

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 22 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 22 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

\*\*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Steel-Senecker Houses

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

4 mi. W of Bristol on TN 126

Highway 126 at Old Stagecoach Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bristol

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Sullivan

CODE

163

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See continuation sheet

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Sullivan County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Blountville

STATE

Tennessee

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

June 1976

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

John Steel settled in this area and built a log house in 1777. Members of the Steel family built a two-story brick house on the overland route, directly across from the earlier Steel House. One hundred years later, as the original Steel grant was sold off, a large, two-story brick house was built for James King Seneker. This house is located on the hillside across the valley and within sight of the early settlement which was then called Stop, Tennessee. The environment surrounding these houses is primarily rural in character. In recent years there has been an encroachment of modern houses and stores in the area adjoining Highway 126. The land around the Steel, Steel-Barker-Seneker, and James King Seneker houses has remained relatively unchanged as unimproved farmland.

The Steel log house is constructed of hand-hewn oak logs, later covered with poplar wood siding and today covered with painted white aluminum siding. Facing north toward the road, the original log building was a two-story, 24' by 32' square plan. It originally had two large stone chimneys, one of which is still standing, located at the right gable end. The foundation was built up from the top of a knoll overlooking one of the largest flowing springs in Sullivan County. This spring and pond are located on the present lot, south from the rear section of the house. According to the original plan, each of the four rooms in the log house had a fireplace. The two downstairs rooms were approximately 13' by 23' separated by a transverse hall running between the front and rear entrances. The front entrance has been changed and the rear entrance leads to the present dining room in the back addition. An open-well staircase is built in the southeast corner. The second story chambers have been changed and partitions added to accommodate a bathroom, two bedrooms with closets, and a hall. The first story of the log section has been altered and the present living room is located across one end with a staircase hall and downstairs bedroom partitioned across the left side, replacing the center hall and chamber. The fireplace and mantle are original and the ceilings are approximately 8' high with exposed, hand-hewn timber beams.

The land purchased by James Steel, Sr., had an outside kitchen house. Williams James Steele built a two-story frame section on the rear elevation of the log house. In the late 1890s he covered the log house and addition with poplar wood siding he had cut in his sawmill. The upstairs chamber room of the frame addition was separate and had its own staircase from the downstairs room in the wing. The present kitchen room was added on behind the two-story frame wing. William James Steele moved the log barn to its present location and built a number of frame buildings from lumber also cut at his mill. A second log house, smaller than the first building, was probably built by the Steels. In 1900 the log house stood with great stone chimneys at each end wall. The house was weatherboarded over and had a two-story and a one-story addition attached, projecting out from the back. There was an outside kitchen to the left side and a log smokehouse, behind the house, on the right side, overlooking the spring and spring house. Located around the spring-fed pond were the blacksmith shop, corn crib and an additional log shed, lumbershed, chickenhouse, log horse stable, and a large log barn. The old sawmill was a large frame structure located near Back Creek, and it had a planer and boiler maker section as well as an outdoor sawdust pit.

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During the 1969 remodeling, the staircase for the separate upstairs wing chamber was removed and used as a stairway for the newly dug basement under the original log section of the house. A connecting doorway was cut through the log wall on the east side to the new wing, constructed for the present family room and garage area. A doorway was cut through the second story to the chamber room in the two-story wing, and modern plumbing and heating units were added to facilitate continued use. The present colonial style appearance of the Steel House relates the present form to the original log house buried within its walls. Most of the early outbuildings have been removed. Those that do remain are the log shed building and two recent frame barns.

The Steel-Barker-Seneker House is located adjacent to the road across from the Steel House. It was built on the same elevation of land to the southeast of the old spring. The present, paved section of the Old Stagecoach Road dead ends at the drive entering the property. Traces of the stagecoach route which winds across this valley are clearly defined by deep wheel ruts worn down into the ground beyond the paved road, just above the spring branch and Back Creek crossing. These flowing springs are early landmarks for this region. The Dulaneys have taken great care to preserve the original features and character of the Steel-Barker-Seneker House which is comprised of two brick sections. The main front section was built by the Steel family sometime after 1787 and before the property was sold to Joel N. Barker in 1853. The original section is constructed of brick manufactured on the site and sun dried. The front wall is laid in the Flemish bond pattern and the main decorative feature of the facade is the molded brick eave. The small window openings are arranged in corresponding order, the second story ones being somewhat reduced in scale. There are square windows at the attic in the gable ends, flanking the protruding brick chimneys. This house is one of the earliest remaining brick houses in Sullivan County and it is a fine example of the first period, transitional Georgian vernacular style architecture in Tennessee. The 1x3-bay, bilateral symmetrical organization, centered transverse hall, narrow profile, height, reduced room scale, thickness of the brick bearing walls, modest proportions, and plain architectural detail are characteristic of this early period. The one-story brick wing at the left rear side, the front porch, and the rear porches are not original features. The brick wing is one large room with a fireplace located at the rear end wall, and the ell and back elevations are presently fronted by attached wood porches, partially enclosed for interior room space. The gable roof is covered by standing-seam, tin roof cladding. In the front section of the house, the original plan has not been changed. The left side parlor room and second story chamber are larger than the dining room and above chamber to the right side of the main staircase entry hall. These rooms have open beam ceilings and the original single ply, vertical panel, beaded board partition walls on the hallway side. Each of the four rooms had a small fireplace with a stone hearth and plain hand-carved mantelpiece, hand-carved chair rails, and paneled window casings. The larger parlor fireplace has been rebuilt. The house was constructed with thick bearing walls and deep window ledges for small window openings designed for 4/6 light, double-hung sashes. The interior brick walls

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were plastered over and some of the original sand plaster has been preserved in one of the chamber rooms. The original doors, woodwork, floors, hand-carved chair rails, and mantelpieces have been preserved. Among the many original architectural features is the hand-carved newel post and open well staircase which is built with spaced winders at each turning, in place of an extended landing across the mid-stage at the back wall. A new bathroom has been partitioned from the upstairs hall at the front wall between the two bedrooms. New doorways have been constructed through the back wall for access to the wing and porch section. In its present condition, the yard has been beautifully landscaped and planted with many varieties of bushes and trees, and fenced in by a board rail fence. The springhouse has been removed from the head of the spring. The "great stable" was located to the east side of the log, but this building was torn down. The Stop, Tennessee, post office building is still standing and has been relocated across the road on the Steele property.

The James King Seneker House was built before 1876. It is located on the hillside above Highway 126, at the north corner opposite the turn-off to the Old Stagecoach Road. This tall, two-story brick house was built after the Civil War on land that formerly belonged to the Steele family and in later years to J. N. Barker. The Seneker House faces the valley where the Steele and Steel-Barker-Seneker houses are located on Old Stagecoach Road. The vernacular type architecture is typical of a farmhouse of this period. The tall profile, symmetrical fenestration, and architectural refinements are characteristic of the transition of late antebellum styles built in Tennessee. This house features large proportions and rooms built for the comforts and convenience of the Senekers. The main feature of the exterior design includes the brick dentilated eaves and the attractive wood porches attached to the front entrance and courtyard wing. The three bay, two-story front section features the center hall plan with large parlor rooms at either side of the stairway hall at the front entrance. An attached, two-story wing projecting back from the left side more than doubles the size of the front section of the house. Several early outbuildings, built of frame and covered over with weatherboarding, are located directly behind the back wing; these were originally used as farm buildings. All of the large, interior rooms have fireplaces and twelve-foot high ceilings. The house has a full size basement and the dining room and kitchen rooms are located in the wing, below the upstairs chambers. Restoration work began when the present owner attempted to return the house to its original form as he remembered it from his childhood. The added improvements, plumbing and heating, were added to facilitate modern use. The house is in good repair and all of the original floors, carpentry work, and fireplaces are restored.

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Steel House, Old Stagecoach Road: ca. 1777; two story, colonial style with 19th century and 20th century additions; original two-story log house sheathed with aluminum siding; site was also the location of an early, water-powered milling industry.

Steel-Barker-Seneker House, Old Stagecoach Road: between 1777 and 1786; Georgian style, two-story brick house with 19th century and 20th century additions extending out from the back; site used as stage stop; old post office building located on the south end of the property.

James King Seneker House, Highway 126: between 1864 and 1870; antebellum style house built after the Civil War; two story brick with two story wing extending back from the left side, forming a courtyard ell at the back; several original farm buildings remain.

