

2648

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED

OCT 17 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Stone-Pennebaker Place other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 229 Towles Avenue city, town McMinnville state Tennessee code TN county Warren code 177 zip code 37110

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: Entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

---

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Greek Revival

---

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone  
walls BRICK

---

roof METAL

---

other WOOD portico

---

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Stone-Pennebaker Place, built in 1857, is located on a high hill, formerly called Rebel Hill, north of McMinnville, in Warren County, Tennessee. The one-and-a-half story brick, Greek Revival house was built for Dillard Stone, whose untimely death in April 1857 came before the house was completed.

The small Greek Revival, L-plan house is built on a foundation of limestone with the stones being two feet thick and some eight feet in length. (Legend has it that the stones were drawn up the hill by oxen.) The outside walls are three bricks thick, laid in a Flemish bond. The interior walls are two bricks thick. Flush gable paired parapet chimneys are located on the east and west gable ends of the roof. A fifth chimney is located on the rear ell. The south (front) facade of the house displays classic Greek Revival features including a wide wooden entablature with dental molding. Four wood paneled columns support the pedimented portico over the distyle in antis entry. Paired pilasters, with stylized acanthus leaf designs, flank the double leaf front door with side-lights and a three light transom. Lattice balustrades are located between the wall pilasters and end columns on both sides of the portico and are probably a later addition. The paired front doors have elegant carved vertical panels with rosettes placed between the raised molding and stylized acanthus leaves located at the top and bottom of the panels. Across the south facade are four six over six windows that retain their original glass panes and louvered shutters. All windows have stone lintels.

A rear one story ell extends along the west facade and consists of the original kitchen and smokehouse. A stepped parapet fire wall separates the original kitchen from the smokehouse. In 1979 a small bathroom addition was added to the north end of the ell. All windows in the original portion of the ell are six over six sash. The two window on the first story are identical to the windows on the south facade. The east facade of the main portion of the house is solid brick except for a small window on the second story between the two chimneys. The brick corbeling on the east and west facades imitates the dental molding on the front facade.

An L-shaped porch is located on the rear facade of the house, the original wood floor was replaced with concrete in 1931. Five single leaf door are located on the rear facade of the house. A frame weatherboarded dormer is

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2 Stone-Pennebaker Place

located in the center of the north facade and was added in 1947 to accommodate a bathroom added on the stair landing.

The center hall plan house has four rooms on the first floor of the main portion of the house and two rooms upstairs. The rear ell originally consisted of a pantry, kitchen and smokehouse. An open well two flight staircase is located near the rear of the center hall. The balustrade consists of plain spindles with a walnut handrail. Five doors lead from the hall; to the parlor, back porch, front porch, and a front bedroom. All the doors have double, full length vertical panels. The parlor is located on the southeast corner and is one of the more elaborate rooms in the house. The parlor, eighteen feet by twenty feet, has shouldered architrave window and door frames with elaborate carvings above the two windows and two doors. The fireplace mantel in the parlor follows the same configuration as the shouldered architrave window and door surrounds. The floors are heart of pine and the baseboard is eighteen inches wide with simple molding. Behind the parlor in the northeast corner is another eighteen by twenty foot room that serves as a back bedroom. The bedroom has two windows facing north and a small press or closet is located on south side of the fireplace. The fireplace has a simple Greek Revival style mantel. The southwest bedroom, also eighteen by twenty feet, has same woodwork, fireplace mantel and a small closet located at northwest corner of fireplace as the northeast bedroom. The two windows in the room face south. Behind this southwest bedroom is the dining room. This room as well as the hall and southwest bedroom have hardwood floors, which were laid over the heart of pine floors around the turn of the century. The dining room was also wainscotted in oak at that time. This room retains its original fireplace with the same wide mantel as in other rooms. The two windows, one on each side of the fireplace, face the west.

Located in the rear ell of the house behind the dining room is a breakfast room, which originally was a hallway from kitchen with pantries on the east side, window on west side. Under this room is a stone cellar which contains the heating system; access to the cellar are from the outside back porch and inside breakfast room. The first bathroom was installed in 1922 in a section of the pantry. When the breakfast room was made in 1939, the bath was moved to a large china closet off the dining room. The large kitchen, located off of the breakfast room has had its fireplace bricked shut to vent the gas heating system. The kitchen has a west window and east door that enters onto the back porch. The original smoke house was attached to the house behind the kitchen with a fire wall between the two rooms. Originally access to the smoke house was only from the outside. The fire wall was opened to provide a doorway from the kitchen. The smokehouse was converted into a bedroom and a bath/closet addition added to

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3 Stone-Pennebaker Place

---

the north end of the ell. The bedroom has east door opening out to lower patio and a north window is located in the bathroom.

