

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **AUG 27 1976**  
DATE ENTERED **APR 29 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  
Homestead Manor  
AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Thompson's Station on US 31*  
Route 2, Box 218  
CITY, TOWN Thompson Station *vic* VICINITY OF  
STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Williamson CODE 187  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sixth

### 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Darby  
STREET & NUMBER Route 2, Box 218  
CITY, TOWN Thompson Station VICINITY OF Tennessee

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Williamson County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Franklin STATE Tennessee

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

# 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

Homestead Manor, built by Francis Giddens in 1809-1819, was designed in the Georgian style. The design features bilateral symmetry, four by five bay organization. The house has a wide gable roof with gable dormers and an attached two story entrance porch with six fluted round columns and carved wood dentils at the eave. The structure is three stories tall and the finished third story is built under the roof eave. The center dormers at the front and rear feature palladian style triple windows with multi-colored stained glass lights divided by narrow, decorative wood muntins. The main entrance features a rectangular shape transom with colored glass lights, decorative muntins, and the wide side lights repeat the same design.

The cellar room at the southwest corner has a brick floor and fireplace. This room has an outside entrance and it is the same room where residents of the area took refuge during a Civil War battle in 1862. The manor is constructed of hand made brick with double brick bearing walls, four widths wide and brick partition walls from the foundations to the attic floor. The interior walls are finished with plaster on lath. The third story has been divided into two large rooms with a wide center hall. The frame partition walls are finished with horizontal laid beaded shiplap siding. The woodwork and moldings have been stained and painted and the doors and baseboard moldings have been grained. The plaster finished walls on the first and second stories have been painted and wallpapered.

The center halls are thirty-seven feet long and approximately twelve feet wide. There are entrances at either end of the main entrance hall. A straight flight staircase ascends the left side of the hall from the front main entrance. The second and third floor staircases are identical with balustraded rails at the open well above each staircase. The staircases are constructed of poplar and ash. They feature jig-saw cut wood spandrels and Georgian design wood balusters. The newel posts are square and the handrails are round. The ceilings are twelve feet tall. There are nine fireplaces. The wood, handcarved mantels are original. The six panel wood doors are approximately seven feet tall and all of the doors are built in the same design. The fold-down beds have been removed from the wall closets. The colored glass lights were added by Major James Akin in 1887. Major Akin owned the property until 1902 and credited with having added the present porches.

The library located on the right side of the entrance has been paneled and the walls have built-in bookcases. These were added by the present owner. The present dining room and kitchen are adjoining rooms. A small closeted staircase built in the present kitchen leads to the bedroom suite above. The bedroom suite features a wide partition of folding doors which are similar to the folding door for the large double parlors located on the first floor at the left side of the main entrance. Walnut floors on the first story have been restored, reverse side up. The hall floors are ash and the other floors are poplar. Francis Giddens disliked the color of the brick and he painted the exterior a dark red and had the mortar joints penciled. The main facade is Flemish bond brick pattern and the remainder are common bond.

Homestead Manor is located adjacent to the highway. The gravel drive makes a wide circle across the front lawn. There is a small boxwood garden in the center and the drive is lined with tall trees. The restored 1880s West Harpeth schoolhouse is located beyond the garden on the north side of the house. It was moved to this site in 1971. Original brick walks have been uncovered around the house and garden.

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The old slave quarters have been removed. The present owner raises livestock and there are several old barns on the property. A former springhouse is well defined by the remains of the stone floor and stone foundation walls. The Giddens graveyard is located to the south of the house beyond the open fields. The lot and wooded knoll to the north of the house is marked as the site of the Battle of Thompson Station.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> _PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> _1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> _1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> _AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> _LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> _1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> _1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> _ART	<input type="checkbox"/> _ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> _MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> _TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> _1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> _INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> _INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1809-1819

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Francis Giddens

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Francis Giddens (1753-1860) married Mary White, daughter of Moses Poindexter White, in Louisa County Virginia in 1782. The Giddens family moved to Williamson County in 1800 to settle on the Revolutionary War Grant awarded to Francis Giddens for his service as a gunsmith. Francis Giddens and his son were surveyors and they bought many additional acres of land in Williamson County where they established their plantation. Francis and Mary had six children and each of them built fine homes in Williamson County where some of their descendents live today.

Francis Giddens built a log house at Murfrees Fork, a tributary of the Harpeth River. The family lived there while the large manor house was being built beginning in 1809. The house was under construction for ten years, and when the construction work was completed, this was the first large, slave built brick home in the area. The handsome Georgian style manor house became a focal point for the community that grew around it. In 1819 Francis Giddens applied for and was granted license as owner of and proprietor for the first ordinary there and became Keeper of the Mails. This community was eventually called Thompson Station, named for Dr. Thompson, a prominent resident there in the early days. It became a shipping point when the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad line was built there in 1852. The original track bed passes diagonally across the Giddens land and the same route is used by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad today.

James Giddens and his brother Francis, Jr. were soldiers in the War of 1812. Their grave markers in the family cemetery record their services. James Giddens recorded and marked the boundary line for Williamson and Maury County located to the south side of the plantation.

Francis Giddens modeled his home after the early architectural styles built in Louisa County, Virginia. The house had many unusual features and refinements rarely found in Tennessee at the time it was built. When the house was finished it reflected the style of life the Giddens family had established in Tennessee. The large rooms, tall ceilings and generous proportions of the center halls are indicative of the life style of the period. It was a large house for its time and place, and it has been well preserved in its original form by all of the subsequent owners.

Unusual features of the house, which was a stagecoach stop, are the pull-down beds. Built into the bedroom closets in the upstairs bedroom suites, this feature was copied by Francis Giddens who had seen the same design in the Old Michie Tavern at Charlottesville, Virginia. The rooms on the third floor were used for overnight travelers and guests.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bowman, Virginia McDaniel. Historic Williamson County, Old Homes and Sites (Nashville: Blue-Gray Press) 1971.

Smith, Reid, Majestic Middle Tennessee (Prattville, Alabama: Paddle Wheel Publications) 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5

*See map dated 12.17.76*

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 5,0,8,8,2,0 | 3,9,6,2,2,9,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B    |    |     
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C    |    |   

D    |    |   

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

March 1976

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

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. Hagen*

*8/23/76*

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Acting Chief*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*4/29/77*

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*4-29-77*

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The Battle of Thompson Station was fought on the property March 5, 1862. Federal troops commanded by Colonel John Coburn were on the north front. Confederate troops commanded by General Nathan B. Forrest and General Earl Van Dorn were opposing them from the South. The manor house was located in the middle of the battle scene which included the hillside north of the house. Residents of the area took refuge in the cellar room of the manor. Many of those present were related to the soldiers that fought that day. The house was used as a temporary hospital after the siege. A cannon ball that crashed through the ceiling of the house during the battle is now being used as a door stop.

The house belonged to Francis Gidden's daughter, Nancy Giddens Word, after 1830 and was owned in subsequent years by descendents of the builder. It was sold to Major Thomas Banks in 1861 and came to be called the Banks Place during the Civil War era. The many grave markers in the family cemetery recall the names of members of the Giddens and Word families.

The house was purchased by the present owners in 1969, and has been well-preserved and maintained by them. In recognition of its importance to the county, Homestead Manor was awarded an historical marker by the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County.