

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAR 3 1988**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Historic Resources of Williamson County (Partial Inventory of Historic and Architectural Properties)

and or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number See continuation sheets N/A not for publication

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Williamson code 187

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MRA	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership - See individual forms

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Williamson County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Franklin state TN 37064

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Williamson County Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1973 - 1986  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town 701 Broadway, Nashville state TN 37203

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Williamson County is located in the central section of Middle Tennessee. The county was the 17th formed in the state and is the 17th in size. The county contains 593 square miles and a variety of topographic features. Most of the central and eastern sections of the county are located in the fertile Nashville Basin region while the western section is divided into many ridges which are part of the western Highland Rim. The Duck River Ridge located in the southern section of the county is a major feature which divides the drainage of streams and rivers. North of the ridge water flows into the Big Harpeth River which in turn flows into the Cumberland River. The area south of the ridge is drained by the Duck River which is part of the Tennessee River system.

The county seat of Franklin is located in the center of the county. Franklin is adjacent to the Big Harpeth River in an area characterized by flat, undulating farmland. To the north of Franklin is similar undulating farmland broken up by hills and ridges. Many of these hills and ridges are above 1,000 feet in elevation. The northern boundary of the county ends south of the Overton Hills. An important gap in these hills is located at Brentwood and is an important access point into the county. A second line of hills and ridges is divided by Holly Tree Gap which has also been an important transportation route.

The eastern section of the county is also characterized by rich farmland along the stream beds and hollows and extensive hills and ridges. Several points such as Pleasant Hill Knob and Morton Knob rise to over 1,100 feet and the highest point in the county is Sumner's Knob which is over 1,150 feet in elevation. Mill Creek, an important tributary of the Cumberland River, drains the eastern section of the county.

The southern section of the county also contains extensive farmland which is divided by the Duck River Ridge. This ridge averages 1,000 feet in height and runs east/west through the southern portion of the county. The Big Harpeth River is the main natural feature in this area and extends south of Triune into neighboring Rutherford County.

In the western section of the county Backbone Ridge defines the beginning of the Highland Rim. West of the ridge the county becomes very hilly and the soil is less fertile than to the east of the ridge. Historic maps of the county call this section "The Barrens" indicative of the soil and topography of the area. The West Harpeth River runs along the eastern edge of the rim. The hills and ridges of the western section are sometimes steep with little tillable land.

The fertile lands in the county made it attractive to native Indians and there are many Indian Mounds and sites of habitation. One of the most notable Indian sites is the Fewkes Group Archaeological Site on Moores Lane which includes a large burial mound (NR-1980). In the 18th century it was prized hunting grounds for the Chickasaw and Cherokee Indians. European settlement began in the late 18th century with numerous settlers moving into the rich farmlands along Mill Creek and the Harpeth River. By 1800, approximately 3,000 residents lived in

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Historic Resources of Williamson County MRA

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the county but were less numerous in the hilly western sections. In 1801, the Natchez Trace (NR-1975) was opened through the county and was an important early transportation route. There were two main branches of the road in the county and it brought many settlers into the county in the early 1800s.

Williamson County was created in 1799 with the county seat situated at Franklin. Other early communities included Nolensville, Bethesda and College Grove. Many large plantations were established in the county with cotton, corn, wheat and tobacco all produced in abundance. The rich black loam of the county supported large scale agricultural methods based on slave labor and fine brick and frame homes were built throughout the county in the early 19th century. By 1850, the population of the county was just over 27,000 which included approximately 13,000 black slaves.

By the mid-19th century Williamson County was characterized by hundreds of large and small farms with the majority of commercial and social activity centered on the county seat of Franklin. In the rural areas of the county a number of crossroads communities arose which generally contained mills, blacksmith shops and general stores. Towns such as Nolensville, College Grove, Triune and Lieper's Fork were centers for area farmers who shopped or brought goods to mills. None of these communities ever rivaled Franklin for prominence in the county and the largest of them such as Triune and Nolensville did not have over 100 residents during this period.

The appearance of the county before the Civil War was one of forested hills and cultivated rolling hills and valleys. The county contained thousands of acres of cotton, wheat, tobacco and corn as well as grazing lands for cattle and sheep. The county was crisscrossed by a series of public and private roads such as the Wilson Turnpike, Nolensville Pike, Lewisburg Pike and Carter's Creek Pike. In 1860 the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad was completed through the county. This new mode of transportation influenced the growth and development of communities along the railroad such as Thompson's Station and Brentwood.

The Civil War brought extensive devastation to the county. The county's ample agricultural supplies made it of strategic importance to both Union and Confederate armies. Fought over constantly during the war, the county's plantations were repeatedly ransacked with crops confiscated, fences and outbuildings destroyed and in some cases homes burned. Many homes sheltered wounded and sick soldiers during the war years. The county was the site of major engagements at Triune, Thompson's Station, Nolensville and Brentwood as well as the Battle of Franklin fought on November 30, 1864 (NHL-1966).

After the Civil War agricultural products continued to be the primary economic base of the county. While some 1,500 blacks moved out of the county by 1870,

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most remained in the county working as tenants or sharecroppers. The appearance of the county differed little from its ante-bellum character with most land remaining in cultivation. Most large estates remained intact after the war. The population of the county stayed relatively stable throughout the late 19th century with increases and decreases of only several thousand.

Between 1880 and 1920 many of the small farmers in the county replaced early frame or log residences with new homes reflective of the period. The majority of these were one-story frame T-plan or central passage plan residences. Most farms in the county averaged just over 100 acres and these small farms interspersed among some of the larger estates were characteristic of the late 19th century. Many of the county's small communities and crossroad settlements grew in these years and were local centers of commerce and generally contained cotton or grist mills. Towns such as College Grove, Nolensville and Triune all gained population in these decades. The Louisville and Nashville railroad also influenced the growth of Brentwood and Thompson Station as shipping centers for area farmers.

Williamson County retained a largely agriculturally based economy well into the 20th century. The county's population remained averaged around 24,000 from 1880 until 1960. Tobacco and cotton production declined while wheat, corn and soybean production rose. The county also became known for its extensive dairy farms especially in the area around Nolensville. Franklin continued to be the economic and governmental center of the county during these years. In the 1920s and 1930s paved road construction replaced many of the earlier dirt pikes. The Brentwood to Spring Hill Road became U.S. 31 while the Nolensville Pike became U.S. Highway 41A. Gradually most of the major pikes were paved and designated with state or county route numbers. An important new road in the county was the construction of TN Highway 100 in 1929 in the western section of the county. This road spurred rapid growth in this section and the community of Fairview gained prominence by the 1950s.

The appearance of the county has changed drastically since 1960. The growth of Nashville as a metropolitan center and the construction of Interstates 65 and 40 through the county in the 1960s brought major changes to the county. Williamson County has increasingly become a bedroom community of Nashville-Davidson County and extensive development has taken place in the northern, northwest and eastern sections of the county. The most drastic changes are apparent in Brentwood where few historic structures remain in the old town section. Office parks, shopping centers and residential development has resulted in the demolition of almost all pre-1930 structures. Outlying historic estates such as Mooreland (NR-1975), and the James Johnston House (NR-1976) have been subdivided and developed.

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This rapid development has also occurred around Nolensville, Franklin and other areas with much of the pastoral farmland converted into housing or shopping developments. Construction is presently underway on General Motors' Saturn Plant just south of the county line in Spring Hill. The projected development in the southern section of the county is expected to be great as the plant nears completion. A new interstate link, I-840, has also been proposed to run east-west through the county north of Thompson Station.

Despite the rapid development of the past twenty years many sections of Williamson County remain largely unchanged, especially in the southwest and southeast sections. In 1980, one-third of the county remained forested and there were 1,595 operating farms with the average size of each farm at 153 acres. Franklin has designated two large areas of the community historic districts and the retention and renovation of historic structures is an important part of community life. Williamson County is at a crossroads regarding the protection and preservation of its historic structures. The city and county planning agencies are seeking ways to retain the heritage of the county while accomodating new growth.

### Architectural Resources

Williamson County contains a rich collection of 19th and early 20th century architectural styles. The oldest remaining residences in the county are one-story log structures which have detailing commonly found in log buildings in the Southeast. Common details include single pen, double pen or dogtrot construction, hewn logs with half-dovetail notching, stone or brick chimneys and simple interior fireplace mantles. Both single pen and double pen dogtrot designs were popular in the county and make up the largest number of extant significant log residences. Logs were hewn or squared and notched together using half-dovetail notching techniques. The earliest log homes had exterior limestone chimneys but brick chimneys were later used in abundance as brickmaking increased in the county. Roofs originally had a wood shake surface but virtually all log residences had these roofs replaced with metal standing seam or other more durable roof surfaces in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Stone construction in the county was extremely rare in the early 19th century with only one altered residence still standing. Brick construction was much more common and many notable early brick homes remain from this period. Brick became available with the establishment of kilns in the county between 1800 and 1810. These early residences had a number of floor plans which are found throughout Tennessee. Several of the earliest homes were constructed in hall-parlor plans consisting of two large rooms on the first floor with the main entrance opening into the main room or hall. Most early residences built in this design were one room deep with gable roofs and exterior brick chimneys.

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The greatest number of early brick residences were built in central hall or central passage plan arrangements. In these homes the main entrance opens onto a central hallway flanked by two large rooms. Each of these rooms contains a fireplace and often decorative Federal style mantels. One-and one-half or two-story central hall plan residences generally have the main staircase located in the central hall. Several notable examples of this style were built in the county.

Some of the finest residential architecture in Williamson County was constructed between 1830 and 1860. The development of the ante-bellum plantations resulted in many fine frame and brick homes erected in these years. Frame and brick residences constructed in Williamson County from 1830 to 1860 followed designs common in the upper South. Common details include central passage plan arrangements, classical features such as dentils and modillions, Doric influenced square columns and symmetrical floor plans. Both the one and two-story residences built by the wealthier farmers of the county often reflected the popular Greek Revival style. The Greek Revival style was the primary influence in the square and round columned porticos which were built on the more pretentious houses of the period.

The most common house form of the period were one and two-story frame I-Houses of three or five bays in width. Almost all were built in central hall designs with rear wings in ell or T plans. On the main facades are central entrances with Greek Revival influenced transoms, sidelights and surrounds. Another feature are one and two-story gable porticos with square or round Doric columns. This type of house form is very common in Williamson County although many have been altered or remodeled in the 20th century.

After the Civil War most of the large and ornate residential and commercial buildings were constructed in Franklin. A number of fine Italianate and Second Empire style residences and stores were constructed around the town square from 1865 until 1900. Only a few large Italianate residences were built in the rural areas of the county in these years. The majority of historic structures which survive in Williamson County are frame buildings constructed between 1875 and 1910 in rural areas of the county and in the Franklin historic districts. Most of these fit into several categories of building plans and forms and are generally unpretentious interpretations of the styles of the period. These fall into four general categories:

- T-plan or ell plan designs: These residences are distinguished by a projecting gabled bay on the main facade of the house. This house type is generally one-story in height, of frame construction and with milled decoration on the porch or eaves.

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- Central passage plan designs: This house type is often a simple rectangular form of three to five bays with the main entrance in the central bay. These residences often have a one-story rear ell or wing containing the kitchen and dining area. They are generally of frame construction with milled decoration at the eaves and porch.
- Hipped or pyramidal roof forms: These house forms are generally one-story frame residences built in rectangular floor plans. From the corners of the house the roof line extends to form hipped or pyramidal roof forms. Most of these residences have the main entrance in the central bay with decoration limited to eaves and porch.
- Cumberland designs: The Cumberland house form is distinguished by its two doors on the main facade. These doors lead into separate rooms which often share a central chimney. These homes are usually of four bay design with the two central bays containing the entrances. Decoration on these house forms is usually limited to milled porch posts and other porch decoration.

These vernacular house types make up the great majority of residential architecture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They are typical of folk or vernacular house forms constructed throughout the upper South during this period. The availability of sawn lumber, balloon frame construction and other technological advances contributed to the proliferation of these house forms. These types of folk house forms are found both in the rural areas of the county and in the older sections of Franklin.

By the early 1900s the influence of the Neo-Classical style resulted in the construction of several fine frame residences in Franklin. This style was also used to remodel earlier log and frame homes to provide more ornate and pretentious facades. The style also influenced more simpler one-story frame and brick residences of the period. The use of classical porch columns, dentils, modillion blocks and other classical decoration became widely used after 1900.

After 1900, Franklin's population grew as new roads and railroads connected the town with Nashville and adjacent counties. From 1900 until 1940 most of the notable residential architecture built in these years took place in Franklin. Houses reflecting the Colonial Revival, Bungalow and English Tudor styles were built in the Hincheyville area and along Lewisburg Avenue. Most of these houses were built on small lots creating a dense and compact streetscape in the areas around the Public Square. There are no examples of the Art Deco or International style in the residential areas of Franklin but some commercial buildings in the downtown area do have Art Deco inspired detailing. After 1940, the architecture of the county followed established national trends with many new subdivisions and tract housing built outside of Franklin and in Brentwood.

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An architectural survey of Williamson County was completed in 1986 and a total of 1,127 structures were surveyed outside of Franklin. Within Franklin are approximately four hundred other structures located within the Franklin and Hincheyville Historic Districts. Franklin is noted as containing some of the finest 19th century architecture in Middle Tennessee. In the downtown area are numerous brick and frame Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate design homes and businesses. This significant grouping of architecture was recognized in 1973 and 1982 with the listing of the Franklin and Hincheyville Historic Districts. The Franklin Historic District includes the original 16 block area of the town and is composed of commercial buildings and public buildings around the town square and many 19th century residences located to the north, west and south of the square. The Hincheyville District is a residential area distinguished by its wide tree lined streets and late 19th and early 20th century architecture.

In the rural areas and small communities outside of Franklin over 90% of the structures surveyed were one and two-story frame residences. These are primarily one to two-story dwellings built between 1870 and 1920 in vernacular designs common in Tennessee. The most popular of these house forms are:

- T-Plan or ell plan designs - approx. 160.
- Central passage plan designs - approx. 220.
- Hipped or pyramidal roof forms - approx. 46.
- Cumberland designs (two doors on main facade) approx. 55.

In addition to these common residential forms over 200 log structures from the 19th century were surveyed. The great majority of these have been significantly altered or enclosed with new materials. Approximately 60 brick residences were surveyed in the county most of which were built before 1860.

In the county 23 frame and 10 brick churches were surveyed. The frame churches are generally one-story gable roof designs with weatherboard siding. They are simple rectangular forms with little decorative detailing. Brick churches are predominately early 20th century Gothic and Romanesque designs. Thirteen school buildings were surveyed in the county most of which were built between 1900 and 1925. Most of these were abandoned one and two room schools in various stages of deterioration. Several of these retain enough integrity and significance to be considered National Register eligible.

Commercial buildings outside of Franklin are located primarily in the smaller communities such as Nolensville, Lieper's Fork and College Grove. Several also remained standing at smaller crossroads communities such as Duplex, West Harpeth and Bingham. The majority of these commercial buildings are one-story frame general stores built between 1890 and 1925. Thirty-nine commercial buildings were surveyed in the county outside of Franklin. No covered or frame



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historic bridges are extant in the county. Eight metal bridges of Pratt Truss and Warren Truss design were surveyed but half of these have been replaced in recent years.

Communities such as College Grove, Nolensville, Burwood, Thompson Station and Lieper's Fork contain a number of vernacular frame residences from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. None of these communities, however, retain large enough concentrations or integrity of historic architecture to qualify as an historic district. The same holds true for the small crossroads settlements such as Bethesda, Peytonsville and Duplex where many of the older structures have been razed or replaced with modern homes.

The majority of properties included in the nomination are ante-bellum log, brick and frame homes representative of Williamson County's settlement and pre-war plantation complexes. Many of these homes are associated with prominent early settlers and families who influenced the growth and development of the county. In addition to these homes a number of brick and frame residences, churches and commercial buildings built between 1870 and 1915 have been nominated which are significant through architecture or commerce.

### Methodology

The survey of Williamson County's historic structures began in 1973 by staff of the Tennessee Historical Commission. This survey was continued over the next decade until completion in 1986. At the conclusion of the survey 1,127 structures and sites were inventoried exclusive of the buildings in the Franklin historic districts. The survey was performed under the guidelines of the Tennessee Historical Commission as part of the on-going statewide survey of architecturally and historically significant properties. Funding for the survey was provided by funds from the Tennessee Historical Commission and Williamson County Heritage Foundation.

The survey was conducted in accordance with established procedures set forth by the survey officer of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Each road that was passable in the county was driven and properties examined to ascertain age and appearance. All properties and sites which appeared over fifty years of age and not significantly altered were photographed and a state inventory form completed. Photographs generally consisted of three black and white 3X5 photos and a color slide for each property. Sites were also marked on USGS quad maps to pinpoint their location.

Between 1971 and 1987 a total of thirty individual properties and three historic districts were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the county.

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These properties and their date of listing are as follows:

1. Old Natchez Trace - Trace Route running southwest to northeast in the county, 5/30/75.
2. Mooreland - U.S. 31 in Brentwood, 7/24/75.
3. James Johnston House (Asola Bella) - U.S. 31 south of Brentwood, 3/26/76.
4. Glen Echo - North of Franklin off U.S. 31 on Spencer Creek Road, 11/7/76.
5. Harrison House - South of Franklin on Columbia Pike, 6/18/75.
6. Winstead Hill - Two miles south of Franklin on U.S. 31, 11/29/74.
7. Homestead Manor - North of Thompson Station on U.S. 31, 4/29/77.
8. Fewkes Group Archaeological Site - 4/21/80.
9. Wyatt Hall - North of Franklin on U.S. 31, 7/2/80.
10. Bostick Female Academy - Hwy. 41A, Triune, 4/15/82.
11. Meeting-of-the-Waters (Thomas Hardin Perkins House) - Northwest of Franklin on the Del Rio Pike, 8/26/82.
12. Montpier (Nicholas Perkins House) - Northwest of Franklin off Old Hillsboro Pike. 8/26/82.
13. Ravenswood - Wilson Pike, 7/7/83.
14. Newton Cannon House - Taliaferro Road, 4/19/84. (Burned and removed from National Register in 1987.
15. Parks Place - Cox Road, 9/27/84.
16. Cedarmont - Off TN 96, 7/12/84.
17. Cool Springs Farm - Jordan Road south of Moores Lane, 11/10/84.
18. Mountview - 913 Franklin Road, (U.S. 31), Brentwood, 11/20/86.
19. Oak Hall (Century Oak) - Wilson Pike, Brentwood, 3/13/86.
20. Owen Chapel Church of Christ, 10/23/86.
21. William S. Campbell House (Magnolia Hall) - On TN 96 west of downtown area, 10/29/75.
22. Carnton - Confederate Cemetery Lane, 1/18/73.
23. Fort Granger - Off Liberty Pike, 1/18/73.
24. Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7. - S. Second Avenue, 11/7/73 (NHL).
25. Lotz House - 1111 Columbia Avenue, 12/12/76.
26. St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 510 Main St., 2/23/72.
27. Franklin Battlefield - South of Franklin on U.S. 31, 10/15/66. (NHL)
28. Winstead House - South Margin Street, 4/18/79.
29. Cox House - 150 Franklin Road, 2/28/80.
30. Rainey-Lawrence House - 244 First Ave., 7/8/80.

Franklin Historic District - Bounded by First and Fifth Avenues and North and South Margin Streets, 10/5/72.

Hincheyville Historic District - Bounded by W. Main Street, Fair Street, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th Streets, 4/15/82.

Warner Park Historic District - Along northern border of Davidson County, 1/20/84.

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Determinations of eligibility have been conducted on several properties in the county. Properties determined eligible but not included in the nomination due to owner objections are:

1. WSM Radio Transmission Complex (1982)
2. Ashlawn (1982)

In addition to these properties there are two National Historic Landmarks located in Franklin. These are:

1. Hiram Masonic Lodge No.7 on S. Second Avenue.
2. Franklin Battlefield which contains four properties: Carnton; the Fountain Carter House; Winstead Hill; and Fort Granger.

In 1987, the Williamson County Heritage Foundation was awarded a matching grant by the Tennessee Historical Commission to fund an analysis of the survey data to determine eligibility of sites for listing on the National Register and prepare a Multiple Resource nomination for the county. Thomason and Associates of Nashville, Tennessee was selected as the project consultant.

The consultant and staff of the Tennessee Historical Commission examined each property surveyed to determine potential National Register listing. Previous studies regarding determinations of eligibility by the Tennessee Department of Transportation were also utilized. Approximately 280 sites were determined to warrant further examination. Each of these 280 sites were visited to ascertain changes and alterations since they were surveyed and their architectural integrity. Each site was photographed and as a result of this analysis 135 sites were determined to require historical research and further examination. From this group the final selection of individual properties and districts were completed. The majority of these properties are residences and commercial buildings constructed in the 19th century. No bridges surveyed were determined to meet National Register criteria by the consultant, staff and representatives of the Department of Transportation.

The properties which are mentioned in the MRA are designated by their county code (WM) and survey number. For example, the William Leaton House is number 37 in the sequential numbering of properties in the county and is thus referred to as WM-37.

### Archaeological Surveys:

The archaeological resources of Williamson County have not been comprehensively surveyed and, therefore, no archaeological resources are included in the multiple resource area nomination.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** See individual forms    **Builder/Architect** See individual forms

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Historic Resources of Williamson County Multiple Resource Area are being nominated under National Register criteria A, B, and C. The resources included in the nomination illustrate the architectural and historical development of the county from the 1790s through the early 20th century. The land which was to make up Williamson County was subdivided into tracts which were granted to Revolutionary War veterans from North Carolina. The rich farmland of the county attracted many settlers from North Carolina and many of the large land grants were subdivided and sold in the early 1800s. By 1810, the population of the county was over 13,000 with much of the county in cultivation. This agricultural tradition was dominant throughout the 19th and early 20th century with few industries or manufacturers locating in the county. The county's productive farmland created a prosperous planter class in the 1800s and their homes make up the majority of properties included in the nomination.

The resources of the nomination include the remains of an bridge along the Natchez Trace, ruins of a grist mill, two churches, three school buildings, five commercial buildings, and 78 individual residences notable for their architectural and historical associations. Also included is an extension to an existing historic district and a residential historic district in the county seat of Franklin. Nominated properties include those important in the area of architecture, exploration/settlement, industry, transportation, education, commerce, and politics/government. All nominated properties have undergone few alterations and retain their integrity.

Settlement of the County 1795-1830

In the late 18th century, the land comprising Williamson County was originally part of North Carolina under the Treaty of 1763. This treaty extended the lands of North Carolina westward to the Mississippi River. In 1783, the commissioners of North Carolina disposed of lands in middle Tennessee which the state gave to the "officers and soldiers of the continental line of North Carolina." These lands included present day Williamson County. The land was also claimed by native Indians and a treaty in 1783 established boundaries ceded by the Indians for white settlement. These boundaries changed several times and this confusion and hostile Indian reaction inhibited settlement in the early years.

Settlement of the county was a result of the westward movement across the Appalachian Mountains in the late 18th century. The Donelson and Robertson parties built Fort Nashborough in Davidson County in 1780 along the banks of the Cumberland River and as news of Middle Tennessee's lush lands spread more and more settlers moved into the area. Hunting parties made temporary camps in



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the area which would become Williamson County but settlement did not occur until the late 1790s.

Williamson County was established by the General Assembly of Tennessee on October 26, 1799. The county was named in honor of Dr. Hugh Williamson of North Carolina who was a colonel in the North Carolina militia and served three terms in the Continental Congress. John Johnson Sr., Daniel Perkins, James Buford, William Edmonson and Captain James Spurlock were appointed commissioners to select a site for the county seat and to erect a courthouse, jail and stocks. The county court soon began operation in a log structure constructed in the county seat of Franklin. In February of 1800, roads were ordered laid out in several areas of the county. Daniel McEwen was appointed to oversee the road from Franklin to Holly Tree Gap which would later become the Franklin and Nashville Turnpike (U.S. 31). All persons living on the south side of the ridge and north of the Big Harpeth River were ordered to assist in the construction of the road. Roads were also ordered to be laid out between Arrington and Franklin, from Franklin to Buford's Ford and along McCutcheon Creek.

Soon after the formation of the county the boundaries were altered with land taken to form other countys. The northern boundary along Davidson County was not altered but several boundary changes occurred along the west, south and east sections of the county. In 1803, Rutherford County was formed and part of Williamson County along its eastern edge was incorporated into its boundary. In 1807, Maury County was formed which took territory along the southern section of Williamson County. Other parts of the county were taken throughout the 19th century as boundaries were revised.

Williamson County grew at a rapid rate in its early years. Many of the first settlers of the county were former soldiers who came to settle on lands received from their North Carolina land grants. Some of the first settlers to enter the county were George Neely, Andrew Goff, William McEwen and David McEwen. David McEwen settled on a tract of land along Spencer's Creek and soon farmed and ginned cotton. Other early settlers included Thomas Perkins, Thomas Spence, Daniel McMahan and Thomas Williamson. In 1800, the number of residents in the county was estimated at 3,000 and by 1810, this figure had increased to 13,153. Of this number 9,168 were white while 3,985 were slaves. By 1820, this number had risen to 20,644 which included 13,858 whites and 6,792 slaves.

Transportation in these early years was dependent largely upon the roads constructed by the county. A notable exception was the construction of the Natchez Trace in 1801. A treaty between the U.S. Government and Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians provided for the building of a road from Nashville to

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Natchez. The road was completed within a year and two branches of the road ran through the western section of the county. The Natchez Trace was to be the primary road for western settlers returning from New Orleans during this period. The streams in the county such as the Big Harpeth River and its tributaries were too shallow and narrow to permit any serious river transportation.

The county seat of Franklin was originally part of a 640 acre tract purchased by Abram Maury from Anthony Sharp. Sharp received his grant in 1786 and in 1799 sold the 640 acre tract to Maury for \$1,500. Maury laid out the original boundaries of Franklin and sold town lots setting aside a public square and streets. The town was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin. Within the town of Franklin sixteen blocks were laid out with each block containing twelve lots. The first recorded deed to a lot in Franklin took place on February 4, 1800 when lot # 128 was purchased by William Liggitt for ten dollars.

The first courthouse in Franklin was built around 1800 and was a one-story log building. This was replaced ca. 1806 with a two-story stone and brick rectangular building which stood until 1858. On October 15, 1815 two acts were passed which established the powers and duties of a Mayor and Board of Aldermen and also defined the corporate boundaries of the town. Franklin soon had several stores and taverns as well as a number of residences by 1810. In 1820, a contract was let for paving the public square at a cost of \$1,600. In the early 19th century Franklin became the commercial and political center of the county, a role which it has maintained to the present. The town's court square and Main Street were the principal commercial area which served the county and many of the county's attorneys had their offices around the court square.

The county's large expanse of tillable land and valleys attracted thousands of settlers in the early 1800s. Large sections of land were sold by those receiving North Carolina land grants. Many of these sales were to speculators who then subdivided the land and sold smaller tracts to families moving into the county. The rich land of the central section of the county was especially prized as were the numerous valleys of the Harpeth River watershed in the east and southern sections of the county. The western section of the county was sparsely settled and avoided in these years due to the hilly topography and poorer soil.

The rich land of the county soon supported many large farms producing grain, cattle, cotton, and tobacco. By 1807, the county had six grist mills in operation and by the 1820s over a dozen cotton gins were also in use. Descriptions of the county in these years cite the county's diversity of agricultural products. Cotton and tobacco were raised in abundance in the county but they were not integral to the area's economy. Instead the county was known for its wide range of grains produced such as wheat, corn, and sorghum as well as sheep, cattle

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and pigs. While most homes of this period were simple log or frame structures, many of the owners of the larger estates acquired wealth to construct one and two-story brick homes.

The land east of Backbone Ridge in the northern section of the county was settled at an early date with several families owning large tracts of land and constructing log and brick homes. Prominent early residents of this section of the county included the Perkins, Sneed, McCutcheon, McEwen and Crockett families. These families settled in the county between 1795 and 1810, owned thousands of acres and built notable log and brick residences.

Some of the finest early homes built in the county were those constructed by the Perkins family. Thomas Hardin Perkins came to Williamson County in 1800 and began construction of a two-story brick home which was completed ca. 1810. Built at the forks of the Big Harpeth and West Harpeth Rivers, this house was called "Meeting of the Waters" and was one of the finest homes built in the county before 1830 (NR-1982). His relative, Nicholas Perkins constructed "Montpier" in 1822 (NR-1982) and amassed a farm totalling 12,000 acres along the Natchez Trace and West Harpeth River. Nicholas Tate Perkins constructed "Two Rivers" ca. 1810 on a 500 acre tract (WM-54). He also constructed "River Grange" ca. 1825 as a gift to his daughter upon her marriage (WM-55). These homes constructed by the Perkins family were built with Federal style detailing and are some of the oldest brick residences remaining in the county.

William and David McEwen were two of the earliest settlers in the county and came through Holly Tree Gap in 1798. David McEwen settled along Spencer Creek and constructed a single pen log cabin which still stands (WM-70) and may be the oldest structure remaining in the county. McEwen owned several hundred acres in this area and operated a blacksmith shop which was well known in the area. He later constructed a brick residence known as "Springland" which burned in 1874. His son, Christopher McEwen built "Aspen Grove", a two-story brick residence on the Franklin Pike ca. 1834 (WM-71).

One of the most prominent families in the northeast section of the county were the Sneeds who came to Williamson County along with the Perkins family in 1798. James Sneed was a native of Virginia and married Bethenia Perkins. Sneed served in the Revolutionary War and received a land grant of 640 acres in the area just southeast of present day Brentwood. He built a log home on this tract which still stands although significantly altered. His oldest son, Constantine Sneed constructed a two-story brick residence known as "Windy Hill" ca. 1828 (WM-87). Two other sons of James Sneed constructed log and brick homes nearby the original Sneed homeplace. Both homes were built in the early 1830s and although they still stand they have been significantly altered.



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Also receiving a 640 acre grant for Revolutionary War services was Andrew Crockett. Crockett settled southeast of Brentwood and constructed a log residence by 1799. This residence was later enlarged ca. 1850 but the original log pen of the Crockett House remains (WM-86). His son, Samuel Crockett later began the construction of a two-story brick residence he completed ca. 1808 and named "Forge Seat" (WM-82). In addition to the house Crockett also constructed a log building containing a forge where he made iron implements and specialized in rifle making. Crockett's guns were in great demand and Andrew Jackson purchased several on his way to New Orleans. The log building containing the forge still stands adjacent to Forge Seat.

Thomas Wilson moved to Williamson County in the early 1800s and his family built log homes on several hundred acres southeast of Brentwood. His grandson, James Hazard Wilson II, became a prominent landowner and businessman. In 1825, Wilson constructed a two-story brick home he named "Ravenswood" (NR-1983). Wilson later built "Century Oak" (NR-1986) and "Inglehame" for his children. Inglehame later burned and has been remodeled. Wilson Pike was named in honor of the Wilson family.

One of the earliest settled areas of the county was in the eastern section. This area is characterized by high hills, fertile valleys and is drained by the Big Harpeth River and Nelson, Wilson and Arrington Creeks. Nelson Creek was named for Major John Nelson, a Revolutionary War soldier who settled in this section in the late 1780s. Nelson sold land to John Wilson in 1788 and Wilson's Creek was named in his honor. Another notable early settler was William Jordan of Virginia who came to the Triune area in 1796. Jordan built a log cabin on a tract of land southeast of Triune.

For a time Major John Nelson sought to increase the value of his lands through promotion of a new community on the road between Franklin and Murfreesboro. This town was to be called Nelsonville and was platted on Nelson's Creek near Triune. Nelson sold around thirty lots for his town in the 1790s and early 1800s. In 1801 the Williamson County Court ordered that a road be built between Franklin and Nelsonville but the town remained little more than speculation and no residences were ever constructed. The town site was eventually purchased by prominent landowner Newton Cannon and Major Nelson gave up his land promotion and moved to Montgomery County.

Notable early settlers of the Triune area include several whose homes still stand. William Jordan moved to the county in 1796 and his descendants constructed the Newton Jordan House on the site of his earlier log home (WM-259). Both John Russwurm and Hartwell Hyde moved to the area in 1810 and constructed homes which still stand (WM-243), (WM-247).

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The earliest settlement where Triune now stands was called Hardemen Cross Roads in honor of Bailey Hardemen an early landowner and merchant. Situated at the junction of the Nashville-Huntsville, Alabama Road and Franklin-Murfreesboro Road, Hardeman Cross Roads became a prominent community in the early 1800s. By the 1820s the town had several stores, leather shops and saloons. In 1826, Thomas Perkins constructed a brick storehouse which stood until 1931 and other substantial buildings were constructed here during these years. Other early commercial enterprises included Allison's Mill on Wilson Creek which was established in 1802. Several of the early plantation homes are also recorded as having mills such as the John Jordan residence and Hartwell Hyde residence. The Hyde plantation maintained a flour mill and cotton gin and Newton Jordan also operated a cotton gin on his property.

Nolensville was founded in the early 1800s by William Nolen and his family who came to the area in 1797. Nolen constructed a log residence at the settlement which was named in his honor and the home still stands although significantly altered. Another notable building, the King's Inn, was built in the early 1800s and was a well known hotel in the 19th century. The building was later used as a residence until it was razed in recent years. Nolensville contained several shops, stores and mills by 1830.

Around the Nolensville area several early log residences were constructed. Sherwood Green settled east of Nolensville in the early 1800s and constructed a two-story log residence (WM-194). Green was a surveyor and he accepted land as payment for his services. By the 1820s Green owned over one thousand acres in this section of the county. Numerous log residences were also built in the valleys west and south of Nolensville. The most notable of these which remain are the Lamb-Stephens House (WM-1066), John Winstead House (WM-108) and Abram Glenn House (WM-204). These residences were all originally single pen log residences which were later enlarged and covered with frame siding. The homes were the center of farms composed of several hundred acres along the creek bottoms and valleys.

Along Overall Creek in the College Grove area several families settled at an early date. William Ogilvie settled on the creek in 1800, built a log residence next to a fine spring and cultivated over 300 acres of land (WM-233). Ogilvie's daughter married James Allison who built a log house on lands adjacent to the Ogilvie property. Allison amassed a large estate of several hundred acres and his son William Allison built an imposing two-story brick residence in the late 1820s. Known as "Allison Heights," this residence is one of the oldest and finely crafted brick residences in the College Grove area (WM-232).

The southern section of Williamson County is hilly with broad fertile valleys

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well watered by numerous streams and the West Harpeth River. The rugged Duck River Ridge stretches across the southern section and forms the watershed of the Harpeth and Duck Rivers. Many early brick and log homes are scattered throughout this area of the county. The most notable brick homes built before 1830 include the John Neely House (WM-693) built ca. 1810 and the Spencer Buford House built ca. 1813 (WM-732). A large estate was owned by Samuel B. Lee at Duplex who built a two-story frame house ca. 1835 (WM-345).

Many log residences were built in the southern section of the county but most have been significantly altered or razed. The most significant remaining example is the John Pope House at Burwood (WM-636). This two-story log residence was constructed by Pope ca. 1806 and it was the center for a large estate totalling over 2,000 acres. Other log homes built in this time period were later added to with frame additions before the Civil War such as the Francis Giddens House (WM-752).

The western section of the county was the last area to be extensively settled due to its steep, hilly terrain and poor soil. While a number of log homes were built along Lick Creek, Leipers Fork and the South Harpeth River, none have survived unaltered. There are no significant pre-1830 log, brick or frame residences built in this section of the county.

The rapid settlement of the county was also reflected in the rise of crossroads settlements across the county. These settlements often contained a cotton gin, grist mill, several stores and a post office. In 1811, a post office was established at Lieper's Fork and by 1830 there were nine posts offices in addition to Franklin. Post offices were located at settlements such as Nolensville, Hardeman's Crossroads (Triune), Cotton Port, Harpeth and Bellboro. Over the next decade five new post offices would be added in the county.

Some of the most significant construction in the county before 1830 took place in the county seat of Franklin. From its early days Franklin was the primary economic, social and governmental center in Williamson County. None of the rural towns or communities ever rivaled Franklin in prominence. The town was noted by many early travelers for its fine brick homes and public buildings. Within the original sixteen block section of the town are some of the county's finest pre-1830 architecture. Early Federal style homes include Clouston Hall constructed ca. 1830 and the John Eaton House built ca. 1815. Both homes are located in the Franklin Historic District (NR-1972). Another important early Federal style home is the Carter House built ca. 1830 (NR-1966). All three homes display Adamesque elliptical fanlight transoms at the main entrance. Another notable area of early homes is "Hincheville" located west of the original town boundaries which was subdivided in 1819 (NR-1982).

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In addition to these buildings Franklin also contains the 1823 Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7 which is one of the few Gothic Revival structures erected in the county (NR-1973). This building is also a National Historic Landmark for its role in the 1830 Chickasaw Indian treaty. This meeting was held at the lodge and attended by President Andrew Jackson, Commissioners and representatives of the Chickasaw tribe. This treaty led to the removal of the tribe westward across the Mississippi River.

### Williamson County 1830-1860

From 1830 until the Civil War Williamson County was one of the most productive and prosperous counties in Tennessee. Its rich farmland supported a wide variety of crops and many major plantations evolved during these years. These plantations often encompassed over 500 acres but the majority of farms in the county were generally of 100 to 200 acres in size. In addition to these homes, the three decades before the Civil War saw the construction of many fine brick homes. These homes were predominately central hall plans of one to two stories in height. The more pretentious of these residences featured Greek Revival influenced porticos with square Doric columns. Interior details also reflected the Greek Revival period in the mantels, door and window surrounds and other woodwork. Most of these brick homes also had a number of related outbuildings such as kitchens, smokehouses and farm buildings such as barns, henhouses, graineries and corn cribs.

Most large farms or plantations in the county were dependent upon slave labor. From 1830 to 1850 the census figures show a growing number of slaves in the county with many of the larger plantations having 25 or more. In 1850, there were 14,266 whites as opposed to 12,864 black slaves. The county also contained 71 free colored residents. Slaves were an integral part of the economy providing labor in the cultivation of cotton, tobacco, wheat and other crops. Slaves also looked after the livestock and performed household duties on the farms. A few also became accomplished craftsmen and records cite slaves as contributing to the construction of several homes in the county.

The productivity of the county's farmland made it the second richest in the state by 1850. The 1850 Census shows that the cash value of the farmland in the county was \$5,208,237.00, second only to Davidson County. The county achieved this high valuation through a diversity of crops as opposed to reliance on one cash crop such as cotton or tobacco. The county was among the top five in the state in the cultivation of rye, corn, oats, tobacco and potatoes and among the top ten in the production of wheat, peas, barley and hay. The county was 11th in both cotton and wool production. The county was also a leader in livestock and was in the top five in the number of horses, mules, cattle, sheep and pigs. The total value of its livestock was estimated at nearly one million

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dollars. By 1850, almost half of the land in the county was under cultivation as established farms expanded and new farms were begun.

Transportation in the county improved significantly as several major turnpikes were completed. These turnpikes were built by private companies who charged a fee for their use. The first of these to be chartered was the Franklin Turnpike Company which was established in 1830 to extend a road from Franklin to Nashville. Other companies were formed and completed the Hillsboro Pike, Cox Pike, Lewisburg Pike, Carter's Creek Pike and Wilson Pike. By 1860, these pikes totaled over 120 miles of roads in the county. Although traffic on the Natchez Trace declined from its earlier years, it remained an important road in the western section of the county.

From this period over thirty significant brick and frame residences have survived. These homes were the center of large plantations and they display the some of the finest construction of the ante-bellum era. In the central section of the county many fine homes were built facing the Franklin and Columbia Pike which ran from Brentwood to Franklin and then south towards Columbia. Facing the pike north of Franklin were Mooreland (NR-1975) built ca. 1838 by Robert Moore; Mountview, built ca. 1860 by William A. Davis (NR-1986); the James Johnston House built ca. 1840 (NR-1976); Aspen Grove built ca. 1834 by Christopher McEwen (WM-71); The Thomas Shute House built ca. 1850 (WM-69); and the Alpheus Truett House built ca. 1845 (WM-65). In addition to these homes was Midway built ca. 1847 by Lysander McGavock which has been altered. South of Franklin along the Columbia Pike were the William Harrison House built ca. 1850 (NR-1975) and the James Johnson House built ca. 1854 (WM-739).

In the eastern section of the county brick residences constructed in this period included the James Sayers House built ca. 1845 (WM-139); the John Seward House built ca. 1850 (WM-155); the Newton Jordan House built ca. 1835 (WM-259); the Thomas Holt House built ca. 1840 (WM-84); and the John Winstead House built ca. 1855 (WM-107). Several notable two-story frame residences also survive in this section of the county such as the Royal Oak Farm built by William King ca. 1854 (WM-175); the James Webb House built ca. 1850 (WM-261); and Maplewood built by Samuel B. Lee ca. 1835 (WM-345)

On the rich farmland surrounding Franklin a number of fine brick homes were constructed including Glen Echo built ca. (NR-1976); the Franklin Hardeman House built ca. 1835 (WM-291); and the Samuel Glass House begun ca. 1860 (WM-993). Frame residences built in the vicinity of Franklin include the Thomas Brown House built ca. 1842 (WM-397); the Hezekiah Oden House built ca. 1840 (WM-289); the Stokely Davis House built ca. 1850 (WM-46); the Beverly Toon House built ca. 1857 (WM-277); and the Samuel S. Morton House built ca. 1850 (WM-672).

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In addition to the rise of the large plantations and construction of large brick and frame homes, the county's prosperity resulted in the formation of a large merchant class operating stores, shops and industries in Franklin and the small communities and crossroads of the county. Many of the present communities in Williamson County date their origins to this period.

The community of Allisona was originally known as Jordan's Store and was an important crossroads in the southeastern section of the county. By the 1850s the community boasted cotton gins, a blacksmith shop, sawmill and tobacco factory. A cotton factory was also in operation in Allisona for a number of years before burning in 1856. The town was named in honor of Margaret Allison who was related to James Allison. The James Allison House (WM-232), built ca. 1827 is the most notable ante-bellum structure remaining in Allisona. None of the early commercial or industrial buildings survive.

Bethesda was formed along Rutherford Creek in the early 1800s as a small community serving the needs of area farms. Several early settlers built log and frame homes in the area such as the Bond and Steele families. The Bethesda Methodist Church was organized in 1832 and a brick church was constructed in 1844. Of the homes constructed in the Bethesda area the William Steele House is the most notable and unaltered. No historic commercial buildings survive.

College Grove was originally part of the Allison and Ogilvie lands along Overall Creek. Several roads intersected the area and the small community which grew up here was originally known as Poplar Grove. In 1861, a post office was established at the community and the name changed to College Grove because of the existence of a boys and girls school. The boys school was known as the Cary and Winn School which was a two-story brick structure and stood until 1916.

The community of Leiper's Fork was named for the family of Hugh Leiper, an early settler of the area. The town was also known as Bentontown in honor of the prominent Benton family. Thomas Hart Benton moved to the community around 1800 and practiced law in Franklin and Nashville. His brother, Jesse Benton, seriously wounded Andrew Jackson in a brawl in 1813 and two years later the Benton family moved west to Missouri. The original Benton home no longer stands. A post office was established at Leiper's Fork in the 1840s and several stores were in operation by the Civil War.

In the east central area of the county Peytonsville was established by the 1840s. Several roads intersected at the community and in the 1850s a tannery and two stores were located here. Other communities which grew during this period were Nolensville which was listed as having two dry goods stores in 1853, Triune which contained four stores and Riggs Crossroads located in the southeast section of the county.

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The dominant town of the county continued to be Franklin in the decades before the Civil War. By the early 1850s the town had a population of 1,500 and boasted four hotels, several flour and grist mills, dozens of shops centered on the public square and several factories producing carriages and wagons. New brick and frame homes were built in these years on the streets surrounding the square. Most of these were central plan I-House designs with Greek Revival influenced porticos and interior detailing.

In addition to the many fine homes which were built in the downtown area notable brick churches and public buildings were erected in these years. St. Paul's Episcopal Church was constructed in 1834 and is one of the finest examples of the Gothic Revival style in the county (NR-1972). A fine Greek Revival Church was built by the Presbyterian congregation in 1841 which stood until 1887. Another excellent Greek Revival building was the present Williamson County Courthouse completed in 1859. The building was completed with a two-story Doric portico with iron columns cast from ore mined at the Harpeth Furnace.

On the eve of the Civil War, Williamson County could boast of its prosperous agricultural character. Over 100 plantations in the county were composed of 300 or more acres with twenty three totaling over 1,000 acres. The number of slaves per plantation were generally from 8 to 15. The largest plantations in the county included those of Samuel Glass (WM-993), H.G.W. Mayberry (WM-676) and James H. Wilson (Ravenswood NR-1983) all of whom had holdings of over 1,000 acres.

These farms produced a wide range of crops and livestock as Franklin continued to develop as an important commercial center of the region. Manufacturing was of minimal importance in the county in comparison to other areas of the state. The county possessed few minerals with the only production of iron ore recorded at the Harpeth Furnace which operated from ca. 1835 until 1860. The county lacked substantial coal deposits or few other minerals in great quantities. The 1860 Manufacturers Census records 21 establishments in the county most of which were wagon makers, tanners or blacksmiths. The annual value of these products came to only \$185,000.

While railroads were built in Tennessee as early as the 1830s Williamson County did not have a rail connection until just prior to the Civil War. In the late 1850s the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad was completed south from Nashville through Franklin and on to Columbia. Before this railroad could have much impact on the local economy the Civil War began and traffic was disrupted in the war years.

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In 1860, the county voted overwhelmingly for native son John Bell for president. Bell was born in Williamson County north of Nolensville and became a prominent attorney. He later moved to Nashville, was elected to the U.S. Congress and served as Speaker of the House of Representatives. By 1860, Bell ran for president from the Constitutional Union Party. In the election Bell narrowly carried the state but easily won in Williamson County. With the national election of Lincoln and firing on Fort Sumter the county voted overwhelmingly to secede and in April of 1861 the county court voted a tax to provide a relief fund for the families of volunteer soldiers. Many residents of the county joined regiments and militia in anticipation of the fighting ahead.

The Civil War in Williamson County

Few counties in Tennessee were affected more strongly and suffered more than Williamson County. In addition to the major battle at Franklin on November 30, 1864, there were substantial engagements fought at Brentwood, Thompson's Station, Nolensville, Triune and the Spring Hill area. The large plantation complexes were ravaged during the war and many residences were used by the occupying forces of both armies to shelter wounded and sick soldiers. The county also sent many of its youths to fight in the war and many of the notable families of the county lost sons in the conflict.

One of the first organized body of troops in the county were the Williamson Greys which constituted Company D of the First Tennessee Infantry. This regiment fought at Shiloh and in most other major engagements of the Army of Tennessee. Company E of the Third Tennessee Infantry was also composed primarily of men from the county and this regiment was also part of the Army of Tennessee.

In the Triune area a large number of young men joined Company B of the 20th Tennessee Infantry under the command of Captain Joel A. Battle. Thomas Benton Smith and William B. Mathews of Triune were lieutenants of this company and Smith later rose to the rank of Brigadier General. Another company of the regiment was raised from the Triune, College Grove, Peytonsville and Bethesda area, known as the Webb Guards in honor of Dr. William Webb of Triune. Company H of this regiment was recruited in Franklin and many from this company were killed in combat. Other companies and battalions raised in the county became part of other infantry and cavalry regiments.

During the war Williamson County was the site of many minor and major engagements. The central Tennessee area was called the "breadbasket" of the Confederacy and it was of strategic importance. With the fall of Nashville in



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February of 1862, Confederate forces were forced to temporarily abandon the county but southern troops reoccupied the county during the summer and fall. Triune was a strategic point during the war and a number of engagements were fought at the crossroads. After Bragg's Kentucky offensive in 1862, he retired to Murfreesboro with his left wing situated at Triune. Several infantry and cavalry brigades were stationed in the Triune area. With the advance of the Union army on December 26th the troops were pulled back to Murfreesboro. As they withdrew there was constant clashes between the advancing Union and retreating Confederate forces. During the Battle of Murfreesboro on December 30th, Confederate General Joseph Wheeler struck at the Union supply trains between Nashville and Murfreesboro. At Nolensville Wheeler captured 150 wagons and took three hundred prisoners.

Following the Confederate defeat at Murfreesboro, Bragg's army retreated to the valley of the Duck River and Williamson County was again occupied by Union forces. Franklin became heavily fortified with Fort Granger (NR-1973) constructed across from the town on the Harpeth River to cover the approaches of the railroad. Triune was occupied by Union forces and an elaborate system of fortifications were erected at the crossroads. During April, May and June of 1863 several cavalry skirmishes were fought in the area including a June 11th engagement when Nathan Bedford Forrest's division penetrated the Union lines capturing horses and men. During the Union occupation of Triune the Methodist Church, Baptist Church, Porter Female Academy and several private homes were burned.

