## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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	GENCY RESOURCES DI	

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking 'X' in the appropriate box of by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, 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 Shelbridge

other names/site number \_\_Spears, Ross, House; Bridges, Henry P., House; President's House - ETSU

 2. Location

 street & number
 Corner of North Roan Street and East 11th Street

 N/A
 Inot for publication

 city or town
 Johnson City

 state
 Tennessee

 code
 TN

 county
 Washington

 code
 179

 zip code
 37601

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 🛛 nomin	
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Regulation of the second standards for registering properties in the National Regulation of the second standards for the second	
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the pro Manual Meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant	operty
nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	
Lerlet T. Annen 11/2/95	
Signature of certifying official/Title // Date	
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission	_
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property 🔲 meets 🔲 does not meet the National Register criteria. (	
additional comments.)	
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
	_ 1
State or Federal agency and bureau	
L	
I. National Park Service Certification	
hereby certify that the property is:	Date of Action
M entered in the National Register.	12.14.95
See continuation sheet	12:14:45
A determined eligible for the National Register	
National Register. ▲utional Register	
determined not eligible for the	
National Register	
removed from the National	
Register.	
other, (explain:)	

Shelbridge

Name of Property

County 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)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
public-local	district	0		
Dublic-State	site	5		_ buildings
public-Federal	structure structure			sites
	🔲 object	1		structures
				objects
		7	0	Total
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	e <b>property listing</b> of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contr in the National Re	buting resources previo	ously listed
N/A		0		
6. Function or Use			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
DOMESTIC: single dwelling		DOMESTIC: single dwelling		
DOMESTIC: secondary structure		DOMESTIC: seco	ndary structure	
7. Description				
Architectural Classificat		Materials		
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from i		
Colonial Revival		foundation <u>BRIC</u> walls BRICK	n	
		Walls DRIUM		
		roof ASPHALT		
		other WOOD, lin	nestone	

### **Narrative Description**

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

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.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- **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.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### **Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- **B** removed from its original location.
- C moved from its original location.
- D a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- **F** a commemorative property
- **G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

Record #

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on 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
- # \_\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Surv # \_\_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1920 - 1938

Significant Dates

1920, 1928, 1938

#### Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A

## **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Beeson, D. R., Architect; Curtis, Mark, carpenter; Cardwell, Leland, Architect

## Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

East TN State University, TN Historical Commission

Shelbridge	Washington County, TN			
Name of Property	County and State			
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property8.3 acres				
UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	Johnson City, TN 198 SE			
1         17         377520         4020910           Zone         Easting         Northing           2	3     Zone     Easting     Northing       4			
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. Jerry L. Gehre, Associate Vice President fo	r Administration			
organizationEast Tennessee State University	date September 1995			
street & number _ P. O. Box 70,729	telephone 615-929-5351			
city or town Johnson City	state _TN zip code _37614-0729_			
Additional Documentation				
submit the following items with the completed form:				
Continuation Sheets				
Maps				

A USGS map (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the 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 _East Tennessee State University				
street & number Lake Street		telephone	615-929-4112	
city or town Johnson City	state	zip co	zip code <u>37614</u>	

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.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Shelbridge Washington County, Tennessee

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Constructed in 1920, Shelbridge is a two and one-half story residence that is fabricated of brick, has a rectangular plan, and two interior end chimneys. The Colonial Revival House was designed by Johnson City, Tennessee architect, D. R. Beeson. The south facade of the house is symmetrical with a central entrance and is dominated by a two-story portico supported by six wooden columns. The main entrance is comprised of a single-leaf six panel door with five light sidelights and two sets of pilasters capped with wood pediment over the door.

The main entrance is flanked by two double-leaf ten light window French doors topped with a wooden arch mimicking fanlights with wood tracery. Limestone keystones are set in the brick arches above the French doors. The main entrance and the French doors are all covered with modern storm doors. All second story windows have limestone sills and keystones. The windows are centered over their first floor counterparts and are double hung, six-over-six lights with original shutters. The center window is shorter than the flanking end windows. A brass plaque on the left side of the front entrance identifies the residence's name - Shelbridge.

The main, brick portion of the facade is flanked with one story, wood sunrooms. Each facade of the sunrooms consists of two French doors on the main portion of the house. These doors are also covered with storm doors. A Chippendale style balustrade surmounts both sunrooms. It is identical to the balustrade on the center two-story portico. The sunroom on the east end of the house is topped by a glassed in porch added in 1977. The east end of the main facade extends into a set back kitchen wing, and a stepped back garage. The original garage was detached, but was moved and attached to the house in 1936. The garage wall is brick with a wood dormer located in the center. The shed roof dormer has a single six-over-six window with operable shutters.

