## 140

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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AUG | 4 1997

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in Hew to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking the appropriate port of by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For traditions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
historic name Thomison, Dr. Walter, House	
other names/site number Thomison House, Magnolia House Bed and Breakfast	
Thomison House, Magnolia House Bed and Breaklast	
2. Location	
street & number 656 Market Street	not for publication N/A
city or town Dayton	vicinity N/A
state Tennessee code TN county Rhea code 143	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
State Termessee Code III County Italia Code 140	Zip code
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this prequest for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the Nat Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered signify nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title Date  In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation shadditional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title Date	ional Register of n, the property icant
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that the property is:  See continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)	Date of Agricon

Thomison, Dr. Walter, House  Name of Property	Rhea County, TN County and State
5. Classification	Oddrity and State
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)  Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count)
☑ private ☑ building(s)   ☐ public-local ☐ district   ☐ public-State ☐ site   ☐ public-Federal ☐ structure   ☐ object	Contributing  Noncontributing  buildings sites structures
Name of related multiple property listing	Objects  2 0 Total  Number of Contributing resources previously listed
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  N/A	in the National Register
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  DOMESTIC: single dwelling  DOMESTIC: secondary structure	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  DOMESTIC: hotel
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Colonial Revival	Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Thomison, Dr. Walter, House	Rhea County, TN
Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE
■ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
☑ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity who's components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1890 - 1925
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations N/A (Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.) Property is:	Significant Dates 1890, ca. 1925
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person
☐ B removed from its original location.	(complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A
☐ C moved from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
□ D a cemetery.	N/A
☐ <b>E</b> a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ <b>F</b> a commemorative property	Architect/Builder
☐ G less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	UNKNOWN
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets	s.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
<b>Bibliography</b> (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on c	one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A  preliminary determination of individual listing (36  CFR 67) has been requested  previously listed in the National Register  Previously determined eligible by the National Register  designated a National Historic Landmark  recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  #	Primary location of additional data:  State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository: MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

Thomison, Dr. Walter, House	Rhea County, TN County and State				
Name of Property	County and State				
10. Geographical Data					
Acreage of Property less than one acre	_				
UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	Graysville, TN 111 NE				
1 16 679640 3928560 Zone Easting Northing 2	Zone Easting Northing  See continuation sheet				
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)					
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)					
11. Form Prepared By					
name/title Dr. Carroll Van West and Danielle Logsdon organization Center for Historic Preservation street & number Box 80, MTSU	date <u>January 1997</u> telephone <u>(615) 898-2947</u>				
city or town Murfreesboro	state TN zip code 37132				
Additional Documentation					
submit the following items with the completed form:					
Continuation Sheets					
Maps A USGS map (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the A Sketch map for historic districts and properties ha					
Photographs					
Representative black and white photographs of th	e property.				
Additional items (Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items					
Property Owner					
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)					
name Paul and Gloria Downs					
name Paul and Gloria Downs street & number 656 Market Street	telephone (423) 775-9288				

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

NPS FORM 10-900-A

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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#### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Dr. Walter Thomison House sits on the corner lot at 656 South Market Street in Dayton (pop. 24,344 - 1990), Rhea County, Tennessee. The Thomison House, constructed in 1890, was a wedding present to Ella Darwin Thomison from Dr. Walter Thomison. This two story, wood sided, hip roof building remains a dominant feature of the townscape. A photograph taken circa 1915 reveals that few changes have occurred to the northwestern facade of the house. Modernization of the house occurred circa 1925, and retains features from both the original 1890 construction and circa 1925. The Thomison House retains historic novelty siding from circa 1925, porch columns, brackets, and form from 1890. The siding on the house consists of boards cut to resemble two rounded edge pieces of weatherboard. The current siding probably replaced the original siding when the addition was connected to the house circa 1925. The two story portico leads into a spacious center hall. Four tall, slender lonic columns support the denticulated cornice. The small wrought iron balconette on the second floor reportedly served the Thomison family as a lookout and still adorns the facade today. Two central chimneys sit on top of the hip roof. Paired Italianate brackets support the projecting eaves on three sides. A historic concrete block fence still marks the property boundaries on two sides today.

The house is a basic Foursquare plan and is symmetrical on all elevations except for the rear or southeast elevation. The central bay on the facade hosts two symmetrically placed doorways, one on each floor. Original, working transoms above both doors still allow both sunlight and fresh air to stream into the house's long hallways. Four two-over-two double-hung shuttered windows are spaced evenly across the main body of the house. Ornate paired Italianate brackets spaced evenly around the house add decoration to the roof line. One of the house's two chimneys is centered on the northeast elevation of the hip roof. The circa 1925 additions to the back of the house are visible from this elevation. They include a small lean-to attached to a larger, rectangular form kitchen and porch area. Once used as a wash room, this area is now incorporated into the kitchen. A covered entry-way attached to the back of the kitchen is one of two entrances to the Thomison House's basement.

Irregularly shaped and spaced additions dominate the rear, or southeast, elevation of the house. The north bay of the southeast elevation features two slender, symmetrical two-over-two double-hung windows. One two-over-two double-hung second story window nearly sits on top of the screened in first floor sleeping porch in the central bay. The one-half story lean-to, originally the house's summer kitchen, sits between the porch and the northern first floor window. Two diamond shaped windows flank the first story gable roof of the addition on the southern bay. Centered on the east side of this attachment is one two-over-two double-hung window. The covered entryway to the basement is centered on the east end of the gabled ell.

On the southwest elevation, one two-over-two double-hung shuttered window is asymmetrically placed on the kitchen ell. This elevation exhibits the only major change to the exterior of the house. Originally four two-over-two double-hung windows matching the windows in the rest of the house were on this elevation. The first floor of the southern most part now hosts a French door added in 1995. This necessary adaptation is the result of building codes requiring multiple fire exits for the public rooms. The newly constructed wood deck meeting the French doors is not attached in a permanent way to this historic dwelling

The concrete block foundation is visible on all sides of the house. The wood siding matches on all sides of the house and suggests that new siding was added when the house was modernized circa 1925. At that time the wash house and summer kitchen were attached to the rear of the house. The plumbing and addition of bathrooms also occurred circa 1925. While the house retains its original form, it appears that the remodeling done circa 1925 followed many of the remodeling jobs of the time and strengthened the older house's Colonial Revival style.

The interior of the Thomison House is very much intact. The main entrance opens onto a long central hallway. The stairway, features low eleven inch risers built to accommodate Mrs. Thomison's small stature. A good example of all work, newel post dominates the hallway and staircase. This main entryway has retained the original wainscoting and

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decorative woodwork. Original plaster remains here and in the rest of the downstairs rooms, as do the oak floors. Working transoms with their original hardware open above every door. Because the current owners of the Thomison House needed an accessible public restroom on the first floor, they chose to enclose the stairway leading to the basement for use as lavatory facilities. The stair doorway, originally opening to steps to the basement was not altered in any way. The current owners simply laid a floor over the existing stairs and installed the plumbing, leaving the historic fabric of the house untouched.

The parlor is the room to the southwest of the hallway. The parlor retains its original wood flooring, an early light fixture and transom with its original hardware over the entrance from the hall. The door to the dining room is surmounted with a large Queen Anne transom with wood muntins. An eight-over-one double-hung window, matching those in the rest of house, still uses its original weights and balances. Decorative, fluted wood moldings surround each door and window and have bull's eye corner blocks. The house retains its original fireplaces and their decorative grates; including the one on the east wall of the parlor. The Colonial Revival mantel surround consists of lonic columns on each side that support an overmantel topped by a finial. Between the mantel shelf and the overmantel is a built in mirror. The hearth and fireplace surround consist of ceramic tiles. The original coal grate and covering with a floral pattern remains.

