

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Maury	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 16 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
"Hamilton Place" (Representative Robin Beard)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mt. Pleasant Pike

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Maury	CODE 119
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input 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
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 type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Whitley

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mt. Pleasant Pike - Route 1

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia      STATE: Tennessee      CODE: 47

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Maury County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia      STATE: Tennessee      CODE: 47

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

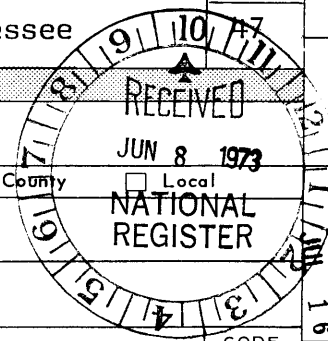
DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Maury

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ENTRY NUMBER: 11708

DATE: JUL 16 1973

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hamilton Place was built in 1832 in rural Maury County and was one of four fine homes built by four Polk brothers within a one-mile radius. Hamilton Place is almost purely Georgian style, but there are touches of the Greek Revival style in the large two-story 2 1/2 brick. For example, the pedimented front portico has slender Doric columns below and Ionic columns above supporting the two-story recessed front porch. The large front windows and two front doors are Greek Revival in style and reflect the period that was emerging in Tennessee by this time.

The main two-story portion of the structure is original with the flanking one-story wings added shortly after the original house was finished. The brick for Hamilton Place was fired on the place and is laid in the flemish bond. The timbers were well-seasoned before being used and skilled craftsmen were brought from North Carolina to do the finishing construction work.

The house contains 17 rooms, including the kitchen which is separate from the main house but connected by a covered passageway. Six large brick chimneys rise above the house with twin chimneys on each end tied together with a brick parapet rising above the roof ridge. A fine cut limestone foundation adds to the solidarity of the structure.

Upon entering a hall in the front part of the house, one comes to a cross hall running perpendicular to the entrance hall. At either end of this cross hall are beautiful spiral stairways leading to the second floor. Separating the front and rear halls are four Ionic columns supporting three well-proportioned arches in the classical design. A fine plaster ceiling medallion is found in the ceiling of the rear hall. The doors, windows, and interior woodwork, and floors are original and in fine condition.

The brick smokehouse at the rear of the house is original and the only remaining outbuilding. The fine gardens that were originally located just west of the house are no longer intact, but remains of large boxwoods are there as are the fine magnolias that were brought from Louisiana and planted by the first owners.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. 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) **1832**

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 checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Hamilton Place was built by Lucius J. Polk on a portion of a 5400 acre land grant given to him and three of his brothers by their father, Col. William Polk, who received the large grant for his Revolutionary War services. Col. Polk, a native of Raleigh, North Carolina, spent little time in this new land, but divided the large grant among four of his sons.

In 1832 Lucius Polk built Hamilton Place, the first of the four great houses to be built by the brothers. It was named for a brother, Hamilton, who had died the previous year while a student at Yale. The other houses were: Ashwood Hall (1836) built by Leonidas Polk, burned 1874; Westbrook (ca. 1840) built by Rufus Polk, burned just after the Civil War; and Rattle and Snap (1845) built by George Polk (Registered National Landmark). All these great houses were located very near each other and amidst the homes was St. John's Episcopal Church, built in 1841, which was the plantation church for the area built by the Polk brothers. It has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hamilton Place is an architectural treasure for the Maury County area with its Georgian classical detail remaining almost as it was built. Nathan Vaught, a noted builder in the early 1800's in Maury County, is said to have built the fine residence. The house was said to have had fine gardens as Lucius Polk's first wife, Mary Eastin, loved the gardens of Louisiana that she knew and thus had Magnolia trees imported from Louisiana for her home.

Lucius Polk brought his bride, Mary Eastin, to Maury County after their marriage in the White House in Washington. Mary Eastin was the niece of Emily Donelson, mistress of the White House during the Jackson administration, thus explaining the place of the wedding. Andrew Jackson visited Hamilton Place as did James K. Polk and other noted politicians, artists, writers, and clergymen.

Lucius Polk served in the State Senate representing Maury County in 1831 and was Adjutant General of the state. He was also active in the Mason activities in Tennessee. Lucius Polk was the father of ten children. A daughter, Mary Brown Polk, married Col. Henry Clay Yeatman who bought the place upon the death of her father.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Turner, W. B., History of Maury County, Tennessee (Nashville 1955)  
History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee, Roberta Sewell Brandau, Ed. (Nashville, 1964).  
 Cochran, Gifford, Grandeur in Tennessee (New York, 1946).  
 Newspaper clippings, Manuscripts Division, Tennessee State Library and Archives

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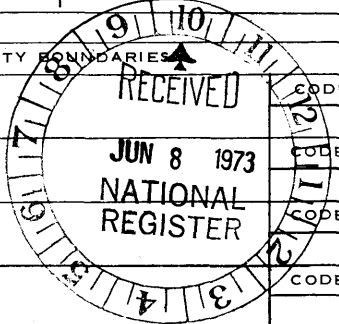
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		35° 34' 17"	87° 09' 12"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9

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: May Dean Eberling - Director of Programs

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 5/10/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Michael J. Smith</u>            Michael J. Smith            Executive Director            Title: <u>Tennessee Historical Commission</u></p> <p>Date: <u>6/1/73</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert K. Utley</u>            Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>7/16/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u>            Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>7 9 73</u></p>

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE <b>Tennessee</b>	
COUNTY <b>Maury</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>JUL 10 1973</b>

(Number all entries)

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

Hamilton Place was occupied by the Yeatman family until 1970 when the house sold and for the first time was out of the hands of the descendants of Lucius Polk.

Not only was the house and its owner significant, but it was a part of a very large area that was one of the best farming areas in the state. This vast area along the Mount Pleasant Pike where many prominent families had large farms and plantations, proved to be the rich phosphate-bearing area of Maury County. Many families (Pillow, Armstrong, Ridley) built fine homes in the area. Clifton Place, home of Gideon Pillow, (National Register property) is located very near on the Mount Pleasant Pike. These great agricultural and professional families seemed to be competing with each other to see who could built the best houses. The result was that these families left behind a solid testimony of skill and taste.

