

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic Senter-Rooks House

and/or common "Twin Oaks"

2. Location

street & number 2227 Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town Humboldt _____ vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Tennessee code 047 county Gibson code 053

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Charles Couch and Annette Couch

street & number 2227 Main Street

city, town Humboldt _____ vicinity of state Tennessee 38343

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. W. D. Manning, Register of Deeds, Gibson County

street & number Court Square

city, town Trenton _____ state Tennessee 38382

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

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

The Senter-Rooks House, built ca. 1861 with decorative architectural elements added in 1920 is located on the east side of the town of Humboldt. Facing south on its original site, the house is approached by a winding driveway off of the town Main Street. The lot (total dimensions are 205 feet x 280 feet) is shaded by many old trees.

One of the few houses of this period extant in Humboldt, the Senter-Rooks House is important in interpreting social influences on architectural development. The design book from which architectural elements were selected to "update" the house in 1920 is in the possession of the current owner.

Two stories in height with a gable composition roof and exterior end chimneys, the ca. 1861 structure is of integral frame construction covered with poplar clapboards. The L-shaped house was built with a central hall floor plan.

Three bays wide in the "ABA" configuration, the main (south) elevation features a two-story high pedimented portico supported by four square, slightly tapered wood columns covered with plaster. The columns are engaged to a concrete platform which spans the main facade. A simple wood balustrade, which has been removed, enclosed the porch in 1920. Pilaster corner boards are on the main elevation. Sculptured modillions and dentils highlight the entablature of the roof and portico. The cartouche in the gable of the portico was selected from the 1916 Architectural Decorating Company catalog. Also selected from the catalog, were the brackets, dentil, Ionic order column capitals and Corinthian order column bases. A wood finial is atop the pedimented portico. A multilighted recessed transom and pointed arch sidelights framed by pilasters supporting a full entablature surround the central entrance which features a glazed double leaf door. Double-hung sash windows on the main (south) elevation are six over six lights with exterior wood blinds.

Projecting from the second story of the main elevation above the central entrance is a balcony with turned brackets and two turned posts. A simple architrave surrounds the single leaf glazed door.

The rear (north) elevation originally consisted of a one story ell with a wrap-around porch. The ell was raised to a full two stories and the porch enclosed around 1918. In 1965, the den on the east elevation replaced an earlier addition which had fallen into disrepair.

The interior of the original structure contained six rooms; two rooms on each floor separated by a wide stair hall and two rooms in the ell. A wood staircase with turned balusters and a tapering round newel post is located on the west wall of the first floor hall. Mantels throughout are wood decorated with pilasters, surrounds are brick with the exception of the living room which is marble. Walls in the living room are high-lighted by wood pilasters and a cornice. Doors throughout are single leaf with shoulder architraves.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Senter-Rooks House, built ca. 1860, is significant for its historic associations with the development of Humboldt, Tennessee. The house is architecturally significant in the fact that it is the last remaining house of its period and style to survive in Humboldt.

On December 14, 1860, J. N. Lanom purchased 20 acres of land outside the city limits of Humboldt, for \$932.32. It is not known precisely when the house was first constructed, but the earliest deeds pertinent to the property show an increase from the \$132.32 paid by Lanom, to \$5,000.00 paid January 1866 by Moses E. Senter for the same tract of land minus 5 acres. This would indicate that the house was constructed during the 1860-66 period.

Moses E. Senter, born in 1816, settled in Gibson County in 1840. In 1854 Senter served as Trustee of Gibson County. Senter and his wife moved to Humboldt in 1866 and bought the Lanom property where they lived for eight years. The town of Humboldt elected Moses Senter its first mayor, serving from 1866-1869. He had begun preaching in 1843 and was ordained in 1845. During the years 1868-69 and 1871-73 Senter was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Humboldt. He was later expelled from the Baptist Church for joining the Masons.

Between 1874 and 1917 the property changed hands twice. In 1917 Charles Wesley Rooks and his second wife, Kate Senter, granddaughter of Moses Senter, bought the property. In 1920, the Senters added decorative architectural elements to the main facade of the house. The decorative elements were selected from "Artistic Relief Ornamentation" a catalogue put out in 1916 by the Architectural Decorating Company of Chicago, Illinois.

The decorative elements which the Senters added to their house include Ionic pilaster capitals, square Corinthian columns and pilaster bases, sculptured brackets, dentils, and a cartouche. The price of the cartouche which is 78" wide and 30" high was listed for a base price of \$35.00.

Charles Wesley Rooks (1869-1946) served as editor of three different Humboldt papers over a fifty year period. He established the Courier-Chronicle in 1902 and served as publisher until his death in 1946. Humboldt elected Rooks mayor for one term, 1910-12. In 1917 he was elected to the Tennessee State Senate. While in the Senate he authorized a bill that provided for a million dollar bond issue to regenerate the University of Tennessee. This put the university on an independent financial basis and provided for the construction of several new buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Artistic Relief Ornamentation. Chicago: Architectural Decorating Company, 1916.
 Borum, Tennessee Baptist Ministers, "M. E. Senter," 1890, pp. 559-60.
 Golden Anniversary Edition of the Courier-Chronicle, Humboldt, Tennessee 1941,
 Article entitled "C. W. Rooks," by A. H. Williams, p. 3.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.2

Quadrangle name Humboldt, TN

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	3	2	7	8	1	0	3	9	6	5	5	6	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 iustification The property nominated is a rectangular lot 280' by 205', less an area 50' x 75 from one corner, as outlined in red on the attached map.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathryn C. Holland, Program Planner

organization SW Tennessee Development District date January 4, 1980

street & number Watkins Towers
1804 Highway 45 By=Pass telephone (901) 668-1144

city or town Jackson state Tennessee 38301

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 6/2/80

For HCRS use only

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

John W. Ray
 Director of the National Register
 date 7/9/80

John O. Council
 date 7/8/80

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Continuation sheet

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Within the boundaries of this nomination are three other frame buildings. A two car board-and-batten garage (1920) is located thirty feet east of the house. A vertical board chicken house (1920) and a clapboard playhouse (1975) are located sixty-five feet north of the rear elevation of the main house.

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Continuation sheet

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Rooks was defeated by 100 votes for a second term in the senate. He was active in the formation of the Chamber of Commerce in 1905. He served on the Executive Committee from 1913-1925 and as the first Executive Secretary, 1920-25. In 1922 he pushed for the establishment of the Savings and Loan Association of Humboldt and served as President from 1938-1946. In addition, he served on the Humboldt Board of Education for twenty-six years and the Gibson County School Board for ten years.

Mrs. Bessie Rooks Fitzgerald, C. W. Rooks daughter, bought the house and property in 1946 after the death of her father. The current owners, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Couch, purchased the house and two acres of land from Bessie Rooks Fitzgerald in 1976. Dr. Couch is the grandson of Charles Wesley Rooks.

Architecturally, the house is the last example of Neo-Classism remaining in Humboldt. Particularly noteworthy is the existence of the 1916 design catalog from which architectural elements were selected to add to the house.

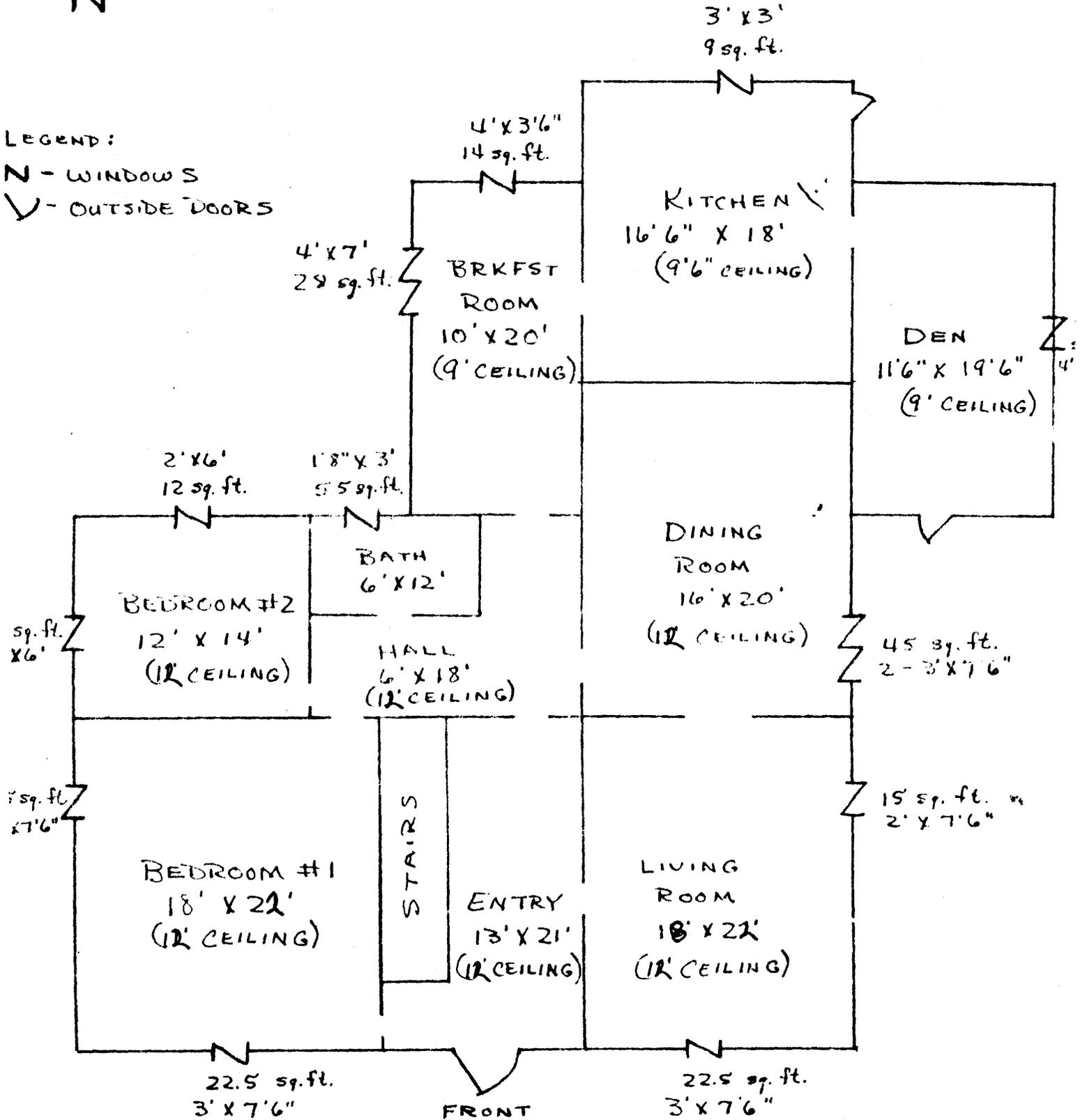
Floor Plan



LEGEND:

N - WINDOWS

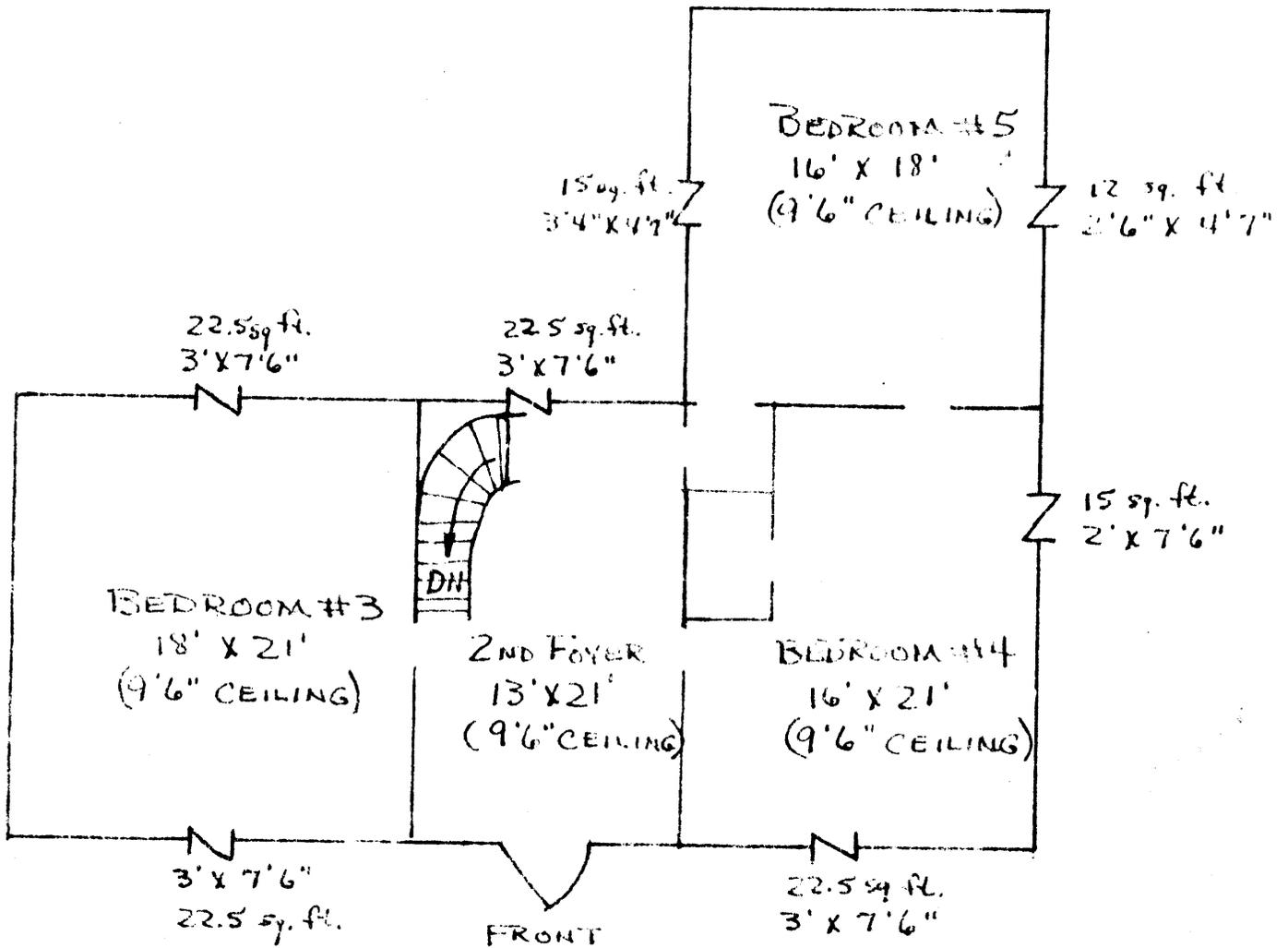
V - OUTSIDE DOORS



FIRST FLOOR

Senter-Rooks House
Humboldt, Gibson County, TN

DR. CHARLES E. COUCH
2227 OSBORNE
HUMBOLDT, TENN.



SECOND FLOOR

JUL 9 1966

Senter-Rooks House
 Humboldt, Gibson County, TN