

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Carter	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 14 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: John and Landon Carter Home (Representative James H. Quillen.)
 AND/OR HISTORIC: (The Mansion)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **East Broad Street**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Elizabethton**
 STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47** COUNTY: **Carter** CODE: **019**

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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Thomas heirs**
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: **Elizabethton** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

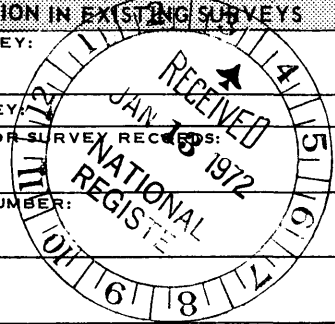
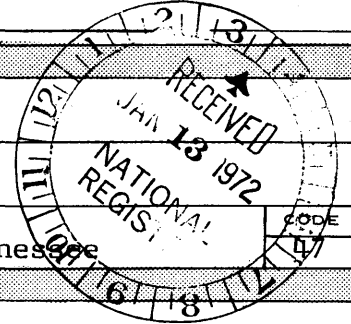
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Register's Office**
 STREET AND NUMBER: **Courthouse**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Elizabethton** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Tennessee**
 COUNTY: **Carter**
 ENTRY NUMBER: **APR 14 1972**
 DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Built in 1780 by John Carter on an Indian mound in a secluded spot on the banks of the Watauga River, the Mansion, as it was commonly called, is now within the city limits of Elizabethton, and stands as a fitting memorial to a father and son who served Tennessee well in the early pioneer days. Through the glass windows, which were once the wonder of the frontier, can be seen the old family burying ground where these statesmen and many of their descendants are buried.

The house as originally built was two-story, of rectangular shape, built on a stone foundation over a basement, with a stone chimney at each end. In recent years the top portion of the chimney on the south end has been replaced by brick. Unlike most of the houses built in this area at this time, the house is of frame construction covered with clapboards instead of being built of logs. The plain front entrance is flanked by two windows to the left and one to the right, with the front elevation having four windows on the second floor level. The north elevation has two windows on each floor level, while there is only one window on each level on the south elevation.

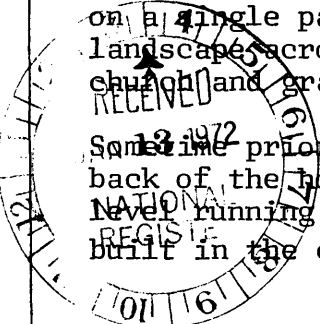
The plain exterior of the house gives no hint of the architectural beauty of the interior. The front entrance opens into a large hall or room, 16' x 25' made entirely of pine paneling, with a ceiling height of nine feet, four inches, possessing the dignity of a hall in one of the 18th century Virginia houses along the James, and was possibly patterned after Shirley, the Virginia home of the Carters. Over the fireplace is an elaborate, curved pediment supported by fluted pilasters, both containing delicate dentil work.

Adjoining this room are two small rooms, paneled similarly, with corner fireplaces with paneled chimney breasts. From the back of the main entrance hall or room, a stairway ascends to the second floor.

The second floor has a spacious hall within which the stairs in undiminished width lead to the attic, and two bedrooms with their walls and ceilings, like those in the hall, made of pine sheathing. Some of the boards are twenty-two inches in width. The master bedchamber is 19' x 23' with a ceiling height of seven feet ten inches. Over the mantel of pre-Georgian detail is an oil painting on a single panel of wood depicting in archaic style a gloomy landscape across which a stag pursued by a dog bounds toward a church and graveyard.

Some time prior to the Civil War a two-story ell was added to the back of the house, two rooms on each floor, with a porch on each level running the length of the addition. One brick chimney was built in the center of the wing.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

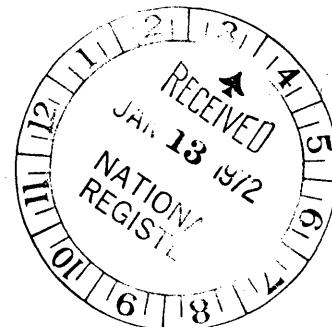
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Carter	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 14 1972	

(Number all entries)

7. Description (cont.)

The house has been vacant for about four years and its exterior is in a deteriorating condition. The interior woodwork, however, is in amazingly good condition considering its age and the overall condition of the building. Even the painted mural has escaped obliteration by paint or wallpaper for 192 years.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1780**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

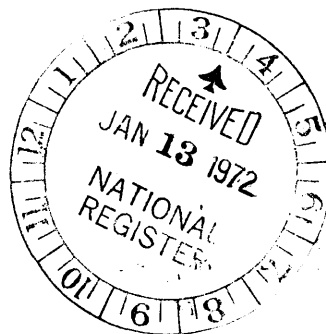
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carter home is significant and important to its area in many ways. One of the oldest houses remaining in Tennessee, its frame construction and elaborate interior woodwork are unique in that most houses of this period were of log construction. The house is possibly the only remaining tie to the Watauga Association, established on the frontier in 1772 as the first free and independent community on the American continent composed of American-born freemen.

Early in 1772 the settlers, under the "Articles of the Watauga Association," elected John Carter chairman of the Court, which for several years combined the legislative, judicial, and executive functions of the infant government. Both John Carter and his son Landon acquired extensive lands in the area and were prominent in governmental as well as military affairs, having taken part in the Revolutionary War as well as Indian activities. Carter County was named in 1796 for Landon Carter, and the county seat, Elizabethton, was named for his wife.

Plans are currently well under way for the development of the Sycamore Shoals area, a Registered National Landmark in Elizabethton, the site of the Watauga settlement and the place from which the "overmountain men" from Tennessee, including John Carter, departed for the Battle of King's Mountain where they played a decisive part in the victory. It is hoped that the Carter home can be preserved and incorporated in some way into this development, thus saving one of Tennessee's earliest houses.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brandau, Roberta S. (Ed.) History of Houses and Gardens of Tennessee (Nashville, 1936).

Merritt, Frank, Early History of Carter County (Knoxville, 1950).

Interview with Carter County Historian, Judge Ben Allen, January 20, 1972.

Written report, Mr. Joseph Downs, Curator of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, ca. 1935.

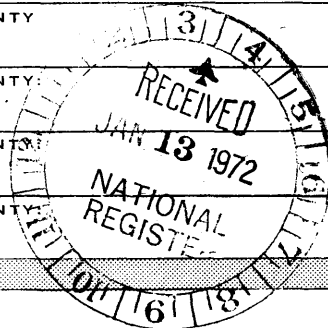
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 ' "		36° 21' 12"	82° 12' 15"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 1/25/72

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 Herbert L. Harper

Title Director of Field Services
Tennessee Historical Comm.

Date 1/25/72

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

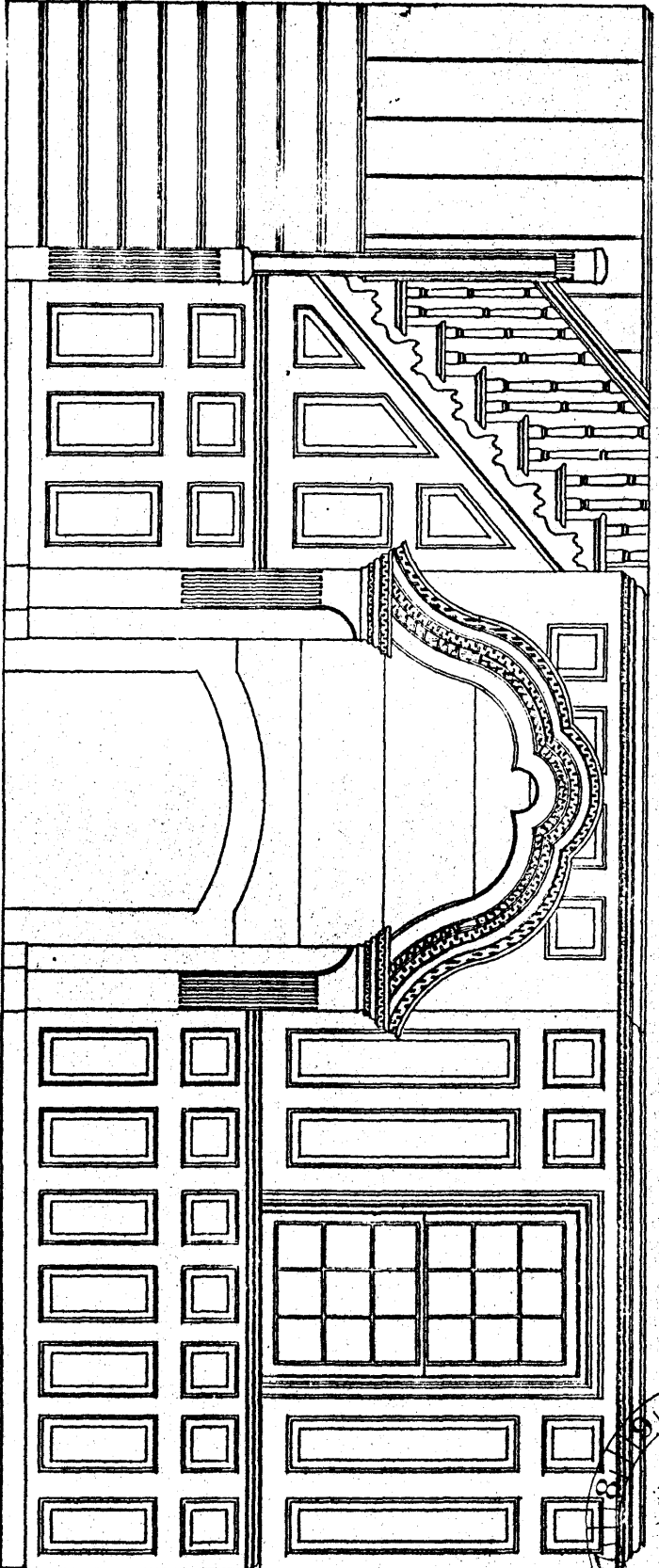
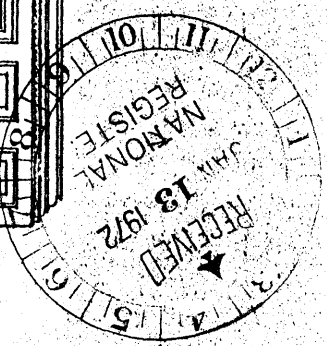
Date 4/14/72

ATTEST:

William M. Stewart
Keeper of The National Register

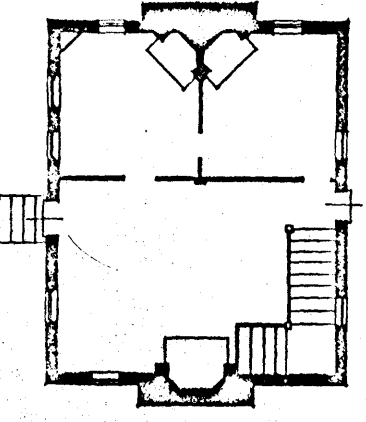
Date APR 14 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



31 REPUBLIC ELEVATION ~ GREAT HALL ~
~ J H E T M A T S J O T N ~
HOME OF JOHN F. ANDERSON CARTER
CLINTON COUNTY GEORGIA
SCALE - 3/8" = 1'-0"

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



MEASURED BY ANDERSON

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

