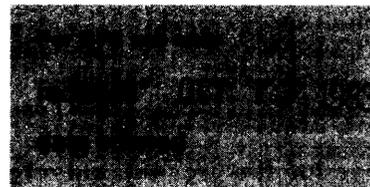


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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



## 1. Name

historic Black House

and/or common Same

## 2. Location

street & number 301 W. Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town McMinnville N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Warren code 177

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Estate of Jean Leonard (Bianca Lanza, Executor)

street & number 114 W. Houston Street

city, town New York N/A vicinity of state New York 10012

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Warren County Courthouse

city, town McMinnville state Tennessee 37110

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Originally built around 1825 with later additions, the Black House is a two-story, brick and frame building located at the southwest corner of W. Main and High Streets in the Warren County seat of McMinnville (pop 10,662). The Federal and Greek Revival building has a simple, two-story wooden veranda across the north (front) and east facades which was added around the turn of the century. Of the exterior Greek Revival doorways on the first and second stories, only the second-story one remains unaltered. During the middle of the nineteenth century, a two-story frame ell was added to the south (rear) facade. The interior of the Black House has excellent Federal mantels, doors, and molding. The only extant outbuilding is the original brick smokehouse. Despite changes, the house retains its architectural integrity.

Facing north, the Black House is situated on a corner lot and is primarily surrounded by commercial development. The building is set close to the corner of Main and High Streets with the rest of the 131 by 225 foot parcel containing the brick smokehouse and several mature trees. A recent wire fence encloses the site.

The five-bay north (front) facade is laid in Flemish bond. The central doorway on the first story was probably altered after Dr. Black's death in 1904, eliminating the Greek Revival transom and sidelights seen on the second-story doorway. The windows are twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash with jack arches and louvered shutters. The current, turn-of-the-century veranda replaced a simple, two-story portico partially shown in an 1890s photograph.

The brick east facade originally had two windows on the first and second stories, but one window on the first story was replaced by a door after the veranda was added. The gable end has a plain box cornice and return. The frame east facade of the rear ell has two windows on the second story and a window and door on the first. Attached to the southeast corner of the rear ell is a square, one-room, frame addition built by Dr. Black as his office sometime after he purchased the house in 1874. There is a two-story, latticed and screened porch along the west facade of the rear ell.

The windowless west brick facade has a simple box cornice and return at its gable end. As on the east facade, the interior chimney projects above the ridge of the metal roof at the apex of the gable. Around 1930, a two-story frame addition was built onto the south (rear) brick facade to contain a first-floor kitchen and a fifth second-floor bedroom.

The original brick section of the house consists of a central hall flanked by single rooms on each floor. The first-floor rooms have very fine Federal mantels, chair rails, doors, and moldings. The surrounds of the windows and doors have wide architrave trim with bull's eye corner blocks. The deep window and door jambs on the first floor are paneled to match the design of the doors. The half-turn staircase at the rear of the hall has a simple newel post and square balusters. The original two rooms on the second floor have simpler Federal details but of the same high craftsmanship. The rooms in the rear ell, Dr. Black's office, and the kitchen addition are more vernacular in character and have no particular architectural features.

The original brick smokehouse is the only outbuilding remaining on the property. It has a pyramidal metal roof and large diamond-patterned vents in its walls.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1825, mid-19th c., etc. **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Constructed about 1825 with later additions, the Black House is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its architectural significance as the oldest residence in McMinnville and for its association with prominent local citizens. Although there are some Greek Revival details, the house is basically a Federal style building with outstanding Federal interior features. Among the locally notable persons who lived in the house were Judith Turner Harrison, an amateur horticulturist who introduced many agricultural and ornamental plants to the area during the mid-nineteenth century and Dr. Thomas Black, a prominent McMinnville physician in the late nineteenth century.

The brick section of the Black House was built around 1825 by Jesse Coffee on a thirteen acre tract of land which was then outside the small town of McMinnville. A year later in 1826 the property was sold to James Shephard. By 1830 some of the land south of the house had been sold to others, and houses were built by James E. Thompson and Broomfield Ridley.

About 1830 the house and remaining land were bought by Dr. John Dougherty, who owned it till 1849. At some time, probably about 1837, Samuel Hervey Laughlin, lawyer, politician, journalist, and writer of the Laughlin Diaries, resided in the Black House. In 1849 Dr. Dougherty sold the house to the Harrison family. Joshua Harrison died soon after moving there, but his widow, Judith Turner Harrison, lived in the house for many years and was well known for locally introducing and cultivating a wide variety of plants, shrubs, and trees. The next owners of the house were Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Black who bought the building in 1874. Black was a well-respected physician and served a term as mayor of McMinnville in the 1880s. In 1890 he retired from his medical practice and died in 1904. The house remained in the Black family until 1983, when it was given to a local non-profit organization, which plans to restore the building for public use.

The c. 1825 Black House is locally significant for being the oldest residence in McMinnville and for having some of the finest Federal interior features in Warren County. Exceptional craftsmanship is shown in the mantels, chair rails, doors and moldings of the house. Especially notable is the paneled window and door jambs made to match the design of the doors.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name McMinnville, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	6	1	0	7	6	0	3	9	4	9	0	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lloyd Ostby, Coordinator of Field Services

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date August 1983

street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615-742-6723

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Boyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 10/11/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in 11/17/83  
National Register

date 11/17/83

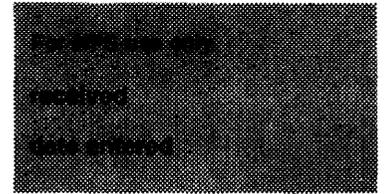
Herbert L. Boyer  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet      Black House      Item number      9      Page      2

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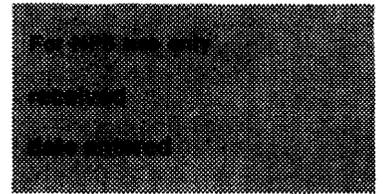
Leonard, Jean. "The Black House." Typescript.  
Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville.

Overby, Georgianna. "McMinntville's First Brick Home,  
Built in 1825, Still Stands." Southern Standard  
(McMinntville), September 24, 1974, Sec. A, p. 11.

Zechman, Patricia. "Oldest House in McMinntville Stands  
Undaunted by Time." Warren County News,  
August 18, 1977, Sec. B, p. 1.

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Continuation sheet    Black House    Item number    10    Page    2

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is bounded on the north by W. Main Street, on the east by High Street, on the south by Colville Street and on the west by an adjoining property line. The parcel includes only the remaining land historically associated with the Black House.