

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Rutherford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 20 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: *Joseph B.*
General Palmer House (Rep. Joe L. Evins)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
434 E. Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Murfreesboro

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Rutherford	CODE 149
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Col. James R. Dismukes

STREET AND NUMBER:
434 E. Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Murfreesboro

STATE: Tennessee	CODE 47
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Rutherford County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Murfreesboro

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

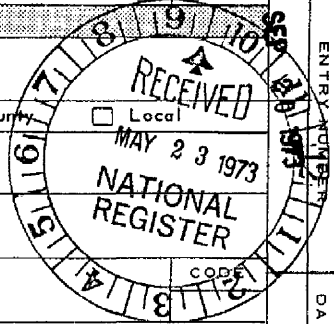
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



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STATE: Tennessee	COUNTY: Rutherford	ENTRY NUMBER:	DATE:
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The General Palmer house occupies an imposing site on Main Street in Murfreesboro, near the Rutherford County Courthouse. It is a rather large version of the Italianate villa popular in the middle third of the 19th century.

The main fabric of the structure is of brick with projecting bays and porticos of wood and iron. The plan is picturesquely asymmetrical with several projecting elements providing the same type of relief to the two-story facade.

The right-most front bays are the most deeply recessed, and in front of them is an iron-lace single story portico with an elaborate crocketed cornice. The ironwork between the upper sections of the coupled narrow piers is composed of an eclectic selection of pierced scrolls and panels of Gothic, Classical and Baroque detailing. The curvature of the lower-edges of the lace elements reflects the round-headed windows with heavy Italianate drip guards above each bay.

To the left of the portico is a forward projecting unit comprising a single wide entrance bay. On the ground floor the doorway is recessed behind a wide round arch on compound rispond pilasters with a prominent key-stone decoration. Above is a double round-headed lancet and rose beneath a round-headed drip guard.

To the left of the entrance is a broad bay with a projecting polygonal bay window on the first story only. The ends of the building are five bays deep with less deeply projecting elements and similar but simpler fenestration.

A broad entablature encircles the eaves of the home with a plain architrave, a frieze of modillions rhythmically broken by large coupled brackets surmounted by a projecting cornice with a compound profile. The building is covered by a simple hipped roof. The interior chimneys which project above the roof lines are of compound channels recalling 17th century Dutch, English and American examples.

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7. DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

Flemish bond is not unusual in the area. No record has been found as to whether the ironwork is local or imported. There were a number of ironworkers in the state at the time of construction of this house, but it is not known who fabricated it. There are no known records or accounts which would give any details of the building.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

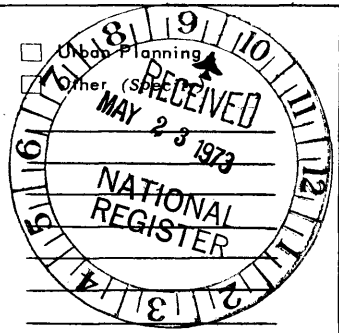
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (SPECIFY)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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This house is significant as the home of a prominent military and political leader, as well as possessing fine architectural quality. Joseph Benjamin Palmer was born in Rutherford County on November 1, 1825. He was educated in the primary schools of the neighborhood, and was afterwards, at Union University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Leaving the University, he taught school in Rutherford County for one year and then began to study law. Palmer was admitted to the bar in 1848. He was a Whig, and took an active part in politics from 1851 to 1861, standing for the Union until President Lincoln's call for volunteers was made. Palmer saw his first duty to his state and in May, 1861, he organized a company of infantry from Rutherford County, of which Palmer was elected Captain. Palmer immediately proceeded to organize the Eighteenth Regiment of Tennessee Infantry and was elected Colonel of the same. He served with this regiment in the capacity of Colonel, and later in command of a brigade until July, 1864, when he was commissioned a Brigadier-General.

At Fort Donelson, Palmer was captured and spent the next eight months as a prisoner of war at Fort Warren, in Boston Harbor. Palmer was exchanged and returned to his command. At the Battle of Murfreesboro, Palmer was wounded three times while leading his regiment in the famous Breckinridge Charge. Again at the Battle of Chickamauga, Palmer was seriously wounded but recovered to participate in the Dalton-Atlanta campaign.

In July, 1864, Palmer received his promotion to Brigadier-General. He was at the Battle of Franklin and Nashville with Hood. Following Hood's defeat in Tennessee, Palmer's brigade fought a rear guard action to cover Hood's retreat. After linking up with the forces of General Joe Johnston, Palmer was given command of all Tennesseans. General Palmer participated in the closing battle of the war at Bentonville, North Carolina where he had his horse shot from under him.

After the surrender of the Confederate forces, Palmer was paroled May 2, 1865, and returned home to Tennessee. He returned to his law practice and continued to have an active interest in politics until his death in November, 1890.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Goodspeed Histories of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford, and Marshall Counties of Tennessee, (Columbia, Tenn.: Woodward & Stinson Printing Co., 1971; Reprinted from Goodspeed's History of Tennessee, 1886).
Tennessee: The Volunteer State 1769-1923, Edited by John T. Moore & Austin P. Foster, (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1923).
Hearthstones: The Story of Historic Rutherford County Homes, Mary B. Hughes (Murfreesboro, Tenn.: Mid-South Publishing Co. Inc., 1942).
 Consultant: Vaughn L. Glasgow, Art & Architectural Historian, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

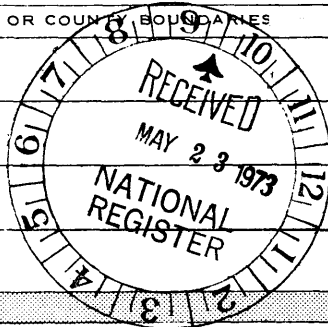
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	35°	50'	42"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	86°	23'	08"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

UTM
 16/555520
 3966750
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Peter S. La Paglia

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 5/15/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 403 7th Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: Michael J. Smith Executive Director
 Title: Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 5/15/73

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

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

Date: 9/20/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 9 19 73

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

The architectural elaboration of the Palmer House, the fine quality of its detailing, its imposing and important location within the town are all noteworthy. It is not the parsimonious Victoriana often seen in small American towns, but rather a full-blown picturesque Italianate villa of the mid-century. It typifies the pretensions, aspirations, and success of the American bourgeoisie to an unusual degree and as an historic, social and cultural document has great merit. The Italianate vogue became popular in the United States in the late 1840's and developed through the 1850's. This house represents the crescendo of the style in the following decade. It is also physical evidence of the rapidity with which certain Southern elements rose from the strong economic drain of the recently terminated Civil War.



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8. SIGNIFICANCE (CONT.)

Although the architect or builder of the Palmer house is not known, it was built for General Palmer, with construction having begun in 1867 and completed in 1869. The general built the house as a wedding present for his second wife, his first wife having died in 1856. The house became a symbol for hospitality in the community. General Palmer lived there until his death on November 4, 1890, when it was occupied by his son, Horace, who, like his father, was a prominent attorney.

