

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| STATE: Tennessee | |
| COUNTY: Sullivan | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | APR 11 1973 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Yancey's Tavern (Representative James H. Quillen)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Highway 126

CITY OR TOWN:
Kingsport

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Sullivan CODE: 163

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ To be opened as museum in near future. |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miss Dorothy Wexler

STREET AND NUMBER:
3500 Wesley Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Kingsport STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Sullivan County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Blountville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Sullivan

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Yancey's Tavern is built into a slope overlooking an original section of the Island Road, later the Great Stage Road, where it intersects modern Highway 126 between Kingsport and Blountville. Although the area has become vulnerable to development, land immediately surrounding the tavern is still farmland. Looking south, the view is of growing subdivisions and cemeteries, in this case, both the products of real estate investors.

Yancey's Tavern, built by 1782, was at one time, and remains so beneath its present covering, a double log house with a dogtrot. Handfired brick replaced the original stone chimneys and part of the stone foundation, probably sometime in the nineteenth century. More recently, brick was used to completely enclose the cellar area, although the framing of the door and window openings leading into the cellar are much earlier. Both front and back porches are later. The one-story back wing is not original to the house, although the fireplace with its simple mantel and crane suggests an early date. The placement of the back chimney also suggests the possibility that this area was once a small distance from the main house and served as a kitchen. Window and door openings in the structure are not entirely original, but their location would pre-date the twentieth century.

The interior of Yancey's Tavern is simple, with three plain but well-executed mantels on the first floor. Two second-story rooms are reached by separate stairways. On the upper floor, construction of the dogtrot is visible because this section of the house has not been finished for use.

Miscellaneous frame outbuildings of varying dates surround the dwelling house. Most of the structures, including a barn, wash house, spring house, chicken house, and corncrib, date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. The frame granary with its shingle roof and stone foundation is considerably earlier.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Yancey's Tavern was an important stop along the Island Road, the major artery in upper East Tennessee. As such, it figured prominently in the development of the area, attracting as its visitors such men as John Sevier and William Blount, and serving as headquarters for local business such as meetings of the Sullivan County court.

The Island Road predates Yancey's Tavern. Completed in September, 1761, it was the first organized road to be built not only in Tennessee but also to the southwest, connecting Chilhowie, Virginia, to the Long Island of the Holston River. Although built for military purposes, it served as a route for settlers. Parts of the Island Road later became known as the Great Stage Road.

Along the road in the Tennessee section were three forts, including Eaton's Fort. This fort was located on property which, by the early 1770's, was part of Amos Eaton's "corn rights" lands. In 1779, Eaton sold a portion of his land near the fort to James Hollis, who in turn, sold 900 acres to John Yancey, Sr., in 1782. It is not known if Yancey's purchase included a dwelling or if Yancey built the structure; however, within a short period, the tavern was in operation. Yancey's heirs maintained the property until the last half of the nineteenth century, when it changed ownership several times prior to being purchased in 1889 by John R. Spahr, whose descendants still own the place today.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Tennessee. (Chicago and Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887).

Spoden, Muriel, Sullivan County Historian. Unpublished material.

Taylor, Oliver. Historic Sullivan. (Bristol: The King Printing Co., 1909.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 36° 32' 55" | 82° 27' 28" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

U17M
17/369530
4045590

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ellen Beasley

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 11-10-72

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 Seventh Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Michael J. Smith
Michael J. Smith

Title Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 11-15-72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Van Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/11/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 4 73