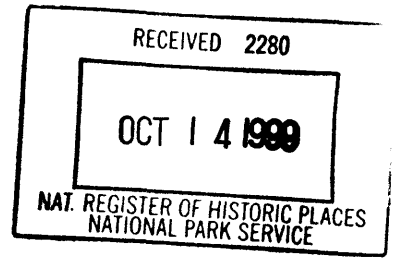


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1371



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name King, Edward Washington, House

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number 308 Seventh Street

NA  not for publication

city or town Bristol

NA  vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Sullivan code 163 zip code 37620

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays  
Signature of certifying official/Title

10/8/99  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson R. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

11/18/99

King, Edward Washington, House  
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
	1	objects
2	2	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations N/A**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commerce \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1903 - 1933 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

NA \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

King, Edward Washington \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

McCrary, James and Samuel (builders) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fowler, John J. (brick mason) \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

King, Edward Washington, House  
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

---

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

Bristol, TN-VA

**UTM References**

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 393910 4050080  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title Gibson Worsham  
organization Gibson Worsham, Architect date June 1999  
street & number 3145 Yellow Sulphur Road telephone 540/552-4730  
city or town Christianburg state VA zip code 24073

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**Additional Documentation**

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submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

---

**Property Owner**

---

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Bristol Historical Society, c/o Mary Beth Rainero  
street & number Post Office Box 2049 telephone 504/669-0088  
city or town Bristol state VA zip code 24203

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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King, Edward Washington, House  
Sullivan County, Tennessee

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## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Constructed circa 1903, the Edward Washington King House, a large, brick, two and one-half story dwelling, is located on a corner lot in a late nineteenth-century residential neighborhood overlooking downtown Bristol, Tennessee. The elaborately detailed Queen Anne style residence incorporates features of the Second Empire and Renaissance Revival styles with a variation of the regionally widespread double-pile, central-passage plan. The hip-roofed house, designed for its corner site, stands on a low basement, its stark rectangularity relieved by two-story, projecting bays on each side, a curve-fronted gabled projecting element to one side of the principal (north) facade, and a wide, wrap-around, front porch. The two main floors are connected by a grand stairway in a wide entrance hall opening into to a long back passage containing a generous back stairway. The interior incorporates paneled oak wainscot and numerous carved mantels.

## Narrative

The Edward Washington King House is located on a relatively small suburban lot which was originally part of a large tract adjoining the town of Bristol. The lot is situated on the corner of Anderson (formerly Lee) and Seventh streets. The street edges of the lot are lined with rock-faced ashlar retaining walls with an irregular curved stone coping. This is a contributing feature of the nomination. The house looks over the Tennessee side of downtown Bristol from a low hill to the immediate south of the built-up urban center. The only subsidiary building is a non-contributing brick garage that was built in the second quarter of the twentieth century and altered at a later date. The Daughters of the American Revolution erected a monument to the establishment of eighteenth century Fort Shelby near the street corner in 1927. Fragments of an early twentieth-century rock garden stand at the rear. Neither of these features is contributing.

The house is unusual in Bristol because of its careful attention to its corner site. The finer detailing on the principal (north) front, facing Anderson Street, turns the corner and runs with the Seventh Street facade to the east. The main entrance is placed at an angle at the northeast corner, and the relationship to the intersection is emphasized by the one-story, wrap-around porch that spans the east and north fronts. The essential shape of the house is block-like and its form animated by an asymmetrical main front with an off-center, two story, curve-fronted bay on the west end of the north front and two story polygonal bays in the centers of both side walls. The brick walls are laid of finely coursed pressed brick in running bond with narrow, dark-tinted mortar joints. Like the walls, the foundation is of brick. The one-over-one sash windows are furnished with stone sills and segmentally arched jack arches of brick, now painted white. The actual windows are flat-headed, however, and many are unusually wide, although this is concealed by the addition of modern storm windows with a central mullion. The double-leaf, glass-paneled main entry doors on the northeast corner are protected by a projecting brick vestibule under the porch roof. Each door leaf has egg-and-dart trim and fret-like designs at the panel corners.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

King, Edward Washington, House  
Sullivan County, Tennessee

The walls are topped with a slightly projecting frieze of molded egg-and-dart brick supported at intervals by shallow brick consoles with identical egg-and-dart trim. The wood cornice incorporates sawn dentil molding. The bays on the east and west sides are capped with balconies. A pierced and paneled brick railing at the east balcony extending to the northwest corner and around the north front to the projecting gable gives unusual architectural emphasis to the corner entrance below. The west balcony has a less dramatic pierced metal railing. Both side balconies serve large gabled brick attic dormers with cornice returns and diamond slate shingle infill in the center of the side facades. Roof elements, such as the tall chimneys, dormers, and the balcony railings, are detailed in the Renaissance Revival style. A similar brick dormer is found to the east side of the north front, balancing the large bay that takes up nearly the western half of that facade. A slightly curved, two-story bay projects from the north front, corresponding to the principal parlor on the interior. An over-hanging, slate-filled gable with corner brackets contains a central Palladian motif window.

The rear (south) facade is partly concealed by 1940s porch enclosures. A wide central gable lighting the attic crowns it. Asphalt shingles cover the regular-hipped roof. Two small dormers light the side walls of the attic near the rear of the house. The tall, carefully detailed, brick chimneys are an important architectural feature, including the slender chimney located unusually and dramatically in the center of the principal front. The basement area windows provided light to on the west, but are now covered with low temporary roofs.

