

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Maury	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
100	24 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Athenaeum (Representative William Anderson)

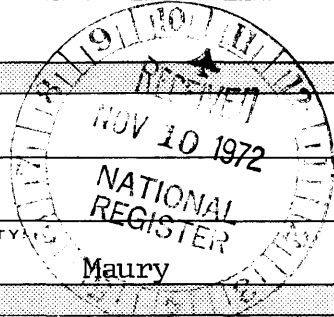
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
808 Athenaeum Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047 COUNTY: Maury CODE: 119



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Fannie Louise Davis

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Second Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lamesa STATE: Texas CODE: 48

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Maury County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Maury

ENTRY NUMBER: 100

DATE: APR 24 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

6-6-73

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This brick house was begun in 1838 by Nathan Vaught, a master-builder in Maury county. It has been used as a residence continually and has undergone little alteration.

The main portion of the house is two stories with one story sections on either side. The one story sections are topped with a castellated brick wall. The house has seven chimneys rising above its roofline.

The rectangular form of the house is approximately 60 feet by 50 feet. The two-story front porch is recessed with wood trim which gives a further feel of the Gothic influence. The wood trim through its shape creates a lancet effect. Ornate brickwork forms a parapet above the porch giving a solid form to the central portion. A slight brick buttress projects from each corner of the house.

A one-story porch has been added around the rear and two sides of the house. Outside stairs originally led from the rear porch to the one large room above. Later the rear porch was enclosed to serve as a kitchen.

The house has been painted white in more recent years. The front doors, both up and down stairs, are in the Greek Revival style with interesting side light panels.

Behind the main house and on the grounds are a small cottage and a carriage house. The house has many furnishings from its early owners still intact and has been uninhabited recently as its owner just expired after several years in a nursing home. Thus the house has received little maintenance in recent years.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1838

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

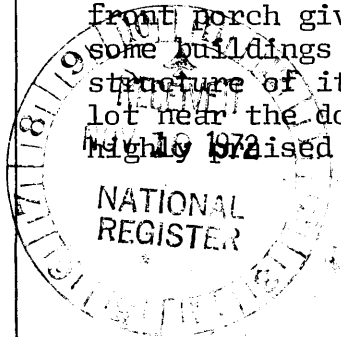
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built in Columbia for Samuel Polk Walker, nephew of President James K. Polk. Shortly after it was built, it was bought by the Rev. Franklin Gillette Smith, the head of the Columbia Institute for girls. In 1852 Smith left the Institute and founded on adjoining property, the Athenaeum, a competing girls' school. The rectory then became a part of the Athenaeum property and remained so until around 1900 when most of the Athenaeum buildings (since demolished) were taken over by the public school system. The rectory then became the private residence of Miss Carrie Smith a descendant of the original rector. The house has carried the name "Athenaeum" since that time.

The Athenaeum, the last remaining structure of a 22 acre campus, with more than 8 important buildings is significant as it represents one of the many old and well-established private schools that existed in the Columbia area, as well as the state. Founded in 1852, the school was by 1858 granted a charter by the State giving it full university powers. "To be rather than to seem" was the motto of the school that instructed more than 10,000 young ladies in its long history. On the campus was a fine Doric structure that served as the main building, a gymnasium, rotunda, pavilion and a library that contained over 10,000 volumes. In 1892 the school had over \$4,000 worth of scientific apparatus, a large museum of natural history specimens, and a fine art collection.

The rectory itself, built by Columbia's most important builder prior to the Civil War, is representative of the revival period of architecture where many influences were felt in building. The Gothic influence is definitely noted in this structure and the front porch gives a feeling of the Moorish influence found in some buildings in the revival period in America. It is the only structure of its type in the state and stands on an impressive lot near the downtown area of Columbia. It has been noted and highly praised by many students of architecture.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hutchison, Albert W. Jr., "Domestic Architecture in Middle Tennessee" Antiques in Tennessee, reprint, 1972.

Turner, Judge William Bruce, History of Maury County, Tennessee, (Nashville, 1955).

Columbia Athenaeum Catalogues, 1860-1889.

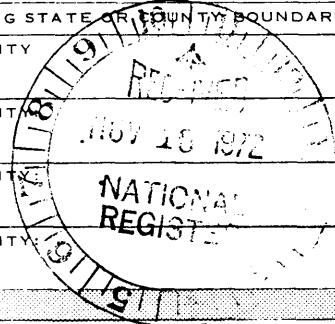
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "	35° 36' 51"	87° 02' 29"		
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
May Dean Eberling, Director of Programs

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **10-17-72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Michael J. Smith
Michael J. Smith

Title: Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: **10-24-72**

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **4/24/73**

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date: **4/13/93**

H13
16
476-260
39 X 0970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS