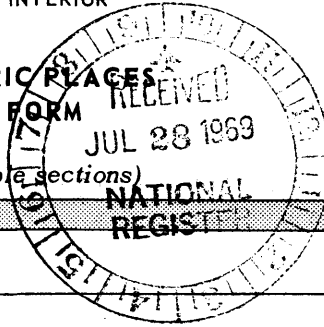


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



STATE: <b>TENNESSEE</b>	
COUNTY: <b>DAVIDSON</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>69-12-41-0001</b>	DATE <b>12/30/69</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**TRAVELLER'S REST**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**FRANKLIN ROAD**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**NASHVILLE**

STATE <b>TENNESSEE</b>	CODE <b>41</b>	COUNTY: <b>DAVIDSON</b>	CODE <b>37</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN TENN.**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**NASHVILLE**

STATE:  
**TENNESSEE**

CODE:  
**41**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**REGISTER'S OFFICE**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**COURT HOUSE**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**NASHVILLE**

STATE:  
**TENNESSEE**

CODE:  
**41**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

**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:  
**NASHVILLE**

STATE:  
**TENNESSEE**

CODE:

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Davidson

ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site on which Traveller's Rest is situated was acquired by John Overton in 1796, the year in which Tennessee became a state. The original section of the residence was begun around 1798. The original house was a four room structure built by David Cummings and Frederick Pinkley, two carpenters of the area. The house had one room and hall downstairs with same above. The early nucleus built by Judge John Overton was a sound structure, constructed of hand-hewn supporting beams and floor joists of black walnut and yellow poplar. It had two rooms below and two above. was covered with beaded siding painted white and the interior was of plaster and wainscoting. There were numerous glass-paned windows and the roof was of hand-rived shingles. The elaborate mantelpiece in the parlor, the wainscoting and chair rails, the evidence of original wall colors and other details attest that Overton was a man of refinement and background and his residence reflected the Virginia details to which he was accustomed.

The first addition was made to the house in 1812 when some family members came to join Overton. An additional section, composed of one room above and one downstairs, was added, but not joined by inside openings. to the original four rooms. The addition of these rooms made the house a simple late pioneer type with a chimney at each end.

In 1820 Overton married a widow with five children. Another addition was required and came soon after 1820. A long ell of slave made brick was added in the Greek Revival style with high ceilings and thick walls, characteristic wood trim, and a large picturesque two-storied gallery. In 1887 Judge Overton's son, John Overton II, built the final addition to Traveller's Rest. Two more rooms, one below and one above, were added to the long brick ell.

Overton descendants lived in the house until 1946. It was then purchased by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad who deeded the place to the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Tennessee for restoration and preservation as a historical museum depicting the way of our ancestors in Tennessee.

The Colonial Dames have made an exhaustive study of the house for authenticity of detail in every phase of the restoration of Traveller's Rest from the original construction of the house and its three additions, furnishings, colors in wallpaper and paint, decorative arrangements, down to the perpetuation of the garden and plant life on the grounds. A fire in the early spring of 1969 caused some damage, but more extensive research and restoration is now taking place as certain things were exposed by the fire.

Overlays

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Judge John Overton came to Middle Tennessee by way of Kentucky about 1798. He was an outstanding young lawyer and soon was involved with politics as well as the acquisition of land and its sale. He prospered and built and enlarged his house. From 1804-1810 Overton sat on the Superior Court of Tennessee and in 1811 he became a member of the newly established Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals. His legal decisions set precedents and some young men studied law under him.

Overton operated a fine farm at Traveller's Rest. It was famous for its nursery and orchards and later John, Jr. raised fine horses. Judge Overton helped plan Andrew Jackson's campaigns at Travellers Rest and was a political friend of Jackson. Mrs. Overton entertained Jackson and John and Peggy Eaton at the home in Nashville. Colonel Overton, son of Judge Overton, continued to live at Travellers Rest following the Civil War. During the Nashville campaign Travellers Rest housed some offices and was temporarily Hood's headquarters. The peach orchard at Travellers Rest saw serious fighting and was a point of concentration. Following Colonel Overton's death the son and grandson continued to live there. The house with its various additions shows the gradual growth of the area through the lives of one of Nashville's most prominent families. It is a living record that explains this part of our nation's growth.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Arnow, Harriett, SEEDTIME ON THE CUMBERLAND (NEW YORK:1960).
2. Abernathy, Thomas P., FROM FRONTIER TO PLANTATION IN TENNESSEE (Chapel Hill: 1932).
3. Claybrooke- Overton Collection, Manuscript Section, Tenn. State Library and Archives, Nashville, tenn.
4. Swint, Henry Lee, "Traveler's Rest" TENNESSEE HISTORICAL QUARTERLY, XXVI (1967) No. 2, pp. 119- 136.

**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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 04' 12"	86° 46' 08"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**MAY DEAN COOP**

ORGANIZATION: **TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**      DATE: **23-JULY, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**7th Ave.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville**      STATE: **Tennessee**      CODE: **41**

**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 *Sam B. Smith*  
**Sam B. Smith**

Title **Chairman, Tennessee Historical Commission**

Date **July 23, 1969**

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

*Ernest Allen Connolly*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **DEC 30 1969**

ATTEST:

*William J. Swint*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date **DEC 11 1969**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Davidson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. (Description)

Outbuildings: c. 1800's (Note: a more exact date for these outbuildings will depend upon the results of architectural and archaeological studies currently in progress).

John Overton's Law Office: located adjacent to the main front driveway, the reconstructed law office represents John Overton's Law Office. The one story brick structure was erected during the 1950's. The building features a shingle roof with rake board located at the end walls and wood closed cornice running parallel to the eaves, front and rear elevations. A centrally located wood panel door features a wood panel transom. The entrance is flanked by 9/9 light double hung sash type windows with wood lintels and sills. Running 3/4 in length to the main front facade, an attached front porch features a shingle roof supported by four square posts and partially enclosed by wood railing.

Uncle Clairborn's Cabin/Weaver's House: double brick bearing wall constructed on stone foundations. Originally two stories in height, built of handmade brick, common bond pattern. The main front facade of this structure seems to reflect the windowless design of the original plan. Originally a one room plan, the second floor and windows were added during the nineteenth century. A later addition, the attached front porch, with shingle roof and brick floor, is placed slightly off-center and to the left side of the front entranceway. The central door is believed to be the original entrance. The flanking doorway is a later addition to the original design. The left end wall features wood rake boards adjacent to the eaves and centrally located window, double hung sash type, 12/11 light, with wood lintel and sill. The end wall, right, features an enclosed chimney with brick chimney stack and corbelled trim. Similarly placed, 6/6 light, double hung, sash type windows with wood lintels and sashes appear at the first and second floor levels, perpendicular to the front facade. The rear elevation features a centrally located, 12/12 light double hung sash type window, located on the first floor level.

Smoke House: a single story building constructed of handmade brick, common bond pattern, bearing walls on stone foundations. The smoke house is currently being used as a museum and has been significantly altered through the recent addition of a dropped ceiling and superficial wall finish materials. The present roof features deep overhanging eaves, open cornices. The entrance is located in the end wall.

NOTE: The location of this property should be Farrell Parkway, off Franklin Road.