On March 5, 1863 occurred the notable engagement at Thompson Station. A force of close to 3,000 Union soldiers moved south towards Spring Hill commanded by Colonel John Coburn. At Thompson Station this force was met by 6,000 Confederate cavalry and infantry led by Generals Nathan Bedford Forrest and Earl Van Dorn. The fighting took place around Homestead Manor (NR-1977) and the Union forces were decisively defeated losing over 1,500 men captured, killed or wounded. During the fighting Forrest's favorite horse, Roderick, was killed beneath him and was buried on the Spencer Buford plantation (WM-732). The Buford house was later renamed "Roderick" in his honor.

Following the fight at Thompson Station the remnants of the Union force fell back to Brentwood and took refuge in a stockade. On March 24, Nathan Bedford Forrest led two cavalry brigades to Brentwood and surrounded the stockade. Outnumbered and outgunned the Union garrison surrendered and Forrest captured almost 800 men and their arms and ammunition.

In the summer of 1863 the Union army under General William Rosecrans maneuvered Bragg's Confederate army out of central Tennessee. Bragg was

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forced to fall back from his line along the Duck River and for the next year Williamson County remained in Union hands with only minor skirmishing occurring in the county. In one of these engagements in September of 1864, General John Kelley was mortally wounded in a cavalry skirmish near Franklin. He was brought to the William Harrison House (NR-1975) on the Columbia Pike where he died.

After the defeat of his army at Atlanta in the summer of 1864, Confederate General John Bell Hood decided to march northward into Tennessee in an attempt to force Sherman's army from Georgia. Although there were strong Union forces in Tennessee they were scattered and Hood's strategy was to defeat them in detail before they could unite against him. During November Hood marched his army north across the Tennessee River and confronted Union forces under the command of General John Schofield at Columbia. Hood attempted a flanking maneuver with the majority of his army crossing the Duck River east of town and marching towards the Union line of retreat at Spring Hill on the Williamson County border. Through a series of blunders and misunderstood orders Hood's army failed to take advantage of their advantageous position and Schofield's army escaped northward to Franklin.

On the morning of November 30th, Hood and his army awoke to find that Schofield's army had slipped past to Franklin. Hood sent his available troops northward and by late afternoon confronted the entrenched Union army. Schofield had ordered entrenchments dug along the south side of the town in anticipation of a possible engagement. In addition to this strong position Fort Granger dominated the area south of the town with its artillery. Despite the strong Union position and over the objections of his officers Hood ordered an attack in the late afternoon. Schofield braced his men for the assault and set up headquarters at the Alpheus Truett House across the river (WM-65).

Hood's available troops consisted of the corps of Benjamin Cheatham and A.P. Stewart totalling some 16,000 men. Attacking across an open plain from Winstead Hill the Confederate forces suffered severe casualties but penetrated the Union line near the Carter House. A Union counterattack pushed back the southern troops and for several hours bitter fighting occurred in the trenches and lines around the Carter plantation. At nightfall Schofield pulled his army out of line and retreated across the Harpeth River towards Nashville.

The next morning revealed Hood's army wrecked with casualties amounting to over 6,000 including 1,750 killed. Many of the houses and public buildings in the Franklin vicinity were used to house the thousands of wounded after the battle. At Carnton five Confederate generals were laid out on the porch and the house was an important hospital after the battle. Many soldiers rested or recuperated in Franklin after the battle for several weeks. The Carter House, Carnton and

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Winstead Hill were notable sites during the battle and are part of the Franklin Battlefield, a National Historic Landmark (NHL-1966).

Despite his losses Hood proceeded north to Nashville where he confronted Union troops under General George Thomas. In the two day Battle of Nashville on December 15th and 16th Hood's army was routed and retreated south towards Franklin. As the army fell back skirmishing occurred at Holly Tree Gap south of Brentwood. Franklin was abandoned and all of Williamson County was once again in Union hands. No further serious fighting occurred in the county.

With the surrender of the Southern armies in April and May of 1865, Williamson County soldiers returned home. Most of the large plantations had suffered economically through the continual loss of produce in the war to both armies. Hundreds of thousands of dollars represented in slave ownership also were lost through emancipation.

### Williamson County 1865-1900

Williamson County's rich agricultural base helped the county recover in the years after the war. A guidebook for immigrants on Tennessee in 1868 described the county as one of the most fruitful in the state with its land per acre valued at \$14.43 which was fourth in the state. The amount of improved land continued to be approximately one half of the county. The major pre-war plantations remained in original hands in most instances with few families moving out of the county after the war. Only a few black residents left the county after the war with the 1870 Census showing 11,411 blacks in the county versus 13,917 whites. Most blacks became tenants or sharecroppers on the county's farms although a small number purchased and farmed their own land. From 1860 to 1870 the total population in the county grew by approximately 1,500.

The Civil War and its aftermath did not result in extensive breakup of the larger estates. In 1859, twenty-three estates were listed with 1,000 or more acres and in 1870 nineteen were in the same category. The county continued to be made up largely by small farms which was the general pattern before the war. Of the 2,467 farms in the county in 1870, 1,980 were less than 100 acres and only eighteen totaled over 500 acres.

In many cases the pre-war plantations, although reduced in size, were still quite productive and prosperous. These included the 700 acre estate of James P. Johnson on Laurel Hill farm (WM-739), the H.G.W. Mayberry farm of 900 acres (WM-676) and W.A. Boyd's farm of 528 acres which contained his mill (WM-999), (WM-990). Other large estates were those owned by Samuel Glass who had 808 acres (WM-993), Thomas F.P. Allison with 700 acres (WM-232), Mrs. E.B. Hyde with 900 acres (WM-247) and John Winstead with 488 acres (WM-107).

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The value of the agricultural products of the county remained high with the 1870 Census showing the production of farm products to be fourth in the state. The county was in the top five in the cultivation of wheat and top ten in the cultivation of corn and rye. It was also in the top ten in the number of pigs, cows and mules. Cotton and tobacco were still major crops in the county but their cultivation ranked only in the top fifteen counties in the state. Manufacturing remained limited with carriage and wagon makers remaining the major industries in the county.

As the farms in the county recovered after the war there was an increase in the prominence of the small crossroads communities. An 1871 state directory lists ten communities in the county along with Franklin which were centers for commerce and population. These included Bethesda with two general stores and a saloon; Brentwood with one general store and a saloon; College Grove with two general stores; Hillsboro (Leiper's Fork) with a general store and two saloons; Nolensville with two general stores; Thompson Station with four general stores; and Triune with six general stores.

Of these communities Thompson Station grew the fastest after the war due to its location along the railroad. Thompson Station was named for Elijah Thompson, an early practicing physician of the area. Thompson Station developed as a railroad town along the route of the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad. The railroad through the area was completed in 1860 and Thompson Station was designated as a stopping place that year. The railroad line later became part of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad system. In the years after the Civil War Thompson Station became an important shipping point for area farmers. Livestock and produce were brought to the station and loaded on boxcars for shipment to market.

By 1885, Thompson Station contained approximately 200 residents, three general stores, a cotton gin, two grist mills, a Methodist Church and a Christian Church. The train depot had a freight office, telegraph office and as many as five passenger trains a day passed through Thompson Station in these years. The town was the dominant community in the southern section of the county. To the east of Thompson Station the town of Bethesda had a population of 80 by 1887. In the town were a blacksmith, two cotton gins, two churches, a flour mill and several stores. North of Bethesda was Peytonsville with a population of 50, a blacksmith shop and several stores. A post office was also located at the crossroads of Duplex.

In the eastern section of the county Nolensville, Triune and College Grove were all thriving towns in the 1880s. Nolensville had a population of 200 and boasted three livestock dealers, two general stores, three physicians and two blacksmiths. Triune had a population of 57 with two general stores, a grist mill

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and lumber manufacturer. In College Grove were 100 residents with three cotton gins, two saw and corn mills, two general stores and a wagon maker.

In the northern section of the county the dominant community was Brentwood with a population of 200. The first official mention of the community occurred in the mid-1850s when the railroad was constructed south of Nashville through Williamson County. The town became a rail center for the northern section of the county and by the 1870s a flour mill and woolen mill were in operation. Brentwood was also listed as containing two saloons and five general stores in addition to the woolen mill. Other important crossroads north of Franklin included Forest Home which had a store and post office and Grassland which was listed with a population of 20 in 1887. Centered around the William Leaton House known as Grassland (WM-37) was a post office, two grist mills and several livestock dealers.

In the western section of the county in 1887 were post offices at Boston, Jingo and Leiper's Fork. Boston had a population of 40 with two sawmills and two livestock dealers. Jingo had only a country store and post office. Leiper's Fork was the largest community with several stores and mills. This area remained sparsely settled with few centers of commerce.

Fernvale was a thriving community in the late 19th century and was the site of one of Williamson County's most famous resort. Originally known as Smith's Springs, the complex of sulphur and freestone springs was purchased by Colonel John B. McEwen after the Civil War. During the 1880s a large two-story hotel was built which could accommodate 114 guests. Other log cabins and residences were built around the springs and it was one of the county's most popular attractions in the late 19th century. In 1901 the resort advertised a park of ten acres with a fountain, ice house, bathhouse, laundry and store in addition to the spacious accommodations. By 1910, fires had destroyed the hotels at the complex and the spa was abandoned. No structures remain associated with the Fernvale Springs complex. Another well known spring was the Cayce Spring located northeast of Burwood. This spring complex was also popular in the late 19th century and a large hotel was built nearby. Only a few altered cabins remain at this spring site.

Franklin's economic and social dominance of the county continued in the late 19th century. In 1871 the town contained 66 businesses including several carriage and wagon manufacturers and cotton and grist mills. Around the public square and along Main Street were dozens of brick and frame commercial buildings and a number of fine homes were built in these years on the streets around the square. Most of the original town lots had been subdivided and occupied by residences and businesses by the 1870s. The town then began to expand to the west and south. To the west was the Hincheyville subdivision

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which had been laid out by Hinch Petway in 1819. Only a few substantial homes had been built in this area before the Civil War and it became a notable residential neighborhood of the late 19th century (NR-1982). In addition to the Hicheyville area the land along Lewisburg Avenue south of the court square was subdivided during this period.

Reflecting the county's rapid recovery after the war was the opening of several major banks in the 1870s and 1880s. In 1871, the National Bank of Franklin was chartered with a capital stock of \$50,000. Ten residents of the county invested \$5,000 each to form the bank and these ten investors included Mordecai Puryear and Franklin Hardemen. This bank was one of the primary financial institutions of the county until it closed in 1926. A second Franklin bank of the post-war period was the Farmers National Bank which was chartered in 1883 with assets of \$50,000. This bank only lasted two years and closed in 1885. The Williamson County Banking and Trust Company was chartered in 1889 with a stock of \$40,900. This bank remains today as the Williamson County Bank and continues at its original corner location on the public square. Another historic bank still in existence is the Harpeth National Bank which was chartered in 1906. The bank was originally located on Main Street but later moved to the public square.

In addition to being the commercial and governmental center of the county, Franklin was the home to the Tennessee Female College in the late 19th century. The school had its beginnings in 1857 but classes were suspended during the war. From 1870 until the early 1900s the school was a major educational institution in the county. The main building was torn down in 1916 and there are no buildings standing associated with the campus. Another important school was Battle Ground Academy which opened in 1889 on the Columbia Pike. This school for men had several notable buildings on its campus in the 19th century but none of these remain. The school is the only 19th century private academy to remain in operation.

From 1870 until 1900 the population of the county grew by about 1,000 from 25,328 to 26,429. No major industries opened during these decades and agriculture remained the dominant economic base of the county. Hundreds of new frame homes were built in the county during these years and they make up a substantial percentage of the existing historic architecture of the county. Most of these are one-story frame residences built in T-plan, central hall or pyramidal roof forms typical of the period. These homes were built primarily by farmers who worked their own small farms or were tenants or sharecroppers for the larger estates.

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Outside of Franklin, relatively few large brick and frame residences were built in the county. Notable exceptions include the Italianate style John Hunter House (WM-1023) and Andrew Vaughn House (WM-208). The Owen-Cox House on Moores Lane was also remodeled into an Italianate design during this period (WM-126). One of the most significant houses built in the county after the war was the Y.M. Rizer House constructed on Del Rio Pike (WM-59). Built ca. 1875, the house is a combination of Italianate and Second Empire detailing and is unique in the county. Important Italianate design frame dwellings built in the 1870s include the Henry Pointer House (WM-340), Jordan-Williams House (WM-197), James Wilhoite House (WM-234) and the Thomas Critz House (WM-344).

