

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 12 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1975

**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

Harrison House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

S of Franklin on  
Columbia Pike

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Franklin *vic.*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Tennessee

VICINITY OF

CODE

47

COUNTY

Williamson

CODE

187

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. and Mrs. Harry Guffee

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Columbia Pike

CITY, TOWN

Franklin

STATE

Tennessee

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Williamson County Register's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Franklin

STATE

Tennessee

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Harrison House, located just south of Franklin, Tennessee, on Columbia Pike, is one of the most impressive buildings in an area where grand buildings are not uncommon.

The house consists of parallel, two-story rectangular units joined by a one story ell extension. The smaller unit, which is now the rear of the house, was once the front when the house faced west, and is believed to have been built around 1810 with the builder being unknown. The earlier part lacks the architectural proportions, scale and detail of the main, or front part which has a two-story plan, common bond pattern, brick bearing wall, limestone foundation walls, gable roof, chimney construction, and fenestration typical of the many antebellum homes to be found in Middle Tennessee. The front facade features a square columned, two-story entrance portico, framed by square pilasters and accented by carved wood balustrade and second story gallery porch. The entrance doorway and gallery entrance are identical and feature narrow side light panels with flanking pilaster molding and glass light transom. Paired windows are fitted with closing type shutters. The only change which affects the exterior of the house was the conversion of a side porch on the connecting ell into a sitting room.

In addition to the hallways and four bathrooms, the Harrison House contains ten rooms. Except for the addition of the bathrooms the interior has been only slightly altered. The kitchen ceiling added at a later date has been removed to leave the original beams exposed. The hall floors and stair landings are cedar while the other floors are poplar. The newell post and central hall staircase are constructed of cherry wood.

When connecting doors were cut between the girls' and boys' bedrooms upstairs, a large secret room was discovered. The room was in an unfinished state, and its purpose is unknown. The front section of the house has a basement which consists of two large rooms with a dirt floor.

The main part of the house was built by William Harrison, Sr., who came here from Virginia. He served as sheriff of Williamson County from 1836-1842. His house was built by 1848, because in his diary of that year Dr. Samuel Henderson, a prominent Franklin physician, spoke of Mr. Harrison as being "well-to-do and having a fine home on Columbia Pike". Mrs. Harrison's gardens were considered to be among the finest in the area.

# 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 checked="" 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

1810-1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William Harrison

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the Harrison House is significant because it is an excellent example of the architectural style of pre-Civil War houses built by the more influential class in Tennessee, it is perhaps more important because of the military events connected with the house.

Its strategic location often placed the Harrison House in the midst of violence during the Civil War. On September 2, 1864, General John Herbert Kelly, the youngest Brigadier-General in the Confederate Army, was commanding a division of cavalry in Wheeler's Corps when he was mortally wounded in a skirmish at Parry Station within sight of the Harrison House. He was brought to the house and cared for until his death two days later. He was buried in the yard of the house. Eighteen months later his body was taken up and reinterred on March 18, 1866, in an unmarked grave on the Herbert lot in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile.

On November 30, 1864, the Harrison House was used as General John Bell Hood's command post where he delivered his attack order for the Battle of Franklin after surveying the field from Winstead Hill, a National Register property just north of the house. The porch and house were alive with generals and their staff officers coming and going. Soon the ground shook with the roar of battle and the house was overrun with wounded, among whom were at least seven officers. General John C. Carter was mortally wounded and was taken to the house where he died on December 10. General Carter, twenty-seven years old at the time of his death, was the youngest of the six Confederate generals killed at Franklin.

The Harrison House, descendants of whose builder have been prominent in the vicinity for over a century, remains today as one of the most important landmarks in an area that is rich in history.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bowman, Virginia M. Historic Williamson County: Old Homes and Sites (Nashville, 1971).

Tennessee Historical Commission, Tennessee Historical Markers (Sixth Edition, Nashville, 1972).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9

UTM OK  
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 51107510 397016810  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Herbert L. Harper, Field Services

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

5/8/75

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue, North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Lauren Cole*

5/9/75

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Robert M. ...*

DATE

6/8/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *W. ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

NOV 17 1975