

THE HERMITAGE, WEST CABIN
(The First Hermitage)
4580 Rachel's Lane
~~Hermitage vicinity~~ NASHVILLE VICINITY
Davidson County
Tennessee

HABS No. TN-52-A

HABS
TENN
19-NASH.V,
1A-

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

The Hermitage, WEST CABIN
(The First Hermitage)

HABS No. TN-52-A

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Location: The West Cabin is located on the property known as The Hermitage in Davidson County, twelve miles east of Nashville, in Hermitage, Tennessee.

The street address for The Hermitage is 4580 Rachel's Lane, Hermitage, Tennessee.

The Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Coordinates are: 16/534930/4007880.¹

Present Owner/

Occupant: The Ladies' Hermitage Association, a not-for-profit organization, has owned and operated The Hermitage as an historic site since 1889.

Present Use: The cabin currently is part of an ongoing study of the First Hermitage. For this research project, The Hermitage staff seeks clues to the life led by General Andrew Jackson, his family, and his slaves in the cabin and in the yard around it.

The mission of The Ladies' Hermitage Association is to interpret and preserve the structures at The Hermitage, including the West Cabin, because they represent the life and times of General Andrew Jackson. General Jackson was the hero of the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815 and later became the seventh President of the United States (1828-36).

Significance: Andrew and Rachel Jackson's first home on The Hermitage property was a two-story structure made of horizontal log construction, later lowered to the one-story building seen today. This one-story structure is known as the West Cabin. Some time after The Hermitage Mansion was completed (1819-21), the cabin became quarters for several of the enslaved Africans working on the Jackson plantation.

The West Cabin survived because of its connection to Andrew Jackson, and this association with Jackson assured its protection at The Hermitage. The cabin is also of interest as a representative of a prevalent — and disappearing — vernacular house type in East and Middle Tennessee. Moreover through its vernacular qualities, the log cabin served as the image of later-day, popular perceptions of Jackson as a frontiersman with rustic bravado and humble origins. Shortly after Jackson's Presidency, log cabins became a symbol the republic's ideal, courageous citizen who staked a claim in the newly opened western lands across the Appalachians. In so doing, successful men such as Jackson could become yeomen, and political players, in the democratic system. As the agrarian paradigm of the founding fathers continued to feed an insatiable quest for

¹UTM coordinates taken from the USGS 7.5' series, Hermitage, Tennessee quadrangle, with a scale of 1:24,000.

land, effecting the phenomenon of westward migration, the mythic frontiersman and his log cabin superseded the Virginia planter in nineteenth-century politics.²

As a farmer and a soldier, Jackson embodied these notions of the brave frontiersmen but his dwelling was no crude shelter isolated in the woods. It was nicely finished architecturally and filled with fashionable goods recognizable in New Orleans and Philadelphia. Jackson, in fact, built his log house around the same time as he launched the construction projects at Clover Bottom, including a race track, stables, stands, store, and a tavern or lodging facility. The West Cabin signifies Jackson's (and his wife's) awareness of the traditional as well as his commercial ventures.³

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date: 1804-21.⁴ Andrew Jackson and his family lived in a two-story log dwelling between 1804 and 1821. The West Cabin is that two-story house, except the first floor of the Jacksons' dwelling is missing.⁵ Evidence of this change is found in the joists that support the first floor with a one-half inch, full round bead and deep V-shaped profile on the underside. Nicely finished components, such as beaded joists, provided a structural decoration and demonstrated the occupants' ability to command the resources for skilled labor as well as appreciate their refinement. These elements, however, were intended to be seen. Only someone crawling beneath the building would see the architectural embellishment today.

It is not known when precisely the Jackson house was lowered from two-stories to the one-story form seen today in the First Hermitage. However, tradition suggests the change was made after 1821.⁶

2. Architect, Builder, Contractor, Suppliers: There is no documentary evidence that reveals specifically who built the cabin or where Jackson procured the supplies necessary for the construction

²See, for example, Michael Kammen, The Mystic Chords of Memory (/) the Transformation of tradition in American Culture (1991; paperback ed., New York, NY: Vintage Books, 1993), p. 32 and generally; John Spencer Bassett, The Life of Andrew Jackson, (Garden City and New York: Doubleday, Page and Co., 1911), preface.

³General Account Books, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. (Microfilm, Supplemental Reels #38 & 39, 1795-1806)

⁴The date parameters for the Jackson family's occupation of the First Hermitage were provided by The Hermitage and are supported by The Hermitage staff's on-going research of The First Hermitage. Regarding the date parameters, Personal Communication, Clare Adams, July 1999.

⁵Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, July 1999.

⁶Moreover, staff of The Hermitage says that the change was a post-1821 occurrence. Personal Communication, Clare Adams (to Mark S. Schara), August 1999.

project.⁷ However, Jackson owned several slaves at this time and it is likely that they built the First Hermitage. Although without documentary evidence to substantiate it, supporting evidence can be drawn from traditional practices, material culture, folklore, and archaeology.

The West Cabin required several skilled artisans but not the services of an architect for its genesis. The talents necessary to build the cabin were those held by a corner man, who knew the nuances of linking the ends of timbers meeting at the corners of the structure, and those of the carpenters, who learned how to carve wood into pieces of trim, add details to structural members, and connect parts in a neat joint or a clean edge. The corner man was responsible for making the building stand, while the carpenter bore the task of making the interior fashionable and more comfortable. The corner man and the carpenter could be the same person.

Building the cabin according to the folk knowledge, that had manifested itself in architectural expression regionally since the 1780s, meant that the conception and execution of the horizontal log house happened on a local level.⁸ Half-dovetail notches held the log house together and inside planed, vertically aligned boards formed partition walls through their tongue and groove joints. The essentially square house shape, with its exterior chimney at the gable end and stone foundation piers, reflects the base housing unit for all log structures: the single pen.⁹

Moreover, labor and materials needed to raise the cabin were available to Jackson in the central basin of Tennessee. Presumably it was his slave labor force that constructed the cabin after he purchased the property and that the trees nearby were felled for timber. The stone needed for the foundation piers and chimney base was a natural resource of the area; the same enslaved workers could quarry the rocks desired. The forests of hardwood and evergreen trees included such specimens as oak, cedar, hickory,

⁷There is a bill for carpentry work done in Spring 1805, however, where the work took place was not named in the account. Therefore, the account can not be attributed to the building of The Hermitage specifically because Jackson was involved in other projects, such as Clover Bottom, at that time. See John Thomas to Andrew Jackson, Account, May-June 1805, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #2, 1805-1813).

⁸John R. Stigloe, Common Landscape of America, 1580-1845 (New Haven, CT and London: Yale University Press, 1982), p. 154-158, 177-180; Carroll van West, ed., The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture (Nashville, TN: Rutledge Hill Press for the Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), s.v., "Architecture, Vernacular Domestic," by Claudette Stager, and "Houses, Early Vernacular Plans," by Clifton Coxe Ellis, and "Houses, Vernacular Log Types," by Clifton Coxe Ellis; as well as Account Books, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

See also Bealor, p. 33-49; Warren E. Roberts, "The Tools Used in Building Log Houses in Indiana," in Common Places (/) Readings in American Vernacular Architecture, ed., Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens, GA and London: University of Georgia Press, 1986), p. 182-203; Mercer, Ancient Carpenter's Tools; and Joseph Moxon, Mechanick Exercises or the Doctrine of Handy-Works, with an introduction by John S. Kebabian (1703; reprint, Mendham, NJ: The Astragal Press, 1994), generally.

⁹*Pen* often refers to a roughly fabricated log structure, generally a unit within a larger building such as a barn or a house. Pens served as enclosures for agricultural products or livestock as well as dwellings by humans. To distinguish what was inside, pens usually inferred man's habitation and *crib* came to describe a pen used for livestock and produce. See Carl R. Lounsbury, An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape (New York, NY and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), p. 265-266. See also, Van West, ed., The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, s.v., "Houses, Early Vernacular Plans," by Clifton Coxe Ellis and s.v., "Architecture, Vernacular Domestic," by Claudette Stager.

maple, walnut, chestnut, beech, and significant to The Hermitage, tulip poplar. As for manufactured supplies, such as glass, Jackson could obtain them through his mercantile business.¹⁰

3. Original and subsequent owners & occupants: General Andrew Jackson purchased The Hermitage property in August 1804.¹¹ By February 1805, Jackson and his family were living there.¹² After the Jackson family moved into The Hermitage Mansion in 1821, the First Hermitage became quarters for some of The Hermitage slaves.¹³ The Hermitage remained in the Jackson family until 1856. At that time, Andrew Jackson, Jr., sold The Hermitage (500 acres) to the state of Tennessee. After the Civil War, it is not known who, if anyone, lived in the West Cabin. However, there are several late nineteenth-century photographs of visitors, picnickers, and Jackson's former slave Alfred posing near the First Hermitage.¹⁴ In 1889, the state gave the Ladies' Hermitage Association (LHA) a trust for twenty-five acres of the property that included the First Hermitage. The LHA has owned the property since 1889.¹⁵

4. Original plans and construction: The West Cabin is the second floor of the two-story log structure Jackson lived in between 1804 and 1821. Therefore, the three rooms of the present ground floor were on the second floor, and may or may not reflect the original floor plan.¹⁶ No documentary evidence is known to describe the first floor layout.

¹⁰Samuel D. Smith, ed., "An Archaeological and Historical Assessment of the First Hermitage, 1976," Report prepared for the Division of Archaeology, Tennessee Department of Conservation and the Ladies' Hermitage Association, 1976, Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee, p. 3; van West, ed., The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, s.v., "This Land Called Tennessee," by Wilma Dykeman and Dykeman Stokely. As an example of manufactured goods, please see Robert Hays, Cedar Grove, to Andrew Jackson, Letter, 15 December 1803, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #3, 1803-1806) and/or The Papers of Andrew Jackson, vol. 1, p. 410.

¹¹Nathaniel Hays to Andrew Jackson, Deed, 23 August 1804, rec. 30 March 1805, Davidson County, Deed Book F, p. 241; also, see Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #3, 1803-1806).

¹²Andrew Jackson, The Hermitage, to James Winchester, Letter, 17 February 1805, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #2, 1805-1813). It is likely that Jackson was living at The Hermitage soon after he purchased the property. In September 1804, a letter is addressed to Jackson at his "rural retreat" and another is addressed to him at The Hermitage. However, the February letter is the earliest I saw in the Andrew Jackson papers that Jackson wrote and identified himself as at The Hermitage. In March 1805, the deed of conveyance from Nathaniel Hays to Andrew Jackson was registered; the property transferred was 425 acres described as a rural retreat. See William Preston Anderson to Andrew Jackson, The Hermitage, 18 September 1804, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., and John Hutchings to Andrew Jackson, Rural Retreat, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #3, 1803-1806).

¹³Archaeologists found the root cellar, a feature associated with housing for enslaved Africans, between April and May 1999; an analysis of their discoveries is forthcoming. In the interim, see Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

¹⁴Ladies' Hermitage Association Photographs, var. dates, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

¹⁵Andrew Jackson, Jr., to the State of Tennessee, Deed, 28 March 1856, rec. 29 March 1856, Davidson County, Deed Book 24, p. 148; Nashville, Tennessee, Senate Bill No. 461, 1889, re: conveyance of 25 acres to the Ladies' Hermitage Association.

¹⁶Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, July 1999.

