

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JUN 10 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Whitfield, Copeland, House other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number Bee Line Highway city, town Pulaski state Tennessee code TN county Giles code TN055 zip code 38478

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public and building/district/site/structure/object, and counts for contributing/noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Robert L. Byrum Date: 6/6/88 Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: Entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone
walls Weatherboard
roof Tin, Asphalt
other Log, brick, wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated on its original site on the Elkton or Bee Line Highway (U. S. Hwy 31/TN SR 7) one mile south of Pulaski, county seat of Giles County, Tennessee, the Copeland Whitfield House illustrates the transition between early log construction and the romantic Greek Revival style of architecture which prevailed in the area during the 1830s and 1840s. The small five room house is one of the better examples of Greek Revival influenced architecture in Giles County, and one of very few houses depicting the transition between a simple log building and the more studied revival style.

The building originated as a single pen log house, probably constructed in the early 1830s by Copeland Whitfield (1802-1891), an early settler who was originally from Virginia. This one room building, twenty feet by twenty feet in dimension, is now the north room of the main block of the present house. In 1847 the house was enlarged and redecorated for Whitfield. Utilizing frame construction, the main facade was extended to three bays, creating a central passage plan house; a rear service ell was also added at this time. Decorative features on the remodeled house were done in a vernacular adaptation of the popular Greek Revival style. Distinguishing features included its central pedimented portico and cornice with dentil trim.

Whitfield's house rests on a continuous limestone foundation. The gabled roof on the front section of the house is covered with standing seam tin, while the rear section is covered with asphalt shingles. Dentil trim embellishes the cornice on the facade. The main facade faces southwest towards the Elkton Highway. Three bays wide, the facade is centered on the pedimented portico which is supported by four square paneled wooden columns. Behind this and at the corners are matching wooden pilasters. At the center underneath the portico is a double-leaf entry flanked by sidelights and topped by a traceried 'Chippendale-influenced' transom. Windows to either side are double-hung sashes with 9/9 lights, topped by denticulated cornices, and flanked by old louvered wooden shutters on original hardware.

The northwest and southeast gable ends of the front section are basically identical. Each has exterior brick chimneys with stone weatherings. One 9/9 light double-hung sash is located on the northwest elevation and two 9/9 light double-hung sashes are situated on the southeast elevation, one

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2 Whitfield, Copeland, House

to either side of that chimney. Both elevations feature small fixed four-light gable windows, one to either side of the chimney. It is not certain if these windows are original features or if they date from the 1847 remodeling.

Off the northern corner of the northeast or rear facade is a rear ell, probably dating from the 1847 remodeling. The northwest elevation contains a four-panel wooden door with a transom and cornice lintel and two 9/9 double-hung sashes flanked by louvered shutters and capped by cornice lintels. The northeast elevation contains a single leaf door and a 4/4 double-hung sash. A center ridge line chimney is visible on this section. A shed roof porch on the southeast elevation, probably contemporary with the construction of the rear ell, was enclosed in the early twentieth century. This alteration is the only significant change to the structure and it is not visible from any principal view of the house.

The interior is of considerable interest as it, too, illustrates the transition between the decoration of typical log houses of the period to the Greek Revival style. The house is presently arranged on the common central passage plan, with the log section to the northwest side and extended by the 1847 additions across the hall and to the rear.

The log section still contains its original doors, a small enclosed stair located in a chimney breast, original plaster walls, ash floors, and a plain mantelpiece. The 1847 frame section contains its original doors, wainscoting, and mantels. Some of the decoration in all parts of the house probably dates from the 1847 remodeling; this includes doors with shouldered architraves, chair rails, baseboards, and paneled window aprons.

The ell contains one large room, possibly a dining room, to the rear of the log section. This large rectangular room has paneled wooden doors leading to the hall, to a small kitchen at the back of the ell, and to the outside. Plain paneled wooden wainscoting is located on all walls, while a large 9/9 light double-hung sash is on the northwest wall. The small kitchen at the end of the ell features a cast iron coal-burning fireplace on the southwest wall, sharing the dining room chimney.

Upstairs is a small loft over the log section. The loft consists of a single room with unfinished walls of exposed logs and ceiling rafters, an unfinished poplar floor, and two small fixed windows to either side of the chimney. A narrow attic, accessed by a hatch from the log garret, is located over the later frame section.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Whitfield, Copeland, House

The building has been somewhat altered. A shed porch along the rear ell was enclosed about 1910. Three rooms in the house have ca. 1930 pine floors, laid over the original ash, which could again be exposed by removing the pine. About 1960, lowered acoustical tile ceilings in the central hall and the log room were put in. The property owners plan to remove these in the near future, as well as to stabilize the building and make needed repairs.

One small outbuilding is located just behind the house. This ca. 1900 vertical board frame building was a smokehouse, but about 1984 was damaged by tenants who tore off the northwest wall in order to provide a place to repair automobiles. The building has a front gable tin roof and two small open shed sections, probably original, at either side. At the northwest side of the house is a small cinder block cistern that dates from the early twentieth century.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G NA

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca 1830s; ca 1847

Significant Dates

ca 1830s;
ca 1847

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Copeland Whitfield House, located south of the Giles County, Tennessee, seat of Pulaski (pop. 7,195), is nominated for its local architectural significance. The house is a good example of a log building that was remodeled into a rather stylish Greek Revival house. Surviving log buildings from this period are not common in Giles County, where most houses of this sort were soon replaced with more substantial structures. In this case, the original log residence was not replaced but was incorporated into a new, larger residence. The interior of the log portion was plastered and a new door put in, but this section still retains its original fireplace and an interesting boxed corner staircase. The exterior of the residence is characteristic, in a simple way, of the Greek Revival style. Important stylistic features include a pedimented portico supported by paneled wooden columns, multi-light sashes, and dentil trim.

Copeland Whitfield, son of John and Lucy Jenkins Whitfield, was born in South Hampton County, Virginia on October 27, 1802. The family came to southern Giles County, Tennessee in 1824, settling around Poplar Hill and Liberty.

Copeland Whitfield first appears in court records in 1831, when he recorded a deed for eighty-five acres of land he purchased from Sarah B. Hopkins; he added another fifty acres purchased from Willis Johnson the next year. The log house may date from this period. Whitfield first married Susan Harwell and, after her death, married again to Nancy Adell Butler (1849-1904). Whitfield was a large property owner who, with five others, at one time owned 21,000 acres in Middle Tennessee. He also owned a considerable number of slaves. According to a family story, Union soldiers hanged Whitfield in a robbery attempt and left him for dead, but the slaves cut him down and saved his life. Whitfield is shown still living at the house on the 1878 D. G. Beers map of Giles County. He died in 1891; his widow, Nancy Whitfield, lived on in the house until her death in 1904. The property then passed to a son, Copeland George Whitfield (1882-1946). The younger Whitfield married Ella May Cardin (1881-1980), and she lived in the house until her death. The house remains in the possession of descendants.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Whitfield family records, collection of Adelaide Hulme, Nashville.

Slater, Margaret. Documentation for Adverse Effect on the Proposed State Route 15 Improvements (Pulaski Bypass). Nashville, Tennessee Department of Transportation, 1987.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 - previously listed in the National Register
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 2 acres

UTM References

A

1	6
---	---

4	9	8	5	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	9	1	9	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Pulaski, Tennessee 59NE

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include sufficient property to protect the historic integrity of the resources.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Quin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization South Central Tennessee Development District date February 1988

street & number P.O.Box 1346/815 South Main Street telephone 615/381-2040

city or town Columbia state TN zip code 38402-1346

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2 Whitfield, Copeland, House

Architecturally, the house is significant as an example of Greek Revival cottage architecture and as an example of a log structure being expanded into a more formally detailed house. While the county is dotted with dozens of examples of Greek Revival houses, often in very formal high-style interpretations, the remodeling of the early log structure into the more prosperous home of a substantial county farmer is unusual. Only one other example is known, the John Edmundson House (ca. 1850) near Bethel in extreme southern Giles County. It is a much larger two story house built around a larger, double pen log structure.

The Greek Revival exterior decoration of the Whitfield house is similar to that of several other Giles County properties. A similar Greek Revival house from the same period is the George W. Tillery House (NR7/5/85) near Riversburg in northern Giles County. Like the Whitfield house, the single story frame Tillery house has a central pedimented portico with matching paneled wooden columns, denticulated cornice, and sidelighted entry. However, the Tillery house was built in a single period of construction, is of a somewhat large scale, and rests on a brick foundation with a full cellar below. Other examples of Greek Revival architecture in the county include Clifton Place (NR4/11/73), a much larger brick house of a scale unequalled in the county, and its sister house, the once magnificent but now ruined Crescent View Farm. Examples of a similar scale as the Whitfield house include Wilkerson Place (NR10/23/86), where a Greek Revival facade was added to an earlier Federal influence house, and the Newton White House (NR10/22/87) near Waco in the northern section of the county, a small scale Greek Revival house with successive additions. By comparison, the Copeland Whitfield House is simpler in stylistic influences and, additionally, it illustrates the evolution of a house.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 2 Whitfield, Copeland, House

