

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Hamilton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Topside (Representative LaMar Baker)

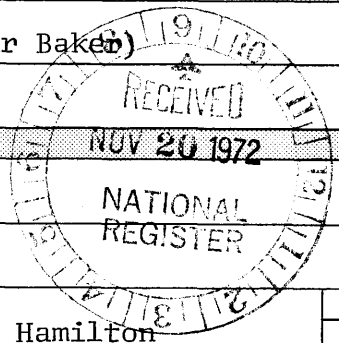
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *W of Signal Mountain*
on Wilson Avenue *off Tenn 8*

CITY OR TOWN:
Signal Mountain *vicinity*

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Hamilton CODE: 65



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight L. McReynolds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Wilson Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Chattanooga STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Chattanooga STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

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: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Hamilton
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7 DESCRIPTION

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

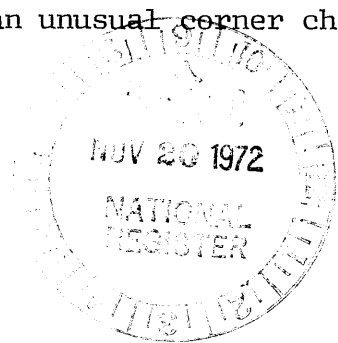
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Topside, built as the vacation home of the Key family in 1883, is one of the oldest and largest log dwellings on Signal Mountain.

Originally, the building consisted of a two-story double log cabin, apparently with a dog trot and with stone chimneys at either end. The main doorway has been changed, and presently, the owners are removing a front porch which was added. Other openings appear to be original. About 1910, the "tower" with its underpass and steep roof was built. To the rear is a two-story log L-wing with a double porch.

Near the main house are several outbuildings including a log smokehouse and a two-story clapboard house, both in poor condition. A short distance from the house is a stone ice house. In the area of the latter are numerous remnants of garden tables and benches, also built of stone. Topside is located on a sizable and overgrown lot which has many magnificent trees, including one in the courtyard area of the L-wing.

The interior of the house has changed little. Log beams and walls are exposed. On the first floor are two stone chimneys: the one in the parlor has a wide shelf and is similar to others seen in early summer houses in the area; the other is an unusual corner chimney in the dining room.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

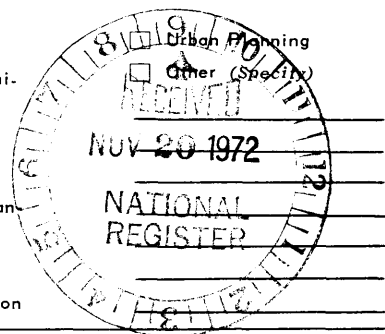
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1883

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"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation		

Urban Planning
 Other (Specify) _____



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Topside, a large log cabin built on Signal Mountain, is significant as it represents the typical summer home constructed there with few alterations. It's owner, D. M. Key, also played an important part in politics during the reconstruction period and later in the South.

Although the Summertown area of Signal Mountain was settled by the mid-nineteenth century, the community was not really established until the 1870's and 1880's. In June, 1873, cholera hit Chattanooga. At that time, Judge and Mrs. David McKendree Key and their seven children, and his brother, Summerfield A. Key, his wife, and infant daughter travelled up the steep mountain to spend the summer in the boarding house at Mabbitt Springs, known for its healthful waters. As a safeguard against another plague, the Key brothers had win log cabins built in the area at the end of the summer. This "was the birth of Summertown."

Judge Key's professional obligations prevented his family from spending a summer in their cabin until 1880. The dry summer that year caused hardship for the Keys because their cabin was some distance from the spring. To remedy this, one year later they purchased 135 acres which included spring land. Uncle Billy Mills was employed to build the log house which became known as Topside, and other families built summer houses in the same area. The Key family owned Topside from its completion in 1883 until 1948. Like many of the early summer houses on Signal Mountain, it has become a year-round residence.

✓ Although Topside may be larger than many of the early summer houses on the mountain, it is typical in other ways. The structures were usually log with stone chimneys and fireplaces. Of the early summer houses still remaining, most have been altered considerably when "winterized." This is not the case with Topside: it is, to a large degree, in original condition.

✓ Judge D. M. Key was a prominent figure in the Chattanooga area. In 1870, he was elected Judge of the Chancery Court, but resigned in 1875 to accept the appointment to fill the vacancy in the U.S. Senate caused by the death of Andrew Johnson. Two years later, President Hayes appointed him Postmaster General, a cabinet post he held until 1880, when he became the Federal Judge of East Tennessee.

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 12/389 = 560
 634120

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Patten, Elizabeth B. "A History of Summertown, Walden's Ridge, Tennessee." Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1959.

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	° ' "	° ' "		35 ° 09 ' 56 "	85 ° 18 ' 29 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ellen Beasley

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE: 11-7-72

STREET AND NUMBER: 403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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. Smith
 Michael J. Smith
 Executive Director
 Title: Tennessee Historical Commission
 Date: 11-10-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST: Wm. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4.3.73