

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Grainger
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 29 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Lea Springs
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

1 mi SW of Rutledge off U.S. 11W. on

STREET AND NUMBER: Lea Lake Road	
CITY OR TOWN: Rutledge <i>vic.</i>	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
STATE: Tennessee	COUNTY: Grainger
CODE: 47	CODE: 057

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

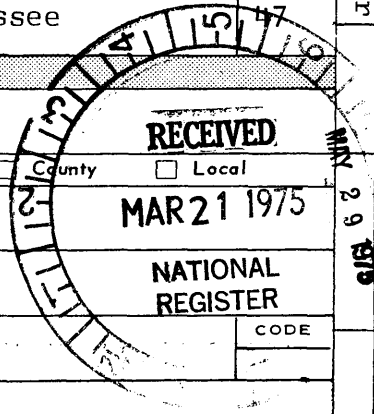
OWNER'S NAME: Tillman J. Keller		
STREET AND NUMBER: 3558 Iskagna Drive, S. W.		
CITY OR TOWN: Knoxville	STATE: Tennessee	CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Grainger County Register's Office		
STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse		
CITY OR TOWN: Rutledge	STATE: Tennessee	CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:		
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

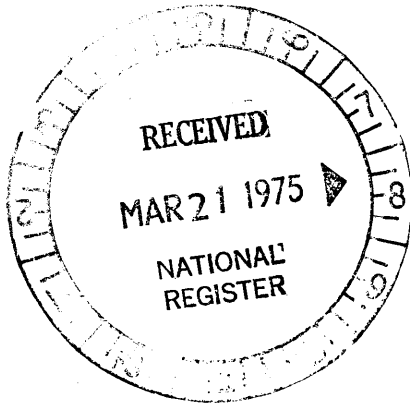
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lea Springs, or Lea Lakes as it is sometimes called, is located just off present day Highway 11-W, the road which many of the early settlers traveled into Tennessee.

Built around 1819, the brick home was of the traditional Federal design with a back ell. The back portion of the ell contained the kitchen and house servants' quarters. The second floor of this section of the house can only be reached by a separate staircase and the rooms are not as ample in size as the other rooms of the house. The main portion of the house has large commodious rooms with high ceilings and large windows. The front entrance has the typical fan-light window over the door. The interior has been well maintained with new plumbing and electrical systems recently installed.

Two major alterations are the two-story porch added after World War II and a large dining room and ballroom. This latter addition was constructed during the 1920's. The brick on the original part of the house have been painted white.

In front of the house are the famous mineral springs which made Lea Springs famous during the 1880's. There are large maple, oak, and elm trees around the house and two well stocked lakes near the southwest side. The house sits on a secluded road. The grounds are well maintained by Mr. Tillman's staff thus giving the home a truly antebellum aura.



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3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1819

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lea Springs is significant in several respects. First, it reflects the prominence of the Lea Family of Grainger County. Second, and more specifically, it stands as a reminder to the achievements of its remarkable builder, Pryor Lea. Finally, the house reflects the area's fame as a resort and health region.

Major Lea, Pryor Lea's father, came to the region in the early 1790's. He traveled with Daniel Boone during his second trip through Cumberland Gap. Major Lea's sons played important roles in East Tennessee's development as well as the development of the West. One son, Albert Lea, was the first to survey the lands gained in the Louisiana Purchase and there is a town in Minnesota named after him. Major Lea's home, Richland, the oldest in the county, is also being nominated to the Register.

Pryor Lea was Major Lea's first son. In 1818 Pryor married Marria Kennedy whereupon his father gave him the several hundred acres which comprised Lea Springs. The brick home is generally assumed to have been started in the spring of 1819. Slaves were used as labor and practically all material was obtained from the site.

In 1824 Pryor Lea served as United States Attorney for Tennessee. He was secretary of East Tennessee College, later known as University of Tennessee, from 1826-1827. From 1827 to 1831 he served as a United States Representative from Tennessee at the time that David Crockett and James K. Polk were serving.

In 1836 Lea moved his family to Mississippi where he established a law firm with his brother, Luke. Because of his strong interest in education it is not surprising that he was one of the co-founders of the University of Mississippi and member of its first board of trustees.

In 1846 Lea again moved, this time to Texas. There he was credited with helping establish the railroad systems of the state and helping write a substantial portion of the new state's laws. Born in 1794, Pryor Lea died at the age of 85 in 1879.

After Pryor Lea had moved from Lea Springs the property changed hands several times. By the 1880's it had become one of the South's

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morristown Citizen-Tribune, June 16, 1968.
 Advertisement, "Lea's Springs Co.," McGhee Papers, Lawson McGhee
 Library, Knoxville.
 Roach, Thomas E., Richland Valley: A History of Grainger County,
Tennessee. (Knoxville, 1966).

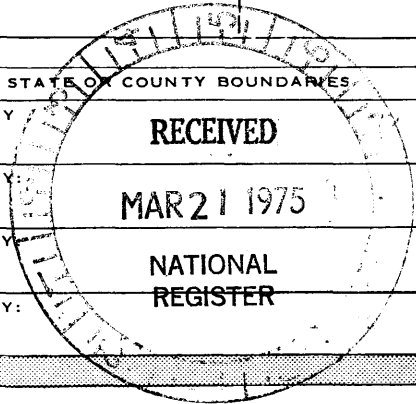
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .		36 0 11 . 34 .	83 0 41 . 37 .	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Jon Coddington

ORGANIZATION: East Tennessee Development District DATE: 6-24-74

STREET AND NUMBER:
1810 Lake Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Knoxville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Lawrence A. ...

Title Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 3/14/75

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

A. R. ...
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/29/75

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.28.75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Grainger	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance, Continued

most famous resorts. Its fame was primarily due to the hot sulphur springs near the house.

The financial panic of the 1890's signaled the decline of Lea Springs. However, during the 1920's interest was again revived in Lea Springs as a health resort. It was at this time the large dining room and ball-room was added. The investors' plans were never fully realized due to the Great Depression and Lea Springs fell into disuse. After World War II Lea Springs was purchased by Tillman J. Keller who has restored it to its original grandeur. Mr. Keller uses Lea Springs primarily as a weekend residence. He has also acquired approximately 1,000 acres of farm and woodland around the house.

