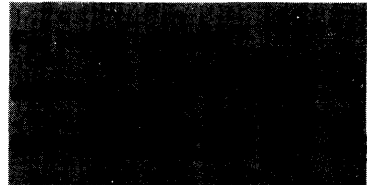


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



1. Name

historic The Beeches (John Woodard House)
and/or common John Woodard House

2. Location

street & number Highway 49 ^{SC} N/A not for publication
city, town Springfield Mc. vicinity of Fifth congressional district
state Tennessee code 047 county Robertson code 147

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

4. Owner of Property

name Robert Brown, Jr.
street & number Rt. 5, Box 89
city, town Springfield N/A vicinity of Tennessee state 37172

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Robertson County Courthouse
street & number Public Square
city, town Springfield state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date N/A N/A federal state county local
depository for survey records N/A
city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Beeches is situated on a hillside overlooking rolling farmland, wooded valleys, and Sulfur Fork Creek **one** mile northeast of the town of Springfield, the seat of Robertson County. It stands on approximately two and a half acres, enclosed by an original iron fence, adjacent to and north of state Highway 49. Across the highway from the Beeches is Sulphur Fork Creek running parallel to the highway in the same northeasterly direction.

Built in 1869 in the Italian Villa style, the Beeches is two stories and features a three story central tower. Irregularly shaped, the building is constructed of bricks laid in the stretcher bond pattern. Its low hipped roof and the mansard roof of the three story tower are covered with patterned slate tiles. A rough cut stone foundation supports the building, and four interior brick chimneys are located one at each end of the front section of the building, one dividing the two rooms of the rear one story section of the building, and one separating the front section of the building from its two story rear ell.

Facing south, the three bay facade features a central tower situated in the corner of a "L". A round arched opening in the tower decorated by a cast iron molded surround head serves as an entrance to the round arched, double-leaf wood doorway with a single-lighted transom. In each of the two stories above is a 2/2 light round arched window decorated by smaller cast iron molded window heads. The concave mansard roof of the tower features roof cresting and single small porthole dormers on each of its four sides, also capped by molded window heads.

To the left of the tower is a tall 2/2 light round arched window with arched louvered wood shutters. On the second story is a like window except shorter and without shutters. A sand-painted wood, arcaded porch with a raised-seam tin roof extends from the tower across the left side of the facade.

The projecting section of the facade to the right of the tower features a brick rectangular projecting bay with a tin roof, plain boxed cornice and frieze matching the porch trim, and large round arched window opening. Inside the window opening is a pair of 1/1 light round arched windows with a small tripartite window above the pair set within the head of the arched opening. On the second story above is a 2/2 light round arched window. Both window openings are trimmed with wood arched louvered shutters. Plain overhanging roof eaves with paired brackets and a denticulated frieze further decorate the facade, and extend around the entire building's roof line as well as the mansard roof of the tower.

The west (side) elevation of the front section of the building has no structural openings. Two round arched, 2/2 light windows are found in the rear of the front section of the building on the second story, one located in the center of the building and the other at the far right side.

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Continuation sheet

The Beeches

Item number 7

Page 2

On the east side elevation of the building's front section a round arched, 2/2 light window is situated in the center of the elevation on the first story and a glazed single leaf door with lighted transom and flat lintel is found at the far right. Above each opening is a round arched, 2/2 light window. Windows of the east side elevation have arched wood louvered shutters.

In the rear of the building are two ells; one on the west side which is two stories comprised of one room on each story and the other on the east side which is one story comprised of two rooms. The west side ell features a first story enclosed clapboard porch on the west side with flat headed, 2/2 light windows, a glazed single-leaf door with lighted transom, a raised seam tin roof, and a brick foundation. Above the porch is a round arched, 2/2 light window. The rear or north elevation of the ell has two round arched, 2/2 light windows on each story.

