TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

Historic Name: Seward, John, House (WM-155) Common Name: Seward Hall

Classification: Building

Owner: Julius Spears, Liberty Pike, Franklin, TN 37064

Location: On Liberty Pike three-fourths of a mile west of Wilson Pike.

Contributing:		Non-Contributing	
Buildings	1	Buildings	0
Structures	0	Structures	1
Sites	0	Sites	0
Total:	1		1

Description:

The John Seward House is a two-story brick, central passage plan residence with Greek Revival detailing built ca. 1847. On the main (east) facade is an original two-story pedimented portico with square Doric motif columns and square balusters on the railings. Below the eaves are dentils. The main entrance has original double doors of two panels with flanking Doric pilasters. Adjacent to the door are two-light sidelights with frame lower panels. Above the door is a four-light transom and frame lintel with square corner blocks. Windows are original six-over-six sash with frame lintels, sills, and corner blocks.

The house has a stone block foundation and is of stretcher bond brick construction on the main facade and common bond on the side and rear facades. At the roofline are eave dentils. The house has exterior end brick chimneys and a gable roof of composition shingles. The foundation has casement windows with frame lintels and square corner blocks. On the south facade is a one-story frame addition built ca.1900 with four-over-four sash windows and added tile siding. On the rear facade is a one-story brick addition built ca.1960 and a ca.1900 frame addition which has brick veneer on two sides. This addition has four-over-four sash windows with slight pedimented hoods. Other facades are of common bond brick. The rear second story window has been enclosed with brick. The interior has an original curved staircase and Greek Revival design architrave molding.

To the south of the house is a ca. 1900 frame smokehouse with a modern garage addition and is non-contributing due to alterations. The house sits on a large farm south of Liberty Pike and retains its original site and setting.

Period of Significance: ca. 1847; ca. 1900

Area of Significance: Architecture

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Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The John Seward House is a notable example of a brick central hall ante-bellum residence with Greek Revival detailing. The house retains its original interior and exterior detailing. A rear frame wing was added ca. 1900 and a small one-story addition was added ca. 1960. Despite these changes the form and plan of the original brick section is evident.

The John Seward House was built ca. 1847 by John Seward a wealthy planter of the period. By the early 1850s Seward owned several hundred acres on his plantation. In 1860, he was listed as owning real estate valued at \$75,000 and personal estate worth \$82,000. Seward and his family resided at this house until the late 19th century when it was sold. The house has since had several owners in the 20th century but with the exception of two small frame wings few other alterations have occurred to the property.

Acreage: 3.4 acres

UTM References: Franklin Quad/16/519630/3975800

<u>Verbal Boundary and Justification</u>: The boundary for the John Seward House is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 80, lot 24. The boundary is drawn to include the house, front yard and adjacent outbuilding. The boundary is defined on the north, east and south by fence lines and on the west by a farm lane. The boundary includes all property sufficient to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References:





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