

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>	
COUNTY: <b>White</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>AUG 14 1973</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Sparta Rock House (Representative Joe L. Evins)**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**3 miles east of Sparta, on <sup>U.S.</sup> Highway 70**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Sparta *mic.***

STATE <b>Tennessee</b>	CODE <b>47</b>	COUNTY: <b>White</b>	CODE <b>185</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Meeting rooms</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**State of Tennessee**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Nashville</b>	STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>	CODE <b>47</b>
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**White County Register's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Sparta</b>	STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>	CODE <b>47</b>
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

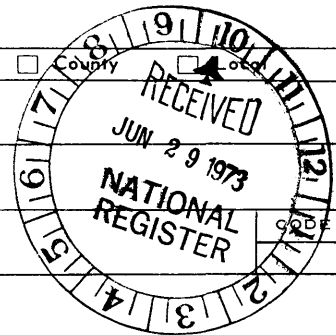
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>
COUNTY: <b>White</b>
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE <b>AUG 14 1973</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY



7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Rock House structure was built of native sandstone quarried in the general vicinity of the site. This native sandstone is similar to what is commercially called "Crab Orchard" sandstone and is, perhaps, identical to the Chilhowee sandstone cited in James M. Safford's Geology of Tennessee, Nashville, 1869.

Originally the Rock House was a two room structure with a large fireplace at each end of the building. Structural evidence indicates the removal of a partition that divided the space. The original building now contains one large room. The woodwork consisting of mantels, floors, ceiling, doors and window frames, is all original.

A post card made in the studio of James A. Goodwin, Sparta, Tennessee, and postmarked September 2, 1909, gives the structure as it then appeared. At that time a porch ran the entire length of the front of the building and a portion of the porch had been boarded up to form a "lean-to" on the front of the house. The picture indicates that the house was being used as a residence at that time.

The present condition of the Rock House is good. At some time, probably since 1940 when the State of Tennessee became the owner of the property, a room has been added to the rear of the house and is constructed of the same type of native sandstone as the original structure. This addition contains modern plumbing and other conveniences.

With the exception of the removal of the partition in the original structure, and the changes that have been made in porches, it appears that the house is much the same as it was built.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | losophy  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | itarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

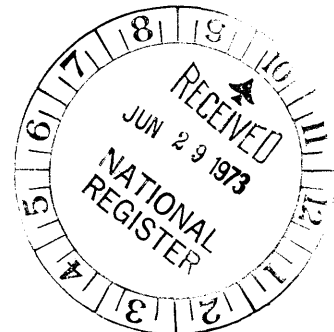
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Rock House" located on present U. S. Highway 70, 3 miles east of Sparta, was on the old stage road running over the Cumberland Mountains from Knoxville to Nashville. The records indicate that the small stone toll house was built for Barlow Fiske sometime between 1835-1839. It was probably used as a resting place for travellers and horses alike as the distance from Sparta to the top of the mountain was 5¼ miles, according to an 1837 petition. In 1852 the White County Court granted Barlow Fiske a license to "sell and dispose of goods, wares, merchandise, groceries and drugs at retail at his establishment for 12 months." The license was renewed in 1853 but no licenses exist to show that the Rock House was used for a store after that time; however, it is felt by traditionists that a store continued there for many years. Records also indicate that a toll gate was still in operation as late as 1857.

The toll house played an important part in the early transportation system in the west and the Rock House is a good example of a toll house using the native material, sandstone. It also served other purposes doubling as a store and resting place for weary travelers.

It is now the property of the State of Tennessee and is used as a meeting house for the Rock House Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It stands preserved as a tribute to this part of our heritage--the stage road and toll house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Early White County records.

Acts of the Tennessee General Assembly, 1809, 1819, 1825, 1845.

Letters of Barlow Fiske in Tennessee State Library, Manuscripts Division.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

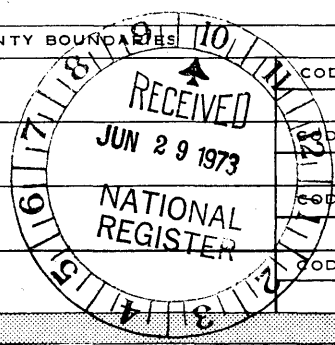
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35	55	12
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	85	24	15
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

NO  
UTM  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Charles T. Leonard, Genealogical Researcher**

ORGANIZATION: **Rock House Chapter D.A.R.** DATE: **6/1/73**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P. O. Box 67**

CITY OR TOWN: **Sparta** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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: Michael J. Amick  
Title: Executive Director  
Date: 6-30-73  
Tennessee Historical Commission

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

Robert W. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/14/73  
ATTEST:  
Wm. M. ...  
Keeper of The National Register  
Date: 7 30 73