Stage route over Back Creek: end of Old Stagecoach Road; used before 1790 to 1920s by travelers and coaches enroute from Bristol to Blountville.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |  |                           |  |
|---|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| ___PREHISTORIC                                | ___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC                        | ___COMMUNITY PLANNING                                      | ___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | ___RELIGION  |
| ___1400-1499                                  | ___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC                           | ___CONSERVATION  | ___LAW                    | ___SCIENCE   |
| ___1500-1599                                  | ___AGRICULTURE                                   | ___ECONOMICS   | ___LITERATURE             | ___SCULPTURE                                       |
| ___1600-1699                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | ___EDUCATION   | ___MILITARY               | ___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | ___ART   | ___ENGINEERING   | ___MUSIC                  | ___THEATER   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | ___COMMERCE                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | ___PHILOSOPHY             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| ___1900-                                      | ___COMMUNICATIONS                                | ___INDUSTRY  | ___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | ___OTHER (SPECIFY)                                 |
|   |  | ___INVENTION   |                           |  |

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1777 to ca. 1876 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Steel/ J. K. Seneker

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Members of the Steel family were the first settlers in this area of Sullivan County, Tennessee. The Steel-Seneker Houses consist of three historic houses dating from the first settlement period, 1777, to the post-Civil War period. In 1777 John Steel built the Steel House which presently belongs to his descendants. The Steel-Barker-Seneker House was built by the Steels and eventually purchased by the Senekers. The Seneker family purchased land from the Steels and built their brick house during the 1870s. During the past 200 years, the Steel family has sold off much of their grant land. These remaining buildings have been preserved and adapted for modern use. Original features and individual characteristics are illustrative of the type, period, method of construction, and workmanship which show the progress of architectural design from the first period in Tennessee. The Steels were instrumental in surveying the road which became the Great Stage Road, passing through this valley from Bristol. The Steel and Seneker families maintained the Back Creek crossing, and this community became known as Stop, Tennessee.

The most distinctive feature of this site is the abundant supply of water. John Steel located his homestead near one of the largest spring fields in Sullivan County. This same spring attracted travelers and settlers to this region. The water power was harnessed for a mill operated by the Steel family, and by 1900 it was further developed by them into a mill complex.

Early settlers were instrumental in surveying the routes for travel. The proposed stage route was directed through this area for the advantage of the spring and early settlement. The Great Stagecoach Road was an important link in communication and travel through Sullivan County. This route set a pattern for the settlement of this region. As years passed it continued to be a major highway and mail route, many years after stage travel became obsolete.

The Great Stage Road ran between the Steel House and the Steel-Barker-Seneker House. The road forded Back Creek west of these houses. A spring branch from the Steel-Barker-Seneker property followed the road for several hundred feet before joining Back Creek. Since the spring branch did not carry sand and rock like a creek normally does, this section of the road bed remained soft. This unfortunate condition resulted in a very undesirable road for heavy laden wagons and coaches to use. There were many attempts to raise the level of the road bed above the spring branch, but these improvements were only temporary and many times travelers became stranded when their conveyances became mired down to the axle in mud and silt at the crossing. For this reason this community became known as "Stop."

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Muriel Spoden. Historic Sites of Sullivan County, Kingsport Press, 1976.  
 Oliver Taylor. Historic Sullivan County.  
 "Historic Sites of Sullivan County" Sullivan County Historical Commission and Associates.  
 Bristol Herald Courier. Sunday, July 4, 1976.  
 John H. Steele "A Brief History of Stop, Tennessee", unpublished, July 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10

UTM REFERENCES

|   |      |           |             |   |      |           |                            |
|---|------|-----------|-------------|---|------|-----------|----------------------------|
| A | 1,7  | 38,712,0  | 4,047,5,0,0 | B | 1,7  | 38,71,0,0 | 4,04,7 <sup>220</sup> 21,0 |
|   | ZONE | EASTING   | NORTHING    |   | ZONE | EASTING   | NORTHING                   |
| C | 1,7  | 38,71,8,0 | 4,04,71,2,0 | D | 1,7  | 38,69,4,0 | 4,04,71,0,0 <sup>120</sup> |
|   | ZONE | EASTING   | NORTHING    |   | ZONE | EASTING   | NORTHING                   |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E.1 7 3 8 6 9 4 0 4 0 4 7 1 8 0      F.1 7 3 8 7 0 0 0 4 0 4 7 1 8 0  
 G.1 7 3 8 7 0 4 0 4 0 4 7 5 0 0

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Tennessee Historical Commission

January 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

170 Second Avenue North

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Nashville

Tennessee

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Herbert E. Hyman*

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

2/16/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. H. ...*

DATE

8/22/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles ...*

DATE

8.12.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The most significant change for the crossing was brought about when John Elias Lafayette Seneker and William James Steel re-routed the spring branches. Digging out new routes, the re-routed spring water was brought directly across the road and through the Steel property to join the larger spring on the Steel property. This greatly improved the road bed which was then raised well above the flood level with rock and gravel.

