

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1985

8 1985

1. Name

historic DeVault - Masengill House

and/or common Mary Lou Farms

2. Location

street & number Andrew Johnson Highway (11E) N/A not for publication

city, town Piney Flats N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Tennessee code 047 county Sullivan code 163

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sally Bachman

street & number 23 Wellington

city, town Bristol N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sullivan County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Blountville state Tennessee 37617

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated across from Rocky Mount State Historic Site on Highway 11E in Piney Flats, Tennessee, the DeVault-Masengill House is an imposing two story Greek Revival residence constructed in about 1842. A smaller log building dating from the 1770s is located approximately thirty feet northwest of the house. Both of these buildings are included in the nomination and have retained their architectural integrity.

Constructed of hand-fired brick made on the premises, the main section of the DeVault-Masengill House is three bays wide and one room deep. A two story ell (that is one bay wide and two rooms deep) extends from the northwest corner of the house. Metal sheeting now covers the low pitched hip roof. Three outside end chimneys with corbel caps project from the center of each of the two side walls of the main section and at the end of the rear ell. A fourth chimney separates two rooms in the ell. Exterior masonry work still evinces white penciling on the mortar joints.

The main entry, centrally located on the south facade, is embellished by multi-pane transom window and sidelights with panels. Shouldered architrave moldings further complement this well proportioned entry. Above the main entry is a door of similar design and trim but having a Greek key design in the corner blocks and geometric carving on the keystones. Although the original front porch is no longer extant, it was a one story flat roofed portico with Doric columns and pilasters. Presently the house is undergoing renovation and has no porch. A one story wood addition was located on the east side of the rear ell but it is no longer extant.

Multi-pane windows with the same decorative motif on the lintels as is found on the entry are located on both stories of the house. Some windows still retain original cylinder glass panes but many of the wood sills have been replaced by concrete. Louvered shutters (temporarily removed) flank each window, while a wood cornice below the eaves surrounds the residence.

The interior of the DeVault-Masengill House is distinguished by a central staircase embellished with scroll design woodwork and paneling. Elaborate cast plaster foliated ceiling medallions highlight the parlor and main hall. Similar in design to the exterior trim, the interior window and door treatment consists of shouldered architrave moldings with wood panels below the windows. Some of the original wood baseboard treatment is extant. The interior also contains three wood fireplace mantles on the second story. Two of these have rectangular recessed panels while the third is characterized by ogee panels on the side. Two fireplace mantles on the second story are twentieth century reproductions.

The one and one-half story log building, originally the Masengill slave cabin, has a gable roof surfaced with cedar shakes and a porch spanning the south (front) facade. A large limestone chimney is on the western side of the building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1770s, c. 1842 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The DeVault-Masengill House, built circa 1842, is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance as one of the finest examples of the Greek Revival style in Sullivan County, Tennessee. Located in northeast Tennessee, a region noted for its fine collection of Federal style houses, this house displays fine Greek Revival detailing in the heavy cornice and multi-paned sash windows, each with a decorative lintel on the exterior and shouldered door and window surrounds, a paneled staircase, and molded plaster ceiling medallions on the interior. Also located on the nominated property is a small, 1½ story log building which dates from the 1770s and is reputed to be one of the first structures built on the property. Although currently undergoing renovation, the DeVault-Masengill House retains its architectural integrity.

The land on which the nominated property was built once belonged to Henry Masengill, Sr., a pioneer settler in East Tennessee who came to the Watauga River area from South Carolina in 1769. He soon erected a three story log house (gone) near the nominated property and the one and one-half story log building that is included in the nomination. The log building was originally a slave cabin or possibly the overseer's house. It was also the place from which Isaac DeVault directed the construction of his residence. The Masengill family also obtained possession of land that became Rocky Mount State Historic Site. The property had remained in the family until 1959 when it was purchased by the State of Tennessee and restored as a historic site.

Valentine DeVault, Sr., who arrived in the area in 1800 with his brother to settle on land inherited from their parents, purchased land from Masengill in 1837, thereby enlarging his own property located west of the Masengill tract. (The Valentine DeVault House located on this land was nominated to the National Register in 1977.) In 1842 Isaac DeVault, a prosperous farmer, inherited property from his father Valentine and built the Greek Revival house being nominated. The home was owned by descendants of the DeVault family until 1906. In 1938 the Masengill family obtained possession of the house, which descendants still own.

The DeVault-Masengill House, currently being renovated, is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture. Details such as heavy cornices, multi-pane windows and shouldered door and window surrounds highlight the well proportioned building on the exterior. Inside, elaborate ceiling medallions and a paneled staircase are the outstanding features. Overall the DeVault-Masengill House has retained its architectural integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 2 acres

Quadrangle name Bluff City, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	3	7	9	4	4	0	4	0	2	9	5	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Historic Preservation Planner

organization First Tennessee Development District date October 15, 1984

street & number 207 N. Boone Street, Suite 800 telephone 615-928-0224

city or town Johnson City state Tennessee 37601

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hoyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/14/85

For NPS use only

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

Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 3/28/85

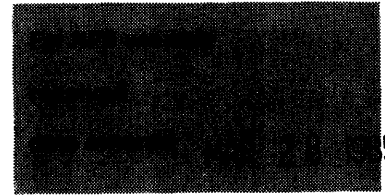
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet DeVault-Massengill House

Item number 9

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Federal Census, Sullivan County, 1830 - 1900.

Massengill, Samuel Evans. The Massengills, Massengales, and Variants, 1472 - 1931.
(Bristol, Tennessee: King Printing Company, 1931).

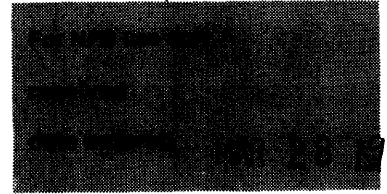
Reeves, LeRoy. Ancestral Sketches. (Lynchburg, Virginia: J. P. Bell Company, 1951).

Spoden, Muriel L. Historic Sites of Sullivan County. (Kingsport, Tennessee: Kingsport Press, 1976).

Sullivan County Deed Books, 1783 - 1958. Sullivan County Courthouse, Blountville, Tennessee.

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Continuation sheet DeVault-Massengill House

Item number 10

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The nominated property is a rectangularly shaped two acre parcel of land bounded on the south by U. S. Highway 11E and on the east and west by imaginary lines which run parallel with Edgefield Road for 450' and on the north by another imaginary line 500' long which runs parallel to U. S. Highway 11E and intersects the east and west boundaries at right angles. This boundary includes enough land to protect the historical setting and architectural integrity of the DeVault - Masengill House.

DeVault-Masengill House
Andrew Johnson Highway (11E)
Piney Flats, Sullivan County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 400'

