

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUN 5 1985
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Tillery, George W., House

and or common Craver House

2. Location

street & number U.S. Hwy 31 N. N/A not for publication

city, town Pulaski vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Giles code 055

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 checked="" 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 Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Craver

street & number U.S. Hwy 31 N. P.O. Box 385

city, town Pulaski vicinity of state Tennessee 38478

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds Giles County Court House

street & number Giles County Court House

city, town Pulaski state Tennessee 38478

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Giles County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

7. Description

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

The George W. Tillery House is located three miles north of Pulaski (pop. 7,591) on U.S. Highway 31 N. in Giles County, Tennessee. Constructed in around 1840, the house exhibits the best application of residential Greek Revival detailing in the county. Situated atop a knoll and surrounded by large yellow poplar trees, the one story clapboard sided residence has a low pitched gable roof and a raised brick basement. The original rectangular plan was extended on the east (rear) in around 1941. Paneled vernacular Doric pilasters, multi-pane windows, a denticulated cornice line and a pedimented portico comprise the prominent exterior design elements of the house. The interior is distinguished by paneled wood door and window trim and wood graining. The George W. Tillery House has undergone few alterations and has retained most of its architectural integrity.

The symmetrically designed west (front) facade is five bays wide with two interior chimneys that pierce the standing seam metal roof. The three central bays project slightly from the end bays and are flanked by paired vernacular Doric pilasters. The cornice line of the house is emphasized with a wide band of wood trim consisting of a denticulated frieze and molded architrave. A wood belt course separates the clapboard from the brick basement along the basement front and sides of the house. The main facade is dominated by a raised pedimented portico supported by four square paneled vernacular Doric columns. A short flight of open steps leads up to the portico and to a pair of three panel doors. The doors are flanked by sidelights and capped by a wood panel where a transom light once was. A simple molded cornice and plain door surround complete the ornamentation of the entry. Wide gable trim, the same cornice line trim as the body of the house, and a clapboard tympanum delineate the pediment of the portico. Four 6/6 sash windows, two on each side of the portico, are flanked by louvered shutters and capped by a denticulated lintel with the same motif as the cornice line. The brick basement section contains one small 6/6 sash window with louvered shutters.

Both the north and south sides of the house have pedimented gables with a plain raking cornice and the same denticulated cornice line trim as the west facade. Two corner pilasters, identical to those on the west facade, define the edges of the house. The north gable end has only one 6/6 sash window in the basement. A one story clapboard rear addition (ca. 1941) extends from the northeast corner of this side. Built on brick piers, it has a metal gable roof and one 4/4 sash window. The south gable end has a door in the foundation for crawl space access on both the original section and on the rear addition. The addition (ca. 1941) has a metal shed roof and is built on a brick foundation.

The east (rear) of the Tillery House is characterized by a shed roof porch with rectangular columns and a plain balustrade. The porch spans the length of the original section of the house and connects to the rear additions on the north and south. Located opposite the central front entry is the main rear entry, a double door with a transom. To the north (right) of the main rear entry is a door leading into the living room. The south addition contains another entry while the north addition has only an access to storage space. Four rear windows, two on the original section and two on the additions, are all 6/6 sash windows.

The interior of the George W. Tillery House is based on a central hall plan with two rooms on each side of the hall. Walls, originally lath and plaster, are now sheetrock although the twelve foot high ceilings still retain their original plaster. A 10 3/4" base molding and 6 1/2" wide yellow poplar tongue and groove floors are found throughout the house. The atticurged door and window openings are embellished with shouldered architrave trim. Interior doors are four paneled and both the doors and wainscoting display a feather pattern wood

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Continuation sheet Tillery, George W., House

Item number 7

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graining. Windows are further delineated by plain wood apron panels that were originally grained but are now painted. Fireplaces are located in each of the four main rooms, although the mantles are not original. The two rooms of the rear additions have been remodeled for use as a bathroom and dressing room.

Access to the basement is from the living room. The basement has been finished with tongue and groove flooring. The original brick flooring was used to repair the foundation and fireplaces. The interior basement wall is sheetrock and others are plaster over brick. The basement was originally used as a dining room but now serves as a den.

A modern carport is located east of the house. Except for a rock springhouse and stone benches (located on adjacent property and not included in the nomination) no other out-buildings associated with the George W. Tillery House are extant.

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 ca. 1840 **Builder/Architect** George W. Tillery

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George W. Tillery House is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for its architectural significance in Pulaski, Giles County, Tennessee. Constructed in around 1840 by George W. Tillery, a prominent local builder and carpenter, the house is an excellent example of vernacular Greek Revival design and of Tillery's craftsmanship. The well proportioned house is distinguished by a central portico with vernacular Doric columns, a denticulated cornice line and multi-pane windows separated by paneled pilasters. The fine craftsmanship of the exterior is carried over inside the house and is exemplified by the shouldered architrave door and window trim and the original wood graining. The house, having undergone few alterations, has maintained its integrity.

George W. Tillery came to Giles County from Edgefield South Carolina and purchased the land where the house is constructed in 1838. The deed was not registered until 1840, possibly after the home and its outbuildings were complete. The house, a rock springhouse and stone benches are the only structures that remain of what was once a large farm.

The George W. Tillery House is the only known extant example of Tillery's work. Another work of Tillery's was Giles County's fifth courthouse built in 1859. Tillery was commissioned by prominent Nashville architect Adolphus Heiman to execute the woodwork. This courthouse burned in 1905.

George W. Tillery lived in the home until his death in 1869. The home then became the residence of gentleman farmers until 1943 when it was purchased by Erskine Sharp who farmed the land and rented the house for several years. The George W. Tillery House was vacant for many years until the Craver family purchased it in 1983.

Located atop a knoll and surrounded by mature trees, the George W. Tillery House is enhanced by its picturesque setting. As an outstanding example of vernacular Greek Revival design in Giles County and the only extant example of Tillery's craftsmanship, the house is a significant architectural resource in Giles County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McCallum, James. A Brief Sketch of Settlement and Early History Giles County, Tennessee 1876.
 Giles County Deeds, Giles County Courthouse, Pulaski, Tennessee.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.07 acres

Quadrangle name Pulaski, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
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4	9	6	0	9	0
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3	8	9	9	0	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property, approximately rectangular in plan and just over one acre in size, is bounded on the west by U.S. Highway 31 and on the north, south and east by adjacent property lines. It includes enough land to protect the historical setting and architectural integrity of the George W. Tillery House.

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 Kim Chiles

organization N/A

date March 1985

street & number 244 Summit Ridge Drive

telephone 615-292-1206

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. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 5/20/85

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

for Nelson Byrum
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
 National Register

date 7-5-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