A one-story porch wraps around almost the entire building. It runs south and west from an angled entry gable at the northeast corner. The porch is supported on paired Doric colonettes that rest on brick plinths. The porch turns the northwest corner and extends one bay along the west side. It continues along the entire east side, breaking out to follow the form of the east side bay. A cross gable to the south end of the east side indicates that part of the porch functioned as a secondary entry to the house. Each room along that side has an original glass-paneled door onto the porch, the first of them in the north side of the polygonal eastern bay. The porch ceiling is of narrow tongue-and-groove boards. The floor, except for a small section of narrow boards on the east side, has been replaced using wide modern boards. The hip roof of the porch continues unbroken around the southeast corner and across the entire rear (south) facade, covering an early sun-room, utility rooms, and a service porch off the kitchen. The section of porch at the south end of the east side was infilled with modern brick in the 1960s and the service porch at the west corner of the rear facade was enclosed in the mid-twentieth century with weatherboards. Other than these elements and a few areas of decay caused by neglect, the exterior has suffered few alterations. Principal changes include the insertion of a door in the eastern opening of the parlor bay on the north front and the enclosure and re-flooring of the porch.

The interior layout on each floor takes recognition of the corner site. A large corner living hall stands at the northeast corner inside the small projecting entry vestibule. This kind of room is

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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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King, Edward Washington, House  
Sullivan County, Tennessee

associated with substantial Queen Anne-style architecture in the later nineteenth century. It has a small corner fireplace and is equipped with paneled oak wainscot. A stair rises along the wall. Originally, it doubled back after reaching a landing in front of a large stained-glass window on the east wall, but the lower section was removed and replaced when the house was converted to multi-family use in the mid-twentieth century. Its form is clearly visible on the paneled front of the upper flight and can be reconstructed. The elaborate leaded stained glass window is embellished with geometric motifs around a central floral design.

Except for the distortion caused by the corner living hall, the dwelling follows the house form recognized by regional architectural historians as the central-passage plan. In a more conventional manifestation, a central entrance would have been flanked by twin parlors, each with pocket doors like the one leading from the parlor to the living hall. Here the insertion of the stylish living hall has truncated this plan. The central-passage plan invariably features one or more pairs of rooms flanking a long, usually narrow, passage containing the principal stair. In this case, a stair was placed where it might have been in a conventional central passage house, but it has been relegated to secondary, though not exclusively, service use. That the majority of the passage was relegated to service use is suggested by the change part way along its length, from paneled to tongue-and-groove wainscot.

The hybrid nature of the plan, combining high-style and vernacular elements, resulted in an incongruous overall plan, with angled walls reconciling the strict central passage at the rear with the offset living hall to the front. Any social awkwardness the house's plan might have caused by unclear separation of the service and formal areas was, however, resolved by a (now-fragmentary) doorway set just behind the dining room and library entrances. This door controlled access between the two sections of the household. Its location allowed the principal entertaining rooms to communicate. The separation of service and formal areas indicated by paneled and tongue- and-groove wainscot separated by an intervening doorway was used on the second floor as well. However, the need to have individual access to each of the bedrooms and the bath on the second floor negated any functional division, and the lack of an actual door between the sections indicates that the system of segregation, so often and completely observed in other houses from this period, broke down entirely at this point.

The interior finishes are largely consistent throughout the house. Much of the plaster is intact, but the ceilings in the formal rooms on the first floor have been removed. Floors are of narrow tongue-and-groove wood, although in some areas vinyl tile has been added over the wood as part of mid-twentieth-century alterations. The doors are provided with transoms and both doors and windows are surrounded by unpainted oak trim that includes a molded cornice. Each room has molded oak baseboards, while the doors are of raised-paneled oak. The first and second floor living halls, the library, and the dining room each have paneled oak wainscoting. The parlor and most other rooms have paneled aprons below the windows. The front stair has a closed stringer with regular

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King, Edward Washington, House  
Sullivan County, Tennessee

turned balusters, a square newel with applied sunburst paterae just below the reeded finial, and a dentil course on the molded railing. The rear stair is similar with a plain molded railing and a large paneled newel with turned finial at the bottom. Both stairs have paneled skirts. A closet is found below the front stair, while a basement stair extends under the rear staircase.

The paneled living hall has a corner fireplace with a conventional oak mantel and an ornamental metal coal grate insert. Like most of the other fireplaces in the house, there are glazed tiles around the coal grate and on the hearth. The adjacent parlor opens out of the living hall through a wide pocket doorway and originally contained a large oak mantel with carved lion's heads supporting a mirrored overmantel. Festoons, moldings, and Corinthian columns decorate this fireplace. The coal grate contained an iron fireback somewhat incongruously incorporating a peasant cottage scene in the rear and neoclassical reliefs to the side, as well as a decorative tile surround. This fireplace ensemble, though removed by a previous owner, has been returned to the house and will be reinstalled. One of the pocket doors was used as the door to the exterior. It was placed in one of the two window openings in the north parlor wall in the mid-twentieth-century conversion of the house to multi-family use.

The second range of rooms separated by the central passage consists of the dining room on the west and the library on the east. An angled wall below the front stair that softens the transition from the living hall to the passage contains the door to the library. Its east wall is formed by the two story bay, which contains a door. The mantel and hearth on the south wall are gone. Behind the library and sharing the same chimney is a room historically identified as the music room. It is lit by a window and glass-panel door in the east wall. A door has been added connecting it to the rear passage and the mantel is missing. A door from the music room and from the back passage reaches the final room in the suite of rooms along the east side. It is said to have been a family living room. A door and window on the east give access from it to a room that was a part of the porch until it was enclosed with brick in the mid-twentieth century. The south wall is pierced with three apparently original doors. The eastern door (now infilled) seems to have opened into a small sun room still intact at the southeast corner of the porch. The middle door gives access to an early service room now fitted up as a bathroom, and the western door opens into an adjacent early service room that shows signs of alteration.

