

6-6-73

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

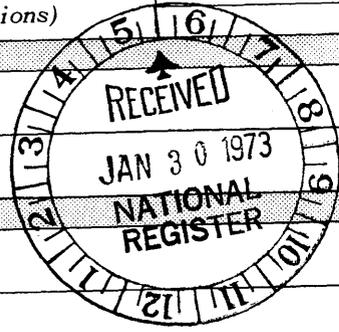
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Maury
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

APR 11 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Blythewood

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Trotwood & Hatcher Lane

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Tennessee	47	Maury	119

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Vacant	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Jerry Dowling, James Campbell, Ray Hamilton

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Trotwood Apartments

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE:	CODE
Tennessee	47

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Maury

ENTRY NUMBER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Maury County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE	CODE
Tennessee	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

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Blythewood was completed ca.1859, but is constructed in an architectural style very unusual for Middle Tennessee. The two-story white brick has been called French Colonial. The main center form of the house has a bay section running the full two stories. A main hall and double parlors with sliding doors along with a large formal dining room and kitchen make up the original downstairs portion of the house with the above portion consisting of four large bedrooms.

A single-story wing was added to each side of the front at a later date (probably the 1870's) at which time a back gallery was enclosed and some cast iron trim was probably added. A sun room was added on the south side with a terrace immediately behind it looking out on the formal gardens.

The interior of the house has been very fine in detail with heavy plaster cornices and medallions in the double parlors. Two marble mantles are found in the parlors with a carved wood mantle in the dining room. A handsome stair ascends to the second floor with beautiful newel post and banisters. The original floors in most rooms have been covered with hardwood flooring in recent years but the woodwork has been maintained in fine condition.

The exterior trim on the house -- shutters, brackets, cast iron-are all in good condition, but the house stands vacant today and some windows have been broken by vandals in recent months.

The house sits on a large plot of land recently bought by a group of businessmen as an investment. It has been vacant for about two years now and the shrubs and gardens have not been maintained. A small brick smokehouse, dating 1859, and an early log cabin -- probably servant's quarters -- remain immediately behind the main house. A rock wall surrounds the grounds and the entrance columns at the main gate are topped with pineapples -- the symbol of hospitality.

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input 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) 1859

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 house known today as Blythewood was constructed by Thomas Keesee between 1856-1860. Keesee, a coach maker, came to Columbia in 1837 from Richmond, Virginia, and by 1856 began construction of what was one of the finest homes in the town. Built in the French Colonial style, this imposing two-story brick house is the only one of its style in the county, but it would hold its own architecturally in any area.

Not only is the house outstanding, but the gardens of Blythewood are equally notable. Although not kept for the past few years, evidence of three fine gardens to the south of the house is readily discernible. The Doric columns that form a pergola in the first garden are still covered with wisteria and most of the other plantings are still there.

The house and its surroundings have escaped the ravishes of the Civil War and other natural disasters that wiped out other homes in the immediate vicinity. It stands as a monument to the taste and cultural background of the early builders in the area.

The present owners hope to incorporate this structure into the development of the property. It is possible to adapt this house to some modern use as this property is on the edge of the city of Columbia and it is considered a prime location for urban development.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Brandau, Roberta Sewell (ed.), History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee, Nashville, 1936.  
 Clippings from local papers.  
 Garrett, Jill & Alexander, Virginia, "A Guide to Points of Interest in Maury County," 1969.  
 Original research of Virginia Alexander.

H15  
 16 / 495 240  
 5039 910

**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° 36' 17"	87° 03' 50"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
May Dean Eberling, Director of Programs

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission      DATE: 1-12-73

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  
Tenn. Historical Commission  
 Date: 1-17-73

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

Robertan Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST:  
W. M. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4 4 73