

# 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 Tanner Store  
Other names/site number Citizens Bank & Trust; Tanner's Drugs; Tanner Café, Sundries, & Antiques  
Name of related multiple property listing N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 201 Court Street  
City or town: Wartburg State: TN County: Morgan  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A Zip: 37887

## 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

*Clayton Spivey* 5/30/17  
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  
 For

7-24-2017  
 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		1		buildings
0		0		sites
0		0		structures
0		0		objects
1		1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

COMMERCE/financial institution  
COMMERCE/general store  
COMMERCE/specialty store  
COMMERCE/restaurant

**Current Functions**

COMMERCE/specialty store  
COMMERCE/restaurant

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

Other: Folk Victorian  
Late Victorian:Italianate

**Materials:**

Principal exterior materials of the property:

WOOD: weatherboard; STONE: limestone; BRICK;  
GLASS

**Narrative Description**

The Tanner Store was constructed in Wartburg (pop. 906, 2014), Morgan County, Tennessee c. 1906 as the Citizens Bank and Trust of Wartburg, with a significant addition c. 1923 to make it useable as a general store and commercial space. The store is located at the intersection of Kingston Street and Court Street, on the northeast corner of the historic courthouse square. A one-story, rectangular-plan frame building, the store rests on a continuous limestone foundation. The exterior is clad in weatherboard siding. The flat roof is embellished by a parapet with wood brackets and decorative wood paneling. A shed-roof porch wraps around the south and west elevations, featuring exposed rafter ends on an asphalt-shingle roof. The porch is supported by turned wood posts on half-height brick piers. The Tanner Store demonstrates two periods of construction: a small, rectangular-plan frame building at the far southwest corner, constructed c.1906 as Citizens Bank and Trust of Wartburg and continuously used as separate commercial space from the Tanner Store; and the c.1923 addition that comprises the remainder of the structure and makes up the Tanner Store. The building retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, especially on the exterior elevations, including original wood windows and doors and detailed door surrounds. The location and setting of the Tanner Store also remains intact and typical of an early- to mid-twentieth century

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courthouse square. The interior retains historic features including original marble countertops, store shelving, and wooden booths.

### Setting

In its downtown location at the northeast corner of the intersection of Kingston and Court Streets, the store is set back approximately five feet from Kingston and Court Streets, and divided from the road by a modern sidewalk of poured concrete. The Tanner Store is located on the northeast corner of the courthouse, and flanked by numerous early-to-mid-twentieth century commercial buildings to the north, south, and west. The Tanner Store remains the most intact and unaltered building early-to-mid-twentieth century building within downtown Wartburg. Grassed land surrounds the store on its immediate north and east sides.

### Tanner Store (contributing building, c.1906 and c.1923)

#### Exterior

The rectangular-plan commercial building features primary elevations oriented towards Kingston and Court Streets on the west and south, and rear elevations oriented towards the north and east. The store rests on a continuous limestone foundation. With wood frame windows, the exterior walls are clad in weatherboard, painted white, and the flat roof is clad in rolled asphalt. A parapet extends along the south and west roof lines, featuring decorative wood brackets and wood paneling in alternating sections of a diagonal pattern. A shed-roof porch projects immediately below the cornice, and wraps around the south and west elevations. The porch was added to the building along with the c.1923 extension, and the porch supports have been modified over time. A c.1950 photograph depicts square wood posts, and the present-day supports are turned wood posts on c. 1955 brick piers (*Figure 6*). One primary entrance is oriented diagonally on the corner of Kingston and Court Streets, with secondary entrances on the south and west elevations.

The original primary entry is located on the southwest corner of the Tanner Store (*Photographs 1, 2, and 12*). The glazed double doors are topped by a two-light wood transom window, and flanked by fixed two-light sidelights. Wood panels are located below the sidelights, mirroring those below the adjacent fixed four-light windows. Concrete steps, centered on the entryway, lead to the slightly elevated door.

The west elevation features a set of glazed, three-panel wood double doors, flanked on each side by three adjoining single-pane picture windows (*Photograph 2*). The double doors are topped by a three-light wood transom, and each picture window features a single-light wood transom. A visible seam in the weatherboard exterior demonstrates the division between the 1906 and 1923 sections, followed by a fixed four-light wood window that adjoins the southwest corner entry. The wood cornice with brackets and decorative paneling extends along the full elevation, along with the shed-roof porch with exposed rafter ends. In front of the doors on the porch is a ca. 1940s white metal sign with the words TANNER'S SUNDRIES split by a red sign with the trademark Coca-Cola cursive logo. Concrete steps are centered along the west entryway, substantially weathered to show their continued use since the 1920s (*Photograph 14*).

The south elevation retains most original features from the 1906 building (*Photograph 1 and 8*). The elevation is three bays wide, featuring a fixed, four-light window, topped by a two-light wood transom, in the first bay. This window is surrounded by simple wood trim, with a wood panel below. The second bay is a one-over-one, double-hung wood sash window, surrounded by wood trim, with bullseye moldings and an elongated diamond-shaped detail above the sash. The third bay is a secondary entryway, featuring an original



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glazed, seven-panel door with a dentiled molding below the single-pane square window (*Photograph 10*). All fenestrations on this elevation are original, including the detailed window and door surrounds. A 1912 photograph (*Figure 4*) indicates that the bracketed parapet on this elevation is original to the bank building.

The east elevation is five bays wide (*Photograph 5*). The first two bays are two one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows, located below a shed-roof porch supported by square wood posts. The shed-roof porch is flush with the adjoining c.1923 section. The first two bays feature original window surrounds, with bullseye moldings and an elongated, diamond-shaped wood detail above the windows (*Photograph 11*). The remaining three bays include two, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows and a window opening covered with exterior plywood. This portion is the c.1923 addition, which projects approximately six feet from the c.1906 portion to the south.

The north elevation is six bays wide, featuring six double-hung sash wood windows enclosed with wood paneling (*Photograph 4*). The easternmost window is visible as a one-over-one, double-hung sash window. The continuous limestone foundation extends the full length of the elevation. The decorative parapet from the south and west elevations is not present on the north elevation.

### Interior

The interior floor plan consists of two sections (c.1906 and c.1923), separated by an interior wall, with the original bank vault located in a closet between the two. According to family history, a door within the closet once connected the two sections, but no trace of this door remains and the two sections are separately accessed.

The c.1906 bank portion is accessible via the southwest corner entry and a secondary door on the south elevation (*Photographs 15 through 22*). This section retains its original interior finishes, including a wood beadboard ceiling, horizontal wood wall paneling, and continuous wood wainscoting. The fixed four-light wood windows are surrounded by simple wood trim, and the double-hung sash features a fluted trim with wood bullseye moldings at the corners. The main room in this section is divided from a smaller, rear storage area by an interior partition wall, with an open doorway surrounded by wood trim that mirrors the double-hung sash window. The partition wall and the storage area (date unknown, but approximately c.1960) are among the few modifications to the bank portion, along with c.1960 linoleum flooring that is laid over the original wood floors.

