

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



467

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 Tyson, General, Lawrence D., House

other names/site number Tyson Alumni House

2. Location

street & number 1609 Melrose Avenue

NA ☐ not for publication

city or town Knoxville

NA ☐ vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Knox code 093 zip code 37916

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 for 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.)

E. Patrick McSherry, Jr.
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/7/2012
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, 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 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:)

for
Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

8-1-12

Tyson, General Lawrence D., House
Name of Property

Knox County, 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 count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
		structures
		objects
2	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: education-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Neoclassical

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, STONE
walls WOOD, BRICK

roof TERRA COTTA
other WOOD, BRICK, STONE

Narrative Description

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

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Knox County, TN**7. Physical Description**

The General Lawrence D. Tyson House (Tyson House) is an excellent example of the large, late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century single family residential architecture that once occupied this portion of what is now the campus of the University of Tennessee (UT) in Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee. It is Knoxville's only extant example of what architect George F. Barber called "Colonial Classic" and is the result of his remodeling of an 1895 house that began in 1907 and was completed in 1909. This majestic, two-story Neoclassical house sits at the intersection of Melrose Avenue and Volunteer Boulevard (1609 Melrose Avenue). Its most striking feature is the full-height portico and fluted Corinthian columns on the façade (northeast elevation). Typical of the style, the house has an elaborate main entry, overhanging eaves, and a dentiled cornice.¹ The nominated property also contains a contributing (C) site, that of Isabella Tyson's beloved dog, Bonita. It is the only marked grave on the campus. The Tyson House was renovated during the 1980s.

The property's setting has lost most of its integrity due to the removal of the formal landscape elements, the construction of campus buildings on the northeast and northwest, and a surface parking lot to the southwest. Although some exterior architectural elements are no longer extant, overall, the exterior and interior of Tyson House retain a high level of architectural integrity as well as a strong sense of association, feeling, materials, and workmanship.

1. General Lawrence D. Tyson House (1895, remodeled-1909, contributing building)

The nominated property is a 16,338 square-foot house with an irregular footprint and a full, unfinished basement. In 1907 Bettie Tyson commissioned prominent Knoxville architect, George F. Barber (1854-1915), to remodel the Tyson's existing two-story Queen Anne frame house (Historic Photos #1 and 9);² originally built by Julius Lewis of New York for Knoxville businessman, James M. Meek. The project, which included extensive landscaping, was completed in 1909.

The remodeled house has a rectangular three-story main block whose rear section is set back slightly from its front section. Visually, this creates the appearance of a three-story rear wing and draws the eye to the more important front portion of the house. The opposite technique is used on the northeast elevation (primary façade) to draw attention to the full-height portico. Here, a five-bay section of the main block projects forward from the mass of the main block. This same technique is employed on the southeast elevation to highlight the porte-cochere. A small, one-story off-set wing is attached to the southwest elevation of the main block.

During the remodeling project, Barber bumped out some of the existing walls of the Meek House; eliminating the towers on the northwest and southeast elevations and altering the hip and gable

¹ When completed, the house also featured balustrades on the porticos, porte-cochere, and hip of the roof.

² Historic Photo #9 is labeled 'Addendum' in the University of Tennessee Archival copy of the nomination.

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roof to create a third story ballroom and banquet room. He covered the brick foundation with rusticated limestone and faced the weatherboard exterior with soft yellow brick. On all but the southwest elevation, he added limestone lintels and jack arches with keystones to the original one-over-one double hung windows.

Matching full-height porticos with curving limestone steps and turned wood balustrades were added at the roofline on the northwest and northeast elevations. Centered above each portico was a gabled dormer with a door that connected the ballroom and the flat rooftops of the porticos. These permitted guests attending parties in the ballroom to walk outside for fresh air and enjoy the view from the roof. Gabled dormers with windows on the southeast and southwest elevations provided additional ventilation to the ballroom and banquet room. Balustrades framed the edges of the flat roofs of the porticos, the porte-cochere, and the top of the hipped roof. Several tall brick chimneys punctuated the tile roof (Historic Photo #4). The wood elements of the exterior were painted white. These colors and textures provided a pleasant visual contrast to the terra cotta tile used on the roof and are repeated in the color of the tiles used on the porch floor under the porte-cochere.

To frame the house, Barber designed a landscape resembling an Italian garden. He took advantage of the natural rise on which the house sat (Historic Photo #4) and created a terrace along the northeast and northwest elevations delineated by rusticated limestone walls topped with a balustrade and large flower-filled urns. On the southwest side of the house a parterre was laid out and planted. From the west corner kitchen entrance at the rear of the house, a wood pergola spanned a paved walk lined with ornamental shrubs. Foundation plantings around the house included beds of roses and shrubs (Historic Photo #5).

Present Appearance

Tyson House rests on a brick foundation faced with rusticated limestone.³ The brick exterior walls are laid in stretcher bond. Beneath the overhanging eaves of the roof, a wide cornice extends around all four elevations. It features modillions decorated with acanthus leaves, a band of egg and dart molding, and a band of dentil molding. The water table, splayed keystone lintels, and window and door sills are limestone. The floors of the porticos, porte-cochere, and service entry were originally ceramic hexagonal tiles colored to match the roof. One original floor remains at the porte-cochere entrance. The floor of the façade portico and the vestibule of the service entry have been replaced with concrete. With the exception of the fixed windows added to the northwest and southwest elevations, the original windows are intact as is the main entry.

³ The exceptions are the section of the foundation of the portico on the northeast elevation where the stairs were removed and the section of foundation originally covered by the northwest elevation portico. Rough coat cement is visible in these sections.

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The northeast (façade) elevation (Photo #1) has seven bays (W-W-W-D-W-W-W); five of which are within the section that projects forward from the principal massing of the main block and contains the full-height portico and main entry. A large three-bay dormer is centered on the roof above the portico (Photo #23). The center of the dormer has a projecting gabled, broken triangular, wood pediment with partial returns and raked molding. A copper roof finial is mounted at the peak of the gable. The deeply recessed tympanum features curved modillions and a plain cornice board. The entablature extends around the outer walls of the dormer and consists of a line of raked molding above a frieze of modillions. The architrave is a band of ovolo molding. Two Ionic columns with plain shafts mounted on rectangular wood pedestals support the partial returns of the pediment. The projecting surbase of the pedestals and recessed panels on each face of the dado continue along the outer wall of the dormer.

Centered below the peak of the gable of the dormer is a recessed, wood single-leaf entry door that connects the former ballroom and the roof of the portico. The door's upper half is three equal-sized panes of glass divided by two vertical muntins. Below the glass are two horizontal panels. The arched door surround is eared with a centered, recessed, demilune panel. Single one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows flank the door. A square engaged column with a recessed paneled shaft is at each outer corner of the dormer. The columns have pedestals identical to those flanking the door.

The full-height portico (Photo #3) features an entablature comprised of the previously described elements of the cornice seen on all elevations of the Tyson House. The frieze of the portico is plain and the architrave is comprised of three strips of horizontal banding. The underside of the architrave is a wide panel of wood molding with a recessed center panel. The flat roof of the portico is supported by eight fluted colossal columns of the Corinthian order. They are arranged in triplet at each outside corner and single columns flank what was originally the top of the stairs leading up from the front lawn (Photos #1 & #3). A single matching pilaster is positioned at each end of the portico and a sawn balustrade extends around the perimeter between the columns. The ceiling of the portico is finished in bead board. A straight run wood flight of stairs and handrail with turned balusters (not original) is located on the southwest elevation of the portico to provide access to the main entry since the original staircase has been removed. The ceiling and inside wall of the frieze is bead board. The cornice elements are repeated on the interior of the portico at the roof-wall junction.

There are single, double-hung windows on both the first and second stories of the northeast (façade) elevation.⁴ All have splayed limestone lintels with a central keystone and limestone sills. First-story windows within the portico are positioned just above the porch floor. The entry is a single-leaf wood door with a large single glass pane in the upper portion and a recessed panel with heaving molding below. The brass doorknob and elliptical escutcheon plate are original as are the

⁴ Unless otherwise specified, all windows are original wood, one-over-one, and double hung. Those on the southwest elevation have an arched brick lintel. Windows on the other three elevations have a splayed lintel.

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leaded glass sidelights and three-light transom. Each portion of the entry is surrounded by heavy molding that outlines each element and gives it a recessed appearance. A single fluted Corinthian engaged column flanks each side of the door and fluted, square Corinthian pilasters stand at the outside edges of the sidelights. Each column is topped by a small elaborately carved wood console with acanthus leaves and rosettes.

Directly above the entry, the horizontal banding seen on the frieze of the portico is repeated; topped with a band of egg and dart molding (Photo #2). Above it are four large consoles that match the smaller ones below and help support the balcony. Two are aligned with the pilasters and two with the colonettes. The underside of the balcony above the consoles and the space between them is paneled. Another row of egg and dart molding and another line of small matching consoles cover the outer edge of the balcony. A sawn balustrade with square posts, inset panels, and globe finials extends around the perimeter of the balcony.

The balcony is accessed by a wood door whose lower third is wood panels. The upper two-thirds of the door is a thirty-six-light window. To either side of the door are fixed sidelights with forty-lights in the upper portion and wood panels in the lower portion. A divided transom extends across the door and sidelights. Each of its sections contains sixteen-lights.

The southeast elevation of the principal massing of the main block has a centered gabled dormer. Several elements from the dormer on the façade elevation are repeated here: the pediments have deeply recessed tympanums and curved modillions line the overhanging eaves. Centered in the tympanum is a circular wood louvered attic vent with keystones. Directly below are three wood one-over-one, double-hung windows. Wood pilasters on pedestals with recessed paneled sides are on the outer corners of the dormer and between the windows.

The upper story of this section of the main block of the southeast elevation (Photo #4) has five windows of the same style as those described on the façade elevation. The second window from the east corner of the house is approximately one-foot shorter than the other four and closer to the third window from the corner. The lower story of this section has six bays; four of which are contained within the roof line of the porte-cochere.

The roof over the porte-cochere is wider above the side entry of the house than the portion that spans the drive and many of the decorative elements used on the front portico are repeated on the southeast elevation of the house. Like the portico, the porte-cochere's ceiling is finished with bead board. The cornice beneath the overhanging eaves is identical to that found on the northeast facade as are the style of columns and fluted pilasters. Four sets of triplet columns support the roof on both sides of the carriage drive and fluted pilasters are set against the outer wall of the house. The turned wood balustrade that extends between the pilasters to the interior set of columns is also identical to the one on the northeast facade. The columns and pilasters are on a rusticated limestone block foundation with a smooth limestone cap. Limestone bases that likely originally were topped with flower-filled urns or some type of decorative element are on either side

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of the end of the carriage drive where it joins Melrose Avenue. The southwest end of the carriage drive has been incorporated into the surface parking lot.

The entry under the porte-cochere opens to the shorter reception hall. It consists of a set of original, wood double-leaf doors beneath a splayed limestone lintel with limestone keystones and a leaded transom flanked by ocular windows with keystones. The narrow band of glass in the upper two-thirds of each door bears the gold, stylized, intertwined letters: "L" "D" and "T." The lower third of each door has two deeply recessed rectangular panels which have retained their original brass push plates, escutcheons, and ovoid beaded knobs. These doors are in a deeply recessed surround of evenly-spaced recessed panels. The sill is limestone. Both the threshold and the limestone floor of the porte-cochere are covered with small terra cotta-colored hexagonal tiles. The floor also has a narrow double band of yellow tiles around the perimeter that repeat the colors of the bricks and terra cotta roof tiles. The steps between the floor and the drive are limestone.

East of the ocular window on the right side of the entry are two short clear leaded glass arched casement windows with limestone sills. Inside the house these windows flank the fireplace in the library. A paired set of windows identical to those on the upper story and façade is to the west (left) of the porte-cochere.

The southeast elevation of the set-in rear portion of the main block also has a centered, gabled dormer. Less ornate than the dormer on the mass of the main block, it has a single, one-over-one double-hung window, lacks the curved modillions in the tympanum, and there is no base beneath the pilasters. Below the dormer are three, evenly-spaced double-hung windows on the second story. The first story has a centered, deeply recessed service entry and a single small double hung window to the west (left). The steps at this entrance were removed during the 1980s renovations to accommodate the construction of a concrete wheelchair ramp. Both sides of the ramp are enclosed by low walls of pierced yellow brick terminating in brick end posts. The service entry surround employs elements used on the previously described elevations; however, owing to its function, is much less ornate in appearance. The entry door has a wood pediment roughly triangular in shape and the rectangular cornice features small carved consoles and egg and dart molding. The entablature has the same horizontal banding previously described. The outer edges of the entrance are defined by Corinthian pilasters with shafts that have recessed panels. The floor of the recessed entrance is concrete and the walls and ceiling are sheathed in narrow wood boards laid horizontally. The double-leaf wood doors have six panels and a two-light transom.

The southwest elevation of the house (Photo #5) is the least ornate and has a raised basement. It has two evenly-spaced dormers identical to the one on the rear portion of the southeast elevation except that each dormer has two, one-over-one double-hung windows rather than one. The cornice is also repeated across this elevation. The upper story has six windows with arched segmental brick lintels formed by two courses of soldier brick and limestone sills. From northwest to southwest (left to right), three are the same size and evenly-spaced. The fourth window is smaller, and like the one directly beneath it, is positioned on one of the landings of the servants' stairs. Toward the southwest corner (far right), the fifth and sixth windows are set closely together.

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The fifth is slightly smaller than the standard size found on the rest of the house but wider than those on the stair landings. The sixth window is standard size.

During the 1980s renovation project, an opening was created on the west end of the southwest elevation of the house for a set of fixed windows with three lights set into paneled wood frames (Photo #6). South (right) of the second window, a fixed two-light window and a single wood entry door are set into a single frame. The door opening is original and opened to the room at the rear of the house from some type of elevated porch. The door now opens onto a wood deck that has been added to the rear corner of the house. A single straight-run flight of steps extends from the deck to ground level. To the south (right) of the one-story wing on this elevation are two double-hung windows. The one to the west (left) is the basement stairwell window. The window to the south (right) is approximately one-half its size and positioned directly below the fifth window of the upper story. A limestone water table extends the width of the elevation below the first story fenestration.

The one-story rear wing has a flat roof and a plain cornice. The northwest elevation has a single, centered window and a single basement window directly below it. The southwest elevation repeats this pattern but also has a very small single pane window to the south (right). The southeast elevation has a centered window and an off-set basement window. A straight run flight of concrete steps leads from ground level to the basement on the southeast side of the wing. The single-leaf wood door at the bottom of the steps has two panels.

Due to the construction of campus buildings adjacent to the house and vegetation concentrated around the northwest and northeast elevations, the northwest elevation (Photo #3 and #6) is relatively hidden from view. The change in slope on this side of the house places the basement of the northwest elevation at ground level. Dormers identical to those previously described on the main block and rear portion of the southeast elevation are repeated on this side of the house. The cornice previously described extends the entire length of the elevation as does the water table. There are five windows on the upper story of the mass of the main block. The middle window is identical to the ocular windows located to either side of the entry doors under the porte-cochere and the rest are identical to those found on the other elevations. Four evenly spaced, one-over-one double hung windows are directly below on the first story. A wood entry door matching the one leading to the basement on the southwest elevation is directly beneath the fourth first story window on the mass of the main block. During the 1982 renovation of Tyson House, one original window on the northwest elevation was removed and replaced with a set of fixed windows with three lights set into a paneled wood frame (Photo #6).

A number of exterior elements on the remodeled house are no longer extant. The chimneys and roofline balustrades have been removed. The tile roof, although quite similar in appearance to the original, has been replaced. On the northwest elevation, the entire portico has been removed and the northeast (façade) portico no longer has the flight of steps leading to the front lawn or its

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original porch floor. Barber's design included a balustraded terrace that connected both porticos and the porte-cochere (Historic Photo #4) which has been removed.

Interior

From the main entrance on the northeast facade, the main hall extends the length of the mass of the main block and terminates at a doorway beneath the landing of the grand staircase near the rear of the house. This doorway opens to the set-back portion of the main block and the rear service wing that is now almost entirely used for office space (Photo #15). Off the porte-cochere, a shorter reception hall joins the main hall at the foot of the U-shaped grand staircase on the southeast (left) side of the main hall opposite the entrance to the dining room. A cased opening at the foot of the staircase separates the two halls. Floors are tongue-and-groove oak boards. The halls, library, living room/parlor, and the dining room have paneled wainscot that varies in height and the ceiling in the halls is coffered (Photos #8, 9). Door and window surrounds in the downstairs rooms are molded and have corner blocks. With the exception of the pocket doors used in the library and living room/parlor, doors are single-leaf and have five recessed panels.

Southeast (left) of the main entry is the library. In 1983 the doors to this room were altered by switching their positions. The pocket doors are now on the reception hall side of the room and a single-leaf paneled door provides access off the main hall. The space created by the removal of the pocket doors was enclosed when the doors were switched. The library (Photo #11) retains its original Flemish oak wainscot halfway up the walls as well as two sets of bookcases with leaded glass doors. Crown molding beneath the plain plaster ceiling has both dentil and egg and dart molding. Windows that face the front of the house retain original drapery brackets. An inglenook in the southeast wall is set off by oak pilasters with recessed panels beneath a ceiling beam. A small projecting fireplace flanked by leaded glass casement windows is centered on the outer wall. The mantel features a plain entablature embellished only by a raised center panel with corner molding rests on Doric columns with plain shafts. The firebox surround and hearth are glazed green brick. To either side of the fireplace, built-in wood seating extends around the alcove's exterior walls. A double-hung window is on the southeast elevation of the inglenook. A second entry to the library is located on the west wall and opens to the reception hall.

Across the main hall opposite the library the living room/parlor (Photo #12) is entered through a set of pocket doors. Barber's adjustment of the exterior walls is visible on the northwest wall where there is an alcove (similar to the ceiling beam and inglenook in the library). Here, a dropped ceiling beam also extends the width of the alcove. Larger, scrolled consoles with beaded edges are mounted at the wall/ceiling junction and the underside of the ceiling beam has recessed panels of plaster. The alcove was created by modifying the tower of the original design and bumping out the outer corners. This room also has paneled wainscot; however, it extends only to a height of approximately eighteen inches. A wide band of ornate plaster crown molding extends around the perimeter of the living room as well as the alcove (Photo #13). It has a projecting cornice of small consoles with acanthus leaves and modified triglyphs. Below the cornice is a band of egg and dart molding, a band of dentils, and a band of beading. A fireplace is centered on the interior wall.

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Beneath the projecting cornice of the mantel, the plain architrave has a band of egg and dart molding and rests on fluted Ionic columns with molded bases. The interior edge of the mantel surrounding the firebox has a band of recessed molding. The firebox surround and hearth are buff-colored brick.

On the same side of the main hall past the living room/parlor, another set of pocket doors opens to the dining room (Photo #24). Beneath the beamed ceiling, the walls have recessed paneled wainscot that extends two-thirds the height of the walls. The lower portion of the wainscot is made up of long narrow panels while the uppermost row is comprised of squares. Corner panels in the section between the windows on the northwest wall have paterae. A fireplace on the northeast wall is shared by the living/drawing room and a swinging door on the southwest wall of the dining room opens to the adjacent butler's pantry. The projecting mantel shelf has a curved underside where it meets the entablature and is decorated with a band of shallow routing and a partial rosette at each outer corner. Each pair of short, banded, rectangular Doric pilasters share a tall, recessed paneled base. The pilasters have a band of egg and dart molding at the top and a single raised elongated diamond-shaped motif at their midpoint. The center of the entablature has three recessed panels. A second, smaller surround is suggested by a projecting edge of molding below the panels and compound molding surrounding the firebox. Both the firebox and hearth are glazed green brick.

The main hall terminates at a door opening beneath the stair landing and is the primary entrance to the service wing; located in the set-back portion of the main block and the small rear wing. This portion of the house originally contained the butler's pantry, kitchen, servants' dining room, and bathroom. It now contains cubicles, restrooms, and office equipment. The west corner that contains the service entrance and servants' stairs has had only cosmetic changes.

In the service area, restrooms and office space have dropped ceilings and fluorescent lighting, however, doors, surrounds, baseboards, and the overall configuration of the space on the main floor has not been altered (Photo #15). From outside the house, the service entrance opens to the servants' stairs which originally provided the only access to the third floor. This space has a tile floor. The open quarter-turn staircase has plain square newel posts with a projecting band of molding near the top, turned wood balusters, and a plain stringer with raised molding along the top and bottom edges. The treads have been carpeted (Photo #16). An original door beneath the stairs provides access to the basement from inside the house.

The reception hall has a small closet on each side of the entry doors off the porte-cochere. On the southwest side of the reception hall just beyond the closet on that side, a single-leaf door opens to what was originally General Tyson's den (Photo #14). The room has a dropped acoustical tile ceiling with fluorescent lighting and a carpeted floor and paired windows overlooking Melrose Avenue on the southwest elevation. Its most striking feature is the skeleton wainscot that covers each wall. Due to remodeling, the wainscot is absent from the northwest (interior) wall and a small section to the left of the fireplace. Above it is a plate rail supported by simple sawn consoles. The

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interior wall of the den off the reception hall has a fireplace to the left of the door. The underside of the projecting mantel shelf has simple wood consoles with routed centers. Below the mantel, pilasters with capitals and bases are suggested by a routed outline with a recessed interior. A raised wood keystone is located in the middle of the mantel above the firebox whose opening has been covered with a wood panel. The hearth is glazed green brick.

Beyond the door to the den on the southwest wall of the reception hall and opposite the den's fireplace is an oak fireplace with hooded over-mantel (Photo # 10). The projecting mantel shelf has a row of dentil molding along the underside of the cornice and a row of egg and dart molding along the bottom edge. A carved volute and botanical motif swag are in the center of the entablature. The mantel has two, fluted Ionic pilasters; each topped by a deeply carved console. The sides of the mantel have raised panels. Glazed, yellow brick is used on the firebox surround and the hearth is terra cotta-colored brick.

The wall at the northwest end of the reception hall (Photo #9) forms the interior wall of the grand staircase. The wall and cased opening at the foot of the staircase separates the reception hall from the main hall. The upper edge of the wall is stepped and capped with wood trim. The cased opening at the juncture of the two halls has two Doric pilasters. Both have applied molding to suggest a rectangular center panel. The upper portions have recessed panels delineated by a row of beading. Egg and dart molding separates the tops of the pilasters from the ceiling beam and extends across the top of the console set into each upper inside corners of the wall. The consoles are repeated at each end of the beam that extends across the main hall ceiling perpendicular to the pilaster on this wall at the base of the staircase.

The staircase (Photo #8) originally terminated at the second floor; however, modifications completed during the 1985 renovation created a flight to the third floor (Photos #18 and 22). The grand staircase has a square starting newel set on a square base with surbase molding. All sides of the shaft have recessed panels and a turned wood finial sits at the top. A pair of secondary newel posts is on the landing and a single post is at the original end of the staircase on the second floor. The secondary newel posts are much shorter and smaller than the starting newel post and have square chamfered shafts and square bases with surbase molding. The finials on all the posts are the same. Beneath the wood handrail, the turned wood balusters complement the finials. The stringer is plain with the exception of a band of molding along the bottom edge. The underside of the stringer has recessed panels and includes turned drop pendants aligned with the newel posts on both the landing and the second floor. The paneled wainscot used on the main and side halls continues up the inside wall of the staircase. On the third floor (Photo #18), the new flight of stairs is also a quarter turn stair. The wood newel posts on this portion of the staircase have chamfered shafts and square bases. The tops of the posts are convex and lack finials. This portion of the staircase has a solid partition beneath the handrail rather than an open balustrade. At the third floor, the stairwell is surrounded by a waist-high wall (Photo #22).

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The second floor of the house originally contained five bedrooms with private baths for the Tyson family and sleeping quarters in the rear service area for the live-in servants (Photo #18). The entire floor has been converted to office space and all rooms except the main hall have dropped ceilings and carpeted floors; however, the original fireplace mantels, baseboards, trim, pilasters, and doors remain intact. Interior doors to what were originally bathrooms have transoms. The coffered ceiling of the first floor hall is absent on this floor and the main hall has no crown molding.

The focal point of the second-floor hall is a cased opening (Photo #17) near the entrance to the balcony. The entablature has a band of cove molding along the upper edge and a band of astragal molding down the middle while the underside has two recessed rectangular panels. Each side of the opening has two round Doric columns; the outer column on each side is engaged. They have plain shafts with a band of beading beneath the abacus. The bases have a rectangular, recessed center panel on each face and a band of ovolo molding beneath the cornice.

The room on the east corner of the southeast side of the house has a projecting corner fireplace on the outer wall (Photo #19). The mantel has a projecting shelf that rests on two corbelled brackets with scalloped bottom edges. A stylized wood keystone is centered between them. Scallops are repeated along the lower edge of the entablature and its outer edges have sawn outlines that suggest dwarf pilasters. A band of incised molding separates the entablature from sawn curvilinear pilasters set on rectangular bases topped by a band of quarter round molding. The firebox and hearth are yellow glazed brick.

An identical fireplace and mantel are in the room directly across the hall on the north corner of the house. Because it is above the living room/parlor, the rear wall also contains a small alcove with three deeply recessed windows. Rectangular Doric pilasters framing the opening have rectangular recessed paneled shafts.

The mantel in the middle room (Photo #20) on the southeast elevation has a projecting cornice and plain entablature. Each of the paired fluted pilasters is capped by a carved console. A third middle pilaster is suggested by an additional row of vertical fluting and the repetition of the molding seen on the paired pilasters. The brick in the firebox surround has been painted but probably matched the yellow glazed brick hearth.

The lower portion of the mantel in the room at the west corner of the southeast elevation is identical to the one in the middle room, but differs from it in that it also has an over-mantel with a projecting cornice, paneled columns, and a rectangular mirror (Photo #21). The firebox is enclosed and the hearth is yellow glazed brick.

A short side hall extends along the northwest side of the second floor hall toward the rear of the house (Photo #18). Rooms off this hall are directly above the dining room and service area below and were originally sleeping quarters for the servants. The room on the west corner of the principal massing of the main block has a fireplace on the northeast interior wall that is identical to

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the one on the opposite side of the chimney and the corner fireplace in the room on the east corner of the house.

The main staircase terminates in the middle of the third floor which has been converted to office space. Despite the change of use, the original walls are intact; the major alteration being the construction of the extension of the main staircase and the addition of a few partitions and doors used to create office space. Several of the original paneled doors toward the rear of the house are intact on this floor; however, the entrances to most offices are modern, divided light doors. The entrance to the former ballroom has a set of matching, divided sidelights with paneled aprons. The entire floor (with the exception of storage rooms) has dropped ceilings with fluorescent lighting. Some of the original wood flooring is exposed on this floor and other areas are carpeted.

The northwest corner of the third floor originally contained a banquet room (20-ft. by 30-ft.) while the ballroom (50-ft. by 40-ft.) extended the entire width of the house across the front half. Benches beneath the windows in the dormers provided seating for tired guests. Servants' stairs (Photo #25) and attic storage rooms were in the southwest corner. Single-leaf doors (see exterior description) in the dormers over the two porticos provided access to the roofs (sun porches on 1977 drawings).

With the exception of the terrace along the northeast and northwest sides of the property, sections of rusticated limestone walls along Volunteer Boulevard and Melrose Avenue, and limestone edging and bases for urns along the edge of the drive through the porte-cochere, all traces of the original Barber's formal landscape have been removed. On the southwest side of the house, the parterre was replaced by a surface parking lot (Photo #5).

During a multiple year renovation project that began in 1983, in addition to cosmetic maintenance, UT installed a new HVAC system, and replaced the plumbing and wiring to bring the house up to current building codes. Dropped ceilings and carpeting were installed in rooms used for office space and restrooms were constructed in the rear service wing. In order to make the building handicap accessible, a concrete ramp was constructed on the southeast elevation at the service entrance. The bricks used to enclose the ramp were closely matched to those on the exterior of the house. The exterior walls of the house were altered at the west corner when fixed windows were installed.

2. Grave (c. 1910, contributing site)

Located at the western edge of the property northwest of the parking lot, the grave of Bonita, the Tyson's dog, consists of a small rectangular unmarked stone surrounded by four metal poles connected by a length of chain (Photo #7).⁵ The original inscribed grave stone was removed by Isabella Tyson Gilpin before the house was donated to the Episcopal Church in 1935.

⁵ The unmarked stone was on the grave when the University acquired the property but UT erected the posts and chain sometime during the 1970s (Betsey Creekmore, personal communication, 2012).

Tyson, General, Lawrence, D., House
Name of Property

Knox County, 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 N/A

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

Property is:

- ☐ 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)

Architecture

Military

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1895-1929

Significant Dates

1909

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

Tyson, General Lawrence D.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Barber, George F. (1854-1915)

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☒ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Special Collections Library, University of TN, Knoxville and
Tyson Alumni House

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Knox County, TN**8. Statement of Significance**

The General Lawrence D. Tyson House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion B for its association with Lawrence D. Tyson in the areas of military history, politics, and government. Under this criterion, the property is locally significant from 1895-1929 when this was Tyson's residence. Under criterion C, the property is eligible for listing in the area of architecture as a good example of Knoxville architect George F. Barber's Neoclassical "Colonial Classic" designs. It is significant in that it is an outstanding and unusual example of a remodeled existing house rather than the new construction that constituted most of George F. Barber & Co's. design work. The property exhibits a number of traditional Neoclassical elements including the remaining full-height columned portico, porte-cochere, overhanging boxed eaves, cornice with modillions, and turned balustrades, yet has other elements typical of George F. Barber's interpretation of the Neoclassical style. Barber retained the original arched windows rather than replacing them with new rectangular windows. Instead of solid exterior doors with recessed wooden panels, Barber used doors with large expanses of glass. In place of using the typical Neoclassical broken or unbroken pediment above the entry doors, Barber used elaborately carved scrolls and a compound entablature above the main entry door while leaving the porte-cochere surround plain. While a number of elements of Barber's original design have been lost, those that remain are beautifully crafted and well-preserved. The house is one of the last examples of the type of home owned by wealthy Knoxvilleians that was once common in this section of Knoxville. The significant date is 1909 when Barber's remodeling of the earlier existing house was completed.

Lawrence D. Tyson (1861-1929) (Historic Photo #8) was born on the Tyson plantation near Greenville, North Carolina on July 4, 1861. He was the son of Richard Lawrence Tyson, a Confederate Army officer, planter, and merchant. His mother, Margaret Louise Turnage Tyson, was the daughter of a successful planter and land-owner. Lawrence's parents placed a great deal of value on a good education and in 1873, moved several miles to Greenville so their son could attend better schools. A short time later, they moved to Salisbury, North Carolina where, at the age of 17, Lawrence was employed as a store clerk.⁶ He took a competitive exam for an appointment to West Point Military Academy, earned the highest grade, and won the appointment in 1879. Four years later, he graduated West Point as a second lieutenant. His first active duty was with the Ninth Infantry Regiment at Fort David A. Russell (NRHP/1968, NHL/1975) in Cheyenne, Wyoming.⁷

⁶ Office of the University Historian. "Lawrence D. Tyson (1861-1929)," *Context*, January 16, 1992, 4-5; Henry T. King, *Sketches of Pitt County: a brief history of the county, 1704-1910: illustrations and maps* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Printing Company, 1911), 213.

⁷ Lawrence Davis Tyson Papers, 1837-1933. Collection No. 01173, Subseries 1.1.2, Biographical Information. The Southern Historical Collection, Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/t/Tyson,Lawrence_Davis.html#d1e48, accessed 28 October 2011.

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The Wyoming territorial governor at the time was Colonel George Baxter (1855-1929) of Knoxville, Tennessee. His wife was Margaret White McGhee (1858-1942) of the Colonel Charles McGhee (1828-1907) family of Knoxville.⁸ In 1884 while Margaret's sister, Bettie Humes McGhee (1865-1933), was visiting, she fell off her horse in front of the Officer's Quarters where Lieutenant Tyson was sitting on the porch. He picked her up from the dusty street and escorted her back to her sister's home. They courted during the remainder of her visit and when she returned to Knoxville in November of that year, it was to plan her wedding. Lieutenant Tyson came to Knoxville in February 1886 for the wedding; however, the newlyweds soon returned to the West where Tyson's duties included serving as a judge advocate in the military court. Bettie moved in with her sister while Tyson and his troops spent two years in Arizona and New Mexico in the campaign against Geronimo and the Apaches.⁹

The McGhees were a close-knit family and Colonel Charles McGhee and his wife, Cornelia White McGhee (1836-1903), received numerous letters from Bettie during this period that described life at the Army outpost as "remote" and "primitive." When her husband was ordered to leave the post on a foray with his troops, she was left behind with her servant. While Bettie thought of her situation as an adventure, her parents grew increasingly concerned for her safety. A short time later Lieutenant Tyson was ordered east to a recruiting station in New York, which, while not as close to Knoxville as Bettie's parents would have liked, was at least closer and more civilized than the Wyoming Territory. In 1889 while living in Clifton Springs, New York, Lawrence and Bettie's first child, Charles McGhee Tyson (1889-1918), was born and both soon realized the constant moving required by a career in the military was not ideal for a couple with a child.¹⁰

As the state's land grant college the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1862 required University of Tennessee (UT) students had to receive military training under the direction of a commandant. It is highly likely that Colonel McGhee used his considerable influence to secure his son-in-law an appointment as the military commandant of the University of Tennessee in order to bring Bettie and his grandson home to Knoxville in 1891. Lieutenant Tyson accepted the position at UT and he and his family were so warmly received in Knoxville, he decided to leave the Army so they could make Knoxville their permanent home.¹¹

With his military experience, Tyson wasted no time in revamping the University's military science program. He instituted competitive drills, artillery training, a weekly dress parade, and classroom instruction on the topics of military tactics and maneuvers. Each year, cadets participated in a mock campaign where they were divided into opposing forces. They camped on The Hill and

⁸ Bettie was the daughter of Charles McClung McGhee (1828-1907), a wealthy railroad and industrial magnate and was a direct descendant of Knoxville's founder, General James White, through her mother's side. At his own expense, McGhee established St. John's Orphanage and Lawson McGhee Library in Knoxville, Tennessee.

⁹ Betsey Beeler Creekmore, *Knoxville* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1958), 151; Lawrence Davis Tyson Papers.

¹⁰ Creekmore, 151.

¹¹ Office of the University Historian, 4; Creekmore, 151-152.

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surrounding area in tents and exchanged artillery fire during mock battles. While serving in this position, Tyson also studied law and received a degree from UT in 1894. After being admitted to the Tennessee Bar, Tyson resigned his position with the University in 1896 (as well as his commission with the Army) and took a position with a Knoxville law firm. For a time he worked with future Supreme Court Justice Edward Terry Sanford (1865-1930).¹² At the same time, Tyson began diversifying his interests to take advantage of the growing industrial opportunities of the New South.¹³

While Lawrence was bringing his days at UT to a close, Bettie busied herself with setting up their household and rejoining the Knoxville social and philanthropic scene. The couple's second child, Isabella, was born June 1, 1894. The following year, Bettie Tyson out-bid everyone on Knoxville businessman James M. Meek's 12-acre property along Temple Avenue which was being sold at auction by the Knox County Clerk and Master to pay off Meek's debts. Her purchase included a two-story frame house on Temple Avenue that had been recently built by Julius Lewis of New York and was then owned by James M. Meek.¹⁴

In 1898 when the Spanish American War began, there was a need for West Point graduates to quickly train recruits and Tyson voluntarily re-entered the Army. This time, he was commissioned as a Colonel and served with the Sixth United States Volunteer Infantry, all of whose members it was his responsibility to personally recruit.¹⁵ Colonel Tyson spent two months training his men at Chickamauga Park near Chattanooga then served with them in Puerto Rico. While stationed in Ariebo, Colonel Tyson met another officer, General Ulysses Grant, Jr., who gave him a Puerto Rican Spaniel as a gift for Isabella. When the war ended, Tyson remained in Puerto Rico for several months and served as the military governor of the northern portion of the island. In appreciation for his leadership, Tyson's men presented him with a commemorative dress sword.¹⁶

Tyson mustered out with the rank of brigadier general in 1899 and when he arrived back in Knoxville, the dog came too. Bonita was a beloved family pet and a familiar sight to residents of the neighborhood for the rest of her life. When Bonita died of natural causes in 1910, she was buried near the end of the pergola on the Tyson property and a pink marble stone was erected on the grave that read: "only a little dog but a loving and faithful friend."¹⁷ Isabella Tyson Gilpin

¹¹ Sanford was the eldest son of E. J. Sanford, a local capitalist and frequent business partner of Charles McGhee.

¹² Creekmore, 151-152.

¹³ Knox County Archives, Knoxville, Tennessee [KCA] 1895: Deed Book [DB] 146:69-71.

¹⁴ Most of the men came from Kentucky and Tennessee. One of his recruits was Horace Van Deventer whose house was directly south of the Tyson House on Temple Avenue.

¹⁵ W. Calvin Dickinson, "Tennessee's General: Lawrence Tyson in World War I."

<http://www.southernhistory.net/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1678>, accessed 3 November 2011.

¹⁶ Bonita can be seen curled up on the seat of the carriage in Historic Photo #6.

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removed the inscribed stone many years later and replaced it with the one there today. In 1934 when she donated the Tyson House to St. John's Episcopal Church, the deed stipulated that Bonita's grave was to be maintained in perpetuity.¹⁸

During the years between the end of the Spanish American War and World War I, Tyson retained an attachment to the military and served as inspector general of the Tennessee National Guard from 1901 to 1908. No longer interested in practicing law, he turned his focus to business ventures. He organized two textile mills, the Knoxville Cotton Mills and the Knoxville Spinning Company and served as president to both companies. After the Spanish American War ended Tyson diversified his business interests to include railroads, coal mining, various iron works, and banking. He became the president of the Poplar Creek Coal and Iron Company, East Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, Lenoir City Land Company, Southern Valve and Gear Company and was vice-president of the Roane Iron Company, Cambria Coal Mining Company, Coal Creek Mining and Manufacturing Company. Tyson was the director of two banks and several other corporations.¹⁹

Lawrence Tyson's political career got its start in 1903 when a group of his friends asked him to run for the Tennessee state legislature on the Democratic ticket. Considering it his duty, Tyson ran and won. After he was elected, he was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives and served one term which ended in 1905.²⁰

When her father died in 1907, Bettie Tyson inherited at least one-third of his estate.²¹ That same year, she and Lawrence commissioned Knoxville architect, George F. Barber, to remodel their home and landscape the grounds.²² Bettie wanted something grand that would reflect the Tyson's social position of Knoxville's most affluent family.²³ Barber asked Bettie when she wanted to begin work on her terrace and Italian gardens and she said, "...if your son has gone to Italy to study gardens, perhaps we had better wait till he comes home."²⁴ Barber immediately wrote to his son, Charles, asked him to pay careful attention to the design of Italian gardens and instructed him to take plenty of photographs. One of Charles' postcards that may have provided inspiration for the Tyson's terraced landscape design was sent from Genoa, Italy in July 1907 (Historic Photos #2, 3).

¹⁸ Norman Garrett, "Story of Benito Tyson Unearthed," *Daily Beacon*, 29 November 1972.

¹⁹ Creekmore, 152; Knox County History Committee, *The French Broad-Holston Country* (East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville, 1946), 498; Lawrence D. Tyson Papers, 1.

²⁰ Creekmore, 154.

²¹ One of five daughters, two were deceased when Charles McGhee died. Two granddaughters were also McGhee's heirs. KCA: Last Will and Testament of Charles M. McGhee, Knox County Court Clerk Wills, 5:51-52, 1906-1911.

²² The idea of formal gardens was a concept with which Bettie had grown up. Her parents hired landscape designer, E. Dean Dow to landscape their stately home on Locust Street in downtown Knoxville in 1875.

²³ W. R. McNabb, "Italian Villas of East Tennessee: The Formal Garden Revival Movement in Knoxville," *East Tennessee Historical Society* 61 (1989), 17.

²⁴ Letter from George Barber to Charles I. Barber, 25 June 1907. Private collection of Mrs. Charles I. Barber.

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Barber used the postcards and photos Charles supplied from his travels that summer to create a design for the Tysons comprised of a balustraded terrace with flower-filled urns along the northwest and northeast sides of the house and a parterre behind it on the west. A long wood pergola extended from the rear entrance at the west corner of the house along the northwest side of the parterre. Greenhouses were also part of the landscape during the Tysons' lifetime although the location is unknown.

When completed, the garden "created a rich and impressive effect inviting visual exploration"²⁵ and was the setting for a number of pageants, and cultural, and social events such as Annie McGhee's annual ballet recitals. "Here, guests were not only reminded of the Tyson's affluence, but also the family's possession of high European culture, which helped legitimize its social prominence, strengthen its social identity, and protect its privilege and prestige."²⁶

News of the Tyson's remodeling project was featured in the May 12th edition of the *Knoxville Journal* in 1907. Beneath a photograph of the newly remodeled home, the caption provided an overall description of the interior stating, "Tyson's present home is undergoing vast improvements, which he is making at an unlimited expense. The home will be three stories and contain eleven main rooms. A ball room and banquet room will be two principal features of the third floor." The article went on to provide a general description of the layout of the house and the size of the principal rooms:

The first floor will contain among other rooms a parlor 24 x 28 feet; living room 10 x 20; dining room 10 x 24; a breakfast room 13 x 24; and a reception hall, 10 x 18 feet while the entry and stair hall which runs half the depth of the home will be 12 feet in width. The second floor will contain the bedrooms. The two large halls on the third floor will be the banquet room and dance hall, the former 20 x 30 feet and the ball room being still larger, 50 x 40.²⁷

The Tyson family enjoyed the halcyon days between the turn of the century and the beginning of World War I. They and their friends entertained frequently and the Tysons held a number of receptions and garden parties. Charles and Isabella's friends were always welcome at the house as well. Isabella's debutante ball held there in 1913 was considered "one of the grandest social events in Knoxville at the time." Later that year, Lawrence Tyson lost his bid to win a seat in the U.S. Senate by five votes.²⁸

²⁵ W. R. McNabb, 17.

²⁶ W. R. McNabb, 17.

²⁷ *Knoxville Journal*, 12 May 1907.

²⁸ Leah Sparks, "Haunted? Family History Yields Clues to Alumni Center 'ghosts'." *The Daily Beacon*, 9 April, 1996, 3; U.S. Government, "Tyson, Lawrence Davis (1861-1929)." *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress. 1774-present*. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=T000456>, accessed 28 October 2011.

