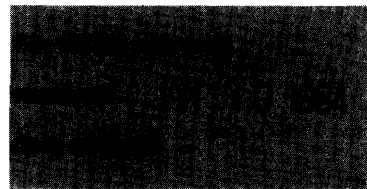


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Samuel McCammon House and Site of (James White's Second House site)  
and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 1715 Riverside Drive N/A not for publication  
city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
state Tennessee code 047 county Knox code 093

**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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name James G. Johnston, Jr.  
street & number 10101 Tan Rara Drive  
city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Tennessee 37922

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City-County Building  
street & number Hill Avenue  
city, town Knoxville state Tennessee 37915

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title State of Tenn.--Site Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date April 25, 1981  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Tenn. Div. of Archaeology, 5103 Edmondson Pike  
city, town Knoxville state Tennessee 37916

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Samuel McCammon House which was built between 1849 and 1851 is a two-story brick house of Federal design. Situated on the top of a small hill in East Knoxville, the structure overlooks a broad flood plain north of the Tennessee River. The house is in excellent condition, having been constantly well-maintained over the last 131 years. The present owner, James Johnston, received an Adaptive Re-use and Continued Maintenance Award from Knoxville Heritage on May 11, 1983.

The original structure was built entirely of hand-made brick fired on the site; the six interior chimneys are of brick as is the foundation. A hipped roof covers the main house and the ell section is hipped at the north end.

Exterior modifications include a Victorian style front porch and a central half-circle pedimented attic window also on the facade. Four original windows on the west end of the main house and two on the east were bricked in probably at the same time a second story was added to the ell. Modifications such as these to houses of this time period were common in this area during the last quarter of the 19th century and only slightly affect the architectural integrity of the original structure.

The structure is located on the crest of a hill on the older terraces that border the flood plain on the north side of the Tennessee River (35° 57' 55" N. Lat., 83° 53' 20" W. Long.). The house faces the river and Riverside Drive. Approximately an acre of grassy lawn to the west of the house is included in the property holdings. This area is of particular significance because it contains the archaeological remains of the Second House of James White, founder of Knoxville. This house site was excavated by the UTK Anthropology Department (TDOT Project #47-024-1218-14) from Oct. 12-17, 1981 and June 23-July 21, 1982. It was probably built before 1800 and occupied by Samuel McCammon when he was building his brick house.

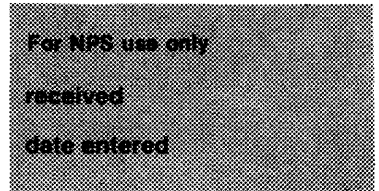
A sheet metal and plumbing shop sits to the northeast of the McCammon House and serves as work and storage space for Engert Plumbing and Heating Company (James Johnston, owner) whose business offices are housed in the McCammon structure.

A remarkable record of the construction of this house was kept by Samuel McCammon in a detailed diary from 1846-1854 (manuscript available in the McClung Collection, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville). His entry for March 1, 1849 states that he bargained with T. Haynes "to build a house of brick 50 x 20 feet and an ell 36 x 18 feet." Construction began in the fall of 1849 and was completed around 1851. The structure is a two-story house of Federal style. The foundation, walls and fireplaces are hand-made brick molded and burned on the property and laid in common bond.

The roof of the main house is hipped and the ell is hipped at the north end. Modern shingling covers both roofs, but McCammon's diary states that the original shingles were black oak. Interior brick chimneys are located on the east/west sides of the house and a central chimney in the ell along with an additional interior chimney at its north end served this part of the house. A front porch extends almost the complete length of the front of the house and a second porch surrounds the entire ell.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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



Samuel McCammon House and Site of  
Continuation sheet James White's Second House    Item number 7    Page 2

Exterior modifications include a Victorian style front porch, the ell porch, a central half-circle pedimented attic window which projects from the roof. Four original windows on the west end of the main house and two on the east end were bricked in at the time a second story was added to the ell section.

The facade is 50' in length and faces south. A Victorian style front porch (8' 2" wide) supported on brick piers projects at the first story level and extends almost the entire length of the facade. The jigsaw work exhibited on the porch railings is subdued. A central front door with light muntins and rectangular fanlight opens into a central hall. The fenestration is symmetrical and a second floor window treatment is identical to the first with the exception of a fanlight. The addition of a pedimented attic window makes this a five bay facade. Windows on the first and second floor are sash with 1-over-1 panes. These windows replaced the 6-over-6 panes which are seen elsewhere in the house containing original glass. Limestone or marble lintels accent only the second story windows. The lack of lintels on the first story windows supports the theory that a front porch was included in the design of the original house. The hipped roof with projecting east and west chimneys has a slightly projecting cornice highlighted by wooden dentil work.

The west elevation has asymmetrical fenestration with two bays, one each in the first and second stories on the north side. The asymmetry is due to the bricking in of two first and second story windows probably during the 1880s. The width of the west side is 20 feet.

A one story shingle roofed porch (4'10" wide) extends the entire length of the west side of the ell. The porch is supported on brick piers and the roof by metal columns. Two doors on the first floor are symmetrically placed. Six bays are somewhat symmetrical being aligned with windows and first floor doors. First floor windows are original and are six-over-six panes. Second floor windows are 2-over-2 replacements and are the only windows with limestone lintels. A central chimney projects from the center of the roof.

The porch continues around the ell supported on brick piers with metal columns supporting the shingle roof. There are no windows, and a brick interior chimney projects from the roof of the north end of the ell.

The first story porch continues around east side of ell. Metal columns supporting roof stand on concrete ground level porch. Placement of two doors and five bays is asymmetrical with one door at south end of ell and one at north end. Two six-over-six sash windows of first story level flank a circular window which is a late addition. A central and an interior brick chimney at the north end of the ell are visible.

A solid brick wall terminates at the overhang of the hipped roof. A brick interior chimney projects from this east elevation. All window openings have been filled in with brick probably in the 1880s. Wooden dentil work is continued on this side from the facade.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Samuel McCammon House and Site of  
James White's Second House

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

3

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The first floor has a central entrance hall containing a stairway to the second floor which is flanked on each side with a single room in the main house. The second floor plan is identical with a central staircase landing.

The ell section contains two upstairs and two downstairs rooms. Access to the ell from the interior of the main house is through a single door in the east room on the first floor and through a single door off the landing on the second floor.

The central staircase, oak mantels, closets, doors, window trim, and baseboard molding in the main house are late 19th century replacements. Doors, moldings, some windows, and a single mantel in the ell are original. A built-in cupboard in the ell is mortised and tenoned and pegged and is probably the cupboard described by Samuel McCammon in his diary.

In the grassy area to the north of the house are the unexcavated and relatively undisturbed archaeological sites of a dairy and smokehouse, possibly McCammon's. The open lawn to the west of the house contains the site of James White's Second House, which was excavated in 1981 and 1982 by the Anthropology Department of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. The excavation has been filled in, and a simple stone marker is located near the site, commemorating James White. The recent Engert Plumbing and Heating Shop building to the east of the McCammon House partially occupies the archaeological sites of a late 19th century barn and shed, which are not included in the nomination.

## 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 checked="" 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** 1849-1851 **Builder/Architect** T. Haynes for Samuel McCammon

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Samuel McCammon House and the Site of James White's Second House are being nominated under National Register Criteria C, and B and D, respectively. Diaries associated with the construction of the house completely document the process of building a Federal style, two-story, brick, T-shaped house in Knoxville in the late 1840s. This house is also an excellent example of the adaptation and interpretation of changing tastes in architectural style in Knoxville in the late nineteenth century. The site of the Second James White House, located in the west yard of the McCammon House, is important because of its association with James White, founder of Knoxville and because of the information it has yielded about life in early 19th century Knoxville.

Samuel McCammon was a prominent Knoxville farmer who kept an extensive diary from 1846 to 1854 which recorded the workings of his farm and the building of his brick house from the burning of the brick in 1849 to its completion around 1851 in great detail. The contents of this diary make this house a textbook example of the tedious and lengthy process of building a house during this period. This book discusses how the brick was made, and how long it took to make it, when and where the lumber for construction was obtained, who did the carpentry work and that the window glass was obtained from a local glass factory. The fascinating account of the long, often frustrating process of building a brick house during this time period is invaluable in that it not only details the procedure and costs of homebuilding but also provides interesting information concerning the origins of materials that can be seen in the house today.

