

**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 Sabra Lawrence House

and/or common Walnut Grove (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 510 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Mt. Pleasant N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Tennessee code 047 county Maury code 119

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. James H. Jones, Jr.

street & number 510 North Main Street, (Mailing address, P.O. Box 312)

city, town Mt. Pleasant N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38474

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maury County Register of Deeds

street & number Maury County Courthouse

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Completed in 1858, Walnut Grove is a two-and-a-half-story, brick house located on the east side of North Main Street in the town of Mt. Pleasant (pop. 3,350) in central Middle Tennessee. The Greek Revival building is distinguished by a two-story pedimented portico with square Tuscan pillars. The interior of the house contains almost all of its original Greek Revival moldings, mantels, and doors. The building has been little altered and retains its architectural integrity. On the property is a two-story brick kitchen built around 1826 and associated with an earlier house on the site.

Facing west, Walnut Grove is situated on a relatively flat site on Mt. Pleasant's principal road in a residential section of the town. The informally landscaped grounds cover almost four acres and have many mature trees. A concrete path extends from the front of the house to the street.

The three-bay west (front) facade is laid in common bond and has the building's most formal detailing. The middle of the three bays has a two-story pedimented portico of yellow poplar with a second-story balcony and square Tuscan pillars measuring 27 feet tall and 18 inches square at the base. The first-story doorway has transoms and sidelights of original cranberry glass. The windows on the first and second stories are six-over-six double-hung sash with molded lintels and louvered shutters. A simple dentilated cornice terminates the second story. The house has its original standing seam metal roof.

The north and south facades are the same with double end-chimneys connected by a pent at the gable peak. On the first and second stories between the chimneys are two windows with plain lintels and six-over-six double-hung sash. A similar single window is on the third story.

The east (rear) facade has an irregular fenestration of two doorways and two windows on the first story and three windows on the second. The windows are the same as on the north and south facades.

On the first and second floors, Walnut Grove's interior consists of a central hall plan with four rooms 17 feet square and a hallway 14 feet wide. The third floor is a single, large rectangular room. A half-turn staircase with a simple newel post and square balusters is located at the rear of the first-floor hall. Among the Greek Revival details on the interior are shouldered door surrounds, paneled doors, and trabeated mantels. Woods used on the interior are walnut, cherry, pine, and ash.

Immediately behind the house is a two-story, brick building, which was constructed prior to 1826 and served as a kitchen for a house which was torn down in 1857 after being severely damaged by a fire. The present main house was built on the same site as the previous one. The kitchen has traditionally been considered the oldest brick building in the Mt. Pleasant area.

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

Specific dates 1858 **Builder/Architect** Nathan Vaught (1799-1880)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Walnut Grove (the Sabra Lawrence House) is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its architectural and historical significance to Maury County. The house was built for Sabrina (Sabra) Boddie Lawrence (1787-1867), an important local landowner during the mid-nineteenth century. Designed by the prominent master builder, Nathan Vaught, Walnut Grove is an excellent regional example of the Greek Revival style.

The land on which Walnut Grove stands was owned by the Reverend Hugh Shaw, a Presbyterian minister who according to tradition built the early house of which only the detached kitchen remains. The property was purchased around 1826 by William Henry Boddie, who came to Maury County from Northhampton County, North Carolina. Boddie acquired large land holdings of over 1600 acres in Maury County and bred and raced thoroughbred horses. He became a highly respected person in the area and numbered among his friends Lucius J. Polk, John Dawson, and Nicholas Long.

When Boddie died in 1841, he left his entire estate to his widowed sister, Sabra Lawrence, who had come to Maury County in 1826 with her brother and her family. Unusually independent for a Victorian woman, Sabra Lawrence personally managed the extensive plantation for the next 25 years and by the time of the Civil War owned more slaves and almost as much land as any person in wealthy Maury County. Through her five daughters, her descendants continued to be prominent in the surrounding area.

In 1857 the original house on the Walnut Grove site burned, leaving only the separate kitchen. According to Nathan Vaught's son, Charles, his architect father designed and built the current house for Sabra Lawrence in 1858. After Sabra Lawrence died in 1867, the new house was inherited by one of her married daughters, Sabra B. Francis. Around 1880 Walnut Grove was sold, or possibly just leased, by the daughter for an Episcopal school for boys and became known as the Otey School. An old schoolhouse was remodeled, and the house was used as a dormitory for the teachers and students. The school lasted only a few years in Mt. Pleasant, and in 1888 Walnut Grove was sold to Mumford Smith. However, the house was to have a further connection with local education as the home of Miss Annie Smith, a local school teacher from the 1920s to the 1940s who is fondly remembered by many generations of Mt. Pleasant citizens. In 1982 the house was sold by the Smith family to Mr. and Mrs. James H. Jones, Jr., who carefully restored the house for their home.

Walnut Grove is an outstanding local example of the Greek Revival style of the late 1850s. The quality of its design and craftsmanship can be seen in its fenestration, well-proportioned portico, and interior moldings, doors, and mantels. The house is also significant as a late example of the work of the local master builder, Nathan Vaught (1799-1880), who designed Clifton Place, Pillow Place, and Bethel Place in Maury County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 3.83 acres

Quadrangle name Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	4	8	1	6	0	0	3	19	3	12	7	17	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing					

C

Zone		Easting				Northing					

D

Zone		Easting				Northing					

E

Zone		Easting				Northing					

F

Zone		Easting				Northing					

G

Zone		Easting				Northing					

H

Zone		Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification The L-shaped property is bounded on the west by North Main Street and on its other sides by adjoining property lines. The nomination includes only the 3.83 acres currently conveyed with the house. This is the minimal land needed to protect the architectural and historical integrity of the house.

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	James H. Jones, Jr. Lloyd Ostby, Coordinator of Field Services		
organization	N/A	date	August 1983
street & number	P.O. Box 312 701 Broadway	telephone	615-379-5551 615-742-6723
city or town	Mt. Pleasant Nashville	state	Tennessee 38474 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 L. Hager*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/3/84

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register
<i>[Signature]</i>	date <u>3/8/84</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	



Walnut Grove (Sabra Lawrence House)
 510 N. Main Street
 Mt. Pleasant, Maury Co., Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 100'

