

## **7** DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR  
☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Smith-Hoffman House was built ca. 1855 in a grove of trees on a hill overlooking the Cumberland River in the New Providence section of Clarksville by W. C. Smith, a local tobacco dealer. The main facade of the two-story brick residence faces west. A detached kitchen, located east of the rectangular, Tennessee Vernacular house, was joined to the main section in the early 1900s by Mason Hoffman to form an L plan. The builder laid the walls and foundation in common bond and built chimneys into the north and south elevations; the east wall of the kitchen contains a third chimney. The original covering on the low gable roof has been replaced in recent years with composition shingles.

The symmetrical main facade is divided into five distinct bays. A prominent two-story portico, with an elaborate boxed and pedimented cornice supported by four square columns and two pilasters, dominates this elevation; a decorative balustrade further accents this feature. Enclosed within the confines of the portico is distinctive second-story balcony. Although stylistically consonant, the balcony is physically independent of the portico; paired brackets support this element. Eight windows--two in each bay--balance the assertive centerpiece, and each of these has a nine-over-nine light pattern and is surrounded with a plain lintel and sill and louvered shutters. Paired four-over-four sashes may be replacements for doors in the second-story center. The double-leaf, paneled doors of the main entrance are outlined by sidelights and a headlight.

Except for a single window in the north elevation, the chimney walls have no apertures. Before the kitchen was attached to the house, the rear (east) wall probably had nine windows and a center door. Doubled, small four-light windows were installed above the ell roof.

Early in the twentieth century the detached kitchen, a single-story brick structure, was joined to the main building and a shed porch with plain, square columns added to its entire south side. Some years later the owner attached a small shed porch to the north wall. A few yards southeast of the kitchen stands a dilapidated and much altered, brick carriagehouse.

The large windows provide excellent lighting and ventilation. The floor plan of the house follows the traditional form; a central hall, containing a plain, two-run staircase, separates the two large rooms on each floor. The mantles throughout the house are more utilitarian than ornamental. The Hoffman addition houses a dining room.