

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (Rev. 6-72)

Form 10-300

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTRY: Davidson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: DEC 27 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Cole House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2001 Lebanon Road

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

COUNTRY: Davidson

CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input 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"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park
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Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Akers

STREET AND NUMBER: 2001 Lebanon Road

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Davidson County Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

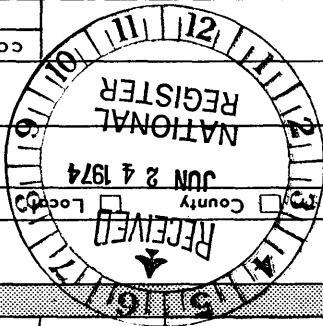
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 27 1974

DATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<input checked="" 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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site (Check One)

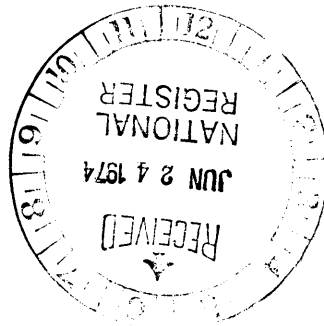
The original portion of the Cole House, shown on Wilbur Foster's 1871 Map of Davidson County, Tennessee, is reputed to have been built about 1859-60. Records in the State Archives show that Edmund Cole purchased 105 acres near the Nashville-Lebanon Turnpike that year, and the Abstract of Title in possession of the present owners of the home list Cole as the owner from 1856 to 1879.

According to local legend and family tradition, Cole constructed the front portions of this structure for his first wife who died in 1869, "leaving four children under the age of 7." The frame house originally consisted of the living room (16' x 26') in the center of the structure, with a large dining room (16' x 16') to the left of the front door. The dining room once had French doors separating it from the hall and living room, but these have been removed. Adjoining the dining room to the south, is a large room (17' x 17') now used as a library. This room has an exterior door opening to the front porch. At the north end of the living room is a bedroom (17' x 17') identical to the library; it also has an exterior door opening to the front porch. Each of these four rooms has a large fireplace with wooden mantles, copies of the Adam mantle (according to Mr. Thomas Merrick Slade, National Trust for Historic Preservation, who visited the house in 1973).

An interesting aspect of the living room is that evidence exists of a hall ten feet in length which once extended from the front double doors to the back porch (16' x 10'). The hall doorway was closed up and walled-over in the early 1900s when the frame kitchen attached to the rear porch was torn down. About the same time, the existing back porch was extended 3-4 feet and made into a sitting room and a kitchen wing was added. At some date, a low dormer with 4 small windows was added to the front.

The original four rooms have ten-foot-high ceilings, and the window glass throughout is marked with "bubbles and waves" usually found in glass produced in the nineteenth century.

The house is in good condition and is an example of early "Tennessee Vernacular" architecture. It is also the only Cole residence remaining. Cole built a new home for his second wife after their marriage in 1872. The three-story house, called "Terrace Place," was located in present downtown Nashville on Church Street and has been torn down. The third Cole home, "Colomere," was built in 1893 on the Murfreesboro Road and was destroyed by fire in 1929.



1. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Edmund W. Cole was born in 1827 in Giles Co., Tenn. His father died when the boy was only 3 months old, leaving the widow Cole to rear 5 sons and 2 daughters. Cole worked on the family farm in his early youth, then came to Nashville in 1845, at the age of 17, to earn college tuition and study for the ministry. Following several clerical jobs, he began employment in 1851 as bookkeeper for the Nashville and Chattanooga Railway. Six years later, at the age of 30, Cole was named superintendent of the railway.

In 1865, after the fall of Fort Donelson, Cole took his wife, Louise McGavock Lytle, and their several small children south to Augusta, Ga. He was elected superintendent of the Georgia Railroad and Banking Co. and remained in Augusta until 1868, when he returned to Nashville. (His wife died in childbirth the next year.) In 1868, he was elected president of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, retaining his position as general superintendent of the Georgia Railroad until 1875. During this period (mid-1860s to late 1870s), Cole had extensive interests in iron and coal mines in Sheffield, Ala., in addition to large land holdings in the Nashville area. E.W. "King" Cole (nicknamed "King" because of his exploits in railroads) married a second time in 1872 to Anna V. Russell of Augusta, Ga. She later bore him a daughter, Anna, and a son, Whiteford Russell Cole. His son would in manhood serve as president of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad and as executive chairman of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. Cole's business affairs were "approaching a zenith" by 1875. The next year he expanded his railway company and changed the name to the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad. After several years of internal conflict within the company, Cole resigned his presidency in 1880. He accepted the presidency of the East Tennessee Virginia & Georgia Railroad of Knoxville and went there to reside. In two years time, he resigned and returned to his family in Nashville, never to return to the railroad business. At the age of 55, Cole forged a new career for himself. He founded and was first president of the American National Bank in Nashville; he also founded and served as a director of the Safe Deposit, Trust and Banking Co. (continued)

Date June 20, 1974

Title Executive Director,
Tennessee Historical Commission

Name Lawrence C. Henry

National State Local

Level of significance of this nomination is:
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended
evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set
in the National Register and certify that it has been
89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion
national Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-

Date DEC 26 1974

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

Date 12/27/74

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

[Signature]

National Register

I hereby certify that this property is included in the

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ilene J. Cornwell, editorial assistant

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 403 7th Ave., No.

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NE	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
SE	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
SW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds

DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES

DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY

OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Anna Russell Cole," by Jesse C. Burt, Jr., Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. XIII, No. 2, 1954.

History of Davidson County, Tennessee, W. W. Clayton, 1880.

Tennessee, the Volunteer State, 1769-1923, Vol. II, John T. Moore and Austin P. Foster, 1923.

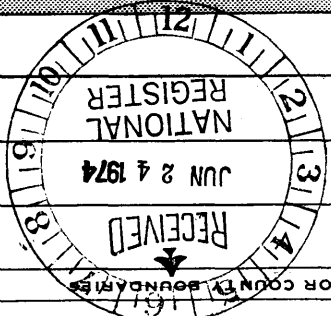
History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee, compiled by The Garden Study Club of Nashville, 1936.

Map of Davidson County, Tennessee, by Wilbur Foster, 1871.

Map and research (unpublished) by J.A. Weakley, 1950.

Miscellany of records in State Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NTM

16/524 282

4001150

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Tennessee
COUNTY	Davidson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 27 1974

(Number all entries)

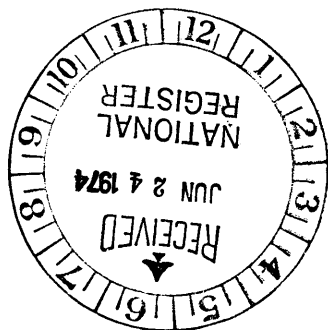
8. Significance

The last nineteen years of his life were filled with civic and philanthropic activities. The death of his son, Randal, in a railway accident in 1884 prompted Cole to found the Randal Cole Industrial School for orphan and dependent children. (Before Cole's death in 1899, he had expended \$100,000 on the charity.) The school later developed into the Tennessee Industrial School.

Cole was elected treasurer of the Vanderbilt University board of trust and in 1894 established a foundation for a perpetual lectureship with the Biblical Dept. (now the Divinity School) of the university. He gave \$5,000 to begin the now well-known Cole Lectures, and Mrs. Cole contributed another \$5,000 to the foundation in 1913. In Vanderbilt's Kirkland Hall there stands a marble bust of Colonel Cole, called by the Nashville Banner in 1899, "Nashville's most prominent man of affairs."

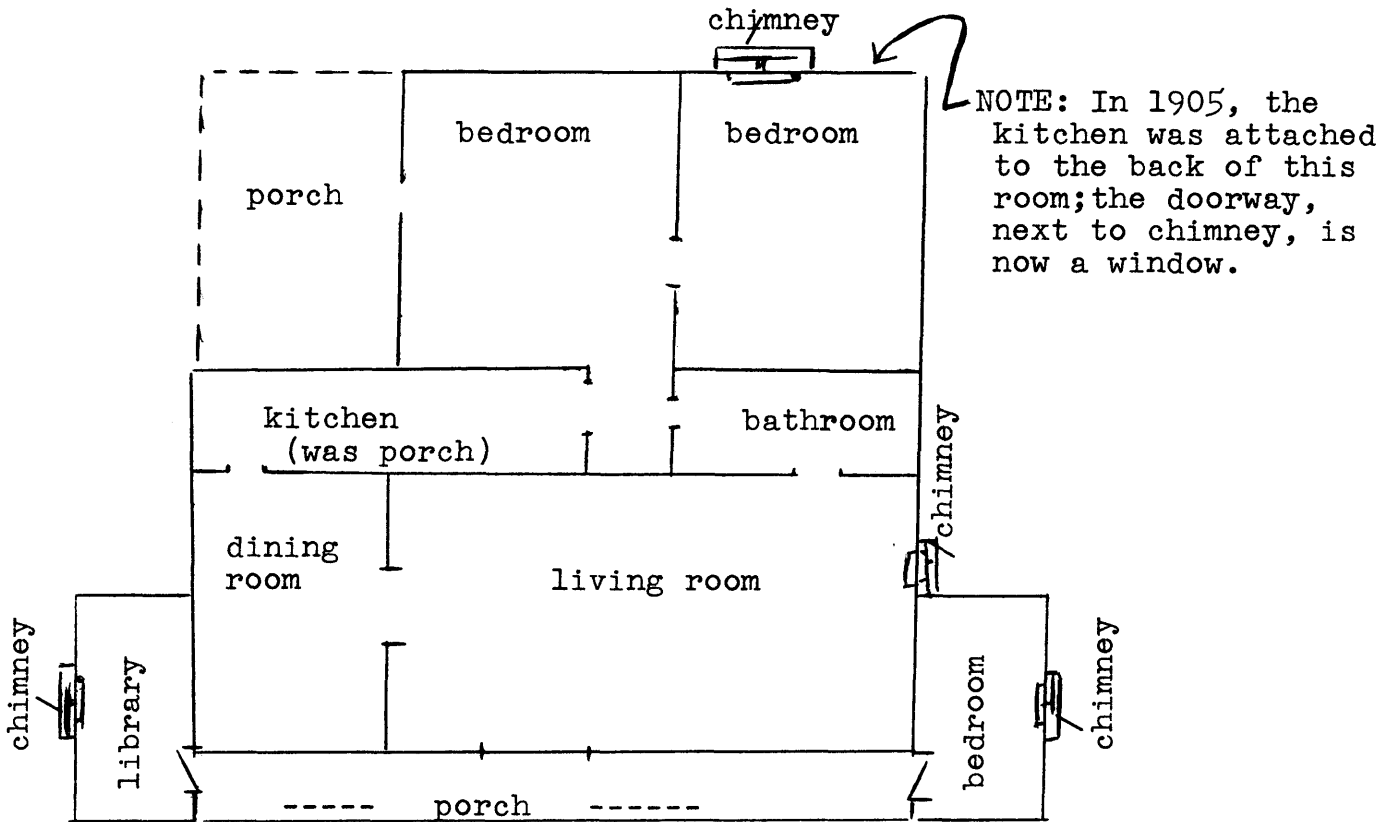
Cole's wife, Anna Russell Cole, continued her husband's philanthropies after his death and held a special interest in literature and the arts. In addition to generous sums of money given to Vanderbilt for endowment of a library, an office of dean of women, and a men's dormitory (which was built in the 1950s and bears the name of her son, Whiteford Russell Cole), she gave annual prize money for works of art in the Nashville Art Assn. In 1914, she endowed the Southern Sociological Congress and funded a Monument to the Four Southern Poets (Lanier, Father Ryman, Haynes and Randall) which was erected in Augusta. Mrs. Cole, at the age of 70, crossed the Atlantic to attend as a delegate the International Peace Conference at Vienna. Three years before her death in 1926, she gave an endowment of \$25,000 for two charity beds in a Nashville hospital.

The Cole House on Lebanon Road in Nashville stands as the only remaining residence of this noteworthy couple who contributed both culturally and monetarily to the advancement of Nashville. The early residence of the Coles is an excellent example of the "Tennessee Vernacular" style of architecture and is one of the few remaining such structures built by the early leaders of our state.



Floorplan

COLE HOUSE - Davidson Co., TN.



FRONT

(Facing Lebanon Road)

