

OCT 24 1989

2029

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mason Place

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 600 Commerce Street N/A not for publication

city, town Loudon N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Loudon code 105 zip code 37774

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>4</u>	<u>6</u> buildings
	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u> objects
<u>4</u>	<u>6</u> Total

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.

Herbert L. Dyer
Signature of certifying official Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date 10/18/89
Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____

Alton Dyer
Entered in the National Register 11/27/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural
outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: WORK IN PROGRESS
DOMESTIC: secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural
outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival/I-house

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls weatherboard

roof tin
other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Mason Place nomination consists of four contributing resources: a two story Greek Revival I-house with full-height entry porch, brick smokehouse, grain house, and log barn. The site is located at the intersection of Commerce Street and Huff's Ferry Road in Loudon, Tennessee, near the Tennessee River. Situated at the rear of a two acre lot, the 1865 house and smokehouse face Commerce Street while the remaining contributing outbuildings are located on approximately four acres behind the house. Although the property is presently in a residential area, the setting has been preserved by the numerous mature hardwood trees which screen the house from view and the open pastures behind the house. The lawn in front of the house contains remnants of the pear and apple orchard, mature boxwoods, and several flowering shrubs. The outline of the original drive is delineated by two rows of trees which frame the southern facade of the house.

Mason Place is a three bay, two story, heart pine frame house with a one story frame ell, brick foundation, and full basement. The six over six double hung shuttered windows on all elevations of the main portion of the house are original. Windows on the kitchen/dining room ell were replaced with one over one double hung windows during the circa 1940 remodeling. The windows on the porch are fixed and are four over four or twelve pane single hung. The two chimneys on the main portion of the house are interior and set at opposite ends of the gable while the ell has one interior chimney with arched caps offset at the end of the gable. The chimney on the west elevation of the main portion of the house has been rebuilt, however, the other two are original. The gabled hip roof on the main portion of the house and the ell gable are covered by a metal standing seam roof.

The most striking architectural feature of Mason Place is the full-height entry porch on the southern facade. The pedimented portico has a bracketed cornice and frieze which extends around all elevations of the main portion of the house. The ground floor portico has paired square posts connected by an elliptical bracketed arcade. The original double entry door has a six light broken transom and wooden storm doors with glass inserts. The interior doors have single glass panels set into pointed arches. The second story portico has an identical doorway, however, the posts are octagonal with astragal molding and capitals. The baluster incorporates the Confederate Stars and Bars motif.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2 Mason Place

Although changes were made near the turn of the century and again around 1940, the historical and architectural integrity of the house has been retained. The first changes to the house consisted of the installation of gas lighting fixtures in the ceilings, the addition of closets in the bedrooms, and replacement of some of the door and cabinet hardware. During the circa 1940 remodeling, changes to the exterior occurred on the rear ell. The porch on the east elevation was enclosed and two doors and four windows in the ell were replaced, however, the size and placement of these elements remain the same as the original. The current owners are rebuilding the wooden porch on the west side of the rear ell to its original dimensions. During this same period of modernization, a bathroom dormer was added to the north side of the roof when plumbing was installed. It is accessible from the second floor landing of the hall staircase. The most dramatic changes were made to the east side and center of the basement, casement windows and a bath were installed, the brick floor and walls were cemented, tile was laid over most of the cement floor, ceiling tile was installed, and a furnace was added. The small portion of the basement which was not modernized retains the original brick floor and walls. A circa 1865 wooden door with original hardware is intact in this portion of the basement.

The main portion of the house consists of a central hall and four rooms per floor. An open well two run staircase in the northeast corner of the central hall provides the only access to the upstairs. It features a plain circular handrail, plain square balusters, and simple brackets. Interior features include plaster walls and ceilings in all downstairs rooms and hall, original pine floors, built-in cupboards in the dining room and front parlor, wooden cornice and baseboard, two and four panel doors, and shouldered architrave trim around door and window openings. Each downstairs room has a fireplace with the exception of the dining room, the dining room fireplace was removed during the circa 1940 renovation. The mantels in each of the four upstairs rooms are identical. Although different from those downstairs, they also have plain pilasters and simple mantel shelves. An enclosed single flight of stairs along the west wall of the upstairs hall leads to the attic.

The second contributing building to this nomination is a circa 1865 one story brick smokehouse laid in American Common Bond. It has a standing seam metal gable roof and a shed extension on the east elevation. The gable end on the south facade and shed are supported by square wooden posts. The smokehouse retains its original wooden door and handmade brick paving along the south and east elevations. According to Lucile McQueen, the log servants' quarters and the outhouse were located directly behind

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 Mason Place

(north) of the smokehouse. During the circa 1940 remodeling, the servants' quarters and outhouse were torn down and a two story garage/apartment was built in their place adjacent to the smokehouse.

The remaining contributing buildings are located on a separate tract directly behind the house and smokehouse. The two tracts are separated by a service drive which provides access to both the house and the outbuildings. The one story frame grain house was constructed in the mid 1800s. It has a standing seam metal gable roof with shed extensions on the east and west elevations, brick and brick pier foundation, and is clad with weatherboard. These are spaced on the upper third of each elevation to provide ventilation. Each elevation (except the north) has a single wooden door with forged strap hinges and hardware. A hand-hewn log barn which predates the house is located at the far west end of the nominated property. Lucile McQueen recalled the barn was there when the house was built and was known as the "mule barn" because mules were used for plowing and pulling wagons on the farm. The barn has a full loft, two cribs with storage in the shed extension on the south end, and stalls along the east side. The barn's mortise and tenon frame rests on limestone piers and is covered by vertical siding. Metal roofing covers the gable roof.

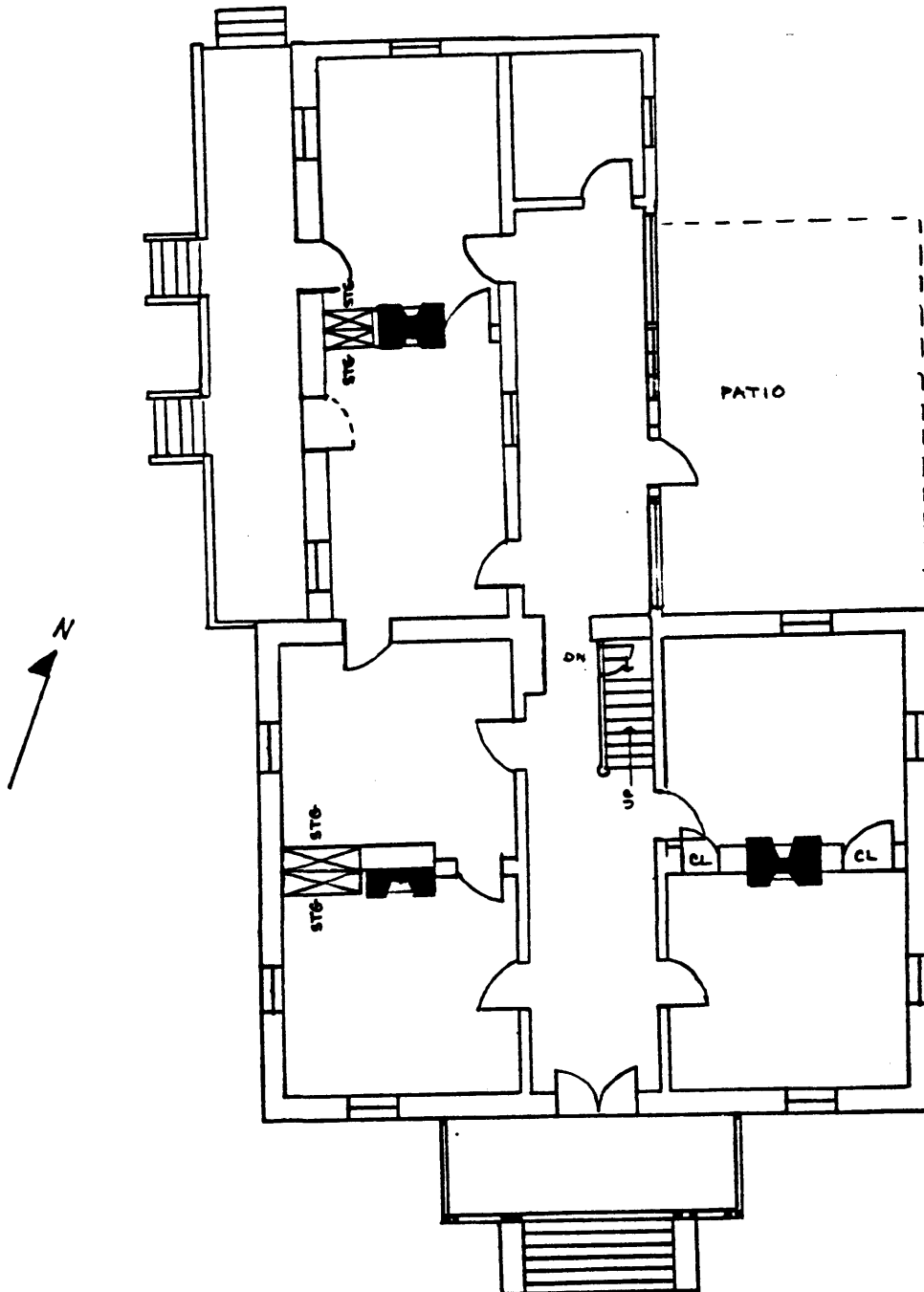
There are six non-contributing resources on the property. These consist of the concrete block and frame garage/apartment adjacent to the smokehouse, a frame and vertical board garage to the immediate west, a frame workshop/equipment storage building which sits between the grain house and the log barn, a small frame shed adjacent to the grain house, a frame barn to the west of the log barn, and a frame barn and silo to the north of the grain house. All non-contributing resources were constructed during the mid twentieth century (circa 1940).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Mason Place



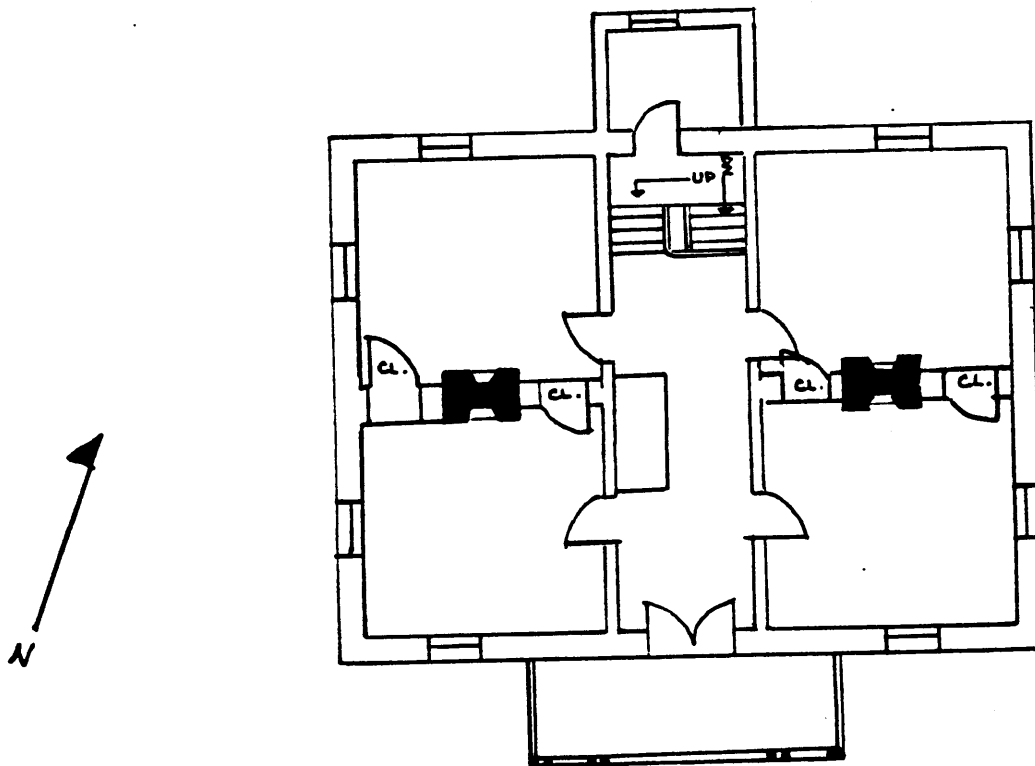
MASON PLACE
600 Commerce Street
Loudon, Loudon County, TN
First Floor Plan
No Scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Mason Place



MASON Place
600 Commerce Street
Loudon, Loudon County, TN
Second Floor Plan
No Scale

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)

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1865-1892

Significant Dates

1865

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Mason, Thomas Jefferson and
Mason, Eliza Scott Kerr

Architect/Builder

Cassada, William H.

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

Mason Place is being nominated under National Register criteria B for its historical association with Thomas Jefferson and Eliza Mason, both of whom were looked upon as community leaders in the areas of Politics/Government and Social History as it relates to education and religion during the early development of Loudon County and the City of Loudon. It is also nominated under criteria C for its architectural significance as one of the few examples of frame residential Greek Revival architecture with original outbuildings in the county. As such, Mason Place represents a local interpretation of mid-nineteenth century architectural styles and the craftsmanship of local artisans.

Thomas Jefferson Mason was born in Roane County in 1806, the youngest of Daniel Mason (1770-1839) three sons by Daniel's first wife. Daniel Mason came to Fort South West Point (NR 7/31/72) in Roane County from the Potomac River in either Maryland or Virginia. Although not proven, it is surmised that Daniel was a member of the prominent Mason family of Virginia. Daniel served at South West Point and in the War of 1812. After his marriage to Mary Gilliland nee Brasheers in 1797, he farmed 433 acres on White Oak Creek (near present day Melton Hill Dam). Thomas Jefferson Mason left home at the age of eighteen and began a twenty-five year career of flatboating on the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers. During this same period, he also served for twenty months as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the removal of the Cherokee Indians.

In 1845, Thomas married Eliza Scott Kerr of Sullivan County and continued to work on the river until 1851. The next year, he purchased three tracts of land in present day Loudon County and began a life of farming. About 1862, Mason hired William H. Cassada, a local craftsman, to design and construct a Greek Revival brick house on the property. By late 1863, the brick laying began and the basement and chimneys were completed. Shortly thereafter, Federal troops occupied the property for a period of 18 months. During this time, they confiscated the remaining 240,000 bricks to erect a fortification on Fort Hill overlooking the Tennessee River. Rather than

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 6 acres

UTM References

A

1	6
---	---

7	4	0	3	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	0	5	9	3	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Loudon, TN 131 NE

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gail L. Guymon, Historic Preservation Planner
 organization East Tennessee Development District date June, 1989
 street & number P.O. Box 19806 telephone (615) 584-8553
 city or town Knoxville state Tn zip code 37939-2806

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2 Mason Place

spend more time burning brick, Thomas decided to have the house completed in termite-resistant heart pine which was transported from Georgia in ox-drawn wagons. Mason was a Union sympathizer but Cassada supported the Confederacy and expressed his loyalty by incorporating the Stars and Bars motif into the upper porch baluster. Although unconfirmed, Cassada reportedly deliberately lowered the ceilings in the upstairs rooms (despite Eliza's protests) while Thomas was away on business. The house was completed in 1865 at a total cost of \$1,922.40

Thomas was elected to the Tennessee Legislature in 1865, which was in session at the time of President Lincoln's assassination. He served until 1869. After the formation of Loudon County in 1870 from portions of Blount, Monroe, and Roane Counties, he was one of several commissioners appointed to oversee the construction of the County Courthouse (NR 5/28/75). Mason's term of service as County Trustee which began in 1876 was terminated in 1878 when he received a commission from Governor Hawkins to serve as railroad tax assessor for the eastern division of Tennessee. He served in that capacity for two years.

Thomas and Eliza Mason also made contributions to the City of Loudon in the areas of religion and education. Eliza was one of five persons who joined the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1855, two years after it was formed and Thomas served as one of the Elders and officers. After the War Between the States ended in 1865, the feelings of bitterness and hatred which had divided the nation continued to fuel confrontations between local residents. In an attempt to reduce friction between factions, the East Tennessee Presbyterian Synod established Loudon College in 1867. The purpose of the school was to provide separate educational facilities for local children whose parents had been Union sympathizers. Thomas donated land on Fort Hill for the site of the campus and served as one of the trustees. The college relied upon endowments and tuition from its students to fund the curriculum. By 1877, however, the school was so deeply in debt that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church sold land (donated by Thomas Mason) and their church building on Church Street to pay off the debts. The two story brick Loudon College building was used intermittently to house Loudon County High School until 1966 when a new building was constructed. Although abandoned, the old building still stands atop "The Hill" approximately one block east of Mason Place.

A new church was erected in 1882 (NR 4/15/82) and Thomas and Eliza's second oldest daughter, Elizabeth Eliza was the first to be married there. Her husband was Edmund Preston McQueen, a prominent local attorney. After the death of Eliza and Thomas in 1890 and 1892, respectively, ownership of the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3 Mason Place

house and farm passed to Elizabeth and Edmund. Norman McQueen, one of their four children, married Lucile Lanston of Loudon. Lucile's father was Floyd Cassada, a descendent of the builder of the house. They resided at Mason Place for approximately forty years and were responsible for the remodeling episode which took place circa 1940. After Norman's death in 1961, their son, Edmund Preston McQueen II, and his wife, Margaret, occupied the house. Edmund served as the Loudon County Historian until his death in 1986. The house and buildings on the two acre tract were sold out of the family in 1986, however, the barns and other outbuildings remain in the family. Edmund's brother, Hugh McQueen, and his wife, Katherine, continue to farm their portion of the property.

In 1976, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture awarded the McQueen family a Family Land Heritage-Century Farm Certificate of Honor. The program recognized families who have owned and continuously operated a farm or ranch in the state for 100 years or more. The nominated property also received recognition in 1977. The East Tennessee Chapter of the American Institute of Architects presented Edmund and Margaret with a Preservation Award for their efforts to preserve the property.

Mason Place is significant architecturally as an East Tennessee example of residential Greek Revival architecture. Such examples, according to Patrick, are "relatively scarce" (1981:129). The hand-moulded bricks in the foundation and chimneys and the interior details reflect the craftsmanship of mid-nineteenth century artisans in East Tennessee. Even though minor changes were made in the late nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries, the architectural integrity of Mason Place and its setting remain intact.

Historically, the nominated property is significant from 1865 to 1892. During this period, Thomas and Eliza Mason made numerous contributions to the development of Loudon County and the City of Loudon in the areas of politics, religion, and education.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2 Mason Place

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Copeland, Pamela C. and Richard K. MacMaster. The Five George Masons: Patriots and Planters of Virginia and Maryland. University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville. 1975.
- Goodspeed Publishing Company: Goodspeed's History of East Tennessee. Charles and Randy Elder Booksellers, Nashville. 1974.
- Johnson, Linnea. "Elegant Restoration Underway in Loudon". News-Herald, Thursday, January 26, 1989.
- Loudon County Herald-Lenoir City News Banner: Loudon County Centennial Edition, June 13-20, 1970.
- McGill, Terry. Personal Interview. June 1989.
- McQueen, Lucile. Personal Interview. April 1989.
- Patrick, James. Architecture in Tennessee: 1768-1897. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, 1981.
- Roberts, Snyder. "A Glimpse of the Past." The Roane County News, February 27, 1980.
- Unpublished letter to Edmund P., McQueen II from Eugene E. Burr, June 10, 1977. Available through Donna J. Siewert, 600 Commerce Street, Loudon, Tennessee.
- Unpublished letter to Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Preston McQueen II from Edward S. Porter, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Available through Donna J. Siewert, 600 Commerce Street, Loudon, Tennessee.
- Unpublished manuscript. Mason/McQueen genealogy taken from Bibles and graveyards. Available through Donna J. Siewert, 600 Commerce Street, Loudon, Tennessee.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 2 Mason Place

