

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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JAN 29 2009

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name McFarland, William and Maggie, House

other names/site number Gammon House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 324 Sixth Street

NA not for publication

city or town Bristol

vicinity NA

state Tennessee code TN county Sullivan code 163 zip code 37620

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

E. Patil Nishiyama
Signature of certifying official/Title

1-22-09
Date

SHPO Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register.

other,

(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

James G. [Signature]

3/10/2009

Gammon House
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE/professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof WOOD/particle board shingles

other WOOD

METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1875 - 1915

Significant Dates

Ca. 1875

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local Government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Tennessee Historical Commission

Gammon House
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre Bristol 206 SW

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>394160</u>	<u>4050117</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristen Luetkemeier
Organization Thomason and Associates date October 13, 2008
street & number 1907 21st Avenue South telephone 615 385 4960
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Frank L. Slaughter, Jr.
street & number 324 Sixth Street telephone 423 383 5412
city or town Bristol state Tennessee zip code 37620

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Gammon House, Sullivan County, Tennessee

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DESCRIPTION

The Gammon House is located on Sixth Street three blocks south of State Street and the heart of downtown Bristol, Tennessee. Bristol is located in Sullivan County directly south of the Virginia line, and has approximately 25,500 residents (Tennessee population). Bristol, Virginia, with a slightly smaller population is across State Street. The Gammon House dates from ca. 1875 and was designed in the Queen Anne style. It is a commodious two-and-one-half-story house with a complex roofline covered in 2003 with simulated slate shingles. Two interior brick chimneys pierce the roofline. In the eaves are curved wooden brackets and wooden corbelled dentils. Builders replaced decayed sections of this molding during the 2003 renovations. The house uses load-bearing masonry construction and is built of local bricks, and has a below-grade stone basement and foundation. A 2003 renovation removed paint from the exterior walls. First- and second-floor windows almost exclusively have original wooden one-over-one frames, while those in the attic are typically original, wooden, and with a single light. Above most windows is an original wooden lintel with brackets. Unless otherwise stated, exterior elements appear to be original. The interior, also, retains much of its original woodwork and floor plan. Overall, the house retains its architectural integrity.

The east façade is the most elaborately detailed part of the exterior. At the southern corner is a five-sided two-story tower with windows on each level and in the attic level. Metal covers each seam on the octagonal roof, and at the apex is a metal finial. A projecting two-story bay is north of the tower; it has a window at each level and a small hipped dormer. Spanning the northern two bays is a one-story shed-roofed porch with a gabled entrance. This porch, added in 2003, replaced the heavily decayed existing porch and has a similar, though less-detailed, appearance to the earlier one. Sanborn maps from the late-19th and early-20th centuries indicate that the historic porch it replaced likely itself replaced an earlier full-width porch ca. 1915. In the porch eaves is wooden trim like that used with the main roof. The porch has a closed brick railing with wooden columns. The principle entrance to the building is under the low-pitched gabled portion of the porch. It is composed of a pair of original paneled wooden-and-glass doors, and capped by an original two-light transom. Original wooden screen doors are also present. In the bay's second level is a three-part window with a three-part transom. At the attic level is a gabled dormer with fish-scale shingles and paired windows set under a semi-circular wooden arch. The northern bay has a single window at both levels and a small hipped dormer.

The north elevation has two bays. In the eastern bay is a one-story three-sided bay window. Topped by a low-pitched hipped roof, each side has a one-over-one window. Over the bay window is a single window, and above this window is a gabled dormer with a pair of single-light windows and an oval vent in the gable field. The western bay has a single window at each level and a small hipped dormer above. Visible west of the house is the north elevation of the 2003 carport and deck addition. This portion of the one-story addition replicates the

East Façade, View to the West



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dentil molding and brackets found elsewhere on the building. The first floor of the addition is open and used for parking. The second-story deck is surrounded by a new wooden balustrade with heavy wooden balusters.



North Elevation, View to the South



West Elevation, View to the East

The west rear elevation has three bays and contains the most changes on the exterior. Ca. 1905, Dr. Gammon added and briefly retained a small, frame addition. Spanning the rear currently are combined ca. 1910 (which replaced the ca. 1905 addition) and 2003 additions with a lower concrete carport and upper wooden deck. As part of the 2003 renovation, the owners removed the decayed wooden components of a two-story ca. 1910 addition made during Dr. Gammon's ownership. The southern part of the addition's first story dates from ca. 1910 and is enclosed with textured concrete blocks, which are also used in the ca. 1910 closed rail that spans the addition's northern part. Wooden posts (2003) with brackets that mimic the house's brackets connect the parking area to the 2003 deck above it. The deck has a wooden railing with turned wooden balusters; below it are corbelled wooden dentils like those in the house's eaves. The northern bay is recessed and has a second-story entrance with a 2003 multiple-light wooden door and a first-story entrance with an original single-light wooden door. The central bay has a solid first story and a second-story Palladian window with multiple upper diamond lights. In the projecting southern bay is a second-story entrance with a 2003 multiple-light wooden door. Bricks fill in a former opening south of the existing opening. The lower level of the bay is the solid, textured-concrete-block portion of the ca. 1910 addition. The replacement of the wooden components of the ca. 1910 addition with modern equivalents makes the modern appearance of this elevation similar to its historic appearance.

The south elevation reveals the western ca. 1910 one-story concrete-block addition and 2003 upper deck, the central two-story original house, and the eastern two-and-one-half-story corner tower. There are no openings in the concrete-block section, while in the western part of the original house there are two first-story and two second-story windows. One of these second-story windows is a small four-over-four window, the other is a one-over-one window sized like those on the remainder of the house. One window on the first story is a Queen-Anne-style window with four diamond lights over a single light, and the other window has four lights over four lights. All of these windows have a simple stone lintel and lack the decorative features that are

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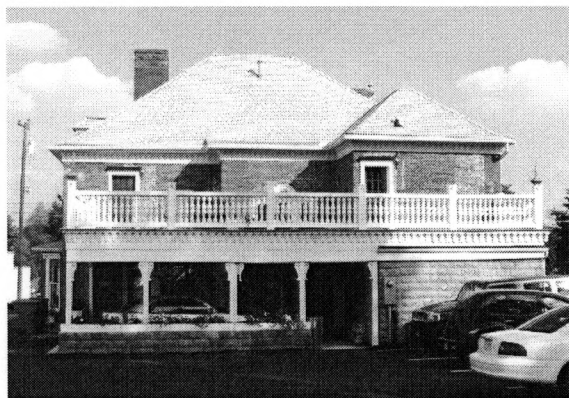
Gammon House, Sullivan County, Tennessee

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pendant hangs from each corner of the opening above the lower set of steps. The steps to the basement are enclosed below the staircase, and the enclosing walls are covered with wooden paneling. Between the entrance to the basement steps and the hall's rear wall is a small open area. On each side of the main entrance are deep entrances to front rooms with pairs of wooden paneled doors topped with transoms with colored glass. Dentils are below the transoms, and paneling covers the approximately 18-inch inset portions of the entrances.

Through the northernmost of these entrances is the study. It has plastered walls and ceiling, a ca. 1900 metal hanging light fixture, approximately 12-inch wooden baseboards, ca. 1915 metal wall grates with wooden molding, and narrow wooden floor boards laid in perpendicular inner and outer orientations. In the eastern wall is a one-over-one window, and in the northern wall is a projecting three-sided bay; each side has a one-over-one window. Dividing the bay from the room is a cased opening with a turned-and-sawed wooden grille composed of perpendicularly placed cylindrical-shaped wooden pieces with round wooden pieces at their joints; below are brackets with serrated edges and circular holes in their solid portion. A paneled wooden door with a deep-set doorway in the western wall connects this room to the living room. Above the door is an ornamental grille with wooden trim similar to that used with the window bay. South of the door is a fireplace with green, orange, and beige glazed tile facing, a decorative metal grate frame, and an elaborate wooden mantel. The lower part of the mantel includes, alongside the fireplace, Ionic colonettes with swirl and floral motifs on their capitals and, above them, a shelf with repeated oval carvings along the edge. Similar elements are on the overmantel, where a mirror is the focal point.



Study, View to the North



Study Doors and Transom with Parlor Entrance
Beyond, View to the South

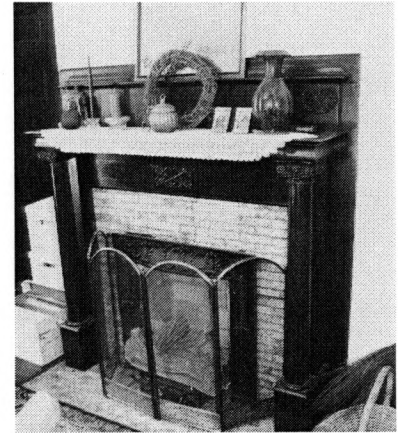
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The living room's finishes are similar to those used throughout the house; it has a parquet floor with narrow wooden floor boards, wooden baseboards, ca. 1915 metal wall grates with wooden molding, and plaster walls and ceiling. In the living room's eastern wall is the door connecting it to the study. The northern wall has one one-over-one window. A single-light wooden door topped by a wooden transom and surrounded by wooden trim leads from the western wall to the carport. A wooden paneled door with wooden trim in the southern wall leads into a modern bathroom. East of it, another wooden paneled door connects the room to the central hall. In the southern part of the eastern wall is a wooden paneled closet door. At the center of that wall is a fireplace with blue and beige glazed tile facing, a decorative metal grate frame with seashell and bead motifs, and a wooden mantel with Corinthian columns and Rococo carving.



Living Room Fireplace, View to the Northeast

A modern bathroom is accessed through the central hall's western wall via an original wooden paneled door.

The southwestern-most first floor room in the house is a storage room added as part of the ca. 1910 addition. Entrance to it is through a paneled wooden door in the kitchen's western wall. Most of the room's walls are of concrete blocks, though the eastern wall is the house's original brick rear wall. The room does not have any windows.

East of the storage room is a kitchenette with narrow wooden floor boards, 2003 wooden wainscoting similar to the paneling used in the central hall, plastered walls and ceiling, and two 2003 hanging light fixtures. In the northern wall is a paneled wooden door. A wooden-and-glass cabinet is on the western wall, and in the southern wall is the small four-over-one window. At the center of the kitchenette is a counter island, added 2003, with a tile top and wooden paneled sides.

East of the kitchenette is the pantry. It is a small room with narrow wooden floor boards, wooden board wainscoting, and plaster walls and ceiling. In the southern wall is a small four-over-four window.

The dining room is east of the pantry. It has narrow wooden floor boards laid to form a central square and plastered walls and ceiling. A paneled wooden door is in the western wall; it connects the dining room to the kitchenette. In the southern wall is a pair of one-over-one windows. The eastern wall is covered by a symmetrical cabinet unit with a central fireplace. The fireplace has brick facing, a decorative metal grate frame with a flared upper portion, and a wooden mantel and overmantel with continuous columns on posts with swirled carving and a mirror. On each side of the mantel is an



Dining Room Cabinets and Fireplace, View to the East

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upper pair of four-light doors with rounded pilasters and a lower pair of solid doors with turned pilasters. In the northern wall is a paneled wooden door leading to the central hall.

The parlor is in the southeastern corner of the first floor. The room has narrow wooden floor boards, approximately 12-inch wooden baseboards, ca. 1915 metal wall vents with wooden molding, plastered walls and ceiling, and a ca. 1900 hanging light fixture. In its western wall is a fireplace with beige glazed tile facing, a decorative metal grate frame with a flared upper portion, and a wooden mantel and overmantel similar to that found in the living room. In the parlor's southeastern corner is the five-sided tower; within each side is one one-over-one window. Another one-over-one window is in the eastern wall. The pair of paneled wooden doors with a colored glass transom is in the northern wall and leads to the central hall.



Parlor Fireplace, View to the West

Central Hall, View to the West



The upper central hall has narrow wooden floor boards installed parallel to one another, approximately 12-inch wooden baseboards, plastered walls and ceiling, and the upper railing and egress of the staircase. In its eastern wall is a bank of three windows, each with one light over one light and transom. At each end of the hall are simple ca. 1900 hanging metal light fixtures.

The northeastern bedroom is accessed through a wooden paneled door in its southern wall. It has narrow wooden floor boards, approximately 12-inch wooden baseboards, ca. 1915 metal vents with wooden molding, and plastered walls and ceiling. The eastern and northern walls each have one one-over-one window. The western wall has a northern wooden paneled door leading to the northwestern bedroom and a

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central fireplace with brown, beige, and green glazed tile facing, a decorative metal grate frame, and a wooden mantel with Corinthian colonettes on posts and oval carving on the edge of the upper ledge.



Northeastern Bedroom Fireplace, View to the Northwest



Northwestern Bedroom, View to the Northwest

The northwestern bedroom has a plastered ceiling and walls, a 2003 chandelier, approximately 12-inch baseboards, ca. 1915 metal wall vents with molding, and narrow wooden floor boards laid parallel to one another. Its eastern wall includes a central fireplace with beige glazed tile facing; a decorative metal grate frame with a flared upper portion; and a wooden mantel with columns, curved carving below the ledge, and a curved central upper portion. On each side of the fireplace are wooden paneled doors; the northern one leads to the northeastern bedroom and the southern one leads to a closet. In the northern wall is a one-over-one window. In the western wall is a wooden paneled door leading to the deck. Another paneled wooden door in the southern wall leads to the central hall.



The embellishment on this northwestern bedroom knob is typical of hardware throughout the house.

A small hall serves the two southwestern upper rooms. It has narrow wooden floor boards laid perpendicularly to the walls in its western half and laid parallel to the walls in its eastern half, a cased opening between the two halves, approximately 12-inch wooden baseboards, and plastered walls and ceiling.

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A 2003 multiple-light wooden door in the western wall connects the hall to the deck. In the eastern wall, a wooden paneled door leads to the space below the attic stairs.

In the southwestern corner of the upper floor is a bathroom with 2003 fixtures. In its southern wall is a small four-over-four window. A single-light wooden paneled door connects it to the hall.

East of the bathroom is a storage room, a small area with narrow wooden floor boards and plastered walls and ceiling. In the southern wall is a one-over-one window. In the eastern wall is a wooden paneled door leading to the southwestern bedroom, and in the northern wall another wooden paneled door leads to the hall.

The southwestern bedroom has narrow wooden floor boards placed parallel to one another, approximately 12-inch wooden baseboards, plastered walls and ceiling, and a 2003 metal chandelier. In the southern part of its western wall, a wooden paneled door leads to the storage room, and in the northern part of the wall is another wooden paneled door, this one to the attic stairs. In the southern wall is a one-over-one window. At the center of the eastern wall is a fireplace with metal facing, a decorative metal grate frame with a floral motif, and a wooden mantel with columns on posts and, above the ledge, a knob on each end. In the northern part of that wall, a wooden paneled door leads to a closet.

The southeastern bedroom has narrow wooden floor boards laid parallel to one another, approximately 12-inch baseboards, ca. 1915 metal wall vents with wooden molding, plastered walls and ceiling, and a 2003 metal chandelier. The western wall includes a central fireplace with plastered facing, a decorative metal encasement with a floral motif, and a wooden mantel with low-relief pilasters and upper elements. South of the fireplace is a wooden paneled closet door. In the southeastern corner is the five-part tower; in each of its parts is a one-over-one window. In the eastern wall is a one-over-one window. A wooden paneled door leads through the northern wall into the central hall.



Southeastern Bedroom, View to the Southeast



Southeastern Bedroom Fireplace and Vent, View to the Southwest

When the house was constructed ca. 1875, it was as part of a new urban subdivision replacing a former corn field with houses, offices, shops, churches, and government buildings. Many of the properties now proximate to the Gammon House were constructed after 1950. Historic houses remain scattered among the parks and

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modern parking lots and industrial and commercial properties east and west of the house and between it and the historic downtown. The blocks south of the Gammon House remain largely residential.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – SUMMARY

The Gammon House is significant under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance in Bristol, Tennessee. Builders constructed the house ca. 1875 in the popular Queen Anne style. The house, which local historian Bud Phillips calls one of a few remaining early-Victorian-era houses in Bristol, retains the majority of its original appearance and materials. The exterior displays several common Queen Anne features such as a tower, asymmetry, irregularly projecting bays, and a complex roofline. The interior is richly decorated with extensive and ornate woodwork; its grand central staircase is a particular highlight. Recent owners Frank Slaughter and Frank Slaughter Jr. oversaw a utilities update and overall restoration project which repaired some damage while retaining the house's historic integrity.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

John King was an early Bristol capitalist; his holdings included the current 324 Sixth Street. King's parents, Reverent James and Mourning Micajah (born Watkins) King, owned a large farm that encompassed the site of modern Bristol and some of the surrounding area. In 1867, John King inherited much of the area now traversed by Alabama Street, Edgemont Avenue, Fifth Street south of Anderson Park, Sixth and Seventh streets, and their perpendicular cross streets. His family wealth and influence well equipped him for the land subdivision and sales in which he soon engaged.¹

As Bristol extended to the boundary of King's inheritance, King became eager to sell much of his property as quarter-acre lots. King advertised 200 of these lots for individual sale in the summer of 1871. Later the same year, he announced a large auction to dispose of the lots in one event. "Where now the denuded corn stalks stand shall many of the town's finest residences rise," King said at the sale's opening. New owners began building houses almost immediately. The subdivision, called King's First Addition, contained the new streets of King (renamed Sixth ca. 1885), Alabama, Rose, Cherry, Locust, and others.²

The creation and celebration of suburban environments became a national trend by the late 1870s. In a series of articles published in 1878, social and architectural critic Henry Hudson Holly continued to advance the theme that the creation of model middle class homes furthered the cause of American democracy and promoted the virtues of rural America. At the same time Holly became one of the earliest voices to promote the idea of families grouping their houses together in close proximity to a downtown core and creating around them an area filled with park-like scenery.³

¹ V. N. Phillips, *Bristol Tennessee/Virginia: A History 1852 – 1900* (Johnson City: The Overmountain Press, 1992), 8 – 33 and 71.

² Bristol Deed Book 57, 349; Phillips, *Bristol*, 71 – 73 and 123; and Bud Phillips, Interview with Kristen Luetkemeier, Bristol and Nashville, 1 December 2008.

³ Clifford Edward Clark, Jr, *The American Family Home, 1800 – 1960* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 73 – 75.

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Holly found the Queen Anne style a particularly appropriate choice for use in the picturesque suburbs that he supported. George Palliser, who published economical house-building-specification books and pamphlets, also advanced the Queen Anne style. Much about the plans advocated by Holly, Palliser, and others like them remained unchanged from the pre-Civil-War period; middle-class houses retained their formal entrance halls, front and back parlors, and kitchens. The difference was in the definition of home as personal expression for which Palliser, particularly, argued. American Studies Professor Clifford Edward Clark found that, for these late-19th-century critics and their homeowner audiences, “the goal was personal delight.”⁴

William McFarland bought the parcel now numbered as 324 Sixth Street from John King in 1872 for \$158.69, and builders constructed William and Maggie McFarland’s Queen Anne house on this lot ca. 1875. Somewhat unusually for Victorian-era houses, which often relied on balloon framing, the builders of the Gammon House used load-bearing masonry walls in its construction. Nationally, about five percent of Queen Anne houses used masonry construction. Masonry Queen Anne houses were typically architect designed and located in large cities; comparably few remain in existence. Victorian-era styles generally favored extravagant and elaborate interior components and multiple textures, asymmetry, and steep roof pitches on their exteriors. The Queen Anne style took this asymmetry particularly far, using bay windows, towers, projecting bays, and partial-width porches like those found on the Gammon House to avoid regularity. Queen Anne houses dominated domestic building from about 1880 – 1900.⁵

Though Victorians stressed individual expression, common interior features existed nationally and are illustrated in the Gammon House. Fireplaces transitioned during the late-19th and early-20th centuries from necessary heat sources to symbolic indicators of coziness and safety. Extended window bays provided both visual interest and opportunities to cultivate the connection with organic systems, in this case through house plants, so valued by middle-class Victorians. Plan books argued that dark, muted interiors exuded restfulness and refinement, while juxtaposition of colors, textures, and designs enabled individual expression.⁶

The building’s age and design are somewhat unique locally. City Historian Bud Phillips believes that there are not more than a dozen Bristol buildings as old as the Gammon House. The John Gibbons Pepper House, built next to the Gammon House at 332 Sixth Street in 1875, is among this number. Philip Thomason, whose company Thomason and Associates nominated the Euclid Avenue (NR 5/10/06), Solar Hill (NR 7/5/01), and Virginia Hill (NR 11/27/02) historic districts in Bristol, Virginia to the National Register of Historic Places, believes that the house is one of less than six brick houses in Bristol with a similarly elaborate Queen Anne appearance. The ca. 1903 Edward Washington King House at the corner of Anderson and Seventh streets in Bristol, Tennessee is one of these (NR 11/18/99). Like the Gammon House, the King House has various projecting bays, a partial-width porch, multiple dormers, roofline trim, and a complex roofline. The house

⁴ Clark, *American*, 75 – 78.

⁵ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006), 239 and 262 – 287. On the Sanborn maps created before 1907, this parcel is labeled as 330 Sixth Street.

⁶ Clark, *American*, 114 – 117.

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built ca. 1910 at 805 Highland Avenue in Bristol, Virginia, now listed as a contributing resource in the Euclid Avenue Historic District, is another local high-style masonry Queen Anne house.⁷

The parcel at 324 Sixth Street changed ownership with some frequency in the quarter of a century following its subdivision. In 1879 the McFarlands sold the property and the house to A. B. Carr for \$2,350; it became a home for A. B., his wife Mary Carr, and their family. A. B. Carr's uncle, Joseph R. Anderson, founded Bristol and was heavily involved in tobacco processing. The two men, together with T. H. Penn, owned T. H. Penn and Company, housed in a large Fourth Street Building. By 1881, the company employed 75 workers and operated both a warehouse and a processing plant, producing Contentment and Southern Gentlemen tobacco. A. B. and Mary Carr sold the house and parcel to A. B.'s brother James W. Carr for \$2,500 in 1882. James W. Carr and his wife Woodie lived in the house with their two children until James's death in 1887. James left Woodie, who he referred to in his will as "my darling wife," the property, saying that he intended that "my entire effects be transferred to my wife without any expense or trouble to her except so much as is necessary to make same transfer legal and good." Woodie later married Robert Botts, and the couple sold the property for \$4,000 to Mrs. S. P. (Elizabeth White) Morris of Huntsville, Alabama in 1894. Records do not indicate what happened to S. P. Morris, but Elizabeth Morris married G. Rosseau Hudson of Chattanooga, Tennessee before 1902. The Hudsons sold the property to Dr. L. H. Gammon in 1902 for \$5,400.⁸

A period of more extended ownership began with the house's acquisition by Dr. Gammon, whose family made the house their home for much of the 20th century. Landon Haynes Gammon, a Blountville, Tennessee native, graduated ca. 1891 from the University of Virginia medical college, lived for a time in Saltville, Virginia, and then moved to Bristol. At an unknown date Dr. Gammon married a woman about whom little information is available. Local Historian Bud Phillips recalls that her early death left Dr. Gammon a widower; city directories available at the Tennessee State Library and Archives indicate that she died before 1913 and that the two had at least three children.⁹

Residents first elected Dr. Gammon Mayor in 1909, an office in which he served two terms. Around the same time, Dr. Gammon made some improvements to the house, including adding a rear wooden addition ca. 1910 and a coal furnace in 1915. He also began renting rooms. Mrs. English Baumgartner was an early tenant; she rented the southeastern bedroom in 1913 and often ate meals nearby at Claire Dunn's boarding house. The 1913 - 1914 directory lists Landon H. Gammon, physician, and Landon H. Gammon Jr., student, as residents. The elder Gammon had an easy commute to his office, located at 15 ½ Sixth Street. The 1921 - 1922 city directory listed Landon H. Gammon, Mayor and Commissioner, Department of Public Affairs for Bristol, Tennessee; Landon H. Gammon, student; Miss Margaret H. Gammon; and William M. Gammon,

⁷ Phillips, Interview and Teresa Douglass et al, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Euclid Avenue Historic District (Washington: National Park Service, 2006).

⁸ Bristol Deed Book 4, 182 - 184; Bristol Deed Book 25, 61 - 62; Bristol Deed Book 28, 289 - 290; Bristol Deed Book 32, 128 - 129; Bristol Deed Book 57, 348 - 350; Bristol Will Book 1, 519; and Phillips, *Bristol*, 243

⁹ Bristol City Directories, 1913 - 1914; Phillips, Interview; and Frank Slaughter Jr., "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form Draft."

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student as residents of 324 Sixth Street. The directory gave two workplace addresses for Dr. Gammon: City Hall and 19 ½ Sixth Street.¹⁰

Corolla Oglesby Crockett grew up in Wytheville, Virginia before moving to Bristol and working in Dr. Gammon's practice, where the two met. The couple married in 1930, and had one baby who died as an infant and one son, David Haynes Gammon. The 1940 directory lists the residence as the Gammon Apartments, and Corolla's name appears in parenthesis after Landon's. David lived with the couple that year, and Dr. Gammon's medical office was then located in the Burrow Building at 30 Sixth Street. Boarders included Leon Auttrel, Miss Beulah Phillips, and David Mottern.¹¹

For one dollar, Dr. Gammon transferred ownership of the parcel and house to Corolla and their son David late in 1941. Dr. Gammon died around a year later, on October 31, 1942. Mother and son lived in the house during the 1950s and 1960s, Corolla managing the "furnished rooms" listed in the city directories of the period and David working as an engineer for Raytheon Manufacturing and Sperry Farragut. Some 1970s directories and the one issued in 1980 list Corolla as a sole resident; she died in 1987. Bud Phillips, a writer for the *Bristol Herald Courier*, official city historian, and author and publisher of six local history books, rented the upper tower room in the early 1970s. In 1982 David Gammon, employed by Univar, reappears in the city directory, and David Gammon, retired, was the occupant listed in 1993. The house was vacant for several years before its 2003 sale to Frank Slaughter and Frank Slaughter, Jr.¹²

The building's function changed from residential to professional in 2003, when prominent local attorneys Frank Slaughter and Frank Slaughter Jr. purchased it for office space. The Slaughters oversaw a program of repairs and updates to the building while retaining its defining features and insuring that it continued to reflect its historic appearance as an upper-class Victorian-era residence. Contractors installed new electrical wire, plumbing, and an HVAC system. The rewiring project retained many of the house's historic fixtures, including some that formerly burned gas for light. Contractors installed new plaster and drywall to address the interior walls's poor state of repair. Workers removed a decayed ca. 1910 rear wooden addition and added a lower concrete patio and upper wooden deck, and also replaced the rotting ca. 1915 front porch, itself a replacement of the original full-width porch. Paint was removed from the exterior brick. Frank Slaughter Jr. became the building's sole owner in 2008 and continues to preserve its character while operating a law office there.¹³

¹⁰ Bristol City Directories, 1913 – 1914 and 1921 – 1922; Gammon, Receipt (1915); Phillips, Interview; and Frank Slaughter Jr., "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form Draft."

¹¹ Bristol City Directory, 1940; Gammon-Crockett Marriage License, Sullivan County, 1930; Phillips, Interview; and Frank Slaughter Jr., "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form Draft."

