referred to as General Cheatham in honor of his military service in the Tennessee Militia. Cheatham was also well known in the political realm. He served in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1825 until 1833 and from 1843 until 1845, representing Robertson County. He was a justice of the peace; one of the commissioners who drafted ordinances for regulating the town; and represented Robertson County in the State Constitutional Convention of 1834. From 1837 until 1839 he represented the epople in the U.S. House of Representatives, 25th Congress and in 1836 was a presidential elector on the ticket of White and Tyler. General Cheatham died Sept. 9, 1845 at the age of forty-six years.

The fourth generation of Cheathams followed in the footsteps of their ancestors. The eldest son, Edward Saunders Cheatham, continued in some of the business endeavors

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, Vol. 1 1796-1861. ed. McBride and Robinson, Tennessee Historical Commission, 1975.
The Springfield I have Known For the Last 100 Years. Charles Love.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Cheatham House is located on the center lot of 7th Avenue West. Walnut Street runs directly in front of the house. The lot is about a one-acre lot and the property directly behind the house has a commercial structure that is also owned by the French family.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian and Debbie Henderson, Research Aide

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

May 1977

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

12 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert E. Hagen

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

8/29/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Charles Adams

DATE

1/20/78

DATE

1-28-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 31 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 30 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

of his father; had interest in E. S. Cheatham and Co., a grocery in Nashville; and owned and operated a sawmill in Greenbrier. He was the first president of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and of the Edgefield and Kentucky line. He lost his position with the railroad after siding with the Confederate cause. Cheatham had an impressive record in the state legislature. He represented Robertson County during the 30th General Assembly and was speaker of the senate during the 31st and 34th (Confederate) General Assemblies. The act creating Cheatham County was passed in 1856 while Cheatham was Speaker of the Senate and was named in his honor. After the fall of Fort Donelson, Cheatham's quick thinking saved the state's official records and as Speaker of the Senate, he was selected the custodian to convey them to a safe location. Throughout this period Cheatham continued to make Springfield his home.

Richard Boone Cheatham continued in the mercantile business as a wholesale dealer in liquors, tobacco, cigars and at time groceries. His political career was also prosperous. Richard B. Cheatham represented his area in the House of Representatives in the 33rd and 36th General Assemblies. He became involved in Nashville politics after moving to Nashville, but the exact date is not known. He was an alderman for three terms; in 1860 he was elected mayor of Nashville; and in 1873 was a justice of the peace. He died on May 7, 1877, almost a year prior to the death of his brother.

The other sons of Richard and Susan Cheatham were Dr. W. A., Boyd, and H. L. W. Cheatham who became successful in their own fields.

The Cheatham homeplace was maintained by Susan Cheatham until her death in 1867. It remained in the family until March 11, 1878 when H.L. W. Cheatham sold the house to Mrs. Cornelia Benton. Mrs. Benton purchased the house for a personal residence, but when the Female Institute burned in 1882, the Institute was moved to her house. Professor J. W. Huey purchased the house on Aug. 22, 1888, and it was used as a school until 1897, when the Springfield public school opened. W. H. Simmons was the last owner of the house and it has remained in the ownership of his descendants since that time. Mr. Simmons was a successful landowner as well as owning one of the largest tobacco warehouses in Springfield. He built his warehouse about one block from the newly remodeled Cheatham House and walked across the yard to work each day. The house has remained basically the same since 1905 and the tobacco warehouse is still operated by the family.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 31 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 30 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Since there are no UTM grid ticks on the most recent map, the following are the longitude and latitude coordinates for the property.

Latitude --- 36° 30' 35"

Longitude -- 86° 53' 29"