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Charles McGhee Tyson, known to family and friends as "McGhee," was sent off to a New Hampshire boarding school then went on to Princeton University where he graduated in 1912 at the age of 23. Upon completion of his formal education, the young Tyson returned home to Knoxville where he moved in with his parents and sister. He helped his father run the knitting mills but in his spare time, was devoted to golf. McGhee helped lay out the course at Knoxville's Cherokee Country Club, organized several tournaments, and even won a few. In July 1917 he married a Knoxville girl. Likely wanting to escape the formidable shadow cast by his parents and do something of merit on his own, McGhee enlisted in the Naval Reserve Flying Corps that same month and declined a safe desk job in Washington, D.C., possibly offered because of his father's military status. McGhee was still in the United States the following year and was a groomsman at Isabella's wedding in March 1918.²⁹

After years spent being a popular belle of the Knoxville social scene, Isabella wed Kenneth N. Gilpin who had served in WWI as an ensign in Naval Aviation.³⁰ After the ceremony at St. John's Episcopal Church, a reception was held at the Tyson's home on Temple Avenue. Isabella and her husband lived in Virginia at "Kentmore," his estate in Clarke County and had a second house in Richmond. In addition to interests that included historic preservation and antiques, the Gilpins bred Thoroughbred horses.³¹

The Tyson family was committed to supporting a number of civic projects over the years. On January 10, 1917 they realized the culmination of a project begun in 1885 by Colonel Charles McGhee, Bettie Tyson's father. That year, McGhee announced he was going to construct a three-story building at the northeast corner of Gay Street and Vine Avenue in memory of his daughter, Lawson, who had died in childbirth two years earlier. A library was housed on the second floor and income generated by renting out the two remaining floors was used to provide an endowment to secure the library's future. Once the building was completed, Lawson McGhee Library and the Knoxville Public Library merged. The building was destroyed by fire in 1904 although a number of the books were saved.

The building was subsequently rebuilt on the same site strictly as a business venture to generate the money needed to cover the maintenance of the library which was then housed in rented space. By 1916 the city's Library Board decided Lawson McGhee Library required its own building specifically designed for that purpose. The City of Knoxville was then financially able to support the library's operating expenses so the rebuilt Gay Street building was sold and the proceeds used to construct a new building to house Lawson McGhee Library.

²⁹ Jack Neely, "On a foggy November morning and the naming of an airport," 1. <http://www.tys.org/history-of-the-airport>, accessed 23 October 2011.

³⁰ Gilpin was later a delegate to the Virginia legislature and a candidate for Congress. He died in 1947.

³¹ *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, (Obituary) "Mrs. Gilpin, descendant of Knoxville's founder dies." *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 1 April 1983. Their great-granddaughter, Catharine Drew Gilpin (Drew Gilpin Faust) became Harvard University's 28th (and first female president) in July 2007.

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While General Tyson was serving in France, Bettie was involved in another civic project back in Knoxville. The Tysons responded to a need of the workers of the Knoxville Cotton Mill and the Knoxville Spinning Company for a settlement house in the Dale Avenue area. This facility provided day care for the children of the women working in the mills and also served as a neighborhood community center. It was built according to plans General Tyson approved before he left for France and once the Dale Avenue Settlement House was completed, Bettie Tyson presided over the ribbon cutting.³²

At the January dedication in 1917 Colonel Tyson formally presented the new building to the city and became the president of its Board of Trustees. His former brother-in-law, Calvin M. McClung, also felt a strong sense of family responsibility toward the public library. Following his death in 1919, his widow presented his private collection of historical books and manuscripts to Lawson McGhee Library.³³

Later that same year, Tyson was again asked to serve his country. After the Tennessee congressional delegation voted unanimously in favor of war, Tennesseans began volunteering by the thousands and President Woodrow Wilson appointed Lawrence D. Tyson Brigadier General of the 59th Brigade of the 30th National Guard Division, even though Tyson was well into his fifties at the time. Of the two regiments that made up the 59th, the 117th was the oldest regiment associated with the state, having been organized for the Mexican War. Most of the men assigned to the 117th came from East Tennessee. The 8,000 men under Tyson's command were sent to Belgium to provide reinforcements for British troops.³⁴

True to his nature, during their time in Europe, General Tyson took a special interest in the welfare of the Tennessee men under his command; often arranging special assignments better suited to certain individuals and seeing to it that, whenever possible, his men were billeted in a town where there was adequate shelter rather than having them live in tents. His chief of staff, Colonel T. J. Tyrick, testified that Tyson was "always on the go, out among his troops, looking after the men.... I guess he felt a responsibility for them because they were from Tennessee."³⁵

The 59th embarked for France with the division in May 1918 where they landed in Calais and saw almost continuous action through October of that year. Tyson's men were the first American troops to enter Belgium two months later. The General and his men were engaged in the Battle Ypres on July 4, his birthday. In September, one regiment was sent to Picardy and reached their position in front of the German Hindenburg Line at its strongest point at the Cambrai-St. Quentin Canal on the 23rd. They were exposed to daily shelling and suffered heavy casualties after a gas attack four

³² Creekmore, 160.

³³ This personal library became the basis for the McClung Historical Collection which today, is regarded as the foremost collection for East Tennessee history and genealogy research. It is one of the premier research libraries in the Southeast. The collection has a strong regional focus, however; it also has a wide selection of materials for Tennessee and other states, as well as Cherokee and African American records.

³⁴ Office of the University Historian, 4.

³⁵ *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 24 August 1929.

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days later. After breaking and capturing the line in their sector, the 59th defeated two German divisions and captured approximately 1,500 enemy soldiers. During four months of constant fighting, 1,879 men of the 59th Brigade were wounded or killed. Nine men received the Congressional Medal of Honor and Tyson was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.³⁶

After completing his flight training at Boston and Pensacola, Ensign Charles McGhee Tyson and his outfit were sent to England in August 1918. He served as a supply clerk for two months and did well enough to be promoted to Lieutenant. By early fall the war was winding down and McGhee had just applied for leave when his commanding officer asked for volunteers for one last aerial bombing mission. Seeing a last opportunity for military action, McGhee volunteered. His plane was lost near Killingholme, England but the exact circumstances were never disclosed. Of the four-man crew, the pilot was the only survivor and only McGhee's body was unaccounted for. In France at the time, General Tyson received an official notice regarding his son's death as did Bettie back in Knoxville.³⁷

Despite his grief, General Tyson remained with his men until they broke through the Hindenburg Line on September 29 and then requested leave to search for his son's remains. General Tyson scoured the shoreline and ventured out into the North Sea in a small boat. After several days he found the wreckage and recovered his son's remains. Charles McGhee Tyson's body arrived back in Knoxville on board a train that also carried his childhood friend, James M. Meek, Jr., who had unknowingly accompanied his friend on the final leg of his journey home. Charles McGhee Tyson was Tennessee's first military pilot to lose his life in WWI and two days before Thanksgiving, was buried with full military honors in Old Gray Cemetery (NR/1996) in Knoxville. On Armistice Day 1919, Knoxville's parade of veterans down Gay Street was headed by one of Tennessee's two WWI Brigadier Generals, Lawrence D. Tyson.³⁸

After the war ended and Tyson resumed his duties as president of the two mills, the workers continued to regard him with respect and affection. Inherently kind, Tyson instructed his managers to make certain none of the workers were without medical care or any necessities. Many people in the area were helped by the settlement house or by the Tysons directly, "but always the assistance was given quietly and confidentially."³⁹ In 1920, the Tennessee Democratic Party endorsed Lawrence D. Tyson as its Vice-Presidential candidate both before and at the party's convention in San Francisco. When then New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt was also nominated for the same office at the convention, Tyson withdrew his candidacy in the interest of harmony within the party.⁴⁰

³⁶ Dickinson; Lawrence Davis Tyson Papers, 1; Creekmore, 154.

³⁷ Creekmore, 157; Lawrence Davis Tyson Papers, 1.

³⁸ Creekmore, 157-159; Lawrence Davis Tyson Papers, 1; Neely, 2. The other was Percy Pope Bishop who was born in Powell, Knox County, Tennessee (Cynthia Tinker, personal communication, 2012).

³⁹ Creekmore, 160.

⁴⁰ Creekmore, 160.

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During the 1920s Lawrence and Bettie busied themselves with a number of business, civic, and social activities. Knoxville formed a City Beautiful league in the mid 1920s and like many other cities across the nation, the mayor relied on local women's groups to facilitate certain aspects of plans for improving the appearance of public areas. Bettie Tyson was very active in the Knoxville group which focused on cleaning up the shanties along the riverfront adjacent to the downtown and expanding the city's public parks. The Tysons decided Knoxville needed another park in West Knoxville. They donated a tract of land along Third Creek to the city with the stipulation that the park bear the Tyson family name. Bettie exercised her love of gardening in personally selecting the shrubs and perennials for the park and oversaw their planting but the Tysons had to move to Washington D.C. before her landscape plan for the park was fully executed.⁴¹

Due to Lawrence Tyson's interest in the American Legion, several military dignitaries visited the couple at their home during this period, including General Pershing. They also continued to host amateur theatricals, dance recitals, and garden parties.⁴² Tyson purchased one of Knoxville's two daily newspapers, the *Knoxville-Sentinel*, which prospered under his guidance. When he ran for the U.S. Senate in 1924, the newspaper openly supported his candidacy. After winning the election, Lawrence and Bettie left Knoxville for Washington, D.C. near the end of 1924.

During his term that began in 1925, Tyson focused on the passage of bills that would provide aid to veterans. He seldom participated in debates but was known for his carefully prepared speeches in support of certain bills he deemed the most important. His Senate legacy was the Tyson-Fitzgerald Act which he carried over a presidential veto. It provided retired disabled officers with benefits based on the highest rank they had achieved during military service. Representative Jere Cooper of Tennessee stated that Tyson's "marked ability in handling this measure...distinguished him as a legislator of outstanding ability."⁴³ Senator William J. Harris of Georgia declared that Tyson "accomplished more for the benefit of veterans than any Member of either the House or the Senate."⁴⁴

In 1927 a private aviator named William Self opened a small airfield on Sutherland Avenue in an attempt to centralize all aviation activity in Knoxville. Two years later the Tyson family purchased a 60-acre tract of land that included the airfield; donating it to the City of Knoxville in memory of their son with the stipulation that Knoxville's airport would always bear his name. The rapidly developing airline industry quickly outgrew the limitations of the hangar and runway, however, and in 1935 Knoxville's McGhee Tyson Airport was relocated to its present location in Blount County.⁴⁵

⁴¹ Creekmore, 160-161.

⁴² Creekmore, 159.

⁴³ Memorial Addresses Delivered in Congress, Senator Harris of Georgia. Lawrence Davis Tyson Papers, Subsection 3.3, Folder 582.

⁴⁴ Dickinson, 4; "Resolutions on the death of Lawrence Davis Tyson," 14. Read into the Knox County Minutes of the Court of Appeals, May Term, Knoxville, Tennessee, 14 December, 1929.

⁴⁵ Juliette R. Vogel and Gail L. Guymon, *Archival and Archaeological Investigation of the Sutherland Avenue Soccer Fields, Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee*, 13. Draft report submitted to the Office of Facilities Planning, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, August 2010.

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After Congress adjourned in June 1929, the Tysons returned to Knoxville and Lawrence did not look well. He complained of the heat and said later that summer he intended to go to French Lick Springs in Indiana for a long rest but had already agreed to be the principal speaker at the American Legion's state convention in Greeneville. Friends advised him to cancel the engagement but he wanted to honor his commitment. He became ill while in Greeneville but improved slightly after returning to Knoxville. Tyson went to medical specialists in Philadelphia and for a short time, his condition improved, however, he died while under treatment there. He was buried in the family plot in Old Gray Cemetery in Knoxville and the newspaper, mills, and other assets passed into other hands. The Dale Avenue Settlement House was left to the Junior League of Knoxville.⁴⁶

Earlier in 1929 before Tyson's death, the City of Knoxville was making preparations to build a new junior high school on Kingston Pike (NRHP/1998) several blocks west of the Tyson home. The School Board voted to name the new facility after Lawrence Tyson and his portrait was hung in the school upon its completion.⁴⁷

A year after Bettie Tyson's death in 1934, Isabella donated her parents' house and grounds to St. John's Episcopal Church for use as a student center for University of Tennessee (UT) students. The church sold the house to UT in 1954 and it was used as office space for the agricultural extension office and the art department. In 1962, although the house was run down, the terrace wall and steps from the façade portico remained intact (Historic Photo #7). Tyson House was initially used for the University Extension offices until 1969. As a UT student during the 1970s, Michael Tomlan recalled being fascinated by Tyson House and passing it on a daily basis. He recalled that at that time, the grounds still had old planting beds of perennials, hedges, and rose bushes around the foundation and that the large urns still present at that time were "striking."⁴⁸ During the summer of 1981, the Department of Art occupied Tyson House, and the following year, the UT Office of Alumni Affairs moved into the house.⁴⁹ The University extensively renovated Tyson House between 1983 and 1986.

George F. Barber (1854-1915) - Architect

Born in DeKalb, Illinois, George Franklin Barber was a carpenter, architect, and publisher of pattern books for mail order blueprints who practiced in Knoxville, Tennessee from 1888 until his death in 1915. Following the premature death of his father, the Barber family relocated to Kansas where George lived with his sister, Olive Barber Barrett and her husband, William Barrett. George's younger brother, Manley DeWitt Barber, was a carpenter and George picked up the trade from him. In addition to farming, George developed an interest in horticulture and also operated a

⁴⁶ Creekmore, 162.⁴⁷ Creekmore, 162.⁴⁸ Michael Tomlan, personal communication, 26 January 2012. Tomlan is recognized as an authority on George Barber's work.⁴⁹ Anonymous, *Horizons*, Spring 1982, 1. University of Tennessee, Office of Public Relations and the Office of Alumni Affairs.

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commercial nursery. By 1880 he had gotten married and was working as a house carpenter in Fort Scott, Kansas.⁵⁰

Although he was unable to get a formal degree in architecture, Barber studied construction and design books that he ordered by mail, including George Palliser's *American Cottage Homes* catalog as well as various technical books published by A. J. Bicknell & Co. Barber and his wife moved back to DeKalb, Illinois by 1884 and he began designing houses for Manley Barber's construction company, Barber & Boardman, Contractors & Builders. Two of Barber's earliest works, the Charles E. Bradt House (1887) and the First Congregational Church (1888) still stand in DeKalb. Barber published his first catalog of 18 house designs, *The Cottage Souvenir*, around 1887.⁵¹

Health problems, aggravated by the northern climate, forced Barber and his wife to move further south and they settled in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1888. The following year Barber formed a partnership, Barber & Parmalee, with architect Martin Parmalee, who had also recently moved to Knoxville. In 1890 Barber's second publication, *The Cottage Souvenir No. 2, A Repository of Artistic Cottage Architecture and Miscellaneous Designs*, brought him nationwide attention. The catalog contained 59 designs estimated to cost from \$500 to \$8,000 to build and included exterior and interior photographs. In addition to design catalogs, he also published a monthly magazine called *American Homes: A Journal Devoted to Planning, Building, and Beautifying the American Home* from 1895 until 1902.⁵² Later that same year their partnership dissolved and Parmalee opened his own office. A descendant of both men attributed the breakup to "extreme differences in architectural vision."⁵³

Barber established his own firm, George F. Barber & Co., and in 1892 took on local developer, J. C. White, as his partner. In 1895 White was replaced by Thomas A. Klutz of Georgia. The company produced stock plans as well as custom designs and it is estimated that during its existence, George F. Barber & Co. created approximately 800 different designs ranging from modest one-story dwellings to spacious three-story mansions. Construction costs for Barber & Co. homes ranged from \$400 to \$75,000 and their clients were located in every state as well as in places around the world, including China, South Africa, and Europe. By 1900 the company employed as many as 30 draftsmen and 20 secretaries.⁵⁴ His was the first mail order company

⁵⁰ M. Ruth Little and Michael A. Tomlan, 2009. "Barber, George F." In *North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Pictorial Dictionary*. North Carolina State University Libraries [NCSU].
<http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000234>, accessed 31 October 2011.

⁵¹ Lawrence Davis Tyson Papers. A second catalog followed in 1890 and is now available as a reprint.

⁵² Amy McRary, "Family Connection Links Knox Heritage Homes." *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 23 February 2007, E2; M. Ruth Little and Michael A. Tomlan.

⁵³ Dean Barber. Quoted in Amy McRary "Family Connection Links Knox Heritage Homes," *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 23 February 2007, E2; M.

⁵⁴ James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "George Barber's Knoxville Houses," *Old House Journal*,
<http://www.oldhousejournal.com/george-barbers-knoxville-houses/magazine/1662>, accessed 1 December 2011; M. Ruth Little and Michael A. Tomlan.

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that gave its customers the chance to participate in the design process and they were encouraged to contact the company with whatever changes they wanted in a stock design in order to suit their personal needs and tastes. The catalogs instructed customers to "call and to keep calling until we get it right," claiming "George F. Barber & Co. is between you and a hideous monstrosity."⁵⁵

Barber's client base was primarily the rising middle class as well as wealthy industrialists who were attracted by his philosophy of providing designs targeting modern American tastes and standards of comfort. Local architects were still scarce at this time and Barber & Co. clearly provided an option to those who aspired to having a custom-built house but who could not afford to hire the services of a private architect.⁵⁶

Catalog production halted in 1908 when the company broadened its focus to include construction as well as design. Barber turned his focus to the late nineteenth century boom in suburban development that was occurring in Knoxville. George F. Barber & Co. designed and built many of the homes in the speculative Knoxville subdivisions of Fourth and Gill (NRHP/85), Park City (NRHP/90), and Old North Knoxville (NRHP/92). The firm often had elements such as windows, doors, and staircases milled then shipped in crates to the client along with other construction materials.⁵⁷

Barber's lack of formal training is reflected in the fact that his designs were not academically correct, artistically refined, or stylistically correct, yet they still spoke to the American public. Michael Tomlan, a scholar of George F. Barber's works, noted that although talented, Barber lacked genuine creativity and produced respectable architecture to "convey, solidify and then materialize the American ideals of comfort and artistic taste."⁵⁸

He was, however, astute enough to modify his designs as public tastes changed. His earliest designs were loosely based on the Americanized version of the Queen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque styles popular during the 1890s. These homes featured a variety of building materials that included shaped shingles, sawn brackets, prominent brick chimneys and other ornamentation. Multiple gables, conical-roofed corner turrets, and sprawling verandas were common design features along with second-story corner balconies—one of Barber's favorite touches. Barber produced his most distinctive designs during this decade: eclectic mansions with numerous inset porches, projecting bays, and tall ornate chimneys that collectively provided the homeowner with a home that was one of the most distinctive and notable in the community. Many North Carolina industrialists of the Gilded Age had this type of Barber home, including R. J. Reynolds and Benjamin N. Duke.⁵⁹

⁵⁵ Michael Alcorn, "The Catalog Houses of George F. Barber & Co.," <http://www.ists.org/Barberexhibition.html>, accessed 1 December 2011.

⁵⁶ Michael Alcorn, "The Catalog Houses of George F. Barber & Co.," <http://www.ists.org/Barberexhibition.html>, accessed 1 December 2011; M. Ruth Little and Michael A. Tomlan.

⁵⁷ M. Ruth Little and Michael A. Tomlan.

⁵⁸ M. Ruth Little and Michael A. Tomlan.

⁵⁹ M. Ruth Little and Michael A. Tomlan.

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After 1900 as tastes changed, Barber's designs included white-columned Colonial Revivals, bungalows with broad porches and dormers, and Tudor and Spanish-inspired homes. His earliest Colonial Revival plans were based on early New England vernacular cottages but Barber also developed a number of designs he marketed as "Colonial Renaissance." These featured elements derived from the Adam style of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Still another group of designs were called "Colonial Classic." Loosely derived from the designs for eighteenth century Georgian mansions, these featured the formal lines and full-height porticos supported by classical columns of the traditional Neoclassical style. "Colonial Classic" designs were popular with Barber's wealthiest clients (such as the Tysons) and featured full-height porticos supported by two-story classical columns.⁶⁰ Inspiration for these porticos were no doubt derived from the slightly earlier designs produced by the New York firm of McKim, Mead, & White. According to Michael Tomlan, "It is clear that New York was providing the ideas for this firm [Barber & Co.] in this [Tyson House] and similar 'classic colonial' cases."⁶¹

In 1915 at the age of 62, George F. Barber died nine days after his wife, Laura. His son, Charles, and partner, Ben McMurry, opened their own Knoxville architectural firm, Barber & McMurry, that same year.⁶²

While Knoxville, Tennessee has concentrations of stock designs produced by George F. Barber's firm in the neighborhoods of Old North Knoxville, Fourth and Gill, and Park City, these homes are primarily frame examples which feature Queen Anne/Richardsonian Romanesque elements. The Lawrence D. Tyson House is Knoxville's single extant example of a commissioned design in Barber's Neoclassical "Colonial Classic" style and is also significant as it is a remodel of an existing house rather than new construction.

⁶⁰ James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell; Amy McRary, "Prolific Planner," *News-Sentinel* (Knoxville) 23 February 2007, E-2.

⁶¹ Michael Tomlan, personal communication, January 2012.

⁶² Amy McRary. "Family Connection Links Knox Heritage Homes." The company is still in business in 2012.

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Tyson, General, Lawrence, D., House
Name of Property

Knox County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre Knoxville, TN 147 NW

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 235724 3983013
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____

☐ 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 Gail L. Guymon, Architectural Historian/Archivist
organization Archaeological Research Laboratory/U. of TN date January 11, 2012
street & number 5723 Middlebrook Pike, Rm. 239A telephone 865.974.9644
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37921

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 UT Knoxville c/o Mr. Chris Cimino, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration
street & number 417 Andy Holt Tower, 1331 Circle Park telephone 865.974.4204
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37996

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 listing. 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 20303.

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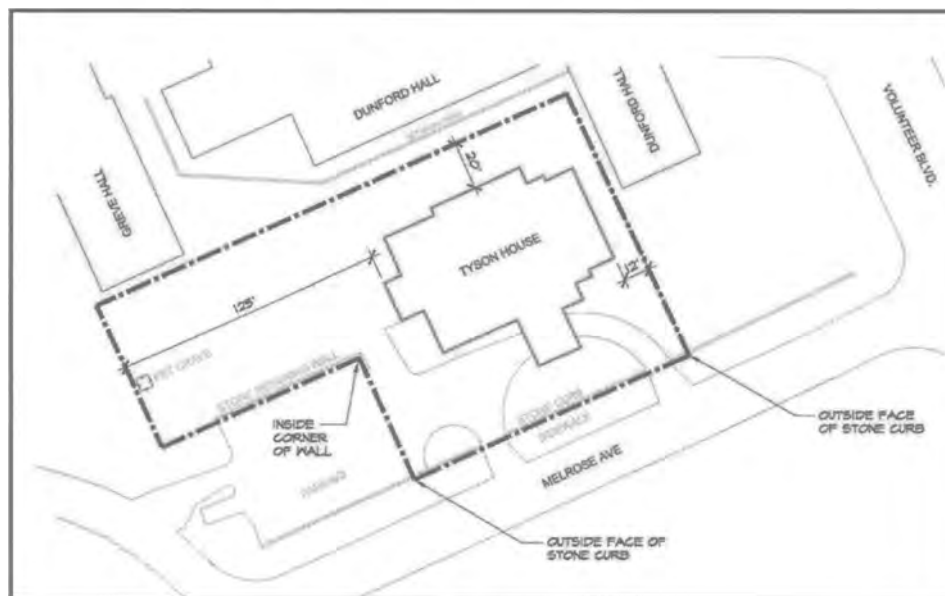
Tyson, General Lawrence D. House
Knox County, TN

10. Boundary Description and Justification

The General Lawrence D. Tyson House is located on the Knoxville campus of the University of Tennessee and is surrounded by University-owned property. The eastern boundary extends north from the outside edge of the existing historic limestone curb on the east end of the semicircular drive at Melrose Avenue for a distance of approximately 135-ft. then turns approximately 90 degrees and runs west for approximately 200-ft. along a line set 20-ft. from the rear wall of the house. This line terminates at a corner near the south corner of Greve Hall. The western boundary runs from this corner southward along a line 125-ft. from the southwest wall of the rear ell for a distance of approximately 80-ft. It turns approximately 90 degrees to the east following the edge of the limestone retaining wall on the north side of the parking lot for a distance of approximately 30-ft. then turns approximately 90 degrees south for approximately 30-ft. terminating at the outside face of the historic stone curb on the west end of the semicircular drive. The southeast boundary extends between the two historic curbs for a distance of approximately 120-ft.

Justification

The boundary was drawn to include all the land currently associated with the house. Due to the loss of the majority of the historic landscaping, the boundary only includes land immediately surrounding the house, with the exception of a portion of the nominated property that extends southwesterly to include the grave of the Tyson's dog, Bonita.



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Knox County, TN

Photographs

Photo by: Gail L. Guymon
Date: September 2011
Digital Negative: Tennessee Historical Commission

#1 of 25

Northeast elevation. Photographer facing southwest.

#2 of 25

Detail of entry and balcony on northeast elevation. Photographer facing west.

#3 of 25

Portico and columns on northeast elevation. Photographer facing south.

#4 of 25

Southeast elevation. Photographer facing northwest.

#5 of 25

Southwest elevation. Photographer facing northeast.

#6 of 25

West corner and northwest elevation. Photographer facing north.

#7 of 25

Grave of Bonita. Photographer facing southeast.

#8 of 25

Main staircase and entry hall from landing. Photographer facing northeast.

#9 of 25

Side hall from entry at porte-cochere. Photographer facing north.

#10 of 25

Fireplace in side hall. Photographer facing west.

#11 of 25

Inglenook in library. Photographer facing southeast.

#12 of 25

Living room. Photographer facing west.

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#13 of 25

Detail of plaster work on crown molding in living room. Photographer facing northwest.

#14 of 25

Fireplace and skeleton wainscot in former den off side hall. Photographer facing north.

#15 of 25

First floor service area. Photographer facing southeast.

#16 of 25

First floor servant's stairs. Photographer facing southwest.

#17 of 25

Second floor hall. Photographer facing northeast.

#18 of 25

Second floor hall and former servants' quarters. Photographer facing west.

#19 of 25

East corner bedroom, second floor, now converted to office space. Photographer facing south.

#20 of 25

Middle bedroom, second floor, southeast side, converted to office space. Photographer facing south.

#21 of 25

Detail of mantel, south corner bedroom, southeast side. Photographer facing east.

#22 of 25

Third floor, entrance to former ballroom, converted to office space. Photographer facing east.

#23 of 25

Northwest elevation of gabled dormer above northeast façade portico. Photographer facing southeast.

#24 of 25

Wainscot in main and reception hall. Photographer facing northwest.

#25 of 25

Entrance to former ballroom from top of servant's stairs. Photographer facing northeast.

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Historic Photos

- #1 of 8 Historic photo of Meek House before Barber remodeling. Photographer facing southeast.
- #2 of 8 Front of 1907 postcard from Charles Barber to his father showing terraced landscape in Italy.
- #3 of 8 Back of same postcard.
- #4 of 8 Barber's completed design of the house and grounds. Photographer facing south.
- #5 of 8 Historic photo of parterre west of the house. Photographer facing northeast.
- #6 of 8 Tyson family's carriage and driver ca. 1909. Benita is possibly the dog on the seat next to the driver.
- #7 of 8 Front façade in 1962 with remnants of the landscaping still present.
- #8 of 8 Brigadier General Lawrence D. Tyson.

