

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Jefferson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 9 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Branner-Hicks House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **One mile east of Jefferson City on Chucky Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jefferson City** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **1st**

STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47** COUNTY: **Jefferson** CODE: **089**

3. CLASSIFICATION

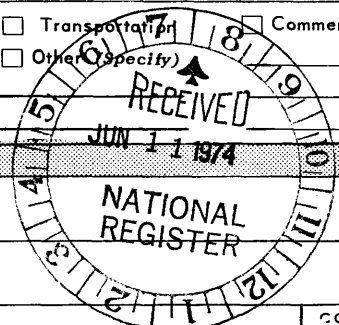
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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. Harold W. Hicks**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Box 494**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jefferson City** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Register of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Jefferson County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Dandridge** 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: Jefferson

ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 9 1974

DATE: JUL 9 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

CONDITION

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE :

The Branner-Hicks Home was built in the mid-1850's by Colonel Benjamin Manassah Branner. It was built at a time when Federal style (Greek Revival) homes were traditionally popular in the East Tennessee area; however, the architect (unknown) chose varied elements of Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival design in his plans for the home. The location of this two-story residence was easily accessible in the mid-nineteenth century as it was situated on Chucky Bend Road near the intersections of the Knoxville and Morristown Pike and the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. The area was then known as Mossy Creek; it has since become named Jefferson City, Tennessee.

An extended brick walkway traverses the simplistically landscaped lawn through a row of boxwoods. The landing outside the front door is made of square bricks (it was also used between the interior and exterior regular brick of the walls); Branner's servants used the clay from the sideyard in making brick - a depressed area still bears witness to this use of the native soil. The entrance forms a Drop Arch leading into the interior hall which like the front door and its casing is red walnut. Above the front door at the second story is a small portico rimmed with a wrought iron railing; narrow double Romanesque arches frame the windows which provide access to the portico. The original shape of the house might be described as a "zig-zag," that is, the central portion was joined by two wings, one to the rear and one to the front. A bay window was projected from the front wing which formed the sitting room (it is now the living room). The sitting room was joined to the rear by the dining room. Originally, a porch ran the length of this wing on the side of the house; the porch, facing west, served as a shade to the afternoon sun and provided an outdoor room for many years for the home's occupants. The kitchen facilities were completely separate and were located in a two story brick "cottage" beyond the dining room; the second story of this structure was probably the servant quarters. A brick smokehouse in the rear yard is the most prominent outbuilding. The eaves of the Branner Home are of simplistic lines whitewashed and bracketed along the entire roofline. Three sizable chimneys protrude like castle turrets on each section of the home.

The interior is particularly significant as the woodwork is unusually refined for a home of East Tennessee of this era. The doors and window frames, central hall and spiraled stairway are of red walnut; the trim and mantels of the parlor (now a dining room) are of black walnut; the fore-mentioned sitting room with its handsome bay window was completed in cherry; and the original dining room was trimmed in oak. Obviously, borrowing from the Empire styling which was popularized through Egyptian excavation at the time, the casings of the door and window frames were tapered from bottom to top throughout the home. In recent years, the present owner has completely restored the woodwork throughout the house, wallpapered in Empire designs, and internally placed utilities (previously they were exposed). The plaster medallions which are centered on the ceiling above the chandeliers (added in recent years) are original and of Arabesque design. Changes to the home have been minimal. The kitchen has been joined to the house by a breezeway; a rear porch has been partially enclosed; and the sideporch has been removed.

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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

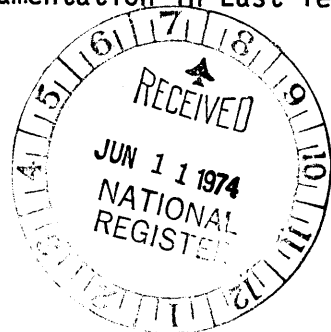
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|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property on which the Branner Home was built was originally owned by George Branner who came to Mossy Creek (now Jefferson City) around 1830. George Branner was a local farmer who owned over 2,000 acres and fathered eleven children. One of his sons, Benjamin Manassah Branner, acquired much of his farm from his father's estate. He built his home on the same site where his father's house had burned. Benjamin Branner was a farmer and merchant, operating his business with James T. Johnson in Mossy Creek. He married in 1851 and built the Branner Home in the ensuing years. Branner entered the Confederate Army as a captain in 1861 and eventually rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and commanded the Fourth Battalion of Tennessee Cavalry. He also served with Cook's Light Dragoons in Kentucky. In 1864, Branner went to Atlanta as East Tennessee was becoming more under the sphere of Unionists; there he operated a partnership in a hotel. After the war, he returned to his home in Mossy Creek.

The Branner Home is referred to in two accounts of the battle of Mossy Creek in late December of 1863. Colonel William J. Palmer, Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, deployed his forces around the home on December 30, 1863, and engaged Confederate forces in the surrounding area.

The Gothic Revival style was not prominent in East Tennessee prior to the Civil War. Most homes of the Tennessee Valley were typically of Greek Revival design (often referred to as "Federal" in Tennessee). The Branner Home is an outstanding example both exteriorly and interiorly of the Gothic Revival Period. It also displays elements such as the Roman arch windows above the front door and the bracketed roof line which became increasingly popular and more elaborate as the Victorian era matured. The home stands as a significant example depicting the transition from Federal style architecture to the Victorian Ornamentation in East Tennessee.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Branner, John Casper V., Casper Branner of Virginia and His Descendants. (Privately printed, Stanford University, California.)
 "The War Soldier in Our Civil War," Civil War Times Illustrated, Volume VIII, #4.
Goodspeed's History of Tennessee. (Nashville, Tennessee: Elder Booksellers, 1972.)
 Wash, Barbara A. "Antebellum House Finds New Life in 20th Century." Knoxville News-Sentinel (Sunday, January 16, 1972), Section E.
 The War Between the States, Official Records, Series 1, Vol. 31, Part 1, Chapter XLIII, Report #8.

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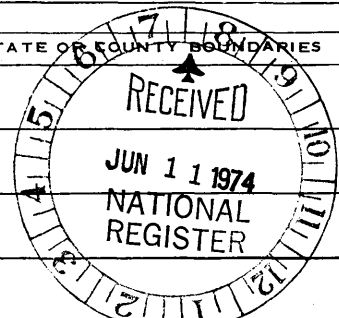
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36°	07'	38"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		83°	28'	25"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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:
Michael E. Carberry

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee State Planning Office DATE: May 3, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 1069, 1114 W. Clinch Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Knoxville 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 Lawrence C. Henry
 Title Tennessee Historical Commission
 Date June 6, 1974

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/9/74

ATTEST:
Charles Harrington
 acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 7-9-74