

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Hamilton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.3.47.0007	DATE 3/24/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Brown's Ferry Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Brown's Tavern

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Brown's Ferry Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Chattanooga

STATE Tennessee	CODE 047	COUNTY: Hamilton	CODE 065
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Will be opened as museum</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Herschell Franks

STREET AND NUMBER:
Brown's Ferry Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Chattanooga

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
047

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hamilton County Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Chattanooga

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
047

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

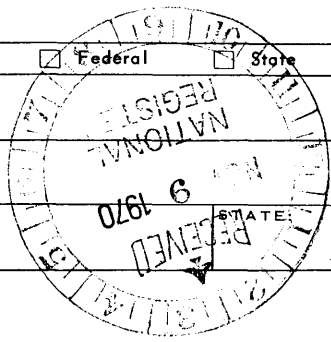
DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

CODE:



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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

Looking very impressive as it stands atop a knoll on Brown's Ferry Road, the Brown's Ferry Tavern commands a dramatic view of the surrounding Lookout Valley.

John Brown, a half-Indian, had the tavern built in 1803 by Caspar Vaught from Blount County in East Tennessee. Vaught was a carpenter who came to do some work near this location for William Lewis Lovely, sub-agent under Colonel R. J. Meigs for the Cherokee Indians.

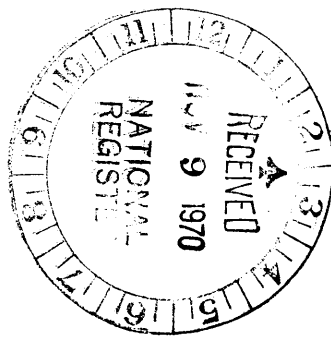
The two-story log structure originally had two large rooms downstairs, separated by a dog-trot, and three rooms upstairs. A boxed-in winding stairway leads from the south end room to the second floor. The original pine floors still remain in all except one room. The exposed beams in the ceilings of all the rooms help to demonstrate the sturdy construction of the tavern.

At each end of the tavern is a huge stone chimney, over eight feet in width. A fireplace in each room with a simple pine mantel provided the heat. A porch extends across almost the entire front of the tavern.

Sometime following the Civil War an addition was built across the rear of the building to be used as a kitchen and back porch. Subsequent owners rearranged the addition, converting it into a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen.

In recent years the open dog-trot has been enclosed and is presently being used as a dining room.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input 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) 1803

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the oldest buildings in Hamilton County, Brown's Ferry Tavern has played an important role in more than one phase of the county's history. It was built at a time when there was still much Indian activity in the area, and was built for a half-Indian.

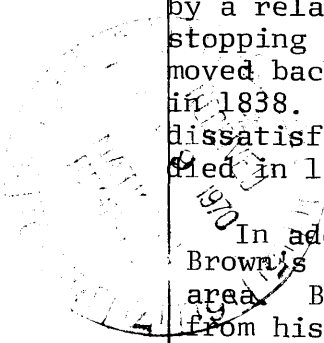
John Brown was a man of considerable ability, but is said to have been an eccentric character. He led a company in the Cherokee Wars with the Creek Nation, and thus was known as Captain John Brown. In his later years he was a trader, including trading in slaves, a ferry operator, tavern owner, and river pilot. His brother, William Brown, was supreme court judge of the Cherokee Nation and John Ross was his brother-in-law.

Brown had his tavern built on a hill in a wooded area, fronting on an Indian trail linking the Creek Nation with tribes to the north. The trail ran essentially from Pensacola to Detroit. As the white man moved into this country, it was designated a Post Road in 1820, and this segment of the Post Road ran from Kingston, Tennessee, into Alabama.

Brown lived in this house and operated it as a tavern until about 1819 when he moved north of the Tennessee River where he lived for approximately ten years. During this time the tavern was operated by a relative, William Doherty, and it became one of the principal stopping places for travelers on the Old Post Road. About 1830 Brown moved back to the tavern and lived until the removal of the Indians in 1838. After a year or so in the Oklahoma Territory he was very dissatisfied and obtained permission to return to his house where he died in 1843, and was buried in a cedar grove back of the house.

In addition to being a very important stopping place for travelers, Brown's Ferry Tavern played a prominent role in the Civil War in the area. Brown operated a ferry on the Tennessee River about a mile from his tavern, and the ferry was a strategic point on the river. In 1862 the Union forces captured Brown's Ferry, and General Joseph Hooker set up headquarters in Lookout Valley near Brown's tavern. The tavern was used as a commissary for Federal soldiers. It had earlier been occupied by Confederate troops. The road on which it is located was a major supply route for the Federal troops besieged in Chattanooga.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Armstrong, Zella, History of Hamilton County (Chattanooga, 1931).
 Chattanooga Times, May 17, 1925.
 Govan, G. E., and Livingood, J. W., The Chattanooga Country
 (Chapel Hill, 1952).
 Patten, Z. Cartter, "Brown's Tavern," unpublished manuscript
 (1969).

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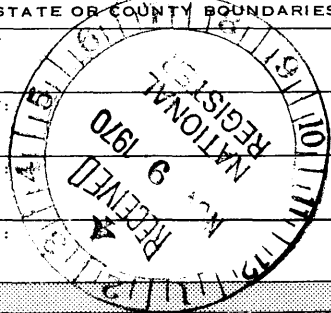
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 02' 41"	85° 21' 19"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10

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: Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 11/5/70

STREET AND NUMBER: 403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

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
 Stephen S. Lawrence
 Executive Director

Title Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 11/5/70

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

James A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 24 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
William J. Mustang
 Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 22 1971

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. Significance (cont.)

Thus, Brown's Ferry Tavern has played an important role in the history of the area, and has seen it develop from a small wilderness outpost in Indian country to a thriving city.

