

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Greene
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 3 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Greenville Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Greenville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

COUNTY: Greene

CODE: 059

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

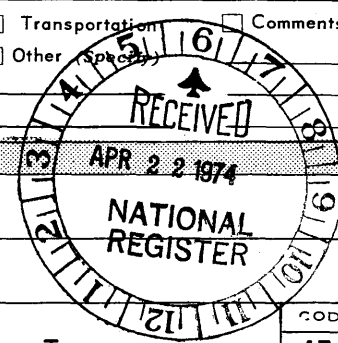
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Greenville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Greenville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934

Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.

CODE: 11

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STATE:	Tennessee
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input 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)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Greeneville, the county seat of Greene County, was established in the late eighteenth century, and is one of the most important towns in historic East Tennessee. Although many of the early buildings have been destroyed, there remain yet a large number of buildings important from either a historical or architectural standpoint.

The proposed Greeneville Historic District, the boundaries of which are outlined on the attached map, consists generally of an area a block in each direction of Main Street from McKee Street to Nelson Street, comprising an area of about 135 acres containing approximately 175 structures. The central three blocks of the district is primarily a business district, with residential areas on both ends. Although there are several twentieth century store buildings in the business district, there still remain many early buildings possessing architectural significance. The Corner Drug Store, built on the corner of Main and Church Street in the 1890's, has an interesting facade with bracketed cornices and rounded windows. Across the street at 124 North Main Street is the Doughty-Stevens Furniture Company, a three-story building built by Colonel John H. Doughty in the late 1880's. Its handsome facade with numerous arched windows and an ornate bracketed cornice has been beautifully preserved. The Hotel Brumley at 109 North Main Street, a four-story brick building with marble belts at each floor and window level and with ornate cornice and trim, was built by Colonel Doughty in 1884. It was first called the Grand Central, and was considered to be the finest hotel "from Chattanooga to Roanoke." Other early buildings are to be found in the business district.

Also important in the district are several handsome church buildings, among the more notable of which are the First Presbyterian Church at 110 North Main Street, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at 201 North Main Street, and St. James Episcopal Church at 105 North Church Street. The First Presbyterian Church, dating from 1780, is the oldest congregation in the area, and had more than 1,000 members before 1790. The present structure, possessing a Greek Revival front topped by a tall steeple, dates from 1848, although the walls and columns are the only parts to escape a devastating fire in 1928. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, a combination of Greek Revival and Italianate features, was begun in the early 1860's on land purchased from Andrew Johnson. Because of the Civil War, the building was not completed for some ten years. During the War, the building was used as both a hospital and a stable. On September 4, 1864, the day General John Hunt Morgan was killed across the street, the church was shelled. The building possesses unusually elaborate woodwork in the cornice and pediment, with Italianate brackets used at the main roof line as well as on three levels of the steeple. St. James Episcopal Church, a very handsome frame building of Gothic Revival style, reflected by the lancet windows in the main part of the building and in the square bell tower, was built in 1850. The interior, very much as when it was built, has handsome walnut pews and woodwork, a slave gallery, and an organ which is reported to be the oldest in Tennessee. General Morgan sought refuge in this building before his death on September 4, 1864.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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7. DESCRIPTION (cont.) p.2.

One of the most important buildings in the residential northern end of the Main Street district is the Valentine Sevier House, at 214 North Main Street, an excellent example of Federal architecture, built in 1822 by a nephew of John Sevier, Tennessee's first governor and famous Indian fighter. The interior mantels, staircases, and trim are the work of Irish craftsmen who came to Greeneville in the early 1800's. The wrought iron latches by a local blacksmith named Haymaker are particularly interesting. On the rear of the lot are a small brick building which housed Valentine Sevier's law office, and a three-story brick building which was used as servants' quarters. The Greeneville Heritage Trust hopes to acquire this building as its headquarters. Also of interest is the W. H. Doughty house at 309 North Main Street, a large two story brick with some Greek Revival features and elaborate interior woodwork, stairs, and trim, built by an influential citizen of Greeneville in 1906-07. At 307 North Main Street is Antrim, a restored two-story log house with a dog trot and one-story kitchen. This house was built in rural Greene County around 1800 by Thomas Alexander and moved to its present location in 1965 by Dick Doughty. The interior paneling of heart pine, mantels, flooring, beams, and doors with wrought-iron hardware, are unusual for a house this early in Tennessee. A fine collection of early Tennessee furniture has been assembled in the house to make it a showplace of early Tennessee life-style.

The focal point on the southern end of the district is the Andrew Johnson home at 217 South Main Street. This two-story brick Federal style house was purchased by Johnson in 1851 and lived in until his death in 1875, with the exception of the time he spent in Nashville and Washington as governor, congressman, senator, and president. This house, together with the one-room frame tailor shop at 101 College Street which was enclosed in a brick building in 1923, the Mordecai Lincoln house at 102 North College Street, (a two-story brick Federal-style residence built by a cousin of Abraham Lincoln in which Johnson lived from 1838 to 1851), and the cemetery on Monument Hill on the western edge of the city (not in the district) where Johnson is buried, make up the Andrew Johnson National Monument, administered by the National Park Service.

Another important building on this end of Main Street is the Susong house at 202 South Main Street, a two-story log house built by Valentine Sevier in 1795 and later covered with clapboard. This is the oldest building remaining in Greeneville. The handsome two-story brick house at 204 South Main Street, built of Federal design in 1810 by Josiah Clawson with a two-story portico added later, was purchased in 1865 by William R. Brown, who was married first to Mary Lincoln, and then to Mary Johnson Stover, daughter of Andrew Johnson.

Interesting buildings on Irish Street, so named because of the large number of Irishmen who came to the area in the early 1800's are: the Rumbough-Hacker house at 215 West Irish, built in the 1840's; the Lowry-Snapp house at 214 West Irish, also built in the 1840's; the Armitage-McKee law office

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7. DESCRIPTION (cont.) p.3.

built at the corner of McKee and Irish Streets around 1860; and the Dickson-Williams Mansion at 106 North Irish Street. Perhaps the most imposing mansion in East Tennessee when it was built in the 1820's, it has been greatly altered and is currently being used as the Greeneville Hospital. During the Civil War, both Union and Confederate armies used the house as headquarters. General John Hunt Morgan spent his last night here, before being killed in the garden on September 4, 1864. The gardens originally embraced an entire city block bounded by Main, Church, Irish, and Depot Streets.

On North College Street is located a log replica of the Capitol of Franklin, when Greeneville was the seat of government of the lost state from 1785-1788. Nearby is historic Big Spring, source of Richland Creek which prompted the pioneers to settle at Greeneville around 1780. This area is being developed into an open park by the town. At 208 North College Street is the M. P. Reeve house, a pretentious Victorian mansion built in the 1890's. It has been at various times used as a school and recreation center, and at the present time is being very adaptively used by Jefferson's Mortuary. Its location on a hill gives it a very imposing view. Back of the Towne Hall on College Street is the Old Harmony Graveyard, Greeneville's earliest cemetery, dating from the 1790's. Many important local men are buried here, as well as soldiers from the American Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War, and Union and Confederate soldiers from the Civil War.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Greeneville was established in 1783 on the land of Robert Kerr around the Big Spring, which is located almost in the heart of town. It was named in honor of General Nathanael Greene of Revolutionary War fame, and was settled by the Scotch-Irish. Its location along important early trade and stage routes caused it to become an important community in the years before the Civil War. Its citizens became prosperous enough to build substantial dwellings, and places of business, many of which form the heart of the proposed historic district.

Located within the boundaries of the district are buildings reflecting all styles of architecture, demonstrating effectively the evolution of the buildings from the simple log dwelling to the more elaborate dwellings in the Federal, Greek Revival, Tennessee Vernacular, and Victorian styles. This evolution of styles is typical of the development of Tennessee towns, which usually began with simple buildings and grew in size and number as the citizens prospered.

Undoubtedly the most famous citizen of Greeneville was Andrew Johnson, the 17th president of the United States, whose own progress follows closely the pattern stated above. From an humble beginning in a one-room frame tailor shop, he prospered enough to purchase the small but attractive brick house of Mordecai Lincoln, and later the more elegant home which he purchased in 1851 and in which he was living at the time of his death.

Greeneville was very much involved during the Civil War, being occupied at various times by both Union and Confederate forces. Perhaps the most important event of the War to occur in Greeneville was the death of Confederate Cavalry leader, General John Hunt Morgan.

Perhaps as significant as any of the events that have occurred in Greeneville is the intense interest in preservation that is currently being demonstrated. For a century it appeared that the citizens of Greeneville demonstrated very little interest in its heritage and did not fully realize the potential it possessed for attracting tourists to its historically significant places. Other than the development of the Andrew Johnson National Monument, very little was done. Recently, however, with the assistance of state planners, historic zoning has been enacted and overall plans for the development of the town have been formulated. A very active organization, the Greene County Heritage Trust for Historic Preservation and Restoration, has been formed, and within a few months approximately 1,500 members have been

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lawing, Hugh A., "Andrew Johnson National Monument," Tennessee Historical Quarterly, XX (1961) pp. 103-119.
 Goodspeed (Ed.), History of Tennessee, East Tennessee Edition, (Nashville, 1887).
 Brochure, "Andrew Johnson National Monument," National Park Service.
 Jones, James S., Life of Andrew Johnson (Greenville, 1901).

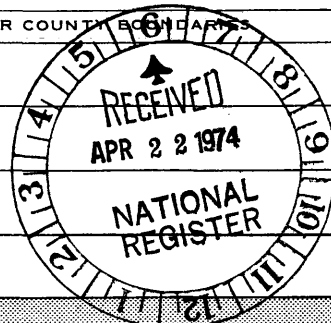
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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
NW	36°	10'	11"	82°	49'	46"			
NE	36°	09'	51"	82°	49'	28"			
SE	36°	09'	35"	82°	49'	52"			
SW	36°	09'	39"	82°	50'	10"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 135

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services
 ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 4/17/74
 STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue, North
 CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

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 Herbert L. Harper

Title Director of Field Services
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 4/17/74

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

AK Montausen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/3/74

ATTEST:
Wm. S. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.2.74

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4000100

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.)

recruited. Involvement includes not only local citizens, but businessmen, professional men, governmental leaders, school children, and people from all walks of life. Enthusiasm is high, and some small restoration projects have already been completed. Plans for further development in the historic district, including underground utilities and brick sidewalks, are in progress. With the cooperation that now exists, the future of this significant district is bright.

