

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Rutherford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>OCT 30 1973</b>	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Absalom Scales House (Representative Joe L. Evins)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: N of Eagleville off Tenn. 16 on  
Rocky Glade Road

CITY OR TOWN: Eagleville mic.

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Rutherford CODE: 149

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. William P. Johnston

STREET AND NUMBER: Rocky Glade Road

CITY OR TOWN: Eagleville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Murfreesboro STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

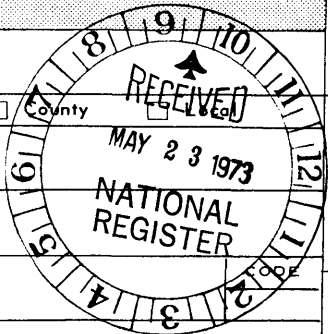
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:



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7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Absalom Scales House is an unusual double-fronted country house near Eagleville. It extends seven bays in width with the five bays to the right forming a typical Classical Revival Tennessee home with a projecting two-story gabled wooden portico supported on piers on the third bay of the front facade. The pair of left bays are separated by a short wall section from the unit of five and comprise on the front a second facade with a triangular pedimented doorway on the right side. The entire front is unified by common window sizes, a tall six-over-six on the ground floor and a short six-over six on the second. Each of the windows is shuttered.

The house is three bays deep with the central bay on each end occupied by a projecting stone chimney. The right-hand chimney is intact while the upper portion of the left chimney has been replaced with brick above the upper fireplace. The complete chimney is handsomely quoined in rough-hewn stone and banded with a double cornice at the top. It matches the third chimney which projects between the third and fourth bays from the right.

On the rear facade the two-bay unit is surfaced in clapboard which also covers one bay of the end of the building, while the entire five bay section is of brick. A single-story frame ell projects beyond the wooden section of the rear facade. A wooden portico supported on simple Classical Revival piers of single-story height is appended to the three central bays.

The entire structure rests on a stone water-table of two rough-hewn courses. Simple sills and beams occur above and below each window. The front portico gives access to the structure through a handsome wide Greek Revival doorway with typical "ears" and side-lights. The leaf of the door is four-panelled. There is no upper transom. Simple wooden cornices mark the eave lines and all gables including that of the front portico. The roof has a single ridge height, parallel to the front facade, and gabled ends. It is covered in shingle.

It is said that underneath the Greek Revival brickwork and trim is the skeleton of yellow poplar of the original smaller house of the late 18th century. This is quite possibly the two-bay unit on the left of the front facade.



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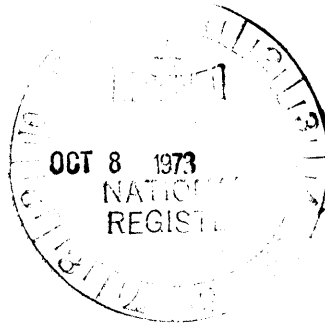
(Continuation Sheet)

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7. DESCRIPTION (cont.)

Around 1790, Absalom Scales erected a four-room frame house of yellow poplar on his 600 acres of rolling land. The walls were Wainscoted and the floors were of wide poplar planks. A small stairway led to two bedrooms. Soon after Scales' death in 1835, the property came into the possession of his son, Noah. It was he who enlarged the house, covering the entire structure with brick. He built another entrance with a two story portico. This entrance led to a hallway with oval walls.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

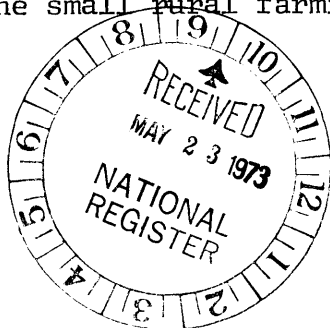
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Structures of 18th century origin are uncommon in Central Tennessee. The Absalom Scales House in part represents the earliest settlers' homes in this section of the state, albeit the "Greek Revitalizing" it received in the early 19th century. Its enlarged fabric is an excellent example of a natural architectural evolution. It represents the expansion in size and pretensions of an early settler's family as well as changing taste over a period of several generations. Its sheer size, especially the broad seven-bay facade and unusual double unified front are quite remarkable.

The Absalom Scales House, throughout its long history, has been a landmark in the small rural farming community of Eagleville.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carlton C. Sims, ed. A History of Rutherford County  
 Mary B. Hughes, Hearthstones: The Story of Historic Rutherford County Homes

Consultant: Vaughn L. Glasgow  
 Art & Architectural Historian  
 Middle Tennessee State University  
 Murfreesboro, Tennessee

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

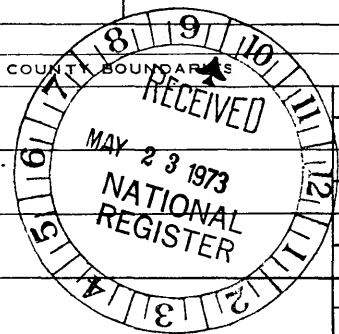
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	35°	46'	27"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	86°	38'	22"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

16/532600  
 3958770  
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Peter S. La Paglia

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 5/15/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Michael J. Smith</u>                  Executive Director                  Tennessee Historical Commission</p> <p>Date <u>5/15/73</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connolly</u>  <del>Ernest A. Connolly</del>                  Associate Director, Professional Services</p> <p>Date <u>OCT 30 1973</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>10.25.73</u></p>
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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Family records reveal that Absalom Scales, born in North Carolina on December 3, 1769, came to Tennessee at an early age. Deeds and tax records show that he was living at this site in the 1790's, indicating that the early part of the house was built around 1790. The addition was built around 1840, at which time the original frame portion was bricked. It is a significant example of the evolution from a simple house of an early settler in the late 18th century to a larger house reflecting the Greek Revival architecture of the period, as the family grew and prospered in the mid-nineteenth century.

