

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received JUN 2 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Thompse Edwards House
and/or common Edwards - Helms House

2. Location

street & number 113 Main Street N/A ___ not for publication
city, town Lexington N/A ___ vicinity of
state Tennessee code 047 county Henderson code 077

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A ___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	___ being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Eva Pafford Helms
street & number 113 Main Street
city, town Lexington N/A ___ vicinity of state Tennessee 38351

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds
street & number Henderson County Courthouse
city, town Lexington state Tennessee 38351

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no
date N/A N/A ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local
depository for survey records N/A
city, town N/A state N/A

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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two-story, brick Thompsie Edwards House, constructed in 1894, is a large eclectic Victorian period building located on the east side of Main Street in the rural county seat town of Lexington, Tennessee (pop. 5024). The exterior of the house features excellent brickwork, one-story Eastlake porches, a corner tower, projecting bays, and a multiple-gable roof with exposed rafter tails and large brackets. On the interior the building has almost all of its original Eastlake hardware, mantels, doors and other woodwork, as well as most of the home's original furniture and art work. The structure retains a high degree of its architectural integrity.

The Edwards House faces west on a flat site one block south of the Lexington courthouse square. This area of Main Street once contained some of the finest turn-of-the-century residences in Lexington, but of these only the Edwards House remains. The lot is informally landscaped with a few mature trees and foundation shrubs. The only out-building is the 1894 brick kitchen.

The house is basically rectangular in plan with a northwest corner tower and projecting double bays on the west and north facades. Within the recessed areas on the west and north facades created by the tower and projecting bays, are one-story Eastlake porches with turned posts and spindle cornice aprons. The projecting bays and tower have gable roofs which are separate from the building's major gable roof. All four roofs have deep eaves with exposed rafter tails and large brackets. The house originally had a hipped roof and the tower a pyramidal roof, but these were changed to the current configuration by Thompsie Edwards around 1910. The one-over-one windows have denticulated elliptical arches. The front (west) and side (north) entrances have sidelights, transoms, and their original glazed doors.

On the interior the house has a central hall running east-west with a half-turn Eastlake staircase and a side hall running north-south to the side entrance. The first and second stories each contain four large rooms which have their original Eastlake woodwork, doors, and cast iron mantels and grates. The house has remained in the same family since it was built and retains most of its original furniture and decorative objects. The building was carefully restored by the current owners in 1980.

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 checked="" 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 1894, ca. 1910 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1894 Thompsie Edwards House is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its local significance to Lexington and Henderson County in commerce and architecture. The house derives significance in part from its association with its builder, Thompsie Edwards, an important figure in Lexington and Henderson County at the turn of the century through his banking and livery stable interests. The house Edwards built is the finest example of residential Victorian period architecture remaining in Lexington and Henderson County.

Thompsie Edwards (1862-1929) was a principal figure in the economic development of Lexington and Henderson County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Edwards' first important economic venture was his ownership and operation of the only livery stable in the county seat of Lexington in the late nineteenth century. The fortune made in that business allowed him to become by the turn of the century the president of the Central State Bank of Lexington, the town's second oldest bank and its largest financial institution today. Edwards was also prominent in local Republican politics and served for a time as the county's chief tax official, or trustee.

The eclectic style and fine craftsmanship of the Thompsie Edwards House are exhibited on the exterior in the fine brickwork, Eastlake porches, and the prominent roof forms. Equally fine is the interior with its Eastlake woodwork, stairs, hardware, and cast iron mantels. The careful restoration of the building and its original furnishings have insured its preservation as an unusually fine example of late Victorian period eclectic architecture for a small rural town in West Tennessee.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Powers, Auburn. History of Henderson County. n.p., 1930.

Stewart, G. Tilman. Henderson County. Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Lexington, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	7	4	0	0	0	3	9	4	5	6	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lloyd Ostby, Coordinator of Field Services
Mrs. Eva Pafford Helms
Tennessee Historical Commission

organization N/A date March 1983

street & number 701 Broadway telephone (615) 742-6723
113 Main Street (901) 968-2544

city or town Nashville 37203
Lexington, state Tennessee 38351

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.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 5/9/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

**Entered in the
National Register**

date 6/30/83

for *Allores Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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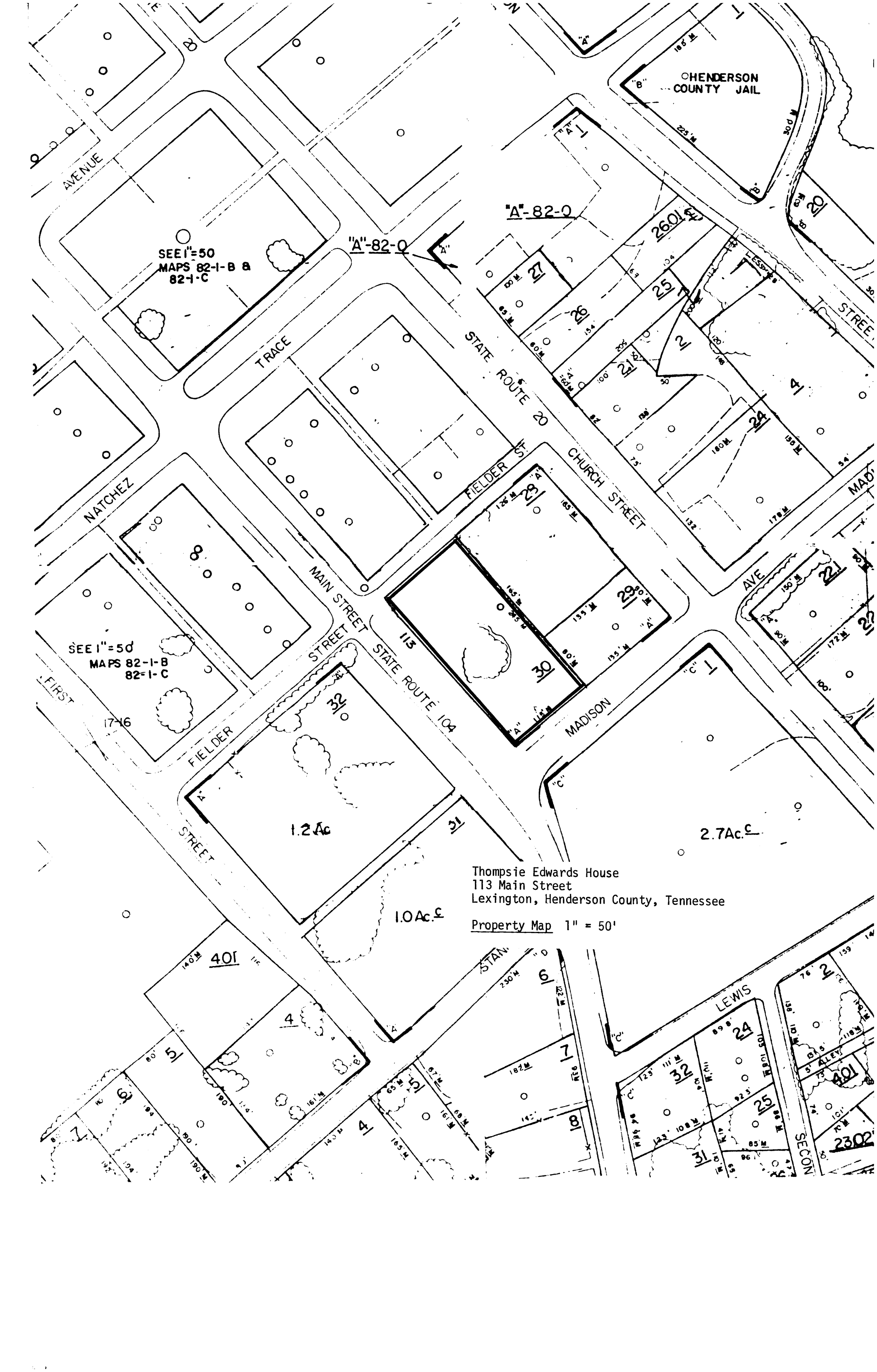
date entered

Continuation sheet Thompsie Edwards House

Item number 10

Page 2

The nominated lot measures 245' by 115' and is bounded on the north by Fielder Street, the east by an adjoining property line, the south by Madison Avenue, and the west by Main Street (State Route 104). The property includes enough land to protect the architectural and historical integrity of the house.



HENDERSON COUNTY JAIL

SEE 1"=50
MAPS 82-1-B &
82-1-C

"A"-82-0

"A"-82-0

SEE 1"=50
MAPS 82-1-B
82-1-C

Thompie Edwards House
113 Main Street
Lexington, Henderson County, Tennessee

Property Map 1" = 50'

1.2 Ac.

1.0 Ac. E

2.7 Ac. E

401

LEWIS

SECON