The east side ell in the rear of the Beeches is one story with a gable roof covered with raised-seam tin. A recessed clapboarded porch is found at the ell's west side and features windows and doors like those of the west ell. No structural openings are found on the rear or north elevation of the east ell. A half story frame shed is attached to the rear wall. The east side elevation of the one story east ell features three round arched, 6/6 light windows with wood arched louvered shutters; two located on the left side and one to the far right.

Practically unaltered, the interior retains its original architectural finishes such as mantles of cast iron and marble, staircases, and woodwork. Plaster medallions and elaborate cornices with egg and dart molding and decorative hand-painted ceilings in the entrance hall and dining room remain in excellent condition. Ghosts of original stenciling can be seen in several rooms.

Original outbuildings remaining include a smokehouse and kitchen, presently used for storage. The two story, square stretcher bond brick smokehouse with a tin pyramidal roof features a single-leaf wood door with flat lintel on the east side elevation. Laid in common bond bricks, the kitchen features a tin pyramidal roof, brick interior chimney, and glazed single-leaf wood door with lighted transom on the west side elevation. A small frame shed attached to the south wall serves as a sheltered entrance to the cellar below the kitchen.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1867 **Builder/Architect** John Woodard/builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria C

The Beeches demonstrates the type of architectural style popular in the last half of the nineteenth century suitable for the residence of a prominent politician and businessman in Middle Tennessee. It stands as an exemplary representation of the Italian Villa style unparalleled by any other building of its type in Robertson County.

Named by John Woodard for the tall beech trees still standing in front, the Beeches is a practically unaltered, outstanding example of the Italian Villa style of architecture. Characteristic of the style, the Beeches features an off-centered entrance tower extending a full story above the two story building, a low hipped roof with projecting eaves and paired brackets, round arched windows, and an arcaded porch. Fine original interior architectural details such as marble and cast iron Italianate mantles, staircases, woodwork, ornate plaster medallions and cornices, and elaborate hand-painted ceilings in the entrance hall and dining room remain in excellent condition.

The Beeches was built in 1869 by John Woodard on a 308 acre farm one mile northeast of the county seat town of Springfield. John Woodard, born in 1825 the son of Thomas, Jr. and Winifred House Woodard and grandson of early Tennessee settler Thomas Woodard, was a distinguished politician and businessman in the county. He served in the House of Representatives in the Thirty-third, Thirty-fifth, and Forty-second General Assemblies. As a county judge for many years, he served on the committee which supervised construction of the present county courthouse. In 1872, Woodard served as president of the Springfield National Bank. He operated on his farm Silver Springs Distillery, the second largest of approximately 75 distilleries operating in the county.

In 1881 he became a resident of Nashville where he entered the grocery business and served as director of the American National Bank; however, he retained ownership of the Beeches until 1889 when he presented it as a wedding gift to his son, Albert G. Woodard. The Beeches remained in the family until 1938 when it was purchased by J. W. Helm. Presently the house and nine surrounding acres are owned by Robert Brown, Jr. who has begun a conscientious restoration of the Beeches.

9. Major Bibliographical References

...PAGE NOT VERIFIED

Henderson, Deborah Kelly. Robertson County's Heritage of Homes. Springfield, Tennessee: Robertson County Antiquities Foundation, 1979.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.5

Quadrangle name Youngville, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>512990</u>	<u>4041520</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries of the Beeches nomination are shown as the red line on the accompanying Robertson County Property Assessor's Map #82, which is drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch, to include approximately 2.5 acres surrounding the Beeches enclosed by an

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries original iron fence.

