

PH0691119

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 31 1976  
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

DATA SHEET

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 Pillow-Bethel House  
AND/OR COMMON Bethel Place

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *5 mi. W of Columbia on off US 43*  
Route 1, Mt. Pleasant Pike  
CITY, TOWN Columbia VICINITY OF Sixth  
STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Maury CODE 119

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jewell  
STREET & NUMBER Route 1, Mt. Pleasant Pike  
CITY, TOWN Columbia VICINITY OF Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Maury County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Columbia STATE Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

# 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pillow-Bethel House is located in a secluded rural setting south of Columbia, Tennessee, and some distance to the east side of Mount Pleasant Pike. The site consists of 750 acres of the original 1,200 acre estate that Jerome Pillow inherited from his father in 1830. This property adjoins General Gideon Pillow's former estate, Clifton Place, which is located between the Pillow-Bethel House and the pike. The Pillow-Halliday House is located on the adjoining property to the north and adjacent to the old Campbellsville Pike.

The Pillow-Bethel House is situated on a wooded hill surrounded by a park-like landscape of bluegrass fields studded with tall trees and dark green boxwood hedges. The main facade faces toward the west and the gravel driveway makes an oval circle behind the residence. The one-story, brick, Gothic Revival-style cottage is located to the south side of the main house. The original farm buildings form a line along the drive to the south. These buildings are in their original locations and they are all in use at the present time. The property was purchased by the present owners in 1943, and it was rented out until they restored it as their residence in 1959. The property is a working farm, and as a specialty, the present owners produce and ship their smoked hams to customers.

The Pillow-Bethel House is a fine example of the antebellum, Greek Revival-style building constructed in Middle Tennessee. Built in 1855, this house features the characteristic Tennessee vernacular house type combined with the true Greek Revival style which was extremely popular during this period. The most spectacular feature of this house is the recessed entrance fronted by the tall, four-columned, Greek Revival-style portico porch. The design features bilateral symmetry and a balanced plan. The compact, two-and-one-half story, tall central block is two rooms deep with matching bays and one-story wings extend to each side from the back. Across the five bay front, the central bay forms the recessed entrance at the first story only. The front portico features a second-story porch and triangular, pediment-type gable roof. A two-story, veranda-style porch built across the back elevation is enclosed at each side by the matching wings. The original porch was constructed of cedar with square posts and a wood balustrade painted white. The present owner changed the porch which has been closed at each end on the second story. The manor house and outbuildings are constructed of hand-made brick and limestone manufactured on the site. All of the wood detail has been painted white to accent the geometric proportions and symmetry of the fenestration.

The structural system of the veranda was changed to provide extra support for the added second-story rooms. Due to the construction of the thick, bearing walls, utilities were concealed under the second-story porch floor. Reinforcing members, piers and beams were concealed in the false floor and inside the present porch columns. The second story additions are constructed of used, hand-made brick, matching the original construction. The wood railing was formerly used as the balustrade for the front portico and balcony porch, and a cast iron balustrade was installed to replace it. The rear veranda porch provides outside sheltered entrances for each of the adjoining rooms.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The structural system of the house consists of fifteen-inch, double-brick bearing walls throughout, built on high, limestone masonry, foundation walls with finished basement rooms and finished attic rooms. The floor plan consists of rooms of like proportions located at either side of the fifteen-foot wide central hall which extends the width of the structure from the portico entrance to the rear veranda. These four main rooms are approximately 18' x 20'. The rooms in the bay wings are identical in size. The wing to the right side is the present kitchen. The wing to the left is the library. There are fireplaces in every room. The narrow, end-wall chimneys are joined by a brick parapet wall which is built above the roof ridge. The tall, fireplace mantles are all hand carved. There are two marble mantles in the double parlor rooms and these were added to replace the original wood mantles.

The Greek Revival style is well presented by the proportion and disposition of the rooms and architectural detail. Double parlors are located to the left side of the entrance. These rooms are divided by an archway fitted with tall, folding wood doors. The first-floor ceilings are sixteen feet tall and the second-story ceiling heights are somewhat lower. The reception hall features an open-well staircase which continues from the second story to the attic. The staircase ascends the right side wall where it is met at midstage by a landing built across the rear wall. The second flight ascends the left side wall to the second story. The staircase features a hand-carved walnut balustrade rail, round tapered balusters, and turned-wood newel posts. A closet-type stair is built from the present kitchen room to the bedroom above. The present dining room is located to the right side of the entrance hall, and the adjoining room at the back is the serving room. The owners have installed an elevator in the back hall. There are four bedrooms on the second story and the room sizes correspond to those on the first floor.

The first-story floors are blue poplar and the other floors are poplar. The first-story doors are constructed of solid walnut, mortised and pegged in the traditional manner. The door casings are paneled and the six panel door design and enframements are the same for all interior and exterior doors and windows; the baseboards are eighteen inches high. Many of the doors are fitted with cast iron square locks. The interior walls are plaster finished, painted or wallpapered. The exterior walls are penciled and the front facade features the Flemish bond pattern. The central bay at the entrance has been plastered and painted white as a background for the portico. The portico is fronted by four Ionic order columns with fluted wood shafts built on stone plinths which are fluted and joined to the wood shafts above the bases. The main facade entablature features a simple, dentilated cornice, plain architrave and frieze boards which extend around the portico. The wood lintels and belt course are painted to emphasize the horizontal and vertical spacing of elements and the height and symmetrical emphasis of the facade detail. The second-story windows are shorter in height than the first-story windows. The porch balcony is built across the pilaster. The porch floor is tiled with black and white marble.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The main entrance features a wide six-panel walnut door, rectangular-shape, recessed transom, and five, side-light panels. The post and lintel theme is expressed in the design and placement of the pilaster style door enframements.

The Gothic Revival style cottage was originally a one-story, three-bay structure with a brick, bearing-wall structural system featuring the center hall plan, balanced parlors, gable roof and end-wall chimneys. The floors are the original blue poplar wood, and the carved doors and woodwork are poplar. The ceilings are fourteen feet high. The cottage was restored and changed by the present owner in 1970. For additional living space they added a one-story wing extending toward the back. The interior was changed with the addition of chair rails, Adam-style mantles and a side door to the courtyard. All of the added architectural detail came from an old house located in the county. The brick barn and stables are the original structures built by Nathan Vaught. The old carriage house is used as a garage. The original, two-story brick smokehouse is still being used for curing hams. Many of the early slave quarters have been removed.

# 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 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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES      ca. 1855                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Nathan Vaught

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethel Place was built before 1855 by Jerome B. Pillow, son of Gideon Pillow who settled on this land in 1808. Jerome Pillow's great grandfather settled in Virginia in 1740. He came from England and each of his three sons were soldiers in the Revolutionary War. His son, John Pillow, brought his family to the Cumberland settlement in 1784. John Pillow's son, Gideon Pillow, came to Maury County as a surveyor. He purchased 5,000 acres near Columbia and settled there in 1808. That same year he was authorized to build a mill on the banks of the Little Bigby Creek near his log house.

Gideon Pillow was one of the early settlers in this area and when he died in 1830, his land was divided among his three sons who each built fine homes between the years 1832 and 1855. Each of these houses is still standing. General Gideon Pillow built Clifton Place near the Mount Pleasant Pike beginning in 1832. Nathan Vaught was commissioned to close in and finish this house and he completed it in 1839. In 1845 Grandville Pillow built "Rose Hill," the Pillow-Halliday House on the site where Gideon Pillow had settled, near the Campbellsville Pike. Jerome Pillow, the youngest son, started his house before 1855. This Pillow house became known as Bethel Place when it was owned by Jerome Pillow's daughter, Cynthia, and her husband Captain William Bethel, before 1860.

These three Pillow houses have become landmarks in this area. The houses are similar in style, design and construction. The stone and hand made brick came from a common kiln and quarry site on the property. Nathan Vaught lists the work he was commissioned to do for the Pillow family and for many of the early settlers in this area. At the age of 71 he wrote an account of his life and works titled Youth and Old Age. In this record he accounts for the majority of fine homes he built or helped to build for his customers beginning in 1808 and prior to the time he sold his business to Lamb & Boyd in 1861. Vaught was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia in 1799. He was brought to Maury County shortly after being orphaned, and in 1810 he became a ward of the county court. He was assigned to learn the carpentry and cabinet making trade and served an apprenticeship for Mr. James Purcell until he was twenty-one years old. Vaught continued his career and opened his own shop in Columbia after Mr. Purcell died. The use of powered machinery brought about changes in building practices since until this time the majority of carpentry work, mortising, tenoning, boring and grooving was done by hand labor.

Beginning in 1855 Vaught was contracted by Jerome Pillow to build a large two story brick house. According to his diary, he closed in the structure, built a fine portico front and a porch on the back of the house. He completed all of the interior work that year and at the same time he built a brick servant's quarters, kitchen house, carriage house and stables. Vaught fashioned a quantity of fine cedar rail fencing for the estate before he returned to Columbia with his crew in 1855.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Three Pillow Houses" (unpublished)  
 Turner, William B. History of Maury County Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1955.  
 Vaught, Nathan Youth and Old Age (unpublished)  
 "Master Builder of Maury County" Columbia Herald, September 20, 1967.  
 Smith, Frank H. History of Maury County, Tennessee Columbia: Maury County Historical Society, 1969.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 54

UTM REFERENCES

NW D	1,6	4,8,9	3,7,0	3,9	3,6	1,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
SE-B	1,6	4,8,9	6,8,0	3,9	3,5	5,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

NE A	1,6	4,8,9	7,4,0	3,9	3,6	1,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
SW C	1,6	4,8,9	6,6,0	3,9	3,5	5,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	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  
Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION  
Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE  
March 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

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 L. Hagen

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission DATE 8/23/76

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

Active Clem DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 12/12/76

ATTEST: W. M. [Signature] DATE 12/6/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Pi<sub>l</sub>low houses are an example of the wealth and social structure that developed in Middle Tennessee during the antebellum era. The three Pillow houses are individual in character but feature great similarities in style, design, construction, architectural detail and site planning. The Pillow-Bethel House is one of the very finest manor houses built in this region where many outstanding plantation houses were built before the Civil War. It is a notable example of the Greek Revival style built in America. The refinements and architectural detail reflect the requirements of the owner and the skill, knowledge and influence of the builder.

Bethel Place is an historic site in Middle Tennessee and has been restored by the present owner. The Jewell family operates Bethel Place as a working farm and produces the Jewell Farm Smoked Hames.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Shackelford, Evelyn Bullock. Historic Maury County in Pictures Columbia: Maury County Historical Society, 1966.

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. London: Oxford University Press.

Brandau, Roberta Seawell. Historic Homes and Gardens of Tennessee. Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1936.