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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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cary Lawn

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 321 Linden Sreet not for publication

city or town Dresden vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Weakley code 183 zip code 38225

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/13/92
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

**Entered in the
National Register**

Date of Action

Andrew Byers

6/15/92

Cary Lawn
Name of Property

Weakley County, TN
County and State

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	
2		_____ buildings
		_____ sites
		_____ structures
		_____ objects
2	0	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italian Renaissance

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Cary Lawn

Name of Property

Weakley County, TN

County and State

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1923

Significant Dates

ca. 1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Cary Lawn
Name of Property

Weakley County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.6 acres

Dresden TN 443 SW

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	3	4	6	8	8	0	4	0	1	7	0	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Louis Jackson, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date April 1992

street & number 701 Broadway telephone (615) 742-6723

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37243

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name The Honorable Ned Ray McWhorter

street & number 321 Linden Street telephone ---

city or town Dresden state TN zip code 38225

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Weakley County, TNDescription

Cary Lawn, built by Rhea Preston Cary and his wife Charlie Ewing Cary, is located on 321 Linden Street in Dresden, Tennessee. It is now the home of the 46th governor of Tennessee, Ned Ray McWherter.

Located approximately one-quarter mile from the county seat/commercial center of Dresden, Tennessee (1988 population, 2,619), the house, Cary Lawn, was built circa 1923 in the Italian Renaissance Revival style. This is seen in the Palladian influenced entry, the symmetry of the facade, and the keystone arched windows of the first floor. The property is oriented facing west on Linden Street.

The structure is situated atop a low rise above Linden Street and is surrounded with remnants of its original landscaping, which include mature oaks, magnolias, and hollies. Secondary growths of pine, dogwood, and oak have appeared on the site within the past four decades. Though a few original garden plantings are evident, their arrangement, plan, and plant materials have been lost.

The two and one-half story stucco frame house is a good representative of the design, materials and construction techniques available in its day. The house is stuccoed with a smooth texture on the exterior, with plastered walls inside. The construction is wooden, framed with exterior and interior laths. Its low pitched hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles and features four (three on the front and one on the back elevation) gabled dormers containing four over one arched windows. The concrete foundation is poured in layers.

The front, west elevation, is dominated by its symmetry. The Palladian style entrance appears at the center and features a single door topped with a segmental pediment and flanked with three-quarter length four-over-one side windows. Cary Lawn is three bays across the front. The center bay contains the entrance on the first story and three six-over-one windows on the second with a dormer on the attic level. The two flanking bays each contain three windows. They are eight-over-one with round arch transoms of eight panes on the first story and three eight-over-one windows on the second story; a dormer is on the attic level.

The north and south elevations of the structure are simply detailed. The south elevation of the main structure has one bay, similar to those in the front, with three eight-over-one arched windows on the first story and three eight-over-one rectangular windows on the second story. The north

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elevation is also one bay but contains only one eight-over-one arched window on the first story and one eight-over-one rectangular window on the second. This elevation also has one centrally located interior chimney.

The east elevation of the structure features a one-story kitchen/dining room running three-fourths of the length of the house. The area over the dining room was enclosed for a bath and dressing room by the Smiths.

The kitchen, back entrance hall, and dining room were built one story high with eight-over-one windows. When Governor McWherter renovated the house, he added a larger sunroom and an open porch across the entire back two rooms. Fifteen round Doric columns and a balustrade were used for support. These columns have a smooth surface and are not fluted. Each column rests on square base of aggregate concrete like that of the porch floor. The balustrade is comprised of simple turned balusters and square posts. The posts are spaced over the columns below and topped by a pommel.

The woodwork throughout the house is simple and typical of a house built at this time. The first story windows across the facade all have interior louvered shutters. The window surrounds throughout the house are comprised of a fascia moulding with thumb moulding on either side. The baseboards are again simple. They are a plain fascia board capped with a bowtell moulding. The mantels are in keeping with the rest of the wood work. The living room mantel is a plain board trimmed with cavetto moulding and covered with a slightly larger board. The fireplace surround of the mantel is slightly more complex. It is a fascia board with raised bead moulding to the outside with ogee trim toward the firebox. The surround itself is brown Tennessee marble. The mantel upstairs is similar except that there are two reeded panels on either side.

