

**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 The Frierson-Coble House  
and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 404 North Jefferson St. N/A not for publication  
city, town Shelbyville N/A vicinity of congressional district Fourth  
state Tennessee code 047 county Bedford code 003

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. James Hugh Caperton  
street & number 404 North Jefferson Street  
city, town Shelbyville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds-Bedford County Courthouse  
street & number Public Square  
city, town Shelbyville state Tennessee

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title NONE has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local  
depository for survey records N/A  
city, town N/A state N/A

## 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 date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Frierson-Coble House is a two-story frame residence built on a piano box plan with intersecting gable roofs defining different stages of construction. Predominantly Greek Revival in style, this building presents itself as an amalgam of architectural influences including Federal, Greek Revival and Victorian Gothic. Its eclectic stylistic nature may be attributed to the fact that original construction took place in the 1830s, a transition period in Tennessee architecture, and to the fact major additions were made to the house late in the nineteenth century when the Victorian influence was more pronounced in the south. Through the years this building has been carefully maintained and therefore retains most of its original exterior fabric. Its high state of preservation sets it apart from other local structures of the same age and provides the community with its best example of pre-1850 architectural style and detailing.

Situated on a one and one-half acre lot on the northeast corner of the intersection of North Jefferson and East Lane Streets, the Frierson-Coble House was constructed in 1835 and originally faced due west fronting on North Jefferson Street. This dwelling was built on a piano box style plan which consisted of a two story main block with one-story one-room wings projecting from each end of the east elevation.

A simple hall connected the two one-story wings behind the main block. The main block of the house is three bays wide with centrally located halls on each floor. Access to the second floors was originally gained by a stair located in the hall. Exterior features of the house include a limestone foundation, beaded board siding, moulded corner boards, a moulded cornice which fully returns on the gable ends, and arched vent openings (now closed) in the gable ends of the main block.

Fenestration is perfectly balanced with windows centrally located at the front and sides of the side bays. The original tripart windows have nine-over-nine light center sash which are flanked by three-over-three light sidelights. All original sash are double hung. Each original window was surrounded by reeded architraves and surmounted with a moulded cornice. Louvered shutters hung on each side of the windows and are now closed to conceal all but one set of the original window sidelights.

The front elevation was punctuated with a two stage pedimented portico - composed of square wooden posts which have applied mouldings in the design of a Gothic lancet arch. A zig-sawn balustrade which is believed to be a later addition now connects the posts at the second floor. The original double leaf front doors are set into an elaborate raised panel surround and are flanked by sidelights and crowned with a diamond quarreled transom. Pilasters which carry the lancet arch motif appearing on the portico posts occur on each side of the raised panel door surround. A similar entrance treatment originally occurred at the first floor of the north elevation. A much simpler single leaf door with a square quarreled transom provides access to the portico at the second floor level. The original entrance treatment still survives on the first floor of the south elevation.

see continuation sheet

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

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RECEIVED	MAR 10 1982
DATE ENTERED	APR 12 1982

Frierson-Coble House

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Changes in architectural fashion and owners needs precipitated a number of additions to the Frierson-Coble House; however, none of these changes has significantly altered the structure's architectural integrity. Prior to 1880 a second story was added to the southernmost wing of the house. Consequently a formidable staircase was introduced into the rear hall to provide access to the newly created space on the second floor. In 1930 a small one room one story extension was added to the rear of the south wing to accomodate an elderly family member who had come to reside at the house. In 1946 the current owners constructed a one story porch at the entrance on the south elevation to match the detailing of the original portico and thus replacing a Victorian porch which was added around 1870-1880.

The north elevation has been altered through the addition of a small bathroom added adjacent to the northeast corner of the main block and also through construction of an enclosed one story porch along the north side of the north wing. This enclosure is primarily of glass and allows an unrestricted view of the original north elevation of that wing. This porch provides a sheltered outside connection between the house and a kitchen wing on the east elevation which was constructed around 1900. More recent alterations include a sheltered patio and a carport on the east elevation constructed by adding a roof to connect existing portions of the house.

The interior of the house retains most of its original fabric including paneled doors, reeded architraves with bull's eye corner blocks, poplar floors, and two stairs each of which denote the periods in which they were constructed. All original fireplaces are still open and all but one retains its original Greek Revival style mantel. Changes have occurred in room arrangement and modern baths and a modern kitchen have been added in such a manner as to preserve those qualities which make the Frierson-Coble House significant.

In addition to the residence proper, there are two Victorian outbuildings, a wheat house and a carriage house, which are still extant. These structures are of frame construction and have vertical wooden siding. Adjacent to the east side of the house there are the structural ruins of a brick greenhouse which was constructed in the nineteenth century. The one and one-half acres which is being nominated includes the house, outbuildings and the two approaches to the house which come from two intersecting streets.

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Medical Practice
<b>Specific dates</b>	1835	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Builder - Erwin J. Frierson	

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

The Frierson-Coble House possesses local significance in the city of Shelbyville primarily due to its architectural style and the survival of ninety percent of its original building fabric. While there are other structures of comparable age in the community, there are none which so completely reveal the transition in Tennessee architecture during the mid 1830's. This structure presents influences of the Federal, Greek Revival and the Gothic Revival styles at the same time. In plan and massing the house reveals the Federal influence which continued to be seen in Tennessee architecture even after the Greek Revival style had become immensely popular. Its detailing revealed in cornices, windows, trim, and portico is almost purely Greek Revival. Even though the Gothic Revival style did not become popular in this area until mid-century it can be seen in this structure through the applied moulding adorning portico posts and pilasters. Perhaps more importantly than its presentation of architectural styles is its importance as a structure which has most of its original fabric intact and in a high state of preservation. The original beaded siding, window trim, exterior doors and other elements which have all too often vanished from houses of the same period are here complete as outstanding examples of construction technique in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Of secondary importance is the structure's association with one of the community's notable early residents - Erwin J. Frierson. Mr. Frierson, who built the house in 1835, was a lawyer who came to Shelbyville after having studied law in the office of James K. Polk in Columbia, Tennessee. Frierson served as an attorney general and in 1845 was elected to one term in the Tennessee State Legislature. In addition to being a prominent attorney, Frierson was also a prime mover in building commerce in the city of Shelbyville.

A third area of local significance involves the association of this structure with two prominent Shelbyville physicians. Dr. Neely B. Coble purchased the Frierson-Coble House in 1888 and used it both as a residence and as a place to treat his patients. Dr. Neely Coble's son Dr. Thomas J. Coble continued the practice of medicine in this structure where he resided until his death. The present owner of the house is the daughter of Dr. Thomas Coble.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Tennessee Historical Commission. Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, Nashville, 1975.

Caperton, Coble. Abstract of Title and Notes on Property of Dr. N. J. Coble  
Unpublished Manuscript

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1 1/2 Acres

Quadrangle name Shelbyville

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	5	4	9	2	0	0	3	9	2	6	7	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Boundary as delineated on Tennessee State Board of Equilization Bedford County Tax Map No. 89 B which is attached. One and one-half acres is being nominated in order to include adjacent significant outbuildings and to afford protection to the original approach

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

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

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

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea L. Stewart and R. Paul Cross

organization RPC. Ltd.

date December 20, 1981

street & number 511 Deery Street

telephone (615) 684-2203

city or town Shelbyville

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Herbert E. Bryan*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 2/23/82

For HCRS use only

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

entered in the National Register

date 4/12/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration