# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the list below.

## 1. Name of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic name</th>
<th>Hawthorne Hill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other names/site number</td>
<td>Bate Family Home; Hawthorn Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of related multiple property listing</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street &amp; Number:</th>
<th>195 Old Hwy 25E</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City or town:</td>
<td>Castalian Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State:</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County:</td>
<td>Sumner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not For Publication: N/A  
Vicinity: X

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

- [] national
- [] statewide
- X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

| x | A | B | x | C | D |

Signature of certifying official/Title: State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Title: 

Date: 

401
Hawthorne Hill
Name of Property

Sumner County, TN
County and State

4. 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: Jen Edson Beall]  [Date: 6-14-13]

5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Check as many boxes as apply.)</td>
<td>(Check only one box.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Building(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public – Local</td>
<td>District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public – State</td>
<td>Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public – Federal</td>
<td>Structure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Object</td>
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Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tr>
<td>sites</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  N/A
Hawthorne Hill
Name of Property

Sumner County, TN
County and State

6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions</th>
<th>Current Functions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling</td>
<td>VACANT/No Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOMESTIC/ Secondary Structure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURE/ Agricultural Outbuilding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURE/ Agricultural Field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE: limestone, BRICK, WOOD, GLASS

Narrative Description

Hawthorne Hill, constructed c. 1805, is situated on a sparsely wooded 10.45-acre plot. It was originally a 208-acre farm owned and worked by Colonel Humphrey Bate. The dwelling, located approximately 200 feet from the main road atop a slight rise, faces south overlooking Old Highway 25 East. The main building is surrounded by a late-20th century shed to the southwest, a mid-20th century barn, a 19th century family cemetery, and a field to the west, and a cistern and natural spring located to the south of the home. The farm is mostly populated by stands of mature red cedar trees and scrub brush, although the property still retains approximately 4.38 acres of original agricultural pasture to the west of the house. The property is bordered by Hartsville Pike to the north and Old Highway 25 East to the south.

The house at Hawthorne Hill is a two-story, brick, Federal-style house and measures 22'-4"d x 34'-7"w with a single-pen depth. This dwelling has a hall-and-parlor plan, a side-gable roof, and a shed-roof front porch. The roof is composed of cedar wood shingles, while the walls, chimney, and porch piers are finished in brick. The exterior walls of the house rest on a continuous limestone block foundation, while interior walls and log sleeper joists are supported.

1 "J. Bearden to H. Bate deed 208 acres of land," Deed Book 8, (Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Register of Deeds Office, March 3, 1817), 75.
by stacked limestone block piers. Both the exterior and interior of the house reflect the Federal style in the restrained yet elegant architectural detailing, millwork, and stenciling, as well as the symmetrical three-bay design.

The three-bay main, or south, façade features brick laid in the Flemish bond pattern with a decorative blue glazed header belt course, and jack arches over the door and windows. There are three windows on the second story and two windows flanking the central four-panel wood entry on the first story. The windows on the second story are the six-over-six double-hung wood sash. The windows on the first floor are four-over-four double-hung wooden sash, but were originally nine-over-nine double-hung sash, remnants of which can be found inside the house. A four-light transom can be seen over the wood paneled door. The single-story, full-width front porch has a shallow shed roof and is supported by circular wooden columns on modern square brick bases that were added c. 1950. This (8'-8"d x 34'-7"w) porch was constructed in the 1880s. The porch foundation and column bases were rebuilt c. 1950.

The west elevation of the house features Flemish bond brickwork with blue glazed headers, and a centered, brick, exterior end chimney. The chimney has two sets of shoulders. The gable end has a cornice return which appears to be original. There are no openings on the second floor, but the attic space has two vent openings (1'-7"w x 1'-8"h) on either side of the chimney. There is a six-panel wood entry door to the right of the chimney on the first floor that features a jack arch lintel. Ghost marks on the side of the house and semi-exposed foundation show the outline of a kitchen addition. Photographs of the house from the 1920s clearly show this wing, and an interview with Bate family member, Nancy Hunt, corroborates the space's use (see Figures 1 & 2). The kitchen addition burned sometime in the 1960s.

The three-bay north, or rear, elevation of the house features common bond brickwork composed of three rows of stretchers and one row of blue glazed headers. Jack arches are over the door and windows. Like the door and windows on the façade, the door and window placement on the south elevation of the house mirrors the layout on the façade. The windows on the second story are the six-over-six double-hung wood sash. The windows on the first floor are four-over-four double-hung wooden sash, but were originally nine-over-nine double-hung sash, remnants of which can be found inside the house. Ghost marks on the rear elevation denote that there was once a small gable roof rear wing built c. 1850 (see Figure 3). This rear ell was not a part of the c. 1805 plan and was removed in the 1990s.

