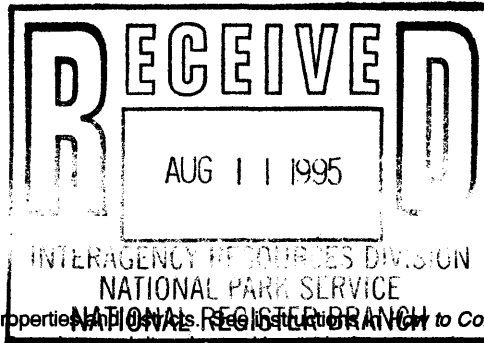


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Lairdland Farm House

other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 3238 Blackburn Hollow Road

N/A  not for publication

city or town Brick Church

vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

county Giles

code 055

zip code 37047

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally,  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays  
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/4/95  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the National Register 9-7-95  
Date of Action

Lairdland Farm House  
Name of Property

Giles County, TN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
4	0	Total

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

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls weatherboard

roof METAL

other

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1830 - ca. 1867

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1830

ca. 1867

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

UNKNOWN

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Tennessee Historical Commission

Lairdland Farm House  
Name of Property

Giles County, TN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.9 acres

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Brick Church, TN 65 SW

1 16 509090 3903440  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn W. Hulan, Preservation Consultant  
organization N/A date May 1995  
street & number P.O. Box 245 telephone 615-684-4473  
city or town Wartrace state TN zip code 37183

### Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

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

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

#### Photographs

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

#### Additional items

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

### Property Owner

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

name Mr. and Mrs. James K. Blackburn, IV  
street & number Route 1 3238 Blackburn Hollow Road telephone 615-363-3874  
city or town Cornersville state TN zip code 37074

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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## DESCRIPTION

The Lairdland Farm House is located in the vicinity of the Brick Church community in Giles County, Tennessee. The property is situated 10 miles northeast of Pulaski, Tennessee, Giles County, off Highway 31A on Blackburn Hollow Road and is identified as a potential participant of Tennessee's Century Farms program. Currently owned and farmed by the great-great grandson, James T. Blackburn, IV, of the farm's first family member and owner, Robert Henderson Laird, it contains 385 acres, reduced from its original 1,000+ acres at its purchase. Robert Henderson Laird purchased the property in the 1830s from Thomas J. Lane. The farm's historic function as a producer of crops (cotton and corn) and livestock (mules and cattle) is continued in its modern form in cattle, horses and hay. The Lairdland Farm House is the central residence surrounded by the following contributing features relevant to the farm's historic and current functions: a limestone rock wall (circa 1850), brick smokehouse and frame office.

Constructed circa 1830s, expanded circa 1860s, the Lairdland Farm House, a one and a half story wooden frame building, retains excellent architectural integrity, as well as site and setting integrity and integrity of workmanship and materials. The site is an important intact, physically uncompromised survival from Tennessee's ante-bellum and mid-nineteenth century period. Additionally, the Lairdland Farm maintains an exceptional relationship with the passage of the land's ownership throughout the generations from its owner, Robert Henderson Laird, to the current owner and family member, James K. Blackburn. The Lairdland Farm is a likely participant in Tennessee's Department of Agriculture Century Farms program. As a valuable historic resource and for its contribution to the architectural heritage of Tennessee's farming community, the Lairdland Farm House, and its contributing outbuildings and elements, is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C.

The Lairdland Farm House, circa 1830, is a locally articulated expression of the Greek Revival influenced architectural style. The building retains the style's elements in its symmetry and its gabled, low-pitched roof; wide entablature; side-lights and transom; porch supported by square, Doric-influenced columns; and pilasters. Resting high on a substantial continuous brick foundation, this one and a half story, rectangular, wooden frame, central passage plan residence features, in its facade, a centrally positioned, wooden based umbrage porch supported by square wooden columns topped with a broad pediment.

The porch is further enhanced by broad wooden, central steps, a decorative wooden balustrade, and a brick walk. The facade is symmetrically arranged around a central entrance with its original wooden

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# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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double doors, multi-paned sidelights and transom flanked by two 6/1 light double hung windows with a double screen door; wings, a circa 1860 addition, extend to the north and south of the central porch and are characterized by 6/6 double hung windows with shutters and corner pilasters. Throughout the exterior the original windows are framed with heavy wooden molding; many are shuttered. A plain wide cornice runs around the house under the roof-line; the roof is a ridged metal seamed roof with multi-gables.

The structure is a traditional central hall design, with three rooms flanking the central hall on the first floor and a rear ell containing a modern kitchen beyond which is an open, contemporary, carport. Seven exterior brick chimneys are prominent structural elements. The second floor contains one room on the north and one room on the south side of the central hall, and a small, modern bath situated unobtrusively under the eaves of the west facade.

A brick walkway leads from the road to the west facade; to the south is a small frame building, a contributing element of this nomination, which served as a farm office; a rectangular frame structure with a porch on the north facade. Another contributing structure is the brick smokehouse, to the northeast rear of the property. A limestone wall follows the nominated property boundaries and is a contributing element. A contemporary drive encircles the property's periphery.

The Lairdland Farm House west facade features five bays, with symmetrically situated fenestration. The umbrage porch, with its floor of wide wood planks, showcases the entrance. A double wooden paneled door, protected by double screen doors, is flanked by multi-paned, set above wooden panels, sidelights, and wooden pilasters. A two-light transom crowns the entry. The porch contains two 6/6 light, double hung windows with a door panel below and double screen doors, to the south and north of the central entry. The symmetry is further enhanced by a wooden door in both south and north wings, opening onto the umbrage porch. The decorative elements within the facade; the heavily paneled and sidelighted entry, the tall windows with panels and screen doors, the tall wooden doors in the south and north wings, the brick foundation, the pedimented roof line, and the handsome wooden columns all contribute significantly to the structure's integrity of workmanship and materials.

The north elevation is composed of mixed fenestration: one 6/6 double hung sash window set on a panel, with wooden shutters in the northwest front corner; two 9/9 double hung sash windows flanking the wooden and glass paneled door and two chimneys; two smaller, multi-paned double hung sash windows to the east rear. The second story is visible with its 9/9 double hung sash window with sidelights and shutters. Three brick chimneys are located within the porch in the north elevation. The

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## Continuation Sheet

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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one-story wooden porch is characterized by simple square wooden posts supporting a shed roof; decorative balustrade; three plain brick chimneys within the umbrage porch. The north elevation terminates with a modern carport at the east rear.

The south elevation is very similar to the north elevation with the porch placement being the exception. The southwest wing has a 6/6 double hung sash window, with wooden shutters, identical to the one situated in the north elevation. Three plain brick chimneys are placed in the south elevation in locations that correspond to the three chimneys in the north elevation. The first floor contains three 9/9 double hung sash windows, with awnings, an umbrage porch with a double, multi-paned light door with double screen doors, and a 9/9 double hung sash window in the eastern rear, terminating with the carport.

The eastern rear features an umbrage wooden porch with wooden steps on the southern elevation as well as at the eastern rear. Two wooden paneled doors in the east rear, within the porch, give access, in addition to the multi-paned double door in the south elevation.

The interior of the Lairdland Farm House retains exceptional integrity in its original configuration, function and form, and materials. The current owners have carried through with a careful preservation effort. The original paneled wooden doors throughout are beautifully restored, as are the wide plank wooden floors, chair rail, wide baseboards, and fireplaces and painted paneled mantels.

The interior is a central hall plan, typical of homes built in a rural environment during the nineteenth century. On the first floor there is a large central hall; an original staircase on the north side; identical double wooden doors to the exterior, with double screen doors, in the west facade and east elevation; four wooden paneled interior doors (two in the south wall and two in the north wall) opening to four room of approximately equal size. The rooms are characterized by high ceilings, chair rail, floors of wide plank hardwood floors, and baseboards approximately one foot high. In addition to the exceptional wooden paneled doors with heavy surrounds and corner blocks, the central hall is a showcase of family history with murals painted in recent years by Mrs. Blackburn and John Kiser which depict family homes (including the Lairdland Farm House); these contemporary paintings are painted directly on the walls of the central hall.

The northwestern room on the first floor is a parlor; the north wall contains one 9/9 double hung sash window, a fireplace and painted wooden paneled mantel, and a glass and wooden paneled door. The west wall contains a wooden paneled door and a 6/6 light window set on a wooden paneled door panel. The west wall contains access to the northwestern wing room, a bedroom with one wooden paneled

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# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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door with a screen door in the south wall, one 6/6 double hung sash window in the west wall, and an identical window in the north wall.

To the parlor's east rear is the dining room. It is composed of a fireplace and painted wooden paneled mantel, a 9/9 light double hung sash window in the north wall, a door to the east rear, a wooden paneled door in the south wall opening to the central hall, a door in the west wall between the parlor and dining room.

The room beyond the parlor, to the east rear, is a family room. This room opens, with a multi-paned glass double door and screen door, to the porch in the eastern rear elevation. On the north wall is a small laundry room with a 9/9 light double hung sash window. Another small 6/6 light double hung sash window is located in the north wall.

The kitchen is the last room on the north side. Its modern facilities are complemented by the utilization of original wooden and pierced tin cupboard doors in two large cupboards.

To the south side of the central hall are two large rooms; the southwest room is a library with a large fireplace with a painted, wooden, paneled mantel flanked by two 9/9 light double hung sash windows in the south wall and one 6/6 light double hung sash window set over a door panel in the west wall; in the southwest corner is a wooden paneled door leading to a room identical to the room in the wing on the opposite side of the facade; to the southeast rear of the central hall is a bedroom with a wooden paneled door to the east elevation, a 9/9 light double hung sash window and a fireplace surrounded by a wood, painted, paneled mantel in the south wall; a small interior modern bath is adjacent.

The second floor of the Lairdland Farm House is composed of two rooms to each side of the central hall. The two rooms, one to the south and one to the north, are the same size and contain a large side-lighted window in the gable end. Between the two rooms, at the west wall of the central hall, is a small modern bath.

A brick smokehouse, circa 1850, a frame office, circa 1850, and limestone wall, circa 1850, are contributing elements in excellent condition, retaining their integrity and character. These three structures, in addition to the Lairdland Farm House, constitute an important survival from Tennessee's nineteenth century agricultural heritage. While this farm site is not officially identified as a Tennessee Century Farm, it is eligible in its ability to meet the following criteria:



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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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- families must own and cultivate profitable the same family-owned land for at least one hundred years
- the farm must contain at least ten acres and generate \$1,000 in farm income
- one family owner must be a Tennessee resident and serve in an active managerial role
- owners complete a detailed questionnaire about the farm's history

Due to the size of the farm and its concentration of structures in a well defined space, this nomination is prepared under Criterion C. The Lairdland Farm House and contributing outbuildings represent a significant architectural resource in a rural environment.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lairdland Farm House, circa 1830, Giles County, Tennessee is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its architecture, Criterion C. As an excellent example of vernacular, antebellum, Greek Revival-influenced architecture, the Lairdland Farm House is a significant historic resource in the rural community. The Lairdland Farm House, its placement on the landscape, its setting, materials and construction techniques, its original decorative features, its contributing outbuildings, and its historic connection with Tennessee's agricultural heritage as a "historic family farm" (see Multiple Property Listing, "Historic Family Farm in Middle Tennessee") contributes to the architectural heritage of Giles County, Tennessee. The key physical and visual structure in the farm, the Lairdland Farm House is architecturally intact and closely aligned to its contributing elements: the smokehouse, the office and the limestone fence. As a concentrated unit, the Lairdland Farm House and its contributing elements is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C.

The area around Cornersville, Giles County, Tennessee, and including the area around the Giles and Marshall Counties borders, was recognized early as some of the finest agricultural land the southern Middle Tennessee area offers. In addition to the area's production of crops, stock and timber, the county, according to Goodspeed's, "affords good limestone rock, not only good for fencing but also good building material;" evidence of this is found in the limestone wall boundary along the nominated property's west side, along the Blackburn Hollow Road. Into this rich environment came families including the Laird families were early settlers in the 17th District of Giles County, Tennessee. From Goodspeed's Histories of Giles, Lincoln, Franklin and Moore Counties, John Henderson settled in "Brick" Church community between 1808 and 1810. One of the first hand powered cotton gins was by a Lester Morris in 1810 near Rehobeth Church, but the first water powered cotton gin was build around 1811 on Lynn Creek by John Laird. John Henderson followed with another water powered gin about a mile south of Cornersville.

After establishing his family in the Brick Church/Cornersville/Giles County area, the youngest child of John Laird, Robert Henderson Laird, purchased the Lairdland Farm site in the 1830s from Thomas J. Lane; a date in the gable and facade of 1867 appears to commemorate the marriage date of Laird's daughter to a soldier from Maury County serving in the 8th Texas Cavalry, James Knox Polk Blackburn. Wounded at the Battle of Farmington, Blackburn recuperated in the Cornersville area. Through their years in the Giles County community, the Blackburn family contributed leadership not only as a successful farming family, but socially and economically as one generation represented the District in the Tennessee State Legislature and another served for many years as a physician.

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# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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The property transferred from James Knox Polk Blackburn to the oldest son, Dr. James K. P. Blackburn, and from that point on to the current owners, remaining in the Blackburn family since its transfer from Thomas Lane to Robert Henderson Laird in the 1830s. As such, the Lairdland Farm House is an excellent architectural survival from Tennessee's early agricultural traditions with land being developed, acquired and passed from one generation to the next; change in ownership did not alter the property's significance and impact on the landscape.

The Lairdland Farm House is a fine example of ante-bellum architecture in a rural setting and can be considered one of the best examples of its type in Giles County. The locally articulated Greek Revival style is expressed through the following hallmark features:

The unusual tri-gabled roof of low pitch, with its front gable umbrage porch, is a local modification of a common vernacular/Greek Revival influenced type in Giles County, the full height entry porch. The porches, front and back, are supported by prominent square wooden Doric columns. Pilasters and corner boards, common identifying features, are present in the Lairdland Farm House example.

The wide cornice line, of unadorned boards, is a universal feature and is present on the Lairdland Farm House.

The entry doorway is composed of a wooden, paneled double door surrounded by side-lights and a transom of rectangular lights; the entry is enhanced by pilasters. The entry theme of double doors, side-lights, transom and pilasters is repeated in the east rear elevation.

Banded by a heavy cornice line, most of the windows are 6/6 lights.

The Lairdland Farm House differs from other Giles County properties, especially those located in the town of Pulaski, that exemplify the Greek Revival-influenced architecture such as the brick articulated Colonial Hall/Batte Home, circa 1850; Hawthorne Villa; the above mentioned are larger, two story of the period. Lairdland Farm House maintains the character and scale typical of a working farm site, and can be compared more closely to rural Giles County properties such as the Kennedy House, (NR), circa 1900, a two story weatherboard with a second floor balcony balustrade identical to the treatment on the Lairdland Farm House facade; the Newton White House, (NR), in a nearby community, is similar in configuration and materials; the Copeland Whitfield, (NR), with its dentilled cornice; the Wilkerson

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# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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Place, (NR), in the Wales community, its facade most similar to the Lairdland Farm House; the Tillery House, (NR), north of Pulaski on US 31, with its brick foundation and corner boards. The Lairdland Farm House is one of the best examples of the Greek Revival influenced vernacular architecture in the area and make a significant contribution to community and with the properties already listed on the National Register of Historic Places and mentioned above.

For its connection with and contribution to the architectural history and heritage of Giles County, the Lairdland Farm House and its contributing features are nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

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# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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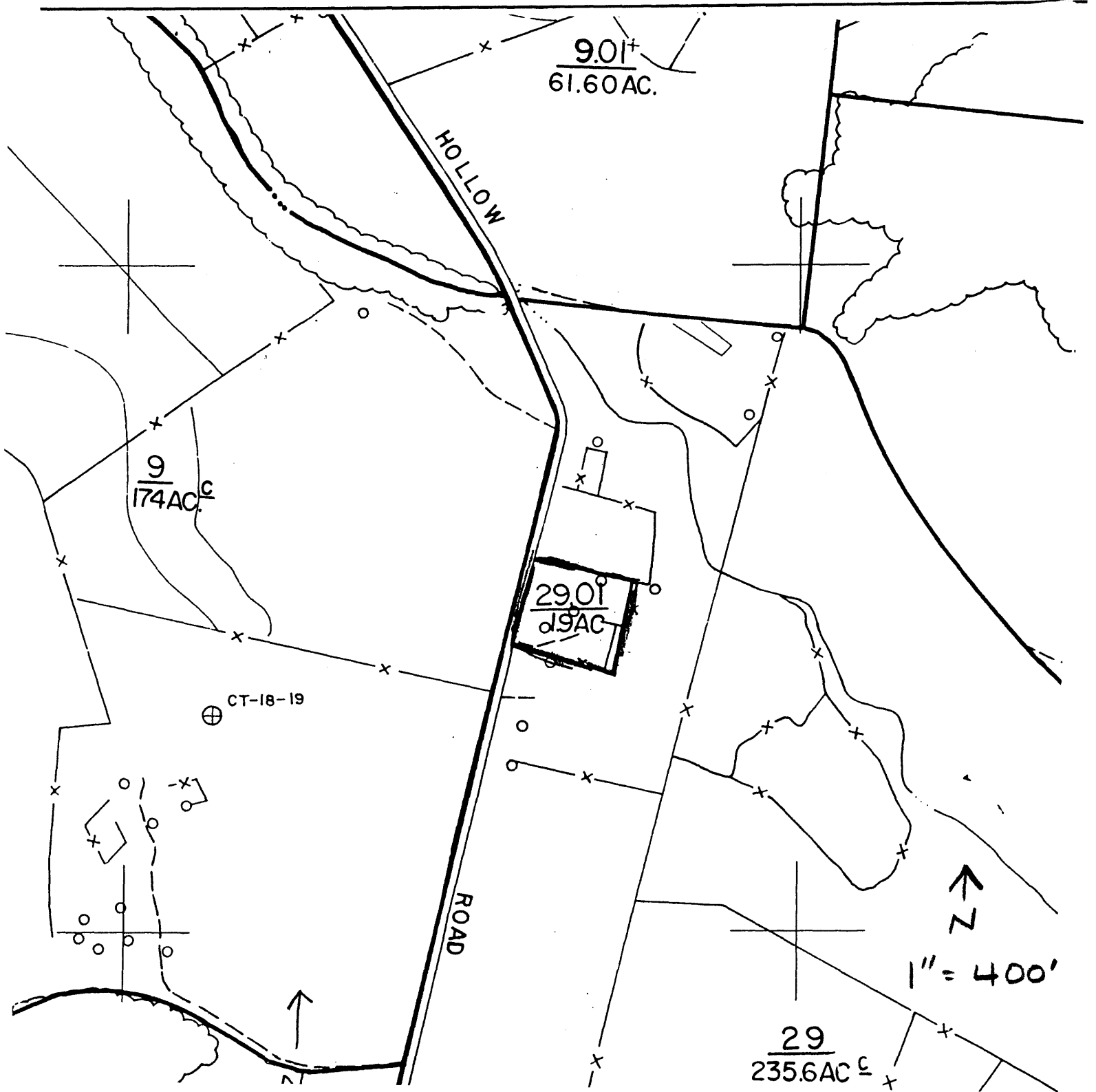
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos by: Lynn Hulan  
Historic Preservation Consultant  
Post Office Box 245  
Wartrace, Tennessee 37183

Date: April 1994  
August 1994

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

West facade, facing east  
#1 of 22

West facade, facing east  
#2 of 22

Northwest corner, facing southeast  
#3 of 22

North elevation, facing south  
#4 of 22

North elevation, facing south  
#5 of 22

South elevation, facing north  
#6 of 22

West entrance, facing south  
#7 of 22

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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Outbuilding, north facade, facing south  
#8 of 22

Outbuilding, facing southeast  
#9 of 22

Outbuilding, east elevation, facing west  
#10 of 22

Outbuilding, facing northwest  
#11 of 22

Outbuilding, facing north  
#12 of 22

1st floor hall, interior, facing west  
#13 of 22

East rear entrance detail, facing west  
#14 of 22

1st floor hall, interior, facing east  
#15 of 22

1st floor window detail, facing west  
#16 of 22

1st floor, dining room fireplace, facing north  
#17 of 22

1st floor, library fireplace, facing south  
#18 of 22

1st floor, door detail, facing east  
#19 of 22



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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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1st floor, door detail  
#20 of 22

Interior, hall mural detail  
#21 of 22

Interior, hall mural detail  
#22 of 22

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lairdland Farm House  
Giles County, Tennessee

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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### Verbal Boundary Description

The property associated with the Lairdland Farm House contains approximately 1.9 acres and is represented as parcel 29.01 on the enclosed Giles County, Tennessee, Tax Map #61, Middle Grand Division.

### Boundary Justification

The approximately 1.9 acres surrounding the Lairdland Farm House is sufficient to protect the historic integrity of the nominated property.

The Tax map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' scale adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.