East of the parlor is the dining room. The dining room fireplace abuts the parlor fireplace, sharing the same chimney. A built-in china cabinet from 1845 graces the southwest corner of the room. Originally from the house of Dr. Thomison's father, it was installed during constructed. The cabinet with solid wood doors on the bottom, two drawers in the middle and two glass doors has remained untouched since its installation in 1890. One of two original keys remains, and the lock still functions. Original wood floors, plaster and decorative wood moldings around the windows and doors continue throughout this room. An original wood chair rail runs around the entire room. On the south wall a window was removed and replaced by French doors that open onto the wood deck. Because guests in the Magnolia House may not enter the kitchen area, this location was chosen for a secondary exit because of is public location and close proximity to the bedroom across the hallway. The transom and its hardware remain above the door to the hall.

A swinging door on the east wall connects the dining room with the kitchen. Extensive remodeling occurred in the kitchen to meet safety and health codes. Early asbestos tiles remain intact in the pantry, but has been covered with wooden slats. The original plaster walls remain. The present owners have tried to maintain the historic integrity of the house by installing traditional looking cabinets and furnishing in the kitchen, but considerations for their part-time catering business had to take precedent. Centered on the south and east walls are two-over-two double-hung windows. A door in the northeast corner of the north wall is currently blocked by a refrigerator. This was originally the Thomison's entrance into their wash room. Another door in the northwest corner of the north wall allows access to what was the summer kitchen, but now exists as a screened in sleeping porch. The wall between the two doors, originally separating the wash room from the rest of the kitchen, was removed long before the present owners purchased the house. This connection probably occurred when plumbing was installed circa 1925.

On the south side of the dining room is the Thomison's House only first floor bedroom. According to family tradition, all of the Thomison children were born in this room. With its central location and attached bathroom, this is not difficult to imagine. The door to the bath is on the east wall, directly to the east of the entrance to the bedroom. Once part of the summer kitchen, this small room was converted into a bathroom when plumbing was first installed. Unfortunately, original floors in the bathroom were badly water damaged when the present owners bought the house. Although the floors were replaced in the bathroom, an original claw foot, iron bathtub dominates the room. The lavatory is placed in a converted chest of drawers. The bedroom also contains two two-over-two double-hung windows on the east and north walls. The room's original fireplace and ornamental firebox remain on the west wall. Original hardware on the closet and entry doors and original hardwood flooring, original plaster and wood chair rails remain.

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Now used as a gift shop, the northwest front room was most likely a sitting room for the Thomison family. Centered on the east wall is a second original fireplace, with a built in mirror. The decorative design on the coal grate and cover consists of garlands around the edges. One two-over-two double-hung window on the north wall allows light into the room throughout the day. Centered in the west wall is a duplicate of the eight-over-one double-hung window in the parlor. This room also retains an early light fixture.

The wainscoting at the top of the stairs is not the same width as it is throughout the rest of the house. This is the result of enclosing part of the landing circa 1925 for a bathroom. Directly at the top of the stairs, this bathroom sustained severe water damage. This forced the new owners to replace the flooring, but they did manage to salvage the old claw-footed iron tub. Original pine wood flooring remains in the rest of the upstairs rooms as does the thinner circa 1925 wainscoting.

The southeast and southwest bedrooms were the two rooms most heavily damaged by water. The plaster in these two rooms could not be salvaged in 1990. The pine wood floors also damaged by water, but were retained and refinished. The southeast bedroom sports the two diamond shape windows. Centered on the south wall is a two-over-two double-hung window. This room retains its original fireplace and coal grate, as do the other three bedrooms on the second floor. Original hardware on the closet door and the transom remain (no transom gears existed on the second floor). The Thomison family, like many others, reserved their best and most expensive things for the public areas of the house

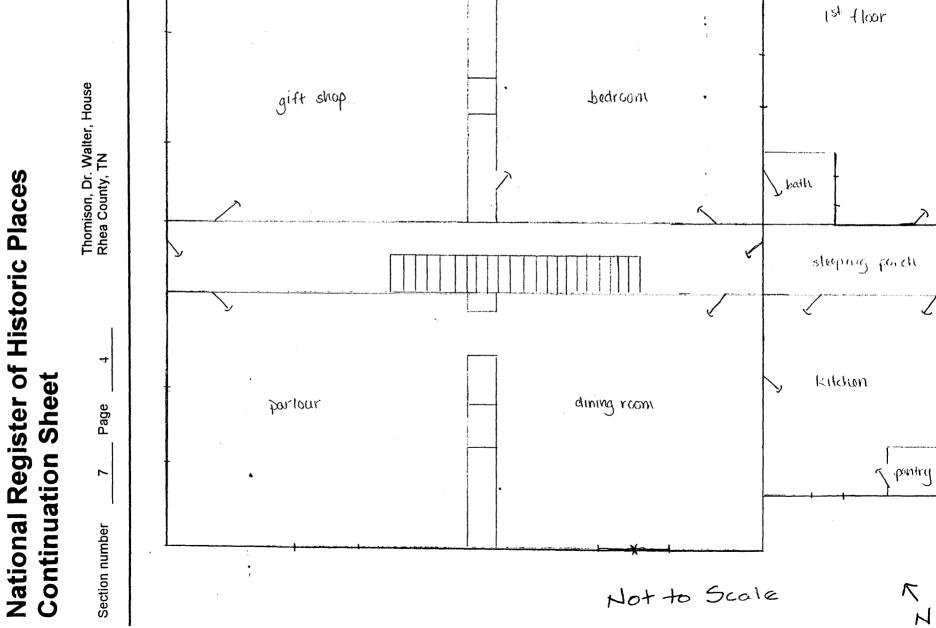
A doorway on the west wall reveals a walk through closet. Shelves were added to the sides of the closet, to allow the owners more space. One door was removed, although the hardware still remains. Through the aforementioned closed is the southwest room, now used as the owners' living room. No doubt originally used as a bedroom, this room also sustained heavy water damaged. Dry wall was installed here and in the southeast bedroom. In addition, the owners extended the closet from their bedroom approximately ten square feet into their living room. Though this addition does not contribute to the historic feel of the house, it does not extend all the way to the ceiling. It was built with the understanding that is should not alter the historic structure of the house. Since the plaster could not be salvaged in this area, no historic materials were removed to create this space. Centered in the south and west walls are two two-over-two double-hung windows and a transom tops the door to the hall on the north wall.

Directly across the hall to the north is the northwest bedroom, originally Dr. Thomison's bedroom. It is the most recently restored room in the house, all other renovations having been done circa 1990. Centered on the west and north walls are two two-over-two double-hung windows. Original hardware still remains on the closet and entry doors as it does on the rest of the doors on this floor. The fireplace retains it ornate firebox and cover featuring a cherub. All second floor doors and windows are surrounded by fluted frames. Some of the surrounds have corner blocks.

The northeast corner bedroom has retained the same high degree of integrity as the northwest bedroom. With its two two-over-two double-hung windows, fireplace, coal grate, original hardware, pine flooring and chair rail, this room is the mirror image of the room on the front of the house. A half bathroom was added in the closet of this room, but the original wood lining is still intact. This area, although altered to accommodate a bathroom for a bed and breakfast business, still retains a very high degree of historic integrity.

The Thomison House retains its original oak floors on the first floor and pine floors on the second floor, original ornamental hinges and hardware on doors, original plaster, wainscoting and chair rails, fireplace surrounds and mantels, coal grates and covers. Both the exterior and the interior of the house have remained virtually unchanged although the house has undergone modernization circa 1925 and circa 1990. The concrete fence is a contributing structure to the property.

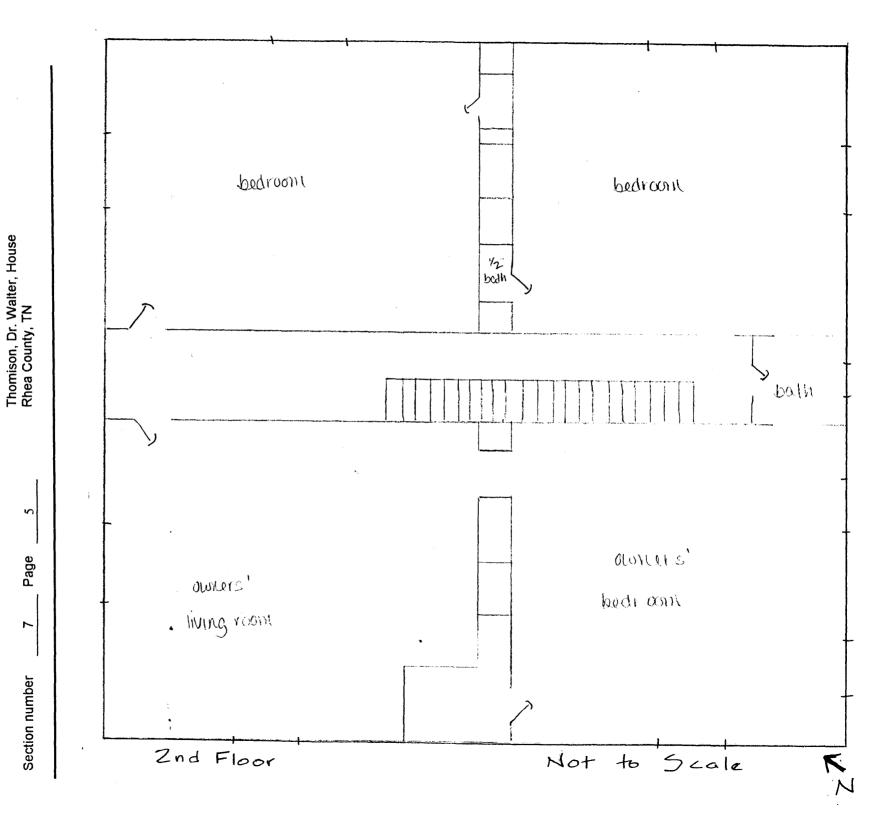
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#### **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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#### Statement of Significance

The Dr. Walter Thomison House is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for its significance in local architecture. Built in 1890 for Dr. Walter Thomison as a wedding present to his wife, Ella Darwin-Thomison. The house is a good example of an older house remodeled circa 1925 to a Colonial Revival style house. One of only two buildings of this form in Dayton, the Dr. Walter Thomison House retains a high degree of integrity. The other building, originally a hospital built by Dr. Walter Thomison's son, has had several alterations and does not contain the high degree of integrity and the Dr. Walter Thomison House. Constructed in 1890 with a mixture of stylistic influences, the house is prominent feature of Dayton. The date of construction may not seem relevant to other area of Tennessee, but structures built in 1890 in Dayton are among the community's oldest buildings. The four lonic Columns on the front facade that dominate the house illustrate the influence of Classical motifs on Colonial Revival style buildings. The hip roofs, once topped by cresting, along with the curved brackets suggest an Italianate influence and the windows and interior trims reflect the Queen Anne style. The Thomison house is a good example of this type of house form not only in Dayton, but throughout Rhea County as well. This hous is an importnat asset to the historic atmosphere of the town.

The Thomison House was finished shortly after Dr. Thomison and his wife Ella were married in March of 1890. Dayton, formerly known as Smith's Crossroads until March 14, 1885, became Rhea County's seat in 1890. The town grew quickly as business expanded and more people moved into the area. Coal had long been and important industry to the region, but production during the 1890s was especially good. For forty-seven years, Dr. Thomison served as head company doctor for the Dayton Coal and Iron Company. Established in 1883 the company produced its first usable pig iron in 1886. Dr. Thomison's position with this company enabled him and his family to live a fairly prosperous lifestyle in their new home. The Cincinnati Southern Railroad brought all the benefits that a railroad could bring to a town. The combination of the coal industry and the railroad meant certain prosperity for the newly established town.

Dr. Thomison continued to be an important figure in Dayton throughout his life. An epidemic of meningitis in 1890 made Dr. Thomison's and four other doctor's presence essential to the town's survival. A flood later that same year also prompted the need for medical personnel to test water supplies and treat those infected with water born diseases. House calls and overnight trips across the county to check on patients were common in Dr. Thomison's life. Diary accounts cite these five men with saving the town and many of its inhabitants. Dr. Thomison opened a drugstore downtown during his tenure at Dayton Coal and Iron Company. He also opened a general practice with his son. They practiced out of an office in the back of the drugstore (still standing) until his death in 1940.

Subsequent generations of Thomisons lived in the house until 1989 When Dr. Walter Thomison's granddaughter. Nancy Thomison-Hawkins sold the property to Paul and Gloria Downs. The new owners have carefully restored the house as The Magnolia House Bed and Breakfast. They were very careful to respect the historic integrity of the house and left all original materials intact where possible. Both the exterior and the interior are largely intact and undisturbed. When the original materials could not be salvaged, like materials were used in their place. Matching materials, such as the textured, galvanized tin roof shingles were purchased and installed in many areas where water damage and deterioration due to age had resulted. Original window weights and balances were repaired in the same manner. This restoration has followed the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation. The house retains a high degree of integrity with its original center hall floor plan, large lonic columns, brackets, hip roof and interior woodwork. It also reflects the changes to the house circa 1925 or before including, plumbing, connecting the wash house to the rear of the house, and building the concrete fence around the yard.

The Dr. Thomison House is important in the community of Dayton as a singular, excellent example of an older domestic building, updated to a Colonial Revival house.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	9	Page	 Rhea County, TN

#### **Bibliographic References**

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Keith, Jeannette, "Country People: Tennessee's Upper Cumberland, 1890 - 1925" Ph.D. Dissertation, Vanderbilt University, 1990.

West, Carroll Van. <u>Tennessee's Historic Landscapes: A Traveler's Guide</u>. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1995.

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#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The Dr. Walter Thomison's house is located at 656 Market Street. The nominated boundaries are those marked as parcel number 9, on the attached 1996 Rhea County Tax Map 96-D.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The nominated property contains approximately one acre and is all of the historic property associated Dr. Walter Thomison House.

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Thomison, Dr. Walter, House Rhea County, TN

Thomison, Dr. Walter, House

656 Market Street

Dayton, Rhea County, TN

Photographs By: Danielle Logsdon

Date: May 1996

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Facade, looking southeast

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Facade and northeast elevation, looking southwest

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Northeast elevation, looking southwest

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Northeast and southeast (rear) elevations, looking northwest

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Southeast elevation (rear), looking northwest

5 of 23

Southwest elevation, looking northeast

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Exterior detail and fence looking southeast

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Exterior detail, facade, looking northeast

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Exterior detail, facade, looking southwest

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Exterior detail, northeast elevation, looking northwest

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Interior detail, staircase

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Interior detail, staircase

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Interior detail, parlor fireplace

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Interior detail, door and transom into dining room

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Interior detail, Light Fixture 16 of 23

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Interior detail, fireplace 18 of 23

Interior detail, fireplace 19 of 23

Interior detail, closet pass through 20 of 23

Interior detail, closet expansion 21 of 23

Detail, hardware 22 of 23

Detail, hardware 23 of 23

Historic Photo Front Facade of the Dr. Walter Thomison House, n.d.