

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

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

For NPS use only
received NOV 17 1983
date entered DEC 15 1983

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

1. Name

historic Samuel Henry Armstrong House

and/or common Pine Hill (preferred) ✓

2. Location

street & number Old Zion Lane N/A — not for publication

city, town Ashwood Vic. —X vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Maury code 119

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"/> 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 John W. Stephenson Historical Preservation Foundation

street & number c/o Mrs. Z.V. Jasaitis, 101 Wildwood Gardens

city, town Piedmont N/A — vicinity of state California 94611

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maury County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maury County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Central Tennessee Development District

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

Pine Hill, built for Samuel Henry Armstrong in 1839, is a large 2½ story brick house facing the Mount Pleasant Pike, two miles southeast of the Zion community and one mile east of the village of Ashwood in the western part of Maury County, Tennessee. The house is sited on a low hill one half mile north of the road, and is surrounded by fields of wheat, corn, and tobacco. The building is a local vernacular adaptation of the late Federal style of architecture with a Greek Revival portico and entrance. Pine Hill is constructed of dark red brick, fired from clay dug nearby, laid in stretcher bond. The gable roofed house sits on a full cellar and an ashlar cut limestone foundation. Alterations made in the 1870's included a one-story brick ell added to the rear facade. The five-bay building has a similar interior plan on each floor with two rooms flanking each side of a central hall. Pine Hill retains most of its original features and has been carefully restored.

The south facade, or front of the house, is the most elaborate. It is five bays wide, with the central bay on the first floor slightly recessed. A one-story portico is supported by four square tapered Doric-influence pillars. The pillars support a full entablature; its frieze is decorated with triglyphs. The door surround is especially ornate. The wide paneled door is set between engaged Roman Doric columns. These columns support a molded cornice, above which is an 11-light transom. On either side of the doorway are eight-light sidelights over molded dado panels. The entire entry is enclosed within a battered shouldered architrave. Above the portico is a three-foot attic balustrade. Windows on the front are double-hung sash, with 9/9 lights, wooden sills, and wooden lintels decorated with ball-and-target cornerblocks. Louvered shutters, with original hardware, frame all windows. The central window upstairs is a jib window opening onto the roof of the portico, which, with its balustrade forms what is in effect a balcony. The window is framed by sidelights, both the window and the sidelights have their own shutters.

The east and west elevations of the house are similar. Each is three bays wide, with two corbeled brick chimneys set into the walls. Windows on either side are the same as those on the front, with 9/9 lights, ball-and-target cornerblocks, and louvered shutters. One window in the central bay of the eastern side was replaced with a door in the 1870s. At the eaves on the front are projecting brick corbels set upon stone bases. Diamond-shaped structural reinforcement plates are attached to iron hurricane bolts high on either side; the heavy bolts and rods pass through the attic.

The rear of the house has a five-paneled door in the center and 9/9 sash windows similar to those on the rest of the house. Connecting with the rear of the dining room is a one-story brick kitchen ell. It has two doorways opening onto a raised brick porch, three 9/9 windows, and a squat kitchen chimney at the rear.

Pine Hill has a very elaborate interior, with some of the best carpentry and trim found in the area. The floors and trim are blue poplar; the elaborate main staircase, decorated with scrollwork and Adamesque garlands, ascends to the attic. Doors are paneled, and framed by plain architraves with bullseye cornerblocks. The two parlors on the western side are separated by double bifolding paneled doors.

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Structurally, the house has been altered by the addition of the rear ell and by the installation of a small staircase connecting the dining room with the northeast bedroom upstairs, which was sealed off from the upstairs hall. These alterations were made in the 1870s. The house has been further altered by the addition of bathrooms and closets, but these are largely unobstrusive and do not detract from the overall appearance of the interior.

Pine Hill now sits on a relatively small lot, just over one acre. The front lawn is open to the south, and a long herringbone brick sidewalk extends from the front door to the drive. The two-story kitchen is under separate ownership and is not included in the nomination.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1839 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Pine Hill, the Samuel Henry Armstrong House, is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its local significance to Maury County in architecture and local history. A large brick house built about 1839, it is historically significant for its associations with the members of the Zion community in the western part of Maury County. The area was settled by a strongly church-centered farming community of Presbyterians from South Carolina beginning in 1807. The house is one of the largest in the area and embodies characteristics of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Especially notable about the architecture is the symmetrical main facade with its classical entrance and the excellent carpentry of the interior.

The rural Zion community of South Carolina Presbyterians began to grow up around the original log Zion Church west of Columbia, Tennessee about 1807. The early homes of these settlers were log buildings, some of which survive and date between 1808 and 1820. During the prosperous 1830s and 1840s, a few large late Federal and Greek Revival brick houses were built as well as the current brick Zion Church (NR). The farm land of the area was among the richest in Tennessee and some of the descendants of the first settlers, such as the Armstrongs, became very wealthy.

Pine Hill was built about 1839 by Samuel Henry Armstrong (1800-1869), son of James Armstrong and his wife, Agnes, who were a part of the original South Carolina group of settlers who founded Zion in 1807. Armstrong, who as a child accompanied his parents on the trek to Middle Tennessee, built Pine Hill on his 500 acre portion of his father's land, two miles southeast of the church near the Mt. Pleasant Pike, in 1839. Samuel H. Armstrong was a member of the building committee which erected the present brick Zion Presbyterian Church in 1849. He served as a member of the Home Guard during the Civil War, and survived his wife by several years. He died in 1869 at the age of 69.

Pine Hill was purchased the next year by Dr. Joseph Dixon, who moved in with his wife, Emily, and their children. The Dixons added a one-story brick kitchen ell off the rear wall of the dining room. The old kitchen served as a scullery, with the cook's bedroom above. They also sealed off the door to the northeast bedroom upstairs; this room, traditionally called the "daughter's room," could be reached only by a small staircase off the dining room. A dining room window was replaced with a door, the present side entrance.

At the death of the elder Dixons, the house passed to their son, Harry, who lived at Pine Hill part-time. The roof was soon damaged, and the resulting leakage destroyed the attic floor and the ceiling in the bedroom below. This bedroom's floor also rotted away and collapsed. Rather than effect repairs, the Dixons closed off this part of the house and retreated to the west wing. The house was eventually purchased by Mrs. Eppy Jones for the use of her son, Jimmy.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.3 acres

Quadrangle name Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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 Richard H. Quin

organization South Central Tennessee Development District date 10 August 1983

street & number P.O. Box 1346 telephone (615) 381-5970

city or town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

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. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 10/24/83

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

Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/15/83

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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The Joneses refurbished the old two-story brick kitchen behind the main house as a summer house, with the intent of using it as a base for their attempts to stabilize and rehabilitate Pine Hill. The task proved too great, and Mr. Jones eventually abandoned the house for a decade or so while it fell into further disrepair.

In 1974 Pine Hill was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Zene V. Jasaitis of Piedmont, California. Mrs. Jasaitis was born in the Zion community and was a cousin of Emily Dixon, wife of Dr. Joseph Dixon. Over the next five years the house was carefully restored. In 1981 the Jasaitises created the John W. Stephenson Historical Preservation Foundation, which is charged with the maintenance and operation of Pine Hill as a local historic house museum.

Pine Hill is a very large residence, and one of the finest in the Zion community and the western part of Maury County. The house is larger than most in the Zion area, Pine Hill and the nearby Mulberry Hill being the only large brick houses. Fine craftsmanship is exhibited on the exterior, with its broad, symmetrical facade; the one-story Greek Revival porch with tapered pillars, entablature, and balustrade; the ornate door surround with engaged columns, sidelights, and transom; and the high roof with paired chimneys and corbels at the eaves. Interior woodwork is quite intricate; features include double bifolding paneled doors separating the two parlors, original mantles and doors, and the excellent cherry main staircase which ascends three floors to the attic. Pine Hill is one of the best examples of Federal style architecture on a relatively large scale in the western part of Maury County.

Most of the materials for Pine Hill came from the farm itself. Clay for the brick was dug from a pit about two thousand feet south of the house. The pit can still be traced today, though it is partially submerged. Wooden pieces for the house -- the poplar floors and framing members, the cherry staircase and trim -- were cut from trees in the expansive forest. The window lights, hardware, and wallpaper were imported.

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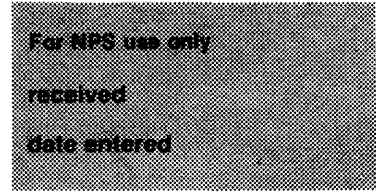
Garrett, Jill K. "Discoveries at Duke's Store," Daily Herald (Columbia) supplement. May 18, 1974, p.5.

Highsaw, Mary Wagner. "A History of the Zion Community in Maury County, 1806-1860," Tennessee Historical Quarterly (1946), pp.3-34, 111-140, and 222-333.

Jasaitis, Celeste S. "The Story of Pine Hill." MSS copy, n.d.

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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Surrounded by open farmland, the nominated lot of 1.3 acres is marked off by white posts at its four corners. There are no other distinguishing features. The nominated property includes the minimum land needed to protect the architectural and historical integrity of the house. The former kitchen is under separate ownership and is not included in the nomination.

