

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 25 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 27 1977

**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 ******
Drouillard House
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *off TN 49*
CITY, TOWN Cumberland Furnace VICINITY OF Sixth
STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Dickson CODE 43
NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Nat Logan Smith
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Cumberland Furnace VICINITY OF STATE Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Dickson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Charlotte STATE Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey
DATE 1973 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY 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 Drouillard House was built in 1868-70 as a country retreat for the affluent Drouillard family and their house guests from Nashville. A landmark for the tiny community of Cumberland Furnace, the stately old mansion is visible for many miles from the steep ridges and narrow valleys of the rural countryside surrounding its hillside location, high above the iron furnace site, six miles north of the county seat at Charlotte.

Designed in the Italianate style, the Drouillard House is like the summer homes Mrs. Drouillard visited at Newport, Rhode Island. This house is built of clapboard siding over frame construction on a sturdy limestone foundation wall basement. The house is painted white with dark green painted folding shutters and red standing seam metal clad roof. The two and one-half story, square shaped principal block features a balanced plan, centered projecting frontpiece for the vestibule entrance and identical one-story wings extending out to each side. The entire principal north facade is skirted by a ten foot deep veranda porch, extending for over 100 feet. The porch has square posts and thick, turned wood balusters. Each principal room has access to the veranda through the ten foot, floor-to-ceiling windows which open out at the bottom sash. The magnificent double-door entrance features side-light panels and heavily molded, trabeated transom. The two wings connect by an ell-shaped porch extending out to the back, forming a courtyard for the kitchen which is in the east rear wing. The second story windows are 4/4 light, double hung sash type with round heads in the upper sections. The window for the upstairs hall opens out to a flat deck located above the entrance from the porch to the vestibule below. The attic through the central section features oculus windows in the gable walls and the spiral staircase continues up to a observation deck built across the crest of the roof. The deep eave overhang has large cornice brackets with carved drops on the ends. The paired and single brick chimneys are built for fireplaces in every room.

Although this house stood empty for many years, it has changed very little since the time it was built. All of the original woodwork, hardware, floors, mantels, glazes, and paint finishes remain in evidence. Some of the balustrade were stolen by vandals, but there are few signs of deterioration in the original architectural fabric. The white oak beams, yellow poplar floors, and cedar wood porches are level and true. The most magnificent feature of the interior design is the graceful, hand-carved, three-story spiral staircase which was built by a craftsman from Nashville. The house features a billiard room and the bathroom has the original copper-lined tub. The 12' x 7' china/silver closet is evidence of the elegant lifestyle the Drouillards insisted upon. The only outbuilding of significance is the large outhouse/bath located beyond the rear wing.

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/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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1868-1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since 1870 the three-story Drouillard mansion has been the dominant feature of the Cumberland Furnace community, the site of the first blast furnace established outside the original thirteen states by General James Robertson in 1792. The house was built as a summer residence for Nashville's famous socialite--heiress Florence Kirkman and her husband Captain James Pierre Drouillard who managed the iron industry following the Civil War era. Until that time the mill was operated using slave labor. Captain Drouillard made many changes and improvements and increased the mill output before the family sold it in 1889.

Cumberland Furnace operated for 147 years and was the first iron works west of the great mountain range. The early industry produced iron for hollow-ware castings as early as 1792. Cumberland Furnace is the name James Robertson gave the industry, and the community that grew up around it was first populated by the iron workers and their families. In 1812 Robertson sold the furnace to Montgomery Bell, an early industrialist in Middle Tennessee. Bell established a great iron industry in the area and eventually sold this property to Anthony Wayne Van Lee who turned the operations over to his son-in-law Hugh Kirkman, father of Florence Kirkman.

Florence was born in Nashville and after her mother died she was sent away to boarding school for her education. When she returned she became the belle of Nashville society. The old Kirkman home was located directly in front of historic Saint Mary's Church, designed by William Strickland. Anthony Van Leer commissioner Strickland to build the house for his daughter, Elanora Van Leer Kirkman, in 1847. Historians agree the Kirkman home was one of the finest homes built in Nashville during the antebellum period. It was distinguished by the handsome Greek Revival style and 170 foot front portico.

For the major part of the Civil War, Nashville was occupied by the Union Army. It was during this period Florence Kirkman began accepting the attention of young Captain James Pierre Drouillard who was assigned to General William S. Rosencrans' staff. Drouillard was a Frenchman who had entered the army after graduating from West Point Academy. He was assigned to the 6th Regiment of the Infantry in the Regular Army. He served on General McDowell's staff and was eventually assigned duty in Nashville where he remained until the close of the war.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Louise Davis. "Daring Beauties and the Houses They Built," Nashville Tennessean Panorama, Sunday, May 9, 1976.
- Gilchrist, Annie. Some Representative Women of Tennessee. Nashville: McQuiddy Printing Company, 1902.
- Guy C. Stephens. "Iron Again Flows from Old Cumberland Furnace," The Nashville Banner Magazine, Sunday, November 21, 1937.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>16</u>	<u>467640</u>	<u>4013040</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property being nominated is a rectangular-shaped lot which extends 225 feet across the front and rear, 200 feet across the sides. The Drouillard House is located in the center of the property.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

March 1977

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

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. Hayden

DATE

5/20/77

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Pettig

DATE

12/27/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

12.22.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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A. W. Van Leer came to Tennessee about 1810. He lived at Cumberland Furnace and at the time of his death he owned a retail iron store in Nashville, the furnaces, and 20,000 acres of land where Cumberland Furnace is located. Florence Kirkman inherited A. W. Van Leer's estate in 1863, the same year she married Captain Drouillard.

The Drouillard House was built with painstaking care by craftsmen who were sent from Nashville. The Drouillards spent every summer in Cumberland Furnace. They were very prominent in Nashville society and after the furnaces were sold they divided their time between Europe and Nashville. In 1886 they built a large brick mansion in the most fashionable section of Nashville.

In its present state the house is exactly like it was designed in 1870. The present owner is in the process of preserving and restoring it as his residence.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Octavia Zollicoffer Bond. "The Kirkman Family," The Nashville American, Sunday, August 29, 1909.

Robert E. Corlew. A History of Dickson County, Tennessee. Tennessee Historical Commission, 1956.