

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 20 1977  
DATE ENTERED DEC 23 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 **\*\***  
Lucerne

AND/OR COMMON  
Catron Place

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *20 miles S of Brownsville*  
Brownsville Road

CITY, TOWN Brownsville VICINITY OF Sixth

STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Fayette CODE 47

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" 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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Irvin Mauldin

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 268

CITY, TOWN Corinth VICINITY OF STATE Mississippi

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Court Square

CITY, TOWN Somerville STATE Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE June 1974 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Nashville STATE Tennessee

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Located near the Brownsville Road, approximately five miles northeast of Somerville, the Fayette County seat, Lucerne was once the headquarters for a 954-acre plantation. One approaches the Greek Revival mansion from the west over a half-mile, tree-shaded lane which terminates in a circular drive. The house is nestled in a grove of magnolias, evergreens, and deciduous trees which shade the facade from the afternoon sun.

The floor plan of this two-story, frame house may have been originally an L, but shortly after it was built, a room and porch were added to the southeast corner, which resulted in a roughly square floor plan. Later still, small, one-story wings were attached to the north and south walls. A hand-made brick foundation supports the building, and the hip roof of the main section and gable roofs of the wings are covered with composition shingles. Four tall, brick chimney stacks are located near the eaves of the north and south walls. Except for the sections of walls sheltered by the front and rear porches, all walls are sheathed with clapboard. The main section of the house has plain boxed cornices while more ornate boxed cornices with returns grace the wings.

A massive pedimented portico, with four Ionic columns and two square-faced pilasters, dominates the five-bay facade (west elevation). The recessed main entrance, with its double-leaf, paneled doors and recessed head and side lights, is centered in this elevation; an entablature and pilaster surround highlights the entrance. The elongated first floor windows have nine over six light patterns, and the upper windows are six over six. (This fenestration pattern repeats in the east elevation, and most windows have louvered shutters.) The second-floor entrance resembles the one below, and it opens on to a balcony outlined by an elaborate cast iron balustrade; an identical balustrade flanks the brick entrance steps.

Projections in the north elevation include the wing, a small enclosed porch, which contains the kitchen, and a modern lean-to entrance shelter. A single window pierces the south elevation, and there is an identical wing attached to this wall. A two-story gallery occupies half of the east elevation; large polygonal columns and a square pilaster support the porches; a simple wrought iron balustrade encloses the second-story porch. A portion of the upper level has recently been closed in to provide a bathroom for the northeast bedroom.

The symmetrical interior plan provides for six rooms on the first floor and four on the second. A wide central hall bisects the plan, and a single-run monumental staircase on the north wall dominates the hall. The spacious rooms on the first floor have fourteen-foot windows, twelve-foot door frames, and sixteen-foot ceilings which are decorated with magnolia-motif medallions and bronze and crystal chandeliers. Originally the parlors were to have Italian marble mantels, but the Civil War and blockade necessitated the continued use of the "temporary" wooden mantels. Unusual, large, paneled sliding doors divide the southernmost rooms of the main section. Elaborate baseboards and crown molding complete the trim in the downstairs rooms. The second-floor rooms are utilitarian in scale and decor. The staircase, located in the center of the northernmost section of the main block is one of the most distinctive features of the house. Midway in its run it reverses direction with dangerously steep winders; the banister curves tortuously to accommodate this reversal. A modern concrete block and brick, rectangular building located northeast of the house serves as a garden shed. All of the original outbuildings have been razed.

# 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/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 1850s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Peter Mosby, a substantial Fayette County planter, built Lucerne using slave labor in the late 1850s. The interior was still unfinished when the first shots were fired at Fort Sumter in 1861. It is one of the most imposing and best preserved Greek Revival residences in the county. The house remained in the hands of the Mosbys until the Catron family purchased it in 1904. The present owner, the former Elise Catron, acquired the house and 105 of the 954 acres in 1962. Except for renovations completed in the 1960s and '70s--installing modern bathrooms and a kitchen, transforming the north bedroom into a den, and reroofing the entire house--Lucerne remains in original condition. The Mauldins continue to use it as a weekend house.

Lucerne was built during the final years of the antebellum period, when labor and materials were inexpensive and readily available. The house, with its massive portico, monumental staircase, and sumptuous interior appointments, epitomizes the life style of the wealthy planter in this "Black Belt" county, where cotton and slavery were the foundation stones which supported the agricultural economy and elegant standard of living of the landed gentry of the county.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Fayette Falcon, June 20, 1974.

supplementary interviews with owner's descendants

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.7

UTM REFERENCES see below \*

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a 400' square lot with the house located in the center.

\*Having no UTM marks, the latitude and longitude of this property are:

Latitude  
35° 20' 48"

Longitude  
89° 20' 30"

## 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

Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

June 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. Hays*

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

6/15/77

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*W. M. ...*

DATE

12/23/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles ...*

DATE

12.22.77