

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 5 1978

DATE ENTERED

AUG 23 1978

**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

Collier-Lane-Crichlow House

AND/OR COMMON

House of Mayors

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

500 North Spring Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Murfreesboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Rutherford

CODE

149 ✓

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

Charles A. Howell III, Juliet H. Howell, Charles A. Howell IV

STREET & NUMBER

1017 Clifton Lane

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Rutherford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Murfreesboro

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

July 1973

— 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 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 Collier-Lane-Crichlow House, built in ca. 1850, is an outstanding example of the vernacular "Southern National" style of architecture which developed during the mid-nineteenth century; this style combines an essentially Georgia floor plan with Federal and Greek Revival details. Like other examples of this style, the Collier-Lane-Crichlow House is a rectangular, two-story, building with rooms on either side of a central hall, a gable roof with chimneys at each end, and an unbroken facade with a central portico resting on columns and supporting a balcony at the second-story level. Originally one room deep, the solid brick house received a two-story brick ell at the rear of its south end in the 1860s or 1870s; a similar ell was added to the north end in the 1880s, forming a U-shaped plan. Sometime in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, the open porch between the two ells was enclosed and a frame structure of uncertain origin was either built at the rear of the north ell or moved there from elsewhere on the site; records indicate that several outbuildings on the property were moved. The decorative elements of the original house were severely classical and close to Greek Revival in feeling, but certain decorative details (notably the window casings on the front elevation) show a more florid Victorian Classical Revival character. Although the casings seem out of character with the simplicity of the house, on close examination, these casings appear to be original; the brick beneath them has never been exposed to the weather which indicates that the style of the Collier-Lane-Crichlow House is transitional and representative of a classically inspired house with experimentally decorative Victorian detail.

Facing west on North Spring Street, the original house block has one first-story and one second-story room on either side of a central stair hall. The facade is divided into three bays and has a centrally positioned portico supported by four simple square continuous columns. Each story of both flanking bays has a single centrally located three-quarter length window with double-hung sashes and an inset base panel. The muntin bars of the existing original sashes were removed during the nineteenth century; these have been restored by the present owners to their original condition with six over six lights. Windows in the rear and sides of the house are simplified versions of the front windows with flat-arch wood lintels. Several of the windows on the north and south walls have one-over-one lights and were late nineteenth-century additions; the sashes are original, but the glass has been replaced. At some time in the late nineteenth century, the original double-leaf front door on the ground floor was reduced to a single-leaf door with a Classical Revival facing and a single-light transom. An Eastlake door now rests in the frame. The double-leaf door which opens on to the portico at the second-floor level remains intact. This doorway has single-panel leaves, a long transom, and sidelights with inset panels below. The transom and sidelights have been fitted with single-pane glass; the jamb retains its original vertical inset panels. The front elevation is of stretcher bond; the rear and sides are of common bond; cleaning operations have revealed that the brick joints were once penciled. A simple classical wooden box cornice runs the length of the front eave. The original roof had handsplit, hand-finished shingles of mixed local woods; several of these were found in the attic eaves. The present owners have re-roofed the house with sawn cedar shingles of the same size and appearance as the original samples.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | JUN 5 1978 |
| DATE ENTERED | AUG 23 1978 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

Although the interior of the house has endured some alterations, it retains much of its historical integrity. No original walls have been altered, but the enclosed porch at the rear of the house has been partitioned on both floors into a kitchen, bath, hall, and closet. The present first-floor bathroom occupies the same position as the first attached bath which was incorporated into the house, in what was at that time an open porch, about the turn of the century. The original section of the house is largely intact. The stair hall on both levels and the upstairs chambers retain their original floors: poplar in the original house block and pine in the ell additions. The poplar floors in the first-floor parlors were damaged and have been replaced with pine. In the original house block, all the poplar interior doors and door frames remain: the nine-inch jambs have inset side and overhead panels; the doors have two vertical inset panels on either side and are typical of the "Greek temple" form. Doors in the additions represent several late nineteenth century styles. The heavy Greek Revival mantel in the upstairs south chamber of the main house block is considered to be original, as is the Victorian cast iron mantel in the upstairs chamber of the north ell; all others had been removed prior to acquisition by the present owners and have now been replaced with period poplar Adam-style mantels from a demolished house in the Maury County community of Zion. The dogleg stair occupies its original position with poplar risers and oak treads, but the original poplar banister (a section of which is extant along the second story landing) was replaced with a more decorative Victorian handrail, turned balusters, and an elaborately carved newel post.

