

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

DEC 1 1984

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Daniel Smith Donelson House

and/or common Eventide

2. Location

street & number 178 Berrywood Drive

N/A not for publication

city, town Hendersonville

N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee

code 041

county Sumner

code 165

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" 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 Sheron Martin

street & number 178 Berrywood Drive

city, town Hendersonville

N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee 37075

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sumner County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Gallatin

state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state N/A

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Daniel Smith Donelson House (Eventide) is a 1½-story brick, rectangular-shaped cottage with a four-bay facade and gable end chimneys, built ca. 1830 and exhibiting a Virginia Tidewater/Southern Colonial architectural influence. The house and its original detached brick kitchen are located on Berrywood Drive in Hendersonville about one mile south of Gallatin Road and about one mile from Rockcastle (NR 7/8/70), the 1780s stone house built by the grandfather of the builder of Eventide, Daniel Smith. Eventide is situated on a corner lot in a large residential neighborhood of 1960s-70s houses on slightly rolling land that was part of the extensive plantation landholdings associated with Eventide, Rockcastle, and the nearby 1857 Hazel Path. The house and kitchen remain with little alteration, in good condition, and with a fairly high degree of architectural integrity. A one-story one-room deep frame addition extending across the rear elevation of the house is the only change made to the structural appearance of the house.

Eventide is a small rectangular 1½-story brick house, one-room-deep and two rooms-wide, that has an asphalt shingle gable roof of medium pitch, brick gable end chimneys, a plain four-bay facade, and a rough cut stone foundation. The house's roof eaves are trimmed with a plain boxed cornice on the facade and with closed verges on the gable ends. The four-bay facade faces east and has 9/9 light rectangular windows with flat keystone radiating brick voussoirs and louvered shutters in the first, second, and fourth bays. A wide single-leaf wood door with flat keystone radiating brick voussoir and stone steps is located in the third bay. The bays are symmetrically placed, with the first and second bays set apart from the third and fourth bays.

Eventide's north and south side elevations have no structural openings, except for the small square attic or half-story windows flanking each side of the chimneys. The west elevation of the house duplicates the facade and remains intact, although concealed from exterior view by a 1980 aluminum-sided frame addition across the rear. The addition houses a bath and kitchen and was built to replace a 1940s weatherboarded addition of virtually the same appearance.

The interior of Eventide remains remarkably intact, even though the house was vandalized and left vacant for several years prior to the current owner's purchase and rehabilitation in 1980. The interior's original mantels and flanking built-in cabinets on the end walls of each room, wainscoting, molding, doors, flooring, and enclosed staircases of each room which share the dividing wall between the two rooms remain practically unchanged on the first story. The upper story's flooring and molding remain intact; however, original tongue and groove horizontal paneling on the walls has been removed and a doorway was cut between the two rooms of the upper story in the 1930s (originally there was no access between these rooms).

Eventide's detached common bond brick kitchen, located a few yards northeast of the house, also remains with very little alteration in good condition. The 1½-story, one-room kitchen has a gable roof, trimmed like that of the house, with an unusual Dutch-type gable overhang on the south facade. A brick chimney, flush with the gable wall, is located at the east elevation. The kitchen's entrance is through a wide (original) single-leaf door offset-centrally located on the south facade. A 6/6 light window with a flat keystone radiating brick voussoir is centered on the north elevation. Possibly a twentieth-century alteration is a single-leaf door on the upper story of the west elevation that is reached by a wrought iron ladder and landing supported by slender iron posts.

The house is situated on a gently sloping lot. The property is basically open land except for a few mature trees.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1830 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Nominated under National Register criteria B and C, the Daniel Smith Donelson House (EVENTIDE) is a one and a half-story brick house constructed ca. 1830. The house is significant under criterion B due to its historical association with Daniel Smith Donelson, a descendant of two important pioneer families, successful farmer, influential politician, and Major General during the Civil War. Under criterion C, the house derives further significance as an unusual and rare example of a 1½-story brick cottage from the Federal period in Sumner County and as a rare example of a Virginia Tidewater or Southern Colonial-type house in Middle Tennessee.

Daniel Smith Donelson, born June 23, 1801, the grandson of John Donelson and Daniel Smith, boasted family ties from two of the most influential families in Middle Tennessee. John Donelson commanded a flotilla of flatboats down the Tennessee River in 1779-80 that settled an area in Middle Tennessee that eventually became the town of Nashville. John Donelson's daughter, Rachel, was the wife of Andrew Jackson. Daniel Smith was one of the most respected and influential people during those early days of Tennessee's development. Smith was a member of the Walker Survey team that surveyed the boundary line between the States of Kentucky and Tennessee. He was Brigadier General of the Mero District, appointed by George Washington as Secretary of the Southwest Territory, and Secretary of Tennessee's Constitutional Convention.

Having come from families with such distinguished pasts, Daniel Smith Donelson carried on these traditions of public service to his countrymen. Daniel Smith Donelson's father, Samuel, died in 1806 and Daniel became the legal guardian of his uncle Andrew Jackson. Under the watchful eye of Jackson and his grandfather Daniel Smith, Daniel had all the advantages of a formal education. With the help of Jackson, Donelson was accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated with first honors in 1825. Commissioned as Second Lieutenant, Donelson served for one year in the Army. After his military service, Donelson returned to Tennessee to begin his life as a farmer and planter. Donelson inherited a large tract of land from the estate of his grandfather Smith in 1825 and built his first house ca. 1830. During this period Donelson visited his uncle, President Jackson, in Washington and courted a daughter of a Jackson cabinet member, Margaret Branch. Margaret was the daughter of John Branch, Secretary of the Navy under Jackson 1829-31, Governor of North Carolina 1817-20, Senator from North Carolina 1823-29, Congressmen from North Carolina 1831-33, and Governor of the Florida Territory 1834-45. They were married on October 19, 1830 in Washington and returned to Tennessee.

Aside from attending to the many details involved in managing his large plantation, Donelson also supervised the work at his brother's nearby plantation, while he was in Washington. Andrew Jackson Donelson was Daniel's older brother and during Jackson's Presidency he served as Jackson's personal secretary and later Minister to France.

About 1834 in the anticipation of acquiring great wealth, Daniel Donelson moved to Tallahassee, Florida. His father-in-law had recently been appointed Governor of the Florida Territory and Donelson felt the opportunity to make money growing cotton was available.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one
Quadrangle name Hendersonville, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1,6	53,632,0	4,01,682,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries are shown on the accompanying Sumner County property assessment map # 164-G (1" = 100'). The boundaries were selected to include the house, kitchen, and parcel of land on which they sit.

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 Steve Rogers, Cultural Resource Surveyor
Shain Dennison, Architectural Historian

organization Tennessee Historical Commission

date September, 1982

street & number 701 Broadway

telephone 615/742-6716

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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Herbert L. Byers*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 11/21/82

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melvyn Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 1/4/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Poor health and intolerable weather prompted his return to Tennessee about 1836. (Bettie Mizell Donelson Papers).

Upon his return to Tennessee, Donelson divided his interests between farming and politics. The 1850 and 1860 Agricultural Census showed a steady increase in the scope and scale of Donelson's farming activities. By 1860 Donelson owned 1090 acres of land, worth \$43,600, which produced a large variety of crops. He also raised a large number of sheep, pigs, and milk cows. Politically a Jacksonian Democrat, Donelson represented Sumner County in the Tennessee State Legislature in 1842-43 and 1855-59. He served as the Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1857-59.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Donelson volunteered to serve his home state. Early in 1861 he received an appointment from the Governor of Tennessee, Isham Harris, as adjutant-general in the service of the provisional army of Tennessee volunteers, with the rank of colonel in the cavalry. He was ordered to select a site for a fort on the Cumberland River near Dover, Tennessee. When completed, the fortification was named Fort Donelson and was the scene of Grant's most important early victory in the western campaign. In July 1861, Donelson was named brigadier-general in the provisional army of the Confederate State. He saw duty in South Carolina under General Robert E. Lee, in Mississippi under General Braxton Bragg and commanded a brigade at the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on December 31, 1862. Donelson died on April 17, 1863 at Montvale Springs, Tennessee, but curiously was promoted to Major General five days after his death on April 22, 1863.

Daniel Donelson and his wife Margaret were the parents of eleven children, all born in his house (Eventide). As the Donelson family grew, along with Daniel Donelson's wealth and prestige, the small house was no longer of adequate size and scale to suit the family's needs. Donelson built a large 2½-story brick Greek Revival home located a half mile north of Eventide near Gallatin Pike. Completed in 1857 and named Hazel Path after the hazel trees that lined the driveway, Donelson spent his remaining six years living in his new home.

After the Donelson family moved from Eventide, the house served as a residence for the overseers and farm managers of the Donelson plantation. Until quite recently, a large portion of the Donelson estate has remained intact and still owned by Donelson descendants. Eventide remained in ownership of Donelson heirs until 1979, after having been in the family for almost 150 years.

Eventide is architecturally significant to Sumner County and Middle Tennessee as an unusual and rare example of a 1½-story Federal period brick cottage. Furthermore, Eventide is a rare example in Middle Tennessee of a house that exhibits a Virginia Tidewater architectural influence. While there are a number of Federal period houses in Sumner County, by far the majority of these are two-story, larger houses and have more definite Federal style architectural detailing. There are a few remaining 1½ story houses predating the Greek Revival period in Middle Tennessee. Two of these are located in Sumner County; however, they are both built of stone and date from the late 1790s and early 1800s. Eventide is the only known remaining brick 1½-story house built before the Greek Revival period in Sumner County and it is the only known 1½-story house constructed of bricks with a Virginia Tidewater influence in Sumner County. Although built somewhat later than the rare houses showing a Virginia Tidewater-influence in Tennessee have been, Eventide employs the characteristic rectangular shape with gable end chimneys, simple one-room deep, two-room plan, and plain symmetrical facade. The placement of the entrance door in the third bay of the four-bay facade on Eventide is uncommon to Tennessee houses; most 1½-story houses from the era have

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a central hall plan and therefore a centrally located facade entrance.

Eventide remains practically unaltered, except for the rear one-story addition, and has its original mantels, paneling, wainscoting, cabinets, staircases, doors and flooring intact on the interior. The original kitchen remains little-altered as well. The high degree of architectural integrity and the uncommon Virginia Tidewater-type style of Eventide provide an outstanding record of a unique house type in Tennessee's varied architectural history.

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Major Bibliographical References:

Biographical Dictionary of the Tennessee General Assembly, Vol. I 1796-1861,
Robert M. McBride and Dan M. Robinson, Tennessee State Library and Archives,
Nashville, 1975, p.206-207

Dictionary of American Biography Vol. 2 Edited by Allan Johnson, Charles Scribner &
Son New York, 1929.

The Great Leap Westward, A History of Sumner County, Tennessee Walter T. Durham,
Sumner County Library Board, Gallatin, TN

History of Davidson County, Tennessee, W.W. Clayton, Reproduced 1971 Charles Elder
Publisher, Nashville, TN., 1880, p.396-397

History of Sumner County, The Goodspeed Publishing Co., Nashville, 1887, p.872

Sumner County Tennessee: Cemetery Records, Compiled by Margaret Cummings Snider and
Joan Hollis Yorgason

Sumner County Agricultural Census 1850, 1860

Sumner County Census Schedules 1850, 1860, 1870

Sumner County Deed Books Vol. 11, 13, 14, 26

Sumner County Wills Vol 3

Bettie Mizell Donelson Papers - Tennessee State Library & Archives, 1981

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Donelson, Daniel Smith, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Sumner

DATE RECEIVED: 12/29/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/11/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83003071

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: Y PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The additional documentation for the Daniel Smith Donelson House provides supplementary information obtained from recent research. When the property was listed in the National Register on January 4, 1983, the best information available indicated that the Donelson House was built ca. 1830. Further study of the Donelson House and comparisons to other early Tennessee houses suggest that it may have been built significantly earlier, possibly as early as ca. 1797. Because of the limited information available, it appears unlikely that an exact date of construction can be determined. The additional documentation is provided only as supplementary information; no change in the period of significance for the property is requested. The additional documentation adds important information about the history of this property to the nomination file.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept additional documentation
REVIEWER Daniel Vivian DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE (202)354-2252 DATE 1/20/04

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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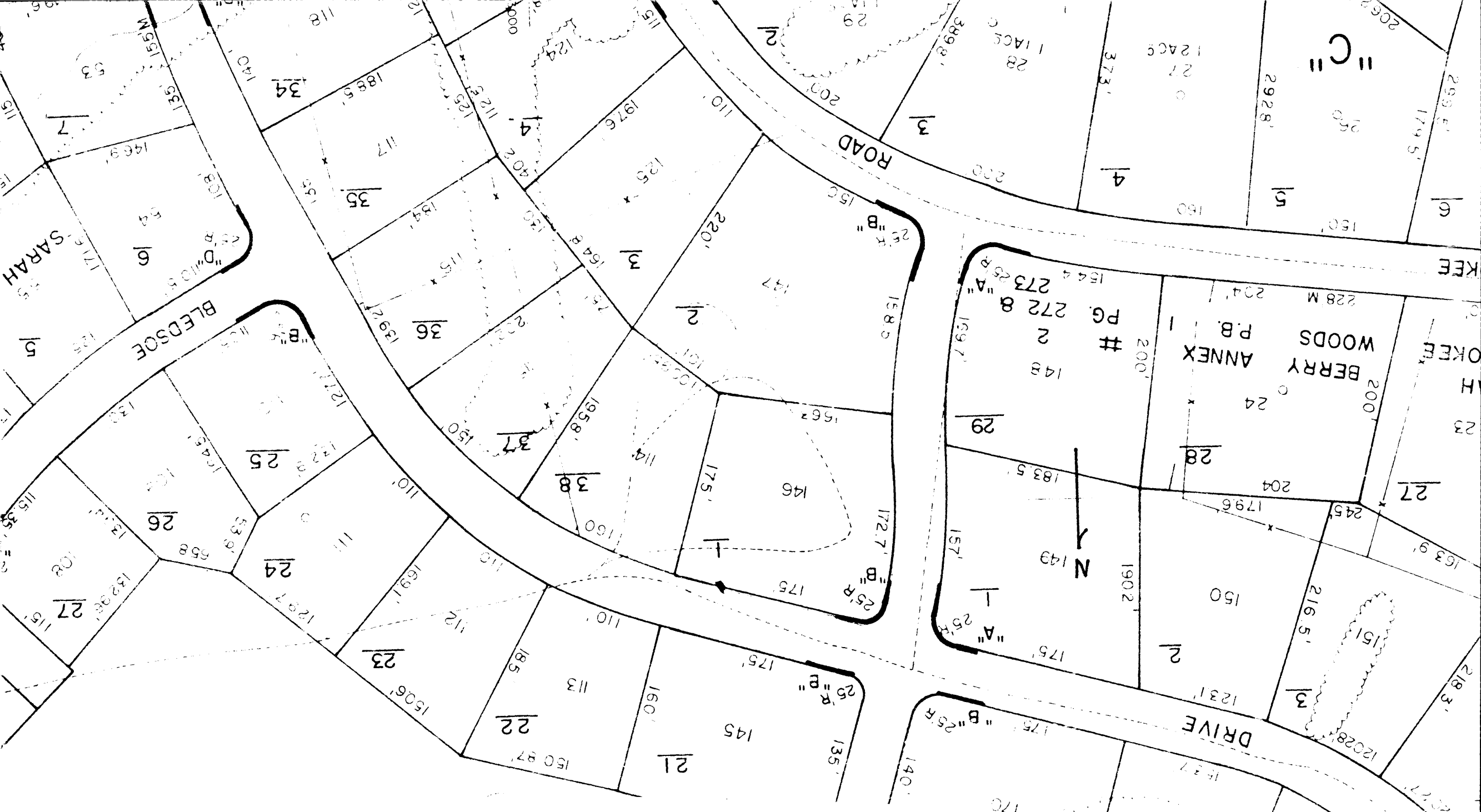
Donelson, Daniel Smith, House
Davidson County

While the original nomination for the house known locally as Eventide dates it to ca. 1830, architectural details suggest an earlier date. The house itself is small and constructed with large handmade bricks. The end fireplace walls are paneled, concealing cabinets that are similar to other early Tennessee frontier homes. One early house, Rock Castle (NR 7/8/70) in Sumner County has these details. The mantelshelves are supported by inverted stepped pyramids, a vernacular design feature similar to many residences in the architecture of late 18th and early 19th century.

The settlement of this area of Middle Tennessee has been well documented from the early period ca. 1780 until now. It is unusual that a building with an obvious early construction date is not mentioned in early records. The current owner of the property has one theory concerning the construction date and builder of the house. When Daniel Smith, owner of much land in this area, began to construct his stone mansion, Rock Castle, he needed a residence. Rock Castle, begun in 1784, took five years to construct. It is recorded that Smith first built a log cabin but that it was burned and destroyed after a year and a half. So where did he live during the remaining three and a half years? Skilled workers and masons were already on the property; they built a story and one-half brick four room small house to live in while the construction of Rock Castle was completed. While there is no documentation to support this theory, the quality and design of the paneled walls and the style of the house itself point to an earlier date than the 1830s. Using the present owner's idea of the construction date for the house, the temporary nature (until the larger house was completed) of the house could itself be the reason there is no early mention of the house. It is possible that the construction date of Eventide is ca. 1797.

Herbert L. Harper
Herbert L. Harper, Deputy SHPO

12/23/03
Date



Daniel Smith Donelson House
 178 Berrywood Drive
 Hendersonville, Sumner County, Tennessee