The dining room fills the western bay behind the parlor. A fireplace on the north wall originally shared the same chimney as the parlor. The mantel was removed when a closet was added on that wall. The original door to the passage was infilled and the door relocated to a new opening connecting the dining room to the parlor in the mid-twentieth century. Behind the dining room and connected by an original door is what may have been a butler's pantry. A small bath has been added there against the west wall, lit by the original pantry window. Beyond it to the south is the kitchen, which occupies the southwest corner of the house, served by a stove flue in the south wall between a window and a (probably added) door. The kitchen has tongue-and-groove wainscot.



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## Continuation Sheet

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King, Edward Washington, House  
Sullivan County, Tennessee

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The kitchen porch outside was enclosed in the mid-twentieth century to form a modern kitchen for one of the many apartments in the building. A narrow, originally exterior, stair to the basement is located at the western end of, and below, this former porch. The rear door in the passage opens out into the enclosed rear porch through an originally exterior door.

The second floor features bedrooms over each of the first-floor rooms. A second-floor living hall, complete with paneled oak wainscot, is located near the front. The guest room, located over the parlor, is the most generous sized bedroom. It contains an oak mantelpiece with a mirrored overmantel, full-height colonettes, and an ornamental coal grate insert with tile surround. The remaining four bedrooms were laid out in suites flanking the passage. The room said to have been Edward Washington King's is at the southwest corner, across from the small bathroom at the southeast corner. It is connected by a small room to the bedroom over the dining room, which may have served as his wife's room. The mantels are missing in these rooms. Two small bedrooms on the east are linked by a door and served by back-to-back fireplaces. The oak mantels are slightly different but each have mirrored overmantels and ornamental coal grate inserts. A third room to the rear opens out of this suite, between it and the bathroom. Additional doors have been cut and closets added. The bathroom door to the passage has been closed.

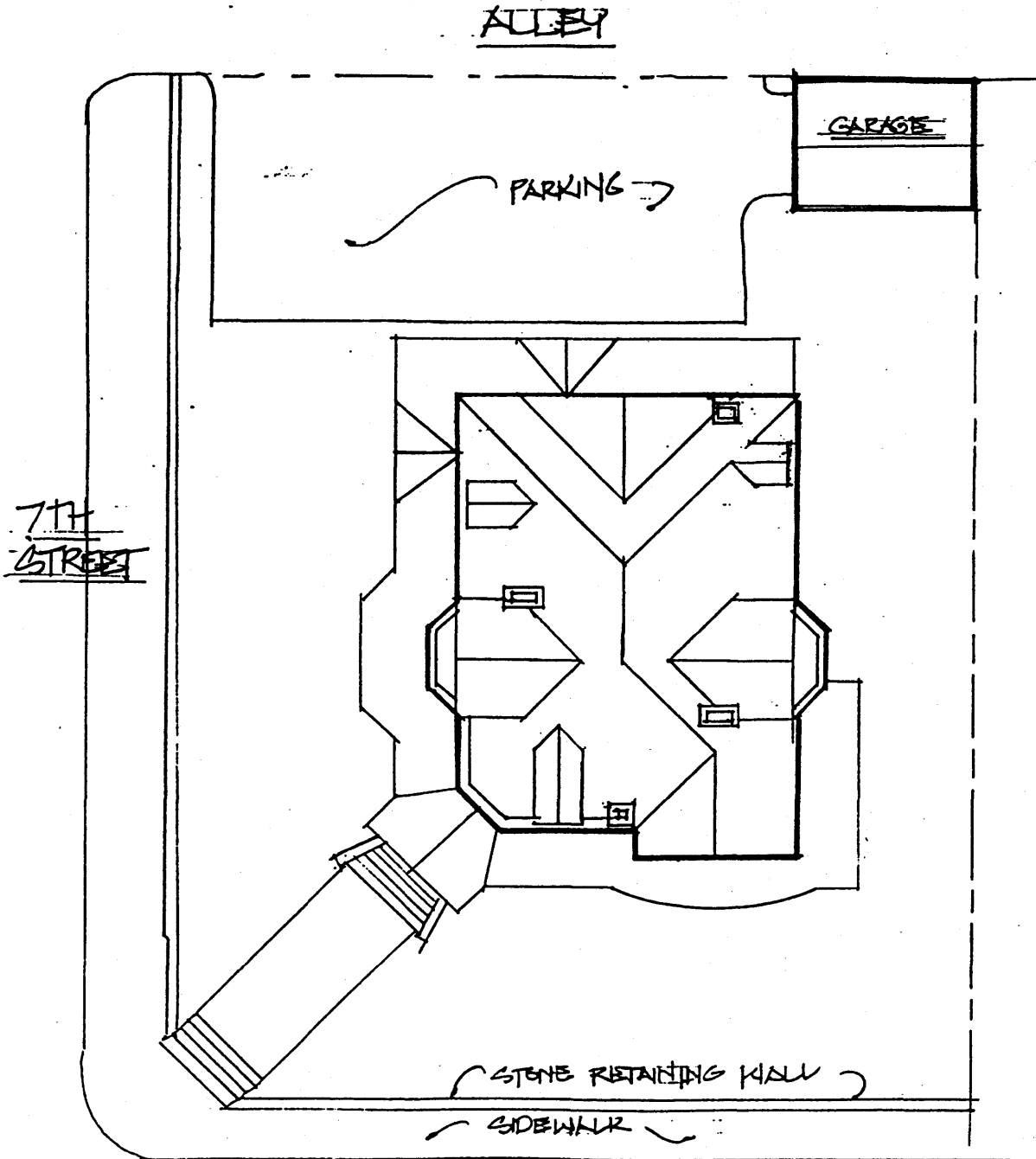
An enclosed stair to the attic rises above the rear stairway. The attic was apparently open and, possibly, unfinished originally. It was subdivided into several apartments in the mid-twentieth century. The trim and other elements of all the additions throughout the house are square and plain. The basement extends only under portions of the house. The interior basement stair gives access to a passage under the rear half of the central passage on the first floor. A furnace room and coal bin are located under the dining room and butler's pantry, lit by windows in sunken areas. There is a partially finished room with a functioning fireplace in the basement, located below the library, that is lit by small windows deep under the porch floor. A third room under the kitchen and reached by an exterior stair in the rear porch, has a stove flue, and may have been intended to serve as a laundry or other service-related function. None of the basement rooms has a plastered ceiling or walls. The floors are of concrete and appear to date from the mid-twentieth century.

