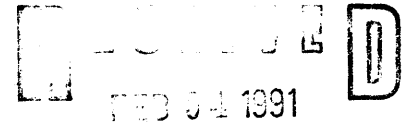


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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Crawford's Experiment Farm
other names/site number Pleasant Retreat; Walker Farm; Crawford Farm

2. Location

street & number Hotel Street
city, town Williston
state Tennessee code TN county Fayette code 047 zip code 38068

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 3, Noncontributing 1 buildings, 1 sites, 1 structures, 1 objects, Total 4

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
Date: 1/28/91

In my opinion, the property meets (unchecked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
Entered in the National Register (checked)
Entered in the National Register (stamp)
Signature of the Keeper:
Date of Action: 3/14/91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding
HEALTH CARE: office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls Weatherboard
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Crawford's Experiment Farm is a complex of buildings that occupies a 4.6-acre tract in the town of Williston (population 380) in Fayette County, Tennessee. The property is located on a gentle hill and is surrounded by mature oak, pecan, and cedar trees. A cedar allee' leads up the hill to the Greek Revival-influenced residence. To the east lies the site of the Old Somerville-Moscow Railroad (1852-1930). The single-story house is delineated by a pedimented portico supported by two square pillars and two pilasters. It has a north/south axis facing Hotel Street. Also associated with Crawford's Experiment Farm are three historic outbuildings and one modern outbuilding.

The exterior of the house follows an L-shaped plan that has evolved through two periods of alteration that have provided a significant contribution to the historic character of the house. Circa 1850, a frame, three-bay, gable-roofed, rectangular-plan house was constructed with axe-hewn and pegged sills. The central hall plan of the house illustrates the balance and symmetry so desired in Greek Revival architecture. Gable returns and a simple frieze ornament the facade and original elevations of the house. The roof was originally covered with wood shingles, but it is now covered with asphalt shingles. A nursery/office and open gallery were an original part of the house or appended soon after it was constructed. In 1867, two bedrooms and an east gallery were added to the house, giving the house the present L-shaped plan.

The symmetrical, south facade has a pedimented portico supported by two square columns. Gable returns, pilasters, and a simple wood balustrade are the principal embellishments of the portico. The entry to the residence is composed of a single-leaf, glass-and-paneled door that is surrounded by a seven-light transom and three, light-and-paneled sidelights. The two facade windows are 6/6 double-hung sashes, flanked by louvered blinds. The house rests on a brick pier foundation that is now infilled with wood latticework on the facade and brick on the elevations.

The original section of the east elevation of the house is bisected by a brick chimney. Two 4/4 double-hung sashes flank the chimney. A one-story shed roof addition is visible from this view. The addition contains paired

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6/6 double-hung sashes. A shed roof, screened porch covers the exterior wall of the 1867 rear ell. Flush, horizontal board siding sheathes this section of the elevation.

The view of the north or rear elevation of the house shows one 6/6 double-hung sash and gable returns on the 1867 ell. A screened porch on this elevation contains a single-leaf door ornamented with turned wood spindles. Paired 6/6 double-hung sashes and a small 6/6 double-hung sash are located on the shed-roofed addition.

A brick chimney flanked by two 4/4 double-hung sashes is seen on the original portion of the west elevation. On the 1867 ell are a single-leaf door, one 6/6 double-hung sash, and one, small 6/6 double-hung sash. An interior brick chimney bisects the ridgeline of the ell.

The central hall is 10' X 17 1/2' and the rooms that flank it are 17 1/2' X 17 1/2'. With the facade door and porch doors open, the house enjoys the original light and cross ventilation design of many early southern homes. The hall and all other rooms in the house have twelve-foot ceilings and excellent cross ventilation throughout because of the large windows. Also seen in the central hall is the first electrical fixture ever placed in the house. Door and window moldings and baseboards throughout the house are of plain wood.

The parlor lies to the east of the front door. It has two 4/4 double-hung sashes on either side of the fireplace and a large 6/6 double-hung sash on the south wall. The door into the parlor is composed of two leaves, each with a four-panel, inverted cross design. The parlor mantelpiece is a Greek Revival transitional design with paneled pilasters and wood trim in the frieze; the fireplace opening has been partially infilled with brick.

The present-day dining room lies to the west of the front door and is the exact design as the parlor, except for the inclusion of a four-panel door to the old office/nursery. The mantelpiece is a similar design to the one in the parlor, but less elaborate.

The two bedrooms added in 1867 measure 17 1/2' X 15' and 17 1/2' X 14'. The mantelpieces in these rooms are very different. The front bedroom fireplace has a large paneled frieze and pilasters. One built-in closet is located in this room. The second bedroom has an Eastlake-influenced mantelpiece with paired brackets and pilasters, indicative of the later addition. Both bedroom fireplaces have been partially infilled with brick and have brick hearths. A 17 1/2' X 10' room, thought to have been a

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 3

Crawford's Experiment Farm

nursery or office, is located between the dining room and bedroom in the ell. A small, four-panel door leads into a closet in the this room. The inside of this door is ornamented with both comb and feather graining.

The open gallery in the rear of the house was partially enclosed sometime between 1939 and the 1950s. Modern doors were cut into the wall between the parlor and the gallery, which was used as a dining room and kitchen. The doors at the north end of the central hall were also covered over and the nursery/office had a bathroom added during this time. Another small section of the gallery was enclosed for a laundry room. During 1988-1990 remodeling, the dining room was changed into a kitchen, and the wall connecting it to the parlor was closed in. The doors in the central hall (stored on the property) were returned to their original location, and the laundry room was removed. The ceilings, floors, and wall surfaces of the open portion of the gallery are all wood. Formal gardens with a picket fence and a wisteria arbor were also planted at this time. New wiring, plumbing, insulation, and roofing were put in. Other modifications or changes included painting, restoration of floors, new wallboards, and the rebuilding of one chimney.

All the floors throughout the house are the original heart pine. All doors are four panel with an inverted cross design, except for the door leading into the front bedroom. This door is a smaller four-panel one that has an elaborately designed late Victorian hinge. There are four different types of box locks in the house. Some are dated 1863, which again would indicate a remodeling in the late 1860s, following the Civil War. The walls were lath and horse hair plaster. However, due to severe deterioration, sheet rock has replaced most of the plaster. The trim throughout the house is very simple. All of the windows are original and retain most of the old glass. All of the outside, louvered shutters are extant except two and will be restored and replaced. Four original shutters have been placed on the front of the house.

During the rehabilitative work in 1988 and 1989, careful measures were undertaken to retain and repair as much of the original materials as possible. Overall, the vast majority of the original materials remain intact in this building and the outbuildings. None of the modifications to the house have impaired the integrity of its plan, materials, workmanship, or detailing.

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Section number 7 Page 4 Crawford's Experiment Farm

Outbuildings

1. Kitchen (circa 1850) - The detached, two-room kitchen at Crawford's Experiment Farm lies directly behind the main house. It has a weatherboard exterior with a gable roof; 6/6 double-hung sashes; two single-leaf entrances; twelve-foot ceilings; wood walls, floors, and ceilings. The building sits on brick piers and has a tin roof. It contains some unusually fine moldings inside. Currently, it is used as a guest house. (Contributing)
2. Doctor's Office (circa 1867) - The single-bay, doctor's office was built by William Harrison Crawford in 1867, at the same time he added two more bedrooms and an east gallery to the main house. The office is a small, one-room, single-story, weatherboard building, resting on brick piers, with lattice work between the piers. It has a front door with a triangular-shaped transom, reflecting a slight Gothic Revival influence, and a diamond-shaped ventilator. The windows are 9/9 double-hung sashes; ceilings are twelve feet high, and all walls, floors, and ceilings are wood. It is now used as a play house. (Contributing)
3. Crib (circa 1850) - This is a single-pen, gable-roofed building of board and batten construction on brick piers. The sills are unusually large. (Contributing)
4. Barn (1940) - This is a large, tin, hay barn converted into a horse barn. It has six stalls, tack room (21' X 23'), two stall wash racks, large aisles, and an equipment storage area. (Non-contributing)

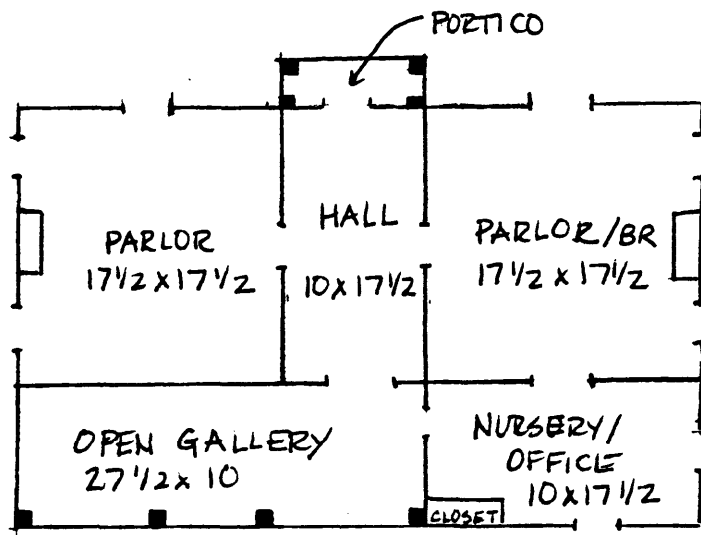
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Continuation Sheet

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Crawford's Experiment Farm

CIRCA 1850



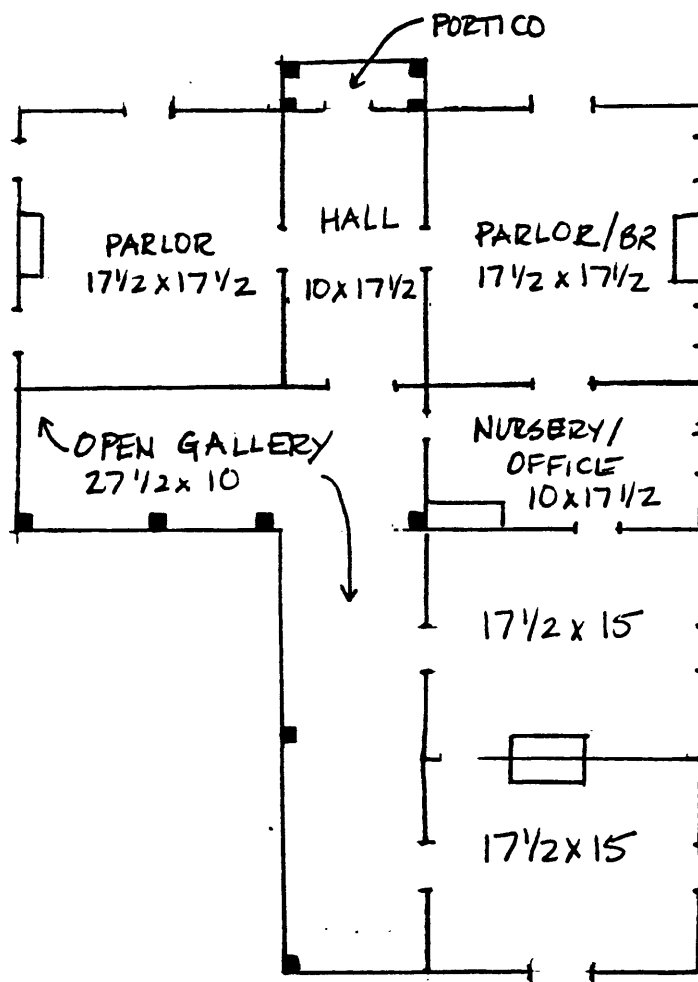
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Section number 7 Page 6

Crawford's Experiment Farm

CIRCA 1867 - 1939



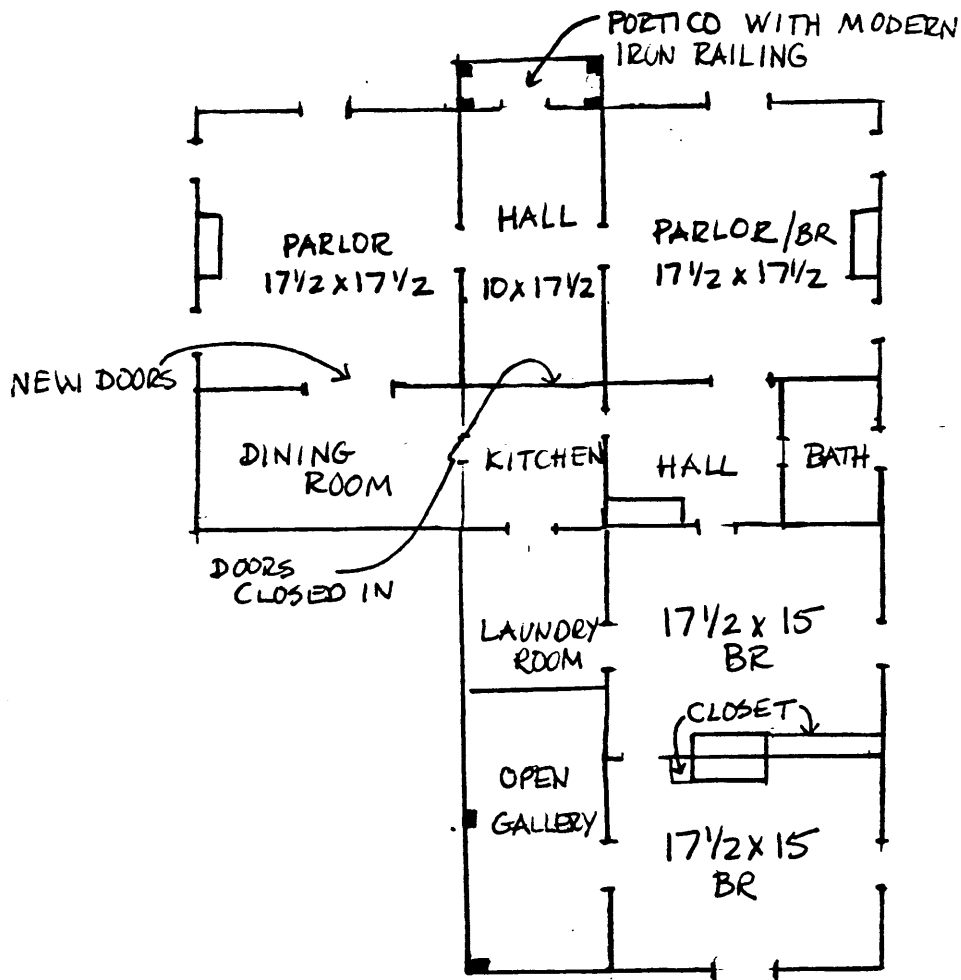
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Crawford's Experiment Farm

CIRCA 1939 - 1950s



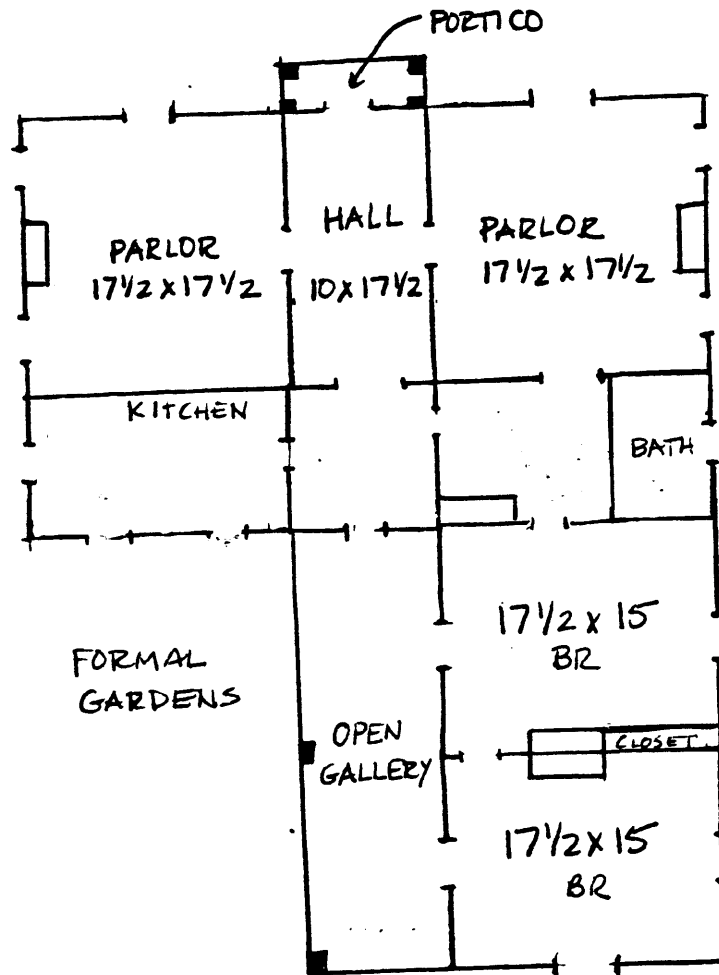
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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Crawford's Experiment Farm

