

PH0691208

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 2 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 18 1978

**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~~  
 Moses Looney Fort House  
 AND/OR COMMON  
 Charles H. Pope House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
5436 Old Island Road

CITY, TOWN  
Kingsport

STATE  
Tennessee

VICINITY OF  
 First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First

CODE  
47

COUNTY  
Sullivan

CODE  
163

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Pope

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 3, 5436 Old Island Road

CITY, TOWN  
Kingsport

STATE  
Tennessee

VICINITY OF  
37664

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Sullivan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Blountville

STATE  
Tennessee

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE  
1976

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN  
Nashville

STATE  
Tennessee

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The present colonial, vernacular style home with attached colonial style porch extending across the entire main facade is the result of the 1970-1972 renovation work done by the present owner. The present plan consists of two rooms divided by a transverse, staircase hall. The hall, room to the right side, and chamber room above are within the original log section of the house. The room to the right of the hall is the living room, built in the frame addition, added by the Hawk family and extended out further by the present owner. A kitchen was added behind this room and several rear porches have been enclosed giving this house a rambling floor plan. Within this present plan, the majority of the original log construction has survived, and the present owner is confident that Moses Looney's Fort House could be restored from the present condition to its former appearance at some time in future years. These log buildings and the Old Hawk-Pettyjohn Store are among the few remaining early buildings on the historic old military road built between the wilderness outposts.

During the recent renovation, the owners were amazed to discover the form of the log fort house encased within the walls of their family home. Disguised by a nineteenth-century facade, the original log house consists of a 24' x 15' two-story main section, facing south toward the road. Built of yellow poplar and hand-hewn oak timbers, the house originally had a large chimney and fireplaces at the west end wall. Extending from the back wall, a log wing consisting of two large rooms was connected to the two-story section by a dog-trot, constructed over the rear door. The wing section is believed to have been built before 1774. There was a large fireplace centrally located between the two adjoining log pens of the wing. Both of the fireplaces and chimneys have been re-built and the open pass-through has been enclosed as an extension of the wing area.

The Tennessee vernacular style farmhouse built by the Hawk family took form over the original two-story log building and one-story wing section. The original floor plan was re-oriented by the addition of rooms across the west side. New doorways and windows were cut through the log walls and the roof line was also changed. There are two new doorways to the room additions for the living room and upstairs bedrooms. The new main entrance was cut through to the left side of the original which was centered on the log wall and flanked by small, rectangular-shape windows at the front. Featuring "V" notch joinery, the horizontal tiers of squared oak timber wall units measure approximately sixteen and twenty-five feet in length. Interstices were found to be filled with a mixture of creek mud, lime and horsehair mortar, up as far as the second story level. At the second story, logs are cut out for a horizontal gun portal extending across the front above the original front entrance. A ladder stair was originally located at the corner of the main room to the left side of the fireplace. Rooms had exposed beams in the ceiling which are now covered by the present ceiling material. The front and rear door frames are held together with square pegs driven into round holes. One original door to the back wing has hand-forged iron strap hinges bolted through the door panels. In its present condition this house is clad with aluminum and asbestos siding painted white. In 1972, the log house was photographed as it was uncovered, and the logs were each treated with wood preservatives and re-sealed inside the present construction. The hand-hewn ceiling beams in the wing are the only original construction in evidence.

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Moses Looney built his log house on a high ridge above the headwater spring for Fall Creek and beside the military road. The exact construction date is uncertain for the house but the military road was built here in 1761. A main route, the traffic along Old Island Road now has been taken up by the new Highway 126 which runs parallel and approximately one mile south of this point. Outbuildings include an assortment of early log farm buildings, constructed of hand-hewn timbers, joined in the half-dovetail fashion. There is a two-story log house built over the spring, and to the right side of the house is a double-crib, log granary with a centered, gable end-to-end, open pass through. In the yard is a single-pen corn crib with an open-end shed attached at one side. The largest log building is the frame and weatherboarded double crib log barn. This barn was designed with a central, puncheon threshing floor, deep hay lofts, and enclosed granary room at either gable end. The barn was eventually recovered with siding and enlarged to its present form. The ~~Hawk~~ Pettyjohn General Store is located at one side of the property adjacent to the road and to the west of the house. It is presently being used for storage and has remained unchanged since 1918; however, in recent years it has fallen into a state of disrepair.

# **C SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK 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	___EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1774

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Moses Looney

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The earliest records of this area show that Moses and David Looney were among the first pioneer settlers to make homes in the wilderness of Virginia which later became Sullivan County, Tennessee. Recently, historians have found and located the original, 383-acre Moses Looney land grant and they have identified this early, log building as Moses Looney's Fort House. It is the only fort house left standing of the four original forts which were vital to the settlement of Sullivan County before 1776.

Moses and David Looney came from Wales and moved to the western wilderness at a very early date. A pass through the Clinch Mountains was called Looney's Gap marking their presence on the wilderness frontier. Records from the court of Fincastle County, Virginia, May 3, 1774, ordered Anthony Bledsoe to report all "tithables" in Captain Moses Looney's militia company.

Moses Looney's log house was an important link in the fortification for this region of Tennessee. King's Mill became fortified as early as 1770 and Looney's Fort House, Ramsey's Fort House and Eaton's Fort House formed a tight protective triangle for the early settlers who were often forced to seek refuge during Indian raids on their homesteads. Accounts dating from this period show that settlers took refuge at Moses Looney's during Lord Dunsmore's War and the Indian raids of 1774. Again in 1776 large numbers of settlers were fortified at Looney's from July to September. The Island Road was built through this region by Virginia military men. The Island Road was the first wagon road built as a military road to fortifications located on the Holston River. Constructed in 1761, it is second in age to Cresap's or Braddock's Road from northern Virginia to Maryland and western Pennsylvania.

On February 7, 1780, the first official organization of Sullivan County took place at Moses Looney's. David Looney was a first justice of the peace in the new county. He became a major in the militia and later resigned as a lieutenant colonel in 1781. He and nine other justices of the peace were present for the now historic meetings of the court which met at Looney's fort house. The court continued to meet there at in other buildings in this area up until 1785. David Looney was a member of the lower house of the Carolina Assembly of 1784. He was chosen as a delegate from Sullivan County for the 1788 convention called to consider ratification of a national constitution. In 1790 Governor Blount commissioned David Looney as a justice of the peace under the territorial government. He also represented the county in the first legislature of the state of Tennessee. By 1796 David Looney had moved to Knoxville where he became well known as an innkeeper. Moses Looney served in the militia and was captured by Indians in 1781. Local legend states that Moses Looney was shot and killed by Thomas Faulin who was attempting to escape from a posse. All other accounts or records of his life and property are unknown after 1785.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Aronhime, Gordon, "Four Forts Protected Central Sullivan County," Bristol Herald Courier, Sunday, July 12, 1970.  
 Bellamy, Ruth, "Strolling Through Blountville," Sullivan Co. News, July 30, 1970.  
 County records, Sullivan County, Tennessee.  
 John Anderson manuscripts  
 Correspondence from Mrs. Charles H. Pope, present owner, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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3	7	2	5	1	0
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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail E. Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

October 1976

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Herbert L. Hayden*

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

1/10/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Wm. H. ...*

DATE

1-18-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles ...*

DATE

1-16-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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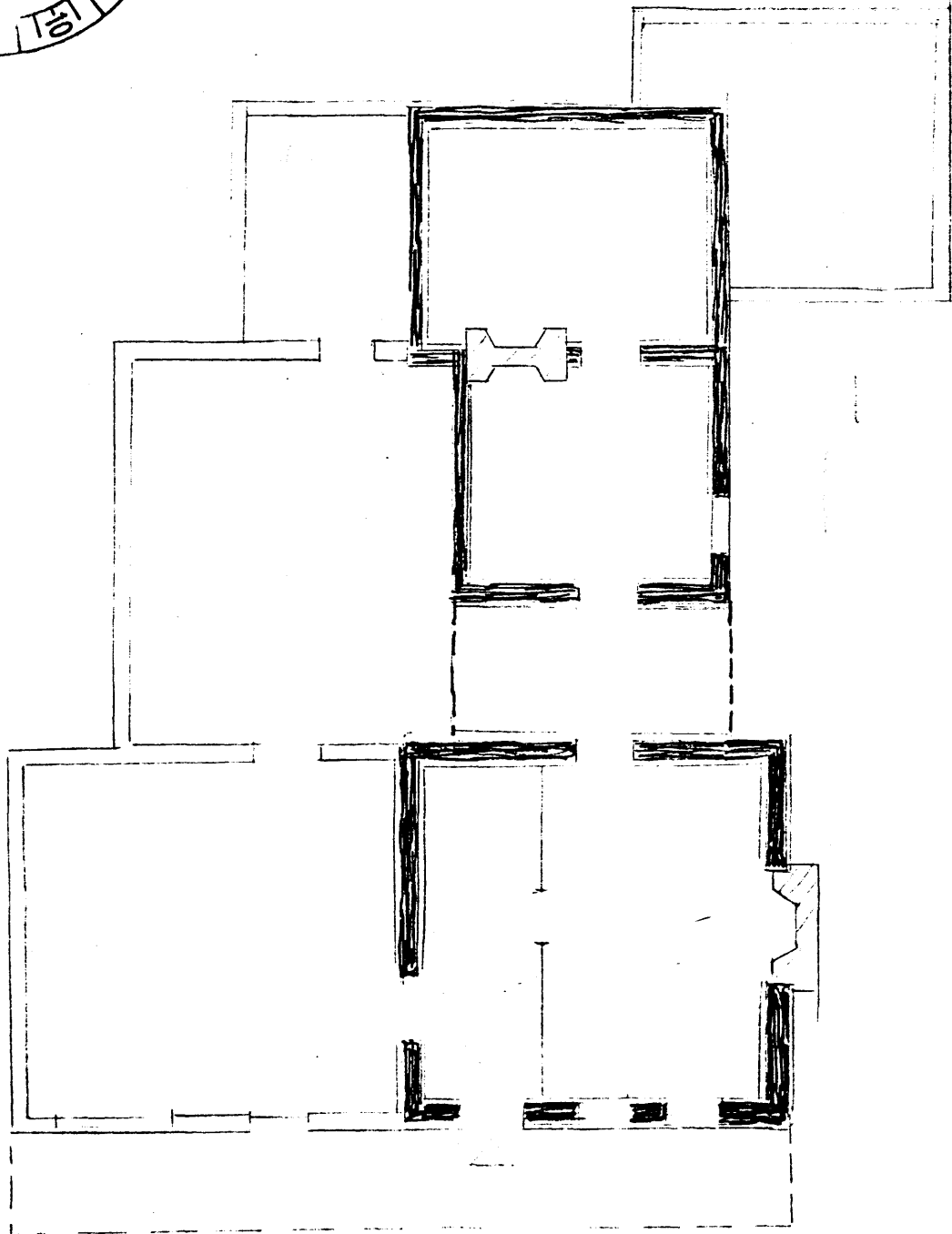
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Apparently Moses Looney's land did not change ownership until a 200-acre land grant was issued to Andrew Hawk in 1855. Signed by Governor Andrew Johnson, this grant is smaller than the Moses Looney grant. The Hawk grant was passed down through the Hawk family to the present owner who is the fifth generation of this family, the adopted son of James Susong Hawk, born in 1858. The Hawk-Pettyjohn General Store was built on the property in 1899. Located on the Old Island Road it was operated by John Pettyjohn and James Susong Hawk, and during the years, it was considered to be the social gathering place for the local area.

Prior to 1970, the approximate location of Moses Looney's property was determined by three major sources of information. The John Anderson manuscripts (1765-1850) were locked away in an old desk where they were found in 1950. Written by Anderson in his old age, these accounts described his experiences as a boy at the fort in 1776 and gave the location of Moses Looney's Fort House on the Old Island Road, above the headwaters of Fall Creek. Historians searched through old courthouse records and found additional information about the location of the Looney land grant. With this documentation, they were able to plot the location for the fort house. Further comparisons of these deeds and records indicate the Hawk grant had some of the same boundaries, borders, and neighboring grants as the earlier Looney grant.

In 1970-1972, the log buildings were uncovered at this location where they had been boarded over inside the Hawk House. The log structure has remained undisturbed and its form was unknown until it was carefully recorded, preserved, and re-encased within the walls of the present house.

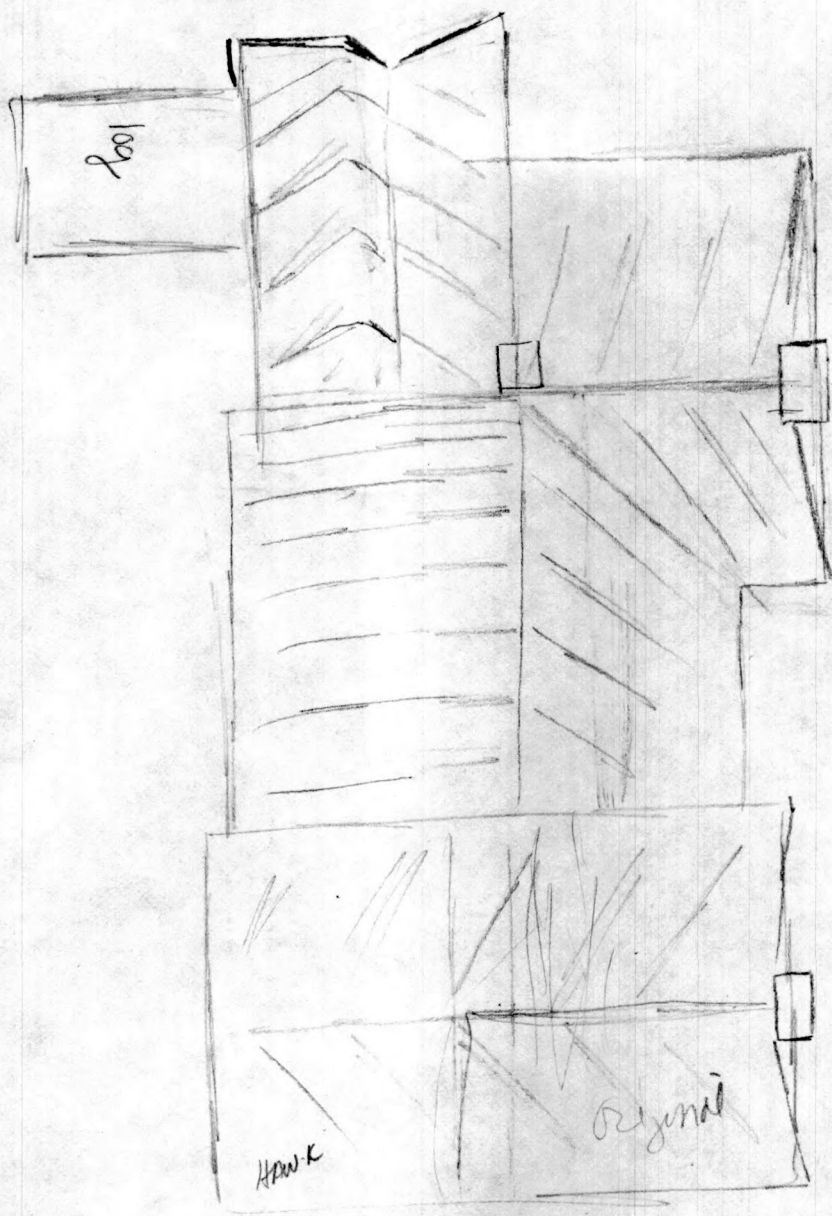


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

MOSES LOONEY FORT HOUSE

\*dark lines indicate log construction

Springhouse  
log granary  
barn  
Hawk Barn  
Store



Tower  
present



