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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name ADAMS, JOE CHASE, HOUSE

other names/site number "THE LEDGES"

2. Location

street & number 327 EAST CHURCH STREET N/A not for publication

city or town LEWISBURG N/A vicinity

state TENNESSEE code TN county MARSHALL code 117 zip code 37091

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays 10/18/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper **Entered in the National Register** Date of Action 12/2/93

Gregory M. Lapley

ADAMS, JOE CHASE, HOUSE  
Name of Property

MARSHALL CO., TN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
0	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

QUEEN ANNE

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**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE; CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof OTHER: composite shingle

other WOOD; LIMESTONE

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1900, 1943

Significant Dates

1900, 1943

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The J. C. Adams house is located on a three acre lot in an area known as East Hill, in Lewisburg, Tennessee. The prominent location is accessible by East Church and/or East Hill Street, east of Marshall County Court House. The house commands a view of the court house square and Rock Creek. Lewisburg is located in the Central Basin with the Elk Ridge to its south, in the southern Middle Tennessee county of Marshall. The first settlers came to this area in the early nineteenth century from the Carolinas. In 1836 the county was established from the surrounding counties of Bedford, Lincoln, and Maury. A portion of Giles was added to the county in 1870, and in 1871 the western boundaries were expanded to comply with the state regulations for a centrally located county seat, Lewisburg. Lewisburg was created as a county seat in 1836, and named in honor of Meriwether Lewis of Lewis and Clark expedition fame.

In 1900 Joe Chase Adams built a Queen Anne style house on one of highest points in town, East Hill. The two-story asymmetrical brick house with a 1943 one-story addition has a cut limestone foundation, porch column pedestals, and steps. The wooden one-story spindlework porch with a flat roof extends across the west (front) facade and continues down a portion of the north elevation. A small square terrace originally occupied a center section of the porch roof. In the northwest corner is a three sided square tower with a steep hexagon peaked roof. The hipped roof with lower cross hips is covered in diamond design composition shingles that replaced the metal roof in the 1943. All segmental arched windows have three layers of brickwork with the uppermost layer having a textured design of alternating protruding bricks, similar to a dentil design. The framed windows are rectangular 1:1 double-hung sashes set into the arched brick opening with limestone sills. In 1943 the house experienced some alterations which were due to an agreement between the original owner's wife (Mrs. J. C. Adams) and her granddaughter (Mrs. Margaret Wheeler Henegar). The agreement stated that Mrs. Henegar could take possession of the property and home only if she (Mrs. J. C. Adams) was allowed to remain in the home, and certain alterations be made to the house. The northwest wing addition acted as an apartment for Mrs. J. C. Adams. The half-hipped roof of the new north addition with the original

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

south half-hipped roof created a parallel-half-hipped roof on the rear of the house.

The west (front) facade of the J. C. Adams house is dominated by a one-story porch that extends across the west facade and continues down the north elevation to a side entrance facing the west. The entrance has an original single wooden vented storm door protecting a half-glazed paneled door. A rectangular wooden vent protects a glazed transom. Above the doorway on the second floor is an arched framed double-hung 1:1 window sash. In the northwest corner is a three sided tower, with a window in each side. Three arched framed double-hung 1:1 window sashes are present on the first and second floors. The front entrance has an original single wooden vented storm door protecting a beveled half-glazed paneled door, and is flanked by nonworking wooden shutters. A rectangular wooden vent protects a leaded stained glass transom. Above the front entrance is a second floor entrance with an original single wooden vented storm door that protects a wooden paneled door with a rectangular glazed transom. The entrances are recessed approximately one foot due to a protruding hip roof section to the south. A pair of arched framed double-hung 1:1 window sashes are centrally located within this section, on both the first and second floors. To the southwest is an attached wooden sun and sleeping porch that was added shortly after construction in 1900. A central placed modern nine paned half-glazed paneled door is flanked by two double-hung 1:1 window sashes, and above each is a rectangular frosted glass transom. The sleeping porch is supported by a cut limestone column in the southwest corner. The west facade of the sleeping porch has four double-hung 1:1 window sashes that are set side-by-side.