This structure is a key reference point for the determination of local construction techniques and materials (e.g. wood, nails, glass) of the late 1840s. Some alterations were made to the house in the late 19th century including the decorative cross gable, front porch, staircase and fireplace mantles however many original features mentioned in the diary (i.e. the pegged cupboard in the old dining room) are still extant. The later additions provide a good illustration of how changing architectural tastes influenced existing structures. The addition transformed a simple Federal style farmhouse into a Colonial Revival city dwelling.

According to historical documentation such as deed records, a biography of James White by his great-granddaughter and local legend, the structure located on the west side of the Samuel McCammon House by the University of Tennessee archaeologists in 1981 was the second House of James White, founder of Knoxville.

The first structure built by White when he moved his family to the site of present day Knoxville in 1785 was a log fort, used to protect his family and other settlers from the Indians. White farmed land to the east of town, known as White's Plantation. Sometime after the completion of the fort, White built a small saddleback log structure with a central chimney on his plantation which he moved into and where he eventually died in 1821.

When Samuel McCammon first moved to the site he lived in the old cabin. He had the structure dismantled in 1852 after the completion of his brick house.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Diary of Samuel McCammon. McClung Collection, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville  
 Preliminary Report on the Excavation of the James White Second Home Site (40KN68). Report submitted to TDOT (Project #47-024-1218-14).

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ca. 2 acres  
 Quadrangle name Knoxville, Tennessee Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A	1 7	2 3 8 7 0 0	3 9 8 3 8 0 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

See Continuation Sheet

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robin Krawitz, Architectural Historian  
Charles H. Faulkner, Professor of Anthropology  
 organization Tennessee Historical Commission  
Dept. of Anthropology, UTK date May 23, 1983  
 street & number 701 Broadway telephone (615) 742-6716  
249 S. Stadium Hall, Univ. of TN telephone (615) 974-4408  
 city or town Nashville Tennessee 37203  
Knoxville state Tennessee 37996-0720

# 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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hayden  
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 10/20/83

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Allorea Byers</u>	date <u>3/1/84</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Samuel McCammon House and Site of

Continuation sheet James White's Second House      Item number      8

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Page 2

In the fall of 1981 and summer of 1982 archaeological excavations sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Transportation were executed by the Anthropology Department of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. These excavations revealed the foundation and surrounding domestic midden including limestone footings, remnants of the west wall of the main house, an adjacent building supported on large wooden posts that was either a kitchen addition or a slightly later farm building, and an early fence line. Thousands of late 18th century and early 19th century artifacts were recovered during the excavations. The material extracted from this site has added substantially to knowledge of life in early nineteenth century Knoxville.

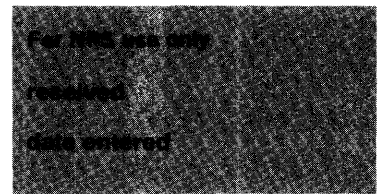
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Samuel McCammon House and Site of

Continuation sheet James White's Second House Item number 10

Page 2



Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The nominated property is bounded on the south by Riverside Drive, on the west by Laurens Street, on the north by a line 50 feet north of the McCammon House and parallel to Riverside Drive, and on the east by the west edge of the driveway from Riverside Drive to the house and beyond and parallel to Laurens Street (see Site Plan). This area encompasses the house and the relatively undisturbed archaeological remains of a dairy, a smokehouse, and the site of James White's Second House (40KN68). At the request of the owner, the nomination does not include the recent Engert Plumbing and Heating Shop and the archaeological sites of a shed and barn which the shop partially covers. The boundaries include the minimum land needed to protect the historical and architectural integrity of the nominated house and archaeological sites.



Samuel McCammon House and Site of James  
White's Second House  
1715 Riverside Drive  
Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee

KEY

- A - Samuel McCammon House
- B - Engert Plumbing and Heating Shop
- C - Shed
- D - Barn
- E - Cistern
- F - Dairy
- G - Smokehouse
- H - James White 2nd house
- I - DAR Marker

Site Plan

Not to scale