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary description for The Mason Place includes two tracts of land. The first tract includes a two acre tract containing house, smokehouse, garage/apartment and garage: Beginning at an iron pipe on the North side of roadway along the Northwest side of the Southern Railway, said pipe being about the center of the garden frontage on said roadway; thence north 55 degs., 57 mins., East along the North side of said roadway 270.4 feet to an iron pipe at the intersection of the Northwest line of said Roadway with the southwest line of the Huff's Ferry Road; thence with the West line of said Huff's Ferry Road North 37 degs., 20 mins, West 408.6 feet to an iron pipe at intersection of the west line of the Huff's Ferry Road with the north line of the lane leading from Huff's Ferry Road to the Old Mason barn; thence with the south line of said lane, South 46 degs. 28 mins., West 232.5 feet to an iron pipe at an angle in said lane; thence with said lane line, North 88 degs., 50 mins., West 13 Feet to an iron pipe at an angle in said lane; thence with said lane line , South 52 degs., 50 mins., West 44.8 feet to an iron pipe in the south line of said lane; thence leaving the lane and running thru the old Mason garden, South 39 degs., 48 mins., East 376.5 feet to the beginning.

The second tract includes approximately a four acre tract containing the grain house, shed, both barns and the workshop/shed: Southern boundary is the access lane between each of the two tracts described above which runs from Huff's Ferry Road to the property line separating Parcel 17 from Parcel 18 (see Section 10, p. 4), Western Boundary is the line separating said parcels, Northern Boundary is the corporate boundary line of the City of Loudon, Eastern boundary is Huff's Ferry Road.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Mason Place as drawn include the house, smokehouse, outbuildings and surrounding pasture/fields that have historically been the core of the farmstead and that maintain the historical integrity of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 3 Mason Place



Scale: approx. 1" = 800'

