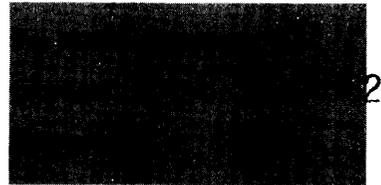


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Robert C. Harris House

and/or common Vance Galloway House

**2. Location**

W of South Berlin on TN 50

street & number South Berlin Road at State Highway 50 N/A not for publication

city, town South Berlin vicinity  
Bryant Station vicinity of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

state Tennessee code 047 county Marshall code 117

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. Vance Galloway

street & number Highway 431

city, town Lewisburg N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37091

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Marshall County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Lewisburg state Tennessee 37091

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A 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

### 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

Constructed in the 1880's the Robert G. Harris House is a two-story, frame building in a fanciful Gothic design. The house is located in rural Marshall County, Tennessee, near the community of Bryant Station on the South Berlin Road at State Highway 50, five miles northwest of the county seat, Lewisburg (pop. 8,245). The front elevation of the building is distinguished by three, two-story porches with steep gable roofs, bargeboards, spindles, brackets, and balconies. On the interior the house has almost all of its original Eastlake hardware, doors, mantels, and other woodwork, much of which has a strawberry vine motif. Surrounded by open fields the gently sloping property contains a few mature trees and a one-story, frame store built approximately at the same time as the house. The Harris House is relatively unaltered and retains an outstanding degree of its exterior and interior architectural integrity.

The Marshall County location of the Harris House is in the south-central section of Middle Tennessee. Facing east the building is situated at the top of a slight rise above the Silver Creek bottoms. A few mature trees randomly placed provide the only landscaping on the property.

In plan the clapboard house has a two-story front section (54' x 18') with a one-story T-shaped ell at the rear southwest corner of the building. The roof of the two-story section has asphalt shingles and two interior chimneys with corbeled caps. Both gable-ends of this section have wooden shingles in addition to s-curve bargeboards on the south gable. All the windows are four-over-four except for the rear second-story ones, which are six-over-six.

The front facade is divided into three equal bays by three, two-story porches of identical design, except that the middle porch is proportionally larger than the other two. The porches have steep gable roofs with bargeboards of s-curve jigsaw design and with apexes of diamond-shaped shingles. Four, tall piers divide each narrow porch into three bays and support scalloped arches with pendants. Above each high central arch is the shingled apex of the gable, and above the lower side arches bead-and-dowel spindles. Each porch has a second-story, cantilevered balcony with turned balusters. The missing two piers on the left porch have been stored away and will be reinstalled soon.

On the interior the two-story section of the house has a simple plan with a central hall and two flanking rooms (21' x 18') on each floor. The rear wall of the first-floor hall contains a half-turn stairs with narrow, turned balusters and with the underside of the stairs paneled with narrow boards having a strawberry vine design. The north room on the first floor has an elaborate mantel and wainscoting which repeat the strawberry pattern. The south room has a more simple mantel and no wainscoting. The walls of the two second-story rooms are covered in horizontal tongue-and-groove boards. Neither of these rooms has a fireplace or mantel.

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The connecting section of the rear ell consists of one room with an open south porch and a recently enclosed north porch. The other section of the ell is also a single room and is similarly paneled in the horizontal, tongue-and-groove boards.

At the southeast corner of the property is a one-story vernacular store of board-and-batten construction and measuring 20' x 88', which is approximately the same age as the house. The east gable-end of the building faces the road and has two shuttered windows between which is a door with transom. The gable-ends have deep eaves and cornice returns. There is a shed porch along part of the south side of the building with a corrugated metal roof similar to that of the store. There are no other buildings on the property except the store and the house.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1880's **Builder/Architect** Robert C. Harris

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Robert C. Harris House is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its local architectural significance as a very skillful and original wooden Gothic design of the 1880's. The building illustrates how standardized machine-made architectural elements were used in the late nineteenth century to produce very imaginative facades on basically simple houses. Unlike many frame residences of the period, the house has had no significant alterations and retains almost all of its original exterior and interior features.

The building was designed and constructed by Robert C. Harris, a former carpenter from Galveston, Texas, who came to Marshall County in the 1880's and opened a general store in the building at the corner of the property. If Harris had his own woodworking tools, he may have made the various decorative elements of the house himself, or he could have easily ordered the spindles, balusters, brackets, and other details from one of the many building supply catalogs of the period. The technology and merchandising of the late nineteenth century made such architectural elements readily available to anyone. The significant achievement of Harris was his skillful use of these details in a very original and fanciful facade. In his design Harris was following the vogue of the time for a variety of textures and shapes in wooden buildings popularized by the Queen Anne and Eastlake styles.

The inventive architectural style of the Robert C. Harris House is unique in the south-central section of Middle Tennessee. The general Gothic character of the building is derived from its steep gabled porches and their s-curve bargeboards. Equally distinctive is the romantic or picturesque quality given the house by the great variety of textures and forms on the porches and elsewhere. The use of ball-and-dowel spindles, scalloped arches with pendants, and diamond-shaped shingles on the tall, narrow porches in combination with their Gothic features creates a very ornamental design on the front elevation of the simple, rectangular house. Diagonal clapboards on the porch walls and the cantilevered balconies with turned balusters add even greater diversity and interest to the facade. The overall composition gives the building a light, airy, and vertical appearance characteristic of Gothic designs.

On the interior the house retains most of its original features, including Eastlake hardware, mantles, doors, woodwork and even the early screen doors on the front entrance, balconies, and south porch. Unfortunately the first-floor walls have been painted many times, and it is likely that the currently bare wooden walls on the second floor and in the ell were originally papered.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Kiser, John. "The Robert Harris House at Silver Creek." Marshall County Historical Quarterly, VII (Fall, 1976), 60.  
 Interviews with: Mr. Vance Galloway, owner of the property  
 Mr. Ralph Whitesell, Marshall County Historian

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 2.5 acres

Quadrangle name Verona, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1 6	5 1 1	3 5 0	3 9	2 8	5 4 0	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing						
C							D					
E							F					
G							H					

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

### 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	Lloyd Ostby, Coordinator of Field Services Jesse C. Mills, Chief Librarian and Historian		
organization	Tennessee Historical Commission Tennessee Valley Authority	date	October 1982
street & number	701 Broadway 400 West Summit Hill Drive	telephone	615/742-6723 615/632-3466
city or town	Nashville Knoxville	state	37203 Tennessee 37902

## 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 L. Hargis*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 12/22/82

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>J. Nelson Byrum</i>	Entered in the National Register date <u>1/27/83</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Although the store is now in deteriorated condition, its deep eaves and cornice return give the building some architectural character, and it is a rare example in Marshall County of a late nineteenth-century frame commercial structure. The store and the house are now owned by Vance Galloway who rents the house and uses the other building for storage.

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded on the north by a fence line, on the east by the South Berlin Road, on the south by State Highway 50 and adjacent property lines, and on the west by adjacent property lines. The boundaries contain the minimal property necessary to convey the historical context of the house and store.