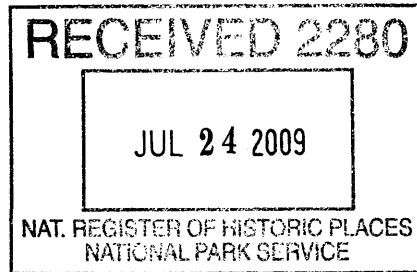


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



09000538

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 or 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 White Plains

other names/site number PM.883

2. Location

street & number 2700 Old Walton Road

NA  not for publication

city or town Cookeville

vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

County Putnam

code 141

zip code 38506

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.  
Signature of certifying official/Title

July 23, 2009  
Date

SHPO, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
    - See continuation sheet
  - determined eligible for the National Register.
    - See continuation sheet
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

James Galt  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

8/11/2009

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**      **Category of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)      (Check only one box)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building (s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local       | <input type="checkbox"/> District                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> Site                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Structure               |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Object                  |

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	4	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone; concrete  
walls Brick  
roof Synthetic slate  
other Wood; glass  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**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 whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

Circa 1958  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

N/A

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

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

**Significant Dates**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Burton, Stephen Decatur  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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 Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State Agency
  - Federal Agency
  - Local Government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:  
Upper Cumberland Development District

White Plains  
Name of Property

Putnam, TN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 15 acres 331 NW Cookeville East

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>639266</u>	<u>4004779</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>639488</u>	<u>4005136</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>639549</u>	<u>4004703</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>639365</u>	<u>4005134</u>

See continuation sheet

### 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 Randal D. Williams / Historic Preservation Planner  
Organization Upper Cumberland Development District Date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number 1225 South Willow Avenue Telephone 931-432-4111  
city or town Cookeville state TN Zip code 38506

### Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 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 Martha S. Willis  
street & number 2700 Old Walton Road Telephone 931-537-6662  
city or town Cookeville state TN Zip code 38506

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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## VII. Narrative Description

Constructed around 1848 and significantly remodeled into the Colonial Revival style in 1958, White Plains is located at 2700 Old Walton Road, approximately three miles from Cookeville (2006 population 26,656), the county seat of Putnam County, Tennessee. While once a plantation of considerable acreage, White Plains now consists of a total of fifteen acres, and is surrounded by scattered modern development. The nominated boundaries include the house, a historic well, and non-contributing outbuildings. Mature trees and shrubs surround the house while the acreage north of the house, once farmed, is now used as pasture.

White Plains lies on the Eastern Highland Rim of Tennessee, part of the Interior Low Plateaus Province.<sup>1</sup> The Eastern Highland Rim is approximately 300 feet higher than the Central Basin to the west and 1,000 feet lower than the Cumberland Plateau to the immediate east. Several benches, or outliers, of the Cumberland Plateau, known locally as Buck Mountain, Brotherton Mountain, and Algood Mountain lie immediately to the east of White Plains. A pioneer route, the Walton Road, traversed these mountains and figures prominently in the history of the White Plains community.

The Eastern Highland Rim is an area of rolling hills, streams, and ravines which have directly affected settlement patterns in the Upper Cumberland area of Tennessee. This is a mesophytic forest region consisting principally of mixed deciduous hardwoods. The climate of the Highland Rim is temperate with mild winters and warm, humid summers. The Eastern Highland Rim averages about twenty-five miles in width, and its total area is around 2,500 square miles, roughly five percent of the state's land area.<sup>2</sup> The Eastern Highland Rim soils are formed mainly from the Saint Genevieve, Saint Louis, and Warsaw limestones, along with chert from the Fort Payne Formation. These formations produce rich soils suitable for agriculture. Burley tobacco, corn, winter wheat, and sweet potatoes are important agricultural products of the area.<sup>3</sup> The productivity of the Highland Rim soils, and the favorable climate allowed farms such as White Plains to prosper.

White Plains was first established by Daniel Alexander near the beginning of the nineteenth century. The structures that Alexander built and maintained are unknown, although one would assume that they were log. William Quarles moved to the area in 1809 and purchased the property. The buildings that he built, if any, are also unknown. Andrew Jackson and his entourage lodged here in 1816; a bill for his expenses exists.

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<sup>1</sup> Lucy E. Braun, *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America* (Philadelphia: The Blakiston Co., 1950), 152.

<sup>2</sup> Edward T. Luther, *Our Restless Earth: The Geological Regions of Tennessee* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1977), 46.

<sup>3</sup> Paul R. Terrell, "The Highland Rim" *Tennessee: Geographical Patterns and Regions*, Ed. Ralph O. Fullerton and John B. Day (Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1977), 89.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

A gravel drive leads to the house and outbuildings. Low stone walls line the property along Old Walton Road. Several large trees and shrubs are on the property, and a wooden fence surrounds the pasture used for horse grazing. (See figure 1.)

## 1. White Plains (Circa 1848, 1958)

The building that stands today was constructed around 1848, and is one of the earliest extant buildings in Putnam County. It was built with a hewn timber poplar frame and a weatherboard exterior. In 1958 the house was modernized into a Colonial Revival style. This included bricking the exterior, adding the façade portico and side extensions, and modernizing heat and electricity. The present dwelling consists of a two story, three bay gable roof central portion with one story flat roof wings. Exterior end chimneys are on the west and east elevations. The June 1959 issue of *The Tennessee Magazine* noted that "When looking at the house you can see the old and also the new. The conventional colonial style contributes to its beauty. It has been modeled into a comfortable home by our modern day conception."<sup>4</sup> (See Fig. 1 and 2.)

