

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 ~~William Cullum House~~

and/or common Cullum Mansion (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 609 Cullum Street N/A not for publication

city, town Carthage N/A vicinity of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

state Tennessee code 047 county Smith code 159

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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" 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. Joel F. Maggart

street & number 609 Cullum Street

city, town Carthage N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37030

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Smith County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Carthage state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

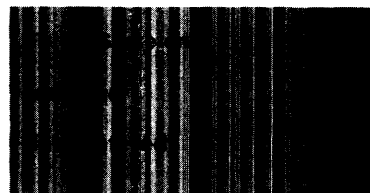
The Cullum Mansion, a large 2½-story Greek Revival style brick house constructed in 1848 by William Cullum, is located on Cullum Street at the end of Fisher Avenue just off Main Street in Carthage, the small county seat town of rural Smith County. The house sits atop a sloping hill on an acre corner lot and overlooks a small 1920s-40s residential neighborhood. The Cullum Mansion is 2½ stories in height over a full basement and ell-shaped with its bricks laid in the stretcher bond pattern. It has a metal-covered low gable roof with gable end brick chimneys and stands on a roughcut stone foundation, which is covered on the exterior with smooth dressed stone. The west facade of the Cullum Mansion is three bays wide and features a central two-story flat portico supported by four pairs of square Doric columns and pilasters. Central double-leaf doors with rectangular transoms, corner lights, side lights, and decorated shouldered architrave trim located on both stories are flanked by paired 4/4 light windows with wood bull's eye corner block lintels. A denticulated frieze and cornice trims the roof eaves. Both the exterior and very fine interior of the house remain with little alteration and in good condition, retaining a high degree of architectural integrity. The only alteration of any extent is the rear two-story verandah, which was somewhat rebuilt and partially enclosed for the adding of a bedroom and two baths in the mid-twentieth century.

The ell-shaped Cullum Mansion faces west. Its front or main section has a north room-central hallway-south room plan and its ell is two rooms deep and one room wide with a brick chimney dividing the two rooms. The ell extends easterly from the north room of the front section of the house. Side elevations of the front section of the house each have gable end brick chimneys; no structural openings are found on the south side elevation and the north side elevation has a 9/9 light rectangular window with a bull's eye corner block lintel on the first and second story below a small square attic window, all placed east of the chimney. The north side elevation of the ell is two bays wide and has paired 4/4 light windows matching those of the facade on both stories. Two small square attic windows are located on the ell's rear, or east, elevation.

In the rear, a two-story, shed-roofed verandah supported by square wood posts extends across both the front section of the house and the ell. The verandah has been enclosed on the second story, to house bedrooms and baths, and conceals the 9/9 light windows and single-leaf doors of the second story rear elevations. The verandah remains open on the first story, revealing the 9/9 light windows and single-leaf doors of the rear elevations. A staircase that leads from the first story to the second story central hallway door is exposed on the first story of the verandah. A frame bathroom is built in the corner of the verandah on the first story; it was added in the 1930s. A second stairway, of stone steps and enclosed with stone walls, leads from the first story verandah across the ell down to a full basement underneath the house. (The basement has two other exterior entrances, one at the south elevation of the front section of the house and one at the east elevation of the ell.) The verandah was rebuilt, using new materials and constructed similarly to the original verandah, within the last twenty years.

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The Cullum Mansion's interior remains almost unaltered with fine Greek Revival period mantels, doors, built-in cabinets, staircases, molding, and flooring intact. Particularly noteworthy are the oval spiral staircase and rounded rear wall of the central hall and the baseboard graining of the first story south parlor. The basement of the Cullum Mansion, originally housing the kitchen and servants quarters, remains unusually intact with herringbone-patterned brick floors, four fireplaces, an original large kitchen mantel, much of the original wall plastering, and two original, very large wood cabinet pieces of furniture.

All of the Cullum Mansion's outbuildings have been demolished and there are no other outbuildings located on the house's acre lot. The property is casually landscaped with mature trees, shrubs, and foundation plantings.

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

**Specific dates** 1848 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The 1848 Cullum Mansion is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its association with William Cullum (1810-1896), a prominent Tennessee political figure, and for its architectural significance to Carthage and Smith County as an excellent and outstanding representation of Greek Revival style architecture.

William Cullum (in some references spelled Cullom) was born in Elk Spring Valley, Wayne County, Kentucky on June 4, 1810, the son of William and Elizabeth (Northcraft) Cullum. He studied law at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky and was admitted to the bar prior to his move to Tennessee.