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shain T. Dennison

organization N/A

date June 7, 1981

street & number 183 Burning Tree Drive

telephone (615) 889-2071

city or town Hermitage

state Tennessee 37076

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert E. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 2/9/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

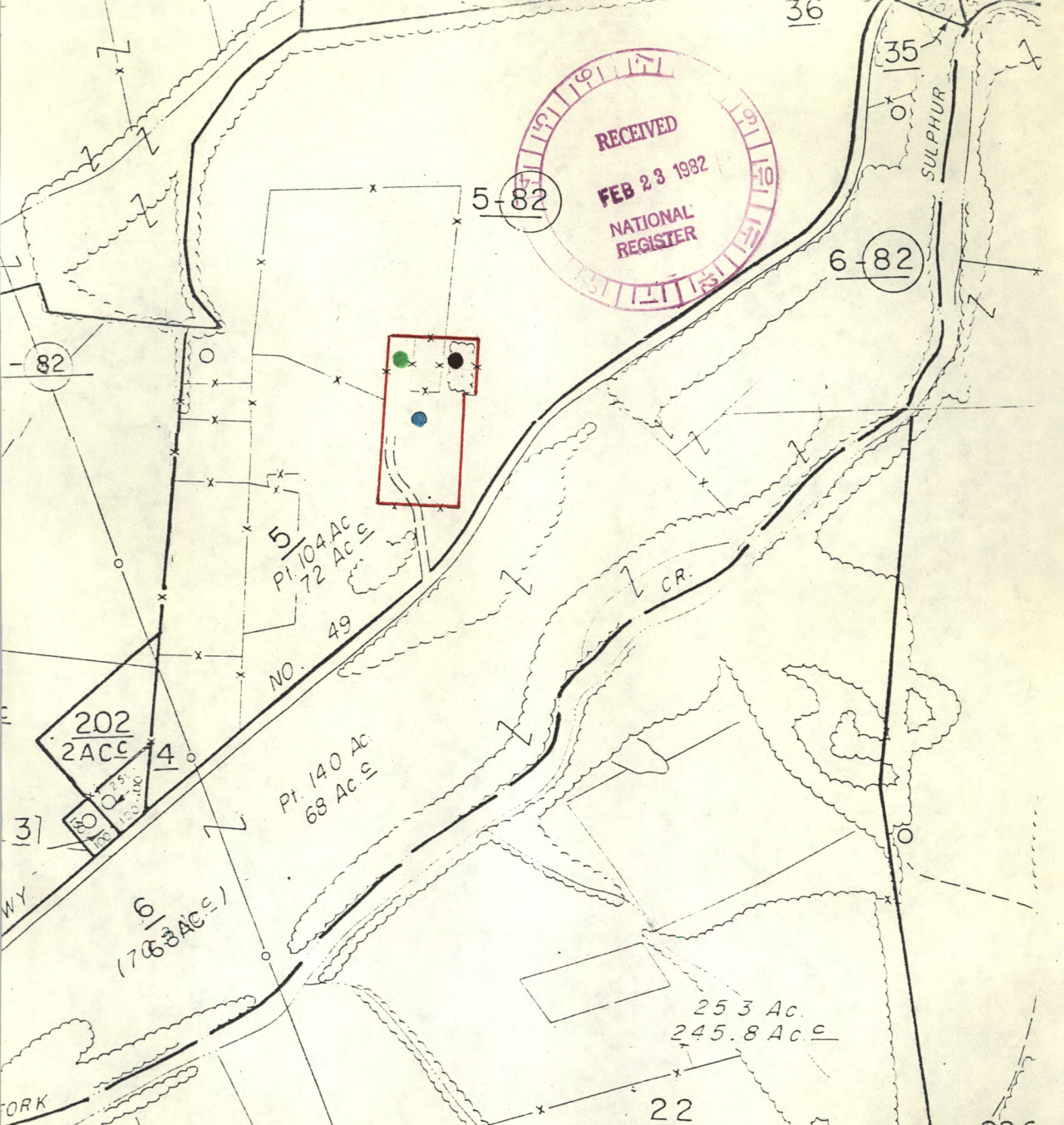
Entered in the National Register

date 3/25/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



THE BEECHES
 Springfield, Robertson County, Tennessee

- The Beeches
- Smokehouse
- Kitchen
- Boundaries

Property Map 82



Scale: 1"=400'

22C
111.3A