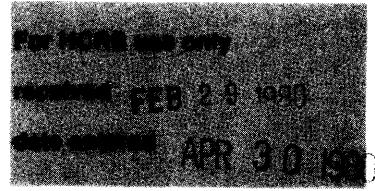


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Rhodes House

and/or common Lara Wright House

2. Location SE of Brighton, Tenn.

street & number Clopton-Gainsville Road not for publication

city, town Brighton vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Tennessee 38011 code 047 county Tipton code 167

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name William Keith Lara

street & number 276 Hawthorne Street

city, town Memphis vicinity of state Tennessee 38112

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tipton County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Covington state Tennessee 38019

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rhodes House is located in southeastern Tipton County approximately ten miles east of Rosemark, seven miles northwest of Mason, seven miles south by southeast of Covington, and seven miles west of Brighton. It stands in the community of Clopton about one miles east of the Austin Peay Highway. This house was the main building of a large plantation, of which three hundred eleven acres remains. Today the house can be approached by a long private drive through a nine acre tract that is still farmed. The house itself stands among a grove of trees.

This two story house, with a one story ell, is essentially Greek Revival in style with some limited changes in the interior and exterior, most of which occurred in the 1920s. The house was built ca. 1860 for Soloman A. Rhodes. It is a framed building cased in weatherboards. Its original foundation was brick pier but a perimeter concrete foundation was added later to the principal elevation. Wooden shingles originally covered the gable roof but these were replaced by a roof of tin. The two brick exterior gable chimneys which flank each side of the house were re-built to incorporate more modern flues.

In the center bay of the three bay symmetrical facade (north elevation) features an entrance which includes rectangular side lights and a double-leaf paneled door. A two story pedimented portico supported by four square pillars on both levels shelters the entrance. Rudimentary pilasters, reflecting the pillars, flank the entrance treatment which is further delineated by flush siding. This same design is duplicated on the second level. The original pillars on the first level have been replaced by pillars of similar style when the porch was renovated in the 1920s. The original base of the porch was wooden but it has been replaced by a foundation of concrete faced with brick steps. The floor remains of wood. The original porch railing has been removed as well as the louvered shutters which are presently in storage. There are two twelve paned rectangular windows to the right and left of the central bay on both levels making eight windows in all on the front facade.

Very few changes have occurred on the west and east elevations with the exception of two small square windows on each side of the chimney on the lower west elevation. Originally there were no windows on this side. The east elevation has one rectangular window to the left of the chimney on each level. The south facade features a two story porch along its entire length. These porches were later divided into three sections on both levels and enclosed. A one story two room ell was added to the center section of the lower porch.

In plan, the house consists of two rooms on each level separated by a center passage with a stairway. A two room ell projects from the rear of the main section. An open porch is attached to the east side of the ell and to the south side of the main block of the house. A small enclosure was made at this angle to incorporate a bath. The ell also includes a small open porch on the west side.

Five dependencies stand south of the house in a line parallel to its longitudinal axis. Of the five only one is of historical significance, a servants house. This building was erected about the same time as the main house. Also, a nineteenth century well stands to the east of the house. An old road bed which was part of the main thoroughfare runs along a line parallel to the north elevation of the main house. Other man made elements include lanes, gardens, orchards, and a watering pond. All these elements are marked on the sketch map.

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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1860

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rhodes House is located in Tipton County which is part of an area of southwest Tennessee known as the Big Hatchie Country due to the fact that the Big Hatchie River runs through the center of the county. The county is bordered on the west by the Mississippi and to the north and south by the Forked Deer and the Lossa Hatchie Rivers which all contributed to the fine quality of the soil and make it a most desirable area for agricultural purposes. The soil, known as Memphis loam, lends itself well to a wide variety of crops and is considered by agriculturalists as being exceptional in quality.

The Rhodes House stands in one of the earliest settled areas of Tipton County and is a true reflection of rural vernacular architecture that was prevalent in Tennessee in the mid-nineteenth century. The house was built ca 1860 by Solomon A. Rhodes and has retained many of the features and layout of its early plantation setting including a servants house, lanes, fence rows, and well. The Rhodes House is one of the few remaining structures that is located on an active farm and the retention of these plantation elements is quite unusual. It is significant to note that the house and its surrounding acreage has remained in its agrarian setting since it was settled.

Tipton County, established in 1823, has long been a center for agricultural products. Among the first farmers to settle in the county included Taylor Rhodes. A native of Duplin County, North Carolina, Rhodes moved to Tipton County by 1830. Taylor Rhodes died in the spring of 1831 and responsibility for the maintenance of the family and farm befell his wife Mary. Seven children were the result of the union and their son, Solomon inherited the Rhodes land at the death of his mother in 1857.

Information on the 1850 and 1860 agricultural census schedules showed the value and scope of the Rhodes farm increased dramatically during that ten year period. By 1860, the Rhodes farm was 833 acres of which 608 acres was under cultivation, and required eighteen slaves to work the fields.

Solomon married Henrietta Bradshaw on December 23, 1846 at nearby Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church. They had four children before Henrietta's death ca 1863. Solomon remarried shortly thereafter and six additional children followed.

While the Rhodes house has had a full and well documented history, the house now stands vacant and endangered, but steps are being taken by the present owners to save the building. The house has been evaluated by an architect who specializes in restoration and plans are now being drawn. Restoration is scheduled to begin in 1980 and every effort will be made to restore the house to its original state.

9. Major Bibliographical References

U. S. Census Schedules, 1850-1880, Tipton County, Tennessee
 Williams, Joseph. Old Times in West Tennessee. Memphis: W. G. Cheeney, 1873.
 Williams, Samuel Cole. Beginnings of West Tennessee. Johnson City, Tennessee:
 Watauga Press, 1930.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 21
 Quadrangle name Brighton, Tennessee Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1,6</u>	<u>2,6,0</u>	<u>4,0,0</u>	<u>3,9</u>	<u>2,5</u>	<u>8,7,0</u>	B	<u>1,6</u>	<u>2,6,0</u>	<u>3,9,5</u>	<u>3,9</u>	<u>2,5</u>	<u>4,9,5</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing		
C	<u>1,6</u>	<u>2,6,0</u>	<u>1,7,5</u>	<u>3,9</u>	<u>2,5</u>	<u>4,9,0</u>	D	<u>1,6</u>	<u>2,6,0</u>	<u>1,8,5</u>	<u>3,9</u>	<u>2,5</u>	<u>8,2,0</u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Rhodes House nomination shown as the red line on the accompanying base map and aerial map numbered one and two. The scale of the base map is 400 feet to the inch and the aerial map is drawn at a scale of 660 feet to the inch.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Keith Lara
 organization _____ date November 1979
 street & number 276 Hawthorne Street telephone (901) 725-7448
 city or town Memphis, state Tennessee 38112

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/27/80

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
John W. Ray date 4/30/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Kristin O'Connell date 4/22/80
 Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED	APR 30 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

At the present time only one National Register structure, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, is located in Tipton County. It would be a great credit to the county to have the Rhodes House added to the register as an example of a rural West Tennessee plantation.