

PH0679836

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATA SHEET

RECEIVED

JUN 5 1978

DATE ENTERED

JUL 12 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAMEHISTORIC  J. C. Tate General Merchandise Store

AND/OR COMMON

Tate's General Merchandise Store

## LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Old Belfast Road

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Belfast

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Marshall

CODE

117

## 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

 COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tate

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 27

CITY, TOWN

Belfast

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marshall County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

STATE

Tennessee

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

May 1978

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

J. C. Tate General Merchandise Store consists of two frame and clapboard buildings located in Belfast, a small community five miles southeast of Lewisburg, the county seat of Marshall County. The buildings will be one hundred years old on June 29, 1978, and the business has operated continuously during this period.

The two-story store building was built on stone piers, and the space under the sills has been filled in with sheet metal. The low gable roof is covered with galvanized steel roofing and has a single brick stove flue on the ridge. Except for the installation of plate glass display windows, the facade (east elevation) has remained largely unchanged; this is the most distinctive feature of the building. The three-bay, three-tiered facade has two cornices and a recently added small porch roof; each of these elements has delicately jig-sawn, paired brackets and ornamental mouldings. Four pilasters clearly delineate the bays and emphasize the vertical lines of the facade. The centered entrance still retains its headlights. Neither the north nor the south elevations have doors or windows. The rear (west) wall has four windows and a centered door.

The warehouse is located a few feet south of the store. Although simpler in style, it complements its companion building. The story-and-a-half warehouse also has a gable roof with galvanized steel roofing. The cut stone foundation piers have unusual capstones which served as a form of rodent protection for this building which was used for the storage of meat, seed, grain, and hardware. The two-tiered, three bay facade (east elevation) has remained unchanged. It retains its original double-leaf panel doors and window shutters. (The owner states that the store also had similar doors and windows when it was erected.) A large sliding door is centered in the south wall, and the north wall has no apertures. A door and shuttered window are found in the west wall.

The interior of the store has board walls and ceilings and hardwood floors. Many of the original counters and cases remain, but the most distinctive feature of the interior is the merchandise shelves; these are original and have heavy cornices and pilasters which duplicate those found on the facade.

# 6 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 checked="" 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

1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Williams (d. 1840) opened the first store in Marshall County in 1808. He purchased his merchandise in Nashville and hauled it by horse cart to the store. Later (ca. 1830) Robert Williams, his son, relocated the business in Belfast, an area formerly called The Crossroads, at the junction of the Columbia-Shelbyville and Nashville-Huntsville roads. The younger Williams served as the community's first postmaster. With the coming of the railroad, the town was moved closer to the rail line, near the intersection of US 431 and Fishing Ford Road. In 1878 Robert Williams built the store and warehouse. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tate now own and operate the store; he is the great-great-grandson of William Williams. Five generations of the same family have owned the business and three of these have operated the store in the present building. This is the oldest commercial building in the Belfast area and the oldest business in the county.

Over the years the store has stocked patent medicines; food and yard goods; agricultural implements, supplies, and seed; and coffin handles. Farmers sold their turkeys and feathers, country butter, and animal pelts, and could obtain crop loans here. The town's post office was for many years located in the building, and it has occasionally been a polling place. According to the present owners, whiskey was not sold; this may have been because of the family's religious beliefs. The store is still a viable enterprise. The present owners sell food, ready-made clothing, shoes, towels, notions, greeting cards, and stationery supplies. If the Tates do not have the merchandise that the customer wants, they will order it.

The building has changed little during the century it has operated. Large display windows replaced the original shuttered windows in ca. 1930, and a small porch roof has been added. The major elements in the interior remain. Mr. and Mrs. Tate intend to continue operating the store. Its present condition is ample evidence of the care taken by the family to maintain the building.

Store buildings customarily are utilitarian in style and construction. J. C. Tate General Merchandise Store is a notable exception to this precept. Robert Williams engaged craftsmen to erect a fine new store building which was worthy of a new town in which the railroad stopped. Bracketed cornices and pilasters rarely appear on small town, frame commercial buildings in the state. The store has been and continues to be a landmark in this little Middle Tennessee community.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information provided by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tate and Miss Sara Orr of Belfast, Tennessee.  
Marshall County Historical Quarterly, Vol. II, No. 3 (Fall 1971), 41-42.  
 "A Store Well Stocked with Family Tradition," Tennessee Magazine, Vol. XX, No. 10  
 (Oct. 1977), 14-15.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/3

QUADRANGLE NAME Belfast

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 6 | 5, 2, 6, 9, 8, 0 | 3, 9, 1, 9, 4, 3, 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

C [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

D [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

E [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

F [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

G [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

H [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is rectangular lot which measures approximately 150' by 100' and bounded as follows: beginning at the intersection of Old Belfast Road and Old Fishing Ford Road; thence approximately 150' south along Old Fishing Ford Road; thence approximately 100' west; thence approximately 150' north; thence approximately 100' east along Old Belfast Road to the beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

May 1978

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

5/31/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. Stanley*

DATE

7/12/78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

*Charles*

DATE

7-11-78