National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Complete each line by checking the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter “N/A” for “not applicable.” For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuations (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name BREVARD-MACON HOUSE

other names/site number WHARTON HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 902 West Main Street

city or town Woodbury

county Cannon

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain) __________

Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the National Register

Date of Action

12-23-94
### Brevard-Macon House

**Name of Property:**

**County and State:** Cannon County, TN

#### 5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>(Check only one box)</td>
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</tr>
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**Name of related multiple property listing:**

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:**

0

#### 6. Function or Use

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<tr>
<td>DOMESTIC: secondary structures</td>
<td>DOMESTIC: secondary structures</td>
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#### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

**Materials**

- foundation: STONE
- walls: WOOD: weatherboard
- roof: METAL: tin
- other: WOOD

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see continuation sheets
Brevard-Macon House
Name of Property

Cannon County, TN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

N/A

Q A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1896, 1926

Significant Dates
1896, 1926

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register 1982

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

Record #

☑ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☒ University

☐ Other

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
Brevard-Macon House
Name of Property

Cannon County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.6 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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Woodbury, TN 319SE

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James K. Dowden and Carroll Van West

organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
date May 1, 1994

street & number PO Box 80, MTSU

telephone 615-898-2947

city or town Murfreesboro

state TN

zip code 37132

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Kate Wharton

street & number 902 West Main Street

telephone 615-563-4255

city or town Woodbury

state TN

zip code 37190

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
VII. Description

The Brevard-Macon House is situated on top of a hill on a 1.6 acre lot located at the northwest corner of US 70S (Main Street) and Auburntown Roads at 902 West Main Street in Woodbury, Cannon County, Tennessee. This two-story vernacular Queen Anne house was built in 1896 for Mr. William F. Brevard, who owned a flour mill located within a few hundred yards of the house and just across Murfreesboro Road. It sits in a well-landscaped lot whose size has not changed since the establishment of the property in 1896. Most plantings and trees date to, at least, the mid-1920s.

The house is weatherboard, with a steeply-pitched, multi-planed, embossed tin roof, which dates to circa 1926. It has three interior brick corbeled chimneys. It stands on its original limestone foundation and concrete steps (circa 1926) lead to the front porch.

The front (or south facade) is dominated by a two-story front-facing gabled bay, which is adjacent to the main entrance door. This bay has three symmetrically placed original double-hung one over one sash windows, with plain lintels, on the first floor and on the second floor. Aluminum storm windows cover these. The bay is weatherboard on the first two floors, but its pediment is covered with fish-scale shingles and decorative Eastlake-like consoles connecting the pediment to the second story of the house. The pediment has a center louvered vent. A symmetrically placed door on the second floor matches the primary entrance on the first floor. Near the east corner is a second original door which opens into a first floor bedroom. An original double-deck Victorian-styled spindlework veranda wraps around the south facade to connect to the two-story gabled bay on the east elevation. Its spindled frieze is original as are its four slender turned posts, with lace-like brackets, that support a turned spindle railing on both the first and second floors. At the southeast corner of the porch is a gabled pediment, which adds significantly to the vernacular Queen Anne appearance of the front facade. Below the pediment are two symmetrically placed one-over-one, double-hung, sash windows, one on the first floor and one on the second floor.
Brevard-Macon House, Cannon County, TN

The east elevation also is dominated by a two-story projecting gabled bay which has the same features as the south facade bay. Also visible to the north is the enclosed (circa 1970) rear porch of the dwelling. The porch has paired, double-hung sash, two-over-two, horizontal, aluminum windows with sidelights.

The north elevation shows the original kitchen wing of the dwelling as well as the enclosed porch from about 1970. Before its enclosure, the porch was screened with wire mesh and had a wooden deck. The porch enclosure is beveled but laid in compatible size to the original weatherboard of the house. The porch elevation consists primarily of five connected two over two horizontal double hung sash aluminum windows. To the immediate west of the windows is a rear entrance door, with a modern screen door. West of the porch is the original kitchen wing, which has a single symmetrically placed original one over one double hung sash window. The wing has a steep gable roof outline and in circa 1970 an unadorned shed porch was added to the west end of the kitchen wing. Interestingly, no windows were placed on the second floor visible on the north elevation. Two original interior chimneys are visible as well as the chimney outlet for the stove in the kitchen wing.

The west elevation of the house shows the kitchen wing of the dwelling as well as two bays on the main section of the house. The kitchen wing is either original to the initial construction date or added shortly after construction. According to the family, the wing existed before the Macons acquired the property in 1926. The kitchen wing has an original centered entrance door, which now has, in addition, a modern screen door. The unadorned shed porch added in about 1970 is visible. On the main section of the house, the north windows on the first and second floors are paired, double-hung one over one sash windows. The south windows are double-hung one over one sash windows. The upper floor windows are hooded by metal awnings added in about 1970.

The hardware and decorative detail of the interior exhibit a high degree of integrity. Original hardwood floors are intact as well as original ten inch baseboards, doors, mantels, door surrounds, window surrounds, doors with glass
transoms, and wooden ceilings. There is Eastlake interior detail. The spindlework grille divides the entrance hall and parlor from the rest of the first floor. The grille is similar to one (R2211) found in "Roberts' Illustrated Millwork Catalog" a turn-of-the-century source book of architectural woodwork produced by the E. L. Roberts & Company. Another late Victorian decorative is the Bull's Eye head blocks on each original door surround. These are similar to ones (R1135 1/2) found in the Roberts catalog. Throughout the house, the decorative woodwork has been stained a dark brown, its original color.

The first floor interior reflects a typical Queen Anne floor plan. On the first floor, the entrance hall opens to the east to a large open room, probably used as an informal waiting or greeting area.

Immediately across the hall is the more formal parlor, which could be closed off by original pocket sliding five-paneled doors. The original Neoclassical styled mantle, with its two small Doric columns and blue/beige tilework surrounding the fireplace, is intact.

Immediately north of the parlor doors is an original Eastlake-styled door with transom that leads into the original dining room. The mantle in the dining room is also original, but it lacks the Neoclassical detailing of the parlor mantle.

A door in the north wall of the dining room leads to the original kitchen. With its unadorned clapboard walls, intact operating c. 1926 plumbing, and attached stove, the room is a remarkable document of the typical appearance of a turn-of-the-century kitchen. Its windows and doorways are adorned with decorative Bull's Eye molding.

The first floor's central staircase, with its decorative turned posts, divides the parlor, dining room, and kitchen from the east side of the dwelling. An original door leads to a small storage area under the staircase.

On the east side of the first floor is the master bedroom. It has an original closet door which flanks the west side of
Brevard-Macon House, Cannon County, TN

the original mantle and fireplace. The original rear entrance door, with its decorative bulls-eye molding and transom, now leads to the enclosed porch.

The porch was enclosed in 1970. The exterior clapboarding is still evident, but vinyl tiles now cover the floor, a drop ceiling has been added in addition to fake wood paneling on the west and north walls. This is the only significantly altered space on the first floor.

Between the porch and the first floor bedroom is the dwelling's bathroom. Vinyl tiles cover the floor and the hardware in this room dates to circa 1970.

On the second floor, there are three original bedrooms centered around a large open area over the first floor. These rooms are now used for storage and all, except for the southern most room, retain their original mantles, flooring, and decorative Bull's Eye head blocks over the windows and doors, save for the southern most room. The ceilings have been covered with acoustical tiles. In the southern most room, the original mantle has been removed at an unknown date and replaced by a crude and unpainted wooden mantle.

The house is in good structural condition. The only significant alteration to the house was the enclosure of the back porch in about 1970.

The lot is landscaped with oak and magnolia trees shading the structure. There are five wooden outbuildings with tin roofs and a wooden barn with a tin roof located on the property. E. L. Macon built these six buildings in 1926. The buildings are located to the immediate rear (north) of the house and extend west to the graveled driveway of the property. The wooden frame shed roof privy (C) is located to the rear of the kitchen wing. To the west stand the wooden frame gable roof garage (C), a wooden frame shed roof storage shed (C), a wooden frame shed roof granary (C), and a wooden frame gable roof barn (C). These historic outbuildings, associated with the freighting business of the Macon family, retain their historical integrity and are contributing elements in this nomination.
Two outbuildings are non-contributing. To the northeast of the kitchen wing is a wooden shed roof storage building for garden utensils that has been enclosed with a metal front (NC, due to alteration). On the west side, adjacent to the kitchen, is a stone water pumphouse, built in about 1960, that is now covered in ivy (NC, due to date).
Brevard-Macon House, Cannon County, TN

VIII. Statement of Significance

The Brevard-Macon House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a locally significant example of vernacular Queen Anne architecture in Woodbury, Cannon County, Tennessee.

Historically isolated from major transportation corridors in the post-Civil War decades, Woodbury developed in the late nineteenth century as a small rural county seat. In 1886, for example, the town's population was placed at 600, with about a dozen businesses in operation. The county lacked a railroad and relied instead on local turnpikes that connected the town to nearest railroad at Murfreesboro as well as the county's second largest commercial center, the town of Auburntown. In 1896, William Ferrell Brevard (born in 1857) located his stylish Victorian home at the western outskirts of Woodbury in a small "suburb" known still today as Edgefield, at the point where the roads to Auburntown (today's Tennessee 145) and Murfreesboro (today's US 70S) met.

Brevard was an important figure in local commercial markets. A miller for twenty-five years, he built the first flour rolling mills in Cannon County, which operated a few hundred yards south of his house on a fork of the Stones River. Brevard supplemented his income through a political patronage post as a local U.S. Commissioner of Revenue for several years.

