

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Sumner	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.7.41.6011	DATE 7/8/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rock Castle

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SE of Hendersonville on
Indian Lake Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Hendersonville *vic.*

STATE Tennessee	CODE 41	COUNTY: Sumner	CODE 165
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Will be</u> <u>in near future.</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Tennessee

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Tennessee

CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Gallatin

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
H.A.B.S. (Photographs only)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

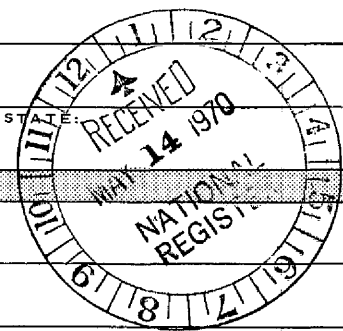
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C.

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Sumner

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rock Castle is a two-story limestone house done in the federal style as it was interpreted in Tennessee. The house was begun in 1784 and took approximately seven years to construct. Timber was cut in the surrounding area for use and a quarry was opened nearby to provide the stone.

The house is built in the shape of an "L" with the stem of the "L" containing four rooms. ^{ell}The parlor, or, more formal living room, is on the east side of the ground floor with a central hall containing the rather simple stair dividing it from the family living room on the west side. The dining room is located immediately behind the family living quarters. On the second floor are three bedrooms, all spacious with ample lighting provided by windows on this level. The basement contains the area probably used for cooking and preparing meals. The floor is now concrete; however, it was an earthen floor in the early days.

The stone was originally cemented with lime mortar and sand. In places it has been improperly repointed with concrete because rain had washed away some of the mortar. The stones were placed length-wise and width-wise alternately in a flemish-bond pattern, although there is no real adherence to this rule throughout the building.

The original roof was made of smooth pine shingles that withstood rain and snow for over one hundred years. The wood shingles have since been replaced with a slate roof so heavy it has caused the rafters to bow under its weight.

The house has a large stone chimney at either end of the main house with another in the ell. ^{gentil cornice}The chimneys extend slightly out from the main wall to create an effect with light and shade. The house has a fortress effect with no windows in the ends of the main house except small attic lights. The front of the house has eight windows and two doors - one opening on the upstairs porch and one below. The four lower windows contain 12 over 12 panes while the upper four contain 8 over 8. The upper door was originally a window but was converted to a door in the 1850's when the house was "modernized" to include a Greek Revival type porch with balcony.

The interior of Rock Castle is simple and exhibits excellent workmanship. The wood paneling in the rooms and the stairways and banisters were done by a carpenter who was very skilled with his tools, but unfamiliar with more ornate design. The wood graining in the parlor is an 1850's addition and is expertly done and well preserved. The other woodwork is original with original floors and very few interior changes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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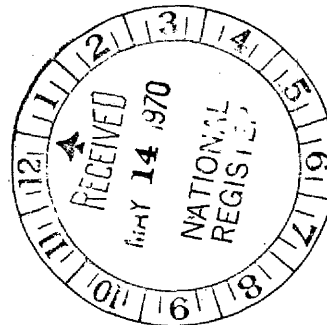
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Sumner	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (cont.)

With the exception of dormers added on the ell, a concrete porch at the rear, electricity and running water, the house is little changed. However, the setting is very different from the large farm operation that was carried on. A large lake created in the area inundated most of the outbuildings and surrounding land. Only the stone smokehouse remains and it had to be moved to higher ground when the lake was filled.



2. 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) 1784 - 1791

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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rock Castle, located in Sumner County in Middle Tennessee, was built before 1800 by Daniel Smith. It is a most significant property for its owner was very prominent in early Tennessee government. No less important is the architectural value of this imposing two-story stone house built during the pioneer period in Tennessee when Indians were still rampant. As our state developed this large land area owned by Smith was one of the most productive farms in the rich Central Basin. The house and property around it remained in the hands of Smith descendants until 1969 when the State of Tennessee purchased it as a part of its historic site program.

Daniel Smith came with his family from Virginia in 1783 and settled in the Cumberland River area on Drake's Creek in Sumner County. Smith was born to respected members of Virginia colonial society and was educated at William and Mary College. After schooling Smith was appointed deputy surveyor in Virginia. He also served in the colonial militia and was important in the defense of the southwest area of Virginia during many Indian skirmishes. When hostilities between the British and colonists began, Smith was elected to the Committee of Safety in Fincastle County, Virginia, in 1775. He was later appointed Justice of the Peace in Virginia County by Governor Patrick Henry and was promoted to major in the colonial militia. All this practical experience in local government would serve him well in Middle Tennessee later.

In 1779 Smith was commissioned along with four other men to survey the boundary claims of the lands westward between Virginia and North Carolina. This project forced Smith to be away from home for one year, and ended in a quarrel between the states over the correct line. The dispute was settled in 1791 when both state legislatures recognized the "Walker Line," named for one member of the Virginia party, as correct.

Upon returning home from his activities in the west, Smith joined his militia unit and assisted in the American victory at King's Mountain. After the victory he returned home to Washington County, Virginia. By 1783 he heard the westward call and came with his family to Middle Tennessee. He had passed through this area earlier on a surveying trip and knew it well. By 1788 Smith had

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brandau, Roberta S. History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee (Nashville, 1936).
 Bryant, Gladys E. "Daniel Smith, Citizen of the Tennessee Frontier." Unpublished master's thesis, Vanderbilt University, 1960.
 Cochran, Gifford, Grandeur In Tennessee (New York, 1946).
 Delaney, Joseph. "Rock Castle." Unpublished manuscript, Tennessee Historical Commission, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

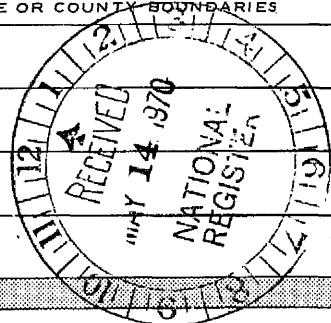
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY 'OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	36	°	16	'	35	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	86	°	35	'	48	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

UTM
17/536240
4014800
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 May Dean Coop, Director of Programs

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE: 4-7-70

STREET AND NUMBER:
 403, 7th Avenue, N.

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 41

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: Stephen S. Lawrence
 Executive Director
 Title: Tennessee Historical Commission
 4-9-70

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief Allen Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 8 1970

Date

ATTEST:
William J. Hunt
 Keeper of The National Register

Date

MAY 27 1970

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COUNTY Sumner	
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8. Significance (cont.)

accumulated 4,722 acres of land in Sumner County where he built his home, Rock Castle, and lived the remainder of his life.

His popularity and experience in government meant that he was soon appointed to public office. In 1783 he was appointed a member of the first county court; in 1784 he was appointed official surveyor for the Middle Tennessee region; he was appointed secretary of the "territory south of the river Ohio" by President Washington; he served twice as a representative at a convention called by North Carolina to vote on ratification of the Federal Constitution; he served on a five man delegation from Sumner County that helped draw up a state constitution in 1796; in 1796 Smith was appointed a presidential elector for the state; he was appointed in 1798 to fill the unexpired U. S. Senate term of Andrew Jackson; and, in 1805, after two unsuccessful tries, he was elected to the U. S. Senate, during which time he contributed a great deal in dealing with western problems. He resigned in 1809 with 2 years remaining in his term to return home to Rock Castle.

On June 16, 1818, Smith died and was buried at Rock Castle. He had spent most of his seventy years in government affairs and helped to lay solid foundations for government in the state of Tennessee. He was overshadowed by men with greater personal charisma, but his contributions cannot be ignored.

His home still stands as a monument to him and has recently been purchased by the Tennessee Historical Commission for restoration and preservation. With development of this property, understanding will be gained of an outstanding man, and early Tennessee homes and pioneer life.