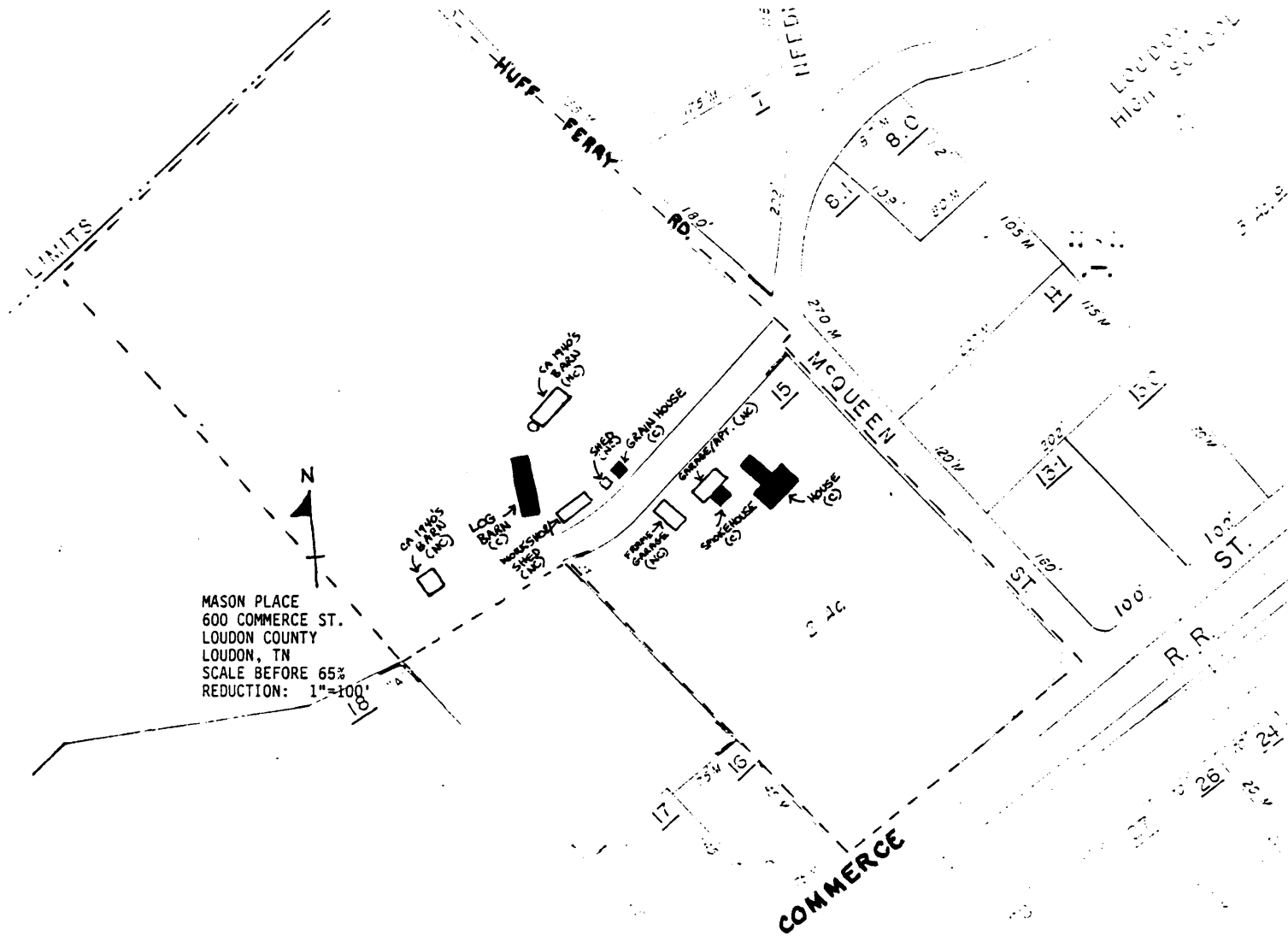


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 4

Mason Place



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Photos 1 Mason Place
Page _____

The Mason Place
600 Commerce Street
Loudon, Loudon County, Tennessee
Photo by: Gail L. Guymon
Date: October 1988 and April 1989
Negative: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

South elevation, looking north
#1 of 29

South elevation, looking north, closeup
#2 of 29

South elevation, portico
#3 of 29

East elevation, looking west
#4 of 29

East elevation of ell, looking west
#5 of 29

North elevation, looking south
#6 of 29

Detail of ell chimney
#7 of 29

West elevation, looking east
#8 of 29

First floor hall, looking south
#9 of 29

Staircase, door, and architrave trim
#10 of 29

Kitchen cupboard and mantel
#11 of 29

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 2 Mason Place

Dining room cupboard, mantel, altered window and door
#12 of 29

Parlor cupboard and mantel
#13 of 29

Detail of doors in downstairs NW bedroom
#14 of 29

Second floor hall, staircase to attic
#15 of 29

Upstairs bedroom mantel, hearth, and closet
#16 of 29

Upstairs bedroom plank ceiling, window trim
#17 of 29

Remodeled section of basement
#18 of 29

Pegged pine vertical board door with original hardware in basement
#19 of 29

Unaltered section of basement and other side of door
#20 of 29

South elevation of smokehouse, looking north
#21 of 29

East elevation of frame garage
#22 of 29

Northeast elevation of garage/apartment
#23 of 29

Grainhouse and two barns, looking northwest
#24 of 29

Grainhouse and shed, looking northeast
#25 of 29

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 3 Mason Place

Southeast elevation of workshop/equipment shed
#26 of 29

Log "mule barn", east elevation
#27 of 29

Log "mule barn", southwest elevation
#28 of 29

Frame barn, south elevation
#29 of 29