

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Cedar Heights Farmhouse

Other names/site number _____

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

(Remove "N/A" if property is part of a multiple property listing and add name)

2. Location

Street & Number: 704 Taylor Lane

City or town: Mt. Juliet

State: TN

County: Wilson

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

Zip: 37121

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official:

Date

Title:

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	Buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	3	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Folk Victorian

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

WOOD: Weatherboard; STONE: Limestone; BRICK;
CONCRETE; METAL: Tin;

Narrative Description

Located in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, the circa 1891 Cedar Heights Farmhouse is a good local example of the Folk Victorian style residence. Significant exterior features include its gabled ell design, steeply pitched cross-gabled roof, prominent front gable, wraparound porch, turned spindles, spindle work detailing, and decorative brackets and moldings. Significant interior features include original doors, floors, walls, hardware, staircase, and woodwork throughout. The farmhouse sits on an approximately forty-acre farm situated between West Division Street and Old Lebanon Dirt Road in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. Also on the property are three non-contributing outbuildings: a smokehouse, chicken house, and utility building. These outbuildings were built around the same time as the farmhouse. The farmhouse retains its original architectural defining characteristics and integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. The property also retains its location, setting, and overall historical integrity.

Setting and Site Features

Cedar Heights Farmhouse is located in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee in the community of Green Hill. The farmhouse sits on approximately forty acres and is bounded to the north and west by Stoner's Creek, and to

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the south and east by circa 1980s residential neighborhoods. The farmhouse sits up on a slight hill in the central northeastern section of the property. The topography is mostly woodland with some open flat fields.

CEDAR HEIGHTS FARMHOUSE, CIRCA 1891 (CONTRIBUTING BUILDING)

Summary

The Cedar Heights Farmhouse is a two-story, gable front and wing Folk Victorian style single-family house with an asymmetrical façade. The farmhouse was built using balloon framing and is approximately 4400 square feet in size. The foundation was constructed using limestone blocks with cast iron vent covers to provide airflow under the house. Each room of the farmhouse sits on its own foundation. The exterior is clad with original poplar weatherboard except where it was repaired with other hardwoods such as cypress. The four chimney are original and constructed of brick. The exterior of the farmhouse has decorative elements such as decorative attic vent covers, turned spindles, decorative brackets and moldings, eave overhang brackets, and spindle work detailing. The irregularly shaped roof has steeply pitched gables and is covered in metal. The original roof possibly used cedar shingles since several have been found in the attic. The farmhouse has a functioning lightning rod system that has protected the house several times from direct lightning strikes.

Only one non-original window has been added to the farmhouse. This was around 1980 when the enclosed back porch area had a bathroom added. The rest of the windows in the farmhouse are the original double-hung sash weighted windows and have not been replaced.

The front façade features a prominent one-story wrap around porch from the north to the east side of the farmhouse. All porch ceilings have wood panels covering the original beadboard.

The interior of the farmhouse retains all its original features including poplar wood floors, plaster walls, wainscoting, cedar trim, original doors and hardware, original staircase, and ornate newel post, cast iron fireplace mantels surrounded by wood and ceramic tile, and transoms above every door. Ceilings on the first level are twelve feet high, eleven feet high on the second level. Every interior and exterior door in the farmhouse is a four panel eight-foot-tall wood door with a transom above it unless noted. Each transom has dentil molding on the hall facing side but no molding on the room side.

Exterior

Facade (North Elevation)

The north façade has an asymmetrical appearance marked by a prominent two-story, prow-roof projection located in the ell of the façade. A smaller, two-story gable projection lies within the façade's north gable projection. Paired, one-over-one light, double hung windows capped by wood, four-light windows with a decorative X design are located on the first story of this projection. Above these windows and beneath the second level is a decorative two panel section and decorative crown. A pair of one-over-one light, double hung windows are located above on the second-story. Directly below the gable peak is a four pane, X design window. Between the window and gable peak is a decorative wood attic vent.

Between the north gable projection and the east gable projection is a three sided, two-story, prow-roof projection. The first floor is characterized by its raised, full length, shed roof wood porch. Along the top of the porch are decorative moldings that connect to four original wood support pillars. The original decorative porch

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railing with hand hewn trim have been disconnected from the support pillars until they can be reattached to the porch following repairs. The pillars are square with rounded corners and detailed brackets located at the top. The porch is currently covered with tin. The main entrance is located on the western end of the porch. The entrance is filled with a six panel wood door with a single light glass pane. The door retains its original brass knob and doorbell. The doorbell was original to the house and consists of a brass knob attached to a wire that, once pulled, rings the bell above the front door¹ At the eastern end of the porch is an oversize, wood, one-over-one light window that doubles as a secondary entrance onto the point from the inside. On the second level, above the center of the porch is a circular window that lies underneath large decorative brackets along the roof line. To the east and west of this circular window are two one over one windows.

East Elevation

The east elevation has an asymmetrical appearance. This elevation has the same limestone foundation as the rest of the house except for the southern end of the elevation, where the limestone was covered with concrete in the late 1970s.² The two-story gable projection features a two-over-two light, double hung window on both the first and second floor. Above the two over two window is an attic window with a four pane X design. Directly above this attic window is a decorative attic vent under the gable. The south elevation's two-story porch and single-story rear projection are visible from this elevation. A single, six-over-six light window is located on the first floor of the two-story porch. It is the only non-original window in the house and was only added when that portion of the enclosed porch was converted to a bathroom in the late 1970s.³

South Elevation

The south elevation has an asymmetrical appearance. A two-story porch runs the length of the elevation and abuts against a two-story gable projection on the western end of the elevation. A single-story, front gable addition is attached to the two-story section. Concrete steps lead to the first story of the porch. The porch is enclosed. The easternmost portion is covered in weatherboard siding with wood lattice siding located directly east of the weatherboard. The porch was originally open, though photographs show that the porch was enclosed by the 1940s. The lattice was added in the late 1970s. An entrance filled with original wooden door is located on the north wall of the porch and accesses the first level of the farmhouse. To the east of the back door is a wood staircase that provides access to the second level balcony area. The staircase railing has turned spindles instead of the square spindles found on the outside railing of the balcony. Immediately to the east of the backdoor under the balcony are original large decorative moldings. An original brick walkway runs across the southern elevation



Figure 1: Back Porch showing enclosed area circa 1940.
Photograph courtesy of the author.

¹ The doorbell was added in the mid-1900s. It functions without the use of electricity

² This change occurred when running water and an outside spigot were added to the farmhouse.

³ Prior to that time this enclosed porch area was mainly used for kitchen storage. Photos from the 1930s show this porch area is already enclosed so this change was made prior to then.

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from the east side of the house all the way past the west side of the house. At the west end of the brick walkway is a coal pit.

The balcony level is supported by four wood posts with decorative brackets enclosed by a balustrade. Portions of the balustrade consist of turned wood spindles, while others are simple square spindles. The balcony floor is wood but has been covered with tin at some point. Up under the balcony roof are original decorative moldings. In the center of the balcony is a third back entrance into the farmhouse filled with original wood door. The entrance is flanked on either side by double hung, two-over-two light windows. A decorative attic vent is located beneath the gable peak of the two-story gable projection, and an interior brick chimney is visible on the south elevation roofline.

The single-story addition features an exterior end brick chimney with ca. 2019 chimney cap on its south wall. A double hung, four-over-four light window is located to the east of the chimney. A shed roof awning supported by two wood posts shelters an entrance filled with an original wood door on the east wall of the addition. This section of the house was added on sometime around 1900 to provide an indoor kitchen and butler's pantry to the farmhouse.

West Elevation

The west elevation has an asymmetrical appearance. The limestone foundation has three cast iron vents for air circulation on the north, central and south end of the farmhouse. On the south end of the elevation there is a cellar access panel. Central to the elevation is a two-story gable projection with an exterior two-story chimney flanked on both sides on the first and second-stories by double hung, two-over-two light windows. The side gable portion to the north features two, double hung, one-over-one light windows on the first floor and an identical window on the first floor. A single entrance filled with a wood door and sheltered by a shed roof awning supported by a single wood post is located directly north of the gable projection on the first floor. The door is the exact same configuration as the one in the main entrance on the north elevation. A small, raised wood platform enclosed on the west side by a simple balustrade accesses the entrance.⁴ Narrow, one-over-one light windows are located directly south of the gable projection on the first and second floor. The one-story addition features a single double hung, four-over-four light window on the first floor.

Interior

First Floor

Unless noted otherwise, each room has a light in the center of the ceiling. All floors are the original wood floors. All walls throughout the home are plaster over lathe and feature original wood baseboards, unless otherwise noted. All ceilings, unless otherwise noted, are plaster over lathe. All windows facing the north side of the home have decorative wooden blinds. The staircase landing window faces east but also has a decorative wooden blind. This window is unique since the staircase was built over the window so it can never be opened. The lower wooden shutters are permanently closed and sit in a slight groove carved out of the staircase landing. This is original to the farmhouse. All windows and doors have header pediments that consist of corner blocks with a rosette design.

⁴ Originally the porch was smaller but at some unknown time before 1980 was extended several feet. This can be seen from a photo from around 1940.

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The primary entrance opens into the front hall. To the east of the front door is a sitting area underneath the C-shaped staircase. The staircase has a very large ornate newel post with a ball top. About five feet up the staircase to the east is a small landing before the stairs continue up to the second level. To the west of the main entrance is the parlor. Its prominent feature is its set of double windows with its two X design windows above. The parlor features a coal grate fireplace with a large wood mantel that sits at a 45-degree angle. This mantel contains a mirror and is much larger than the other mantels in the farmhouse. The fireplace is just south of the front hall entrance into the room. The ceramic tile around the fireplace is a light blue and has a border consisting of ornate tiles. To the west of the parlor fireplace is a door leading into the side hall on the west side of the house where the side porch is located.

Connecting the front hall to the back hall is large fretwork up near the ceiling. The fretwork features a snowflake design surrounded by eight hash designs. This snowflake design matches the snowflake design on the original weathervanes for the farmhouse. It is likely that the snowflake design might have been selected out of a plan book.

The library is to the east after entering the back hall. Its prominent feature is an ornate wood and cast iron coal grate fireplace just south of the hall door. The ornate ceramic tile around the fireplace is bright green. Just past the fireplace to the south is an original seven-foot-tall door leading to a small closet. The closet has three small original shelves built into the south wall.

In the back hall south of the library is a door leading to the back porch. Across the back hall from the library is the dining room. The dining room does not have a fireplace. The room can also be accessed from a door along the north wall that sits opposite the parlor door.

To the south of the dining room is a door leading to the laundry room. The walls and ceilings are beadboard and are different from the rest of the farmhouse. This section was added on a few years after the original farmhouse was built. The walls have the original wainscoting instead of a baseboard like the rest of the farmhouse. This room was originally a butler's pantry. In 2001, the bathroom and laundry room was moved inside the house. To the south of the laundry room is a door leading to the kitchen. To the west of the laundry room is a small bathroom with another door leading to the kitchen.

The kitchen has the same wainscoting, beadboard walls and ceilings as the laundry room and bathroom. To the east is the kitchen door leading to the back porch. There is a very large wooden cellar door in the floor between the laundry room door and the kitchen door. The prominent feature in the kitchen is the plain non-ornate fireplace with a wooden mantel. It is not a coal grate fireplace like every other fireplace in the farmhouse but instead was used for cooking. Originally there were no cabinets in the kitchen. In 2001, kitchen cabinetry was added that extends all the way up to the twelve-foot ceiling. The cellar beneath the kitchen, laundry room, and bathroom has a dirt floor with brick walls and is where the master on/off valve for the acetylene lighting system was located.

Second Floor

At the top of the main staircase is the upstairs hall which allows entry to each of the four bedrooms and a walk-in closet on the west end of the hall. The first bedroom (Bedroom 1) is immediately to the west directly in front of the staircase. The other three bedrooms are along the south side of the house. The most prominent feature of each bedroom is its coal grate fireplace and cast-iron mantel with ceramic tile design. Each bedroom has

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the same design - brown ceramic tiles and red brick at the base of the fireplace. The fireplace in Bedroom 1 is immediately to the south upon entering the bedroom. The fireplace sits at a 45-degree angle matching the parlor fireplace below. In the attic this chimney spins another 45 degrees before reaching the roofline. On the center of the west wall is a window and in the center of the north wall is a set of two windows.

The bedroom on the southeast corner of the farmhouse (Bedroom 2) has a door to the south that opens to the back balcony. In the center of the west wall is a fireplace that has the same design as all the other bedroom fireplaces. Just north of the fireplace is a small closet door that opens into the next bedroom (Bedroom 3). The two doors can be shut from either side, much like an adjoining hotel room. There is about two feet of space between the doors that allow the area to be used as a very tiny walk-thru closet. These doors are seven feet tall without a transom and are original to the farmhouse.

The middle bedroom (Bedroom 3) is smaller than the others and likely meant for children. Its fireplace is on the east side of the room and shares the same chimney as Bedroom 2. Its fireplace and mantel also match the other bedrooms. There is a window on the south side of the room that sits on the balcony. To the west is a door that opens into the master bedroom (Bedroom 4).

The master bedroom fireplace is in the center of the west wall. Its fireplace and mantel also match the other bedrooms. On both sides of the fireplace is a window. On the north side of the room near the east wall is a door that opens into the hall.

Along the south wall is a door that leads into a small, enclosed room on the back porch. This room was not originally enclosed, and a wooden wall and door to the east were added sometime around the mid 1980s. The door is a smaller seven-foot-tall door that is not original to the house. The inside walls to the south are covered in the same weatherboard as the rest of the farmhouse because they were originally exterior walls. There is a small panel in the ceiling in this area that provides access to the attic. The ceiling here is beadboard which matches the beadboard in the porch ceilings in the rest of the farmhouse.

To the west of this enclosed room is a door leading to a small storage room. This room is original to the house and has a plaster ceiling and walls and a wood floor that matches the rest of the farmhouse.

SMOKEHOUSE, CIRCA 1890 (NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING)

The smokehouse was built in the late 1800s, probably immediately after the farmhouse, to support the farm. The structure is 16 ft x 20 ft and has a large stone foundation. The wood frame structure uses 45-degree wood boards covered with horizontal weatherboard on the outside. The floor is wood and the roof is metal. The smokehouse is considered non-contributing because it does not contribute to the architectural significance of Cedar Heights Farmhouse.

CHICKEN HOUSE, CIRCA 1890 (NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING)

The chicken house is a smaller 12 ft x 16 ft wood structure also built in the late 1800s in support of the farm. The structure has no floor and has two levels with an internal ladder providing access to the second level. There is an outside door also providing access to the second level. The roof is metal. The chicken house is considered non-contributing because it does not contribute to the architectural significance of Cedar Heights Farmhouse.

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UTILITY BUILDING, CIRCA 1890 (NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING)

The utility building is a 16 ft x 16 ft wood structure built in the mid to late 1800s in support of the farm. This building appears to be older than the smokehouse and chicken house since it uses timber poles and mainly large cut nails in its construction. The structure has no floor and the roof is metal. The inside of the building is lined with tin sheets, indicating that it was likely used to store feed at one time. The building is in disrepair. The utility building is considered non-contributing because it does not contribute to the architectural significance of Cedar Heights Farmhouse.

INTEGRITY

The Cedar Heights Farmhouse retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The farmhouse has not been moved since its construction. Though Mt. Juliet has experienced extensive growth and the size of the farm is reduced, the heavily wooded topography and rolling open fields provided a setting that is almost identical to that when it was initially constructed. The farmhouse also retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. There have been no major alterations to the overall ell-shape design of the house and all additions, such as the first-floor kitchen addition, were added more than fifty years ago and do not detract from the architectural significance of the property. The farmhouse also retains an outstanding level of material integrity, which include its weatherboard siding, exterior wood architectural flourishes, interior wood doors and floors, and plastered ceilings and walls. Finally, the workmanship of the property continues to be evident in the retention of its character defining features, including its gabled ell design, steeply pitched cross-gabled roof, prominent front gable, wraparound porch, turned spindles, spindle work detailing, and decorative brackets and moldings. As such, the property also retains integrity of feeling and association.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

N/A

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1891- ca. 1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John W. Williamson

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Statement of Significance

Cedar Heights Farmhouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture. The farmhouse was built circa 1891 and has an overall high level of integrity to convey its significance as a good example of a Folk Victorian style single family residence. The farmhouse retains its integrity of location and setting as it has always been in its current location on Cedar Heights Farm. The farmhouse retains a high level of integrity in materials, design, workmanship, association, and feeling. Its architecturally significant features conveying its Folk Victorian style are intact including its gabled ell style, steeply pitched cross-gabled roof, a prominent front gable, a wraparound porch, original exterior weatherboard cladding, turned spindles, spindle work detailing, eave overhang brackets and gables with decorative brackets and moldings. All windows in the farmhouse except one are the original double-hung sash weighted windows and have not been replaced. Every door except the back kitchen door and enclosed porch door still uses the original skeleton keys. The farmhouse and outbuildings retain their original architectural defining characteristics and materials, design, and workmanship. The property retains its location, setting and overall historical integrity. The property's period of significance is 1891 to ca. 1940, which corresponds with the year it was constructed and the year that the one-story kitchen addition and enclosed rear porch were finished.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Wilson County and Mt. Juliet Context

