

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUN 1 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name White, Meady, House

other names/site number Holland House

2. Location

street & number Highway 69 or Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Saltillo N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Hardin code 071 zip code 38370

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hanger 5/28/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:) _____

for Signature of the Keeper
Guymr. Lapsley
Date of Action
7/1/93
Entered in the National Register

White, Meady, House
Name of Property

Hardin, TN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	7	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	7	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: I-House with Greek Revival
and Italianate influences

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone piers
walls WOOD: weatherboarding

roof METAL shingles

other BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Art

Settlement

Commerce

Period of Significance

1847 - 1889

Significant Dates

1847

1872 - 77

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

White, Meady

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

White, Meady, House
Name of Property

Hardin, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 4.7 acres

Thurman, TN 23NW

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
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3	9	0	2	2	0
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3	4	1	5	3	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nita Rutledge Vaughn

organization Private Consultant date 3-5-1993

street & number 109 E. Canby Circle telephone (901) 925-3097

city or town Savannah state TN zip code 38372

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Kenneth H. Duke, Marie B. Duke

street & number 1108 Stratton Avenue telephone

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37206

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1The Meady White House
Hardin County, TN

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Meady White House is located in northern Hardin County within the city limits of the incorporated river town of Saltillo (population 417). The house was built on the old Saltillo-Lexington Road, the main road running from the Tennessee River through Saltillo to the west in the 1800s, as it is today. The house sits on 4.7 acres, down a long winding driveway, some 200 yards from Highway 69. It is surrounded by open ground on the north and south with an orchard to the west of the house and the driveway and outbuildings to the east. A fence row separates it from properties on the east and west. The front lawn on the south has the remains of an iron fence with additional fruit trees between the fence and Highway 69 or Main Street.

Constructed circa 1847 with slave labor, the house is a two-story basic I-House with a one and one-half story rear ell. The influences of both Greek Revival and Italianate styles are evident in the sidelights, transoms, five bays, full height columns on the south facade portico, pilasters, corner and paired brackets, as well as other features. The Meady White House retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

On the main (south) facade a portico extends the full height of the facade, but less than the full width. Four twelve inch square chamfered columns, with square capitals embellished with sawn woodwork, support the half-hip porch roof. Three sets of sawn wood brackets form a shallow wood arch beneath the porch eave. The side view (east and west) of the portico shows two corner brackets attached to the corner columns on the east and west and to the pilasters on the facade of the house; they also form a shallow arch.

The upper story on the south facade features a wood porch floor supported by the house and by slender iron rods in the ceiling of the porch. The supports extend downward into four square porch supports. Paired brackets begin at the junction of the porch roof and the facade and continue around the eaves at regular intervals. The porch railing is comprised of a sawn wood balustrade with square corner posts.

The main entrance features the original single door, 7'6" by 3'4", with arched panels. Original hardware includes a door bell that still works. The entrance features an elaborate door surround comprised of a narrow pilaster to either side of the door, then sidelights, another narrow pilaster, and, joining it, a wider pilaster. The sidelights are hinged on the inside and open for ventilation. They are held in place when not in use by a sliding latch. The sidelights have a lower wood panel and four

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rectangular lights. Above the door is a four light transom with a patterned frosted design.

Opening onto the upper porch is a similar entrance, scaled down to fit the height of the upper level. The single door, 6'8" by 3', exhibits the same arched panels as on the main entrance door. The sidelights feature a lower wooden panel and three rectangular lights and are hinged to open in for ventilation. There is no transom above this door.

Windows on the south facade are the original 6/6 sash with plain wood surrounds. The panes are unequal in size, with the center pane being twelve inches and the two panes to either side of it being six inches. The lower level windows are 8'5" by 2'5", with the upper level windows measuring 7' by 3'4". All windows are covered with aluminum storm windows.

The frame house has weatherboard siding, believed to be poplar, with flush siding under the porches. It is supported by hewn logs, visible only under the house. The foundation is limestone piers infilled with stones and concrete blocks. Pilasters are on the corners of the house. The side gabled roof is covered with metal shingles, circa 1920-1925.

On the east two-story elevation is an exterior brick chimney, handmade by slaves, with a brick base. The side gabled roof features a wide fascia board, cornice returns, and paired brackets. A single small opening is located below the eaves to the south of the chimney and is covered with a metal vent. This elevation has corner pilasters and no windows on the two story portion of the house.

Where the one and one-half story rear ell of the east elevation joins the main house, there are circa 1925 folding doors opening into the back of the center hall. A length of porch, screened, ends on the north end with a bathroom, circa 1925-1930. The east bathroom wall has a window.

The two-story west elevation features an external brick chimney of handmade bricks resting on a brick base. The side gabled roof features a wide fascia board, cornice returns, and paired brackets. A single small opening, located below the eaves to the south of the chimney, is covered with metal vent. The corners feature pilasters. Two windows are located south of the chimney, one upper and one lower level, and two of the same to the north of the chimney. They match the rest of the windows on the two-story portion of the house in height and width. A side entrance on the one and one-half story west elevation is opposite the entrance on the east elevation and has a small shed overhang. The single door has sidelights,

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The Meady White House
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hinged to open in for ventilation, and a transom. The sidelights have a lower wooden panel and four rectangular lights, while the transom contains three lights. The upper sidelights and the transom lights have etched designs. To the north of this side entrance on the west elevation are two 6/6 windows with frame sills. They are 7'5" by 3'. The last room on the west elevation has a single 6/6 window and an internal brick chimney.

The one and one-half story north elevation features an gable end with a roof that extends over the enclosed portion of the porch to the east. A small vented opening is in the peak of the gable and a single window below has a shed overhang. A door was closed in where the window is now and its removal is clearly visible. On the east side of the elevation is a window in the bathroom.

The north elevation of the two-story portion of the house features two lower level and two upper level windows on the east end. They match the other windows in this part of the house in size. In the center of the upper level just above the roof line of the one-story part is a single window. Hidden from view by the screened porch and the bathroom is an entrance at the back of the center hall. A single door, 7'6" by 3', has sidelights with a lower wooden panel and four rectangular lights. The sidelights originally opened in for ventilation, but are now nailed shut. A three light transom is above the door.

The interior of the Meady White House features a central hall plan. The hall has original plaster walls, wooden floors and the staircase. The ceiling is 10'6" and, located at the back of the hall ceiling, are painted freehand designs, circa 1872-1877. The designs also appear on the upper level of the stairs. They were painted by an Irish artist, John Joseph Christie, who came to this country in 1868 at the age of sixteen. The designs on the ceiling feature a light green background with borders of dark brown and sage green. Designs within the four corners of the borders and the center are geometric in form and its colors are several shades of green and brown. The painted designs also appear on the front and back sides of the upper level of the stairs. They are painted with a light brown background with the design in dark brown, also geometric in form.

The room to the east of the center hall features painted wood graining on the baseboards, door and window frames, and door. The fireplace has a rectangular opening with a simple mantle shelf and pilasters and painted wood graining. It is not known if the graining was done at the same time of the construction of the house in 1847 or, possibly, by the artist Christie in the 1870s. The graining in the White House is excellent and

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done in meticulous detail. According to Nina Fletcher Little's American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850, "We wonder today at a fashion which called for painting wood to resemble itself, but by this means the humble pine could be effectively disguised as cedar, mahogany, oak, or maple and one nineteenth century observer stated that graining gave an 'elegance to the wood.' Another writer in 1833 had this to say on the subject: 'Recommended that all woodwork if possible be grained in imitation of some natural wood, not with a view of having the imitation mistaken for the original, but rather to create an allusion to it, and by a diversity of lines to produce a kind of variety and intricacy which affords more pleasure to the eye than a flat shade of colour.'" (pages 6-7) The plaster walls and ceiling retain wallpaper imported from Italy at the time of construction, although it is in poor condition. The room to the west of the hall also has painted wood graining on the door and window frames and door. The mantle is painted to resemble marble and has pilasters. A closet is located in the inner corner of this room. The plaster walls and ceiling of the east room retain some of the historic wallpaper. A closet is located on the inner wall of this room.

Another room to the west of the center hall also has painted wood graining on the door and window frames and the door. The fireplace has a rectangular opening with a simple mantle shelf and pilasters. It is painted to resemble marble. A closet is also located in the inner corner of this room. The plaster walls retain some wallpaper, and the remnants of some paintings are extant on the ceiling. A door on the north wall of this room leads into a room 10' by 17' that contains freehand painted designs on the ceiling. A border with narrow and wide bands of dark and light brown has geometric designs within the borders in the corners, also brown in color. An overall diamond shape in the center has inner designs also painted in brown. The ceiling height is fourteen feet; originally this space was a side hall. An outside entrance is located on the west wall and folding doors with transoms, circa 1920-1925, are on the east. These doors separate the back of the center hall from this room.

The walls in the west room (side hall) are plaster over lath and this is visible in one spot near the floor. A door on the north wall leads to a large room that has walls of varying width wood planks. A fireplace with a plain mantle shelf and pilasters is located on the north wall. A door opens on the east wall onto the side screened porch. Two windows are located on the west wall. A door in the northeast corner of the north wall opens into the kitchen. Immediately to the left of this door is a small pantry with door formed from space beside the chimney. A fireplace on the south wall of the kitchen has a rectangular opening with a plain mantle

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shelf and pilasters. This fireplace shares an internal brick chimney with the preceding fireplace. To the west of the fireplace is a large pantry with shelves. Above this pantry is a door in the wall which is partially covered with the lowered ceiling (circa 1962-65). This pantry is no longer accessible as the door opened out. It was called Mr. White's sugar pantry and was where he kept the sugar and other valuables. A window is located on the west wall of the kitchen. A line of upper and lower cabinets are located on the north wall with the sink under a single window. A door opens on the east wall onto the side porch with the bathroom addition on the wall at the end of the porch immediately to the left. The bathroom curves out from the kitchen wall to accommodate a kitchen door and to make the bathroom large enough for use. The bathroom, circa 1920-1925, has a tub and fixtures from that era.

