

PH0691275

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 28 1977
DATE ENTERED JUL 29 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

DeVault, Valentine House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

DeVault Lane, east of U.S. Highway 11E

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Johnson City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Tennessee

CODE
47

COUNTY
Washington

CODE
179

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. William Weldon DeVault

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4

CITY, TOWN

Johnson City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jonesboro

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Tennessee Architectural and Historic Survey

DATE

November 1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

The Valentine DeVault House faces northeast at the end of DeVault Lane, east of Highway 11E at the W. W. DeVault Bridge. Surrounded by farmlands, the large Federal style brick house with 150 acres of fields and orchards is located across the north shore of the Watauga River.

This building is well preserved. The original plan consists of a two-story rectangular shape, seven-bay principal mass, one room deep with an attached wing extending out from the center of the rear wall. Built of brick and frame, the wing replaces an earlier addition and the former original kitchen house which was attached by an open pass-through. The kitchen house was extended in ca. 1890 and rebuilt in the traditional style. The present addition contains a new kitchen, bedroom suite, and separate apartment on the second floor.

For the principal section the three rooms are connected to the transverse hall and the first and second floor plans are identical. A large parlor room with twelve-foot ceilings on the right side of the hall is balanced by the twenty-foot wide dining room of the same dimensions. A smaller room beyond this room is used as the library and features an outside entrance at the end wall with a portico porch. The interior chimney built across the partition wall divides this room from the dining room. The enclosed chimney and exterior chimney on the north end wall have fireplaces for each of the six rooms.

The classic facade articulation, Flemish bond brickwork, and bilateral symmetry are indicative of the formal interior plan and generous proportions of the interior spaces. There are tall, 9/9 light sashes for the principal rooms and 6/9 light sashes for the second story with square shape windows in the attic gable walls. Legend relates that the carved detail mantles and windows were brought from Virginia. The arcaded one-story portico on the end wall is identical to the design for the two-story portico on the DeVault Tavern at Leesburg. The graceful festoon design in the frieze board and the applied cornice ornaments are unusual in Tennessee but similar to those found on a few houses of the same period in the local area. The entrance porch attached to the main facade has been removed and replaced by a cement terrace which extends across the front. The vigorously carved door enframingent is highlighted by the curved glazing bars and design of the transom and side light panels. The gable roof is formed by pinned rafters and clad with tin sheathing.

On the interior, the floors and woodwork are original. Each fireplace features the original, hand-carved mantelpiece, five and one-half feet tall with vigorously carved sunbursts, starbursts, and stylized pilasters and hand-carved moldings. The plaster finished walls feature wainscot paneling and molded chairrails. The main staircase is designed with two straight flights and a landing extending across the back wall of the entry hall. The spandrel ornaments are carved in the scottish thistle design. The staircase has ramped stairrails, paneled wainscot, paired and tapered balusters, and walnut trim. A staircase from the second floor to the attic features the same design. The rooms are furnished with some of the original furniture of the DeVault family.

There are several early outbuildings, including the historic Bean log cabin and an assortment of frame barns and farm buildings, which are still in use.

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The Valentine DeVault House was built by Valentine DeVault sometime after he and Fredrick DeVault came to Tennessee in 1800. According to early records the house was worked on in 1835 by a Mr. Hall and by a Mr. John Lyles in 1842. It is believed the building was completed about 1842. The rear wing was enlarged beginning in 1890. The former front porch was replaced by the concrete terrace. The outline of this porch shows on the front wall and the design would seem to match the side portico.

The Valentine DeVault House is significant architecturally primarily because of the design which shows the same quality of craftsmanship and attention to detail as the DeVault Tavern at Leesburg, built by Fredrick DeVault in 1821. These two buildings are important landmarks in Washington County.

The most significant outbuilding is the John Bean Cabin which was moved to the site sometime after Pierce DeVault inherited the DeVault House. According to legend, the logs were reconstructed behind the DeVault House after the cabin had been dismantled at its original site across the Watauga River.

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	1821-1842	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Valentine DeVault
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The DeVault brothers were early settlers in Washington and Sullivan counties. This well preserved Federal style brick house of Valentine DeVault's was built following the first settlement period on DeVault land purchased with "subscription money" for services in the Revolutionary War and is still owned by the DeVault family.

Heinrich and Catherine Marie Greever DeVault emigrated from the Palatine region on the French-German border, and arrived in America, September 23, 1766, on the ship "Enchance," sailing from Rotterdam, Holland. They settled in Pennsylvania and made their home in York County, Manheim Township. Heinrich bought property in this area and became a lieutenant in the state militia and served in the Revolutionary War at Valley Forge. A small community near Valley Forge is named DeVault.

Heinrich DeVault purchased 637 acres of land in Tennessee with tender for services rendered during the Revolutionary War. He bought land in Washington County from John Bean who had settled there in 1769. Heinrich also owned land in Sullivan County, and he willed his land holdings to four of his eleven children--Valentine, Henry, Gabriel and Fredrick. According to the 1790 deeds, Gabriel and Henry settled in Sullivan County and eventually Henry moved on to Indiana. When Valentine and Fredrick divided their interest in the Washington County land, Valentine paid his brother the difference for the Watauga River property which was more valuable than the land where Frederick settled two and one-half miles west of Jonesboro. Frederick DeVault built the famous DeVault Tavern at Leesburg, a two and one-half story brick building finished in 1821, on the stage road to Knoxville. The Tavern is listed on the National Register of Historic Plac

Valentine and Frederick DeVault married Mary and Margaret Range who were daughters of Peter Range, a very early settler in Tennessee. Valentine established a prosperous plantation on the shores of the Watauga River and the area was known as the DeVault Ford. Reportedly it took a year for the DeVaults to build the large brick manor house. Some sources say the house was built by John Lyles in 1842; other sources relate it was constructed in 1835 by a Mr. Hall who had a crew of slave laborers. Brick was manufactured on the site and the windows, hand-carved wood mantles, and the majority of wood carpentry was hauled overland from Roanoke, Virginia. Some of the same wood detail appears in the DeVault Tavern at Leesburg and most sources agree that these features indicate the two buildings were built within the same period.

The DeVault House is owned by descendants of Valentine DeVault. His son Isaac inherited the property and bought the 385 acre Massengill plantation, an early grant which eventually reverted to a land company and then back to the Massengill family.

The old John Bean cabin was taken apart and floated across the river from its original site at the confluence of Boone's Creek and the Watauga. Pierce DeVault had it

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Spoden, Muriel C. Historic Sites of Sullivan County. Kingsport, 1976.

Reeves, Leroy. Ancestral Sketch.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

630

A	1,7	37,8	6,2,0	4,0	2,7	7,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

February 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 E. Hays

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

2/24/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. [Signature]

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7/29/77

DATE

8-19-77

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reassembled behind the DeVault House. According to local tradition, this log cabin was where the first white child was born in Tennessee.

The Tennessee Valley Authority built the Boone Dam and flooded the field at the lower part of the property adjacent to the Watauga. The W. W. DeVault Bridge was erected on the new highway 11E from Johnson City to Bristol.

The DeVault House is an architecturally significant structure, the home of prominent early settlers of East Tennessee and an important landmark in the area.

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Heinrich DeVault bought this land from John Bean who had settled here as early as 1769. Bean held the earliest grant to the land and according to legend, the log cabin was built by Bean. Pierce DeVault inherited the DeVault House and moved the cabin during the time he lived on the plantation.