

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Cocke
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 29 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Beechwood Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *Not Reported on*  
Rankin Road

CITY OR TOWN: Newport *inc.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Cocke CODE: 029

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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	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)

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Miss Louise Seehorn

STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office

CITY OR TOWN: Newport STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Newport STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

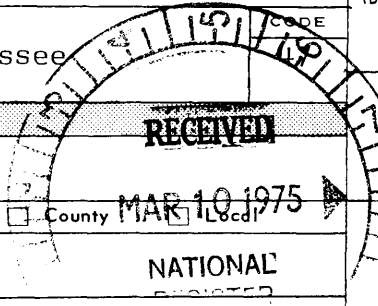
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: NATIONAL REGISTER

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Cocke

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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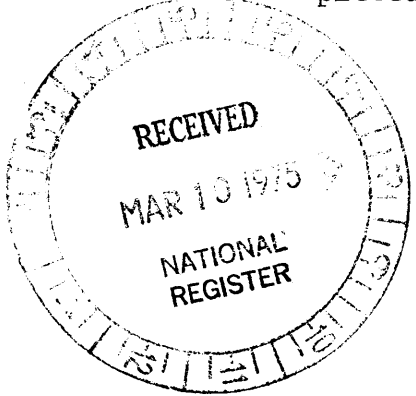
**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on some of the best farmland of Cocke County is Beechwood Hall, a plantation home that was built in two sections during the early 19th century. Beechwood Hall is located about 200 yards from the Old Rankin Road at the end of a narrow lane: the sight of the building beyond the gates and down that lane is most impressive. The farm is one of a number of farms on the neck of land between the Pigeon and French Broad Rivers. A number of old homes are located on this strip of fertile ground; this home is the finest.

Beechwood Hall was patterned after typical Virginia colonial designs. The masonry of alternating dark and light brick was set in Williamsburg style. The original structure was a Federal style structure that was built by William Garrett in 1802. Before Garrett sold the house in 1832, he added a wing of the same masonry which curves from the original structure and doubles the size of the home. Behind the wing is a kitchen which includes an open hearth. The curved parlor of the wing leads to a curved staircase which provides access to the second floor. A one story porch extends the entire length of the rear portion of the home. The fourth owner of the home, Jacob H. Susong, added a neoclassical porch to the original structure in 1878 or 1879. The portico of second floor door was left intact. Close to the kitchen is the most significant outbuilding--an attractive well house which was completed in the same masonry style as the house.



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**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) 1802, 1832

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Garrett, the original owner of Beechwood Hall, purchased the farm on which he built the home from A. S. Outlaw, an in-law of the original land owner, John Gilliland, in 1799. Garrett was one of the early lawyers of the county. He was assistant county court clerk in Jefferson County previous to 1798. When Cocke County was formed in October, 1797, he became the county court clerk, a post he held until 1828. During the War of 1812 he supervised the shipment of and accompanied supplies to New Orleans for the U. S. Navy.

Garrett was a Methodist preacher in the area; he was instrumental in the growth of Methodism in East Tennessee. During his lifetime he accumulated a large estate. Beechwood Hall was open to many figures of early Tennessee times: among the guests were the Methodist bishops, Asbury, Whatcoat, McKendree, George, and Roberts. Gray Garrett, the son of William and Betsy Gray Garrett, was a lawyer in Dandridge; he was a representative to the State General Assembly and Constitutional Convention of 1834. William Garrett, Jr., another son (whose mother was Elizabeth C. Garrett) moved to Alabama in 1833. There he held various political posts including state representative, state senator, and secretary of state.

The splendid home was sold in 1832 to Samuel Lotspeich, a Methodist minister. In 1853, Marcus A. Roadman purchased the home and farm. He was a local merchant and editor of the Newport Herald. During the Civil War, the farm was subject to pilfering; horses were kept in the basement to avoid the loss of the animals. During the last quarter of the 19th century, J. H. Susong purchased Beechwood Hall: it has remained in his descendants' possession to this day.

Beechwood Hall is significant as the home of an early political and religious leader of the area. It also possesses architectural significance, representing one of the earliest types of houses built by influential East Tennesseans. It is an outstanding landmark of the area.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carberry, Michael, Historic Sites in Blount, Cocke, Monroe, and Sevier Counties (Knoxville, 1973).  
 O'Dell, Ruth W., Over the Misty Blue Hills (Newport, 1950).  
 Selected newspaper clippings, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville.

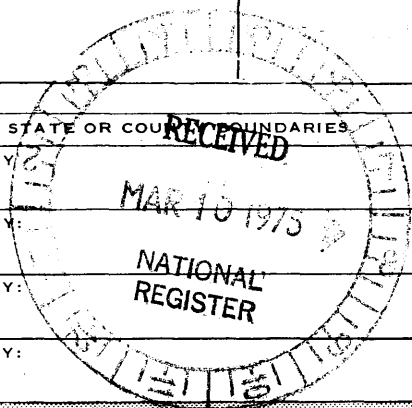
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		35° 59' 27"	83° 10' 59"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Michael Carberry, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION: East Tennessee Development District      DATE: 6-6-74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 1810 Lake Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Knoxville      STATE: Tennessee      CODE: 47

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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: Lauren Casey

Title: Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 3/6/75

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

A. B. Winterson  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/29/75

ATTEST:

W. S. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAY 22 1975