

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 4/21/87

date entered

MAY 12 1987

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

1. Name

historic Williamson and Adams Carriage Factory

and or common Simpson Mill/Swaney Apartments

2. Location

street & number 136 E. Main St.

N/A not for publication

city, town Gallatin

N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee

code 47

county Sumner

code 165

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dottie Birdwell

street & number 4215 Harding Rd., Apt. 901

city, town Nashville

N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee 37205

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sumner County Courthouse

street & number Public Square, Main Street

city, town Gallatin

state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A

federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 Williamson and Adams Carriage Factory is a two-story brick and masonry structure located at 136 East Main Street in Gallatin, Tennessee. Constructed ca. 1848, the building is a good example of a mid-19th century commercial building with simple Greek Revival detailing. The building was constructed to house a commercial business on the first floor and residence on the second floor. The exterior has not been significantly altered since its construction. Many different renovations have occurred on the interior of the building but detailing remains from the 19th century. The building faces East Main Street in Gallatin, Tennessee and is sited on a quarter-acre urban lot.

The main block of the house was built in an ell plan, two rooms deep and perpendicular to the street. The ell section also faces Main Street but is only one room deep. The building has a gable roof with gable dormer windows located at the roofline. Within the original ell of the structure is a frame and brick section remodeled in 1985. This area was the location of an original porch which has been rebuilt and enclosed several times since the mid-19th century. No original outbuildings to the structure remains although an original stone cistern cap is visible at the rear. Garages added in recent years are located adjacent to the rear of the building.

The original section of the building was a two-story ell plan constructed of brick and frame ca. 1848. On the main (south) facade is the primary entrance which has been altered several times. The present configuration is a simple frame and glass door with sidelights and transom added in 1986. The iron railing on the stair is also a recent addition. Over the entrance is a large stone lintel which is original to the building. Windows in the original section are two-over-two sash with simple stone lintels. These windows are possibly original to the structure but more likely were added ca. 1874 when the building was converted into offices and a residence for the Simpson Mill. The main alteration to the original section of the building consists of the bricking in of an original door on the main facade. This doorway led into the office area of the first floor and was bricked in when the building was converted into apartments in 1928.

Beneath the eaves of the building are large brackets at the corners with restrained detailing. In the gable field on the main facade is a rectangular six-over-six sash window with

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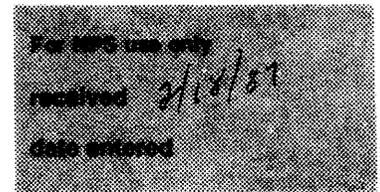
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label molding. On the east facade is a two-story frame and glass enclosure which was remodeled in 1986. This was the location of the original porch and Sanborn maps of this section show several changes to this porch area occurring in the early 1900s and again when the building was converted into apartments between 1928 and 1930. The present appearance displays a multi-light door and transom flanked by six-over-six sash windows. On the second story are also six-over-six sash windows.

The rear or north facade shows numerous changes and additions. Windows on this facade include one-over-one and four-over-four sash on the original building. When the building was remodeled into apartments in 1930 new one and two story porches were added on this facade. The one-story porch has since been removed and replaced ca. 1940 with a one-story brick addition at the northwest corner of the building. This addition consists of numerous six-over-six and four-over-four sash windows and displays a shed roof. The two-story porch was in poor condition and removed in recent remodeling. A new metal stairway has since been added on this facade.

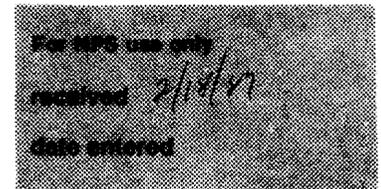
The most interesting feature of this facade is a large bricked in area in the gable field. This large opening may have been used as a doorway for access into the large attic area. It is unknown if this entrance was used as part of the carriage factory operation or was added later by the Simpson Mill. It is speculated that this opening contained a block and tackle system to haul materials or finished products into the attic storage space.

The west facade of the building is four bays wide with each bay containing a two-over-two sash window. These windows are similar to those on the main (south) facade with stone lintels and sills. A small window was also added ca. 1900 on the first story. At the roofline of the west facade are two original gable dormer windows. These dormers have one-over-one sash windows and eave gable returns.

The interior of the building contains details both original and added in later remodelings. Several mantles are original with simple Greek Revival molding. On the second story are double doors leading into the hallway and stair landing. The stairway itself appears to have been added ca. 1880 during remodeling by the Simpson family. The newel post has bead

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and reel molding and a simple capital. On the stairs are decorative balusters and corner posts. Beneath the stairway itself is an arch with tongue and groove molding. Other rooms in the building have multi-light doors added in 1928 and 1986 remodeling. Most spaces in the the building have the original wood floors, plaster walls and limited detailing.

All of the 19th century factory or mill buildings located at the rear of the structure have been removed in past years. One garage building has since been added at the rear of the structure which is non-contributing. Adjacent to the house on the rear facade is a large rectangular stone cistern cap. No other historic site features are associated with the carriage factory 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1848-1928

Builder/Architect Williamson and Adams Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Williamson and Adams Carriage Factory Building is located at 136 East Main Street in Gallatin, Tennessee and is an historically significant structure of the mid-19th century. The building has been nominated under criterion A because of its significance in Gallatin commerce, industry and military history. It was constructed ca. 1848 and has not been significantly altered. Interior details reflect both the original construction and remodeling which took place ca. 1880, 1928 and 1986.

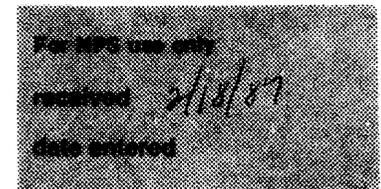
Built ca. 1848, the Carriage Factory is one of the few remaining ante-bellum commercial buildings remaining in Gallatin. The property was purchased in 1848 by the Williamson, Adams and Company of Gallatin. Principals in the company were Robert Williamson, Luke Adams and William C. Knight, all young businessmen of the city. The company constructed the two-story brick building soon after its purchase of the property as the offices and shops for a carriage manufacturing business.

The building constructed for the factory was a large two-story structure facing East Main Street. On the main (south) facade was originally a large rectangular doorway leading into the shops and a staircase leading to the second floor. A second doorway on the facade led into the first floor office area. The building was constructed in an ell plan with the main block of the structure two rooms deep with the ell one room deep. The design of the building was simple and utilitarian with a plan and detailing reflective of the Greek Revival style of the period.

The 1850 Census gives a detailed account of the Williamson and Adams Carriage Factory business, its principals and employees. In 1850 Robert Williamson is listed as heading a "household" consisting of his wife and five children plus seventeen employees. These employees included five men who list their occupation as "carriage makers", one listed as a blacksmith, three painters, a wheelwright and one "trimmer." The firm of Williamson and Adams is listed as having capital of \$8,000 in their manufacturing complex. They averaged twenty employees each month with monthly wages totalling

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\$400. They list "Buggies" as their annual product with yearly sales of \$15,000.

The manufacturing of carriages and buggies was an important industry of 19th century Tennessee. The use of horse drawn vehicles was one of the primary modes of transportation with many different styles and types of carriages available in the mid-19th century. In 1859 there were nine carriage manufacturers and dealers listed in the Nashville Business Directory. Many other communities such as Clarksville and Knoxville also had several carriage manufacturers. The Williamson and Adams Company was the only carriage factory listed in 19th century Gallatin.

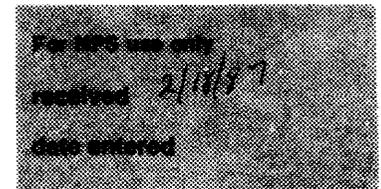
The business appears to have thrived for much of the early 1850s. The 1853 Nashville and Tennessee Business Directory lists Williamson and Adams as "Manufacturers and Dealers in fine Carriages, Buggies, Rockaways, &c." Along with the carriage business Williamson, Adams and Knight were involved in other money making ventures. In 1855 the three partners formed the incorporation of the "Sumner Cashmere Company" for the purposes of "buying, raising and propagating the Cashmere Shawl Goat and crossing the same with the native goat." Little else is known of this venture and it appears to have only survived for several years.

The fortunes of the Williamson and Adams Company waned towards the end of the 1850s. In 1857 the Nashville Business Directory lists the firm in Gallatin as being under the management of Knight, Martin and Mills. This reflects a reorganization of the principal partners in the firm with William Knight now the primary partner and manufacturer. By 1859 the firm's property was sold to pay for "liquidating and discharging the debts and liabilities of said firm..." The property was purchased by Thomas G. Moss who leased the factory building to Knight.

The 1860 Census lists William Knight as "coachmaker" with the firm of Knight, Martin and Mills. Knight continued the factory in operation for several years during the Civil War and Knight himself became one of the more prominent members of the Gallatin community during the war years. On January 4, 1862, Knight was elected alderman of the city. After the occupation of the city by Union forces Knight continued to

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reside in the city but it is unknown if the factory remained in operation. With the cessation of hostilities in 1865 Knight was appointed mayor pro tem until regular elections were held later in the year.

After the war the Carriage Factory building was the center of the Harrison Barracks of the Union occupation forces. On September 14, 1867, the U.S. Army leased from Moss for \$25 per month the building "formerly used as a carriage making shop, the blacksmith shop immediately in rear of said building and all the land bounded..." The lease was to remain in effect as long as necessary for the execution of military business. The main building for the barracks was the former "Knight's Carriage Factory" with other structures constructed to the west and north of the main building.

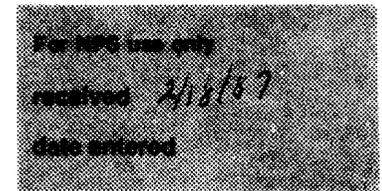
Many communities in Middle Tennessee were occupied by Union forces after the Civil War. The presence of Union troops in some of Tennessee's county seats was seen as important to maintain order after the War. As the headquarters for occupation forces the carriage factory building assumed new prominence as the center for military activities in the community. There was little civil disobedience in Gallatin during the post war years and the Federal occupation lasted less than two years.

An 1868 account in the Sumner County Republican describes improvements made to the camp which included separating the building into seven different apartments. The east room of the first floor contained the Commissary and Quartermaster store house. The west room on the first floor contained the Ordinance and Clothing Department. Other rooms on the first floor held the mess room, cook room and bake house. On the second floor were the rooms for non-commissioned officers, a news room, billiard room and orderly room. To the north of the building was the parade ground, stables and separate buildings for officers quarters. Units stationed at the barracks included detachments of the Fifth U.S. Cavalry and Forty-Fifth Infantry.

The building and property continued to be the headquarters for Union forces during their occupation of the city. Due to the building's limited income and his indebtedness, Moss sold the building in 1869 to Paul Dismukes for \$4,530. Dismukes is listed as an agricultural machine shop worker but whatever plans he had for the use of the building did not seem to materialize. Dismukes presumably had some type

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of business in the building which is unknown. He was unable to make payments on the building and in 1874 his property was auctioned and sold with the factory building and lot purchased by Samuel Roberts Simpson.

The factory building was purchased by Simpson as the site for his family's planing and lumber mill. Simpson was a native of Sumner County and was Captain and Quartermaster of the 30th Tennessee Infantry during the Civil War. Simpson was a careful observer and kept a diary and other papers while serving in the Confederate army. His diary and war correspondence has been preserved and is in a special collection in the Tennessee State Archives. After the war Simpson settled in Gallatin to open his milling business.

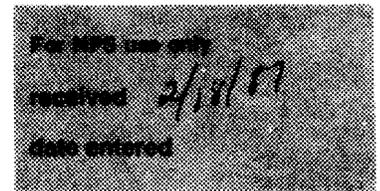
Simpson's Planing Mill was to become one of the leading manufacturing concerns in Gallatin for the next fifty years. The firm manufactured window sash, doors and blinds, much of which was shipped to the Nashville market. A map of Gallatin in 1888 shows in detail the property and buildings. The original brick factory building was used as the main office, display area and storage of the company while the second floor was used as a dwelling by the Simpson family. At the rear of the building is a two-story frame sawmill with engines, several sheds, a coal house and lumber storage platforms.

Maps of Gallatin from 1893 to 1913 are consistent in their descriptions of the Simpson Mill. The factory building remains the main office and storage of the company on the first floor while the second floor is used as a residence for the Simpson family. By 1898 the mill had expanded into the rear adjacent lot for more lumber storage. A photograph of the building taken ca. 1900 shows the exterior to be very similar to its present appearance. The main alteration has been the enclosure of the office doorway on the main facade.

With the death of Samuel Simpson in 1906, the mill passed into the hands his son, William Andrew Jackson Simpson, who operated the business until it closed in 1928. At that time the property was sold to John and Susie Swaney for \$6,000. The Swaneys converted the factory building into apartments and the frame mill buildings on the property were leased to the Tennessee Highway Department as storage facilities for many years.

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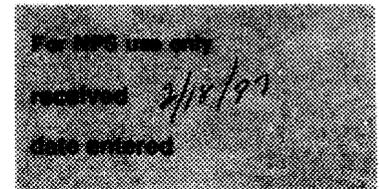
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The old factory building became known as the Swaney Apartments with the interior subdivided into four and six units. During the renovation into apartments the old office door on the main facade was bricked in, the two story porch in the ell was rebuilt and one-story porches were added on the rear facade. These apartments were occupied by many Gallatin residents over the next fifty years. In 1985 the property was purchased from descendants of the Swaney family and restored by the present owner. This restoration retained the remaining original interior and exterior features of the building.

The Williamson and Adams Carriage Factory building is a significant structure in the commercial history of Gallatin. It is one of the few early 19th century commercial buildings extant in the city and its exterior has not been greatly altered since its construction. During the 1850s the building housed a major carriage factory manufacturing company and it was later the site of the Simpson Planing Mill, also important in Gallatin commerce. The building is also significant in military history as the barracks for the Union occupation forces for several years after the Civil War and one of the few buildings remaining in downtown Gallatin associated with the Civil War era. The Williamson and Adams Carriage Factory building retains its original character and is an historical and architectural resource in Gallatin, Tennessee.

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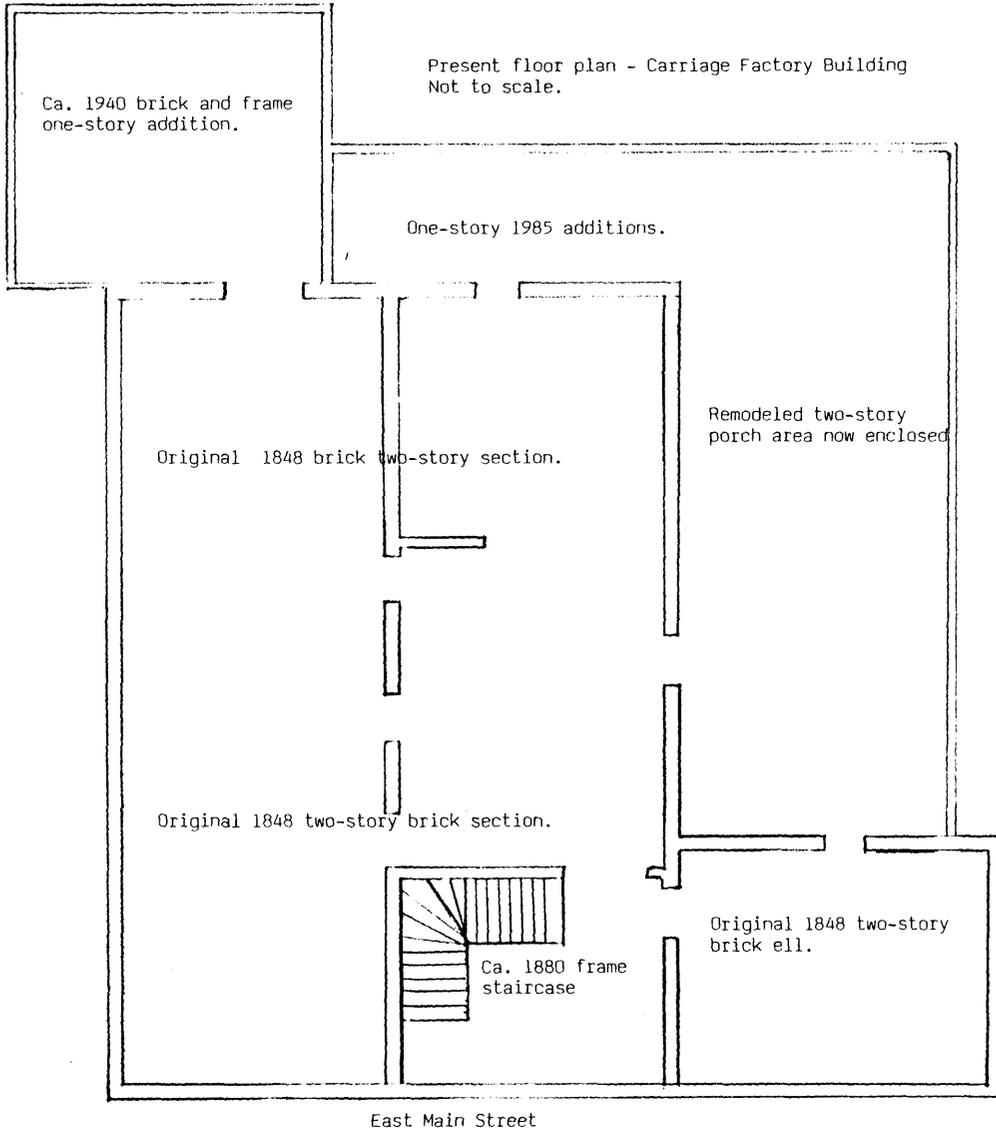
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Williamson and Adams Carriage Factory
136 E. Main Street
Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee

Floor plan. Not to scale
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Sumner County , Tennessee

Additional Information - Address Correction

Keeper Amy Schlage 10/5/87

9/1/87

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The address for the Williamson and Adams Carriage Factory was stated as 136 East Main Street, Gallatin, Sumner County. The correct address should be 326 East Main Street, Gallatin, Sumner County.