

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 24 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 6 1976

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
AK William Thompson Cabin
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

one mile south of Camden

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Camden

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Benton

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: storage

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

W. C. Branch

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Camden

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Benton County Register's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Camden

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 William Thompson log house is a rectangular shaped, double-pen, dog-trot style plan, built of hand adzed timbers, square and joined at the corners in the dove-tail design.

The main rooms are located on either side of the dog-trot hall. Main entrance to these rooms are located in the open hallway. An interior stairway leads to a loft area which extends across the length of the structure and above the open hall. Free-standing brick chimneys are built adjacent to the two gable end walls. Two lean-to additions are located at the rear porch and at the gable end wall to the right side of the main facade.

The entire structure is supported above the ground level by wood and field stone piers. A mixture of mud and clay has been used for chinking the spaces created by the joining of the log bearing walls. Simplified window enframements have been set into the log walls to hold the sash type windows in place.

The Thompson log house was used as a residence from the time it was built in 1816 until 1946. It is presently used as an extra building where crops and farm implements are kept.

Out buildings include a double pen style log barn. The barn features a dog-trot open pass-through and a tin clad gable roof. The screw-pit is the only remaining evidence of the 1828 cotton gin built by William Thompson.

Modern conveniences have not been installed in the house. Damages caused by the 1913 wind storm were corrected with the restoration of original features and in addition, the installation of the tin roof covering and the shed type additions to the main rooms.

Built beside the old Camden-Decaturville road, the log house has retained its original setting. The route of the old trail is still in evidence as it passes below the farm site.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1816	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	William Thompson
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Thompson (1797-1842), a native of Northampton County, North Carolina, emigrated to Middle Tennessee in 1808. Young Thompson left to serve in Captain Joseph Williams' company of militia in the War of 1812. During his service career, he also served in Colonel R. H. Dyer's regiment in General Coffee's Brigade of Tennessee Troops (1814-1816) and participated in the Battle of Chalmette near the city of New Orleans.

Returning to Tennessee, Thompson accumulated 322 acres of land located near Cypress Creek in Benton County. In 1816 William Thompson married Penelope Holland and they built the log house on the old Camden-Decaturville Road.

Thompson built a cotton gin on the hillside above his home. This was the second gin in the county built before 1828 and portions of the old gin remain in evidence at the site.

Following Thompson's death in 1842, Mrs. Thompson continued to live in the house until she died in 1895. The log house was occupied by their grandson, William L. Thompson, when the 1913 storm damaged the west side rooms of the house. The damaged portions were restored from the original materials and new brick chimneys were constructed. The roof was re-clad in tin and the shed structures were added to the rear and to the end wall. The last occupant of the cabin, a granddaughter of the builder, died in 1946. The present owner, W. C. Branch, is the great-grandson of William Thompson.

The William Thompson Cabin has remained in the care and ownership of the same family since 1816. The Thompsons were early settlers in the Middle Tennessee region, and the log house is an authentic example of the type of log houses built by settlers moving to Tennessee. The structure has been reasonably well preserved, and it is presently maintained as a storage place for crops and farm machinery.

The log house is an authentic example of the dog-trot plan constructed of hand hewn native timbers. The basic plan and simplicity of construction has proven serviceable to generations of Americans who increased the popularity for this style of architecture as they settled in Tennessee and further west during the nineteenth century. Located in an area where early log houses are scarce, the William Thompson cabin is important to the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Service records, 1814-1815-Tennessee State Archives.
 Goodspeed, (Ed.), History of Benton County (Philadelphia, 1887).
 Widow's Pension Papers (W.C. 33716), Mrs. William Thompson.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9

UTM REFERENCES

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Gail Hamnerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

11-17-75

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Hayden

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

11/19/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Noting

William Hamner

DATE

5/6/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

5.4.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER