

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Robertson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 18 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Arthur Pitt ^{House} Home & Distillery (Rep. Richard Fulton)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *NE of Springfield off Tenn. 49*
~~Highway 49, Orinda Pike~~

CITY OR TOWN:
Springfield *me*

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Robertson	CODE 147
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Louis Draughon

STREET AND NUMBER:
Highway 49, Orinda Pike

CITY OR TOWN:
Springfield

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Robertson County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Springfield

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

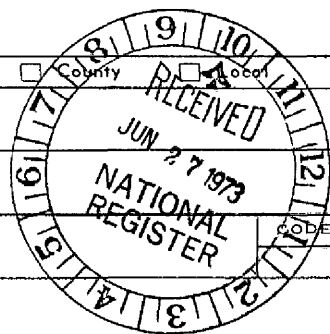
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original portion of this house was built circa 1800 by Arthur Pitt. It was constructed of solid brick with eight inch thick walls. The house was a one story structure consisting of two rooms with a hall between them. The dining room, kitchen and pantry were located in the basement which was completely bricked, including the floor. There was a fireplace in the dining room at one end and a walk-in fireplace in the kitchen at the other end of the house. The entrance was a portico with four square columns at the front and two half-columns against the house. The double front doors and the woodwork around them were of walnut.

The house had an addition constructed at the rear in 1856 by Wilson Pitt. Two rooms with two connecting halls were added. The halls opened onto verandas at both ends. This addition was constructed of clapboard. At some unknown date the house was painted white.

Pitt Brothers Registered Distillery #135 was located on this property. Two of the main buildings of the distillery remain. One was a two story clapboard warehouse. The other was the primary distillery building. It was also constructed of clapboard and located near the spring. Both buildings were constructed of solid timbers from trees on the farm. They are painted red at the present time.



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7. DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

The Pitt Distillery, built in the 1880's, is located a few hundred yards back of the Pitt home, on a spring that was the source of water supply for the distillery operations. Few changes have been made in the building since the distillery was closed, with even the sign identifying the distillery and its registration number, No.135, remaining. The equipment, however, has been removed. Both of the remaining buildings, the warehouse and the distillery building, are of simple clapboard construction with ventilators on the roof. The distillery, also has a dormer and two gabled entrances on one elevation. It bears resemblance to a barn, and has been used as such at times. The operation is described by W. P. Titus in his book Picturesque Clarksville published in 1887: "Rectified whiskey was the pure Robertson County double copper distilled nectar with the headache and the fighting mania extracted by chasing it twice through a long copper worm and a hogshead of charcoal."

There is no information available as to other buildings involved in the operation, but it is probable that other warehouses, together with the distillery, comprised the complete operation. There are no remains of other buildings.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

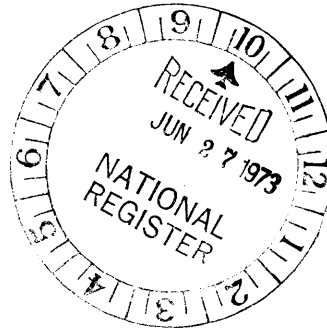
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Robertson County was famous for its whiskey distilling industry during the nineteenth century. At one time there were seventy-five distilleries producing whiskey with some of the brands famous all over the world. In 1909 the Tennessee legislature passed an act prohibiting the manufacture and sale of whiskey and beer in the state. At that time Pitt Brothers Registered Distillery #135 (also known as Pitt's Cave Springs Distillery) ceased manufacturing whiskey. At the present time his house and the buildings located nearby are the only remaining structures associated with the distilling industry in Robertson County.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holman, Catherine and Jean Durrett, Historic Robertson County.
Robertson County Board of Education, P. 30.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

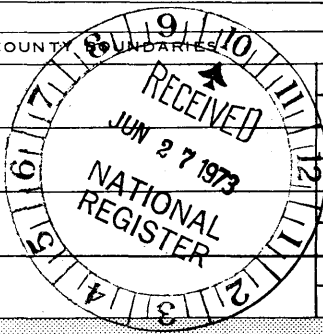
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	36 °	32 '	41 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	86 °	48 '	53 "
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

NO
UTM
CG

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Linda O'Neal

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 6-15-73

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Michael J Smith

Title Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 6-25-73

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

Ernest A. Conually
~~State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act~~
Associate Director, Professional Services
Date DEC 18 1973

ATTEST:

Compton
Keeper of The National Register
Date 12.13.73

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.)

Robertson County was distinguished during its early days for its whiskey manufacturing. The first settlers brought with them the knowledge of distilling whiskey from corn and brandy from apples and peaches. At first this was for home use and local consumption. The first distillery was begun in 1798, and the industry grew until at one time Robertson County had 75 distilleries. Almost every farmer in the county who had a cool accessible spring was a distiller using copper stills with a capacity of making 10 to 30 gallons a day.

In the 1880's, it cost \$125,000 per year to manufacture the barrels used by the county's distillers. In 1885, Nelson's Distillery alone produced 379,125 gallons of bourbon. Sour-mash bourbon gained a world-wide reputation at this time. Following an act of legislature of Tennessee prohibiting the manufacture and sale of whiskey, on June 30, 1909, Robertson's County's two remaining distilleries, Pitt's and Nelson's, went out of business forever.

Thus, Pitt's Distillery, operated from the 1880's until 1909, by the Pitt Brothers, remains today as the only surviving reminder of the distilleries which were once so important to the county, and is a very significant property in the county.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont.)

Titus, W. P., Picturesque Clarksville (Clarksville, 1887).

