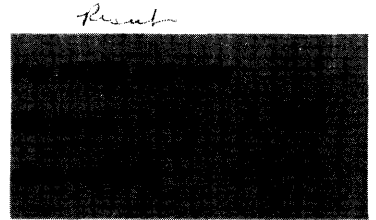


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Telford, Thomas, House

and/or common Same

**2. Location** SE of Limestone on Old Jonesboro Water Plant Road

street & number Route 2, Old Jonesboro Water Plant Road not for publication

city, town Limestone vic.  vicinity of congressional district First

state Tennessee code 047 county Washington code 179

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name R. Chesla and Ruth M. Sharp

street & number Route 2, Box 279

city, town Limestone vic. vicinity of state Tennessee 37681

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Washington County Courthouse

city, town Jonesboro state Tennessee 37659

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located a half mile southeast of Limestone, Tennessee, on a one-acre lot bounded on the west and north by Old Jonesboro Water Plant Road, the Thomas Telford House is representative of the Federal style in upper east Tennessee. Constructed circa 1815 of brick, the dwelling is composed of a two-story rectangular section with gable roof and a one and one half story kitchen ell, also with gable roof.

The 1874 appearance of the Telford House is documented by a photograph taken during the celebration of Col. and Mrs. George Telford's golden wedding anniversary. After 1874, probably in the 1890s, several alterations that reflect Victorian taste were made. A bracketed frieze was added to the main and side elevations, a one-story, three-bay, flat roofed porch with chamfered, bracketed posts and a spindle frieze was built on the main elevation; the shake roof was replaced with standing seam metal; and the original nine over nine double hung sash windows in the first story and six over nine windows in the second story and ell were replaced with ill-fitting two over two sash windows. Metal storm windows were later added. In addition, caps were added to the corbelled brick chimneys, and two windows were bricked in on the north elevation. When the present owners began restoration of the house in 1978, a decision was made to return the house to its appearance in the 1874 photograph, which is believed to be nearly identical to its original appearance. The owners based their decision on the deteriorated condition of the frieze, porch and windows. The prohibitive cost of replacing these elements caused the owners to opt for returning the building to its pre-Victorian appearance; which was also more aesthetically pleasing in their opinion. During this renovation, which began in 1978 and was completed this year, the porch and frieze were removed. The two over two windows and metal storm windows were replaced with thermo pane copies of the 1874 windows. First-story windows are nine over nine and second-story and ell windows are six over nine, all with wood frames. Where lintels and sills were removed, copies were installed. Unable to repair leaks in the tin roof, the owners had it removed and replaced with a random shake roof. The shakes are of heavy asphalt required by the insurance company. Some repointing of bricks was necessary under windows.

Laid in Flemish bond, the main (west) elevation features symmetrical fenestration and simple ornamentation. In each story two windows framed by wood architraves, plain sills and reeded lintels with bulls eye corner blocks are located to either side of a central doorway. Both the double leaf first-floor door and the single leaf second-story door are panelled and framed by multi-light transoms and sidelights. The facade also features a brick water table, which extends around the side elevations as well, and a molded brick cornice above a course with alternate projecting headers. This same type of cornice is also found on the rear elevations.

The north elevation, like the main elevation, is laid in Flemish bond. Originally the first and second stories had 3 windows each. However, the two windows in the west bay were bricked. Brickmasons have advised the owners that they would prefer to leave them bricked because of alterations to the fireplaces under the windows. This elevation also features a six over six attic window and two tall interior end brick chimneys.

The south elevation, laid in common bond, contains two windows in each story, ventilation openings below the cornice and a single interior end brick chimney on the gable ridge.

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Also laid in common bond, the rear (east) elevation features two windows, asymmetrically arranged, in each story. Abutting the north end of the rear elevation is a one and one half story brick ell with steeply pitched gable roof, a tall central brick chimney and a shed-roofed porch with square posts along the south wall. A door from the house and two in the ell open onto the porch.

The Telford House has a central hall plan with a stairway with turned balusters located in the southeast corner of the first-floor hall. It is believed to have replaced the original during the Victorian renovation. The first floor hall opens onto a living room to the south. A sitting room and study are to the north. A doorway from the study opens onto the ell which contains the dining room and, behind it, the kitchen. The second floor originally had four bedrooms, but the small southeast bedroom has been converted to a bathroom. Other than the stairway and two doors which are copies of the originals, the woodwork is original and demonstrates the Federal influences. The mantels in the bedrooms, sitting room, study, dining room and living room are very similar. Simply carved, they feature pilasters and, in some, reeding.

The northwest bedroom has its original brick hearth. The large kitchen fireplace retains its cast iron supports for a cooking crane. The living room features a molded cornice, chairrail and window architraves with bulls eye corner blocks. A chairrail is also found in the sitting room.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**      circa 1815      **Builder/Architect**

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thomas Telford House is a well preserved example of Federal architecture in upper east Tennessee. While the simple decorative treatments employed on both the interior and exterior, the symmetry of the main elevation, and the floor plan are typical of the style in this area, the house has certain unusual features. The most unusual is a second-story Venetian doorway with no exterior access which, while seen in many other areas, is rare in east Tennessee. Also of note is the use of differing bond patterns on each side elevation. Excellent craftsmanship is notably evident in the brickwork--the brick cornice, in particular. Restored by its present owners to its appearance in an 1874 photograph, the house now approximates its original configuration and serves as an excellent example of the Federal influence.

Thomas Telford died in 1816, leaving his house and plantation to his wife and son George, when he reached maturity. George Whitfield Telford (1803-1887) was educated locally at Washington College; he received both an A.B. and M.A. degree. His marriage to Amanda Duff Hannah produced twelve children, all girls. In addition to operating a flour mill and the Telford Manufacturing Company on Little Limestone Creek near his residence, George Telford served in the 29th Tennessee General Assembly from 1851-53. In his will, written two years prior to his death, George Telford stated that a new house should be built for his wife if he had not already completed the house at the time of his death. The old Telford House was to be sold along with all other property.

It is unclear as to who bought the Thomas Telford House following the death of George Telford in 1887. A one-story three-bay porch as well as other Victorian Period exterior alterations were added probably by the owners of the property in the 1890s. During the 1930s Dr. Campbell, a Washington County physician, used the Thomas Telford house as a summer retreat. In January, 1971 the present owners purchased the property and began restoring the house according to an 1874 photograph.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

McBride, Robert M. and Robison, Dan M. Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, Volume I, 1796-1861. The Tennessee State Library and Archives and Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, 1975.  
 General Index to Deeds, Washington County 1779-1866.

UNM NOT VERIFIED  
 UNM NOT VERIFIED  
 UNM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre  
 Quadrangle name Telford, Tennessee Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>355750</u>	<u>4008060</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The house stands on a corner lot bounded on the east and south by Curtis Ruble's farm and on the west and north by Old Jonesboro Water Plant Road. See tract outlined in red on attached tax assessment map no. 87. Only the one-acre lot on which the house is situated has been nominated.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Benton, Architectural Historian  
Cindy Cole, Coordinator of Field Services  
 organization Tennessee Historical Commission date August, 1980  
 street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone 615/741-2371  
 city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hoyer  
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 12/22/81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Brown</u>	date <u>2-10-82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>W.D. Dillie</u>	date <u>2/10/82</u>
Chief of Registration	