The most visible feature of the south elevation is the central two story portico. Square wood paneled columns support the pediment. The boxed cornice of the pediment is embellished with dentil woodwork. The first floor entry is a single leaf paneled door flanked by glass and wood sidelights and capped with a transom window. Slender pilasters with capitals flank the door. On the second story, the entry is similar except the door is double leaf. The door leads to a cantilevered wood porch. Nine-over-six double-hung sash, with applied modern shutters, flank the portico on both stories. One story flat roof extensions were added to the west and east elevations in 1958. Each extension has an eight-over-eight double-hung window capped with a four-light transom. Applied modern shutters flank these windows.

Two eight-over-eight double-hung sash capped by four light transoms and one six-over-six double-hung sash capped by a three light transom pierce the west elevation of the one story extension. Three metal downspouts separate the windows. Two exterior end chimneys are visible on the west elevation of the main body of the house. A four light window is in the gable end and a six-over-six double-hung sash is on the first story, south of the extension. One chimney on the south side of the east elevation was repaired at some time in the past, although the exact date is unknown.

The rear or north elevation shows the original house, a 1925 addition, and the 1958 extensions. The one story extensions appear to be one and one-half stories due to the slope of the land. At the northwest part of the rear elevation, the extension has two windows. One is an eight-over-eight double-hung sash capped by a four light transom and the other is a six-over-six double-hung sash with a three light transom. A single leaf wood door leads to a basement. The northeast part of the extension contains an eight-over-eight double-hung sash capped by a four light transom and a single leaf glass and wood door leading to the basement. Between these extensions is a one

<sup>4</sup> *The Tennessee Magazine*, June 1959 (Vol. 2, No. 6), 13.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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story addition dating to 1925. The flat roof brick addition has single and paired multi-light windows and a single leaf entry into the first story of the house. A modern carport with metal roof extends from this elevation. The second story of the original house has three symmetrically placed nine-over-nine windows. A modern brick flue is also visible here.

Like the west elevation, the east elevation has two exterior end chimneys with a four light window in the gable set between them. The one story extension is symmetrical in design with a central single leaf glass and wood door capped with a three light transom flanked by eight-over-eight double-hung sash with four light transoms and larger eight-over-eight double-hung sash with four light transoms. A shed roof porch supported by Ionic columns is over the entry and first set of windows. The porch floor is concrete and a simple wood balustrade is on the north end of the porch. The porch was constructed in 1958.

White Plains's 1848 plan is a central hall plan with two fifteen by fifteen rooms on each side of the central hall on the first floor. The 1925 rear (north) addition added a sitting room at the end of the hall, while the 1958 extensions added bedrooms, a bath, and kitchen. The second floor has four fifteen by fifteen rooms and a central hall. Much of the original poplar on the first story floor was covered with modern hardwood in 1958; the second floor hall retains 1848 poplar floor. Walls and ceilings are plaster and rooms have fireplaces, baseboards or wainscoting, narrow cove molding, and paneled doors with fluted surrounds, corner blocks, and narrow pedimented hoods. No two fireplace mantels are alike in the house.

The first floor central hallway has wide wood wainscoting and simple baseboards. The dog-leg stair has a square newel post, square balusters, and a closed string along the east wall. A paneled door at the north end of the hall leads to the sitting room. An unusual feature of the house is the built-in gun cabinets found on the west and east walls of the hall, adjacent to the entry sidelights and the entrances to the parlors. Each of the narrow cabinets – wide enough only for rifles – has a segmental arch molded wood door. Four doors lead to four parlors, with the door leading into the northeast parlor located under the stairs. An original two panel door that once lead to the outside, now leads into the 1925 addition. During the 1958 renovation, a late nineteenth pier mirror with wood colonettes and entablature was placed/built into the hall.

The southeast parlor door has the same surrounds inside the room as what is in the hall. The parlor windows have the same trim. A fireplace is located on the east wall. It has a console frieze supporting the mantelshelf, tile hearth, and simple pilasters flanking the opening. There is access to the northeast parlor from this room through a wood door.

When the house was remodeled in 1958 the two parlors on the west were opened up into one room. A cased opening with two wood columns now divides the rooms. There are two fireplaces located on the west wall, one in each of the former parlors. At the southwest, the fireplace has simple pilasters, a molded frieze, molded mantelshelf, and a tile hearth. The northwest fireplace has fluted pilasters, a molded frieze with dentils, molded mantelshelf, and tile hearth.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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The sitting room was added to the house in 1925. The sitting room is covered in wood paneling. There is a fireplace with colonettes, oversized mantelshelf, and tile hearth. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom in the west addition; a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen are in the east addition, all built in 1958. The bedroom walls are covered in wallpaper, and the floors are hardwood. The bathroom floors are tile. The kitchen walls are covered in wallpaper, and the floor is covered with linoleum.

Door casings on the second floor are simpler than those on the first floor. Baseboards are not as wide and there is no crown molding. One bedroom fireplace has a large paneled frieze and molded mantelshelf. Another room has a fireplace with a plain frieze supported by simple pilasters on bases. The other two rooms have fireplaces with molded friezes, molded mantelshelves, fluted pilasters, and brick hearths. A boxed staircase, circa 1850, leads to the attic.

In 1958 major renovations gave White Plains its present day appearance. The building was covered with red brick veneer. Single story wings were added to the gable ends of the structure. A sitting room, three bedrooms, two baths, and a modern kitchen were added in these wings and on the back side. A central bay two level front porch supplanted the early porch. (Contributing)  
(See Fig. 1 for site plan.)

## 2. Smokehouse (Circa 1860, 1990)

The smokehouse was moved from its original site on the property around 1960. The building has been modified to the point that it no longer qualifies as a contributing building in the National Register nomination. The smokehouse, as it is currently configured, consists of a single pen log cabin with a modern board and batten ell addition. The single pen cabin has full dovetail notches and a gable roof. There is a concrete porch with a covered shed roof. The cabin has a central wood door flanked by two three-over-three leaded glass windows. The ell addition is board and batten with a single log pen with half dovetail notches on the east elevation. The addition has modern aluminum windows and a porch and metal door in the rear. The entire structure is covered with a modern metal roof. (Noncontributing)

## 3. Corn Crib (Circa 1860, 1950)

The corn crib was moved from its original site around 1950. The corn crib consists of a single pen log structure with a modern shed addition and gable roof covered with metal. (Noncontributing)

## 4. Horse Barn (Circa 2000)

The horse barn is a modern structure with a central hall and flanking sheds. The walls are covered in wood siding, and the roof is metal. (Noncontributing)

## 5. "Well of three presidents." Historic well on the property. (Contributing)

## 6. Bicentennial marker. Noncontributing due to age.



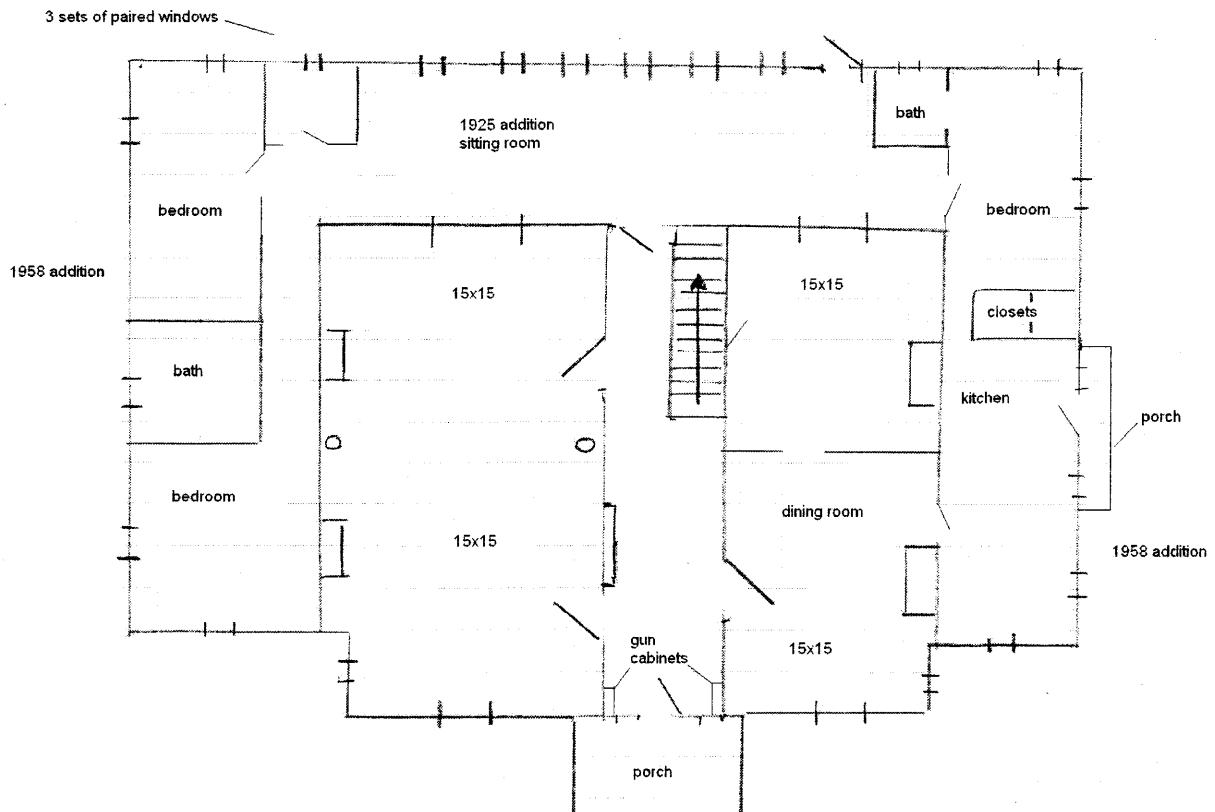
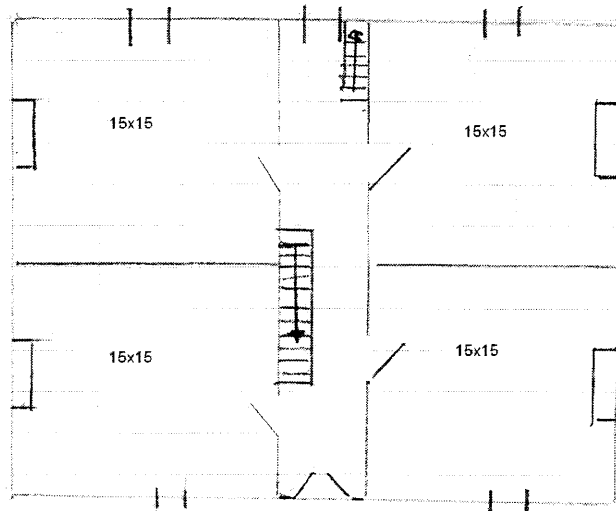
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

Sketch plan of first and second floors

Not to scale



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 appendix Page 6 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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## VIII. Statement of Significance

White Plains, in Putnam County, Tennessee is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under criterion C in the area architecture. White Plains was one of the earliest established settlements in what would become Putnam County, and served as a temporary county seat during the initial founding of the county.<sup>5</sup> Built in 1848 and remodeled in 1958, the house is a fine example of a nineteenth century residence that was modernized in the mid-twentieth century into the popular Colonial Revival style. The brick exterior, side extensions, rear extension, and chimneys all add to the stately appearance of the house. The interior of the house reflects the early construction and later remodeling. The nominated property retains its integrity.

