

RESOLUTION 08-43

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE TO DESIGNATE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5350 MAIN STREET, MAURY COUNTY TAX MAP 028, PARCEL 002.00, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "FERGUSON 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. Brian L. King, President of Tennessee Children's Home, owner of the property at 5350 Main Street, commonly known as "Ferguson 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.

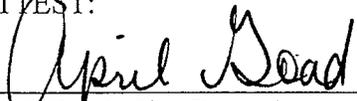
WHEREAS, Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-406 of the City of Spring Hill Municipal Code provides that sites in the City of Spring Hill will be designated as Historically Significant Sites by resolution of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen upon recommendation of the City of Spring Hill Historic Commission; 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 5350 Main Street, Maury County Tax Map 028, Parcel 002.00, commonly known as "Ferguson 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 20th Day of October, 2008.

ATTEST:

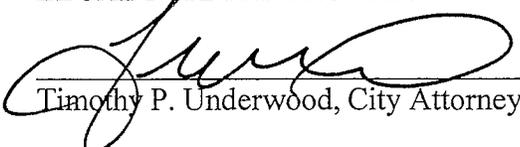


April Goad, City Recorder



Danny M. Leverette, Mayor

LEGAL FORM APPROVED:



Timothy P. Underwood, City Attorney

SPRING HILL HISTORIC COMMISSION AGENDA APPLICATION

Date: 8/18/08

Name of Applicant: Ferguson Hall

Phone: 931-486-2274

Address: 5350 Main Street

Name of Property Owner: Tennessee Children's Home

Phone: 931-486-2274

Address: P.O. Box 10 Spring Hill, TN 37174

Maury Co. Williamson Co. Tax Map: 028 Parcel # 2.00

SECTION 1 – Request for Designation of Historically Significant Site:

I, Brian L. King, pursuant to Municipal Code Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-406, request that the property and/or site located at 5350 Main Street Spring Hill, TN 37174, 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); The site of the murder of Gen Earl VanDorn by Dr. George Peters on the morning of May 7th 1863.

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.


Applicant's Signature

Date Received by Historic Commission: September 26, 2008
Placed on Historic Commission Agenda for meeting to be held on: September 29, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.

Recommended Not Recommended

Secretary of Historic Commission



Who says history is boring! The history behind that late holiday, May 7, 1863, inside Ferguson Hall is one of the most spell-binding of the Civil War. The battlefield was limited to the four walls of the parlor and ended with the death of a promising Cavalry General.

Don't Wait for the Book...

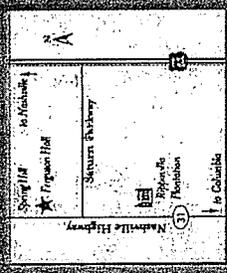
This intriguing story took place in this historic 1853 plantation home. You may visit the room where General Van Dom was murdered. Stand where the jealous husband may have stood as he fired the pistol which left his home in the annals of Civil War history. Experience it yourself!

Funds from Ferguson Hall go toward the support of the Tennessee Children's Home, providing vocational training for the young residents.



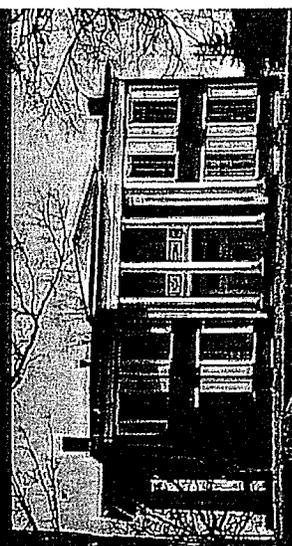
Ferguson Hall is available for special events, weddings, receptions, holiday gatherings and business meetings.

To schedule a tour or book an event call 931-486-1677 between 8 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday.



Ferguson Hall
Tennessee Children's Home
6550 Main Street
Spring Hill, TN 37174

Ferguson Hall
Built 1853



Major General Earl Van Dom

Commander, Army of West Tennessee
Confederate Army

A Southern Recipe for Disaster...

Start with an intertidally beautiful temptress
Add a jealous in-laws husband
Stir in a Wishing Confederate General...

What you have is the stuff of romantic novels.
This is the story of Ferguson Hall.

Ferguson Hall

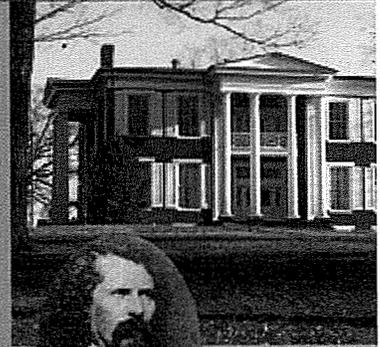
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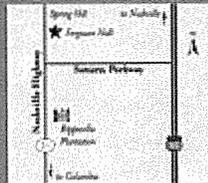
Major Gen
Earl Van Dorn

Commander, Army of West Tennessee
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This intriguing story took place in this historic 1853 plantation home. You may visit the room where General Van Dorn was murdered. Stand where the jealous husband may have stood as he fired the pistol which left this home in the annals of Civil War history. Experience it yourself!



Ferguson Hall
Tennessee Childrens Home
5350 Main Street
Spring Hill, TN 37174

A Southern Recipe for Disaster...
Start with an incredibly beautiful town
Add a jealous rich husband
Stir-in a dashing Confederate General

What you have is the stuff of romance
This is the story of Ferguson Hall.



The entrance hall features a beautiful floating stairway.

Ferguson Hall is a handsome plantation home located on Hwy. 31 in Spring Hill, Tennessee. It was built by Daniel McCaulfin, a local builder, for Martin Cheairs, brother of Nathaniel Cheairs, original owner of Rippavilla Plantation. Construction began in October of 1852 and was completed in December of 1853. Ferguson Hall is most noted for an incident that transpired there in 1863. After the Battle of Murfreesboro, Confederate General Bragg's troops drew back to occupy more secure bases to the South. Gen. Earl Van Dorn, a native of Mississippi, was commander of Bragg's cavalry. He brought his troops to Spring Hill, and chose Ferguson Hall (called the Cheairs Home at the

time) as his headquarters. Whether his reputation as a "womanizer" was true or not has been the subject of much discussion over the years but one of his indiscretions brought about his death. It was rumored that he was carrying on an affair with Jesse McKissack Peters, the wife of Dr. George B. Peters, a local physician. It was commented that Mrs. Peters could be seen coming and going from the Cheairs house at odd hours. Dr. Peters became aware of these rumors and on the morning of May 7, 1863, he went to the headquarters of Gen. Van Dorn. Details of the events of that day are few but at its conclusion Van Dorn was found at his desk with a gunshot wound to the back of the head. Dr. Peters fled the area. Evidence collected by army investigators seemed to point to justifiable murder and the doctor was never brought to trial.

In 1897 William C. Branham and William Hughes opened a school in Spring Hill. The following year they acquired the property of what had been Spring Hill Male College and in 1905 purchased the old Martin Cheairs place with its 57 acres of land and the mansion. It was given the name "Ferguson Hall" in honor of a friend of the Branhams.

Branham and Hughes School became far and wide as an excellent educational institution. When the Depression struck the country in the 1930s, however, the school was forced to close its doors. In 1934 the school was decided to the Trustees of the Spring Hill Orphans Home and became an institution for the care of needy children. The name was changed to Tennessee Children's Home and today is a ministry of the Churches of Christ.

