

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Rutherford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 15 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Elmwood (Rep. Joe L. Evins)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Old Nashville Highway *n w of Murfreesboro off U.S. 705/41*

CITY OR TOWN:  
Murfreesboro *me*

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Rutherford CODE: 149

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Thomas Epps Hord

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Old Nashville Highway

CITY OR TOWN: Murfreesboro STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Rutherford County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Murfreesboro STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

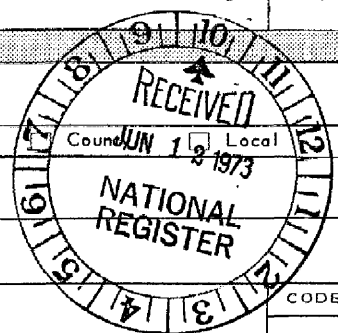
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER: ..

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A rambling conglomerate of structures, Elmwood, was once one of the largest plantation complexes in Middle Tennessee. Over twenty-five individual structures on the property are reported to have been demolished to provide fortification materials during the Civil War.

Elmwood was constructed in the middle 1840's as a large, brick, planter's house with dependencies. The main house is a two-story brick structure of simple, ample proportions. The broad facade has three openings on each floor, a central doorway flanked by a pair of windows. The stories are separated by a string course, at ~~wainscot level~~. The lower door with side lights and transoms is in the typical Classical Revival mode; the upper door is similar but less pretentious in design. Straight lintels cap each of the four windows which are the twelve-over-twelve glazing on both stories. In front of the entrances stands a two-story gabled portico supported on piers with a very simple balustrade on the second level.

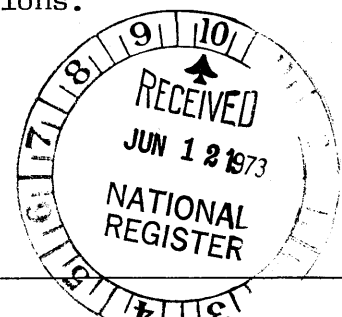
The three-bay ends of the building feature double chimneys with windows on either side of the paired chimneys on both levels. A parapet braces the chimneys above the roof ridge line, giving a silhouette typical of the 1820's.

The rear facade has openings similar to, but simpler, than those of the front of the building. A full two-story gallery lines the back of the structure. The left (from the rear) bay of this gallery has been enclosed on both stories. A simple gabled roof covers the entire structure.

To the right (from the front) a single story portico connects the house via an enclosed arcaded wooden breezeway of two bays to a smaller two-story brick structure placed at right angles to the main house. This separate building housed kitchen and servants quarters. It is two bays in length with a gabled roof sporting single chimneys at either end. A modern single-story cast iron portico has been added to its entrance on the far rear bay. Interesting log and wooden outbuildings are to be found on the property.

As a whole the house has the appearance of a simple, solid, large country house with few stylistic pretentions.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. Description (Cont.)

Few alterations to the original building have been made. A single-story portico has been built to connect the main house with the kitchen and servants quarters. A single-story cast iron portico has been added to the entrance of the servants quarters. On the rear elevation, one bay of a full two-story gallery has been enclosed. Two log and two wooden outbuildings, formerly used as smokehouses, barns, and storage, remain in relatively good condition on the grounds. The main house is located on a hill overlooking Overall Creek, near the old north-south stage route.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

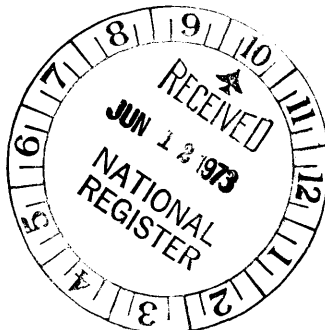
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Thomas Hord, a lawyer by profession, came from Hawkins County, Tennessee, in 1842 and built his home after a design of his own making. Slaves baked the brick in a kiln on the 1,000 acre farm and laid the brick in the Flemish bond manner. Today, 131 years later, direct descendents of Thomas Hord are still living on his farm, tilling the soil and active in the community.

This agrarian complex is an important surviving example of the larger ante-bellum plantation in Middle Tennessee. The simplicity and ample proportions of its architecture separate it from the usually more meager buildings seen in the area, while its detail and trim are evidence of the original owner as architect.

In its location, the group reflects the obvious tendency to settle on or near major arteries of transportation and communication. A former stage coach line passed near the present house.

Its place in Civil War history, a long and rather well-documented period of Union occupation, and its location almost adjacent to Stones River National Military Park, give it special historical significance. This is one of those houses that was a hospital in fact as well as legend.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Conversation: Mrs. Charles W. Hord  
 Mrs. Thomas Epps Hord  
Hearthstones: The Story of Historic Rutherford County Homes,  
 Mary B. Hughes, Murfreesboro, Tenn.: Mid-South Publishing  
 Co. Inc., 1942.

Consultant: Vaughn L. Glasgow  
 Art & Architectural Historian  
 Middle Tennessee State University

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Murfreesboro, Tennessee**

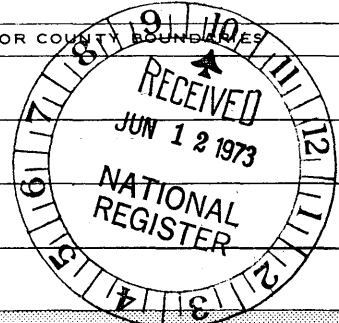
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		35 ° 54 ' 17 "	86 ° 27 ' 28 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

ATM  
 16/54894L  
 397235D

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Peter S. La Paglia

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 5-25-73

STREET AND NUMBER: 403 7th Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Michael J. Smith  
 Title: Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical Commission  
 Date: 6-1-73

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

Ernest A. Connally  
~~State Liaison Officer~~  
 Associate Director, Professional Services  
 Date: OCT 15 1973

ATTEST: Constance  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: 10-15-73

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TENNESSEE	
COUNTY	
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061	9/7/73

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont.)

For almost two years, from March, 1862, to February, 1864, Elmwood was almost never free from the sound of cannon or the tramp of soldiers' boots, except for a brief respite when Buell's army fell back to Huntsville, Alabama, after Forrest's raid on Murfreesboro. The first instance of occupation occurred in March, 1862, when Company R, 10th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, camped in the yard at Elmwood. Mr. Hord was ordered to furnish food for the soldiers and their horses, and to place his servants at the disposal of the troops to help build a fort on the railroad back of the house. On one occasion, during an exchange of fire between the Federals encamped in the front yard and a battery of Confederates across the creek, a cannon volley crashed into the bedroom above the parlor, blasting a great hole in the wall and causing a small fire. A window was later placed at that spot.

During the Battle of Murfreesboro or Stone's River from December 29, 1862, to January 1, 1863, Elmwood was used as a hospital by the Union army. The family was allowed to use one of the smallest rooms downstairs, with the rest of the house being used to treat between 500 and 600 wounded and dying soldiers. Fine Brussels carpets were soaked with their blood. Outside in the bitter cold, Union soldiers burned thousands of fence rails trying to keep warm. Twenty-six houses, two barns, and the overseer's house were torn down to make three bridges, two stockades, and cross-ties for the railroad.

When it was all over, Thomas Hord estimated his damages at \$59,124.60, and appealed to the federal government for payment. Only a small portion was ever paid, and then it was not paid until 1911, forty-five years after Hord's death.

Not only is Elmwood important because of its architectural and military significance, it represents the large-scale agricultural operation of the ante-bellum plantations of the Old South.