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King, Edward Washington, House  
Sullivan County, Tennessee



E. W. King House  
Bristol, Tennessee  
Site Sketch Plan  
Not to scale

ANDERSON STREET

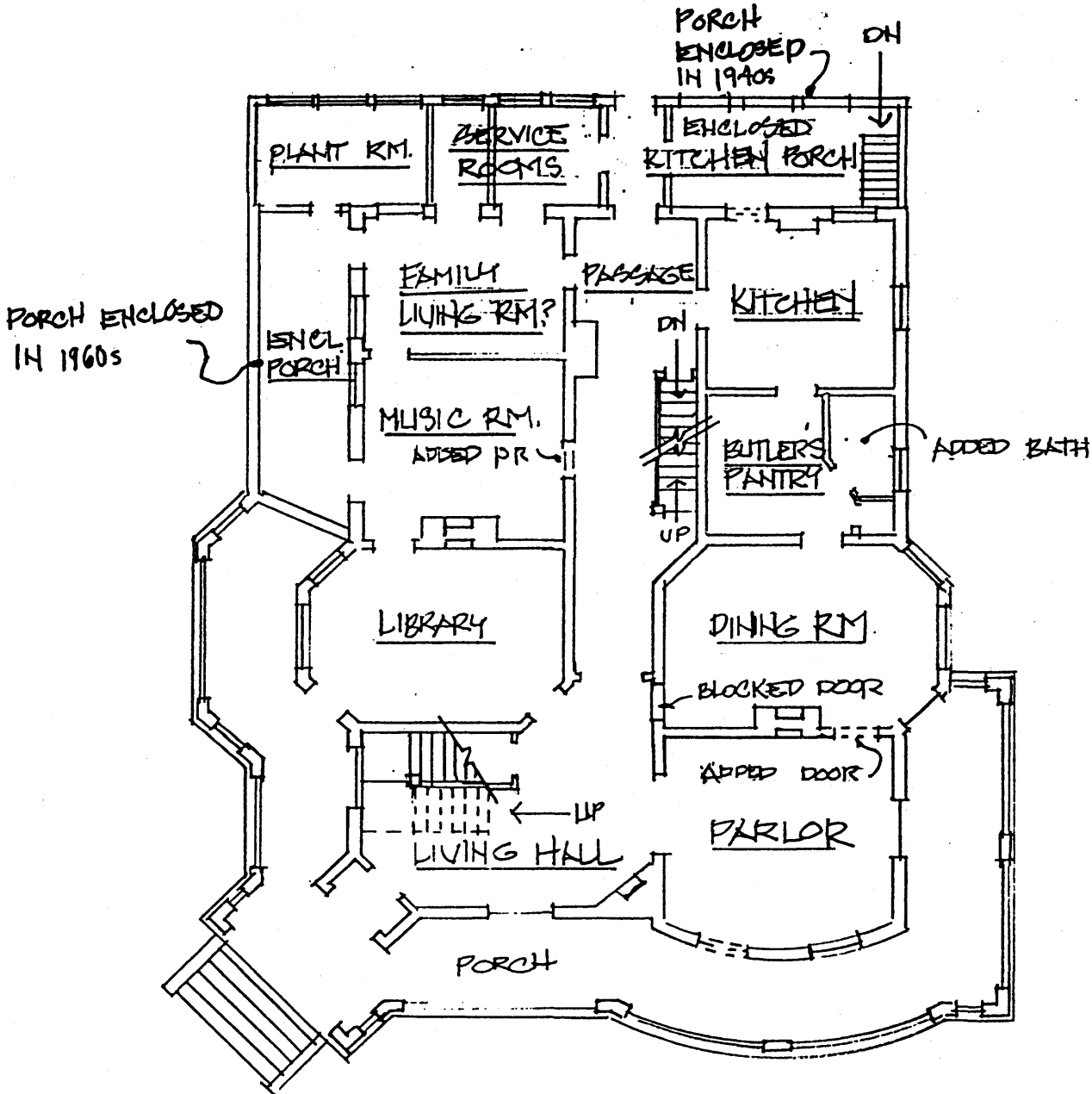


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King, Edward Washington, House  
Sullivan County, Tennessee