5. Alterations and additions:

Jackson Residency, 1804-21

No archaeological evidence exists for a pre-1804 inhabited structure, although, the West Cabin is clearly an alteration of the building the Jackson family lived in between 1804 and 1821. Foundations discovered underneath the West Cabin indicate the original location of the two-story Jackson house. The two-story dwelling was lowered into the one-story form seen today by rolling the second floor and roof off of the first. That activity accounts for the slight shift in axis from the first foundations to the present position.¹⁷

The archaeological and architectural evidence for this change is further supported by two traditional accounts of The Hermitage. The first dates to 1874. At that time, Sarah Childress Polk described the log houses of The Hermitage she knew as a young woman. Polk, as recorded several years after their conversation by author Augustus C. Buell, said of the cabins:

The principal one had been built for a blockhouse in the days of Indian alarms, afterward used as a store and, about 1804, converted into a dwelling. It, like all blockhouses, was two stories high. [. . .] The main building -- the former blockhouse -- had on the first floor one very large room with a huge fireplace capable of taking in a good sized load of wood at a time. A lean-to had been built off the back containing two rooms, one of which was used as the family sleeping apartment, the other as a "pantry" or "buttery" [. . .] the great room, about twenty-four feet by twenty-six feet, was at once kitchen, dining-room, sitting-room, and parlor and the large table that stood in the middle [. . .]¹⁸

¹⁷Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, May 1999; Jillian E. Galle and Larry McKee, "Archaeological Recovery of Architectural Evidence at the First Hermitage through 1998," Report, March 1999, Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

¹⁸Augustus C. Buell, History of Andrew Jackson (/) Pioneer, Patriot, Soldier, President, vol. 1, (New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1904), p. 226. Traditions surrounding the first Jackson residence on The Hermitage property describe the building as a blockhouse. Some stories say that the blockhouse was erected by Nathaniel Hays, the man who sold Andrew Jackson the property.

By the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, a "blockhouse" was understood to be a military building or fortress-like structure erected along the frontier for defensive purposes. Sometimes "blockhouses" were inside a fort; more common, though, the blockhouse functioned alone. The term "blockhouse" also alluded to horizontal log construction.

Actually, "blockhouses" were constructed of many materials, including (but not exclusively) hewn logs. As a defensive feature, the buildings were called "blockhouses" because of their location in strategic places. These structures were built in the frontier, often by rivers and other thoroughfares, acting as a checkpoint of sorts. As white settlement flourished, the military need for blockhouses was reduced and at the same time the need for good housing increased. How the buildings were used changed, but the desire to occupy a solid structure (which was what a blockhouse was) did not. By the time of Andrew Jackson's purchase of The Hermitage property in August 1804, the Indian threat to the Nashville area was reduced. Jackson did not need to build or live in a defensive structure there; he could, however, build a well-made dwelling using horizontal log construction.

Because the term "blockhouse" suggests a military motivation for construction, it is best not to use the term in connection to the Jackson residence. Their house was not intended to be a defensive structure. The latter definition of a "blockhouse" as a well-made building is, however, appropriate for the West Cabin although this understanding is less known than the military connotation. See, Carl R. Lounsbury, An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape (New York, NY and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), p. 35-36; Donald A. Hutslar, The Architecture of Migration (/)

Polk's recollection of the dimensions of the great room in the Jackson dwelling match those for the overall structure of the West Cabin. No archaeological evidence for the lean-to "off the back" mentioned by Polk has been found. However, traces of a small lean-to attached to the cabin's southeast corner exist. Preliminary evidence of the lean-to date place it up to and as late as 1870. A photograph of the West Cabin, moreover, shows some sort of lean-to in the southeast corner.¹⁹

The second account, recorded in the 1860 book the Life of Andrew Jackson, arose from the author James Parton's visit to The Hermitage. He was escorted around the property by Hannah, a plantation slave left behind to watch the place until the state decided what to do with it. Parton said that

A square two-story block house was General Jackson's first dwelling-place on The Hermitage farm. This house, like many others of its class, contained three rooms; one on the ground floor, and two up stairs. To this house was soon added a smaller one, which stood about twenty feet from the principal structure, and was connected with it by a covered passage. [. . .] The larger block house stands where it stood when occupied by General Jackson; but has been cut down into a one story house, and used for the last thirty years as a Negro cabin.²⁰

Parton continued his description of the West Cabin by representing it as slightly bigger than "a typical Negro cabin in the South." He wrote that the slaves' living quarters never were "ceiled." Inside, the quarters were black with smoke. Also, each had a trap door in the floor to store things out of sight.²¹

1821-60

Parton saw the First Hermitage after its conversion to a Negro quarter. He said this change happened thirty years beforehand. The West Cabin, seen by Parton, was a one-story building. His description of the Jackson dwelling, therefore, depended on Hannah's memories of it or on those of others' who told him about the First Hermitage. Nevertheless, certain aspects of his presentation ring true. Architectural evidence reveals the West Cabin was originally two stories, with the second story remaining. Evidence includes much of the roof structure and the beaded floor joists.²² In addition, Parton's mention of a trap door could relate to the three root cellars found inside the West Cabin.²³ In spite of inaccuracies in his description, Parton does account for the major alteration of the West Cabin

Log Construction in the Ohio Country, 1750-1850 (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1986), p. 148-151.

¹⁹Galle and McKee, "Archaeological Recovery of Architectural Evidence at the First Hermitage through 1998"; Ladies' Hermitage Association Photograph (P0247.07), n.d., Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

²⁰James Parton, The Life of Andrew Jackson, vol. 1 (New York, NY: Mason Brothers, 1860), p. 307.

²¹Parton, vol. 1, p. 307.

²²Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, May 1999, re: architectural evaluations of the physical evidence.

²³Personal Communication, Jillian E. Galle, July 1999, re: discovery of root cellars in the West Cabin.

into its current configuration, and in so doing, implies the downsizing occurred concurrent to its change in occupants.

By October 1858 Rachel Jackson's nephew, Billy Donelson, had purchased a portion of The Hermitage property. Donelson then rented twenty acres and the overseer's house to a tenant named White. The tenant promptly irritated Sarah Jackson, the wife of Andrew Jackson, Jr., by letting his livestock traipse over the residual Hermitage acreage. Jackson complained that Donelson would rent the Negroes' cabins next; however, she does not specify which ones.²⁴

1860-1889

Throughout the Civil War era, changes to the West Cabin probably include only the deterioration imposed by natural forces because of the reduced circumstances of the Jackson family. After the war, The Hermitage slaves were free and living elsewhere, with the exception of former slaves Alfred and Gracy who remained at The Hermitage. They resided in "Alfred's house"; the location of that structure is unknown. The Jackson family also remained at The Hermitage; after her husband died in 1865, Sarah Jackson took in a minister, Mr. Finney. They stayed in The Hermitage Mansion. Little was said of the place, or its upkeep, as a whole. When the state authorities visited The Hermitage, they commented on the run-down condition of the place, especially the tomb. Nothing was said about the First Hermitage specifically.²⁵

A ca. 1870 photograph of the West Cabin shows it closed up and its shutters sagging. Also in this image, the floor joists are visible, lapped over the sill, and another log runs parallel but beneath the aforementioned sill. The chimney cap appears to have different masonry work than the shaft below and the clapboard gable is falling apart. By 1889, the south chimney collapsed, pushing in the wall as it went.²⁶

Ladies' Hermitage Association, 1889-present

In 1889, the Ladies' Hermitage Association (LHA) assumed stewardship of The Hermitage property, and faced the prospect of preserving the First Hermitage. The West Cabin's chimney had

²⁴Sarah Jackson, The Hermitage, to Andrew Jackson, Jr., Letter, 2 October 1858, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Plat of Wm Donelson, Esq. Land, 1 October 1859, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

²⁵Sarah Jackson, The Hermitage, to Andrew Jackson, III, Letter, 6 December 1867, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Nashville, Tennessee, "Visit to The Hermitage" Majority Report, Joint Senate Committee, 22 February 1883, in Acts of the State of Tennessee; Nashville, Tennessee, "Visit to The Hermitage" Minority Report, 22 February 1883, in Acts of the State of Tennessee.

²⁶See note below.

fallen in and the sill on one side rotted away.²⁷ The LHA authorized rebuilding the chimney, by using the same bricks, replacing the board roof as well as the flooring for the first floor and loft. As further precaution, six new sills were added.²⁸

Toward the end of the decade, road work near The Hermitage employed convict laborers. These men had no place to stay during their tour of duty and so the LHA opted to repair the East and West Cabins in the First Hermitage for their use. It is unclear, however, from the LHA minutes if the road crew stayed in both or either of the First Hermitage cabins or what improvements were completed for their benefit. In a ca. 1898 photograph, the First Hermitage cabins appear to be in good physical condition so it was likely that the LHA saw that the maintenance was done.²⁹

At the turn of the century, photographs record the appearance of the West Cabin. At that juncture, the cabin had several stone foundation piers and chinking in place. By 1905, though, minor chinking and log damage was evident in the south wall and the west wall's sill log had been replaced. Also present is a worm fence in the vicinity of the cabins.³⁰

No further mention of the West Cabin is made in the LHA minutes until 1919. At that time, the LHA board discussed buying clapboards for roofing projects at the barn and cabins. The next year the LHA still wanted boards and authorized the caretaker, Mr. Baker, to find the clapboards required for the roof.³¹

The LHA talked about redoing the interior of the West Cabin in 1926.³²

²⁷Ladies' Hermitage Association Photographs (P0247.05, P0485, P0249 02A-B, P0249.03, P0249.04), 1870-1890, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. See also, Minutes, September 1889, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

²⁸Minutes, September 1890, Ladies' Hermitage Association, Hermitage, Tennessee.

²⁹Minutes, February 1897 and March 1897, Ladies' Hermitage Association, Hermitage, Tennessee; Ladies' Hermitage Association Photograph (P0249.1), ca. 1898, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

³⁰Ladies' Hermitage Association Photographs (P0247.15, P0249.05, P0629), ca. 1900, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

³¹Minutes, March 1919, September 1920, June 1921, July 1921, and August 1921, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Ladies' Hermitage Association Photograph (P0596), 1905, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

³²Minutes, June 1926, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. There is no indication in the minutes if this work was done, therefore, the discussion is mentioned possibly as an avenue for the First Hermitage research staff to confirm.

In the mid 1930s, the LHA applied for moneys available from the state through the Works Projects Administration (WPA).³³ Between 1935 and 1937, the LHA minutes record the desire to restore the First Hermitage using government funds. They found logs to replace damaged timbers in the cabin, received the boards needed for the doors as a gift, and commented that the “reproduced cabins” were “most charming.”³⁴

In 1950, the LHA mentioned some of the work done during the WPA era, primarily involving a new floor.³⁵ During the 1950s, a plank fence delineated the First Hermitage area. Regarding the West Cabin, the LHA discussed the condition of its floor and investigated the cost of repointing the chimney. Providing proper cover for the First Hermitage cabins posed a problem for the LHA. They sought appropriate shingles as well as logs from other historic cabins. Experts recruited to help the LHA in its restoration efforts included officials at the National Trust, author Stanley Horn, and Robert Goodpasture, a local authority on log construction.³⁶

Also in 1950s, the landscape preoccupied the LHA. The LHA added walkways, signs, plants, and fruit trees to the cabin environs so that the First Hermitage would be more of a “feature” on the property. The improved signage, also, would help visitors discern the First Hermitage from the Cabin-by-the-Spring used for social events.³⁷

³³“WPA Funds to Aid in Restoration of Hermitage Tract,” [November 1935], Original Cabins, folder, Department of Preservation, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Minutes, October 1936, May 1937, and July 1937, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

The WPA project (OP65-44-1645) involved “repairs and restoration of present buildings.” Specifically, the project proposal requested funds to “beautify grounds, lay brick walks, build fences, remodel Caretakers houses, build new foreman’s house, restore original log Hermitage, grade parking site, build stone fences, gateway and gatehouse, demolish Old Confederate Home building, restore old smokehouse, repair fire protection, supply pond, extend wtaer lines and build filter head.” Note: Spelling of “propection” changed to protection and “wtaer” changed to water. The work was justified as “This property, the home of General Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States is a national shrine and the work here contemplated will greatly enhance value and general convenience of visitors.” Preliminary plans were complete by October 1935 and were done by Warfield-Keeble Architects, according to the project proposal. Please see Record Group 69, Works Projects Administration, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland. (Photographic State files, Historic Shrine files, and Microfilm TN, reel A-1511)

³⁴Minutes, June 1935, October 1936, May 1937, and July 1937, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. This was all that was mentioned at the time.

³⁵Minutes, April 1950, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

³⁶Minutes, August 1951, November 1951, June 1958, July 1958, August 1958, September 1958, and October 1958, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Ladies’ Hermitage Association Photograph (P0427.08), ca. 1950, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. Re: Stanley Horn, see Minutes, November 1955, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. Re: Robert Goodpasture, see Minutes, September 1958, December 1958, February 1959, May 1959, and August 1959, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

³⁷Re: signs, the walkway/path, and plantings, please see Minutes, February 1952, January 1956, March 1956, April 1956, May 1956, November 1957, February 1958, and May 1958, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

By 1960 the First Hermitage cabins had been chinked, daubed, floored, roofed, and furnished. Burglar bars protected the LHA's investment.³⁸

In the 1970s, state archaeologists worked on the First Hermitage.³⁹ Around the same time, the LHA contacted Henry A. Judd, an architect with the Department of Interior. Judd recommended that the LHA put a ceiling in (although he saw no evidence of a prior ceiling over the northeast room), that the windows be glazed with eight-over-eight lights, and that the grading on the east side of the building be reduced. Lowering the ground level, he proposed, would protect the sill from rot.⁴⁰

In 1979, the West Cabin was raised six inches, the sill logs replaced, concrete footings poured under the corner stones, windows glazed, a shutter made for the north facade window, chinking redone, and mortar reapplied. Also at this time, the contractors removed the plank wall as well as the flooring to inspect the joists. The floor joists had rotted in places because of their contact with the decayed sill and summer logs. In the process, the contractor Ray Hagewood of H & H Construction noticed that all but two of the joists had been cut off and repositioned.⁴¹ Also, the staff of The Hermitage says that the chimney was rebuilt at this time.⁴²

Several years after repairing the West Cabin, the LHA faced more maintenance. In 1982, the LHA paid for chimney work. In 1986, Leatherwood was contracted to re-roof the cabin(s). In 1990, the LHA discussed putting electricity in the West Cabin for a fire alarm and security system; at this time, the burglar bars were exchanged for a glass barrier.⁴³

³⁸ Re: discussion of repairs & materials, see Minutes, May 1958, June 1958, July 1958, August 1958, September 1958, October 1958, February 1959, August 1959, September 1959, October 1959, April 1960, and June 1960, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. Also, Minutes, May 1960, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee, mention the log cabin was chinked & daubed, the floor finished, and furniture moved in. The record does not, however, specify which log cabin.

³⁹Please see Samuel D. Smith, ed., "An Archaeological and Historical Assessment of the First Hermitage, 1976," Report prepared for the Division of Archaeology, Tennessee Department of Archaeology and the Ladies' Hermitage Association, 1976, Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

⁴⁰Site visit, Henry A. Judd, 1975. See also, Minutes, June 1975, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. The LHA board mentioned having Judd come out to The Hermitage in that meeting.

It is unclear if the ceiling (that Judd recommended be installed) was ever put into the cabin.

⁴¹Site visit, Henry A. Judd, 1979 - see notes re: the occasion, Department of Preservation, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. Judd is mentioned in the LHA minutes two times in regard to this restoration effort. See Minutes, November 1978 and June 1979, Ladies' Hermitage Association, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

Also, in early photographs of the West Cabin, its floor joists are visible past the sill. Moreover, there appears to be two logs positioned below the joists. See Ladies' Hermitage Association Photographs (P0247.05, P0249.02A-B, P0249.03), ca. 1870- 1890, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

⁴²Personal Communication, Clare Adams (to Mark S. Schara), August 1999.

⁴³Minutes, August 1982, November 1986, and February 1990, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Ladies' Hermitage Association Photographs (P0710, P0600), 1985, 1986, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

Evaluations of West Cabin, 1988-1999

On a statewide survey conducted in 1988, William W. Howell appraised the West Cabin. He saw a structure containing roughly 650 square feet, with stone pier foundations, log walls, and wood rooftop. Inside, the ceiling was plank and beam. The first floor was divided into three rooms. Howell recommended that the window frames be replaced, that the grade at the northeast corner be decreased, and that the beaded floor joists be elevated off the ground.⁴⁴

In 1991-92, Victor P. Hood assessed the First Hermitage cabins; Hood checked for potential structural problems and suggested several repairs. He recommended window and shutter maintenance on the cabin's three openings as well as removing the boards nailed to the wall plate log on the west facade of the building. Waterproofing, replacing and consolidating logs, structural reinforcements of concrete, patching the chinking, getting rid of the graffiti, and applying new clapboards to the gables were all advised. In the east front facade, the wall plate and door needed work. Inside the cabin, Hood emphasized the need for repairs to the flooring, ceiling joists, and chimney. Hood's conclusion was that the West Cabin suffered mostly from out-of-plumb construction, a significant problem arising from various repairs and replacements to the sill logs.⁴⁵ These repairs, however, were not implemented.

B. Historical Context: The Log Cabin⁴⁶

Interpretations of the Log Cabin

In the nineteenth-century, the log cabin assumed a mythic quality. Its legend, and popular appeal, grew to new proportions in political campaigns after 1840. After Andrew Jackson's successful run for the Presidency against the eastern establishment, candidates claimed their origins in a log cabin. William Henry Harrison was among the first to do so. The cabin became a synonym for humble and somehow more true origins, for being self-made men in a democratic system, and for the strength of character shaped by a frontier past. Roots in a log cabin also identified the political hopefuls with their western constituency.⁴⁷

⁴⁴William W. Howell, "Survey of Historic Sites and Properties," Inspection Report for the Tennessee Historical Commission, June 1988, Department of Preservation, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

⁴⁵Victor Hood, "West Cabin," Report, 1991-92, Department of Preservation, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. See also, Daniel K. Borsos, EMC Structural Engineers, "West Cabin," Evaluation and Report, 16 October 1992, Department of Preservation, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

⁴⁶For an overview of what to expect in Tennessee, see van West, ed., The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, s.v., "Houses, Vernacular Log Types," by Clifton Coxie Ellis.

⁴⁷Kammen, p. 32; van West, The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, s.v., "This Land Called Tennessee," by Wilma Dykeman and Dykeman Stokely; and Donald A. Hutslar, The Architecture of Migration (/) Log Construction in the Ohio Country, 1750-1850 (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1986), p. 95-147, passim, & p. 173; see also, H.B. Shurtleff, The Log Cabin Myth (Cambridge, MA, 1939) generally.

In particular, the log cabin caused a stir in the Presidential campaign of William Henry Harrison, and his running mate, John Tyler, in 1839-40.

Just as politicians looked back to log cabins as the only necessary domestic space and source of their present virtue, architects too rediscovered the idea of simple beginnings. Vitruvius cited log housing as the source of all architecture long ago and the late eighteenth-century theorists gave his story added emphasis. Marc-Antoine Laugier, for example, claimed that in man's first crude shelter, made of forms imitated from nature, was all an architect needed for design. Laugier advocated following the idea of the wooden, primitive hut, that is to say, the principles of nature embodied in it, to achieve good architecture. In doing so, architects would be sure of the appropriateness of design to the structure's purpose as well as the social status of its occupants.⁴⁸

Log House, Log Cabin

Although the theoretical notion of the "primitive hut" was irrelevant to late eighteenth-century pioneers in the backcountry, their dwellings, misinterpreted, signified a similar tenet. Using architecture to convey a message about social order was common practice in colonial America. To convey their wealth and position, men built fashionable houses of substantial materials. They filled their homes with consumer goods, luxuries, and leisure accessories.⁴⁹ If their household had servants or slaves, which was likely, these same men saw that they were sheltered in a less commodious manner. Betty, the Jackson family's cook, for example, held a premier position in the slave hierarchy at The Hermitage and the living quarters for her family reflected that status. Betty and her children, however, lived in the kitchen outbuilding, or rather in her workplace and not in a separate home of their own.⁵⁰

During the heyday of log construction, 1750s to 1850s, log houses and cabins were distinguishable through the level of architectural finish given to them. The name "cabin" implied a temporary structure, erected quickly to keep out the sun and rain, much like the "primitive hut." Cabins were identifiable by the rounded logs as well as by the impermanent materials employed as roof cover and in-fill (chinking) between logs.⁵¹

⁴⁸Marc-Antoine Laugier, An Essay on Architecture, trans. with an introduction by Wolfgang and Anni Herrmann (paperback ed., Los Angeles, CA: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1977); Vitruvius, The Ten Books of Architecture, trans. Morris Morgan (Harvard University Press, 1914; paperback ed., New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1960), p. 38-39. See also, Hutslar, p. 13.

⁴⁹See, for example, Richard L. Bushman, The Refinement of America (/) Persons, Places, Cities (paperback ed., New York, NY: Vintage Books, 1993) and Cary Carson, Ronald Hoffman, and Peter J. Albert, ed., Of Consuming Interests(/) the Style of Life in the Eighteenth Century (Charlottesville, VA and London: The University Press of Virginia for the United States Capitol Historical Society, 1994), generally for the story of the consumer revolution and its effects on colonial society.

⁵⁰Gwendolyn Wright, Building the Dream (/) A Social History of Housing in America (Cambridge, MA and London: MIT Press, 1981; paperback ed., 1983), p.43-46.

⁵¹Lounsbury, p. 55-56; McAlester and McAlester, p. 82-86; Stigloc, p. 177-180. Regarding the distinction between cabins and houses, the authors each refer to Thaddeus M. Harris, Journal of a Tour into the Territory Northwest of the Alleghany Mountains, 1805.

Similar prejudices colored the perception and understanding of the post in the ground construction technology of the colonial Chesapeake. Some were rough and ready structures, but more often, the dwellings were nicely finished buildings. Settlers often chose to construct their houses this way long after the expediency was gone and other housing available. The same preference for a well-made vernacular building persisted in the backcountry as log construction continued after the advent

Log construction, however, was not limited to these “cabins,” an architecture of necessity, but characterized the dwelling of many an affluent household. The West Cabin, for example, was a structure made by those who knew how to use a horizontal log construction technology. Its logs were hewn and cut into squares, notched at the ends, raised, and necessary to become air tight, chinked and daubed. Shingles, rather than clapboards, roofed the structure. An exterior end chimney made of complex masonry heated the interior. Cabins, on the other hand, generally had a gable end chimney made of wattle and daub. These mud and stick stacks canted outward from the dwelling wall so that in the inevitable event of a fire it could be pulled down and, strategically, away from the house.

Today, the level of architectural finish can not be used solely to distinguish a log house from a log cabin. Cabins generally are known by their size. If a horizontal log building is one-story with a loft and less than twenty feet square, it is a cabin. Buildings of this scale, however, can have hewn logs, refined bricks, and/or stone masonry. Larger buildings are houses.⁵²

The Log Cabin Building Tradition

It was the myth of the wilderness, so appealing to the post-Jackson politicians, writers, and painters, that obscured the true origins and characteristics of horizontal log construction. Now, however, it is generally agreed that the source of the horizontal log construction practiced in the central basin of Tennessee was a vernacular building technology handed down from generations of Danish, Swedish, and northern German peoples. The practice began before the bronze age, persisting until it crossed the Atlantic in the minds of Scandinavian, German, and northern British emigrants.⁵³ The Scandinavians introduced log construction to the Delaware Valley in the 1630s. Later, in the early eighteenth century, German colonists arrived in Pennsylvania with their similar architectural preferences and building skills in tow.⁵⁴

As migration from Southeastern Pennsylvania began, the settlers moved down into Maryland and the Valley of Virginia in search of new lands and opportunities. There they encountered Anglo-Americans and people of Scots-Irish descent; the architectural traditions of each ethnic group mingled

of saw mills and the balloon frame. See Cary Carson, Norman F. Barka, William M. Kelso, Garry Wheeler Stone, and Dell Upton, “Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies,” in Material Life in America, 1600-1860, ed. Robert Blair St. George (Boston, MA: Northeastern University Press, 1988), p. 113-158, passim; and John Morgan, The Log House in East Tennessee (Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 1990), p. 59-78, passim.

⁵²Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, July 1999.

⁵³Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (1984; 11th printing, paperbacked., New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1994), p. 82-86; John R. Stigloe, Common Landscape of America, 1580-1845 (New Have, CT and London: Yale University Press, 1982), p. 177-180; John Morgan, The Log House in East Tennessee (Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 1990), p. 7; David Hackett Fischer, America (/) A Cultural History, vol. 1, Albion's Seed (/) Four British Folkways in America (New York, NY and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989), p. 655-662, passim; and Fred B. Kniffen and Henry Glassie, “Building in Wood in the Eastern United States: A Time-Place Perspective,” in Common Places (/) Readings in American Vernacular Architecture, ed. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens, GA and London: University of Georgia Press, 1986), p. 159-181.

⁵⁴McAlester and McAlester, p. 82-86; Stigloe, p. 177-180; Fischer, p. 655-662, passim; and Kniffen and Glassie, p. 159-181.

and was transformed. This version of log construction was disseminated, largely by the far-flung Scots-Irish, across the Appalachians into the backcountry beginning in the middle of the eighteenth century.⁵⁵

It was in the eighteenth-century backcountry where additional forms evolved and have persisted into the twentieth century. Radiating out from the mid-Atlantic seaboard, log houses constructed in the Valley of Virginia had a one room format. This one room, or single pen, plan had a ground level enclosed space heated by an exterior end chimney. The room was either rectangular or square in shape, ranging in size from 36' x 18' to 18' x 13'.⁵⁶

The single pen provided an additive architectural framework; numerous single pens could be lined up next to one another, creating multiple spaces yet keeping within a familiar building program. As the single pen expanded, it became an entity described as a double pen, a saddlebag type, or a dogtrot plan. When the single pen evolved into the double pen, the two pens shared a common wall with the exterior non-chimney wall forming the partition between the two. On The Hermitage property, an example of a building with the double pen plan is the East Cabin, a structure located at the First Hermitage. The saddlebag plan differed from the double pen mainly because it featured a central chimney, enabling the second pen to draw off of the same stack as the first. At The Hermitage, the structure known as "Alfred's Cabin" is representative of the saddlebag type. In the dogtrot house, an arrangement sometimes called two rooms and a passage, two separate pens were linked by a passage or thoroughfare. The modern Cabin-by-the-Spring is an example of the dogtrot plan on The Hermitage property.⁵⁷

While the log building type was ubiquitous, in use nearly everywhere in the backcountry of Virginia and Carolina as well as the upland South, the means of joining the horizontal timbers varied. This helps identify the cultural origins of the builders. Generally builders placed the logs in alternating tiers and cut the ends so that one fit snugly onto the one below it. Six methods of joining the corner timbers included the saddle notch, V-notch, diamond notch, half-dovetail notch, full dovetail notch, and the square notch. The latter category is not really a notch for it lacks the structural soundness that characterizes the others and often must be pegged to remain in situ. Of the others, the saddle notch primarily was for logs left in the round, and was the least secure because of the tendency for the logs to roll. It came to be considered a method appropriate for barns and agricultural outbuildings rather than the dwelling in Tennessee.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ McAlester and McAlester, p. 82-86; Stigloe, p. 177-180; Fischer, p. 655-662, *passim*; and Kniffen and Glassie, p. 159-181.

⁵⁶ In his study of Ohio log buildings, Donald Hutslar found differences in the single pen log house plans. The English houses were more rectangular in shape while the Germans built squares. See Hutslar, p. 4; van West, ed., The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, s.v., "Housing, Vernacular Log Types," by Clifton Coxe Ellis; and Alex W. Bealor, The Log Cabin (/) Homes of the North American Wilderness (Barre, MA: Barre Publishing, 1978), p. 23-27.

⁵⁷ Morgan, p. 7-18, *passim*; Fred B. Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," in Common Places (/) Readings in American Vernacular Architecture, ed. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens, GA and London: University of Georgia Press, 1986), p. 3-26; Fischer, p. 655-662.

⁵⁸ Kniffen and Glassie, p. 158-181, *passim*; Hutslar, p. 175-177, 227-243.

In southeastern Pennsylvania, the Germans, who were then emulated by the Scots-Irish, constructed log structures out of hewn logs, chinked the spaces between the logs, and made box corners by notching the ends of the timbers. As these peoples headed south to Tennessee, they left buildings with saddle notches, V-notches, and half-dovetail notches behind. In Tennessee, the half-dovetail notch was the choice for those who erected houses, but the saddle notch, square notch, and V-notch maintained a presence. In so doing, these notches show their makers' cultural debt to the Scandinavians and Germans, as well as their ability to meld multi-cultural influences into a definitive material expression -- their domestic architecture.⁵⁹

These log houses maintained a presence well into the twentieth century as viable living quarters, in addition to those cabins preserved by organizations like the Ladies' Hermitage Association. The survival of so many log structures into the 1900s attests to their durability, or soundness of construction, and to the strength of the vernacular building tradition.⁶⁰

In Tennessee, descendants of the emigrants from the British borderlands, specifically the Scots-Irish, learned horizontal log construction and applied that knowledge when creating their own house plans. They made dwellings with the single and double pens, as well as saddlebag and dogtrot formats. Occupants of log houses included many affluent families such as the Donelson, Polk, Calhoun, and Houston clans. These families possessed material resources, socio-economic connections, and often intermarried. As a result, by the 1770s many claimed leadership roles and established their hegemony in the newer regions of British colonial America. Their success put them in a premier position, after the war, to shape American democracy. Andrew Jackson, for example, was a member of this "backcountry ascendency."⁶¹

Jackson's log house was held together by half-dovetail notches, a feature predominantly associated with dwellings. Moreover, its corresponding, extant outbuilding (the East Cabin) had hewn timbers with square notches. Through their formal architectural qualities, better notches for the house than for service space, the log structures advertise the incipient social hierarchy. A difference in status is implied in the skills required to fashion the corner notches. As a member of the backcountry elite, Jackson was aware of how his dwelling should be built, and could afford to make that choice.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

⁵⁹Kniffen and Glassie, p. 158-181, passim; Kniffen, p. 3-26, passim; McAlester and McAlester, p. 85-86; Bealor, p. 27-28; van West, ed., The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, s.v., "Houses, Vernacular Log Types," by Clifton Coxé Ellis; Morgan, p. 11-14.

⁶⁰McAlester and McAlester, p. 85-86; Bealor, p. 27-28; van West, ed., The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, s.v., "Houses, Vernacular Log Types," by Clifton Coxé Ellis; and Morgan, p. 59-97, generally on the persistence and decline of log building.

⁶¹Fischer, p. 642-650.

1. **Architectural Character:** The West Cabin is made of horizontal log construction and held together at its corners by half-dovetail notches. Like the traditional single pen cabin, the West Cabin is essentially square in shape and has a gable end chimney in its south wall. Unlike the typical single pen dwelling, however, the Jackson house was a two-story building with three rooms on the second floor.

Although it is not known how the first floor of the Jackson house was partitioned or used, the building was nicely finished architecturally. The sophistication of its corner notches and architectural embellishments seen in the beaded joists of the log house reflected the socio-economic status Andrew and Rachel Jackson held between 1804 and 1821. While the Jackson family lived in the First Hermitage, they were complemented on their “friendly and hospitable” home and their “delightful farm.”⁶²

2. **Condition of fabric:** The West Cabin suffers from the impermanence of its wood building material, and its susceptibility to the weather. The logs have sustained weather damage, absorbed moisture, and subsequently decayed. This process is facilitated by contact with the ground and with the termites and bees; the effects are evident in the condition of the beaded floor joists. Effects of the wear and tear also are seen in the missing patches of daubing and chinking, and in the chinking that is exposed but remains in situ, as well as rusted hardware.

The worn condition of the West Cabin is most notable in its south wall. There, extensive repairs have been made such as replacing logs and clapboards. The chimney, moreover, is not attached to the building. Its stone foundation has been exposed by the archaeological work and seen to be unstable.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall dimensions:** The West Cabin is a one-story building measuring approximately 26'0" x 24'0".⁶³

2. **Foundations:** The West Cabin stands on stone pier supports situated at each corner and at the center of the sills. The sill log of each facade rests directly on these piers.

3. **Walls:** The walls, including the sill, consist of hewn logs joined at the corners by half-dovetail notches. Sealing the space between the log members is “daubing” or a mortar of mud or clay applied over the pieces of wood filling the gaps called “chinking.” The gables are sheathed with clapboards of varying length. Receiving the clapboard siding are studs rising beside the chimney and appearing at intervals to the corner of the building.

4. **Structural systems:** The log walls of the West Cabin are load-bearing and so require massive timber. To protect against dampness, the sill was raised above the ground on stone piers. Adding

⁶²See, for example, William Blount to Andrew Jackson, Letter, 18 November 1810, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #5, 1810-1813), and Donelson Caffery to Andrew Jackson, Letter, 5 December 1810, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #5, 1810-1813).

⁶³The exact dimensions are available on the measured drawings; these measurements have been rounded-off for the text because no side is the same size as the others. Please see HABS No. TN-52-A (sheets 1 & 2).

support to the floor joists, which run east to west, is a summer beam set perpendicular to the joists above. Resting on the hewn log wall plate is the gable roof system. In the West Cabin, the gable is created through a common rafter system with some collar ties.⁶⁴ The rafters are spaced at intervals about two feet apart, with their beveled ends resting on the plate. Several of the rafters are morticed and tenoned at the top, which suggests that those rafter pairs are original roofing members. Similarly, some of the collar ties are secured to the rafters by mortice and tenon. Others, later replacements, are nailed into place. A typical ceiling joist is three and one-half inches wide by seven inches in depth. The floor joists are slightly wider, measuring four inches by seven inches.

Rough wood pegged jambs frame the window, door, and fireplace openings. The jambs, serving as corner boards, were installed to hold the cut ends of the logs in place.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: Although no longer extant, there is evidence of a lean-to addition to the south side.⁶⁵ Moreover, on the east facade of the cabin there is a series of holes (nineteen in all), made by an auger. They are located in the central section of the log wall between the north side of the door and the northeast corner of the building. How these peg holes functioned is unknown; possibilities include shelving or some sort of cover attached to the building.

6. Chimneys: Situated against the south elevation is a complex masonry chimney made of bricks and stones. The stone foundation, roughly one foot in depth, shores up the brick masonry chimney that is almost six feet across at the base, tapering at the shoulders to three and a half feet at the shaft. The chimney itself projects about two feet from the wall plane, particularly distinctive here because the stack was not integrated into the structural fabric.⁶⁶

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There is only one doorway into the West Cabin. It is located in the east elevation but off-set toward the south end of the building. The door faces east toward the other, extant cabin suggesting there was once a dynamic or frequent communication between the two structures. The door was made of security glass, and set into a frame three inches deep and about three feet high. The wood frame is six inches deep, including the one inch door jamb.⁶⁷

⁶⁴Site visit, April and May 1999; see also, John W. Reilly, "A Restoration Survey (/) Original Hermitage (West House) and Duplex Slave Quarter (East House)," *The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee*.

⁶⁵Galle and McKee, "Archaeological Discovery of Architectural Evidence at the First Hermitage through 1998"; Ladies' Hermitage Association Photograph (P0247.07), n.d., Department of Collections, *The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee*.

⁶⁶Actually, this chimney was taken down in June 1999 because the south wall is unstable. This change is footnoted because it happened after site visits to *The Hermitage*.

⁶⁷The glass security door broke while the HABS team was there; it was replaced by a plywood cover. This cover is removable so that the research of the West Cabin's structure can continue.

Archaeological investigations, prior to the 1999 season, turned up no evidence of another entryway into the West Cabin. As far as it is known, this door is — and was — the only means of ingress and egress. See Galle and McKee, "Archaeological Recovery of Architectural Evidence at the First Hermitage through 1998."

During the 1979-80 restorations it was mentioned that there was a change in the size of the door; it had increased in height. Similarly, in 1999, Douglass C. Reed found evidence of changes to the door, beginning with the Works Projects

b. Windows and shutters: There are three double hung sash windows lighting the interior of the West Cabin. In the north elevation, the opening is glazed with lights arranged four-over-four while the windows in the west wall are glazed with eight-over-eight lights.⁶⁸ All three windows are protected by wood, board-and-batten shutters. The west window shutters consist of five vertical boards held together by two horizontal members; similarly, the north window's shutter is of three vertical boards kept in line by two horizontal members. Each shutter is attached to the window frame by iron strap hinges. The frames for the windows also consist of wood boards nailed into the wall logs. There is no paint on the window mullions, sill, and frame.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The West Cabin has a gable roof covered by split oak shingles. The rows of shingles are positioned so that the shingles on the west side overshoot the east; this arrangement, known as combing, protects the peak of the roof from water infiltration.

b. Cornice, eaves: The cabin has a box cornice on the west side, however, this is a later attempt to protect the structural logs or perhaps (more likely) to dress up the cabin's physical appearance. The cornice and eaves are log and clapboard members left free of paint and nailed into place. The fascia on the gable end acts as a coping to protect the juncture of the roof to the gable wall from water.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The interior of the West Cabin has been partitioned into three rooms. The south side of the cabin's interior consists of one large room that is defined by the exterior log wall with the fireplace to the south and by a vertical board partition wall that runs east to west on the north. The east-west partition is located about twelve feet north of the south wall.⁶⁹ North of the east-west partition wall, the other half of the cabin has been subdivided into two rooms. These rooms are separated by a vertical board partition wall that extends from the north, exterior log wall to the east-west divider. These rooms are accessible only from the larger south room. In the south room, the exterior door in the east wall is on axis with the window in the west wall, facilitating cross ventilation. Moreover, the north side rooms are roughly the same size, producing a spatially balanced plan. It is unclear how the loft area of the cabin was partitioned or used.

Administration door jambs and the series of auger holes that indicate the opening grew by two and one half inches. Further investigation revealed that the door was originally a window. Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, May 1999.

In July 1999, it was determined that the door was a window and was changed into a doorway when the house was lowered to a one-story building. Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, July 1999.

⁶⁸The double hung eight-over-eight glazed sash is not original to the cabin; neither is the glazed sash in the north wall. Henry Judd suggested the arrangement as appropriate in 1975. Site visit, Henry A. Judd, 1975; and Reilly, "A Restoration Survey (/) Original Hermitage (West House) and Duplex Slave Quarter (East House)."

⁶⁹Please see HABS No. TN-52-A (sheets 1 & 2) for the precise room dimensions.

Current study has established that the vertical board walls that separate the rooms are in their original position and that this level was originally the second floor of the Jackson house (1804-21).⁷⁰

2. Stairways: There is a ladder stair into the loft area placed in the southeast corner of the northeast room; architectural evidence infers that it originally was located two inches east of where it is now.⁷¹ The beaded stringer of the ladder stair suggests the work of a skilled artisan.

3. Flooring: The floor boards run from north to south over east to west oriented joists. The underside of the joists has a beaded edge. The floor boards, typically measuring approximately five and one half inches, are cut from poplar and in place after the 1979-80 archaeological investigation. In April 1999, the floor was removed to facilitate further architectural and archaeological study.⁷²

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The log and vertical board walls of the West Cabin have been whitewashed. Beneath this coating, however, are signs of paint and wallpaper.⁷³ The walls, made of boards connected by tongue and groove joints, retain a degree of architectural finish in keeping with the beaded floor joists.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There are no interior doors in the West Cabin. The rooms, delineated by the partition walls, are accessed through openings that are not framed out but merely look like large gaps between the boards. No evidence of a door frame or surround remains for either opening.

b. Windows: The windows lighting the West Cabin consist of wood frames nailed into the older frames and logs already in situ. The current sash was made and installed during the 1979 restoration by H & H Construction; at that time, wood pegs were put into the sash to secure it.⁷⁴

6. Decorative features and trim: The decorative components of the West Cabin are missing; its window and door surrounds have been removed as well as other interior treatments. The remaining structural ornament is its brick fireplace and hearth. The hearth extends about two feet into the room and the bricks are positioned without mortar.

⁷⁰Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, July 1999.

⁷¹Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, May 1999.

⁷²This floor replaced the one inch by six inch tongue and groove boards installed during the Works Progress Administration era (1930s); it was recommended that it be replaced by poplar boards cut to be random one inch flooring. See Reilly, "A Restoration Survey (/) Original Hermitage (West House) and Duplex Slave Quarter (East House)"; Site visit, May 1999.

⁷³In May 1999, I was shown a place in the West Cabins walls that had traces of the paint and wallpaper that Sara Chase found during her site visit in April 1999.

⁷⁴Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, July 1999.

7. Hardware: The strap hinges holding the shutters in place are the only extant examples of hardware. However, on a door found in the loft space of the West Cabin has a mid to late nineteenth-century lock and a cast iron strap hinge. The lock probably was a contemporary to the Ladies' Hermitage Association repairs in 1889-90. The hinge was not stamped, placing its manufacture earlier in the nineteenth century than the door to which it is attached; the other hinge probably is a replacement.⁷⁵

8. Mechanical equipment: The West Cabin was wired for electricity in 1990. It, however, lacks climate control mechanisms for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

9. Original furnishings: Although the two-story log house occupied by Andrew and Rachel Jackson was lowered to one-story, a glimpse of their material life can be had through the things they owned. There are consumer goods associated with the Jacksons that date before 1820.⁷⁶

The building they lived in commented on the Jacksons' perception of themselves to all who passed by The Hermitage. In addition, those invited inside saw that social statement reinforced through the furnishings. The ability to recognize quality through architecture and the decorative arts, moreover, transcended geographic distance. Because residents of Tennessee used tables and chairs in the same manner as those in Philadelphia and New Orleans, the material goods linked the region to region, rural to urban, provincial to cosmopolitan dwellers in an imagined community.⁷⁷

Changes in furniture forms and the creation of those without a technomic function indicate shifts in social patterns. The evolution of a tea table, a piece of furniture devoted exclusively to a specific use, as well as the accouterments for the ritual of taking tea implies a conscious cultural choice. Items for tea had to be made, bought, and utilized. The proliferation of card tables throughout early America suggests a similar preference. Both tea tables and card tables are objects associated with a genteel class. Genteel persons were those who could afford, in time and in money, to indulge in leisure activities and in the paraphernalia needed to play cards and drink tea. They were recognizable through their ownership of conspicuous objects. The objects advertised their owner's ability to win contests over resources. If a man could afford such goods than -- the perception was -- he must be successful. In this way, material things helped forge political and economic alliances. Through a vocabulary of goods, including architecture, men presented themselves as successful managers and competitors; this visual language

⁷⁵Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, May 1999.

⁷⁶It is unknown, however, if these furnishings (without receipts to date their purchase) were acquired by the Jacksons when they lived in the First Hermitage cabins or bought later. Re: the furnishings, please see the Supplemental Information section of this report.

⁷⁷Personal Communication, Maurie D. McInnis, Spring 1999; T.H. Breen, "The Baubles of Britain," and Kevin M. Sweeney, "High Style Vernacular: Lifestyles of the Colonial Elite," in Of Consuming Interests(/) The Style of Life in the Eighteenth Century, ed., Cary Carson, Ronald Hoffman, and Peter J. Albert (Charlottesville, VA and London: The University Press of Virginia for the United States Capitol Historical Society, 1994); Richard L. Bushman, The Refinement of America (/) Persons, Houses, Cities (paperback ed., New York, NY: Vintage Books, 1993).

expressed in possession and through performances facilitated the same group's rise to and control of power.⁷⁸

As an aspirant to local power, Jackson bought and sold land, handled his law practice judicially, and married into a prominent family. He came to the attention of Willie Blount and entered into politics.⁷⁹ As a Congressman, Senator, Judge, Military official, and President, Jackson became known for his hospitality. He, too, had the "right" consumer goods with which to entertain and the financial wherewithal (or appearance thereof) to welcome those who passed by.⁸⁰ Before 1820, the Jacksons had a table with a serpentine front and ball feet, a mahogany chest of drawers, a walnut chest of drawers, a card table, a walnut desk and bookcase, a Sheffield silver plate on copper candle snuffer, and a print. When dining, the Jacksons used a sugar chest, toast rack, tea pots, tea pot stand, sugar tongs, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, teaspoons, wine cooler, cruet set, coffeepot, and fish knives. For life in the log cabin of nineteenth-century lore, Andrew and Rachel Jackson would not be prepared for serving tea or coffee or setting a table with specialized flatware for fish. Nor would they have ornaments on the walls. The print would be replaced by the pistol and the food service equipment by the tankard.⁸¹

⁷⁸ Personal Communication, Maurie D. McInnis, 30 March 1999; Rodris Roth, "Tea-Drinking in Eighteenth-Century America: Its Etiquette and Equipage," in Material Life in America, 1600-1860, ed., Robert Blair St. George (Boston, MA: Northeastern University Press, 1988), p. 439-462; Gerald Ward, "Avarice and Conviviality: Card Playing in Federal America," in The Work of Many Hands (/) Card Tables in Federal America 1790-1820, ed., Benjamin A. Hewitt, Patricia E. Kane, and Gerald W.R. Ward (New Haven, CT: Yale University Art Gallery, 1982), p. 15-39, passim; "Virginia in 1732 (/) The Travel Journal of William Hugh Grove," ed., Gregory A. Stiverson and Patrick H. Butler, III, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 85, no. 1 (January 1977): 30; Allan Kulikoff, Tobacco and Slaves (/) the Development of Southern Cultures in the Chesapeake, 1680-1800 (Chapel Hill, NC and London: The University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1986), p. 166-167; Camille Wells, "The Planter's Prospect: Houses, Outbuildings, and Rural Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia," Winterthur Portfolio 28, no. 1 (Spring 1993): 1-32, passim; Bernard L. Herman, The Stolen House (Charlottesville, VA and London: The University Press of Virginia, 1992), p. 136; Jack Larkin, The Reshaping of Everyday Life, 1790-1840 (paperback ed., New York, NY: Harper Perennial, 1988), p. 116-117; Personal Communication, Fraser D. Neiman, 7 October 1998; Cary Carson, "The Consumer Revolution in Colonial British America: Why Demand?" in Of Consuming Interests (/) The Style of Life in the Eighteenth Century, ed., Cary Carson, Ronald Hoffman, and Peter J. Albert (Charlottesville, VA and London: The University Press of Virginia for the United States Capitol Historical Society, 1994), p. 438-700, passim; James L. Boone, "The Evolution of Magnanimity: When Is It Better to Give than to Receive?" Human Nature 9, no. 1 (1998): 1-22; see also, Theory of the Leisure Class (1899).

⁷⁹ For a synopsis of Jackson's rise to power, see Robert V. Remini, Andrew Jackson, vol. 1, The Course of American Empire, 1767-1821.

⁸⁰ Remini, vol. 1, p. 159; see also, T.H. Breen, Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1985) regarding the appearance of wealth. The Jackson family was successful in maintaining a reputation for wealth after General Andrew Jackson's death. This condition is illustrated in a letter to Andrew Jackson, Junior, wherein the writer urged him to pay his debts because he was "rich." See William Nolan to Andrew Jackson, Jr., Letter, 21 April 1847, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

⁸¹ "Andrew Jackson Furnishings 1804-45," List, n.d., Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. Receipts for furniture include one from Jackson to John Coffee, 21 June 1804; another in 1809-10 paid to Ward and Parton for \$175.37 ½ and others in 1814 and 1816 to J.B. Houston of Nashville; and again to Thomas Ramsay and Co., in 1816 for a pair of looking glasses. See The Papers of Andrew Jackson, vol. 2, 1804-1813, ed., Harold D. Moser, Sharon Macpherson, and Charles F. Bryan, Jr. (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1984), p. 24-25; Ward and Parton to Andrew Jackson, Account, 29 June 1812, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #5, 1810-1813); James B. Houston to Andrew Jackson, Account Paid, 14 November 1816, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm,

D. Site:

Andrew Jackson arrived in the present-day Nashville vicinity in 1788. Soon Jackson began to accumulate large quantities of land, participating enthusiastically in land speculation. He settled on only a portion of his holdings, after he set up housekeeping with Rachel Donelson in 1790-91. Andrew and Rachel Jackson lived at Poplar Grove, but they moved several years later.⁸² In 1796, Jackson bought 640 acres from John Shannon; this parcel became known as “Hunter’s Hill.”⁸³ By 1804, Jackson needed money to pay his creditors because debts from his mercantile business and land speculation deals were adding up. Jackson sold land to David Allison, who offered notes as payment. He then turned the notes over to his own creditors. Unfortunately Allison declared bankruptcy. This left Jackson with the land he originally needed to sell and with a large debt to the Philadelphia businesses. To meet his obligations, Jackson sold off his property, including Hunter’s Hill.⁸⁴ The Jackson family was not, however, homeless. Andrew Jackson moved his family to a 425-acre farm that he bought from Nathaniel Hays in August 1804.⁸⁵

Where exactly in the 425-acre farm Jackson went, and why he selected that site on the property, is known through the tradition of the Hays’ “blockhouse,” a term that referred to a well-made structure of hewn logs. Jackson is said to have renovated the two-story blockhouse.⁸⁶ This is confusing because the West Cabin is the second story of the Jacksons’ log house but documentary evidence has not revealed if the Jacksons’ dwelling was the “blockhouse” of tradition. However if a house was on the property, then presumably Jackson built the First Hermitage around that site because that area had been cleared already. Given the circumstances precipitating his move, Jackson probably needed to take advantage of the open landscape created by Hays. With the initial settlement complete in ca. 1804, he had time to order fences built, fruit trees planted, and other such improvements.⁸⁷ Together Rachel and Andrew

Reel #69, 1815-1818); Thomas Ramsay & Co., to Andrew Jackson, Account Paid in part, 21 December 1816, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #22, 1816-1817). See also, Willie Blount to Andrew Jackson, Letter, November 18, 1810, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #5, 1810-1813).

⁸²Davidson County Court Records, Deed Book C, p. 134.

⁸³Davidson County Court Records, Deed Book C, p. 495.

⁸⁴Davidson County Court Records, Deed Book F, p. 188; Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #3, 1803-1806)

⁸⁵Davidson County Court Records, Deed Book F, p. 241; Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #3, 1803-1806)

⁸⁶Buell, vol. 1, p. 226; and Parton, vol. 1, p. 307. Although documentary evidence is silent on the subject of the “blockhouse” no archaeological evidence has been found that would place the cabin’s origin before 1804. Therefore it is unlikely the tradition of Hays’ blockhouse is true in a literal sense.

⁸⁷Thomas Taylor, Account, September 1804, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #3, 1803-06); and Smith, p. 32.

Jackson oversaw the farm. Once situated in the First Hermitage, Jackson could then turn to resurrecting his business ventures and to his racetrack at Clover Bottom.⁸⁸

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early Views⁸⁹

- Ladies' Hermitage Association Photographs, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee
- Prints and Photographs Division, Madison Building, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- Record Group 69, Works Projects Administration, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland

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⁸⁸Andrew Jackson, William P. Anderson, and John Hutchings, Memorandum of Agreement for lease of Clover Bottom, March 1805, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #2, 1805-1813); Account Book, Clover Bottom, April to July 1805, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #38, 1795-1805); Day Book, Clover Bottom, 12 April to 24 November 1805, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #38, 1795-1805); Day Book, Clover Bottom, November 1805 to May 1806, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #39, 1805-1806); Day Book, Clover Bottom, September to December 1806, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #39, 1805-1806); John Thomas to Andrew Jackson, Account for carpentry, 1 May 1805 to 3 June 1805, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Tennessee (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #2, 1805-1813); Andrew Jackson and William P. Anderson to John Hoggett, Account, 16 February 1805 - 6 May 1806, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #2, 1805-1813); Andrew Jackson to John Hoggett, Account, 10 April 1805, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #2, 1805-1813); John Hutchings to John Hoggett, Account, 26 January 1806, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #2, 1805-1813); Remini, vol. 1, p. 68-69; Kulikoff, p. 180-183; Larkin, p. 52; Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Good Wives (/) Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England, 1650-1750 (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1982), p. 237-238; and Ruth Schwartz Cowan, More Work for Mother (/) the Ironies of Household Technology from the Open Hearth to the Microwave (New York, NY: Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, 1983), p. 16-39, passim.

⁸⁹There are reportedly several photographs of The Hermitage property from a private collection that were given to a researcher (Donald Hublar) connected to the Tennessee State Museum or to the State Library. The images supposedly are to be part of a publication. I did not get to track down this lead.

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⁹⁰When asked, the staff of The Hermitage allowed me to look through the copies of the minutes of the Ladies' Hermitage Association board meetings. Unfortunately, the minutes I had access to only went up and into 1990.

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C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated

- Metropolitan Government Archives, Nashville Public Library, Nashville, TN

“The Metropolitan Government Archives maintains over five million records, ten thousand photographs, 2500 volumes, and over 200 videocassettes. Dating from 1780-1990, these records document the history of Nashville and Davidson County from colonial times to the present.”⁹¹

- Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, TN

The Tennessee Historical Commission should have information regarding the Clover Bottom area. I had hoped to pursue the architectural history of Clover Bottom because Andrew Jackson’s store and racetrack were located there. If receipts in the Andrew Jackson papers and people associated with building projects at the store could be identified, than perhaps some distinction could be made between what Jackson was doing at The Hermitage and at Clover Bottom.

- Tennessee Room, State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN

This room has general information on the state and these sources would provide good background to place The Hermitage in context.

D. Supplemental Material

⁹¹Description taken directly from the Metropolitan Archives Information page in the Nashville Public Library System website, accessed 23 July 1999.

The reference staff at the Tennessee State Library and Archives recommended that I go to the “Metro” Archives and unfortunately I did not have time to do in the budgeted time of this project and considering its emphasis on the Andrew Jackson papers. The Metropolitan Government Archives, however, is a promising collection to investigate.

Tax Records:

Taxable Property, ca. 1792-1797⁹²

330 acres of land in Jones Bend
640 acres on Harpeth River
640 acres on Spring Creek
8 Negroes, including one belonging to Saml Donelson, Sampson
2 White Poles, myself & Saml Donelson

Tax Assessment, 1 October 1798⁹³

60 x 20 Barn wood	\$100.00
30 x 20 Still House	\$12.00
Hunter's Hill	\$3190.00
214 acres	\$214.00
1 Dwelling House & 2 acres lot	\$310.50
2 Outhouses	\$60.00 each
10 Negroes (over 12 & under 50 years of age)	taxable
5 Negroes	Non-taxable (not in taxable age parameter)

Taxable Property, 1805⁹⁴

2 taxable white males
9 taxable slaves

Enumeration of Free Taxable Inhabitants, Names and Number for Davidson County, 1811⁹⁵

Andrew Jackson 3

Taxable Property, 1812⁹⁶

⁹²Papers of Andrew Jackson, vol. 1, 1770-1803, ed., Sam B. Smith and Harriett Chappell Owsley (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee, 1980; 2nd printing, 1987), p. 34.

⁹³Davidson County Tax Book, 1798; Papers of Andrew Jackson, vol. 1, 1770-1803, ed., Sam B. Smith and Harriett Chappell Owsley (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee, 1980; 2nd printing, 1987), p. 210-211.

⁹⁴Davidson County, Miscellaneous Tax Lists, 1805, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee. (Microfilm, Reel #3).

⁹⁵Davidson County, Miscellaneous Tax Lists, 1811, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee. (Microfilm, Reel #3).

⁹⁶Taxable Property, 1 January 1812, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #5, 1810-1813).

640 acres of land whereon he now lives
640 acres in 2 tracts belonging to the sons of Saml Donelson, deceased
1 Stud Horse (Truxton) & Stand in Gallatin, Sumner County
20 black poles

Taxes Paid, 1819⁹⁷ Receipt, \$21.14.

Taxes Paid, 1820⁹⁸ Receipt, \$23.10.

Taxes Paid, 1823⁹⁹ Receipt, \$36.60.

Taxable Property, 1825¹⁰⁰

Old Hanna and her family Squire wife and child, Bet, husband and child, and George in all	8
Blacksmith Aron wife and 3 children	5
Charles wife and child	3
Tom wife and 9 children	11
Ben wife and 4 children	6
old Sampson wife and 9 children (grace's 2)	11
Dunwody, Ned, Guilbert, and Tom	4
Polydore wife and 2 children	4
Sally and her 4 children	5
Titus Candis and child John Fulton	4
Aron wife and 2 children	4
Big. Sampson wife and child	3
Arguila wife and 4 children	6
Jame wife and 4 children	6
	80
Seven slaves over fifty years old - not taxable	-7
	73
There are forty-one slaves over age twelve & under 50 years of age - Taxable	-41
	32

⁹⁷Receipt, 7 January 1819, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #26, 1818-1819).

⁹⁸Receipt, 8 September 1820, Research files, The Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

⁹⁹Receipt, 22 December 1823, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #32, 1823-1824).

¹⁰⁰Taxable Property, 1 January 1825, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #33, 1824-1826).

The remaining thirty-two slaves are under twelve years of age. Therefore, Jackson's tax included the forty-one black poles and 640 acres of land held on the first day of January 1825 in the County of Davidson where he lived. (Note: the next page of the Andrew Jackson Papers quotes the total number of slaves as eighty-three instead of eighty, the difference being the number of non-taxable slaves owned by Jackson. The first figure, outlined above, says there are eighty total with seven slaves over fifty years old and thirty-two under twelve years; the second quotes thirty-five slaves under age ten. The taxable figure remained the constant at forty-one.)

Taxes Paid, 1826¹⁰¹ Receipt, \$80.50.

Taxes Paid, 1829¹⁰²

Andrew Jackson, 900 acres, 42 taxable slaves, \$66.75 taxes paid.

Taxes Paid, 1839¹⁰³

Andrew Jackson, Senior, paid \$14.20 for his land, \$10.50 for his 42 taxable slaves, 40 cents for his carriage for a total state tax of \$25.10.

Andrew Jackson, Junior, paid twelve and one-half cents, for one white poll.

Taxes Paid, 1841¹⁰⁴ Receipt, \$39.90

Taxes Paid, 1842¹⁰⁵ Receipt, \$38.50

Receipts, Andrew Jackson Furnishings 1804-45:

Andrew Jackson, to John Coffee, Letter, 21 June 1804, The Papers of Andrew Jackson, vol. 2, 1804-1813, ed., Harold D. Moser, Sharon Macpherson, and Charles F. Bryan, Jr. (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1984), p. 24-25.

¹⁰¹Receipt, 13 June 1826, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, Reel #34, 1826-1827).

¹⁰²Davidson County, Miscellaneous Tax Lists, 1829, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee. (Microfilm, Reel #3).

¹⁰³Davidson County, Miscellaneous Tax Lists, 1839, p. 234, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee. (Microfilm, Reel #3).

