Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:
Tennessee
COUNTY:
Maury and Hickman
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE 1 0 1974

	(Type all entries	- complete	applicable sections)	i	APR	18 1914		
I. NAM	AE					•		
CO	MMON:							
	John Gordon, H	ouse					_	
ANI	D/OR HISTORIO							
2. LOC	ATION A			4/	•			
	REET AND NUMBER:	<u> </u>	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
İ	1/2 mile cout	of State	Hwy. 50 at the	- Duck R	iver			
CIT	1/2 mile sout	TO COUCE	/	ONGRESSION	AL DISTRICT:			
1	Approx 3 mi	N.W. of W	Villiamsport Vic	Six.	th			
ST	ATE TO THE TOTAL T		CODE CC	OUNTY:		COL	ÞΕ	
	Tennessee		47	Maury &	Hickman	119.0	81	
3. CLA	SSIFICATION		••					
	CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBL	- 1	
	District X Building	👿 Public	Public Acquisition:		Occupied	Yes:		
	Site Structure	☐ Private	☐ In Process		X Unoccupied	☐ Restricted	ĺ	
-	☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Con	nsidered	Preservation work	Unrestricted	d	
					in progress	K No		
PRE	ESENT USE (Check One or M	ore as Appropris	ate)	<del></del>	L	<u> </u>		
		vernment	☐ Park		Transportation	Comments		
1-		ustrial	Private Residence		Other (Specify)	Comments		
1 -		itary	Religious		waiting devel	opment as	pan	t.
	<u> </u>	seum	Scientific		f a park.	opinotio do	<u></u>	•
4 OWN	IER OF PROPERTY				-			
OWI	NER'S NAME:							S
	State of Tenn	accee Den	artment of Tran	ncnortati	ion		Tenness	TAT
STF	REET AND NUMBER:	- July Dep	zar cincinc or irai	ispui cu c	1911		ลิ	m
ł	Andrew Jackson	n Building	I					ļ
CiT	Y OR TOWN:			STATE:		CODE	]ee	1
	Nashville Nashville				Tennessee	47		
	ATION OF LEGAL DESC							_
COL	JRTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF D						王.	<b>≅</b>
STE	Register's Of	fice for H	lickman County				<u> </u>	<u> </u>
31.5							man	<∴
CIT	Courthouse			STATE		CODE	3	
					T	<u> </u>	-	
	Centerville				Tennessee	47	-	$\vdash$
6. REP	RESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SLIPVEYS						
	LE OF SURVEY:				(a) (III)	$\overline{}$	9	m l
					A	(1)		<del> </del>   -
DAT	TE OF SURVEY:		☐ Federal	State	COPPRENIE	Lacer		7 5
DEF	POSITORY FOR SURVEY RE	CORDS:			ILLLIVE I	-, S	1	ENTRY NUMBE
ĺ		*		- 1	MAR 1 5 19	1/4		BE
STF	REET AND NUMBER:				NATION			ER
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CIT	Y OR TOWN:			STATE:	KEUISTI	CODE	$\vdash$	
			<u> </u>		NO.	<u> </u>		DAT
					VP1118	·/	1	E

7.	DESCRIPTION						
	CONDITION				(Check On	е)	
		Excellent	<b>∑</b> Good	☐ Fair	Deteriora	ted 🔲 Ruins	Unexposed
			(Check Or	1e)		(Che	ck One)
		X Alter	red	Unaltered		☐ Moved	X Original Site
	DESCRIBE THE PE	RESENT AND OR	GINAL (if kno	Wn) PHYSICA	LAPPEARANC	E	

The Gordon House, a brick home standing about 1/2 mile south of State Highway 50 near the Duck River (on the dividing line between present Hickman and Maury counties), is believed to be as originally constructed by John Gordon's wife in 1818. The two-story house appears to be of the late Georgian style, but carries the flavor of the Tennessee frontier, i.e., the floor plan consisting of one-room depth, end-wall fireplaces and corresponding rooms with fireplaces overhead, are also features of the dog-trot houses of the early nineteenth century.