In 1904, Brevard moved into Woodbury by swapping homes with his mother Margaret Ferrel Brevard and his brothers Ernest and Lewis. The mother and sons stayed in the house until her death in 1918 when the sons sold the house to R. H. Bryson who sold it again (by early 1920s) to Horace Fugitte.

Locally prominent freighter and businessman E. L. "Vanderbilt" Macon, the brother of country music legend "Uncle" Dave Macon, acquired the house in 1926. He then built for his business several outbuildings, which remain and contribute to the property's significance.
Judging from historic photographs in Robert L. Mason's *History of Cannon County, Tennessee* (1984), few Victorian styled houses were built in Woodbury during the nineteenth century. The Commodore Perry Brown House once stood on High Street; it was demolished in about 1950. The Brevard-Macon House is one of only two dwellings in Woodbury that could be described as exhibiting the architectural characteristics of Queen Anne style. The other Queen Anne style house is the frame Lester-Bryant House (1900) on High Street in Woodbury. Both houses have some similarities in the window placement and decorative details on the two-story bays as well as the spindlework of the porches. They may have been constructed by the same local builder. The interior of this house, however, has not been assessed and it is unknown whether this only other remaining example of Queen Anne style would be eligible for listing in the National Register.

Research in the late 1980s led to the nomination of the Baptist Female College/Adams House (NR 6/25/87) and the William Houston Cannon House (NR 6/16/89) in Woodbury. Both dwellings were based on the traditional central hall plans and were Middle Tennessee I-houses in their basic configuration. With its distinctive Queen Anne style, the Brevard-Macon House, then, adds to current understanding of domestic architecture in Woodbury and Cannon County.

The prominent projecting bays on the south and east facades of the Brevard-Macon House, as well as its double deck wrap-around veranda with frieze, are significant folk interpretations of Queen Anne architecture. Eastlake-influenced interior details, in the spindlework grilles and door and window surrounds, are also significant in addition to the relatively unchanged early twentieth century kitchen.

Woodbury, in general, experienced slow economic growth between the Civil War and the construction of the Memphis to Bristol Highway in the mid-1920s. William Brevard, the original owner of this nominated dwelling, was one of the few businessmen to do well and by constructing his striking Queen Anne dwelling at the junction of the county's two primary commercial roads, he made an architectural statement of his relative prosperity and standing within the
Brevard-Macon House, Cannon County, TN

community. [Indeed, in the 1936 history of Cannon County by Sterling Brown the Brevard family was individually listed as one of the most prominent in the county.] Interestingly, the house next passed to a prominent freighter, E. L. Macon, who purchased the house at around the time the modern Memphis to Bristol Highway was completed between Murfreesboro and Woodbury. The dwelling remains an important historic and architectural landmark in Woodbury and is a rare example in this town and county of Victorian domestic architecture.
Brevard-Macon House, Cannon County, TN

Bibliography


Cannon County Registry of Deeds, Book 21, p. 434 and Book 23, p. 26

Cannon County Wills, Book C, p. 28.


Wharton, Kate. Interview with James Dowden, November 1993 in Woodbury, TN.
Brevard-Macon House, Cannon County, TN

Verbal Boundary Description

The Brevard-Macon House lies at 902 West Main Street at the northwest corner of the junction of Tennessee Highway 145 and US Highway 70S in Woodbury, TN. Its boundaries are shown as Lot "D" 3 on the attached Cannon County tax map 39-J.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain all of the historic property associated with the Brevard-Macon House.
Brevard-Macon House, Cannon County, TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Brevard-Macon House
Woodbury, Cannon County, TN
Photos by: Carroll Van West
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
Date: November 1993
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
701 Broadway
Nashville, TN

South facade, facing north
#1 of 24

South facade/east elevation, facing northwest
#2 of 24

East elevation, facing west
#3 of 24

North elevation, facing south
#4 of 24

West elevation, facing east
#5 of 24

West elevation, facing northeast
#6 of 24

Entrance hall, first floor, facing north
#7 of 24

Spindlework partition detail, entrance hall, facing south
#8 of 24

Parlor, facing east toward hallway
#9 of 24

Parlor mantle, facing north
#10 of 24

Dining room mantle, facing south
#11 of 24
Brevard-Macon House, Cannon County, TN

Staircase, first floor, facing north
#12 of 24

Staircase, first floor, facing northwest
#13 of 24

Bedroom, first floor, facing northwest
#14 of 24

Kitchen, facing northwest
#15 of 24

Enclosed porch, first floor, facing east
#16 of 24

Southern most bedroom, second floor, facing northwest
#17 of 24

Barn, facing north
#18 of 24

Garage, facing northwest
#19 of 24

Granary, facing northwest
#20 of 24

Storage shed, facing west
#21 of 24

Outhouse, facing northwest
#22 of 24

Metal covered storage shed, facing east
#23 of 24

Stone well pumphouse, facing north
#24 of 24