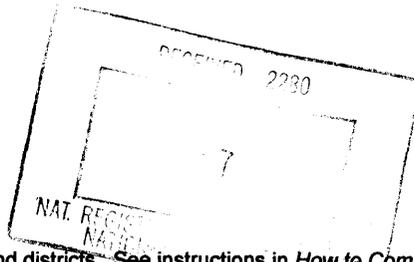


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



181

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 Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building

other names/site number Tennessee Highway Patrol Building

**2. Location**

street & number 39 Main Street

NA  not for publication

city or town Crossville

NA  vicinity

state TN code TN county Cumberland code 035 zip code 38555

**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.)

Herbert C. Hays  
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/6/03  
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. ( 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

4.18.03

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building

Cumberland County, TN

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)

- Ownership: private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal; Category: building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related; COMMERCE: business; GOVERNMENT: city hall; OTHER: demonstration building

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman influence

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Crab Orchard Stone; walls: Crab Orchard Stone; roof: Crab Orchard Stone; other: WOOD

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 who' s components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations NA

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

Property is:

- 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 years 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

(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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Architecture

Period of Significance

1936-1954

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Oman, John, Jr.

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Name of Property

Cumberland County, TN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre 109 NE Crossville

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 678053 3979738  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_

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 Williams, Historic Preservation Specialist  
Organization Upper Cumberland Development District date 23 September 2002  
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 Or 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 Cumberland County, TN, C/O Brock Hill, County Executive  
street & number 2 North Main Street, Suite 203 Telephone 931-484-6165  
city or town Crossville state TN Zip code 38555

**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

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Cumberland County

### **Narrative Description**

The Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol building in Crossville is located on the corner of Main Street and First Avenue, on the original State Route 28 / U. S. Highway 127 in Crossville, Cumberland County, Tennessee. Built in 1936 by John Oman, Jr. of the Crab Orchard Stone Company, the structure was originally conceived as a "demonstration" building to show the various ways in which Crab Orchard stone could be used as a building material. Upon completion the building housed the Tennessee Highway Patrol until 1954 when the Cumberland Centennial Committee occupied the structure. The building then served as the office of the De Rossett Insurance Company before once again becoming a Highway Patrol substation.

The building is situated on the corner of the Cumberland County Courthouse (NR 6/17/80) property in downtown Crossville. The front elevation faces U. S. Highway 127, called Main Street through the town of Crossville. The building is a small one-story stone structure with a stone foundation, stone pyramid roof, and an interior chimney. The construction of the building represents the use of local materials as the exterior walls and roof are of Crab Orchard stone from the Crab Orchard Stone Company in Cumberland County, Tennessee. The pattern of the stone is random ashlar bond. The interior stone chimney is located on the hip of the pyramid-shaped roof. Decorative stone dentils are along the perimeter of the cornice. Sills and lintels are minimal and are demarcated by narrow, rectangular cuts of stone.

The building is almost a rectangle, except for the clipped corners at the face. The façade is symmetrical with three bays. The center bay contains a centered door flanked by two narrow rectangular windows. The windows are fixed with four lights separated by wood muntins. South of the door, between the door and the window, is an inscribed stone that reads, "Stone in the building contributed by Crab Orchard Stone Co., Inc. John Oman, Jr., Pres."

A shed extension is located above the door. This decorative feature is composed of a narrow slab of stone supported by corbelled stone brackets. The other two bays are located on the clipped corners of the front façade. A rectangular six over six, double-hung sash window with wood muntins is centered within each of these two bays.

The south elevation has three windows. The largest of the three is a six over six, double-hung sash window with wood muntins. The two smaller windows are fixed windows with eight lights separated by wood muntins. The rear elevation contains a single paneled door encased in a wood frame. The door is not centered, but rather is located in the southernmost part of the rear elevation. Rectangular cuts of stone form the lintel and sill of the door. The door is raised approximately two feet from the foundation and there is a stone step leading to this entrance. A rectangular window, of the same size as the larger windows located on the front and south elevations, is located in the center of the rear elevation. The window is a six over six, double-hung sash with wood muntins.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Cumberland County

---

The north elevation contains two large windows. These are six over six double-hung sash windows with wood muntins. The wood doors in the front and rear have fairly recent, aluminum framed, plexiglass storm doors covering them.

The interior floor plan of the building is simple containing two rooms and a bathroom. The walls are plywood, which appears to date to the 1970s, and the floor is covered with tile from the same period. The windows are surrounded with wood molding, and wood molding is located along the floorboard of the building's interior.

The front door opens to one room. On the east wall, the stone chimney wall is visible. A wood door in the northeast corner of the room leads to a small backroom. The door is surrounded by wood molding, and has two wood panels and original hardware. A small bathroom is located off the southern side of the backroom.

Situated at the southeast edge of the courthouse property, the building has no yard or green space of its own. The building is close to the sidewalks and very visible from the highway.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Cumberland County

## Statement of Significance

The 1936 Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its significance in Tennessee's transportation history, and under criterion C for architecture. The Highway Patrol Building is an excellent example of Tennessee's response to vehicular traffic and concern for public safety along the new and expanded roadway system. Used as a demonstration building by the builder, John Oman, Jr., the building represents an innovative way to introduce Crab Orchard stone to builders during the Depression. Architecturally, the building is a fine and unique representation of the use of native Crab Orchard stone. The Craftsman influence of the building is seen in the cut stone, including the roof of the structure. The period of significance extends to the less than fifty-year-old period because of the particular role the highway patrol had in the history of transportation in the state.

The Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building is located on the corner of Main Street, once known as Broadway, and First Avenue within the city limits of Crossville (population 8,981), Cumberland County, Tennessee. Construction of the Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol building was undertaken in 1936 by Mr. John Oman, Jr. president of the Crab Orchard Stone Company. According to local information, the building was designed by architect William Stanton of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who was the architect of the Cumberland Homesteads (NR 9/30/88) Resettlement Project of the Works Progress Administration, also in Cumberland County. No documentation has been found to substantiate this claim, however, Stanton's close association with the Homesteads suggests this could be true. The building was originally designed and built for the Tennessee Highway Patrol. John Oman, Jr. also viewed the structure as a "demonstration" building to display the various ways in which Crab Orchard stone could be used as a building material. This accounts for the unique use of stone as a roofing material. Upon completion of the building the first tenant to occupy the building was the Tennessee Highway Patrol, which remained there until 1954. The building was then used by the Cumberland Centennial Committee before serving as the office of the De Rossett Insurance Company. The structure is once again home to the Tennessee Highway Patrol; it serves as a substation and visible presence in downtown Crossville.

The earliest reference to the Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building found in the *Crossville Chronicle* newspaper dates to 12 March 1936, when the announcement of the construction of the building was first made. The report is as follows:

**NEW BUILDING FOR HIGHWAY PATROL WILL BE ERECTED SOUTH OF COURT HOUSE; TO BE OF NATIVE SAND STONE**

A building to serve as an office for the Highway Patrol is being erected fronting on Broadway at the south corner of the court house square. The building is to be one story 18 x 22 feet, is to be built of native stone furnished by the Crab Orchard Stone Company. Citizens of Crossville are being asked to provide about \$300 to assist with

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Cumberland County

the work. Materials are being furnished by numerous firms. The skilled labor and part of the unskilled labor is expected to be furnished free.

The building will be a neat structure and will reflect favorably for Crossville. Judge R. A. Powel consented to have the building erected on the county property. It is to have toilets for both men and women and room to accommodate two patrolmen.

Highway Inspector Albert Pearson, who has been with the State Highway Patrol since its organization, 1930, has been working on the project for some time and is most happy that he has at least succeeded in bringing about the erection of the building. We are advised that the State Highway Department will furnish a handsome electric sign for the building. All in all it promises to prove a most helpful and worthwhile movement for Crossville and this immediate section of the state.<sup>1</sup>

Apparently, the Crossville newspaper kept its readers informed of the progress of the construction of the building; references to the construction of the building appear in April, May, and June, 1936 issues of the paper. On 2 April 1936 the newspaper reported:

Men have been working for the past few days erecting the walls of the small building to be used by the State Highway Patrol, at the corner of the court house yard fronting on Broadway. Since the walls are being built of the native stone of this section, the work does not move very rapidly.<sup>2</sup>

The 21 May 1936 edition of the *Crossville Chronicle* reported that:

The walls to the State Highway Patrol building, fronting on Broadway, on the south side of the court house, are completed and the stone roof is being put on. The interior of the building remains to be completed and some work remains to be done in finishing the chimney. The building is built from the attractive native sandstone, furnished by the Crab Orchard Stone Company, and presents a very attractive appearance.<sup>3</sup>

The final reference to the construction of the Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol building occurs in the 4 June 1936 edition of the *Crossville Chronicle* and states:

The work on the new Highway Patrol building at the court house square is rapidly nearing completion. The stone roof is completed and the interior work is moving along.

