

**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 Joseph Hill House

and/or common ^{or} Hill-Hance House (preferred)

2. Location E of Chestnut Hill off US 411

street & number Grapevine Hollow Road (off State Route 35/US 411) N/A not for publication

city, town Chestnut Hill vic. vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Tennessee code 047 county Jefferson code 089

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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
<u>N/A</u>	<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 Mrs. John C. (Ira Hill) Hance

street & number Route 4

city, town Dandridge N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37725

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Jefferson County Courthouse

city, town Dandridge state Tennessee 37725

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 701 Broadway

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hill-Hance House sits in a narrow valley in the hills and mountains west of the Great Smoky Mountains. It faces the graveled Grapevine Hollow Road, once the main road between Newport and Knoxville, although it is most often seen from State Route 35 (US 411), the two lane highway running to its rear. Family history says the house was built when Tennessee became a state in 1796; architectural evidence agrees with a construction date of ca. 1800. It is a double house with center chimney, often called a "saddlebag" house. The poplar log construction is covered by weatherboard siding and a standing seam metal gable roof. The central limestone chimney is almost hidden because the top courses above the ridge are missing; however, it is completely intact inside the building. Underneath the house, the base of the chimney is connected to a large stone cellar which acts as a partial foundation. The land under the house slopes slightly so that the stone pier foundation exposes the chimney base. Two porches, which were later enclosed, have been the only alterations to the exterior. The porch across the original front was added and enclosed after the house was constructed, although the date is unknown. The porch facing SR 35 was added after the highway was built (1911), but was not enclosed until the 1970s. Older photographs show wooden shingles on the one-story porch roof; these were later replaced by standing seam metal strips. The basic structure has survived intact; only the minor shed-type porch additions alter its original form. No significant alterations have compromised the integrity of the Hill-Hance House.

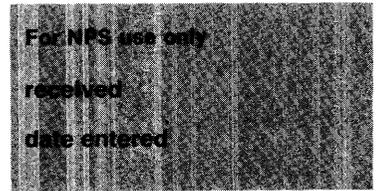
The double house arrangement can be readily seen in the southern elevation. A vertical board divides the weatherboard siding into two separate sections, each with its own single leaf door. The windows vary greatly in shape, size, and arrangement. On the eastern section, double 6/1 windows are to the left of the door, while a smaller single window is at the right. The western section has twin short, wide windows to the left of the door and a single long, narrow 2/2 window to the right. In addition, a single 6/6 window opens to the second floor above each door. A set of wooden stairs remains at one door; the other set was replaced by concrete steps.

The original rear of the building faces SR 35. It is dominated by full length porch that has been partially enclosed. The enclosed area is weatherboarded, with one small window. The remaining section of the porch has two windows on the left of a single door. Wooden columns support the roof covering the wood-slat porch. The only rear opening to the second story is the single sash rectangular window above the enclosed area of the porch. Three windows are on the east elevation: one in each addition, and one in the main block. The western elevation has one window in the second floor of the main block, and one in the southern addition.

Several original architectural elements have remained unchanged in the interior. In the roof truss system, the rafters and collar beams are half-lapped and pinned, and the wall plate rests on its side. These unusual construction techniques help to date the building to ca. 1800. A rare interior feature is the ladder-like stairway between the first and second floors. It has no risers, only treads, all but one of which are set

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Hill-Hance House Item number 7 Page 2

in grooves in the stringers. The bottom tread is tied to the stringer with a wooden pin. On the second floor of the enclosed southern addition, original chinking can be seen between exposed logs. The western room on the first floor retains its unusual original mantle, a simple plank supported by four overlapping wooden boards on each side. The original stone hearths remain in the floor.

All the windows were replaced in the early twentieth century. The doors are older, but not original. Fireplaces from the central chimney remain in the two main rooms on the first floor, although both openings have been covered. The only other interior alterations are floor, wall, and ceiling coverings.

Several outbuildings are scattered on the hillside to the south of the house. The oldest appear to be a log corn crib and the log portions of the barn. Both have been expanded by frame additions and are covered by standing seam metal gable roofs. The corn crib has hewn logs, joined by primarily "v" notching. Only a few interior pens in the barn are log; most of it is frame with either clapboard or vertical board covering the exterior walls.

Two frame outbuildings with standing seam metal gable roofs sit to the west of the Hill-Hance House. A frame springhouse straddles the creek to the other side of these outbuildings. It is covered with asphalt roll paper, has a concrete block foundation, and is topped by a standing seam metal roof. Both the garage building and the outhouse are weatherboarded, frame, shed-roofed buildings. The shed between the outhouse and the barn is also frame, but covered in vertical board with a metal shed roof. A small wooden bridge crosses the creek that runs through the property.

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 ca. 1800 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Nominated under National Register criterion C, the Hill-Hance House is one of a very limited group of late eighteenth-early nineteenth century log houses remaining in Tennessee. It is a particularly fine example of a "saddlebag" house, more accurately known as a double room house with a center chimney. Unlike many houses its age, this house has had little alteration and retains many original features such as the log construction, limestone chimney, and a rare ladder staircase. Although the exact year of construction is not known, the structural details date this building to ca. 1800. Tennessee has very few houses surviving from this early period; most of those which do are either of frame or stone construction. It is even more unusual that this building has survived with so few alterations. Only two porches have been added to the original structure, both of which have been enclosed.

The double house type with its center chimney is often called the "saddlebag" today because one log pen appears attached to a complete log house at the chimney wall. Actually the older name more accurately describes the type, as the Hill-Hance House demonstrates. The two log units are structurally independent, yet both are served by a single chimney with two fireplaces. Architectural evidence indicates both were constructed at the same time, or within a short period of each other.

Many distinctive architectural features remain in the Hill-Hance House. The limestone chimney is original and has lost only its top few courses above the ridge line. The foundation of the chimney and the partial stone cellar, easily seen beneath the house, are evidence of its early construction. The weatherboard siding has protected the logs and some of the original chinking, both of which can be seen in the second floor on the enclosed southern porch. Rafters and collar beams are half-lapped and pinned, a joining technique used primarily prior to 1800. An unusual, original mantle remains in the western room on the first floor. One of the most significant surviving elements of this house is the original ladder-like stairway to the second floor.

Only one of the outbuildings retains its original materials, workmanship, and design. The log corn crib displays a common design and materials used in such structures. Buildings of this type are difficult to date, but it is possible that the corn crib is as old as the house itself.

The builder of the Hill-Hance House is unknown. However, the house has been associated with the family of Joseph Hill from at least the early 1800s. Joseph Hill (1778-1855) came to Tennessee from Virginia prior to 1800 and in 1807 married Suzanna McMinn in Jefferson County. (Joseph Hill was the owner of the house by at least 1827 as evidenced by the fact that his daughter, Margaret Quintine Hill, was born at the house.) The house has remained in the family since it was occupied by Joseph Hill. Today, the house is owned by Ira Hill Hance, great-granddaughter of Joseph and Suzanna Hill.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Walker, Edward R. III. "A Nearby Family," The Cocke County Banner, 7 September 1970. p.6.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Approximately 3.0 acres

Quadrangle name Chestnut Hill, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	9	1	8	0	0	3	9	7	9	6	6	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

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 Janice Nolen, Staff Historian

organization Tennessee Department of Transportation
Environmental Planning Division

date May, 1981

street & number 505 Deaderick

telephone 615/741-5363

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.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Hagen

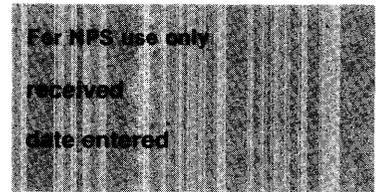
title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 7/23/82

For NCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.
[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register
Attest:
Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet

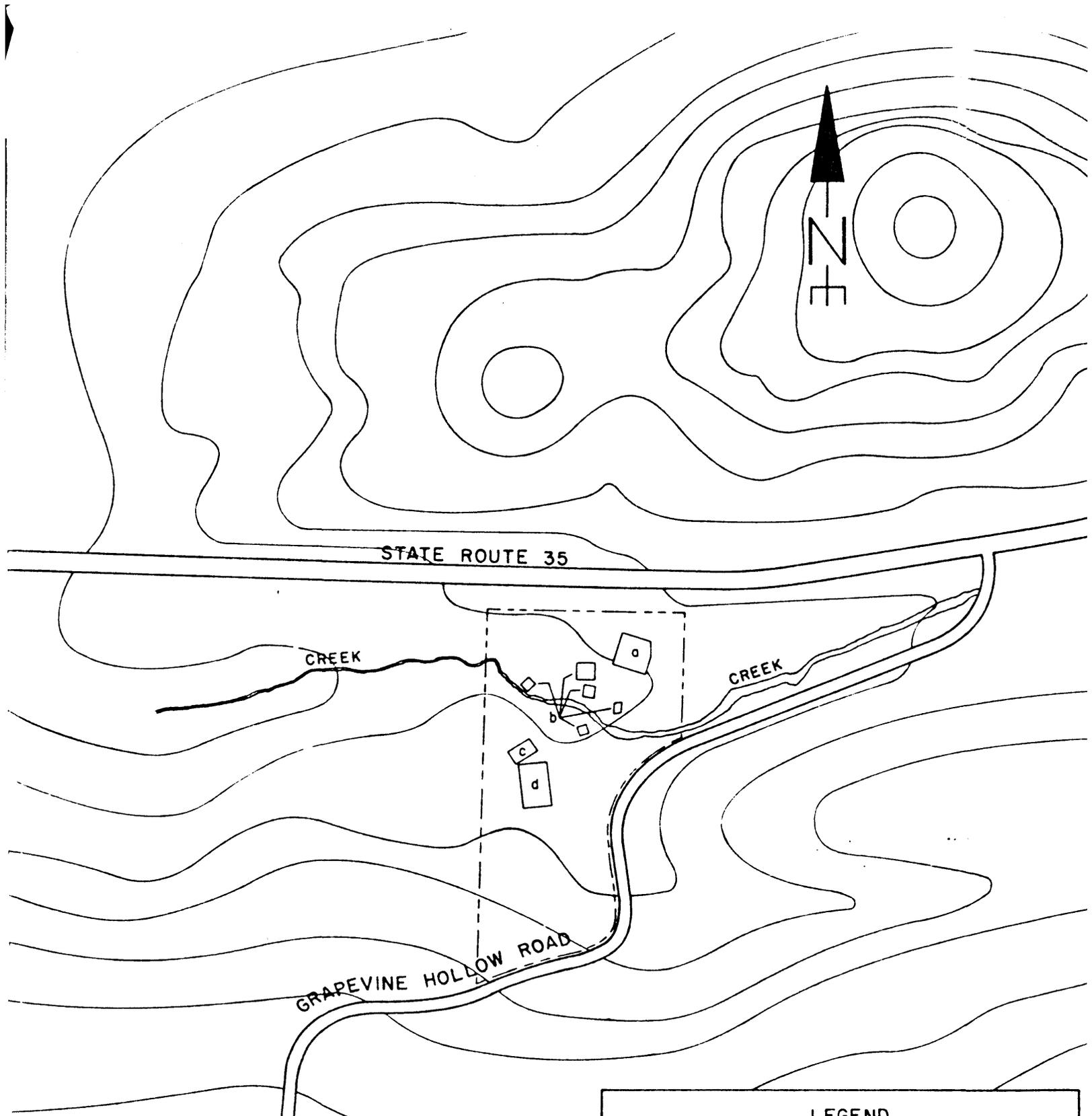
Hill-Hance House

Item number 10

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The boundary is as shown on the attached map, "Joseph Hill House off SR-35 (US 411) near Chestnut Hill, Tennessee," scale 1" = 200', as indicated by the legend.

Since the Hill-Hance House is oriented toward Grapevine Hollow Road, the boundaries were defined to protect that significant feature. The rear boundary is approximately 30 feet north of the northernmost corner of the house and runs roughly parallel to existing State Route 35. The other boundaries were drawn to include the rest of the complex of buildings and much of their setting.

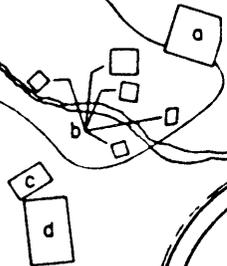


STATE ROUTE 35

CREEK

CREEK

GRAPEVINE HOLLOW ROAD



Hill Hance House
Grapevine Hollow Rd.
Vicinity of Chestnut Hill
Jefferson County, TN

LEGEND

- a- JOSEPH HILL HOUSE
- b- FRAME OUTBUILDINGS
- c- LOG CORN CRIB
- d- BARN

--- BOUNDARY OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

SCALE

