

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Davidson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 1 1974

2m16 N 3997 000
HIS
519 000

1. NAME

COMMON:
Sunnyside

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
3000 Granny White Pike

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE:
Tennessee

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

COUNTY:
Davidson

CODE:
47 037

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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:
Centennial Park

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Deeds of Davidson County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Davidson County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

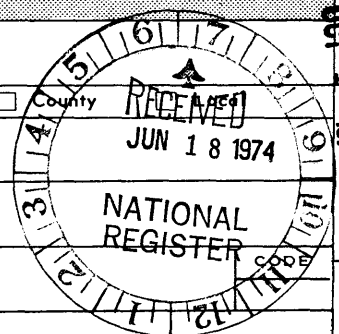
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Davidson

ENTRY NUMBER: 1974

DATE: OCT 1 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
 Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered
 Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved
 Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exact date of construction of Sunnyside is not known but is believed to have been in the early 1840's. The house is a two-story white clapboard done in the Greek Revival style. The bracketed pediment is supported by four square columns and shelters a second story porch. Brackets are also to be found under the cornice.

The rear section of the ell, which also has a second story porch, was built around two cedar log houses which date around 1790. The brick wings, painted white, were added in the 1920's by Colonel Granville Sevier. The only other alteration to the downstairs was the addition of a bathroom.

The right parlor contains an Italian Marble mantel which Colonel Sevier had brought from the Mediterranean. The staircase in the entry hall is cherry and of simple design. The doors opening from the entry hall on the first floor have an unusual wood design carved around the panels.

A section of the inside wall has been removed in the rear part of the ell exposing the logs of the original cabins. French doors open on to the porch from all rooms on the first floor.

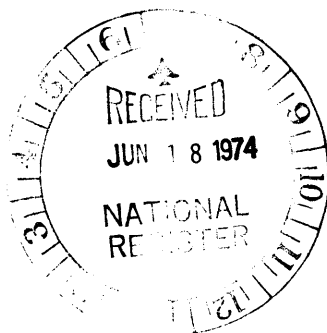
This floor is currently being used for storage by the Metropolitan Board of Parks. Because of continued abuse the first floor is in a state of disrepair.

The second floor of Sunnyside has been lived in since 1946 by the director of parks and is in good repair. New ceilings and floors were installed, leaving intact the originals, in the ell section. The second floor back porch has been converted into a bedroom. The front two rooms of the house were altered by the addition of closets and a bathroom. The landing of the second floor staircase and hallway is being used for furniture storage and is closed off from the rest of the second floor.

The basement of the house is in excellent condition.

There are three original outbuildings remaining; two are log and the third, the carriage house, is clapboard. These buildings are in good condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the site of the French Trading Post, this land was used as a meeting place for Indian Tribes. Mrs. Jesse Benton, Jr., widow of Senator Thomas Hart Benton's brother, had Sunnyside built in the early 1840's. The site for the home was one of three selected by Jesse Benton before his death.

Before Sunnyside was built Mrs. Benton resided in two cedar log houses which are possibly two of the oldest structures in the state. When the main house was built Mrs. Benton had the two log structures incorporated in her home. This is the reason for the broken roof line on the ell of the house.

Thomas Hart Benton left Tennessee largely because of quarrels with Andrew Jackson. The worst rift between Jesse and Thomas Benton and Jackson came on September 4, 1812 at the City Hotel across from the courthouse in Nashville. Jesse shot Jackson twice, once in the arm and once in the back. Problems between the two families persisted through the twenties.

During the Civil War the property was purchased by John Armstrong Shute, who presented it to his daughter, Mrs. Stephen W. Childress, whose husband was a nephew of Mrs. Benton. As the two-day Battle of Nashville raged around the house, it was riddled with shot and shell. When the battle had subsided, it was used as a hospital to treat the wounded soldiers. After the war, it was necessary for extensive repairs to be made to the house. Mrs. Childress called the place Lee Monte, in honor of Robert E. Lee. During the 1870's the house was sold to Joseph Spence, and was acquired in 1881 by Dr. L. G. Noel, who owned it until it was acquired around 1920 by Colonel Granville Sevier. During Dr. Noel's occupancy, the house was known as Idlewild.

In addition to its importance during the Battle of Nashville and as a house of prominent early Nashville families, Sunnyside is a significant example of the Greek Revival architecture in Middle Tennessee during the mid-nineteenth century.

Plans are underway through a joint effort of the Board of Parks and Recreation and the Metropolitan Historical Commission to convert Sunnyside into a living history museum. An archaeological project for the site has also been planned to aid in the proper interpretation of the site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brandau, Roberta Seawell, History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee (Nashville, 1934).
 Caldwell, Mrs. James E., Historical and Beautiful Country Homes Near Nashville, Tennessee. (Nashville, 1911).
 McRaven, Henry, Nashville, Athens of the South. (Chapel Hill, 1949).
 Interview with Mrs. Jack Spore, resident at Sunnyside since 1946.

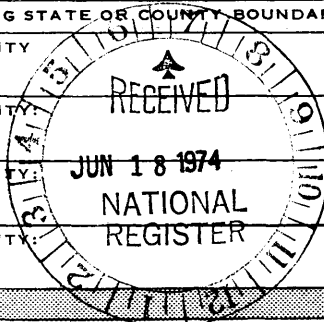
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 07 ' 09 "	86 ° 47 ' 21 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Cynthia Cole

ORGANIZATION: **Middle Tennessee State University** DATE: **3/2/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Murfreesboro** 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: Lawrence C. Henry
 Title: Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: June 12, 1974

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

A. R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/1/74

ATTEST:
Charles A. Henry
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9.20.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS