Form 10-300 (July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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COUNTY:	
Jefferson	
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	District X Building	Public	Public Acquisition:		○ Occupied	Yes:		
	Site Structure	X Private	☐ In Process		☐ Unoccupied	Restricted Unrestricte		
	☐ Object	☐ Both	Being Con	sidered	Preservation wo			Ì
					in progress	⊠ No		
	PRESENT USE (Check One or	More as Appropriate	)					
	X Agricultural G	overnment	□ Park		Transportation	Comm	ents	٦
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DESCRIPTION									
	(Check One)								
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	∑ Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed			
CONDITION		(Check Or	re)		(Che	eck One)			
	☐ Alter	ed	▼ Unaltered		☐ Moved	🔀 Original Site			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The first view of Fairfax is startling because it appears so self-contained and stark on a knoll overlooking the French Broad River. Both the setting and the architecture make it an unusual Greek Revival house in Tennessee.

Built of brick, the two-story structure is rectangular and has a low hipped roof, which once had a cupola. The roof overhang shadows the wide, bracketed cornice. Two interior chimneys are on the north and south ends. The exterior is very formal with symmetrically-arranged openings separated by unadorned pilasters painted white. Windows are six-over-six with simple lintels. Centrally located on the west and south facades are first and second story entrances.

The interior floor plan centers around a T-shaped hall, which runs the full width of the house from west to east and which divides the south side of the house. There are two rooms on each side. A spiraling staircase leads to the second floor and terminates on the third level.

There are two red brick outbuildings still standing. One, located very near the house on the north side, was the kitchen. Also on this side and connected to the house by a small, formal garden, is an orangery, designed and built in the Palladian style by the present owners.

Fairfax has been restored. When purchased by the present owners in the early 1950's, the house was in deplorable condition as pictured in a 1946 publication.

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FEB 21 1973 NATIONAL REGISTER

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ole and Known) Ca	. 1840	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
🔀 Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fairfax is one of the most formal Greek Revival houses to be built in Tennessee, and certainly one of the most unusual dwellings of any period to be built in east Tennessee. The interior floor plan with a T-shaped hall is not common, just as the spiraling staircase exhibits greater craftsmanship than is usually seen in the area.

The builder of Fairfax was a prominent figure in the history of the region. Lawson Franklin, the first recorded millionaire in the state, built Fairfax for his son, I.W.R. Franklin, circa 1840. It is known that the Franklin family spent a great deal of time in New Orleans, and according to tradition, a New Orleans architect superintended erection of the dwelling.

Fairfax is a house which deserves to be studied carefully by an architectural historian. Although listed in numerous books about unusual and/or outstanding architectural structures in America, very little has been done to really document the history of the building.



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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cochran, Gifford A. Grandeur in Tennessee: Classical Revival Architecture in a Pioneer State. (New York: J.J. Augustin Publishers, 1946).

Hill, Howard L. The Herbert Walters Story. (Morristown, Tennessee: Morristown Printing Company, 1963).

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l	tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law							I hereby certify that this property is included in the  National Register.						
	89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion								( ,					
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