The east elevation of the house features Flemish bond brickwork with blue glazed headers, and a centered, brick, exterior end chimney. The chimney has one set of shoulders. Evidence shows that sometime in the 20th century the wall and chimney were reworked due to its instability. The gable end has a cornice return which appears to be original. Mirroring the west elevation, the east elevation has no openings on the second floor, but the attic space has two (1'-7"w x 1'-8"h) vent openings on either side of the chimney. The first floor features a six-over-six double-hung wood sash window that was originally an entry door. A 1920s photograph shows that there was a small window on the west elevation (see Figure 2). Humphrey Howell Bate and Humphrey Howell Bate, Jr. used this room as a doctor’s office. The addition was removed sometime in the early to mid-20th century and the entry way was converted to the window seen today.

The interior of Hawthorne Hill retains its original floor plan, but with renovations and alterations made during two significant periods. The first period occurred during the 1830s when Colonel Humphrey Bate converted the original hall-and-parlor plan into a central hall plan. Bate also enclosed the main staircase, added a boxed winding staircase to the parlor, and sealed off the interior doorway on the second floor. The second period occurred during the mid- to late-20th century when the house was once again converted back to its original hall-and-parlor plan, c. 1970.

The hall measures 20'-2"d x 18'-6"w with an approximately eight inch thick interior wall. All of the interior walls are composed of plaster with a wood chair rail, wainscoting, and baseboards, c. 1805. Decorative painting added c. 1830 is featured predominately in the hall section of the house. The field above the chair rail features decorative blue-grey sponge painting, a “bird and shell” frieze in green and blue, and a green “sliced egg” border that runs around the doors,
Hawthorne Hill

Name of Property

Sumner County, TN

County and State

chair rail, and windows. The room’s wood mantle and brick hearth and firebox are original to the c. 1805 house. The mantel displays simple classical molded detailing atop plinth blocks. The floors are composed of poplar tongue-and-groove boards approximately four inches in width. A straight-run main staircase is positioned along the rear of the room and leads to the second story, and features a small closet underneath. Ghost marks on the floor and walls show the outline of the central hall and enclosing wall along the staircase that were removed sometime in the mid- to late 20th century, c. 1970. Additionally, ghost marks along the ceiling joists suggest that the ceilings were at one time plastered but the plaster has since been removed to reveal the ceiling joists. These joists would have originally been exposed as they feature a decorative beading along the bottom edge.

The parlor measures 20'-2"d x 13'-3"w. All of the interior walls are composed of plaster with a wood chair rail, wainscotting, and baseboards, c. 1805. The field above the chair rail features decorative blue-grey sponge painting applied at the same time as the decorative “sliced egg” and “bird and shell” stenciling, c. 1830. The room’s wood mantle and brick hearth and firebox are original to the c. 1805 house. The mantel displays simple classical molded detailing, including a molded shelf supported by pilasters. The floors are composed of poplar tongue-and-groove boards approximately four inches in width. A winding boxed staircase with a small closet is located at the southwest corner of the room that leads to the second floor and was added in the 1830s. Like the hall, the parlor’s ceiling joists remain exposed, but show evidence of having once been plastered over.

The east and west rooms of the second floor mirror the dimensions of the rooms on the first floor. Tradition holds that these rooms were used as bedrooms. The walls in both rooms are composed of plaster featuring a simple wood chair rail and baseboard, c. 1805. The fields above and below the chair rail are painted in a light blue-grey sponge technique. Both rooms feature simple wood mantles with minimal molding details and brick fire boxes with plastered faces. Like the first floor rooms, the second floor rooms have four inch tongue-and-groove poplar floorboards. Ghost marks found on the interior cased opening suggest that the opening was covered over in the 1830s. A small straight-run boxed staircase located along the interior wall of the west bedroom serves as an access point to the third story attic loft. The floorboards on the third floor of the house have been removed and are currently being stored in the barn on the west side of the property. The third floor attic space could have once been used as a bedroom space, which would explain the addition of the small, boxed staircase to the west bedroom.

The exterior and interior of the house retain a substantial amount of architectural integrity, such as its fireplace mantels, molding, and paneled doors. Few major changes have been made to the house since its ownership by the Bate family. Other than a few alterations to the front porch columns and foundation completed c.1950, minor renovations and stabilization and reconstruction of the failing east wall and east chimney respectively during the 1970s, and the replacement of the roof shingles between 1999-2001, changes to the house have not significantly altered the dwelling’s character-defining features.

OUTBUILDINGS

The property retains four supporting sites dating to the 19th century or earlier—cemetery, cistern, field, and spring—and two contributing outbuildings that date to the mid-20th century—barn and shed. During the 19th and 20th centuries, Hawthorne Hill featured several structures including a barn, slave quarters, smoke house, carriage house and stone fence; however, these buildings are no longer extant. Their rough location has been identified by one of the surviving family members (see Figure 4).


3 Brown, 147-148.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form  
NPS Form 10-900  
OMB No. 1024-0018

Hawthorne Hill  
Name of Property  

Sumner County, TN  
County and State

Barn- (c.1930-1940, Contributing Building)

A large 40' x 48' tobacco barn is located approximately 100-feet northwest of the house and was built some time in the 1930s or 1940s. The barn features a standing-seam metal gable roof and is clad with a mix of vertical board hardwoods. A centrally located entry door is located on the south elevation. A shed roof wing was added to the west side of the barn and was possibly used for implement storage. In the gable eave on the north side of the barn is a diamond-shaped owl hole (also known as a Martin hole or swallow hole). This opening helps with ventilation and allows the entry of owls or other birds. According to Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek in their book *The Old Barn Book*, owl holes are frequently located in the gable wall of barns, are usually found in multiples and are usually shaped like diamonds, clubs, hearts, or spades. These openings have been associated with both English and German settlement areas.4

Cemetery- (c. 1853, Contributing Site)

A small family plot, dating to the 19th century, is located approximately twenty feet east of the barn. What is visible of the remaining plot is approximately 35' x 10'. According to surviving relative Nancy Hunt, there are a total of seven known Bate family members buried in the cemetery. A large limestone box grave measuring approximately 2'-6" w x 5'-0"l holds the remains of Col. Humphrey Bate (Jan. 16, 1779- Sep. 1, 1856); his second wife Anne Weatherred Bate (Sep. 7, 1804-Apr. 11, 1875); a still born grandson, son of Dr. Humphrey Bate and his wife Nancy D. Simpson (1876-); and Annie Lela Bass, an infant born to Eugenia Bate and C.R. Bass, Sr. (1851-1853). Three smaller limestone headstones, approximately 6" square, mark the graves of Mamie Polk, the daughter of Amanda Bate and William Polk (July 7, 1872-); a stillborn infant, son of Dr. Humphrey Bate and his wife Nancy D. Simpson (1877-); and Harriet Garret, Col. Humphrey Bate’s niece and the daughter of Sarah Bate Garrett. The graves were restored in 1997 but have since suffered vandalism and have been consumed by vegetation. Further study of this area could possibly reveal further burial plots (see Figures 5 & 6).

Shed- (c. 1940, Contributing Building)

An 18' x 21' frame gable roof shed is located to the southwest of the house, c. 1940s. The shed consists of an exterior of vertical boards, a central entry door, and a standing seam metal roof. The structure’s foundation consists of four round wood posts located on each corner of the shed and anchored into the soil with concrete.

Cistern- (c. 1805, Contributing Structure)

Located approximately thirty feet from the north side of the house is a 19th century cistern with a limestone rock cover. The material lining the inside of the cistern is obscured. This cistern, as well as the natural spring located further north and west of the house, served as the property’s major source of water.

Field- (c. 1805, Contributing Site)

Hawthorne Hill retains 4.33 acres of agricultural pastures and cropland on the western portion of the parcel, while 6.07 acres are devoted to the property’s main house, barn, shed, cemetery, cistern, sparsely wooded areas, and lawn. The open pasture has been used almost continuously for agricultural purposes since the early 1800s. Under the ownership the Tennessee Historical Commission, the field is no longer planted or grazed but is maintained as an open field.

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Spring- (Contributing Site)

Located on a 4.33 acre plot to the north and west of the house is a natural spring. This spring runs parallel to Hartsville Pike. Remnants of an early limestone bridge can be found to the northwest several feet away from the head of the spring. It is not known exactly when this bridge was constructed, but an early 19th century date seems plausible. No known spring house has been identified.

Hawthorne Hill, constructed c. 1805, is situated on a 10.45 acre plot approximately 200' north from Old Highway 25E. The house has undergone minimal alterations since its construction in the 1800s and retains a substantial amount of original materials, and much of the early 19th century craftsmanship and design is still in place making it a representative example of early Middle Tennessee Federal-style architecture. Outbuildings are located toward the south and west of the house and include a late-20th century shed to the southwest, a mid-20th century barn and 19th century family cemetery to the west, and a cistern behind the house and natural spring located to the north of the home. The property is mostly populated by dense stands of mature red cedar trees and scrub brush; however, the farm still retains approximately 4.38 acres of original agricultural pasture to the west of the house.
Hawthorne Hill
Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
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**Criteria Considerations N/A**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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<td>A</td>
<td>Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Removed from its original location.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>A birthplace or grave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>A cemetery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>A reconstructed building, object, or structure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>A commemorative property.</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.</td>
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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c. 1805-1963

**Significant Dates**

c. 1805

1817

c. 1830

June 8, 1911 - June 12, 1936

1963

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown
Hawthorne Hill

Name of Property

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Completed c. 1805, Hawthorne Hill is located in Castalian Springs, Tennessee, a small unincorporated community in Sumner County, Tennessee with a population of 2,716.\(^5\) Hawthorne Hill is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for local exploration and settlement patterns. The present day 10.45 acres was once part of a 208-acre land grant given to Charles Carter in the 1790s by the state of North Carolina. For many generations this plot of land was used as a farm, and represents typical agricultural patterns seen throughout this frontier community. The property retains a dwelling originally constructed during the early settlement era, c. 1805. The house is an excellent example of an antebellum rural farmhouse with elements of Federal-style architecture such as the symmetrical three-bay façade, simple decorative embellishments, and a four-light transom over the main entry door making it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

The interior of Hawthorne Hill retains its original floor plan, but with renovations and alterations made during two significant periods. The first period occurred during the 1830s when Colonel Humphrey Bate converted the original hall-and-parlor plan into a central hall plan. Bate also enclosed the main staircase, added a winder staircase to the parlor and sealed off the interior doorway on the second floor. The second period occurred during the mid- to late-20th century when the house was once again converted back to its original hall-and-parlor plan, c. 1970. Situated on 10.45 acres of land, the property features two outbuildings—a c. 1930-1940 barn and a c. 1940 shed—three sites—a c. 1853 cemetery, a spring, and 4.33 acres of agricultural pasture—and one structure—a c. 1805 cistern.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The first people to inhabit Sumner County, as it is known today, were the Paleo-Indians. These Native Americans occupied the region from 12,000 B.C. to 9,000 B.C., drawn to the abundant amounts of small and large game that were attracted to the area’s natural salt lick. This salt lick would later become known as Bledsoe’s Lick, the first settlement in Middle Tennessee. From 9,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C., the Archaic Indians succeeded the Paleo-Indian. It was in this period that the first earthen mounds appeared in the area. This mound building tradition would carry on through the Woodland Indian period (1,000 B.C.-700 A.D.) and the Mississippian Indian period (700 A.D.-1450 A.D.) The Mound Builder culture later gave way to the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek, and Shawnee who claimed the land as hunting grounds before the arrival of the first Euro-American explorers in the mid-18th century.\(^6\)

Henry, Charles, and Richard Skaggs, and Joseph Drake were among the first white long hunters to enter into the lands that would later become known as Sumner County, Tennessee, in 1765. Other early explorers and hunters included James Smith who came in 1766 and Kasper Mansker and Isaac Bledsoe who traveled to Tennessee in 1771-1772. In 1772, Isaac Bledsoe discovered the springs and salt lick while on a long hunt from his home in Virginia. While in the area Bledsoe reported on the vast amounts of wild buffalo, a species that would later be all but wiped out of the region by hunters commissioned by a trading house in Philadelphia. The disappearance of the buffalo did not deter the settlement of the area as hunter-explorers from the coastal colonies were continuously drawn to the springs, which supported an abundant small game population. Permanent settlers did not begin to arrive from the colonies until the


1780s when the first three forts—Mansker’s, Bledsoe’s, and Asher’s—were erected for protection against Indian attack.\(^7\)

The construction of Isaac Bledsoe’s stockade fort (NR 7/30/92- Bledsoe’s Station) on the high ground west of the springs reassured pioneers, who began to settle the land on all sides of the fort by the 1780s. Tennessee was still considered part of North Carolina, so it is no surprise that the North Carolina General Assembly claimed the rich land and mineral springs as public property. Sumner County, named for Revolutionary War General Jethro Sumner, was formed by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1786. The influx of settlers into the newly established county remained a constant source of tension causing continued hostilities between newcomers and the Native American population until 1795. In 1796, the state of Tennessee was established. In the late 1820s the area known as Bledsoe’s Lick became known as Castalian Springs.\(^8\)

The property on which Hawthorne Hill now stands on was originally part of a 400-acre land grant given to Charles Carter by Neil McLaughlin on December 1, 1792.\(^9\) According to a land deed filed on June 2, 1810, Charles Carter conveyed 208-acres of that land to John Bearden.\(^10\) Oral traditions suggest that John Bearden originally constructed Hawthorne Hill on the property c. 1805. No documented evidence has surfaced stating that Bearden built the two-story hall-and-parlor house, but a close assessment of the house’s framework, materials, and style point to an early date of construction, c. 1805. It is important to note that although the deed between Carter and Bearden is dated 1810, Bearden could have acquired the property earlier and filed the deed at a later date.

Few 1800s structures remain in Sumner County. Of these, most have been altered or incorporated into larger houses over their lifetime or represent only the wealthier class of citizens. For example, the Hugh Rogan house, part of the NR-listed Bledsoe’s Station (NR 7/30/92- Bledsoe’s Station), began as a simple one-story hall-and-parlor stone cottage built in 1796. Added to this home in the 1830s was a brick addition that was removed in 1998. Cragfont (NR 02/26/70- Cragfont), built by the prominent community leader General James Winchester in the Castalian Springs area in Sumner County, was originally a large two-story, I-house with a later wing added to the rear of the house. While the Federal styling of both houses is shared by Hawthorne Hill, the contrasting scale and material seen at Rogan House, as well as, the sophistication of material and design at Cragfont make Hawthorne Hill stand out as a unique representation of middle class, Federal style settlement architecture.

In 1801, the Tennessee General Assembly authorized the establishment of Gallatin as the county seat after they purchased the 41.5-acre tract of land from Captain James Trousdale. In a deed dated March 3, 1817, John Bearden

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\(^7\) Ibid.

\(^8\) Ibid.


sold his 208-acre plot of land to Colonel Humphrey Bate.\textsuperscript{11} Colonel Bate moved into the house shortly thereafter with his first wife Elizabeth Pollock Brimage and their two remaining children, James Henry and Thomas West.

Colonel Bate was a veteran of the War of 1812. He served in Troop No. 3 of the Tennessee Volunteer Calvary led by Colonel Coffee in the Natchez Expedition of 1812.\textsuperscript{12} Historically, Sumner Countians have been noted for their support during war times, and during the War of 1812, 821 men fought under Major General Andrew Jackson’s charge.

Three years after the family moved into the house, Elizabeth passed away. On September 9, 1821, Colonel Humphrey married his second wife, Anne Franklin Weatherred. The two had nine children—Mary Eliza Spivey (1823-1883), Eugenie Patience (1826-1906), Willa Anne (1828-1859), William George Weatherred (1831-1912), Agnes Elizabeth (1834-1920), Amanda Malvina (1836-1872), Henry Clay (1839-1917), Humphrey Howell (1844-1911), and Aaron Spivey (1846-1863).\textsuperscript{13}

While under the ownership of Humphrey Bate, Hawthorne Hill underwent several modifications to accommodate the needs and tastes of the growing family. The simple hall-and-parlor plan was converted to a central hall design, popular in the 1830s, and the main staircase was walled in. A decorative “bird and shell” frieze and a “sliced egg” border were added at about the same time that the central hall was added. These two patterns were popular designs created by Moses Eaton, Jr. in the 1830s. The patterns were probably transferred southward by traveling artists with knowledge of Eaton’s designs and faux finish techniques.\textsuperscript{14} The number and ages of female and male children within the household suggests that the addition of the boxed winder staircase and the enclosure of the second story interior wall were done in the 1830s to insure privacy.

On September 1, 1856, Colonel Humphrey died at the age of 77 and was buried in the family graveyard to the west of the house. Ownership of the house then passed to his wife Anne Franklin. According to the 1860 Tennessee Slave Census records for Sumner County, Anne F. Bate owned a total of seven slaves—four male and three female—ranging in age from 1 to 54.\textsuperscript{15} A drawing done by Nancy Hunt, a surviving Bate family member, shows that the property at one point had at least 3 slave cabins, located to the east of the main house. (See Figure 2) Anne Franklin passed away on April 1, 1875 and was buried with her husband in the family plot. In her will she left the house to her eldest son William George Weatherred Bate and her second eldest son Henry Clay Bate.\textsuperscript{16} The house, however, came under the ownership of the third eldest son Colonel Humphrey Howell Bate, Sr., M.D.

\textsuperscript{11} "J. Bearden to H. Bate deed 208 acres of land," \textit{Deed Book 8}, (Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Register of Deeds Office: March 3, 1817), 75.


\textsuperscript{13} Nancy Hunt, \textit{The Bate Family History}, personal family genealogy.

\textsuperscript{14} Brown, 147-148.

\textsuperscript{15} “Ann F. Bate,” \textit{1860 Sumner Co, TN Slave Census}, (Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Archives, 1860), 3235.

\textsuperscript{16} Angela, H. Sanders, “Will of Anne Franklin (Weatherred) Bate,” \textit{The Bate Family Tree}, (Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Archives, 1989), 172.
Colonel Humphrey Howell Bate, Sr. was born February 1, 1844 at Hawthorne Hill. At the age of 17 he entered the Civil War and served as a private in Company K of the 2nd Tennessee Infantry Regiment. He was wounded on April 6, 1862 through the neck, left shoulder, right leg, and left knee joint at the Battle of Shiloh (NR 10/15/66- Shiloh National Military Park). On July 19, 1864 he was discharged on disability and returned to Sumner County. Colonel Humphrey Howell Bate, Sr. was not the only Sumner Countian to fight in the Civil War, in fact over 3,000 men fought in the war including Humphrey’s brother Colonel Henry Clay Bate, Sr., and his cousins General William Brimage Bate, who would later become governor of Tennessee, and Humphrey Pollock Bate, who died at the battle of Shiloh.

In 1866, Humphrey entered medical school at the University of Nashville. He graduated in 1868 and returned to Sumner County where he practiced medicine from a medical office addition to Hawthorne Hill. Humphrey Howell Bate, Sr. passed away on June 8, 1911, and ownership of Hawthorne Hill was passed on to his wife, Nancy D. Bate, and his two children, Annie Bate Brown and Dr. Humphrey Howell Bate, Jr.

Dr. Humphrey Bate, Jr., nicknamed the “Dean” of the Opry by George D. Hay, stands as one of the cornerstone artists of the early Grand Ole Opry. He was born in Sumner County, Tennessee on May 15, 1875 at Hawthorne Hill. As a young boy, Bate, Jr.’s interest in music was sparked when a former slave taught him a few tunes on the harmonica. From that point forward he continued to hone his skills on the instrument, performing on the steamboats that ran up and down the Cumberland River. Many different music genres from classical to folk music influenced Bate, helping him create a trademark eclectic sound. His band “The Possum Hunters,” followed a Middle Tennessee string band tradition that emphasized the dual lead of both the harmonica and the fiddle.

Bate, Jr. initially sought a career far removed from the Grand Ole Opry. He received a medical degree from the University of Nashville Medical School — later becoming part of Vanderbilt University Medical School— where he

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18 Nancy Hunt, The Bate Family History, personal family genealogy.

19 Ibid.

20 "Dr. Humphrey Howell Bate, Sr. deed to Nancy D. Bate, Annie Bate Brown, and Humphrey Howell Bate, Jr.," In Deed Book 66 (Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Register of Deeds Office, Jan, 4, 1913), 426.

21 “Dr. Humphrey Howell Bate, Jr. deed to Annie Bate Brown,” In Deed Book 93 (Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Register of Deeds Office, May 6, 1925), 577.


graduated in 1897. Bate then served in the Medical Corps during the 1898 Spanish-American War. After the war Humphrey returned home and took over his father’s medical practice in Castalian Springs, Tennessee. He continued to practice medicine throughout his life, even after his musical career began to take off.24

Even as a practicing physician, Bate kept performing. In 1899, he entered his string band in a local music contest. Bate did not give consistent attention to his music until the 1920s. By 1925, his band had a set membership with Bate, Jr. on harmonica; Burt Hutcherson and Stanley Walton on guitar; Oscar Albright on bowed string bass; his son, Buster Bare on guitar, tipple, harmonica, and Jew’s harp; Walter Ligget on banjo; and Oscar Stone on fiddle. His daughter, Alcyone Bate added vocals along with playing the ukulele, and piano25 (see Figure7). In 1925, Bate, Jr. and his string ensemble began to perform on one of the newly established country radio stations, WDAD in Nashville. For several months, Bate and his old time string quartet played on the station. In October 1925, Bate, Jr. and his band, along with Uncle Dave Macon, played a benefit show at the Ryman Auditorium (NR 05/06/71- Ryman Auditorium). This show broadcast over WSM one week before the arrival of George D. Hay and three weeks before Uncle Jimmy Thompson broadcast on the station.26

By 1926, Bate, Jr. became a regular on the “barn dance” program that would later become the Grand Ole Opry. While Bate’s band is not considered one of the founders of the Grand Ole Opry, the music that it produced was vital to the development of the show, and influenced several other artists such as the Crook Brothers and Uncle Dave Macon. “Judge” George D. Hay later named Bate, Jr.’s band the Possum Hunters. Shortly after their debut on the Opry, the band signed a recording contract with Brunswick. Dr. Bate and his Possum Hunters rose in fame and often opened the set of the Grand Ole Opry. The Possum Hunters, in many respects, were considered the “darlings” of the early Opry and helped to increase the popularity of the show.27

George D. Hay considered Bate “Dean” of the Opry, because of his keen ear for good music, and his ability to recruit new artists that helped to expand the Opry’s repertoire. Bate, Jr. made use of large orchestras that featured popular individual soloists. Through the larger orchestras, Bate, Jr. formed smaller groups such as the Crook Brothers. An appreciation for a variety of different genres pushed Bate, Jr. to recruit up-and-coming artists, giving them exposure. Among those recruited was DeFord Bailey, an African American harmonica player who later gained the name “The Harmonica Wizard.” Bate, Jr.’s love for music allowed him to look past race and gender barriers making him responsible for bringing to the stage Bailey, the first African American on the Grand Ole Opry and Alcyone Bate, his daughter, the first female artist to play on the show.28

26 Russell, 1.
27 Garrard, Cooper, and Rumble, 30.
Within the first decade the Opry changed exponentially. As the Opry evolved, several of the old-time bands were cut from the lineup. The Possum Hunters were not among them and the band even went on the first WSM tour in 1931. This tour helped to spread the popularity of the Opry and old time string music in regions outside of the south. 29

There are few remaining records of the lists of songs that early Opry performers played. Fortunately, Dr. Bate recorded an extensive list of more than 130 songs that made up the Possum Hunter’s repertoire. This list was composed in 1935 for Vito Pellettieri, WSM’s music librarian, and included songs like “Throw the Old Cow Over the Fence,” “Ham Beats All Meats,” and “Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight,” which was often their opening song on the Opry. 30

Early in 1936, Bate, Jr. began to suffer from severe heart trouble. He refused to give up the Opry however, saying to Hay, “It is my wish to die in harness.” 31 His heart problems worsened and on June 12, 1936, Bate, Jr. passed away after suffering a massive heart attack. For several years after his death, the Possum Hunters continued to perform, continuing several years after his death under the direction of Oscar Stone, the lead fiddler, until the late 1940s. Leadership then passed onto Alycne and guitarist Staley Walton, who kept the band going until the early 1960s. 32

Dr. Humphrey Howell Bate, Jr. stands as one of the most important contributors to the early growth of country music. His accomplishments as a leader, recruiter, and musician allowed him to be a guiding figure in the development of the Grand Ole Opry. The experiences that Bate gained while growing up at Hawthorne Hill in the rural town of Castalian Springs assisted in guiding the development of his early musical interests. Later in life, Bate used Hawthorne Hill to carry on his father’s medical practice before he built a new home and practice a half a mile east of Hawthorne Hill.

Shortly before Humphrey Howell Bate, Jr.’s death, Annie Bate Brown sold Hawthorne Hill to L. H. Ray on March 25, 1936. 33 Annie died on June 14, 1959 and was the last Bate family member to live at Hawthorne Hill. 34 On February 11, 1948 L. H. Ray conveyed the property to George P. Canter. 35 Canter later sold the property to J.C. Schell on June 6, 1970. 36 Schell owned the property for only a short while and sold it to A. A. Apple on October 6, 1970. 37 Apple

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29 Carlin, 2.

30 Dicaire, 18.


32 Carlin, 2.


34 Hunt, The Bate Family History, personal family genealogy.


owned the house and land for two years before he sold it to William P. McLaughlin on June 7, 1972. The McLaughlin family owned the property for roughly 20 years, and is assumed to be the owners that removed the central hall addition and the third floor flooring. On December 6, 1992, widow Marion Johnson McLaughlin deeded the property to Tracey Parks. Under Parks ownership the home and property underwent several alterations and restorations. The rear ell addition was removed, the chimneys were lengthened, wallpaper was removed to reveal the 1830s stenciling, the smoke house to the rear of the house was torn down, and the family cemetery was restored. On August 10, 2007, the State of Tennessee acquired the property from Tracey Parks.

Under State ownership the house has undergone minor changes. A new shingle roof was added, and a Historic Structures Report was compiled for the site. The Tennessee Historical Commission- State Sites Program hopes to incorporate Hawthorne Hill into a larger plan that address issues related to the preservation, management, and interpretation of four significant historic sites in Castalian Springs, Tennessee—Castalian Springs Mound Site (NR 07/14/71- Castalian Springs), Bledsoe's Fort, Wynnewood State Historic Site and Hawthorne Hill.
9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography


Hawthorne Hill

Name of Property

Sumner County, TN

County and State


Hunt, Nancy. The Bate Family History. Personal family genealogy.

"Humphrey Howell Bate, Sr. deed to Nancy D. Bate, Annie Bate Brown, and Humphrey Howell Bate, Jr." In Deed Book 66. Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Register of Deeds Office, Jan. 4, 1913.

"Humphrey Howell Bate, Jr. deed to Annie Bate Brown." In Deed Book 93. Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Register of Deeds Office, May 6, 1925.


Sanders, Angela H. "Will of Anne Franklin (Weatherred) Bate." In The Bate Family Tree. Gallatin, TN: Sumner County Archives, 1989.


Hawthorne Hill
Name of Property

Sumner County, TN
County and State


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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):
Hawthorne Hill
Name of Property

Sumner County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 10.45 acres **USGS Quadrangle** Bethpage, TN (313 Northeast)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**
Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36 23 32.09 N  
   Longitude: 86 17 59.80 W
2. Latitude: 36 23 28.15 N  
   Longitude: 86 17 48.75 W
3. Latitude: 36 23 24.99 N  
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4. Latitude: 36 23 27.24 N  
   Longitude: 86 18 01.15 W
Hawthorne Hill

Verbal Boundary and Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the nominated property include all of the 10.45-acre lot located within Sumner County, Tennessee, Tax Map 129, Parcels 011.00 and 011.01. The nominated boundaries contain the property historically and currently associated with Hawthorne Hill, and are the same as those conveyed by Mr. Tracey Parks to the State of Tennessee in a deed dated August 10, 2007. The property is bounded on the north by Hartsville Pike, on the south by Old Highway 25 East, and on the east and west by adjacent residential parcels.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form  
NPS Form 10-900  
OMB No. 1024-0018

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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<td>Murfreesboro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>September 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>(615) 898-2947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jlw8i@mtmail.mtsu.edu">jlw8i@mtmail.mtsu.edu</a></td>
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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.

- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)

- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Photo Log

Name of Property: Hawthorne Hill
City or Vicinity: Castalian Springs
County: Sumner
State: TN
Photographer: Jessica L. White, M.A. Assistant at the Center for Historic Preservation
Date Photographed: 02/11/2011 and 10/11/12

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County and State

Site Plan
Hawthorne Hill
Name of Property

Sumner County, TN
County and State

PARCEL 011.00

29 of 31
31 of 31

SPLING

30 of 31

OLD HWY 25

HAWTHORNE HILL

SCALE: 1" = 100'

24
HAWTHORNE HILL
First Floor Photograph Layout
Image not to scale
Hawthorne Hill
Name of Property

Sumner County, TN
County and State

HAWTHORNE HILL
Second Floor Photograph Layout
Image not to scale
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Hawthorne Hill  
Name of Property  
Sumner County, TN  
County and State  
N/A  
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 1. Circa 1920s historic photograph of Hawthorne Hill showing Humphrey Howell Bate, Sr. with his two nieces.
Hawthorne Hill

Name of Property
Sumner County, TN

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 2. Circa 1920s photograph of Hawthorne Hill. Note the kitchen addition to the left and the Doctor’s Office addition to the right.
Hawthorne Hill
Name of Property
Sumner County, TN
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 3. Photograph of the rear ell addition, taken in 1992 by Tracey Parks.
Figure 4. Drawing of the property’s non-extant structures. (Nancy Hunt, May 2011)
Figure 5. Photograph of one of the headstones. (T. Parks, 2006)

Figure 6. Photograph of the box grave. (T. Parks, 2006)
Figure 7. Image of Dr. Humphrey Bate, Jr. and his augmented string band in the late 1920s. From left to right: Dr. Humphrey Howell Bate, Jr. (guitar), Oscar Stone (violin), Alcyone Bate (ukulele) Burt Hutcherson (guitar), Walter Liggett (banjo). (N. Hunt, circa 1920s)