

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Cocke	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 18 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Swaggerty Blockhouse (Representative James H. Quillen.)

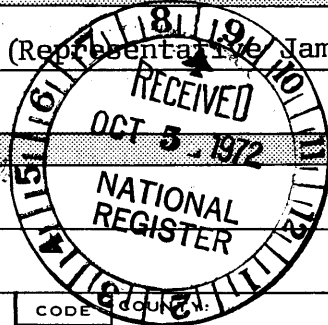
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Swaggerty Fort

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *E of Parrottsville*  
U. S. Highway 411

CITY OR TOWN:  
Parrottsville

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 type="checkbox"/> Object <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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Gay Gillespie

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Parrottsville 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  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Cocke

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE: JUN 18 1973

**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

The exact date of the construction of the Swaggerty Blockhouse has not been established, but the best records available would indicate that it was built by James Swaggerty between 1785 and 1790, shortly after he bought land in the area. A two-story log house was built nearby, and tradition has it that the blockhouse was built as a place of refuge during possible Indian raids which were common at that time. Numerous forts or blockhouses were known to have been built about the same time. Many Indian artifacts have been found in surrounding fields.

The building is three stories, with the basement or first floor being mostly underground and constructed of stones over a fine spring, thus insuring a supply of water in event of a long siege. The second floor, measuring 12 feet square and 6 feet in height, was constructed of large hewn logs which are still intact. The third floor, overhanging the second floor four feet on each side, was also originally of log construction, with the projection offering protection. In order for the settlers to reach the top floor, a ladder hewn from logs would be lowered from the top floor and then pulled back inside. This ladder is still preserved. At some time the logs on the third floor were removed and replaced by frame construction, possibly for structural reasons. The original roof was taken off by a windstorm a few years ago and replaced with tin. The present owner boxed in the area below the overhang on one side, and built a concrete block pumphouse adjoining the blockhouse.

The building is still very sturdy, and is being used by the present owner as a granary. It presents a very unique appearance to the modern traveler.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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)

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/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Historical Archaeology</u>                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Swaggerty Blockhouse or fort is the only known blockhouse remaining in the state on its original site. Having been built at a time of great Indian unrest, these forts were once very numerous in Tennessee, but time has taken its toll. This fort, then, is truly significant as a reminder of the places of refuge from Indian attacks in this troubled era, and the present owner is anxious that it be preserved for future generations to see. Its location and design reflects the ingenuity of the settlers in providing for a need that existed. The blockhouse offers an opportunity to conduct historical archaeology to explore the site of an early fort and possibly discover further evidence of use and habitation.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cocke County Banner. June 17, 1971; March 2, 1972.  
 Newport Plain Talk. October 2, 1969.  
 O'Dell, Ruth Webb, Over the Misty Blue Hills. (Newport, 1951).  
 Interview June 21, 1971, with Mrs. L. V. Eberle, Copperhill,  
 Tennessee, great-great granddaughter of James Swaggerty.

HB  
no Wpm

**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	0 . "	0 . "		36 00 . 59 .	83 03 . 48 "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "		47"	04' 17"	
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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: **9-11-72**

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 Michael J. Smith

Title Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical  
Commission

Date 9-11-72

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

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

Date 6/18/73

ATTEST:

Robert W. Utley  
 Director of The National Register

Date June 5, 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

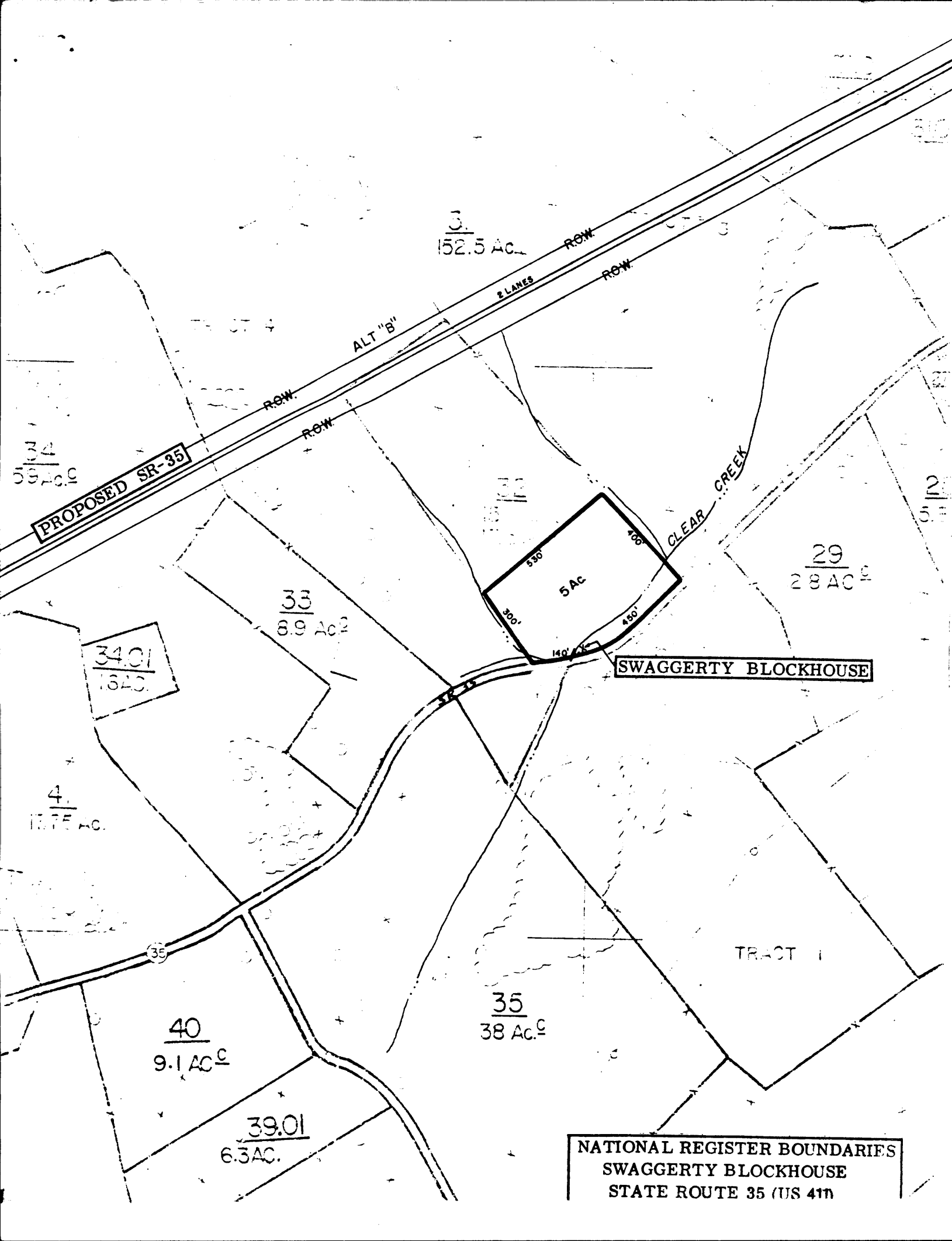
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Swaggerty Blockhouse

#10 Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

Tract #32 - Beginning at the west bank of Clear Creek, the line runs west along SR-35 for 140' to the southwest property line thence northwest along the property line for 300' where it turns and runs for 530' in a northeast direction to the northeast property line where it runs southeast for 400' to the road. The line then follows SR-35 southwest for 450' across Clear Creek where it ends on the west bank. This tract contains the blockhouse, a section of Clear Creek and approximately five acres of surrounding land historically associated with the structure. The five acre tract was selected because it appeared an appropriate amount to provide a historical setting for the blockhouse.



**PROPOSED SR-35**

ALT "B"

2 LANES

ROW

ROW

ROW

ROW

CLEAR CREEK

5 AC

**SWAGGERTY BLOCKHOUSE**

29  
28 AC

33  
8.9 AC

34  
16.4 AC

4  
13.75 AC

40  
9.1 AC

39.01  
6.3 AC

35  
38 AC

TRACT 1

**NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARIES  
SWAGGERTY BLOCKHOUSE  
STATE ROUTE 35 (US 411)**