

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Robertson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 11 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Corn silk (Representative Richard Fulton)

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Thomas Stringer Home

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: N of ...  
Highland Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cross Plains

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Robertson	CODE 147
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**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"/> 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. N. S. Yancy

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Highland Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cross Plains

STATE: Tennessee	CODE: 47
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Robertson County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Springfield

STATE: Tennessee	CODE: 47
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County

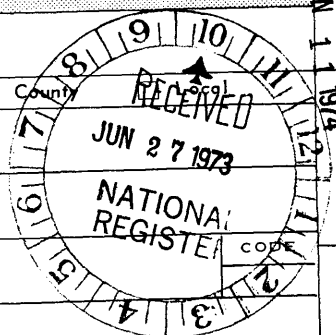
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:
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STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Robertson

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7 DESCRIPTION

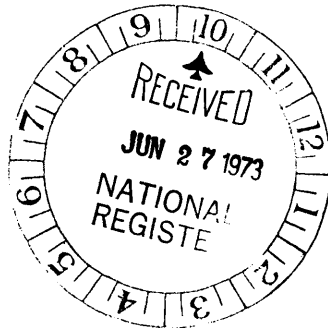
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Thomas Stringer built this clapboard house circa 1850. The main portion of the house consists of an entrance hall, two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. A kitchen is attached to the rear. The upstairs rooms are reached by separate staircases. A curving walnut staircase leads from the entrance hall to the left upper room while a corner staircase leads to the right room. The floors are of poplar and constructed with square nails. The most unusual architectural feature of this house is the recessed two story front porch.

The only alteration to the original structure has been the reconstruction of a single room adjacent to the left side of the house. The date of this addition is unknown.

Across the road from the house is a one-room schoolhouse. This building was also constructed of clapboard circa 1850. It was built by Thomas Stringer for the education of his own fifteen children and for neighbor's children.



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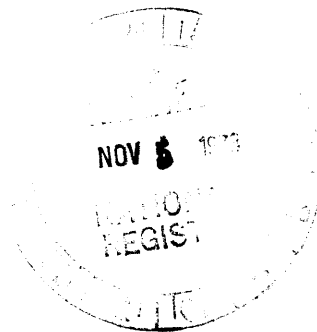
(Continuation Sheet)

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7. (description)

Corn silk is a simple, rectangular, two-story frame Tennessee vernacular structure with a room added to the left side in recent years. It has an unusual two-story recessed porch with two simple square columns on each level. It has a tin roof and a brick chimney at either end of the main portion of the house. The only significant outbuilding is a one-room, frame schoolhouse built by Thomas Stringer for the education of his children.



**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) c1850

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/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry              | osophy                                  | _____                                    |
| <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                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture          | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" 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

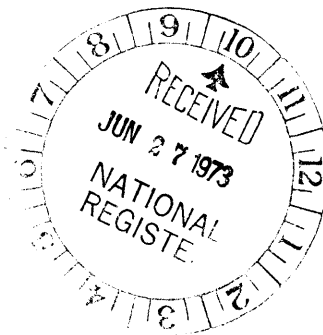
The basic architectural style of this house is typical of the mid-nineteenth century in Tennessee. However, the recessed two story front porch is most unusual. It is the only known house in Robertson County which was constructed during this period with a recessed front porch.

The literary significance of this house relates to Andrew Nelson Lytle. Mr. Lytle owned the house and lived there when he wrote the novel A Name for Evil (1947).

The novel is a ghost story concerning a couple who set out to restore a southern mansion. A much deeper theme underlies the story concerning the plight of western man and his civilization.

Lytle, (1902- ) was a native of Murfreesboro and attended Vanderbilt University. He was a member of the literary group that was a part of the Agrarian movement and called themselves the Fugitives. He is an author, teacher, and editor, having retired in 1972 after ten years as editor of The Sewanee Review. His biography of Nathan Bedford Forrest, Bedford Forrest and His Critter Company, is considered one of the best biographies on Forrest. Among Lytle's other novels are At the Moon's Inn, The Velvet Horn, and The Long Night. From the works of Lytle have come many contributions to Southern history and culture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Warfel, Harry R., American Novelists of Today, New York, 1951.

Interview with owner.

Vertical file on Andrew Lytle, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

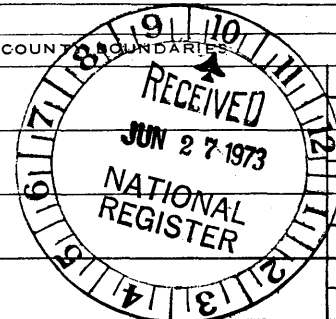
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		36° 38' 06"	86° 37' 55"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM  
16/532920  
4054250  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7

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:  
Mrs. Linda O'Neil

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 6-15-73

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 6-30-73

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

A. P. Wastene  
~~EXEC~~ Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
Director,

Date 6/11/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. Herring  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6-7-74

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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. (significance)

Corn silk received its name in the 1930's from Andrew Nelson Lytle, who named it for his ancestral home in Alabama. The builder of the house, Thomas Stringer, was an early settler in the area, but was of no great significance otherwise. Although the works of Andrew Nelson Lytle were written less than 50 years ago, his importance in the field of Tennessee literature would seem to justify waiving of the 50 year rule. The house is significant primarily because of his association with it, but it also possesses architectural significance because of the unusual entrance of the house. There are no records available to expand on the building of the house. It is a very important building in its area.