¹² Bristol City Directories, 1957 – 1958, 1963, 1973, 1980, 1982, and 1993; Bristol Deed Book 71, 543; Phillips, Interview; and Shelby Hills Cemetery Records, Bristol, Tennessee.

¹³ Bristol Deed Book 554, 467 – 468; Frank L. Slaughter, "Historic Preservation Certification Application Request for Certification of Completed Work;" and Frank L. Slaughter, "National Register Information Application (2003)."

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The Gammon House is one of the few remaining early-Victorian-era houses in Bristol, Tennessee. Its exterior displays many features characteristic of the popular late-19th-century Queen Anne style, including a tower, asymmetry, irregularly projecting bays, and a complex roofline. The house's interior is particularly notable, with its fine and extensive woodwork and grand central staircase. Past preservation efforts and a recent sensitive renovation have insured that the house retains its historic appearance and much of its original material. The house's high level of integrity and its demonstration of the Queen Anne style make it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for architectural significance.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Gammon House is located at 324 Sixth Street in Bristol, Tennessee and listed as Parcel 9.00 on Tax Map 21A, Group B. The parcel occupies approximately 5/16 of an acre, and its entirety is included in this listing.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

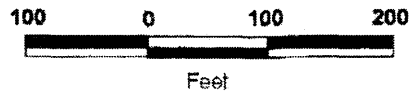
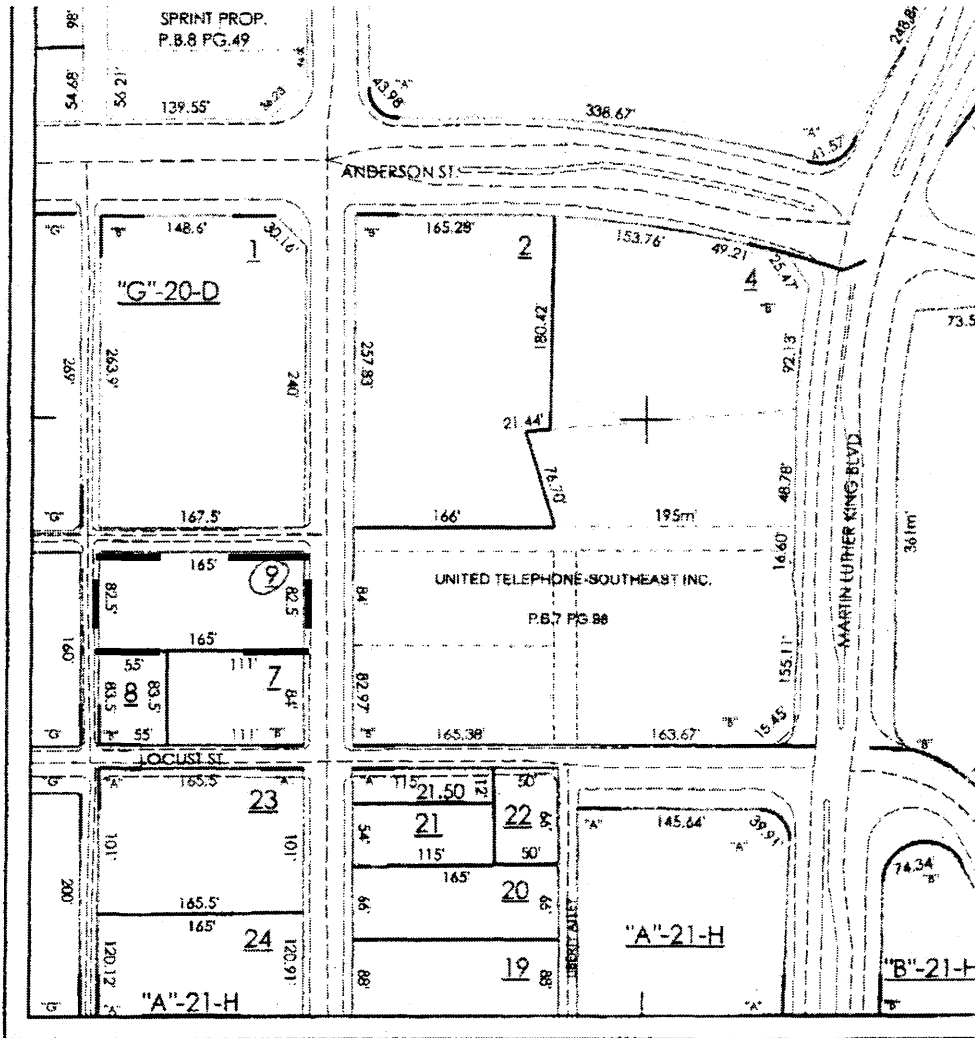
The boundary includes the parcel historically and currently associated with the Gammon House.

