

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0668702

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RECEIVED
MAY 11 1978

DATE ENTERED
JUL 10 1978

DATA SHEET

**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

** Robincroft

AND/OR COMMON

Williams Residence

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

746 Benton Ave.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

CODE
47

COUNTY

Davidson

CODE

037

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Miss Anita Williams

STREET & NUMBER

746 Benton Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Davidson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY 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

The Williams residence is a large two and one-half story brick house set on a rock-faced stone foundation. The house is sixty feet across and seventy-two feet deep and sits on a 150 foot square lot. Its exterior is typical of the substantial suburban residences built in many American cities during the early years of the twentieth century. A one-story veranda supported by corinthean columns stretches across the front facade. A similar though smaller porch shelters an entrance on the right side. The red brick walls are pierced by very large unadorned double-hung windows. The hipped slate roof is pierced by a single gable at the front and on each side.

The interior is arranged around a large central hall on both floors. On the first floor are a library, music room, informal sitting room and dining room. At the rear, the kitchen and breakfast room open onto a rear stairhall. Upstairs are six bedrooms and a small sitting room at the center front which opens on the roof of the veranda.

High quality materials and fixtures were used throughout the house. Golden oak woodwork was used extensively on the lower floor and remains in excellent condition. Original hardware and light fixtures are still in place throughout the house. Original stenciling adorns the walls in the principal rooms on the lower floor. With the exception of some damage due to leaks (which are now undergoing repair), the house is in good condition, both inside and out, and is substantially unchanged since its building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1908-1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Williams residence was built by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Robinson. Mr. Robinson, a native of Marshall County, Tennessee, held the principal interest in the Robinson McGill Carriage Company. The company primarily manufactured buggies and surries but also built phaetons and children's pleasure carts. These carriages were widely distributed in the South and were also shipped to England, France and the Virgin Islands. The business had been started in Shelbyville, Tennessee and was moved to Nashville in 1905-06. Its factory building, now owned by a paint company, still stands near the Williams house.

Mrs. Robinson, a graduate of Mary Sharp College, was a music major and later taught voice. She possessed talent in the visual arts as well. Mrs. Robinson worked closely with the builder in designing the house and was responsible for designing the stencil work which adorns the first floor walls. The house is now owned by Miss Anita Williams, Mrs. Robinson's daughter and only child by her first marriage.

The significance of the house lies in two areas. First, it is representative of the type house built by solid, prosperous citizens like the Robinsons during the first decades of the twentieth century. Though not architecturally remarkable, it is an elegant, refined house of a type rapidly vanishing in Nashville. This is the first Nashville house of this vintage to be nominated to the National Register.

Second, the house is significant for its state of preservation, especially on the interior. The house has been carefully maintained by the same family over the years. The high quality oak woodwork is in fine condition. Light fixtures and hardware are original. The stencil work (examples of such work in Nashville have all but vanished) is largely intact. Much of the original furniture remains in the house. The Williams residence is a superior example of an elegant early twentieth century suburban residence, continuously maintained since its construction.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information provided by the owner Miss Anita Williams of Nashville.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES Quad name: Nashville West

Scale: 1:24000

A	<u>16</u>	<u>520030</u>	<u>3898480</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a 150-foot square lot bounded on the south by Benton Street.

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

David H. Paine

ORGANIZATION

Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Historical Commission

DATE

June 16, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

215 Stahlman Building

TELEPHONE

615-259-5027

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 X

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 L. Hoyer

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

5/9/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles R. ...
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

...
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-10-78

ATTEST:

Wallace Cole

DATE

7-5-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER