

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Sullivan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-241- <del>109</del> 0002	DATE 2/26/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Rocky Mount

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Highway <sup>us</sup> 11-E Southwest of Piney Flats

CITY OR TOWN:  
Piney Flats vicinity

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 41 COUNTY: Sullivan CODE: 163

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

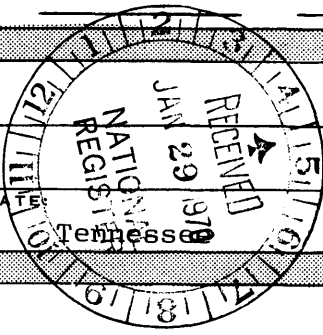
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Tennessee

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Tennessee STATE: Tennessee CODE: 41



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Sullivan County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Public Square

CITY OR TOWN: Blountville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 41

**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: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Sullivan

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

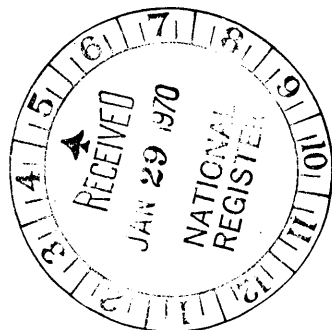
The home of William Cobb, Rocky Mount, was built in 1770 as a nine-room, two-story house of white oak logs cut from a surrounding area. There was a large hipped chimney of brick at the left and in the ell at the back. The rooms contained large, well-proportioned fireplaces and mantels of pine. A paneled stairway had decorated stringers and the handrail was walnut. The original shingles were oak boards secured with handmade pegs. The glass windows, noticed by Governor Blount, were a rarity on the frontier and were excellent status symbols.

The house remained in the same family for generations and had very few changes made. In the late nineteenth century the house was "modernized" when the logs were covered with weatherboarding and the outside kitchen was moved to the inside where the dining room is now. A new dining room was added on the north side of the kitchen. The dogtrot became a bedroom and a limestone fireplace was built between the kitchen and bedroom. The hall and "Great Room" were divided for more Victorian style at that time.

In the restoration of the house after its purchase by the state in 1959, the renovations were removed and the house went back to its original shape. The kitchen and scullery were reconstructed on the foundations where the originals had stood. The weatherboarding was removed and cedar shake shingles were put on the roof instead of the white oak shingles which it originally had. The partition was removed from between the hall and "Great Room." Today, the house and its dependencies are restored as nearly as possible and are in excellent condition.

Recent outbuildings added include a large barn and a museum building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |   |  |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

William Cobb came to the Watauga-Holston country as one of the first settlers in Tennessee. Between 1770-1772 he built his log home, Rocky Mount. William Cobb served as a justice of the peace when the North Carolina legislature created Washington County. He also served as a commissioner to lay out the town of Jonesborough. His home was for years a beacon light in the pioneer settlement. Daniel Boone, John Sevier, William Campbell, Richard Henderson, Isaac Shelby, Andrew Jackson and others spent time at Rocky Mount. A group of men on their way to King's Mountain stopped by Rocky Mount and, according to tradition, Cobb equipped the men with bacon, horses, bullets, and slave labor. Almost 20 years later when North Carolina ceded her western lands to the United States and the territory south of the River Ohio was created, George Washington appointed William Blount as territorial governor. He made the capitol Rocky Mount and carried on territorial business there from 1790 until 1792, or eighteen months, until the capitol was moved to Knoxville. Thus Rocky Mount was the first capitol of what is now Tennessee.

After 1792 the Cobb family moved but Rocky Mount was taken by Henry Massengill, Jr. who had married William Cobb's daughter, Penelope. The house remained in the Massengill family for four generations. Once it was used as a post office for Sullivan County. After 1900, tenants occupied the house for a while until the State of Tennessee purchased it in 1959.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

DeFriece, Pauline & Williams, Frank, Jr. "Rocky Mount: The Cobb-Massengill Home. First Capitol of the Territory South of the River Ohio:" Tennessee Historical Quarterly, XXV, (1966) No. 2, pp. 119-134.

Ramsey, J. G. M. The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century (Charleston, 1853).

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

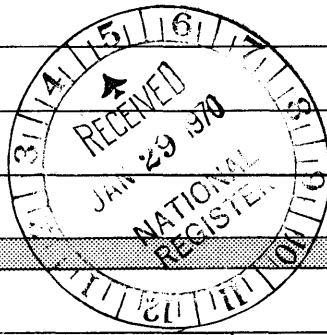
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 24' 21 "	82 ° 20' 9 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
17/380150  
402960

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10 (less than)

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: May Dean Coop

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 6-18-69

STREET AND NUMBER: 403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 41

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Stephen S. Lawrence  
 Title: Executive Director  
 Date: 1-15-70

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

Ernest Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: FEB 26 1970

ATTEST: William J. Swartz  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: FEB 13 1970