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

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## 7. Description

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

The Cartwright-Moss House is located in northern Davidson County, southwest of Goodlettsville. It was built in two stages. The ca. 1810 house is of log construction and fronted on the original Dickerson Pike (now US 31W or Dickerson Road), and this house was incorporated into a more imposing ca. 1850 frame and weatherboarded addition.

The original log portion of the house was a two-story building with a wood-shingled gable roof. In plan this consisted of two rooms on each floor separated by a log partition wall. The logs average one foot in width and are six inches deep; they were joined with a V notch. The rooms measure sixteen by twenty feet. A coursed limestone chimney in the south gable end was probably balanced by a similar chimney in the north gable end, but this was likely removed during the ca. 1850 alterations. The present foundation is coursed limestone.

When the log section was built there were stairs leading from both of the downstairs rooms to the rooms above. The upper rooms had no connecting door. Above the south bedroom there are ladder-type stairs which lead to a sleeping garret under the roof. When the house was altered in the mid-nineteenth century the two second-floor rooms were connected by a door and the staircase in the north room was removed. The remaining staircase, formerly enclosed below the second floor, has an original railing on the second floor which consists of rectangular balusters, shaped rail, and a newel post, with chamfered corners, which terminates in a lamb's tongue.

The surviving stone chimney features segmental—arch fireplace openings. A new stone hearth has been rebuilt on the ground floor using stones from the original second—floor hearth. All mantels (five in number) were installed ca. 1850 and reflect the thencurrent Greek Revival style.

The floor boards on the first floor are white ash; overhead the poplar joists were originally exposed and embellished with a bead struck on both lower edges. Doors are made of beaded vertical tongue and groove poplar boards with chamfered horizontal battens and appear to be original. The double hung sash windows have various light patterns and were probably installed during different periods.

When the house was enlarged ca. 1850, the orientation was changed so that the facade faced north rather than east. A two-story frame section, consisting of a hallway and room on each floor was added to the east wall of the north log room. This renovation changed the house to a two-story, central-hall plan (one room deep) with an ell, the latter of which was formed by the south room of the ca. 1810 log house. At this time the north chimney was removed, and exterior brick chimneys were placed on the east and west ends of the house. The opening, upstairs and down, left by the removal of the chimney were used for doubled windows which were balanced by similar elements in the frame addition.

The mid-nineteenth-century renovation included structural changes to the north room of the log section so that it conformed with the higher ceilings of the new addition, which were fashionable in that period. The alterations necessitated dismantling the north room to a point below the first floor ceiling joists; these were raised about one

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

foot at that level and second floor ceiling joists were elevated approximately three feet. The latter joists and the roof of the north section were rotated ninety degrees when they were reconstructed. The joists were ceiled at this time with lath and plaster

The exterior was sheathed with weatherboards and a single-story portico constructed to shelter the new entrance with its double-leaf, panel doors and head and side lights. The Greek Revival motif of this entrance treatment appears also in the mantel in the principal room of the frame addition. The spacious central hall is twelve feet wide and has poplar floor boards. The double-run staircase features a round handrail and rectangular balusters and has a landing which extends the width of the hallway.

The house is presently undergoing a major renovation. A single-story kitchen addition, formerly attached to the south elevation of the log section, was recently razed; its construction date and architectural features are uncertain. In its place an ell-shaped, frame addition, attached to the south and east walls of the south log room, is being constructed.

A short distance southeast of the house stands a single-story, log smokehouse. A modern, frame garage is located west of the house.

### Item Number 9-Major Bibliographical References

Page 2

Davidson County Will Book, will of Robert Cartwright, February 19, 1810.

Information provided by Ms. Elizabeth M. Woosley, Nashville, Tennessee.

### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarlan theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	ca. 1810, ca. 1850	Builder/Architect	Jacob Cartwright	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In 1779, a group of settlers from the Watauga settlement (in what was then North Carolina) began a journey to a new home in Middle Tennessee. Colonel James Robertson led a large party of men along the Wilderness Trail to a predetermined spot on the Cumberland River, called the Bluffs—the present site of Nashville. Colonel John Donelson led a flotilla of flatboats which brought most of the women and children and provisions to reunite with the Robertson party. Within a week after their landing, this group of settlers signed the Cumberland Compact—the first civil government west of the Appalachian Mountains.

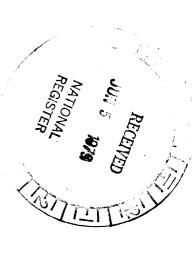
Jacob Cartwright, the builder of the Cartwright-Moss House, was a member of this original group of settlers. He came to the bluffs with his father, Robert Cartwright, who brought three families in his flatboat. Robert was the owner of the only cannon in the flotilla, and that cannon was later used at ceremonial occasions until it was over-loaded and exploded during the visit of Lafayette to Nashville.

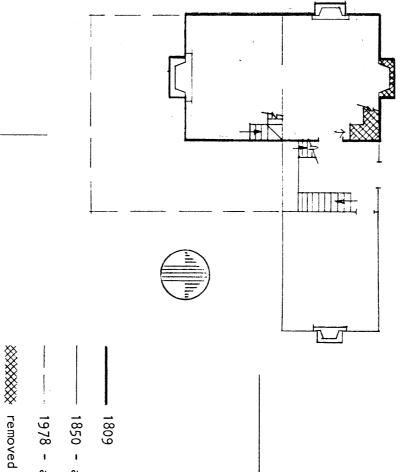
Architecturally, the Cartwright-Moss House illustrates the evolution of housing in Middle Tennessee from the early settlement period to the prosperous antebellum era. The ca. 1810 log section with its limestone chimney, exposed beaded joists, and hall-parlor plan, is representative of the type of construction most frequently found at the turn of the nineteenth century in this area. Its survival is probably attributable to its encapsulation within the ca. 1850 renovation and enlargement of the building. This mid-nineteenth century remodeling incorporated then-current architectural trends as interpreted here. Symmetrical fenestration, larger windows, a one-story portico, brick chimneys, ceiled joists, higher ceilings, and a center-hall plan all reflect the more gracious living standards of the antebellum period. The Cartwright-Moss House provides an example of how an imaginative owner converted the earlier log form into a typical Greek Revival farmhouse.

This house is important to Nashville because it is one of the very few, if not the only, documented houses built by the original party of settlers. It is an example of log houses of this period in Tennessee, and it is historically significant in that it was the home of Jacob Cartwright and his family for almost 170 years.

For the third time the building is undergoing an extensive renovation program. The present owners have added a modern kitchen-service area to the rear of the house, rebuilt the ca. 1850 chimneys, and will install new wall board in the formerly plastered frame section. The Moss family will live in the house when the renovations are completed.

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