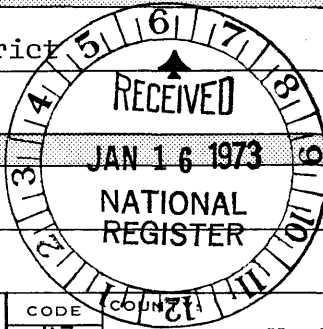


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Hawkins
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 23 1973	



1. NAME

COMMON: Rogersville Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rogersville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

COUNTY: Hawkins

CODE: 073

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Hotel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	Apartments	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rogersville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Hawkins County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Rogersville

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

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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

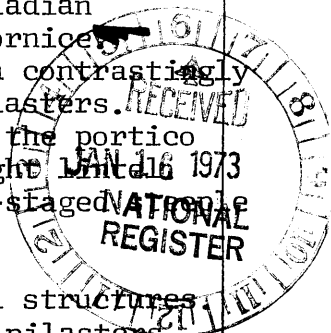
The approach to Rogersville on Highway 11W is no different from that to any other small but growing rural community in Tennessee. Both the eastern and the western edges of town are marked by small prefab businesses, the inevitable shopping center, and evidences of a growing highway system with new interchanges. Once passing the "fringes" and reaching the "inner core" of Rogersville, however, there appears a tree-lined main street with handsome early and late nineteenth century dwellings within walking distance of the major shopping area, and at the heart of town is the square surrounded by a group of architecturally important public and private buildings. Within the proposed district, which primarily fronts Main Street, are approximately thirty buildings of interest. These nineteenth century structures, ranging in style from Classical Revival to Victorian, are interspersed with an occasional early twentieth century dwelling which is generally architecturally compatible to its neighbors. On the western edge of the district is one small section where a couple of new businesses, the post office, and a parking lot interrupt the visual continuity of the district, a problem which could be partially alleviated by landscaping. On the eastern edge is the main shopping area, which, although not presently very attractive, contains some interesting store fronts dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Historically, the Rogers Tavern buildings on the southwest side of the district are among the most important in Rogersville. Supposed to date from the late eighteenth century, the two buildings are simple two-story clapboard structures. One is actually a double house with a central interior chimney and two separate entrances. Behind the buildings on an adjoining lot but what was originally a part of the same property, is the Rogers Graveyard, where the founder of Rogersville and others are buried. A stone wall encloses the small cemetery.

The buildings with the greatest architectural significance are those surrounding the town square. On the southeast corner is the Hawkins County Courthouse, built in the classical style in the late 1830's. Although altered in the 1870's and again in 1929, it remains a handsome building with some extraordinary architectural details. The portico columns as well as the structure itself are brick. The guilloche-patterned carving on the architrave of the Palladian window in the pediment repeats the carving on the roof cornice. Surmounting the main entrance, which is very simple, is a contrastingly elaborate doorway with carved pediment, fanlight, and pilasters. In accordance, the window openings on the lower level of the portico entrance are twelve-over-twelve with only a simple straight lintel. The second floor window openings are Palladian. A multi-staged caps the building.

The southwest side of the square is outlined with several structures. The Rogan Block is a square red brick building with white pilasters built in the Greek Revival style as offices in the 1840's. It is still used for offices and small shops. The Watterson House is a two-story

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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7. Description (cont.)

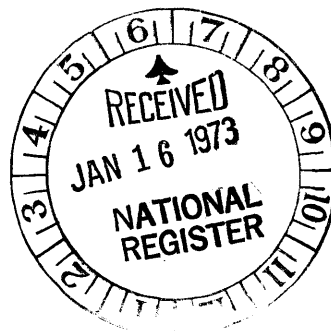
clapboard dwelling thought to have been built in the 1820's and now divided into apartments. Forming the southwest border of the square is the three-story Hale Springs Hotel which has been used continuously as a hotel since its construction in 1824-25.

Directly across the street is the Kyle House, a sizeable two-story red brick dwelling built in the late 1830's. Several outbuildings remain in the terraced yard behind the house. Also on the northwest side of the square is a funeral home recently built in the Classical Revival style.

