

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 6 1975

DATE ENTERED OCT 10 1975

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

Trotter-McMahan House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5 of Sevierville on
Middle Creek Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sevierville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Tennessee

VICINITY OF

CODE
47

COUNTY
Sevier

CODE
155

3 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Glenn F. McMahan

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4, Middle Creek Road

CITY, TOWN

Sevierville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sevier County Register's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Sevierville

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 Trotter-McMahan House is an impressive clapboard antebellum home which is located on Middle Creek Road in Sevier County. The Middle Creek area is a fertile segment of rolling hills that extends between the Pigeon River and the foothills of the Smokies. An extensive farm is part of the McMahan property.

The two story structure was built in 1848 by Dr. William Harrison Trotter, a physician who practiced in the locale. Designs for the home were secured by Trotter and his builder, Frederick Emert, when they traveled to Georgia in the mid-1840's with the express purpose to study colonial architectural styles in order to build the Trotter home. The result of their travels was fruitful as there is not a home like the Trotter-McMahan House in the County.

Trotter was originally going to build the home of brick; however, a fellow physician discouraged him by relating that brick homes retained dampness and thus contributed to illness. Trotter followed the advice and built the home of frame and covered the exterior with clapboard. The home still exudes a striking Federal appearance. The original porch was two stories; double doors opened onto a portico at the second story level. Deterioration called for a new porch and the original design was altered. A simple saddle roof now extends over the entrance; a complimentary gable rests over the double windows which replaced the double doors at the second level. The hipped roof of the home is of tin which was imported from England; dual chimneys were laid parallel, rather than perpendicular to the front of the house.

The interior portion of the home retains many of the original features. The floors and ceilings are of wide planked heart pine. The finish on the floors and pine railing of the staircase has been left natural so that the soft red hue is emphasized. The mantels have simplistic lines; the hearth in the dining room is donned with early utensils as is the kitchen foyer. Wardrobes were not essential in the home as closet space was provided beside the fireplace in each room. The floor plan is elementary; four rooms adjoin a central hall on both floors.

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 checked="" 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 1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederick Emert

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Trotter-McMahan House is unusual when compared to other homes which were built in the Sevier County area at the same time. It was not often that the builder would travel in order to secure ideas for planning a home. The result of the trip to Georgia is emphasized by the apparent differences between this home and other Federal style homes of the period. These differences include the interior chimney placement, the hip roof, the tin covering, closet space and interior kitchen.

Dr. William H. Trotter, the first owner, practiced medicine in the Middle Creek vicinity. He had purchased the property from the Emert's who had originally settled there in the early 1800's. Trotter probably had an office in Sevierville; his son became a dentist and practiced in the town. In addition to his medical practice, Trotter had an extensive farm. The barn which has been expanded dates from about the same period as the home.

The Trotter-McMahan House is, therefore, not only important as the home of an early physician in the area, but also as an important example of a style of architecture unusual in the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carberry, Michael, Historic Sites in Blount, Cocke, Monroe, and Sevier Counties
(Knoxville, 1973).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9

UTM OK un

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1	7	2	7	0	6	0	0	3	9	6	7	9	0	0
ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING									

B

ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

0505 00000 000000

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Carberry, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION

East Tennessee Development District

DATE

August, '73

STREET & NUMBER

1810 Lake Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Knoxville

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Lauren [Signature]

6/2/75

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/10/75

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/10/75

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Outbuildings at the Trotter-McMahan House:

Spring House - A spring house approximately 12 feet square was located about 50 feet behind the house. The first floor was built of limestone rock walls and floor, with a lower channel in the floor where the water flowed through. Milk, butter, and cheese were placed in the water for cooling. The top floor was of frame construction with a gable roof and three-foot overhang and a porch and stairs. In 1917 an earthquake caused the spring to go dry and the top story of the building was moved and used as a smoke house and storage.

Granary - About 75 feet behind the house is a frame granary approximately 25' x 50', built on limestone rock pillars. It was built by T. D. McMahan about 1890. Trotter owned the first threshing machine in the area and threshed the grain for his neighbors. Instead of being paid in cash, he received a share of the grain he threshed, and stored it in this large granary.

Barn - Approximately 300 feet from the house is a very old cantilevered log barn 38' x 65'. This barn was built in the 1780's at the same time an original log house, now gone, was built.

Tenant house - Back of the main house is a one-room log house built in the early 1800's, now used as a tenant house. Around 1890 a 16' x 18' frame addition was built at each end of the log house, which was covered with weatherboarding.