¹⁰⁴Receipt, 1841, Research files, The Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

¹⁰⁵Receipt, 1842, Research files, The Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

". . . my chairs & settee I wish brought up. They can be lashed on top the goods a cord for this purpose you will find in the boat. You will find part of a piece of blanketts open this will answer for covering the goods should there be no tarpolin with the boat".

Ward and Parton, to Andrew Jackson, Bill, 29 June 1812, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

General Andrew Jackson

	To Ward & Parton	Dr.
1809		
	Oct. 14th High post bedstead	\$ 16.00
		Screws for D[itto]o 1.00
	Dec. 25th Candle Stand	5.00
1810		
	Nov. 30th Large Sideboard	\$150.00
		5 Locks for D[itt]o @37 1/2 1.87 1/2
		4 pr. hinges 1.50
		\$175.37 1/2
Cr. . .		
1811		
	Octr. 3d by 2 bales cotton 764 lbs.	91.68
		\$ 83.69 1/2
	By your vote to A. Jackson for \$52.14 -Delivered up	52.14
		\$ 31.55
Ballance Due by Andrew Jackson	Interest	.47
	(Signed)	Andrew Jackson
		\$ 32.02

James B. Houston, Nashville, to Andrew Jackson, Bill, May 20, 1814, Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

General Andrew Jackson

	To James B. Houston	
May 20	to 1 High post Bedsted Varnished	\$20.00
	to 8 Screws	1.75

Davidson County Court Records, Deed Book F, p. 241.

Andrew Jackson

March 30th 1805

This Indenture made the Twenty-third day of August in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight hundred and four Between Nathaniel Hays of the County of Davidson and State of Tennessee of the one part and Andrew Jackson of the County and State Aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth that the said Nathaniel Hays for and in consideration of the sum of three thousand four hundred Dollars [#3400.00] to him on hand paid by the said Andrew Jackson the receipt whereof is hereby Acknowledged hath this day Give Grant Allien Enfeoff Bargain and Sell to the said Andrew Jackson his heirs and assigns forever One certain tract or parcel of land containing four hundred and twenty-five acres be the same more or less situate lying and being in the County of Davidson on the south side of the Cumberland River and Bounded as follows: Beginning at a Hickory and Hackberry on Colo John Donelson's line, now Sevren Donelsons line, thirty-one poles South of his Northeast Corner Runing thence Along Samuel Hays line, now his heirs, East two hundred and fifty four poles crossing the Spring Branch three poles to a Gum Taylors Corner Thence North with Taylors line Ten poles to a Small Hickory thence north nine Degrees East Along Taylors line to a Black Oak Standing on the South Boundary line of Hugh Hays preemption now Belonging to the heirs of Samuel Donelson Decd, thence along Hugh Hays line West to a Black Walnut the South west Corner of said Hugh Hays preemption thence south two hundred and fifty-one poles to the beginnings it being part of a Preemption Granted to the said Nathaniel Hays from the State of North Carolina by patent bearing Date the Seventeenth day of April one Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-six and No Twenty-four to have and to hold the said tract of Parcel of Land with its Appurtenances to the only use and behoof of the said Andrew Jackson his heirs and Assigns forever and the said Nathaniel Hays doth by these Presents Oblige himself his heirs Executors and Administrators to warrant and forever Defend the Right Title and Interest of the said Tract or Parcel of Land with the Appurtenances thereunto Belonging to the said Andrew Jackson his heirs and assigns forever against the Claim or claims of all and Every person legally claiming the Same in Testimony whereof the said Nathaniel Hay has Thereunto set his hand and Affix his seal the day and Date first Above and for that purpose mentioned.

Witness John Coffee
Vance Greer & Alex[ande]r Donelson}

Nathl Hays (seal)

The Execution of which Deed of Conveyance as Above Recited was in Court held for the County of Davidson January Session 1805: Acknowledged by the said Nathaniel Hays to be his Act and Deed for the uses and purposes therein Contained.

Teste Andrew Ewing, Clerk of
Davidson County Court

Davidson County Court Records, Wills, Inventories, Settlements, vol. 13, 1843-46, p. 291-294.

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Andrew Jackson, Sr., Decd, Will. Recorded October 30th, 1845.

Hermitage June 7th 1843. In the name of Good Amen I Andrew Jackson Senr being of sound mind, memory and understanding, and impressed with the great uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, and being desirous to dispose of my temporal affairs so that after my death no contention may arise relative to the same. And whereas, since executing my Will of the 30th of September 1833 my estate has become greatly involved by my liabilities... the debts of my well beloved and adopted son Andrew Jackson, Jr., which makes it necessary to alter the same. Therefore, I Andrew Jackson Senr of the County of Davidson and the State of Tennessee do make, ordain, publish and declare this last will and testament, revoking all other wills by me heretofore made. First I bequeath my body to the dust whence it come, and my soul to God who gave it ...ing for a happy ...ality, the of our savior Jesus Christ.....My desire is, that my body be buried by the side of my dear departed wife in garden at The Hermitage in the vault prepared in the garden, and all expenses .. By my Executor hereafter named. Secondly, that all my just debts to be paid out of my personal and real estate, by my Executor, for which purpose to meet the debts my good friends Genl J.B. Planche ... of New Orleans for the sum of ... dollars... the interest accruing thereon to „meet the debt ...for the purchase from Miram G. R....lying ... of the River Mississippi in the State of Mississippi..... by me of dollars borrowed of my friends, of the City of Washington District of Columbia with the interest accruing I hereby bequeath all my real and personal ... debts are fully paid. Thirdly, I give and bequeath Jackson of the

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three lotts of land bought of Samuel Donelson, Thomas J. Donelson, and Alexander Donelson sons & heirs of Sevren Donelson, deceased, all adjoining The Hermitage tract, agreeable To their butts & bounding with all the appurtenances thereto belonging, or in my ind... ..ing with all my Negroes that I may die possessed of, with the exception hereafter named, with all their increase, after the before recited debts are fully paid, with all The Hermitage furniture, farming tools, stock of all kind, both in The Hermitage tract farms as well as those on the Mississippi plantation, to him and his heirs forever. The true intent and meaning of this my last will and testament is that all my estate real personal and mixed, are hereby first pledged for the payment of the above recited debts and interest, and when they are fully paid, the residence of all my estate, real personal and mixed are hereby bequeathed to my adopted son A. Jackson Jr., with the exception hereafter named, to him and his heirs forever. Fourth, Whereas I have hereafter by conveyance deposited with my beloved daughter-in-law Sarah Jackson, wife of my adopted son A. Jackson Jr. given to my beloved Granddaughter Rachel Jackson, daughter of A. Jackson., Jr., and Sarah his wife, several Negroes therein described, which I hereby confirm. I give and bequeath to my beloved Grandson, Andrew Jackson, son of A. Jackson, Jr., and Sarah his wife, a Negro boy named Ned, son of Blacksmith Aaron and Hannah his wife, to him (and his heirs forever). Fifth, I give and bequeath to my beloved Grandson, Samuel Jackson, son of A. Jackson, Jr., and his much beloved wife, Sarah, one Negro boy named Davy or George son of Squire and his wife Gincy to him and his heirs forever. Sixth, to my beloved and affectionate daughter Sarah Jackson, wife of my adopted well beloved son A. Jackson, Jr., I hereby recognize by this bequest, the gift I and her on her marriage the Negro girl Gracy which I bought for her and gave her to my daughter Sarah, as her maid and seamstress with her increase, with my house Negro Hannah and her two daughters, namely Charlotte and Mary, to her and her heirs forever. This gift and bequest, is made for my great affection for her ... memento of the uniform attention to me and kindness on all occasions and particularly when down with sickness, pain, and debility .. been

more than a daughter to me and I hope she never will be the enjoyment of this gift, and bequest by anyone. Seventh, I bequeath to my well beloved nephew Andrew J. Donelson, son of Samuel Donelson .. the elegant sword presented to me by the State of Tennessee, with the .. that he fail not to use it when necessary in support and protection of our glorious Union, and for the protection of the Constitutional Rights ... country should they be assailed by foreign enemies or domestic ... from the great change in my .. affairs of late is with my Sleeping

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To my grand nephew Andrew Jackson Coffee I bequeath the elegant sword presented to me by the Rifle Company of New Orleans commanded by Capt. Beal, as a memento of my regard, and to bring to his recollection the ____ of his deceased father Genl John Coffee in the late Invasion and British war under my command and his gallant conduct in defense of New Orleans in 1814 and 1815, with this injunction, that he wield it in the protection of the rights secured to the American citizen under our ____ Constitution against all invaders whether foreign foes, or interior territory. I bequeath to my beloved Grand Son, Andrew Jackson, son of Andrew Jackson, Jr., and Sarah his wife, the sword presented to me by the citizens of Philadelphia, with this injunction, that he will always use it in defense of the Constitution and our glorious union, and the perpetuation of our republican system _ remembering the motto "draw me not without occasion, nor sheath me without honor." The pistols of Genl Lafayette which was presented by him to Genl Washington, and by Colo Wm Robertson presented to me, I bequeath to George Washington Lafayette as a memento of the illustrious personages through whose hands they have passed, his father and the father of this country. The gold box presented to me by the Confederation of the City of New York the large silver vase presented to me by the Sons of Charleston Son of Carolina my mother state with the large picture representing the unfurling of the American banner presented to me by the citizens of South Carolina, when it was refused to be accepted by the United States Senate, I leave in trust to my son Andrew Jackson, Jr., with directions that should our happy country not be blessed with peace, an event not always to be expected he will at the close of the war, or end of the conflict, present each of said articles of inestimable value, to that patrol near... in the City of State from which the wereby his countrymen, or the valient in defense of his country, and our country's rights. The pocket spy glass, which was used by Genl Washington during the Revolutionary War, and presented to me by Mr. Custis. ... with my ...dwelling honor - The Hermitage with many other ... able relics I can make no disposition of them.

The ... of my highest regard for Genl Robert Armstrong, as a gentlemen patriot and soldier as well as for his military serviceBritish and Indian War, and remembering the gallantwhen following

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pistols and sword worn by me throughout my military career, well satisfied that in his hand they will never be disgraced _ that they will never be used or drawn without occasion nor sheathed but with honor. Lastly, I leave to my beloved Son all my walking canes, and other relics, to be distributed amongst my young relatives, - name sakes - first to my much esteemed name sake Andrew J. Donelson, son of my esteemed nephew A.J. Donelson, his first choice, and then to be distributed as A. Jackson, Jr., may think proper. Lastly, I appoint my adopted son Andrew Jackson, Jr., my whole and sole Executor to this my last will and Testament, and direct that no Security be required of him for the faithful execution and discharge of the trusts hereby deposed in him. In Testimony whereof I have this 7th day of June one

thousand eight hundred and forty-three have unto set my hand and affixed my Seal, hereby revoking all wills heretofore made by me, and in the presence of Marion Adams, Elizabeth A. Love
Thos. J. Donelson, Richard Smith, R. Armstrong} Andrew Jackson (seal)

State of Tennessee Davison County Court July A. Domi 1845

A paper writing purporting to be the last will and Testament of Andrew Jackson, Sr., decd was produced in open court for probate and from this "Marion Adams, Elizabeth A. Love, and Richard Smith, three of the Subscribing witnesses thereto being first duly sworn depose and say that they became such in the presence of the said Andrew Jackson, Sr., decd, and at his request and in the presence of each other and that they verily believe he was of sound and disposing mind and memory at the time of executing the same. Ordered that said paper writing be admitted to record as such Will and Testament of the said Andrew Jackson, Sr., decd.

Where upon Andrew Jackson, Jr., the Executor named in the said Will came into Court and gave Bond in the Sum of T__ hundred thousand dollars (there being no security requested by said will) and qualified according to Law. Ordered that he have ____ Testimony granted to him.

Davidson County Records, Wills, Inventories, Settlements, vol. 13, 1843-46, p. 307.

An Inventory of the Personal Estate of General Andrew Jackson decd.

Land. 1st Hermitage Farm, contains about one thousand acres _ In the county of Wilson about fifty acres of merely Cedar Timber In the State of Mississippi Crahmin County one plantation containing about Twenty-Seven hundred acres of Land lying on the bank of the Mississippi river.

Negroes. On Hermitage farm one hundred and eight _ large and small _ and on Miss plantation fifty-one _ Making in all one hundred and fifty-nine large and small.

Horses. Mules, etc. About fifty head on the two plantations, here and in Mississippi _

Hogs, about 400 head here and in Mississippi _

Sheep, about 180 head here and in Mississippi _

Cattle, about 100 head here and in Mississippi _

House and household furniture, I deem it not necessary to name.

Plains of the Estate, notes or accounts none that I know of at present _

The above is a true and perfect Inventory of all the Lands, goods, chattels, rights, debts of the said General A. Jackson deceased, which have come into my hands possession or knowledge to the best of my knowledge and belief. This 4th day of August, 1845, A. Jackson
Executor of General Jackson and
State of Tennessee Davidson County Court August A. Domi 1845.

Andrew Jackson, Jr., Executor of Andrew Jackson, Sr., decd, returned into Court on oath an Inventory of said decedents estate, which is ordered to be recorded.

Union and American (Nashville, TN) Sunday, 30th March 1856.

An Act to Purchase The Hermitage.

Whereas, It is good policy in a Republican Government to encourage habits of industry, and to inculcate sentiments of veneration for those departed heroes who have rendered important services to their country in times of danger; and whereas Tennessee acknowledges no superior in feelings of patriotism and devotion to the Union, in whose cause the lamented Andrew Jackson acquired so much distinction; therefore,

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee*, That the Governor of the State be empowered, and it is hereby made his duty, to purchase for the State of Tennessee, five hundred acres of the late residence of Andrew Jackson, deceased, including the mansion, tomb, and other improvements known as The Hermitage.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That, whenever the said purchase is made, and the title to said property secured to the State, that the Governor is hereby authorized to cause bonds of the State to be issued and to endorse the same, in an amount not exceeding forty-eight thousand dollars, the proceeds of which to be appropriated by him to carrying into effect the provisions of the act: *Provided*, that the Governor and Secretary of State, upon investigation, shall be satisfied said price is not exorbitant.

Sec. 3. *Be it enacted*, That the Governor of this State be authorized and required to tender the said property to the General Government of the United States, upon express condition that it be used as a site for a branch of the Military Academy at West Point; and in the event the General Government does not accept the tender thus made, in two years from the expiration of this session of the General Assembly, then the Governor shall be authorized and required to have fifty acres laid off, including the tomb, the mansion, and the spring and spring-houses, and expose the balance to public sale, either as a whole or in lots, on time, or for cash, as to him may seem best, and make his report to the Legislature of 1859-60.

Sec. 4. *Be it enacted*, That Mr. A. Jackson, the present proprietor, shall have possession of the property for the next two years, unless the General Government should apply for it, in accordance with the provisions of the third section of the act.

Sec. 5. *Be it enacted*, That this act take effect from and after its passage.

Passed February 11, 1856.

Davidson County Records, Deed Book, vol. 23-26, 1856-61, p. 370.

Registered April 1857

I Andrew Jackson have this day _____ conveyed unto Beverly L. Clarke, Samuel Hatfield, and Thomas A. Stolison their heirs and assigns forever for the consideration of Twenty-six Thousand six hundred and thirty-five dollars paid and secured to be paid as herein after set forth a tract or piece of land , Situate lying and being in Davidson County State of Tennessee about eleven miles North East of

Nashville and known as the North half of The Hermitage and ... as follows Beginning at a Stake in the center of a road in ...dividing the said Hermitage tract from the lands of Maj. A.J. Donelson, thence North 3/4 degrees East one hundred and forty-six (146) poles, to a Stake, thence North 1 3/4 degrees West Sixty-three and 20/100 poles to a Stake thence South 89 1/4 degrees East ninety-eight and 24/100 poles to a Stake thence North Eighty-five 4/100 poles to a Stake thence on a line dividing the hereby conveyed from the land of John and Philip Shute, North 89 1/2 degrees West three hundred and thirty-nine 28/100 poles to a Stake ... Stokely and Wilkenson Donelson land..... to a Stake on the North boundary line of the South half of The Hermitage tract heretofore conveyed by me to the State of Tennessee; thence with said North boundary line North 88 degrees East two hundred and thirty-six and 28/100 poles to the beginning containing by Survey four hundred and ninety-nine and one half (499 1/2) acres, I further transfer alien and convey to said Clarke, Hatfield, and Stolison their heirs and assigns forever all the cedar timber on a tract of land of about forty acres Situated about 3 1/2 miles East of the tract of land above conveyed and adjoining the lands of Williamson & McCullough The consideration above mentioned of Twenty-six thousand six hundred and thirty-five ??/100 dollars being secured to be paid as follows By the sum of three thousand dollars to me cash in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and by the following promissary notes executed by said Clarke, Hatfield, and Stolison payable at the Bank of Tennessee to my order one note for the sum of \$5496 dated 10th day of January 1857 due six months after date three notes all dated 1st of January 1857 payable twelve months after date as follows one for \$5684 61/100 another for \$7002 03/100 and the third for \$1133 61/100 and two notes both dated 1st of January 1857 payable two years after date one for \$5993 13/100 the other for \$3326 38/100 a lien is hereby expressly retained on said property until said purchase money is paid in full. To have and to hold the Same with the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances to the said Beverly L. Clarke, Samuel Hatfield, and Thomas A. Stolison their heirs and assigns forever I do covenant and agree to with the said Clarke, Hatfield, and Stolison that I am lawfully sieged and possessed of said ... and have a good right to convey it and that thewith theof a Deed of Trust held on said land to the payment of a debt to B, for 10850 which is to as a lien on said land until paid off by a part of the proceeds of the notes heretofore above mentioned. I further defend the title to the said land and every part thereof to the said Beverly L. Clarke, Samuel Hatfield, and Thomas A. Stolison their heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claim or claims of all persons whatever I am to have the use and benefit of the cleared land and the growing that I may plant for the present year _ for the next there is an agreement between the parties. In testimony whereof my hand and seal this fourth day of April 1857.

State of Tennessee Andrew Jackson (seal)
Davidson County, } _____ before me _____ the above named Andrew Jackson the _____
I am personally acquainted and acknowledged the ___ deed to _____ and for the purposes therein
contained. Witness my hand at office this 20th day of April 1857. H.R. Chistham, C[lerk] o[f the]
C[ourt]

(Recorded April 20, 1857 3 o'clock p.m.)

The Tennessean 6 February 1923

“Hermitage Farm Tract Put Under Care of Women (/) House Passes Bill for Preservation of Historic Ground.”

By a vote of 76 to 1 the House of Representatives of the General Assembly late Monday afternoon passed the bill conveying part of The Hermitage farm, famous old home of President Andrew Jackson, to the Ladies' Hermitage Association for permanent preservation and upkeep.

A few minutes before both houses had passed a resolution expressing profound sorrow at the death Saturday of Mrs. Rachel Jackson Lawrence, granddaughter of Andrew Jackson, and probably the last person in Tennessee who personally knew Old Hickory.

The bill conveying the property to the association was designated to protect the famous old estate from the encroachment of factories and other places of business. The bill does not affect the status of the Confederate Soldiers' Home nearby.

Speeches extolling the bill were made in the House by Representatives Sperry of Sparta and Bejach of Memphis, while the bill was engineered through the House by Representative Adams of Nashville.

Reading the bill aroused much interest among the legislators, who regard The Hermitage as among three greatest estates in America, the others being Mt. Vernon, the home of George Washington, and Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson.

Land Transactions re: Jackson's Residency in Tennessee:

Date	Description	Grantor	Grantee	Where&When Recorded
02-23-1792	330 acres, Jones Bend Cumberland River (Poplar Grove)	John Donelson	AJ	Deed Bk C, p. 134 04-30-1793
03-10-1796	640 acres, Cum River (Hunter's Hill)	John Shannon	AJ	Deed Bk C, p. 495 04-19-1796
10-18-1797	330 acres, Jones Bend Cumberland River (Poplar Grove)	AJ	Alexander Donelson	Deed Bk D, p. 273 10-18-1797
07-06-1804	640 acres, Cum River South side (Hunter's Hill)	AJ	Edward Ward	Deed Bk F, p. 188 08-17-1804
08-23-1804	425 acres, Cum Riv South side (The Hermitage)	Nathaniel Hays	AJ	Deed Bk F, p. 241 03-30-1805
12-11-1806	320 acres, Cum River South side	Exec., William Donelson	AJ	Deed Bk O, p. 370 11-23-1821
04-11-1810	25 acres, Davidson Co.	William C. Ward	AJ	Deed Bk I, p. 42 11-09-1810

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04-11-1810	25 acres, Davidson Co.	AJ	William Ward	Deed Bk I, p. 44 11-12-1810
04-22-1822	several tracts	AJ	James Jackson	Deed Bk Q, p. 545 07-21-1822
10-11-1824	Partition Deed For Samuel Donelson's land (640 acres/Hugh Hays preemption)	AJ	AJ Donelson	Deed Bk Q, p. 638 12-04-1824
09-17-1832	Hermitage Graveyard	AJ	John H. Eaton Et al	Deed Bk V, p. 463 10-07-1833
12-31-1833	Hunter's Hill		AJJ	Deed Bk
08-29-1834	Land, Stones Creek	AJ	AJ Donelson	Deed Bk X, p. 302 09-13-1834
07-14-1840	850 acres, Davidson Co.	AJ	Eliza Donelson	Deed Bk 9, p. 290 12-30-1846
03-09-1854	Release	Tr. G.M. Fogg et al	AJJ	Deed Bk 18, p. 274 04-17-1854
09-20-1854	Release, Hermitage	Tr. G.M. Fogg et al	AJJ	Deed Bk 24, p. 147 03-29-1856
01-12-1856		James B. Craighead	AJJ	Deed Bk 22, p. 582 01-14-1856
03-28-1856	Release	G.A. Washington	AJJ	Deed Bk 24, p. 148 03-29-1856
03-28-1856	Land, Hermitage	AJJ	State of TN	Deed Bk 24, p. 148 03-29-1856
01-08-1857	Decree	AJJ	A.R. McKee et al	Deed Bk 26, p. 170 01-31-1857
04-04-1857		AJJ	B.L. Clarke, et al	Deed Bk 26, p. 370 04-20-1857
03-24-1858	Land, E Stones River	AJJ	John D. Martin	Deed Bk 27, p. 491 03-24-1858

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of three of the log cabins on The Hermitage property was undertaken in 1999 by the Washington, D.C., office of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering

Record (HABS/HAER), a division of the National Park Service. The NPS principles involved were E. Blaine Cliver, Division Chief, HABS/HAER, and Paul D. Dolinsky, Chief, HABS, and on behalf of the project sponsor, James Vaughan, Executive Director, The Hermitage and Clare Adams, Director of Preservation, The Hermitage. The recordation project was initiated by Mark S. Schara, Architect, and Catherine C. Lavoie, Supervisory Historian, for HABS, and Jillian E. Galle, Research Archaeologist, The Hermitage. The field recording was done by Project Supervisor, Mark S. Schara, HABS Architect, and Naomi Hernandez, HABS Architect, with assistance from Virginia B. Price, HABS Historian, and Jillian E. Galle, Research Archaeologist, The Hermitage. The architectural drawings were completed in Washington, D.C., by Mark S. Schara, Naomi Hernandez, and Brian Bitner, HABS Architects. The project historian was Virginia B. Price. Large format photography was produced by Jack E. Boucher, HABS Photographer.