The interior of the structure represents a fine example of open-space floor planning popular in the years following the turn of the twentieth century. In Cary Lawn, its form allows for a wide central entrance hall with an open stairway placed at the east end of the hall. The rooms of the southern side of the house flow from one to another and connect with the hall by French doors. The rooms on the northern side are more restrictive in their respect for enclosed space. There are two bedrooms upstairs with windows on three sides, also windows are located in the upstairs hall. This arrangement provided maximum air circulation during the summer heat.

The entrance hall is airy in character due to the two-over-one lights of the front door and the adjoining three-fourth size, four-over-one, side

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windows. Also, the windows on the second level of the hall bring light into this space, adding to the atmosphere.

The stairway is composed of three runs. The first run follows the wall up to the second story with curving steps around the corners. There is no landing until you get to the second story, where there is a landing that spans the width of the hall; the second run up to the second landing covers one-half of the width of the hall, and the third run is enclosed and runs to the attic door. At the top of the second run of stairs is a multi-light door with an arched transom of eight lights and a typical second story window. This door leads out to the deck/flat roof above the kitchen.

The enclosed area beneath the first flight is closet space. Also under the first run is a door leading to the kitchen. The brass chandelier in the entrance hall is original to the house and consists of five electric candles.

To the right upon entering the structure are wide multi-light French doors opening into the living room. The doors between the foyer, family room or study, and living room were restored and replaced. The glass door knobs, original to the house, were enhanced with brass rosettes at the back of the knobs by Governor McWherter. To the left, upon entering the living room are identical multi-light French doors leading to the dining room. The rest of the east wall is dominated by the fireplace and a single east elevation window. The painted wooden mantel is detailed with fluted molding. To each side of the mantel are wall sconces which, along with those on the opposite wall and in the entrance hall, are original to the house.

The dining room is the only major room that does not have a fireplace; it was heated by the early central forced air system of the house. This fact perhaps reveals the survival of fireplaces as important decorative room features, even though their service for heating was not critical to the livability of the house. The dining room features few details other than the arched windows. To the north of the dining room, behind the entrance hall, was the butler's pantry. Beyond it is the kitchen area, which retains none of its original features.

In the renovation of the home by Governor McWherter a number of changes were made. These changes, which do not detract from the overall integrity of the house, are noted in the following paragraphs. The butler's pantry, on the south end of the kitchen was removed and the space used for an open breakfast area. The small pantry window was replaced with one similar to

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the dining room windows. The north wall of the kitchen was moved back and a double stainless steel sink with surrounding cabinets was added. On the west wall of the kitchen a new stove unit and microwave oven were installed. The linoleum floor was replaced with red brick Ken-Tile.

A spacious sun room was built on a lower level behind the kitchen with multi-paned windows spanning from floor to ceiling. To the south of the sunroom is an open porch. Above these two areas is a balustrade roof. The red brick Ken-Tile floor of the kitchen continues into the sun room.

The northern side of the structure, which had been the family room of the Caveney's, was changed into a study and had extensive changes. The shelves that the Caveney's had built across the entire east wall were removed and the door, which had been completely covered on this wall, was restored to its original use (this door leads to the back entrance hall). The walls were covered with solid walnut panels. The small ceramic tiles around the fireplace and hearth were replaced with solid slabs of Tennessee marble. This was also done in the living room and two upstairs bedrooms.

The barn lumber paneling which the Caveney's had installed in the back entry hall was removed and the plastered walls restored to the original painted finish. The top of the stairway leading to the basement was moved north about three feet to make room for the utility room door. Built before the era of washing machines and dryers, the old metal sink used for this purpose was replaced by a white porcelain one. A washer-dryer unit was installed on the west wall of the utility room. The original cabinet doors of the butler's pantry were installed on the cabinets here.

The window at the second landing of the stairs, which had been completely eliminated, by the Caveney's, was uncovered and restored. The architect had placed this window above the foyer to allow proper ventilation throughout the house. The door to the deck next to this window was used by the Caveney's to enter their son's room, which had been built out over the deck. This room was torn away in the 1984 renovation and the original deck revealed.

The upper story of Cary Lawn contains only two bedrooms. A central hall divides the bedrooms. Both bedrooms contain mantels identical to the mantel in the living room and the study. The southern side of the upper story contains the master bedroom.

In the master bedroom, the closet and bathroom on the north wall were taken out, and a 14' by 16' area was built to accommodate a dressing room,

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closet, and bathroom. This addition is built over the dining room which had a flat roof. Two windows were removed from the east wall, the space from one being used for a door to the new bathroom.

The north bedroom remains the same. A previous owner had installed a shower in the adjoining bathroom, concealing the window. This does not alter the outside appearance of the house.

Above the bedrooms of the second story is a finished attic, reached through a door at the top of the continuation of the main staircase. The attic is finished out with plaster walls and a wooden floor. The attic space is barrel vault in appearance with the three front and one back gabled dormers providing light.

The double car garage, an original contributing outbuilding, is two stories tall with a bedroom apartment on the second story. The garage was built circa 1923 at the time the house was constructed. It is a rectangular structure with an addition slightly smaller than original garage. The additional bedrooms were added in 1949 by Mr. Raymond H. Smith. The building is stuccoed like the main house and has a gable on hip asphalt shingled roof. The windows are all four-over-one, wooden, double-hung sash windows. No other associated outbuildings are extant and no others are known to have existed.

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Weakley County, TNStatement of Significance

Cary Lawn is significant under National Register criterion C in the area of architecture. The house is a good example of an upper-class small town residence in the Italian Renaissance Revival style, notable for its arched windows and open floor plan characteristics. Although some changes have been made, the house still retains integrity.

Neither the name of the architect who designed it nor the local builder has been found; however, it is safe to assume that the architect was a Memphian since that was the home of the Carys. Rhea P. Cary was a prominent Memphis lawyer and was financially able to employ the best architect available.

The residence is an unusual example of a high-styled twentieth century residence within the surrounding 1890 architectural residential neighborhood. The house was built as a summer home and is the largest and only one of its size built in Dresden, Tennessee at this time. Cary Lawn is an example of an early twentieth century structure which would be more likely to have been built in a large city such as Memphis than located in a rural Tennessee county seat. The two story house is one room deep with a one story extension to the rear.

"Many beautiful, spacious homes were built in Dresden during the (late) 1800's" (Vaughn interview). These homes were mostly one and one-half to two story "Victorians" in style; as seen by the example of Oakland which is listed on the National Register. Cary Lawn may be the only formally-designed early twentieth century residence in Dresden that retains its historic design and integrity to the present. It is the best example of a large modern early 1920's summer home in Dresden.

As was common in rural Tennessee in the early nineteenth century, county seats were placed as near the center of the county as possible; thus the location of Dresden. It served as a commercial center as well as the governmental seat. The major economic development was a result of agriculture and its related industries. Its strategic location meant that Dresden became the center where several railroads intersected. In 1853 the first railroad was completed, in 1861 the NC & StL line was completed, and in 1873 the rail which connected New Orleans and Chicago through Dresden was completed.

The entire block where Cary Lawn is located was once a part of Grant Number 23818, given to Joseph Kirkpatrick of Sumner County for his services in the

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War of 1812. He was in the Second Regiment of the Tennessee Militia, being with Andrew Jackson in the Expedition against the Creek Nation.

The first recorded transaction for the land Cary Lawn was built on was in 1831, when Joseph Kirkpatrick sold 640 acres to William Washington Camp. The transaction was registered on October 1837 in Deed Book D, page 427. Camp sold 480 acres to Emerson Etheridge for \$6,000 in 1864. The land was sold again in 1874 to the Hampton Family. The Hampton family sold the land with a house on the 30th of November 1907 to Charlie Ewing Cary for \$1,850.

Charlie Ewing Cary, of Memphis, was the wife of Rhea Preston Cary. She had been born in Dresden in 1875, the third child of Charles M. and Elizabeth Caruthers Ewing. She always returned to Dresden twice a year to visit her widowed mother, ever since she had married and moved to Memphis in 1894.

Rhea Preston Cary was born in Memphis, June 6, 1871, the son of the late Hudson Cary, an officer in the Confederate Army, and Ellen Rhea. Hudson Cary was a noted lawyer of the Memphis bar. Young Cary received his early education in the public and private schools of Memphis; then he entered the University of the South at Sewanee for his undergraduate academic training. Later, he attended Cumberland University at Lebanon for his law training.

He first practiced law with his father, but after a short while started working with his wife's brother, Caruthers Ewing. After three or four years, he practiced independently, until John Vorder Bruegge came into his office. They were partners until Rhea's death of heart trouble in 1926 at 55 years of age.

Because the Carys intended to build a "summer home", the big, old Camp-Hampton house had to be removed from their property in Dresden. This was done sometime between 1908 and 1913 using horse power with log rollers, block, and tackle. It was moved about 900 feet south to a lot that Charlie Ewing Cary's mother, "Miss Bettie", had owned since June 18, 1901. It was across Huntingdon Road (Evergreen Street) from the other Etheridge home where she lived and was joined by the NC and StL Railroad property.

The house was cut apart to move. Only the two rooms upstairs and two rooms below, with foyer below and hall above, were moved. With lumber salvaged from the rooms that were left, Miss Bettie had a guest room and dining room, with a hall between the two, built on to the back of the house.

The lot, where the Camp-Hampton house had been, stayed vacant until 1922 or early 1923 when construction on Cary Lawn was started.

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Weakley County, TN

After her mother's death in 1924, Charlie Ewing Cary kept Cary Lawn for four years, coming back to Dresden for long visits in the summer. Her husband had died in 1926, and it became increasingly hard for her to maintain her Memphis home and the Dresden property. On March 31, 1928, she sold Cary Lawn to Foster Y. and Lester Hancock Fuqua for \$11,000. It was sold at a loss to Mrs. Cary, for it had cost \$30,000 to build.

After the Fuquas moved to Gardner in 1933, Lester Fuqua's older sister, Ida, stayed on at Cary Lawn, acquired three-fifths interest in the property on April 27, 1935. To help defray expenses on the house, she rented rooms that were not being used.

Ida Fuqua sold Cary Lawn in April 1940 to Raymond Harmeyer Smith and Edith McWherter Smith for \$6,000. The boundaries on the deed were North: Mary B. Irvine, West: Depot or Meridian Street, South: George W. Jester, and on the East: East Depot or Morgan Street -- the same as in 1928 when the Fuquas bought the house.

In 1948 Raymond Smith Jr. married Anne Britte of Nashville and lived in the house with the elder Smiths, until two rooms could be added for them to the garage apartment.

When the Smiths bought Cary Lawn from the Fuquas there had been very little maintenance done during ownership from 1928-1940. Those were the Depression years. The Smiths completely redecorated, putting in a new furnace, painted inside and out, and reworked the upstairs bathrooms. They made no structural changes except the two-room addition to the garage apartment.

Sixteen months after his mother's death on June 20, 1975, Raymond H. Smith, Jr., sold Cary Lawn to Michael J. Caveney and wife Jeanette M. Caveney for \$49,000. By this time, Depot Street had a new name: Linden. The original lot size 172 feet (on street side) by 528 feet (depth of lot) was altered. The Caveney's bought only 335 feet, the Smiths retaining the remaining 193 feet. This placed the eastern boundary line two feet behind the garage.

The Caveney's enjoyed Cary Lawn and the leisurely life of a small town. Mrs. Caveney redecorated the house. Barn lumber, from the Tucker property across the street, was used to panel the back entrance hall. A room was added over the upstairs deck for their son's bedroom and the adjacent window next to the door to this room was closed in. The worn tile floor of the kitchen was removed and linoleum flooring was installed. To create

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more of a flow to the downstairs rooms, the doors between the family room, the foyer, and the living room were removed and stored.

Although the Caveney's sold the house to Ned R. McWherter, then Speaker of the House, on September 17, 1982, he allowed them to live at Cary Lawn until their son, Curt, graduated from high school.

Extensive renovation was done on Cary Lawn before then Speaker McWherter was able to occupy his home. He moved in on December 22, 1984. No changes were made that affected the architectural integrity of the house; however, some improvements were necessary for more convenient living. All walls in the house were originally plastered. These were repaired, restored, and painted, with the exception of bathroom, kitchen, and utility rooms, which were wallpapered. The living room and dining room remained the same; however, changes were made in the kitchen area. The hardwood floors throughout the house were refurbished. The stucco walls of the exterior were painted a mudstone color (golden beige) in 1984 but in 1990, this was changed to gull gray.

On December 28, 1984, a week after Governor McWherter moved into Cary Lawn, he purchased the lot immediately behind his property and an adjoining lot to the north, between the Olds and Mangum properties. At one time this land belonged to the Raymond Smiths. The property where Cary Lawn is located was then returned to its original size. Both lots are covered with jonquils, narcissus, and daffodils.

Ned Ray McWherter became the 46th governor of Tennessee on January 1, 1987, after nineteen years in state government. He served in the 86th and 87th General Assembly before being elected Speaker of the House in 1973, a position he held until he became governor of the state. He served seven terms as Speaker, which is a record.

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Cary Lawn
Weakley County, TN

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

This nomination was adapted from a manuscript by Virginia C. Vaughn entitled "Cary Lawn, A Special Place."

Interview by Nancy Jane Baker with Mrs. Virginia Vaughn on May 14th, 1992

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Cary Lawn
Weakley County, TN

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

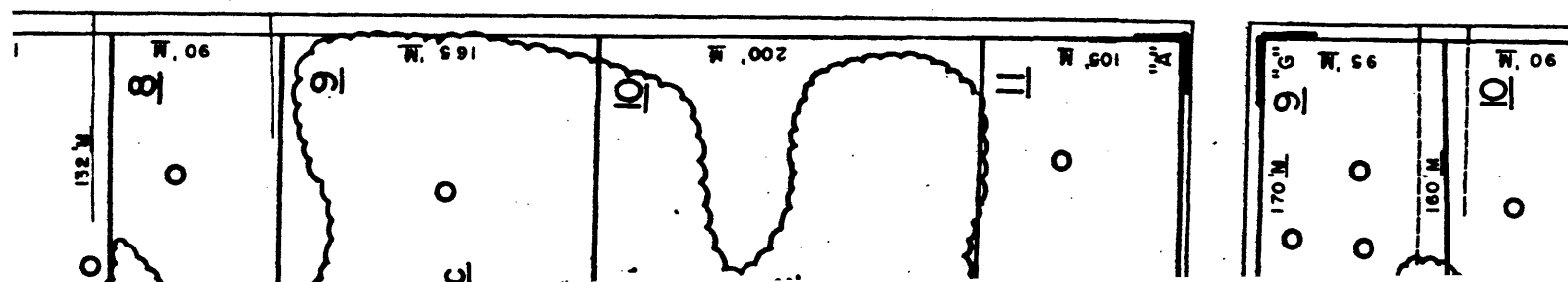
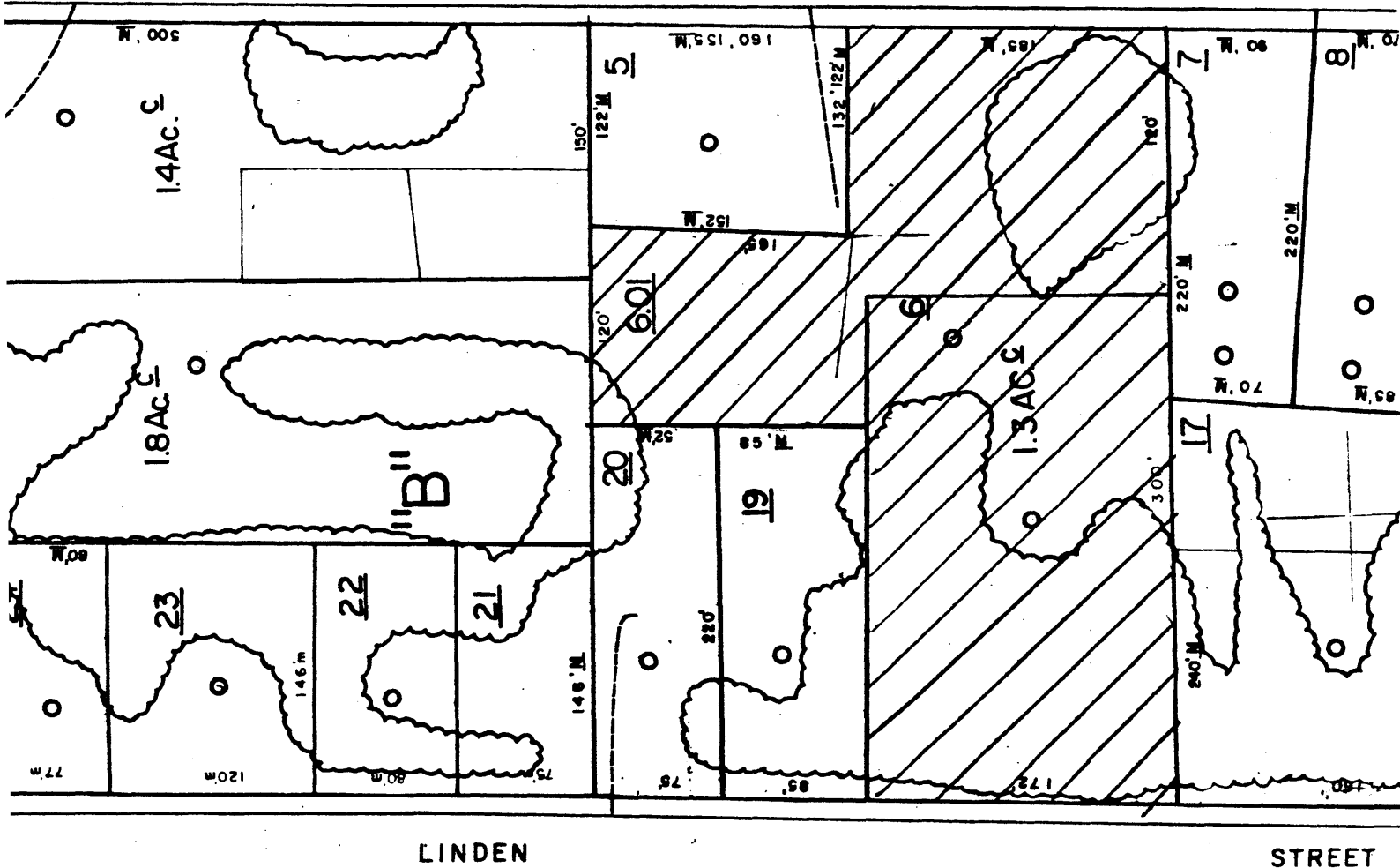
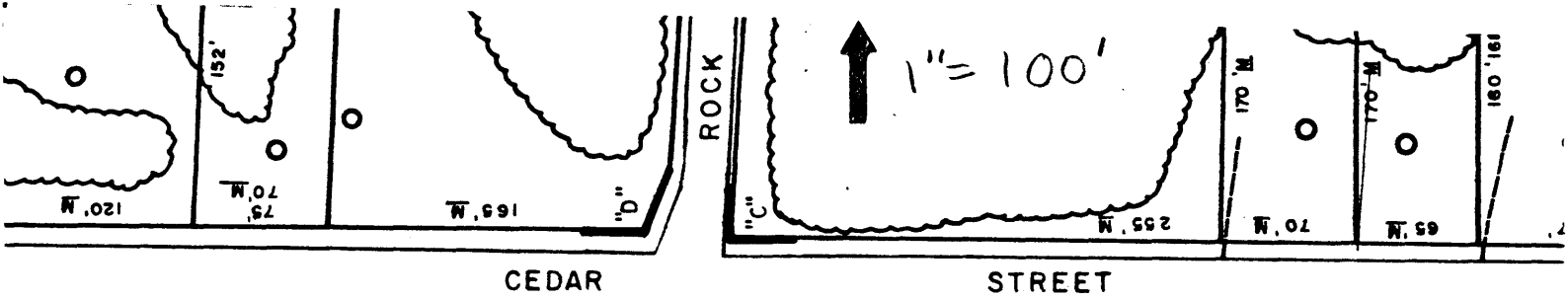
Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The nominated property includes lots 6 and 6.01 on Weakley County tax map 102-H. This includes all the land currently associated with the property.

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Cary Lawn
Weakley County, TN



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Section number Photos Page 12

Cary Lawn
Weakley County, TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Cary Lawn
Dresden, Weakley County, Tennessee
Photos by: Virginia C. Vaughn
Date: July, 1991
Negs: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

Exterior, facade, west elevation, facing east
#1 of 16

Exterior, facade, detail, facing east
#2 of 16

Exterior, facade, facing northeast
#3 of 16

Exterior, south elevation, facing north
#4 of 16

Exterior, east elevation, facing west
#5 of 16

Exterior, east elevation, detail, facing southwest
#6 of 16

Exterior, north elevation, facing south
#7 of 16

Interior, first floor, living room
#8 of 16

Interior, first floor, living room, detail
#10 of 16

Interior, first floor, breakfast room
#11 of 16

Interior, first floor, den
#12 of 16

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Interior, first floor, stair
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Interior, second floor, stair
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Exterior, garage, west elevation, facing east
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Exterior, garage, north & east elevations, facing southwest
#16 of 16