

**RESOLUTION 08-26**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE TO DESIGNATE  
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2536 DUPLEX ROAD, MAURY COUNTY TAX MAP 0250  
C, PARCEL 006.00, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "WHITE HALL", AS A  
HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT SITE**

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the City of Spring Hill to promote the preservation and protection of the physical character and quality of life in the city; to promote the educational, cultural civic awareness and general welfare of the city while providing a sense of commitment and continuity between the past and present through the encouragement of preservation and protection of historically significant sites and structures; and to foster civic pride and historic recognition through the preservation of the City's heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Joe Gaddes, owner of the property at 2536 Duplex Road, commonly known as "White Hall", pursuant to Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-405(2)(d) of the City of Spring Hill Municipal Code, has requested that this site be designated by the City of Spring Hill as a Historically Significant Site.

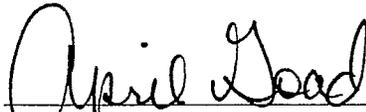
**WHEREAS**, Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-406 of the City of Spring Hill Municipal Code provides that sites in the City of Spring Hill will be designated as Historically Significant Sites by resolution of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen upon recommendation of the City of Spring Hill Historic Commission; and

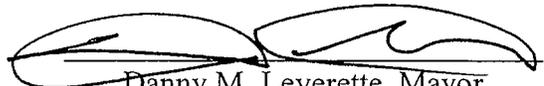
**WHEREAS**, the City of Spring Hill Historic Commission has recommended this site for such designation having met the Criteria for Designation of Historically Significant Sites as defined in Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-407 of the City of Spring Hill Municipal Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee that the property located at 2536 Duplex Road, Maury County Tax Map 0250 C, Parcel 006.00, commonly known as "White Hall", is hereby designated as a Historically Significant Site.

**Passed and adopted by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee, this 21<sup>st</sup> Day of July, 2008.**

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
April Goad, City Recorder

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Danny M. Leverette, Mayor

LEGAL FORM APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy P. Underwood, City Attorney

# SPRING HILL HISTORIC COMMISSION AGENDA APPLICATION

Date: 6-3-08

Name of Applicant: JOE ED GADDES Phone: 931 486 0137

Address: White Hall 2536 DUPLEX ROAD SPRING HILL, TENN 37174

Name of Property Owner: JOE ED GADDES Phone: (615) 311-0697

Address: 1314 UPSLOMB DRIVE BRENTWOOD TN 37027-7010

Maury Co.  Williamson Co. Tax Map: 0250 C Parcel # 006.00

## SECTION 1 - Request for Designation of Historically Significant Site:

I, JOE ED GADDES, pursuant to Municipal Code Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-406, request that the property and/or site located at 2536 DUPLEX ROAD (White Hall), be designated by the City of Spring Hill as a Historically Significant Site.

The aforementioned property and/or site is (check all that apply, provide additional detail as necessary):

- Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history or is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance;
- Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction;
- A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event;
- A religious property with historic importance;
- A cemetery; or
- Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

This form, along with (7) copies of the description of the property or properties in question must be filed with any applicable fee, fourteen (14) days prior to the Historic Commission meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.

Joe Ed Gaddes  
Applicant's Signature

Date Received by Historic Commission: 6/5/2008  
Placed on Historic Commission Agenda for meeting to be held on: 6/30/2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Recommended  Not Recommended

Pat Butte  
Secretary of Historic Commission

**SPRING HILL HISTORIC COMMISSION AGENDA APPLICATION**  
**(Sections 2 and 3)**

Date: 6-3-08

Name of Applicant: JOE ED GADDES Phone: 931 486-0137

Address: WHITE HALL 2536 DUPLEX ROAD SPRING HILL TENN 37174

Name of Property Owner: JOE ED GADDES Phone: 615 371-0697

Address: 1314 LIPSCOMB DRIVE BRENTWOOD TN 37027-7010

Maury Co.     Williamson Co.    Tax Map: 0250C    Parcel # 006.00

**SECTION 2 – Request for Design Review:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pursuant to Subdivision Regulations Article IV 4-101.7 – 4-101.9, request that the property and/or project located at \_\_\_\_\_, be placed on the Historic Commission agenda for the purpose of Design Review.

**SECTION 3 – Request for Removal of Designation of Historically Significant Site:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pursuant to Municipal Code Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-409, request that the property and/or site located at \_\_\_\_\_, be removed from the designation of Historically Significant Site within the City of Spring Hill.

This form, along with (7) copies of the description of the property or properties in question must be filed with any applicable, fourteen (14) days prior to the Historic Commission meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

Date Received by Historic Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

Placed on Historic Commission Agenda for meeting to be held on: \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

Recommended     Not Recommended

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of Historic Commission

1314 Lipscomb Drive  
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027  
June 6, 2008

Spring Hill Historic Commission  
c/o Spring Hill Codes Department  
199 Town Center Parkway  
P. O. Box 789  
Spring Hill, Tennessee 37174

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for sending the application to have White Hall, a historic site, designated by the city of Spring Hill as Historically Significant. This property is on the National Register of Historic Places. Included are seven copies of information that my wife and I obtained from the National Register that describes the reasons for its historical significance. The house was built in 1844 and is a fine example of classical architecture on the exterior and a great example of early Tennessee workmanship on the interior. Militarily, it was also the first Spring Hill headquarters of Confederate General Earl Van Dorn, site where the troops under General Nathan B. Forrest were fed on the day before the Battle of Franklin, and a hospital for the wounded after the Battle of Franklin. If you need further information, you can contact my wife or me at the above address or by phone at (615) 371-0697.

Spring Hill is a town rich in history. My wife and I are so grateful for your interest in helping, preserving, and sharing these sites. Thank you for considering White Hall for this special designation.

Sincerely,



Joe Ed Gaddes

Enclosures

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Situated on the south side of Duplex Road on the eastern edge of the town of Spring Hill, White Hall is a two-story frame central-passage plan house with a one-story rear service ell composed of former dependencies. Built in 1844, the Greek Revival house rests on a limestone foundation and has a shallow hipped roof. The building retains its architectural integrity.

The main facade faces north to the lane. A monumental pedimented portico is centered on the five-bay front; it is supported by four square paneled pillars with tin Tower-of-the-Winds capitals. The pediment has a raking cornice end and a plain weatherboard tympanum. A heavy molded entablature with a dentil course encircles the entire house. Center doorways on the ground and upper floor are identical; double-leaf paneled doors are separated from two-light sidelights by plain tapered pilasters, and each entry is topped by a four-light transom and a shouldered architrave hood. The upper doorway opens onto a cantilevered balcony with a decorative rail. The eight large windows on this front have 6/6 lights and louvered shutters.

On the east elevation, an inset brick chimney is situated about twelve feet from the corner of the front of the house. Double-leaf doors at the center open onto a new brick stoop. A building seam about two-thirds of the way down the side indicates the enclosure of the rear porch. There are two shuttered 4/4 windows on the rear part and a fixed 8-light window over the center door. The west facade is plain, with an inset corbelled brick chimney.

The original rear porch and gallery were enclosed in the late 1800's. There are two 6/6 light sash windows on the rear; one on the upper story is very large and has shutters, and may have been moved from the main block of the house. A small center-pivot window opens into a bath.

A narrow shed section is joined to the rear porch at this point. There is one large 6/6 shuttered window, again probably moved from the main block, and roof extends another three feet, supported by square posts connected at the top by a latticework frieze.

Two original dependencies were long ago joined to the west facade to form an ell addition. The original two-story frame kitchen is connected directly to the house. The kitchen portion serves as today's dining room and the upstairs room is used for storage. The exterior has a large 6/6 window moved from the main house, a glass-paneled door opening onto a rear porch, and smaller 6/6 windows in the upper left. An original quarter is joined to the rear of the old kitchen structure, and serves as the modern kitchen. Its exterior appearance is basically unchanged from the time it served as a residence. Its front side faces east and has a batten door and 6/6 window opening onto a shed porch. There is a small lookout and another 6/6 window is on the south end and two on the west, rear side. The porch floor is raised on stone piers, connected by latticework. The structure has a steep tin roof; the loft is now used for additional storage.

The interior of the house is a modification of the common central-passage plan house. The staircase is not located in the entrance hall but rather on the enclosed rear porch. The house retains its original significant interior features, including doors and mantels with shouldered architraves and original ash floors.

No original or later outbuildings are located on the property. The house is approached from Duplex Road on a wide herringbone brick sidewalk and is set in a park of mature trees.

Period	Area of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration-settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1844 Builder Architect Henry White

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

White Hall, on Duplex Road in the northern Maury County town of Spring Hill, is nominated under National Register Criteria A, B and C for its local significance in architecture and for its associations with its first owner, Dr. Aaron White, and for its local role in Civil War history. The large frame house was built for Dr. White in 1844 by his younger brother Henry. White was a large landowner and early surgeon and doctor of medicine in the Spring Hill community. His residence on the eastern edge of the village is one of the best vernacular adaptations of the prevailing Greek Revival in this part of the county. The 2-story L-shaped central-passage house has an imposing pedimented portico supported by pillars with Tower-of-the-Winds capitals, detailed doors and entries, and other intricate examples of excellent local carpentry. The house retains its original interior elements and has not been significantly altered. White Hall is the largest surviving frame structure within the corporate limits of the town and the best frame example of classical architecture

About 1844 Dr. Aaron C. White, son of General William White III who had moved to Nashville, Tennessee from Virginia, moved from his plantation at Elkton, Giles County, Tennessee, to Spring Hill with his wife, Eliza Fain, daughter of Samuel Fain and Susan Wharton, early settlers in the western Maury County village of Williamsport. White had previously purchased a 300 acre tract east of the village of Spring Hill, and had a large frame structure constructed there by his younger brother, Henry. The house faced Mt. Carmel Road (now Duplex Lane) and the rear of the farm extended to beyond the Kedron Pike. The whitewashed frame house was christened "White Hall".

Although a medical graduate of the University of New York and a doctor of medicine, Dr. White farmed in Spring Hill for a number of years before selling off 266 acres at the eastern edge of his farm to Seth Sparkman. He sold two one-acre lots on the Kedron Pike, and donated another 2 acres to the town of Spring Hill for the erection of a boys school. This was the site for many years of the Spring Hill Male Academy, and in compliance with Dr. White's expressed desire that it should always remain for educational purposes, it is now the site of the Spring Hill Public School.

This left Dr. White exactly 30 acres surrounding White Hall. He resumed his medical practice attending to the sick for many miles surrounding Spring Hill. His wife assisted him and ministered to as many of his patients as she could reach. In doing so, she contracted yellow fever in an epidemic which struck Spring Hill and died in 1853.

A year later Dr. White met Margaret Fain, a cousin of his late wife Eliza, daughter of John Fain, merchant and owner of Forest Hill, a large plantation on the French Broad River. After a brief but ardent courtship, he married her and brought her to White Hall. They had six children, all christened in the old Presbyterian Church: Rose, Ellen Amelia, John Fain, Lucy Gillespie, Mary, and Caroline Wharton White. Dr. White died in 1874, and left his wife to cope with the six young children. He is buried in the Spring Hill cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet White Hall

Item number 8

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In 1877, Rose, the oldest child married John Wesley Cheairs, grandson of pioneer Nathaniel Francis Cheairs, III, and the couple took up residence at White Hall with her mother. She died in December of the same year, and Rose and her husband decided to stay at White Hall. When the estate was offered for sale by court order, to give the other heirs their proportionate part, the couple bid it in; John Cheairs generously deeded his interest to his wife in fee simple, and thus the house remained in the family.

Following the death of Mrs. Cheairs in 1927, the house was for many years the residence of her children, Irene, Rose, and Wharton Cheairs. Upon their deaths the house was willed to Scarritt College in Nashville, which in turn sold the property in 1969 to Mrs. Hazel G. Morton, the current resident of the house.

Several Civil War incidents are associated with White Hall. In March, 1863, the dashing Confederate Cavalry General Earl Van Dorn established his headquarters at Dr. White's home in Spring Hill. The general, his staff, and aides-de-camp took over the entire house leaving only the kitchen wing to Dr. White, his wife Margaret, and several small children.

Van Dorn literally held court in Spring Hill. He held several military reviews which he attended dressed in a resplendently tailored uniform. Brass band concerts entertained the villagers, and "the mansions were lighted until midnight." Van Dorn supposedly was visited at White Hall by Jessie McKissack Peters, wife of neighboring doctor and former State Senator Dr. George B. Peters. Such aspects of Van Dorn's social life did not suit his hostess, Mrs. White, and she asked her husband to get the general out of the house. Before Dr. White could face up to the uncomfortable task of asking the general to leave, Van Dorn summoned him and told White that he was transferring his headquarters to the Martin Cheairs house (now Ferguson Hall at the Tennessee Orphans Home).

Van Dorn was in his new headquarters less than a week before he was assassinated by Dr. George Peters in the county's most famous murder, a major sensation of the day and still a matter of dispute.

On November 29, 1864, the advancing Confederate Army of Tennessee under General John Bell Hood encircled a large federal force under General John Schofield at Spring Hill. As a Confederate detachment under General Nathan B. Forrest entered Spring Hill on the Duplex Road from the Rally Hill turnpike, they were greeted by the White family in their front yard, who served the soldiers fried chicken from black tin trays. Neighbors across the road provided buttermilk and buttered biscuits. (Most of General Schofield's troops escaped that night.)

After the terrible Battle of Franklin the next afternoon, wounded soldiers were laid out in the front and back halls of White Hall for treatment by Dr. White. In later years, one of his children recalled being frightened and disturbed by the moans and cries of the wounded.

Dr. Aaron White could not join the Confederate Army due to deafness, but still served the South throughout the war as a physician and surgeon.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

EXF. 10/31/84

Continuation sheet White Hall

Item number 8

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date entered
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Architecturally, the large frame house White Hall is interesting for its modified central-passage plan; its monumental portico supported by pillars with Tower-of-the-Winds capitals; ornate door surrounds, balcony rails, and the heavy cornice on the exterior; and original mantels stairways, and other interior millwork and details. The original detached kitchen was long ago joined to the main part of the house by a dining room wing, but this rear addition adds to the overall character of this fine residence at the edge of the quite little town of Spring Hill.