The c.1923 portion is accessible via the double doors on the west elevation, and a secondary entry from the rear shed-roof porch on the east elevation (*Photographs 23 through 30*). In this section, minor alterations speak to the continued use of the building, including a c.1960 drop ceiling and vertical wood paneling covering the walls. However, the c.1923 section features original wood floors, and the elaborate bank vault remains unmoved from its original location. The vault is located between the two sections of the building, within a small rectangular storage closet accessible by a wood door (*Photographs 31 through 33*). The vault has a highly elaborate door surround, featuring fluted pilasters topped by Corinthian-style capitals, and a broken semi-circular pediment with a centrally-located urn carving above an eagle design. The door has its original brass hardware, with a knob inscribed with the word "Victor." Within the main c.1923 section, wood shelving and cabinetry line the walls. A café bar counter is covered in marble that is original to the 1920s Tanner Store. Two wooden booths are located opposite the counter.

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A kitchen and two restrooms extend the full length of the rear (east) elevation, also added to the Tanner Store in the 1920s to provide additional cooking space (*Photographs 29 & 30*). A two-panel wood door separates the kitchen space from the main store, with an adjacent square window opening for kitchen access. The kitchen features a linoleum floor covering, marble countertops, and numerous wood shelves. Two restrooms are located along the north elevation.

**Outbuilding (non-contributing building, c.1965)**

Located to the northeast of the store is a flat-roof outbuilding of concrete block construction, resting on a continuous concrete block foundation (*Photograph 34*). The structure is approximately three feet tall with an irregular sheet of metal serving as the roof. A rectangular opening is located on the outbuilding's south elevation, enclosed with plywood. While the purpose of this outbuilding is not known, it is commonly referred to as a "well house." Due to its small form, no style, and unknown use, this building is non-contributing to the Tanner's Store property.

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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.)

Commerce

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1906-1967

**Significant Dates**

1906; 1923

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Tanner Store is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of commerce, and under Criterion C in the area of architecture, both at the local level of significance. Constructed in 1906 as the first bank in Wartburg, converted into a general store in 1923, and operated by the same family to the present date, the Tanner Store has served as an anchor of the town's commerce and economy for more than a century. The Tanner Store is also a strong example of early-twentieth century architecture in the commercial areas surrounding courthouse squares, and reflects the now-diminishing trend of multi-purpose general stores in rural communities. With its modest Italianate details and the notable Classical Revival bank vault, it also reflects the vernacular adaptations of popular commercial architectural styles prevalent in smaller, rural communities throughout Tennessee. For these reasons, it has a period of significance from 1906-1967. The Tanner Store retains a high degree of integrity, especially in the areas of design, materials, and workmanship, with a feeling and association strongly evocative of commerce in early-twentieth century Wartburg.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

Located in the present-day county seat of Morgan County, the Tanner Store originated as the Citizens Bank and Trust of Wartburg. Constructed as part of the town's initial commercial development of the early 1900s, the bank-turned-general store has served as an anchor of the downtown area throughout the twentieth century. Wartburg was founded in the mid-1840s by George F. Gerding, a New York businessman who organized the East Tennessee Colonization Company and purchased 170,000 acres of land in five counties on the Cumberland Plateau.<sup>1</sup> Along with his European business partners, Gerding coordinated the immigration of several waves of Swiss and German settlers to Morgan County, beginning in July 1845.<sup>2</sup> Frederick B. Guenther, a colleague of George Gerding, arranged the original plot of Wartburg as six streets running north to south, and five streets running east to west. The streets were laid out by late 1845. By 1849, there were six houses, two log cabins, the Receiving House (a large guest house), a tavern, and a combined school and worship house in the town of Wartburg.<sup>3</sup>

Construction of the necessary commercial and residential buildings to support the new settlers moved slowly, and most immigrants settled on small farms to pursue agricultural work. By 1870, only fifty-seven German-born and forty-one Swiss-born residents resided in Morgan County.<sup>4</sup> However, in the 1880s, the construction of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad provided economic stimulus to Morgan County residents and communities. Extractive industries such as logging and mining began to flourish, and health resorts in towns such as Deer Lodge and Franklin encouraged early tourism. In 1871, the county seat of Morgan County was moved from Montgomery to Wartburg, and a wood-frame courthouse was constructed to house the Morgan

<sup>1</sup> Daniel Todd, *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, "Morgan County," accessed December 12, 2016, <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=942>.

<sup>2</sup> Ethel Freytag and Glenna K. Ott, *A History of Morgan County, Tennessee* (Knoxville: Specialty Printing Co., 1971), 75.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 76.

<sup>4</sup> *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, "Morgan County."



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County court and government.<sup>5</sup> The town developed modestly over the following decades, and a brick masonry courthouse, featuring modest Richardsonian Romanesque details, replaced the original courthouse in 1904. The original portion of the Tanner Store dates to this early twentieth-century period of construction in Wartburg (*Figure 5* depicts Kingston Street in this period).

### Commerce

The Citizens Bank and Trust Company was chartered in Wartburg on October 17, 1906, with nine founding members on the charter.<sup>6</sup> James A. Monroe, an area attorney, was the bank's first president.<sup>7</sup> The bank organization constructed a one-story, rectangular-plan, wood-frame building on the northeast corner of the courthouse square in the same year it was chartered. The original bank features a double-door corner entry that faces the intersections of Court and Kingston Streets and an ornate interior vault (*Photos 31-33*). This building was the first location of the bank, which has remained in continuous operation in downtown Wartburg to the present day. While local lore holds that the bank "nearly failed" a few years after its opening, and burglars stole around \$30,000 from the bank's vault in 1930, after moving locations the bank enjoyed a steady relationship with the surrounding businesses and individuals of Wartburg and Morgan County.<sup>8</sup> Within Morgan County, the Citizens Bank and Trust was joined by the Oakdale Bank and Trust Company in 1911, and the Sunbright Bank and Trust Company in 1926.<sup>9</sup>

In 1923, the Citizens Bank and Trust Company had outgrown its original headquarters and moved to a new location. The new bank building, constructed on nearby Kingston Street in approximately 1920, is a two-story brick structure with Colonial Revival details. This building is extant. The bank still operates in Wartburg to the present day in its third building constructed in the late twentieth century further away from the town square. Also in the early 1920s, John E. and Maud Tanner purchased the original bank building and began construction on an addition, adjoining the bank's north elevation.<sup>10</sup> To accommodate their new general store, drugstore, and café, the Tanners added a one-story, rectangular-plan, wood-frame building on a continuous limestone foundation. Other 1920s modifications included a one-story, shed-roof porch that wraps around the west and south elevations of the building. The Tanners left the bank's elaborate interior vault, and added wood café booths and a wood-and-marble countertop that exist to the present day.