<sup>1</sup> "New Building For Highway Patrol," *Crossville Chronicle*, 12 March 1936.

<sup>2</sup> "Work Moves On," *Crossville Chronicle*, 2 April 1936.

<sup>3</sup> "Patrol Building Work Progresses Rapidly," *Crossville Chronicle*, 21 May 1936.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Cumberland County

Not many days hence it will be completed and will prove a very pleasing structure. Cement walks will be laid on three sides.<sup>4</sup>

It is assumed that shortly after this last announcement appeared in the *Crossville Chronicle*, the Tennessee Highway Patrol took possession of the building.

After the establishment of the Tennessee Highway Commission and the Tennessee Department of Highways in 1915 and the passage of the Federal Aid Act for roads in 1916, the state's system of roads slowly began to be constructed and improved. However, it was not until the 1923-1927 term of Governor Austin Peay, known as the Road Building Governor, that Tennessee's modern transportation system came to the forefront. Peay spent \$75 million on road construction, about one-half of the state's total expenditures. This increased paved roads from 244 miles to 4,000 miles and resulted in seventeen new bridges. Private statewide, local and national associations were established to promote roads, automobile travel for recreation and using roads for commercial purposes.<sup>5</sup>

The various organizations were successful in expanding the use of highways and as the automobile became more popular and the state's network of roads grew, city and county officials had difficulty controlling automobile traffic and related traffic problems. Cities and counties were limited to their own boundaries and there was no systematic or statewide organization in place to deal with the emerging automobile culture. Governor Henry Horton urged the state legislature to create a highway patrol and in December 1929 he signed the legislation creating the Tennessee Highway Patrol.<sup>6</sup>

The highway patrol's main duties were to protect communities by enforcing traffic laws and to collect license fees and taxes. The first class of highway patrol officers graduated on 11 March 1930. They had fifty-five motorcycles and five cars at their disposal.<sup>7</sup>

The history of Crab Orchard Stone quarrying can be traced back to the first quarter of the twentieth century. The history of Crab Orchard Stone is inextricably linked with that of the Highway Patrol Building. The building of highways and railroads across the rugged Cumberland Plateau opened up the possibilities of commercial quarrying of Crab Orchard sandstone. The Tennessee Central Railroad and later State and Federal highways made it economically feasible to quarry the stone and ship it out of the area.

<sup>4</sup> "Work Almost Done," *Crossville Chronicle*, 4 June 1936.

<sup>5</sup> Wild, Amanda, "Tennessee Highway Patrol Building," National Register nomination, 2002, 8-10

<sup>6</sup> Wild, Amanda, "Tennessee Highway Patrol Building," National Register nomination, 2002, 8-7.

<sup>7</sup> Wild, Amanda, "Tennessee Highway Patrol Building," National Register nomination, 2002, 8-8.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Cumberland County

Crab Orchard stone is a multicolored, fine-grained, thin-bedded, quartzitic sandstone. The colors and monotonies of tan, buff, gray, blue-gray, with various blending shades of yellow, brown, mauve, red and pink, forming stripes, swirls and an infinite variety of designs, some of which resemble fern leaves and geometrical figures. This type of sandstone, correlated to the Rockcastle (Pennsylvania) formation, occurs in beds of practically uniform thickness which vary from less than an inch to 18 inches, and is found only in deposits known to occur across the eastern portion of Cumberland County, mostly between Crab Orchard and Crossville. It is distinct from other sandstones found in the United States and possesses the ideal combination of lamination for easy separation into layers of varying thickness, hardness, and relative ease of quarrying, in that the outcrops are near the surface.

