

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 Henson Hunt House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Route 8, Brookdale Road _____ not for publication

city, town Johnson City _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Tennessee code 047 county Carter code 019

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Street, Jr.

street & number Brookdale Road, Route 8, Box 47A

city, town Johnson City _____ vicinity of _____ state Tennessee 37601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carter County Courthouse

street & number Elk and Main Streets

city, town Elizabethton _____ state Tennessee 37643

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Tennessee Historical & Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1977 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town 4721 Trousdale Drive Nashville _____ state Tennessee 37219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

The Henson Hunt House is located on a hillside approximately two miles southeast of Johnson City on Carter County land, annexed by the city of Johnson City. A long gravel drive leading to the property connects to Highway 67.

The main entrance faces northeast and the rear of the house faces southwest where the land falls away offering a wide vista of the valley below. The main, two-story section was built ca. 1790-1812 when the property was sold to Henson Hunt. The house was enlarged during the 1920s when the front portico, side wings, and back terrace and garage were added.

In its original form, this two-story stone house consisted of the twenty-five by thirty-five foot rectangular center section with full basement and gable roof, balanced by stone chimneys in each end wall. For sturdy construction, this section has twenty-four inch thick, semi-coursed, rubble limestone bearing walls which taper to eighteen inches at the top. Floors are supported by twenty-four foot long, hewn timbers, and the roof framing has the traditional mortised, tenoned, and pegged rafters. Ceilings are ten feet high throughout. The facade fenestration is identical on both main elevations, featuring centered entrances and identically spaced sash windows. Single-ply, vertical set, beaded pine boards were used for interior partition walls. Masonry walls were plastered and finished with beaded pine wainscoting, and chairrails. Exterior doors are three inch thick, board and batten type. These doors have thirty-six inch long wrought iron strap hinges. The three stone fireplaces had hand-carved, molded, paneled mantels which have been removed. Oral tradition relates the house had a separate kitchen in 1828. The basement has several distinctive features including the original wrought-iron window bars and a large fireplace for cooking which has been bricked over. The basement entrance is located beneath the main staircase. The paneled wall conceals the door which has a trap door hinged to its base. This door opens out from the floor in front of the wall door, and this floor door and the main door have carved sliding bolts to secure them.

Mrs. Reba I. Offinger bought the house and forty acres in the 1920s. At that time the Offingers replaced the window glass and re-roofed the house with slate tiles. They widened the eaves and added the columned portico on the front and the stone and concrete terrace in the rear. The old frame kitchen was removed in 1928 when the kitchen wing was added on the southeast end. The downstairs bedroom wing was attached to the north-west end in 1929; below this wing is the garage. Both wings follow the same stone masonry construction of the original section. The more recent stone is somewhat smaller in size, but it matches the original limestone in color and texture. In the 1920s the main entrance led to a center hall with two balanced parlors on each side, and two chambers above. With the partitions removed, the downstairs became one large room twenty-one feet wide and thirty-one feet long, with fireplaces in each end, which are original, and entrances cut through to each wing room. A bathroom was added to the room at the head of the stairs, leaving the twelve foot by twenty-one foot chamber on the northwest end. The walls were plastered above the wainscoting. The ceiling beams were covered over in the living area; the second story joists remain exposed. The floor was recovered with walnut flooring, the second story floor boards are gum. The enclosed corner staircase to the second story was replaced with the present staircase, leaving the enclosed staircase to the attic unchanged.

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(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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When the house was standing vacant again, the original mantels and some of the paneling were destroyed. The present owners have replaced the mantels with modern units and they have also modernized the kitchen. Dormers were added to the rear for the attic room which has been finished as a bedroom. A frame kitchen addition was built on the rear wall of the southeast wing.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1812

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Henson Hunt House embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction seldom found in Tennessee. Stone plantation houses were constructed in the state from the earliest days of settlement in the late eighteenth century through the first or second decade of the nineteenth century; by 1820 stone as a building material had largely been supplanted by brick.

In the early years of settlement in Tennessee few settlers had sufficient capital to construct houses in stone; by the time later generations had accumulated enough money for substantial houses, and brick had replaced stone in the fashion of building materials. For this reason, stone plantation houses dating from the early years of Tennessee history are rare; today there are approximately twenty surviving in the state. Together with the early frame houses built during that period, these stone houses illustrate that architecture on the frontier was not necessarily primitive but instead depended upon the financial resources of the builders.

Surviving courthouse records from the early settlement period indicate there were several members of this family who were in this area about or before 1790. Thomas Hunt, S. Hunt, Jess Hunt, and Uriah Hunt owned various properties made up from early land surveys made by the State of North Carolina; some of these grants extended across sections in the vicinity of Sinking Creek, on both sides of the present Carter and Washington County lines. Deeds located in the Washington County Courthouse in Jonesboro reveal that Thomas Hunt owned 250 acres in this area in 1791. A deed in the Carter County Courthouse in Elizabethton indicates Thomas Hunt sold 295 acres to his son Henson Hunt for \$1,500 on September 12, 1812. Gravestones on this property show Henson Hunt was born May 15, 1780 and was buried here when he died in December 1853. He was married to Mary Hunt who was also buried in the family cemetery in 1876.

Apparently the Hunt family owned the property for more than one hundred years. After that time the property was tied up in an estate settlement and stood vacant for over twenty years. It was bought, along with forty acres of the farm land, in the 1920s. At that time the house was in its original form and in need of repair. The house was restored and additions made. Following that time it stood vacant for several more years and was about to be torn down when it was purchased by the present owner in 1974.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Information provided by Mr. and Mrs J.W. Street, Jr., Johnson City, Tennessee.

Offinger, Reba L. "The Evolution of a Tennessee Farmhouse," The American Home Magazine, May 1929

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .7

Quadrangle name Johnson City, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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3	8	1	1	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the property nominated is shown as the red line on the accompanying tax assessment map No.55J entitled "Elizabethton, Carter County," which is drawn at a scale

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
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organization	Tennessee Historical Commission	date	October 31, 1979
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street & number	4721 Trousdale Drive	telephone	615/741-2371
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city or town	Nashville	state	Tennessee	37219
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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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hager

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 11/1/79

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

Sally G. Olden

date 12/26/79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristen J.O. Council

date 12/12/79

Chief of Registration

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of 100 feet to the inch. The property nominated is the entire tract owned by Mr and Mrs. J.W. Street.