While the Tanner Store was not the first general store serving Wartburg and Morgan County, it is the general store in the longest continuous operation by a single family. The earliest commercial activity in Wartburg dates to the mid-1840s, with the arrival of the German and Swiss Settlers. By 1846, a store was established by Morgan County resident John White, with the support of town planner George F. Gerding. This store

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<sup>5</sup> W. Calvin Dickinson, *Morgan County, Tennessee*, County History Series, Frank B. Williams, Jr., ed. (Memphis, TN: Memphis State University Press, 1987), 20.

<sup>6</sup> Morgan County Register of Deeds, Book 2-2, page 226-230.

<sup>7</sup> "Citizens Bank Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday: Customer Appreciation Day Tomorrow Climax of Celebration," *The Morgan County News*, October 22, 1981, 1.

<sup>8</sup> "Citizens Bank Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday: Path Not Always Been Rosy," *The Morgan County News*, October 22, 1981, 1.

<sup>9</sup> Morgan County Register of Deeds, Book V-2, page 512; Book R-3, page 183.

<sup>10</sup> Judy Byrge, "Take A Step Back In Time," *The Morgan County News*, April 11, 2012, 2A.

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featured general merchandise and consumables.<sup>11</sup> Another store was opened in 1849, as the first commercial enterprise to be operated by German immigrants. The stores were of a multipurpose nature, serving the residents of greater Morgan County. Goods were frequently purchased in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Kingston, and hauled overland by ox-cart.<sup>12</sup> In a March 1878 publication of the *Morgan Dispatch*, three separate general stores are advertised, two located on the courthouse square of Wartburg and one further east of the town center.<sup>13</sup> More general stores existed in neighboring Sunbright and Deer Lodge by the 1880s. By the early twentieth century, Wartburg had an array of small businesses, including several drug stores and groceries. A 1919 school bulletin advertises a thriving small town with “all things necessary for a clean county school town, away from the noise, smoke, extravagance, and dissipation of many places.”<sup>14</sup>

John E. and Maud Tanner operated their restaurant, general store and pharmacy through the first half of the twentieth century. From the 1920s through the early 2000s, the Tanner Store served as the central community meeting place for the town of Wartburg. It provided a central location for visitors to the adjacent Morgan County Courthouse or the post office, and is recalled by current residents as the spot for daily, informal meetings over morning coffee, afternoon tea or ice cream, and after-dinner conversation. Several current Wartburg residents referenced the routine of Sunday afternoon ice creams and chocolate sodas, served from behind the marble countertops that exist in the Tanner Store today. Through the late 1950s, the Store was one of at most three restaurants in the town of Wartburg; at other times, it was the only operating restaurant. Wartburg residents recall a changing menu, featuring hamburgers, chili, and other diner food, along with ice cream and coffee.

Beyond the Tanner Store’s role as a restaurant and meeting place, it also served as the only pharmacy in town through the mid-1950s. There were no doctors in the immediate vicinity of Wartburg, and the closest pharmacy was in Harriman in Roane County or Oak Ridge in Roane and Anderson Counties, though access to Oak Ridge was substantially restricted. Until McNeil’s Pharmacy opened in approximately 1955, the Tanners were the only source of medicine in town. John E. Tanner was a registered pharmacist, which allowed drug sales to continue in the store after his death. Wartburg residents could purchase penicillin, pain relievers, and other necessary drugs from the Tanners, and some current residents even recall buying moonshine from the Store. The wood shelves lining the walls now features antiques for sale, but they used to hold a wide variety of medicines and related goods. After the new pharmacy opened in the 1950s, the Tanner store eventually phased out selling medicine.

John and Maud Tanner’s son, Nick Tanner, was born in June 1929. John E. Tanner passed away in 1934, and Maud Tanner continued to operate the store.<sup>15</sup> Maud Tanner is noted among Wartburg residents as an extremely memorable figure; as a widow, she raised her children and ran the store seven days a week, opening around 7:00 in the morning for coffee and breakfast and often operating until 8:00 or 9:00 in the evening. Along with family and community support, Nick Tanner and his son Charles Tanner have managed

<sup>11</sup> Freytag and Ott, *A History of Morgan County, Tennessee*, 247.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 78.

<sup>15</sup> Byrge, “Take A Step Back In Time,” 2A.

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the business together until Nick Tanner's death in April 2017. Charles Tanner continues to operate the store. The store was referred to as Tanner's Drugs until the mid-1960s, when they were recommended (by the state, according to family oral history) to remove the word "drugs" from the title.<sup>16</sup> The store has been known officially as Tanner's Café, Sundries, and Antiques since, and it continues to operate as an antiques store and a lunch counter. Wartburg residents recognize the Tanner Store as the their town's most significant community anchor: a place where their ancestors obtained medicine and other necessary goods, where they met daily for coffee and conversation, and where their children raced after school each day.

All of the above activities occurred in the c.1923 portion of the Tanner Store. After the construction of the 1923 addition and the opening of the Tanner Store, several businesses have occupied the c.1906 bank portion over the decades that was rented out by the Tanners for other commercial endeavors. Wartburg residents, often related to the Tanners, have operated a coffee shop, a bookstore, a bakery, and a clothing boutique in the smaller portion of the Tanner Store since 1923. The most recent enterprise in the c.1906 portion is a fireworks store, which began in 2015 and holds irregular hours.

### Architecture

The Tanner Store is also representative of trends in small-scale commercial architecture and general stores in the early twentieth century. Located in the commercial area surrounding the Morgan County Courthouse, the Tanner Store represents the evolution of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century architectural trends in courthouse squares. With its modest Italianate details and the notable Classical Revival bank vault, it also reflects the vernacular adaptations of popular commercial architectural styles prevalent in smaller, rural communities throughout Tennessee. The Tanner Store can also be evaluated alongside Tennessee's significant multi-purpose general stores.

Centrally located within county seats, courthouse squares are a dominant trend in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century town planning and architecture, with examples throughout the entire United States. Though there are numerous regional variants, the general plan includes a courthouse standing alone in the middle of a square, with the town's "leading business houses enclosing the square symmetrically on all four sides."<sup>17</sup> County courthouse squares proliferate throughout the Southeast and Midwest, with a high number of examples in Tennessee. Courthouse squares serve as centralized, visible points of community pride, while also providing efficient access to a town's commercial core. Streets surrounding the courthouse square often demonstrate trends in commercial architecture as they evolve from the late-nineteenth through early-twentieth century.

