

RECEIVED

MAY 25 1993

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bridgman, John, House

other names/site number Spears House, Greening House

2. Location

street & number 106 East Spring Street N/A not for publication

city or town Pikeville N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Bledsoe code 007 zip code 37367

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays 5/20/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Debra Byers

**Entered in the
National Register**

Date of Action

6/24/93

Bridgman, John , House
Name of Property

Bledsoe Co., TN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **STONE**
walls **BRICK**
roof **METAL**
other **WOOD**

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bridgman, John, House
Name of Property

Bledsoe Co., TN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1815-1847

Significant Dates

ca. 1815

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Bridgman, John

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Bridgman, John, House

Bledsoe Co., TN

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Pikeville, TN 110 SW

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 664580 3941100
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing
4 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Wade Dodson

organization First National Bank of Pikeville date May 1993

street & number 100 East Spring Street telephone 615-447-2931

city or town Pikeville state TN zip code 37367

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name First National Bank of Pikeville c/o Philip L. Crawford

street & number P. O. Box 488 telephone 615-447-2931

city or town Pikeville state TN zip code 37367

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 1

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

Narrative Description

The John Bridgman (Bridgeman) House built circa 1815 is located on the courthouse square in Pikeville (population 2,100 in 1988), Bledsoe County. The Bridgman House is a two story, brick, Federal style house located on an eighty foot by 120 foot lot. The house faces south towards the courthouse and is flanked by the First National Bank building on the west and a residence on the east. A parking lot lays north of the house.

The two story residence is constructed of brick on a quarried stone foundation. The bricks are believed to have been mixed and baked about one mile from the Bridgman House on what is now known as Hosiery Mill Hill. The building's exterior and interior walls are one foot thick. The brick is laid in the Flemish bond on the facade and in common bond on the elevations.

The front portion of the house is fifty-two feet long across the south facade and twenty feet wide on the west elevation. A rear one story ell extends along the east elevation and is a little over thirty feet long (for a total of fifty feet long on the east elevation). The house and ell are covered with a side gable, tin roof. Wood shingles in the attic indicate that the original roof was of wood shingles.

The south, or front facade has a boxed cornice with a narrow decorative frieze of stylized dentils. Forged metal rods indicate a gutter once extended across the facade. Extending across the front of the house was a 32'8" shed roof porch with a center pedimented gable over the entrance. For structural reasons, the old porch was torn off and replaced in kind. Four Doric columns support the porch roof. The porch is not original to the house, but photographic evidence indicates a porch was built before 1865. The floor of the porch is currently concrete, and is laid over a quarried stone foundation. The concrete slab replaced the wood floor in 1984.

The five bay facade consists of a center doorway flanked by two windows on both the east and west ends. The door is surmounted by an elliptical fanlight with radiating bars in three elliptical arches. The door surround is recessed and is composed of paneled facing. Fluted pilasters topped with bull's eye corner blocks separate the doors from the sidelights. The double wood and glass doors are Victorian in style and flanked by sidelights consisting of four lights and a blind panel. The doors are not the original

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 2

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

doors and probably date from circa 1900. It is not known when these doors were added.

The windows on the south facade of the house are currently one over one, double-hung windows, these windows have been replaced with nine over nine double-hung windows. The original windows were nine over nine double-hung sash. Since the one over one windows are in poor condition with broken sash and missing glazing, they will be replaced with new windows in the historical nine over nine configuration. Over the first floor windows the bricks are laid in a radiating arch. Second story windows are topped with bricks, laid horizontally, resembling jack arches. However, the bricks are laid in openings that appear to have been left for the insertion of a lintel of a different material, perhaps stone.

The east elevation of the house has two nine over nine windows on both the first and second stories in the front portion of the house. Evidence of a center, flush gable chimney can be seen at the roof line. The chimney will be rebuilt during restoration of the house. The majority of windows on this elevation have been repaired and will not be replaced with newer windows.

The one story rear ell of the house consists of three asymmetrically placed openings on the east elevation. A nine over nine window at the south end and a door and nine over nine window on the north end. The door and windows appear to be original to the house. The six panel over two panel door is recessed with fluted facing.

The north elevation is composed of the end of the ell and the rear of the main portion of the house. There are only a few architectural features. The north end of the ell is a plain brick wall with a flush gable end chimney. Approximately ten feet up on the wall is a series of holes in the brick wall that indicate that something was attached to this end of the house. It is not known what that addition was, nor when it was added or removed. There are three original sashes on the main portion of the house, two on the second story at the west end and one a stair window between the first and second story. It appears as if these windows were also nine over nine, but the stair window is nine over six with a portion of the window missing and one of the second story windows has nine over one replacement window, these windows were repaired when possible or replaced with nine over nine double-hung. The two second story windows have the horizontal bricks laid in a jack arch form. The stair window is surmounted by a jack arch opening with

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 3

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

bricks in laid in a soldier pattern, some of the bricks are missing.

Located along the west wall of the ell and the north wall of the main portion of the house is a one story addition built circa 1940. The addition is sided with asbestos shingles and topped with a metal roof. Located on the north end of the addition is a six over six double-hung window. A smaller opening is located on the north wall of the ell along the rear of the house. On the west wall is a six over six double-hung window and paired one over one windows. An entry door is also located on the west wall. The frame addition is in very poor condition and will be removed and replaced with a new addition following the same form to providing handicap access, a kitchen, and restroom facilities.

The west end of the house shows evidence of an earlier window opening on the north side of the first floor. A shadow of an addition or other building is also visible. The flush gable, center chimney is the only other architectural feature.

The Bridgman House is a center hall plan house with single rooms to both the east and west of the hall. Located in the central hall is a three flight open stairwell. A Federal style banister and corresponding wall rail extend the length of the stairs. The newel post and angle posts are of turned wood and the balusters are simple square palings. Pendants are located below the angle posts on the upper flight of the stairs. Located under the stairs is a paneled wall located below the stair stringer and a small panel door leading to a storage area. An exterior paneled door with fluted surrounds is located under the staircase on the north wall. The north and east walls of the center hall had the plaster removed circa 1950 to expose the brick. A chair rail extends throughout the hall.

The main entrance is located on the south wall. The door surround is fluted pilasters with corner block in the same manner as the exterior trim. Centrally located above the fanlight is an unusual incised sawtooth keystone.

All of the interior woodwork and door casings leading into the original rooms are Federal in design with detailed paneled facings on the one foot thick walls. The facing panels match the door panel design with three small panels over one larger panel on each side. The interior doors in each room are eight panels with a six over two panel pattern. Window and door surrounds are composed of

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 4

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

fluted casings with bull's eye corner blocks on the first floor and fluted surrounds with plain corner blocks on the second story.

Located in the front portion of the house on the first floor are parlors on either side of the central hall. The mantel in the west parlor is original and Federal in design with pilasters forming the "legs" of the mantel and a center block below the mantel shelf. However, the opening was converted from a coal burning grate to a vent for a space heater. Square ceramic tile was added circa 1950. The west parlor has an added bookcase on the south side of the fireplace and a closet on the north side of the fireplace. These were added circa 1950 and will be removed. Located behind the closet, on the north end of the south wall, is the window that was sealed circa 1900. Plans are to open the window. Another window, located on the north wall of the parlor was converted to a door during the building of the circa 1940 addition. The windows in this room differ from those in other rooms of the house, they match the door surrounds with the fluted surrounds and bull's eye corner blocks. The room retains its original plaster walls and beaded board ceiling. The floor of this room has been damaged by termites and water and will be replaced with like materials. The room originally had a chair rail to match that of the other rooms, but it was removed circa 1950.

The east parlor originally mirrored the west parlor. Circa 1950 the room was remodeled with pine paneling being added to the east wall, gypsum board was added to the other three walls, acoustical tile added to the ceiling and the floor sanded and stained. The room retains its original mantel which is identical to the one in the west parlor. The grate was rebuilt to accommodate a wood fire with large ceramic tile, one row deep, on the fireplace surround. Plans are to restore the room by removing the acoustical tile, pine paneling, and gypsum board. The removal of gypsum board will expose the original chair rail which is mostly intact under the gypsum board. Missing chair rail portions will be replaced in kind. The original window surrounds remain on the windows on both the east wall and the south wall.

Located in the ell behind the east parlor is the original dining room and kitchen. The dining room retains most of its original features with fireplace, chair rail, cupboards intact. Entrance to the dining room is from a door on the south wall (east parlor), from the kitchen on the north wall, or from an doorway on the west wall that opens into the circa 1940 addition. On the north wall of the dining room is the fireplace. The mantel in this room is

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 5

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

identical to the mantels in the parlors. The opening of the fireplace was reduced and a coal grate added. The outer hearth has been replaced with ceramic tile. Also located on the north wall of the dining room is to the west of the fireplace is an original built-in cupboard. The cupboard surround is identical to window and door surrounds. The paired upper doors each have three vertical panels. Located beneath the chair rail are paired one panel doors. On the east side of the fireplace is a door that opens into the kitchen. A single window is located on the east wall.

The original kitchen of the Bridgman House is located at the far north end of the ell. The room retains its original kitchen fireplace and mantel, and cupboard on the north wall. This mantel is much simpler in design than the ones found in the other three rooms. The outer hearth has been removed and replaced with wood flooring. The cupboard in the kitchen is identical to the one in the dining room including its location west of the fireplace. However, one of the cupboard doors located below the chair rail has been replaced with a plain wood door. The kitchen has an exterior entrance on the east wall. The exterior door has six small panels above chair rail height and two larger panels below. The door is identical to the one on the rear or north wall of the center hall. Also located on the east wall is a window. On the west wall is a doorway into the circa 1940 addition.

Located in the circa 1940 addition on the west side of the ell is a modern kitchen and a bathroom. This addition is in extremely poor condition and will be replaced with a newer addition following the same configuration.

On the second floor there are two rooms on either side of the stair hall which contains a window on the south wall and a window on the stair landing of the north wall. The west bedroom has the original wooden cupboards on either side of the off-center fireplace. The cupboards are identical to the single cupboards found in the dining room and the kitchen, with paired doors of three panels each above the chair rail and paired one panel doors below the chair rail. The original fireplace mantel is similar to the downstairs mantles, although smaller and of a simpler design. The mantel has the same pilaster motif on either end as the larger fireplaces, but is done in a more modest fashion. There is no center panel on the upstairs mantels. The bedroom has two windows on the south side and two windows on the north side. The wooden floor has suffered some from water damage.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Page 6

**Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN**

The east bedroom differs from the west bedroom. Flanking the off-center fireplace with identical Federal mantel are windows. The windows are set back in the east wall around the chimney. Two other windows are located on the south wall. A chair rail encircles the room. Located on the north wall is a simple early twentieth century two panel door leading to a closet. The closet was added in later years and utilizes the attic space above the rear ell. The floor in this room has also had minor water damage.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Page 7

**Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN**

Addendum

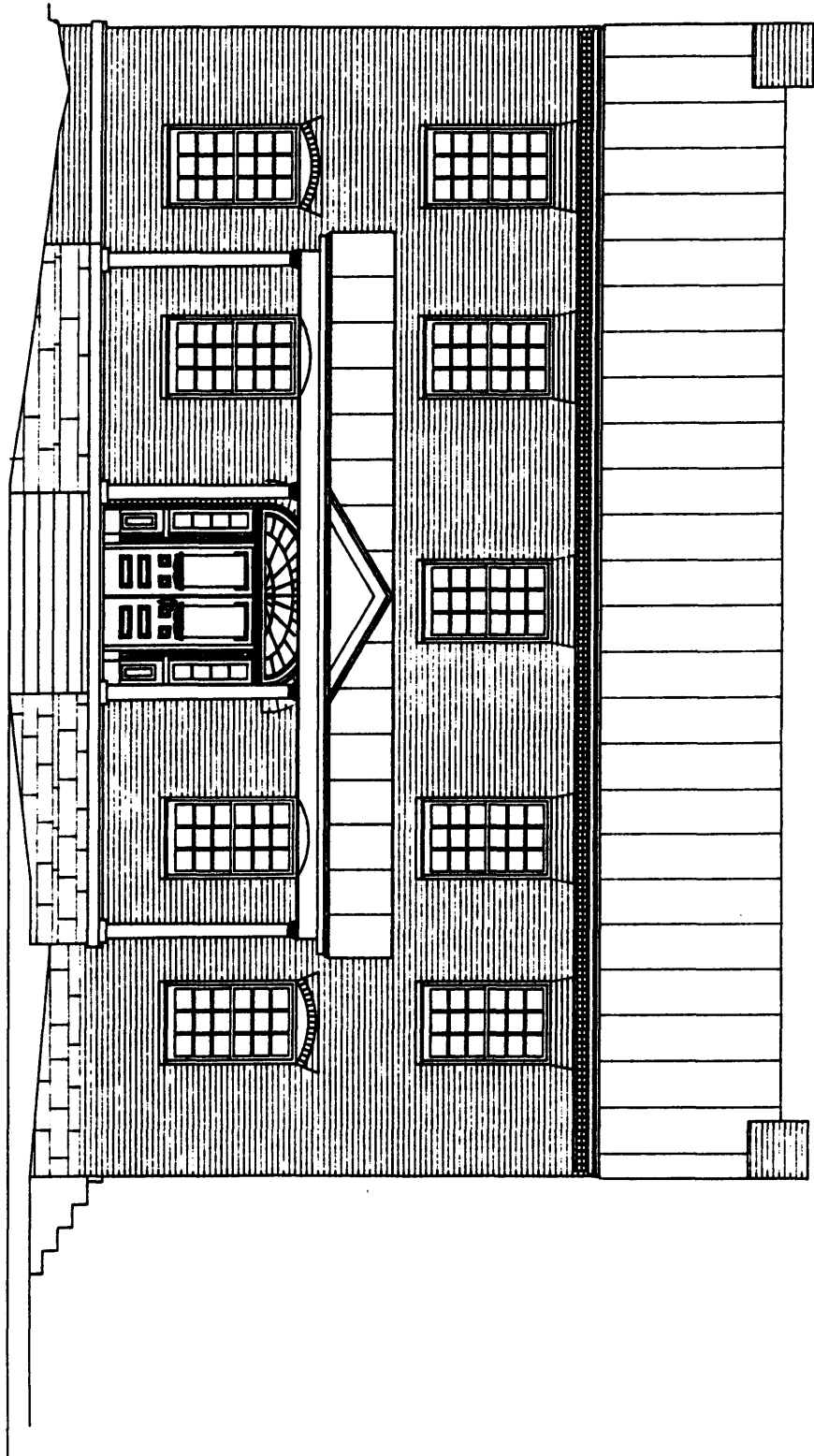
The John Bridgman House has been undergoing restoration for ITC during the nomination procedure. The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines have been followed during the restoration. Changes that have occurred during the nomination process have been noted in the text.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

