

**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

For HCRS use only
received JUL 24 1979
date entered

1. Name

historic Absalom Thompson House (Oaklawn)

and/or common Hosel's Haven (per request of owner)

2. Location Saf Springs Hill on

street & number Denning Road not for publication

city, town Spring Hill vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Tennessee code 047 county Maury code 119

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. John Smith

street & number Route 1, Box 47

city, town Spring Hill vicinity of state Tennessee 37176

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maury County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1971 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 4721 Trousdale Drive

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37220

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated west of Kedron Road and north of Denning Road, two miles south of Spring Hill, Tennessee, the Absalom Thompson House (Oaklawn) lies at the end of a carriage drive that passes the old brick walk that leads to the house.

Built in 1835 for Absalom Thompson, this brick house was originally a story-and-a-half Federalist style, ell-shaped structure. The house may have been erected by Nathan Vaught, a master craftsman who built or remodelled many of the finer houses in Maury County. Around 1860 the Absalom Thompson House was changed to a two-story dwelling with Greek Revival features. It has a nearly flat roof and a three-bay symmetrical facade (south elevation), and is painted white. The earlier, first floor section of the house is laid in Flemish bond, and the second story, raised ca. 1860, is laid in American common bond. Four exterior brick chimneys are located in pairs on the east and west elevations of the main section of the house, and two brick chimneys are located on the ell: one is an original, interior chimney, and the other, a new exterior chimney at the north end of the ell.

A two-story portico is centered on the facade and supported by four square columns with paneled sides. The main entrance has sidelights and a fanlight. The second floor of the portico is enclosed by cast iron grillwork and the door opening onto the second floor has a shouldered architrave and a transom and sidelights. A one-story portico with four square columns and a wooden railing is located on the east elevation of the house. At the rear or north elevation of the house is a one-story porch supported by square columns and bordered by wooden railing. A complete entablature girds the house, including the inside of the front portico.

In plan, the house is composed of two two-room suites separated by an entrance hall forty-two feet in length. A two-room suite is also located in the ell. The plan of the first floor is repeated on the second. All twelve rooms measure twenty-one by twenty-one feet. The building has a full basement that contains four additional rooms. The open stairway in the entrance hall has a landing across the back of the hall. The stairway features curved brackets and a turned newel, with an unpainted knob.

The interior woodwork is cherry which has been painted. One original, single, paneled door remains in the house; the other doors have been copied from this door. The principal rooms of the house retain their Greek Revival mantles, which date from the ca. 1860 remodeling; the mantles on the second floor display a simpler design. The house also has plastered walls covered with wallpaper, and ash floors on the first floor and poplar on the second. A brick floor, located in the kitchen, is now covered by vinyl.

The Absalom-Thompson House has not been altered structurally since 1860 except for the enclosure of one of the rear porches (north elevation) in the 1950s and the addition of an exterior brick chimney at the end of the ell ca. 1970. During the restoration of the interior of the house in the early 1970s, chair rails and cove molding were added and the kitchen, and the bathrooms were remodeled.

Several outbuildings stand on the property. Approximately fifty feet north of the house is a nineteenth century, brick smokehouse. This structure is laid in common bond and covered by a roof with composition shingles.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<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 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1835, ca. 1860 **Builder/Architect** Nathan Vaught (possibly)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Absalom Thompson settled in Spring Hill early in the nineteenth century. In 1835 he built Oaklawn and remodeled it about twenty-five years later. He was concerned with education in Maury County and assisted in establishing the Manual Labor Academy in 1829; this institution became known as Jackson College in 1833, and it was moved to Columbia four years later. During the Civil War it was called Union Seminary and Federal troops burned it.

Handwritten notes:
 figures to map
 1860 to 1870
 (25 9/11/75)

Confederate General John Bell Hood established his command post on the evening of November 29, 1864 at Oaklawn, the residence of Colonel Absalom Thompson, near Spring Hill. Union and Confederate forces were moving inexorably into positions which would result in the Battle of Franklin, it was Hood's plan to control the Franklin-Columbia Road to prevent Federal troops under Major-General John M. Schofield from moving to a position north of Spring Hill. While Hood was accepting the hospitality of Absalom Thompson, in the early hours of November 30, Schofield's troops moved around the Confederate barricades and entrenched between Spring Hill and Franklin. When Hood learned of the Federal troop movement, he ordered an early morning attack on the enemy positions; his efforts were largely ineffectual and Schofield withdrew to Franklin. Hood's army pursued Schofield's and they clashed later that day at the Battle of Franklin. Confederate casualties, which included six generals, were 1,750 killed and 3,800 wounded, while the Union losses were 189 killed and 1,033 wounded. The Absalom Thompson House (Oaklawn) is significant because it served as the command post of the commanding generals of the Confederate forces prior to a major battle and is one of the few surviving buildings so closely associated with that battle. It retains its ca. 1860 appearance.

Oaklawn remained in the Thompson family until 1911. Later it served as a tenant house and fell into decay. In the 1940s it was returned to its original condition, and such modern conveniences as indoor plumbing, heating, and electricity were added to the building. For a time in the early 1970s country and western performers Tammy Wynette and George Jones resided in the house. The present owner has again restored it.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Horn, Stanley, ed. and comp. Tennessee's War 1861-1865, Described by Participants
Nashville: Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission, 1965.

Reid Smith. Majestic Middle Tennessee Prattville, Ala.: Paddle Wheel Publications, c. 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .918

Quadrangle name Carters Creek, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Absalom Thompson House (Oaklawn) is shown as the red line on the accompanying map, Maury County No. 43, which is drawn to a scale of 1 inch=400 feet. The boundary was drawn to include all the historic buildings associated with the house and

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Toplovich, Cultural Resource Surveyor
Gail Elizabeth Parvin Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date July 12, 1979

street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37220

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director

date 7/18/79

For HCRS use only

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

[Signature]

Carol Skell

date

9-11-79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Beth Grosvenor*

date

9/11/79

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 24 1979
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

exclude modern outbuildings not associated with the historical significance of the house.