One example is the Shelbyville Courthouse Square Historic District (NR, 10/27/1982), notable for its placement of the courthouse within a central block, surrounded by city blocks of the same size.<sup>18</sup> This plan spread throughout the Southeast from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century, with similar

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 3A.

<sup>17</sup> Edward T. Price, "The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat," *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, Dell Upton & John Michael Vlach, eds. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986), 125.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 134.

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Tennessee examples in Winchester (Courthouse, NR, 3/30/1995), Lynchburg (Courthouse and Jail, NR, 9/26/1979), and Dyersburg (Historic District, NR, 2/28/1991). In Shelbyville, five different Bedford County Courthouses have stood within the courthouse square, as two structures have anchored the courthouse square in Wartburg. In both Shelbyville and Wartburg, as the courthouse buildings change, so evolve the commercial structures surrounding the square. The Shelbyville Historic District is characterized by an array of one-story and two-story commercial buildings, featuring Italianate and Romanesque influences, and the majority of buildings date from the late 1870s to the mid-1920s.<sup>19</sup> Since its construction, the Tanner Store has been an integral part of the commercial core surrounding the Morgan County Courthouse. While downtown Wartburg does not retain a high amount of historic buildings typical of a commercial district, the Tanner Store remains strongly evocative of the town's early twentieth-century layout.

The Tanner Store also reflects a modest, vernacular adaptation of architectural styles popular in early twentieth-century commercial architecture. The original bank's 1906 design included a parapet and wood brackets characteristic of the Italianate style, with a recessed corner entry typical of commercial buildings on corner lots. When the Tanners completed the 1923 addition, the new store building retained and extended the original bracketed parapet, and added a shed-roof porch with modest Craftsman influences in the exposed rafter ends along the roofline. Several interior and exterior windows are surrounded by decorative trim typical of the early twentieth century, featuring bullseye moldings and elongated diamond shapes centered above the windows.

Finally, the interior bank vault reflects Classical Revival details that were frequently employed in twentieth-century bank architecture. The vault's engaged pilasters, stylized Corinthian capitals, broken pediment, and eagle and urn carvings serve as a small scale adaptation of Classical Revival motifs featured on contemporary banks throughout the United States.<sup>20</sup> One East Tennessee example is the c.1922 Maynardville State Bank in Union County (NR, 11/21/2001), which features a Classical Revival exterior in a full façade portico supported by substantial Doric columns. Here, the bank structure itself resembles a sturdy vault, employing "symbols of government power, civic spirit, and commercial enterprise" that are visible in miniature on the Tanner Store bank vault.<sup>21</sup> Similar vault doors are also present throughout the Monroe County Courthouse (NR, 3/30/1995), featuring variations on the stylized Corinthian capitals and the eagle motif.

Several fixtures and furnishings within the Tanner Store are noted by current Wartburg residents as original to the business. The marble countertops, the wood shelving lining the walls, and the remaining booths and seating all date to at least the mid-1940s. Other appliances such as the ice cream cooler, the ceiling fans, and the soda fountains are also recalled as belonging to the mid-1940s.

<sup>19</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Shelbyville Courthouse Square Historic District, Bedford County, Tennessee, National Register #82001725.

<sup>20</sup> Diane Maddex, ed., *Built in the USA: American Buildings from Airports to Zoos* (Washington, DC: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1985), 20.

<sup>21</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Maynardville State Bank, Union County, Tennessee, National Register #01001259, Section 8, page 5.



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The Tanner Store can be evaluated alongside numerous other small, commercial buildings and general stores listed in the National Register in Tennessee. Located in Rutherford County, the Rockvale Store (NR, 9/14/1995) was constructed in 1884, approximately four decades before the full completion of the Tanner Store.<sup>22</sup> While the Rockvale Store is in a more rural location, separated from the commercial surroundings of the Tanner Store, it features numerous similar stylistic and structural elements. The Rockvale Store is a one-story, gable-roof structure, with a limestone pier foundation and a weatherboard exterior. Modest adaptations of Folk Victorian and Italianate details are present in the store's paired brackets, eave overhangs, and porch supports. Similar to the Tanner Store, the Rockvale Store is one of the earliest commercial buildings in its county that remains extant and continuously operating as a store.

Within Morgan County, the R.M. Brooks General Store and Residence is the only other example of a stand-alone commercial building in the National Register (NR, 4/14/1992). Unique due to its attached one-and-one-half-story residence, the store portion is a rectangular-plan, wood-frame structure with a front-gable roof and a false front extending above the roofline to serve as a sign. Constructed c.1930, the R.M. Brooks General Store features Craftsman influences such as exposed rafter ends and Craftsman windows. Serving as a multi-purpose general store, the Brooks Store has a similar interior to the Tanner Store, featuring original wood floors, wood shelves lining the walls, and a lunch counter.

Located in McMinn County, the Trew Store (NR, 12/22/1976) is similar to the Tanner Store in that it remained in ownership and operation by a single family for six generations, from 1890 to the mid-1970s. The front-gable, wood-frame building is a stand-alone rural country store, which sold an array of general goods to accommodate the varying needs of the surrounding county. The Trew Store is constructed in a similar simple, vernacular style to reflect its utilitarian purpose, with an exterior of weatherboard and interior walls lined by wood shelves.

The multi-purpose, family-owned general stores that once served as anchors and "crossroads for commerce" in rural communities have mostly been replaced by the cost-conscious, centralized big-box stores of the twenty-first century.<sup>23</sup> When these stores remain, whether in rural areas or small-town commercial areas, the structures are often challenged by neglect and disuse. Though the Tanner Store has remained in the same family for three generations, it is presently open at irregular intervals and receives a low amount of use. In Tennessee, listing in the National Register of Historic Places has resulted in increased recognition of these stores' significance within their communities that has contributed to their continued preservation.

### Integrity

The Tanner Store retains a high degree of historic integrity as defined by the seven aspects of integrity. The store remains in its original **location**, on the northeast corner of the courthouse square. The Tanner Store also retains a substantial amount of integrity of **setting**, as it forms part of the small town's commercial core surrounding the courthouse square. When the Citizens Bank and Trust of Wartburg was constructed in 1906,

<sup>22</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, Tennessee, National Register #95001114.

<sup>23</sup> Carroll Van West, *Tennessee's Historic Landscapes: A Traveler's Guide* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995), 429.