Cullum married Virginia Ingram in 1839; their five children were named Marietta, Virginia, Cornelius Perry, Ella, and Leslie. He married a second time, to Mary Griffith in White County, Tennessee. Eight children by this marriage were Minnie, Florence, Clara, Albert Sidney Johnston, William, Ella, Rosa May, and Cora Henderson.

Cullum began his law practice at Gainesboro, Jackson County, practicing in courts of Tennessee and Kentucky. He moved to Carthage, Smith County at an undetermined date before 1843 to continue practicing law. He had a very active political career, as attested to by the many offices he served:

Chairman Tennessee delegation to commercial convention held at Memphis, Shelby County, 1845; presidential elector, 1848, on Whig ticket of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore; delegate for state-at-large to Whig National Convention of 1852; elected as a Whig to U.S. House of Representatives, 32nd and 33rd Congresses, March 4, 1851 to March 3, 1855; unsuccessful candidate for same office, 1854, appointed clerk of U.S. House of Representatives, 34th Congress, serving from February 4, 1856 to December 6, 1857; served number of times as special judge in circuit and chancery courts; and served as attorney-general for 16th Judicial Circuit, 1873-78.

Later in life, William Cullum moved to Clinton, Tennessee where he died in 1896.

At the onset of William Cullum's political career, he began construction of the Cullum Mansion. The large 2½-story Greek Revival style house he built in 1848 remains in good condition and very little altered, except for the partially enclosed verandah across the rear and a few minor modifications on the interior. The large three bay house is an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style in a large brick plantation house of rural, eastern Middle Tennessee.

The ell shape, low gable roof, gable end chimneys and central hall plan of the Cullum Mansion are common to numerous Federal and Greek Revival period houses in Tennessee. These features used in combination with varying elements from the realm of characteristics that typify Greek Revival style architecture, such as the central bay, two-story

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

McBride, Robert M. and Dan M. Robison. Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, Volume I 1796-1861, Nashville: The Tennessee State Library and Archives and the Tennessee Historical Commission, 1975.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property One

Quadrangle name Carthage, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	5	9	4	5	5	0	4	0	1	2	5	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C 

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D 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundaries are shown on the accompanying Smith County property assessment map # 54A which is drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. These boundaries were selected to include the house and acre lot on which it sits.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shain T. Dennison, Architectural Historian

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date October, 1982

street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615/742-6716

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

## 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.

Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert C. Byrum

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 11/23/82

For HCRS use only

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

Herbert C. Byrum  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register date 1/4/83

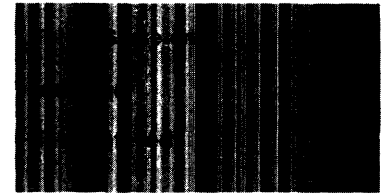
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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flat portico with paired, slender, square Doric columns; double-leaf door with rectangular transom, corner lights, side lights and shouldered architrave trim on both stories; paired windows with bull's eye corner block lintels; denticular cornice; and virtually unaltered Greek Revival period interior detailing, make the Cullum Mansion an individual and excellent example of a local interpretation of Greek Revival style architecture.

The Cullum Mansion has had only a few owners since leaving the Cullum family in 1898. Judge J. T. Fisher bought the house from the Cullum estate in 1898. In 1925 a portion of the estate was sold to Glen Womack for subdivision. The house was sold by Womack to W. W. Chambers in 1926. Chesley Richardson purchased the Cullum Mansion from Chambers in 1966. After six months, Richardson sold the house and its acre lot to the present owners.



in  
Meigs County, Tennessee

- PARCEL NUMBER
- PARCEL HOOK
- INTERIOR TRACT LINE
- DISTRICT LINE
- SUBD. LOT N<sup>o</sup>
- PARCEL OUTLINE
- TOTAL ACREAGE
- SECTION CORNERS

- PARCEL & CONTROLLING MAP N<sup>o</sup>
- IMPROVEMENT
- FENCE
- CEMETERY
- CHURCH
- SCHOOL
- WOODED AREA
- POND

- CREEK
- STATE LINE
- CO. LINE
- CORPS LIMITS
- TRANSMISSION LINE
- ROAD
- RAILROAD
- RIDGE LINE



46M	45P	45O
53 D	54A	54 B
53E	54 H	54 G