Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: The Hermitage (home of Andrew Jackson)

AND/OR COMMON: The Hermitage

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Rachels Lane west of Lebanon Pike (Route 24) — __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Hermitage — __ VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth

STATE: Tennessee — CODE: 047 — COUNTY: Davidson — CODE: 037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATIO
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Ladies Hermitage Association (by act of Tennessee Legislature)

STREET & NUMBER: The Hermitage

CITY, TOWN: Hermitage — __ VICINITY OF — STATE: Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER: Davidson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN: Nashville — STATE: Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE: 1934-36, 1972 — X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress, Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY, TOWN: Washington — STATE: D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED Restored	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The remaining portions of Andrew Jackson's Hermitage plantation, 625 of the original 1,200 acres, are located north and south of Rachels Lane west of its intersection with Lebanon Pike (Route 24) at Hermitage, Tennessee. The Hermitage mansion, outbuildings, garden, and family cemetery stand on the north side of Rachels Lane and are surrounded by open, rolling fields.

Jackson purchased his Hermitage plantation in 1804 and for the next 15 years occupied a group of log buildings already standing on the property. These included a two-story blockhouse, which had been used as a store before it was converted to a dwelling, and three one-story cabins used as sleeping quarters for the family and guests. In 1819, with the profits from a three-year boom in cotton prices, Jackson was able to build the original Hermitage mansion (the center section of the present house) on a site selected by his wife Rachel. The square, two-story brick building followed a four-room, center-hall plan with parlor, dining room (both west), and two bedrooms divided by a cross-hall (east) on the first floor and four additional bedrooms on the second.

Jackson's adopted son, Andrew Jackson, Jr., married Sarah York of Philadelphia in 1831 and brought his bride to live at the Hermitage. Jackson enlarged and improved the mansion the same year, probably as a wedding present to the young couple. One-story, gable-roofed brick wings were added to either side of the house, that on the west containing a dining room, pantry, and storage area, that on the east Jackson's library and a plantation office, later converted to a nursery, divided by a covered entry extending from the older crosshall. The wings projected beyond the front (south) elevation of the mansion and were connected by a one-story wooden porch. A two-story gallery was added to the rear elevation. Finally a separate kitchen and smokehouse, each one story, of brick, with a gabled roof, were constructed at the rear of the northwest corner of the house; the kitchen was connected to the dining room wing by a covered passageway.

In October, 1834, fire swept the Hermitage mansion, gutting the interior but leaving the exterior walls intact. At that time Joseph Reiff and William Hume, local carpenter-contractors, were already at work on the nearby Tulip Grove mansion, and on January 1, 1835, Jackson contracted with them to rebuild the Hermitage with several significant alterations. Ceiling heights were increased on both floors and windows were enlarged and rearranged. The covered entry between the library and office in the east wing was bricked in and made into a hall. The present two-story wooden galleries with fluted classical columns were added to the front and rear elevations, and the front elevation was painted white to hide smoke damage to the brick.

Decorative features of the reconstructed interior include carved marble mantels, classical door and window surrounds, and a circular flying staircase. The scenic

wallpaper in the main hall, called the "Telemachus paper" because it depicts four of the adventures of Telemachus in search of his father, Ulysses, was made by Dufour in Paris about 1825 and shipped to the Hermitage by way of New Orleans in 1835. The paper was handprinted with 3,500 wooden blocks and colors were brushed in to complete the process.

The Hermitage mansion has remained relatively unaltered since Jackson's death in 1845. Most of the furnishings are original; some pieces were saved from the 1834 fire but the majority were purchased in Philadelphia in 1835 for the reconstructed house. In 1930, James Wilson of the Metropolitan Museum of Art removed the Telemachus paper, mounted it on canvas, treated it with preservative, and replaced it. Other wallpapers were repaired as part of an extensive restoration program carried out in 1969-72, which also included strengthening the main staircase, repainting in original colors following chemical analysis, and installation of a fire detection system.

The grounds of the Hermitage retain much of their historic character. The guitar-shaped main driveway, lined with cedars and now planted in grass, was created in 1837 from designs by artist Ralph E. W. Earl, who had married one of Mrs. Jackson's nieces and became a permanent member of the Hermitage household after his wife's early death. The garden, located immediately southeast of the mansion, was laid out by William Frost, an English gardener, in 1819. More than one acre in area, it contains formal beds of flowers and shrubs with grass covering the former vegetable plots. At its southeast corner is the tomb of Andrew and Rachel Jackson surrounded by the graves of other members of the Jackson family.

Original outbuildings, located north of the mansion (see accompanying perspective view), include the brick smokehouse and stable, a stone springhouse, and the log cabin occupied by Uncle Alfred, Jackson's favorite house servant, who remained at the Hermitage until his death in 1901 and is buried in the family cemetery. Two cabins stand northeast of the mansion on the site of the first Hermitage buildings one of them original, the other constructed with materials from the old blockhouse To the northwest are a log barn and carriage house moved to the Hermitage from Jackson's earlier home at Hunter's Hill. Also on the grounds are a museum, administrative offices, ticket office, farm shop, and visitors center; these structures--one or one-and-a-half stories, of brick--were constructed in the 1930's and, with the exception of the visitors center (gift shop and concession stand), do not detract from the setting of the historic buildings. Visitor parking is screened by fences and mature trees. The "cabin by the spring" was constructed in the 1940's and serves as a meeting place for the Ladies Hermitage Association.

The Hermitage buildings and grounds are generally in excellent condition. Archeological investigation is currently under way to determine the location of

(continued)

additional supporting buildings and, if sufficient documentation is available, these will be reconstructed. Future plans also call for the removal of all visitor service, parking, and maintenance facilities to an area southwest of the mansion on the opposite side of Hermitage Road (see accompanying USGS map); that area is not included in the national historic landmark boundaries for the property.

Addendum:

Old Hermitage Church is included in the national landmark boundary for the Hermitage.

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	X__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARI/
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1804-1845 (1819,1831,1835) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Original: not known, 1835, Reiff and Hume

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hermitage plantation, located 12 miles east of Nashville at Hermitage, Tennessee, was the home of Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States, from 1804 until his death in 1845. The Hermitage mansion, a two-story Greek Revival building of brick with front and rear galleries of wood, was completed in 1819, enlarged by the addition of wings in 1831, and rebuilt with alterations following a fire in 1834. The building has remained essentially unaltered since that time. Associated with the mansion are a number of dependencies including a kitchen, smokehouse, stable, springhouse, and slave cabin. The bodies of Jackson and his wife, Rachel Donelson Jackson, are interred in a tomb at the southeast corner of the Hermitage garden. The Ladies Hermitage Association, chartered by the State of Tennessee in 1889, owns and administers the Hermitage, which is open to the public throughout the year.

Historical Background

In 1804 Andrew Jackson sold his 640-acre Hunter's Hill plantation in order to pay off debts arising from the financial panic of 1798-99 and moved to an adjacent tract of land which he named the Hermitage. For the next 15 years Jackson and his wife, Rachel Donelson Jackson, lived in the cluster of log buildings already on the property at the time of its purchase. Here they entertained notable visitors including President Monroe and Aaron Burr. Jackson led the life of a gentleman farmer at the Hermitage until 1813 when he was called to active service with the militia by the outbreak of the Creek War. His military conduct brought him a commission as a major general in the United States Army, and after the Battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1815, he returned to the Hermitage a national hero.

With the profits from a three-year boom in cotton prices, Jackson built the central portion of the present Hermitage mansion in 1818-19 on a site chosen by his wife. In 1823 he was elected to the United States Senate by the Tennessee Legislature and the following year was an unsuccessful candidate for the Presidency, defeated by John Quincy Adams when the election was thrown into the House of Representatives. Embittered by what he considered a "corrupt bargain" between Adams and Henry Clay, another candidate and also Speaker of the House, Jackson immediately began preparations for the campaign of 1828 in which he bested Adams by an electoral majority of 178 to 83. His political triumph was clouded by the death of Rachel Jackson in January 1829, only a short time before his departure from the Hermitage for his inauguration.

Jackson entered the Presidency with the following statement of Principles:

> The Federal Constitution must be obeyed, state rights preserved, our national debt must be paid, direct taxes and loans avoided, and the Federal Union preserved. These are the objects I have in view, and regardless of all consequences will carry into effect.

During his two terms in office (1829-37), Jackson successfully opposed South Carolina's attempt to invoke the doctrine of nullification as advanced by John C. Calhoun, blocked renewal of the charter of the second Bank of the United States and ended its existence by withdrawing Government deposits, and forced the removal of the Cherokee Indians to western reservations. He also set a record for fiscal management unequaled by any other administration, paying off the national debt and generating a surplus of $35 million, which was distributed to the individual states.

On his return to the Hermitage in 1837, Jackson occupied what was almost a new house. In 1831, he had arranged from Washington for the addition of eastern and western wings to the 1819 buidiing. Fire gutted the central and eastern sections of the mansion in 1834, leaving only the foundation and exterior walls intact, but by May, 1835, it had been rebuilt with alterations.

Jackson died on June 8, 1845, and his body was laid next to that of his wife in the tomb at the southeast corner of the Hermitage garden. The Hermitage was bequeathed to Jackson's adopted son, Andrew Jackson, Jr., who in 1856 sold the mansion, outbuildings, and 500 acres of land (700 acres of Jackson's 1,200-acre plantation had already been sold) to the State of Tennessee. Andrew Johnson, then governor of the state, attempted to donate the property to the Federal Government as the site of a southern branch of the United States Military Academy. The Senate Committee on Military Affairs endorsed the plan but with the growing threat of war between the North and South Johnson's offer was eventually rejected. With the exception of the brief period 1858-60, Andrew Jackson Jr. or members of his immediate family continued to live at the Hermitage as custodians until 1887. In 1889 the Tennessee Legislature granted a charter to the Ladies Hermitage Association, authorizing that organization to administer the mansion and 25 acres of land on behalf of the state. In 1934 title to the entire 500-acre tract was transferred to the Association by the Legislature under a deed of trust.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 350 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	16	535580	4008270	B	16	535420	4007030
C	16	534260	4007030	D	16	534400	4008380

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Original form prepared by Frank B. Sarles, (8/14/59) and W.B. Morton III (8121/71); updated by Polly M. Rettig, Historian (1/15/76) Updated by Cecil McKithan, Historian, 7/24/78

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service	7/24/78
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
1100 L Street, N. W.	523-5464
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Washington,	D. C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____ STATE ____

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

TITLE DATE

Landmark
Designated: DEC 19, 1960
date
Boundary Certified:
[signature] date
July 25, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[signature] 11/24/78 DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 892-

Alderson, William T. and McBride, Robert M. "The Hermitage", in Landmarks of Tennessee History (Nashville, 1965).

Cochran, Gifford A. Grandeur in Tennessee (New York, 1946).

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York, 1944).

Horn, Stanley F. The Hermitage, Home of Old Hickory (New York, 1950).

James, Marcus. Andrew Jackson: the Border Captain (New York, 1933).

_____. Andrew Jackson: Portrait of A President (New York, 1937).

Ladies Hermitage Association, The Historic Hermitage Properties: A Handbook (1972

Meyers, Marvin. The Jacksonian Persuasion (1957).

Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr. The Age of Jackson (1945).

The boundaries of the national historic landmark designation for the Hermitiage are shown in black on the accompanying UsGS map. Specific line, enclosing approximately 350 acres of the Hermitage property as owned by the Ladies Hermitage Association, are defined as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the western curblines of Shut e Lane and Lebanon Pike(Route 24), proceed southwesterly along the western curbline of Lebanon Pike to the center line o of Rachels Lane; thence east approximately 250' to a point; thence south 500', more or less, to a point; thence west 500', more or less, to the western curbline of Lebanon Pike; thence southwesterly along the said curbline 1000', more or less, to a point; thence

due west to the eastern curbline of Hermitage Road; thence northerly

4500', more or less, to a point; thence easterly 4000', more or less to the western curbline of Shute Lane; thence southerly along said curbline to the point of origin.