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TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Title: Historic Resources of Paris, Tennessee

County: Henry

Historic Name: Sweeney, Judge John C., House (Site # 3)

Common Name: Oakwood

Classification Building

Owner: Dr. and Mrs. Robert Adams, 1212 Chickasaw Road, Paris, Tennessee 38242

Location: 1212 Chickasaw Road, Paris, Tennessee

<u>Contributing:</u>		<u>Non-Contributing</u>	
Buildings	1	Buildings	3
Structures	0	Structures	0
Sites	0	Sites	0
<u>Total:</u>	1	<u>Total:</u>	3

Description:

The Judge John C. Sweeney House is a two and one-half-story Shingle Style residence built ca. 1885. The main (south) facade has a projecting central bay with a gable roof, exposed eaves, and decorative brackets. On the first story of the main facade is a large, single-light picture window above which is a single-light transom. The first story of the projecting central bay contains the arched entry onto the porch. Behind this archway is the main entrance which is a ca.1980 frame door. The porch on the main facade is original and supported by shingle-covered piers and has a shingle and frame railing. At the first story level is a frame stringcourse and the house has a brick foundation.

At the second story is a screened-in porch with frame Doric motif columns and a decorative balustrade. Windows throughout the house are one-over-one sash with the exception of the third story windows which are multi-light casement design. Some of the windows have added ca. 1970 wood shutters. The second story of the house projects slightly over the first story and displays exposed eave brackets. These brackets are also found at the roof eaves. At the third story level are large hipped and gable dormers with multi-light windows, brackets and finials. The house has a hipped roof of wood shingles. On the west facade is a porte cochere with large arches and exposed eave rafters. This facade retains an original doorway with single light and frame double doors. At the rear or north facade is a an original one-story wing containing the kitchen of the house. The original interior chimneys have been removed and a ca. 1970 chimney added on the rear one story wing.

The interior of the house retains its original staircase with milled balusters and paneled newel post. The original mantles in the house were replaced in the early 20th century with Colonial Revival mantles with Doric motif columns and ceiling modillions and moldings were added at this time. The house also contains large chandeliers which were originally in the Crete Opera House and brought to the Sweeny home in the early 1900s. Outbuildings consist of a ca.1975 pavilion with an interior fireplace; a ca.1920 bungalow-style playhouse which is

not original to the site; and a ca.1980 brick poolhouse. All of the outbuildings are non-contributing.

Period of Significance: ca. 1885

Area of Significance: Architecture

Criterion: C

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Judge John Sweeny House is a notable example of a Shingle style residence and was constructed ca. 1885. The house is one of the best preserved 19th century residences in Paris and has not been significantly altered. The house is the only example of the Shingle style in the town and is one of the largest remaining homes from the 19th century.

The house was built ca. 1885 by Judge John Sweeny who had purchased this land several years earlier. Judge Sweeny was born in 1849 and during the 1870s he became a prosperous attorney with the L&N Railroad as one of his clients. In the early 1880s he purchased land in a development east of Paris known as the "Chickasaw Suburb". This area was the site of several large homes built by professional and business leaders of Paris with the Sweeny House the only remaining example. The architect for the house is unknown but tradition states that the house took three years to complete. When the house was finished it was an excellent example of the Shingle style which is distinguished by its exterior sheathing of wood shingles, curved porches and wall surfaces and shingled roof.

Judge Sweeny lived in the house with his family until 1909 when he was appointed to a judgeship in the Philippines. The house was purchased by J.C. Porter, a local banker. The house was later owned by the Bell family in the 1940s who removed the original mantles and replaced them with Colonial designs. Few other changes or alterations have occurred to the house and it retains its original design.

Acreage: 1.9 acres

UTM References: Paris Quad/16/383020/4018810

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary for the Judge John Sweeny House is illustrated on accompanying Henry County tax map 95N, block A, lot 7. The boundary is drawn to include all property presently associated with the Sweeny House. The boundary includes sufficient property to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References:



Property Location  
Judge John C. Sweeney House(#3),  
Chickasaw Road  
Map 95N-A, Lot 7  
Scale: 1"=200'