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its location was selected for a proximity to the courthouse and the commercial downtown of the county seat. Wartburg remains the county seat of Morgan County, and the town's c. 1845 grid layout of streets still exists to the present day, with the Tanner Store on a corner lot. While the blocks surrounding the courthouse square feature numerous modern intrusions from late-twentieth century structures, the newer buildings still retain consistent scale and mass and do not detract from the Tanner Store's historic context. The Tanner Store features a high degree of integrity of **design**. Alterations to the building are minor and do not alter the form, plan, structure, or style of the store building. The historic **materials** employed in the Tanner Store remain intact, from the continuous limestone foundation extracted from a nearby quarry on the Cumberland Plateau, to the weatherboard exterior and the decorative window and door trim. Alterations to the building's materials are minor and largely reversible, including the c.1960 partition wall and c.1960 linoleum flooring laid over the original wood in the c.1906 portion, and a c.1960 drop ceiling in the store area. Integrity of **workmanship** is evident in the well-preserved quality of the building, which remains in a stable condition despite over a century of continuous use. These attributes combine to generate a strong integrity of **feeling** and **association** that align the Tanner Store with the early commercial development of Wartburg and Morgan County, Tennessee.

Benefitting from the continuous operation, use, and care of a single family for more than ninety years, the Tanner Store demonstrates a thorough preservation of its original design, materials, and workmanship. In a building that retains a substantial amount of its original features, the Tanner Store clearly evokes the evolution of commercial activity in downtown Wartburg, Tennessee. Originating as the town's first bank and sustained as a multi-purpose general store and restaurant, the Tanner Store's continued preservation allows residents to connect with their community's earliest history to the present day.

Tanner Store  
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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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### Bibliography

Byrge, Judy. "Take A Step Back In Time." *The Morgan County News*. April 11, 2012.

"Citizens Bank Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday." *The Morgan County News*. October 22, 1981.

Dickinson, W. Calvin. *Morgan County, Tennessee*. County History Series, ed. Frank B. Williams, Junior. Memphis, TN: Memphis State University Press, 1987.

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Van West, Carroll. *Tennessee's Historic Landscapes: A Traveler's Guide*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995.

Tanner Store  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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<b>Previous documentation on file (NPS):</b>		<b>Primary location of additional data:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	<input type="checkbox"/>	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository: Morgan County Archives	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MO00560			



Tanner Store  
Name of Property

Morgan County, TN  
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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** ~.15 acres      **USGS Quadrangle** Camp Austin, 122-SE

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.105853 | Longitude: -84.596869 |
| 2. Latitude: 36.105808 | Longitude: -84.596594 |
| 3. Latitude: 36.105633 | Longitude: -84.596633 |
| 4. Latitude: 36.105689 | Longitude: -84.596911 |

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Tanner Store begins at the northeast junction of Court and Kingston Streets. From this point, the boundary runs north/northeast along Kingston Street for approximately 60 feet, east approximately 85 feet to the rear property line, south approximately 60 feet to Court Street, and returns northwest along Court Street to the point of origin.

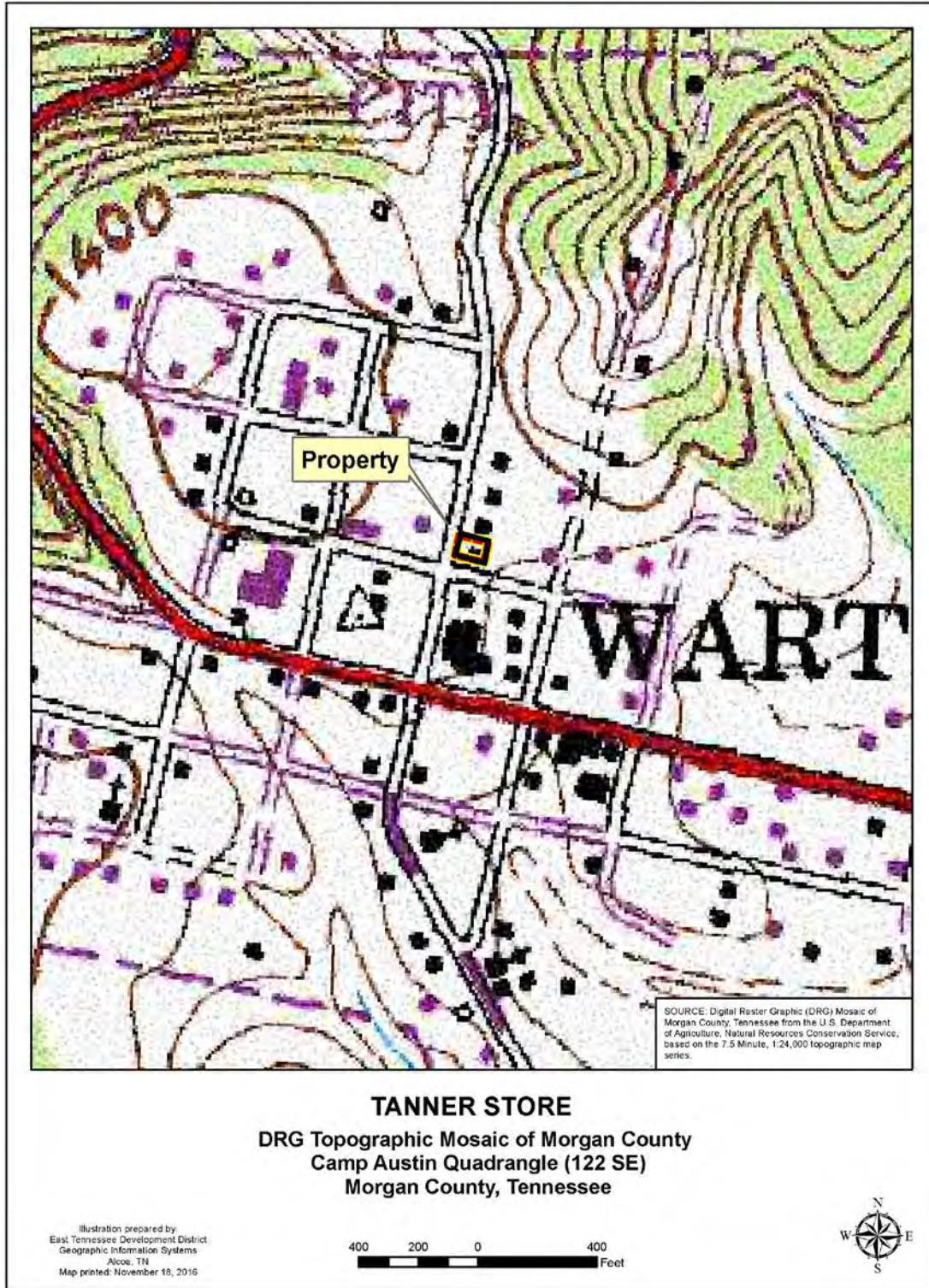
**Boundary Justification**

The boundary represents the .15-acre parcel that has been historically associated with the Tanner Store.

Tanner Store  
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1952 USGS Topographic Map (photorevised 1979), Camp Austin Quadrangle, 122-SE.



Tanner Store  
Name of Property

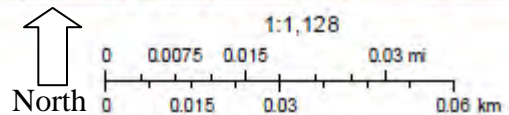
Morgan County, TN  
County and State

Parcel Boundary for Tanner Store

Morgan County - Parcel: 096K A 026.00



May 26, 2017





Tanner Store  
Name of Property

Morgan County, TN  
County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

---

Name Lindsay Crockett, Historic Preservation Planner

Organization East Tennessee Development District

Street & Number 216 Corporate Place Date December 20, 2016

City or Town Alcoa Telephone (865) 273-6003

E-mail lcrockett@etdd.org State TN Zip Code 37701

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

**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.

Tanner Store  
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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Tanner Store  
City or Vicinity: Wartburg  
County: Morgan State: Tennessee  
Photographer: Lindsay Crockett  
Date Photographed: August 9, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 34. Southwest oblique. Photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 34. West elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 34. Northwest oblique. Photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 34. Northeast oblique. Photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 34. East elevation. Photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 34. Foundation detail, east elevation. Photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 34. Southeast oblique. Photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 34. South elevation. Photographer facing north.
- 9 of 34. South elevation detail, featuring parapet, brackets, and original door. Photographer facing north.
- 10 of 34. Door detail, south elevation. Photographer facing north.
- 11 of 34. Window trim detail, east elevation. Photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 34. Corner entryway detail. Photographer facing northeast.
- 13 of 34. Door and sign detail, west elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 14 of 34. Step detail, west elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 15 of 34. Interior detail of corner entryway. Photographer facing east.
- 16 of 34. South elevation, interior view. Photographer facing south.
- 17 of 34. East elevation, interior view. Photographer facing east.
- 18 of 34. Interior view of c.1906 section. Photographer facing northeast.

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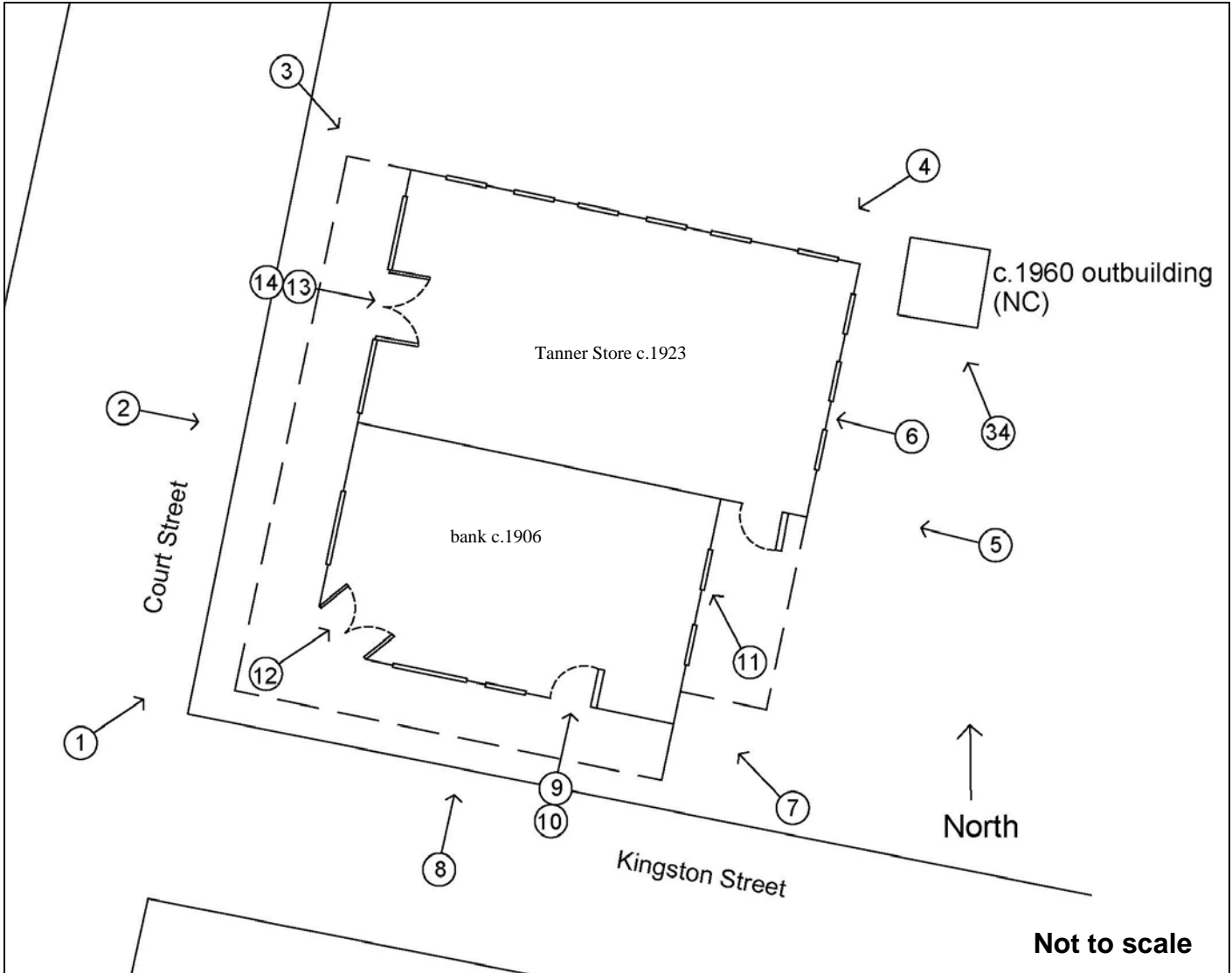
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- 
- 19 of 34. Interior view of c.1906 section. Photographer facing northeast.
- 20 of 34. Interior view of c.1906 section. Photographer facing north.
- 21 of 34. Window trim detail, c.1906 section. Photographer facing southwest.
- 22 of 34. Wainscoting detail, c.1906 section. Photographer facing southwest.
- 23 of 34. West elevation, c.1923 section, interior view. Photographer facing northwest.
- 24 of 34. Interior view of c.1923 section, featuring original wood and marble counters. Photographer facing west.
- 25 of 34. Interior view of c.1923 section. Photographer facing southeast.
- 26 of 34. Interior view of c.1923 section. Photographer facing southeast.
- 27 of 34. Interior view of c.1923 section. Photographer facing northeast.
- 28 of 34. Interior view of entrance to kitchen, c.1923 section. Photographer facing southeast.
- 29 of 34. Interior view of kitchen. Photographer facing northeast.
- 30 of 34. Interior view of kitchen. Photographer facing southwest.
- 31 of 34. Vault detail. Photographer facing east.
- 32 of 34. Vault hardware detail. Photographer facing east.
- 33 of 34. Vault detail. Photographer facing east.
- 34 of 34. View of outbuilding. Photographer facing northwest.

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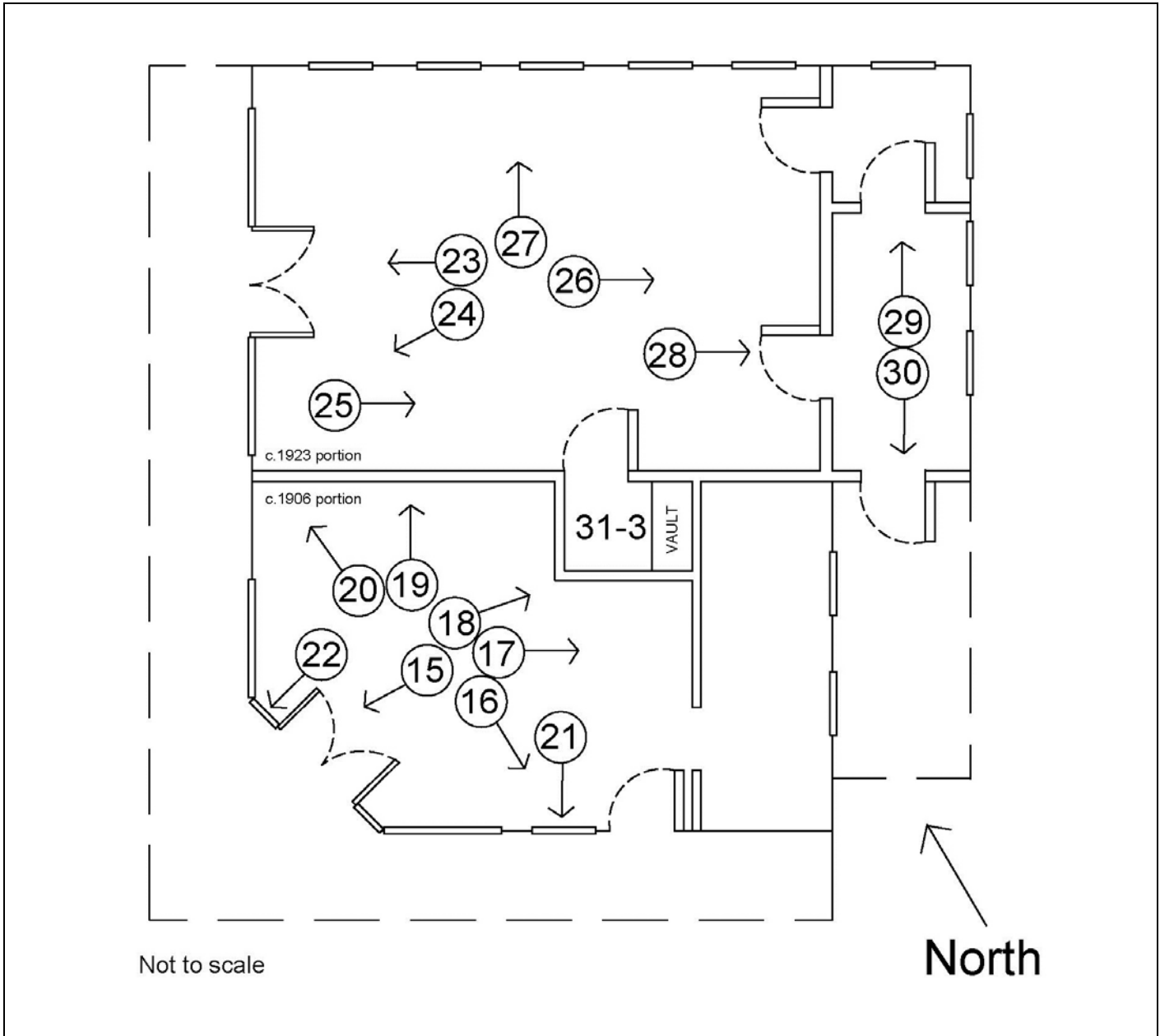
Site Plan with photo key



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**Floor Plan with photo key**





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Figure 1: 1935 USGS Topographic Map, Camp Austin Quadrangle.



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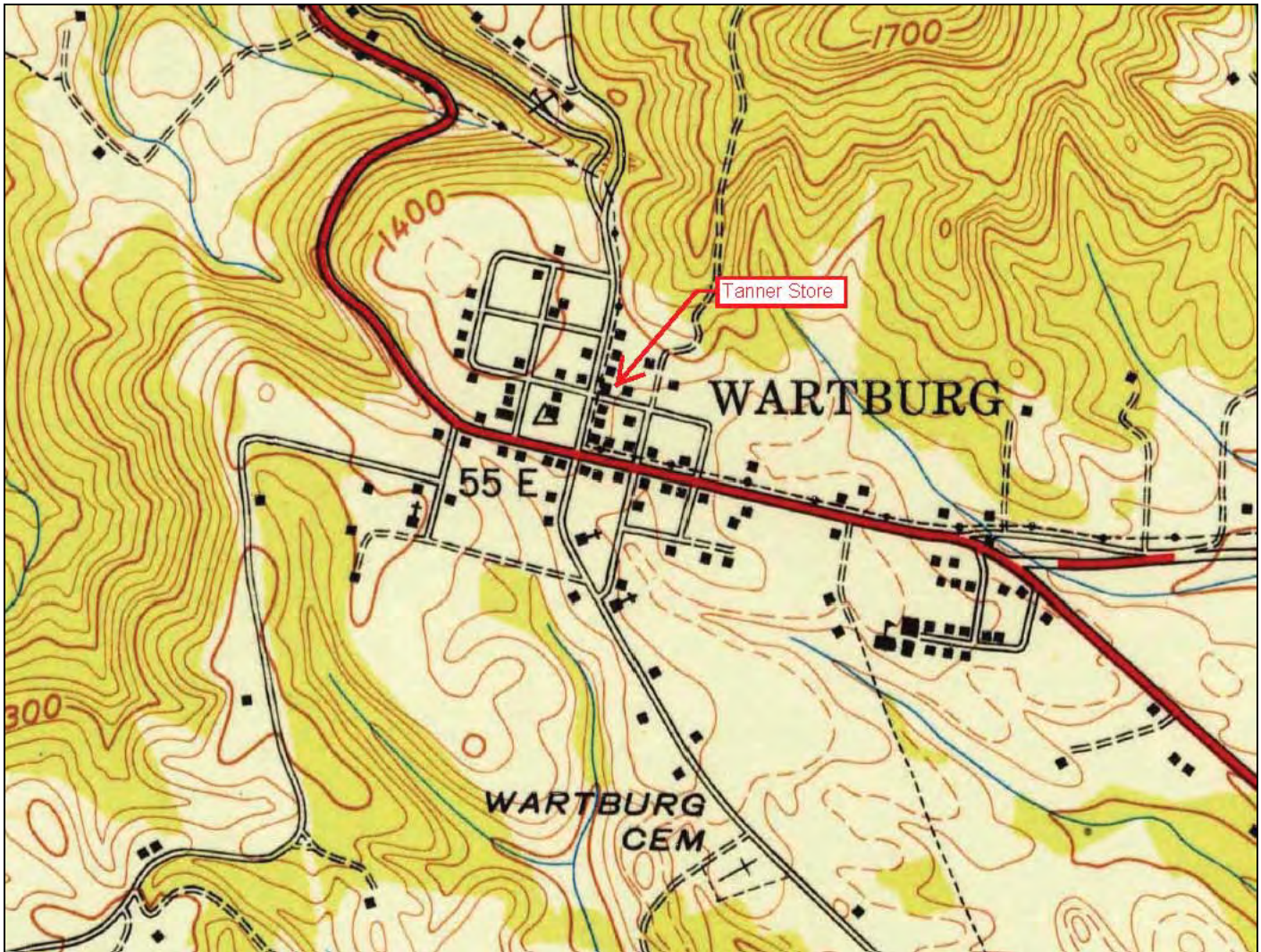


Figure 2: 1946 USGS Topographic Map, Camp Austin Quadrangle.



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Figure 3: 1910 photograph of c.1906 Citizens Bank and Trust section. From a 1910 postcard photographed by Bruno Schubert. Source: *Morgan County News*, 1981.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
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**Figure 4: 1912 photograph of Citizens Bank and Trust. Source: *Morgan County News*, August 23, 1962.**



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National Park Service

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Figure 5: 1912 photograph of Kingston Street, looking south towards courthouse square. From a 1912 postcard photograph by Bruno Schubert. Source: *Morgan County News*, 1981.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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.....
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**Figure 6: c.1950 photograph of the Tanner Store. Source: NPS, available from: <https://www.nps.gov/obed/learn/news/long-time-wartburg-resident-nick-tanner-to-be-featured-guest-at-memories-of-obed-program-on-saturday-november-8.htm>.**

---

**Property Owner:**

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

---

Name Charles Tanner; Nick Tanner

Street &

Number PO Box 292

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town Wartburg

State/Zip TN, 37887





TANNERS  
Coca-Cola  
SUNDRIES







TANNER'S

*Coca-Cola*

SUNDRIES





NEW BREAD WITH OATS

WCE





















here's  
the  
real  
thing  
**Coke**





here's  
the  
real  
thing

Enjoy  
**Coke**







here's  
the  
real  
thing











201

NO  
SMOKING

NO  
SMOKING



TANNER'S

*Coca-Cola*  
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

SUNDRIES

205

NO  
COURT  
PARKING

NO  
COURT  
PARKING





Enter as Strangers... Leave as Friends

WE SERVE

AT OUR FOUNTAIN

ANTIQUES  
&  
OLD STUFF

WA  
PONT...











KM2907  
FIST BUMP FIREWORKS  
MADE IN CHINA

WARNING  
WARNING  
WARNING



**NO SMOKING**

NEXT DOOR  
IF YOU  
NEED HELP  
THANKS



4000  
SPECIAL  
FIRECRACKERS

Small pink price tag

**NO SMOKING**

Box labels:  
EX. 20 11027008  
G.W. 10 KG  
N.W. 15 KG  
SIZE: 70x40x70 CM  
AS 1101513  
CINCHER 101 P12233

Box label: ASSORTED SNAKES

Black cylindrical containers with yellow labels:  
WARNING  
Small pink price tag: 500g

Box labels: ASSORTED SNAKES, ASSORTED SNAKES







**NO SMOKING**

NEXT DOOR  
IF YOU  
NEED HELP  
THANKS

**4000  
SPECIAL  
FIRECRACKER**

**4000  
SPECIAL  
FIRECRACKERS**

Sparklers  
per  
50 pack

per 100 pack

per 50 pack

per 50 pack

per 100 pack

per 100 pack

per 100 pack

per 100 pack

per 100 pack









NO SMOKING

MAMA'S BOY  
200 GRAM

SKULL CAMO  
200 GRAM

SKULL C  
200 G

GLORY  
DAYS

TALL BAT

6pes

6pes

Skull Camo  
\$25.00

Bless This Home  
1900



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KM2907  
FIST BUMP FIREWORKS  
2/1  
MADE IN CHINA  
36F305/125/13

BOOMER  
THUNDER BOMB  
8/20/100  
MADE IN CHINA

MOON TRAVEL  
EX: 20100914  
G.W: 7  
N.W: 6  
MEAS: 37X25X24  
40/Y30/S/13  
CN/4300 06 PI

14  
9



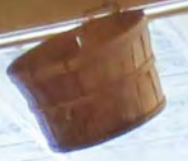












LIVINGSTON  
LIVINGSTON

20









NO CHEWING  
AND SPITTING

PLEASE PAY  
CASHIER

GRAPE OLA  
It's REAL  
Grape



Merita

TANN











PLEASE PAY CASHIER



NO CHEWING AND SPITTING

THIS IS NOT BURGER KING YOU DON'T GET IT YOUR WAY. YOU GET IT MY WAY. OR YOU DON'T GET IT AT ALL.

NIC TANN

Get Merita BREAD













CIGARETTE  
CIGAR HOLDERS



Plastic  
COMBS  
43  
44

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Tanner Store

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: TENNESSEE, Morgan

Date Received: 6/9/2017      Date of Pending List: 7/18/2017      Date of 16th Day: 8/2/2017      Date of 45th Day: 7/24/2017      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100001369

Nominator: State

Reason For Review: \_\_\_\_\_

X Accept       Return       Reject      7/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Excellent example of the type of frame commercial store once common in small communities, but now rare. Excellent interior integrity

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A&C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
2941 LEBANON PIKE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442  
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550  
E-mail: [Claudette.Stager@tn.gov](mailto:Claudette.Stager@tn.gov)  
(615) 770-1089



May 30, 2017

J. Paul Loether  
Deputy Keeper and Chief,  
National Register and National Historic Landmarks Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

*National Register Nomination Tanner Store, Morgan County, Tennessee*

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct nomination for listing of the *Tanner Store* to the National Register of Historic Places. We received no comments on this nomination.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Holly Barnett at (615) 770-1098 or [Holly.M.Barnett@tn.gov](mailto:Holly.M.Barnett@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:hb

Enclosures(3)