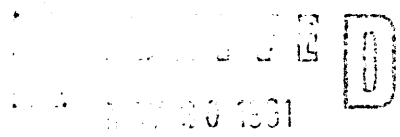


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gernt Office
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Highway 52 N/A not for publication
city, town Allardt N/A vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Fentress code 049 zip code 38504

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic & Architectural Resources of Fentress County Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Herbert L. Byrnes 5/14/91
Signature of certifying official Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Herbert L. Byrnes 7/3/91
Entered in the National Register.
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business

COMMERCE: warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: gable-front commercial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located on Highway 52 in the commercial section of Allardt, the Gernt Office was built in 1898 by Bruno Gernt for use as a land office. The rectangular-plan, commercial building is covered with weatherboard and has an asphalt shingle gable roof. A simple wood belt course is seen above the stone foundation. There is a single brick chimney at the ridgeline. In 1954, a storage building was erected on the property and, in 1964, an addition was appended to the rear of the office.

Facing south, the facade of the office is three bays wide. Two 2/2 double-hung sashes are located to the west of the single-leaf door, which is capped by a transom light. The half-hip roof porch is supported by three turned columns and two pilasters, ornamented with turned wood below the porch eaves, and has a wood porch floor. A plain frieze and a louvered opening are found in the gable end.

The east and west elevations of the original building are identical. Both have two 2/2 double-hung sashes. The east elevation of the addition contains one 2/2 double-hung sash, while the west elevation contains two smaller windows. Although the belt course continues around the addition, it has a concrete block foundation rather than a stone one. The north or rear elevation is composed of the addition, which is slightly lower in height than the original office. One single-leaf door and a 2/2 double-hung sash are found here.

The interior of the Gernt Office is divided into two rooms plus the addition. The walls are sided with beaded board and have a chair rail, cove molding, and baseboards. There is a built-in cabinet in the second room. All of the woodwork evinces fine craftsmanship and much of it is hand planed. Emil Steinert, who also worked on the Allardt Presbyterian Church, constructed the office building and was responsible for the interior trim. An original safe is still in the building. One window opening is visible on the wall in the second room that separates this room from the addition; it was once an exterior window.

North of the office, a one story storage building was erected in 1954. It has an asphalt shingle gable roof and is sided with concrete. Because it is less than fifty years old, it is non-contributing.

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE

Period of Significance
1898-1940

Significant Dates
1898

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
GERNT, BRUNO

Architect/Builder
Steinert, Emil

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Gernt Office is being nominated under criteria A and B for its local significance in commerce and for its association with Bruno Gernt. The office was used by Gernt to manage the land sales that were responsible for the development of Allardt. It has continued to be used by family members as a business office. The building retains a high degree of integrity and meets the registration requirements of the multiple property form for Fentress County.

Bruno Gernt was born in Dresden, Germany, in 1851. He first emigrated to England, but, by the 1870s, he was in Michigan. Gernt helped provide financing to people buying land in Allardt and recruited emigrants from Germany. He began working with M. H. Allardt, for whom the town was named, but he joined with Alexander Stephens after Allardt's death. Stephens worked in their Cincinnati office, while Gernt was responsible for the office in the new community of Allardt.

Because of his involvement in land sales, Gernt helped to establish clear title to many of the areas that had been in dispute. In addition to his business activities, he supported the establishment of the first school in the community and recruited Max Colditz and Virgil Easley to teach there. Bruno Gernt's house was listed in the National Register in 1987, and it is also significant because of its association with Gernt. Both properties are equally important and reflect the influence that Gernt had on the community. During his lifetime, Gernt had a sidewalk built between his house and the office, a distance of about two-thirds of a mile, so that he could easily walk between them (the walk is no longer extant).

After Gernt's death in 1932, the office continued to be used for commercial enterprises by the family, the executors of the Estate of Bruno Gernt. Bruno's sons, Hugo and Arthur, were involved in the lumber industry and were pioneers in the oil industry during the early 1900s. They helped to organize mining interests in the Davidson-Wilder area of Fentress county and operated a store there. Since 1956, the office has been used by the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allardt Homecoming '86 Committee. Allardt: A History. Jamestown, Tennessee: Fentress Courier, 1986.

Gernt, Gerald W. and Yvonne M. National Register Nomination for the Bruno Gernt House, 1986.

Gernt, Gerald W. Letter of 17 March 1991

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	6	6	8	9	8	1	0	4	0	2	8	0	7	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Jamestown 115 NW
Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes parcel 4 in block 6 "A" of map 86G for Allardt, Fentress County. The lot is 75' X 100'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Gernt Office includes all of the parcel it sits on.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudette Stager/Historic Preservation Specialist
organization Tennessee Historical Commission date February 1991
street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615/ 742-6723
city or town Nashville state Tennessee zip code 37243

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2 Gernt Office

Estate of Bruno Gernt, Inc. to manage their land, timber, and natural resources. Other companies or organizations that used the office include the Allardt Real Estate Association, from 1898 until 1933; Walter Gernt Lumber and Farms, from 1932 until 1965; the Gernt-Taylor Lumber Company, from 1948 until 1963; the Arthur Gernt Estate, Farms and Holdings, from 1950 until 1973; the Hugo Gernt Estate Holdings, from 1956 until 1973; the Gernt Lumber Company, from 1965 to the present; and the Allardt Cemetery Association, from 1928 to the present. Except for the Allardt Cemetery Association, these companies all involved Gernt family members.

The office is one of the few intact commercial buildings in the community. Two other commercial buildings are located in the proposed Youngs Historic District, but many of the stores or hotels in the town are no longer extant or are in unsound condition.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photos 1 Gernt Office

Section number _____ Page _____

Gernt Office
Highway 52
Allardt, Fentress County Tennessee
Photo by: Claudette Stager
Date: February 1991
Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

South facade, facing north
#1 of 5

South facade and east elevation, facing northwest
#2 of 5

South facade and west elevation, facing northeast
#3 of 5

North and east elevations and outbuilding, facing southwest
#4 of 5

Office interior showing original woodwork
#5 of 5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Gernt Office