The area that would eventually become Wilson County was rich in both prehistoric heritage and natural resources. Excellent agricultural fields, stands of mature trees, and abundant water source were characteristic of the county. Local histories indicate that the first Europeans to arrive in the area were French trappers in 1760. The first permanent settlers in the county came with John B. Walker in 1794. Five years later, the Tennessee General Assembly created Wilson County on October 26, 1799. It was named after Major David Wilson, a Revolutionary War veteran from North Carolina. Lebanon was declared the county seat in 1801 following the discovery of a large spring on the public square, which remains active to this day. The city was named after the Biblical city of Lebanon due to the large stands of Virginia Juniper cedar trees that were characteristic of the surrounding region.⁵

The county was predominantly agricultural for most of its history. Its farmers ranked first in the state for production of wheat, sorghum, butter, horses, lumber exports, hay, hogs, sheep, and mules in 1875. Industry arrived at the start of the twentieth century. Examples include the Lebanon Woolen Mills (NR Listed 07/12/2007), a pencil factory, and factories that produced shirts and men's socks. The county was also home to Cumberland University (NR Listed 04/29/1977), an educational institution founded by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1842. Other educational institutions followed, including the Castle Heights Military Academy (NR Listed 01/11/1996) and the Lebanon College for Young Ladies, earning Lebanon the nickname of "Little Athens of the South."⁶

⁵ Frank Burns, "Wilson County," in *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, Tennessee Historical Society, 2017, <https://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/wilson-county/>. This unique botanical feature was recognized with the creation of the Cedars of Lebanon State Park in the 1930s. Established as part of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, the State Park was charged with maintaining and protecting this resource in addition to providing recreation opportunities for future generations.

⁶ Burns, "Wilson County," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*; Austin P. Foster, *Counties of Tennessee: A Reference of Historical and Statistical Facts for Each of Tennessee's Counties* (Nashville: Department of Education Tennessee, 1913; Johnson City: The Overmountain Press, 1998).

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Mt. Juliet was one of the several communities founded in Wilson County. There is some debate on how the city got its name, but the general consensus is that it was named after an estate located in County Kilkenny, Ireland.⁷ The original location for Mt. Juliet was near a two-story log cabin called Eagle Tavern on Old Lebanon Dirt Road, just east of the Davidson County line. Half a mile from early Mt. Juliet was the Silver Springs community, named after the Silver Springs Branch. The Silver Springs community boasted a U.S. Post Office from 1831 to 1907 and operated a mineral springs resort from 1813-1846. In 1869, the Tennessee & Pacific Railroad line shifted its location to be a half mile north of Mt. Juliet's original village site. In response, the community picked up and moved to land owned by Newtown Cloyd in 1870 to remain close to the railroad. The city has remained in this location ever since, though it has grown considerably in the past four decades.⁸

Mt. Juliet exhibited early growth in its new location. The city included a post office, two stores, a blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse, a Mason and Odd Fellows Hall, cotton gin, Cloyd's Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and a "Colored" Methodist Church. A cross-county highway arrived in Mt. Juliet at the beginning of the twentieth century, bringing with it additional businesses and residents. However, for much of its history, Mt. Juliet remained a small, unincorporated community. This began to change with the arrival of new infrastructure, such as water lines, in the 1950s. In response, fifteen new residential subdivisions, a new high school, and an industrial park were constructed in the city. Mt. Juliet finally incorporated in 1971, its population now over two thousand residents. The city's explosive growth continued into the twentieth and twenty-first century. Between 1990 and 2019, the city's population increased by 587 percent, from 5,389 to 37,029, making it one of the fastest growing cities in Tennessee. Mt. Juliet is now the largest city in Wilson County, despite being unincorporated until just over fifty-years ago.⁹

Brief History of the Cedar Heights Farm and the Williamson Family

In 1791, Captain John R. Williamson (1764-1829) claimed a Revolutionary War land grant of at least 640 acres in Wilson County¹⁰. John R. Williamson named his farm Green Hill Farm, and it is on this original land that the nominated property sits. The nearby community of Green Hill took its name from Williamson's farm. In 1795, John R. Williamson and pioneer Ezekiel Cloyd co-founded Stoner's Creek Presbyterian Church, making it Mt. Juliet's oldest church. The church met at the Camp Meeting Place in 1795 until a cedar hewn log building was erected in 1820 to serve as the church building.¹¹ A road connecting the Presbyterian Church with John R. Williamson's farm was constructed shortly after the completion of the church. The road served

⁷ Donna G. Ferrell, "Mount Juliet, Ireland – Mount Juliet, Tennessee: Truth, Tradition, & Theory," Wilson Co., TN GenWeb, 1998, <https://www.tngenweb.org/wilson/juliet.htm>; "Mt. Juliet," Lebanon Wilson County Chapter of Commerce, <https://lebanonwilsonchamber.com/introducing-mt-juliet/>. The other theory is that it was named after Julia Jennings Baird, a woman who lived in Mt. Juliet. Ferrell points out in her aforementioned online article that Julie did not live in Mt. Juliet, making the story implausible.

⁸ Sydney Schoof and Robbie D. Jones, *Historic Architecture Survey and Section 106 Assessment of Effects Report for the SR-23 (US 70N/Lebaon Road) Improvement Projection* (New South and Associates Incorporated, April 29, 2021), pgs. 13-15.

⁹ Schoof and Jones, *Historic Architecture Survey for SR-23*, pgs. 15-30.

¹⁰ Drake Macon, *The history of Green Hill* (Drake Macon, Alice Chastain, & Hershell Ligon, 1946) pg. 4.

¹¹ Bill Conger, *Image of American, Mount Juliet* (Mt. Pleasant: Arcadia Publishing, 2014) pg. 69.

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as the main street from Green Hill to Mt. Juliet, and both the road and original limestone walls are visible on the property today.¹²

The family most likely grew cotton and corn since those were the main crops of the early settlers in Wilson County.¹³ The US Census from 1910, 1930 and 1940 show the farm owners had either a “general” or a “home farm.”¹⁴ Crops grown included mostly vegetables to support the family and the surrounding area. The family also raised livestock such as sheep, hogs, cows, chickens, and mules. Prior to 1886, John W. Williamson ran a saw and grist mill business on his property along Stoner’s Creek called John W. Williamson & Bros.¹⁵ The farm also served as a dairy farm up until 1979.

The Williamson family was also one of the wealthiest and most influential families in Mt. Juliet for many years. John R. Williamson served as a State Representative, his grandson William H. Williamson served as a judge, Pascal K. Williamson was a lawyer, and his great grandson, John W. Williamson served as a Green Hill Postmaster from 1875-1904 and the clerk for Cloyd’s Cumberland Presbyterian Church.¹⁶ John R. Williamson left one hundred and sixty acres to his son George in 1829.¹⁷ According to George Williamson’s will, drafted in 1867, his farm was to be sold and split between sons Thomas E. Williamson, Pascal K. Williamson and his grandson John W. Williamson.¹⁸ However, Thomas passed away in 1870 one year before his father George passed away. In 1878 it was decreed by the chancery commission that George Williamson’s property was to be divided up and drawn into lots among the seven heirs. It is likely that the property inherited by his grandson John W. Williamson included the Cedar Heights Farmhouse.¹⁹

When John W. Williamson passed away in 1919, he left three hundred acres to his son John W. Williamson Jr. and three hundred acres to his other son Thomas B. Williamson. The Cedar Heights Farmhouse was part of the three hundred acres deeded to Thomas B. Williamson. In 1927, William R. Jackson purchased one hundred and ninety acres and the farmhouse from Thomas B. Williamson. When William R. Jackson passed away in February 1943, the farm was left to his three children Oscar, Arena, and Lillie Jackson. One month later, in March 1943, Lillie Jackson bought out her sibling’s portion of the farm thereby maintaining the entire one hundred and ninety-acre farm. In March 1978 she sold one hundred and seventy acres but eventually bought back twenty acres in 1981 giving her about forty acres total. The farm was then deeded to Joyce Strickland in 1999 and then deeded to the current owner in 2017.²⁰

¹² Macon, *The History of Green Hill*, pg. 6. The road stretches across the entire northern side of the nominated property owner’s farm. The current Green Hill Road was put down around 1865. A USGS survey from 1901 shows that the Greenhill Road and Main Street intersected on the land surrounding the nominated farmhouse. The farmhouse is also visible on the survey.

¹³ Macon, *The History of Green Hill*, pg. 17. Cotton was grown up until 1926 since it was around that time it became cheaper to buy pre-made fabric instead of making your own

¹⁴ US Census years 1910, 1930, and 1940.