The upper level of the house is accessed by ten steps which lead up to a landing with a turn to the west and five more steps going to the upper hall. The stairway has turned wood balusters and a polygonal newel post. As you step into the upper hall a door facing you from the stairs opens into the west room. This room has a nine foot ceilings and features a fireplace on the west wall with simple mantle with pilasters. A small door above the floor level of the north wall of this room accesses the attic area of the one and one-half story ell. A closet is located in the inner south corner of this room. The hallway measure 12' by 17' with a single door opening onto the upper level porch on the south. The porch measures 5 1/2' by 13' and features a fireplace with a simple mantel shelf and pilasters. There is a closet in the north corner. The walls and the ceiling are plaster, while the floors are wood.

Seven outbuildings are located near the White House. (1) To the east of the house across the driveway is what remains of a circa 1920 wood shed. The supporting posts of concrete are topped by a 1992 tin roof and two sides are enclosed with modern fiberglass panels. (2) Approximately twenty feet to the east of this building is a storage building with three doors and a modern shed addition. The date of this building is unknown. (3) About fifteen feet to the east of the house is the original well. Today it is covered with a modern well house. (4) East of the well house is a modern storage building. (5) An early twentieth century plank barn is situated approximately two hundred and fifty feet northeast of the house. (6) A modern farm outbuilding is located east of the barn. (7) A frame privy in fair condition. Its age is unknown, but it may be early twentieth century. Because of alterations or because they fall outside of the period of significance, these outbuildings are considered noncontributing.

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Few alterations that affect the integrity of the house have occurred. In 1913, when the house was purchased from the White family by the Hollands, Mr. Holland converted the original kitchen for use as a storeroom and laundry room. He also converted the original dining room into a kitchen. Mr. Holland built a water tank and pumped water from the well into the tank with a gasoline powered pump. He ran pipe into the house, putting a cold water faucet in the back room for laundry. Pipes running into the kitchen ran into a water tank that sat on the hearth. A wood stove in front of the fireplace was vented into the tank and a fire was built to heat water. He closed in the north end of the long side porch for a bathroom and piped the hot water into it. He also screened the side porch. He divided the center hall from the side hall with transoms and folding doors in order to heat it easier. This hall area was used for a sitting room. The doors on the west wall of the back of the center hall were replaced with folding doors without transoms. The paintings on the ceiling of the west front room were papered over sometime prior to 1913. The side gable roof was originally covered with wood shingles, still visible in the attic of the ell. Mr. Holland replaced the wood shingles with metal shingles circa 1920-1925. Electricity was added to the house when it became available in Saltillo in the early 1930s.

Historically, the Meady White House had an additional two rooms on the rear portion of the house. The roof of these two rooms was at different level from the rest of the house. The house was sold to Fred Emerson in 1962 and the new owner removed the back two rooms and lowered the ceiling in the kitchen, cutting off Mr. White's sugar pantry. Some fireplaces were bricked up and gas heaters were put into use. A part of the freehand painting in the hall was painted over circa 1962-1965.

Harbert Shutt owned the house from 1965-1972. He replaced the original wood porch floor on the south facade with a concrete floor. Some repair work was done at the bases of the columns at this time.

The Duke family purchased the property in 1972. Within the last ten to fifteen years, aluminum storm windows were added to the windows and gas heaters were installed in front of fireplaces. A hot water tank was also installed.

At one time there was a carriage house and several farm outbuildings on the property. There are no visible remains of any slave houses nor any information on their location with respect to the house.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Meady White House is significant under criterion B for its association with the early Saltillo settler, businessman, farmer, and landowner, Meady White. It is significant under criterion C as an example of an I-House with Greek Revival and Italianate detailing and for artistic value based on the freehand paintings on ceilings and stairs. Under criterion B the house is significant from 1847 to 1889, the traditional date of construction and the death of Meady White. White settled in what is present day Saltillo between 1840-1846 and was instrumental in establishing the town as a thriving river trade center. He was a wealthy farmer with extensive landholdings and a slave owner prior to the Civil War. He owned a stave business and a tanyard. Architecturally, the house features an interesting two story portico with square columns on the facade. Pilasters, wood embellishments, transoms and sidelights are some of the principal exterior features. Outstanding interior features include painted wood graining on doors, door and window frames, and mantles. Another fireplace was painted to resemble marble. A portion of the stairs in the center hall, the ceiling at the back of the hall, and ceiling of the original side hall feature painting or stenciling of decorative designs.

