

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 George, Samuel, House

and/or common Same

2. Location N. E. of Louisville

street & number Route 2, Box 184, Topside Road not for publication

city, town Louisville Mo. X vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Tennessee code 047 county Blount code 009

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. William Howard George

street & number Route 2, Box 37

city, town Morristown vicinity of state Tennessee 37814

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Blount County Courthouse

street & number Court Street

city, town Maryville state Tennessee 37801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 approximately eight miles southwest of Knoxville, Tennessee, in Blount County, the George House is situated on a knoll shaded by large maple and elm trees. The house was built to face Russell Ferry Road, which ran along the southeastern base of the embankment and intersected George Creek south of the knoll. Since construction of Fort Loudoun Lake by TVA covered portions of the road, access to the house is now provided by Topside Road located 250 feet to the rear of the house.

The one and one half story brick house with stone basement was built by Samuel George, circa 1815. According to family sources, the Georges lived in a frame house on the property while the brick house was being built, which took approximately ten years. The slaves made the bricks which were laid in Flemish bond, cut the wood and quarried the stone; and a family blacksmith forged the hardware. The house was designed with 2 rooms up and 2 down. A one-story brick ell was attached to the rear. In 1900 a kitchen was built onto the ell. The new garage addition stands on those foundations. The basement story which contained a root cellar and weaving room, had small openings, now slightly enlarged, for light and ventilation, a dirt floor, and a massive stone fireplace. The house has 2, external, gable-end chimneys of the simplified tidewater type. They are on the southwest and northeast facades. There is also a rebuilt interior chimney between the rebuilt ell and kitchen-garage addition. The foundation is of limestone so expertly cut and laid that no mortar was needed. The steep gable roof is sheathed in wood shakes. Brick voussoirs are seen above most window and door openings on the basement and first floor.

The front or southeast facade is composed of three bays, with symmetrically spaced 8 over 8 light double hung sash windows in the two end bays and a center doorway with the original raised 6-panel door and 4-light transom. The front porch extends the length of the facade and consists of wood shake shed roof, with new end metal vents, attached at the eave of the main roof supported by six, square, brick posts.

The southwest and northeast facades are identical except for the basement level which is above ground on the southwest and below on the northeast. The first and second floors contain 8 over 8 and 6 over 6 light double hung sash windows, respectively, on each side of the chimney. The basement level on the southwest contains twin 6 over 6 light windows replacing the original, smaller openings, on the east side of the chimney and a 9-light paneled basement door on the west side. The southwest or northeast facades of the rebuilt ell and garage addition are similar with French doors and small 8 over 8 and 6 over 6 light windows on each facade.

The rear or northwest facade is dominated by the garage addition, which has two large garage doors and three 8 over 8 light windows symmetrically spaced on the first floor. One 8 over 8 light window in the main house can be seen on the first floor, as well as twin 6 over 6 light windows in the basement to the west of the ell.

The most interesting features of the house are its cornice and brick posts, both original. The brick cornice is defined by molded brick. The porch has unusual brick posts topped by corbeled capitals. The bases of the posts project, this evidently was done to accommodate a balustrade. Molded bricks are used to decorate the top of the bases. Brick pavers were used in the floor of the porch, which is reached by crossing a herringbone pattern brick sidewalk and climbing three massive limestone steps.

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date entered

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The floor plan of the George House was altered around 1900 by Mary Hood George, widow of Isaac Wright George. The house originally had 2 rooms on each floor of the main section; the kitchen ell was reached through a doorway in the northeast room. A stairway led from the kitchen to the second floor. Another set of steps led to the root cellar and weaving room. As part of her alterations, Mrs. George had a frame addition built onto the rear of the ell. This addition was used as a kitchen; the original kitchen became a dining room. A long porch was then added to the west side of the ell and a smaller well porch built on the east side. On the interior, Mrs. George created a front hall by walling off a portion of the parlor (southwest room). A stair-case of darkly stained pine was built in this hall. The steps to the root cellar were removed and a new flight built under the front stairway. The present owners have rebuilt the flight of steps from the original kitchen to the basement. The cellar steps under the front stairs were closed and the opening is used as a closet. Much of the original wood and hardware is still seen in the house. The crown mold and chair rail in the parlor or front room on the southwest are original as well as all the mantel pieces in the house. One and one half inch thick pine tongue and groove paneling was used in the parlor, stair-case and hall. The front door is also original, designed with six raised panels on the exterior and diagonal boards on the interior.

The storage shed, originally a smoke house, is believed to have been built around the time of the main house. The 1-story, rectangular plan structure is located approximately 20 feet to the east of the main house. It is sheathed in weatherboarding with a steep gable roof, sheathed in seamed metal. The only opening is a doorway centered on the southern facade. A small lean-to was built on the eastern facade. Today the structure is in extremely poor condition, but the owners hope to restore it to its original condition as soon as possible.

The Georges began restoration of the house in 1978. They have replaced the shake roof, removed the rear porches, rebuilt the ell, replaced the 1900 kitchen with a brick addition with new garage excavated below, using original brick and some from an old house in Morristown. They have replaced all the windows with new Pella wood frame windows of the same style and size. They have also restored doors and other wood work, added bathrooms upstairs, and enlarged the basement. Original fabric has been reused in the restoration; where that was not feasible, care has been taken to match the original fabric. Although the flooding of the portion of the George farm from Fort Loudoun Lake has changed the creek to an embayment and covered the site of a large dairy barn in 20-30' of water, the house remains an excellent example of early craftsmanship.

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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1815

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Samuel George House, built circa 1815, is significant as an excellent example of brick and stone craftsmanship rare in this area of East Tennessee. Of particular note is the molded cornice and the unusual configuration of the square brick porch supports. The latter feature corbelled capitals that employ molded bricks and projecting bases, which also employ molded brick as a decoration at the top of the base. The George House is believed to be the earliest brick house in Blount County.

Samuel George was born in 1776 in the Brandywine Valley of Pennsylvania. The Georges were a farming family who came to Tennessee from Pennsylvania around 1795. Samuel George married Barbara Leith in 1799 in Dandridge, Jefferson County, Tennessee and by 1809, George had moved to Blount County. He purchased 522 acres of land on Pistol Creek at the mouth of the Little River for the sum of \$522.38. This bill of sale, signed by Secretary Willie Blount and Governor John Sevier, is still in the possession of the owners. Samuel George died in 1840 leaving over 1180 acres of land, which included his original 522 acres and the brick home. The George property now consists of 62 acres.

The creation of Fort Loudoun Lake in 1943 by the Tennessee Valley Authority has had the most impact on changing the surrounding landscape of the Samuel George House. At the time TVA built Fort Loudoun Lake, Russell Ferry Road which ran in front of the house, was closed. Topside Road, which was built behind the house during this same period, became the main access road to the property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Burns, Inez. History of Blount County, Tennessee. Benson Printing Co., Nashville, Tennessee 1957.
 Document of Land Sale to Samuel George, signed by Gov. John Sevier and Secretary W. Blount, 1812.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 1/2 acre
 Quadrangle name Louisville, Tennessee Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 6	7 7 1 0 8 1 0 1 0	3 1 9 7 1 0 3 1 2 1 0	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of this nomination are rectangular in shape. Beginning at a point where Topside Road intersects the northwest edge of the driveway, the boundary proceeds 160 feet along this edge of the driveway to its intersection with the roadbed of Russell.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nissa Dahlin Brown, Historic Preservationist

organization E. Tennessee Development District date July 9, 1980

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. Hoyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 12/22/81

For HCERS use only

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

William H. Braubach date 1/27/82
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: W. J. D. [Signature] date 1/27/82
 Chief of Registration

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Will of Samuel George-rough draft and final copy dated 1839.

Maryville Enterprise, "Burnt Station, Near Alcoa, Was Scene of Early Blount Massacre," November 28, 1951.

Morristown Citizen Tribune, "Journey into the Past," Don Floyd, June 6, 1971.

Maryville-Alcoa Times. "Slave-made brick are used in George Home," Adele McKenzie, February 25, 1972.

Maryville-Alcoa Times, Elizabeth Timmons from Paper by W. E. Parham, July 12, 1973.

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Ferry Road, then northwest 140 feet along the roadbed, then southwest 140 feet along a natural shrub boundary to the right-of-way of Topside Road, and then southeast along Topside Road to the point of beginning.

Only that half-acre tract of land containing the house and shed within the sixty-two acre farm has been nominated. No other significant outbuildings remain; those extant are of relatively recent construction and widely scattered. Thus they have been excluded.

See attached maps.