

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Maury	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Clifton Place

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mt. Pleasant Highway

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE Tennessee	CODE 38401	COUNTY: Maury	CODE 119
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
William and Campbell Ridley

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mt. Pleasant Highway

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Maury County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (Photographs only)

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The spirit of the antebellum South is expressed by Clifton Place in manner seldom found among old houses today. Located atop gentle rolling terrain overlooking some of the most beautiful farm land imaginable, here is the "great house" in all its old-time elegance. Substantial outbuildings, such as a brick granary and smokehouse, icehouse, servants' quarters and barns, together with traces of the elaborate formal gardens, enable one to reconstruct life as it was once lived.

Built in 1838-1839 by General Gideon J. Pillow, Clifton Place is a good example of Greek Revival architecture as used in Middle Tennessee, although it was built on a grander scale than many homes built of that style and in that period. It has two stories and a cellar, with one story wings on either side. On the first floor are a large entrance hall, two parlors, a dining room, serving room, kitchen and library, with the latter two being connected by a long porch across the back of the house. Four bedrooms and a hall are found on the second floor.

Much of the material of the building is indigenous. The stone for the foundations was quarried on the site, and the brick was kilned on the place. For interior doors and trim, wild cherry was cut from the nearby forests, as were the hand-hewn pine timbers for structural purposes. The steps, column bases and porch floors are of stone, while the column shafts, caps and cornices are of wood. The roof of the house is of tin and those of the outhouses of shakes. Cast iron balustrades frame the second floor under the entrance portico. The facades and gable treatments with the stone buttress terminus of the cornice run the full length of the front and rear elevations. Twin chimneys are tied together with a brick parapet above the roof ridge line. The imposing, graceful entrance consists of a projecting portico two stories high, with four Ionic columns supporting a pediment of the same order. At the second floor level a wood porch projects and is supported by the columns and enclosed by a cast iron rail between the columns.

At the rear of the house a wide walk led to the garden gate. The garden plot was divided into three separate units. The first was planted with boxwoods, magnolias, laurel, spruce and cedar trees. The second garden was given over to flowers and the third to vegetables. At the end of the third garden was a greenhouse with glassed conservatory. Only traces now remain of these once beautiful gardens.

After the death of General and Mrs. Pillow, the house passed to a son-in-law, Melville Williams, and later to Colonel J. W. S. Ridley. It still belongs to Ridley descendants who until very recent years occupied the house, using the original furniture, mirrors, portraits and silver. It is now used as rental property and shows the need for much repair and maintenance to restore it to its former place as one of the finest houses in Middle Tennessee.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Clifton Place is the result of a combination of factors any one of which would make it important and worthy of preservation. As an example of the prosperous plantation society of the South in the first half of the nineteenth century, Clifton Place is unsurpassed and seldom equalled. The elegant house, the dwellings for the house servants and the farm hands, the granary and smokehouse, the icehouse and the barns and stables, overlook fields, lush meadows, green pastures and wooded hills. The pattern of self-sustaining agrarian life is certainly well-exemplified at Clifton Place. The excellent example of Greek Revival architecture used in the design and construction of Clifton Place makes it significant in this respect also. The contractor was Nathan Vaught, a very talented man who built many of the fine residences and other buildings in Maury County.

Gideon Pillow, father of General Gideon J. Pillow settled in Maury County in 1809 or 1810. He became a large landholder and each of his three sons built homes nearby. Like their neighbors, the Polks, the Pillows were lavish builders.

Gideon J. Pillow graduated from the University of Nashville in 1827 and began the practice of law in Columbia. He was very successful in both his law practice and his farming operations. Pillow never held public office, although he was a skilled manipulator in state politics. In 1844 he was a delegate in the Democratic Convention, and was instrumental in the nomination of his friend, James K. Polk, also of Maury County, for the presidency. Pillow was a controversial figure, his personality being such as to cause people to either dislike him intensely or show great loyalty and friendship toward him. Many considered him to be an egotist with an inflated sense of his importance.

Pillow's great claim to fame rests on his career as a soldier, also a controversial subject. Although his military experience was limited, President Polk in 1846 appointed him a brigadier-general in the war with Mexico. He was twice wounded during the war. When the Civil War began, he was made a brigadier-general in the Confederate Army. He fought at the Battle of Belmont, Missouri, in November, 1861 and in the same winter was second in command at Fort Donelson. His career in the Confederate Army was often a subject of controversy and criticism.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Tennessee	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont.)

After the war, Pillow practiced law in Memphis with former Governor Isham G. Harris. His fortune was largely depleted by the war and he died in modest circumstances on October 8, 1878, and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Memphis.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brandau, Roberta S. History of Homes and Gardens in Tennessee (Nashville, 1936) pp. 227-228.

Cochran, Gifford A. Grandeur in Tennessee (New York, 1946) pp. 73-74.

McBride, Robert M. "The Gideon J. Pillow Everybody Knows." Unpublished manuscript (1968).

Smith, J. Frazer White Pillars (New York, 1941) pp. 73-77.

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 TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	35°	34'	50"	87°	07'	07"	35°	34'	12"
NE	35°	34'	50"	87°	06'	36"	87°	06'	40"
SE	35°	34'	30"	87°	06'	36"			
SW	35°	34'	30"	87°	07'	07"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ~~less than 10.~~ 115

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 4-20-70

STREET AND NUMBER:
403, 7th Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 41

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Stephen S. Lawrence
Stephen S. Lawrence
Executive Director
Title: Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 4-20-70

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Maury	
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(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Stonesifer, Roy P., Jr. "Gideon J. Pillow: A Study in Egotism,"
Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXV (1966), No. 4, pp.340-350.

Tennessee

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

COUNTY

Maury

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

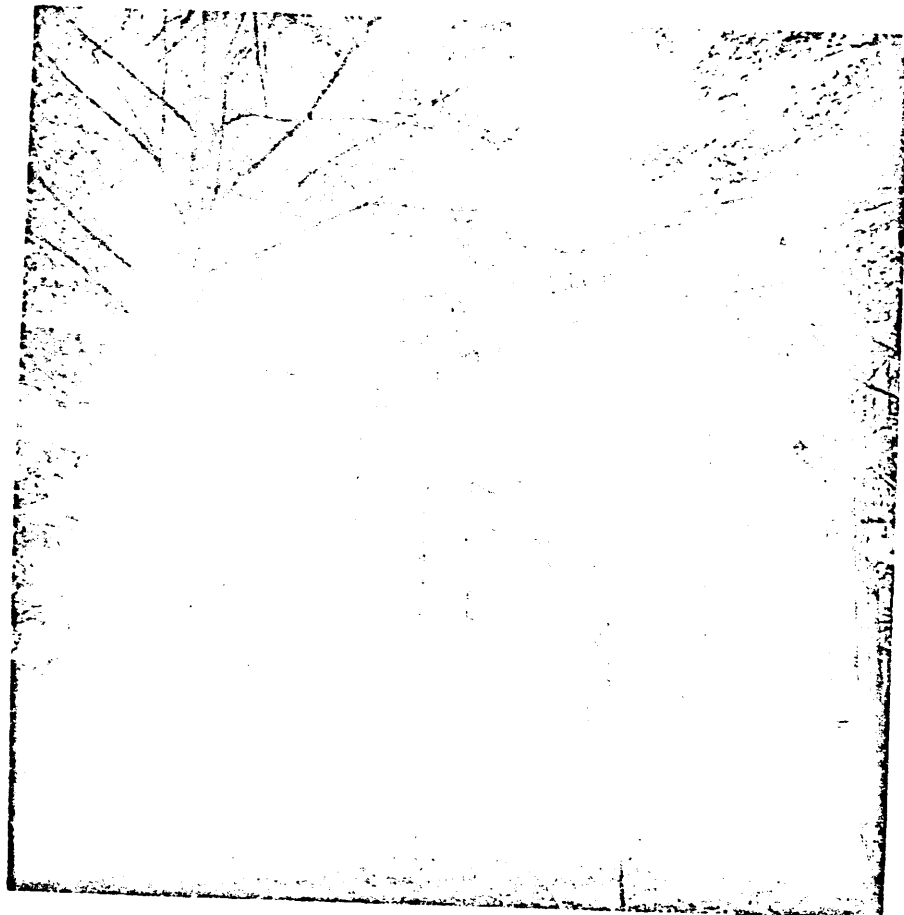
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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COMMON:		Clifton Place	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Mt. Pleasant Highway			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Columbia			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Tennessee	41	Maury	119
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Herbert Harper	
DATE OF PHOTO:		April 20, 1970	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Tennessee Historical Commission	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Front view of the house at it faces north showing the Greek Revival architecture with the pediment and Ionic columns.			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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2. LOCATION