### History of the White Plains house

The history of the White Plains community began with William P. Quarles and his establishment of the area as a center of commerce. The history of the White Plains house began with Stephen Decatur Burton, who was the grandson of Quarles and his wife, Anna Hawes Quarles. Burton was born at White Plains on 08 October 1813, and died there on 17 March 1892.<sup>6</sup> He was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Jane Quarles Burton. Burton's mother died in October 1814, and he was reared at White Plains by his grandmother, Anna Hawes Quarles.

Burton grew to manhood at White Plains. His family was well established financially and socially, allowing him opportunities for education and business that were beyond what most people of the time could expect. Burton married Mary Davis Goodbar of Overton County on 19 July 1835, and they eventually had six children.<sup>7</sup> Mary Davis Goodbar was from a prominent Overton County family; she died on 21 November 1895.

Burton was well educated for his day. He had studied under private tutors as a child, and developed a lifelong appreciation of education. After inheriting the White Plains estate from his grandmother Quarles, Burton established a school on the property to educate his children, as well as those of the surrounding community.<sup>8</sup> The school building is no longer extant, but according to local tradition, it was a two story structure. Burton employed qualified teachers at the school, among who was Philander D. Sims, who would become a leading physician of Chattanooga and Mayor of the city in 1874.<sup>9</sup> E. G. Sewell, an early leader of the Church of Christ also served as a

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<sup>5</sup> Mary Jean DeLozier, *Putnam County, Tennessee 1850-1970* (Cookeville, TN: Putnam County, 1979), 21.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 11.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 11.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 12.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 12.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 appendix Page 7 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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teacher at the school. Many children of the Upper Cumberland received an education at Burton's school, and benefited from his belief in the transformative power of education.

Burton inherited the land associated with White Plains, but he also inherited personal property from his father and grandmother. He was wealthy enough to construct his own house around 1848. Part of the inheritance included enough slaves to make Burton one of the largest slaveholders in the region. By the time of emancipation, Burton owned some 100 slaves valued at approximately \$50,000.00.<sup>10</sup> Using slave labor in the antebellum period, Burton raised several hundred acres of cotton each year. Burton dealt in cotton on a large scale. In 1861, at the outbreak of the War Between the States, he had over \$125,000.00 worth of cotton stored in warehouses in Chattanooga.<sup>11</sup> Much of the cotton produced in Middle Tennessee was stored in Chattanooga due to its strategic location as a shipping center on both the Tennessee River and railroads connected to the eastern seaboard. During the war, the Union Army destroyed the cotton warehouses of Chattanooga and Burton lost his entire cotton investment.

Many of Burton's slaves stayed at White Plains after the war to continue working on the farm, and they continued living in the homes they had lived in prior to the war. The slaves of White Plains lived in a row of cabins that sat behind the main house. Burton's financial loss due to the emancipation of the slaves was the largest of any Putnam Countian.<sup>12</sup> While the location of the slave cabins is known, there has been no archaeological investigation of the site.

Stephen Decatur Burton became one of the wealthiest men in Middle Tennessee due to the diversity of his businesses. Early in his tenure as proprietor of the White Plains plantation, Burton established a mercantile business on the property (outside the nominated boundaries); the store remained in operation for many years. He expanded his mercantile interests until he owned successful stores in Cookeville, Livingston, and Sparta, Tennessee, as well as Glasgow, Kentucky. Burton also served as Postmaster of the community of White Plains, which had grown up around the plantation, in 1838, and 1849. By 1866, the White Plains Post Office had ceased operation.

Burton established White Plains as one of the largest farms in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee, in excess of 1,000 acres. Due to the geology and topography of the area, farms were smaller in the Upper Cumberland than in the more prosperous Central Basin or the West Tennessee plains with their highly productive limestone and alluvial soils. White Plains produced many acres of cotton and corn, as well as fine Tennessee horses. The farm has continued in operation in one form or another until the present time, although the once large acreage of the farm has been reduced by the sale of land throughout the years.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 12.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 11.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 11.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 appendix Page 8 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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A few years before the War Between the States, though there is no record of the exact date, the home of Stephen Decatur Burton, which was the original White Plains of William P. Quarles, was destroyed by fire.<sup>13</sup> The current White Plains house was constructed by Burton circa 1848, and according to tradition, was built on a plan much like that of the original Quarles house. It is of interest to note, that Burton designed the grounds of the house in a style more reminiscent of English estates, which would have been in keeping with his social status.<sup>14</sup> The house was surrounded by a green meadow of several acres, and the grounds were well manicured. Burton was an avid deer hunter, and he built a "deer park" in wooded land adjacent to the house, where he could keep deer for hunting. The park was over ten acres in area and was enclosed by an unusually high rail fence of the "stake and rider" type.<sup>15</sup> On the outside of the fence artificial mounds of earth and logs were built to allow wild deer to enter the enclosure to join the tame, captured deer. Burton maintained the deer park from the antebellum period until 1875, when land development and hunting began to cause a sharp decline in the deer population. The deer park eventually became an orchard.<sup>16</sup> Burton's deer park was a unique facility in the Upper Cumberland. No other such facility was known to exist in the region.

