

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

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

received JUN 26  
date entered JUL 25 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Brown-Chenault House

and or common Campbell Farm

**2. Location**

street & number On Chenault Lane .4 miles east of Rock Springs Road n/Anot for publication

city, town Castalian Springs  vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Sumner code 165

**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"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>N/A</u> in process                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <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:                       |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. Jack Campbell

street & number 1950 Robin Hood Road

city, town Winston-Salem N/A vicinity of state North Carolina, 27104

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sumner County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Gallatin state Tennessee

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Sumner County Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Brown-Chenault House is a two-story frame and log residence located on Chenault Lane .4 miles east of Rock Springs Road near Castalian Springs in Sumner County, Tennessee. Constructed ca. 1835 the house is an excellent example of an early 19th century "I" House. The exterior was originally of exposed logs but weatherboard sheathing was added ca. 1885. The interior of the house has not been significantly altered and features the original staircases, mantles and doors. The house is located on a 200 acre tract of farmland east of Bledsoe Creek, however, only a 1.3 acre lot surrounding and including the house is being nominated. The house is sited on a slight rise and is surrounded by woods and open farmland.

The main block of the house was constructed ca. 1835 and is two stories in height, three bays wide and one bay deep. At the rear (north) of the house is a ca. 1850 frame kitchen with a large exterior limestone chimney. The original section of the house and kitchen were connected ca. 1885 with a two story frame addition.

The original section is of log construction with large exterior limestone chimneys. The house has its original six-over-six sash windows. The main entrance is located on the south facade and displays its original eight paneled front door which also retains the original carpenter lock and brass doorknob. Over the entrance is a four light transom. No evidence has been found to suggest that a porch was constructed on this facade. The log exterior on the house was covered with sawn weatherboard planks ca. 1885. The original shingles on the gable roof have been removed and the house presently has a metal standing seam roof.

The kitchen is a one-story frame structure with a large exterior limestone chimney. A window has been added on the north facade and the original doors have been replaced with modern doors in recent years. The kitchen has weatherboard siding and also displays a standing seam metal roof. A two-story addition was built on the north facade which connects the two buildings. This addition has six-over-six sash windows, new frame and glass doors, weatherboard siding and a metal standing seam roof. A large stone and brick chimney is located on the north facade of the addition. On the east facade of the addition is a one-story shed roof porch with simple rectangular posts. On the west facade of the addition is a one-story porch with a shed roof and

**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 Brown-Chenault House

Item number 7

Page 2

decorative posts and bargeboard. Part of the porch has been enclosed for a small storage shed.

The interior of the original section has retained much of its original detailing. The entrance hall and flanking parlors display the original chair and picture rails which are of frame construction. In the east parlor on the first floor is an ornate late Federal style mantle with fluted pilasters which is in excellent condition. The original mantles are also extant in the other rooms of the house but they are simpler in design with minimal detailing.

One of the finest features of the house are the original exterior and interior doors. These doors are composed of six small rectangular raised and molded panels with two large panels below. The doors are pegged together and display exceptional workmanship. The doors also feature their original iron and brass carpenter locks which are in excellent condition. The original section also retains its original staircases which are simple in design with rectangular balusters. The interior of the original section has not been altered although some additions such as carpeting, new fixtures and cabinets have been added in the rear addition and kitchen areas.

To the north of the house are four frame barns and outbuildings which were built in the 20th century and do not contain any significant detailing. None of these buildings are included in the nominated property. The house is reached by a gravel driveway from Chenault Lane. A limestone wall runs along the eastern edge of the front yard of the house but there are no other significant site features associated with the property.

## 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. 1835      **Builder/Architect** George T. Brown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Brown-Chenault House is located in eastern Sumner County one-mile north of Castalian Springs, Tennessee. The house was built ca. 1835 and is an architecturally and historically significant structure of the 19th century. The building has been nominated under criteria B and C because of its architectural character and association with the Chenault family of Sumner County. The house has not been altered and displays its original character.

The Brown-Chenault house is located on land which was originally granted to early pioneer Anthony Bledsoe. Bledsoe owned a large amount of property in the Castalian Springs area and the site of Bledsoe's Fort and the Bledsoe family cemetery is located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the house. In 1797 Bledsoe sold 640 acres to another well known Sumner County resident James Douglass. Douglass owned the property until 1835 when 200 acres were sold to George T. Brown.

George Brown purchased this property on February 16, 1835 for \$2,509.00. Brown was twenty-eight years old when he bought this tract and he had a wife and several children. Brown soon constructed this two-story log home located in the rolling hills of the Bledsoe Creek watershed. Brown is listed as residing on this property by February of 1836 according to Sumner County Commission records. The 1838 tax list shows Brown as owning 200 acres and four slaves.

The house constructed by Brown was a two-story log house with a central hall and flanking parlor arrangement. The house has two large end chimneys of limestone construction and six-over-six sash windows. The doors and original mantles reflect the late Federal style in their detailing. The interior of the house was also built with picture rails and chair rails in all rooms and hallway. The doors are also notable for their retention of the original Carpenter locks.

Brown farmed the surrounding area for fifteen years. During that time Brown also served as magistrate of the Sumner County First District. In 1850 Brown decided to move to a farm in the northern section of the county and sold this

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.3 acres

Quadrangle name Bethpage, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 6 | 5       | 6 | 2 | 4 | 9        | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

E 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

F 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

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|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the Brown-Chenault House is shown as the dotted line on accompanying Sumner County Tax Map 107 which is drawn to the scale of 1" = 400'. The nominated property includes a 1.3 acre lot surrounding the house and does not include any adjacent 20th century structures. (See continuation sheet)

### 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 Philip Thomason

organization Thomason and Associates date April 4, 1985

street & number 1700 Hayes St. Suite 202 telephone 615-320-5732

city or town Nashville state Tennessee, 37203

# 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 National Park Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Byer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/31/85

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

for Helene S. Byer date 7-25-85  
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  
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Continuation sheet Brown-Chenault House

Item number 8

Page 2

house and the adjacent 200 acres to David Chenault. Brown resided at his new farm in Sumner County until his death in 1883.

The Chenault family was one of the most prominent families of eastern Sumner County in the 19th century. David Chenault was born in 1768 in Virginia and was the son of William Chenault, a native of France. The Chenault family moved first to Madison County, Kentucky where they lived for many years. In 1836 David Chenault moved to Sumner County and purchased a sizeable estate. Chenault had a large family which eventually numbered nine sons and four daughters. Chenault built a large brick house called "Greenfield" which remains extant.

By 1850 the Brown tract was located on the southern border of the Chenault property when it was purchased. During the 1850s and early 1860s the house was occupied by several different members of the Chenault family. In 1867 the family of Colby Chenault moved into the house and he farmed the 231 surrounding acres. The acquisition of the Brown farm helped to bring the Chenault family's total acreage in this section of the county to over 2,500 acres.

Colby Chenault was the second son born to David Chenault. He was married in 1854 to Araminta Harper who was also a native of Sumner County. Colby Chenault served in the 9th Tennessee Cavalry and fought with General John H. Morgan during the Civil War. After the war he moved into this house and became a prominent farmer. In addition to being recognized as a prosperous farmer Chenault was also a noted Mason. He was described in the 1887 Goodspeed's History of Tennessee as a man of "energy and good business qualifications, kind hearted and strictly honest."

Colby Chenault had nine children and to meet the growing demands of the family an addition was added to the rear of the house around 1885. When the addition was added the exterior surface of the house was covered with weatherboard. Newspapers from 1885 were discovered within the walls of the addition. The addition extended back to connect with the frame kitchen at the rear of the house. Colby Chenault died in 1918 and since his death the house has continued to be owned by the Chenault family.

**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 Brown-Chenault House

Item number 8

Page 3

The Brown-Chenault house is an excellent example of an early log and frame central passage I house of the 19th century. The house is also notable for its intact and original features such as the doors, mantles, woodwork and hardware. The house is one of the few remaining structures in Sumner County associated with the Chenault family who have been prominent landowners since the 1830s. The house continues to be owned by the Chenault family and the house is presently being restored.

**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 Brown-Chenault House

Item number 9

Page 1

Bibliography

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Snider, Margaret and Yorgason, Joan., comp. Sumner County Cemetary Records. Gallatin, Tennessee: Private Printing, 1981.

Sumner County Deed Records. 1797-1835. Sumner County Courthouse, Gallatin, Tennessee.

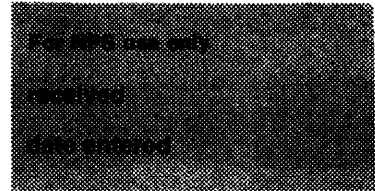
Sumner County Tax List. 1838.

Sumner County Survey Map. 1878. Copy on file at Sumner County Library.



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

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



Continuation sheet Brown-Chenault House

Item number 10

Page 2

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The boundary of the nominated property includes enough land to protect the historical setting and architectural integrity of the Brown-Chenault House.

25 - 89

3  
54.3 AC.

10 AC

6.04  
(30 AC)

6.03  
(34.71 AC)

34.19 AC

6.02  
42.09 AC

Brown-Chenault House  
Chenault Lane  
Vicinity of Castalian Springs, Sumner  
County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 400'



52 AC

CHENAULT LANE

6.89 AC