CIRCA 1988-1990



8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SETTLEMENT

Significant Person

NA

Period of Significance

ca. 1850 - ca. 1910

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Dates

ca. 1850

ca. 1867

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Crawford's Experiment Farm is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C because it has local significance in the areas of settlement and architecture. It is significant under criterion A because of its association with the Walker and Crawford families who were important in the development of the area. Collectively, the members of the two families represent an influential settlement pattern in West Tennessee. They were responsible for the initial establishment of the community, once called Walker Station, and continued to play a role in the agricultural, business, political, religious, and medical history of the town. The house at Crawford's Experiment Farm has local significance under criterion C as a vernacular interpretation of a central hallway house with a Greek Revival portico. It is the only example of that early Tennessee building style left in Williston and one of the few remaining in Fayette County. Other buildings on the property are good examples of outbuildings, and they contribute to the character of the nominated property. Especially interesting is the circa 1867 doctor's office with its pedimented transom light.

The property on which Crawford's Experiment Farm is located was first surveyed on November 30, 1824, according to Land Entry Book A (1822-1835), Entry 919, located in the Fayette County Courthouse in Somerville. The land was surveyed for Joseph Scales of Williamson County, Tennessee, and Robert Scales of Davidson County, Tennessee. According to Book N, page 405, the same 329-acre tract was sold to Franklin Crawford on May 6, 1848, for \$1,974. The 329-acre tract was originally part of the northeast corner of the 2,560-acre North Carolina grant which had been surveyed for the Scales brothers. Crawford immediately sold the land in 1849 to Job Walker. However, Walker died in 1851, and the estate was not settled and recorded until 1853 when the same 329 acres (Book R, page 61) was shown as deeded over for \$4,000. This would probably indicate the construction of a house between 1848 and 1849.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4.6 acres

UTM References

A

1	6	7	8	3	8	2	0	3	8	9	3	0	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Somerville 424 NE

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith O. Freeland
organization NA date Sept. 1990
street & number 106 E. Marginal St. telephone 901/465-2626
city or town Somerville state TN zip code 38068

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Job Walker (1786 - 1851) and his wife, Sarah Harrison (1795 - 1861), who acquired the 329-acre tract on which the nominated farm and outbuildings lie, had six children. The community was originally called Walker Station after this pioneer family. Walker Station had a post office as early as 1851. It was combined with the nearby Willis Station in 1869, and the combined office was renamed Williston in 1873. During the 1850s, the Somerville branch of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad was built through the farm property.

After Job's death in 1851, his son, Iverson Jones Walker (1823 - 1897), came into possession of the home place. In 1854, he married Sarah Ann Currie of Haywood County. Their son, Iverson (1861-1912), was a Democratic representative from Fayette County to the Tennessee State Legislature, from 1895-1899. He also managed his father's business interests including the farm, a gin mill, a sawmill, and a grist mill.

Job Walker, Iverson Jones Walker, and, later, William M. and William Harrison Crawford each lived on the farm and worked during their lifetimes to build the community. Their diversified farming operation included cotton, corn, wheat, sorghum, and a dairy. It was through the efforts of this family that the local Methodist Episcopal Church South was organized, and an academy was established. They owned stores (Crawford General Store, NR 7/8/75), a cotton gin, and had a water system with a large tank on top of the ground which operated by a steam pump. They also owned pecan groves, a vineyard, and an orchard. One of the more interesting agricultural experiments undertaken at the farm was importing from Japan the white mulberry for Tennessee's new silkworm industry. According to Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective, both East and West Tennessee had silk industries since the 1830s. Tennessee farmers had produced over 1,000 pounds of silk by the 1840s, and led the nation in the production of cocoons by 1850. Production dropped drastically in 1860 (seventy-one pounds) because of the death of many of the silkworms. Known as the Crawford Farm since the 1860s, around 1900, it became Crawford's Experiment Farm, the historic name most often associated with the property.

Job's daughter, Rachel Walker (1812 - 1889), married William M. Crawford and they became parents of William Harrison Crawford. William Harrison married Martha Frances Currie (1840 - 1878), sister of Sarah Ann Currie Walker (wife of Iverson Jones Walker). By 1867, William Harrison and his wife Martha Frances were living in the original rectangular cottage of the farm. It is believed that the farm was also the home of William Harrison's parents, William M. and Rachel Walker Crawford. Possibly, this was Rachel's share of the estate that had been left principally to her brother,

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Section number 8 Page 3 Crawford's Experiment Farm

Iverson Jones Walker. Quite probably their son William Harrison and his new bride Martha Frances moved in with them during the lean times after the Civil War. William Harrison had been wounded in the Battle of Murfreesboro during the Civil War. By 1867, he and Martha Frances had married and their first child had died at birth. At that time, William Harrison constructed the doctor's office for the community in order to encourage a doctor to settle in Williston. He and Martha Frances also added the two bedrooms and east gallery in 1867. Martha Frances and William Harrison Crawford had eight children before he, and his father, died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878. Of the eight children, only three survived infancy. These were Currie Walker Crawford, Thomas Andrew Crawford, and Elizabeth Crawford Humphreys, all of whom grew up at the farm.

Thomas Andrew Crawford (d. 1939) remained at the farm and conducted many seed experimentations. The farm was the first farm in Fayette County to grow two bales of cotton to the acre as a result of his experimentations. Circa 1910s stationary for "Crawford's Experiment Farm" advertised "two-year corn", "improved big-roll cotton", and "cotton and corn culture a speciality."

Another member of the Crawford family associated with Crawford's Experiment Farm was John Kerr Crawford, Jr., born in Williston in 1877. He was a pioneer in the field of medicine for his day. After early study, he entered the University of Tennessee School of Medicine in Knoxville. In 1907, he graduated with an M.D. degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Several years later, he specialized in Pediatrics at the Tulane University Medical School in New Orleans. In 1907, he opened his practice in his home town of Williston, using Crawford's Experiment Farm's doctor's office.

Doctors to practice in Crawford's Experiment Farm's doctor's office include A. M. C. Robbins, Joseph Garvin, Henry F. Smith, and A. B. Yancey. The doctor's office was moved onto the house lot in 1989 in order to preserve this abandoned building from further vandalism and destruction. Although the structure has been relocated, it was moved less than one hundred yards, and it remains located on historic Walker-Crawford property. It is, therefore, considered to be a contributing element in this nomination.

The form of the Crawford house is seen frequently in Middle Tennessee, but not as often in West Tennessee. In Fayette County, similar forms can be seen in Somerville, the county seat, and LaGrange. One circa 1860 residence in the Somerville Historic District (NR 4/15/82) is one-and-one-half stories in height with a gable roof and three bays. Its central

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pedimented portico has a multiple light window in the gable field and is supported by four square columns. Paired multiple light windows flank the central entry. The LaGrange Historic District (NR 4/4/75), located about sixteen miles southeast of Somerville, contains several antebellum residences with proportions similar to those of the Crawford farm. Most of these houses are one or one-and-one-half story frame buildings with hip roofs. They are three or five bays and are embellished with a variety of porch styles. The Crawford house compares favorably to all of these buildings.

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Section number 9 Page 2 Crawford's Experiment Farm

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Fayette County Historical Society. The History of Fayette County, Tennessee. Salem, West Virginia: Walsworth Press, 1986.

McBride, Robert M., and Dan M. Robison. Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, Vol II. Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives and Tennessee Historical Commission, 1979.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of Crawford's Experiment Farm is shown on the 1988 survey map (scale 1" = 100'). It is bounded on the south by Hotel Street, on the east by the old railroad bed, and by adjacent property lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the house and extant outbuildings currently associated with the property. The acreage provides a setting for the nominated property.

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Section number Photos Page 1

Crawford's Experiment Farm

PHOTOGRAPHS

Crawford's Experiment Farm
Hotel Street
Williston, Fayette County, Tennessee
Photos by: James W. Freeland, Sr.
Date: August 1990
Negs: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

Facing north, south facade
1 of 37

Facing north, south facade
2 of 37

Facing north, south facade
3 of 37

Facing west, east elevation
4 of 37

Facing west, east elevation - includes pergola and garden
5 of 37

Facing west, east elevation - includes pergola and garden
6 of 37

Facing east, garden and pergola from back gallery
7 of 37

Facing south, north and portion of east elevations
8 of 37

Facing south, north and portion of east elevations
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Facing east, west elevation
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Facing south, front door and entrance hall - shows first electrical fixture
(chandelier)

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Facing north, rear doors in back of front entrance hall

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Facing north, view through rear doors of front entrance hall, out onto
original L-shaped back galleries

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Facing north, view from back gallery to original kitchen

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Facing south, view from back gallery to front entrance hall

15 of 37

Facing east, view of front parlor

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Facing north, view of front parlor

17 of 37

Facing south, view of front parlor

18 of 37

Facing north, view of front parlor

19 of 37

Facing southwest, view of dining room

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Facing west, view of dining room

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Facing south, view of dining room

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Facing southwest, view of dining room

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Facing northwest, view of front bedroom

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Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 3

Crawford's Experiment Farm

Facing south, view of front bedroom
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Facing south, view of front bedroom
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Facing south, view of front bedroom - closets
27 of 37

Facing east, view of front bedroom
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Facing southwest, view of bedroom
29 of 37

Facing northwest, view of bedroom
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Facing west, original office/nursery - bathroom added
31 of 37

