



MAPLELAWN

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM J. DONOHO (JESSIE MILDRED)

8220 MOORES LANE  
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

(615) 370-3994





TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

Historic Name: Owen-Cox House (WM-126)

Common Name: Maplelawn

Classification: Building

Owner: William J. Donoho, Moores Lane, Brentwood, TN

Location: On Moores Lane one mile east of Interstate 65.

<u>Contributing:</u>		<u>Non-Contributing:</u>	
Buildings	1	Buildings	0
Structures	0	Structures	4
Sites	0	Sites	0
<u>Total:</u>	1	<u>Total:</u>	4

Description:

The Owen-Cox House is a two-story brick residence with both Italianate and Neo-Classical features. Part of the house was built ca. 1830 by Nathan Owen but the residence was largely remodeled into its present design in the 1870s. On the main (south) facade is a two-story veranda with ca.1910 fluted metal columns. These columns have terra cotta Ionic capitals. Adjacent to the brick wall on the extended bay is a metal pilaster with an Ionic capital. On the second story of the porch are ca.1870 turned balusters. The main entrance has original arched Italianate three panel doors with two courses of brick relief arching. On the second story of the main facade is a similar arched door. The windows are arched one-over-one sash with two-course brick relief arching.

On the main facade is a prominent bay window with three one-over-one sash windows and paired eave brackets which are also found along the roofline. The house is of seven-course common bond brick. The house has a one-story rear ca. 1910 addition with an added second story of frame. The second story has shiplap siding and a large ca. 1950 picture window on the west facade. The first story windows are rectangular one-over-one sash. At the northeast corner is a one-story ca.1870 brick wing perhaps used as servants' quarters. No chimney is visible. In the ell of the house is a two-story ca. 1950 frame addition with large arched picture windows on the first and second stories. The interior of the house was not accessible.

At the rear of the house are four outbuildings all of which were moved to the site by the present owner in recent years. The house now sits on a rural lot in a rapidly urbanizing area of the county.

Period of Significance: 1891-1899

Area of Significance: Politics

Criterion: B

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Owen-Cox House is notable primarily through its association with politician Nicholas N. Cox, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Cox was elected to the U.S. House in 1891 and served until 1899. The house is an interesting assemblage of both Italianate and Neo-Classical designs of the late 19th century. In addition to these styles the house also has extensive additions at the rear of the structure.

The original section of the house was built ca. 1830 by Nathan Owen. Owen purchased 300 acres of land in 1809 he lived in a log residence here until the 1830s when he constructed a one-story brick residence. Owen resided here until his death in 1865 and the following year it was sold to Nicholas N. Cox. Cox completely remodeled the residence in the 1870s into a brick Italianate design. His family later added Neo-Classical design metal columns in the early 1900s.

Cox was one of the most prominent politicians of late 19th century Williamson County. He was born in 1837 and served as colonel of the 10th Tennessee cavalry under Nathan Bedford Forrest. Following his distinguished war service Cox moved to Franklin and began a law practice. In 1866, he purchased the Nathan Owen house and extensively remodeled the house into an Italianate design in the 1870s. Cox became active in county politics and he was profiled in the 1886 Goodspeed biographical index. In 1891 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served until 1899. Cox was the representative of Williamson and parts of Rutherford and other adjacent counties and was the only House member from Williamson County in the late 19th century. A democrat, Cox supported his party's programs and platforms during his tenure in the legislature. He was listed as an able legislator and served his constituents well. Following his death his family continued to own the house until 1933.