An unusual addition to the county's architecture in the 1890s was the Knights of Pythias Pavilion which was moved to a hill west of Franklin (WM-996). The pavilion was originally located on the grounds of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in Nashville which was held in 1897. It was purchased after the exposition and moved by wagon to its present location off Highway 96. The building is of Neo-Classical design and features a prominent red dome.

In the rural areas of the county many new frame and brick churches were built in these years to serve growing denominations. Most of these were simple rectangular design churches with gable roofs and minimal detailing. Several more elaborate churches were built in the county in these years with the best examples the College Grove Methodist Church (WM-225) and the Trinity Church on Wilson Pike (WM-932). The frame College Grove Methodist Church features extensive stickwork and vergeboard in the gable fields and also has its original beamed ceiling interior. The brick Trinity Church was completed in 1897 and is a rare example of the Romanesque style with rounded arched doors and windows.

By 1900, the composition of Williamson County continued much like it had since the end of the Civil War. Most residents were farmers who raised corn, wheat, cotton and livestock. Over half of the county was under cultivation with only the western section still sparsely populated. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad attracted a few small industries to Franklin but no other large businesses came to the county in these years. The rural, pastoral nature of the county remained largely unchanged as it entered the 20th century.

Williamson County in the 20th Century

In the early 1900s agriculture remained the dominant economic base for the county. The 1910 Census listed the county with a population of 24,313 with the majority living on farms. There were 3,015 farms in the county of which 2,467 were occupied by whites and 540 by blacks. The majority of farms continued to

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be less than 100 acres with only 50 farms having land over 500 acres. The average value of the land remained high with an average of \$29.68 per acre which was well above the \$18.53 per acre average in the state. The average number of acres per farm was 107 acres which was also higher than the state average of 81 acres per farm. The state continued to be a leader in the production of corn, wheat and livestock.

Several small banks were opened in the smaller towns of the county which reflected the relative prosperity of the farms and farming communities. The Nolensville Bank (WM-1117) opened in 1906 in a two-story brick building and served the community for over twenty years. It was forced to close on October 22, 1932 during the Depression. In 1911, a bank was opened in College Grove in a one-story frame building. This building was brick veneered with a modern front in 1927 and the bank continued to operate at this location until 1965 (WM-903). In 1965, a new structure was built and the original building converted into shops. The Thompson Station Bank and Trust was formed in 1914 and a one-story bank building was constructed facing the railroad tracks (WM-764). This bank only lasted thirteen years and was closed in 1927. The Bank of Leiper's Fork began operation in 1912 but also closed in 1932 during the Depression. Its original building also stands but it has been significantly altered.

In addition to these bank buildings only a few other commercial structures have survived from this period. There are no unaltered 19th century commercial buildings extant in the county outside of Franklin and only a handful from the early 20th century. Most historic store buildings have been razed or significantly altered. The two best remaining store buildings from the early 20th century are the Thompson Store at Duplex (WM-282) and the Huff Store at Burwood (WM-638). The Thompson Store is a one-story frame building constructed ca. 1900. It served as the main general store and post office for Duplex until the mid-20th century. The Huff Store is a one-story hipped roof frame building which continues to be operated as a general store. Built ca. 1911 the store is remarkably unaltered.

The educational facilities of the county were expanded in the early 1900s when dozens of new one room school houses were constructed. These buildings were of frame construction with gable roofs and displayed minimal detailing. Few of these school buildings have survived. A notable example in the county is the Forest Hill School located on Carter's Creek Pike (WM-670). This one room school remains in good condition and has not been altered. The Liberty Hill School (WM-527) and Liberty School (WM-1050) were built in this period and although both are vacant they display their original designs and detailing.



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Only a few notable residential structures were built in the county from 1900 to 1935. Most homes built during this period were one story frame dwellings built in vernacular designs. After 1915 the Bungalow style was especially common. The influence of the Colonial Revival and Neo-Classical styles is visible primarily in the Franklin vicinity. In 1902, the Henry H. Mayberry House was built on the east side of the Harpeth River and is one of the best examples of the Neo-Classical style in the county (WM-64). The influence of this style can also be seen in two remodelings which took place in the early 1900s. The brick Randal McGavock House burned ca. 1906 and its brick walls were used to fashion a Neo-Classical design home (WM-371). Similar remodeling took place in 1916 to the Maney-Sidway House and an elliptical portico was added to the main facade (WM-66).

Good examples of the early 20th century designs such as Bungalow, Colonial Revival and Tudor styles were built along Lewisburg Avenue south of Margin Street. These houses represent an important grouping of architecture from this period. High style designs from 1910 to 1935 such as Art Deco and Art Moderne are found only in the downtown areas of Franklin and no examples are located in the county. Bungalows were built throughout this period but no exceptional designs are extant outside of Franklin.

From 1930 until 1960 Williamson County continued to grow slowly and agriculture remained the primary economic source. In 1930 there were still 3,005 farms in the county with the average farm totalling 107 acres. Eighty-five percent of the land area of the county was in farm production and forty-four farms were listed with 500 acres or more. Of the county's population of 22,845 the rural population was listed at 19,468 and only 3,377 lived in Franklin and the smaller communities. This dominant rural makeup continued on into the 1960s. The population of the county in 1960 was 25,267 of which 6,977 lived in Franklin.

Between 1930 and 1960 several industries located in Franklin most notably the Samsonite plant. Most of the rural communities remained quiet places in these years. College Grove, Thompson Station, Burwood and Leiper's Fork continued as trading centers for area farmers although many of the stores in these towns went out of business or moved to Franklin. Brentwood became known for its nightclubs which supplied liquor to thirsty patrons of Davidson and Williamson Counties. An important structure built near Brentwood was the WSM Radio Transmission complex built between 1932 and 1940. The radio tower was the first of its kind to be built in Tennessee and the transmitting process was also innovative. The tower broadcast the WSM "Grand Ole Opry" beginning in 1932 which played an important role in the development of country music. Still in operation, the WSM complex has been deemed eligible for listing on the National Register, however it has been excluded from this nomination due to owner objection.

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The most dramatic change in these years was the rapid settlement of the western section of the county. In 1929, Tennessee Highway 100 was completed west through the county from Nashville and the town of Fairview grew rapidly. By the 1950s it had become the second largest community in the county and incorporated in 1959. The construction of Interstate 40 northwest of Fairview in the 1960s also brought new growth to this region.

Since 1960 Williamson County has been the fastest growing county in the state. The completion of Interstates 65 and 40 through the county and the growth of Metropolitan Nashville has resulted in thousands of new residents. Commercial expansion around the interstates and in the Brentwood and Franklin vicinities has been significant. Between 1960 to 1970 the population of the county grew from 25,267 to 34,423 which was an increase of 36%. From 1970 to 1980 the increase was even more dramatic with the population jumping from 34,423 to 58,108, an increase of 68%. The estimated population in 1985 was over 77,000 and the projected population for 1990 is 96,388.

This enormous growth has impacted all sections of the county with the areas around Franklin and in the Brentwood area the most heavily developed. Many new industries have located to the county including Georgia Boot/Durango which employs 2,000, C.P.S. Industries with a work force of 900 and the Southwestern Company which employs 400. These companies and other industries have located primarily in Franklin or along Interstate 65 in Brentwood.

The impact of this growth can be seen across the county. In 1982 the number of farms had dropped from approximately 3,000 in 1930 to 1,595. The percentage of land in farms also dropped from 85% to 65%. The amount of farm acreage continues to decrease with the development of land for residential or commercial use. As the rural nature of the county is being transformed efforts are underway to mitigate the impact of this rapid development. In 1986 and 1987 several planning efforts were begun to protect and preserve the county's natural vistas and beauty.

### Planning, Preservation and Restoration Activity

Williamson County has a long tradition of preservation activities. In the 1960s the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County was formed to promote and encourage the identification and preservation of historic resources. Many of the county's most notable homes were listed on the National Register in the 1970s as was the historic downtown area of Franklin. Also in the 1970s a cultural resource survey was undertaken by Mr. Herbert Harper of the Tennessee Historical Commission and Mrs. Virginia Bowman, Williamson County Historian. The appreciation for the county's historic architecture was evident during the 1970s when many residences were purchased and restored.

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The cultural resource survey of the county was continued into the 1970s by the Tennessee Historical Commission and completed in 1986. Over 1,100 sites were surveyed in the county and form an important source of data for future planning efforts. The Heritage Foundation employs full time staff members to promote preservation planning within the county. Their efforts have resulted in assistance in the completion of the Williamson County MRA and the formulation of protective ordinances for the preservation of these properties. The survey information and information in the nomination can be utilized into the review and planning process of the county, Tennessee Historical Commission and other state and/or federal agencies.

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**Significance: Architecture**

Architectural Development 1795-1830

The earliest settlers came to Williamson County in the 1790s and built structures and cleared land in the fertile areas along the Big and West Harpeth Rivers and their tributaries. The oldest remaining residences in the county are one-story log structures which have detailing typical of log construction in the Southeast. Perhaps the oldest remaining log building in the county is the David McEwen Cabin (WM-70) which was erected ca. 1798. This cabin was originally a single pen or one room structure with a gable roof and small loft area used as a sleeping area. A second single pen room was later added and the two attached by an open breezeway. Although somewhat altered the McEwen Cabin typifies log construction techniques found throughout much of the 19th century.

Log construction techniques were fairly uniform in Williamson County in the early 19th century. Both single pen and double pen dogtrot designs were popular in the county and make up the largest number of extant significant log residences. Logs were hewn or squared and notched together using half-dovetail notching techniques. Square and V notching was also used but this was very rare in comparison with half-dovetail notching. Between the logs both wood slats or rock chips were laid diagonally to help anchor and seal the mud chinking. The mud chinking was often mixed with horse or hog hair for greater strength. The earliest log homes had exterior limestone chimneys but brick chimneys were later used in abundance as brickmaking increased in the county.

The interior of the log residences were very simple consisting of one room with corner enclosed staircases. These staircases were quite steep and led to the loft area or sleeping quarters. In double pen dogtrot construction the stairs would often be built in the breezeway itself for access to the loft. Original doors on these log homes are predominately of simple vertical board construction. Fireplace mantels in most early log homes were also simple in design and reflected Federal influences with incised carvings or fluting. Almost all early log homes in the county were later covered with frame weatherboard siding as the use of pit saws and sawmills increased in the county. Roofs originally had a wood shake surface but virtually all log residences had these roofs replaced with metal standing seam or other more durable roof surfaces in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

The best examples of single pen log construction remaining in the county include the John Winstead House (WM-108), Lamb-Stephens House (WM-1066) and Abram Glenn House (WM-204). The Winstead House was built ca. 1800 and originally consisted of a single pen residence. Later a second single pen was added diagonally and the area between the two log pens was framed in. The Winstead House features its original mantels in both pens. Similar construction

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is seen in the Glenn House where an original single pen residence constructed ca. 1810 was later enlarged with a second pen also set at the rear of the main house. The added rear pen of the Glenn House appears to have been used as a kitchen. The Lamb-Stephens House follows this pattern.

Double pen dogtrot design residences are also found in the county with the best examples displayed by the John Herbert House (WM-152) and Beasley-Parham House (WM-433). Both houses were built with two log pens joined by an open breezeway or dogtrot and each pen has an exterior chimney. Both residences had the breezeways enclosed with weatherboard siding by the end of the 19th century. The original form and plan of the double pen dogtrot style is evident in both residences. In addition to these log homes there are many other residences included in the nomination which have one or more log pens enclosed or enlarged by later frame additions.

Many log homes are extant in the county but relatively few exist with minor alterations. Many early log structures have been covered with weatherboard and later artificial sidings or totally remodeled to negate their architectural character. Also popular is the disassembling of log structures, their removal to another site and rebuilding as residences or outbuildings. Extensive development in the county has also resulted in significant attrition of log resources.

Stone construction in the county was extremely rare in the early 19th century. The Laban Hartley House (WM-375) is the only remaining example of residential stone construction. This house was built ca. 1810 and was constructed in a hall-parlor plan. Over the doors and windows is stone jack arching and the house has exterior stone chimneys. Due to fires and remodelings no other original detailing is extant and its alterations make it ineligible for National Register listing.

Brick construction was also popular in the county in the early 19th century and between 1800 and 1830 a number of significant brick residences were constructed. Brick became available with the establishment of kilns in the county between 1800 and 1810. Early uses of bricks are found in home construction, kitchens and chimneys. These early residences had a number of different floor plans which are found throughout Tennessee, although many of the earliest homes were constructed in hall-parlor plans.

