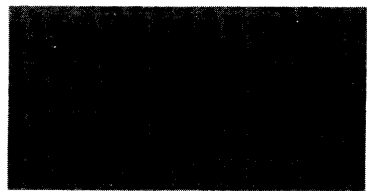


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 ~~Rauscher-Ross House~~

and/or common Ross-Sewell House (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number 909 Highland Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Tennessee code 047 county Madison code 113

**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 checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input checked="" 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 Mrs. Floy Sewell

street & number 909 Highland Avenue

city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38301

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Court Square

city, town Jackson state Tennessee 38301

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Ross-Sewell House, located on Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, is a two-and-½ story irregularly planned frame house with Queen Anne features. Two enclosed porches, ca. 1950, are to the rear of the house. A one-story porch with corner turrets is supported by Doric columns and extends across the facade. There are two brick interior chimneys and two brick exterior chimneys. The roof is multi-planed.

The house is supported by a full brick foundation. The exterior walls are covered with beveled redwood siding. Each of the four brick chimneys has two flues which service upstairs and downstairs fireplaces. The chimney stacks retain their original features of paneling, corbelling, and molded brick. The two exterior chimneys also retain terra cotta scrolls on their shoulders. The multi-planed roof which consists of gable, pyramid, and tent styles is covered with asphalt shingles.

The majority of windows are straight-topped with plate glass in both the upper and lower sashes. Several other window styles can also be found: quarter-round lights; two variants of the Palladian window; a beveled leaded glass transom; casements with cut-glass patterns; and double sash windows with eight-over-eight panes.

Other exterior architectural features include: a pedimented porch entrance; a polygonal bay window on the left of the principle facade; a polygonal oriel with tent roof; and a porch balustrade with spindle balusters.

The interior woodwork, oak with a walnut stain, remains intact. Distinctive features include a round-arched mantel, wainscoting with raised panels, and crown molding with gold leaf designs.

Structurally the house is in excellent condition. Alterations to the house include the enclosure of the rear porches and renovations to the kitchen and baths. Despite these modifications, the building retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The house is located on a relatively flat site on a residential street. The grounds are casually landscaped with a few mature trees and shrubs. There are no outbuildings.

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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. 1904      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ross-Sewell House, built ca. 1904, is nominated under National Register Criteria B and C as a locally important resource to the Highland Park area of Jackson, Tennessee. As one of the original houses to be built in Crescent Park Subdivision of Highland Park, the house represents the decorative asymmetry of the Queen Anne Style of architecture with transitional elements of the Neo-Classical style. An exceptional degree of craftsmanship is displayed in both the interior and exterior architectural details. Further significance to the City of Jackson is derived from the house's association with a locally important citizen of Jackson who contributed to the law history of the city, Judge J.W. Ross, as a Chancellor for the Jackson-Madison County area and a U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

In early 1904 George E. Rauscher, a young businessman from Erin, Tennessee, purchased City Lot #4 in West Highland in the growing West Tennessee town of Jackson. Located near elegant Highland Park with its boating lake and bandstand, Rauscher had a 2-½ story house with Queen Anne features constructed for his family. By 1906 the Rauscher Hardware Co. store was a leading business in Jackson and advertised "Stoves, Tinware, Builders' Hardware, and Farming Implements" for sale. However, by 1910, Rauscher had left the hardware business to his two brothers and became partners in the Moore Tailoring Shop.

The Rauscher family sold the house in 1920 to Judge J.W. Ross, a Chancellor for the Jackson - Madison County area. Judge Ross and his wife, Sarah, both from Savannah, Tennessee, had arrived in Jackson several years before in order for him to establish himself as an attorney. He was elected Chancellor in 1913 and held that office until 1921 when, under the administration of President Warren G. Harding, he was appointed to the seat of United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. Ross remained a Federal judge until his death in 1931.

The house remained in a trusteeship with Jackson Building and Savings Association, a financial institution in which Ross had owned 45 shares of stock, until 1934 when it was purchased by Samuel and Floy Sewell. Samuel, an electrical engineer, was the owner and operator of The Electrical Shop, an electrical contracting and supply business in Jackson. Within two years of purchasing the house, Samuel died leaving the house to his wife, Floy. Floy Sewell became a saleswoman at W.P. Dabney & Sons Home Furnishings, but soon established her own furniture and interior design business, Floy Sewell Interiors, in her home on Highland Avenue. Floy's interior design office is still housed in her home, the Ross-Sewell House.

Architecturally, the Ross-Sewell House is representative of the large, irregularly planned Queen Anne style of domestic architecture with classical lines featured in the turreted porch of the facade. Although two rear porches have been enclosed, the house retains all of its original interior and exterior fabric.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Jackson, Tennessee, City Directories: 1906, 1910, 1923, 1929, and 1938.  
 Interview with David Murray, Retired District Attorney, Jackson, Tennessee.  
 Interviews with Mrs. Floy Sewell and Mrs. Peggy Sewell Wigal, Jackson, Tennessee.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Jackson North, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	3	3	5	2	8	0	3	9	4	4	0	4	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

E 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

F 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

G 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

H 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies townlot number 15, group "N", tax map 78-A, for the city of Jackson, Tennessee. The property's boundaries are outlined in red on the accompanying property assessor's map.

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ms. Cate Hamilton -- Planner

organization Northwest Tennessee Devel. District

date August 27, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 63, 124 Weldon Drive

telephone (901) 587-4213

city or town Martin,

state Tennessee

## 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.

Deputy  
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Herbert L. Harger*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 12/16/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the  
 National Register

date 1/27/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Ross-Sewell House

Item number 8

Page 2

The outstanding design and craftsmanship shown in the elaborate chimneys, the asymmetrical facades and roof lines, and the interior woodwork make the house one of the finest examples in Jackson of early-twentieth-century architecture.