

**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 Captain William Sims House

and/or common Sims House

2. Location

street & number Route 2, Liberty Road N/A not for publication

city, town Greenfield *ms.* vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Tennessee code 047 county Weakley code 183

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 checked="" 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 Mrs. Peggy Sims O'Dell

street & number 5209 Dutchman Drive

city, town Raleigh N/A vicinity of state North Carolina 27606

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Weakley County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Dresden state Tennessee 38225

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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Captain Williams Sims House, located in the rural community of Liberty in Weakley County, is a two-story, three bay Greek Revival style farmhouse. Originally constructed as a rectangular frame house, the ell wing was added in 1880. Located on the central bay of the principal facade is a two-story pedimented portico. There are two brick exterior, gable-end chimneys on the original section. The roof style is gable.

The foundation is full brick which was added in 1947 and replaced the original brick pier foundation. The exterior walls of the original section and the ell wing are covered with weatherboard siding. The brick chimneys have two flues which serve an upstairs and downstairs fireplace. The present roof covering is asphalt shingles.

The first and third bays of the principal facade consist of six-over-six sash windows in both the first and second floors. The wooden window surrounds are without any decorative trim. The central bay displays the most prominent features of the Sims House. A simple Greek Revival door unit with unembellished pilasters surrounds a double-leaf door. A rectangular transom, broken by simple engaged piers, is flanked by multi-paned sidelights. An identical door unit is located on the second floor of the central bay. The two-story portico is supported by two brick pillars on the first floor which were added in 1947 and four wooden pillars on the second story. An original balustrade with slender turned balusters has been retained on the second story balcony. A deep, slightly overhanging entablature is capped by a pediment with raking cornice and weatherboarded typanum.

The main section of the Sims House still retains the original woodwork, wainscotting, and flooring, which is yellow pine over oak. The house is presently being restored by Mrs. Peggy Sims O'Dell of Raleigh, North Carolina. Plans for the restoration include: the replacement of the brick pillars with four wooden ones identical to the four remaining pillars; reconstruction of the original dining room stairway to the second floor; and painting the exterior walls.

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/
<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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1859-1861 **Builder/Architect** William Sims

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria C

The Sims House, built 1859-1861, is an example of the simplified Greek Revival style residence which wealthy farmers adopted to suit their social positions. It is one of the few remaining vernacular adaptations of Greek Revival architecture to be found in northwest Tennessee. The Simses were among the first families to settle in what is now Weakley County and have continued to play an integral part in the agricultural and community development of the Liberty area.

In the early 1800s Dr. Guilford Sims emigrated to the United States from England. After a short residence in Virginia and North Carolina, he purchased 1,000 acres in West Tennessee and moved his family to the newly established and organized county of Weakley. Upon his death, his son, William Vanna, undertook the responsibilities of managing their large farm. In the fall of 1859 William hired local carpenters to construct a new family home and by early 1861 the house was completed.

During August and September 1861, the 31st Tennessee Infantry Regiment was organized. William enlisted and was sent to Camp Trenton in Gibson County. In October 1861, he was commissioned as captain of Company I. William and his company, comprised of other Weakley County men, were stationed at Columbus, Kentucky; Corinth, Mississippi; Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and Shelbyville, Tennessee. During the battle of Franklin in November 1864, William Sims was shot and killed.

William's oldest son, John, became head of the family and, after the war, began farming the land which had been reduced in acreage. The task of continuing to work a productive farm was inherited by John's oldest son, Zera, and later by his son, Guilford.

Today, the house is owned by Mrs. Peggy Sims O'Dell, great-granddaughter of Captain William Vanna Sims. Mrs. O'Dell is in the process of restoring the interior of the house; restoration of the central portico is scheduled to begin in 1981.

9. Major Bibliographical References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Tennesseans in the Civil War. (Nashville: Civil War Centennial Commission, 1964), pp. 240-241 in Part One and p. 367 in Part Two.
"The TenneScene," February 1972; supplement to the Weakley County Press, pp. 2-3.

10. Geographical Data

SCALE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 3.5

Quadrangle name Pillowville, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	3	4	6	5	2	0	4	0	7	6	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

The northern boundary for the Sims House begins 25 feet north of the intersection of the driveway and Dresden-Liberty Road. From this point it runs 165 feet east in a straight line to a point northeast of the house. From there it runs 62 feet south to a point

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cate Hamilton, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Northwest Tennessee Development District date December, 1980

street & number Weldon Drive, P.O. Box 63 telephone (901) 587-4213

city or town Martin state Tennessee 38237

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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Byers

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/12/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Alvina Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>3/25/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet Captain William Sims House Item number 10

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southeast of the house. From this point it runs 165 feet west to the Dresden-Liberty Road. From there it runs north along the Dresden-Liberty Road to the beginning point of the boundary. The boundaries are drawn to include the house, approximately 35 feet on each side and to the rear (north, south, and east), and the front (west) yard extending from the house to the road in front. Because the house is situated on a large farm, it was necessary, in the absence of visual boundaries, to draw an imaginary boundary. This boundary includes the house and 3.5 acres shown on the accompanying tax map.