

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Alexander Ewing House

and/or common Woodlon Hall

2. Location

street & number 5101 Buena Vista Pike not for publication

city, town Nashville vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Tennessee code 047 county Davidson code 037

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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Charles Woody and Charles London

street & number 5101 Buena Vista Pike

city, town Nashville vicinity of state Tennessee 37218

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register's Office

street & number Davidson County Courthouse

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 4721 Trousdale Drive

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

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

Situated approximately six miles north of downtown Nashville, the Alexander Ewing House faces Buena Vista Pike, 350' to the east along the west bank of White's Creek. The front lawn, bordered on the south by a gravel drive, is covered with mature poplar, ash, maple and hackberry trees.

Built circa 1821, the house serves as an example of the early Federal style plantation homes in Middle Tennessee. Rectangular in plan, the two-story dwelling has a stone foundation, brick construction, a gable roof covered with composition shingles, and, on both side elevations, a pair of exterior end brick chimneys connected by a parapet wall. Located near the south end of the rear elevation is a semi-detached one-story brick ell.

Laid in Flemish bond, the symmetrical five-bay main (east) elevation features two windows to either side of a central doorway in each story. All windows are 12 over 12 double hung sash with wood architraves, set into flat-arched openings with brick radiating voussoirs, stone sill and exterior wood blinds. The main entrance is a double leaf door--each leaf has a single rectangular light over two molded panels--framed by plain wood columns supporting an architrave beneath an elliptical fanlight. Sidelights above a molded panel flank the columns. In the second story a pair of French doors is decorated with a curved stone lintel, sidelights and exterior blinds. Extending the length of this elevation is a flat roofed one-story porch supported by plain wood columns. Coupled columns frame that section of the porch which projects in front of the central bay. The roofline of the porch is decorated with a bracketed cornice and plain balustrade, both of wood. The porch is not original but was probably added in the early twentieth century. A molded wood cornice across the facade was also added during the same period.

The outstanding feature of the north and south (side) elevations is the pair of brick exterior end chimneys connected by a parapet wall. In the north elevation small six-light casement windows flank the front chimney while a single leaf wood door and single light window are located east and west respectively of the rear chimney. Still visible on the central section of this story is the ghost of a one-story brick wing removed after 1880. It can still be seen in a drawing of the house done in that year. In the south elevation each chimney is flanked on the first story by 4 over 4 double hung sash windows. In both elevations a pair of 6 over 6 double hung windows are located in the attic story between the chimneys.

In the west or rear elevation five 12 over 6 double hung windows are located above a full-length shed roofed porch supported by square posts. Intersecting the porch near its south end is a one-story brick ell, originally used as a kitchen. The ell has a gable roof, brick exterior end chimney and a shed roofed porch with square posts and simple balustrade along the outside elevation. The balustrade is continued on the south end of the rear porch. Under the northern section of the porch is a brick spring house.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

The interior plan of the Ewing House features 2 rooms to either side of a wide central hall. In the first story, a music room (formerly a men's parlor) and a study (formerly a ladies' parlor) are located south of the hall while a dining room and kitchen separated by a side hall are to the north. At the rear of the hall is a curved staircase with turned balusters. Beneath the stairway is a double leaf panelled door that opens onto the rear porch. Doorways and window surrounds are fluted with bulls eye corner blocks. The doorway into the music room is further embellished with a pair of columns set on pedestals. Mantels in the parlors and dining room are wood and relatively simple.

The second story also originally had 4 rooms with a central hall. During a twentieth-century remodelling the front section of the hall was enclosed to provide an additional room. A second stairway in the northwest bedroom leads to the kitchen. The most unusual interior feature of the house is found in the southeast bedroom--a large drawing (10½ feet long and 5'9" tall) of a running horse done directly on the plaster of the north wall. This is thought to date from the mid-nineteenth century although its origins cannot be verified.

Two outbuildings which both face east are located in the nominated tract of land--a carriage house southwest of the house and servants' quarters to the northwest. The carriage house, which appears in an 1880 drawing of the Ewing House, is a one-story rectangular frame structure with a gable roof. The entrance, a large rectangular opening, is in the east gable end. The servants' quarters is a one-story rectangular building with shed addition, gable roof covered with tin and a central brick chimney. Constructed of logs, it is now covered with weatherboard. The east elevation originally had a pair of 4 over 4 double hung windows between two doors; however, the south door has been converted to a window.

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 1821 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Alexander Ewing house on White's Creek is important to Nashville and Davidson County because of its architectural and historical merits. The Federal style plantation house is located adjacent to the house of Fredrick Stump--the Stump House was listed on the National Register in 1975.

Alexander Ewing built this house on Buena Vista Pike shortly before his death in April, 1822. Ewing was born in Cecil County, Maryland on May 10, 1752. He served as 2nd Lieutenant in the Continental Army from 1777 to 1781 when he was awarded the rank of Captain. Also, from 1781-1783 Ewing served as Aid-de-Camp to General Nathaniel Greene. He was nicknamed Devil Alex during the Revolution.

Alexander Ewing was awarded 2,666 acres of land in Davidson County for his services in the Revolution. He moved to Tennessee around 1786 and in 1792 began adding extensively to his land holdings in Middle and West Tennessee. The 1798 Davidson County Tax Roll lists Alexander Ewing's White's Creek dwelling house as being stone and wood. In addition, he owned a total of thirteen slaves at that time.

Alexander Ewing's will written on February 6, 1822 (recorded June 6, 1822) bequeathed "the mansion house where I now live" to his son William Black with a life estate for his wife Sally.

In 1846 Randall Ewing, Alexander's son, sold the house to Cornelius Waggoner. However, Randall and his family lived in the house for at least four more years. Randall left Nashville in 1850 and went to California in search of gold-(He died in California in 1853).

Cornelius Waggoner lived in the house until his death in 1872, at which time the house passed to his son Benjamin F. Waggoner. Born in 1828 in Davidson County, B. F. Waggoner engaged in the lumber business on Long Creek near the Davidson-Cheatham County line. He manufactured poplar and oak plank until 1859 when he entered the manufacture of sheet iron stoves. During the last years of the Civil War he kept a distillery on the Red River in Robertson County.

Following the ownership of the Waggoner's, the house changed hands several times and finally was allowed to fall into disrepair for a number of years. In 1973 the present owners bought the property and restored the house.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

The most unusual interior feature of the Ewing House can be found on the second floor in the southeast bedroom. Painted directly on the plaster wall is a large drawing of a running horse. It is not known who the artist was or when it was painted. However, according to tradition one of Randall Ewing's sons painted the horse after being confined to his room for punishment.

The house Alexander Ewing built was strongly reminiscent of the architecture found in his native Maryland. Paired connecting end chimneys, exterior brick walls and the original flat roofed portico provided rural Davidson County with an excellent example of Federal Period Architecture.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

Tax Records, Davidson County, Tennessee, 1798.

United States Census, Davidson County, Tennessee, 1820-1870.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

272 feet, then east 433 feet to Buena Vista Pike, then south 292 feet along the west right of way of Buena Vista Pike to the point of beginning.

These boundaries have been drawn to include the Alexander Ewing House, the carriage house and the servants quarters.