The gable roof is of asphalt and has three identical dormers on the main facade. The gable roof dormers each have a wide cornice with gable returns and a centered arched window. The dormers sit behind the wood Chippendale style balustrade embellished with continuation of wood columns topped with Grecian urns. The wooden cornice around the portico develops a theme that is carried throughout the exterior of the home, summer house and bathhouse.

On the west elevation the sunroom contains five double sets of two-over-six windows with a paired two light transom over each set of windows. The windows sit over a blind panel and are reminiscent of the French doors on the front facade. Each pair of windows is divided by a Doric style pilaster. The wooden parapet continues along the roof line of the sunroom. The second floor of the main house has three eight light windows balanced under one eight light windows on the third floor. All windows on the second and third floors have operable shutters. The end gable of the roof is divided to allow the end chimney to stand out.

The north elevation is composed of the west sunroom with two pairs of windows identical to those on the west elevation. The balustrade continues along the roof line of the sunroom. The main portion of the house is two

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Shelbridge Washington County, Tennessee

and a half stories with a center entrance of a single leaf wood door flanked by six light sidelights over blind panels and a blind fanlight transom. The center entrance projects slightly from the house and is of weatherboard with a porte cochere supported by Doric columns surmounted with the Chippendale style balustrade. The northern most end of the porte cochere is covered with lattice. Three gables are located over the main portion of the house. The center gable is brick that extends up the brick wall breaking the deep boxed cornice line. The center gable has one six-by-three window that contains an air conditioning unit. The center gable is flanked by identical gable roof dormers identical to the ones on the front facade. The windows on the north elevation of the house are tripled windows comprised of double hung six-over-six window flanked by twoover-two windows on each side. All windows have shutters, limestone sills and keystones. The center window on the second floor is of similar configuration, but is narrower and longer. This window provides light to the interior main stairs.

The extended kitchen wing is flush with the rear elevation and consists of a single entrance with the stoop covered by a gabled roof portico with square post. A small narrow window of three vertical lights is located over the entrance. East of the entrance is a six-over-six double hung window with shutters. This window is an obvious replacement as the ghost of the larger tripled window is evident and the keystone is located on the eastern most corner of the window. An identical, original window is located directly above it on the second floor. The garage is slightly set back and consists of two garage doors.

The west facade (garage area) is brick with three symmetrical three-by-four windows on the first and second floors. The west facade on the house has two three-by-four windows on the second floor and one arched window on the third floor. All windows have limestone sills and keystones. The second floor sunroom continues the parapet theme below the windows.

The interior of Shelbridge has maintained the Colonial Revival architectural style. All modifications to the interior are identified on the attached floor plans. The entry foyer is a spacious area in the center of the front facade of the home. The original stairwell is on the north/south axis with the entry while the living room/sunroom and dining room are on an east/west axis to the entry.

The living room has an open floor plan with the adjacent sunroom. The doorways are open on both sides of the intricately detailed Colonial Revival fireplace. The fireplace surround is marble and the hearth is clay tile. Crown molding and wide baseboards surround the room. The floor is of hardwood. The sunroom also has a fireplace, but it is much simpler in design and is made of brick with corbeled bricks used as design elements. A modern glass door covers the opening. The hearth is of clay tile. The wall between the living room and sunroom is brick and the floor is parquet wood tiles.

Located under the stairs in the center hall is an arched opening that leads to a bath and closet located under the stairs. The entrance also leads into the den. The back stairs can be accessed from the den as well as kitchen.

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Shelbridge Washington County, Tennessee

Circa 1977 the den and bathroom were renovated. The den was restored to its original appearance in 1994, along with the bedroom, bath, and sitting room.

The dining room, entered from the front hallway, has a hardwood floor, wide baseboards, and crown moldings. Located in the northeast and northwest corners are built-in corner cupboards with round arches and shell motifs with keystone above the top shelf and two cupboards below the five other shelves. East of the dining room is a butler's pantry and breakfast nook. The same round arched cupboard is located on the east wall and bank of cupboards is located against the north wall.

The hardwood stairs lead to a small stair hall on the second floor that has four bedrooms, three baths, and a study. A bedroom and bath are also located over the garage, but cannot be accessed from the second floor of the house. East of the master bedroom is the glass enclosed porch. The bathrooms contain their original decorative tile and tile light fixtures with candlelight bulbs. The hardwood floors continue throughout the second floor.

The third story currently consist of two bedrooms, a bath, and shower, and a game room. This floor was originally open and was used as a playroom and for roller skating. The third floor was divided into rooms circa 1980.

There are five (5) support facilities to the main residence at Shelbridge. They include: bath house; second house; summer house; greenhouse; and garden shed. The bath house (c) with swimming pool (c) was added in 1927. The architectural theme for the facility is consistent with the main residence. The one-story brick structure has a wood cornice almost identical to that on the main residence. The only difference is that Grecian urns were not included on the cornice. The window structure, on the front facade has twelve light windows with limestone sills and keystones and flank the entrance door.

The second residence was moved to Shelbridge in 1938. The two-story brick structure with attached two car garage is a traditionally styled 1920-30's modified American Foursquare house. The roofs are asphalt shingle on the sunroom, porch, garage, and main residence. All windows are original. The two car garage was added at a later date. (c)

The summer house (c) was constructed adjacent to the swimming pool in 1938. It was designed to blend architecturally with the main house and bath house. The cornice theme was carried out around the base of the house. Since the facility was built to provide a cool haven for the summer heat, it has screen walls with wood vertical structural support. The high ceiling was designed to expel heat build-up. The front of the facility is on the elevation of the pool and the rear of the building is on vertical pillars covered with lattice work to maintain an architectural integrity to the surrounding landscaped area. There is an attractive natural stone walk between the summer house and main residence.

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Shelbridge Washington County, Tennessee

The green house (c) and garden shed (c) are traditionally constructed facilities built in 1928 when the major landscaping of the grounds occurred. They are discretely located to support the gardens (c) of Shelbridge. The green house is primarily constructed with a wood frame and glass. The garden shed is constructed with wood and has an asphalt roof.

All of the 8.3 acres are landscaped. The area south is grass with stately white oak, mature hemlock, boxwood, tulip poplar, and southern magnolia trees. The areas north and east are grass with similar trees strategically located. The area behind the main residence includes an impressive rose garden. Behind and below the rose garden is a natural stone retaining wall with stone steps leading down to the pool area. There is a north-south axis (i.e., stone walkway consisting of natural stones and old grinding stones). At each end of the axis are reflecting pools. The northern reflecting pool is framed with mature boxwoods on each side of a walkway made from antique grinding stones. The east-west axis extends to the pool and is terminated at the summer house. The west axis is bordered to the south by a stone retaining wall and to the north with two foot high Japanese holly and a hemlock hedge. The west axis is terminated by retaining wall with an original gazing globe in the formal Colonial Revival garden style. All plant material is mature and well maintained. Circa 1977 the original drive to the front entrance of Shelbridge was altered with the addition of a paved parking area.

Recently, the original shuffleboard court (c) was discovered on the east end of the property. It is a single lane concrete court that is under restoration. This will be an important part of the historic renovation to Shelbridge.

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Shelbridge Washington County, Tennessee

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Shelbridge is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as excellent example of Colonial Revival architectures in Johnson City and for its formally landscaped yard. Built in 1920 for the Ross Spears family, it was designed by architect D. R. Beeson and constructed by Mark Curtis, a local contractor and carpenter.

Ross Spears was a wholesale lumber dealer in Johnson City and his family resided in the house from 1920 through 1927. It was during their tenure that many fruit trees were planted on the property and a rose garden was planted near the barn on the east side of the property. In addition the clay tennis court and the third floor roller-skating floor were added. At the time the house was constructed, the city had no zoning laws and a cow was kept on the grounds as well as ponies that occupied one of the barns.

In 1927 the house was sold to the Henry P. Bridges family. Mrs. Bridges is responsible for adding the millstones and stone from the old Carnegie Blast Furnace in Johnson City. Also added were boxwoods from the southwest Virginia area and the western North Carolina area. Leland Cardwell, a Johnson City architect, planned the formal gardens in the manner of the formal gardens of Williamsburg. One of the first items to be added to the estate when the Bridges family moved into the house was the addition of a swimming pool and bath house.

The Bridges family constructed the summer house, complete with kitchen facilities in 1938. In addition, the Bridges had a brick house, originally the Munsey Memorial Methodist parsonage moved to the property. This became the home of Mrs. Minnie Patton Thomas and Vint Thomas, the mother and brother of Mrs. Bridges.

Henry P. Bridges was a lawyer and industrialist, who practiced law in Baltimore from 1902-1927 and from 1927 through 1957 was Vice President of the Pennsylvania Glass and Sand Corporation of Berlkey Springs, West Virginia. He also operated the Woodmont Gun and Rod club, a private club for wealthy sportsmen, located ten miles from Hancock, Maryland.

The Bridges had two sons Henry Jr. and Powell, both of whom attended the University Teaching School through the 10th grade. Henry completed high school at Mercerburg Academy, and attended both East Tennessee State University and Princeton University for one year and graduated from Davidson College. He also received a Master of Sacred Music degree from Union Theological Seminary of New York City. He and his family currently reside in Charlotte, north Carolina.

Powell Bridges completed his secondary education at Johnson City's Science Hill High School and graduated from Davidson College and Vanderbilt University Law School. He and his family reside in Chicago.

In 1957 Henry P. Bridges died. His wife, later married Hal White, a native of Detroit, who came to Johnson City as an insurance broker. Mr. White died in 1972 and Mrs. White in 1973. In settling the estate, her sons, Henry and Powell Bridges, affected a sale-donation arrangement with the State of Tennessee which made the home

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Shelbridge Washington County, Tennessee

available to the University as an official residence for the President of East Tennessee State University. It remains the in that use today. In summarizing the transaction, Henry Bridges said, "We wanted our to go to some institution, where it would be well maintained, kept intact and where it would have as much public use as possible. We are extremely happy that it will be used as a residence for the President of East Tennessee State University."

Shelbridge is used frequently to host local, state and national dignitaries. The guests, representing academic, social, political, economic, and athletic interests, add an important dimension to university life and history of Upper East Tennessee. Shelbridge has served as the home of four former and the current president of ETSU. In 1975, Dr. and Mrs. D. P. Culp moved into Shelbridge. The lived in the house until his retirement in 1977. Subsequently, it has served as home to Dr. and Mrs. Arthur DeRosier from 1977 through 1980, then Dr. and Mrs. Ronald E. Belles lived in Shelbridge from 1980 through 1991. In 1991 Dr. Bert C. Bach was appointed Interim president and resided in the house until 1992. In 1992 Dr. and Mrs. Roy S. Nicks moved into Shelbridge and are the current residents of the facility.

The house is an excellent example of a Colonial Revival house with its symmetrically balanced windows and sunroom wings. The exterior and interior feature many elements used in Colonial Revival architecture, including the balustrade with urns on the exterior and the corner cabinets on the interior. Designed by D. R. Beeson a local Johnson City architect, the house is a good example of his work. Beeson, is also noted for his design of the Montrose Court Apartments (NR 4/21/1980), a Tudor Revival building, and several buildings in the Tree Streets Historic District (nomination in process)

The landscaped gardens of Shelbridge were designed by Leland Cardwell, a local Johnson City architect, and Mrs. Bridges. The gardens and the placement of the outbuildings is a good example of a formally designed garden.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Shelbridge Washington County, Tennessee

### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"History of Shelbridge." No author given, no date. Located at East Tennessee University Archives of Appalachia.

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Shelbridge Washington County, Tennessee

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Shelbridge sits on 8.3 acres of land at the intersection of the Southeast corner of 11th Avenue and North Road Street. Beginning at the intersection of 11th Avenue and North Roan Street, the boundary moves 436.0' west; thence northerly 338.7'; thence southerly 319.0'; thence northerly 341.2'; thence easterly 478.3'; thence southerly 50.0'; thence easterly 254.0'; thence southerly 644.0' to the point of the beginning.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries of Shelbridge include all the extant resources associated with the residence.

NOV 20 1995

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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

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Shelbridge Washington County, Tennessee

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Shelbridge North Roan and East 11th Street Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee Photos by: Jim Sledge Date: July 1995 Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Southeast facade, looking northwest 1 of 62

Southeast facade, looking northwest 2 of 62

Southeast facade, looking north 3 of 62

Southeast facade, looking west 4 of 62

Southeast facade, looking west 5 of 62

Southeast facade and southwest elevation, looking northeast 6 of 62

Northeast elevation, looking south 7 of 62

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Northwest elevation, looking west 9 of 62

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Bath House 42 of 62

Swimming Pool, Bath House and Summer House 43 of 62

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Shed 48 of 62

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Interior detail, living room 51 of 62

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Interior detail, cove molding in living room 55 of 62

Interior detail, looking from sunroom into living room 56 of 62

Interior detail, sunroom 57 of 62

Interior detail, sunroom looking towards dining room 58 of 62

Interior detail, cabinets in breakfast nook 59 of 62

Interior detail, top self of built in cabinet in dining room 60 of 62

Interior detail, bath 61 of 62

Interior detail, bath 62 of 62



SHELBRIDGE WASHINGTON CO. TN



SHELBRIDGE WASHINGTON CO. TN



SHELBRIDGE WASHINGTON CO. TN