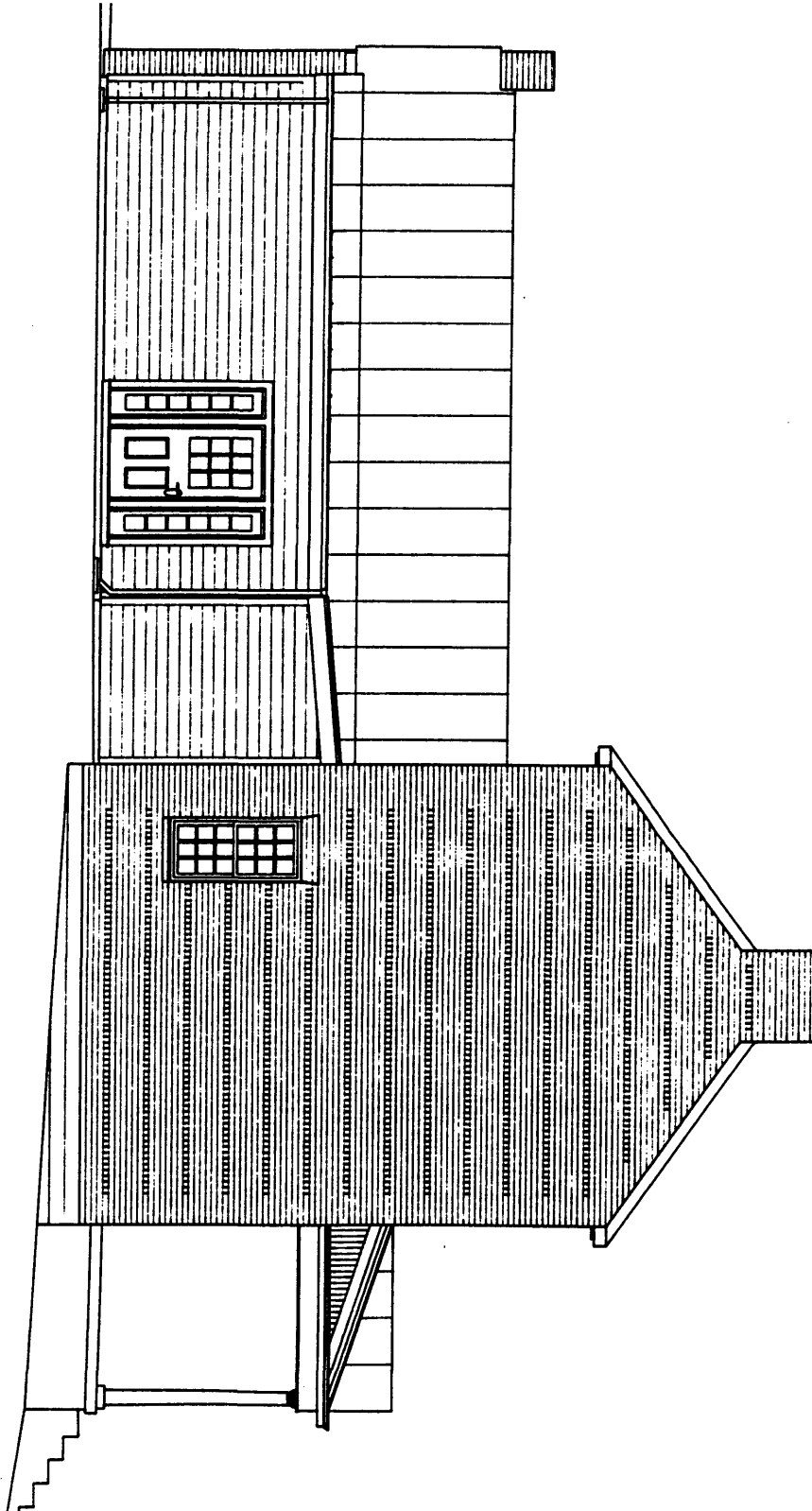


National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

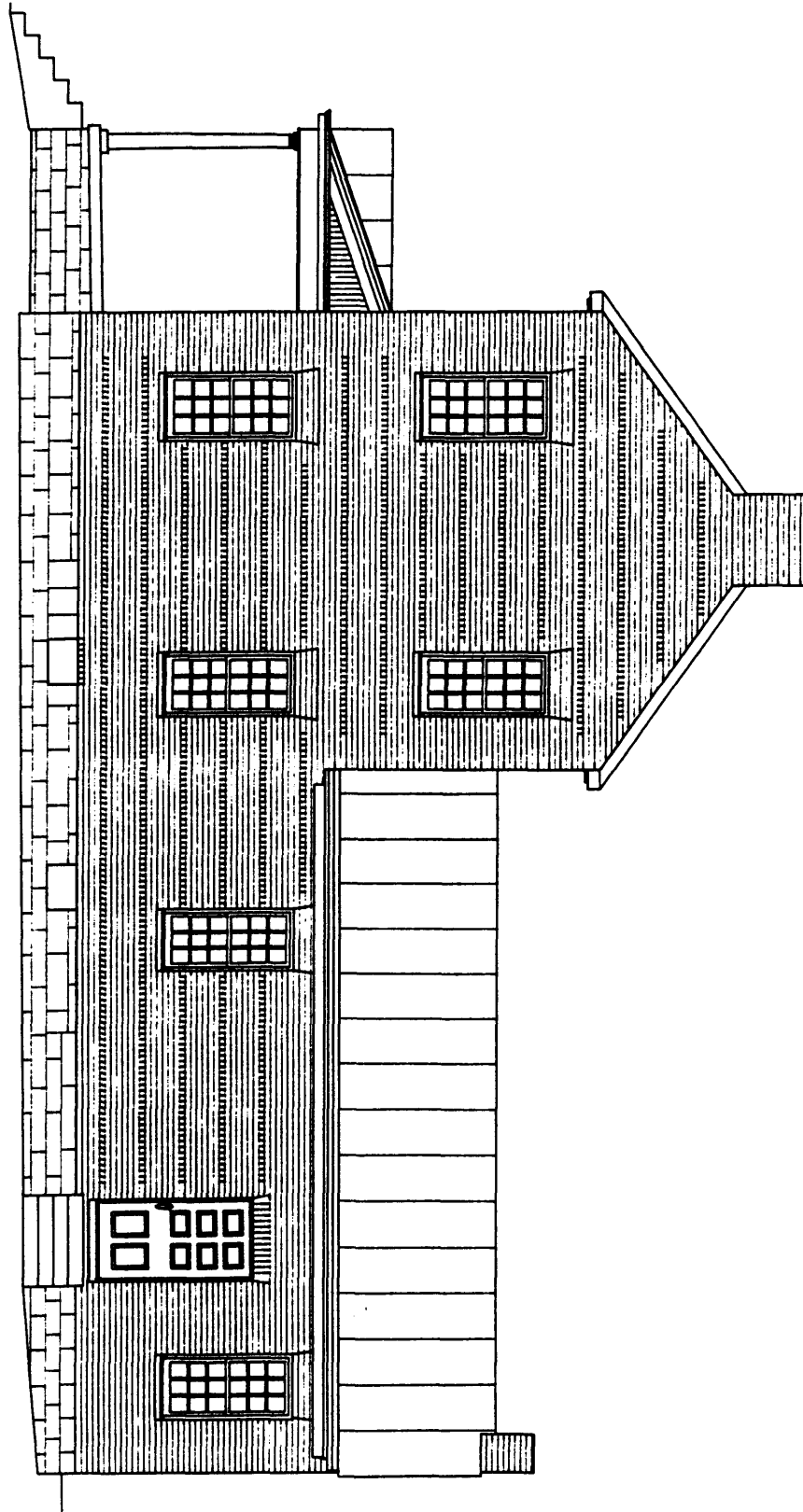
WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN



EAST ELEVATION

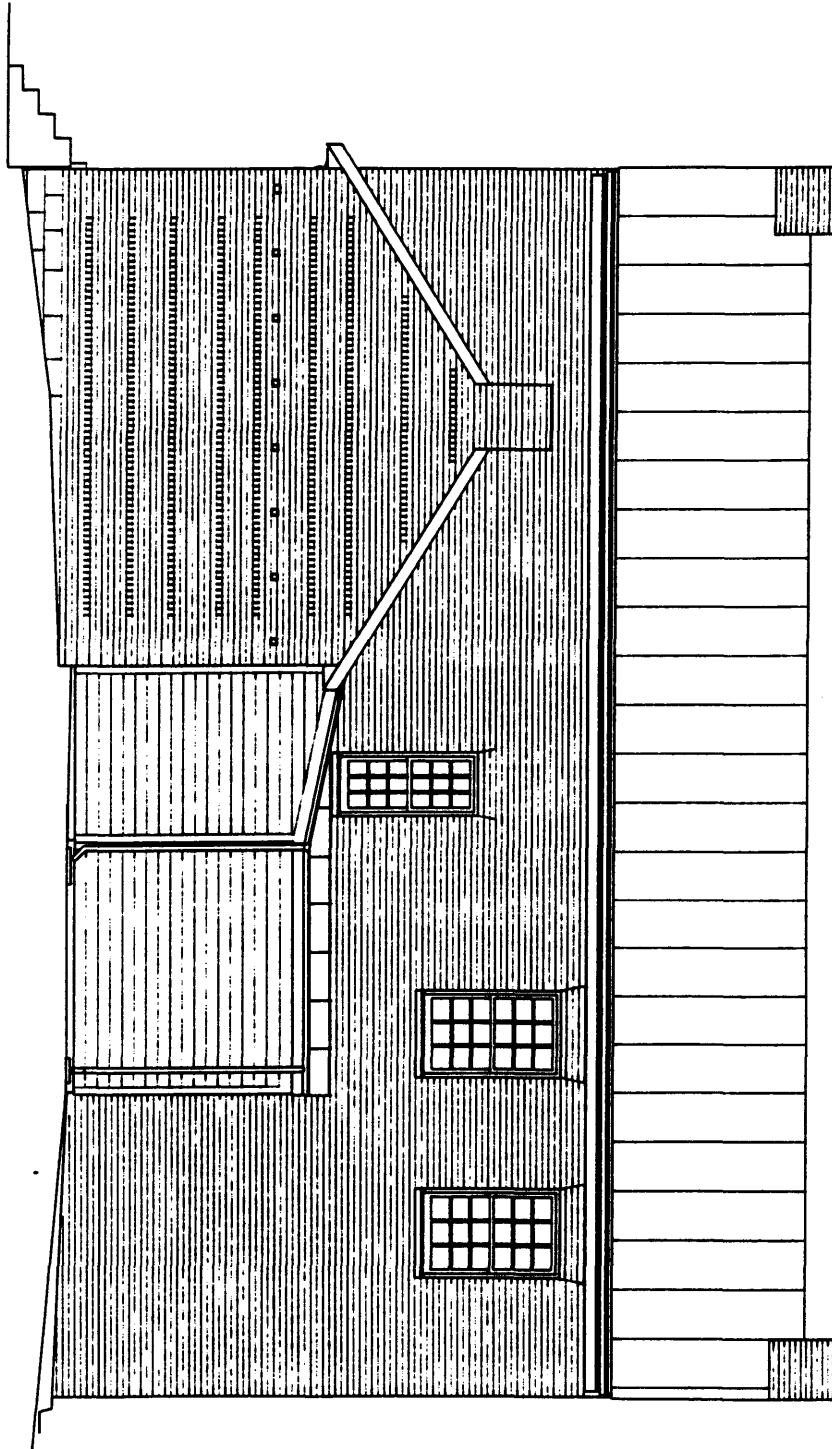
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

