National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page ____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference	Number:	90001579
Greenfield		
Property Name		

Date Listed: 11/7/90 TN Sumner County State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

of the Keeper

Amended Items in Nomination:

Since the cemetery is an important contributing section of this property, Criterion Consideration D should be checked.

The period of significance for this property should read, "1784-1795;

Scale of 1'' = 400 ' is acceptable because this is a rural property.

Discussed and concurred in by Tennessee SHPO on November 7, 1990.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

SEP 2 4 19901 NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

historic name Greenfield				
other names/site number Chenar	11t, David, House			
2. Location				
street & number 683 Rock Springs Road			NA_ not for publication	
<mark>city, town Castalian S</mark>	orings		icinity	
state Tennessee code	e TN county Sumner	code 165	zip code 37031	
3. Classification				
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources	within Property	
X private	building(s)	Contributing No	ncontributing	
public-local		2	3buildings	
public-State			sites	
public-Federal		$\frac{2}{2}$ $-$		
] public-rederal		<u> </u>	structures	
	object		1objects	
			4Total	
Name of related multiple property li	sting:	Number of contributin	g resources previously	
NA	-	listed in the National	Register 0	

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Inomination request for determination of eligibility meets the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and In my opinion, the property I meets of the Nation of the Nation In my opinion, the property I meets of the Nation In my opinion, the property I meets of the Nation I meets of the Nat	documentation standards for registering properties in the professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
Signature of certifying official Deputy State Historic Pres Tennessee Historical Commi	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the Nation	al Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
5. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	
Secontinuation sheet.	rman 11/7/90
Register. See continuation sheet.	
determined not eligible for the	
National Register.	
removed from the National Register.	
other, (explain:)	

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)		
DOMESTIC: single dwelling	DOMESTIC: single dwelling AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural		
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural			
outbuilding		outbuilding	
FUNERARY: cemetery	FUNERARY: cemetery		
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)		
	foundation	Limestone	
Federal	walls	BRICK	
	roof	tin	
	other	WOOD	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Greenfield nomination consists of several contributing resources: a two-story L-plan house, smokehouse, spring house, buggy shed, cemetery, and the site of a late eighteenth century pioneer stockade fort. The nominated property is located three tenths (.3) miles west of Rock Springs Road, approximately three miles north of Castalian Springs (unincorporated), in the First Civil District of Sumner County, Tennessee. The southerly facing 1840 house and smokehouse are near the center of the nominated property, which is the nucleus of a 208 acre working farm.

Greenfield is a five-bay, two-story, brick house with a two-story brick ell, resting on a cut limestone foundation, with a one-story brick and log extension. The twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows on all elevations of the main portion of the house are original. The windows of the one-story ell extension are six-over-six double-hung. All of the shutters on the south facade of the main block are original to the house, as are the shutters on the east second story window of the ell. The three shutter sets on the second story of the north elevation were purchased from Traveller's Rest (in Davidson County, NR 12/30/69) when that house was restored in the late 1960s.

A one-and-one-half-story log structure was connected to the north of the one-story ell addition around 1965, and is composed of a mid-nineteenth century one pen log house from a neighboring farm moved to the property. The log addition replaced a dirt-floored board and batten room which was used as the summer kitchen for the house, and was in a much dilapidated condition. The one-story brick room centered between the log addition and ell was originally used as the winter kitchen. At the time of the addition, the roof line of the one-story brick ell extension was raised approximately three (3) feet.

The main section of the house has three (3) original chimneys: one on either end of the main block and one on the end of the two-story brick ell. These chimneys protrude one course of brick from each end wall. The south facade of the main block is laid in Flemish bond pattern, and the remaining elevations are laid in American common bond. The main house and two-story ell are covered with a gabled roof of metal standing seam construction. The one-story ell extension and log addition are covered by a gabled composition shingle roof.

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Owner:

Nathan Harsh 123 Public Square Gallatin, Tennessee 37066

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One of the most significant exterior architectural features of the house is the original entrance portico and fanlighted entrance way, centered on the facade of the main block. The deep pedimented portico is supported by four square columns and two pilasters. The wooden floor of the porch is a restoration, resting on the original limestone foundation. The porch is accessed from the front over the original cut stone steps. Centered on the wall at the rear of the portico is the entrance way consisting of two halfdoors flanked by Doric columns and sidelights over which runs a molded architrave surmounted by an arched fanlight.

The only window in the east elevation of the main block is centered in the second story of the ell above the east portico. The east portico was reconstructed in 1987 based on wall shadows and is similar to the main portico on the south facade. There is one bay in the east elevation of the one-story brick ell extension, and a bay and one door on the same elevation of the log addition.

The north elevation of the log addition contains a bay on the first story and a small bay in the upper half-story gable. There are no windows in the north wall of the two-story brick ell. The north elevation of the main block contains three bays over two bays and a doorway which opens onto the central passage. A one-story covered porch extends the length of the north elevation and runs along the west wall of the ell and brick ell extension. It was reconstructed in 1987.

There is a bay on each story of the ell in the west elevation. There is one door and a window on the west elevation of the one-story ell extension. The log addition likewise contains a bay and a doorway on this elevation.

The main block of the house consists of a central hallway flanked on the first floor by a parlor to the west, and family room to the east, both of which are twenty feet square. The original chair rails in these rooms were removed early in this century, but were reproduced and installed in 1988 based on the surviving original chair rail in the dining room which is immediately behind the east family room. The west parlor, east family room, and dining room boast their original identical mantles consisting of a simple mantle shelf over a frieze with a molded central tablet flanked by fully-turned Doric columns.

Access to the upstairs is provided primarily by the main stairway in the central hall. It features a simple circular hand rail, a newel post of cherry, and square cherry balusters. The staircase ascends up the east wall of the central passage to an intermediate landing on the north wall

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and then continues up the west wall to the primary landing. Upstairs, the hallway is flanked by a bedroom to the west and east. Of special note are the original coat racks inset into the plaster walls in the upper passage on either side of the window centered on the south wall.

Each upstairs bedroom and the library behind the east bedroom contains a fireplace. The mantles of the second story are smaller and simpler than those on the main floor of the house. Like the three mantles downstairs, all of the second story mantles are identical. Both east and west bedrooms on the second floor retain their original woodwork. Of special note is the late nineteenth century grained woodwork, simulating quartersawn oak, in both upstairs bedrooms and the hall.

The east bedroom and library are connected by a door cut in the north wall late in the nineteenth century. Both of these rooms feature original built-in cupboards. A staircase descending the south wall of the library provides access to the dining room on the first story.

Significant interior features include the first floor mantles, built-in cupboards in the east upstairs bedroom and library, original six-over-two paneled doors, and plaster walls and ceilings in all rooms of the main block and ell. The original floors are tulip poplar with the exception of the first story of the front hall, staircase steps, intermediate stairway landing, dining room, and dining room staircase steps, which are ash.

The house has undergone very little alteration or modernization. A small bathroom was installed beneath the main staircase in 1988 within the space of the original understairs closet. A portion of the east upstairs bedroom was partitioned to create a main bath at the same time. The doorway connecting the east bedroom upstairs with the library is not original, but was cut sometime in the late nineteenth century. The house has been electrified and contains a central heat and air unit in the attic and beneath the dining room floor, and they were installed in 1988-89.

The most significant alteration to the house has been the removal of the original board and batten summer kitchen around 1965. At that time, the brick chimney separating the brick ell extension and summer kitchen was dismantled and the north wall of the ell extension was opened. The log addition was attached and a rock chimney was constructed between the two rooms in the position of the original brick kitchen chimney. All of this work was undertaken tastefully so as not to detract from the architectural integrity of the house.

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The second contributing building to the nomination is the original brick smokehouse contained within the yard to the rear, northeast of the main house. The smokehouse, which was constructed at the same time as the main house, is of two-story height, laid in American common bond, and contains one doorway centered in the south end wall, beneath a large wooden lintel beam. The building sits on a limestone foundation. Both the south and north elevations contain decorative vents within the gable of the end walls near the roof for escaping smoke. The floor is compacted earth. Most of the original timbers for hanging meats are intact. The smokehouse is covered by a metal roof.

The third contributing structure is the stone spring house to the south of the house. The original structure was stabilized and partially reconstructed in 1965. The spring house had partially fallen in by that time. The stones were reset in mortar and a roof was placed over the structure.

Another contributing resource is the frame buggy shed. The use of square nails and its general appearance indicate that this building was erected during the late nineteenth century. It has experienced little alteration and is representative of a typical vernacular agricultural structure.

The Chenault family cemetery is well maintained within its original iron fence and contains the graves of David and Louisa Chenault and several of their children and grandchildren. It is a contributing feature of the nomination.

Finally, the site of Greenfield Fort, which is a short distance to the south of the house, is a contributing historic site. The site, due to its rocky subsurface, has experienced relatively little alteration and is because of its role in the development of the Cumberland significant General William Hall describes Greenfield Station as a settlements. stockade fort, two and one-half miles north of Isaac Bledsoe's fort, on a high eminence, with an abundance of cleared ground around it. (Hall, p. 21). The fort site has been closely associated with the immediate vicinity of the present brick house. Generally, two sites have traditionally been Malvina Swaney Chenault indicated in 1906 in her "History of suggested. Civil District No. 1" that the fort was built a few yards north of the David Chenault house. This narrative is suspect in that there are a number of erroneous statements made in her account. Ermin Chenault, greatgranddaughter of David Chenault, maintained that the fort has stood south of the brick house on the eminence overlooking the spring. The fort's proximity to the spring is alluded to in William Hall's narrative in which

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he notes that near the end of the April 1793 attack the "Indians stationed themselves at the Spring Branch..." and their bullets splashed water o his legs as he leaped the branch, and "reached the fort in safety." (Hall, p. 25). The implication herein is that the fort was only a short distance from the water.

In order to substantiate the actual location of the fort, a metal detector survey was conducted in both areas, behind the house to the north, and in front of the house to the south, by Doug Drake in the summer of 1987. The north site immediately behind the house produced no significant evidence of former structures. However, Drake did find evidence of a small structure in the field adjoining the yard, northeast of the smokehouse. Artifacts collected suggest a domestic structure of early to mid-nineteenth century vintage.

Testimony presented by General William Hall in the case of Weatherhead's Lessee v. Baskerville 52 Us 329 (1850) indicates that after the fort ceased to be used in 1795 the tract was rented out until Isaac Bledsoe, son of Anthony, took possession sometime between 1799 and 1801. Bledsoe continued in possession until 1836 when he sold the tract to David Chenault. Chenault must have occupied whatever structure Bledsoe had lived in until his brick house was constructed in 1840. The north dwelling site may represent this intermediate structure or a support building for the housing of slave labor.

Site investigation south of the house was more productive. Partial excavations on the eminence overlooking the spring, designated as the fort site by Ermin Chenault, produced a number of trash pits which yielded assorted domestic artifacts indicative of the late eighteenth century occupation. These artifacts included blue and green shell-edged pearlware, bone handled utensils, miscellaneous buttons, a brass cask spigot, several portions of Spanish milled dollars, a 1752 French gold piece, trade beads, and a bear claw. Based upon his investigations, Drake produced a site map and donated it to the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The map is designated as Greenfield plantation and Greenfield Fort.

There are four non-contributing resources on the property: a circa 1920 barn, two early twentieth century sheds to the rear of the main house, and a 1987 monument commemorating the fort.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this pro	perty in relation to other properties:	
Applicable National Register Criteria	ח	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	D DE DF G NA	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance ca. 1784-1883	Significant Dates
Architecture Exploration/Settlement		1840
	Cultural Affiliation	
Significant Person Chenault, David Bledsoe, Anthony	Architect/Builder Fonville, John	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Greenfield is being nominated under National Register criterion A for the site's historical association with the Greenfield Fort (or Station). The historic site represents an important early settlement in the region from its establishment in 1784 until 1795. The site is also important under criterion B for its association with Anthony Bledsoe, pioneer leader and builder of the stockade fort who lived here from 1784 until his death in (There are no extant buildings associated Bledsoe). The house is 1788. being nominated under criterion B for its association with David Chenault, a major producer of agricultural commodities and significant land owner and His commercial and civic community leader in eastern Sumner County. activities for the years he lived here (1840-1883) represent a significant example of how an individual contributed to the early development of a The house is also eligible under criterion C for its small community. architectural significance, being one of three surviving houses built by master builder John Fonville.

Historically, the Greenfield tract has served as a major hub for community and political activity in eastern Sumner County (establishes in 1786). The present 208 acre farm is the heart of the 6,280 acre Greenfield tract originally granted to Anthony Bledsoe by the State of North Carolina and recorded in October 1787, by virtue of that State's Act for the Relief of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Line. Anthony Bledsoe (1733 -July 20, 1788) was born in Orange County, Virginia, and arrived in that area of Davidson County, North Carolina, which would become Sumner County, Tennessee, about 1781 (Cisco, p. 62). After living in his brother Isaac's fort for a time, Anthony established his own stockade fort on the Greenfield Tract to the north in 1784 (Carr, p. 19). Anthony Bledsoe was one of the Cumberland settlement's primary leaders. He was a Colonel in the Davidson County militia and was a Trustee of Davidson Academy in 1785 (Cisco, p. 64). Anthony Bledsoe was mortally wounded on July 20, 1788, in a surprise Indian attack at his brother's, Isaac Bledsoe's, fort. The loss of Bledsoe was a severe blow to the Cumberland settlers, as he was considered a fine leader of the people, second in importance only to James

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Robertson (Carr, p. 23). The Greenfield fort continued to be used for fortification under the management of Bledsoe's widow, Mary Bledsoe Parker until about 1795 when the last Indian battle was fought in Middle Tennessee. The Fort was the scene, on April 28, 1793, of one of the largest Indian battles in Middle Tennessee, when 260 warriors descended on the stockade structure (Hall, p. 25). It's usefulness declined in the coming years and the fort was eventually abandoned by 1795. Evidence of the structure can be found on the eminence to the south of the present brick house, and the site has remained relatively undisturbed.

After the Indian wars, the tract was rented out from approximately 1796 until 1799 or 1801 when Anthony Bledsoe's son, Isaac, took possession. Generally, the tract was much improved by extensive clearings and several valuable brick buildings prior to 1818.

Isaac Bledsoe remained in possession of the farm and fort site until 1836 when he sold 595 acres (including the nominated property) to David Chenault. Chenault (February 15, 1800 - December 2, 1883) was a native of Madison County, Kentucky. He and his wife, Louisa Quisenberry (September 29, 1811 - April 30, 1887), took possession of the Greenfield farm, accompanied by four of their eventual fourteen children, in October 1836. According to an account written by their youngest child, Charles C. Chenault (b. 1858) early in this century, the brick house was constructed in 1840. That same year, David Chenault served as Trustee of Rural Academy, a neighborhood school where many children of the First Civil District of Sumner County were educated (Durham, Old Sumner, p. 313). The large number of siblings in the Chenault household precipitated a natural interest in education. David Chenault also served on the Board of Trustees for Bledsoe Female Academy when it was incorporated by the State Legislature on February 4, 1850 (Ibid, p. 323).

Chenault primarily engaged himself in a successful agricultural operation based at Greenfield. Five hundred acres of the 860 which he owned by 1860 were improved, having an aggregate value of \$52,600 according to the 1860 Agricultural Census. The primary crops for that year were corn, oats, and wheat; the farm producing 7,500 bushels, 1,000 bushels, and 200 bushels of these commodities respectively. At the time of his death, Chenault had become one of the most successful farmers and extensive land owners in Sumner County (Goodspeed, p. 865).

His vast land holdings encompassed a number of adjacent farms and homesteads in which Chenault established his children. In 1887, there was still in one body of land over 2,500 acres (Goodspeed, p. 865). Louisa

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Quisenberry Chenault continued to live on the farm until her death. Their tenth child, Milton W. Chenault (b. 1849), took possession of the farm in 1883, and it remained in the Chenault family until it was sold to the Willmore family in 1913. A. J. Fitzpatrick took possession in 1914 and owned the farm until 1930 when it was purchased by the Wilson family. In 1962, Dr. and Mrs. T. F. Parrish of Nashville bought the property. They sold it to the present owner in 1986.

Greenfield is one of three, nearly identical, well-proportioned houses constructed in eastern Sumner County by John Fonville (c. 1808 - post-1850). James Patrick describes them as "especially fine Middle Tennessee examples of the five-bay Federal type" (Patrick, p. 95). Of the three houses, Greenfield, Oakland, and the James B. Jameson House (NR11/25/85), Greenfield is the earliest, with its 1840 construction date. The neat style and well-executed late Federal detail work have tempted architectural historians relying on exterior appearances to erroneously push construction dates for these homes back to the 1830s.

As the earliest surviving example of Fonville's work, Greenfield is especially significant. Interior detail at Greenfield, especially the first floor mantles and central hallway, are perhaps the most handsome in any of the three houses. Though the primary plan of the three houses is very similar, Greenfield differs from the Jameson House and Oakland in that the ell is placed on the east rather than the west of the main block. In exterior ornamentation, Greenfield lacks the sidelighted window centered on the front facade of the second story found on the other two houses. At Greenfield, Fonville employed bays of equal size on the front facade. Oakland and Greenfield are most similar in plan, but in mirror image of one another. Both incorporate a two-story ell section which is only one room in depth, whereas the Jameson House has an ell of a full two stories for The largest of the three houses, the Jameson House its entire length. contains a full basement. Oakland has a partial cellar, while Greenfield has no basement.

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Carr, John. Early Times in Middle Tennessee. Parthenon Press, Nashville. 1958. Reprint of 1857 edition.

Chenault, Charles C. "A Bit of History." Article addressed to the editor of <u>The News</u>, written between 1920 and 1930. (Copy available from Nathan Harsh)

Cisco, Jay Guy. <u>Historic Summer County, Tennessee</u>. Fold-Keelin Printing Company, Nashville. 1909. Drake, Doug. Personal Interviews. Summer 1987.

- Durham, Walter T. Old Sumner: A History of Sumner County Tennessee From 1805 to 1861. Parthenon Press, Nashville, 1972.
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Hall, General William. Early History of the South-West: Indian Battles and Murders - Narrative of General Hall. Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1968. (Reprint from The South-Western Monthly, July 1852)

History of Tennessee with Sketches of Sumner, Smith, Macon, and Trousdale Counties. Goodspeed Publishing Company, Nashville. 1987.

Patrick, James. <u>Architecture in Tennessee: 1768 - 1897</u>.University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, 1981.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point in the northern property line of the Greenfield farm approximately 2400' west of Rock Springs Road, thence in a southerly direction parallel with the aforementioned road approximately 1900' to the southern property line of the Greenfield property, thence along with the southern property line of subject property in a westerly direction 450', thence in a northerly direction parallel with Rock Spring's Road approximately 1900' to the northern property line of the Greenfield property, thence in an easterly direction with the northern property line of subject property to the point of beginning, containing by estimation approximately 19.63 acres.

Boundary Justification

The Greenfield boundary encompasses the house, smokehouse, surviving outbuildings, and the site of the pioneer stockade, Greenfield Fort. Historically the property has been used primarily for agricultural purposes and the nominated acreage is necessary to preserve its historical integrity.

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Greenfield 683 Rock Springs Road Castalian Springs, Sumner County, Tennessee Photos by: Foster Carter Date: March 1990 Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission Nashville, Tennessee

View of the southern facade and part of the eastern (side) elevation, facing generally northwest #1 of 24

View of the Greek Revival portico on the southern facade and fanlighted entrance way #2 of 24

View of the side (eastern) elevation of the main house and one-story ell extension, showing reconstructed east portico, facing generally west #3 of 24

View of the rear (northern) elevation of the house showing one-story log addition, facing generally south #4 of 24

View of side (west) elevation of main house showing reconstructed rear porch and log addition, facing generally east #5 of 24

View of central entrance hall from the principal entrance with stairway on East wall showing intermediate landing #6 of 24

View of formal west parlor on first floor from doorway connecting to central hall #7 of 24

Detail of original mantle in west parlor #8 of 24

View of east family room on first floor as seen from doorway connecting to central hall, with dining room being accessed through door at left of photo #9 of 24

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Detail of east family room mantle #10 of 24

Detail of dining room mantle #11 of 24

View of dining room as seen from doorway adjacent to mantle, family or east parlor through doorway at right, east portico outside door at left #12 of 24

View of west upstairs bedroom #13 of 24

Detail of west upstairs bedroom mantle showing late 19th century graining #14 of 24

View of east upstairs bedroom from doorway off upstairs central hall showing original built-in storage cupboard to left of fireplace #15 of 24

Detail of mantle in east upstairs bedroom #16 of 24

Detail of built-in cupboard in east upstairs bedroom #17 of 24

View of library from east upstairs bedroom showing original built-in cupboard to right of fireplace #18 of 24

View of front (south) facade of brick smokehouse to rear of main house, facing generally northeast #19 of 24

View of reconstructed stone springhouse, facing generally east #20 of 24

View of Chenault family cemetery to west of main house, facing generally northwest #21 of 24

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View of Greenfield monument erected to south of the main house on the site of the pioneer stockade Greenfield fort, facing generally south #22 of 24

View of non-contributing sheds to rear of house, facing generally northwest #23 of 24

View of non-contributing barn to south of main house, facing generally southwest #24 of 24

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