

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Rutherford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 15 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON: "Uncle" Dave Macon House (Representative Joe L. Evins)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route #1: W of Readyville on US 705

CITY OR TOWN:  
Readyville *vic.*

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Rutherford	CODE 149
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**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 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:  
Jim Laws

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route #1

CITY OR TOWN:  
Readyville

STATE:  
Tennessee

CODE:  
47

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Murfreesboro

STATE:  
Tennessee

CODE:  
47

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County

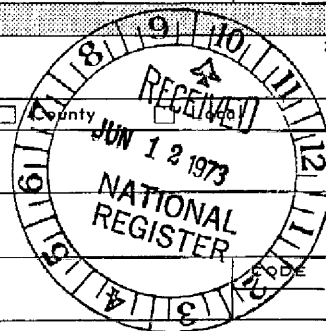
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

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COUNTY: Rutherford		
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(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

The "Uncle" Dave Macon House is a complex structure composed of a log cabin with several later additions. The central log section of the house is approximately square and made from squared native cedar logs. On its east wall (now near the center of the enlarged building) is a wide stone fireplace bearing a construction date of 1843 and several sets of initials rather crudely chipped into its facings. The ceiling of this room is of exposed beam construction. The original front door has been replaced with a modern double window.

Appended to either end of the cabin are late 19th and early 20th century rooms which share the cabin's ceiling and roof heights. A common roof has been constructed over the agglomerate. A lean-to type of porch with typical late 19th century turned colonettes now runs the entire length of the front of the building. It has recently been refloored in cedar.

Addition rooms have been added to the rear of the structure. The room added to the rear of the cabin portion of the house has a large stone chimney on its gabled end, suggesting that it was the original ell to the cabin proper, while the flanking spaces were later appendages. Each of these rear additions has a separately framed roof, each on its own level.



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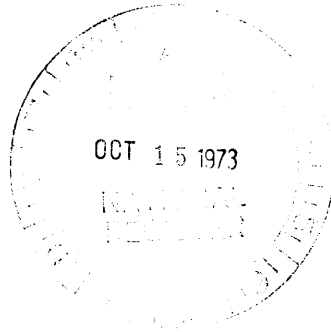
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7. DESCRIPTION (Cont)

It is not known who built the original log section of the house. Since the date 1843 is to be found on the stone fireplace, it is assumed that this is the date of construction. Most of the later additions were made by Uncle Dave Macon after 1900.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" 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/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

This structure illustrates the type of small settler's cabins constructed in some sections of Middle Tennessee during the entire first half of the 19th century. Log buildings of this type are becoming rarer. Signed and dated masonry work such as that found in the cabin's main fireplace is quite unusual. The multiple later additions are typical of the manner in which a small early structure was enlarged to accommodate a family's spatial needs as it increased in size and complexity. The "Uncle" Dave Macon House was never a "great" house architecturally, but it is probably such simple houses that sheltered more of the local 19th century population than did larger, more pretentious structures.

Not only was this simple structure typical of many used by the "plain folk," it was the home of "Uncle Dave" Macon for many years. He, unlike many other people who become famous, continued to live in this home until his death in 1952.

"Uncle Dave" (David Harrison) Macon was born in Warren County, Tennessee on October 7, 1870, and died in 1952 after a short illness. His colorful career included farming, freight hauling, and many years of Vaudeville before joining WSM Radio's Grand Ole Opry.

"Uncle Dave" learned his trade as a banjo picker and comedy singer as a lad in Nashville. His parents operated a theatrical boarding house when Nashville was an important theatrical center. The leading stars of the American theater, drama and vaudeville, were guests at the Macon Hotel.

A new era was ushered in when "Uncle Dave" joined WSM's Grand Ole Opry in 1926 (at the age of 56) and became the first vocalist on the Opry. The name of "Uncle Dave" Macon is immortal in the annals of Country Music. For twenty-six years he performed on the Opry earning himself several nicknames such as "The Dixie Dewdrop," "The Squire of Readyville," and "King of the Hillbillies."