Hall-parlor plans consist of two large rooms on the first floor with the main entrance opening into the main room or hall. Most early residences built in this design were one room deep with gable roofs and exterior brick chimneys. The best examples of this style are seen in the Samuel Crockett House (WM-82) and the John Neely House (WM-693). Both residences were built in typical hall-parlor arrangements and retain their original configuration. The Crockett

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House had several brick wings added to the original section but the Neely House has not had its floor plan altered. Another excellent hall-parlor plan brick residence is the John Crafton House (WM-270). In addition to these homes evidence suggests that the Nicholas Tate Perkins House (WM-54) was originally built in a hall-parlor design but the interior has been altered.

Single and double cell brick residences from this period are very rare or have not survived. The best example of this design is the John Russwurm House (WM-243) which was constructed in two separate phases. The original residence consisted of a one-story brick residence consisting of one large room with the stair in the corner. This house was later enlarged with a two-story double cell addition. This double cell arrangement is the only remaining example of this type of construction in Williamson County. The Constantine Sneed House (WM-87) appears to have originally been built in a double cell plan but it has been altered.

The greatest number of early brick residences were built in central hall or central passage plan arrangements. In these homes the main entrance opens onto a central hallway flanked by two large rooms. Each of these rooms contains a fireplace and often decorative Federal style mantels. One-and one-half or two-story central hall plan residences generally have the main staircase located in the central hall. Examples of this style in the county constructed before 1830 include the William Allison House (WM-232), Newton Jordan House (WM-259), Mordecai Puryear House (WM-287) and the Douglass-Reams House (WM-540). All of these houses are noteworthy examples of this style and retain their original detailing. The Allison, Jordan and Puryear House are all of single pile or one room deep construction with rear ells or wings while the Reams House is double pile or two rooms deep and lacks a rear addition.

All of the brick homes constructed in the county before 1830 share certain characteristics. All were constructed of Flemish bond brick on the main facade with side and rear facades often being laid in five to seven course common bond. The residences rest on cut limestone or sandstone block foundations and have exterior brick chimneys placed outside the wall or just inside the wall. Dependencies such as kitchens, smokehouses and other support buildings were usually located at the rear or side facades of the main house. Kitchens were almost always detached from the main house and connected by means of an enclosed breezeway. The Jordan House is an exception with large fireplaces in the basement utilized for cooking.

Door and window design are remarkably similar in these early brick residences. Doors are usually of five or six panel design and of pegged construction. These style doors were used on both the exterior and interior of homes. Windows were nine-over-nine, six-over-six or variations of the six and nine sash. Windows and

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sills were often of wood but in the more pretentious homes such as the Allison and Perkins house stone lintels and sills were used.

Frame residences constructed during this period have not survived in unaltered condition to the present. Frame houses that do survive from this period represent frame construction or additions around a log core. Often a single pen or double pen log residence would be later covered with weatherboard and other rooms added. Most frame additions usually were added after 1830 although some additions to residences such as the William Ogilvie House (WM-233), Knight-Moran House (WM-44) and others may have been added prior to this date. No records survive for these early log homes which address additions and the application of weatherboard siding.

The majority of residences built in the county in the early 19th century and continuing into the early 20th century had a number of frame or brick outbuildings constructed nearby. Those which survive reveal typical patterns found throughout the county. These outbuildings were important to the daily activities of the farm and included kitchens, smokehouses, milkhouses, springhouses, icehouses and barns and sheds for livestock and grain storage. Log and frame buildings for slave quarters were also erected nearby. Most of these surviving outbuildings were located within 50 yards of the rear of the main residence. These outbuildings represent an important part of 19th and early 20th century plantation development and many are included as contributing properties in the nomination.

No churches, schools or commercial buildings exist in the county outside of Franklin which were constructed prior to 1830. Within the Franklin Historic District are several fine commercial buildings such as the Parkes Cotton Factory on E. Main Street and the McPhail Office on Main Street. Another public building still standing from this period is the exceptional Gothic Revival Masonic Hall on Second Street. In the county several fine churches and schools were built before 1830 but these no longer stand. Among these were the Hardeman Academy at Triune built in 1828 which burned in 1903.

#### Architectural Development 1830-1860

Some of the finest residential architecture in Williamson County was constructed between 1830 and 1860. The three decades prior to the Civil War saw an expansion of the county's agricultural based economy. By 1860 the county was the second richest in Tennessee in terms of the value of land, crops produced, ownership of slaves and other economic indicators. The wealth of the plantations financed a building boom in the county with many fine brick and frame homes constructed in these years. Many early log structures were also enlarged or received substantial frame additions. Over forty significant residences exist outside of Franklin.

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The construction of log residences continued to be popular in these years although frame siding was more available and preferred for building construction. Log homes were built by the numerous yeoman farmers who tilled several hundred acres in the valleys and hollows of the county. Williamson County remained an attractive area for settlers who purchased tracts from the first wave of landowners.

Log construction techniques differed little from those built earlier in the century. They continued to be of single or double pen design and often built with the dogtrot or open breezeway. Logs were hand hewn of half dovetail construction and brick chimneys were added to the exterior of each pen. Doors and windows on these later log homes were of better construction and interior finishes were also somewhat more sophisticated such as the use of lathe and plaster walls or frame paneling.

Log residences typical of this period include the single pen Lamb-Stephens House (WM-245) built ca. 1836 and the double pen Beasely-Parham House (WM-433), perhaps the county's best remaining example of the double pen dogtrot style. The house is remarkably intact and retains an original Greek Revival design mantel. Weatherboard siding was added on the main facade in the late 19th century but was not added on the rear facade.

While log construction continued during these years the increased wealth of the owners often resulted in the enlargement or additions to the original log homes. Enlargements could simply be additional one-story rooms built laterally or at the rear of the log structure or more ornate two-story columned frame additions added adjacent to or essentially over the original log sections. An example of this pattern can be seen in the William Boyd House (WM-999).

Some of the most imposing two-story frame residences of this period were constructed adjacent to or incorporated earlier log residences. The Owen-Primm House (WM-124) and Andrew Crockett House (WM-86) typify this type of addition. Both residences originally consisted of single pen log residences. Both were enlarged around 1850 with the addition of a two-story central passage plan residence built at right angles to the original log section. The log section then became the ell in the resulting ell plan residence.

In other enlargements the roof of the original log pen was removed and a second story of frame was added and the entire structure covered with weatherboard. Doors were often enclosed and window openings altered to be compatible with the new frame addition. The result was a uniform facade which often gave little indication of the older log section underneath. This type of enlargement was popular between 1830 and 1860. Residences such as the Sherwood Green House (WM-194), William Leaton House (WM-37) and John Motheral House (WM-41) were all transformed during these years into imposing two-story residences.



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Frame and brick residences constructed in Williamson County from 1830 to 1860 followed designs typical of the upper South. Both the one and two-story residences built by the wealthier farmers of the county reflected the popular Greek Revival style. The Greek Revival style was the primary influence in the square and round columned porticos which were built on the more pretentious houses of the period. Paired and tri-part windows, architrave molding, doors with rectangular transoms and sidelights were all borrowed freely from the more high style Greek Revival residences.

It does not appear that any pure high style Greek Revival residence was ever built in Williamson County. Perhaps the closest example was Everbright built ca. 1838 just south of Franklin on Columbia Pike (razed 1937). This two-story residence had massive square columns and an extended central portico. Everbright was not constructed in the classic Doric, Ionic or Corinthian temple form but instead incorporated aspects of classical influences. These influences are what were used to transform the vernacular one and two story I-House plans into the columned reflections of Greek architecture.

The brick homes of this period show a strong degree of similarity in their construction and use of Greek Revival detailing. Residences such as the Thomas Holt House (WM-84), John Winstead House (WM-107), Thomas Shute House (WM-69), James Sayers House (WM-139) and John Seward House (WM-155) all display similar construction. The houses are either three or five bays in width with the central bay containing the main entrance. These entrances have Greek Revival detailing in the doors, transoms, sidelights and surrounds.

The main feature of each of these homes are two-story porticos with large square two-story columns with Doric motif capitals. These porticos often feature other classical detailing such as dentils, brackets or modillion blocks. Interiors of these homes also often feature architrave molding and Greek Revival influenced fireplace mantles. In addition to these residences several other houses were built in this style which are listed on the National Register. These include Century Oak prior to alterations (NR-1986), the James Johnston House (NR-1976), Mountview (NR-1986), Mooreland (NR-1975) and the Harrison House (NR-1975).

Many other brick homes constructed in this period were also originally of similar design but over time the original porticos have been removed or altered. Houses such as the Christopher McEwen House (WM-71), the Nathaniel Smithson House (WM-354), and James Johnson House (WM-739) had two-story porticos which were altered in later remodelings.

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Frame residences of this period also show similar detailing and the influence of Greek Revival forms. The most common plantation form of the period were one and two-story frame I-Houses of three or five bays in width. Almost all were built in central hall designs with rear wings in ell or T plans. On the main facades are central entrances with Greek Revival influenced transoms, sidelights and surrounds. Another feature are one and two-story gable porticos with square or round Doric columns. Again, details such as dentils, brackets and modillion blocks are found along cornices, eaves and door and window surrounds. This type of house form is very common in Williamson County although many have been altered or remodeled in the 20th century.

These residences are found throughout the county but are most common in the central and eastern sections. The best two-story vernacular I-House examples are the William King House (WM-175), Alpheus Truett House (WM-65), Claiborne Kinnard House (WM-675), Thomas Brown House (WM-397), Beverly Toon House (WM-277) and Stokely Davis House (WM-46). One-story examples include the Samuel S. Morton House (WM-672) and James Collins House (WM-92).

In the small towns and rural areas of the county there are no ante-bellum commercial buildings which survive. At many of the crossroads and small communities in the county were frame stores which served the farmers of the area. Many of these stores also served as post offices for the surrounding area. Unfortunately, none of these have survived to the present.

The best example of church architecture in the county before the Civil War is found in Franklin. St. Paul's Episcopal Church (NR-1972) is one of the finest remaining Gothic Revival style churches in middle Tennessee. In the rural areas of the county only two brick ante-bellum churches remain: Owen Chapel and the Harpeth Presbyterian Church. Owen Chapel (NR-1986) was built in 1860 on Franklin Road and displays simple Greek Revival detailing. The original sanctuary of the Harpeth Presbyterian Church was built in 1836 in a simple rectangular plan. The church was extensively altered in recent years and does not meet National Register criteria.

One school, the Boiling Spring Academy (NR-1980) remains extant from this period. Constructed in 1832, the school is a two-story structure with one large room on each floor. Other schools of this period such as the Cary and Winn Academy at College Grove have been demolished.

### Williamson County Architecture 1865-1937

The majority of historic structures which survive in Williamson County are frame buildings constructed between 1875 and 1910. The frame residences are

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are one and two story residences typical of vernacular designs in the Southeast. Most of these fit into several categories of building plans and forms and are generally unpretentious interpretations of the styles of the period. Few examples of high style frame residences remain intact from this period in the county outside of Franklin. Many of the large and ornate frame residences built in the county during this period have been razed or altered.

The most common vernacular designs of this period were T-plan and central passage plan designs. A fine example of a one-story T-plan residence is the George Morton House near Nolensville (WM-184). This residence retains original Italianate features such as rounded arch windows and eave decoration. Notable examples of late 19th century central passage plan residence include the James Scales House (WM-224) and William Johnson House (WM-166) which display period decoration at the eaves and porch. These residences are good examples of central passage designs common in the late 19th century.

The Jordan-Williams House (WM-197) is an excellent example of a rural Italianate design with Eastlake trim. The house is essentially a central hall I-House plan which is distinguished by its arched fenestration and elaborate two-story verandah. Other fine frame Italianate design residences exist such as the Henry Pointer House (WM-340) and Thomas Critz House (WM-344). In addition to these residences there are several vernacular designs with fine Eastlake and Queen Anne decoration associated with prominent residents of the county. A good example of this style is the Dr. Urban Owen House (WM-901) in College Grove.

One of the most significant frame residences in the county is the Knights of Pythias Pavilion (WM-996) which was originally constructed in Nashville for the 1897 Centennial Exposition. The pavilion was part of the Centennial complex and after the Exposition came to an end it was purchased and moved to Williamson County. The house has Colonial Revival detailing and a prominent central projecting dome. The house has not been altered and is one of the most unusual designs in the county.

Outside of Franklin there were few brick residences constructed in the county during these years. Several fine Italianate design residences were built in the county including the John Hunter House (WM-1023) and the Andrew Vaughn House (WM-208). Both were built ca. 1875 and feature arched fenestration and ornate eaves. Few alterations have occurred to the residences. The Owen-Cox House (WM-126) was originally an earlier one-story brick residence but was remodeled into the Italianate style ca. 1875. The house was again remodeled in the early 1900s with added metal columns.

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One of the most interesting brick residences built in the late 19th century was the one-story Y.M Rizer House (WM-59) built ca. 1870 on Del Rio Pike. This residence combines both Italianate and Second Empire influences. The main facade has arched fenestration, projecting bay windows and an ornate entrance. The house's most distinguishing feature is its slate mansard roof which has varied types of shingles and colors. While several residences in Franklin are Second Empire designs, the Rizer House is the only example of Second Empire detailing in the county.

In addition to residential architecture a number of schools, commercial buildings and churches remain from the late 19th and early 20th century. Most of these buildings were vernacular designs of the period and are not architecturally distinguished. Most 19th century commercial buildings were simple one and two story frame and brick buildings with minimal detailing and none have been nominated for their architectural significance. An excellent brick school, the Bostick Female Academy (NR-1982) was constructed in 1885 at Triune and is the best remaining school building of the late 19th century.

The majority of churches constructed in the county in the late 19th century are one-story, one room frame vernacular buildings. These share similar detailing with gable roofs, weatherboard siding, large windows and one or two doors on the main facade. The most ornate frame church in the county is the College Grove Methodist Church built ca. 1890 (WM-225). This church has elaborate Eastlake design decoration in the gable field and retains its original vaulted beamed interior. Another notable church is Trinity Methodist Church on Wilson Pike (WM-932). This Romanesque design church was built in 1897 and displays its original exterior and interior detailing. Other notable churches built at the turn of the century have been altered or razed.

After 1900 several fine brick Neo-Classical designs were constructed in the county. The best example of these is the Henry H. Mayberry House (WM-64) constructed ca. 1907 on the Harpeth River opposite Franklin. The two-story brick structure has a large two-story Ionic portico on the main facade and an ornate interior. The early McGavock-Gaines House (WM-371) was also remodeled in 1902 into a Neo-Classical design and renamed Riverside. A two-story portico was added on the main facade and the interior was completely remodeled.

Several other 19th century residences were also remodeled into Neo-Classical or Colonial Revival designs in the early 1900s. A good example of this type of remodeling is the Maney-Sidway House (WM-66) which was originally built ca. 1836. The residence was completely remodeled in 1916 with a two-story elliptical portico and decorative eaves. Other residences remodeled in this period include the Claiborne Kinnard House (WM-675) and the James Giddens House (WM-752).

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After 1920, Franklin's population grew as new roads and railroads connected the town with Nashville and adjacent counties. From 1920 until 1940 most of the notable residential architecture built in these years took place in Franklin. Houses reflecting the Colonial Revival, Bungalow and English Tudor styles were built in the Hincheyville area and along Lewisburg Avenue. There are no examples of the Art Deco or International style in the residential areas of Franklin but some commercial buildings in the downtown area do have Art Deco inspired detailing. After 1940, the architecture of the county followed established national trends with many new subdivisions and tract housing built outside of Franklin and in Brentwood.

**Significance: Commerce**

Five properties are being nominated under criteria A because of their commercial importance in Williamson County. The Thompson Store (WM-282) and Huff Store (WM-638) are the only intact examples of early 20th century country crossroads stores. During the 19th and early 20th century commercial store buildings in the small communities and crossroads served the majority of the county's population. These general stores supplied area farmers with food, clothing, hardware and other necessities. They also served as community social centers and often doubled as post offices. With better roads and transportation in the early 20th century the importance of these stores gradually declined and were abandoned.

The Huff Store and Thompson Store are the best remaining examples of crossroads commercial stores. The Thompson Store was in business for over fifty years and served as the post office and primary commercial business for the community of Duplex. The building has not been significantly altered. The Huff Store continues to remain in business in Burwood and is remarkably unaltered. It retains original interior and exterior detailing and still sells a variety of goods and commerce to area farmers.

Also nominated are the Bank of College Grove (WM-903), Bank of Nolensville (WM-1117), and Thompson Station Bank (WM-764). The period from 1900 until 1920 was one of the most prosperous times in history for American farmers. This prosperity was reflected in Williamson County with the rise of commercial banks in the small communities. By 1915, banks had been opened in Leipers Fork, Thompson Station, Nolensville and College Grove which catered to area farmers. The banks were some of the most important commercial enterprises in these communities and thrived for a number of years. With declining farm prices and the coming of the Depression all of these banks were forced to close with the exception of the Bank of College Grove which remains in business in a new building. In recent years the bank at Leipers Fork has been altered but the buildings at College Grove, Thompson Station and Nolensville retain their original design and are important buildings in the commercial history of the communities.

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**Significance: Education**

Three properties are nominated under criteria A because of their educational importance in the county. With the rise of public education in the late 19th century the Williamson County school system built dozens of one room frame schoolhouses across the country. These schools provided the education for the majority of the county's children and were scattered across the county at most crossroads and in most small communities. The schools were used for several decades until the 1940s when consolidation of educational buildings was begun. These early 20th century schools were gradually abandoned and most have been razed or are used for farm storage. The best remaining examples of these early schools are the Liberty School (WM-1050), Liberty Hill School (WM-527) and Forest Hills School (WM-670). All three were built between 1900 and ca. 1920 and have not been altered.

**Significance: Transportation:**

The Old Town Bridge over Brown Creek is nominated under criteria A for its association with the historic Natchez Trace road (WM-47). This road and bridge were built in 1801 by U.S. soldiers and was one of the primary roads of the Southeast during the early 1800s. From 1800 until 1820 the road was heavily used by settlers through Indian territory from New Orleans to Nashville. After 1820, the rise of steamboat traffic lessened its significance and use.

The bridges limestone piers originally carried a frame bridge across Brown Creek near its junction with the Big Harpeth River. The frame sections of the bridge were rebuilt several times and have been dismantled in recent years. In 1975, the ridge route of the Natchez Trace along Backbone Ridge was listed on the National Register. This listing did not include the river branch of the road which ran along the Harpeth River. The bridge is the only site which retains integrity on either section of the Natchez Trace in Williamson County.

**Significance: Military**

The Alpheus Truett House (WM-65) is included in the nomination under criterion A for its association with military history. The Battle of Franklin was fought on November 30, 1864 between Union forces under General John Schofield and Confederate forces under General John B. Hood. Prior to the opening of the engagement General Schofield established his headquarters at the Truett House to oversee the retreat of his men to Nashville. With the approach of the Confederate army Schofield and his staff watched the opening of the battle from the second story balcony of the south portico. For the next several hours Schofield directed his troops while occupying the Truett House and observing the progress of the fighting. The house was later used to house wounded from the battle. The Truett House has not been significantly altered and retains its original design.

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**Significance: Industry**

Two properties are included in the nomination under criterion A for their significance in the industrial development of the county. The Samuel Crockett property (WM-82) contains an original blacksmith forge adjacent to the house. This forge was operated by the Crockett family in the early 1800s and was well known for several decades. The forge produced a variety of farm tools and implements but it was most famous for the quality of its muskets and rifles. During the War of 1812, General Andrew Jackson visited the forge to purchase firearms for his troops. The log building and stone forge seat remain and retain their integrity of construction. No other early blacksmith or forge site has been identified in the county.

Another important industrial site is the Boyd's Mill Ruins (WM-990). Constructed in the early 1800s, Boyd's Mill was one of the major gristmills of central Williamson County. Located on the West Harpeth River, the mill produced flour and corn meal for area farmers for over fifty years. The mill was typical of the period using the force of water to turn large turbines which operated the milling machinery. Grist mills were an integral part of 19th century commerce providing marketable flour and meal for county farmers. Boyd's Mill was one of almost a dozen mills identified as operating in the county in the 19th century. Around 1900 the mill ceased operation and fell into ruins. No historic mill building remains in the county with the stone foundations and turbine pit of Boyd's Mill the most intact examples of mill construction. The Boyd's Mill site is the best preserved example of an early grist mill in the county and its remains are an important reminder of this industry.

**Significance: Politics/Government**

Three properties are included in the nomination under criterion B for their association with individuals important in county politics and state government. The Owen-Cox House (WM-126) is significant for its association with Nicholas N. Cox who served in the U.S. Congress from 1891 until 1899. Cox was the most prominent county politician in the late 19th century and was an able lawyer and legislator. The Franklin Hardeman House (WM-291) is significant for its association with Franklin Hardeman a two term state legislator. Hardeman is most notable for his political efforts during the 1850s which led to the construction of the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad through the county. The William Allison House (WM-232) is notable for its association with Thomas F.P. Allison who served as state Commissioner of Agriculture from 1893 until 1897. Allison was noted for his promotion of the use of fertilizers and was also chief of the state's Agricultural Department at the 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition.

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**Significance: Exploration and Settlement**

Six properties are included in the nomination under criterion A and B due to their significance with exploration and settlement. Five of these are notable for their association with the important settlers of the county. The David McEwen House (WM-70), Andrew Crockett House (WM-86), Daniel McMahan House (WM-109), William Ogilvie House (WM-233) and William Boyd House (WM-999) represent the oldest structures remaining in the county. All five are log buildings constructed between 1798 and 1800 in the initial settling of the county. All were built by families who were influential in the early years of the county. A sixth property, the John Frost House (WM-90), is notable as the only remaining structure from the early 19th century community of Cottonport.

The David McEwen House (WM-70) is a one-story log structure constructed ca. 1798. McEwen was one of the first settlers to enter Williamson County and this residence appears to be the county's oldest remaining structure. McEwen farmed along Spencer Creek and operated a blacksmith shop. As one of the first settlers, McEwen's name figures prominently in early county affairs and in 1799 he was named one of the first county commissioners. His son, Christopher McEwen, later built a large brick home (WM-71) on the property.

In 1787, Andrew Crockett received a 640 acre North Carolina land grant for his Revolutionary War services. Crockett moved to the county in 1799 and built a log residence southeast of the Brentwood area (WM-86). Crockett was a prominent farmer in the area and his son, Samuel Crockett became a noted blacksmith and gunsmith. Samuel Crockett built a home known as Forge Seat in the early 1800s to the east of his father's house (WM-82). When Andrew Crockett died in 1821, his family owned hundreds of acres of prime farmland and had built several fine brick houses in the area.

William Ogilvie came to Williamson County in 1800 and settled in the area southwest of College Grove. Ogilvie was one of the first settlers in the southeast section of the county and he built a log residence ca. 1800 (WM-233). He is mentioned prominently in early records dealing with road construction and court affairs in the east section of the county. Ogilvie owned 315 acres when he died in 1813 at age 84. His early log house has been enlarged and expanded and remains in the Ogilvie family.

In 1799, William Irby Boyd came to Williamson County and built a log residence near the West Harpeth River (WM-999). Boyd was appointed one of the first county commissioners and served in various other offices until his death in 1828. His log home was one of the first constructed in the lands west of Franklin. An addition was made to the original log section ca. 1850.



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The Daniel McMahan House (WM-109) was constructed ca. 1800 by Daniel McMahan, a Revolutionary War soldier who built his home on property awarded through a North Carolina land grant. His log residence was one of the earliest constructed north of Franklin and he is mentioned in many court records of the period. He contributed to road construction, jury duty and other activities in the first years of the county. His house was later enlarged ca. 1850.

The John Frost House is a two-story brick residence constructed ca. 1810 and is notable for its association with the early 19th century town of Cottonport. The house served as the post office for the community which contained a grist mill, stores and other residences. Cottonport was a crossroads settlement which served farmers of the region and was located on the Old Smyrna Road. The house was the focal point of the town for many years which gradually declined towards the end of the 19th century. The Frost House is the only remaining historic structure from this community.

**Significance: Agriculture**

The James P. Johnson House (WM-739) is notable for its association with the Laurel Hill Stock Farm, a famous livestock farm of the 19th century. The farm was begun in the 1830s by Thomas Johnson and later inherited by his son, James P. Johnson, in 1853. During the 1850s the Laurel Hill Stock farm was expanded to over 500 acres and it became known as one of the best livestock breeding farms in middle Tennessee. Johnson operated a large farm complex and stock dealership which bought and sold cattle throughout the region. The farm is referred to in historical accounts of the period and it is listed as one of the most successful farms in the county in the 1886 Goodspeed History. It remained a famous and prominent farm of the county until Johnson's death in the late 19th century. The house and kitchen are the only properties remaining from this farm complex.

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