The south elevation of the house is accessible by three limestone steps from the front porch. The sun and sleeping porch has a metal covered half-hipped roof. The sun room has six double-hung 1:1 window sashes divided into two sets of three by a wooden support, and above each is a rectangular frosted glass transom. The upper or sleeping porch has six double-hung 1:1 window sashes that are set side-by-side, and on its east elevation is two double-hung 1:1 window sashes set next to each other. A one-story brick lean-to with asphalt shingle roof abuts to the main house and adjoins to the east elevation of the sun porch. On its

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3

Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

east side is a double-hung 1:1 window sash. On the south elevation of the two-story portion is a centrally located pair of arched framed double-hung 1:1 window sashes and the identical arrangement is present on the second floor. To the east of the two-story portion is a flat roof recessed porch that is screened-in by the means of a door surrounded by sidelights and transom all covered in screen wire, which protects a pair of French doors leading into the rear addition. The original one-story brick L-extension has the one half of the parallel-half-hipped roof which butts-up to the two-story portion of the house. A pair of rectangular double-hung 1:1 window sashes are located on the south elevation of the addition. At the northeast corner of the addition is an attached brick half-story below ground section with flat roof and parapet that steps down toward the east. It was added in 1943 as a furnace room. This space now houses a more modern steam system, but the 1943 radiators were retained through-out the house. The lower elevation of this addition is accessible by four concrete steps leading down to a centrally located glazed four paned half-paneled wooden door. A double-hung 6:6 window sash is west of door. North of the furnace room is a 1943 one-story brick double car garage with a flat roof and parapet that steps down to the east. The higher elevation of the garage permitted a window on the south but was bricked-in during the alternations in 1974. The furnace chimney is situated at the end of a valley created by parallel-half-hipped roof, and in a corner created by the rear addition, furnace room, and garage.

The east (rear) elevation of the house is multi-level with the two-story part of the house being the western portion. The east elevation of the two-story portion has a hipped roof and lower cross hips, and a centrally located second floor double-hung 1:1 window sash. The east elevation of the rear addition has a bricked-in window, a double-hung 1:1 window sash, and an arched cased doorway with a modern metal storm door protecting a French door. A glass block window is hidden by the furnace chimney that raises at the end of the valley of the parallel-half-hipped roof. The east elevation of the furnace room has a double-hung 6:6 window sash. The east elevation of the 1943 double car garage has single modern storm door protecting a modern paneled door, a brick chimney, and a 6:6 double-hung window which were all installed when the garage was converted in 1974.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

The north elevation of the 1943 converted garage is an arched framed double-hung 1:1 window sash. The garage is attached to an one-story 1943 brick wing. The wing has the other half of the parallel-half-hipped roof. Three centrally located arched framed double-hung 1:1 window sashes are only separated by three inches of bricks, and the window design matches that of the rest of the house. The north elevation of the two-story portion has an arched framed double-hung 1:1 window sashes on both sides of the interior chimney, on both the first and second story. A rectangular leaded art glass window with jewel cut glass is on the north elevation, located mid-way between the first and second story and just above the porch roof line. The one-story porch is accessible from the north by three limestone steps connecting the extended northern portion of the house with the east facade.

Typical of Victorian dwellings the interior of the J. C. Adams house has an irregular floor plan. The house retains many original features, including oak flooring, self-supporting semi-circular staircase, woodwork, plastered walls, and in some cases the original inside shutters. The 1961 redecoration of the home in French decor was keeping with the Adams French heritage (J. C. Adams's grandmother was a LaRue). The French decor was completed by well known Nashville designer Bill Knox, who did not alter the original architectural features of the house during the redecoration.

The front entrance enters into the living room from the west. The living room extends across the full width of the two-story portion and half of its depth with oak flooring, original inside shutters, woodwork with 8" wooden baseboards, and 12' ceilings. North of the entrance is the area created by the square tower, and in the northeast corner is an open self-supporting semi-circular stairway with painted walnut railing. South of the entrance on the west wall is a pair of windows. The south wall of the living room had a fireplace which was removed when the sun and sleeping porch was added onto the house. In the east wall is a pair of wooden sliding doors that open into the dining room. The dining room is the remaining depth of the two-story portion with oak flooring, original inside shutters, woodwork with 9" baseboards, and 12' ceilings. A pair of French doors on the north wall, which are off-center



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

to the east, leads into a parlor. A single paneled door on the south end of the east wall opens into the kitchen. The south wall has a pair of windows with original inside shutters. In the southwest corner is a single paneled door with transom, which opens into the sun porch. The sun porch has a 1974 sheetrock ceiling with recessed lights, and concrete slab floor. On the east wall of the sun porch is a door that leads into a bathroom, which is just south of the dining room door.

The pair of French doors on the north wall of the dining room leads into a small side parlor. The room can be also accessed by a west outside entrance, which opens onto the front porch. The north wall has an original fireplace with a window on each side with original inside shutters. The east wall has a centrally located modern door. The ceiling has been lowered with sheetrock, and the black and white tiles were placed over the original flooring in 1974. The east door leads into the 1943 addition. The added room has two doors on the south wall, with the modern door to the west leading into a closet which was part of the original kitchen, and the door to the east leading into a bathroom. The boxed in air conditioning ducts extended across the top of the south and east walls, but are not intrusive due to their fabric covers, valance style. The east door leads into the 1943 garage, which has been converted into a living space. The north wall has a window original to the 1943 addition. The east wall has a window to the north, a stone covered fireplace, and a paneled door, all from the 1974 remodeling project. The ceiling beam that extends from the west to the east is the original garage door track which was incorporated into the design of the room. The concrete floor has been covered in wall-to-wall carpet.

The paneled door on the east wall of the dining room leads into an area that acts as foyer, having access to the south elevation of the house by a pair of French doors that open onto a screened-in porch. The foyer is open into the original kitchen, which was remodeled in 1974 with sheetrock, linoleum, lighting, and storage space. The west wall of the kitchen is a storage closet with a pair of modern folding vented doors. A centrally located kitchen sink is on the south wall with a pair of windows above and a stove on the east wall, and these are all surrounded by built-in wooden kitchen cabinets. North of the cabinets on

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

the east wall is built-in storage and microwave area, a window, and a French door which leads to the outside. The north wall in the kitchen has two modern vented doors. The one to the west leads into an original pantry. The door to the east leads into downstairs bathroom. The south wall of the bathroom is the door from the kitchen. A glass block window is on the east wall, while a door to the 1943 addition is on the north wall. The bathroom is the only access between the 1943 addition and the original kitchen.

The second floor is accessible by the self-supporting semi-circular stairway. Mid-way up the staircase is a leaded art glass window with jewel cut glass. The upstairs has oak flooring through-out, original woodwork and doors, and 12' ceilings. The spacious upstairs hall includes the area created by the square tower with its three windows, and an outside door on the west (front) facade opens onto the porch roof. The northeast bedroom is entered by a single paneled door on its west wall, next to the stair-railing. The bedroom's west wall has a window overlooking onto the porch roof. The north wall has an original fireplace and mantel with a window on each side. The east wall has no openings, and the south wall has a door (to the east) to an original built-in closet. The bedroom still retains its original inside shutters on all the windows, and the mirror above the mantel was obtained from a Lewisburg saloon before prohibition. South of the bedroom is an original built-in hall closet with its door facing west. East, down the hall, is a bathroom, with a window on the east wall. An original built-in hall closet is west of the bathroom. A recessed paneled door on the north wall leads from the hall into the southeast bedroom. The east wall has a centrally located paneled door leading into an original walk-in closet, which is situated in the roof section of the kitchen. The south wall has a pair of centrally located windows with inside shutters. The east wall has modern built-in closets with a pair of folding vented doors and sliding doors above (1961), and south of this is a door into the sleeping porch. Five wooden steps leads down into the sleeping porch with a wooden floor and ceiling. The north wall of the west (front) bedroom has a paneled door from the hall. The west pair of windows still retain their original inside shutters. A window on the south wall was plastered over when the sleeping porch was added to the house. A modern built-in closet was placed in the northeast corner in 1961.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   7  

Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

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South of the house is a (circa 1992) dog pen. The gable roof structure is supported by eight post-in-the-ground which are covered by 5' high fence wire. The metal and wire gate is located on the north gable end. The structure has a concrete slab floor (NC, due to date).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8

Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joe Chase Adams House is located on East Hill, a prominent point that overlooks the court house square in Lewisburg, Marshall County, Tennessee. The home of a prominent local governmental and commercial leader in turn-of-the-century and early twentieth century Lewisburg, the dwelling is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a significant example of Queen Anne domestic architecture in Lewisburg.

The Adams family moved to Bedford County, Tennessee, around 1810 from Kentucky. When Marshall County was created in 1836 from several counties, including Bedford, the Adams property became part of the new county. In that same year, Lewisburg was established as the new county seat. Until the Civil War era, the family farmed their property. One son, Robert L. Adams, was born (15 June 1833) with a disability that prevented him from physically following in the farming tradition. After finishing school, at the age of nineteen, Robert became a teacher and continued in this profession for the next ten years. In 1862 he married Elizabeth Jane Bell and was elected County Court Clerk. The following year, on 15 July 1863, their first child--Joe Chase Adams--was born. Robert L. and Elizabeth J. Adams eventually had five more children, who all lived to adulthood.

Joe Chase Adams attended the public schools of Lewisburg. At the age of nineteen (1882), he began his career in commerce by accepting a clerk position at the Ewing & Crawford Dry Goods Store in Lewisburg. The same year the Bank of Lewisburg was established and the Duck River Valley Railroad passed through Lewisburg. Both economic developments, and especially the railroad, gave a young man of ambition an extraordinary opportunity for advancement. The railroads in the South boomed during the 1880s due to standardized tracks which permitted easy connections with the North. This allowed for quicker sales of goods at a higher price. The railroads also benefited the merchants; now they could receive their goods in weeks instead of months, without depending on waterways or wagons which were expensive and slow. More importantly for Adams, the railroads provided the transportation advantage a young man needed to break into a town market dominated by older, more established firms. Adams made his first move in 1884 when

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

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he purchased a partnership in the J. S. Ewing & Co. Dry Goods Store. Later that year, on 7 November 1884, he married Maggie Bullock. His political career began as well when he was elected Secretary of the Financial Agent of the Taxing District of Lewisburg, a position which he held for the next twelve years. In 1885 the store now became Ewing & Adams Dry Goods Store with J. C. Adams as a junior partner. The same year his father, Robert L. Adams, became the president of the Bank of Lewisburg. Now young Adams had a secure and supportive supply of capital for future plans and investments.

For the next eight years--until the Depression of 1893-94--Lewisburg experienced economic change unparalleled in its history. The small Duck River railroad had brought the first changes, but then in 1888 the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad purchased control of the Duck River Valley Railroad and tied the town to a much broader, and better capitalized, transportation network. The presence of the NC&St.L introduced Lewisburg to the spectre of corporate capitalism as its regional transportation links supported new investment by local residents along with encouraging entrepreneurs to move to the town and start new businesses.

Throughout this period, J. C. Adams positioned himself as a commercial and political leader in Lewisburg. To state, in physical terms, his importance in the local scheme of things, Adams in 1900 purchased from his father three acres on East Hill and began to build one of Lewisburg's grandest Victorian homes. The high elevation of the property (one of the highest in town) looks down onto the square, only three blocks away. By 25 January 1901 the house was completed and he had moved his family from their house on Depot Street into their new home. The Lewisburg Tribune reported that "this is one of the prettiest homes in Lewisburg."

