

PH0664189

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS ~~DATA SHEET~~

RECEIVED FEB 28 1978

DATE ENTERED MAY 24 1978

**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 Rock Ledge

AND/OR COMMON Shaver-Welsh-Stuffle House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
117 Stuffle Place & Bloomdale Pike

CITY, TOWN
Kingsport

STATE
Tennessee

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

VICINITY OF

CODE
47

COUNTY
Sullivan

CODE
163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. Samuel B. Stuffle

STREET & NUMBER
117 Stuffle Place

CITY, TOWN
Kingsport

STATE
Tennessee

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Sullivan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Blountville

STATE
Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE
June 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN
Nashville

STATE
Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Shaver-Welsh-Stuffle House, Rock Ledge, is located approximately one and one-half miles northeast of downtown Kingsport. It stands on a slight rise several hundred feet north of Bloomingdale Pike, and the main facade faces southeast.

The rectangular, one-and-one-half story house is approximately 18 feet deep and 24 feet long and is constructed of hand-hewn chestnut logs. Some of the original mortar is intact and illustrates the building methods used on the frontier of East Tennessee; in 1950 a cement mortar was used to replace the clay daubing. Under the main house is a limestone rock-walled cellar. Hand-made brick for the chimney on the west elevation was fired in an old brick kiln which was located near the log barn on the east side of the house. This kiln also furnished brick for the construction of several other houses in the area. The main part of the log house consists of one large crib with a brick fireplace in the center of the southwest end wall. A closeted staircase on the northeast side of the room leads to the bedroom chamber built under the eaves. A lean-to was added to the northwest wall and in the late 1800s the front porch was constructed and the tin roof installed.

The original log kitchen (separate from the house) was razed sometime before the northeast wing was added in the 1960s. The wing is an original log outbuilding hauled to this site and joined on the dog-trot, which is now enclosed. This addition is constructed of hand-hewn oak logs; the chimney was reconstructed on the northeast end, using the original hand-made brick. The old dog-trot is used as a library room; this oak log wing is the present kitchen and dining room.

The main section of the house and the northeast wing have been altered to provide modern conveniences, but the basic architectural details have been preserved. It still retains the appearance of an early pioneer house.

Located on its original site, northeast of the house, is a large log barn which probably dates back to the Shaver period and is known to have been standing as early as 1840. It is a story and one-half v-notched log with frame additions and tin roof. Also located on the property, east of the barn, is a ca. 1880 log and frame crib. Southeast of the barn, adjacent to Bloomingdale Pike stands a blacksmith shop which was built before the Civil War (ca. 1850). A few yards northwest of the house is a log smokehouse which is contemporaneous to the blacksmith shop and a few feet northeast of the smokehouse stands a modern garage.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	—COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1806-1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

David Shaver

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shaver-Welsh-Stuffle House complex consists of a group of log buildings built by David Shaver, Sr., between 1806 and 1835. The homeplace, Rock Ledge, is one of the earliest remaining farmhouses in the Kingsport area and has been occupied by members of the same family for at least five generations.

The Shaver settlement consisted of various log buildings and houses constructed for the family members who farmed the original three-hundred acre plantation. The original property covered a large area at the northeast section of the junction of Boone's Wilderness Road, built in 1775, and the Reedy Creek Road, built in 1773. During the early settlement period, these roads were the main highways for the stagecoaches and for settlers coming across the mountains to Tennessee. "Shaver's Place" was widely known as a stopping place for travelers on these routes.

David Shaver, Sr., was born in 1776 in North Carolina. The Shaver family moved to Sullivan County around the turn of the nineteenth century and settled on the land adjacent to the Old Wilderness Road. Shaver, Sr. purchased the largest portion of this land from Lewis Shroyer in 1806. David Shaver, Jr. and John Shaver continued as owners until the 1830s when portions of the property were sold.

Samuel Shaver, son of David Shaver, Sr., was one of the earliest known portrait painters from Tennessee. He is known to have painted one hundred portraits of the state's early citizens, including a portrait of his father which hangs in the parlor at Rock Ledge. Samuel left Tennessee about 1856, for Illinois, where he lived for the remainder of his life. Another son, Michael Shaver became a silversmith with a shop in Abingdon, Virginia. Lucinda Shaver, sister of David Shaver, Sr., married John Welsh. On April 24, 1835, John Welsh contracted with David Shaver, Jr. to pay \$1100 over a period of five years for a 51-acre tract of the old Shaver place. This land contained the log house, Rock Ledge, and several original log buildings, including the old log barn, blacksmith shop and a log structure which was later connected to the house to make the east wing.

John Welsh (1811-1879) was a prosperous farmer, a prominent lawyer and a justice of the peace for Sullivan County from 1865-1869. He was a captain in the Union Army during the Civil War and was stationed at Cumberland Gap. His friend Andrew Johnson was a frequent visitor to Rock Ledge.

Leah Welsh, daughter of John Welsh, married Lafayette M. Stuffle, who purchased the homeplace in 1880. He named the house Rock Ledge, a name descriptive of the picturesque yard which is surrounded by rough limestone outcroppings. L. M. Stuffle was a member of an early pioneer family from Sullivan County. A prosperous farmer, he raised horses

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Information provided by Muriel Spoden, Kingsport, Tennessee.
 Price, Prentice, "Samuel Shaver: Portrait Painter." East Tennessee Historical Society Publication, XXIV (1952), 92-105.
 Sullivan County, Tennessee Deed Records, Blountville, TN.
 Taylor, Oliver. Historic Sullivan: A History of Sullivan County, Tennessee, with Brief Biographies of the Makers of History. Bristol, Tenn: King, 1909.
Welsh-Stuffle Family Records, Kingsport, TN.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.3

QUADRANGLE NAME Kingsport QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	3 6 4 5 7 0	4 0 4 8 8 4 0	B	1 7	3 6 4 6 3 0	4 0 4 8 7 2 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 7	3 6 4 4 4 0	4 0 4 8 6 6 0	D	1 7	3 6 4 3 7 0	4 0 4 8 7 7 0
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated property is an irregularly shaped lot with the following boundary: Beginning at a point at the intersection of Stuffle Street and Bloomingdale Pike, thence N 28° W 45' for 365'; thence N 69° E 32' for 703'; thence S 21° E 22' for 442'; S 77° W along Bloomingdale Pike for 666' to the beginning.

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 E. Hammerquist, Architectural Historian and Debbie K. Henderson, Research Aide

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

November 1977

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

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 L. Hayden

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

2/24/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

3/24/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William L. Lovvick
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

May 22, 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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for the Confederate army. He served in the Confederate army and participated in the Battle of Shiloh; he was stationed at Fort Pillow during his service. When he returned home from the service he bought several tracts of land adjacent to Rock Ledge making his farm one of the largest in the area. L. M. Stuffle and his son, Walker H. Stuffle, operated a progressive farm and were the first in the area to own a modern threshing machine. Walker Stuffle inherited the farm from his father and continued its operation, passing it to his son, Bruce Stuffle, father of the present owner. The Stuffle property included approximately 900 acres of land, but it is now reduced to the fifty acre tract around the homeplace.

The present owner of Rock Ledge has worked to preserve the old Shaver homeplace and the outbuildings which comprise the complex. The buildings are in remarkably good condition and Mr. Stuffle is continually working to preserve all of the structures on the place.