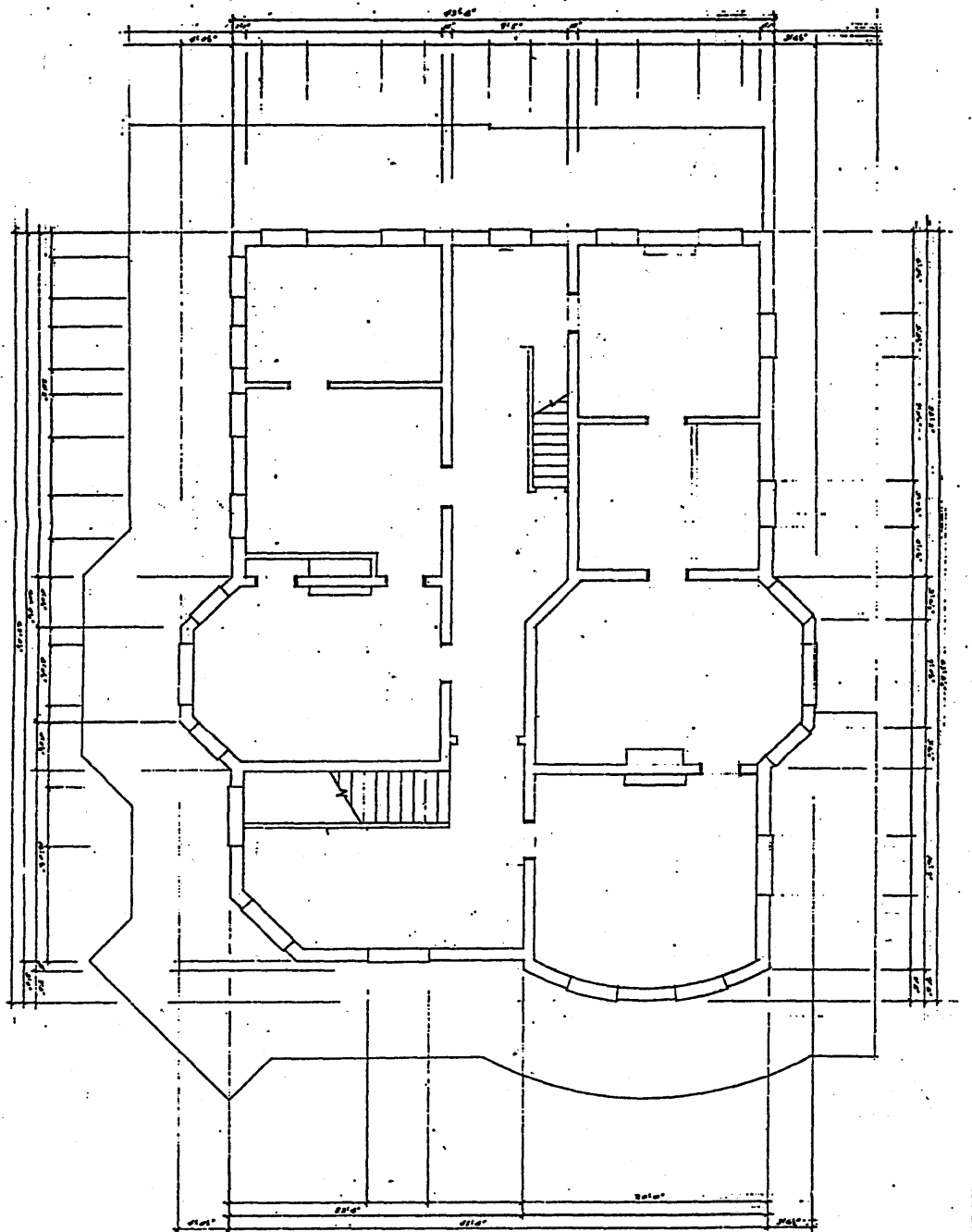
E. W. King House  
Bristol, Tennessee  
First Floor Plan  
Not to scale

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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King, Edward Washington, House  
Sullivan County, Tennessee



Second Floor Plan  
Not to Scale

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# National Register of Historic Places

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King, Edward Washington, House  
Sullivan County, Tennessee

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edward Washington King House is significant under criteria A and C as an important example of the domestic architecture of early twentieth-century Bristol. The residence served as the principal home of one of the city's most influential and generous civic leaders. It is one of the remaining dwellings built by the early economic and industrial leaders of Bristol, and one of the few on the immediate outskirts of the downtown area. It is unique, not only in its unusually elaborate exterior and interior detailing, but in its melding of regional vernacular forms with the most sophisticated architectural planning of the day. While there are other Queen Anne houses in the city from the same period, none incorporate such energetic details, including the elaborate chimneys, the molded bricks, and the Renaissance Revival rooftop balustrade at the northeast corner, and few exhibit the same massive scale.

The house served to confirm the position of its owner, who filled a popular role of respected leader in the city's political and social contexts. Edward Washington King was regarded with respect as one of the city's most successful and philanthropic citizens, and was praised for his effective support of education and other social causes throughout his life. Tradition has it that the design for King's residence was from a plan book. While the design may have come from outside of Bristol, the builders and mason were local. The house exhibits some of the excellent craftsmanship of its builders, James and Samuel McCrary, and of the brick mason, John J. Fowler, a member of the local African American community.

