

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0670863

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	JUL 29 1976
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	AUG 16 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **
Cherry Mansion
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
101 Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Savannah

STATE
Tennessee

VICINITY OF
Sixth

COUNTY
Hardin

CODE
47

CODE
71

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Guinn

STREET & NUMBER
101 Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Savannah

STATE
Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Hardin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Court Square

CITY, TOWN
Savannah

STATE
Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Building Survey

DATE
July-August 1972

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D. C.

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cherry Mansion is located on a prehistoric site. This property comprised a portion of a land grant received by Revolutionary War General Joseph Hardin. The first structures on the land were constructed by James Rudd who operated a ferry at this point prior to 1829. (A highway bridge now stands adjacent to the site of the ferry crossing.) David Robinson acquired a vast amount of land on both sides of the river for a plantation, and he built the two-story, brick house which was eventually inherited by his daughter. After 1849 William Harrell Cherry lived there, and he improved and enlarged the estate.

Regarded as a showplace, the house was built on a bluff which rises approximately one hundred feet above the east bank of the Tennessee River at Savannah. The Cherry Mansion property consists of seven acres of land which is bordered on the south by U.S. 64 and by Main Street on the north. The location affords a panoramic view of the river and of the rich farmlands on the opposite shore which extend for miles.

The house has been restored by the present owners who acquired the property in the 1930s from descendants of the Cherry family. The magnificent gardens became a landmark along the river at the west front where the five, cascaded, grass-banked terraces serve to connect the house and garden to the lower garden and riverfront where the sternwheeler Edgar Cherry was often docked during the 1880s. The Tennessee River still serves as an avenue of transportation for countless boats and barges.

Constructed of slave-made brick, the Georgian Colonial style residence has two main entrances. The rectangular-shaped structure features the familiar two-by-five-bay plan, bilateral symmetry, center hall plan, and attached, columned veranda style porches at the main entrances. A third porch is located across the north elevation adjacent to the two twenty foot square, interconnecting, double parlors. The ceilings are approximately twelve feet high, and all bearing and partition walls have double brick construction twenty-two inches thick throughout from the foundation wall to the attic. There is a cellar located under the present dining room and adjacent to the main hall at the southwest corner of the house. A narrow hallway between the dining room and the present kitchen serves to connect the main hall to the south entranceway where the original kitchen was located. The kitchen, which has been razed, was built of frame construction and was connected to the house by a covered walkway.

Due to the brick bearing wall structural system, the second-floor rooms are the same size and configuration as the first story rooms. A straight-flight, open-well staircase ascends the north wall from the west main entrance. Designed in an extremely ornamental style, it features clustered, turned wood balusters, carved newel posts, and scroll-cut wood spandrels. The house has a total of eight fireplaces, and each is fitted with the original, hand-carved mantles of various designs. All of the floors are the original edge-grain pine boards of various widths and cut to a thickness of two inches. Further refinements include hand-carved, poplar wood moldings, chairrails, and wainscoting. The door and window casings in the thick walls have recessed panels mounted with heavy, carved moldings. The main entrances feature narrow, fan-light transoms. The woodwork has been painted white, and the interior wall surfaces are papered.

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The house was carefully renovated during the 1930s. Modern conveniences, such as heating and plumbing, were added at that time. The present owners reconstructed the porches from early photographs located at the Shiloh Battlefield Museum. The hip style roof and the wood balustrades were added. The two-story veranda style porches were removed. These earlier porches featured an outside stairway which was used in the winter for carrying wood to the upstairs fireplaces. The porch was decorated with jigsaw-cut ornaments and with slender, paired posts.

The graveled drive makes a loop through the east lawn from the cast-iron gated and fenced entrance located adjacent to Main Street. A back gate is located at the southeast corner where the old frame carriage house is located. There is a one-room, one-story frame cottage with an attached porch and gable style roof located in the center of the yard. The old milkhouse constructed of frame had a shallow pit cellar. This structure had deteriorated and it was removed. A rusticated, limestone retaining wall was built across the terraced sides of the lot to prevent soil erosion and to protect against the constant threat of floods. The garden entrance at the lower end features an arched gateway with stone steps that ascend the five terraces to the west main entrance. A Romanesque style frontpiece marks the location of the earth-banked-wine cellar which was built in the terrace, one level below the west entrance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1829-1849

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

David Robinson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cherry Mansion is one of the few remaining examples of the antebellum plantation style of architecture in this region. The house was recorded and documented with photographs and measured drawings by the Historic American Buildings Survey team in 1972. The Cherry family was prominent in Savannah, and the house was owned by descendents of W. H. Cherry until the 1930s. The large Georgian Colonial style house, with its rosebush and boxwood bordered terraces, became a landmark along the Tennessee River at Savannah. The present plan varies little from the original design. The house has been carefully restored according to early records and photographs. The original construction, materials, and architectural details have been retained, preserved, and restored by the present owner. A piano and several other antique furnishings were in the house when General Ulysses S. Grant had his headquarters there before the Battle of Shiloh.

The property boundaries include portions of an extensive prehistoric archaeological site (40HR29) which was first excavated about 1870 by J. Parish Stelle. There is a possibility that the remnant of a Woodland period mound is located in the south-east corner of the front yard, but this has not been verified by archaeological testing. Most of the site has been destroyed by commercial development and is no longer archaeologically significant.

William Harrell Cherry (1822-1885), the son of an early settler, Eli Cherry, became a wealthy planter, landowner and merchant who promoted transportation, industry, and commerce in Tennessee. Cherry was elected clerk of Hardin County, and during this period he became interested in coal mining in Kentucky. He lived in Savannah and prospered as a merchant and planter until 1862. During the Civil War he was an ardent Unionist and began trading cotton in West Tennessee and Paducah, Kentucky, before the conflict ended. Cherry moved to Memphis after 1862 and was elected vice-president of the Merchants National Bank. In 1871 he relocated to Nashville, where he was associated with Cherry, O'Connor and Company which later became Cherry, Morrow and Company, the builders of the famous Cherry-O'Connor wagons.

After 1862 W. H. Cherry's son Edgar resided at the Cherry Mansion. During the younger Cherry's lifetime he did much to promote river transportation in Tennessee. He owned the majority of stock in the famous Cherry Line of river steamers, both passenger and freight boats, which operated on the Tennessee River. In the early days this line coordinated their schedule with that of the N.C. and St. L. Railroad and connections were made at Johnsonville, Tennessee. Passengers and freight were moved from points along the river to Nashville where they could make connections for travel east or west to the Mississippi River.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brandau, R. S. History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee. Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1936.
- First American National Bank. Homes of Tennessee. Nashville: First American National Bank, 1956.
- Stelle, J. Parish. "Account of Ruins at Savannah, Tennessee," Smithsonian Annual Report of the Board of Regents. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1870
- Newspapers cited: Nashville Banner, Savannah Courier, Independent Appeal, Selmer

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7

UTM REFERENCES

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1	6	6
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3	8	5	6	3	1	0
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3	8	9	8	5	8	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

February, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Haysen

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

7/22/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Gail Hammerquist

DATE

8/16/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...

DATE

8-11-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The Cherry Mansion has historical associations with the Civil War and the famous Battle of Shiloh. In 1862 the house was selected as a Union Army headquarters by Major General C. F. Smith who died there. Smith was succeeded by General Grant who took up residence in the Mansion following the Battle of Fort Donelson. The federal army had moved south to Pittsburg Landing after the Fort Donelson victory. Grant boarded his staff boat, which was docked at the Cherry Mansion landing, when the Battle of Shiloh began. The house later served for a brief time as headquarters for Major General Don Carlos Buell, commander of the federal troops of Ohio. General W. H. L. Wallace, who was wounded at the Battle of Shiloh, died in Cherry Mansion.