¹⁵ *History of Tennessee* Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886) pg. 843, <https://archive.org/details/historyoftennes01good/page/n7/mode/2up>.

¹⁶ *History of Tennessee*, pg. 850, <https://archive.org/details/historyoftennes01good/page/n7/mode/2up>.

¹⁷ Wilson County Deed Book N, pgs. 431-432

¹⁸ George Williamson, will dated 1867.

¹⁹ Wilson County Deed Book O2, pgs. 138-143

²⁰ John W. Williamson, will dated 1919; Wilson County Deed Book 1753 pg. 519.

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Architectural Significance

The Cedar Heights Farmhouse, at 704 Taylor Lane in Mt. Juliet, Wilson County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a good local example of Folk Victorian architecture. The farmhouse exhibits the typical characteristics of the Folk Victorian style house with its gabled ell style and relatively plain construction and decorative trim.

The Folk Victorian style is defined by decorative detailing on the National Folk (post-railroad) house forms and was popular from 1870-1910. Both the Folk Victorian and its higher style cousins were based on Medieval prototypes, which included multi-textured walls, strong asymmetrical facades, and steeply pitched roofs with intricate wood detailing.²¹ The spread of Victorian-era styles was made possible by railroads expanding into smaller towns and cities. Growing railroads brought heavy machinery into towns where they could then produce inexpensive Victorian detailing for homeowners looking to update their house with the latest style. Local builders could easily graft pieces of the newly available trim onto existing folk houses in the area.²²

Equally important were advances made in construction methods and the industrialization of popular housing components. Houses in the past were constructed with heavy timber framing, which restricted both the size and form of many houses. The lack of easily accessible standardized wood detailing also meant that only those with means could afford a house with much architectural ornamentation. However, the rise of balloon framing, that is construction where light two-inch board are held together with wire nails, replaced heavy timber framing as the dominant construction method. This freed homeowner to experiment more with residential architecture and allowed for designs outside of the traditional “box” house form. Rapid industrialization in the United States also allowed for complex house components, such as doors, windows, roofing, siding, and decorative detailing, to be mass-produced in large factories, allowing homeowners to add architectural flourishes and details precluded from them in earlier years.²³

Character defining features of the Folk Victorian style were porches with spindlework detailing, flat jigsaw cut trim, and cornice line brackets. Folk Victorians were built in many subtypes, including both the one and two-story gabled ell.²⁴ The Folk Victorian style has asymmetric floor plans and are generally much less elaborate than the Victorian styles that they attempt to mimic. Usually, these details are inspired by either Queen Anne or Italianate. Windows were generally double hung with a simple pediment above, and the roof-wall junction could be boxed or open with brackets.²⁵ Some Folk Victorian homes were built from “plan books” provided by architectural companies from the mid-1800s to early 1900s. These books would have layouts drawn to scale and usually showed front and side elevations, but without the details of modern blueprints.²⁶ Perhaps the most common area of application for Folk Victorian detailing was the porch, which

²¹ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2018) p. 315.

²² McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Homes*, p. 398.

²³ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Homes*, pgs. 314-315.

²⁴ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Homes*, p. 397.

²⁵ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Homes*, pg. 377

²⁶ “Folk and Vernacular Victorian,” Old House web, <https://www.oldhouseweb.com/style-gallery/victorian-houses/folk-victorian>.

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featured either Queen Anne turned spindles or square beveled posts with Italianate detailing.²⁷ Folk Victorian houses were often referred to as Victorian Farmhouses.

The Cedar Heights Farmhouse retains the important defining characteristics of a Folk Victorian house. It is a balloon framed, gabled ell, two-story farmhouse²⁸ The front gable has large decorative brackets sitting above a circular window. Beneath is a wraparound front porch with Folk Victorian detailing, including hand hewn railings and decorative brackets. The front porch and inside railing of the rear porch stairs have turned spindles while the rest are rounded square spindles. There are brackets under each eave around the entirety of the farmhouse. Since the builder of the farmhouse, John W. Williamson, owned and operated a steam sawmill business on the property most of the lumber was probably locally sourced. The type of wood is either white or yellow poplar for everything except the interior trim which is cedar. All windows and doors have header pediments that consist of corner blocks with a rosette design. Except for one, all windows in the farmhouse are the original double-hung sash weighted windows and have not been replaced. Taken together, the house clearly communicates the Folk Victorian style.

In addition to retaining the important character defining features of the Folk Victorian style, the Cedar Heights Farmhouse is a locally important example of its type. Existing surveys for Mt. Juliet and its immediate environs reveal that a large number of the city's nineteenth century housing stock did not survive the rapid redevelopment of the city in the latter half of the twentieth century. Many of Mt. Juliet's historic age buildings were built in the Minimal Traditional style during the 1940s. They were generally one-story with an asphalt shingle gable roof, continuous foundation, and single bay porches. Many featured interior brick chimneys and were sided in vinyl, aluminum, or wood. The most frequent modifications to these buildings were a change in windows, siding materials, or additions on the rear and wing. Ranch houses from the 1960s and 1970s were also prevalent. Rectangular in shape, covered in brick, and capped by side gable asphalt shingle roofs, these ranch houses also sported continuous foundations and picture windows. Craftsman-influenced buildings constructed in the 1920s were the third most common style. Many were side gable with shed roof dormers, wood weatherboard siding, concrete block foundation, double hung wood windows, and full-length Craftsman influenced porches. They too had alterations commonly applied to the siding, doors, and windows.²⁹

Two National Register-listed properties in Mt. Juliet shed some light on earlier examples of residential architecture in the city. The John C. Cloyd House was listed in the National Register on December 3, 1975 and is considered the oldest surviving house in Wilson County. Built in 1791, the Cloyd House was a one room log building covered in weatherboard and capped with a wood shingle gable roof. It was expanded to a two room log house and had an L-shaped addition attached to the back around 1925. Two exterior end chimneys are located at either gable end, and a single bay, hip roof, Folk Victorian influenced porch with intricate wood beadwork detail shelters the main entrance.³⁰

²⁷ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, p. 398.

²⁸ Claudette Stager, "Vernacular Domestic Architecture," in *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, Tennessee Historical Society, 2017, <https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/vernacular-domestic-architecture/>; <http://preservation-collaborative.com/pdfresources/ResearchingHomeTechnology.pdf>.

²⁹ Schoof and Jones, *Historic Architecture Survey for SR-23*, pgs. 37-48.

³⁰ Herbert L. Harper, "John, Cloyd, House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, listed December 3, 1975, p. 2.

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Figure 2: Warner Price Mumford Smith House, 1993. Photograph courtesy of Warner Price Mumford Smith House nomination.

The Warner Price Mumford Smith House was listed in the National Register on June 15, 1993. Though the construction date is unknown, it was remodeled in 1853 in the Greek Revival style. The Smith House is a two-story, cedar log I-house with rear ell. The porch, constructed in the Greek Revival style, is the character defining feature of the house. The first level of the portico boasts the original four cedar square posts, two pilasters, and both the first and second floor are enclosed by a simple balustrade.³¹ Both the Smith House and the Cloyd House are extant.

The best comparables for the Cedar Heights Farmhouse are located on East Main Street in an area roughly bounded by East Main Street to the west, East Main Street to the south, Hickory Station to the east, and West Division Street to the North. Here is a grouping of houses constructed roughly at the turn of the nineteenth century and appended with later architectural updates (including Folk Victorian), with the exception of a few older buildings. 381 Main Street is a good example of the two-story gabled ell in the area and was likely constructed ca. 1890. It retains its original wood siding and double hung wood windows. A single story, Neo-Classical Revival-influenced flat roof porch with four columns is situated in the ell of the façade (north elevation). An entrance with single light transom is sheltered beneath the porch. A balcony with simply balustrade is located on the top of the porch, and both two-story and single-story additions are located on the back. Directly across the road at 380 is a simplified



Figure 3: John C. Cloyd House, 1975. Photograph courtesy of John Cloyd House nomination.

³¹ Mamie Y. Worrell, "Smith, Warner Price Mumford, House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, March 7, 1993, p. 3

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and altered single-story example of 381 East Main, likely constructed during the same period. The house is capped by an irregularly shaped roof with exterior brick chimney and vinyl siding. A flat roof porch is located in the ell and is currently supported by thin metal poles, though the presence of brick piers suggest that it once featured square wooden posts and was influenced by the Craftsman style.

Further west of the two previous example is 315 East Main Street. The façade (north elevation) is a rough gable-ell two-story building, though two-story gable projections on the east and west façade suggest a T shape. It is likely the building was constructed sometime between 1860 and 1890.³² The house is topped by an irregular gable roof

covered in metal, is sided in brick, and generally contains one-over-one light wood double hung windows. Unlike 380 and 381, the house does not contain a porch or retain any evidence of later architectural updates and styles applied in areas commonly associated with renovation, such as the porch, cornice line, and/or gable peak.



Figure 4: 381 East Main Street. Photograph Courtesy of Google Maps, 2022.



Figure 5: 315 East Main Street. Photograph Courtesy of Google Maps, 2022.

comparable at 315 Main Street, which appears to be a simplified version of the farmhouse. The Folk Victorian detailing applied to the Cedar Heights Farmhouse, such as the brackets underneath the prow roof, wood porch, and X shaped windows distinguish the property from local examples. Finally, the integrity of the Cedar Heights Farmhouse is apparent next to these other comparable. Whereas others have experienced changes to their

The examination of Mt. Juliet's historic-age building stock and nearby comparable demonstrate the Cedar Heights Farmhouse is an important local example of the Folk Victorian style. Though the gabled ell in both the one and two-story variations are represented, the Cedar Heights Farmhouse is unique for its three-sided two-story projection located within the L of the façade. Further details and elaborations, such as the gable projection and prow-shaped roof, distinguish the Cedar Heights Farmhouse from its nearest

³² Conversations the owners of the property indicate that it could have been built by the Cloyd family.

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siding and windows and may feature non-historic alterations, the Cedar Heights Farmhouse retains a high level of integrity and character defining features, which collectively communicates its architectural significance.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

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United States Census. 1910, 1930, and 1940.

Wilson County Deed Book.

Wilson County Wills.

Worrell, Mamie Y. "Smith, Warner Price Mumford, House." National Register of Historic Places
 Nomination Form. March 7, 1993.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A			

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .7 **USGS Quadrangle** Hermitage 311-NE (1997)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (These coordinates should correspond to the corners of the property boundary. Add additional coordinates if necessary. Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Datum if other than WGS84:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.200318 | Longitude: -86.549986 |
| 2. Latitude: 36.199956 | Longitude: -86.550061 |
| 3. Latitude: 36.199852 | Longitude: -86.549331 |
| 4. Latitude: 36.200231 | Longitude: -86.549229 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is rectangular in shape and corresponds with the latitude/longitude points above and the attached boundary map below.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries are drawn to include the Cedar Heights Farmhouse, land, and associated outbuildings. These boundaries encompass all the resources that contribute to the property's architectural significance

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Aerial Property Tax Map with NRHP Boundaries of Cedar Heights Farmhouse

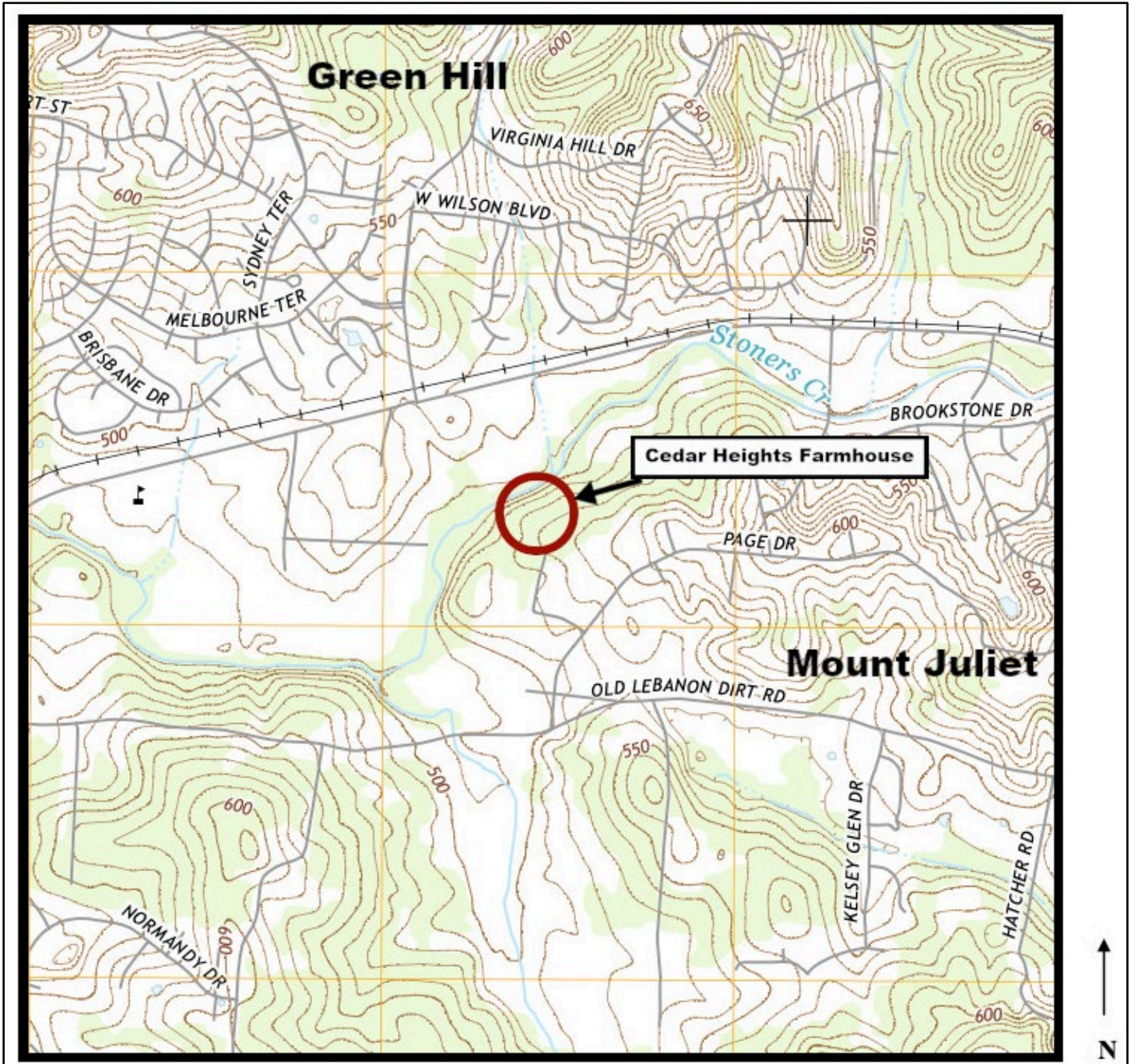


Figure 6: Boundaries indicated by the blue lines and shaded portion. Each vertice corresponds with the latitude and longitude points in Section 10. Image courtesy of Tennessee Property Viewer, 2023.

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USGS Topographic Map



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11. Form Prepared By

Name Jeff Strickland and J. Ethan Holden

Organization N/A

Street & Number PO Box 167 Date December 4, 2023

City or Town Mt. Juliet Telephone 615-403-1724

E-mail Js2112@gmail.com State TN Zip Code 37121

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints. Photos should be submitted separately in a JPEG or TIFF format. Do not embed these photographs into the form)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. can be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps. They can also be embedded in the Section 7 or 8 narratives)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Cedar Heights Farmhouse

City or Vicinity: Mt. Juliet

County: Wilson

State: Tennessee

Photographer: Jeff Strickland

Date Photographed: March, April, and August, 2023.

- 1 of 35. Front façade. Photographer facing south. Photo taken August 27, 2023
- 2 of 35. View of front façade windows. Photographer facing south. Photo taken August 29, 2023
- 3 of 35. View of front door and doorbell on north façade. Photographer facing south. Photo taken August 29, 2023
- 4 of 35. Oblique view of front porch and north elevation. Photographer facing southwest. Photo taken August 27, 2023
- 5 of 35. View of large gable on north elevation. Photographer facing southwest. Photo taken August 22, 2023
- 6 of 35. View of front porch window. Photographer facing southwest. Photo taken August 29, 2023
- 7 of 35. East elevation. Photographer facing west. Photo taken August 29, 2023
- 8 of 35. View of attic window and vent on east facade. Photographer facing west. Photo taken August 22, 2023
- 9 of 35. South elevation. Photographer facing north. Photo taken April 12, 2023
- 10 of 35. Oblique view of south and west elevation. Photographer facing northeast. Photo taken March 10, 2023
- 11 of 35. West elevation. Photographer facing east. Photo taken August 27, 2023
- 12 of 35. Oblique view of north and west elevations. Photographer facing southeast. Photo taken August 27, 2023
- 13 of 35. Oblique view of Smokehouse east of farmhouse. Photographer facing northwest. Photo taken August 27, 2023
- 14 of 35. Oblique view of Chicken House east of farmhouse. Photographer facing northeast. Photo taken August 22, 2023

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- 15 of 35. Oblique view of Utility Building southwest of farmhouse. Photographer facing west. Photo taken August 27, 2023
- 16 of 35. View of back porch staircase heading up to balcony on the south side of farmhouse. Photographer facing east. Photo taken April 12, 2023
- 17 of 35. View of balcony staircase railing on the south side of farmhouse. Photographer facing east. Photo taken April 12, 2023
- 18 of 35. View of door and wall added circa 1980. Photographer facing west. Photo taken August 29, 2023
- 19 of 35. View of original shutters on balcony. Photographer facing north. Photo taken April 12, 2023
- 20 of 35. Interior view of hall fretwork from back hall. Photographer facing north. Photo taken April 3, 2023
- 21 of 35. Interior view of library fireplace and mantel. Photographer facing west. Photo taken August 30, 2023
- 22 of 35. Interior view of laundry room showing beadboard and wainscoting. Photographer facing east. Photo taken August 29, 2023
- 23 of 35. Interior view of parlor fireplace and mantel. Photographer facing southeast. Photo taken August 29, 2023
- 24 of 35. Interior view of staircase newel post. Photographer facing east. Photo taken April 11, 2023
- 25 of 35. Interior view of staircase area. Photographer facing northeast. Photo taken August 30, 2023
- 26 of 35. Interior view of shutters on staircase landing. Photographer facing east. Photo taken August 30, 2023
- 27 of 35. Interior view of staircase detail from landing. Photographer facing northwest. Photo taken August 30, 2023
- 28 of 35. Interior view of staircase from upstairs landing. Photographer facing southeast. Photo taken August 30, 2023
- 29 of 35. Interior view of round window above staircase from upstairs landing. Photographer facing east. Photo taken August 29, 2023
- 30 of 35. Interior view of bedrooms 2, 3, and 4 from upstairs landing. Photographer facing south. Photo taken August 30, 2023
- 31 of 35. Interior view of bedrooms 2, 3 from upstairs hall. Photographer facing southeast. Photo taken August 30, 2023

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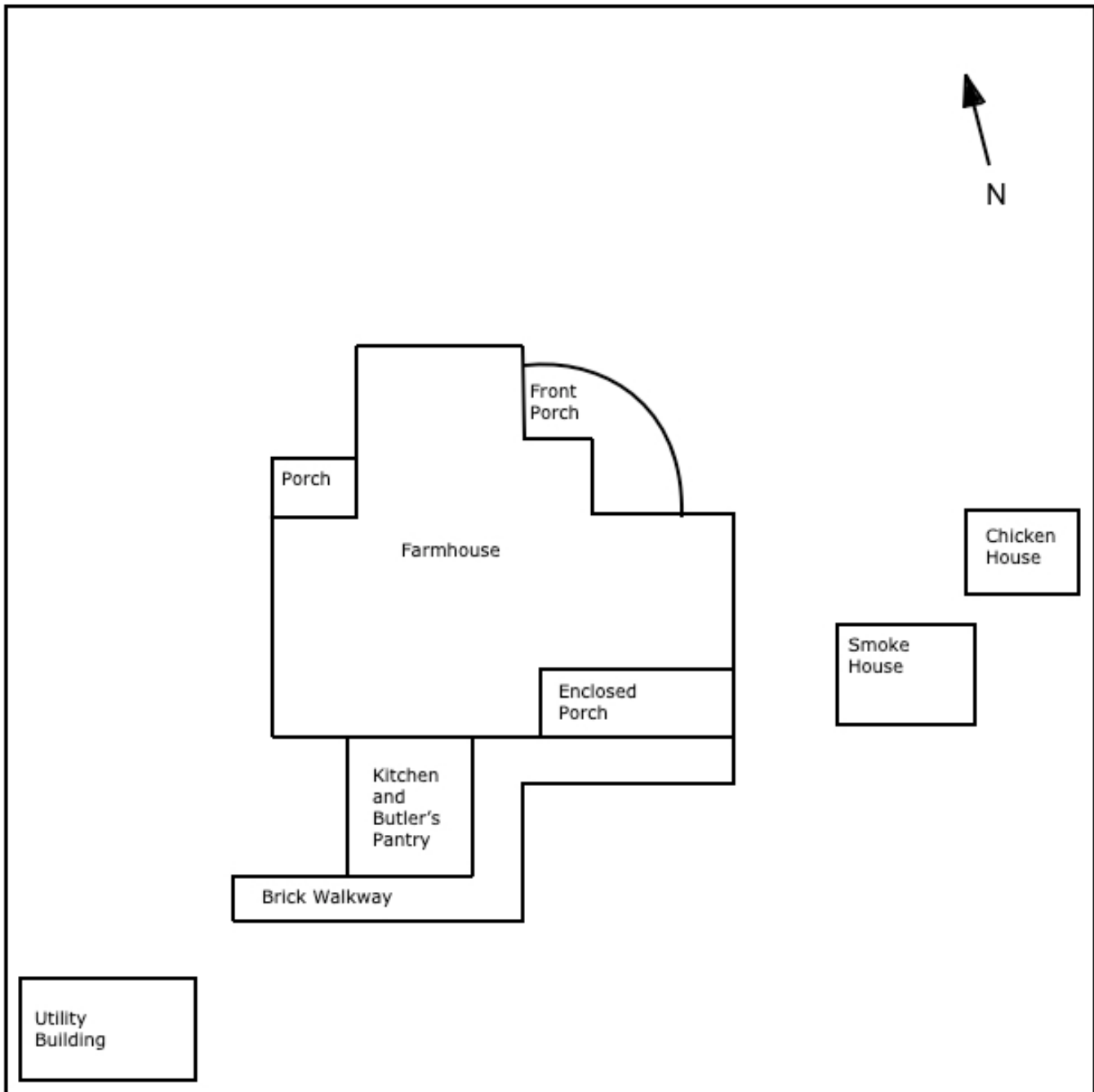
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- 32 of 35. Interior view of upstairs hall closet and bedroom 1 from upstairs hall. Photographer facing west. Photo taken August 30, 2023
- 33 of 35. Interior view of bedroom 2 fireplace and mantel. Photographer facing west. Photo taken August 29, 2023
- 34 of 35. Interior view of bedroom 3 shared closet and fireplace and mantel. Photographer facing east. Photo taken August 29, 2023
- 35 of 35. Interior view of bedroom 3 fireplace and mantel. Photographer facing east. Photo taken August 29, 2023

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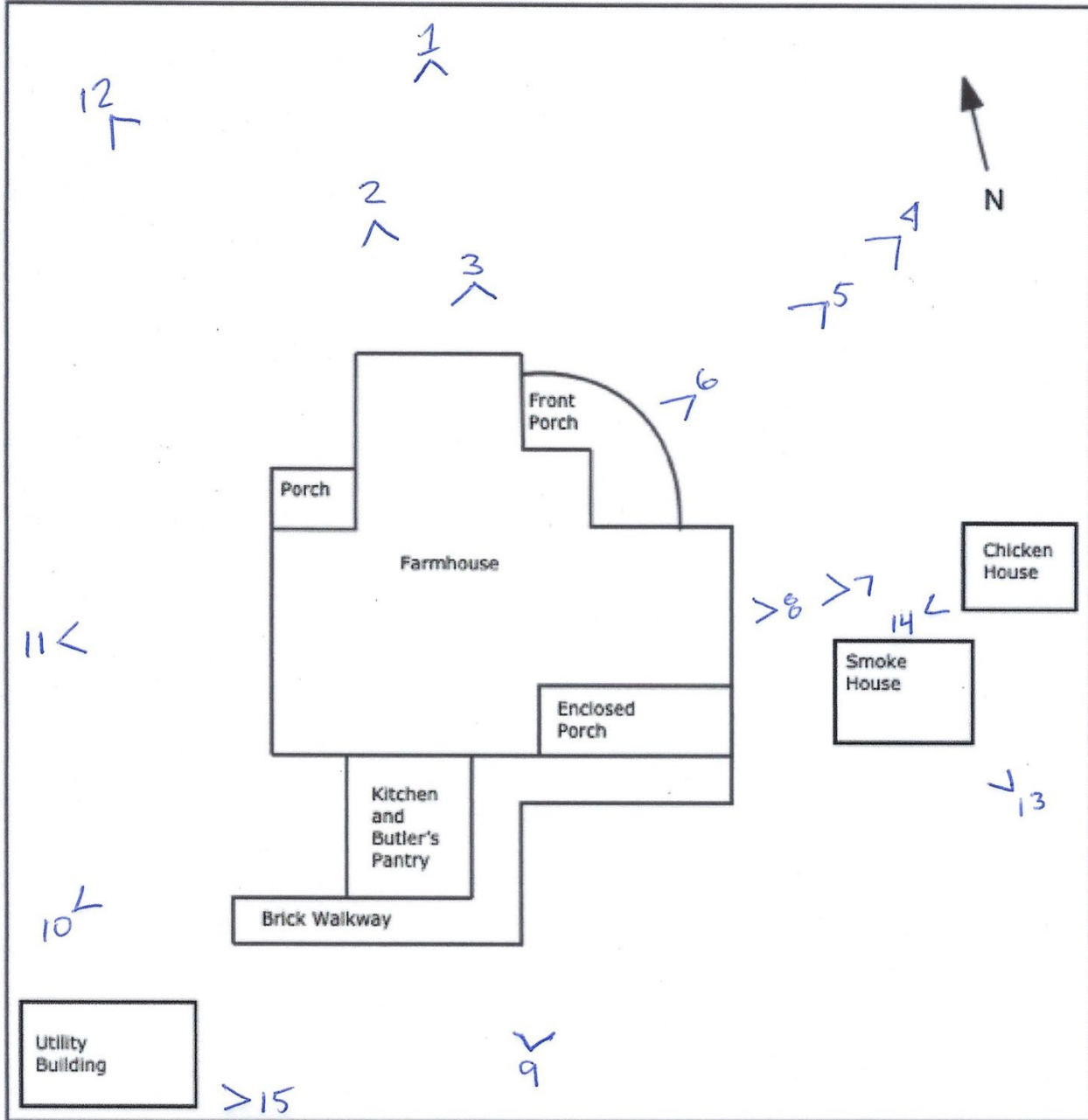
Cedar Heights Farmhouse Site Plan
Not To Scale



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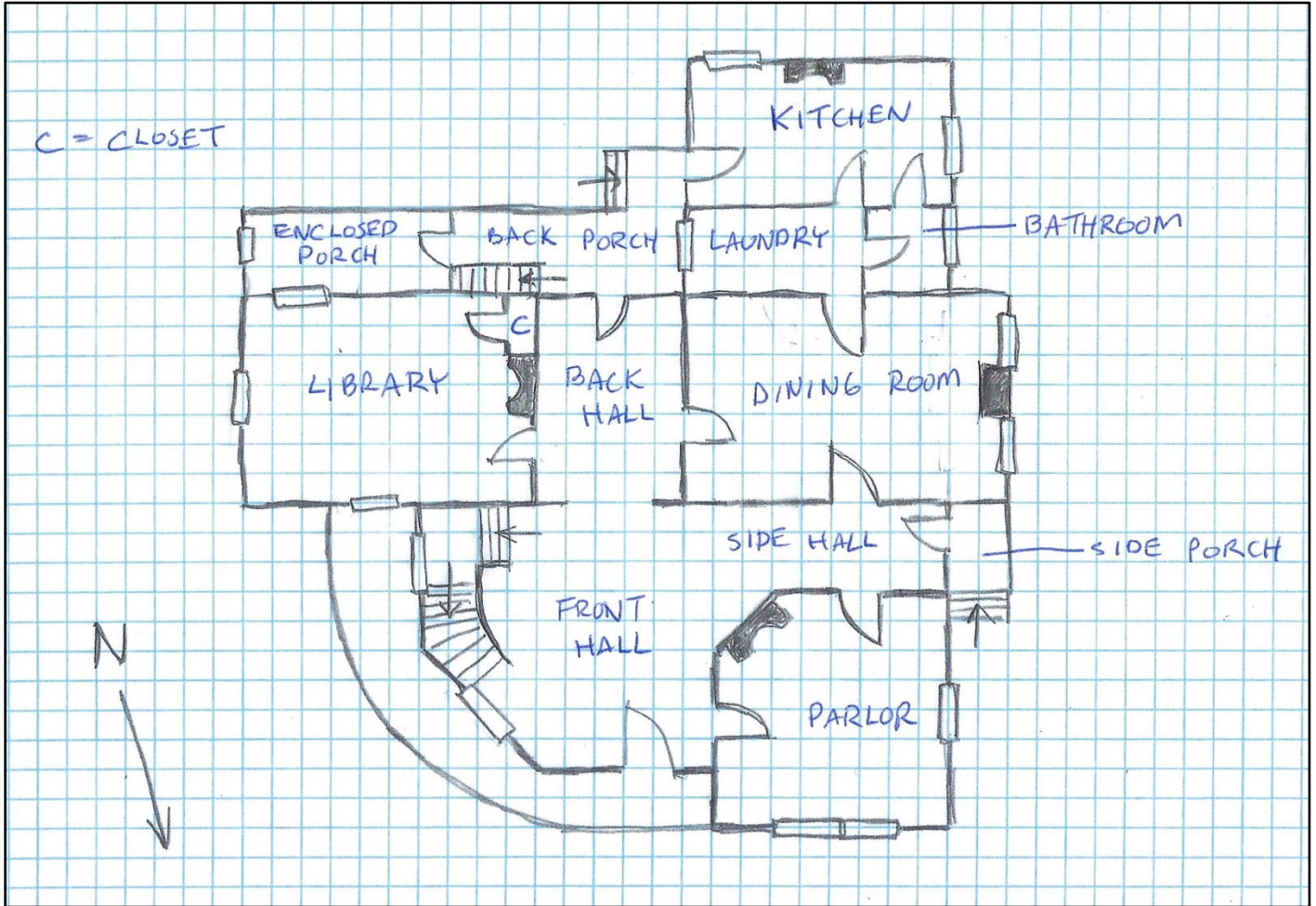
Cedar Heights Farmhouse Site Plan with Keyed Photographs
Not To Scale



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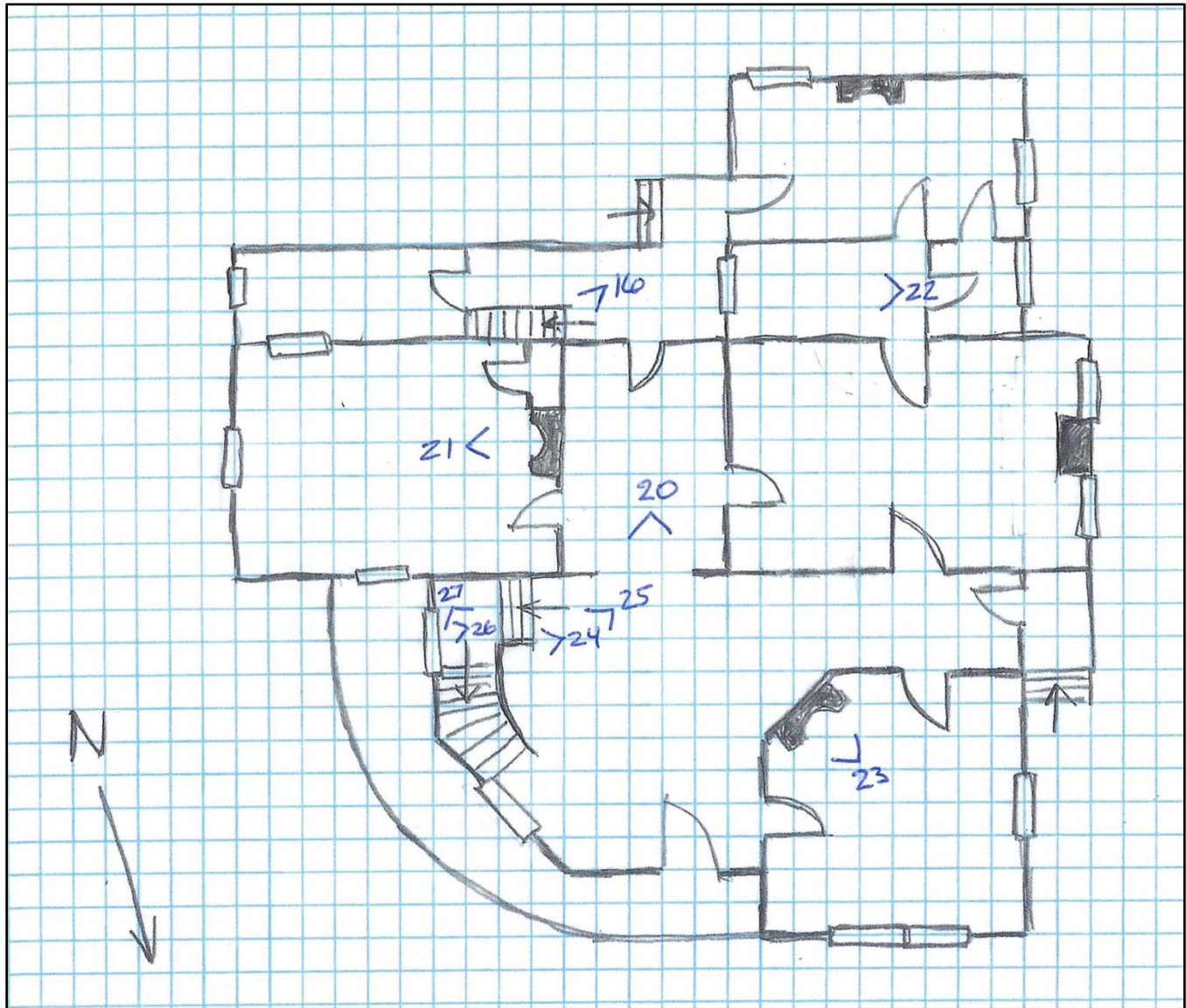
First Floor Plan with Rooms Labelled
Not To Scale



