

PH0665657

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 27 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 18 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
Ripley Stone House
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
E of Afton of U.S. 11

CITY, TOWN
Afton

STATE
Tennessee

VICINITY OF
 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

COUNTY
Greene

CODE
47

CODE
59

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Dean Hardin

STREET & NUMBER
Route 14

CITY, TOWN
Jonesboro

STATE
Tennessee

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Greene County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Greeneville

STATE
Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE
July 1972

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN
Nashville

STATE
Tennessee

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ripley Stone House is located in the middle of a pasture, high on a hill, within sight of the railroad which passes the property on the north end. The Southern Railroad operates the line, built by the East Tennessee Railroad in 1858, crossing the property directly behind the house which faces toward the south. Vibration from daily trains has caused some of the face stone and mortar to fall out of the walls. Standing vacant for several years, the house has been allowed to deteriorate. The property, consisting of the house and farmland, has recently been purchased by new owners who are interested in its restoration.

The two-and-one-half story, rectangular shape, one by three bay plan includes two massive stone chimneys at each end. There is a partly raised, full basement under the main floor with access from the outside at the left end wall, and from the room on the right end. Perimeter walls are constructed of coursed, matched rubble stone masonry, double limestone bearing walls over 24" thick at the base, with hewn joists spanning the width for each floor. In its present form this house is an example of early craftsmanship and design. The building contains the original hand-hewn beams, yellow poplar joists, pinned rafters and beaded flooring. The original hand-carved woodwork, paneled doors, feather-edge pine wall paneling, built-in paneled presses, pegged sills, hand-made six over six light sashes and some of the wrought iron hardware items are also in place.

From the attached wood porch there are two main entrances, leading directly into the two principal rooms. The larger room, located on the right, is divided across the length by a single-ply wood partition wall to match the feather-edge pine paneling used throughout the house. The back room has an entrance from the outside at the back of the house.

On the end walls are the stone fireplaces, faced with paneling and furnished with plain, carved mantel shelves. Next to the protruding chimneys is the narrow, closeted staircase, fitted with pie-shaped winders and concealed in the southeast corner of the larger room, and northeast corner of the adjoining rooms, with several lower steps protruding out into the room. Flanking the fireplaces are built-in presses and concealed in the wall below this, is a tiny stair leading to the basement where the large kitchen fireplace is located on the east side. Two pine-paneled bed chambers and a hall are located on the second story. From the upper hall, another concealed staircase leads to the attic which is lit by square-shaped windows located in each gable end. There are no original outbuildings located on the farm, but a series of frame farm buildings and barns appear to have been built, possibly at the end of the nineteenth century.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1790

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Seth Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ripley Stone House is located in a rural setting, east of the Afton community, on the old stage route from Greeneville to Jonesboro, in eastern Greene County, an area with few frontier settlements established before the Revolutionary War. This house is one of the few remaining eighteenth-century, vernacular stone farmhouses built on the Tennessee frontier during the 1780 period. The form is remarkably similar to the stone farmhouses of this same period built in Pennsylvania.

Thomas Ripley and a brother came from England in 1774 to settle in Virginia. Ripley moved to this area about 1783 where it is believed he contracted with Seth Smith to build the stone house, located on a hill where it could be defended against hostile Indians. Smith immigrated to the Tennessee frontier from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he had been a member of the New Hope Quaker Church. He is credited with building at least two other stone houses of this type in the area: the Colonel George Gillespie House (ca. 1792) at Limestone in Washington County and the Embree Stone House (1780-1790) at Telford in Washington County.

Thomas Ripley was a farmer and large landowner. His descendants owned this farm until 1920. In 1791 he bought a tract of land from a Mr. McAdow. Ripley Creek was formerly known as McAdow Creek. A large, Quaker settlement, Quaker Knob, was located in this neighborhood at the spring, the source for the creek. Ripley was listed on the first tax records as owning 350 acres of land.

With few exceptions this house has retained its original form. The sturdy design features 24-inch thick walls of double masonry construction. The hand-built construction and woodwork are done in the early style with plan molding detail, pegged and mortised joinery. For practicality the chimneys were built within the end walls; the narrow, concealed staircases are built against the end walls, next to the chimneys to conserve space. The large kitchen fireplace is located in the basement.

This house was recently purchased and the new owners have expressed an interest in restoring it as a landmark in the county.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

R. H. Doughty. One Hundred Years Portrait: 1775-1875. Kingsport: Kingsport Press, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Chuckey

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 7 | 3, 4, 6, 3, 8, 0 | 4, 0, 0, 7, 0, 7, 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

D [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

E [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

F [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

G [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

H [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is centered in a 210-foot square, the northwestern boundary of which is the property line of the Southern Railway right-of-way.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail E. Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

September 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 L. Hays

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE 3/20/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

R. B. Rettig
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: *William Labourer*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 9/18/78

DATE Sept 12, 1978