

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Carter
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 14 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Elizabethton Historic District (Representative James H. Quillen)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

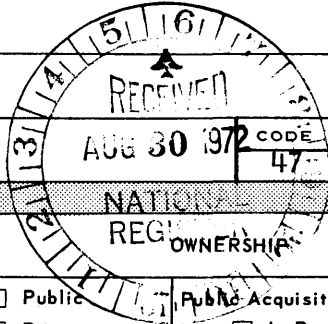
CITY OR TOWN:  
Elizabethton

STATE:  
Tennessee

COUNTY:  
Carter

CODE:  
47

CODE:  
019



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Multiple owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Elizabethton

STATE:  
Tennessee

CODE:  
47

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Elizabethton

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: Carter

ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 14 1973

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DATE:

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

The proposed Elizabethton Historic District, bounded on the north by Second Street, on the south by Fourth Street, on the east by East Street, and on the west by Sycamore Street, includes a wide variety of buildings and monuments.

Creating a focal point in the area is the Soldier's Monument placed in the center of the circular intersection of Elk and Main streets. The monument is a white concrete shaft. On the northeast corner of the intersection is the three-story red brick Carter County Court House. The core of the building was constructed during the 1850's, but it has been altered numerous times. In the Court House yard is a boulder on which there is a Tennessee Daughter's of the American Revolution plaque commemorating the spot where the Watauga Association was formed in 1772. Also in the yard is a non-descript two-story brick law office.

Between the Court House and East Street is the Alfred Moore Carter House, built circa 1819. The two-story white clapboard house in the Federal style has remarkably fine architectural detail both on the exterior and the interior. First floor openings, windows and doorway, are framed with a carved flat arch while those on the second floor have a rounded arch. This variance is repeated on the interior detail of the windows. On both floors, the windows are twelve-over-sixteen panes. The central hall has an archway and elaborately carved doorways leading to rooms on each side. With little exception, the woodwork in the hall retains its original grain and paint. To the west is the parlor. It is obvious from the exterior that there have been numerous additions to the rear.

The Folsom House built in 1861 is directly across the street from the Carter House. It is also a two-story white clapboard dwelling with numerous additions and outbuildings. The house is surrounded by a sizable, well-manicured yard with several notable trees including an exceptionally large evergreen in front of the house. To the west of the Folsom House on the southeast corner of Main and Elk streets is a small two-story frame house probably dating from the mid-nineteenth century.

Elk Street where it divides the Carter and the Folsom houses is a minor road. East Street is even less developed. This is scheduled to change with, as yet, uncompleted Urban Renewal plans. The undeveloped stretch of property between East Street and Lynn Mountain, and in fact a part of the side of the mountain, have given way to the building of an interstate road. Elk Street, minus the Soldier's Monument, is being considered as a possible major access from the interstate to downtown Elizabethton.

In the block between Main and Riverside streets, the buildings fronting Elk Street are storebuildings of varying dates. Those on

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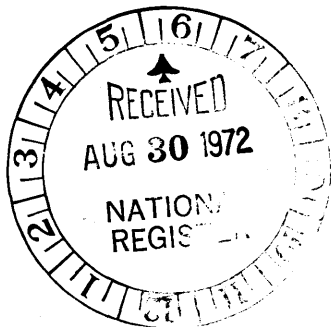
(Number all entries)

7. Description (cont.)

the south side are scheduled for demolition and a park is planned which would connect this side of Doe River with the Covered Bridge.

After crossing the concrete bridge on Elk Street and turning left on Riverside Street, there are three more historical sites. On the right in the front yard of a dwelling is the sycamore tree marking the spot of the first court held west of the Allegheny Mountains in 1772. When crossing Hattie Avenue to the southwest corner, there is the Taylor House, a two story white clapboard house in the Victorian manner of the late nineteenth century.

At this intersection, Hattie Avenue runs into the Covered Bridge, a white clapboard structure built in 1882 and spanning 134 feet across the Doe River. The bridge, which has recently been restored, is wide enough to accommodate one car and a walkway. The river bank immediately surrounding the Covered Bridge is grassland with some picnic areas.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

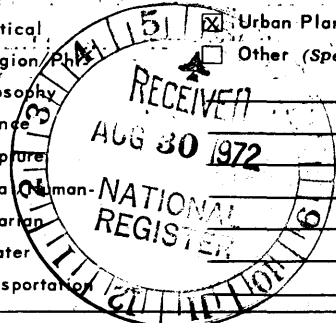
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input checked="" 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           | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Cultural/Artistic  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   |  |
| <input 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

Few towns have such a wide variety of historically important sites representing such a broad spectrum of its past in such a relatively small area as does Elizabethton in its proposed historic district. Within a short walking distance is a three-dimensional history lesson beginning with the founding of the Watauga Association in 1772, and running through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when brothers Bob and Alf Taylor were fighting political battles in their famous "War of the Roses." The district also contains two structures of major architectural importance, the oldest covered bridge still in constant use in the state, and the Alfred Moore Carter House, one of the finest Federal-style structure in Tennessee.

At the intersection of Elk and Main streets is the Soldier's Monument honoring Mary Patton, who, according to tradition, made the gunpowder fired by Tennesseans at the Battle of King's Mountain. The boulder in the Carter County Court House yard designates the Watauga Old Fields where the Watauga Association was formed in 1772. The DAR marker states that this was the first place west of the Alleghenies where men joined a written compact for civil government.

The core of the present Carter County Court House was built in the 1850's. It was the third court house building for the county, the first being built circa 1780, probably of log, and the second built circa 1820.

Alfred Moore Carter was a member of one of the area's earliest and most important families and the family for whom the county was named. He was a grandson of John Carter, builder of "The Mansions," a circa 1780 house with remarkable woodwork and recently accepted to the National Register. Grandson Alfred constructed his house by 1819. Although there is no documentation for the tradition that he employed a New Jersey architect, it is obvious that the builders were highly skilled craftsmen. The house is owned today by Carter descendants.

The Folsom House, directly across the street from the Carter House, was built in 1861 by Henderson Mitchell Folsom, the only commissioned major from Carter County in the Confederate Army.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Brandau, Roberta Seawell. History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee (Nashville: The Parthenon Press, 1939).  
 Beach, Ursula Smith. "Tennessee's Covered Bridges -- Past and Present" Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXVIII, No. 1, Spring 1969.  
 Folsom, Murray S. Information about Folsom House.  
 Merritt, Frank. Early History of Carter County, 1760-1861 (Knoxville: East Tennessee Historical Society, 1950).  
 Taylor, James P., Alf A., and Hugh L. Life and Career of Senator

**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° 20' 58"	82° 12' 55"		0	0	
NE	36° 21' 00"	82° 12' 33"				
SE	36° 20' 46"	82° 12' 28"				
SW	36° 20' 44"	82° 12' 50"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 62

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Ellen Beasley

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 8/23/72

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: August 23, 1972

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

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

Date: 3/14/73

ATTEST: W. M. [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3.9.73

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 391480  
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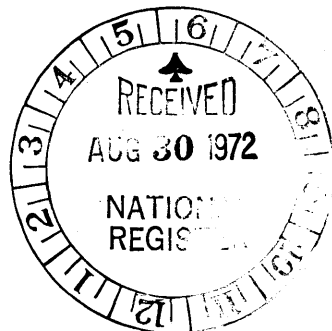
8. Significance (cont.)

Folsom was a lawyer, serving as Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at the time he resigned to enter the Civil War. He returned to Elizabethton after the war, where he continued his practice until shortly before his death in 1908. Folsom descendants own the property.

On the west side of the Doe River is the sycamore tree designating the spot where the first court west of the Alleghenies was held in 1772. The Taylor house on the southwest corner of Hattie Avenue and Riverside is associated with the later years of the Taylor brothers, Robert Love (1850-1912) and Alfred Alexander (1848-1931). The Taylors were born and reared in the Elizabethton area. Both became active in Tennessee politics -- Bob as a Democrat, Alf as a Republican. In 1886, they opposed each other for the first time in the gubernatorial race, and launched what was to be known as the "War of the Roses," one of the most colorful chapters in the history of Tennessee politics.

The Covered Bridge crossing the Doe River in Elizabethton has been in constant use since its construction in 1882. Its strength was proven during the floods of 1901 when all other county bridges along the river were destroyed.

Elizabethton is going through a period of transition, initiated by urban renewal. Some of the proposed plans would be of benefit to aspects of the historic district, especially in the area of the Covered Bridge with the development of a larger park. The future of the sites on the east side, particularly the Carter and the Folsom houses, is more uncertain. Hopefully, Elizabethton will take advantage of and preserve the tangible, three-dimensional history book which exists in the proposed historic district.



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STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Carter	
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(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Robert Love Taylor (Nashville: The Bob Taylor Publishing Co., 1913).  
Work Projects Administration for the State of Tennessee. Tennessee:  
A Guide to the State (New York: The Viking Press, 1934).