### Historical Background

The house was built for Edward Washington King, a Bristol merchant, businessman, and community leader, and his wife, Alice Millard King, in about 1903. Born in Sullivan County, Tennessee, in 1852, King was the descendant of early settlers who moved to the region circa 1778. His parents, William and Emma Hodge King of the Piney Flats region, were not wealthy, and King got his education in the local public school. He managed a store at White Store, Tennessee for an uncle. He carefully saved his wages, and, by 1877 was prosperous enough to marry Alice Millard, daughter of George and Elzira Millard of White Store. With a savings of \$1,000.00 the couple moved to Bristol in 1878. King opened a retail dry-goods business in the small town straddling the Virginia-Tennessee line. Bristol was on the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Ohio Railroad line and as the town grew, so did the King business interests. The Kings were also active in the First Presbyterian Church.<sup>1</sup>

In 1882 Edward Washington King built a two-story structure on State Street which housed his company until 1893 when he constructed a new and larger building. He took advantage of the shortage of ready cash after the Panic of 1893 to expand into a firm called E. W. King and Company. The company is reputed to be the first exclusively wholesale business between Knoxville, Tennessee and Roanoke, Virginia. "He carried a general line of merchandise including

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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King, Edward Washington, House  
Sullivan County, Tennessee

shoes and everything a country merchant needed for his trade.<sup>iii</sup> In 1901, he and his brother, Anson, formed the King Brothers Shoe Company, which, according to news accounts, grew by the mid-twentieth century to become one of the four largest wholesale shoe distributors in the nation.<sup>iii</sup> King also served as President and Chairman of the Board of the First National Bank of Bristol (NR 7/25/85). His business success was reflected in his decision to construct a new and elaborate house in Bristol at the beginning of the century.

The site of the Edward Washington King House is a small lot on the corner of Seventh and Anderson streets, overlooking downtown Bristol. The choice tract on which Bristol stands was surveyed for John Buchanan in 1749 and was part of a vast grant to Col. James Patton by the Colonial Virginia government to facilitate settlement of the region. This 1,946-acre tract called Sapling Grove was divided by Buchanan between Evan Shelby and Isaac Baker. Evan Shelby settled on his half of the survey in about 1765 and built a fort on a hill within the tract.<sup>iv</sup> Evan Shelby's son and executor, Isaac Shelby, deeded his father's 973 -acre parcel to the Rev. James King.<sup>v</sup> King's son, John G. King, received the property in his father's will of 1867 (James and John King were not closely related to E. W. King).<sup>vi</sup> The lot was subdivided in the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century to take advantage of its proximity to the growing town of Bristol. John G. King sold the lot to Edward Washington King in 1880.<sup>vii</sup>

The street now known as Anderson Street was known as Lee Street in the period after the Civil War. It was sometimes referred to as Royal Street by the townspeople because of the fine homes built there by wealthier citizens. Edward and Alice King built a brick house on the lot at Seventh and Lee streets soon after their purchase of it. Family tradition indicates that King had acquired a great deal more wealth and additional family members by the turn of the century. He had also purchased a book of plans and one of them, for a Queen Anne "gentleman's house," appealed to him. He contracted with the McCrary brothers, among Bristol's most respected builders, to demolish the existing house and construct a grand new building based on the plans. Family members recall that Alice King had to be convinced by her husband to exchange her existing house for an more ostentatious dwelling, but that her preference for holding large weddings and funerals at home made a larger house seem a necessity.<sup>viii</sup>

James and Samuel McCrary were from the Bristol area. They began work as box-makers at the tobacco works belonging to Major A. D. Reynolds. With backing from Reynolds, they entered the construction and building supply business. One of their first houses was a large Queen Anne-style dwelling for Reynolds. As one of the city's most sought-after firms, they eventually set up a millwork shop for the manufacture of windows and doors. Among the craftsmen associated with the building of the King House was John J. Fowler, a highly respected African-American brick mason, noted for his thin and straight joints. Other recognized examples of his work stand in downtown Bristol, including buildings at 608 and 620 State Street and 28 Moore Street and numerous dwellings on Johnson, Spruce, and other streets. Fowler was often asked to do the streetfronts of commercial buildings while men of lesser skills did the side and rear walls.<sup>ix</sup>

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Although his economic influence in the city was great, King was also known for being deeply involved in civic developments, particularly those involving education. In 1880, he and George C. Pyle prepared and presented a petition to Bristol's Mayor and Board of Aldermen requesting that a system of public education be established in the town. Shortly after the ordinance establishing the school system was passed, King was elected to the city's first school board. He also was instrumental in the establishment of the Bristol YMCA and the King's Mountain Memorial Hospital, and was one of the first honorary members of the Rotary Club of Bristol.

King served the cause of education in the Presbyterian Church for most of his later life. He served on the boards of the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and of Lees - McRae Institute at Banner Elk, North Carolina. His principal philanthropic role was his substantial and long-term involvement with King College in Bristol, Tennessee. He served as a trustee of the local Presbyterian school for more than fifty years beginning in 1888. He was largely responsible for providing the financial assistance that kept the school from closing during its early years of struggle until it reached a secure position around the time of the end of the First World War. It was estimated that he gave as much as \$100,000.00 to the school. His support was not limited to economic help however, but included strong personal leadership of the college trustees during times of distress.<sup>x</sup> When a fund-raising campaign was started to build a substantial main building at the college in 1929, the building was named in honor of King. Business associates and fellow churchmen in the region both praised his selflessness and charity in a series of published testimonials.<sup>xi</sup> His leadership of and contributions to local interests began in the nineteenth century and continued throughout the period he lived at the house on Seventh Street.