Upstairs there is a central hallway and two bedrooms. In 1947 a small bathroom was installed off the upstairs landing. A dormer was added to the rear of the house to accommodate the bath. The bedrooms each contain a single window on the end wall (east and west) and simple woodwork. The west room now serves as a storage room.

There are two non-contributing outbuildings located behind the Stone-Pennebaker Place, a brick servant's house and a frame shed. The servant's house has the many of same brick details as the house including the corbeled dental molding. The servants house originally consisted of two separate rooms, each with a fireplace and center chimney. In the 1920s the west half was made into a garage and a large opening was cut into the south wall. A carport was added to the west wall and the chimney has been removed. The remaining room has served as a summer bedroom, but is presently use as a storage room. West of the servants house is a wood frame shed, of an unknown date, with asbestos shingle siding. Alterations and changes to the small structure have made it non-contributing.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance  
1857

Significant Dates  
1857

ARCHITECTURE

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Stone-Pennebaker Place is being nominated under criterion C for its significance in architecture in McMinnville, Warren County, Tennessee. The small house is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture of this scale. The house exhibits many features of the Greek Revival style; pedimented portico, distyle in antis entry, acanthus leaf motifs on the exterior and shouldered architrave surrounds on the interior. The prominent parapet chimneys are an unusual feature on a house of this period in the region.

Construction on the Stone-Pennebaker Place started in 1857 by Dillard Stone. Stone, who died before the house was completed, included instructions in his will for the houses completion: "The house that I have now under contract or in progress of erection on the place which I lately purchased North of McMinnville, I want built for my wife and children, including Miss Eliza to live in. I want the house to be a neat cottage house to cost from three to five thousand dollars including kitchen, smokehouse and other necessary houses to correspond with the dwelling. I also want two good cisterns dug on the place, one for the dwelling, and the other for the use of the stable, all of which I want done under the direction of my executors."1 At the time of his death Stone was survived by his wife, Harriet, a son, Edgar, and a daughter, Laura. During the Civil War, the Federal troops captured the town of McMinnville, and a camp was set up at the foot of Rebel Hill below the Stone-Pennebaker House in an area known as Yankeetown. The commanding general issued the following order: "Headquarters 3rd Division 21 A Co. McMinnville, Tennessee, August 6, 1863. The officers and soldiers of this command are ordered not to cut down or interfere [sic] with the grove of trees in front of the house occupied by Mrs. Harriet Pennebaker, by order of Brig. Gen'l. H. P. Cleave, C. A. Sheafe, Capt. & Provost Marshall." Today, the house is still surrounded by several large and ancient trees.

1 Warren County, Tennessee, Wills - Book C, pages 338-340.

See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2 Stone-Pennebaker Place

---

Mrs. Stone later married H. J. Pennebaker, and the Pennebakers continued to reside in the house until 1898 when it was sold to George Wadey. The house changed hands several times until it was purchased at auction in August 1921 for \$3,400 by Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo N. Walling. The house was in poor condition when purchased in 1921; the porch columns and shutters were stacked in the servants house and the shingle roof leaked badly. The Wallings restored the house by replacing the porch columns and shutters and restoring the interior. Changes to the interior have been minimal and include placing wainscotting on the dining room walls, the addition of bathrooms, and opening the wall between the kitchen and smokehouse.

This is the only house of this scale and style in the McMinnville area. Oakham (NR 8/11/83), one of the only houses of comparable size, was built in circa 1835 and circa 1850 and is an early brick H-plan house with later Greek Revival modifications. Other houses from this period in Warren County, such as the Joseph Daniel Walling House (NR 8/6/80), are of a larger scale with simpler design features. The Stone-Pennebaker Place is an excellent example of a small scale Greek Revival house with paired parapet chimneys, distyle in antis entry, and parapeted portico.

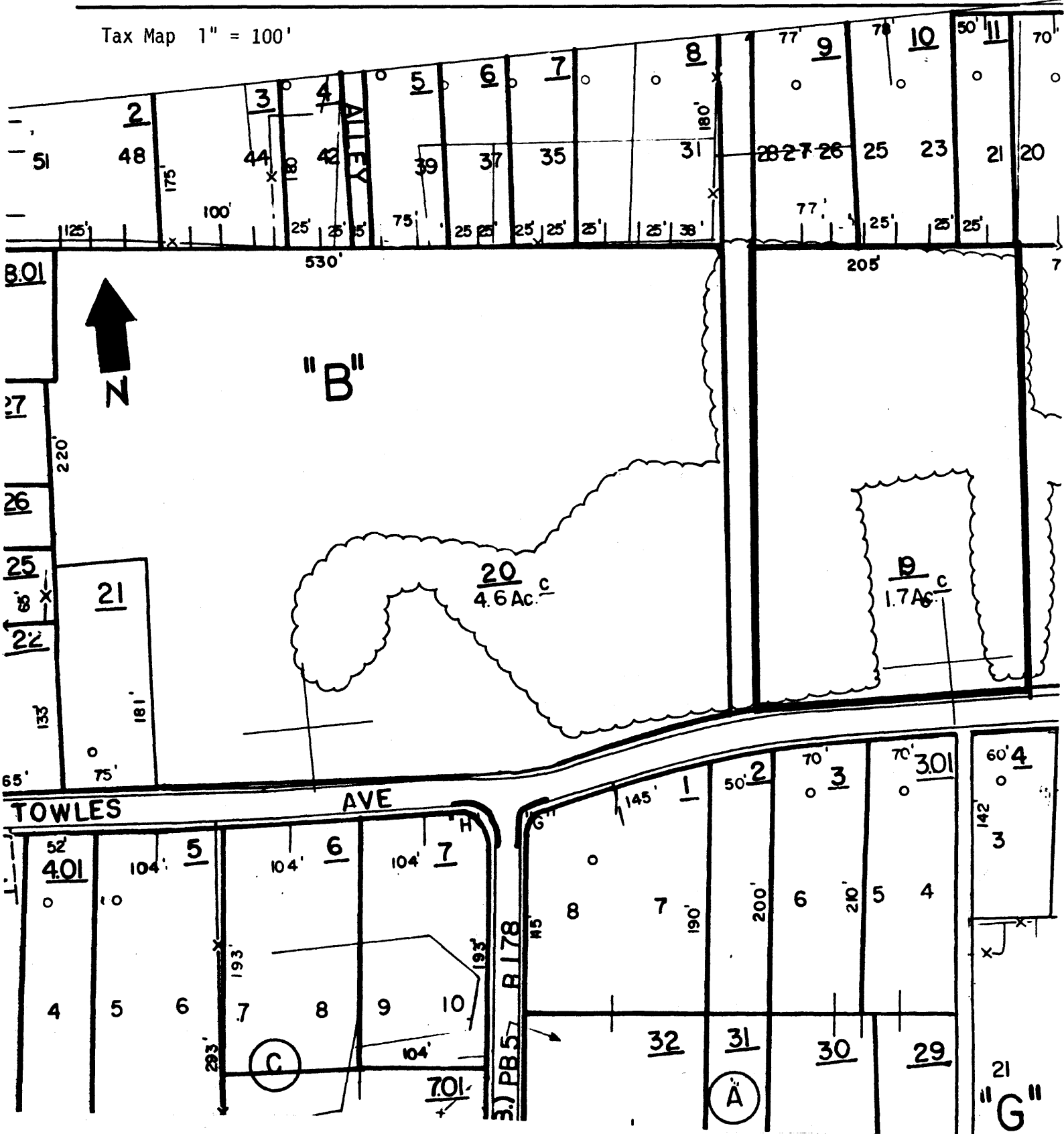
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Stone-Pennebaker Place

Tax Map 1" = 100'



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1

Stone-Pennebaker Place

---

Stone-Pennebaker Place  
229 Towles Avenue  
McMinnville, Warren County, Tennessee  
Photo by: David R. Hoover  
Date: April 1988  
Neg.: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

South facade, facing north  
#1 of 10

Detail carving front doors  
#2 of 10

West elevation, facing southeast  
#3 of 10

Rear elevation, facing southwest  
#4 of 10

East elevation, facing southwest  
#5 of 10

Interior detail of central hall  
#6 of 10

Interior detail of parlor mantel  
#7 of 10

Interior detail of mantel  
#8 of 10

Interior detail, dining room  
#9 of 10

Shed and Servant's house, facing northwest  
#10 of 10