

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 29 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAR 19 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

\* \* Hammer, Isaac House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4, Mountain View Road

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Johnson City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

179

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Humphreys

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4, Mountain View Road

CITY, TOWN

Johnson City

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jonesboro

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 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      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Isaac Hammer House is a rectangular shaped log house, featuring an open basement story across the back elevation. Built into the side of a hill, the upper stories are constructed of log timbers, laid horizontal, squared and joined in the traditional dove-tail method. Gable end walls are clad in hand sawn weatherboard planks between the gable ends. The present owner has carefully restored and preserved all evidence of original construction and features of the design. He has enlarged the original plan through the addition of the east wing. The wing emphasized the features of the original house and serves to provide three levels of additional space. A new kitchen is located in the basement with two bedrooms located in the upper stories.

The main entrance is located at the second story elevation. An additional entrance is located at the opposite wall and this elevation features an attached wood staircase and porch. The front elevation features a shed style porch. Floors and ceilings are constructed of joist beams laid with hand planed rough flooring. The limestone and lime mortar chimney is constructed with separate fire boxes at each story. The largest fireplace is located at the basement story. The size of the hearth serves to indicate it was used as a kitchen fireplace. It is fronted by a large wood beam lintel. Additional fireplaces use the same flue and these are used to heat the rooms they are located in. The second story room is the hall and the upper story is the original bedroom area. Staircases are constructed in the corner adjacent to the wide chimney base. There are three puncheon stairs with pie-shaped winders. The third staircase is a closet stair constructed between the attic and bedroom.

Modern conveniences and plumbing were installed during the recent restoration work. The present owner has reconstructed several log outbuildings on the property. Additional buildings are representative of original farm buildings. The large barn is located at the lower end of the property.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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

1793

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Isaac Hammer

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Isaac Hammer was the first of the Quaker brethren to settle in this region. He built his home on the old Indian trail in 1793. The house became known as a stopping place for travelers passing through this region on the Jonesboro-Abingdon stage route. The house has remained a local landmark since that time.

The Isaac Hammer house is endowed with other historical associations through the various deeds and papers for the property, including the original land grants and documents signed by William Blount and John Sevier.

The house is constructed of coursed limestone and mortar bearing walls, built into the side of a hill. The basement is raised one full story across the back elevation. The remaining log stories are constructed of native timbers, hand hewn and joined at the corners in the traditional style. A significant feature of the house is the design and construction of the large limestone and lime mortar chimney, constructed on three levels for three separate fireplaces. The design for the house was favored by early pioneers moving to the hilly section of Tennessee. Direct access to the kitchen made it possible to use the space for shops, storage or kitchen quarters while the upper rooms were reserved for use as living quarters. The Isaac Hammer House is one of the few remaining examples of this type of architecture in Tennessee.

All of the original features of the property have been carefully restored by the present owners, who have planned additional improvements to protect and preserve the authentic historic environment of the property. New additions to the main house are in keeping with the age and design of the original architecture.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

4/22/91

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Hammer, Isaac, House

Washington County, TENNESSEE

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

76 0018 05

*J. H.*  
Keeper Arlene Byrd 5/1/91

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Hammer, Isaac, House

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The Henry Range House (NR 3/25/82) was moved into the same parcel of land as the Isaac Hammer House (NR 3/19/76). The Hammer House did not historically have another house sitting next to it. Therefore, the moved building is a non-contributing building on the Hammer House property.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Herbert L. Harper

4/16/91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date