The town of Saltillo is first mentioned in Brazelton's History of Hardin County with reference to the year 1819. It was in that year that two men built a camp near a large spring in the area. During the same year, settlers moved into the area near the present day Shady Grove Church, a few miles from Saltillo. In the fall of 1822, a settlement was made by Thomas Shannon near what is now Saltillo. A log house was first built on the west side of the Tennessee River in Hardin County, although that location is now Decanter County. In 1824 Major James Montgomery built the first mill on the west side of the river near present day Saltillo. During the same year Jesse W. Holland started a tanyard near Shady Grove and Charles Miles built a cotton gin. In 1825 Thomas Shannon built a log house about four hundred yards from the present boat landing in Saltillo. Smith Hawkins brought about \$200.00 worth of dry goods from Louisville on a keelboat for Mr. Shannon to sell for him. A log store house was built and the place was called Hawkin's Landing. It was also during 1825 that Thomas Shannon was granted liberty to open a ferry at this location. In 1842 John Davy bought the Thomas Shannon land and the area became known as Davy's Landing. In 1849 Mr. Davy leased the landing to Scott Terry, who named it Saltillo. He sold goods there for about two years before his death in 1851. Prior to 1855, the business houses of Saltillo were located near the river. It was not until after the Civil War that the commercial area moved westward away

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from the river. At the time Meady White constructed his house in 1847, Saltillo was still a raw settlement on the verge of a boom in river commerce. The town was destined to make it as a thriving river community by the 1880s. White built his house some distance from the river and, at the age of twenty-eight, was one of the first permanent settlers of Saltillo. He also became involved in commerce and trade in the town. Hardin County was rich trading territory with Saltillo and other stops supplying farm and forest products to an eager market.

Meady White was born on January 10, 1819 in Bertie County, North Carolina. While his early years are somewhat obscure, it appears that he came to Hardin County by the 1840s and it is believed that his parents were Reuben and LaDicie White. Luther Parker White, age eighty-eight, of the Cerro Gordo community in Hardin County, is a descendant of the White family. His great-grandfather, Thomas Henry White was born in North Carolina on March 24, 1827 and died and was buried in Hardin County in 1890. The son of Thomas Henry White, Media White (pronounced like Meady) was born in Hardin County in 1861, reaching almost the age of ninety-four before his death in 1955. Luther Parker White remembers his grandfather Media White speaking of Uncle Meady White of Saltillo, across the river from Cerro Gordo, where they lived. Meady White of Saltillo and Thomas Henry White of Cerro Gordo engaged in land transactions in the 1800s.

Meady White's first wife was Jane Francis Wells of Hardin County. They were the parents of one son, James M., born February 6, 1846. Jane Francis White died, at the age of twenty, six months after the birth of her son on August 10, 1846. She was the first person buried in the Whitelawn Cemetery, established by her husband. Tradition states that sometime the following year, 1847, Meady built his house. Tradition also states that he was a slave owner at that time, borne out by his purchase of slaves during the 1850s, and that the slaves planed the weatherboarding for the house and made the brick for the chimneys.

After the death of his first wife, Meady White married Amanda Jane Alexander (born October 9, 1829). The 1850 census for the town of Saltillo lists Meady White, age thirty-one, born in North Carolina, occupation farming, with his wife Amanda J., age twenty, born in Tennessee. The children are listed as James M., age three, and Martha J, aged one. A sixteen year old laborer was also listed as being in the household. White's real estate was valued at \$1,150.00. The total population for the Thirteenth Civil District in Hardin County in 1850, which included Saltillo, was 1,130 with sixty-four heads of household listed as farmers. Of those sixty-four, fifty-three had real estate valued between \$1,000.00

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and \$3,000.00. The average age of the farmers was forty-seven with the oldest being sixty-four years of age. Meady White, at thirty-one, was next to the youngest. Along with White were listed other early settlers of Saltillo including Davy, Shannon, and Hawkins. The year 1850 found a total of 1,500 families in Hardin County. Crops produced in Hardin County that year included 7,488 bushels of wheat, 449,300 bushels of corn, and 686 bales of cotton. Livestock included 2,439 horses and mules, 6,900 head of cattle, 6,600 head of sheep, and 24,618 hogs. White was probably occupied in raising some of the crops and livestock listed in the 1850 census.

Four more children were born to Amanda and Meady White during the 1850s. Ann was born on November 11, 1850 (after the census listing). Mary was born on November 25, 1852; followed by John D. on January 24, 1854; and Reuben M. White on March 23, 1857.

During the 1850s White added to his landholdings and bought more slaves. The Register of Deeds Office in Hardin County lists three slave transactions involving White. In 1853 he purchased one Negro woman and her offspring for \$650.00; he bought a Negro boy for \$750.00 in 1857; and he bought one half of the slaves bequeathed to Martha Carroll for \$800.00 in 1859. In addition to farming, White engaged in the stave business, as white oak was plentiful in the area.

It was also during the 1850s that Meady White entered into public office for the first time. Book F, page 387 of the Circuit Court Records for the Hardin County Court 1850-1856 records that on August 7, 1854 Meady White had been elected constable of the Thirteenth Civil District. It reads in part "Meady White came to open court and exhibited a certificate of James S. Hamilton, Sheriff, stating that he was duly elected constable of the 13th Civil District and posted bond with seconds as by law." The date of the election was July 13, 1854 and his required \$4,000.00 bond was signed by Meady White, T. Shannon, and I. McCarter on August 7, 1854.

White held this office until July 6, 1857 at which time he tendered his resignation in open court. Book G, page 12 records that the Sheriff was ordered by the court to hold an election to fill the vacancy left by White's resignation. Book G, page 32 records that on December 7, 1857 "This day came into open court, Meady White, and presented this commission from the Governor of the state of Tennessee to act as Justice of the Peace in Hardin County, said state, and District 13, and was duly qualified as such."

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The Meady White House
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In 1858 White was once again back in court, as recorded in Book G, pages 114, 127, 128, 142. There was a dispute over some land and slaves involving White and several other men, against a resident of McNairy County. As a result of this lawsuit, the slaves were sold at public auction on the steps of the courthouse in Savannah on August 21, 1858, and all claims were satisfied.

The 1860 census for Saltillo lists Meady White, age 40, as farming and having real estate valued at \$3,500.00 and a personal value of \$7,000.00. Also listed in the census were his wife Amanda and his children James M., age 13; Martha J., age 11; Anne E., age 9; Mary E., age 7; John D., age 5; and Reuben M., age 2. Another child, Allie or Alice, was born in 1860 and Louisa Salina was born in 1862.

The Civil War years were difficult in Hardin County, with one of the bloodiest battles fought at Shiloh on April 6, 1862 (Shiloh National Military Park, NR10/15/66). The White family suffered their own personal tragedies during these years. On March 10, 1864, their child Louisa died and on March 11 Reuben died. Less than two months later John D. died. Another child was born in August 1865 and named William Meady White (died 1869). A daughter, Ella L., was born in 1867 and another son, Edgar L., was born in 1870.

Although personal tragedy decimated his family, the real estate holdings and personal wealth of Meady White increased during the 1860s. The census for Saltillo in 1870 lists White, a farmer, and Amanda, housekeeper. Household members included Aneliza, age 19 (possibly a nickname for Ann born in 1850); Shartlot, age 10 (possibly a nickname for Alice born in 1860); Ella L., age 3; and John Clark (relationship not known) at school. White's personal value was \$10,000.00 and his real estate was valued at 425,000.00.

In March of 1876 White purchased 297 acres of land in adjacent Decatur County for \$1,600.00. This tract of land was known as the race track land and was used for racing horses.

By the year 1880 the Register of Deeds Office in Hardin County had recorded more than twenty transactions involving Meady White purchasing land in Hardin County and lots in Saltillo.

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The 1880 census for Saltillo recorded White, a farmer, age 50, and his wife Amanda, also age 50. James M. White, age 33, was listed as a dry goods dealer; Bell, age 11, was in school, as was Edgar, age 10. Dinwiddie (male) was six years old. Dinwiddie was A.D. White, born in 1873. Another daughter, Metta Bell, had been born in 1871.

Brazelton's History of Hardin County records sixteen Civil Districts in Hardin County in 1880. Saltillo, the Thirteenth Civil District, had a population of 1,645. The County seat of Savannah had a population of 993 and Saltillo had 250 inhabitants. Countywide, there were 72,446 acres in cultivation. Over five thousand bales of cotton, 799,739 bushels of corn, 35,620 bushels of oats, and 29,248 bushels of wheat were produced. In all probability, with his extensive landholdings, White was producing these same type of crops.

Brazelton also records that in 1880 Saltillo had a Male and Female Academy, one hotel, Masonic Hall, one drug store, and eight retail dry goods stores. More cotton and staves were shipped annually from Saltillo than from any other town in Hardin County. The town of Saltillo was at its peak in trade and commerce and Meady White was involved in all aspects of it. He was a farmer, large landowner, tanyard owner, dry goods store owner, cotton mill owner, stave business owner, and a horse breeder.

White's second wife, Amanda Jane, died on September 20, 1884 was buried in Whitelawn Cemetery. In 1885 White returned to Bertie County, North Carolina to settle up some land and while there married his third wife Martha Sutton, nicknamed Pattie. A child named George was born to them on February 3, 1887, however, he died within the year.

Meady White died on December 6, 1889 at the age of seventy. He was buried in Whitelawn Cemetery. His tombstone was inscribed with "His many virtues form the noblest monument to his memory."

There was some controversy surrounding his third wife Pattie. She was alleged to have feigned illness on the day of White's funeral. During the funeral she and her brother allegedly opened the safe and removed money and valuables. Notice was served on the heirs of Meady White at Saltillo on January 25, 1890 of the intention of Mrs. Pattie White of commissioning the February term of the County Court. She made application for the court to lay off and set aside for her a homestead and dower out of the estate of Meady White, who died without a will. A check was written by J.M. White, Meady's son and the Administrator of the White estate, to Mrs. White on March 13, 1890 for the sum of \$3,60.00. On April 7, 1890 it was recorded

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in the Hardin County Deed Books that Mrs. Pattie White sold for \$3,600.00 to the heirs of Meady White the rights to her homestead and dower and all other rights to his estate.

The Inventory Book for 1876 -1895 in the County Clerk's Office in the Hardin County Courthouse list the assets of Meady White derived from the sale of personal property, farm items, etc. The family was unable to settle the estate among themselves and this resulted in a lawsuit. One side was represented by J.M. White, the Administrator of the estate, and the other side by his brother, Edgar L. White, an attorney. The Court ordered the estate inventory in order to settle the dispute. Meady White's assets included land, money, household good, farm animals and equipment, accounts from his dry goods store, profits from staves sold, money for a mill, and many miscellaneous articles.

There is a September 1892 inventory listing for monies received from the sale of land belonging to the estate of Meady White, which resulted from the lawsuit between family members. A notice in the Savannah Courier in December 1891 stated that White's land in town and his farm lands would be sold at auction "by virtue of a decree of the Chancery Court in the case of J.M. White et al vs Edgar L. White et al." A special term of the Chancery Court was to be held on December 28, 1891 to confirm sales and give the purchasers possession. Property in Saltillo to be sold included White's house, a business establishment, and several lots. The house was sold with fifteen acres. Houses that had been financed by White for his children were also sold. Lands to be sold included over 1,000 acres of farm land, 345 acres containing a tanyard (located three miles west of Saltillo), and 232 acres of the race track land in Decatur County.

The proceeds from the auction went to eight heirs of White - seven children and one grandchild. At the auction, some of the heirs purchased land from the estate. E.L. White and A.D. White bought the house for \$1,700.00. On November 23, 1897 Edgar L. and A.D. White deeded to Alice C. DeFord (their sister) the house for \$1.00. It was to be for her sole and separate use and not for her husband or future husband. (Deed Book Z, page 474.) The house remained in the White family until 1913 when Alice DeFord sold it to Mrs. J.E. Holland for \$2,150.00.

The period of significance for the Meady White House under criterion B is 1847 to 1889, the traditional date of the building of the house and his death date. White was an early settler of Saltillo, establishing himself early as a prominent landowner, businessman and important resident of the town. At the time of his death he was still actively engaged in business

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having contracted to purchase cotton less than six months before his death and having purchased a mill press in the same manner. His estate was valued at over \$42,000.00 at the time of his death.

The period of significance for the Meady White House under criterion C is circa 1847 which is the frame structure's traditional date of construction. The house is an important example of an I-House with Greek Revival and Italianate detailing. The period of significance for the house because of its artistic value is circa 1872-1877, based on the probable dates of the interior paintings by John Joseph Christie. Christie was born in Ireland in 1852 in a small town near Dublin. His father was a shipbuilder and his mother designed lace. Christie immigrated to the United States at the age of sixteen along with his brother Jim. He stayed in New York for a time and then moved on to St. Louis, Missouri. In St. Louis he met a fellow painter and artist and they opened a store together. According to his granddaughter, Dorothy Christie Caldwell of Memphis, Christie was already an accomplished artist when he arrived in New York. The store in St. Louis offered paints and decorating services. At the end of two or three years, Christie moved to Henderson, Tennessee. It was while he was in Henderson that he painted the freehand designs in the Meady White House. (Mrs. Caldwell remembers that he courted one of the White daughters, Ann.)

According to American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850 (page 6) "The influence of the travelling decorator on the early homes of rural America can hardly be overestimated. It was the itinerant painter who, for a modest sum, could provide the woodwork and walls of the simplest interior with pattern and color." Freehand designs and stenciling were intended to imitate the effect of wallpaper. Painters often used basic patterns and colors embellished with their own ideas.

Much of Christie's work remains in the White House. However, according to Christie's granddaughter the side hall in the White House originally had a border measuring twelve or fifteen inches that went from the junction of the hall ceiling and the wall down the wall. The border was of a scalloped design. Today it has geometric designs and a border of narrow and wide bands of dark and light brown on the ceiling.

By 1880, Christie was living in Jackson, Tennessee. The 1891-1892 City Directory for Jackson list J.J. Christie as residing at 120 Gates Avenue and the business was listed as Barnes and Christie Painters. T.J. Barnes began as a carriage maker in Jackson and then went into the decorating business. Barnes and Christie Painters were listed as being at 111 West Lafayette Street. In the 1898 City Directory J.J. Christie was listed as

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being at 215 Morgan Street. The business, now called, Barnes and Christie Painters and Decorators, was still listed at 111 East Lafayette Street. There is a large time span of missing directories for the City of Jackson and the next directory available is 1929. The 1929 book lists Christie Paint Company, featuring wallpaper and glass, at 214 North Market Street. (The 1929 location is no longer extant, but the Lafayette address still stands.)

Dorothy Christie, daughter of John Joseph Christie, Jr. was born in 1911 and she spent a lot of time with her grandfather. She remembers that he wore starched white cuffs (removable) on his shirts and carried charcoal with him at all times. When he would see a scene that he wanted to paint, he would push up his coat sleeve and sketch in charcoal on the cuff until he could return home or to his store and paint it. She said he painted mostly landscapes and seascapes, some of the latter from his memories of Ireland. At one time a fire in the business building destroyed thirty oil painting, all framed in gold leaf.

Mrs. Caldwell remembers her grandfather telling her about the White family, his courting of Ann White, and painting in the house. She believes that this was one of the few, possibly the only house, he decorated in this manner and that he was very proud of his work. Mrs. Caldwell is adamant that the paintings were done freehand. Although they appear stencilled from a distance, close inspection proves that they are freehand. There were no painted decorations in Christie's own house according to his granddaughter. Nor does the family have any of Christie's paintings. Mrs. Caldwell also remembers that Christie was proud of a line of fireplace mantels that he carried in his store, some of which he decorated. Still, it is not known if he painted the mantles or grained the wood in the White House. Christie died in 1931 and is buried in the Hollywood Cemetery on North Hollywood in Jackson.

One other house in Saltillo is traditionally considered to be as old as the White House or possibly two years older. This house is of Greek Revival style and it retains its exterior integrity. However, the interior has been completely modernized. Another residence, the Davis house, is possibly Civil War era and a number of other homes were constructed in the nineteenth century, but added onto in the 1920s-1940s. The former Presbyterian Church, now a Masonic Hall, is over one hundred years old. The Dr. Parker house, located west of the White House, is circa 1906, while the T.J. White House across the street is circa 1921. The Saltillo School, circa 1921, is on the south side of Main Street and now houses a restaurant. A circa 1919 house is located across the street from the

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former school. Store buildings located in the surviving business section of Saltillo, to the east of the White House, are circa 1919 or later. In the past ten or twenty years, a large number of houses in the 1850-1880 era have been torn down or burned in Saltillo.

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White, Luther Parker, grandson of Media White. Personal interviews
December 1992 and March 1993.

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The Meady White House
Hardin County, TN

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house and outbuildings sit on a 4.7 acre tract (#18) in Hardin County, Tennessee. The parcel is outlined on the enclosed tax map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the Meady White House is land currently associated with the property.

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Hardin County, TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

White, Meady, House
Highway 69 or Main Street
Saltillo, Hardin County, Tennessee
Photos By: Kenneth B. Duke
Date: March 1993
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

South Facade, facing north
#1 of 25

North elevation, facing south
#2 of 25

East elevation, facing west
#3 of 25

South facade and east elevation, facing northwest
#4 of 25

West elevation, facing east
#5 of 25

Main entrance on south facade
#6 of 25

South facade details
#7 of 25

South facade porch details
#8 of 25

Downstairs east room mantel
#9 of 25

Downstairs west room mantel
#10 of 25

Central hall stairway
#11 of 25

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Central hall painting
#12 of 25

Central hall painting
#13 of 25

Ceiling of original side hall
#14 of 25

Upstairs stairway
#15 of 25

Upstairs east room mantle
#16 of 25

Outbuilding, east of house
#17 of 25

Well house, smoke house
#18 of 25

Barn and shed
#19 of 25

Privy
#20 of 25

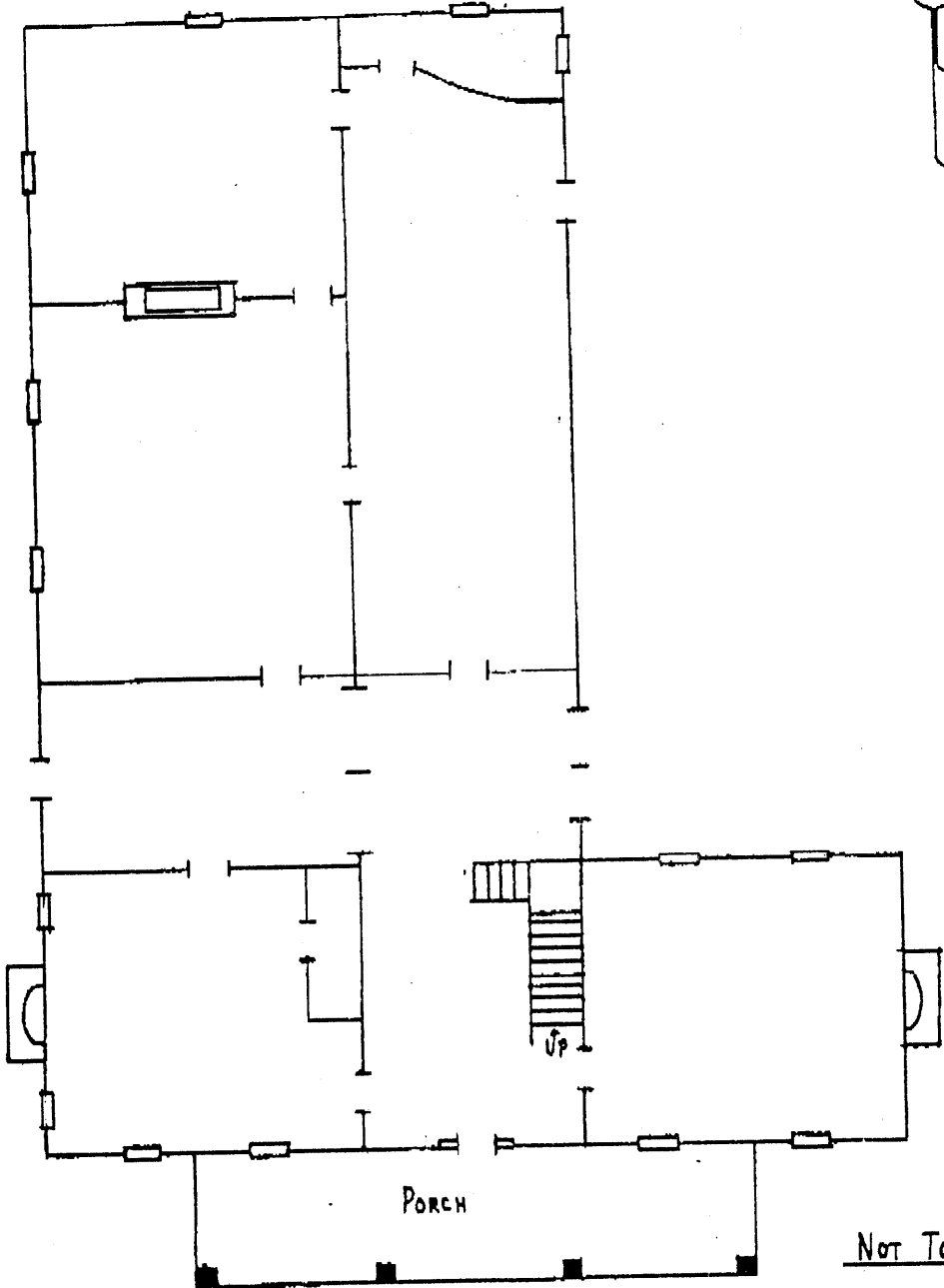
Kitchen with White's sugar pantry visible
#21 of 25

Fireplace in large room of rear, north of hall
#22 of 25

Curved wall of bathroom addition in house
#23 of 25

Graining on door of east room on first floor
#24 of 25

West elevation entry to house
#25 of 25

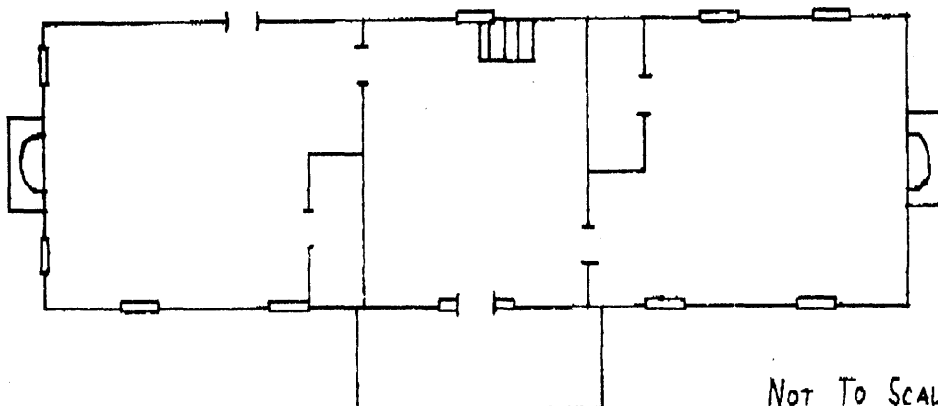


NOT TO SCALE

MEADY WHITE HOUSE
SALTILLO, TENNESSEE
CA. 1847

FIRST FLOOR

N



NOT TO SCALE

MEADY WHITE HOUSE
SALTILLO, TENNESSEE
CA. 1847

SECOND FLOOR

CITY LIMITS

C.C.

19

18

4.8 AC

4.7 AC.C

1" = 100'
White, Meady,
Hudson Co., TN
100' M HOUSE

7.01