"Uncle Dave" was a mountain minstrel in the old tradition. He captured the very spirit of rural America; "Uncle Dave"--banjo picker, ebullient singer, raconteur, humanitarian--was the embodiment of wholesome fun tinged with mischievous humor, the product

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

File folder M-336 Macon, Library and Media Center, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville, Tennessee.

Uncle Dave Macon, A Bio-Discography, John Edwards Memorial Foundation, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

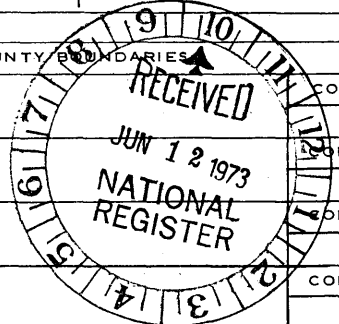
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35	49	17
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	86	14	26
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

16/568580  
3964510  
C7

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



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Peter S. La Paglia**

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **4-30-73**

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  
Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical Commission

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: **6-4-73**

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

Ernest A. Connally  
~~Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation~~  
Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: **NOV 15 1973**

ATTEST:

Harold A. Ferrington  
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: **11-9-73**

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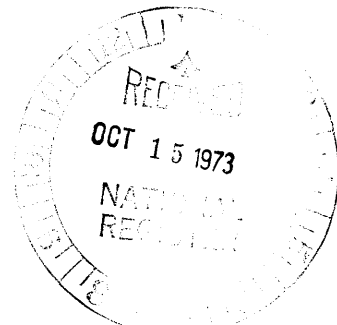
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8. SIGNIFICANCE

This house is the most significant building remaining which is connected to the life of Uncle Dave Macon. He married in 1899 and moved into this house in 1900, residing there until his death in 1952. In 1900, he established the Macon Midway Mule and Wagon Transportation Company, which hauled material from Woodbury to Murfreesboro for the next 20 years. The experiences he encountered during this time served as the basis of many of the songs he wrote in later years. The company itself was immortalized in his recording of "From Earth to Heaven."

Before 1918 music was no more than an amusing diversion for Uncle Dave. He was known for miles around as a first-rate comic, an extraordinary banjoist, and a thorough professional in his music skills, but he had never performed for money. He was one of the first performers to join the Grand Ole Opry when it began in 1926, and he remained with the Opry until his death. With the possible exception of the Carter Family, Uncle Dave preserved more valuable American folklore through his recordings than any other folk or country performer. Many of the songs he recorded were learned before 1900 from both white and Negro laborers who had worked at railroad, mining, and river occupations. His recordings are important social commentary about the industrial revolution that steadily moved across the South in the decade following the Civil War.

Unlike many country music performers who had begun in modest surroundings to achieve fame and moved to more luxurious living quarters, Uncle Dave preferred to remain in the modest country home where he had reared his large family. This house is certainly significant in the life of one of country music's greatest stars.



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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

and symbol of vigorous country folk who work hard, live honestly, and believe in God and their nation. His repertoire and style reflected his interests and heritage, and the breadth of his horizons laid the patterns for country music and the folk revival as we know them today. Heart songs, political satires and testimonials, social criticism, autobiographical songs, hearty country humor and nonsense ditties, sacred songs, and a pack of "whoop 'n holler hoedowns" comprised the patchwork of his remarkable repertoire. With the exception of the Carter Family, "Uncle Dave" Macon preserved more valuable American folklore through his recordings than any other folk or country music performer.

Asked once to epitomize his own career and outlook, "Uncle Dave" replied, "Banjoist and songster, liking religion and meetings, farming and thanking God for all His bountiful gifts in this beautiful world he has bestowed upon us."



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Goldblatt, Burt, and Shelton, Robert. The Country Music Story,  
(New York, 1966).

Malone, Bill C., Country Music, U.S.A. (Austin, 1968).

Booklet, Songs and Stories of Uncle Dave Macon, (Nashville, 1938).

Interview with Mr. Archie Macon, son of Uncle Dave Macon,  
October 11, 1973.

