

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

MAR 29 1984

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Amis, Jonathan House

and/or common Amis-Crotts House

2. Location

street & number Covey Hollow Road, N/A not for publication

city, town McCains —X vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Maury code 119

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Crotts

street & number 1501 Lyon

city, town Columbia N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maury County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maury County Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Central Tennessee Development District

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

Situated in the rolling hills south of the McCains community in Maury County, Tennessee, the Jonathan Amis House is an excellent example of the Greek Revival architecture of the south central Tennessee region. The six-room two-story frame house is laid out on a central-passage plan and displays details characteristic of the Greek Revival style. The house is sited on a hilltop off Covey Hollow Road, some 2500 feet east of the Columbia-Pulaski Pike, about eight miles south of Columbia and two miles south of the McCains community.

The house is constructed of yellow poplar that is well-preserved. Four rooms and an entrance hall are located on the ground level; at the rear an enclosed shed section contains a porch and two small service rooms. Two rooms and a center hall are located on the second level, which is connected to the first by a staircase in the center hall. The house has a new tin roof and a limestone foundation. A food cellar is located under the south end of the house; on the north side a full storm cellar with stone walls and ceiling is situated beside the house. There is an exit from the house directly into this cellar.

The main, or west facade of the house is three bays wide. Monumental Doric order corner pilasters are at either side of the house, and a deep entablature runs across the entire front. The entry is an excellent example of nineteenth-century carpentry; the door is framed by two unengaged antae columns and set within sidelights and matching pilasters. The door surround is topped with a transom and a dentiled cornice. A one-story porch with a heavy pediment originally extended from the house at this point; the porch is stored inside the house and can be reconstructed. The sash windows on the front are set over molded dado panels and have molded cornices with dentil courses matching the detailing of the front entry. The windows have louvered wooden shutters.

At both side elevations of the house are original brick chimneys set on limestone bases. At the second-story level, the chimneys are set back away from the walls and the roof. A four panel door and two windows are located on the south side elevation; two windows only are found on the north. The one-story shed section at the rear elevation is original and consists of an enclosed porch and two small service rooms. The center rear door is flanked by two simple square columns; a plain batten door opens to the storm cellar at the north end. Original mantels are still intact in four rooms of the house, as is the original stairway.

Also on the property is the original smokehouse, a small frame structure in fair condition. The only other outbuilding is a c. 1930 frame barn.

The Jonathan Amis House has been unoccupied for a number of years and is in a deteriorated condition. But the unaltered building retains its integrity, having all its original walls and major structural and decorative elements.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 1857-58 **Builder/Architect** William J. Williams

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jonathan Amis House, built in 1857-58 is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture of Maury County, Tennessee, and is nominated under National Register criterion C. The house with its particular classical detailing is an uncommon type in the area and is significant for the excellence of its craftsmanship and detailing.

The property on which the house stands was part of 537 acres granted to William Pillow by the State of Tennessee in 1820. (Grant #36928). On October 27, 1837 William Pillow sold 122 acres to Jonathan Amis who owned the property for thirty years and who had the house constructed. The house was built by William J. Williams, a carpenter who lived in the vicinity. Williams left an inscription on an upstairs floor joist (1857) and on a small door leading into the space above the front porch. ("William J. Williams, Carpenter, May 15, 1858"). The property remained in the Amis family until 1890 when Jonas T. and Bettie Amis sold the property to A.B.M. and W. G. Walker. Three years later, after A.B.M. Walker had purchased that part belonging to W. G. Walker, he sold the place to Mrs. James H. Morgan. In 1907 Mrs. Morgan sold the property to the John T. Petty family, who owned the house and property until it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Crotts in 1981.

The house is one of the best examples of the country carpenter's art in south central Tennessee. The Jonathan Amis House is laid out on the common central-passage plan but has classical details characteristic of the Greek Revival style which survived in Maury County until the Civil War. Of particular architectural interest are the monumental pilasters at the front corners; the ornamental door and window surrounds; the setback brick chimneys, and the stone cellars at the two ends of the house. The structure is in deteriorated condition but retains much of its original fabric and character.

Although the Jonathon Amis House has been vacant for a number of years and is in deteriorated condition, the present owners plan to sympathetically restore the house for their residence.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Garrett, Jill Knight. Maury County, Tennessee Historical Sketches. Columbia, TN: n.p., 1967.
Interview with Jill Garrett, Maury County Historian. October 1983.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 6.9 acres

Quadrangle name Lynnville, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References - not available $35^{\circ} 29' 27''$ North Latitude
 $87^{\circ} 2' 43''$ West Longitude

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard H. Quin
South Central
organization Tennessee Development District date August 1983
street & number P. O. Box 1346 telephone (615) 381-2040
city or town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

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.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hoyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 3/22/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

4/26/84

for Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet Amis, Jonathan House Item number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The nominated property is roughly rectangular in shape with a triangular projection on its western boundary. Imaginary lines form the northern, eastern, southern, and part of the western boundaries of the lot, the remainder of the western boundary being determined by an adjoining property line. The nomination includes the minimum land needed to protect the architectural and historical integrity of the house.

