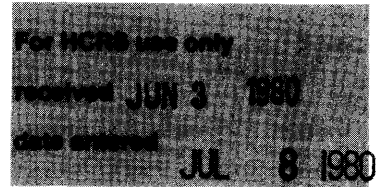


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Poplar Hill

and/or common Cynthia Lea House

2. Location

street & number Route 1 ___ not for publication

city, town Blaine ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Tennessee code 047 county Grainger code 057

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Edwin E. Corbitt

street & number Route 1, Box 216

city, town Blaine ___ vicinity of state Tennessee 37709

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grainger County Register's Office

street & number Courthouse

city, town Rutledge state Tennessee 37861

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey
East TN Development District has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 1974 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town 4721 Trousdale Drive, Nashville state Tennessee 37219

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

Located north of Highway 11W near Blaine, Tennessee, in Grainger County, the Cynthia Lea House is set on a slight rise in a wide valley south of the Clinch Mountains, which serve as a backdrop to the property.

A rare example in East Tennessee of a Gothic Revival cottage, the house is a two-story L-shaped brick structure painted white with steeply pitched gable roofs on both the rectangular main section and the ell. The bricks for the walls, which are twelve inches thick, were made in a brick yard located to the rear of the house by slave labor.

The facade or south elevation is dominated by three wall dormers. The large central dormer rises to the same height as the roof. Centered under it are a single leaf wood main door with rectangular transom and sidelights and, in the second story, a pair of one-over-one double hung sash windows separated by a wood mullion and trimmed with wood surrounds that feature segmented arched heads. Below the peak of the dormer is a circular decorated wood vent. Aligned beneath each of the two smaller end dormers are, in the first story, a pair of one-over-one double hung sash windows with plain wood surrounds and a wide mullion and, in the second story, a six-over-six double hung sash window with wood surrounds that feature a segmental arched head. A one-story porch, which wraps around the south and west elevations, has a sloping roof, wood Doric columns and a pedimented entrance with diamond-shaped shingles. The porch was added around the turn of the century. A pair of brick chimneys are found on the central portion of the roof ridge.

In both the east and west elevations, each story contains a single window like those in the second-story of the facade's end bays. Each elevation also has a circular decorative wood attic vent.

The rear or north elevation has a wall dormer near the west end with a six-over-twelve double hung sash window set into a segmental arched opening with plain wood surrounds. Intersecting the rear elevation east of the dormer is a one-and-one-half story brick ell with gable roof and two central brick chimneys. One-story shed roof porches extend across each side of the ell. The west porch and a portion of the east porch have been enclosed. A one-story frame addition under the wall dormer abuts the ell's west porch.

On both floors of the house, the central hall is flanked by single rooms. A half-turn staircase in the hall features turned balusters and a large turned newel post.

In each room fireplaces, centered in the wall adjacent to the hall, retain the original mantelpieces inlaid with a bevelled mirror. The ell contains a family room and kitchen.

A one-story frame building, located beside the house, once served as the office of a former owner, Dr. Willis Idol, a prominent physician who practiced in Grainger County in the early 1900s. The building is now a carpenter's shop.

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

Structurally, the house is in good condition although tie rods have been installed to prevent the outward bowing of the brick walls. The house shows some signs of deterioration, but the present owner is beginning restoration.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Roach, Thomas; History of Grainger County; McClung Collection, Lawson McGhee Library; Knoxville, TN
 Roach, Thomas; "Grainger County in Days Gone By"; The News; Rutledge, TN; 1962-63.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.5 **UTM NOT VERIFIED** UTM grid ticks
 Quadrangle name Luttrell **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24000
 UMT References Lat. 36°10'40"
 A Long. 83°41'00" B
 Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
 C D
 E F
 G H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes only that portion of the tract of land occupied by the house and carpenter's shop as shown on the enclosed map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nissa Dahlin Brown, Historic Preservationist
 organization East Tennessee Development District date December 18, 1979
 street & number P.O. Box 19806 telephone (615) 584-8553
 city or town Knoxville state Tennessee 37919

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Huger
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/28/80

For HCPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 for W. Ray Luce date 7/8/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Justin O'Connell date 7/2/80
 Chief of the National Register