

PH069135

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 30 1976  
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

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

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ritter-Morton House

AND/OR COMMON

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

McLemore Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Spring Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Maury

CODE

119

### CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

#### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. J. O. (Hazel) Morton, Sr.

STREET & NUMBER

McLemore Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Spring Hill

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Maury County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Tennessee

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This picturesque cottage-type, Carpenter Gothic style residence is located on a corner lot opposite the site of the Spring Hill Female Academy. The academy was torn down in recent years. The present owners of the house made the only major changes to the structure since it was built in 1878. The house changed ownership and occupants many times but the original building remained unchanged up to 1950.

For several years the present owner used it as rental property. The owners have used the house as a winter home in recent years. They added the kitchen wing and enclosed the open porch. A bathroom has been built in the former closet for the first-story bedroom. The original cellar is located under the kitchen addition.

The structure is a two-story, rectangular shape, frame construction built on stone masonry foundation. It features a decorated end gable entrance, board and batten siding, and steeply-pitched gable roof with gable wall dormers at each side elevation. The one-story kitchen addition extends across the south rear elevation. The former porch extends back from the right side of the main facade. The original, chimneyless kitchen located in the side yard has been removed.

The main facade features the original wood carpentry, doors and sashes. The side hall entrance door has a molded cap to match the window enframingent. The fan-shaped transom light is set in the rectangular wood panel above the door. The two identical windows to the left side of the door and the third window above the center bay comprise the one bay over three bay symmetry. The batten heads form a decorative relief design at the second-story string course. The wide rake boards are enhanced by the large carved wood brackets and scalloped vergeboards are attached to the roof overhang at each elevation of the original section of the house. The additions are frame, board and batten, and painted white to match the original construction. A hood has been attached to the east elevation over the entrance to the rear parlor. The shutters are original. The central chimney is constructed of brick.

The original section has remained unchanged. These rooms feature the original wood carpentry, moldings, mantles and flooring. The plaster on lath walls has been wall-papered, and the woodwork has been painted. The staircase is located at the back of the entrance hall. The front parlor is to the left of the hall. The fireplaces for the two parlor rooms are back to back. The staircase has steep risers and mid-stage winders. It is built across the right wall, opposite the entrance. Wall cabinets open out of the left side wall on the stairs. The second story is partitioned for two rooms, and a balustrade is built across the open stairwell at the top of the staircase. The dormer windows are casement-type windows which come to the floor level. The downstairs bedroom is a one-story back wing of the original section of the house. This room and the former side porch were attached to the back parlor room. The ceilings are twelve feet high on the main floor, but are reduced in height for the dormer rooms on the second story.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1878-1879

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Peter Ritter

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This cottage type residence designed in the Carpenter Gothic style is a significant addition to the historical architectural inventory of Tennessee because it represents the type of plans and designs published by architects and master builders of the nineteenth century who advocated the revival of the picturesque which was well represented in the American Carpenter Gothic style. This residence was built during the 1870s and it remained unchanged for over seventy years. The main section of this house is original and the 1950 additions do not detract from the historic value. Skilled carpentry work and careful refinement of detail make this house important to preserve. It is one of two remaining structures built in this community which feature the Carpenter Gothic style of architecture.

The house was built in 1878-1879 for Peter and Elizabeth R. Ritter. Three succeeding owners' names appear on the early deed records. The Ritter family conveyed the property to John C. Witt on March 1, 1886. The property was conveyed to W. H. Witt, October 20, 1896, and it was sold to A. P. Odil in January 1899. It has been called the "kissing house" by residents of Spring Hill who recall the story about Miss Odil who was awarded a court settlement for a breach of engagement against Mr. Hugh Brown who married another.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smith, Reid. Majestic Middle Tennessee. Paddle Wheel Publications: Plattville, Alabama, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail E. Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

DATE

March 1976

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

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. Harper*

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

8/27/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

12/12/76

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register

DATE

12/6/76