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Mt. Pleasant Highway

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE: Tennessee	CODE 41	COUNTY: Maury	CODE 119
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Herbert Harper

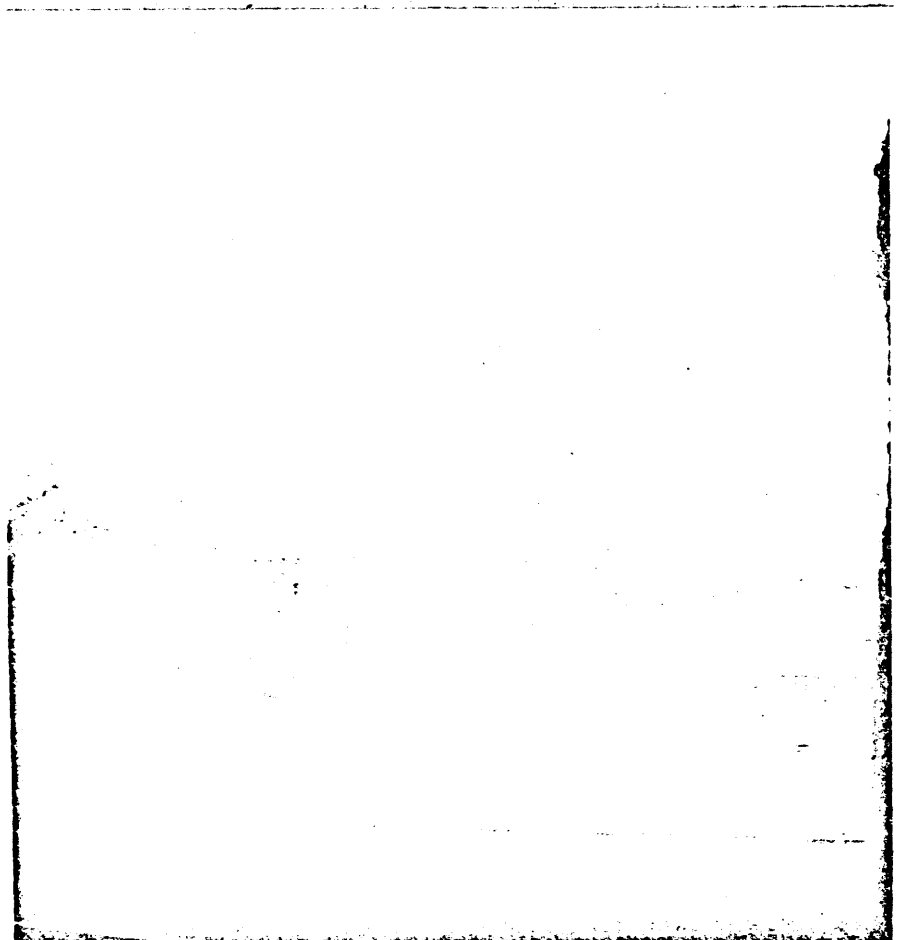
DATE OF PHOTO: April 20, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT:
Tennessee Historical Commission

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View looking west from the house, showing the fine barns and row of original slave cabins, still being used as tenant houses.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