The Steel family kept extra houses which were used to assist the stranded travelers. They also had a large stable for extra horses. Travelers frequently stayed in the large barns or camped out near the springs. None of the families in this area operated an actual inn. The route was the main highway between Bristol and Knoxville which was eventually replaced by Highway 11W. The mail carrier and travelers forded the creek until this route was closed in the 1920s.

J.E.L. Seneker was the local postmaster at Stop. His small one room post office building was located at the roadside next to the Steel-Barker-Seneker House. This post office building is still standing but has been relocated by the present owner.

The Steel family came to America from England and they moved to the far western frontier to settle during the time when this region of Tennessee was one of the first permanent settlements beyond the original colonies. The Steels were among the very first pioneer settlers in this region of Sullivan County. The earliest known settlers in the northeastern section of the present 5th Civil District and of the northwestern section of the 17th Civil District were David Steel, James Steel, Robert Steel, and John Steel. (The spelling of the family name was changed from Steel to Steele during the late nineteenth century.) These men were related, and it is known that David and James were brothers who obtained adjoining tracts--original land grants from the State of North Carolina--prior to the existence of the State of Franklin or the State of Tennessee. Members of this family have played an important role in the settlement and exploration of Sullivan County as pioneer settlers, farmers, millers, blacksmiths, machinists, and military men. At one time the Steels owned approximately 2,000 acres of land in Sullivan County. The original John Steel property was passed down through no less than nine succeeding generations of Steels to the present. The remaining buildings, which are the subject of this nomination, are linked by historical association to the Steel family and others who married into this family.

David Steel was apparently the first Steel to settle in this area of Sullivan County, at a creek which bears his name near Bristol. He built his home at the headwaters of Steel's Creek. He married Polly (Mary) Sparr and they raised a family of ten children. After some delay, in July 1794, he obtained a land grant for 600 acres near Steel's Creek, from the State of North Carolina. He is known to have been in this area earlier and it is believed he had built his home here before 1770. David



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Steel and Isaac Shelby are known to have witnessed an agreement dated May 2, 1772, between Evan Shelby and Isaac Barker of one part and Anthony Bledsoe and William Williams of the other part, concerning condition of lands located near Bristol. The recording of a deed was often delayed and many early records of the area were also lost because of later troubles from the State of Franklin movement. David Steel is believed to have served in the Battle of the Great Kanawah in 1774 with the Holston men under Evan Shelby and his son Isaac. In 1777 David Steel was commissioned by the Washington County, Virginia, court to survey the main road from Steel's Creek to the Taylor Meeting House, an early landmark in Sullivan County, located approximately four miles west of Blountville. The northern part of present Sullivan County at that time was claimed by Washington County, Virginia, much to the displeasure of certain individuals. In 1795, David Steel was selected to serve on a review board appointed by the court of Sullivan County. Twenty-six prominent citizens were asked to view the road from the courthouse to the Virginia line and report back to the next session of court. David Steel was one of the men who was selected to pass on the condition of this route which later became the great Stagecoach Road through Sullivan County.

Little is known about the descendants of John or Robert Steel. A George Steel died on the frontier in 1781, naming James Steel as executor and David Steel as "security" for his will and property. John Steel registered this land grant in 1784, for 600 acres on the north fork of Back Creek. This land joined a tract of land which Robert Steel had obtained by 1782. John Steel later moved to Davidson County, North Carolina, and in 1787, he sold 243 acres of his grant to James Steel, Sr. At the time of the actual sale, James Steel, Sr. was living on the land in a two-story log house believed to have been built ca. 1777. This log house is still standing and occupied by John Henry Steel, the present owner and an eighth generation descendant of the original builder, John Steel. James Steel, Sr. and his wife Mary are known to have raised two sons, James Steel, Jr. and David Steel, who was named after his uncle. David Steel and his cousin John Steel served in the 2nd regiment, 2nd Brigade of the Mounted Volunteer Militia, which was commanded by Major John R. Dulaney. This company served from March 1, 1836, until April 30, 1838, and was a part of the campaign to remove the Cherokee Indians from their homeland in Tennessee and North Carolina.

