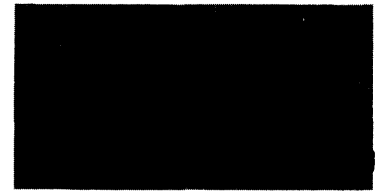


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



82

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

1. Name

historic Kesterson-Watkins House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Cedar Fork Road N/A not for publication

city, town Tazewell *mc* vicinity of congressional district Second

state Tennessee code 047 county Claiborne code 025

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Thelma Gibson Watkins

street & number Route 5

city, town Tazewell vicinity of state Tennessee 37879

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Claiborne County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Tazewell state Tennessee 37879

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		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kesterson-Watkins House, built in 1900, is a 2-story, brick vernacular farmhouse with Victorian influences. Located approximately one mile off Cedar Ford Road on a 943 acre farm near Tazewell, Tennessee, the house faces northwest atop a slight hill surrounded by forested mountains, fields of tobacco, and a small pond. The house is framed by two tall evergreen trees and bordered by a large lawn, several outbuildings, and an encompassing wire fence.

Built by Gary H. Kesterson, a farmer by trade, the house has remained relatively unchanged and in the same family. The Kesterson-Watkins house has an unusual plan for farmhouses in this area. The rectangular, 2-story gabled main section has a gabled central pavilion on the front (north) elevation and a two-story gabled ell. A third section, two stories in height and topped by a pyramidal roof, is located at the intersection of the east side of the ell with the rear elevation of the main section. A two-tier, L-shaped wooden veranda extends around this latter section. A one-story frame addition with shed roof, extends along the west side of the ell. Laid in common bond, the walls of the building are 4 bricks thick. The bricks were made on the site. A stone foundation, which runs continuously under the first floor, has prevented the installation of central heating. Instead, the rooms are heated individually with coal. Directly above the foundation on the northern facade, openings for floor joists are visible. Mr. Kesterson intended to build a porch, but, because of lack of funds, this was never done.

Topped by a steep gable roof sheathed in tiles, the northern (front) facade has 7 bays; a three bay central pavillion flanked by two bays to either side. Except for the center bay, each bay contains a large 1/1 light double-hung window with moveable, wood-louvered shutters on both floors. The center bay features a single leaf carved wood and glass entrance door with ventilating transom. All windows and doors throughout the house have wood surrounds and are set into segmental relieving brick arches with a double row of bricks creating the arch. Windows have stone sills and doors have ventilating transoms. Except for the shed addition, all windows are large 1/1 light, double-hung. Doors are single leaf, carved wood and glass with ventilating transom. The most unusual feature of the house is found in the gable end of the central pavillion. Embedded in concrete are pieces of colored glass and a white bird that looks down upon the entrance. The inscription "G.H.K. - 1901" is seen in the decorative ventilator near the peak of the gable end. Curvilinear bargeboard embellishes the eaves. A denticular molding and stylized egg and dart ornamentation is seen at the cornice line, completing the unique gable end design.

Both the eastern and western facades of the gabled main section have 2 bays separated by an external end brick chimney. The same 1/1 light windows are located in each bay on both floors and small, square, wood-louvered vents in the attic story. Shutters flank all the windows and curvilinear bargeboards decorate the eaves.

The ell, with its steep, seamed metal, gable roof is attached to the main section of the house, one bay in from the western edge of the section. The ell is 3 bays long and 2 bays wide. Windows with shutters are located within each bay of the

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Kesterson-Watkins House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

ell on the second floor in the western facade. A one-story frame addition with metal shed roof, 3 bays long and 1 bay wide, is attached at the intersection of the ell and rear elevation of the main section, thus concealing the original first floor of the western facade. The addition, which has three small wood windows and one door, contains a bathroom and part of the remodeled kitchen.

Only one bay of the eastern facade of the ell is visible because of the 2-story pyramidal-roofed section that is attached to the east elevation of the ell and rear elevation of the main section. Within this bay are the same carved doors with transoms on both floors opening out onto the two-tier Victorian veranda. The southern facade of the ell is exactly like the eastern and western facades of the main section with two exceptions: there is no decorative bargeboard in the eaves, or shutters on the windows.

The third section, topped by the pyramidal roof, is two bays wide and two bays long, each containing doors in the first bay, and windows in the second bay on both floors. The two-tier, four-bay, Victorian style veranda wraps around the section. It has decorative turned posts and balusters with brackets supporting the roof. An internal staircase is located at the southeast corner, providing access to the second floor. Another of the external chimneys is located behind the stairway on the porch.

The interior of the house is relatively unchanged. It still retains all the beautiful woodwork, carved by Mr. Hugh Eastridge (Eastrage) of nearby Kay Springs in the door and window surrounds, cabinetry, mantelpieces, and staircase. A unique feature of the interior of the house is the small drawers and shelves built into the walls for storing bills, correspondence, and valuable papers. These are recessed into the wall and covered by a decorative cabinet door. The only changes in the house have been the closing of several fireplaces, addition of a bathroom, and remodeling of the kitchen.

Because of their importance to the daily life on a working farm there are a number of outbuildings included in the nominated boundaries. These include the general store, springhouse, garage, smokehouse, sheds and "little house". (See attached map). These are all of frame construction except for the smokehouse, which is log.

Directly north of the house across the fence and gravel driveway is located the general store. Built around 1910, the 1-story, frame, shot-gun style structure has a steep, metal, gable roof and is approximately 12' x 25'. The front (western) facade contains three bays, the center containing the wood entrance door and on either side bay a 2/2 light double-hung window. It was a general merchandise store used by the farm.

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Kesterson-Watkins House

CONTINUATION SHEET

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workers and close neighbors in this rural area up until the 1960s, when getting into town became much easier. To the southeast of the store along the gravel driveway is the wood shed and a garage built circa 1925 and 1930; both are approximately 15' x 10'. These are very similar, of frame construction with wood claborading, large wood doors, and metal shed roof. To the southeast of the garage is a small (approximately 8' x 10') one-story frame structure that was used by the family during construction of their large brick home. It has a metal gable roof with two 2/2 light windows on the western facade and door on the northern facade. It is only one room and currently stands empty, but is well maintained. Continuing to the south, but inside the wire fence stands the coal shed and tool shed built circa 1930. These are the same style, size (approximately 5' x 8'), and construction as the garage and shed discussed previously, except that the tool shed has wider wood siding and a small window in the northwest facade. To the west of the two sheds stands the log smokehouse. The steep metal gable roof overhangs the north-east facade. The structure is approximately 10' x 10' and has half-dovetail notching. Completing the outbuildings is the springhouse. It is located north of the smokehouse right inside the fence. Measuring approximately 6' x 6', it is of frame construction with clapboard siding and steep metal gable roof with deep overhang shading the eastern facade and door. All the outbuildings are in fair to good condition. The nominated boundaries form an approximate rectangle with dimensions of 120' x 140' or .39 of an acre.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1900 **Builder/Architect** Gary H. Kesterson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria C

The Kesterson-Watkins house is architecturally significant as a fine example of a vernacular farmhouse with Victorian influences. Built at the turn of the century by Gary Kesterson, a tobacco farmer, and his family, the house and its many outbuildings still serve as an active farm today.

The Kesterson-Watkins house is an unusual house with a variety of roof types, materials, and other unique architectural elements. The Victorian influence is seen in the arched window and door openings, the decorative bargeboard in the eaves, turned posts and balusters on the two-tier veranda, and interior woodwork. The most distinctive element in the house is the gable end treatment on the front (north) facade. Embedded in concrete are broken pieces of colored glass, knickknacks and a decorative ventilator with the inscription "GHK-1901." According to Mrs. Watkins (owner and granddaughter of Mr. Kesterson), her grandfather actually built the house in 1900, even though the ventilator says 1901. Inside the house, there are beautifully carved mantelpieces, doors, cabinetry and a central staircase. All the woodwork, except for the doors, was hand-carved by Mr. Hugh Eastridge (Eastrage) of nearby Kay Springs.

In 1920 Mr. Kesterson sold the farm, including the smokehouse, springhouse, "little house," and newly constructed general store, to his son-in-law, Mr. White Gibson. Mr. Gibson built the garage, wood and tool sheds within the next 15 years. He later passed the house on to his daughter, Mrs. Thelma Gibson Watkins, the current owner. Today the farm is still a working farm although not as big as it once was. All the outbuildings are still used for their original purposes except the smokehouse, "little house" and general store, which are currently used for storage.

Situated in Claiborne County, which is rural and mountainous, the Kesterson-Watkins House is unusual in this area for its brick construction, relatively ornate decorative treatment, scale and massing. Also, due to its continued life as a working family farm, it is significant as a prime example of farm life from the early 20th century to present day.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with Mrs. Thelma Watkins, September 3, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Four

Quadrangle name Howard Quarter

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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2	7	6	6	2	1	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property contains four acres in the form of a rectangle, 400 x 440 feet, roughly centered around the house and important related outbuildings. See maps and area boundaries outlined in red.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nissa Dahlin Brown, Historic Preservationist

organization East Tennessee Development District date November 7, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 19806 telephone (615) 584-8553

city or town Knoxville state Tennessee 37919

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

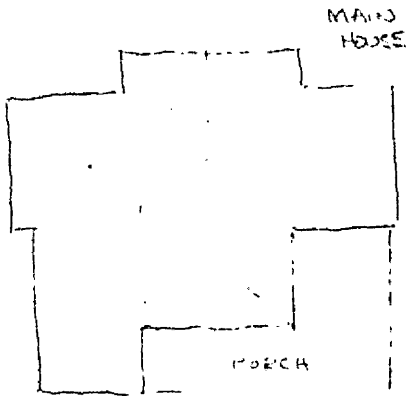
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Harper

title Herbert L. Harper, Executive Director date 3/11/82

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Graham</u>	date <u>4.26.82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Linda McClelland</u>	date <u>4/22/82</u>
Chief of Registration	

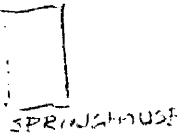
GENERAL
STORE
C. 1910



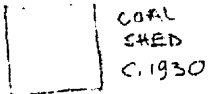
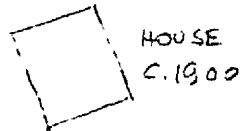
WOOD
SHED
(1925)

GARAGE
C. 1935

LOG
CROCK HOUSE



SHED
C. 1930



NOT TO SCALE



KESTERSON WATKINS
HOUSE
CLAIPOURNE CO TN

MAKED FROM FIELD SKETCH BY N BROWN