

# 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:  
Vinson House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION *4.5 mi S of Newport off*

STREET AND NUMBER:  
~~West of Hartford Road near Pleasant Grove~~

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport vicinity

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 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	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 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:  
Mr. Jack Vinson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route 2

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  Local

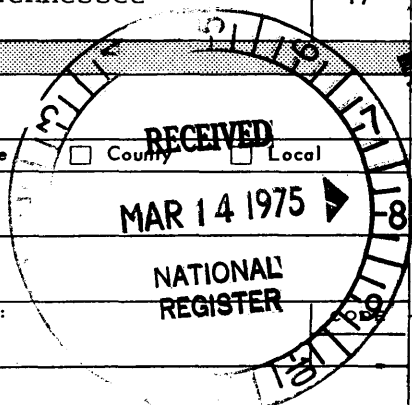
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Tennessee  
COUNTY: Cocke  
ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent   
  Good   
  Fair   
  Deteriorated   
  Ruins   
  Unexposed

---

(Check One)

Altered   
  Unaltered

(Check One)

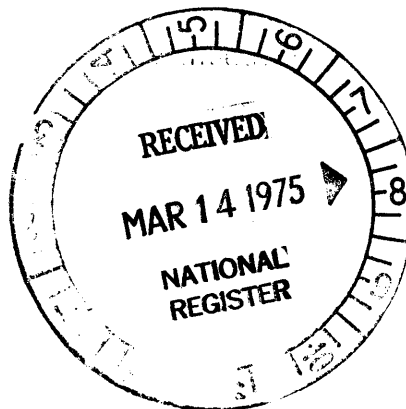
Moved   
  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Secluded down a country lane that runs past fields and woodlands is the neatly kept Vinson homeplace. It is located off Hartford Road high above the Pigeon River in the Pleasant Grove vicinity. The home appears to be a late 19th century Victorian one. The larger portion is Victorian, but, upon closer evaluation, it becomes apparent that some sections of the home are older. The home was built at three different times. The first structure to be constructed on the site was a two-story log home which was assembled in the 1790's when William Vinson first came to the area. Fifty years later another generation added a delivery area and kitchen to the log structure. The last addition occurred in the 1890's when Clay Vinson built a large two-story addition which included a parlor, living room and bedrooms. A polygonal porch surrounds the last addition and gingerbread trim decorates the eaves of the porch and roof. The log structure was clapboarded at the same time and trimmed in complementary fashion.

The farm which lies east of the Pigeon River is much depleted in size from the original tract that William Vinson had received. Much of the land was sold or donated in the scattered development of the area. The Vinsons still farm their land and the old log barn has been modernized. A smokehouse lies at the oldest portion of the home. The yard has been neatly landscaped with shrubs, ivy, and rock garden. Between the home and barn is an iris garden which is set in a geometric pattern. The inside of the home accurately reflects the periods of construction and has not been vastly altered. Antiques have been kept in the family through the six generations. The log portion is no longer inhabited and is used as storage space. The Victorian section is the present living quarters; modern kitchen and bath utilities have been added.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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)

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input 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

The Vinson homeplace has been kept in Vinson hands since the 1790's. The two first settlers to the area were William Vinson and a Mr. Hall. Vinson settled close to the Pigeon River; Hall built his homeplace on a nearby ridge. They received land grants from the State of North Carolina (as Tennessee was yet to achieve statehood) at twenty-five cents per acre (Jack Vinson still has original grant papers of his forefather). The original Vinson homeplace, a two-story structure of hand hewn log, is now a portion of the impressive Victorian home.

As others settled in the area the Vinson property was sold in various tracts. In 1848 the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church was established by Joseph Manning near the Vinson home; the site was a gift of the Vinson family. William Vinson lived until the Civil War period. He had accumulated moderate wealth before his death as a successful farmer. Six generations of Vinsons have lived in the home for its many years of existence.

The Vinson House remains one of the most significant buildings in Coker County because of its association with one of the earliest settlers of the area whose descendants still own the house. It also possesses architectural significance because it represents the progression of architectural styles from the log cabin to the Victorian. These alterations typically reflect the prosperity of the owners.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carberry, Michael, Historic Sites in Blount, Cocke, Monroe, and Sevier Counties (Knoxville, 1973).  
Clippings, Stokely Memorial Library, Newport.

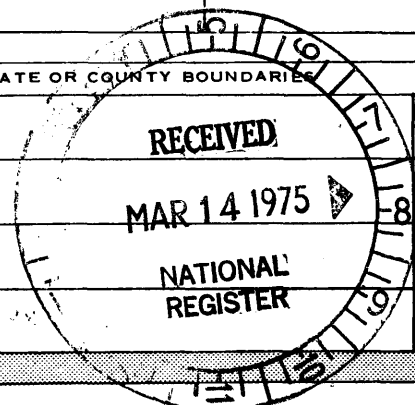
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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 ° 53' 21 "	83 ° 11' 06 "	
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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Michael Carberry, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION: East Tennessee Development District DATE: 6/20/74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1810 Lake Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Knoxville 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 Lauren [Signature] Title Executive Director Tennessee Historical Commission Date 3/11/75

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/29/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date J-2275

SEE INSTRUCTIONS