

**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 Douglas, Hugh Bright, House

and/or common Wyatt House

**2. Location**

street & number 301 Elk Avenue, North (Corner of North Elk Avenue and East Washington Street) N/A not for publication

city, town Fayetteville N/A vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Tennessee code 047 county Lincoln code 103

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Don Wyatt

street & number 301 Elk Avenue, North

city, town Fayetteville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37334

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln County Courthouse  
Registrar's Office of Lincoln County

street & number Public Square

city, town Fayetteville state Tennessee 37334

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Summer of 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town 4721 Trousdale Drive Nashville state Tennessee 37219

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located two blocks north of the public square in a residential area of Fayetteville, Tennessee, the Hugh B. Douglas House occupies a corner lot bounded by North Elk Avenue to the west and East Washington Street to the south. A small yard fronting on both streets is enclosed by an ornamental wrought iron fence. Brick herringbone sidewalks lead to the main (west) and rear (east) entrances. Immediately adjacent to the house on the east is a one-story brick building which serves as an office for the owner of the house; the house itself contains the owner's antique shop on the first floor and residence on the second floor.

Built in 1894-95, the Douglas House is a rectangular 2 1/2 story building with yellow poplar framing, a veneer of horizontal shiplap siding beaded at the lower edges, a raised cut stone foundation, interior brick chimneys on the north and south elevations, and a hip roof with gabled and polygonal-roofed projections. The most striking feature of the house is a two-tier, richly ornamented veranda, which wraps around the south and west elevations. The shape and decoration of the veranda are characteristic of the Steamboat Gothic mode, which, as the name suggests, was based on the decoration of riverboats that plied the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.

The main (west) elevation, which faces North Elk Avenue, features a two-story rectangular bay under a gable roof. The paired windows in each story have a continuous cornice head and louvered exterior blinds. The gable end contains a semi-circular window and turned pendent with tie beam. Moving south from this bay, there are a single leaf door with transom and a pair of windows in each story. The south elevation, which faces East Washington Street, has a single window in each story and a door, added in 1961, immediately east of the second-story window. This elevation is terminated by a two-story, three-side bay with a bellcast slate roof above the first story and a polygonal roof above the second story; in each story there is a pair of windows at the front and a single window to either side. All have louvered exterior blinds. The windows on both the south and west elevations are one over one double hung sash. The main entrance is a single leaf walnut door with two rectangular panes of bevelled, double glass above a molded, raised panel carved in a foliated motif. The second story entrance on the west elevation is similar but has panels instead of glass. Louvered and panelled exterior wood blinds flank the doorways.

A two-tier veranda encircles the south and west elevations between the projecting two-story bays. On each story, decorative elements include a turned balustrade, turned posts with side brackets that connect with adjoining brackets to form an arch, brackets that project forward from the posts and help support the sloped roof above each story, and a spindle frieze. The north and east ends of the veranda terminate in a circular projection topped by a conical roof. In 1961 a quarter turn staircase with curved landing and turned balustrade was moved from its location along the east wall of the house's northeast room and placed at the southwest corner of the house inside the veranda. This was done to provide exterior access to the owner's apartment on the second floor.

The north elevation of the house has four (two on each story) four over four double hung sash windows with cornice heads and louvered exterior blinds. The east elevation features, south to north, a single one over one window with cornice head and louvered exterior blind in each story of the first bay; a single leaf door with transom covered by a one-story porch with turned posts, plain balustrade and plain, open frieze; a single-room addition added shortly after the house was built above the porch; a two-story

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addition built in 1961 that abuts the porch and earlier addition; and, north of the addition, a first-story window with cornice head that has infill in the upper half and a window in the lower half.

A photograph taken shortly after the house was completed in 1895 (a copy of the photo is attached) shows that the original roof was covered with slate and had tall corbelled brick chimneys; a gabled dormer with paired windows, bargeboard and cresting above the west elevation (a corresponding dormer on the east elevation cannot be seen in the photo); a polygonal turret with a window in each side and a polygonal roof with finial above the curve of the veranda at the southwest corner of the house; and additional cresting on the roofs of the projecting bays and porch. A tornado severely damaged the roof surface in 1952 resulting in the loss of the slate covering as well as the chimneys, finials and cresting. The roof was recovered with asphalt shingles and the chimneys rebuilt.

The interior of the Douglas House retains its original floor plan as well as exceptional examples of decorative woodwork. Each floor of the house has a central hall running east-west with two rooms to either side and one to the rear of the hall. On the first floor, a staircase is located along the north wall of the hall. At the base of the staircase a short flight of steps with winders projects at a right angle out into the hall.

This flight is flanked to the left by a delicate turned wood screen with oval opening resting on panelled railing. The screen and panelling are framed by fluted Ionic columns set on pedestals carved with acanthus leaf and swag motifs. The columns in turn support a dentilled cornice. The staircase itself has two carved square newel posts with finials--one at the base and one at the head of the projecting flight of steps--and a turned balustrade. A plastered niche is located at the top of the staircase. The entire stair is of walnut, except for the maple panels below the second flight of steps.

Many types of wood were used to decorate the interior of the Douglas House. Downstairs, cherry and birdseye maple were used in the south and north parlors, respectively, for mantels, baseboards, doors and interior shutters. Ash and locust wainscotting are found in the butler's pantry. Upstairs, the woodwork is of cherry, mulberry and oak. Flooring is heart of pine upstairs and ash downstairs. In the parlors, the mantels employ a variety of handcarved decorative detailing such as fluted Corinthian engaged columns, foliated motifs, and beaded molding. Bevelled mirrors and ceramic tiles are also used.

Walls throughout the house retain their original plaster. Rooms both upstairs and down have twelve-foot ceilings decorated with plaster medallions. The more elaborate second-floor medallions were added in 1976. The original hardware of chased brass and bronze has been retained throughout the house.

Alterations not already mentioned are the addition of partitions in the northeast room of each story and a partition west of the second story stairwell.

Also located on the same lot as the Douglas House are a servant house and a residence now used for office space. The servant house, situated at the north end of the lot, is a

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one-story rectangular frame building with gable roof. Reputed to have been constructed before the main house, the servant house originally faced south but was turned to face east in 1964. Adjacent to the east elevation of the Douglas House is a 1 1/2 story building with gable roof that was constructed circa 1920 as a residence. When Mr. Wyatt, the owner, remodeled the structure for use as his law office in 1964-1965, the front porch was enclosed and the front and side elevations covered with a brick veneer.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1894-1895 **Builder/Architect** Rickman and Bills, Nashville, Tennessee

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criteria C

The Hugh Bright Douglas House in Fayetteville is significant as a rare example in Tennessee of the Steamboat Gothic mode. It is also one of the most ornate. The distinguishing feature of this building type is the richly ornamented veranda which may in some instances wrap around several elevations. Influenced by steamboat decoration, Steamboat Gothic houses are most commonly found in the Mississippi and Ohio River Valleys. However, the choice of this style for the Douglas House is somewhat unusual since Fayetteville is located in southern Middle Tennessee at a distance from any navigable river.

Built as a townhouse in 1894-95 for Hugh Bright Douglas, who owned a 1,000 acre farm 3 miles east of Fayetteville in Lincoln County, the house was designed by the Nashville architectural firm of Rickman and Bills and built by a general builder in Lincoln County named Ray. Hardwoods were cut on the Mr. Douglas' farm, transported to Nashville where they were milled and hand carved and then returned to Fayetteville for installation in the house. All of this original woodwork has been retained.

Hugh Bright Douglas (1842-1902) was a gentleman farmer and owner, breeder and racer of horses. The land which he farmed near Fayetteville consisted of 1,450 acres. Much of this he had inherited from his maternal grandfather, James Bright, who had come to Lincoln County around 1806 and was one of the area's earliest settlers. Douglas' father, William Byrd Douglas, had come to Fayetteville from Virginia via Greeneville, Tennessee, around 1840 to open a mercantile business with his brother Hugh. The brothers moved to Nashville with their families in 1845 to open a mercantile and cotton business and were known as the "Cotton Kings of Nashville." <sup>1</sup> During the Civil War Hugh Bright Douglas served under Generals Nathan Bedford Forrest and Joe Wheeler. After the war he returned to Lincoln County and married Margaret Terrett, who had moved to Nashville from Virginia, in 1879. Their son Byrd, who was born in 1880, inherited the house after his mother's death. His daughter, Sarah Byrd Douglas Posey, received the house upon his death in 1958. Mr. Don Wyatt, the current owner purchased the property from Mrs. Posey in 1961.

<sup>1</sup> John McGill, The Beverley Family of Virginia, (Columbia, South Carolina: The R. L. Bryan Company, 1956).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Tucker, Mabel, and Waller, Jane Warren. Lincoln County, Tennessee Bible Records.  
 Batavia; Illinois: Lincoln County, Tennessee  
 Wyatt, Don. Fayetteville, Tennessee. Interview 24 November 1980 and 12 December 1980.  
 McGill, John. The Beverley Family of Virginia. Columbia, South Carolina: the R.L. Bryan Co. 1956.

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
 UTM NOT VERIFIED  
 Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Fayetteville, Tennessee

UMT References

A	1 6	5 3 8 2 9 0	3 8 9 0 0 2 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded on the north by Ellis and Brown, on the west by North Elk Avenue, on the south by East Washington Street, and on the east by Wyatt, and being a part of Lot No. 70 of the original Town Plan of the Town of Fayetteville of 1810 of record in Deed Book "J-2", page

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Don Wyatt	date	December, 1980
organization	N/A	telephone	615/433-5767
street & number	301 Elk Avenue, North	city or town	Fayetteville
city or town	Fayetteville	state	Tennessee 37334

# 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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Herbert L. Harper*

title Herbert L. Harper, Executive Director date 2/12/82

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register
<i>Shelburne Byers</i> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>3/25/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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353, Registrar's Office of Lincoln County, Tennessee. See area outlined on Tax Assessor's Map. The boundaries conform to the dimensions of the lot occupied by the house.