

Andrew Price, a Louisiana sugar cane producer, used Clover Bottom as a summer home. Price constructed additional outbuildings on the property, and continued to develop the property into a horse breeding farm. His widow sold the property to A. F. and Robert Donnell Stanford in 1918. Several barns and other outbuildings including tenant houses, silos, a dairy barn, were constructed by the Stanfords who operated a large dairy farm milking Jersey and Guernsey cows.. The Stanfords made a number of changes in the mansion. They installed a furnace and electricity, painted the woodwork ivory in the double parlors and papered the walls.



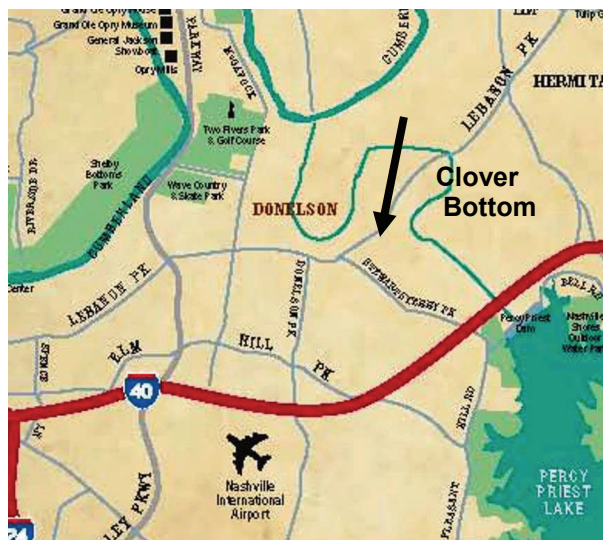
Clover Bottom Barn

The Stanford family retained the property until 1947 when A. F. Stanford's widow sold the estate to the Guaranty Mortgage Company who in turn sold the property to the State of Tennessee in 1949. In January 1950, workers modernized the house for office use. The project included replacing the chandeliers with fluorescent lights, installation of modern plumbing and a central heating system. The work also included painting the woodwork battleship gray and covering the five inches wide, inch-thick pine floors with asphalt tile. The mansion served as offices for the Department of Safety.

Starting in 1950, the Tennessee School for the Blind was developed on a section of the acreage fronting on Stewart's Ferry Pike. After the school for the blind was established, the mansion was converted into apartments to house school personnel. Around 1980, the mansion was abandoned and suffered from neglect and vandalism.

On October 25, 1994, the Tennessee Historical Commission offices moved from the Customs House on Broadway downtown to the Clover Bottom Mansion. The move followed an extensive restoration of the state-owned house. Members of the Tennessee General Assembly heeded the calls of concerned citizens and local preservation organizations appropriate the necessary funds to restore the house to its original distinction.

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Map to Clover Bottom



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CLOVER BOTTOM FARM



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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CLOVER BOTTOM FARM



Clover Bottom, one of the finest plantations in Tennessee, encompassed 1,500 acres of land. The mansion and nine acres are listed

on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural and historical significance in the development of Middle Tennessee. Clover Bottom is one of the few antebellum farms in Middle Tennessee with sufficient acreage to convey a sense of time and place.

John Donelson established an early settlement site at Clover Bottom in 1780 on the banks of the Stones River. Donelson built lean-tos, the first domestic structures in "half-faced" camps along the Middle Tennessee tributary. Clover Bottom was the focus for activities in the area. Andrew Jackson, operated a store at Clover Bottom from 1804 to 1805, and the Clover Bottom racetrack, built on the bottomlands of the river, was co-owned by Andrew Jackson and John Coffee.

The Clover Bottom tract was initially conveyed in three separate parcels by the State of North Carolina to Archibald Buchanan in 1789, William Moore in 1790, and Edward Bradley in 1794. Captain John Hoggatt began his acquisition of the property in 1797. Over the next 20 years, Hoggatt continued purchasing various tracts until the Clover Bottom farm included 700 acres. Captain Hoggatt died in 1824, and his wife, Diana Sandefur Hoggatt died in 1828.



Both are buried in the family cemetery behind the house.

Ownership of the farm eventually passed to Sandefur Hoggatt, a grandson of Captain Hoggatt, and son of John H. Hoggatt. Sandefur Hoggatt lived in Louisiana and in 1847 sold the Clover Bottom farm to his uncle, Dr. James W. Hoggatt, a son of Captain John Hoggatt.

Dr. Hoggatt lived in neighboring Wilson County prior to his purchase of Clover Bottom. He and his wife, Mary Ann Saunders Hoggatt, moved to Clover Bottom and began an active program to increase the size of the farm. Mary Ann Saunders was the granddaughter of pioneer settlers, John Donelson, and Daniel Smith. By 1860, Clover Bottom consisted of 1,500 acres. The farm prospered by the labor of sixty slaves who worked raising corn, millet, wheat, hogs, and mules.



Mary Ann Hoggatt

The Hoggatts began construction of a large brick Greek Revival style home in 1852. A tragic house fire on the night of February 7, 1859, destroyed the manor house, but left the brick walls intact. The Hoggatts immediately began to rebuild their home, updating it in the

Italianate style. The Italianate detailing remains today and serves as one of the best examples of the style in Davidson County. The mansion boasted twenty-three rooms with fourteen-foot ceilings, high doors with either square or semi-circular scarlet transoms, narrow windows with ruby-colored circular glass ornamentation. In addition, the estate contains several outbuildings, most of which relate to the horse and dairy operations of subsequent owners. Among these are the remains of a log structure, a springhouse, and portions of two buildings which served as residences for farm laborers.

The events of the Civil War profoundly affected life at Clover Bottom. Confederate General Nathan B. Forrest and his cavalry camped on the property in August 1862. Union troops under Generals Crittenden and Morgan camped at Clover Bottom for five weeks in the latter part of 1862. John McCline, one of the slaves living at Clover Bottom, ran off and joined the Union forces. McCline wrote his autobiography detailing his life as a slave, entitled *Slavery in the Clover Bottoms*.

Dr. James Hoggatt died in 1863, and his wife Mary Ann moved out of the mansion for the remainder of the war. Mrs. Hoggatt returned to Clover Bottom, and took over the farm management. Several of the former slaves at Clover Bottom continued to live on the property as tenant farmers, and contributed significantly to the farm's continued success. Mary Ann Hoggatt continued to live at Clover Bottom until 1882 when she sold the property to Andrew Price. Mrs. Hoggatt died on April 28, 1887 in Birmingham, Alabama.