Facing east, door to small closet in office/nursery showing graining
32 of 37

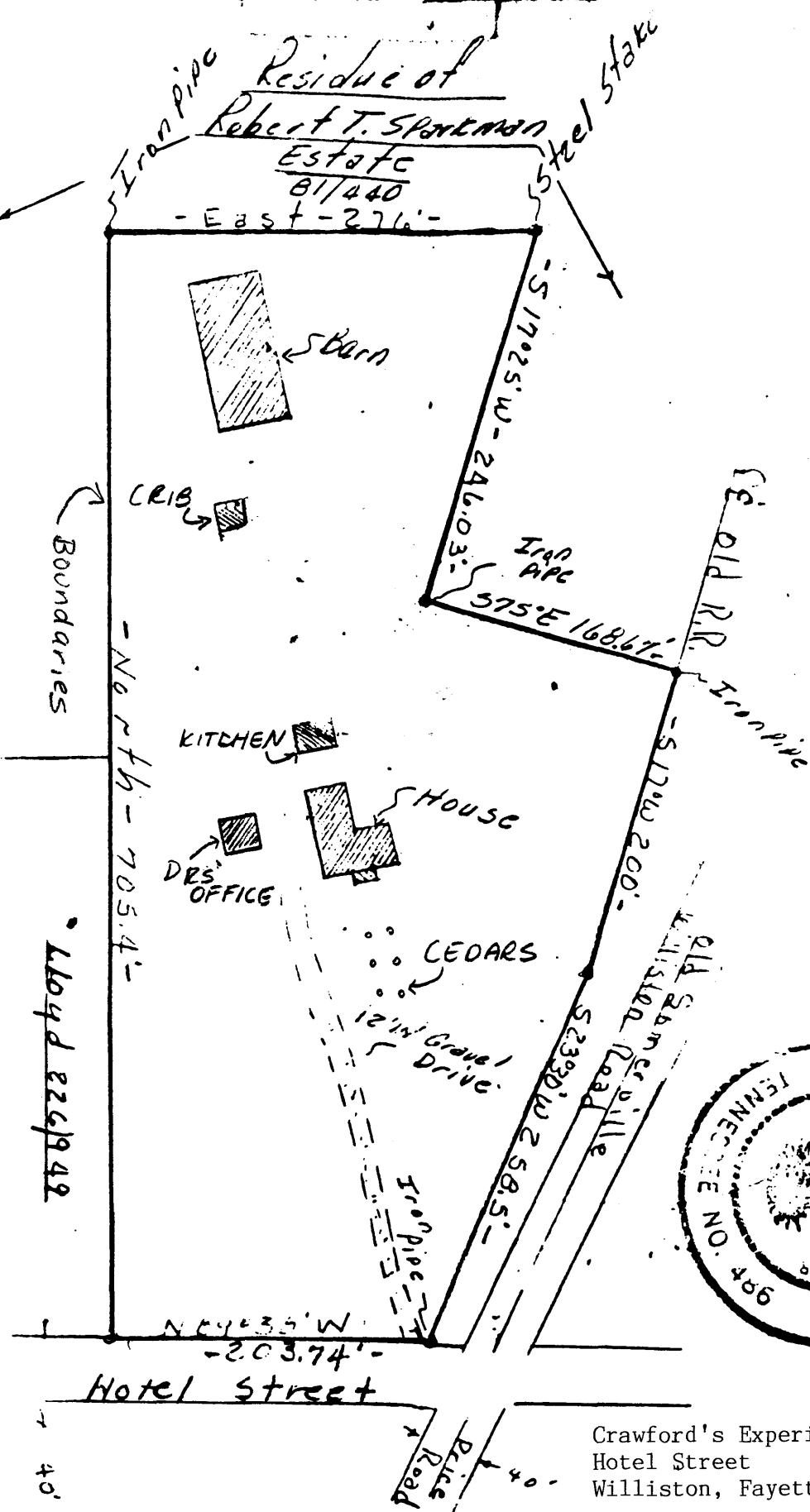
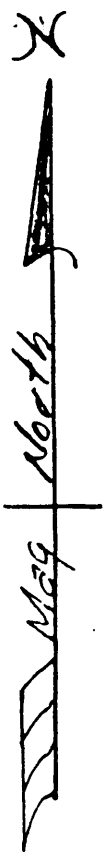
Facing east, view of north back gallery that was enclosed in 1939 for
kitchen
33 of 37

Facing east, view of kitchen
34 of 37

Facing northeast, crib
35 of 37

Facing southeast, original kitchen
36 of 37

Facing northwest, doctor's office
37 of 37



I hereby certify that this is a class 1st survey and the ratio of precision of the unadjusted survey is 1:1500 or greater.

L. Wayne Yates Surveying Co.
 P. O. Box 341
 Bolivar, Tenn. 38008
 Phone: 658-7696
 Home Phone: 658-3539



Crawford's Experiment Farm
 Hotel Street
 Williston, Fayette Co., TN

Survey for: ROBERT T. SPARKMAN EST	
Fieldwork By: L.W. Yates	Drawn By: L.W. Yates
Located: ON HOTEL STREET PLATIVITY	Scale: 1" = 100'
C.F. WILLISTON Fayette Co. Tenn. by T.M.	
Date: 7/24/86	Approved By: [Signature]
	Drawing No: 182 A.R. 1
	FB No: 211

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 3 Page 1

Ownership of Property:

- 1/ Judith Douglass Holland Freeland (Mrs. James W. Freeland, Sr.)
- 2/ Deed - Filed at Registrar's Office in Somerville, TN Court House

106 E. Marginal Street
Somerville, TN 38068

(901)465-2626