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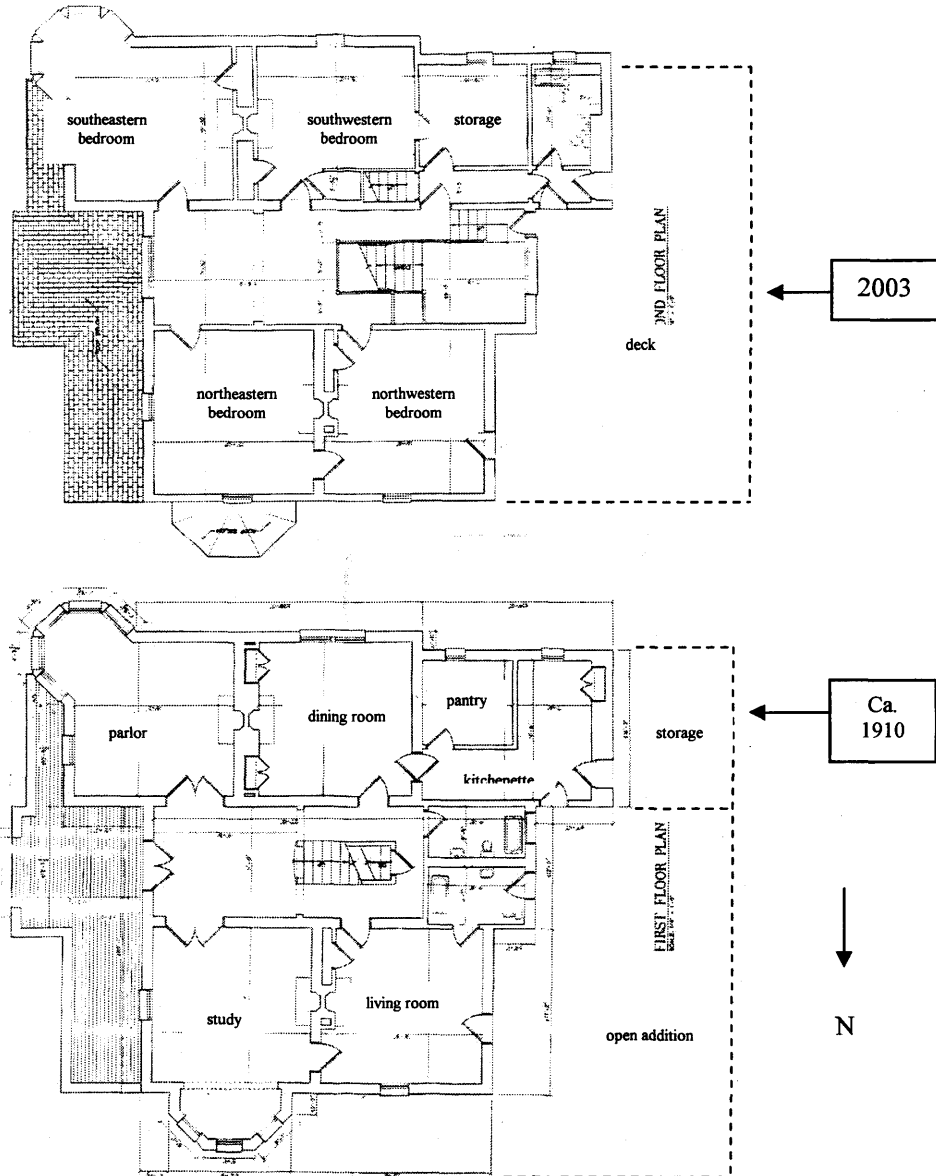
DISCLAIMER: THIS MAP IS FOR PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. IT WAS CONSTRUCTED FROM PROPERTY INFORMATION RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS, AND IS NOT CONCLUSIVE AS TO LOCATION OF PROPERTY OR LEGAL OWNERSHIP.

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Photos by: Kristen Luetkemeier
Date: October 6, 2008
Digital Images: Tennessee Historical Commission

East façade, facing west
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North elevation, facing south
2 of 13

West elevation, facing east
3 of 13

South elevation, facing north
4 of 13

Roof bracket and trim, facing southeast
5 of 13

Front exterior entrance, facing west
6 of 13

Front interior entrance, facing east
7 of 13

Lower central hall, facing southwest
8 of 13

Study and parlor doors, facing south
9 of 13

Study bay window and grille, facing northwest
10 of 13

Upper central hall, facing west
11 of 13

Northeastern bedroom fireplace, facing northwest
12 of 13

Southeastern bedroom fireplace, facing southwest
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