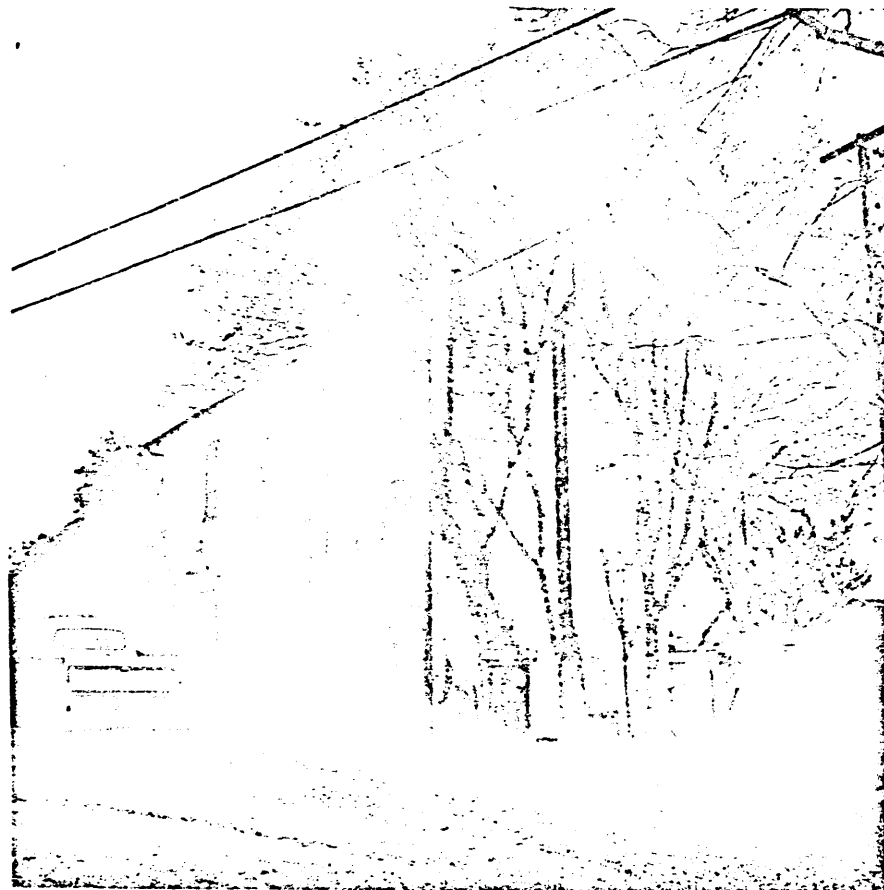
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of the two-story brick building back of the house, used as living quarters by the house servants of Clifton Place.			



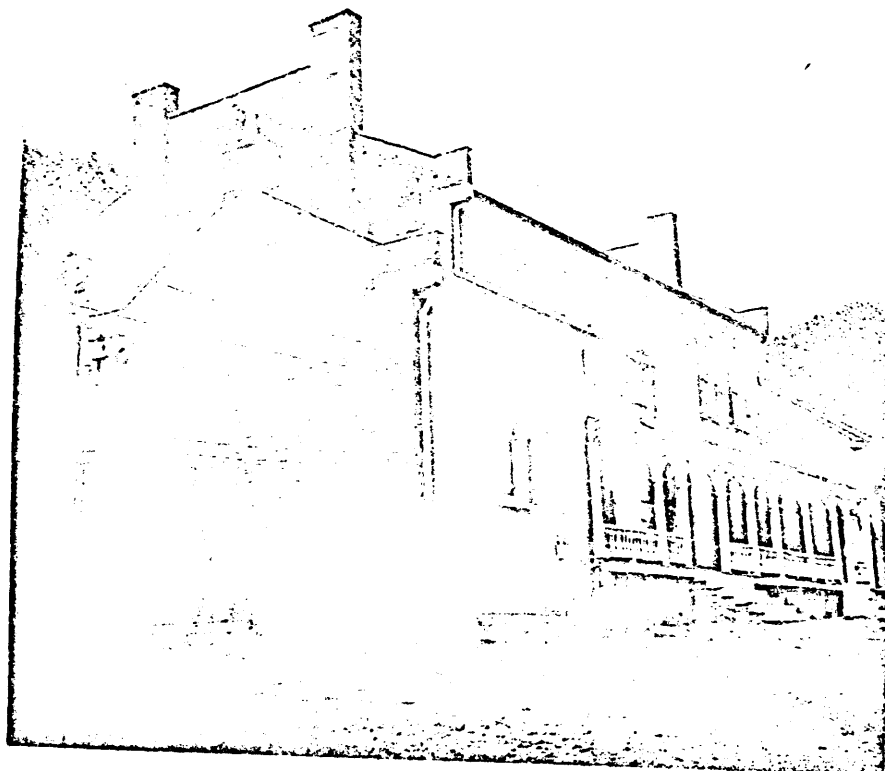
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Tennessee	41	Maury	119
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DATE OF PHOTO:		April 20, 1970	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Tennessee Historical Commission	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View looking northeast toward the back and west end of the house showing the gable and chimney construction and the back porch.			



Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Maury	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

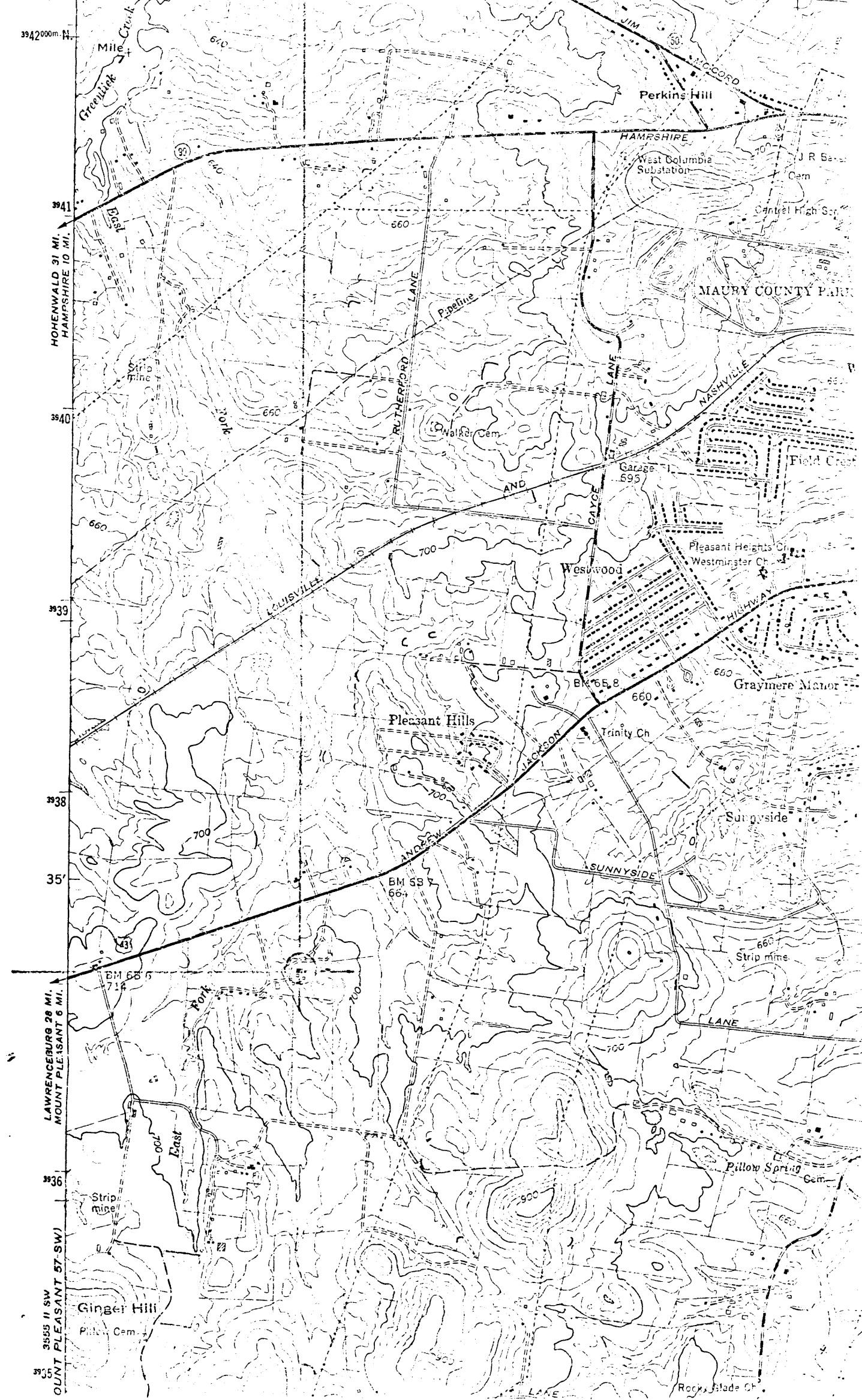
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Clifton Place			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Mt. Pleasant Highway			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Columbia			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Tennessee	41	Maury	105
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. Map			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

CLIFTON PLACE 87°07'40"

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

87°07'30" 489000m. E. 490 491 492 5' 35°37'30" CENTERVILLE 29 MI. WILLIAMSPORT 9 MI.



35°37'42"

WILLIAMSPORT 57-NW

3942000m. N.
3941
3940
3939
3938
35'
3936
3935
Mile
Hohenwald 31 MI. HAMPSHIRE 10 MI.
LAWRENCEBURG 28 MI. MOUNT PLEASANT 6 MI.
3555 ft SW MOUNT PLEASANT 57-SW

6 April, 1987

To: All National Register File Users

From: Mark L. Baker

A photocopy of this nomination was provided by the state office to replace the copy of the nomination that is missing from our files. This is not a copy of the original document that was included in the National Register.