

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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APR 15 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Captain H. P. Farrar House  
and/or common Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnsey House

**2. Location**

street & number 161 West Orleans Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of congressional district Seventh  
state Tennessee code 047 county Madison code 113

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnsey  
street & number 1020 West Forest  
city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38301

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Madison County Court Clerk  
street & number Madison County Courthouse, Main Street  
city, town Jackson state Tennessee 38301

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title NONE has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date N/A N/A federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records N/A  
city, town N/A state N/A

## 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**

The Captain H. P. Farrar House is located in Jackson, Tennessee in an older residential neighborhood approximately six blocks from the Madison County Courthouse and town square. Surrounded by large trees, it occupies a town lot at the corner of Clay and W. Orleans Streets. Built ca. 1847, the one story frame Greek Revival period cottage reflects Victorian architectural influence, with its front and side porches with Doric posts, segmental-arched narrow windows and door transom, projecting five-sided window bays, and patterned brick foundation which result from an 1873 remodeling. It retains its 1873 character and appearance with little alteration and remains in good condition.

The Farrar House is irregularly shaped and has a low gable roof. A hip-roofed verandah with Doric wood posts and pilasters is located on the south facade; a similar porch on the east side elevation leads to the ell and shelters a single-leaf wood door. Brick chimneys are interior, except for the one located at the rear (north) elevation of the ell which is flush gable and has been rebuilt. A later one story frame addition in the rear appears to have been built where a porch may have been located in the corner of the original "L" shaped plan of the building.

The facade faces south and is three bays wide with a central glazed single-leaf Victorian door and lighted segmental-arched transom. The two windows are floor-to-ceiling, narrow 4/4 light segmental-arched. Decorative segmental-arched entablature window heads cap the door and two windows. A plain frieze extends across the facade, porch, and side elevation roof eaves.

The east side elevation features two projecting hip-roofed window bays; each has three segmental-arched 4/4 light windows. Decorative wood panels are situated between the windows and brick foundation. Structural openings on the west (opposite) side elevation consist of one long, narrow rectangular window at the gable end of the front section of the house and two at the later frame addition. Only one structural opening is found in the rear, a single-leaf door located west of the flush gable chimney at the ell's rear wall.

The interior of the house, practically unaltered, has hand hewn sills, wall studs and rafters. Floor joists are hand planed and the floors are tongue and groove poplar. Original Greek Revival period mantels remain, as well as molding around windows and doors both from the original house and the Victorian remodeling of 1873.

The house contains a wine cellar and a cistern of hand made brick. The yard was originally enclosed by a picket fence with iron gates. The original herringbone brick walkway is still intact and surrounds the property on Clay and W. Orleans Streets. The property also contained a flower pit with sliding glass panes and shelves for flower pots. The pit has since been filled.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** ca. 1847

**Builder/Architect** Duncan Cameron Bledsoe

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The ca. 1847 Captain H. P. Farrar House is nominated under National Register criteria B and C. It is one of the oldest houses in Jackson, Tennessee and represents a combining of Greek Revival and Victorian period influences on a working class cottage. It has been owned and occupied by several prominent individuals who were important in the historical development of the city; Duncan Cameron Bledsoe first owned the house and operated a cabinet shop providing mechanical equipment and other necessities for the town, D. H. King served as Mayor of Jackson for three terms, and Hartwell Prentice Farrar achieved prominence as a civil engineer, Union Captain during the Civil War and active community leader.

The house is situated on land which was once part of an eighty acre land grant belonging to Jacob McGavock. McGavock sold the land to Duncan Cameron Bledsoe on October 3, 1847 for the sum of \$200. The exact date of construction of the house is not known but historical data leads one to believe that the house was constructed the same year the land was purchased.

Mr. Bledsoe's mother, Mary Jane Marshall was a second cousin to Henry Clay, hence the name Clay Street which runs parallel to the property. Bledsoe and his brother ran a profitable cabinet shop in Jackson. They produced wagon wheels, spinning wheels and other items for local residents and settlers who were heading west. Bledsoe left Jackson in the early 1850's. He later became a founder of Seguin, Texas.

In 1867, D. H. King bought the house. He lived in the house until 1871. King served as Mayor of Jackson in 1873, 1875, and 1876. King was owner of the King's Palace Saloon where "the political history of the State was written not from the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville but from the King's Palace in Jackson."

On November 29, 1873 Hartwell Prentice Farrar bought the house. Farrar was a civil engineer. He began his engineering career in 1855 as chainman and rodman with the United States Deputy Surveyors on the sub-division of townships on the upper Mississippi River. In 1861 he enlisted in Nashville, Illinois in Company D, 48th Regiment of Illinois for service in the Civil War. He was soon commissioned a First Lieutenant and later, Captain. He was in action with his regiment at the Battle of Fort Donelson and at Shiloh, where he was wounded.

