

6-5-73

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

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: Sullivan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1972

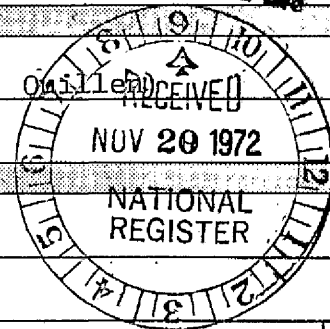
1. NAME  
COMMON:  
Fain Plantation (Representative James H. O'Neil)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
E of Bloomingdale off 4: 11A

CITY OR TOWN:  
Arcadia vic.

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Sullivan CODE: 163



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
OWNER'S NAME:  
Charles Ramsey

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route #1

CITY OR TOWN: Kingsport STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Sullivan County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Blountville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Sullivan

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1972

DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fain Plantation, located in the Arcadia Community and on a rise overlooking the old Reedy Creek or Kentucky Road, is one of the most complete mid-nineteenth century plantation complexes left in East Tennessee.

Dominating the site, which is in a hilly rural area, is a two-story ten room house. Although large, the house is a simple rectangular structure with a double-story ell. Most of the exterior detail appears to be original including the shutters. The porch, if not original, dates not long after the building was constructed. The main doorway with its squared pilasters is imposing but not exceptionally well-executed. Typical of structures in the area, is the molded brick cornice. A gallery extends the length of both floors of the wing.

Four log structures remain on the property. The log barn has been covered partially with clapboards. The smokehouse has a stone foundation and only a portion of its shingle roof. Of the two other log outbuildings, one was supposedly the law study of the builder's sons, and the second was occupied by a slave, "Aunt Beck." The building to the south of the main house has been restored, whereas the other three log buildings are in original but deteriorating condition. The barn is used for storage, but the others are vacant. A portion of the main house is lived in by a son of the last owner. The yard, though unkept, has handsome trees and Boxwood.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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) c. 1850

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" 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

Fain Plantation, one of the few nearly-complete plantations still remaining in upper East Tennessee, is also one of the most prominent sites along the old Reedy Creek or Kentucky Road. Both the brick dwelling house and the log buildings are architecturally typical of the area. It is unusual, however, to find the combination of structures still intact.

The house was built circa 1850 for Thomas Fain, a member of an important early family in the Sullivan County area. Fain was born in Blountville in 1809, and in 1841, purchased 306 acres on which he was to build his plantation. He became "remarkably successful as a farmer and merchant" (Goodspeed), which helped in raising ten children. He also became active in the affairs of Arcadia, the name the Fains applied to the community surrounding them. In addition to serving as Arcadia's first postmaster, he, along with two other local residents, gave land for the Reedy Creek Academy. Following the Civil War, Unionist Fain allowed those freed slaves who wished, to remain on the plantation and gave financial aid to those who left. On the hill facing the house is the Fain cemetery where both the family and slaves are buried.

Presently the complex is owned by heirs of the last owner, and is for sale. Its future is uncertain.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bradford, Augusta. Notable Southern Families: Fain of Tennessee. (Chattanooga: The Lookout Publishing Co., 1930).

Fain Family Papers. Owned by Mrs. Katherine Hicks Dixon and Mrs. G. Kermit Hammonds.

History of Tennessee. (Nashville and Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887).

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

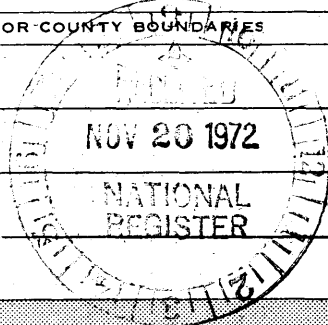
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' 0 "	0 ' 0 "		36° 35' 18"	82° 24' 35"	
NE	0 ' 0 "	0 ' 0 "				
SE	0 ' 0 "	0 ' 0 "				
SW	0 ' 0 "	0 ' 0 "				

17/37398  
404994  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Ellen Beasley**

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **11-10-72**

STREET AND NUMBER: **403 Seventh Avenue, North**

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** 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 Michael J. Smith  
Michael J. Smith

Title Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 11-22-72

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

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/11/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4.3.73

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Arcadia  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Sullivan

DATE RECEIVED: 8/18/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/01/04  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 73001834

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 10/1/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*additional Documentation Accepted*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson H. Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 10/1/04

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number NA Page 1

Arcadia (Fain Plantation)  
Sullivan County, Tennessee

The Fain Plantation was listed in the National Register on April 11, 1973. The present owner has found additional information. This does not change the significance of the property. It does provide a different date for the construction of the house; however, the precise date of construction is still uncertain. The owner would like the name of the National Register listed property to be *Arcadia*. Two documents showing the earlier use of this name are included with this submission. Additional documents are available if needed.

