

**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 Overton Lane

and/or common Kirkman Lane

2. Location

Kirkman Lane

street & number Between Granny White Pike and Lealand Lane; and between
Battery Lane and Stonewall Drive ___ not for publication

city, town Oak Hill ___ vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Tennessee code 047 county Davidson code 037

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County and multiple owners

street & number Public Square

city, town Nashville ___ vicinity of state Tennessee 37201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

street & number Public Square

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37201

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 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

Overton Lane, dating from the late 1840s, is a nineteenth century rural road in a twentieth century suburban neighborhood. Currently, Overton Lane serves as a boundary line and bridle/jogging path. Approximately 30 feet wide, the lane follows its original alignment as a boundary between the Overton and Lea estates.

The antebellum rock wall on the southern edge of Overton Lane is substantially present. Built of closely fitted native limestone, and approximately 3½ feet high and 8 to 12 inches wide, the wall along the lane is one of the few remaining examples of an extensive boundary wall surviving in Nashville. Overton Lane extends for over two miles, and fords formerly bridged streams, where bridge abutments still remain in place. Along the .7 mile nominated section of Overton Lane, both the road and most of its wall have remained unchanged and intact in spite of the residential properties bordering on either side. The wall is easily visible, and the lane, unused by any vehicles, allows easy travelling by foot or horseback.

Outside of the nominated section of the lane, important in the Battle of Nashville, much of Overton Lane has been reclaimed by trees and undergrowth, and portions of the wall have fallen or been removed.

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

Specific dates ca. 1845

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Overton Lane is significant as a virtually unaltered antebellum road, and as an important line of defense in the Battle of Nashville. The lane began as a wall dividing the estates of Judge John Overton and Judge John M. Lea, and was built around the time of the marriage of Overton's daughter Elizabeth, to Lea in 1845. Extending from Franklin Pike to Granny White Pike for a distance of 2 miles, the wall was soon paralleled by a narrow wagon road, soon widened, that served as the only transportation route connecting the two pikes outside of Nashville, except for Old Hickory Boulevard 4 miles south of the lane.

Overton Lane achieved military significance during the Battle of Nashville. On December 16, 1864, when General John B. Hood's attempts to regain Nashville from Union troops were in jeopardy, a defensive line was hastily drawn between Shy's Hill to the west and Peach Orchard Hill to the east in order to repulse the advances of Generals Schofield, Smith, Wood, and Steedman. The middle portion of this defensive line was the nominated portion of Overton Lane and its substantial rock wall. Behind the wall were a division of General A. P. Stewart's men commanded by Generals Loring and Walthall. The fall of Shy's Hill to Union troops caused the withdrawal of the Confederate forces toward Brentwood. However, the men at this defensive wall held until the last command to retreat. In effect, this was the scene of the last piece of organized action in the Battle of Nashville.

After the war, Overton Lane was again used as a carriage and farm road, and remained the only connecting road between Franklin and Granny White Pikes until the turn of the century. The road was gradually abandoned by vehicles as new roads were built, and was never used by automobiles. At this time the area's farms were subdivided, and the area became part of the suburban community of Oak Hill.

Despite the surrounding residential neighborhood, Overton Lane has retained its integrity of location, and its original design, materials, and workmanship are intact. Although its setting has altered, with houses visible thru the bordering trees, the lane retains its atmosphere of a slower, rural life. Overton Lane is now used as a jogging and bridle path, but recently a developer attempted to use the lane as an access to a building complex. Local residents protested this action, and are attempting to preserve this early road significant for its transportation and military associations. As a recent newspaper stated, "Most would agree the lane is the heritage of a community which appreciates and enjoys it, and hopes it can remain."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clayton, W.W., A History of Davidson County, Nashville, Tennessee, Elder, 1971.
 Horn, Stanley, Decisive Battle of Nashville, Knoxville, Tennessee, University of Tennessee 1968.
 Huddleston, E., "The Civil War in Tennessee," Part IV, The Nashville Banner, Nov.14, 1964.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 2.28 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Oak Hill

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	1	7	9	9	0	3	9	9	3	3	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	6	5	1	8	9	8	0	3	9	9	3	2	7	0
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 nominated property consists of a single 2.28 acre tract of land that contains the roadway of Overton (Kirkman) Lane and the rock wall on its southern edge, and measures 3312' x 30'. This section of Overton Lane was chosen for nomination because it is the

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Toplovich, Cultural Resource Surveyor

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date February 1980

street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371

city or town Nashville, state Tennessee 37219

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 2/6/80

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce date 7/17/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristin J. O'Connell date 2/25/80
 Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1980

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The Nashville American, December, 1889.

Walker, Hugh, "Shy's Hill Captured for Second Time," The Nashville Tennessean,
December 13, 1959.

_____, "Kirkman Lane: Link with Carriage Days," The Nashville Tennessean,
July 1, 1979.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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best preserved section of the lane (other portions having become grown over and parts of its wall removed) and the most significant section historically (this section serving as part of a line of defense during the Battle of Nashville). The nominated section of Overton (Kirkman) Lane is outlined in red on the accompanying map of 1 inch = 200 feet scale. The original maps (P131C and P132D) are located at the Planning Commission of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County in Nashville, Tennessee.