James Steel died about 1850 leaving his land to his widow and two sons. The log house was referred to as the mansion of the lord when the land was divided in 1851. His widow sold approximately 140 acres to Joel N. Barker in 1853. This 140-acre tract was located across the road from the original Steel homestead. David Steel and his wife raised one daughter, Rhoda, who later married Jacob Dishner. In October 1854 David Steel sold 119 acres and the log house to his daughter and son-in-law, Jacob and Rhoda Steel Dishner. Their daughter, Mary Catherine, married William James Steel of Steel's Creek, her mother's second cousin. William James Steel and his wife purchased the John Steel homestead from her parents for the sum of one dollar in 1889. This couple raised three sons, Jacob Franklin, Robert Lee, and John Henry Steel. The letter "e" was added to the family name by various members of the Steel family at this time.

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William James Steel was a very talented man who was primarily a farmer. He also ran a sawmill, a blacksmith shop, and was a cabinetmaker and boilermaker. Many of these skills he passed on to his sons and grandsons. He operated a steam sawmill and blacksmith shop on the land of his wife's parents for many years. He also jointly owned a water driven flour mill on the adjoining property. Their three children divided their father's property after his death. He had acquired substantial land holdings during his lifetime besides the home of his wife's parents. His widow continued to live with her eldest son, Jacob Franklin Steel and his wife Dorothy Ester Seneker at the old homeplace. Jacob and Dorothy raised two sons, Charles William and Joseph Robert Steele. Charles W. Steele purchased his brother's share of the property and four of his children were born in the log house; the last born is the present owner and occupant of the Steel House. Approximately 70 acres of land of the original land grant including the Steel House is presently owned by Charles William Steele. Very little of the other land of the original land grant is still owned by the Steel family. At present, none of the original land at Steel's Creek is owned by the family.

The Steel-Barker-Seneker House was built by the Steel family after 1777 and before the property was sold to Joel N. Barker in 1853. Barker was a prominent citizen from Bristol who purchased the brick house and 140 acres from the estate of James Steel, Sr. At that time the property is described "with all improvements" including a "great stable." The price of sale was recorded at \$1,350. The house is of great architectural importance in that it is reportedly the second oldest brick house built in Sullivan County. The Barkers were living in the house when the Federal army camped beside the spring during the Civil War. Part of the land was sold to James King Seneker who built the Seneker House north of the spring. In 1873-75, John Elias Lafayette Seneker, son of J.K. Seneker, purchased the Barker property and made the Steel-Barker-Seneker House his residence. He and his wife Margaret Dulaney Seneker lived in the house for a number of years. Seneker was a well-educated man and he spoke several languages fluently. He taught school and at one time was the superintendent of the county schools. Members of his family continued to live in the house until 1948.

The James King Seneker House is presently occupied by Edythe Hull, great granddaughter of James King Seneker who built this stately two-story brick home with "compensation money" soon after the close of the Civil War. James King Seneker was the son of Elias Gottlieb Schoeneker (later changed to Seneker) who was born April 17, 1761, in Germany. He came to American in 1785 and settled in Rockbridge County, Virginia. In 1792 he moved to Sullivan County, Tennessee, and married Catherine Susong, daughter of Revolutionary War soldier Andrew Susong. He bought a farm three miles west of Bristol on the Old Blountville Road. His son, James King Seneker, purchased land from J. N. Barker and built a two-story log house near the spring on the old Steel family land grant at Stop, Tennessee. He lived in the log house while the brick house was under construction following the Civil War. Union soldiers camped in the area of the springs and used his farm during the time they occupied this area. It is reported that the

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brick house was built with funds paid to the landowner for compensation for damages by soldiers. The house was under construction for three years and the brick was manufactured at the site. The black man who built the house constructed two identical houses located on the Bloomdale Road near Kingsport. James King Seneker was married three times: first to Elizabeth Bushong, second to Lenora Armentroute, and third to Mary Hodges. In 1873 his son J.E.L. Seneker purchased the J. N. Barker property; he married Margaret Dulaney. Dr. William Dulaney purchased the Seneker House after James died in 1886. Subsequent owners were Charles King and Leroy Hull, Sr., father of Edythe Hull. Leroy Hull was the son of James King Seneker's daughter Sarah Catherine Hull, and during his childhood he often visited in his grandfather's home.

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Steel House

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Steele  
Route 2, Old Stagecoach Road  
Bristol, Tennessee 37620

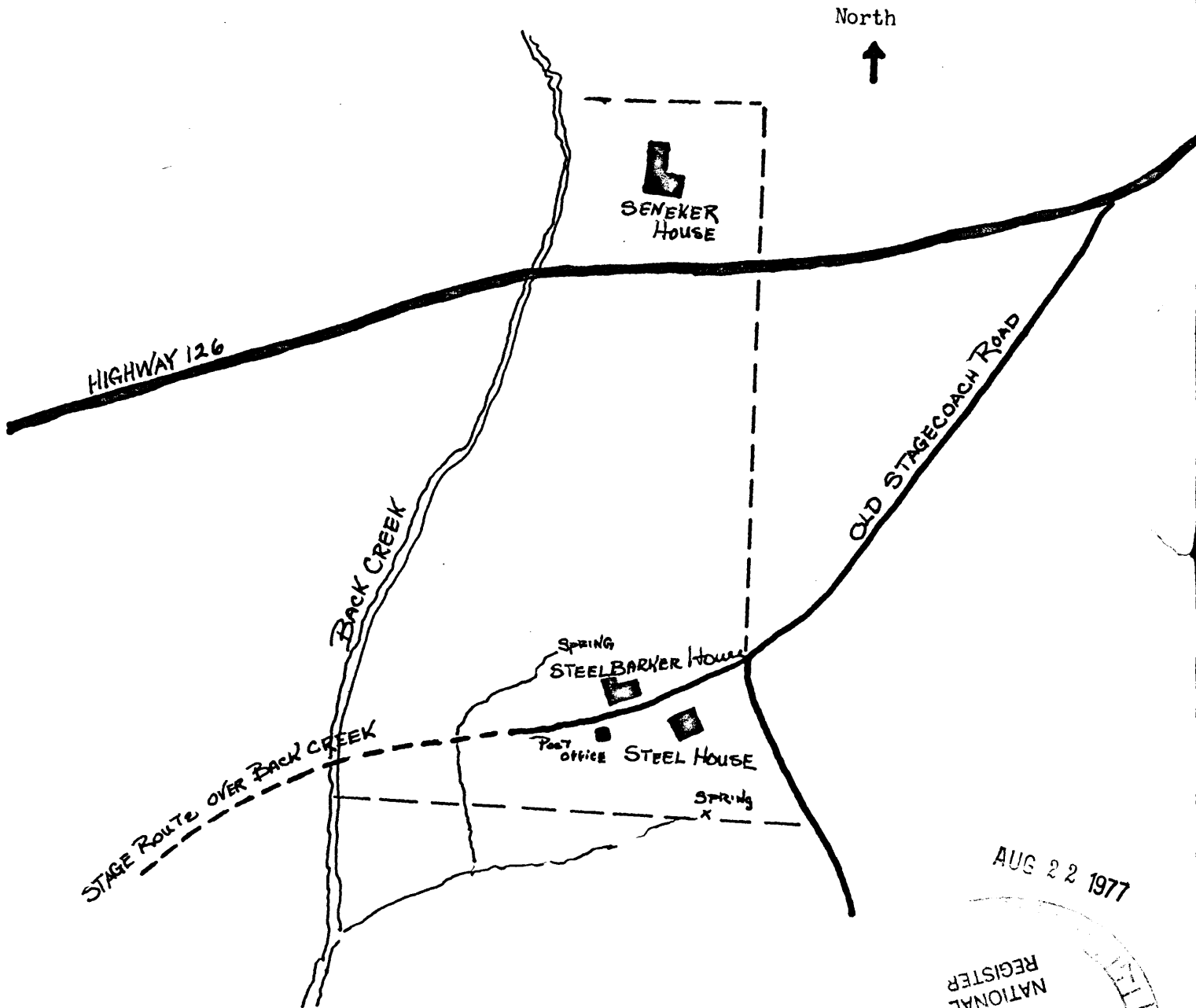
Steel-Barker-Seneker House

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dulaney, Jr.  
Route 2, Old Stagecoach Road  
Bristol, Tennessee 37620

James King Seneker House

Mrs. Leroy M. Hull  
P.O. Box 418  
Bristol, Tennessee 37620

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