

**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 Craigmiles Hall

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 170 Ocoee Street, N.E.      not for publication

city, town Cleveland      vicinity of congressional district Third

state Tennessee code 047 county Bradley code 011

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 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 Richard L. Banks

street & number 166 Ocoee Street

city, town Cleveland      vicinity of state Tennessee 37311

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bradley County Courthouse

street & number Ocoee Street, N.W.

city, town Cleveland      vicinity of state Tennessee 37311

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title      has this property been determined eligible?      yes      no

date           federal      state      county      local

depository for survey records     

city, town           vicinity of state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Craigsmiles Hall, built 1877-78, is located on the east side of the court square in downtown Cleveland, Tennessee. An excellent example of Second Empire commercial architecture, the two and one half story building is of brick construction with a rectangular plan, wood and concrete decorative trim, and a complex mansard roof covered with patterned slates.

Laid in stretcher bond, the three-bay main elevation has been altered on the first story but retains its original configuration and decorative features on the upper levels. Plans are underway for the restoration of the first story, and a drawing of its proposed appearance is attached. At present it is composed of two glass doors and plate glass windows. Some original features are intact--a decorated concrete pilaster at each end and glass transom panels, now painted over. A wide wood band decorated with modillions is located above the first story. In the second story each bay contains a pair of one over one double hung sash windows with wood architraves, concrete hoodmolds and a continuous sill for each pair. Windows in the central bay have round arched heads while those in the end bays have segmentally arched heads. A circular window with molded trim is located immediately above the central pair while to each side is a blind arch, slightly shorter than the windows, with radiating voussoirs and sill. Four brick pilasters delineate the bay divisions; each is decorated with a concrete band in the center and quoin-like brickwork above the band.

A striking feature of the building is its complex mansard roof. A mansard with sloping sides is superimposed on a straight-sided mansard. The former features a dentilled cap and a porthole dormer with decorated hoodmold above each end bay. A third mansard with concave sides located above the central bay contains a large porthole dormer with decorative trim and a pedestal-like base. The roof is further ornamented with a bracketed and modillioned cornice and molded frieze, which form an arch above the central bay. The inscription "Craigsmiles Hall" is carved into the arch of the frieze.

The building abuts two-story commercial buildings on the north and south. The rear elevation, flush with an alley, has segmentally arched windows and a second-story doorway with a staircase to Second Street on the north.

Craigsmiles Hall was built as the first cultural center in Cleveland. Such activities were held in the theater located on the second floor; this floor measures 85'x40' with 20' ceilings. The audience was seated in a wooden balcony, which is still intact and extends along the east and north walls of the room containing the stage. Dressing rooms were provided behind the balcony's east wall at the front of the building. A rear hall contains a doorway providing access to an exterior stairway.

The first floor has always been used as commercial space. A restaurant is now located in the south half while the north half is being renovated for office space. The present owner also plans to renovate the second floor for office space, but the balcony will be retained and incorporated into the design.

## 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 checked="" 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 **Builder/Architect** Walter Craigmiles

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Construction of Cleveland's Second Empire style opera house was begun in 1877. Located on the east side of the courthouse square this building was Cleveland's first cultural center. The opera house was built by Walter Craigmiles because Cleveland did not have an appropriate building for the traveling entertainers who stopped occasionally to perform in Cleveland.

Walter Craigmiles' parents, Pleasant and Caroline, moved to Bradley County in 1849. Pleasant and his brother, John Henderson, were successful businessmen and bankers. Together they built several commercial buildings on the court square as well as fine residences near the downtown area.

The first floor of the two story structure was set aside for businesses while the second floor was used for entertaining and cultural attractions. The dedication of Craigmiles Hall took place on May 1, 1898 with a grand ball. One of the first performances was a group of blind young ladies known as the Southern Favorites who appeared on July 18, 1878. Other performances at the opera house included: the Cleveland Dramatic Company, Mendelssohn Quintette of Boston, Goodrich Concert Troupe, Stewart's English Opera Company and Duprez and Benedict Minstrels. During the years 1879 to 1883 the opera house doubled as a skating rink in the spring and fall.

In January of 1896 Craigmiles sold the opera house to a group of investors chartered as the Craigmiles Opera House Company. In 1897 electric lights and new chairs were installed for the comfort and pleasure of the patrons.

John A. Stead, a local druggist bought the building in 1909 with plans of converting the second floor to offices. Thus ending thirty years of use as an entertainment center. The remodeling of the opera hall never took place and the second floor was used as battalion headquarters of the Cleveland National Guard during the 1920's. The facility was abandoned by the National Guard due to a concern for the building's safety. Central Drug Company occupied the ground floor for several years and used the second floor for storage.

The present owner purchased Craigmiles Hall in April, 1980 and is currently restoring the building for use as offices.

Craigmiles Hall provides a rare example of commercial style Second Empire architecture in Tennessee. It becomes even more significant due to its location in a town that had a population of slightly less than 3,000 when it was built. The significance is further enhanced by the use of the building as an opera house.

The boundaries of the nominated property were drawn to include only that land occupied by the building.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cummings, Frank and Katherine L. Trehwhitt. History of St. Luke's Episcopal Church Cleveland Tennessee 1867-1967. Cleveland, TN, 1967.  
History of Tennessee; East Tennessee Counties, Illustrated Part 2, Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1  
 Quadrangle name South Cleveland Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 6	6 9 13 5 4 0	3 8 9 2 6 8 0	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

See area scored in red on attached Tax Assessor's map. Only the lot occupied by the building has been nominated.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Benton, Architectural Historian  
Cynthia Cole, Coordinator of Field Services  
 organization Tennessee Historical Commission date August 15, 1980  
 street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371  
 city or town Nashville, state Tennessee 37219

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays  
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 9/16/80

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Carol D. Shull</u>	date <u>11-25-80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Annita Flint McAllister</u>	date <u>11-25-80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

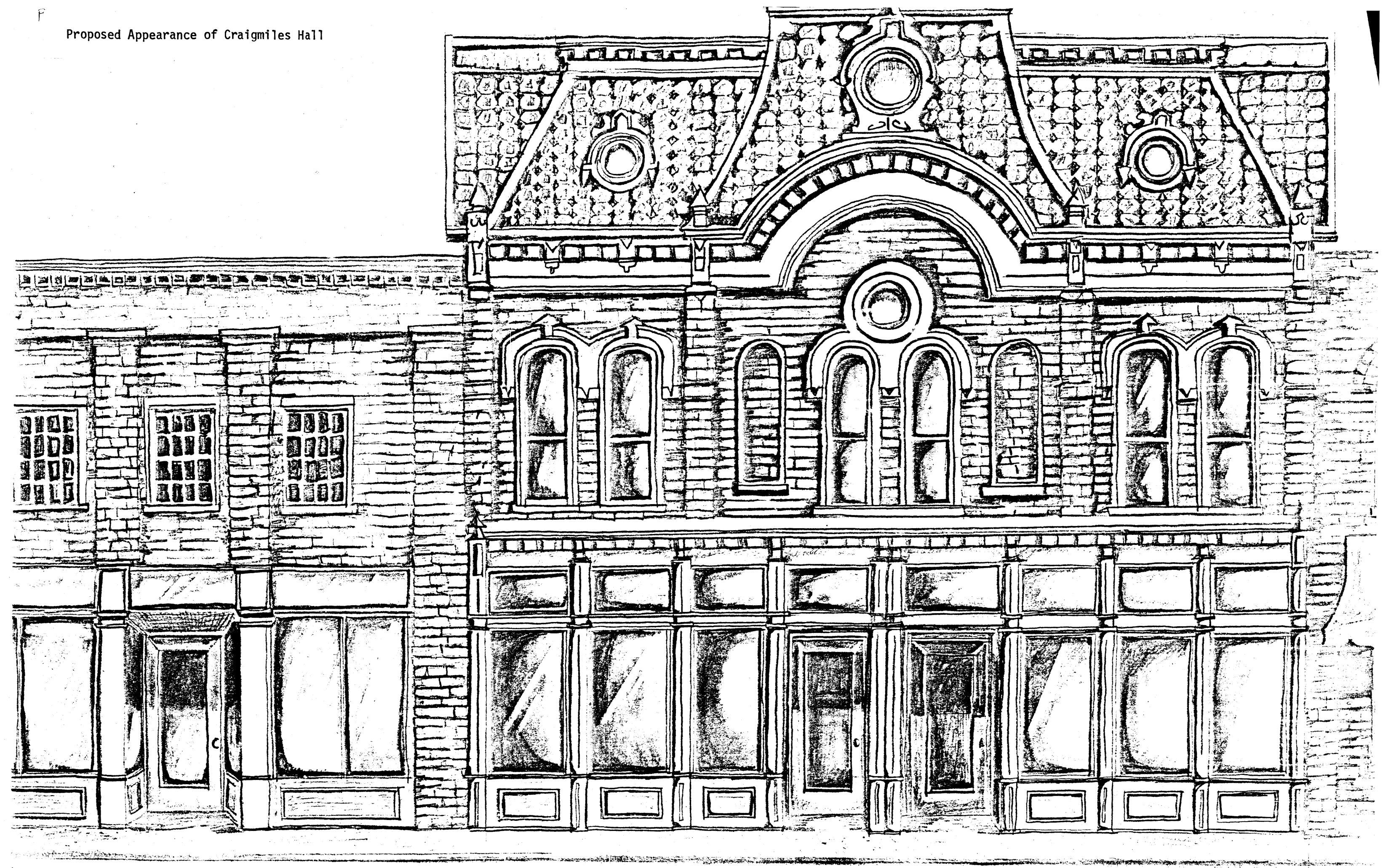
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Lillard, Roy G. ed. The History of Bradley County. Cleveland: Bradley County Chapter. East Tennessee Historical Society, 1976.

Wooten, John Morgan, A History of Bradley County. Cleveland: Bradley County Post 81, The American Legion, 1949.

F  
Proposed Appearance of Craigmiles Hall



CRAIGMILES HALL  
166 Ocoee Street, Cleveland, TN

Scale: 1" = 50'