1901 proved to be a important year for J. C. Adams: he not only moved into his new house but was also elected mayor of the newly incorporated town of Lewisburg. A staunch Democrat, Adams came to the office on the coattails of the great Prohibition controversy then dominating state politics. In 1877 the Four Mile Law was passed by the Tennessee Legislature mandating that no saloon could be within four miles of a school, outside of an incorporated town. The law was amended several times, but it did not

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

acquire political notoriety until the turn-of-the-century when prohibition forces amended the law to their advantage. In 1899, the law was amended to state that no saloon could be within four miles of a school in a town of two thousand or less which was incorporated after this date. Prohibition leaders then took their crusade to the local level, attempting to convince small town residents to repudiate their old charters and to reincorporate their towns as "dry" havens. The prohibition strategy worked brilliantly: between 1899 and 1903 more than eighty towns of under two thousand population reincorporated or incorporated. Lewisburg was one of these towns and when J. C. Adams took the oath of office on 7 January 1902 he became mayor of a dry town.

The new incorporation of Lewisburg immediately shut down the G. W. Estate Davis Distillery, located east of the county court house, and closed more than twelve saloons that stood within a couple of blocks of the square. (Interestingly, one of back bar mirrors from a local saloon became the mirror above the mantel, in an upstairs bedroom of the J. C. Adams house.) The new charter and Adams's election did not stop the local prohibition debate. The battle raged between the "Wets" and "Drys" to the point of violence. Reverend John Harris, the pastor of the local Cumberland Presbyterian Church, became the state superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League in 1901. He charged that 25 buildings had been burned in Lewisburg by pro-liquor advocates. The new mayor reacted to the fires and the need for a safer community by establishing a volunteer fire department.

In 1902, Robert Adams passed away, leaving control of the Bank of Lewisburg to his son J. C. Adams, who now had two of the key attributes--control over local politics and control over local capital--that characterized the "civic capitalist" of the turn-of-the-century. During the next decade, Adams became an aggressive local businessman, operating several different companies while, at the same time, he controlled the levers of local capital through his Bank of Lewisburg. A civic capitalist differed from the "robber barons" of the age in that these people lived in the town where their investments laid and they demonstrated a willingness to work with other business owners in the community for their mutual shared interests in seeing the town and county thrive. Moreover, they used the movement

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

for municipal improvements to further their own investments by making the town a stable, economically progressive place.

For example, Adams made considerable efforts as mayor to attract new businesses and investments by using progressive municipal improvements to transform Lewisburg into a modern twentieth century city. He established the first city's electric plant and waterworks, which led to a safer and healthier community. The volunteer fire department was also established under his term as mayor, and Adams further directed the initial paving of downtown streets. J. C. Adams also served on the committee that awarded the construction contract for the new county jail. These improvements not only benefited the community but his own interests as well, because he was a partner in a successful business in Lewisburg, land owner, and president of a local bank whose profits were tied to an expanding local economic base.

No change that Adams introduced to Lewisburg during the first years of the twentieth century, however, matched his success in attracting a new branch of the powerful Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad had brought some business into Lewisburg, including the American Lead Pencil Company, and several other factories. But J. C. Adams and other Lewisburg citizens went to Nashville to get another railroad line through their town. Their efforts paid-off in 1906 when the Lewisburg & Northern Railroad started construction, but the parent company did not complete its track until 1914. The branch line ran from Nashville to Birmingham providing an alternate route for the Louisville and Nashville's busy main line. With its high bridge over the Cumberland River and late 1,600 foot tunnel, it would be the L&N's last major construction project in Middle Tennessee.

Lewisburg boomed in population and industry in the wake of community improvements and the new L & N line. In 1902 Lewisburg had a population of 1,800 and eight factories. But by 1914 the city claimed 3,500 residents (the 1920 census placed the number at 2,711) and fifteen factories, which included a Coca-Cola Bottling Works, Sip Bottling Works, and Standard Oil Company. The new companies were not the only additions as now Lewisburg had an Opera House and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

Progress Club House. J. C. Adams's promotion of the community continued as illustrated in his many memberships, especially as a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Lewisburg Rotary Club. Both of these organizations were developed to promote the town and draw business into the community. In 1911 J. C. Adams was recognized as an important citizen of Tennessee by being featured in the 1911 edition of Who's Who in Tennessee.

In 1907 J. C. Adams became the president and the Chairman of Board of Directors of the Bank of Lewisburg. Shortly after assuming this position he changed the name of the bank to the First National Bank of Lewisburg. He served as president and on the board until 1920 when he became the Vice-chairman. In 1931 J. C. Adams son-in-law, Mr. James Lee Moss, became the president of the bank.

The best words to describe J. C. Adams's determination to help build Lewisburg comes from a quote he made in the The Marshall Gazette on 12 February 1909: "Count me in." This same newspaper story noted that: "exercising good judgment in his own business affairs he has built for himself and family one of the handsomest homes in the town and also is owner of the large business house in which he conducts his merchandising, together with other valuable property."

After a lingering illness, J. C. Adams died in 1932; his work as a townbuilder for almost fifty years was over. Placing his career in context, the Lewisburg Tribune of December 16, 1932, observed that Adams was a significant "civic leader and whatever of good the people of Marshall County enjoy today in the way of public attainment is due largely to Mr. Adams's public spirit. He had held places of public trust many times and has been high in the councils of business activity."

His fine home on East Hill testified to his success as a Southern capitalist. The house is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a locally significant example of Queen Anne domestic architecture. Within the historic neighborhoods of Lewisburg, few examples of Victorian period architecture exist except for scattered examples of Gothic or Queen Anne details grafted onto more traditional folk forms of housing. Homes clearly representative of Queen Anne architecture are rare in the town and county.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 13

Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

226 West Church Street is a frame Queen Anne house; another frame Queen Anne house stands on Main Street in the county community of Chapel Hill while a third Queen Anne farmhouse stands just west of Cornersville in the southern part of the county. The Adams House in Lewisburg is perhaps the only brick constructed high style Queen Anne house in the county.

Certainly no Victorian period home possessed such a commanding view of the local townscape. The location of house reflects the dominance Adams exercised in local commercial and political affairs. The house is at such an elevation that it literally overlooks the surrounding area, from this three acre lot one can view the court house square to the west and the newly expanded Lewisburg to the east. The house and its location told anyone looking in Lewisburg that the owner was successful and prominent. The commanding presence of the house also symbolized the civic capitalist's commitment to the community's future prosperity.

The unobscured view of the J. C. Adams house from the square remains the same as when the house was built in 1900. J. C. Adams purchased three acres from his father on 31 August 1900. Workers started on the house immediately, because he and his family were able to move into the house by 25 January 1901. He selected the Queen Anne style, which had become popular during the railroad era, due to the easy availability of decorative features that would enhance the house. The leaded art glass in the house, for example, was probably shipped on the railroads. The J. C. Adams house has the typical characteristics of a Queen Anne home with an irregular shape, steep hipped roof with lower cross hips, tower, an one-story spindlework porch that extends across the west facade and the use of 1:1 window sashes and leaded art glass. But unlike many other Queen Anne homes, Adams built his house of brick. His selection of brick as a building material had a dual purpose during this period. Brick represented a sense of stability, confidence, and permanence. In keeping with the masonry style, the walls were given texture by the uppermost layer in the brick arches. The third row in the arch has alternating protruding bricks similar to a dentil design. Brick Queen Anne homes only represented 5% of type built nation wide and most of these were in larger Northern cities. This Queen Anne type is infrequently found in small Southern towns and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 14 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

the Adams house represents the only intact brick constructed Queen Anne home in Lewisburg.

Joe Chase Adams built this impressive Queen Anne home during his rise within the community and lived there until his death in 1932. After his death the house passed into his wife's hands and following her death, the property was to be divided between the three daughters (Ruth Moss, Josephine Horton, and Willie Mae Wheeler). But Ruth Moss sold her interest to her two sisters in 1935. An agreement between Mrs. Joe Chase Adams and her granddaughter (Mrs. Ernest Wheeler Henegar, Sr.) allowed for the purchase of the other two daughters's interest. Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Henegar, Sr., purchased Josephine Horton and Mrs. Henegar's mother's (Mrs. Wheeler) interest in 1943. This transaction permitted the transfer of property to Mr. & Mrs. Henegar, Sr., with the understanding that Mrs. Joe Chase Adams could remain in the home the rest of her life.

Mrs. J. C. Adams, at 78 years of age, probably felt that it was unsafe for her to climb the stairs to the bedrooms, so an apartment was added to the original house. The 1943 alternation to the home was to accommodate Mrs. Adams by adding a downstairs bedroom and bathroom on the northeast side of the house. This new addition with its half-hipped roof combined with the original half-hipped roof over the kitchen created a parallel half-hipped roof. The new addition plus the rest of the house was covered in composition shingles made from slate and asbestos. At the same time a furnace room and a double car garage was added meeting the demand for a more conventional heating system and vehicle protection. The additions were fashioned to blend with the original structure by being the same brick and arched windows. These changes were accomplished with the greatest consideration to the house without any noticeable alternation visible from the west (front) facade.

Mrs. J. C. Adams continued to live in the house for another fourteen years until her death in 1956, at the age of 91. In 1961 Mr. Ernest Henegar, Sr., transferred his share of the property over to his wife. The same year she had the house decorated in the French style by the well-known Nashville designer, Bill Knox, but the changes that he made were largely cosmetic. In the same year two built-in closets were added to the upstairs bedrooms to increase

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 15 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

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storage space. Mrs. Henegar, Sr. made several interior alternations to the home in 1974 when she converted the double car garage into a living space and modernized the kitchen. Mrs. Henegar, Sr. died on 24 April 1989, leaving the house to her two sons, Mr. Ernest Henegar, Jr. and Mr. Joe Henegar, who are the current owners of the property.

Since 1900, when J. C. Adams built the house on East Hill, it has remained in continuous occupation and ownership of the same family. The house has experienced some growth and changes, mainly due to Mrs. J. C. Adams's increasing age and her desire to remain in her home. The later alterations are basically confined to the interior of the home and reflect modern convenience. The house still sets on its original three acre yard overlooking the city of Lewisburg reminding the citizens the significance of J. C. Adams in the political and commercial history of the town.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 16

Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 17 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 18 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 19

Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the J. C. Adams House is shown as the bold line on the accompanying tax map which has a scale of 1" = 100 feet. The lot number is 13.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is situated on the original three acre lawn and contains all of the property historically associated with the house. The large yard is highly representative of the capitalist and the house's relationship within the community.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 20 Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Adams, J. C., House, Lewisburg, Marshall County, TN  
Photos by: Carroll Van West  
          MTSU Center for Historic Preservation  
Date: February 1993  
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
          701 Broadway  
          Nashville, TN 37243

Adams house and lot, facing east  
1 of 19

Adams house, facing southeast  
2 of 19

West facade, facing east  
3 of 19

South facade, facing north  
4 of 19

East facade, facing west  
5 of 19

North facade, facing south  
6 of 19

Dog pen outbuilding, facing east  
7 of 19

Living room, from staircase, facing south  
8 of 19

Staircase, living room, facing north  
9 of 19

Dining room, facing southeast  
10 of 19

Sun porch, facing southeast  
11 of 19



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 21

Adams, Joe Chase, House, Marshall Co., TN

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Sun porch, facing west  
12 of 19

Kitchen, facing southeast  
13 of 19

Pantry, facing north  
14 of 19

Parlor, facing east  
15 of 19

Living room (1943 apartment), facing southeast  
16 of 19

Second floor hallway, bedrooms, facing east  
17 of 19

North bedroom, second floor, facing northeast  
18 of 19

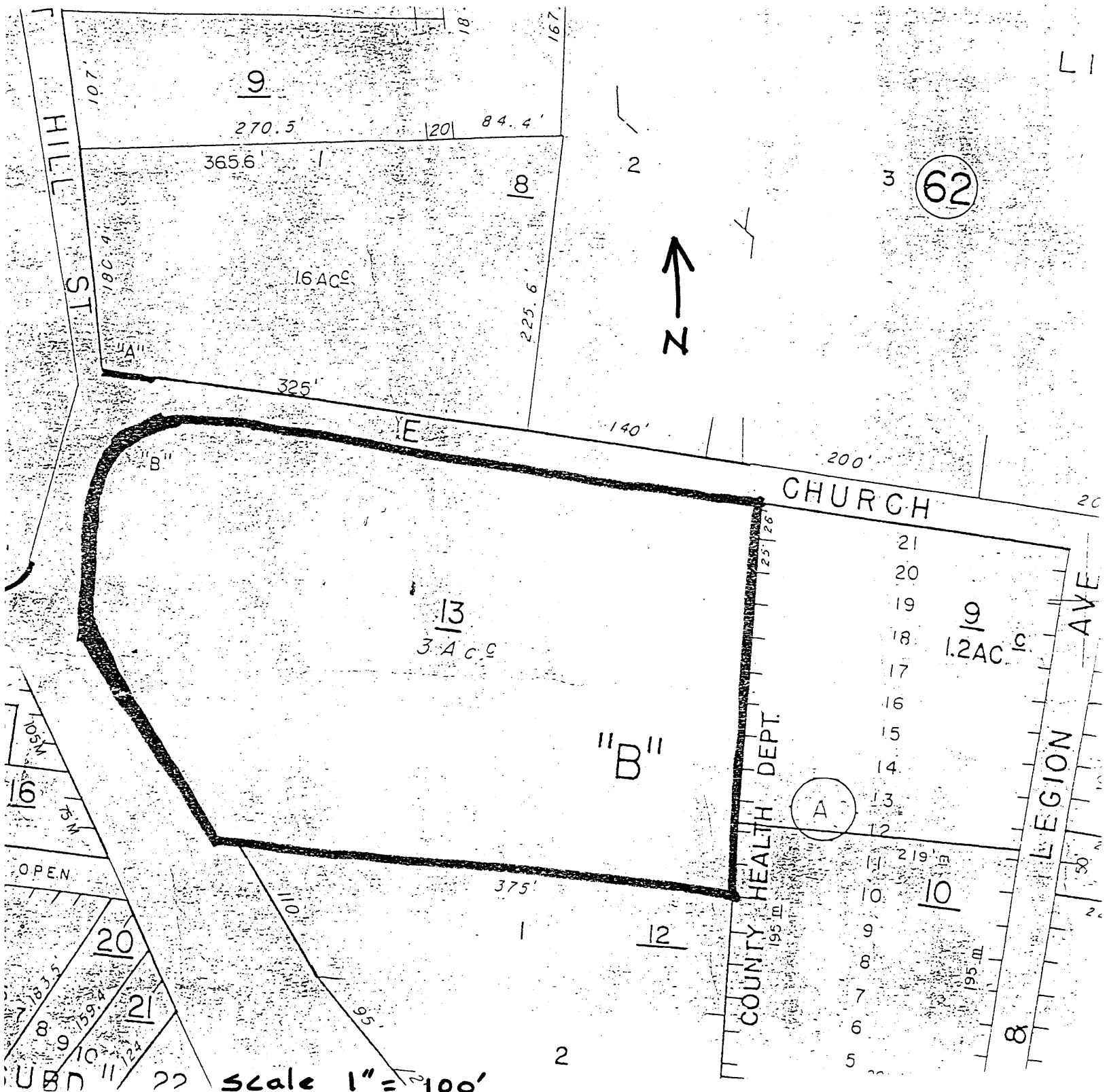
South bedroom, second floor, facing southeast  
19 of 19

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 19a

Adams, Joe Chase, House  
Marshall Co., TN



Scale 1" = 100'