White Plains ceased to be an individual community as the nearby towns of Algood and Cookeville took root and flourished around it. By the late nineteenth century, White Plains was understood to be the home of Stephen Decatur Burton. The frontier settlement of White Plains, established by Daniel Alexander and Burton's grandfather William P. Quarles, had passed into history.

Stephen Decatur Burton lived at White Plains until his death in 1892, at which time it passed to Burton-Quarles family members, remaining so until the late 1950s when it was bought by Harvey Draper and his daughter Mildred Summers. The home was remodeled at this time. (See figure 2.) In addition to the Colonial Revival updating the house got modern conveniences:

The house has been well-insulated and electric heat installed. The kitchen planned to detail with up-to-date appliances, such as automatic dishwasher, electric range, refrigerator, and plenty of hot and cold water furnished by an electric pump and water heater makes meal distribution less of a chore for the lady of the house. The lighting throughout the house has been well-planned to bring out the beauty of decoration, as well as adequately lighting every room.<sup>17</sup>

The Colonial Revival style has been a popular style for residences from the 1870s to the 1950s. It is still a popular style today. While the most prominent details of the style have varied over the decades, the style usually is characterized by symmetry, accented entrances, columns, and multi-

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 12.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 11.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 11.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 11.

<sup>17</sup> *The Tennessee Magazine*, 13.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 appendix Page 9 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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light windows. Twentieth century remodeling of older houses into Colonial Revival took the idea of “colonial” designs and applied them in different proportions, mixed elements from different eras, and used different materials – with little regard to copying historic styles. Books on remodeling houses often mention the outdated styles and how more modern styles, such as the Colonial Revival, should be applied to the older house. White Plains is a fine example of this. Typical of many remodeled houses, extensions were put on the side elevations. One change that was often recommended for remodeling houses was changing the floor plan. White Plains’s basic central hall floor plan was not changed during the 1958 remodeling. The basic central hall plan and fireplaces remain from the 1848 house and blend in nicely with the 1958 design. Period houses such as White Plains were re-done and became a modern “historic” home. Even as ranch houses became more common post World War II, many had modest Colonial Revival elements. Older houses could be modernized by adding a few Colonial Revival elements, or undergo a complete transformation as White Plains did. Many times farmhouses were expanded and “the historical character of the building was often exquisitely controlled.”<sup>18</sup>

The house today is in the possession of Mr. Draper’s granddaughter, Martha Willis. White Plains has seen many changes through the years, moving from a frontier settlement in 1809, to a city estate in 2009, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Quarles family settlement of the area. White Plains is an example of the evolution of an early farmstead, into a twentieth century home

There are no other early houses that were updated in the mid-twentieth century in Putnam County that are listed in the National Register. The main house of the Cowen Farmstead (NR 3/25/05) is an example of a farmhouse built in the late eighteenth century that was updated with Folk Victorian details around 1890. The Cowen House represents a similar type of architectural evolution but in a completely different era and style.

Based on county surveys done in the early 1980s, 151 Classical Revival houses were built in the Upper Cumberland region of the state between 1900 and 1933.<sup>19</sup> The term Classical Revival was defined in the survey to include Colonial Revival and Neoclassical styles. Larger, two story houses that were designed with classical influences were found on Dixie and Washington avenues in Cookeville. Houses were built of brick or weatherboard and with symmetrical facades, prominent entrances, and double-hung sashes. Many had two story porticos. The houses of this style seem to have been constructed from around the turn of the century to the 1920s. No examples of classical influenced design were surveyed in rural Putnam County. White Plains shares many of these features, although it is a later example. The scattered development around the White Plains house is primarily one story Ranch or Minimal Traditional houses.

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<sup>18</sup> James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, “The Formal Revivals” in *Old House Journal*, March-April 1991, 53.

<sup>19</sup> W. Calvin Dickinson, Michael E. Birdwell, and Homer D. Kemp. *Upper Cumberland Historic Architecture* (Franklin, TN: Hillsboro Press 2002), 97-98. In the book, the Upper Cumberland region encompasses an eight county area that includes Putnam County.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 appendix Page 10 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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## Background/Additional Information

At the close of the American Revolution, people began to push into the trans-Appalachian west through the great Appalachian Valley that extended from New York to Tennessee. Roads were built to facilitate access to the interior of the country, and the American Indians were giving way to the inexorable flow of white settlers into their territories. Many of these settlers were Revolutionary War veterans from Virginia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Tennessee became a focal point of settlement, its lands being ceded to the federal government by the State of North Carolina in 1790. The area was organized as the Territory South of the River Ohio, eventually becoming the Southwest Territory, before gaining statehood on 01 June 1796. The settlers, many of whom had land grants as payment for military service, began to move into eastern and central sections of Tennessee to claim their land. Many areas, however, were not open to settlement until the Indian tribes who claimed the land ceded all such claims. The Upper Cumberland area of Tennessee was claimed by the Cherokee Indians. This geographically rugged area of Tennessee was one of the last sections of the state to be settled due to its inaccessibility, and its claim by the Cherokees. With the signing of the Third Treaty of Tellico in 1805 in which the Cherokees ceded their claims to all remaining land in Middle Tennessee, the Upper Cumberland was completely opened to legal white settlement. There had been sporadic settlement in the Upper Cumberland region prior to the signing of the Third Treaty of Tellico, some as early as the 1760s, but it was not until the Cherokee Indians finally ceded their lands in the area, that wholesale settlement of the region could begin.