Edward Washington King's effect on the history and growth of Bristol, Virginia-Tennessee was extensive. When he died in 1945, the Bristol Herald Courier editorialized: "Few civic enterprises were launched in Bristol during the past half-century with which Mr. King was not prominently identified, and in a majority of these he assumed the leading role."<sup>xii</sup> In respect for King's contributions to the region, the city offices for both sides of the town were closed on the day of his funeral as were most of the downtown businesses.<sup>xiii</sup>

Edward and Alice King had eight children - five sons and three daughters. Memories of some the King's grandchildren have been used to better understand the family's period of occupancy of the house. Descendants recall that the rooms along the east side of the house consisted of the library, music room and, at the southeast corner, a kind of family living room. An area off this room was used by Alice King as a room for growing plants. The second-floor front bedroom was reserved for guests and the rear bedroom at the southwest corner belonged to King. The attic was open and one descendent recalled riding his bicycle there.<sup>xiv</sup>

The house's design indicates that the Kings participated in the social life of the city's successful elite. The floor plan, with a butler's pantry and service areas, suggests that the family had one or

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more servants and lived in a manner similar to other upper middle class southerners. Although the source of the architectural plans has not been identified, the house's Queen Anne elaboration implies an awareness of current architectural trends and a wish to contribute to the city's visual improvement. Family tradition indicates that King used as a basis for his new house a design in a popular pattern book, but the irregularities in the plan may result from adaptations to a published plan made by the owner and the contractors.<sup>xv</sup> The partial basement is said to incorporate material from the earlier house on the site, which might account for its form and the form of the rear portion of the house.

Another area of regional history long associated with the site is the early location of the fort built by General Evan Shelby in 1771 to provide protection for the early settlers of the region from Indian attack. It served a protective role, but also was used as a stopover for travelers during the following years and as a trading post. The fort, where the planning for the decisive Battle of Kings Mountain took place, is said to have been located on this hill south of the town. Summers identifies the lots in the neighborhood of the Edward Washington King House owned in 1903 by Dr. John Ensor and John J. Caldwell as the site of Shelby's residence.<sup>xvi</sup> In 1927, a stone monument was erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution near the street corner on the front lawn of the house recognizing the site of Fort Shelby. This site was selected because the owner of the actual lot suggested it instead of his own.

The King family occupied the house from its construction until the early nineteen-thirties. As automobiles became a regular part of the life of homeowners in Bristol in the second quarter of the twentieth century, the Kings had a one-story, brick garage built just behind the house on the alley. The area around the house had, however, become less fashionable and desirable as a place to live. In 1933, the Kings moved to a smaller house on Haynes Street and the old house was rented. In 1938, the building was operated as a boarding house by Bishop L. Osborne and his wife. Alice King died in 1937, but Edward Washington King lived until November of 1945.<sup>xvii</sup> Edward Washington King deeded the house to his son Arthur King in 1940.<sup>xviii</sup> The house remained in the ownership of the King family until the 1946, when it was sold, by Arthur King to Ollie Powers.<sup>xix</sup>

The Edward Washington King House was acquired by real estate agent W. D. Ketron in 1947.<sup>xx</sup> Ketron divided the house into a series of nine apartments with a similar number of baths and a significant number of alterations, including the relocation of doors and the addition of partitions.<sup>xxi</sup> Although the alterations were done with the best materials and good workmanship, as the years passed and other owners intervened, the building's condition deteriorated. By 1997, the interests of concerned citizens, including the most recent owner, Cecil C. Knighton, resulted in the gift of the house to the Bristol Historical Society.

The Bristol Historical Society has removed nearly all of the added partitions from the house and is undertaking the complete restoration of the house to its form and appearance during the years of



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the King family's occupancy. The building will house the offices, meeting place, and exhibit space for the society's collections, as well as an interpretive center for life in early twentieth-century Bristol. To that end, selected rooms will be supplied with period furnishings.

## End Notes

- I. "E. W. King Dies at Haynes Street Home." Bristol Herald Courier. 26 November 1945.
- II. Evelyn Hicks, "King Brothers, Founded in 1901, Now One of Largest Wholesale Shoe Firms," Bristol Herald Courier, no date, clipping in the collection of the Bristol Historical Society
- III. Evelyn Hicks. "King Brothers Founded in 1901."
- IV. Lewis Preston Summers, History of Southwest Virginia 1746-1786, Washington County 1746-1786 [1903] Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1966, 669.
- V. Sullivan County Clerk's Office, Blountville, Tennessee, Sullivan County Deed Book 6, 480.
- VI. Sullivan County Clerk's Office, Blountville, Tennessee, Sullivan County Will Record 1, 65.
- VII. Sullivan County Deed Book 30, 341.
- VIII. Frazier King, "E. W. King, A Builder of Bristol," Bristol Historical Society Monograph, 1998.
- IX. Frazier King, 1998.
- X. King College Bulletin XV: 5, June 1929.
- XI. King College Bulletin XV: 5.
- XII. "E. W. King," Bristol Herald Courier, 27 November 1945.
- XIII. "E. W. King Funeral to be Conducted at 3 O'clock Today," Bristol Herald Courier, 26 November 1945.
- XIV. Frazier King, 1998.
- XV. Frazier King, 1998.
- XVI. Summers, 1903: 669.

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- XVII. "E. W. King Dies at Haynes Street Home," Bristol Herald Courier, 26 November 1945.
- XVIII. Sullivan County Deed Book 69, 417.
- XIX. Sullivan County Deed Book 80, 535.
- XX. Sullivan County Deed Book 83, 464
- XXI. Frazier King, 1998.

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"Life and Activities of E. W. King," King College Bulletin XV: 5, June 1929.

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### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at a point at the southwest corner of the intersection of Seventh Street and Anderson (formerly Lee) Street, thence in a westerly direction with the south line of Anderson Street 130 feet to the property formerly owned by Nina S. Henderson, thence in a southerly direction approximately 165 feet to an alley- thence with the northern line of said alley in an easterly direction 130 feet more or less to the western line of Seventh Street; thence with the western line of Seventh Street in a northerly direction 165 feet to the point of origin. The nominated property consists of parcel 19, block H on Sullivan County tax map 20-O.