Throughout the house, the plasters walls have been recently patched and painted; a paint study for the house was completed in 1977 by students of the O'More School of Design of Franklin, Tennessee. The plaster ceilings have been replaced with wallboard. New electrical, HVAC, and plumbing systems have been unobtrusively added by the present owners. Damaged floors, windows, and trim have been repaired with matching custom mill-work. Since no original light fixtures remain, salvaged Victorian gas fixtures, converted for electricity, have been installed in those rooms where nineteenth century gaspipe outlets were still visible in the ceiling, that is, in the downstairs stair hall, the north front parlor, and the downstairs north ell chamber. No contemporary ceiling fixtures have been added. All missing hardware has been replaced with salvaged period hardware and authentic carpenter locks.

No outbuildings remain on the property, which now contains less than a half acre, but a cistern and two carriage stones, one on North Spring Street and one on Bell Street, are still in existence. Vestiges of a documented late nineteenth-century garden can still be seen on the north lawn.

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 checked="" 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. 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Sterling P. Jones

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Collier-Lane-Crichlow House is located on property originally owned by Captain William Lytle. Captain Lytle was a Revolutionary War veteran and one of the founding fathers of Murfreesboro. He received a land grant as compensation for his services in the Continental Army, and after inheriting his brother Archibald Lytle's land grant he became the largest landowner in Rutherford County at the turn of the nineteenth century.

In 1849 Sterling P. Jones purchased a tract of the Lytle Grant from the heirs, and in 1850 or soon afterwards built the original section of the present Collier-Lane-Crichlow House. In 1858 two brothers, Jessie A. Collier and Newton C. Collier, purchased the house for their widowed mother. A nephew, Ingram Collier, Jr., bought it from them in 1868 for his sister Martha and her husband, William T. Lane. In 1891 the Lane's daughter Emily and her husband, James H. Crichlow, bought out the interests of the other children and continued to make North Spring Street their home.

The house was the residence of four Murfreesboro mayors. Ingram B. Collier was the first to live there. He served as mayor from 1872-1873, and was also the first cashier and founder of the First National Bank of Murfreesboro and a prominent cotton broker in the community. The second mayor was Newton B. Collier, who served as a colonel in the Commissary Department of the Confederate States army during the War Between the States. After the war he was a director of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad and held the office of mayor of Murfreesboro from 1878-1879. James H. Crichlow, Jr. was the third and most prominent mayor to reside at the Collier-Lane-Crichlow House; he served as mayor from 1900-1909. He remained a man of influence and prestige in Rutherford County for many years. He was president of the Board of Education when the first Murfreesboro High School was built in 1917 on Maple Street and earlier was the city's postmaster. Crichlow Grammar School, formerly the Maple Street Grammar School, was renamed in 1922 to honor the late James H. Crichlow, who was regarded as a great educator in the Murfreesboro public school system. The fourth mayor was N. Collier Crichlow, who was born at the 500 North Spring Street residence and spent his early childhood there.

After 1920 the house passed from the Crichlow family to successive owners. It remained vacant from 1962 to 1975. The Howell family purchased the house in 1975 with the intention of preserving and restoring it. In October 1972 it was in an advanced stage of deterioration and a city of Murfreesboro building official declared that it was an "eyesore and a danger to the neighborhood" and that it failed to meet the minimum standards of the Southern Standard Housing Code. The Howell family has carefully stabilized and partially restored the house and in so doing has prevented the demolition of this important building. The House of Mayors, as it is now called, contains several apartments.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mary B. Hughes, Hearthstones: The Story of Historic Rutherford County Homes.
Murfreesboro, Tenn.: Midsouth Publishing Co., 1942.

Letter, James T. Cogdill to Robert M. McBride, October 3, 1972.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .4

QUADRANGLE NAME Murfreesboro

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 5,5,5 | 1,6,0 | 3,9 | 6,7 | 2,8,0

B | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | |

D | | | | |

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property located is a rectangular lot which measures 140 feet by 133.5 feet and which is bounded on the north by Bell Street and on the west by North Spring Street.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Peg Davitt, Associate

ORGANIZATION

Heritage Conservation Group

DATE

May 1978

STREET & NUMBER

2700 12th Avenue South

TELEPHONE

(615) 269-5659

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. Hughes

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

DATE

8/23/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Adams

DATE

8.18.78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | JUN 5 1978 |
| DATE ENTERED | AUG 23 1978 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Collier-Lane-Crichlow House has elements of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival styles and also features which are decidedly Victorian in character. This mixture of styles is referred to by some as "Southern National." It is a stylistically transitional building and an important part of the architectural heritage of Murfreesboro.