DATA SHEET

| STATE: |
| Tennessee |
| COUNTY: |
| Cocke |

FOR NPS USE ONLY

| ENTRY DATE |
| MAY 2 9 1975 |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Elm Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
206 West Riverview

| CITY OR TOWN: | CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: |
| Newport | First |

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Tennessee | 47 | Cocke | 029 |

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Beecher Carpenter

STREET AND NUMBER:
206 West Riverview

| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE |
| Newport | Tennessee | 47 |

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE | CODE |
| Newport | 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 |

RECEIVED
MAR 12 1975
NATIONAL
REGISTER
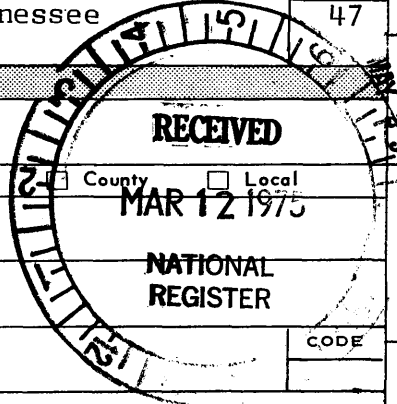
| STATE: Tennessee | COUNTY: Cocke | ENTRY NUMBER | FOR NPS USE ONLY | DATE |

CONDITION	*(Check One)*					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed

	(Check One)		*(Check One)*	
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

During the 1890's and early 1900's a number of Victorian homes were constructed on the hills surrounding Newport. They stood much to themselves as large estates with extensive open surroundings. The owners were prominent citizens of Cocke County--bankers, lumber executives, pharmacists, and doctors. Many of these huge homes stand today amid less grandiose homes of later eras. Although the original grounds of many have been greatly reduced by subdivisions and alterations have been undertaken in many of the structures, certain homes are still extraordinary--one of the finest is Elm Hill.

Elm Hill is a three-story Victorian home of brick that is complimented with wooden trim. It was built in 1890 by Benjamin Dickinson Jones, a local banker, according to plans of a similar home in Knoxville. The home is situated on the ridge on the south side of town. The view from Elm Hill includes the city, the Pigeon River, and the fertile land stretching to the French Broad River. The name, Elm Hill, was derived from the huge elms there; a few are still standing.

Typical of the Victorian family, the Jones' had a large family of eight children. The home includes seven bedrooms, a parlor, living room, extensive dining room, kitchen and baths. Mrs. Jones anticipated the installment of public utilities. The baths and kitchen were designed to be easily installed with running water. Originally water was collected off the roof, stored in a tank in the attic, and used for bathing. The most prominent Victorian feature is the rounded tower; it adjoins the living room on the first floor, a bedroom on the second floor, and forms an observation deck at its apex.

The woodwork in and around the home is elaborate. Originally a circular porch surrounded the structure, however, much of it has been removed (one of the few alterations). The floors are of hardwood maple; they are mitered in the tower and at the edges of each room to make a perfect fit. There is also a variation in the style in which the maple was laid at the walls in order to provide a decorative border; over the entrances to the tower is a decorative archway. The mantels are of oak. The dining room included a built-in cabinet for glassware beside the fireplace mantel. The height of the dining room (12 feet) is broken by an oaken ridge which holds decorative plates. Besides the original woodwork which is wholly intact, there are a number of antiques dating from the mid-Victorian period that belonged to the Jones' and have remained in the hands of their descendents, the Carpenters.

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MAR 12 1975 ▶

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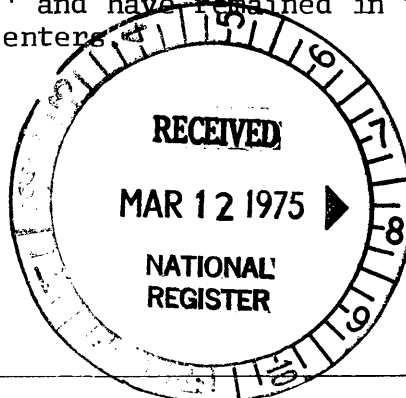
PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | XX 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*   1890

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
☐ Prehistoric
☐ Historic
☐ Agriculture
XX Architecture
☐ Art
☐ Commerce
☐ Communications
☐ Conservation

☐ Education
☐ Engineering
☐ Industry
☐ Invention
☐ Landscape
　　Architecture
☐ Literature
☐ Military
☐ Music

XX Political
☐ Religion/Phi-
　　losophy
☐ Science
☐ Sculpture
☐ Social/Human-
　　itarian
☐ Theater
☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning
☐ Other *(Specify)*

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elm Hill was the showcase for Newport society in the early 1900's. Ben Dickinson Jones was the first president of Merchants and Planters Bank and a highly successful merchant in the town. He and his wife, the former Townzella Jane Randolph, held many dances and weekend parties at the home.

On September 25, 1901, the home was the scene of the wedding of Anna B. Jones, daughter of B. D. and Townzella R. Jones, and a young attorney, Ben W. Hooper. The tower on the first floor that adjoins the living room was set in flowers and used as an altar. By 1910 Ben W. Hooper had garnered enough political support to be nominated by the Republican party and elected governor of Tennessee. The couple did not reside at the home; however, Hooper purchased the home after the death of his wife's parents and it has remained in the family to the present time.

The home is an outstanding example of Victorian architecture. Very few brick Victorian homes were constructed in rural towns or areas in East Tennessee. The project was based on designs of a home in Knoxville where such homes were more regularly seen. The contractor did not realize the cost involved in construction of the home and went broke as he overran his cost estimate. B. D. Jones paid him the difference to keep him in business. Whereas many homes of such large dimensions have been divided into apartments and altered appreciably, Elm Hill has not been changed very much. It stands today under the care of the present owners as an extraordinary example of Victorian design and craftsmanship.

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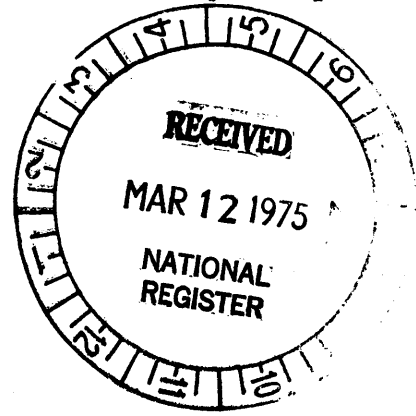
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carberry, Michael, Historic Sites in Blount, Cocke, Monroe, and
      Sevier Counties (Knoxville, 1973).
O'Dell, Ruth W., Over the Misty Blue Hills (Newport, 1950).
Prisk, Edwina, "Elm Hill - Built in 1890." Newport Plain Talk,
      April 23, 1970.

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 °	57 '	56 "	83 °	11 '	27 "
NE	°	' "	° ' "							
SE	°	' "	° ' "							
SW	°	' "	° ' "							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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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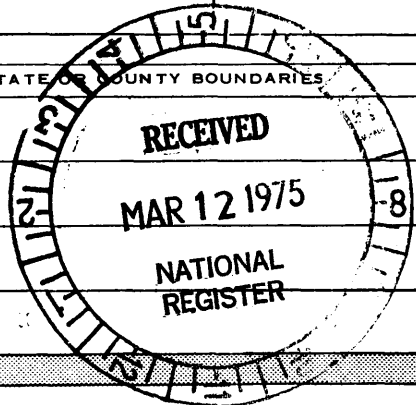
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael Carberry, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION
East Tennessee Development District

DATE
6-6-74

STREET AND NUMBER:
1810 Lake Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Knoxville	Tennessee	47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _Laurence L. Henry_

Title   Executive Director
~~Tennessee Historical Commission~~

Date   _3/7/75_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _5/29/75_

ATTEST:

[signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date   MAY 22 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS