

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

For NPS use only

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

received **MAR 5 1984**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hazel Path

and/or common None

2. Location

street & number 175 East Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hendersonville N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 47 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 John W. Riadon, III

street & number 727 West Main Street

city, town Hendersonville N/A vicinity of state TN 37075

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Sumner County Courthouse

city, town Gallatin state Tennessee 37066

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

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Hazel Path is an impressive two and one half story brick, L-Shaped, Greek Revival house in Hendersonville, Tennessee that was built in 1857 for Daniel Smith Donelson and his family. Donelson, a very prominent local farmer, politician and eventually Confederate general, constructed this fine high style structure at the peak of his wealth and influence, leaving his smaller, more modest home, called Eventide (ca. 1830, NR 1/4/83), located one half mile south on another portion of his vast land holdings, to be used as a foreman's house. Hazel Path was redecorated in the mid-1880s according to the basic tenets of the popular Aesthetic Movement style as seen in the lattice and spindle work and spiraled newel post of the staircase, the floral patterned tile and stylized classical columns of the mantel in the northeast parlor, and the sinuous curves, vivid colors and Japanese motifs of the stained glass panels on the landing and second story balcony entrance. Since this period, no major alterations have occurred in the house. Hazel Path represents a fine example of both the Greek Revival and American Aesthetic Movement styles in Sumner County, Tennessee.

Hazel Path is a large, L-shaped, two and one half story brick house with a large, pedimented, Greek Revival style portico supported by four paneled square columns. The brick for the house was burned on the site and is laid in common bond. The house rests on a cut limestone block foundation. The north facade is three bays wide topped by a dentiled and bracketed cornice, and parapet with ball finials. The main entry consists of a double-leaf door with etched glass windows and single pane side lights and transom. This unit is situated in a shouldered and dentiled Greek Revival style surround. The second story balcony entry repeats the motif of the main entry but the windows, side lights and transom are stained glass. Balusters on the porch and balcony are turned. A six over six light double hung sash window with a decorative cast iron lintel flanks the portico on both levels.

The east elevation has two interior chimneys. This elevation is three bays wide with a pair of six over six light double hung sash windows with lintels decorated with square corner blocks in the central bay of the first two stories. A single window occurs in the chimney pent of the upper half story. A door leading to the basement was cut directly underneath one of the first story window sills.

The south elevation has a prominent two story veranda attached to the two story section of the rear ell. Two end bays of the upper story are enclosed in glass to house a bathroom. Some of the posts are turned while others are simple square columns with block capitals. The balusters display ornate, late-nineteenth century jigsaw work. The rear one story ell has a gable roof structure and displays similar veranda treatment. Attached to the east elevation of the ell, the veranda is five bays wide, the central bay of which is enclosed to house another bathroom. The ell was extended during the mid-1880s renovation. The two bays which were added display windows with segmental arches that are smaller than the original windows but the arrangement of the six over six light double hung sash type was maintained. This addition holds a kitchen and a bathroom. Two interior chimneys pierce the roof of this ell.

The major feature of the west elevation is the original side porch which was extended during the mid-1880s renovation by the addition of a flat roofed, frame, porte cochere with spindle work and turned posts. The original porch displays features similar to the front portico which include square, paneled columns, a cornice of dentils and console brackets and similar turned balusters. The doorway from the porch has a lintel with square corner blocks. The fenestration of the main part of the house on this elevation mirrors that of the east elevation and also has two interior chimneys.

**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 Hazel Path

Item number 7

Page 2

The interior is laid out in a typical central hall plan with four rooms per floor. The most striking feature of the hallway is the elaborate, four run, open well staircase. Its spindle work, basket weave carvings and spiraled newel post are elements of the Aesthetic Movement Style, popular in the late-nineteenth century. The paneled wainscotting and doors are also from this time period. The door surrounds display the Greek Revival style shouldered architrave molding. One side of the doors were grained to match the oak flooring and wainscotting and the other side was grained mahogany to match the parlor trim. The mantel in the northeast parlor displays floral patterned tile and stylized classical columns of the Aesthetic Movement style while the other mantels reflect Greek Revival tastes. The only furnishings which remain in this part of the house are the three chandeliers which all predate the turn of the century.

The southwest room off the front hall leads to the original dining room. This area was remodeled to house the living quarters for the caretakers.

The major features of the upstairs hall are the large Greek Revival style wardrobes with shouldered surrounds which line the hall. Floors on the second level are pine. Stained glass panels on the second story balcony entrance are executed in vivid colors, sinuous curves and Japanese floral motifs indicative of the Aesthetic Movement style. The stained glass window at the stairway landing matches the patterns of the other windows and is housed in an eight foot tall shouldered window surround. In the northeast corner of the second story hall sits a small, brass, one person elevator, placed there by the last owner of Hazel Path, Miss Sarah Berry, in the mid 1950s.

The original kitchen building for Hazel Path is a one story brick building set on a cut limestone foundation. This two room structure has a central chimney and gable roof covered with standing seam pressed metal sheeting. The window and door lintels match those of the main house.

The smokehouse is a one and one half story brick structure with a gable roof. The entry is located on the north elevation and the gable ends are pierced by small, header sized openings in a diamond shaped pattern.

The springhouse is a small, square, frame building with a pyramidal roof covered in pressed metal scale shingles. Decorative brackets support the eaves. The porch has a pent roof covered with asphalt shingles and is supported by three simple square posts.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1857

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Nominated under National Register criteria B and C, Hazel Path is significant because of its historical association with its builder, Daniel Smith Donelson and his descendants, and its architectural significance as a fine example of Greek Revival architecture with a splendid interior, incorporating elements of both the Aesthetic Movement and Greek Revival styles in Sumner County, Tennessee.

Daniel Smith Donelson was a prominent farmer, politician and soldier in Sumner County, Tennessee. Born in 1801, the youngest son of Samuel Donelson, he spent his early years in his father's house, Rock Castle (ca. 1800, NR 7/8/70). After his father's death in 1806 he became the ward of his uncle, Andrew Jackson, who lived across the Drake River at the Hermitage (1819, 1832, NHL 10/15/66). He graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1825 and served as a second lieutenant for one year, after which he returned to Tennessee to farm land he had inherited from his maternal grandfather, Daniel Smith. He traveled to Washington to visit his uncle, now President Jackson and married the daughter of his Secretary of the Navy, Margaret Branch on October 19, 1830.

The couple returned to Tennessee to Donelson's first house which he called Eventide (ca. 1830, NR 1/9/83). This modest one and one half story brick cottage is a rare extant example of Federal architecture in Sumner County. In 1834 he moved to Tallahassee, Florida to try cotton farming but returned to Tennessee in 1836 because of poor health. After his return, his farm began to prosper so he became involved in politics. He served Sumner County in the State Legislature from 1842-43 and 1855-59, serving as Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1857-1859.

The Donelsons had eleven children and as their wealth and prestige grew, Eventide was no longer suitable. Hazel Path, named for the hazel trees which lined the driveway, was built near Gallatin Pike, just one half mile north of the smaller house.

After the outbreak of the Civil War, Donelson was appointed Colonel in the Confederate cavalry by Tennessee Governor Isham Harris. One of his early assignments was to select a site on the Cumberland River near Dover, Tennessee for the location of a Fort which when completed was named Fort Donelson. In July of 1861 he was promoted to brigadier-general of the Confederacy and served under General Robert E. Lee in South Carolina and under General Braxton Bragg at the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Donelson died on April 17, 1863 at Montvale Springs, Tennessee and was promoted posthumously to Major-General on April 22, 1863.

Mary Branch Donelson, sold Hazel Path after Daniel Smith Donelson's death. It passed through several hands until it was purchased by Harry Smith, a descendant of Daniel Smith, for his daughter Nannie Smith Berry and her husband Horatio Berry. The Berry's were living in Rock Castle with their four children and moved to Hazel Path when the youngest, Sarah Berry was one year old, in 1882. The Berry's added the rear porches, port cochere, and remodeled the interior in the 1880s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres +
 Quadrangle name Hendersonville, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 16 535300 4017700
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is an irregularly shaped lot bounded on the north by Hazel Path Court, on the east by the property of the Sumner County Board of Education, and on its other edges by adjoining property lines of other lots within the Hazel Path Planned Commercial Development. The land nominated includes sufficient acreage to preserve the historic setting of Hazel Path.

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 Robin Krawitz, Architectural Historian
Vonnie Van Olst

organization Tennessee Historical Commission
John Riadon Properties

date 1-12-84
10-21-83

street & number 701 Broadway
727 West Main Street

telephone 615-742-6728
615-824-9662

city or town Nashville
Hendersonville

state Tennessee 37203
Tennessee 37075

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. Hager

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 3/1/84

For NPS use only

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

for [Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

date 4/5/84

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

Hazel Path

Item number

8

Page

2

Sarah Berry lived in Hazel Path until her death in 1982 at age 101. During her lifetime she was a prominent member of the Hendersonville community and through her gifts to the state and county, Hendersonville and Sumner County prospered.

She donated land for the county high school in the 1970s, a local grammar school is named after her mother, Nannie Smith Berry, and she gave Rock Castle to the State of Tennessee in 1969 with some family furnishings and placed some of her family artifacts with the State Library and Archives.

Hazel Path is one of the finest examples of the Greek Revival style of architecture extant in Sumner County. The interior with its grand staircase, colorful stained glass panels and fine woodwork, combine the simplicity of the mid nineteenth century Greek Revival style with the exuberance of the Aesthetic Movement style of the late nineteenth century.

**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 Hazel Path

Item number 9

Page 2

Major Bibliographical References:

Biographical Dictionary of the Tennessee General Assembly, Vol. I 1796-1861,
Robert M. McBride And Dan M. Robinson, Tennessee State Library and Archives,
Nashville, 1975, p. 206-207.

Dictionary of American Biography Vol. 2 Edited by Allan Johnson, Charles Scribner &
Son New York, 1929.

The Great Leap Westward, A History of Sumner County, Tennessee Walter T. Durham,
Sumner County, Library Board, Gallatin, Tennessee.

History of Davidson County, Tennessee, W.W. Clayton, Reproduced 1971 Charles Elder
Publisher, Nashville, Tennessee, 1880, p. 396-397.

History of Sumner County, The Goodspeed Publishing Co., Nashville, 1887, p. 872.