

PH0691283

LATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED
MAR 18 1977
AUG 22 1977

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

Gillespie, Colonel George, House

AND/OR COMMON

Old Limestone House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

off US 411

CITY, TOWN

Limestone

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

179

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jeffers Bros. Auction Company

STREET & NUMBER

201 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Jonesboro

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jonesboro

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

May 1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

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 one hundred and eighty-five-year-old Gillespie House is located on Old Highway 11E at Limestone, Tennessee, a small farming community that developed when the railroad was built through the county, west of Jonesboro.

The house is fronted by the old spring where George Gillespie first settled in 1772. The property was recently sold at auction to settle the H. M. Klepper estate. It contains a tenant house and a service station built across the road. These buildings are vacant and the present owners have decided to sell the property to a buyer interested in seeing it preserved.

Composed of two sections, the rectangular-shape principal mass is 2-1/2 stories tall, constructed of rough, quarried limestone bearing walls, tapering in from 24" foundation walls to a thickness of 12" at the gable story. Featuring the same type construction, a somewhat reduced scale, 1-1/2 story section is attached across the left end wall. The hillside lot allows for open access to the basement rooms of these parallel sections. At the front of the house, the attached porch and garage beneath extend across the length of this elevation. Behind the house is a new fram addition built for the rear porch and kitchen rooms.

The overall design features balanced facade articulation with the exception of the main entrance which is set slightly off-center. This door opens directly into the hall which is partitioned across the southeast end for two chambers. Featuring the same plan, the second story rooms are reached by way of a closeted panel staircase built into the north corner. A steep staircase extends up to the attic and is constructed with narrow, pie-shape winders with doors at each entrance. The adjoining wing consists of one principal room with a closeted staircase built in the north corner connecting to the attic and to the basement room. The basement room has a fireplace and is divided into two sections by the transverse bearing wall. The principal rooms have entrances on the front and on the back. The wide stone chimneys are built into the bearing walls and flanked by tiny attic windows set in the gable. There is a decorative niche in the gable end above the wing. The basic plan of the house has not been violated by the porch, garage, and kitchen additions. The roofing and decorative cornice featuring the Wall-of-Troy frets were added at a later date. The chimney is inscribed with the date "1792."

The interior is finished with a combination of original and new flooring, much of which is carpeted; the original floors were poplar. Where the ceiling is not boarded over, the joists are beaded and laid across with flooring finished on both sides and beaded underneath. The original roof framing consists of pole rafters joined by wood pegs. The pitch was changed when the roof was framed out over the shed and porch additions. The interior has been wired for electricity; heating vents and plumbing have been added. Wall finishes are plaster over masonry, painted or wallpapered, and feature narrow washboards, molded chair rails, and cove molding in the principal rooms. Rooms are partitioned by single-ply tongue and groove beaded board, vertical siding with chair rails and washboards to match the bearing wall finish. Windows are set 18" to 21" deep and have pegged frames and paneled casings with deep sills. In the principal rooms drawers have been added under the sills. Doors are 6'8" tall and 42" wide held by wrought iron strap hinges 36"

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long, bolted through the door. The cellar door is 57" tall. Mantles are 8' long and 61" tall. There were fireplaces in each room. Most of these have been remodeled or closed-off. The building was constructed in such a fashion that there are no signs of instability in the walls or floors. The house was occupied continuously until this past year.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 1792

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Seth Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built for permanence and durability, the Colonel George Gillespie stone house has remained a landmark in East Tennessee, since 1792 when it was erected by Seth Smith, a stone mason from Pennsylvania. Smith was a Quaker who immigrated to this area from Lancaster County where he had been a member of the New Hope Quaker Church. He is credited with building two of the few remaining, early stone houses in this area at Embreeville and at Rogersville. Built similar to a Pennsylvania farm house, the distinctive design is Early American in character. The house was built like a fortress of rough-cut squared and unsquared hand-quarried limestone. The 24" thick bearing walls are tapered in to 18" thickness at the eaves with musket ports 5' above the floor. With the exception of the porch and frame addition, the house has retained most of the features of the original design and carpentry.

Colonel George Gillespie was born in Ireland in 1735 and died in Limestone, Washington County in 1820. Colonel Gillespie was married to Elizabeth Young. To this union two children were born, Captain Thomas Gillespie and Martha Gillespie. Colonel Gillespie was married the second time to Elizabeth Allen. To this union were born: George, James, Allen, Elizabeth, Jane and John Gillespie. Colonel Gillespie willed the house to his daughter Martha, who sold it to Jacob Clark. Clark sold the house to Jacob Klepper in 1842 and the house remained in the Klepper family until it was sold to settle an estate in 1976.

George Gillespie was an early settler in the Watauga country, having been there in 1772. He purchased several thousand acres of land bounded by the Nolichucky River and the Big and Little Limestone and their tributaries. He bought land from Jacob Brown in 1772, which Brown had bought from the Cherokee Indians. The immigrants who came to settle in this area were continually under attack and they built a line of forts. Brown's settlement extended "down the Nolichucky below the mouth of the Big Limestone Creek." This area was vulnerable to attack by Indians incited by the British and a fort was built at George Gillespie's and a garrison was stationed there. Cherokees attacked the fort in 1777 but the inhabitants had withdrawn to Fort Watauga at Sycamore Shoals. The "Test Oath" was driving many Tories to the frontier. Suffering great difficulties and discouragements, in these early times, the settlers discharged the Tories and sheltered the refugee Whigs. Colonel Gillespie was named Colonel from the "Watauga Rifles, 1756." He fought with Marion and with Washington at Yorktown. Colonel Gillespie is listed among those signing the petition "of the inhabitants of the western country" in 1789 to the Assembly of North Carolina, praying a separation from that state--the inception of a movement ending in the formation of the State of Franklin. Captain Thomas Gillespie fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain with Colonel John Sevier.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Klepper, H. M. "Gillespie-Klepper Stone House" unpublished notes, October 6, 1971, Limestone, TN.
 "The Old Stone House, Home of George Gillespie" History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee, ed. Roberta S. Brandau. Parthenon Press, 1936.
Tennessee Historical Markers, Tennessee Historical Commission, 1972.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.26 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	7
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3	5	3	2	4	0
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4	0	0	9	7	4	0
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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The area being nominated consists of 2.26 acres as described by the enclosed survey plat.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail E. Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

February 1977

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Hager

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

3/14/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/20/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-18-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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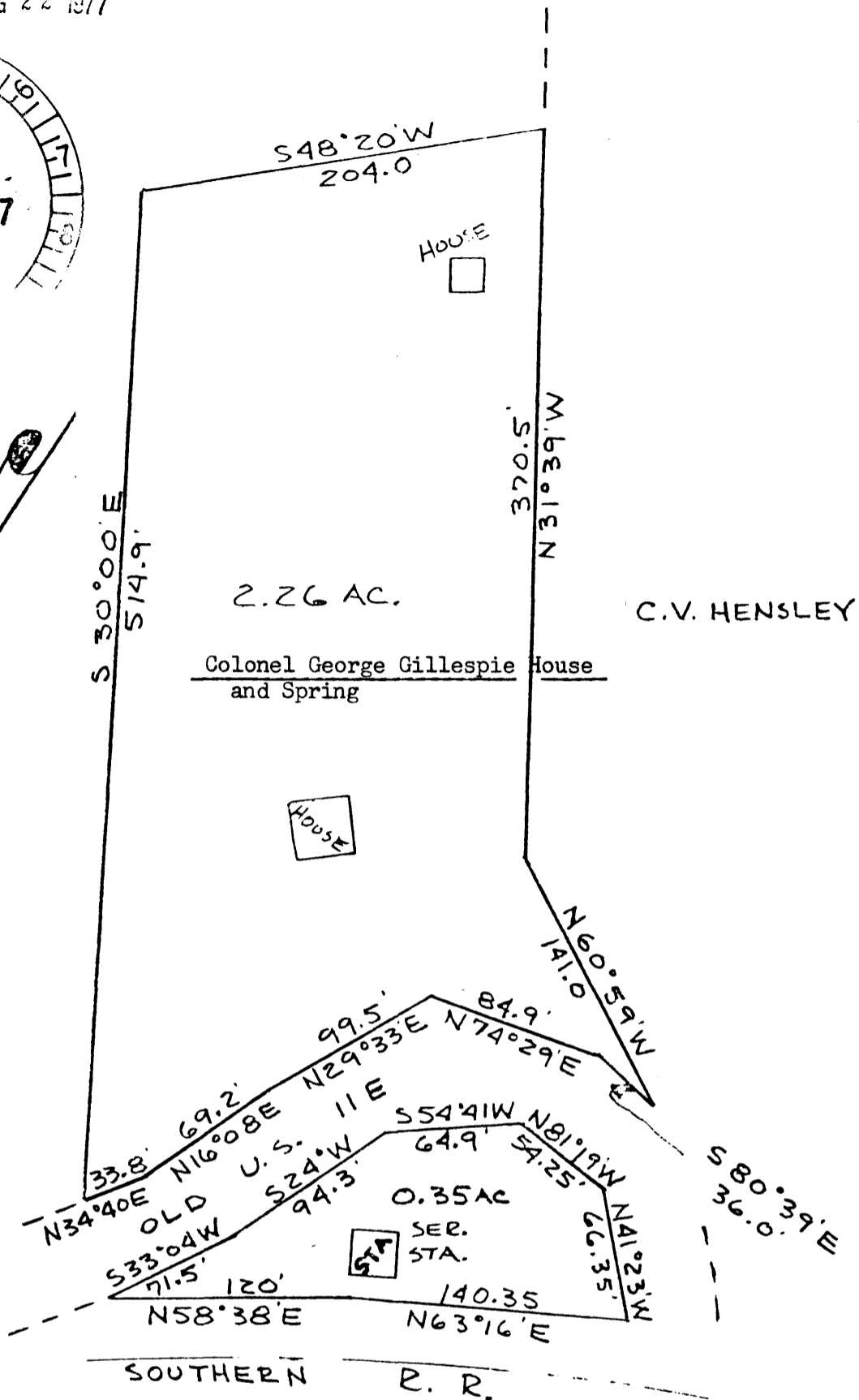
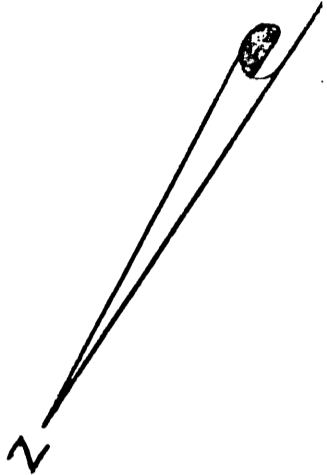
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In 1783 the line dividing Washington and Greene counties was described as running from Iron Mountain in a direct line to George Gillespie's house, at or near the mouth of the Big Limestone Creek.

The stage route from Philadelphia passed through this area and John Sevier, Landon Carter, Jonathan Tipton, Andrew Jackson, Hugh Lawson White, James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson have paused to drink at the copious Gillespie spring.

AUG 22 1977



H.M. KLEPPER ESTATE
 18th CIVIL DIST. WASHINGTON CO
 TENNESSEE

MAY 28, 1977

David S. [Signature]