Acreage: 5.2 acres

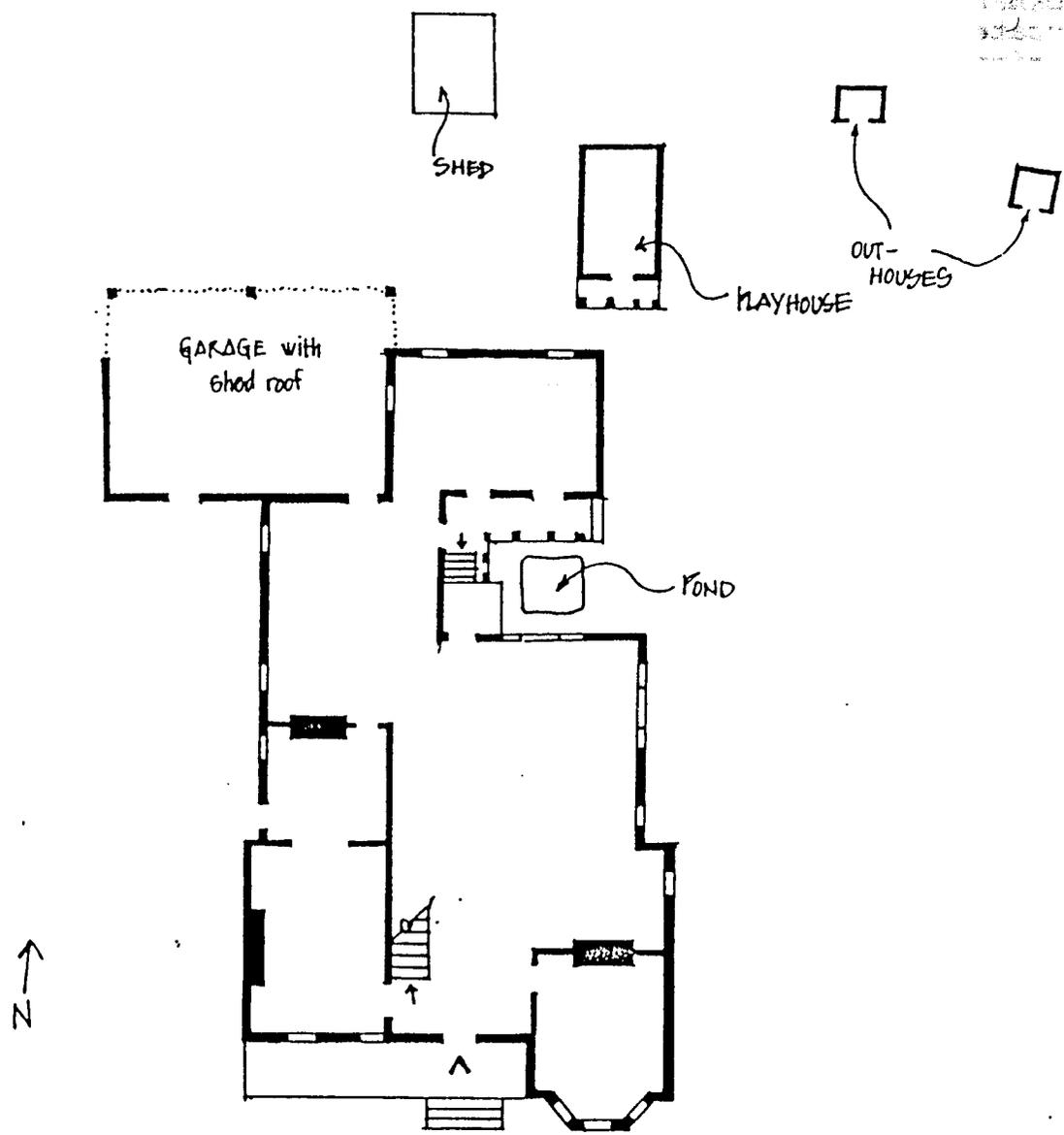
UTM References: Franklin Quad/16/519090/3979920

Verbal Boundary and Justification: The boundary of the Owen-Cox House is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 54, lot 33. The boundary includes all property historically associated with the house and is defined by fences on all four sides.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: Goodspeed History of Tennessee

# #126 OWEN-LOX HOUSE

LOCAL COUNCIL  
PLANS  
NOT TO  
SCALE



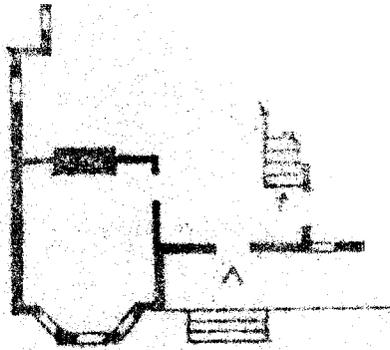
to  
MOORE'S LANE  
↓

\* NOT TO SCALE

### MAPLE LAWN

Maple Lawn was built by Nathan and Jane Hightower Owen in the 1830's on a 300 acre tract of land that was an original land grant to John Cockrill. The property was sold in 1876 to N.N. Cox of Hickman County, who started out as a poor boy but by hard work educated himself as a lawyer and soon proved himself to be a criminal lawyer without equal in Williamson County. During the Civil War he was a colonel in the 10th Tennessee Cavalry and was twice commended for his bravery by General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Maple Lawn was remodeled in the 1870's, giving it the present Victorian look. The square columns at the front were replaced by the Ionic columns. The bay window was also added at that time.

### Brentwood Brochure



TO  
WOODS LAKE





Gill Traugh:

## Historic markers

Wendell Edison of the Brentwood Historic Commission recently presented Mildred Don owner of the historic Maple Lawn on Moores Lane with a historic marker. Similar signs were sent to each of the 22 homes designated by the city as historic landmarks.