On the northeast corner of the square is the Masonic Temple, built as a bank circa 1840. The Greek Revival building is brick with a recessed entrance area supported by two fluted columns in the Ionic order. Squared pilasters painted white are applied to the surface of the building. Originally the bank was reported to have had a two-story rotunda, but this has disappeared.

Establishing the southeast border of the district is a two-story rectangular red brick dwelling, Rosemont, built in the early 1840's and situated in a large open lot. Directly behind Rosemont is the McKinney House, a two-story brick house which was rebuilt after a fire in the 1870's. Also on the McKinney property is a small brick building which dates from the early nineteenth century and which combined, curiously, the functions of law office and springhouse. The stone foundation of this building extends to form the front wall of the property.

Preservation of Rogersville is becoming more difficult. In the last few years, several important buildings in the district area have been destroyed. Three buildings of importance, including Rosemont and the McKinney law office/springhouse, are vacant. Two of these three buildings are owned by absentee landlords, both of whom are descendants of the builders. The latter is true of many of the private residences in the district.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

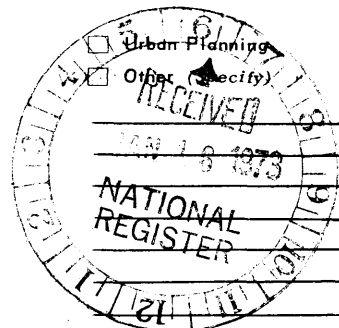
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- 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"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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 checked="" 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

As evidenced by its distinguished public and private architecture, Rogersville was a prosperous community during the nineteenth century. The town had been settled by and named for Joseph Rogers, who came to the area in the early 1780's. In 1786, Rogers married Mary Amis, daughter of an early and wealthy landowner in Hawkins County, who gave the young couple the land on which the town was established. Hawkins County was created in 1786, and the following year the town of Rogersville, first called Hawkins Courthouse, was laid off. Rogers' interest in developing the new town was linked to his own business interests which included a store and tavern or inn. The latter is believed to be among the buildings in the district.

Rogersville prospered primarily because it was on a major stage route including the road leading to Kentucky and the Cumberland settlements. On November 5, 1791, the first Tennessee newspaper, the Knoxville Gazette, was printed in Rogersville where it remained for one year before being moved to Knoxville. Schools were established in the early nineteenth century, and in 1817 a bank was operating in the town. The Tennessee Gazetteer, published in 1834, reported that the town had 300 inhabitants in 1833 including "four lawyers, two doctors, two divines, one academy, seven stores, three taverns, six blacksmiths, three bricklayers, four carpenters, four cabinet makers, two painters, two hatters, four tailors, four shoemakers, two saddlers, one silversmith, three tanners, one tinner and four wagonmakers."

Among its most distinguished citizens was John Austine McKinney, an Irishman educated at the University of Edinburgh. He was an early settler in Rogersville where he was a lawyer and a judge, and where he built the McKinney House and law office. As each of his children married, he gave them property. Rosemont, which adjoins the McKinney property, was the home of his daughter, Susan, and her lawyer husband, John Netherland.

McKinney also built the Hale Springs Hotel in 1824-25, when it was called McKinney Tavern. Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk were among its visitors and are said to have addressed the townspeople from the balcony. During the Civil War, the hotel served as Union headquarters while the Confederate headquarters were across the street at the Kyle House. The hotel was not called the Hale

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8. Significance (cont.)

Springs Hotel until 1884, when it became a resting stop and overnight stay for travelers going to the Hale Springs resort area.

A John Damron is recorded as being the contractor for the Hawkins County Courthouse. The sophistication of this building and others in the town, such as the Masonic Temple, suggest that skilled craftsmen found employment in Rogersville, at least through the mid-nineteenth century. Rogersville apparently survived the Civil War fairly well, because the Goodspeed History of Tennessee, published in 1887, noted that with the railroad and a population of 1,000 it remained "one of the handsomest towns in the State, and has a large trade." Amazingly, physical evidences of the nineteenth century in Rogersville not only survived the Civil War, but they have also survived, to a large extent, twentieth century development.