One of the first of the post-Treaty of Tellico settlers in what was to become Putnam County was William Pennington Quarles, a Revolutionary War veteran from Bedford County, Virginia.<sup>20</sup> Quarles was the son of Roger and Mary Goodloe Quarles of Caroline County, Virginia. Roger Quarles was a Captain of Militia in Caroline County during the American Revolution. William Quarles had brought his family, slaves, and possessions on a month-long overland trek from Bedford County, arriving at their new home in Tennessee on Christmas Day, 1809. According to family history, Quarles and his wife, Ann Hawes Quarles, brought with them to Tennessee their ten children, four sons-in-law, and thirty slaves. Their possessions included household goods, farming implements, livestock, and building materials. The land they settled was a part of White County, but it was near where White, Jackson, and Overton counties came together; it would eventually become part of Putnam County. Quarles named his land "White Plains" because as he surveyed it from an escarpment of the Cumberland Plateau, the now extinct prairie grass that once thrived on the Eastern Highland Rim appeared white in the winter sun.<sup>21</sup>

William Quarles bought the land he christened White Plains from Daniel Alexander, who had received a land grant, number 559, from the State of Tennessee in September 1808. Alexander had also acquired grant number 1739 in November 1809, which Quarles also purchased.

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<sup>20</sup> Walter S. McClain, *A History of Putnam County, Tennessee* (Cookeville, TN: Quinley Dyer & Co., 1925), 8.

<sup>21</sup> DeLozier, 12.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 appendix Page 11 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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Alexander had apparently lived on the land since 1804, and had operated an inn, or Ordinary, on the property, which was on the Walton Road.

The Walton Road played a major role in the settlement of the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee, running from Fort Southwest Point (NR 7/31/72) in Roane County on the Clinch River, to Carthage in Smith County on the Cumberland River; it closely followed the route of today's U.S. Highway 70 N.<sup>22</sup> The road was named for Revolutionary War veteran, William Walton of Carthage, Tennessee who was instrumental in the construction of the road, which was modern by the standards of its day. The road was fifteen feet wide, level on the sides, and had bridges or causeways built at streams along its route.<sup>23</sup> Completed in 1801, the road was over 100 miles long. Officially known as the Cumberland Turnpike, it allowed free movement between the East Tennessee settlements around Knoxville, and those on the Cumberland River in Davidson County, greatly facilitating movement into the Upper Cumberland much more efficiently than had earlier roads such as the Avery Trace, or North Carolina Military Trace.

The Walton Road made possible the early social and economic development of the Upper Cumberland region. Entrepreneurs such as William P. Quarles established businesses along the road. White Plains saw the creation of a general store, blacksmith shop, and post office.<sup>24</sup> The general store at White Plains remained in operation for nearly 100 years. The Ordinary that had originally been established by Daniel Alexander continued operation under the auspices of the Quarles family. Andrew Jackson frequented White Plains on business, and later as president. James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson also visited White Plains. The well at White Plains, immediately to the north of the Walton Road became known as the "well of three presidents" due to the tradition that all three of these presidents drank from the well. There is only anecdotal evidence for this, but it is known that Jackson, Polk, and Johnson stayed at White Plains. The descendants of the Quarles family have in their possession a White Plains bill of sale from 1816 for Andrew Jackson's food and lodging during a visit to the area. The Quarles family were horse breeders and were known to race horses with Jackson.

William P. Quarles served as a Lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiments during the Revolutionary War.<sup>25</sup> The First Regiment was captured at Charleston, South Carolina in 1780, at which time Quarles's military service seems to have ended. Quarles also appears on the original roll of the Society of the Cincinnati.<sup>26</sup> Quarles was a lawyer in Virginia and upon settlement in

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<sup>22</sup> Calvin W. Dickinson, Michael E. Birdwell, Homer D. Kemp, Eds. *Upper Cumberland Historic Architecture* (Franklin, TN: Hillsboro Press, 2002), 6.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, 7.

<sup>24</sup> McClain, 8.

<sup>25</sup> Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army during the War of the Revolution* (Washington, DC: National Tribune, 1890), 456

<sup>26</sup> Edgar Erskine, Hume, Ed. *Papers of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia 1783-1824* (Richmond, VA: Society of the Cincinnati, 1938), 4.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 appendix Page 12 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

Tennessee he presented his law license from the Supreme Court of Virginia and the Supreme Court of Tennessee to the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of White County, Tennessee, whereupon he was admitted to the White County Bar on 09 November 1812. The Court order confirming Quarles's admission to the White County Bar appears on Page 10, Minute Book A, of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of White County.<sup>27</sup> Quarles was also, at this time, appointed Major of the White County Militia, a position he held until his death.<sup>28</sup>

Immediately after locating at White Plains, Quarles built a large house and barn on property located about one-quarter mile east of the present house.<sup>29</sup> The house was a two story poplar log structure, weatherboarded with poplar siding, with four rooms on the lower floor and four on the upper floor; there were fireplaces in each room. The kitchen, dining room, and a room called the "office room" were detached from the main house. There were slave cabins behind the main residence. The main house had four cut-stone chimneys, and according to family history, the parlor was adorned with a mantel and cornice carved in the pineapple style by William Quarles.<sup>30</sup> This house was one of the most prominent in the Upper Cumberland, and served as a focal point of White Plains and its prominent position along the Walton Road. The home was destroyed by fire, although the exact date of its destruction is in dispute. The present White Plains house was built one-quarter mile to the west of the original structure. Its exact construction date is unclear, but it seems to have been completed sometime around 1848.