From 1872 to June 1886, Captain Farrar was in the employ of the Mississippi Central Railroad, which became the Illinois Central System about 1882. In 1872 the main line extended from New Orleans, Louisiana to Jackson, Tennessee. In that year it was decided to build north to Cairo, Illinois. Captain Farrar was employed on this work as engineer in charge of construction.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

American Society of Civil Engineers, "Memoirs of Deceased Members," pp. 1-3, 1921.  
 Madison County Court Minute Book, Vol. II, page 319.  
 Madison County Tax List.  
 Williams, E.I. Historic Madison, p. 355.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .07 acre  
 Quadrangle name Jackson, Tennessee UTM NOT VERIFIED  
 UMT References  
 Quadrangle scale 1:24000

A	1 6	3 3 5 0 0 0	3 9 4 3 0 2 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**  
 Single tract of land outlined in red on Boundary Map! The original map drawn on a scale of 1" = 400' is located at the Madison County Property Assessor's Office.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathryn C. Holland and Mrs. Fred Johnsey  
Shain T. Dennison, Architectural Historian  
 organization Tennessee Historical Commission date September 3, 1981  
23 Camelot Cove December 20, 1981  
 street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (901) 668-7305 Business  
Jackson, (901) 668-8006 Home  
 city or town Nashville, state Tennessee 38301  
37219

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Boyer  
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/24/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Belva Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>4/15/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

2

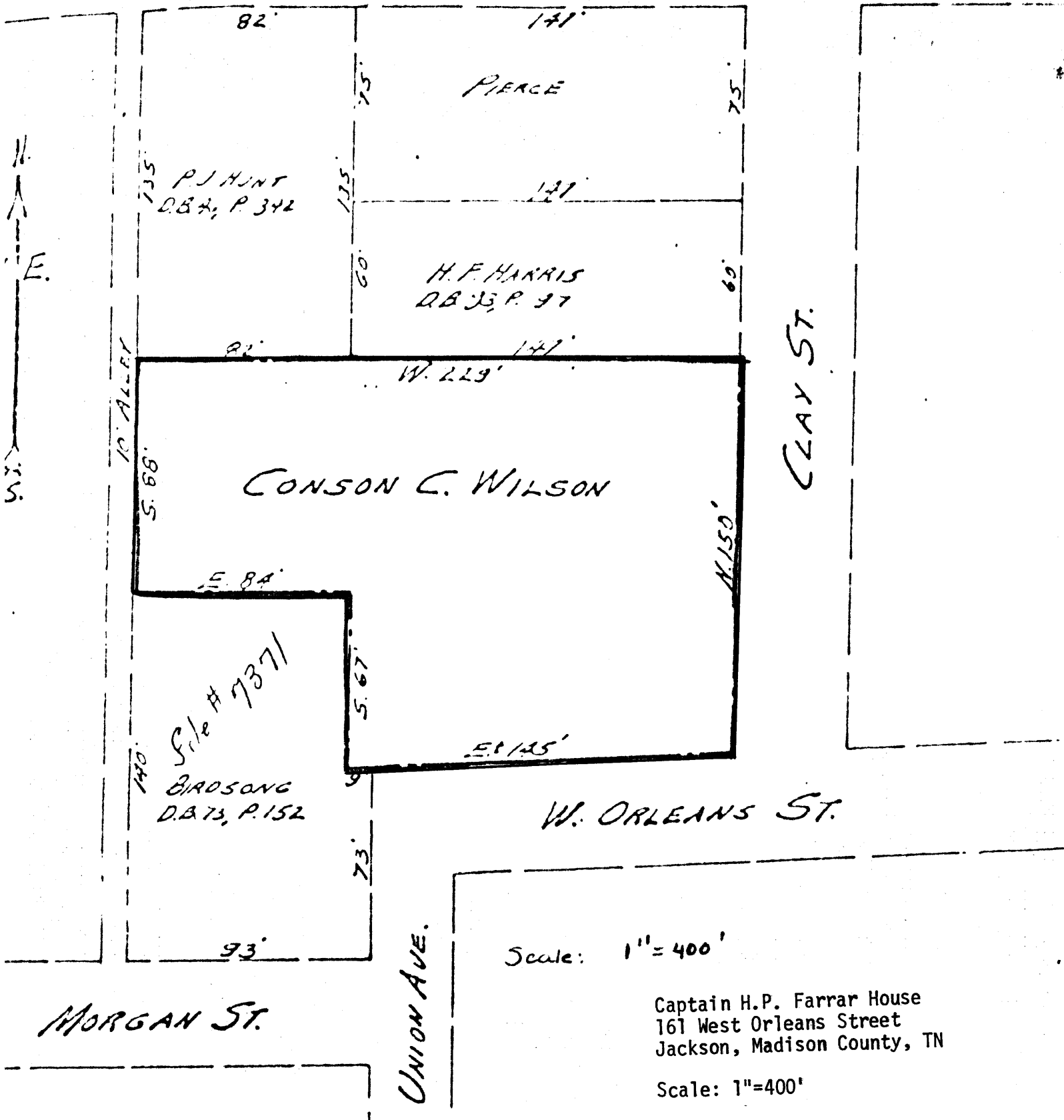
Continuation sheet Capt. H.P. Farrar House Item number 8

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Farrar retired in 1900 due to failing health. During his retirement he was occupied with surveys and construction of highways, municipal improvements and drainage canals. In June 1921 he was appointed by the governor of Tennessee as a delegate to the National Drainage Congress held at St. Paul, Minnesota, but his health would not permit him to serve. Farrar was a vestryman of St. Luke's Church, Jackson. He was a charter member of the Jackson Lodge of Elks. On November 1, 1893 Captain Farrar was elected a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

When Captain Farrar died the house was left to his daughter Mrs. George Mamer. Mrs. Mamer lived in the house until 1981, when she sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnsey.

The Johnseys are in the process of restoring the house. Mrs. Johnsey has conducted research on the history and the original appearance of the house and surrounding property.



Scale: 1" = 400'

Captain H.P. Farrar House  
 161 West Orleans Street  
 Jackson, Madison County, TN

Scale: 1" = 400'

PLAT OF PROPERTY  
 OF  
 CONSON C. WILSON