The home, facing south, has four large rooms: upper and lower rooms on the west side are about  $18' \times 18'$ ; upper and lower rooms on the east side are about  $12' \times 18'$  in size. The four fireplaces are over-sized, and a wide stairway stands next to the north wall, leading to the second story. The bricks are slightly oversized, but whether made commercially or on the plantation is unknown.

There are three large, evenly spaced windows in the walls of the lower and top levels, with two doors that give balance and symmetry to the front elevation. The present second-story front porch roof, supported by four square wooden columns, is reportedly a recent (about 1947-48) addition.

The home's interior, said to have been decorated by Gordon's wife (who supervised the home's construction, as Captain Gordon was away at that time fighting in the Seminole Indian War), is not elaborate but is nicely finished. The fireplace mantels are wooden with a combination of simply designed pilasters and panels; the wide, 7-foot-high doors are of poplar; the board flooring is of ash and poplar; there are plain, wide chair rails and baseboards, and the brick walls have been covered on the interior with white paint. The stairwell is guarded by wooden banisters and newels, supporting a moulded railing.

A contemporary frame addition to the rear (north) wall of the house remains intact, but will most likely be removed when the original house is restored.

The home, occupied until purchased in 1969 by the State of Tennessee, stands in a state of good repair; it is solidly built and will, with restoration and care, see many years of use.

NATIONAL REGISTER

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	X Education	Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	X Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

The Gordon House was the home of Captain John Gordon, famed Indian fighter and was one of the first private brick buildings within a 30-mile radius. Captain Gordon was awarded large grants of land by the government in recognition of his services; on part of his land, near Duck River, he built this home, reputed to have been one of the finest in the country.

John Gordon, born in 1763 near Fredericksburg, Virginia, came to Nashville about 1786. In 1793, he was commissioned by Governor Blount of Tennessee to be a Captain of mounted infantry of the Davidson County regiment. 1795 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Davidson County, and the next year was designated the first postmaster of Nashville. During the years 1790-95, Gordon established himself as an Indian fighter, defending the Cumberland Settlement against attack from hostile Cherokee and Creek In 1801-02, when the army was widening and clearing the Natchez Trace from Nashville to Natchez, Mississippi, Gordon made an agreement with the Chickasaw Chief, George Colbert, to operate a trading post and ferry on the Duck River, near the site of the home Mrs. Gordon would begin in 1817. After the treaty of 1805 when the Indians gave their lands in this area to the United States government, Gordon received 640 acres on the Duck River from the Tennessee General Assembly in 1806. Sometime between 1808 and 1812, Gordon moved his family from Nashville to Duck River (nearby Gordonsburg is named for John Gordon). During the Creek Indian Campaign of 1813-14, Gordon led a company of "spies" under General Andrew Jackson's command. After the war Gordon returned home, but joined with the military again in 1818 (when his home was completed) during the Seminole Indian Campaign. He became ill while campaigning and died in 1819, leaving a wife and large family.

Gordon's house, ferry, and trading post stood near the Old Natchez Trace, a primitive Indian trail which was the main highway to the Old Southwest from the mid-1780's to 1830. Gordon operated his commercial enterprise where the Trace crossed the Duck River, when the legendary figures of Andrew Jackson, Sam Houston, Davy Crockett (and assorted types of boatmen, merchants, soldiers, murderers, thieves, et.al.) traveled the historic route until the advent of the steamboat in the late 1820's. Recognizing the importance of the Tennessee landmark, officials of the Natchez Trace Parkway (National Park Service, Department of the Interior) have included the Gordon House in their plans for interpretative use, as part of the Parkway's Living History program. The home is to be restored to its original appearance, with demonstrations presented of frontier life in the early 1800's.

R BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research reports on John Gordon, filed at Natchez Trace Parkway Library, Tupelo, Miss. (supplied by William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter)

Bond, Octavia Zollicoffer. The Family Chronicle and Kinship Book, 1928. Spence, W.J.D. and D.L. A History of Hickman County, Tennessee, 1900. Miscellany of records in Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville.

10	. GEOGRAPHICAL DAT	TA							
	LATITUDE AND	LONGITUDE COC						TUDE COORDINATI	
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ŀ	LIST ALL STATES AND C				68 LAPPING STA	TE OR COL	UNTE BOU	REGISTER	$\forall$
	STATE:		ER III	CODE	COUNTY		100	> 20	CODE
	_		}	<u> </u>	1	Hick	nan 🗸	(31114)	081
f	STATE: Lennessee	<del>,                                    </del>		CODE	COUNTY:	a.cki	ши.		CODE
	Tennessee	1	ì		1	Maury	v		119
t	STATE: Tennessee			CODE	COUNTY:	- raut j	,		CODE
-									
ſ	STATE:			CODE	COUNTY:				CODE
لب				<u> </u>					
11,	FORM PREPARED BY	Y							
-	NAME AND TITLE:	0		٠					1
-	Mrs. Ilene J.	Cornwell,	soard c	ot Dire	ectors	<del></del>		DATE	
İ	,	Accosintin	, af T-	\nnoce	20			3-5-73	٠. ا
1	Natchez Trace	MSSUCIATION	U OF 16	:messi	c <u>c</u>			1 3-5-/5	
1	1004 Narpeth V	'alley Cour	<b>+</b>						
	CITY OR TOWN:	MITER COME	<b>-</b>		STATE	<del></del>			CODE
_	Nashville				<u></u>	Tennes	ssee		47
12	STATE LIAISON OFF	ICER CERTIFI	CATION		N/			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   Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation								
-	3-13-74 Date				Date	4	. 18	: 74	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 1977

INVENTORY	NOMINATION I	FORM DA	NTE ENTERED	
SEE II	NSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO TYPE ALL ENTRIES O			
1 NAME	on, John House	<u> </u>		
AND/OR COMMON	on, John House		en en en en en en en en en en en en en e	
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER Northwest of	Williamsport off Tenr	n. Hwy. 50	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	in a similar s
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	СТ
Williamsport	<b>.</b> *	VICINITY OF	Sixth	
STATE <b>Tennessee</b>		CODE 47	COUNTY Maury & Hickman	CODE 119, 81
CLASSIFICA	ATION			
CATEGORY DISTRICT  X_BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT	OWNERSHIP  XPUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH  PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS	STATUS  _OCCUPIED  &UNOCCUPIED  _WORK IN PROGRESS  ACCESSIBLE  _YES: RESTRICTED	PRESE AGRICULTURECOMMERCIALEDUCATIONALENTERTAINMENTGOVERNMENT	NT USE MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC
we in the	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED X.NO	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATION  XOTHER: waiting
NAME	PROPERTY		<del>-</del>	as part of a park
STREET & NUMBER	of Tennessee, Departme	ent of Transports	ation	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Jackson Building	<del></del>		<del></del>
CITY. TOWN Nashvi		VICINITY OF	STATE Tennessee	
•	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		- -
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,E	TC. Register's Offic	ce for Hickman Co	ounty	·
STREET & NUMBER	Courthouse			
CITY, TOWN	Centerville		STATE Tennessee	<u> </u>
REPRESEN'	TATION IN EXIST	NG SURVEYS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
TITLE				
DATE		FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	<del>- i</del>	*		·
CITY, TOWN			STATE	



#### CONDITION

\_EXCELLENT

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_UNALTERED

**CHECK ONE** 

XORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gordon House, a brick home standing about 1/2 mile south of State Highway 50 near the Duck River (on the dividing line between present Hickman and Maury counties), is believed to be as originally constructed by John Gordon's wife in 1818. The two-story house appears to be of the late Georgian style, but carries the flavor of the Tennessee frontier, i.e., the floor plan consisting of one-room depth, end-wall fireplaces and corresponding rooms with fireplaces overhead, are also features of the dog-trot houses of the early nineteenth century.

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PERIOD	. AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	<b> ★</b> EDUCATION	3CMILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
			57	: .

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ca. 1818

SPECIFIC DATES

The Gordon House was the home of Captain John Gordon, famed Indian fighter, and was one of the first private brick buildings with a 30-mile radius. Captain Gordon was awarded large grants of land by the government in recognition of his services; on part of his land, near Duck River, he built this home, reputed tohhave been one of the finest in the country.

