

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Johnson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Butler House (Representative James H. Guillen)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
309 N. Church Street

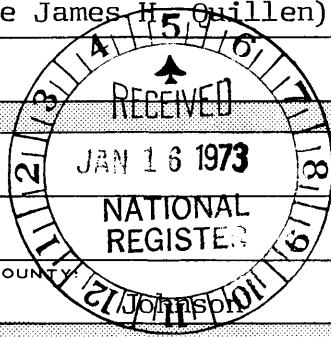
CITY OR TOWN:
Mountain City

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

COUNTY: Johnson

CODE: 091



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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"/> 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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
James R. Butler Family

STREET AND NUMBER:
309 N. Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Mountain City

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Mountain City

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

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:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Johnson

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: APR 11 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Butler House is an imposing Italianate structure situated in Mountain City on the west side of Church Street, also Highway 91. Surrounding the two-story red brick L-shaped dwelling are enormous pine trees and four acres of land with the front yard sloping to the street.

A photograph taken shortly after the house was completed circa 1871, shows that there have been few alterations. The roof is hipped, the eaves are supported by carved brackets, and open balustraded porches lead to the three main floor entrances. Windows on both floors are grouped in twos: those on the first floor are squared and capped by a projecting flat cornice with bracket supports, while second floor windows are round-headed. The most unusual exterior architectural features of the Butler House are the pedimented canopies sheltering the three second-story balconies, one on the center front and two on the south side. The north side of the L-wing has a double porch with an outside staircase and supports with jigsaw trim.

The interior plan of the main section of the house consists of a central hall with two rooms on each side. In the hall is a unique Y-shaped stairway which splits at mid-point. One section continues to wind to the front or east side of the second floor, while the other set of stairs are straight and lead to the back rooms on the second floor. As a result, it is impossible to walk the entire length of the second floor hall.

On the north side of the main floor are double parlors with simple carved marble mantels, and original silver-leafed picture rails. Across the hall in the southeast corner is a small library with original grained bookshelves and woodwork. An entrance area divides the library from the other room on the south side. Both floors of the L-wing contain two rooms. Shutters and brass fittings are original throughout the house, as are the floors on the second story. Those on the first floor were replaced circa 1900.

To the back of the house are several frame outbuildings dating from the late nineteenth century. These include a well and wash house, a smoke and storage house, a barn, a granary, and a privy. Two outbuildings, the ice house and the woodhouse, have disappeared.

The Butler family has recently and carefully renovated the main house, which is now in excellent condition. Their plans also include restoring the outbuildings, perhaps adapting a few of them for new uses.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

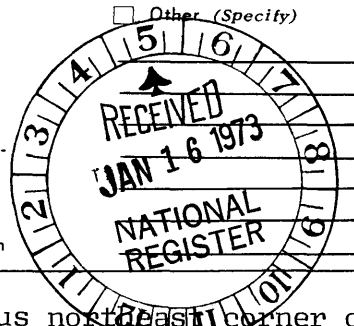
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Johnson County is located in the mountainous northeast corner of Tennessee, where it borders the states of Virginia and North Carolina. There are several handsome brick houses dating from the last half of the nineteenth century in the county, but by far, the most imposing structure is the Butler House, built by one of Johnson County's most illustrious citizens and still owned by the family.

In 1836, both Johnson County, and its county seat, Taylorsville, now Mountain City, were created. About ten years later, Roderick Random Butler moved to the town from Wytheville, Virginia. Butler, who was born in 1827 and whose father died shortly afterwards, had been a tailor's apprentice. Family history states that Butler could neither read nor write when he began working in a tailor's shop in Mountain City, and that it was his wife, Emeline Jane Donnelly, whom he married in 1847, that taught him. He was admitted to the bar in 1854, a year which marks the beginning of an active judicial and political career.

Butler's first appointment was that of Postmaster of Taylorsville by President Fillmore. From 1859-1863, he was a member of the Tennessee State Senate, where he voted against secession. Butler recruited and organized the 13th Regiment of the Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry, after which he relinquished its leadership to a military-trained man. He was a county judge as well as judge of the First Judicial Circuit of Tennessee in 1865. Beginning in 1867, he held a variety of elected positions: Congressman, 1867-75; Member of the State House of Representatives, 1879-85; Congressman, 1887-89; and Member of the Tennessee State Senate, 1893-1901. Butler died in 1902.

Obviously, the combination of Butler's career and political ambitions, and a large family (eventually eleven children), influenced him when building his house. According to family history, the foundation was dug in 1859, but the house was not completed until circa 1870, when interior painting was known to have been done. "I.W. Whitlow painted this room May, 1870," is inscribed on a shelf in the library where the woodwork is grained. Family history also states that Butler's living in the east at that time affected the appearance of the house, because it is believed that the exterior carving was shipped from Washington and that the staircase was designed by a New York architect but executed by a Nashville craftsman.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Tennessee. (Chicago and Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887).

Neal, Carl Benjamin. "The Donnelly-Barry-Butler families and their kinfolks of Johnson County, Tennessee." Olympia, Washington, 1958. Typewritten manuscript.

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	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 28 ' 19 "	81 ° 48 ' 07 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

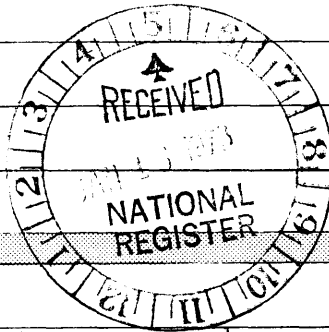
NO
LWM
02

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ellen Beasley

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 1-3-72

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 Michael J. Smith

Title Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 1-5-73

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

Robert L. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/11/73

ATTEST: WJ Smoot
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 4 73

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Butler House Johnson County, Tennessee

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

rev 6/15/93

Arthur Byrum 6/24/93

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Received 6/25/93

Arthur Byrum 7/23/93

JUN 25

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number NA Page 10

Butler House

The Butler House was listed with a boundary of five acres. There was no verbal boundary description, boundary justification, or map. Many nominations from Tennessee in the 1970s had acreage that was estimated by looking at the property. We believe that the 3.6 acres currently associated with the house is an appropriate boundary.

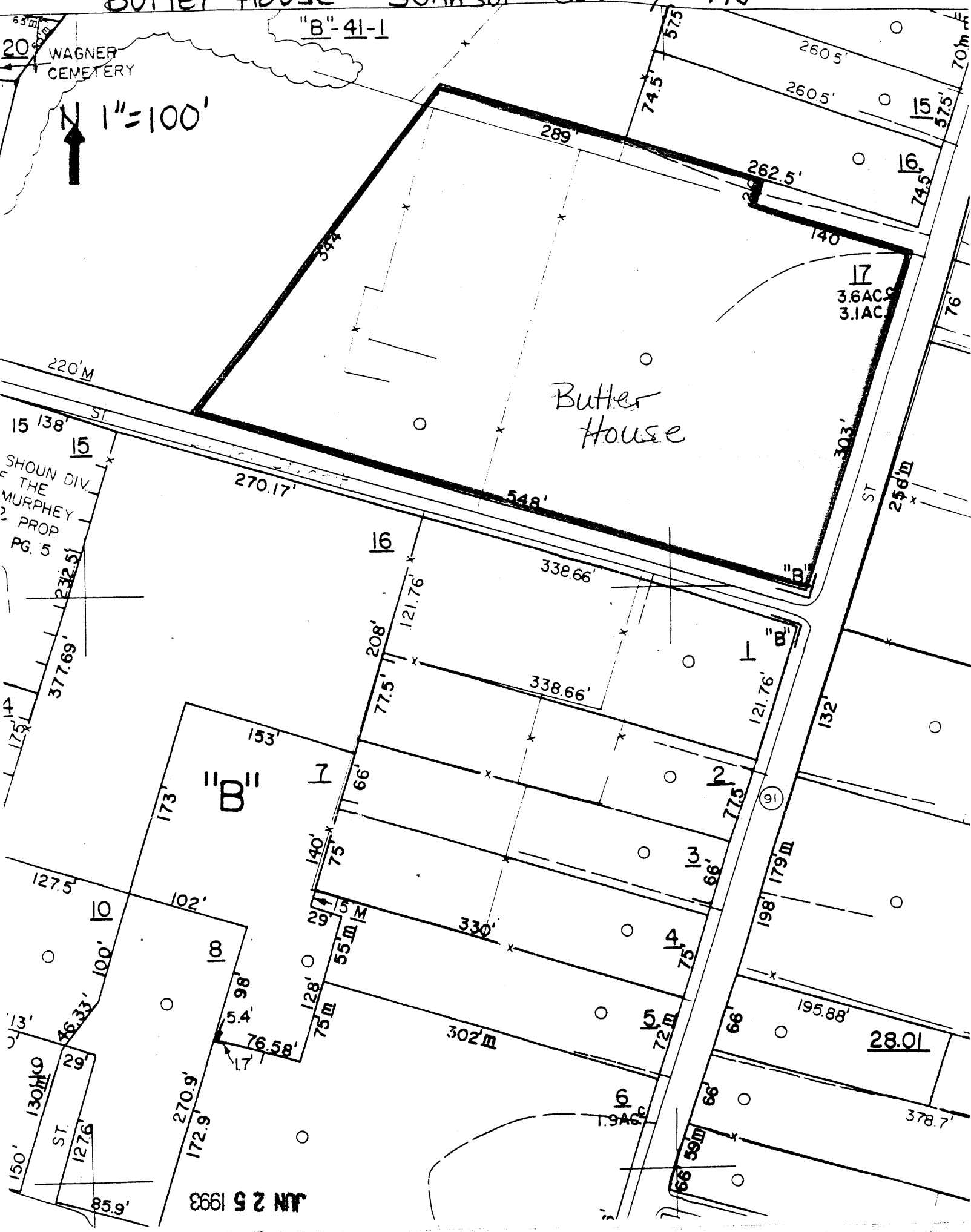
The 3.6 acres is outlined on the accompanying Johnson County tax map 41-I-B-17. It is an irregular tract that measures 303 feet by 289 feet by 344 feet by 548 feet. The boundary encompasses the house and outbuildings mentioned in the nomination.

BUTLER HOUSE Johnson County TN

"B"-41-1

WAGNER CEMETERY

N 1"=100'



Butler House

17
3.6 ACS
3.1 ACS

"B"

"B"

28.01

JUN 25 1993