

**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 Hillsman House

and/or common Hillsman-Woodson House

**2. Location**

street & number Old Hinkledale-McKenzie Road N/A— not for publication

city, town Trezevant *ms*  vicinity of congressional district #7

state Tennessee code 047 county Carroll code 017

**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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name James T. and Rita C. Woodson

street & number Route #1, Box 233

city, town Trezevant  vicinity of state Tennessee 38258

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Huntingdon state Tennessee 38344

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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		

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

Located two miles north of Trezevant on the old Hinkledale-McKenzie Road, the Hillsman-Woodson House is a two-story, three-bay vernacular adaptation of Greek Revival architecture. Built on an ell-plan, the frame house has a centrally located portico on the principle facade. There are two end-wall chimneys and one exterior brick chimney which is partially enclosed by a 1915 rear addition. The roof style on both the main section, the ell wing, and the addition is gable.

The house is supported by a full brick foundation which is original to the structure. A brick half-basement is centrally located under the main section. The exterior walls are covered with weatherboard siding. Both end-wall chimneys have two separate stacks which serve a downstairs and upstairs fireplace; the rear enclosed chimney has one large stack which serves a downstairs fireplace. The roof covering of the original section, the rear addition, and the side porch, added in 1915, is asphalt shingles.

The principal facade of the house has undergone minimal alterations, occurring in 1915 and 1945. The first and third bays of the first floor consist of twelve-over-twelve sash windows with slender six-over-six flanking windows. The central bay consists of a paneled single leaf door surrounded by sidelights and a multi-paned transom. The Greek Revival door unit is composed of wide architrave trim and a raking cornice supported by slender pilasters. The second story consists of twelve-over-twelve sash windows in the first and third bays. These windows, and all others in the house, have simple wooden surrounds and sills. The original door in the central bay of the second floor was removed in 1945 and a window with single-light sashes was installed. The original Greek Revival door unit was retained and is identical to the first floor unit except for the absence of a transom.

The most prominent architectural features of the Hillsman-Woodson House are the central portico and the carved eave brackets. The portico, located on the principal facade, is supported by two slender pillars with molded capitals. Two pilasters imitate the two supporting members. A deep entablature is capped by a pediment with raking cornice and returns. Carved brackets decorate the pediment as well as the eaves, gable ends, and returns. The same pillar style of the portico is repeated in the pilaster cornerboards of the house.

Alterations to the original structure include the rear room addition and the bungalow-style porch on the west elevation, both constructed in 1915. The central heating system and the larger window openings on the principal facade were installed in 1945. Although interior alterations have been made, much of the original sweet gum, oak, and poplar woodwork has been retained. The present owners have installed vents in the foundation and replumbed the structure. Plans for the restoration of the upper story balcony and door unit have been developed and are scheduled to begin within the next year.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 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** 1866-1869 **Builder/Architect** John H. Hillsman

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criteria B,C

The Hillsman-Woodson House, constructed from 1866-1869, is an example of the vernacular adaptation of the Greek Revival style of architecture which became popular for the homes of prominent Southern farmers. The house, which is located in the northwest section of Carroll County, Tennessee, is an important cultural resource as it is associated with one of the county's first families who contributed to the development of agricultural practices in the area.

Major John Hirde Hillsman, who directed the construction of the house, was the son of William Reddick Hillsman. The elder Hillsman had settled in West Tennessee in 1820 and became a commissioner of Carroll County when it was established in 1821. The Hillsman land, which consisted of 3300 acres, soon became a highly-productive farm. Shortly before the Civil War, Hillsman's sons, John and Bennett, assumed the responsibilities for developing the land. However, when the sectional conflicts became a war, John enlisted in the Confederate Army in October, 1861. Serving with the infantry in Tennessee and Mississippi, he was promoted to major by the war's end. Upon returning to Carroll County, Major Hillsman sold much of the farm and concentrated his efforts on establishing a productive small farm. In the late 1890s, Major Hillsman's son, James, began farming the land and became the first significant producer and promoter of alfalfa in that area of west Tennessee. The contribution of the Hillsman farm in the field of agriculture was recognized in 1925 by Progressive Farmer magazine and in 1944 by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce/West Tennessee "Plant-to-Prosper" Awards.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

The Hil(1)smen Family. Thomas W. and Naomi Hillsman. (Privately printed, 1977), pp. 42 and 87.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 2.5

Quadrangle name Trezevant--East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	3	5	4	7	7	0	3	9	8	9	3	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached deed and area outlined in red on Property Assessor's map. The proposed boundaries conform to the dimensions of the tract of land described in the deed and on which the house is situated.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cate Hamilton, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Northwest Tennessee Development District date December 12, 1980

street & number Weldon Drive, P.O. Box 63 telephone (901) 587-4213

city or town Martin state Tennessee

# 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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Soyars

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/10/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Delores Byers</u>	entered in the National Register date <u>3/25/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	