The high silica content of the stone gives it excellent weathering qualities as well as heat and acid resistance. The usual categories for commercial stone are dimension stone, rubble, ashlar, flagstone, and rough broken stone. It is used for a variety of building purposes, such as veneer, flagging, roofing, treads, coping, wainscot, exterior and interior wall surfaces, decorative panels, and partitions. Crab Orchard stone is shipped all over the world. About 95% is shipped out of Tennessee.<sup>8</sup>

The name "Crab Orchard Stone" was coined by Henry Hibbs, architect of Scarritt College in Nashville (NR 8/26/82).<sup>9</sup> In 1926 Scarritt College bought 20 acres of land seven miles east of Crossville to quarry Crab Orchard stone for the construction of campus buildings. In 1927 John Oman, Jr. leased 3,000 acres of land near Crossville for the purpose of quarrying Crab Orchard stone.<sup>10</sup> Oman, along with Newton D. Walker of Crossville, began the first large-scale commercial quarrying of Crab Orchard sandstone. By 1955 over 155,000 tons of the stone valued at \$1,500,000 were shipped from the various quarries in the Crab Orchard area.<sup>11</sup> Crab Orchard stone has been used in the construction of buildings all over the world and continues to be in demand today.

<sup>8</sup> Helen Bullard, and Joseph Marshall Krechniak, *Cumberland County's First Hundred\_Years* (Nashville: Williams Printing Co., 1956), 246.

<sup>9</sup> Barbara B. Parsons, *A Tapestry of Cumberland County Tennessee Woven in Words and Pictures* (Mt. Vernon, Indiana: Windmill Publishers, 1996), 21.

<sup>10</sup> Calvin Dickinson, *Cumberland County Tennessee* (Cookeville: TTU Press, 1992), 52.

<sup>11</sup> Bullard and Krechniak, *First Hundred Years*, 245.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Cumberland County

---

## Bibliography

Bullard, Helen, and Joseph Marshall Krechniak, *Cumberland County's First Hundred Years*. Nashville: Williams Printing Co., 1956.

*Crossville Chronicle*, "New Building For Highway Patrol." 12 March 1936.

*Crossville Chronicle*, "Patrol Building Work Progresses Rapidly." 21 May 1936.

*Crossville Chronicle*, "Work Almost Done." 4 June 1936.

*Crossville Chronicle*, "Work Moves On." 2 April 1936.

Dickinson, Calvin, *Cumberland County Tennessee*. Cookeville: TTU Press, 1992.

Parsons, Barbara B., *A Tapestry of Cumberland County Tennessee Woven in Words and Pictures*. Mt. Vernon, Indiana: Windmill Publishers, 1996.

Wild, Amanda. "Highway Patrol Building." National Register nomination, October 2000.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number   10   Page   8  

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Cumberland County

---

### **Geographical Data**

#### **Verbal Boundary Description and Justification**

The Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building is located in the southeast corner of the Cumberland County Courthouse property. It is bounded by the courthouse lawn and sidewalks as shown on the attached map. The boundaries include land historically associated with the building, which maintains its orientation to the adjacent roads.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photos Page 9

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Cumberland County

---

**Photographs**

Photos by: Randal Williams  
Upper Cumberland Development District

Date: 14 August 2002

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

Southwest façade, facing northeast  
1 of 22

Southwest façade, facing northeast  
2 of 22

Southwest façade, facing northeast  
3 of 22

Roof and stone chimney, southeast elevation, facing northwest  
4 of 22

Southeast elevation, facing northwest  
5 of 22

Southeast elevation, facing northwest  
6 of 22

Northwest elevation viewed from courthouse lawn, facing southeast  
7 of 22

Northwest elevation, facing southeast  
8 of 22

Northwest elevation, facing southeast  
9 of 22

Southwest façade and southeast elevation, facing north  
10 of 22

Northeast (rear) elevation, facing southwest  
11 of 22

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photos Page 10

Crossville Tennessee Highway Patrol Building  
Cumberland County

---

Northeast (rear) elevation, facing southwest  
12 of 22

Northwest (rear) elevation, facing southwest  
13 of 22

Northeast (rear) elevation, facing southwest  
14 of 22

Northwest elevation, facing southeast  
15 of 22

Inscription of southwest façade, facing northeast  
16 of 22

Interior stone chimney, facing northeast  
17 of 22

Interior, facing southeast  
18 of 22

Interior door, facing southeast  
19 of 22

Interior, facing southeast  
20 of 22

Interior, facing northwest  
21 of 22

Interior door, facing northwest  
22 of 22