There is excerpted from this area a small parcel of land conveyed to the city of Bristol, Tennessee by deed recorded in Deed Book 133 at page 366 as follows:

Beginning at a point on the south side of Anderson Street, which point is 25 feet west of the point of intersection with the west side of Seventh Street; thence running with the west side of Seventh Street; thence running with the south side of Anderson Street in an easterly direction 25 feet to the point of intersection with the west side of Seventh Street; thence running with the west side of Seventh Street in a southerly direction 25 feet to a point , thence running in a northwesterly direction on a curve to the left with a radius of 25 feet to the point of origin.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

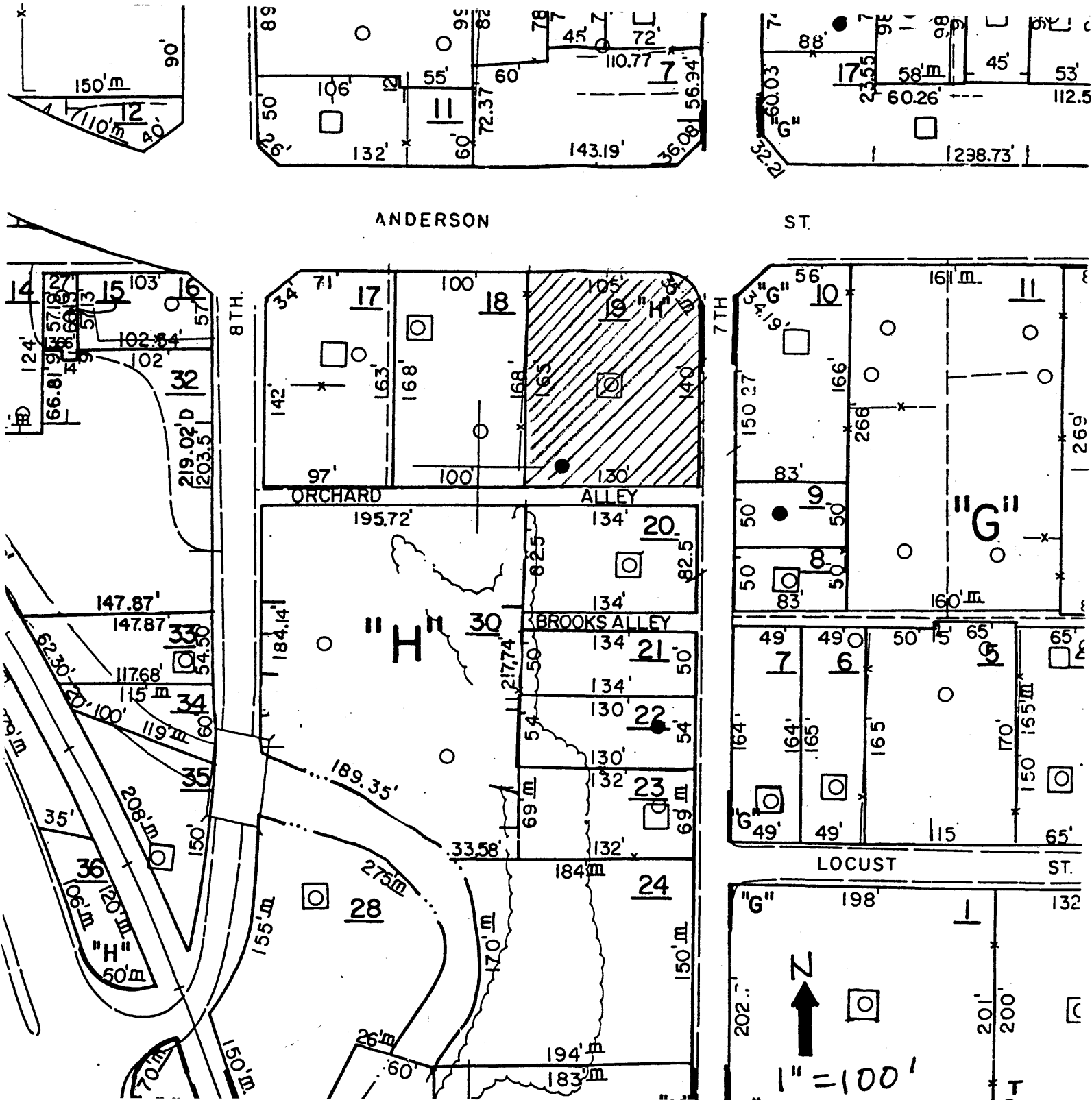
The boundaries include the lot associated with the Edward Washington King House.

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### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photo by: Kathryn Derr  
Date: June and August 1999  
Neg: Photographer

Northeast corner facades of house, facing southwest.  
# 1 of 16

West facade, facing east.  
# 2 of 16

Southeast corner of house, facing northwest  
# 3 of 16

South facade, facing north.  
# 4 of 16

Entrance detail.  
# 5 of 16

East bay detail.  
# 6 of 16

Entrance hall stair and stained glass window.  
# 7 of 16

Parlor, facing south.  
# 8 of 16

Detail of entrance hall fireplace.  
# 9 of 16

East second floor bedroom.  
# 10 of 16

Garage, facing southeast.  
# 11 of 16

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Overview of house and setting, facing southwest.  
# 12 of 16

Hall stair, facing south.  
# 13 of 16

Second floor room.  
# 14 of 16

Overview of first floor room.  
# 15 of 16

Attic apartment.  
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