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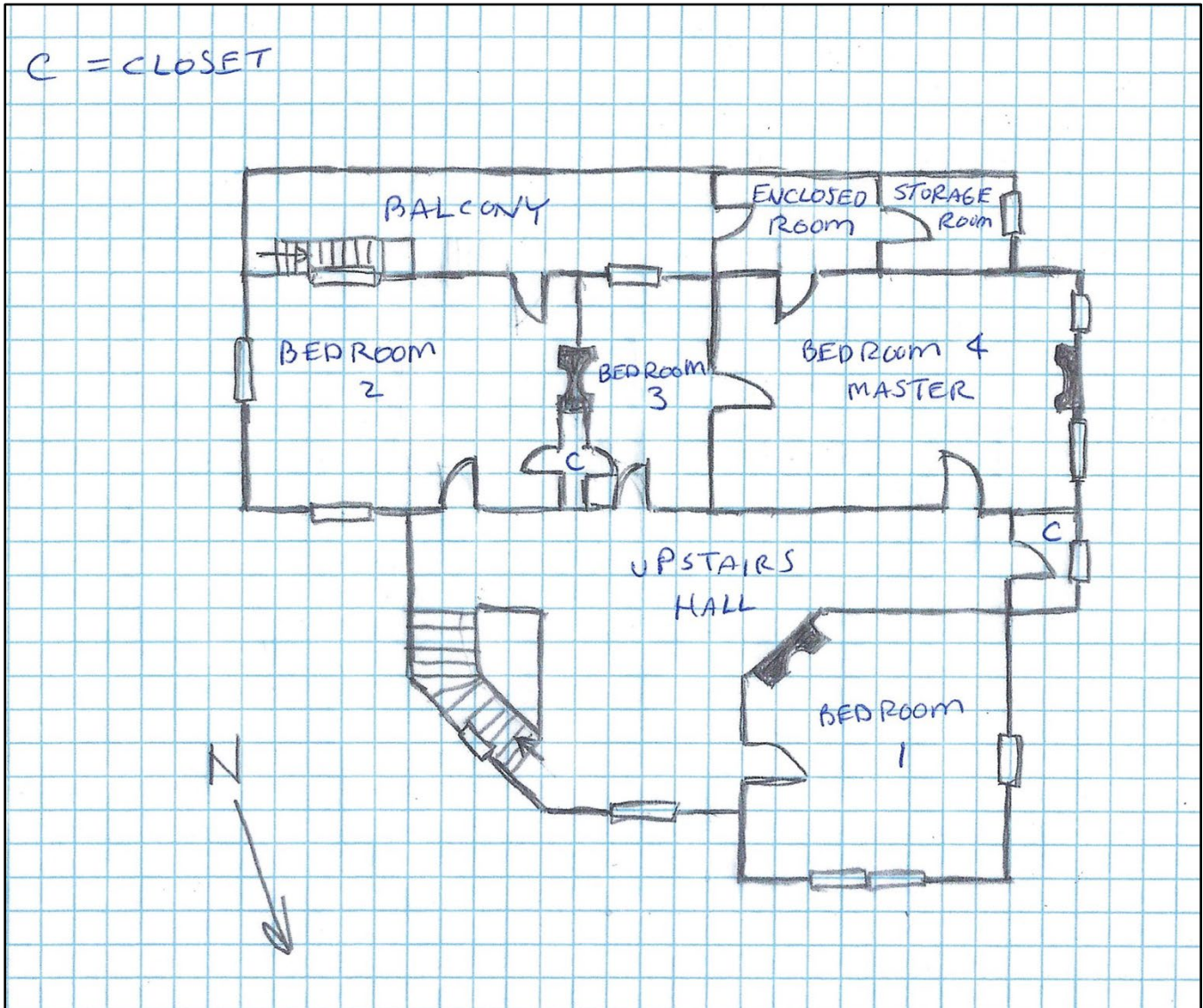
First Floor Plan with Keyed Photographs
Not To Scale



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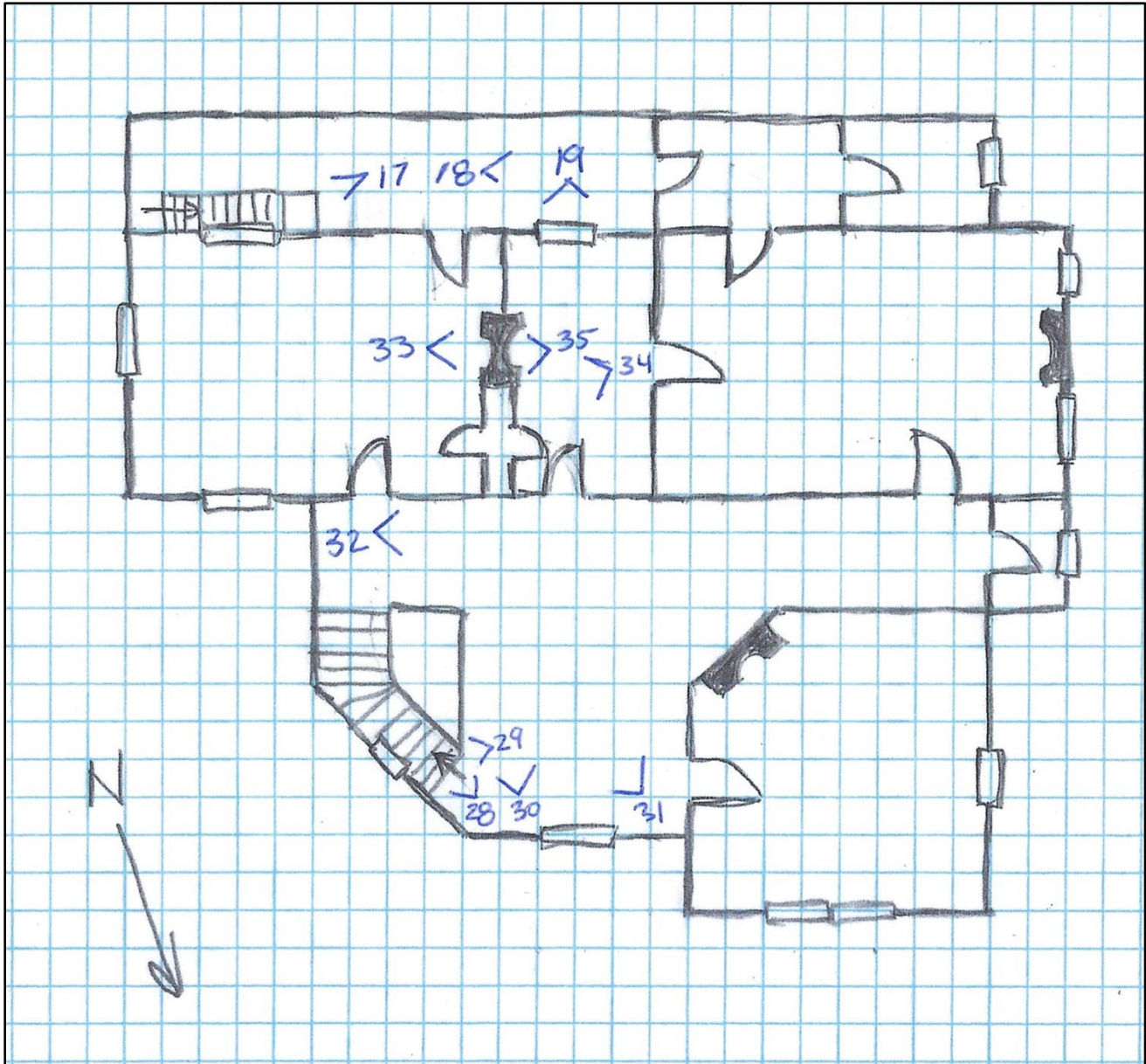
Second Floor Plan with Rooms Labelled
Not To Scale



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Second Floor Plan with Photos Keyed
Not To Scale



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Figure 3: Oblique View of Northwest elevations 1968. Photograph courtesy of the author.

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Figure 4: West elevation circa 1940. Photographs courtesy of the author.

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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 5: Kitchen door on back porch circa 1930s. Photograph courtesy of the author.

Property Owner(s):

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name

Jeff Strickland

Street &

Number

704 Taylor Lane

Telephone

615-403-1724

City or Town

Mt. Juliet

State/Zip

TN/37121



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