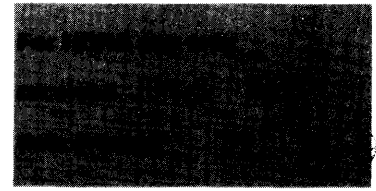


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



80

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Oak Top  
and/or common The Smith Place

**2. Location**

street & number 107 Madison Terrace          not for publication  
city, town Clarksville          vicinity of congressional district Sixth  
state Tennessee code          county Montgomery code         

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Lee O. and Evelyn G. Hunter  
street & number 107 Madison Terrace  
city, town Clarksville          vicinity of state Tennessee

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse  
street & number Second Street  
city, town Clarksville state Tennessee

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title          has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date           federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records           
city, town          state

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## 7. Description

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**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**

Oak Top is situated on the crest of a hillside in an urban neighborhood two miles east of Clarksville. Facing south toward Madison Street, a major artery which runs east-west from Clarksville also known as the Nashville Pike, the house stands parallel to a short north-south side street named Madison Terrace. Oak Top was built originally on ten acres of land that was sold at auction in 1937 and divided into residential lots. One acre remains with the house presently.

A Greek Revival period house built during the 1850s, Oak Top is a two story, L-shaped building of brick construction which rests on a stone foundation. Its roof is gable shaped, trimmed with plain return gables, and covered with asphalt shingles on the front section with tin on the ell. Brick interior chimneys are located one in each of the gable ends of the main rectangular section of the building and one in each of the three rooms of the rear ell.

The facade, which is laid with bricks in the Flemish bond pattern, is five bays wide and comprised of two 6/6 light windows on each side of central doorways on both stories. A central flat portico extends both stories with two full length Corinthian columns of wood supporting a cornice with a bracketed freize which extends the full length of the facade. The cement porch of the first story is trimmed with wood balustrades that visually join the columns to the facade wall and a balcony on the second story is trimmed with iron grillwork. Decoration of the main single-leaf, wood door consists of a single-light transom, sidelights, architrave trim, and a cornice with dentils. Acanthus leaf brackets divide the transom from the sidelights. Over the second story double-leaf, wood door a transom and dentilled cornice with brackets provide accent. The windows are framed by wood louvered shutters, decorated flat lintels of wood, and wood sills. Only of the facade the foundation of rough cut limestone is covered with a facing of large, smooth dressed limestone blocks. A horizontal stone band separates the foundation from the walls on the facade and on the lower room of the original ell.

The west side elevation is three rooms long and one room deep. Beginning with the original rooms of the ell which were used as a dining room on the first floor and a bedroom on the second floor, three windows like those of the facade are placed to the left of the chimney on both stories. Originally a one story, two-room kitchen was located directly behind the ell. During the 1870s a second story was added above the kitchen rooms and joined to the ell. The roof drops about a foot from that of the original building. Windows on the first story have 6/6 lights and flat wood lintels, and those of the second story have 4/4 lights and segmental wood arches and brick radiating voussoirs. This addition is five bays wide, beginning at the left with a window, then a double window joined by a single flat lintel, a single-leaf door topped by a single light transom, and to the far right another window. Windows are arranged on the second story in the same manner. A plain freize extends the length of the west side elevation.

In the rear, the rear wall of the ell features a plain return gable, centrally located second story 4/4 light window with a wooden segmental arch and brick radiating voussoirs, and a short 3/3 light window with a flat wood lintel on the left side of the first story. A later two story clapboard and screened veranda extends the length of the ell's east side. Two windows like those of the facade, situated on the rear elevation of the main rectangular section of the house, allow light to enter the east side room on each story. No structural openings are found on the east side of this section of the building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Oak Top's interior features an original curving walnut staircase in the central hall, keyhole design woodwork framing doors and windows, and several Greek Revival mantles in the original section of the building.

Remaining in the rear is a one story brick outbuilding of rectangular shape with a raised seam tin roof and one interior brick chimney. Two of the three rooms which were originally used as servant's quarters were converted into three garage units in 1939. The third room has survived intact although it is in a much deteriorated condition.

## 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 checked="" 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** 1850's **Builder/Architect**

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Oak Top was built in the 1850s by Thomas W. Wisdom, who served as the Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court in Montgomery County, practiced law as a partner to James E. Bailey, and served as County Judge. After Wisdom's death in 1865 the house was sold and Oak Top was occupied by a quick succession of owners. Then in 1869 Sterling Beaumont, a lawyer and president of the First National Bank who also operated one of the largest tobacco stemmeries in Clarksville, purchased the house and lived in it until 1890. After the Beaumont's occupation, Oak Top again changed ownerships a couple of times. Finally in 1911, the family which presently owns and occupies the building purchased Oak Top.

During the course of ownerships, Oak Top experienced several alterations to meet the needs of each. Most of the alterations are interior, for the rear ell of the building has been converted into two apartment units. However, the exterior remains basically the same, except for the upper story addition to the original kitchen and the two story enclosed veranda in the rear. Although the kitchen's second story addition was constructed nearly twenty years after Oak Top was built, it retains the basic shape and window configuration as the original house.

Despite these alterations, Oak Top remains as a fine example of Greek Revival period architecture. It exemplifies the type of house built by a politically and socially prominent citizen mindful of the prevailing fashion in residential architecture during the mid nineteenth century in Tennessee. Furthermore, it illustrates a merging of Greek Revival period architecture with the earlier Federal and later Italianate, for the symmetrical facade of bricks laid in the Flemish bond pattern is reminiscent of the Federal influence and the heavy bracket decorative treatments are suggestive of the Italianate style. Combined with elements of the Greek Revival style, such as the decoration of the main doorway and the portico with Corinthian columns, these architectural features constitute a unique adaptation and interpretation of architectural styles.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Beach, Ursula S. Along the Warioto, Nashville: McQuiddy Press, 1978.  
 Titus, W. P. Pictureseque Clarksville: Past and Present, 1887.

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property One  
 Quadrangle name Clarksville

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

1	6	4	6	9	7	9	0	4	0	4	1	7	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
 C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

  
 E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

  
 G 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

  
 D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

  
 F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

  
 H 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundaries of the Oak Top nomination are shown as the red line on the accompanying Montgomery County property assessor's map #66L, which is drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The boundaries are drawn to the dimensions of the lot, owned by Lee Owen and Evelyn G. Hunter, on which Oak Top sits.

**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 Shain Terrell, Historic Preservation Specialist  
Mid-Cumberland Council of Governments  
 organization and Development District date April 7, 1980  
 street & number 501 Union Building, Suite 600 telephone (615) 244-1212  
 city or town Nashville state Tennessee

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

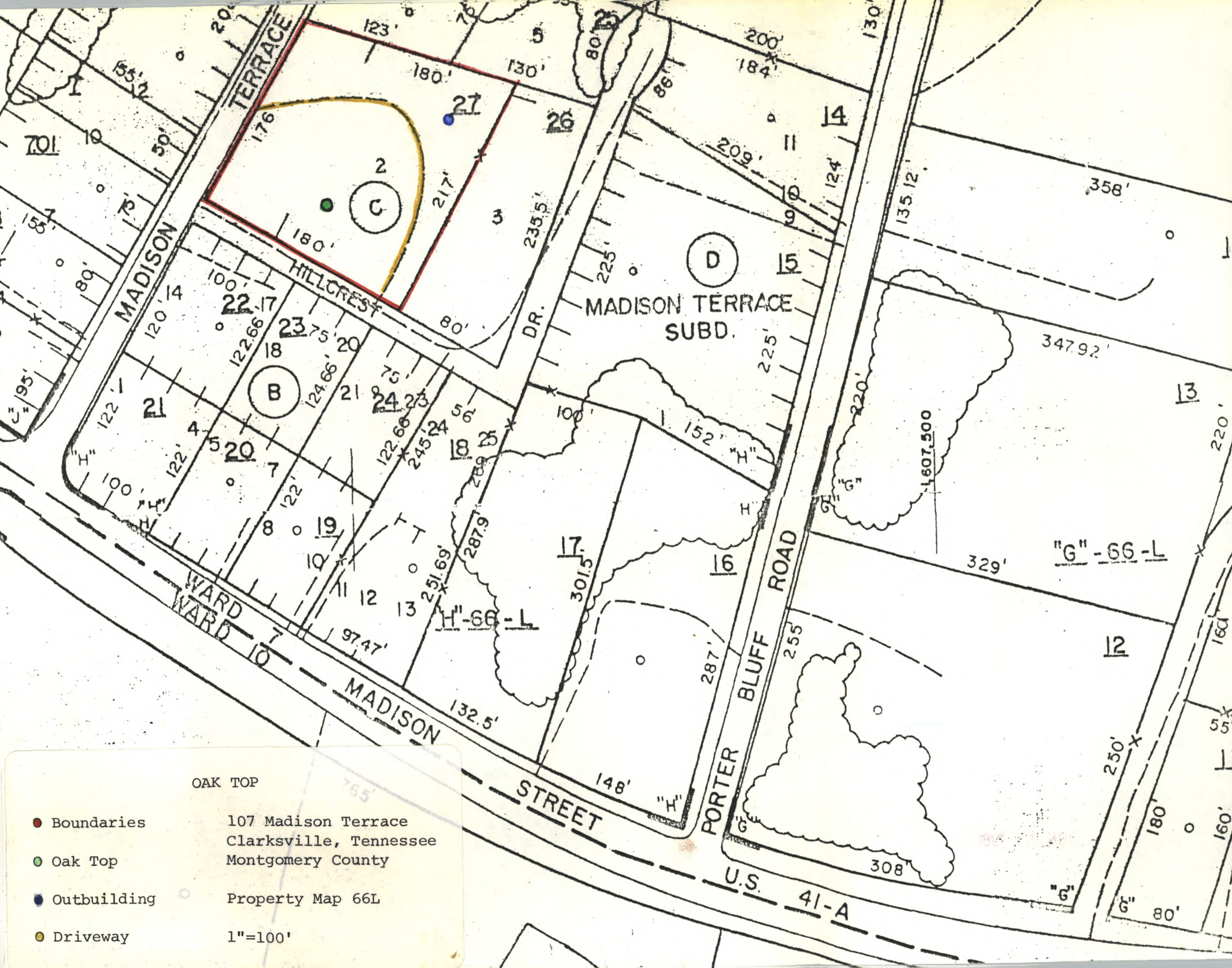
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Boyer  
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/28/80

**For HCRS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register:  
John W. Ray, Jr. date 7/8/80  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: Kristin O'Connell date 7/2/80  
 Chief of Registration



OAK TOP

● Boundaries

● Oak Top

● Outbuilding

● Driveway

107 Madison Terrace  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Montgomery County

Property Map 66L

1"=100'