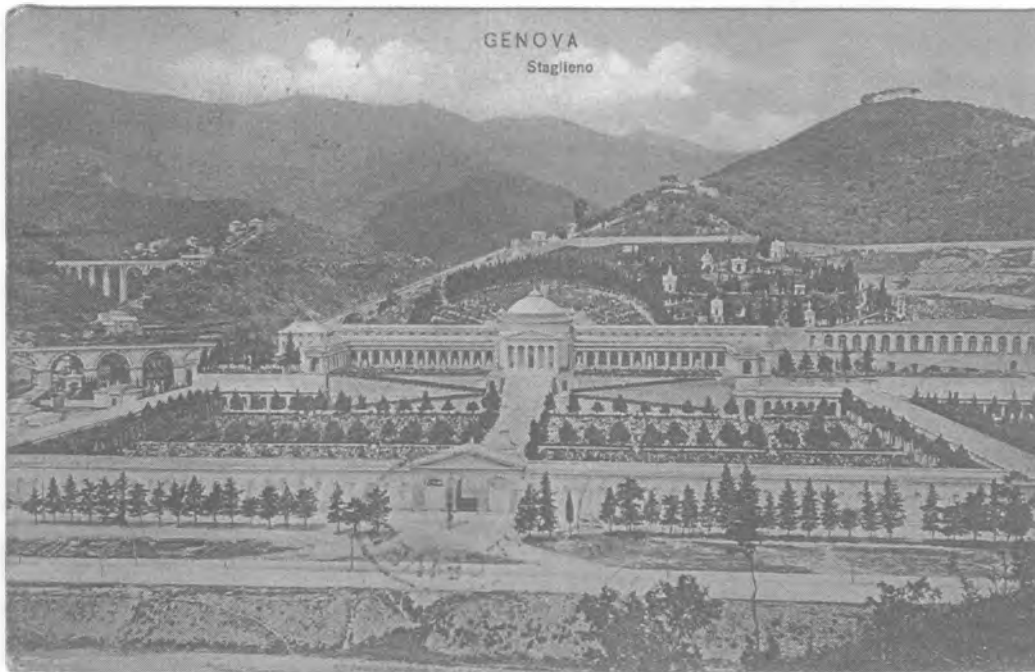


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2

THIS IS PARADISE - AM ABOUT WILD!
Genoa, Italy. Just what
July 27.07
Dear Cousin at home
Let this be a card of
thanks that I am able
to see so many, & so very
many beautiful works
of man and nature.
My ambition is worked
up to the boiling point!!!
O my, but when I get to
Greece!!! With good cheer,
Chas. D. Barber.
Mr. Geo. F. Barber.
Knoxville
Tennessee
U. S. A.
#1715 Nashville

3

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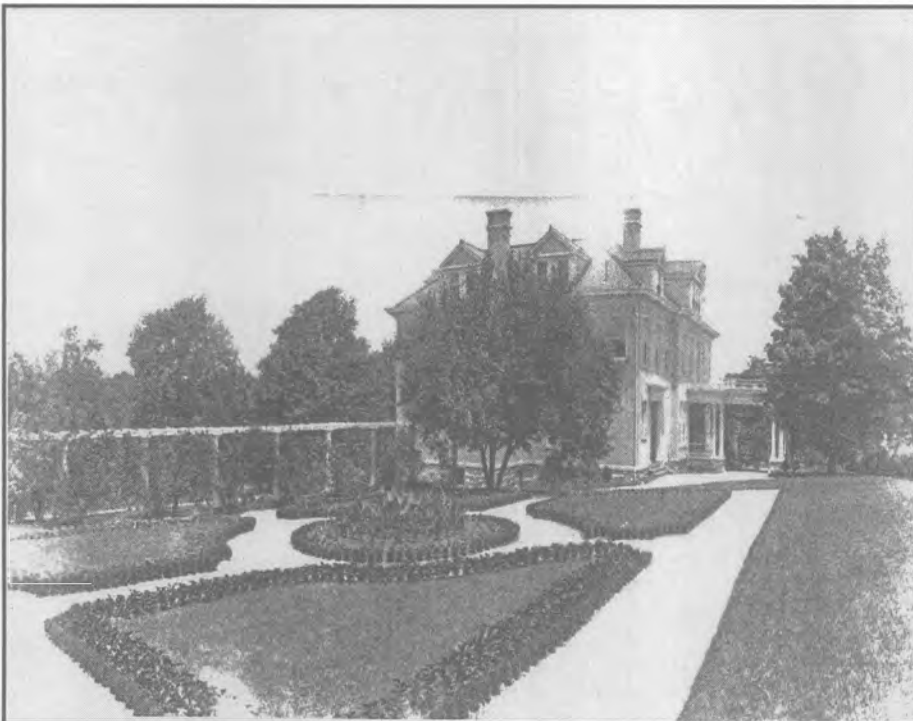
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4



5

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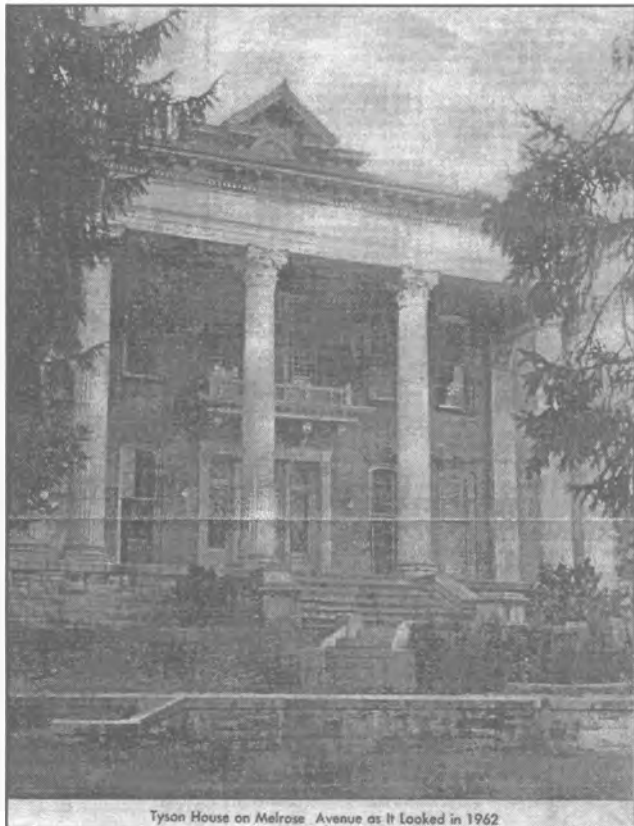
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6



Tyson House on Melrose Avenue as it looked in 1962

7

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8



RESIDENCE OF JAMES M. MEEK.

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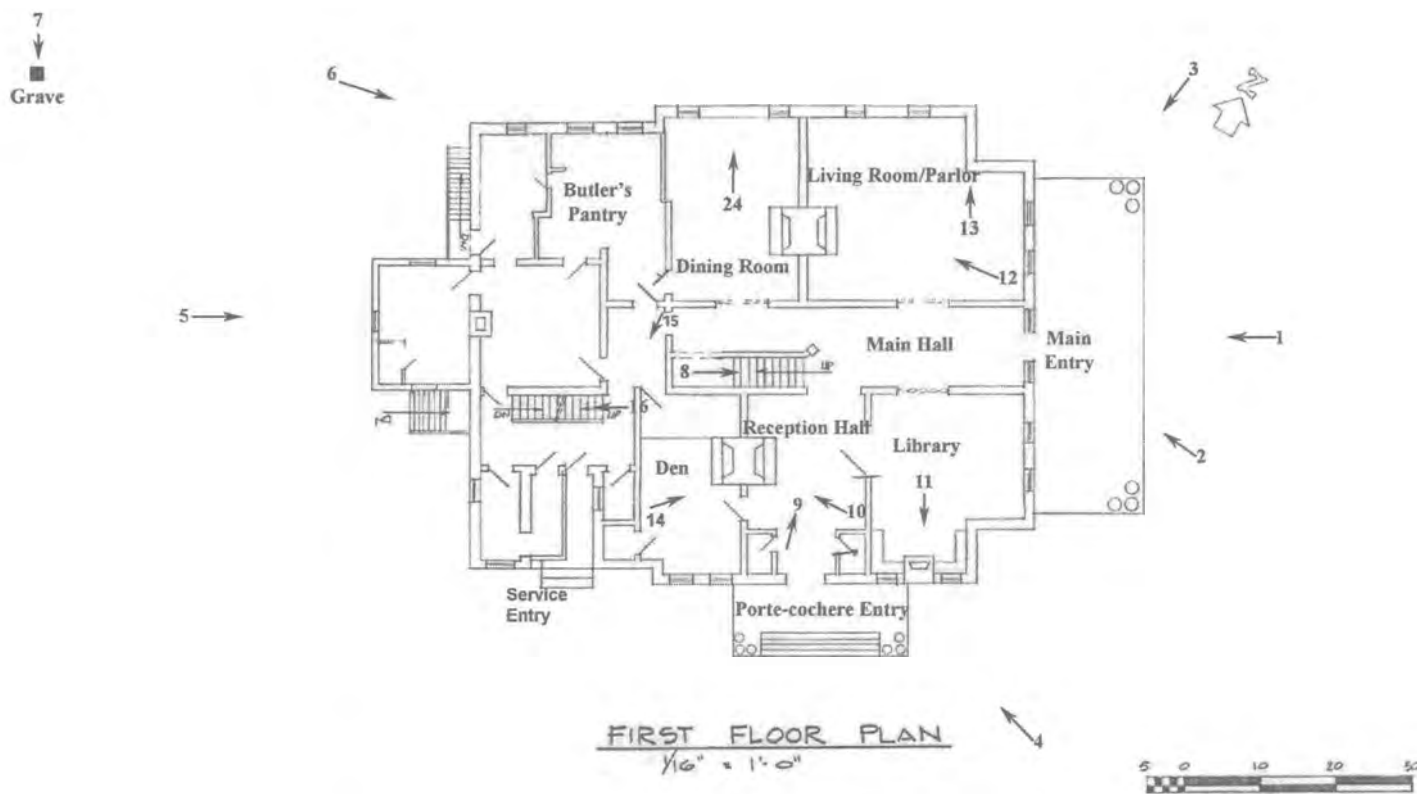
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First Floor Photograph Locations



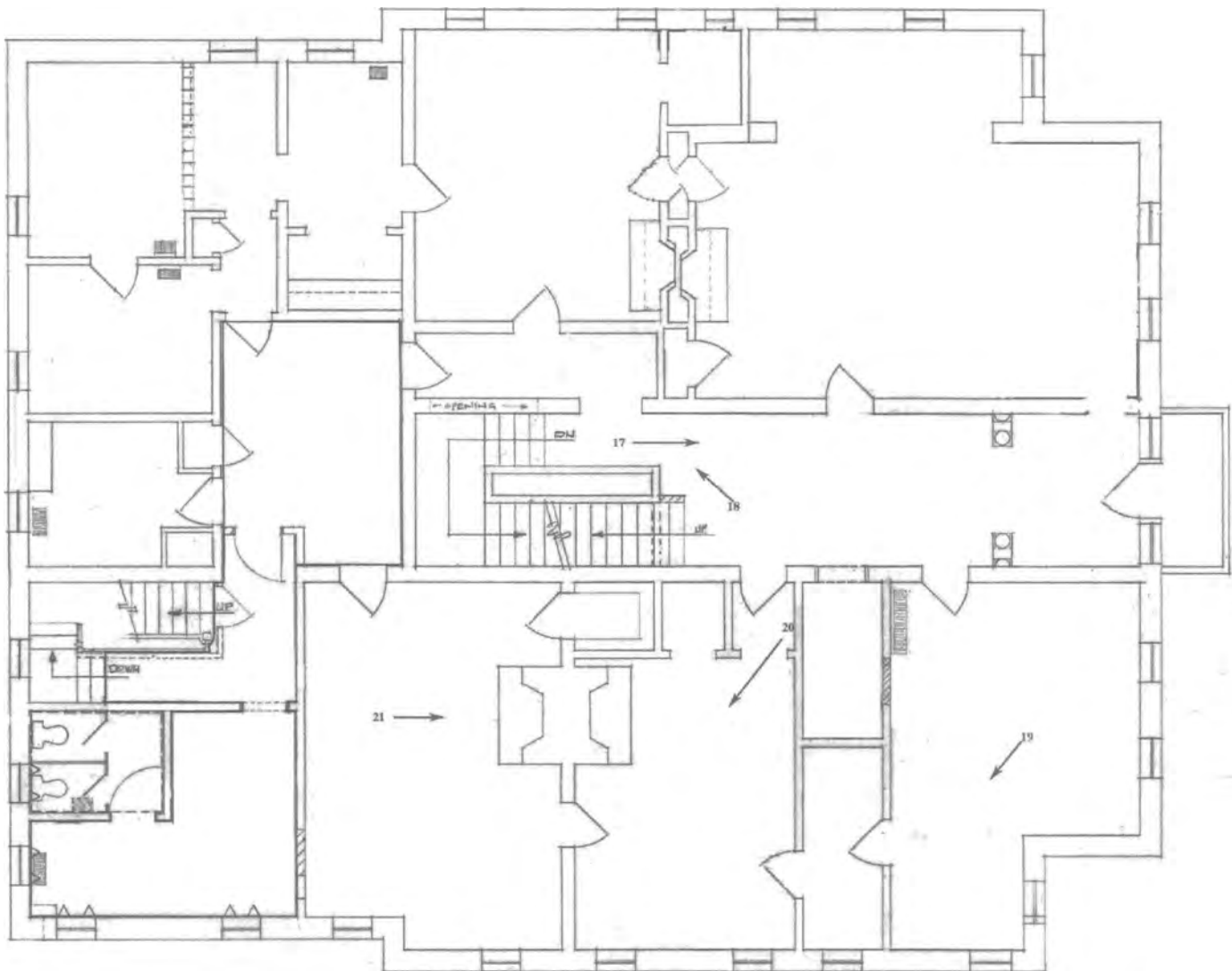
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 36

Tyson, General Lawrence D. House
Knox County, TN

Second Floor Photograph Locations



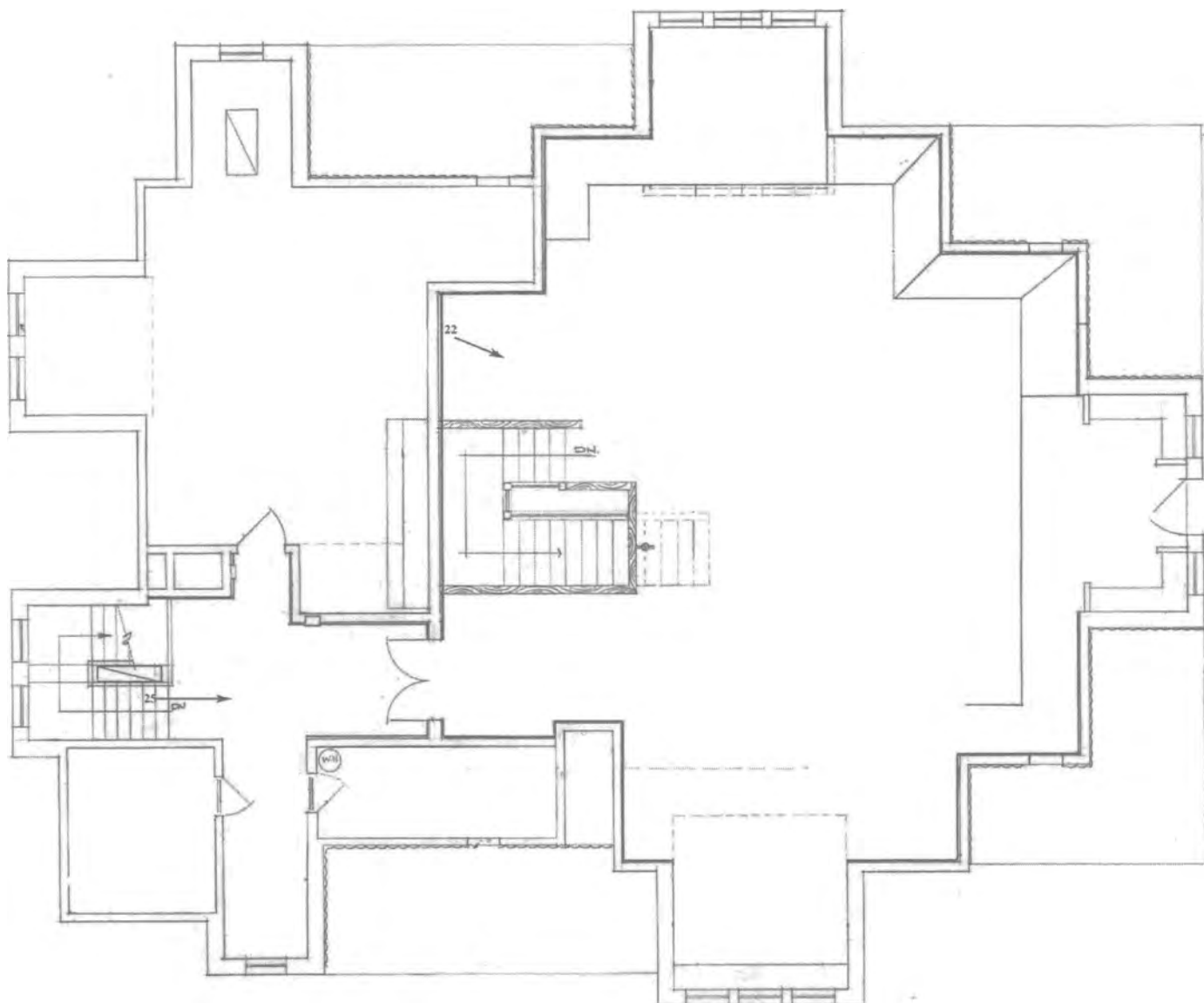
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 37

Tyson, General Lawrence D. House
Knox County, TN

Third Floor Photograph Locations



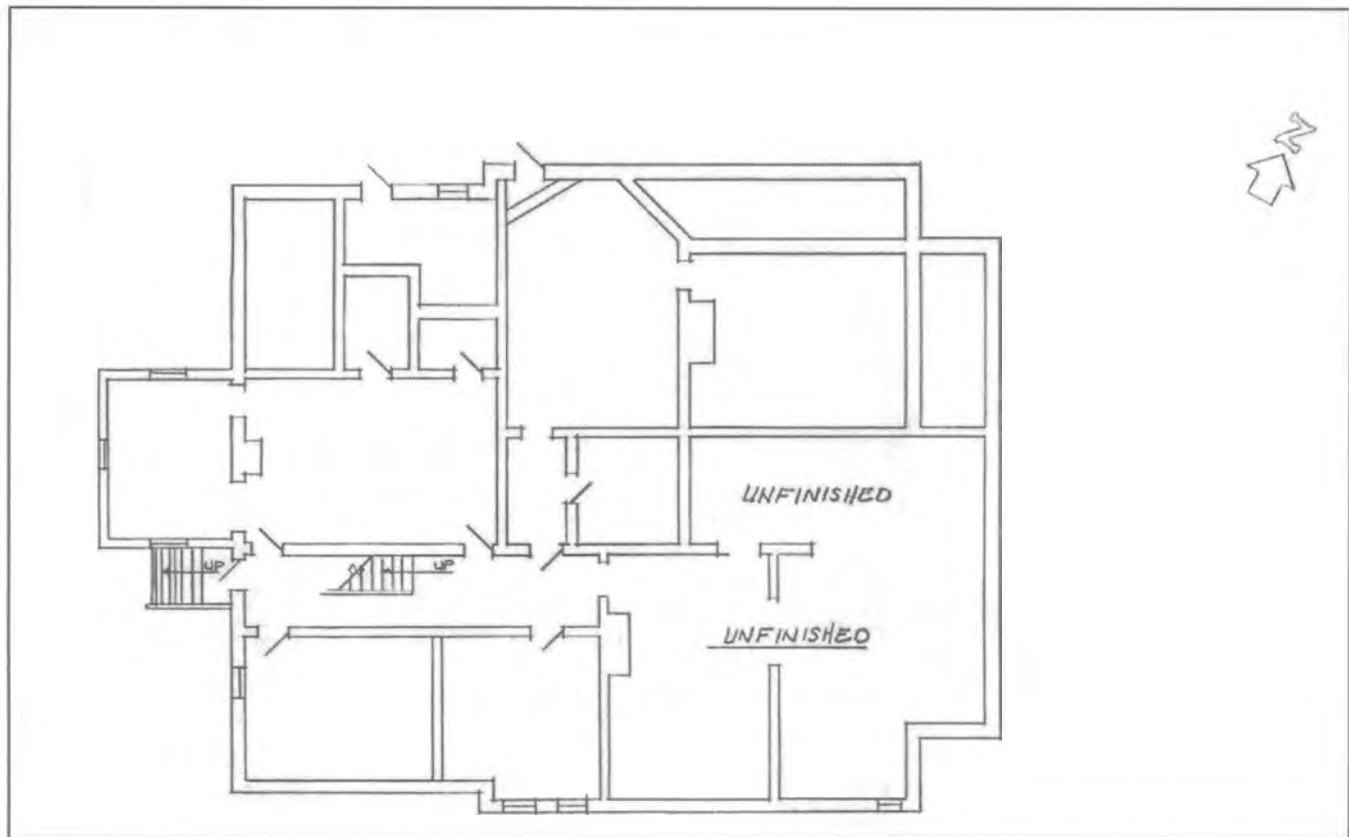
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor Plans Page 38

Tyson, General Lawrence, D. House
Knox County, TN

1977 Floor plans: Basement



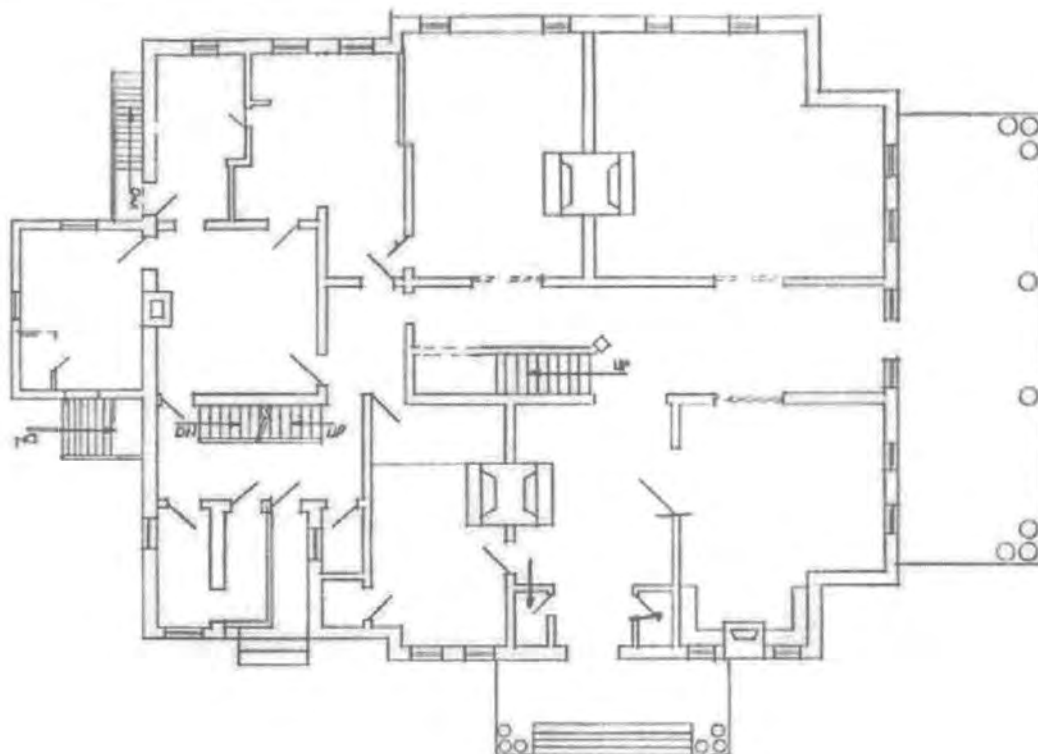
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor Plans Page 39

Tyson, General Lawrence, D. House
Knox County, TN

1977 Floor plans: First Floor



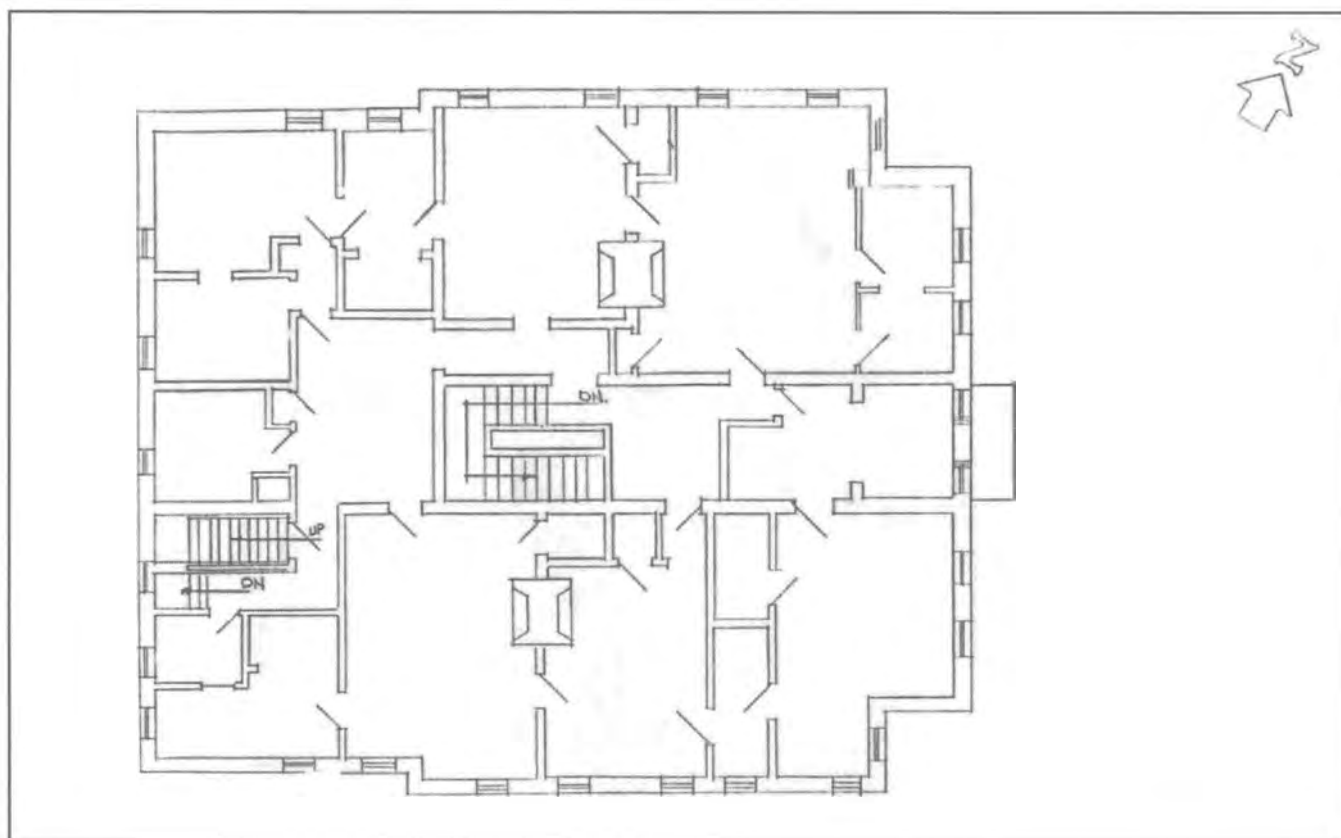
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor Plans Page 40

Tyson, General Lawrence, D. House
Knox County, TN

1977 Floor plans: Second Floor



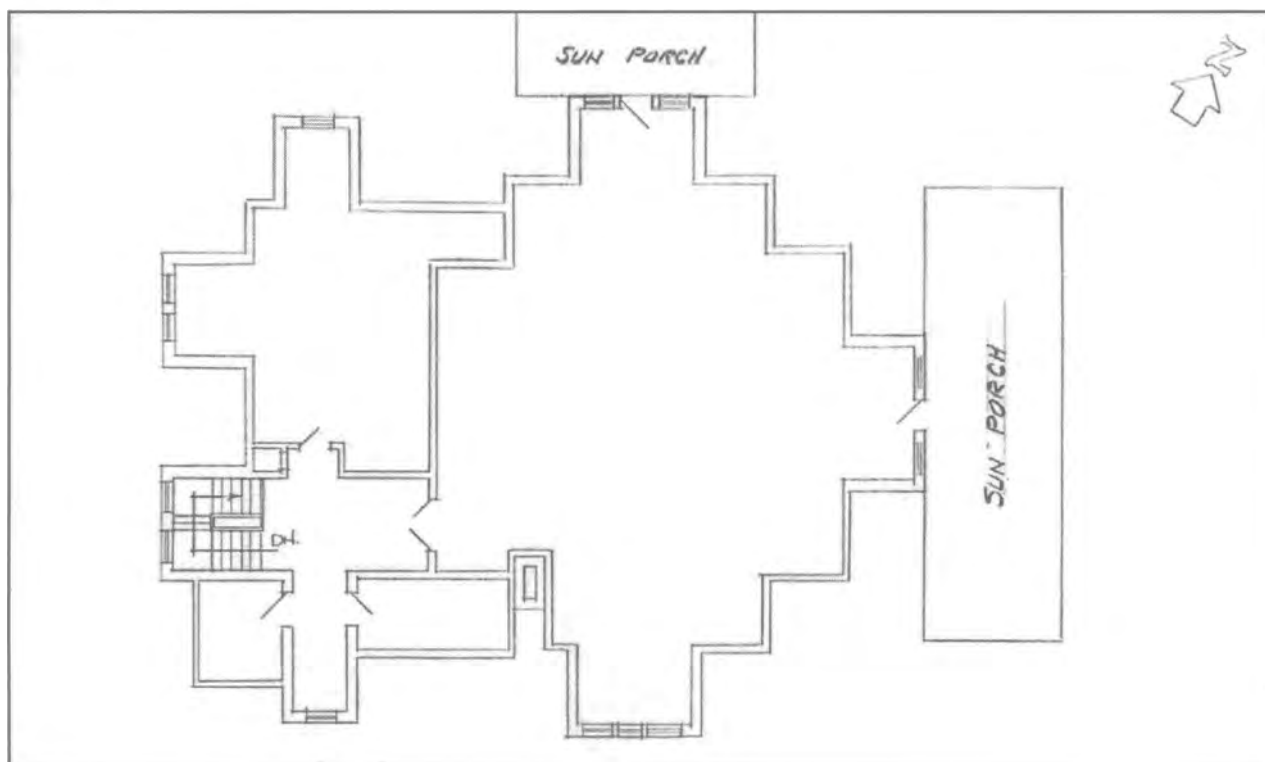
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor Plans Page 41

Tyson, General Lawrence, D. House
Knox County, TN

1977 Floor plans: Third Floor



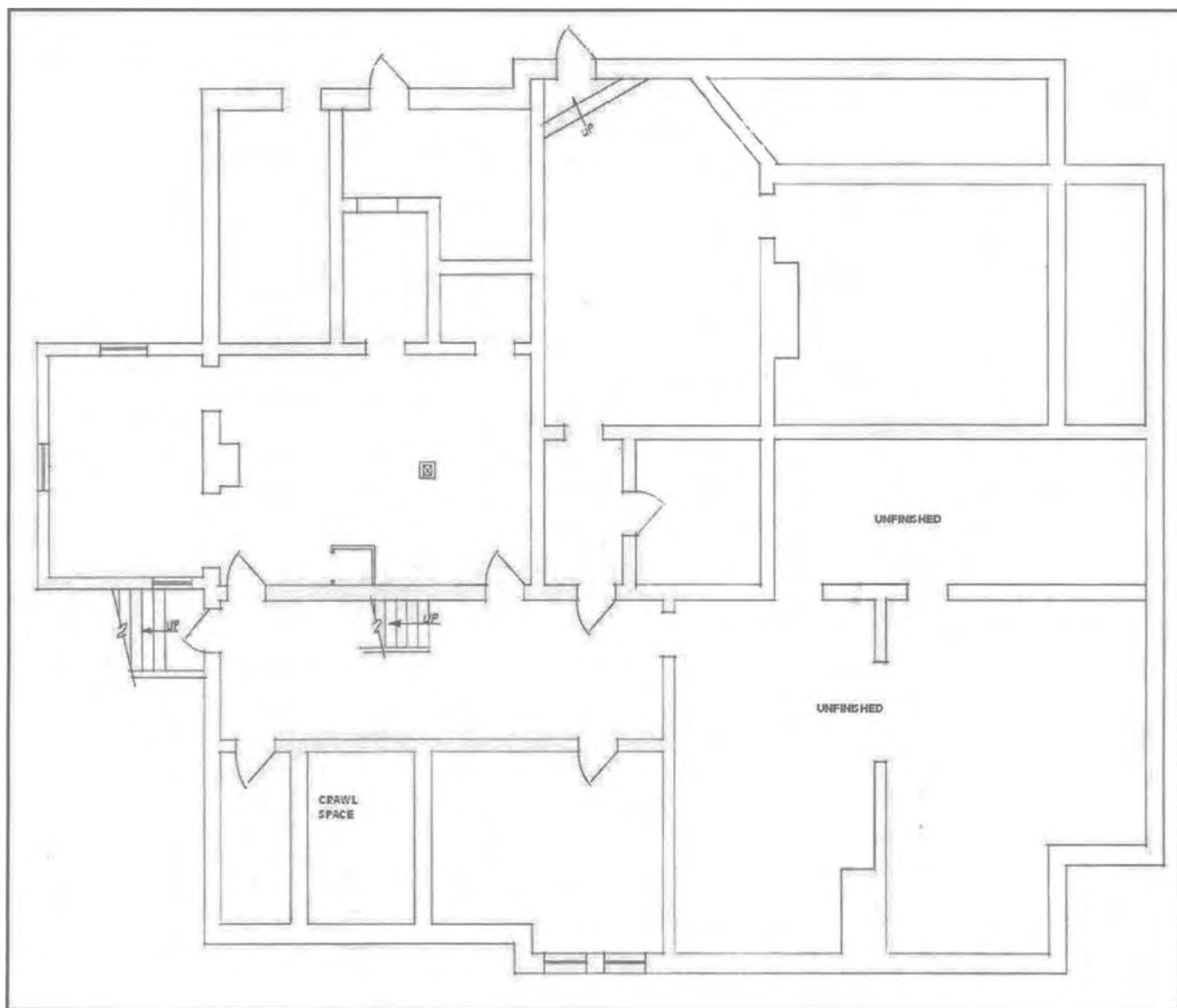
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor Plans Page 42

Tyson, General Lawrence, D. House
Knox County, TN

Revised Floor Plans: Basement



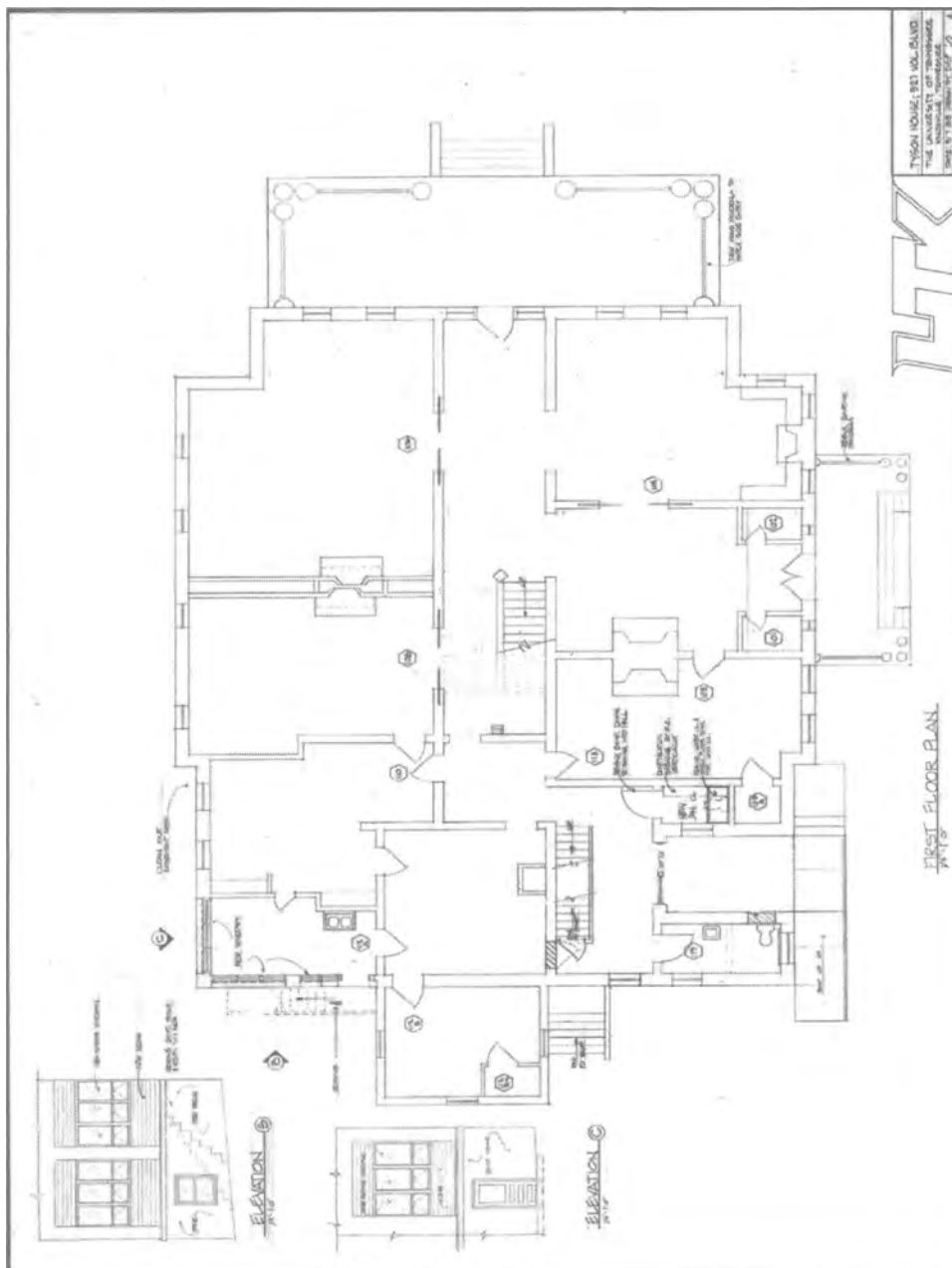
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	Floor Plans	Page	43
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Tyson, General Lawrence, D. House
Knox County, TN

Revised Floor Plans: First Floor



[illegible]

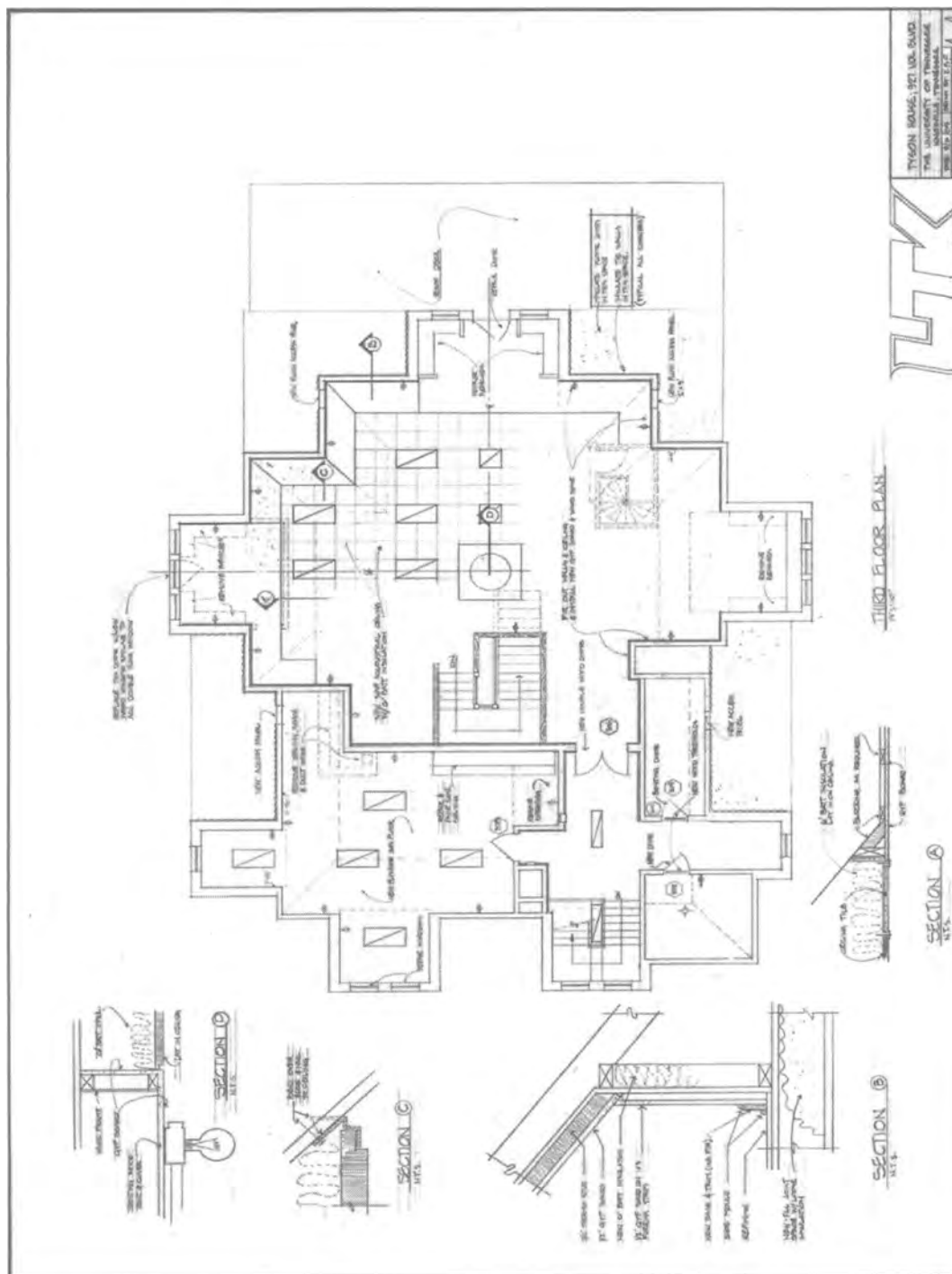
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor Plans Page 45

Tyson, General Lawrence, D. House
Knox County, TN

Revised Floor Plans: Third Floor



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Tyson, Gen. Lawrence D., House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Knox

DATE RECEIVED: 6/15/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/13/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/30/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/01/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000467

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8.1.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

















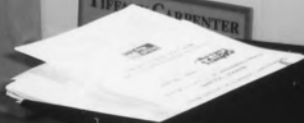






























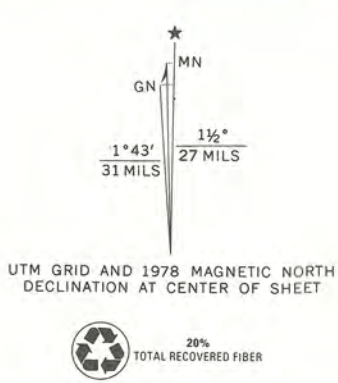
The 1986 U.T. Alumni Convention





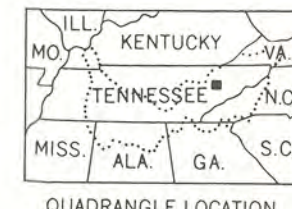


Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority
Published by the Geological Survey
Control by NOS/NOAA, TGS, THD, USGS, and TVA
Revised by TVA in 1977 by photogrammetric methods
using aerial photographs taken 1975 and by reference to
TVA-USGS quadrangle dated 1966. Map field checked by
TVA, 1977-1978. Map edited 1978.
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Tennessee rectangular coordinate system
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator Grid, Zone 17
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
TENNESSEE DIVISION OF GEOLOGY, NASHVILLE, TENN. 37219
U.S. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 37401 OR KNOXVILLE, TENN. 37902
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty Poor motor road
Medium-duty Wagon and jeep track
Light-duty Foot trail
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route
In developed areas, only through roads are classified

KNOXVILLE, TENN.
N3552.5 — W8352.5/7.5
1978
AMS 4255 IV NW-SERIES V84.1





TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442
(615) 532-1550



June 7, 2012

Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
National Register Branch
1201 Eye Street NW
8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the documentation to nominate the *General Lawrence D. Tyson House (Tyson Alumni)* to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Jaime L. Destefano at 615/532-1550, extension 125 or Jaime.Destefano@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM:cs

Enclosures