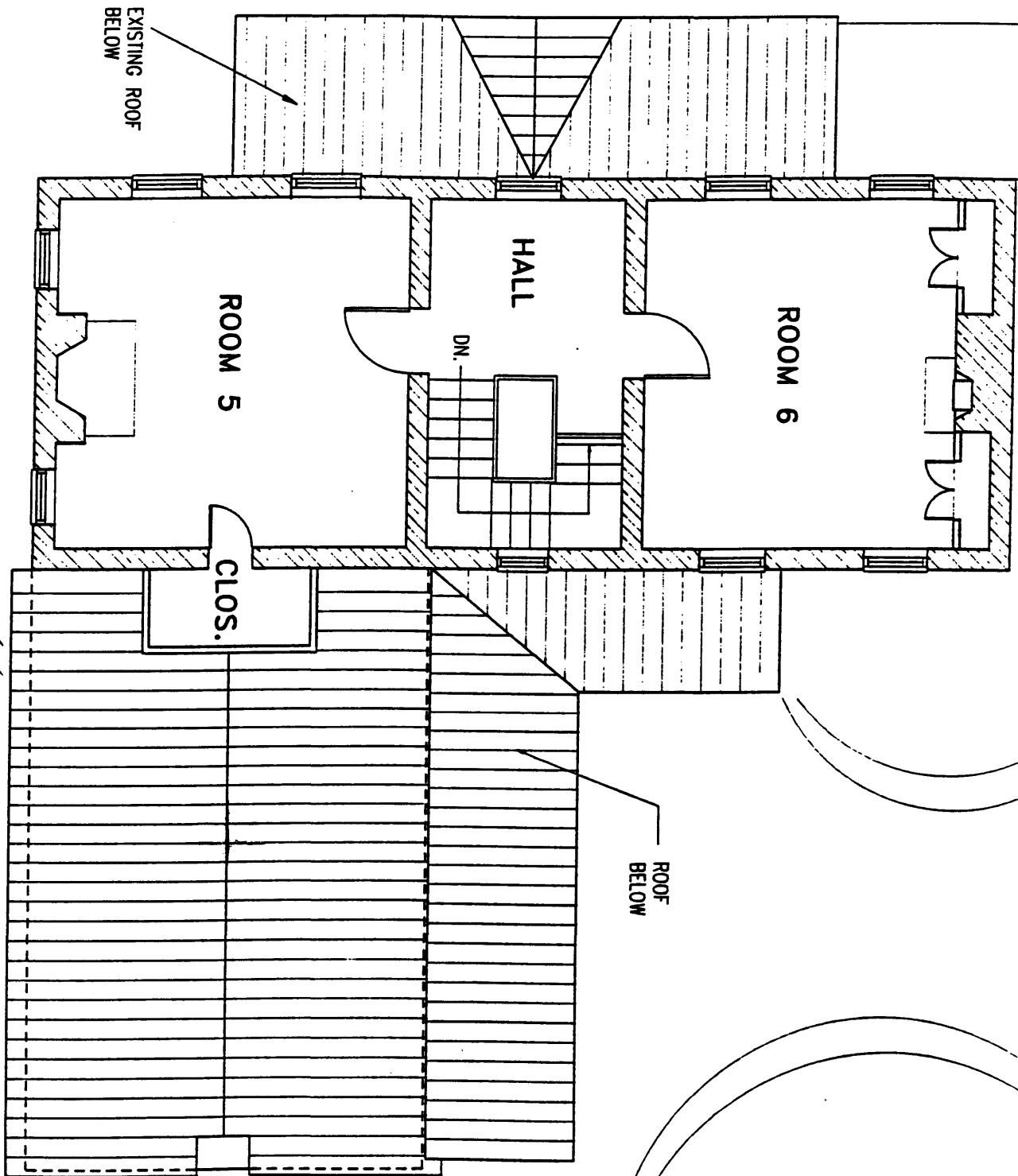
NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN



EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

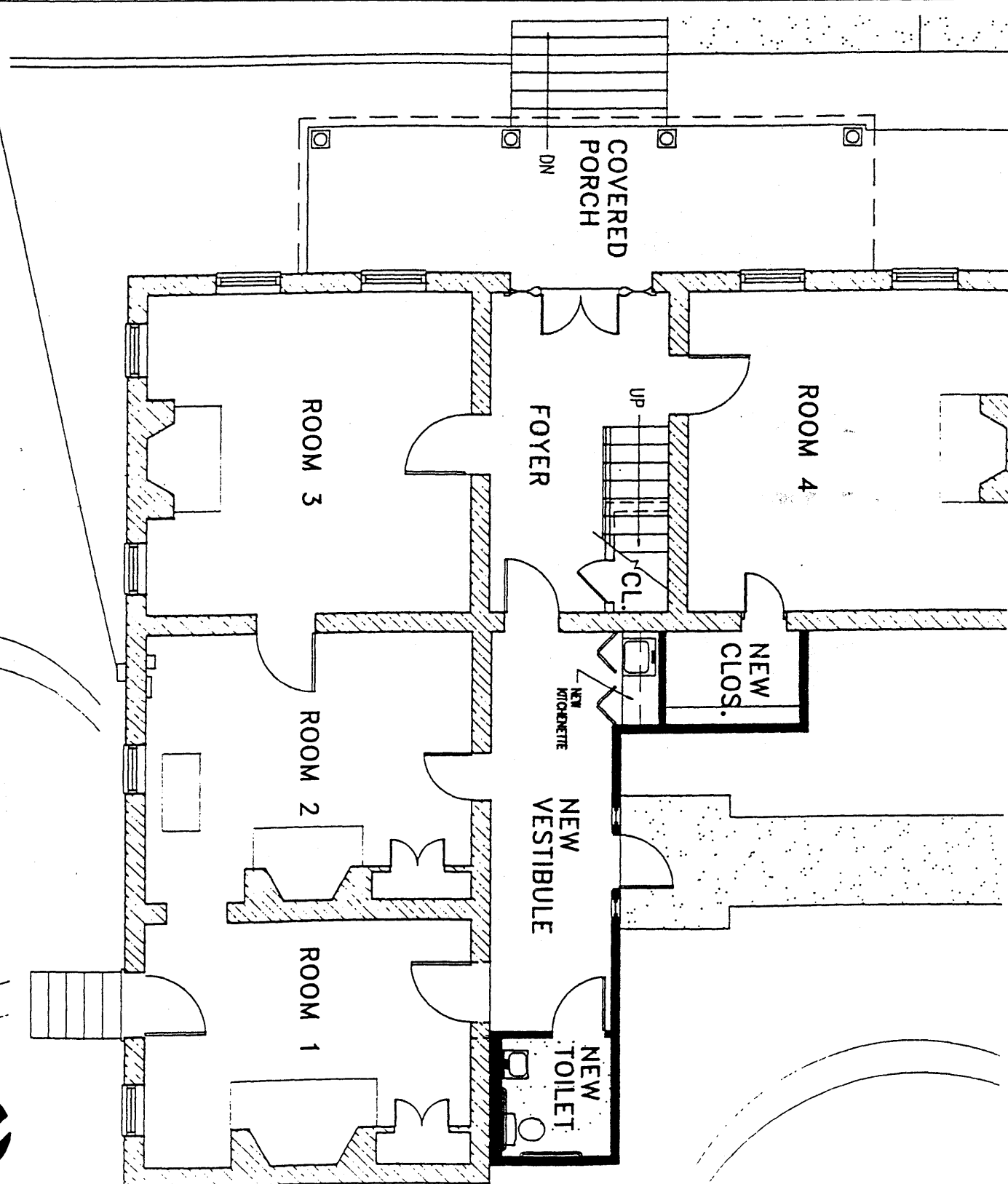


National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSAL 'B'
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 15

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

Statement of Significance

The John Bridgman House is locally significant under National Register criteria B and C for its association with John Bridgman an early settler, political leader, and developer of the City of Pikeville, Bledsoe County, Tennessee and as an excellent example of the Federal style of architecture.

Little is known about John Bridgman's arrival in the Pikeville area. He was reportedly born in Virginia on November 14, 1789. Scant information has been found on earlier residences, schooling, or the occupation of Bridgman. He married Lavinia Cox, who was from Tennessee, reportedly at Bridgman's Mill, Knoxville, Tennessee. The date of their wedding is unknown, but their first son, Benjamin Franklin Bridgman was born on September 25, 1813.

One of the earlier indications of Bridgman in Tennessee is the record of him joining the East Tennessee Militia at Washington in Rhea County on January 10, 1814. Bridgman served as a Sergeant under Colonel Samuel Bunch and Captain John English. He was discharged May 14, 1814, after serving four months and eleven days. Bridgman was at Jacksborough, Cannon County, Tennessee in December 1815. He gave a power of attorney to Sampson David to collect any payments due him for his military service.

The city's original land purchase, made in 1816, was divided into lots in 1818 and the sale of lots began. Bridgman made his first land purchase in Bledsoe County on February 5, 1819. Bridgman is first listed on deed records on May 23, 1818 as a commissioner for the town of Pikeville. Bridgman served at least sixteen years as a commissioner, as he is listed on deeds from May 23, 1818 to August 12, 1834.

John and Lavinia Bridgman bought the land at lot number 24, and the east part of lot 28 on November 6, 1828 for the sum of \$100 from Pikeville's city commissioners. The lot they purchased faced the Bledsoe County Courthouse on the square in Pikeville. The land the house sits on was originally part of the thirty acres purchased in 1816 to establish the city of Pikeville. The Bridgman residence was probably built prior to the land transfer recorded in county records. It is not clear when Bridgman first resided in the area, however, he was a resident by 1818 as indicated by his role as a commissioner. Bridgman was elected to represent Bledsoe County, Tennessee in the House of Representative's 13th General Assembly 1819-1821. He represented Bledsoe County only in the first session and for the second session he represented both Bledsoe and Marion

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 16

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

Counties.

Pikeville is the oldest incorporated town in the oldest county in Sequatchie Valley. The town was established and named by an 1813 Act that commissioned laying out a new city for the county seat if approved by a popular election. Previously the county business and records were maintained at Old Madison located about ten miles south of Pikeville.

Sources vary on the naming of Pikeville, and for whom or what the city was named. One story, noted in the book, Sequatchie, A Story of the Southern Cumberlands, states the town was named for the colorful soldier-explorer of the Mississippi Valley and the south west, Zebulon Montgomery Pike. The same book also contains a footnote provided by Elizabeth Robnett, Bledsoe County historian stating that John Bridgman, a prominent citizen, named the city after the town he came here from, Pikeville, North Carolina. Two other sources list Bridgman as the person naming the city.¹

Where Bridgman lived at during this time or how early he moved into Bledsoe County is unclear. Renovation work on the house revealed two dates etched in the plaster on the west side wall of the entrance hall as it starts up the stairs to the second story. Scratched into the wall are "S [J or L].D. Bridgman 16 Nov 1832" and "Jno Bridgman 5 Sept 1810." No significance has been determined for these dates.

Bridgman was instrumental in the founding of the town of Pikeville and helped to establish a sound commercial and educational base and was a strong political leader. In 1826 the State of Tennessee authorized a group of citizens in Bledsoe County to establish an academy in Pikeville. Bridgman was one of eight people named to the project. He provided the one-half acre of land for the academy. Renamed Lafayette Academy circa 1830, this private school was the first school of any significance to be opened in the county and continued to be so until after the Civil War.

Bridgman was also a merchant during the 1830s in Pikeville. Bridgman's civil career during this time period included serving on the Bledsoe County Grand Jury, Superintendent of Court House Repairs, Commissioner of the Town of Pikeville, and member of the county court.

The 1840 census listed Bridgman as a merchant and large land owner who owned many slaves. Courthouse records indicate he bought and sold over 17,000 acres in the county between 1818 and 1847. This

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 17

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

does not include some twenty-six town lots he bought and sold. The courthouse records also document Bridgman's purchase and sale of slaves between 1821 and 1837.

Bridgman was described as a man of great wealth and the most influential political leader in the county. Bridgman was a leader of the Whig Party in Bledsoe County through the 1840s. A letter to James K. Polk, a Democratic candidate for governor, illustrates his importance. The letter lists Bledsoe County as "Whig territory and even Thomas N. Frazier [a Nashville Judge] is one of Bridgman's Whigs."

Bridgman died October 19, 1847 and his wife, Lavinia, remained in the house until her death in 1867. The Bridgman heirs sold the house to Adaline K. Spears in 1869. She bought the house solely and separately and free from the control of her husband, Brigadier General James Gallant Spears of the Union Army, states the deed. Lula Spears, her daughter-in-law, inherited the house in 1902, also free from the control of her husband. She then sold it to S. H. Ferguson and Sam M. Pope in 1905. Several other transfers of the house occurred between 1905 and 1929. Blanche and Lee Tollett transferred the house to Georginia Greening and Carrie Greening in 1945. Georginia Greening Swafford received sole ownership in 1969 and sold it the First National Bank of Pikeville in 1992.

John Bridgman was an important and influential early settler in Pikeville and Bledsoe County, Tennessee. Bridgman was integral in the development of Bledsoe County and the town of Pikeville. His position as a County Commissioner, State Representative, large land owner, and merchant had a significant impact in the development of the town of Pikeville.

The Bridgman House is also significant under criterion C as an excellent example of the Federal Style of architecture in the Sequatchie Valley area. The house, constructed circa 1815, illustrates the early Federal style in Tennessee through its symmetrical facade, center entrance with fanlight and sidelights, and dentil like trim on the eaves.

As with the date John Bridgman arrived in Bledsoe County, there is no clear factor in determining the date when the house was built. Stylistically the house looks as if it could have been constructed as early as 1810. Evidence of Bridgman being in the area prior to the 1816 purchase of land for the city may indicate that the house was constructed during this early period. Although the lot the house sits on was not transferred in the deed books until 1828, it

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 18

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

is conceivable that Bridgman was involved in the purchase of the original 13 acres that became the town of Pikeville and had the house built before 1818, when he became a commissioner. Federal style houses were being constructed in east Tennessee by the turn of the nineteenth century. The Federal period in Tennessee lasted until circa 1850 with Federal houses still being constructed in west Tennessee as late as 1850.

The John Bridgman House is fairly typical of Federal houses being constructed in the east Tennessee area, although the entry way is more elaborate than most. It is a two story, five bay house with a center entrance and is constructed of brick. While there were probably frame Federal style houses, only a few still exist, such as the Carter House (NR 4/14/72) in Elizabethton. In 1818 John Craighead (Craighead-Jackson House NR 3/20/73) had a house built next door to the Blount Mansion (NHL 1/12/65). The Craighead-Jackson House as it appeared before its circa 1960 restoration was similar to the Bridgman House in appearance. While the Craighead-Jackson House is only a four bay Federal house, the upper floor window originally had the same jack arches with set-in vertical bricks. These bricks were replaced during the restoration. In addition, the Craighead-Jackson House and the Bridgman House are comparable in the treatment of the gable end chimneys and the windows flanking the chimney on one gable end, the box cornice, and the stylized dentil frieze.

1. The Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly states Bridgman named the town for his mother's home place in North Carolina. A third version of the town's name is in Education, Economic and Community Survey Bledsoe County, 1927, notes that Bridgman came from Pike County North Carolina and named the settlement, Pikeville, in honor of his native county in North Carolina.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9

Page 19

Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN

Major Bibliographic References

- Blaylock, Billie Sue. Interview by Wade Dodson. November 1992.
- Bledsoe County Records. Deed Records, Minute Books, Court Records. 1818 - 1992.
- Brown, D. M. Educational, Economical and Community Survey of Bledsoe County. The University of Tennessee Record Extension Series. April 1927.
- Colton, Capt. Wm. F. History of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.
- McBride, Robert M., and Dan M. Robison. Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly. Volume I. Nashville, TN; Tennessee State Library and Archives and Tennessee Historical Commission, 1975.
- Military Records, War of 1812, East Tennessee Militia, Bunch's Regiment. National Archives and Record Administration.
- Patrick, James. Architecture in Tennessee: 1768 - 1897. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981.
- Payne, Dorothy. Interview by Wade Dodson. October 7 and 27, 1992.
- Raulston, J. Leonard and James W. Livingood. Sequatchie: A Story of Southern Cumberlands. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1974,
- Robnett, Elizabeth, Bledsoe County Historian. Interview by Wade Dodson. October, November, and December, 1992.
- Swafford, Georginia Greening. Interview by Dorothy Payne.
- White, Robert H. Messages of the Governors of Tennessee 1835 - 1845. Volume 3. Nashville, TN: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1954.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 20

**Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the John Bridgman House is shown on the accompanying Bledsoe county tax map number 65 I Group C Parcel 6.

Being a two story brick house and lot, lying in the Town of Pikeville, Tennessee and north from the Courthouse Square, and on the north side of Spring Street and facing seventy-six (76) feet on said Spring Street and known as the old Spears Brick Residence. Beginning at a point in the north line of Spring Street, opposite the southeast corner of the Greed Hotel Building (property is now First National Bank); running thence East with Spring Street seventy-six (76) feet to an iron pin at the edge of sidewalk, corner of Blanche F. Tolletts (now Stephens); thence north with said Blanche F. Tollett's lot (now Stephens), one hundred-twenty (120) feet to First National Bank lot; thence with the same west seventy-six (76) feet to the Greed Hotel lot (now First National); thence with same south one hundred twenty (120) feet to place of Beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Bridgman House and the property historically associated with it.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 22

**Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN**

Photographs

Bridgman, John, House
Spring Street
Pikeville, Bledsoe County, Tennessee
Photos by: R. Wade Dodson
Date: November 1992
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, TN

1 of 20

South facade, view toward north

2 of 20

South elevation, view toward northwest

3 of 20

East elevation, view toward west

4 of 20

North elevation, view toward south

5 of 20

North elevation, view toward southeast

6 of 20

West elevation, view toward east

7 of 20

North facade, detail view of elliptical fanlight and entrance

8 of 20

South facade, detail view of dentils under eaves, view toward north

9 of 20

Detail, center hall

10 of 20

Detail, view of the stairway and center hall

11 of 20

Detail, view of west parlor

12 of 20

Detail, view of door framing and door going into east parlor

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 23

**Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County, TN**

13 of 20

Detail, view of east parlor and fireplace

14 of 20

Detail, view of fireplace and cupboard in dining room

15 of 20

Detail, view of kitchen fireplace and cupboard

16 of 20

Detail, view of back entrance in kitchen

17 of 20

Detail, view of stairway, second floor

18 of 20

Detail, view of east bedroom

19 of 20

Detail, view of fireplace and cupboards in west bedroom

20 of 20

Detail, view of modern kitchen