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Gordon, born in 1763 near Fredericksburg, Virginia, came to Nashville about 1786. In 1793, he was commissioned by Governor Blount of Tennessee to be a Captain of mounted infantry of the Davidson County regiment. In 1795 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Davidson County, and the next year was designated the first postmaster of Nashville. During the years 1790-95, Gordon established himself as an Indian fighter, defending the Cumberland Settlement against attack from hostile Cherokee and Creek Indians. In 1801-02, when the army was widening and clearing the Natchez Trace from Nashville to Natchez, Mississippi, Gordon made an agreement with the Chickasaw Chief, George Colbert, to operate a trading post and ferry on the Duck River, near the site of the home Mrs. Gordon would begin in 1817. After the treaty of 1805 when the Indians gave their lands in this area to the United States government, Gordon received 640 acres on the Duck River from the Tennessee General Assembly in 1806. Sometime between 1808 and 1812, Gordon moved his family from Nashville to Buck River (nearby Gordonsburg is named for John Gordon). During the Creek Indian Campaign of 1813-14, Gordon led a company of "spies" under General Andrew Jackson's command. After the war Gordon returned home, but joined with the military again in 1818 (when his home was completed) during the Seminole Indian Campaign. He became ill while campaigning and died in 1819, leaving a wife and large family.

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The John Gordon House and 68 acres of land were originally added to the National Register on April 18, 1974. Much of the information, including the map with the boundaries outlined, was supplied by the staff of the Natchez Trace Parkway, National Park Service, who are planning development of the area. Since this time, a letter has been received

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHI	CAL REFE	RENCES		
Research reports on John Gor (supplied by William E. C Bond, Octavia Zollicoffer. Spence, W. J. D. and D. L. Miscellany of records in Ter	Cox, Assistan The Family C A History of	t Chief Par hronicle an Hickman Co	k Interpreter). d Kinship Book, unty, Tennesse	1928. 2, 1900.
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	10			
UTM REFERENCES				r
	5,27,6,0	B 1,6	4 7,6 5,7,0	3, 9 5, 2 6, 2, 0
	HING  5,2 6,2,0	ZONE D 1,6	EASTING   4   7   6   3   2   0	NORTHING   3, 9  5, 2  7, 6, 0
C[1 <sub>1</sub> 6] [4]7 <sub>1</sub> 6[3 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 0] [3 <sub>1</sub> 9 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	3,20,20	חדים	14 110 21210	3,3,3,2,7,0,0
The nomination property containing 10 acres; begin thence west 840 feet; then	nning at Poir	nt A, runnin	g south a dist	ance of 520 feet;
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNT	ES FOR PROPERT	TES OVERLAPPI	NG STATE OR COUN	TY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
Tennessee	47	Hickman		81
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
Tennessee	47	Maury		119
11 FORM PREPARED BY			•	
cialdene J. Cornwell, Inform	ation Officer	<u>.</u>		•
ORGANIZATION	* *	•	DATE	077
5 Tennessee Historical Comm STREET & NUMBER	18810N		July 1	
170 Second Avenue North	Lus control aus	11 70 3000		1-2371 <sub>31 15</sub>
CITY OR TOWN			STATE <b>Tenness</b>	90.5
Nashville	EDVATIO	N OFFICE		<del></del>
12 STATE HISTORIC PRES			WITHIN THE STATE	•
NATIONAL		E	LOCAL _	•
As the designated State Historic Preservation hereby nominate this property for inclusion criteria and procedures set forth by the National STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATION OFFICER SIGNATION OFFICER SIGNATION	n in the National Riconal Park Service.			
TITLE Executive Director, Tenn	essee Histor	ical Commiss	DATE	7/19/17
FOR NPS USE ONLY  I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPER  Robert B. Rett	•			11/23/17
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY	AND HISTORIC PR	IESERVATION .	DATE (	142.77
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	<del></del>			

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 21 1977

DATE ENTERED

8

**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

from the acting superintendent of the Natchez Trace Parkway requesting that the acreage be reduced to ten acres, and that the boundaries be amended in accordance with the enclosed map. The land which is to be omitted from the nomination is vacant land and is not necessary to interpret the John Gordon House.