

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 21 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1975

**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

Waters House

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

217 Cedar Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sevierville

— VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Sevier

CODE

155

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

— DISTRICT

— PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

— UNOCCUPIED

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— STRUCTURE

— BOTH

— WORK IN PROGRESS

— EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— OBJECT

— IN PROCESS

— YES: RESTRICTED

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— BEING CONSIDERED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

NO

— MILITARY

— OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

David P. Waters

STREET & NUMBER

217 Cedar Street

CITY, TOWN

Sevierville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sevier County Register's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Sevierville

STATE

Tennessee

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## 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 Waters House was built around 1895 and represents one of the finest Victorian houses in Sevierville. It is located on Cedar Street, one of the older residential sections of town. Now defunct Murphy College is across the street. The home is a three story clapboard structure which is highlighted by the decor of craftsman, Louis Buckner, a nineteenth century black carpenter of exceptional skill. Gables abound on the home at various levels; three are formed on each side of the house to terminate the bay windows at the roof. "Butterfly wings" drape the sides of the bay windows at the second floor; the wings are the work of Buckner. The porch is trimmed with "Dumbbell" dowels and gingerbread trim; it is rounded at the corner toward the rear of the home. The yard is nicely landscaped and outlined by an iron fence in front.

The interior brings the home alive. The woodwork of Buckner is found in almost every room. The local carpenter had a unique style which included simple geometric designs and carvings of floral patterns. The majority of his work was done in oak and other hardwoods. In the parlor is an elaborately carved mantel, the most attractive piece of his work in the house. The mantel is about eight feet high of carved oak. Buckner placed a tilting beveled mirror above the fireplace which is outlined in tile and covered by a brass grate. Another mantel of lesser proportion but similar pattern is found in the sitting room. Various pieces of Buckner's furniture are also to be found in the home.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) carpentry, furniture craftsmanship
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES	1895	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Dr. A. W. Trotter
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although Sevierville is one of the older towns in East Tennessee, there are not many buildings which date prior to 1870 because of a widespread fire during the late 1850's and the lack of development during the Civil War period. Toward the late nineteenth century, the town began to expand and select residences were built in Victorian style.

The Waters House on Cedar Street, the most decorative, was originally the home of Dr. A. W. Trotter who practiced dentistry in Sevierville. The dentist was also instrumental in the development of Murphy College, an institution which ceased operations during the Depression.

Louis Buckner learned the carpentry trade as an apprentice to Colonel C. C. Stump just after the Civil War. Originally they worked together in a small shop in Sevierville. Later they moved to the Catlettsville vicinity. Buckner did both interior and exterior decor. His furniture and his mantels are most often oak; the lines are not overly extravagant, however, the result of his geometric and floral designs is one of charming and elaborate beauty. Buckner usually designed a piece of furniture for the space which it would accommodate; thus his furniture complements rather than overwhelms a room. Buckner ultimately worked on his own. He was noted to carry only a small bag of tools; his shop was located diagonally behind the Waters House. Unfortunately his own home was not completed when he passed away. Besides the Waters House, other fine examples of his work are to be found at the Denton Home (Douglas Dam Road) and at least one piece is located at Rose Glen on the Newport Highway.

The Waters house is significant, therefore, both as an excellent example of Victorian architecture and as a building which represents the outstanding talent of a wood craftsman.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clippings from the Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville, Tennessee.  
 Carberry, Michael, Historic Sites in Blount Cocke, Monroe and Sevier  
 Counties (Knoxville, 1973).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM OK  
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	7	2	6	8	5	9	0	3	9	7	1	8	6	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Carberry, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION

East Tennessee Development District

DATE

August, '74

STREET & NUMBER

1810 Lake Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Knoxville

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Lawrence Henry* 5/19/75

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Carl W. [Signature]*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6/18/75

DATE

JUN 17 1975