William Quarles, the founder of White Plains, was murdered on 2 April 1814, at age 62.<sup>31</sup> The murder occurred as Quarles was returning from a White County Militia meeting. According to the 23 April 1814 edition of the *Carthage Gazette*, the murderer was William Phillips of White County, a forty year old career criminal of sorts. Phillips was apparently captured but escaped; a \$50.00 reward was offered for his capture. According to local sources, Phillips was never apprehended.<sup>32</sup>

Upon the death of William Quarles, his widow, Ann Hawes Quarles, became the proprietor of White Plains. William and Ann reared ten children at White Plains, most of whom became prominent citizens of the area. A daughter, Sallie Quarles, was married to Adam R. Huntsman in 1825. He was a prominent attorney and congressman.<sup>33</sup> Huntsman was born in Charlotte County, Virginia on 11 February 1786, and migrated to Knoxville in 1807. He studied law in Knoxville and was admitted to the bar, first practicing law in Overton County. Huntsman remained there until 1821, at which time he moved to Madison County in West Tennessee.

<sup>27</sup> Ernest H. Boyd, *History of Putnam County* (Cookeville, TN: n.p., 1953), 10.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 10.

<sup>29</sup> Zola Pointer, *Pointer and Quarles Families* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1986), 253.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, 254.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, 254.

<sup>32</sup> McClain, 8.

<sup>33</sup> Boyd, 10.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 appendix Page 13 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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Huntsman was closely associated with Andrew Jackson and the Democratic Party. He and Jackson may have first become acquainted at White Plains. Adam R. Huntsman fought in the Creek Indian War where he lost a leg. From 1815 to 1821 Huntsman represented Overton, Jackson, and Smith counties in the Tennessee General Assembly. In 1824 he was appointed one of three commissioners given the task of improving the navigable waters of the Western District. From 1827 to 1831 Huntsman represented Madison, Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, Shelby, and Tipton counties as a senator in the Tennessee State Legislature. Huntsman also served as a delegate to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention of 1834, but he is best remembered as the Democratic candidate who defeated David "Davy" Crockett in the 1834 congressional race, shortly after which Crockett left for Texas and stepped into American history and mythology at the Battle of the Alamo in 1836.

Sallie Quarles Huntsman died shortly after giving birth to her daughter, Ann Huntsman in Jackson, Tennessee. Adam Huntsman brought Ann back to White Plains to be reared by her grandmother and namesake, Ann Quarles.<sup>34</sup> Ann Huntsman returned to Jackson upon reaching adulthood, where she married Timothy Spurlock, a prominent lawyer of Jackson, Tennessee.

Also of note was John Adams Quarles, the youngest son of William P. Quarles and Ann Hawes Quarles. John Adams Quarles was a merchant in Sparta, Tennessee for a number of years before moving to Florida, Missouri, where he continued his occupation as a merchant until his death.<sup>35</sup> John Adams Quarles married Martha Lampton, Samuel L. Clemens' (Mark Twain), aunt. It is of interest to note here that the Clemens family lived in Fentress County, Tennessee, near Overton County, before moving to Florida, Missouri. Other families from the Upper Cumberland moved to Missouri at the same time. Quarles moved his family to Missouri around 1830; the Clemens family arrived in 1832. Florida, Missouri was the birthplace of Mark Twain, who spent much time during his youth on the farm of his uncle, John Quarles. Quarles was a raconteur, and a man of great humor. It is believed that "The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" was a story of John Quarles's that Mark Twain appropriated. Twain spoke affectionately of his Uncle John in his autobiography.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid., 10.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., 3.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., 3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 14 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

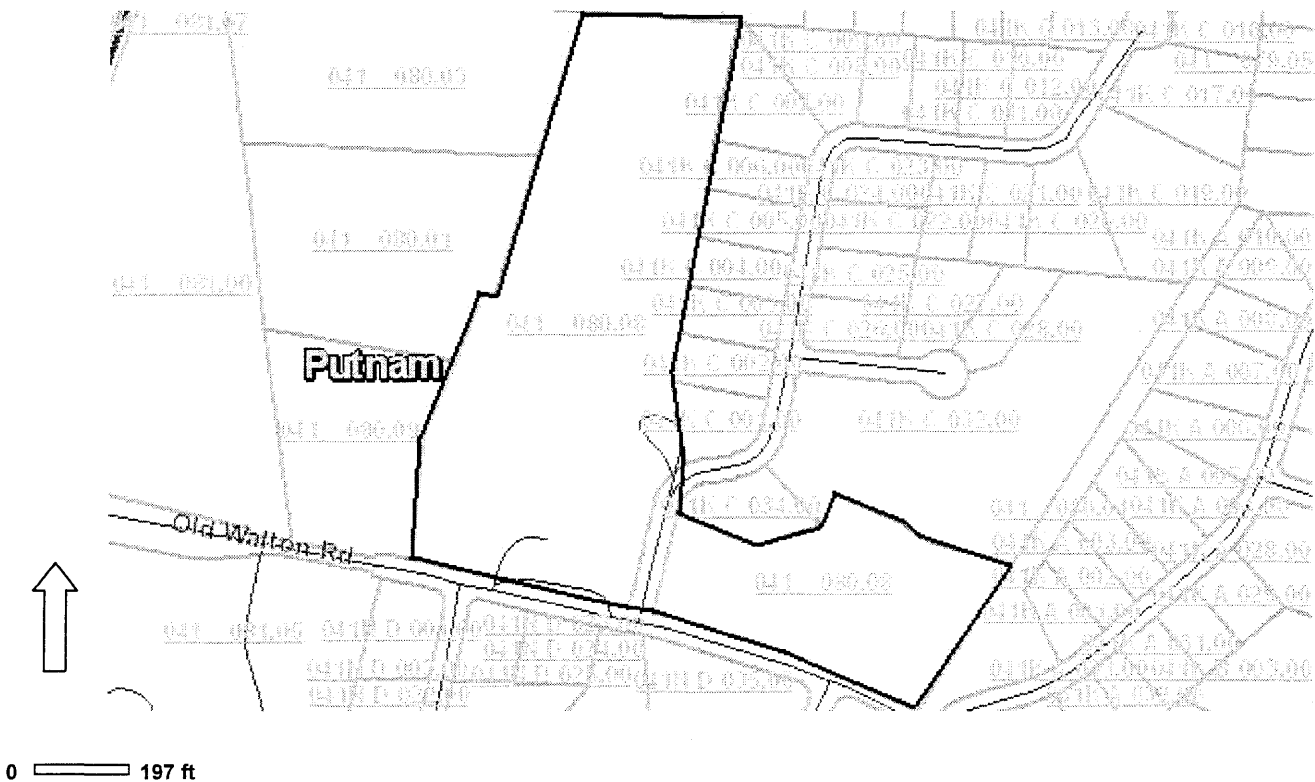
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 15 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

## Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and boundary justification.

The nominated property consists of the 14.9 acre, parcel 80.08, Putnam County Tax Map. This is all the property currently associated with the resource.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 16 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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## Photographs

- Photos by: Randal D. Williams  
Upper Cumberland Development District  
Cookeville, Tennessee
- Date: 23 and 27 January 2009  
Photographic processing by Photo Works, Cookeville, Tennessee, as per  
Department of Interior National Register Photographic Policy
- Digital Images: Tennessee Historical Commission
- 1 of 47 South façade; photographer facing north.
  - 2 of 47 South facade, 1958 additions on east and west; photographer facing north.
  - 3 of 47 South façade and east elevation showing 1958 addition on east; photographer facing northwest.
  - 4 of 47 East elevation; photographer facing southwest.
  - 5 of 47 East elevation, 1958 addition; photographer facing west.
  - 6 of 47 North and east elevations; photographer facing southwest.
  - 7 of 47 North elevation; photographer facing southwest.
  - 8 of 47 North elevation; photographer facing southwest.
  - 9 of 47 North elevation; photographer facing south.
  - 10 of 47 North elevation; photographer facing south.
  - 11 of 47 West elevation showing 1958 addition; photographer facing east
  - 12 of 47 West elevation and south facade; photographer facing northeast.
  - 13 of 47 White Plains, front door featuring transom and sidelights. Photo shows interior hall and staircase; photographer facing north.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 17 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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- 14 of 47 White Plains staircase, circa 1848; photographer facing north.
- 15 of 47 White Plains staircase, circa 1848; photographer facing south.
- 16 of 47 Gun cabinet, west side of front door, White Plains.
- 17 of 47 Gun cabinet, east side of front door, White Plains.
- 18 of 47 Gun cabinet, west side of front door, White Plains.
- 19 of 47 Gun cabinet, east side of front door, White Plains.
- 20 of 47 White Plains parlor, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; photographer facing south.
- 21 of 47 White Plains parlor, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; photographer facing north.
- 22 of 47 White Plains parlor, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; photographer facing north. Note column on right. column is solid wood, circa 1848, thought to be original porch column.
- 23 of 47 Hearth and mantel, White Plains parlor, west wall.
- 24 of 47 White Plains sitting room, original wooden door, circa 1848; photographer facing south.
- 25 of 47 White Plains, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hall, circa 1848 hardwood flooring; photographer facing north.
- 26 of 47 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hearth, circa 1848, White Plains.
- 27 of 47 Detail of hearth brick, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, White Plains.
- 28 of 47 Hearth and mantel, White Plains, second floor bedroom, west wall.
- 29 of 47 Interior wall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bedroom, horsehair plaster, White Plains.
- 30 of 47 White Plains, attic stairway; photographer facing south.
- 31 of 47 Painting of Stephen Decatur Burton, White Plains.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 18 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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- 32 of 47 South elevation of smokehouse; photographer facing north.
- 33 of 47 East elevation of smokehouse; photographer facing west.
- 34 of 47 North elevation of smokehouse; photographer facing south.
- 35 of 47 North elevation of smokehouse; photographer facing southeast.
- 36 of 47 West elevation of smokehouse; photographer facing east.
- 37 of 47 South elevation of corn crib; photographer facing north.
- 38 of 47 West elevation of corn crib; photographer facing east.
- 39 of 47 North elevation of corn crib; photographer facing south.
- 40 of 47 East elevation of corn crib; photographer facing west.
- 41 of 47 View of White Plains horse paddock; photographer facing east. Note Buck Mountain, bench of Cumberland Plateau in background. Old Walton Road is to the south.
- 42 of 47 Old Walton Road at White Plains; photographer facing east.
- 43 of 47 Old Walton Road at White Plains; photographer facing west. Note White Plains/Old Walton Road historical marker.
- 44 of 47 White Plains horse paddock; photographer facing north.
- 45 of 47 White Plains horse paddock; photographer facing northwest. Note well in foreground.
- 46 of 47 White Plains "well of three president"; photographer facing west.
- 47 of 47 White Plains Tennessee Bicentennial marker; photographer facing west.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number figures Page 19 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

Figure 1. Site plan



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

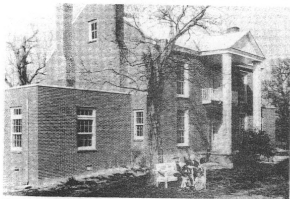
Section number figures Page 20 White Plains  
Putnam County, Tennessee

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Figure 2: House pre 1955 From <http://wpquarles2009.info/> accessed May 2009

## WHITE PLAINS



Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Draper, together with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Summers, live in this beautiful home.

Figure 3: *From The Tennessee Magazine*