

PH 0679852

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 13 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 13 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

Rexinger, Samuel House

AND/OR COMMON

President's Residence, Austin Peay State University (Archwood)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

703 East College Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Clarksville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

125

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Tennessee, Austin Peay State University

STREET & NUMBER

703 East College Street

CITY, TOWN

Clarksville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Commerce Streets

CITY, TOWN

Clarksville

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

April 1976

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Albertine Rexinger, the wife the prominent Clarksville merchant Samuel Rexinger, purchased a tree-shaded lot on College Street on November 13, 1869 for \$2,500. An earlier building on the site was razed to provide space for the Rexinger House. John L. Smith, a Nashville architect-carpenter, probably designed the house. The contractor, G. B. Wilson and Company, began work on the \$6,000 residence in March 1878. A Clarksville newspaper reported on August 17, 1878 that three workers fell from a scaffold and were injured while completing work on the Rexinger House cornices. Although the interior has been renovated several times and some of the ornaments were removed from the exterior, the building today retains, in the main, its original appearance.

This fine two-story, brick, Italianate mansion, with its characteristic asymmetrical floor plan, was constructed on a rusticated, coursed limestone foundation topped with a cut stone water table. Semi-elliptical-arched openings provided access to and light for the full basement. The present composition shingles on the complex, low gabled roof have replaced the original metal roofing. An 1895 photograph illustrates that the Victorian, shaped dormers, with bullseye windows and finials, were placed above the left and right bays of the south (main) elevation.

The brick in the main facade was laid in the stretcher bond pattern and this elevation is divided into three bays. The center section consists of a projecting frontispiece which contains a denticulated and bracketed boxed cornice with returns, a wheel vent, paired Roman-arch windows on the second floor with heavy, ornate hoodmolds and decorated lugsills. (This style cornice and window surrounds is repeated in the other two bays.) The main entrance has stone steps and a pedimented and arched door surround decorated with elaborate brackets and pilasters. The left bay has a single-story porch with columns joined by Italianate arches; elongated windows reach from the floor nearly to the ceiling of the porch. (Balustrades on the porch roof and near the floor were removed some years ago.) The right section has a single-story bay with a bracketed cornice; the 1895 photograph shows a balustrade on the roof, but this too has been eliminated.

The west elevation contains a two-story bay centered on the wall; to facilitate the chimney, the middle windows were omitted. A stone belt course separates the stories and the hoodmolds and cornices found in the main facade are repeated here. An off-centered, projecting section, which resembles the frontispiece in the south elevation, highlights the east wall. All of the windows in this section have brick, radiating voussoir-arched lintels and plain lugsills. This wall was laid in the common bond pattern. An access door to the cellar is located near the center of the foundation.

The square wing attached to the south wall, although considerably plainer in design, is probably contemporaneous to the rest of the building. While the cornice is similar, the paired brackets are much simpler. All of the window openings have segmented arches, radiating voussoir lintels, and plain lugsills. A flat-roofed porch attached to the east side of the wing has square columns and small brackets. A frame laundry room and large carport were recently added to the north wall. The brick in this section was laid in a combination of common and stretcher bond.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

An east-west hall separates the interior into two sections of unequal size. The period rooms are located in the south end of the house and those of modern style in the rear. Several of the interior walls have the same thickness as the exterior, bearing walls. The central hall, library, dining room, and parlor retain their nineteenth-century appearance; each has massive, ornate, walnut woodwork, Victorian brass hardware, and either iron or marble mantles which are highly decorative. Except for the ceiling, all of the interior appointments in this section are original. The central hall is dominated by a half-turn staircase with landings; a finely carved newel and balustrade further accent this feature. The hall lighting fixture is original. The single-leaf door to the outside has carved and appliqued decorations and a unique, etched glass window which depicts a wood nymph in a bucolic setting; this window is reported to be the only remaining example in Clarksville. Still another distinctive feature of the Rexinger House is the exquisite wooden mantle located in the second-floor, southwest bedroom; this piece has four, double-carved, open-spiral posts, a mirror, and carved and appliqued designs.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input 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 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John L. Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A considerable portion of Clarksville's downtown area was destroyed by the great fire of April 1878, shortly after construction of the Rexinger House was commenced. Following this disaster many architects and vast armies of skilled craftsmen flocked to Clarksville to help to rebuild the city. Wealthy businessman Samuel Rexinger enlisted the services of these individuals to build a house which would appropriately announce his prosperity and social standing in the community. The Rexinger House on College Street, a fashionable, nineteenth-century residential area, fully attests to his success as a merchant. Rexinger also served as postmaster of Clarksville from 1867 to 1883.

Located adjacent to the Southwestern Presbyterian University campus, this fine Italianate mansion housed faculty members and their families during the early 1900s. When the U.S. Army established Camp (later Fort) Campbell in the early 1940s, the house was divided into apartments for the soldiers who had moved into the city. After World War II it was converted into a single-family dwelling. The state of Tennessee purchased the Southwestern Presbyterian University campus and organized Austin Peay State College in 1929, and in 1965 the Rexinger House was acquired and remodeled to serve as a residence for the president of Austin Peay State University.

The mansions on College Street vanished one by one as the campus expanded and the property across the street was commercialized. Today the Rexinger House is the only remaining nineteenth-century brick residence in the area. The university maintenance crews have done a creditable job of remodeling the house without appreciably altering its original appearance. A source of pride to the university and to the community, the Rexinger House will remain a landmark in Clarksville.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Montgomery County News, February 18, 1976.
 Herndon, Joseph L. "Architects in Tennessee Until 1930: A Dictionary," M.A. thesis, Columbia University, 1975.
 Interviews with Mrs. Oscar Beach, Montgomery County Historian, August 18, 20, and 23, 1976.
Tobacco Leaf (Clarksville, TN), March 14, and August 1, 1878.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 468420 4042800
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

August 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 X

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 E. Hayden

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

10/7/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

4/13/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Cheryl*

DATE

3/16/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER