

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

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

For HCRS use only
received NOV 27 1979
date entered APR 2 1980

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

1. Name

historic Savannah Historic District

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number *along* An irregular pattern which includes portions of Main, Deford, Guinn, Church, College, Williams and Cook Sts. not for publication

city, town Savannah vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Tennessee code 047 county Hardin code 071

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hardin County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Savannah state Tennessee 38372

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 27, 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 4721 Trousdale Drive

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Savannah is the county seat of Hardin County, which is located in West Tennessee. The Savannah Historic District is a residential area in the western part of the city. The district has a total of ~~twenty-two~~ buildings; ~~sixteen~~ of these contribute to the significance of the district, and there are ~~eight~~ modern buildings. The contributing buildings were erected during the period 1869-ca. 1930 in the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles and in various vernacular types, many of which feature Victorian ornamentation; all of these have been largely unaltered.

Buildings contributing to the character of the district.

1. Ross House (5^{0 see BI}4 Main Street): 1909, Colonial Revival, 2 story brick, Ionic two-story portico and single-story, wrap-around porches, interior and exterior unaltered.
2. Walker-McGinley House (311 Williams Street): 1899, Queen Anne, 2 story frame, weatherboard, widow's walk and cresting, wrap-around porches and 2 small second-story porches, bay window, storm cellar, interior and exterior unaltered.
3. Williams-Ledbetter House (319 Williams Street): 1889, Queen Anne, 2 story frame, weatherboard, porches with ornate trim, bay window, interior and exterior unaltered.
4. Johnson-Ledbetter House (College Street): 1869, vernacular, 2 story frame, weatherboard, round-head windows, recessed entrance, 2 story portico and ell galleries with staircase, exterior slightly altered.
5. Williams-Churchwell House (520 College Street): 1869, Greek Revival, 2 story frame, weatherboard, shed addition in rear, Italianate porch trim, headlights and sidelights, exterior unaltered.
6. Williams House (606 College Street): 1874, remodeled ca. 1910, Colonial Revival, 2 story frame, weatherboard, Ionic portico and wrap-around porches, Palladian pediment window, headlights and sidelights, exterior unchanged since ca. 1910.
7. Churchwell-McGinley House (810 College Street): 1876, vernacular, 2 story frame, weatherboard, bay window, wrap-around porches, head and sidelights, exterior slightly altered early in this century.
8. Williams-Riggan House (900 College Street): 1901, Queen Anne, 2 story frame, weatherboard, porch and gable trim, exterior unaltered.
9. Hardin-Ledbetter House (908 College Street): 1884, vernacular, 2 story frame, weatherboard, facade center section flanked by projecting gabled sections, headlights and sidelights, large porch with columns.
10. Welch-Nesbitt House (304 Church Street): 1901, Queen Anne, 2 story frame, aluminum siding, tower with conical roof, curved porch with columned and pedimented entrances at each end, curved bay window, Palladian attic windows in gables, exterior slightly altered.

* 16 + 8 = 24, not 22. There are 23 buildings + 1 vacant lot.
26 2/2/80

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Sixteen houses, ranging in age from 50 to 110 years old, are included in the Savannah Historic District. Two of these, the Williams-Churchwell House (No. 5) and the Johnson-Ledbetter House (No. 4) were erected in 1869 as replacements for earlier residences which were destroyed during the Civil War: the kitchen of the predecessor of the Williams-Churchwell House still stands. These buildings are antebellum in design although they postdate the war. While still retaining the earlier floor plans, the Churchwell-McGinley House (No. 7) and the Williams House (No. 6), both of which were built in the 1870s, were altered early in the twentieth century; expansive columned porches were added to the former and an outsized portico and matching wrap-around porches to the latter. Many houses constructed during the eighties had asymmetrical floor plans, as evidenced by the Williams-Ledbetter House (No. 3); the use of ornate porch and eave trim is particularly discernable in this house. Houses erected during the period 1898-1902--Sevier House (No. 11), Walker-McGinley House (No. 2), Williams-Riggan House (No. 8), Welch-Nesbitt House (No. 10), and Irwin-Rinks House (No. 12)--show that architects and builders were still experimenting with variations in floor plans and trim type and placement.

The architectural styles present in this small district range from the Greek Revival Williams-Churchwell House (No. 5) to the bungalow, the Carroll House (No. 20). There are five Queen Anne residences: Walker-McGinley House (No. 2), Williams-Ledbetter House (No. 3), Williams-Riggan House (No. 8), Welch-Nesbitt House (No. 10), and Sevier House (No. 11); these are the finest examples of this style in Savannah and among the best in the state. By 1909 the Victorian influence in Savannah architecture had been superseded by the Colonial Revival style. The Ross House (No. 1) is the first and best example of this architectural style in the city. The Williams House (No. 6) was remodeled and transformed into a Colonial Revival mansion about the time the Ross House was constructed.

At least four of the houses in the district originated on architect's drawing boards. A firm in Paducah, Kentucky, designed the Williams-Riggan House (No. 8), and Hubert Thomas McGee, a Jackson, Tennessee architect, designed the Welch-Nesbitt House (No. 10), Irwin-Rinks House (No. 12), and the Ross House (No. 1).

The business, financial, social, and political leaders of Savannah lived in the houses in the district. J. J. Williams (No. 3), A. J. Williams (No. 8), Dan Welch (No. 10), were successful bankers. E. P. Churchwell (No. 7), J. J. Williams, Jr., (No. 5), and Arch U. Walker (No. 2) were merchants and large landowners. E. W. Ross, Sr. (No. 1) was a prominent attorney and founder of a law firm which still operates. Confederate veteran J. W. Irwin (No. 12) was a realtor who served as purchasing agent to acquire the land for Shiloh National Military Park in the 1880s and '90s. Lon Story, who resided in the Johnson-Ledbetter House (No. 4), held the office of Hardin County Sheriff and was politically active for many years, and Arch U. Walker (No. 2) served as county road commissioner.

Two buildings in the district--Hardin-Ledbetter House (No. 9) and Sevier House (No. 11)--were associated with postwar education of the city's youth. John T. Hardin founded Hardin

9. Major Bibliographical References

Joseph L. Herndon. "Architects in Tennessee until 1930. A Dictionary," an M.S. thesis in Historic Preservation, Columbia University, New York, May 1975.
 Information provided by Frank S. McGinley, Jr., of Savannah, Tennessee

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 45
 Quadrangle name Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee Quadrangle scale 1:24000
 UMT References Savannah, Tennessee

A	1,6	38,668,0	389,892,0	B	1,6	38,660,0	389,844,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,6	38,587,0	389,856,0	D	1,6	38,596,0	389,908,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Savannah Historic District is shown as the red line on the accompanying tax assessment maps No. 83 A, No. 84 D, and No. 72P, and No. 71 M for Savannah, Hardin County, Tennessee; these are drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The boundary of the

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services
 organization Tennessee Historical Commission date November 1979
 street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371
 city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 11/16/79

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>W. Roy Luce</u>	date <u>4/2/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Kristin O'Connell</u>	date <u>4/1/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

Property owners' names and addresses:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Mrs. E. W. Ross, Sr.
504 Main Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 | 12. Mr. E. J. Rinks
Guinn Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 |
| 2. Mr. Frank B. McGinley, Jr.
311 Williams Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 | 13. Mrs. K. M. Carroll, Sr.
303 Williams Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 |
| 3. Mr. Edwin Ledbetter
319 Williams Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 | 14. Mr. John J. Ross, Jr.
501 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 |
| 4. Mrs. James L. Ledbetter
College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 | 15. Mrs. Robert H. Yeiser
502 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 |
| 5. Mrs. Nanniebeth Churchwell Barlow
and Dr. A. Grigg Churchwell
520 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 | 16. Mr. David Abrams
514 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 |
| 6. Dr. T. R. Williams
606 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 | 17. Mr. Jack Thomas
800 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee |
| 7. Mr. Frank B. McGinley, Sr.
810 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 | 18. Mr. Ralph Barker
804 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 |
| 8. Mr. R. C. Riggan
900 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 | 19. Mr. Joe Barker
806 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 |
| 9. Mr. Sidney L. Ledbetter
908 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 | 20. Dr. J. W. Carroll, Jr.
904 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 |
| 10. Mr. William Nesbitt
304 North Church Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 | 21. Mrs. Drew Hitt
303 North Church Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372 |
| 11. Mrs. Hardin Sevier
309 Church Street
Savannah, Tennessee | 22. Mr. J. O. Boling
Morris Chapel, Tennessee 38361 |

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 3

-
23. Mrs. Frank B. McGinley, Sr.
810 College Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372
24. Mr. Ennis Irwin
c/o Ms. Cornelia Williams
317 North Guinn Street
Savannah, Tennessee 38372

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

11. Sevier House (309 Church Street): 1898, vernacular with Queen Anne embellishments, 2 story frame, ornate porch trim, Palladian attic windows in gables, exterior slightly altered.
12. Irwin-Rinks House (Guinn Street): 1902, vernacular, 2 story frame, weatherboard, wrap around porches with clustered columns, bay windows, exterior slightly altered.
16. Abrams House (514 College Street): ca. 1920, vernacular, 1½ story frame, weatherboard, turned porch posts and brackets, exterior slightly altered.
20. Carroll House (904 College Street): ca. 1915, bungalow, 1½ story frame, weatherboard, prominent gable dormer, headlights and sidelights, exterior unaltered.
21. Hitt House (303 Church Street): ca. 1930, vernacular, 1 story frame, weatherboard.
22. Sevier House (315 Church Street): ca. 1920, vernacular, 1 story brick.

Buildings detracting from the integrity of the district

13. Carroll House (303 Williams Street), ca. 1950, vernacular, 1 story frame, brick veneer.
14. Ross House (501 College Street), 1976, imitative of Ethiopian vernacular style, 1 story poured concrete or frame with stucco, unusual U plan with truncated columns at perimeter of entrance court.
15. Yeiser House (502 College Street): ca. 1960 vernacular, 2 story frame, weatherboarded, columned porch, flanking 1 story wings.
17. Thomas House (800 College Street): ca. 1960, vernacular, 1½ story frame, brick veneer.
18. Barker House (804 College Street): ca. 1950, vernacular, 1½ story frame, brick veneer.
19. Barker House (806 College Street): ca. 1945, vernacular, 1 story frame, weatherboard.
23. McGinley House (Williams Street): ca. 1935, vernacular, 1 story frame, weatherboard.
24. Vacant Lot.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Academy, which was later known as Savannah Institute. The Sevier House served as a boarding house for students enrolled in the school.

The district buildings still house the community's successful citizens, and many of the houses--old and new--are the dwellings of descendents of the neighborhood's original families. The houses are almost all in excellent condition, and in most cases the owners live in and carefully maintain their property.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

nominated district was drawn to include the contributing properties and to exclude intrusive buildings. The district and the area around it are predominantly residential--except along Main Street--and many of the houses were constructed in the last ten to twenty years.