### Additional documentation

The property at Arcadia came from a land grant awarded to Robert Samuel Brashers in 1792 for service in the American Revolutionary War. Brashers built a homestead log cabin just below the current rock wall, and passed the property to his son Samuel. Samuel Brashers sold the land in 1841 to Thomas Fain, grandson of Captain John Fain, who was killed by the Indians in the Battle of the Sitka in 1788. Thomas Fain built a mercantile store, stable, and post office on the site and was Post Master at Arcadia for 50 years.

Several stories exist as to when the 2-story brick house was built, but based on the date of 1876 inscribed on the top of the east fireplace, this may be the year the house was completed. (The top of the fireplace fell in the late 1960s, due to lack of maintenance.) Thomas Fain passed the property to his son, Hugh, in 1886. In the depression of the 1890s, Hugh Fain's liabilities came to exceed his assets, and the property was sold at public auction in 1898 to Charles C. Ramsey, grandson of Joel Ramsey, bodyguard to George Washington during the Revolutionary War.

The property has remained in the Ramsey family until the present. C.C. Ramsey passed the property to his son John D. Ramsey in 1924. John D. Ramsey died intestate in 1958 and estate was unsettled until 1974 when Joseph H. Ramsey acquired the house. Joseph Ramsey performed significant structural work (rock wall, roofs, porches) to the poorly maintained structure and probably saved it from a wrecking ball.

Joseph Ramsey died intestate in 2000, and Lynn Turner, great grandson of Charles C. Ramsey, and wife Patricia, bought the property in 2004. They began an extensive renovation of the property that continues today. Significant enough progress had been made by April 30, 2004, that they were able to host the wedding rehearsal dinner for Anne Williams, the great-great-great-great granddaughter of Thomas Fain, who built the house.

Thomas Fain named the house "ARCADIA". The house together with his store, post office, livery stable, and cemetery were such a dominant aspect of the area that the surrounding community adopted the name ARCADIA. From this compound, in addition to the 2-story brick house, five log structures survive today: spring house, smoke house, corn crib and 2 log cabins, known as (1) the Fain Boys' Study, where 2 sons of Thomas Fain prepared for their careers in law; and (2) Aunt Beck's Cabin, the residence of a former slave of Thomas Fain. Construction dates for these log buildings are unknown but are generally assumed to be various times between 1841 when Fain acquired the property and 1876 when the brick house may have been completed.

  
Herbert L. Harper  
D/HPO TN Historical Commission

  
Date



# HISTORIC SITES OF SULLIVAN COUNTY

by  
The Sullivan County Historical  
Commission and Associates

Compiled by  
Mrs. Muriel C. Spoden

Published under auspices of the Sullivan County Court  
The Kingsport Press, 1976



Hal T. Spoden

## **FAIN PLANTATION—ARCADIA**

Overlooking the old Reedy Creek Road (Bloomingdale Pike), which traverses Reedy Creek Valley, stands the red brick mansion and six auxiliary log structures which together bear the name of Arcadia and, together with the land, bear the name of the Thomas Fain Plantation. Arcadia, owned today by Joseph Ramsey, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The ten-room, red brick structure was built about the middle of the nineteenth century and has many interesting architectural features. It is built of hand-fired bricks upon a foundation of cut limestone. One of the interesting features is the well preserved gallery (back ell porch). The old stone stile (facility for mounting a horse) still stands in the front yard, where many boxwoods of more than a hundred years grow. The auxiliary build-

ings consist of a small utility barn, two log slave cabins, a spring house, log crib barn, and a log cabin "study," where two of the Fain sons prepared to become lawyers. The "Burying Ground" on a nearby hill completes the historic assembly.

Thomas Fain (1809–1898), grandson of Captain John Fain (1755–1788) who was killed by the Cherokees at the siege of Sitica, began building the Arcadia complex in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, actually settling there in 1836. He built a log dwelling house and a log store structure. In 1846 the log store also became Arcadia Post Office.

Thomas Fain became a well known resident of Sullivan County. He built his farm into a plantation which stretched from the Virginia state line to the top of Chestnut Ridge near the modern Orebank community and became the owner of many slaves. A man



of Union sympathies, he freed these slaves and gave each a cash bounty or gainful employment, according to the freed man's preference. While building his plantation, Thomas also built a considerable merchandising business, wagoning quality goods all the way from Baltimore. In addition he served his fellow citizens as postmaster for some fifty years. (*Legend 16*)

## LESLIE'S MILL

Although it has had many alterations over the years, Leslie's Mill is one of two known old grist mills left in Sullivan County. It is located on the falls of the North Fork of Reedy Creek (Boozy Creek) and on the south side of Bloomingdale Pike (the old Reedy Creek Road).

It is now owned by Vernon Miller of Kingsport who is developing the banks of the cascade into a residential area.

The mill stands on the site where a mill is known to have existed when Andrew Leslie purchased the land in 1851 from Colonel David Shaver. There is mention in historical records of a mill on this site as early as 1827 and the site is within a few yards of the site of the historic King's Mill Fort.

An ideal location, the Leslie Mill is situated on a heavy fall of rapids on Boozy Creek in the heart of the 1772-73 Reedy Creek Settlement.



Muriel C. Spoden

While the date of the mill wheel is unknown, it is the overshot type. According to Homer H. Smith, a former Blountville attorney, "these wheels were often 18 to 20 feet in diameter with a large shaft and heavy timbers radiating from the shaft to the outer rim."

"Water buckets of between five and 10 gallon capacity and constructed in the form of a "V" extending three or four feet across the rim received the forced water from the trunking."

"The force of the water and weight of the water in several buckets caused the large overshot wheel to revolve and it, in turn, revolved other wheels geared to it, thus operating the machinery of the mill."

Among the most fortunate landowners in the early days of Sullivan County were those who had land including the good water fall on a large creek for operating a grist and saw mill. (*Legend 17*)

## KING'S MILL FORT SITE

King's Mill Fort was the northernmost of four forts, King's Mill, Looney's, Eaton's, and Ramsey's. These forts protected the central part of Sullivan County along an area six to eight miles east of the Long Island of the Holston near the Lochaber Treaty Line of 1770. The forts, thought to be in Fincastle County, Virginia at the time of their erection, extended from a point near the present Tennessee-Virginia boundary line to near the Holston River. The latter three were each about two miles apart.

King's Mill Fort was originally a grist mill which was fortified before 1774 with palisades and a nail-studded gate. This stockaded mill stood just to the north of Reedy Creek Road (extension of today's Bloomingdale Pike). It stood on the flat beside the fast

**KINGSFORT'S OLD AND FAMOUS HOMES and GARDENS**



Arcadia

country. Many visitors still come to see it.

At the present time, Mrs. John Ramsey owns and occupies "Arcadia."

This is the third of a series of twelve articles, the next will appear in the August Commentator.

"Arcadia", on Bloomingdale Road, was completed on October 3, 1870, by its builder and owner, Thomas Fain—merchant, farmer and postmaster. It is interesting to note that this was the first brick home built in this area, and that the bricks were made on the place. Both outside and inside walls measure fifteen inches in thickness.

To the rear of "Arcadia" is an old slave house, the only one remaining in this part of the

**TV THRIVES HERE**

Continued from Page 1

a station on VHF Channel 5, and the Commission will have to choose between the two.

If and when a number of TV stations are operating in this area, each with its own network programs, the TV Cable Corporation will offer its viewers as many as five signals simultaneously. Cable users can then dial the network of their choice, and will be able to receive VHF and UHF signals without any special set adapters or special antennae.

—Isabel Baumgartner

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Continued from Page 1

lest we pat ourselves on the back too energetically, let us recall that if every member of the Club had written each time that an opportunity—that is, a subject—had been made available, there would have been about nine times as many letters written as were reported, by copy or otherwise, as having been sent. A few members have inquired as to whether they might write about subjects not suggested by our Chamber. The answer is definitely "Yes"; there have already been a few written thus. So, when Congress next convenes, let's get busy. The Chamber feels positive that some letters have been written, but have not been reported. If you write a letter of

**KINGSFORT COMMENTATOR**

Published Monthly by  
KINGSFORT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Kingsport, Tennessee  
226 COMMERCE ST. Telephone 3770

Entered as second-class matter August 18, 1947, at  
The Post Office at Kingsport, Tennessee, under  
the Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Price \$1.00

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**NOT NECESSARILY  
"AMERICAN"**

Every organization claims to work for a good cause, because Americans love to support good causes.

But in these confused times, hundreds of organizations operate in the United States under names that are purposely misleading.

So that you will be able to verify the true nature of groups that seek your membership or money, the Chamber of Commerce has secured a copy of the Attorney General's list of disloyal and subversive organizations.

Of the 202 organizations on the list, almost one-fourth use the name "American" in their titles. A number of other misleading titles include Lincoln's name, and the words "National," "Educational" and "School."

By phoning the Chamber office, you can make sure that groups you support are genuinely American.

this nature and do not wish to send a copy to the Chamber, please telephone the Chamber's office (3770) and report having written the letter and state the general subject about which it was written.

**MANAGEMENT'S  
WASHINGTON  
LETTER**

From Nation's Business

GREAT CHANGES are taking place within industries—perhaps in yours.

Let's look at construction industry for example.

New construction in five months this year totals \$11,918,000,000. That's 3.5 per cent rise over same period of '51.

But within that rise are these changes: Private construction—largest segment of the industry—is off 4.4 per cent.

New public construction is up 25.1 per cent.

Highway building is biggest volume classification in public construction. It's up ten per cent.

Military and naval facilities (airports, troop accommodations) are up 186 per cent.

Public industrial—this includes atomic energy—is up 94 per cent.

Thus, building's up. But not private building.

**OUT in the  
FIRST ROUND**

In every election fight, the first round is Registration. You'll be OUT then, with no chance to vote, unless you register. Find out WHEN, WHERE and HOW by phoning the office in charge of elections, or your City Hall or County Court House. And remind your friends so you'll all be in on that exciting final round.



Harvey Brooks  
Allendale Farm  
Knoxville Highway  
Kingsport, Tennessee

17723604C