

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0668753
FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 15 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 2 1978
DATA SHEET

**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 Thompson-Brown House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1005 Tuckaleechee Pike
CITY, TOWN Maryville VICINITY OF Second
STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Blount CODE 09 ✓
—NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Blount County ✓
STREET & NUMBER Blount County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Maryville VICINITY OF Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of Register of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER Blount County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Maryville STATE Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey
DATE March 1976
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Tennessee Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN Nashville STATE Tennessee
—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thompson-Brown House is a two-story, log house situated on a hill commanding a panoramic view of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It consists of two building units or pens separated by a central hall. The structural walls are constructed of horizontal hewn logs joined at the corners using the V-notching. In this section of Tennessee, the V-notch style predates the half dovetail style. The spaces between logs are chinked with small pieces of wood laid in diagonally and daubed with a sand-lime mortar containing animal hair.

The exterior walls have been covered with factory-made weatherboarding. One of the distinctive architectural features is the brick nogging in the exterior wall of the central hall. The space between the two log pens on the ground floor is framed with sash-sawn timbers and filled with hand-made brick. At present only the brick nogging on the front (southeast) elevation remains, but distinct evidence remains in the rear elevation that the opposite end of the hall was filled with brick nogging.

The house originally had brick chimneys at each gable end and fireplaces in both the first and second stories. The chimneys were supported by limestone foundations; archaeological evidence of both chimney bases is extant.

The present roof framing appears to be original. The rafters are sash sawn and fastened at the ridge with a pinned half-lap joint. No collar beams were used. Sawn, random-width sheathing is now covered with sheet metal roofing, but evidence has been found which indicates that the original roof had wooden shingles.

A U-shaped staircase, located in the rear of the central hall, provides access to the second story. Based on the design and craftsmanship, the stairs appear to be original.

No major alterations have been made to the house. It was probably built in ca. 1820 and was likely covered with weatherboarding soon after it was erected. The logs do not show any appreciable indication of long term exposure to the weather. Thompson family historical records note that a birth occurred in the house in 1823, and the Brown family is reported to have obtained the property in 1867. According to Dr. Sarah McNiell, Maryville historian, Brown family lore indicates that the weatherboarding was added in 1867 so that the house would not look like a log house. The configuration of the front porch has changed several times. The only extant historical photograph, which was made after 1867 but before 1910, shows a full length porch roof and a smaller porch with steps on each end. This porch was probably preceded by a smaller one extending the width of the hall. The present porch is full length and has a single set of steps leading up to the front door.

A rear (northwest elevation) shed addition was added at some point in the evolution of the house, probably in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. It contained a kitchen and bathroom. It has presently been removed as part of the present owners' restoration efforts.

In sum, the Thompson-Brown House is an excellent example of early nineteenth-century folk architecture and log construction methods. It demonstrates that traditional building methods were applied to large houses as well as to smaller dwellings.

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 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 ca. 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thompson-Brown House is an excellent example of the level of sophistication that can be attained in traditional folk structures. It is probably that the house is more representative of the typical log house than some of the finer examples of log construction remaining today, since it was probably designed and built by the original occupants. Careful maintenance over the years has kept the building in relatively good condition.

Alexander McKee acquired the property in 1795. McKee, the first clerk of Blount County, was appointed to his post by the territorial governor, William Blount. Local tradition suggests the house was built in the late 1790s; the construction methods used are consistent with this date. The property was transferred to William Thompson in 1815, and the earliest recorded reference to the house is contained in a letter which mentions a birth which occurred there in 1823. Even at this date the house is the oldest known dwelling remaining in Maryville.

In 1869 Rev. William B. Brown purchased the property; he retained title to it until 1934. Maryville College at that time bought the property and leased it to various tenants.

Very recently the county purchased the property from Maryville College, and a non-profit organization is coordinating the restoration of the house to its early nineteenth century appearance for public benefit.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fielder, George F. and Richard G. Tune. "Restoration and Preservation of the Thompson-Brown House." Tennessee Historical Commission, November 1977.

Information provided by Dr. Sarah McNiell, President of Blount County Historic Trust.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Maryville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 | 232710 | 3960550

B | |

C | |

D | |

E | |

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H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning along the right of way of Tn. Hwy. 73, north 85° -27' east, 150', then south 4°-13' east, 150', then north 85°-27' east, 150', then north 4°-13' west, 150' to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George F. Fielder, Historical Archaeologist, and Lucy Lee

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

May 1978

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

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

Herbert L. Hays

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

5/12/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Herbert L. Hays

DATE

11-2-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Bell Labovich

DATE

10/23/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION