

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Maury and Hickman
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 18 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

John Gordon House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1/2 mile south of State Hwy. 50, at the Duck River

CITY OR TOWN:

Approx. 3 mi. N.W. of Williamsport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Sixth

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY:

Maury & Hickman

CODE

119,081

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District	☒ Public	☐ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site	☐ Private	☒ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
	Public Acquisition:		☒ No
	☐ In Process		
	☐ Being Considered		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☒ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious	<u>Awaiting development as part</u>	
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific	<u>of a park.</u>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

State of Tennessee, Department of Transportation

STREET AND NUMBER:

Andrew Jackson Building

CITY OR TOWN:

Nashville

STATE:

Tennessee

CODE

47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Register's Office for Hickman County

STREET AND NUMBER:

Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Centerville

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal

☐ State

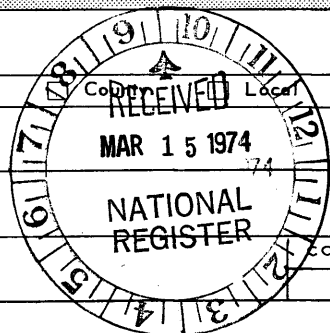
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Maury and Hickman

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gordon House, a brick home standing about 1/2 mile south of State Highway 50 near the Duck River (on the dividing line between present Hickman and Maury counties), is believed to be as originally constructed by John Gordon's wife in 1818. The two-story house appears to be of the late Georgian style, but carries the flavor of the Tennessee frontier, i.e., the floor plan consisting of one-room depth, end-wall fireplaces and corresponding rooms with fireplaces overhead, are also features of the dog-trot houses of the early nineteenth century.

The home, facing south, has four large rooms: upper and lower rooms on the west side are about 18' x 18'; upper and lower rooms on the east side are about 12' x 18' in size. The four fireplaces are over-sized, and a wide stairway stands next to the north wall, leading to the second story. The bricks are slightly oversized, but whether made commercially or on the plantation is unknown.

There are three large, evenly spaced windows in the walls of the lower and top levels, with two doors that give balance and symmetry to the front elevation. The present second-story front porch roof, supported by four square wooden columns, is reportedly a recent (about 1947-48) addition.

The home's interior, said to have been decorated by Gordon's wife (who supervised the home's construction, as Captain Gordon was away at that time fighting in the Seminole Indian War), is not elaborate but is nicely finished. The fireplace mantels are wooden with a combination of simply designed pilasters and panels; the wide, 7-foot-high doors are of poplar; the board flooring is of ash and poplar; there are plain, wide chair rails and baseboards, and the brick walls have been covered on the interior with white paint. The stairwell is guarded by wooden banisters and newels, supporting a moulded railing.

A contemporary frame addition to the rear (north) wall of the house remains intact, but will most likely be removed when the original house is restored.

The home, occupied until purchased in 1969 by the State of Tennessee, stands in a state of good repair; it is solidly built and will, with restoration and care, see many years of use.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian! ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☒ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Phi- | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | losophy | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Art | Architecture | ☐ Social/Human- | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | itarian | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Military | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | ☐ Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gordon House was the home of Captain John Gordon, famed Indian fighter, and was one of the first private brick buildings within a 30-mile radius. Captain Gordon was awarded large grants of land by the government in recognition of his services; on part of his land, near Duck River, he built this home, reputed to have been one of the finest in the country.

John Gordon, born in 1763 near Fredericksburg, Virginia, came to Nashville about 1786. In 1793, he was commissioned by Governor Blount of Tennessee to be a Captain of mounted infantry of the Davidson County regiment. In 1795 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Davidson County, and the next year was designated the first postmaster of Nashville. During the years 1790-95, Gordon established himself as an Indian fighter, defending the Cumberland Settlement against attack from hostile Cherokee and Creek Indians. In 1801-02, when the army was widening and clearing the Natchez Trace from Nashville to Natchez, Mississippi, Gordon made an agreement with the Chickasaw Chief, George Colbert, to operate a trading post and ferry on the Duck River, near the site of the home Mrs. Gordon would begin in 1817. After the treaty of 1805 when the Indians gave their lands in this area to the United States government, Gordon received 640 acres on the Duck River from the Tennessee General Assembly in 1806. Sometime between 1808 and 1812, Gordon moved his family from Nashville to Duck River (nearby Gordonsburg is named for John Gordon). During the Creek Indian Campaign of 1813-14, Gordon led a company of "spies" under General Andrew Jackson's command. After the war Gordon returned home, but joined with the military again in 1818 (when his home was completed) during the Seminole Indian Campaign. He became ill while campaigning and died in 1819, leaving a wife and large family.

Gordon's house, ferry, and trading post stood near the Old Natchez Trace, a primitive Indian trail which was the main highway to the Old Southwest from the mid-1780's to 1830. Gordon operated his commercial enterprise where the Trace crossed the Duck River, when the legendary figures of Andrew Jackson, Sam Houston, Davy Crockett (and assorted types of boatmen, merchants, soldiers, murderers, thieves, et.al.) traveled the historic route until the advent of the steamboat in the late 1820's. Recognizing the importance of the Tennessee landmark, officials of the Natchez Trace Parkway (National Park Service, Department of the Interior) have included the Gordon House in their plans for interpretative use, as part of the Parkway's Living History program. The home is to be restored to its original appearance, with demonstrations presented of frontier life in the early 1800's.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research reports on John Gordon, filed at Natchez Trace Parkway Library, Tupelo, Miss. (supplied by William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter)
 Bond, Octavia Zollicoffer. The Family Chronicle and Kinship Book, 1928.
 Spence, W.J.D. and D.L. A History of Hickman County, Tennessee, 1900.
 Miscellany of records in Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville.

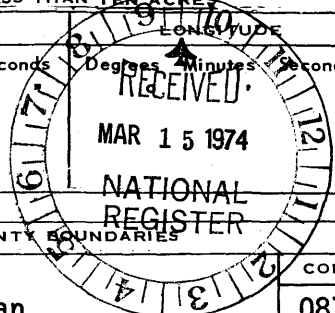
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 35° 43' 13"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 87° 16' 02"		Degrees Minutes Seconds 0	Degrees Minutes Seconds 0	
NE	35° 43' 16"	87° 15' 32"				
SE	35° 43' 04"	87° 15' 30"				
SW	35° 43' 01"	87° 16' 00"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **68**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Tennessee		Hickman	081
Tennessee		Maury	119



H/S NE
 16/476620 / 476620
 3952830 / 3952830
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Ilene J. Cornwell, Board of Directors

ORGANIZATION: **Natchez Trace Association of Tennessee** DATE: **3-5-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1004 Harpeth Valley Court

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Herbert L. Hagen

Title Director of Field Services
Tennessee Historical Commission
3-13-74

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. B. Burdette
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/18/74

ATTEST:
Wm. B. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date 4. 18. 74

PH0082082

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 1977

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC

**

Gordon, John House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northwest of Williamsport off Tenn. Hwy. 50

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Williamsport

VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Tennessee

47

Maury & Hickman

119, 81

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: waiting to

OWNER OF PROPERTY

be developed as part of a
park

NAME

State of Tennessee, Department of Transportation

STREET & NUMBER

Andrew Jackson Building

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register's Office for Hickman County

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Centerville

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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 _____

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The home, occupied until purchased in 1969 by the State of Tennessee, stands in a state of good repair; it is solidly built and will, with restoration and care, see many years of use.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☒ EDUCATION	☒ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1818

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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The John Gordon House and 68 acres of land were originally added to the National Register on April 18, 1974. Much of the information, including the map with the boundaries outlined, was supplied by the staff of the Natchez Trace Parkway, National Park Service, who are planning development of the area. Since this time, a letter has been received

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research reports on John Gordon, filed at Natchez Trace Parkway Library, Tupelo, Miss.
(supplied by William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter).
Bond, Octavia Zollicoffer. The Family Chronicle and Kinship Book, 1928.
Spence, W. J. D. and D. L. A History of Hickman County, Tennessee, 1900.
Miscellany of records in Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 4,7,6 5,7,0 3,9 5,2 7,6,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 1,6 4,7,6 3,2,0 3,9 5,2 6,2,0

B 1,6 4,7,6 5,7,0 3,9 5,2 6,2,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 1,6 4,7,6 3,2,0 3,9 5,2 7,6,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination property consists of a rectangular tract approximately 840' x 520', containing 10 acres; beginning at Point A, running south a distance of 520 feet; thence west 840 feet; thence north 520 feet; thence east 840 feet to the beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Tennessee	47	Hickman	81
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Tennessee	47	Maury	119

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ilene J. Cornwell, Information Officer

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

DATE

July 1977

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

STATE

Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Hagan

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

7/19/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rethig

DATE

11/23/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles A. Hagan

DATE

11/28/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 21 1977

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

from the acting superintendent of the Natchez Trace Parkway requesting that the acreage be reduced to ten acres, and that the boundaries be amended in accordance with the enclosed map. The land which is to be omitted from the nomination is vacant land and is not necessary to interpret the John Gordon House.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Maury, Hickman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 18 1974	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: John Gordon House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

$\frac{1}{2}$ mi. south of State Hwy. 50 at the Duck River

CITY OR TOWN:

Approx. 3 mi. northwest of Williamsport

STATE:

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY:

Maury, Hickman

CODE

119,081

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Herbert L. Harper

DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Tennessee Historical Commission

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Front or south elevation





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

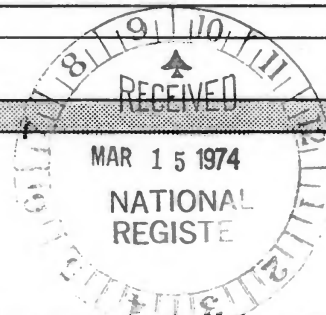
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Maury, Hickman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 18 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: John Gordon House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
$\frac{1}{2}$ mi. south of State Hwy. 50 at the Duck River			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Approx. 3 mi. northwest of Williamsport			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Tennessee	47	Maury, Hickman	119,081
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Herbert L. Harper			
DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Tennessee Historical Commission			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Front and east end elevations			





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Maury, Hickman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 18 1974	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		John Gordon House	
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2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. south of State Hwy. 50 at the Duck River			
CITY OR TOWN: Approx. 3 mi. northwest of Williamsport			
STATE: Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Maury, Hickman	CODE 119,081
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		National Park Service	
DATE OF PHOTO:		1969	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Tupelo, Mississippi	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Mantel in west room, second floor			



#344



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Maury, Hickman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 18 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		John Gordon House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
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Tennessee	47	Maury, Hickman	119,081
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		National Park Service	
DATE OF PHOTO:		1969	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Tupelo, Mississippi	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Upstairs stair railing			



#4