

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

For NPS use only

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

received **DEC 29 1982**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic W.W. Morris House

and/or common Morris House

**2. Location**

street & number 305 West State Line Road N/A not for publication

city, town South Fulton N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Obion code 131

**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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Thomas Dudley Morris

street & number 305 West State Line Road

city, town South Fulton N/A vicinity of state Tennessee

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Obion County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Union City state Tennessee

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A 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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Located on West State Line Road in South Fulton, Tennessee, the W.W. Morris House is an 1885 two-and-one half story irregularly planned brick house built in a vernacular style. A one story porch supported by Ionic columns extends across the facade and a verandah on the east elevation extends the length of the rear wing. There are three brick interior chimneys. The roof style is gable. The house occupies a relatively flat site on a residential street. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The house and porches are supported by a full brick foundation. The exterior walls are laid in American bond. The three brick chimneys each have two flues which service both upstairs and downstairs fireplaces. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Gable ends exhibit a raking cornice, fishscale shingles, and decorative semi-circular vents with radiating spokes in the form of an open fan.

Windows are elliptical-arched double sash with plate glass in both upper and lower sashes. Wooden window surrounds are unelaborate. Brick arches and corbelling give the effect of elaborate window hoods.

Other exterior architectural features include: a projecting two story bay wing on the facade, a deep entablature decorated with rosettes, gable overhangs supported by fan brackets and struts, a side verandah supported by turned posts and fan brackets, and Ionic columns which support the denticulated entablature and balustrade of the front porch.

Interior features include: yellow poplar woodwork, pine flooring, transoms over doorways, and cast-iron fireplace mantels.

Alterations to the house include the enclosure of a rear upstairs porch with lattice-work (ca. 1900), the enclosure of a west elevation verandah (ca. 1900), the installation of a furnace system in 1913, and the renovation of the kitchen and baths in 1956.

The grounds are casually landscaped with a few mature trees and shrubs. There are no outbuildings.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1885 **Builder/Architect** Roberts Brothers Builders

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria B and C

The W.W. Morris House, built in 1885, is significant to the town of South Fulton, Tennessee, for its association with Walter W. Morris, a prominent banker and landowner who was instrumental in many community activities. The house, constructed in the autumn of 1885, is an excellent example of vernacular architecture. The use of regional materials, the exceptional craftsmanship, and the local interpretation of 19th century architectural styles contribute to the character of this small town landmark.

Walter W. Morris was born in Obion County, Tennessee, November 10, 1856, to George W. and Willienna Lightner Morris. He attended local schools within the county and at Jordan, Kentucky, which was four miles from his home. After completing his formal education, Morris assisted his father in the management of their large landholdings and livestock farms.

In February, 1885, Morris wed Eugenia Martin of Martin, Tennessee. By August of that year, Morris had contracted the Roberts Brothers Builders of Fulton, Kentucky, to construct a home on section of the Morris land nearest the town of South Fulton. The house was completed in December and the couple moved in during January, 1886.

Morris was elected president of First National Bank in 1890, thus beginning a long career in banking. In 1907 he became president of City National Bank which, by 1913, was the leading financial institution of South Fulton and the surrounding area. Morris retired from the bank presidency in 1938 but remained a director until his death in 1943.

Morris was active in many civic affairs. In 1905 he was appointed to lead a citizen's committee whose main objective was to take advantage of the Tennessee 'Four-Mile Law' which prohibited the operation of saloons within four miles of an incorporated school. He was also a member of the South Fulton Board of Aldermen; was elected mayor in 1917; and was a member of the local school board for several years.

Architecturally, the Morris House is representative of the vernacular style. Built of brick, it is composed of distinctive features from various styles, as can be seen in the fan brackets, round-arched windows, and Ionic columns. All exterior architectural elements and interior woodwork have been retained. Today, the house is owned by the youngest son of Walter Morris, Thomas D. Morris. It is the most architecturally outstanding nineteenth-century building remaining in South Fulton.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Obion County History, E.H. Marshall, Union City, Tennessee, 1970; Fulton Daily Leader, Fulton, Kentucky, October 3, 1972.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Harris, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

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

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies townlot number 1, section D, of tax map #7-G and townlot #1, section A, of tax map # 7-F for the town of South Fulton, Tennessee. The property's boundaries are outlined in red on the accompanying property assessor's maps.

### 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 Cathie J. Hamilton

organization N/A

date August, 1982

street & number 205 University Street, Apt. A

telephone (901) 587-6781

city or town Martin

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Herbert L. Hager*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 12/17/82

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

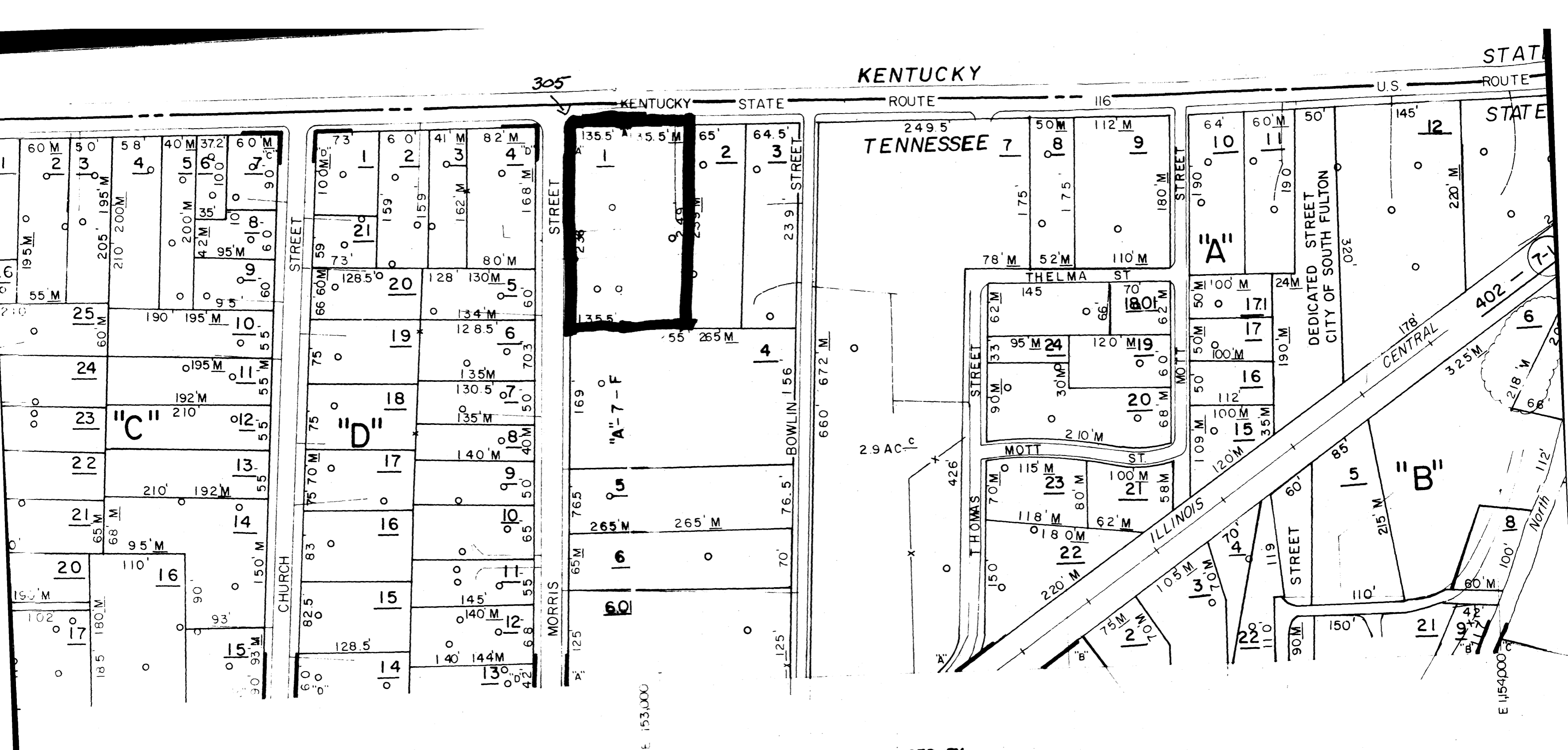
date 1/27/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



SOUTH FULTON  
 OBION CO. TENN.  
 DISTRICT 16

MAP No  
 7-G

PREPARED BY  
**L. ROBERT KIMBALL**  
 ing Engineers

W.W. Morris House  
 305 West State Line Rd.  
 South Fulton, Obion Co., Tennessee  
 Tax Map

PENNSYLVANIA.