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

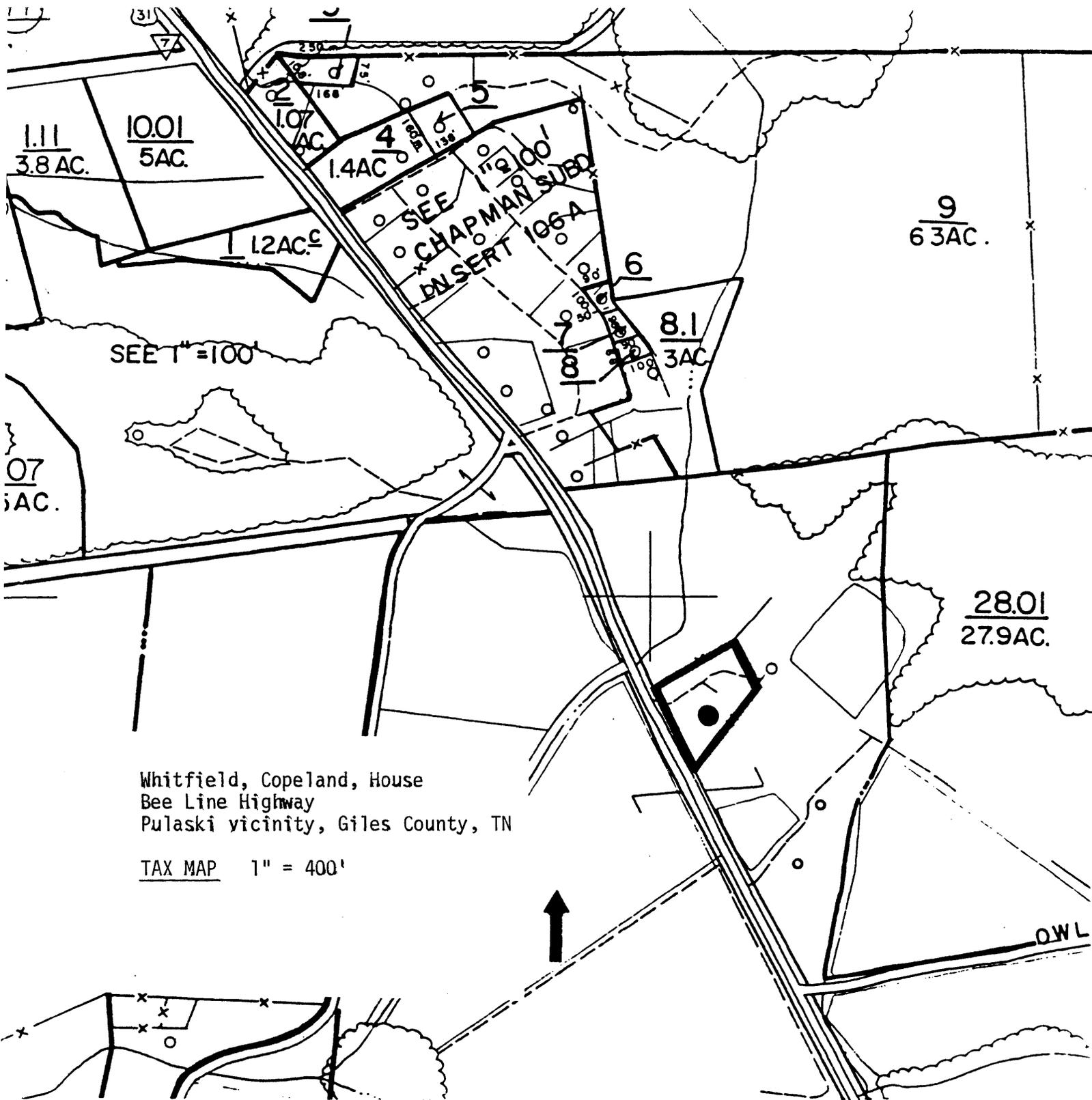
The boundary is shown on the accompanying Giles County tax map. It follows the road and fence lines. The boundary is as follows:

"Beginning at a point on the east side of State Route 11, sixty feet to the northwest of the driveway to the Whitfield House then following the road to the southwest for 290 feet to a point where it turns and follows the fence in a northeast direction for 320 feet and then turns to follow the fence for 150 feet in a northwest direction where it turns to follow the fenceline in a southwest direction to the beginning point at the road."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 3 Whitfield, Copeland, House



Whitfield, Copeland, House
Bee Line Highway
Pulaski vicinity, Giles County, TN

TAX MAP 1" = 400'

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs 1 Whitfield, Copeland, House
Section number _____ Page _____

Whitfield Copeland House
Bee Line Highway
Pulaski vicinity, Giles County, Tennessee
Photos: Richard Quin
Date: February 1988
Negs: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

Southwest facade, facing northeast
#1 of 8

Northwest elevation, facing southeast
#2 of 8

Northeast elevation, facing southwest
#3 of 8

Southeast elevation, facing northwest
#4 of 8

Northwest parlor (log section), facing northwest
#5 of 8

Southeast room (frame section), facing southeast
#6 of 8

Garret, facing northwest
#7 of 8

Smokehouse, facing northeast
#8 of 8