

DATA SHEET

PH0698598

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAR 23 1979

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
Estill-Fite House
AND/OR COMMON
Fite House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
114 Sharp Springs Road
CITY, TOWN
Winchester
STATE
Tennessee

___ VICINITY OF
CODE
47

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth
COUNTY
Franklin
CODE
51

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Dr. and Mrs. A. Reynolds Fite

STREET & NUMBER
114 Sharp Springs Road

CITY, TOWN
Winchester

STATE
37398

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Court Square

CITY, TOWN
Winchester

STATE
Tennessee 37398

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE
July, 1977

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Tennessee Historical Commission, 170 Second Avenue, North

CITY, TOWN
Nashville

STATE
Tennessee 37201

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 Estill-Fite House is located in Winchester on Sharp Springs Road, less than a half mile northeast of the Franklin County Courthouse. Francis Thomas Estill, an attorney and county surveyor, had the house built in the outskirts of the town in 1860. The Civil War began before the front porches could be built, and these were finally completed shortly after the war.

The two-story brick residence has an L plan. It stands on a brick foundation without a basement, and an early photograph shows that standing seam metal roofing probably covered the gable roof when the house was built; it now has a composition shingle roof. A single, brick chimney stack centered on the ridge of the main section remains; the ell had a chimney, but it is no longer visible, and it does not appear in the early twentieth-century photographs of the house. All walls, including partitions, are thirteen inches thick; the exterior walls were laid in American common bond.

A two-level portico originally dominated the distinctive two-bay facade (northwest elevation). Four square pillars supported the platforms and the shallow shed roof; jig-sawn balusters ornamented the balustrade. In recent years the porches have been removed, and, although the roof remains essentially unaltered, four large, square, paneled, columns now support it. The four openings in the facade are identical; each has double-leaf, glazed doors, and headlights and sidelights. The second floor doors open to small balconies with wrought iron railings. Each pair of entrances (upper and lower) is framed by a separate rectangular recessed section in the wall.

The northeast and southwest elevations are nearly identical except that the former has a six-over-six window for each story and the latter, to which is attached the interior staircase, has no openings. Both walls have large recessed sections, which resemble those of the facade, and a plain boxed cornice with returns. The two story porches on the southwest wall of the ell were enclosed sometime after 1950, and the fenestration is modern. A carport attached to the southeast wall of the ell was built by the present residents, who have owned the property for twenty-eight years. The two-bay southeast ell wall is slightly set back from the same elevation of the main section. The six-over-six windows in this elevation have wooden lintels and plain sills.

The plan provides for three rooms on each floor--two in the ell and the third in the northeast end of the main section; the southwest end of the main block contains the hallway and a triple run staircase with two platforms. Most of the woodwork and mantels appear to be original. The present owners have installed a new heating system in the house.

A cluster of outbuildings, including a kitchen and servants' quarters, stable, and smoke-house, storeroom, and root cellar, once stood around the house, but none of these has survived. A one-acre formal garden has also disappeared.

The property nominated is the entire parcel of land owned by Dr. and Mrs. A. Reynolds Fite. The acreage of this tract is 1.04.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
 1400-1499
 1500-1599
 1600-1699
 1700-1799
 1800-1899
 1900-

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
 AGRICULTURE
 ARCHITECTURE
 ART
 COMMERCE
 COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING
 CONSERVATION
 ECONOMICS
 EDUCATION
 ENGINEERING
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
 INDUSTRY
 INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 LAW
 LITERATURE
 MILITARY
 MUSIC
 PHILOSOPHY
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION
 SCIENCE
 SCULPTURE
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 THEATER
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Members of the Estill family have played important roles in the history of Franklin County and the state of Tennessee. Francis Thomas Estill, the first owner of the house, was a prominent Winchester attorney and he held the office of Franklin County Surveyor; he also owned a tannery on the banks of nearby Boiling Fork Creek. One of his sons, Floyd Estill became a noted criminal lawyer and judge in Hamilton County. Joe and Charles Estill taught school in Winchester; the former is reputed to have been the first citizen of the county to graduate from Yale University. A fourth son, Wallace Estill was elected county court clerk, served as secretary to Governor Albert S. Marks, and held the office of state adjutant general.

According to family tradition, Union officers were billeted in the Estill-Fite House for a time after the Battle of Murfreesboro. The entire family occupied a single room on the second floor during this period.

One would expect to find a house with the floor plan of the Estill-Fite House on a small city lot, rather than on a large tract at the edge of town. Narrow buildings with side hallways are found in some Tennessee cities but rarely in rural areas where larger houses with central hallways abound. There are a number of distinctive architectural features which distinguish this house. The use of recessed sections, which create the illusion of giant pilasters on the facade and side walls, enhance the verticality of the building; this conveys the impression of height, which partially compensates for its lack of width. The use of four double-leaf doors on the facade, all of which opened to the original galleries, is a most unusual feature.

The Estill family owned the house from 1860 to 1920, and before the present owners purchased the property in 1950, it was owned by L. E. Engel and Elmer Cashion. Dr. and Mrs. Fite have carefully maintained the building as their residence for nearly thirty years. Changes have been made in its appearance, but these have, for the most part, been superficial.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dorothy Hunter, "Seven Historic Houses of Franklin County," Franklin County Historical Review, II (June 1971), 21-29.
 Letter, Eleanor E. Brown to Louise L. Fite, January 23, 1969.
 Letter, Grace Estill Wilson to Louise L. Fite, February 2, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.04

QUADRANGLE NAME Winchester

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 581220 3894380

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Franklin County Deed Book 85, Page 189.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE August, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 170 Second Avenue, North

TELEPHONE (615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN Nashville

STATE Tennessee 37201

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Herbert L. Hays DATE 1/29/79

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER [Signature] DATE 3-23-79
 ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 3/23/79
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION