Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

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Tennessee	
COUNTY:	
Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cook-Kefauver house is located on the outskirts of Madisonville, Tennessee, the town where Estes Kefauver, the late senator and vice-presidential candidate, was born and grew to manhood. The exceptionally fine proportioned home stands regally in terminating the country lane of the farm. The home is a two story brick structure which was most probably built by Blanchard, the same English architect who built the Stickley and Ballard homes which are in the same vicinity (it has been suggested by Mrs. Stickley that the Kefauver home was built by a man named Woolridge; although the above mentioned homes display such striking similarities that it would seem that the same man designed them). It was Dr. Robert Fielding Cook who originally commissioned the construction of the home in the mid-1840's. The Kefauvers later came into the possession of the house; their family cemetery, including the grave of Estes Kefauver, overlooks the fields near the home.

Upon first glance, the Kefauver Home strongly resembles the elegant Stickley Home nearby; however, the Kefauver Home is more elongated and has different proportions. The facade is accented by the columned porches and large paneled doors which are surrounded by glass panes in set in the delicate wooden frame; the porches are terminated at the roof by a corniced gable. Wings are formed by the kitchen and dining room on one side of the home, and by the doctor's office on the opposing end (the late owner of the home, Mrs. Lottie Johns, added glassed enclosed rooms to the frontal portion of the wings which accentuate the symmetry of the home).

The interior is also similar to the Stickley Home. A spiral staircase leads to the second floor from the short hallway. floor contains the bedrooms of the home; the rear bedrooms contain a sloping ceiling which allows extra window space above the roof line. The downstairs contains the parlor, sitting room and dining room; the huge oven and cooking fireplace are the foremost features of the kitchen which was once separated from the central kitchen and dining room by The paneling, staircase and balustrade, and very decoraa dog trot. tive mantels are exemplative of the fine craftsmanship of the day. interesting facet of the home is an octagonal-shaped room which is attached to the right (or office) wing of the house. Brick walks and nicely landscaped grounds add complementary touches to this outstanding Behind the home is the servants' cottage; like the home it is constructed of fine brick masonry.

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	xx 20th Century
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PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ble and Known)		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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Prehistoric ·	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
XX Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
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Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cook-Kefauver house has almost become a misnomer in that the home at the site is thought to be the home of the late nationally renowned statesman, Estes Kefauver. Surely Kefauver spent many days at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Lottie Johns, but it was not his residence. The home originally belonged to Dr. Robert Fielding Cook, a local physician who practiced at the home. Cook was a wealthy man and active in the Baptist Church; he heard of a notable Chattanooga minister, Reverend J. P. Keefauver, whom he invited to Madisonville to lead a revival. During the month-long stay Keefauver married Cook's daughter. At the death of Cook, they moved into the stately home. Robert Cook Keefauver, father of the late senator, was born in Madisonville; the Keefauver Farm was his boyhood home. Professionally he entered the hardware business and ran the Keefauver Hotel; politically, he was a five term mayor of the city.

Architecturally, the home is of outstandingly fine proportions. The handsome Federal-style house is flanked by similar wings which accent the symmetrical qualities of the home. The cornice brickwork the octagonal office to the rear and even the masonry of the servants cottage stand as testament to outstanding craftsmanship of the masons; the elaborate mantels, paneling, and spiral staircase are likewise the complements of the fine interior work.

Although Estes Kefauver did not reside on a permanent basis at the house, it is important because of his association with the house and because he is buried here. His father was also an important and influential man of the area.

The Cook-Kefauver house, therefore, possesses two-fold significance both as a fine architectural example and its association with an important family.

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Brandau, Roberta S. (ed.), <u>History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee</u> (Nashville, 1936).

Monroe County <u>Democrat</u>. Sesqui-centennial edition, November 1969. Selected clippings, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville.

Selected clippings, Estes Kefauver Room, Main Library of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	1	Page	NA	Cook - Kefauver House Monroe County, Tennessee

Historic Name

The name "Cook" associated with the Kefauver House is not the historic spelling of the name. The correct name should be "Cooke."