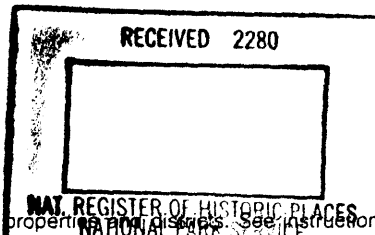


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

772

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 10A). 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 Rascoe-Harris Farm

other names/site number Maplewood Farm, Anderson Farm

2. Location

street & number 1135 Liberty Lane N/A not for publication

city or town Liberty  vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Sumner code 165 zip code 37066

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Herbert L. Hoyer 6/5/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Edson A. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action  
7-19-96

**Entered in the  
National Register**

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 6            | 0               | buildings  |
| 4            | 1               | sites      |
| 2            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 12           | 1               | Total      |

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

Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
 AGRICULTURE: processing, storage, field, outbuilding  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
 AGRICULTURE: processing, storage, field, outbuilding  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
 walls BRICK  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof ASPHALT SHINGLE  
 other GLASS, WOOD  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

See 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 the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1824-1945

Significant Dates

1824, 1860

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 64 Acres

COTTONTOWN 310 NE

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |      |             |               |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1 6  | 5 4 4 0 9 0 | 4 0 2 9 4 6 0 |
|   | Zone | Easting     | Northing      |
| 2 | 1 6  | 5 4 3 9 0 0 | 4 0 2 8 4 0 0 |

|   |      |             |               |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| 3 | 1 6  | 5 4 3 6 4 0 | 4 0 2 8 4 0 0 |
|   | Zone | Easting     | Northing      |
| 4 | 1 6  | 5 4 3 6 3 0 | 4 0 2 9 2 4 0 |

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 Carroll Van West and Brian Eades

organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date March 11, 1996

street & number MTSU Box 80 telephone (615) 898-2947

city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

**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 Margaret Anne Harris Anderson

street & number 1135 Liberty Lane telephone (615) 452-2581

city or town Gallatin state TN zip code 37066

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

## VII. Description

The Rascoe-Harris Farm is located at 1135 Liberty Lane, Liberty, Sumner County, Tennessee. The 64 acre farm consists of a Federal style central-hall I-house and outbuildings, constructed between 1824 and 1940. The Rascoe-Harris Farm still retains its historic architectural integrity through the combination and functions of fields, buildings, and structures. Although the farm is known today as the Anderson Farm or the Maplewood Farm, this nomination will focus mainly on two groups of Anderson ancestors who lived on the historic farm. These two families, the Rascoes and the Harris', contributed significantly to both the agricultural production and the expansion of the farm's built environment.

A tree-lined gravel driveway, the path of which dates to circa 1824, marks the entrance to the farm off of Liberty Lane. The two-story brick dwelling (C), built in 1824, has a stone foundation and a steeply pitched asphalt shingled roof with exterior brick chimneys on the west and east ends, as well as a central interior chimney located in the circa 1860 one-story rear ell.

The north facade is constructed of bricks laid in Flemish bond pattern. It features three bays and a centrally located two-story pedimented portico supported by tripled sets of square wooden columns at both ends of the first and second story porch landings. The east and west bays of the north facade's first floor each contain a historic six-over-six double hung sash window, with brick lintels, wooden sills, and louvered shutters. The center bay has an original six-panel wooden door topped by a historic four light transom.

The second story of the north facade replicates the first story in the east and west bay window treatments. There is a central six-panel wooden door and railing that connects to the square wooden supports of the porch. Forged iron tie rods are evident in the extreme east and west portions of the second story. Slightly above the roofline of the north facade are two gable roof dormers with pedimented gable ends, situated on the side of the portico. Each dormer

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

contains an original six-over-six double hung sash window.

The west elevation is laid in common bond brickwork and contains a central exterior chimney flanked by single historic six-over-six double hung sash windows in the north and south bays. The windows are topped with brick lintels and rest on wooden sills. Brick alteration in the eaves of the east and west elevations were caused by a lightning strike on the end chimneys circa 1950.

The south elevation is laid in common bond brickwork and contains a one-story frame ell addition that was constructed circa 1860. The 1824 portion of the south elevation contains a single historic six-over-six double hung sash window in the west bay that is topped with a brick lintel and rests on a wooden sill. An original six-panel wooden door occupies the center bay of the first floor. The circa 1860 rear ell addition projects southward off the east bay. The second floor of the 1824 south facade contains single historic six-over-six double hung sash windows in the central and west bays. These windows rest on historic wooden sills. The east bay has been sealed with a large wooden panel. The one-story rear ell addition originally served as a kitchen area, and currently is divided into two sections, the eastern portion still retaining its domestic kitchen function while the west portion serves as an office. The ell contains a metal gable roof, central interior brick chimney, weatherboard siding, and rests on a stone foundation that is partially covered with pressed metal sheeting. The interior of the ell consists of an office that was installed in the 1960s. This office space originally served as a porch that connected to the kitchen.

The west elevation of the ell contains a metal one-over-one double hung sash window in the north bay. Following this is a row of six metal one-over-one double hung sash windows that occupy the remainder of the west elevation. The south elevation of the ell contains vertical weatherboard siding in the western portion. Situated in the west bay is a narrow wooden one-over-one historic double hung sash window, followed by an original four-paneled wooden door that is

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

protected by a modern storm door of metal construction. Just east of this doorway is a historic wooden one-over-one double hung sash window. The weatherboard siding then changes to a horizontal pattern and there is a central historic six-over-six double hung sash window in this portion. Centered above this window in the gable is an octagonal air vent.

The east elevation of the rear ell is constructed with horizontal weatherboards and has a nine-over-nine double hung sash window encased in a wooden frame. Following this is a wall-mounted air conditioning unit.

The east elevation replicates the west elevation and is laid in common bond brickwork. It contains a central exterior chimney flanked by single historic six-over-six double hung sash windows in the north and south bays. The windows are topped with brick lintels and rest on wooden sills.

The interior of this two-story I-house still maintains the original central hall, one room deep floor plan. The central hall contains two entrances on either side of the hallway and at the extreme south end of the hallway there is a historic eight-paneled wooden door that leads to the back yard. Cornice molding runs in a north-to-south direction along the east and west walls. An inset paneled wainscoting topped with a chair rail is situated on all four walls. Inset paneling runs parallel with the stairwell as it ascends to the second story. The majority of the original floorboards on the first floor, excluding the ell addition, are poplar, although a few boards were replaced circa 1960.

The western room (historic parlor) is constructed of original white plaster walls with a historic fireplace and an accompanying mantelpiece centered on the west wall that is flanked by two historic six-over-six double hung sash windows. The fireplace has a historic iron firebox and plaster facing. The mantel is supported by a pair of Doric engaged columns. The columns are topped with small inset panels. A larger inset panel runs under the mantelshelf. A molded overmantel rests on the inset panels and Doric engaged columns. There is a historic six-over-six double hung sash window in the center of the north wall. Centered

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

on the east wall of the parlor is a historic eight-paneled door that leads to the hallway. A historic six-over-six double hung sash window is centered on the south wall of the historic parlor. This room also contains a continuous cornice that runs along all four walls. An elaborately carved medallion, probably dating to circa 1860, is situated in the center of the ceiling.

The eastern room (dining room) is located on the opposite side of the hallway on the first floor. A historic eight-paneled door defines the entrance to this room. The east wall contains a historic fireplace that is flanked by single historic six-over-six double hung sash windows on either side. The fireplace is similar to the one found in the parlor. It contains a historic iron firebox and a carved mantelpiece complete with Doric engaged columns on either side of the plaster facing. Small inset panels connect the columns to the mantel while a larger inset panel lies under the mantelshelf. The south wall contains a historic six-over-six double hung sash window. Immediately west of this window is a historic eight-paneled door that was installed at the time of the circa 1860 rear ell addition. Centered along the north wall is a historic six-over-six double hung sash window. The west wall contains the historic doorway that leads to the central hall. All four walls are adorned with historic inset panelled wainscoting topped with a molded chair rail. A continuous molded cornice runs along the entire length of the four walls and there is an elaborately carved medallion, which dates to circa 1860, situated in the center of the ceiling.

Directly south of the dining room is a historic bedroom that is a part of the circa 1860 rear ell addition. Centered along the north wall of this room is a historic doorway. The east wall of this bedroom contains a modern air conditioning unit and a historic nine-over-nine double hung sash window. The south wall contains a historic doorway that leads into the kitchen. The west wall contains a four-paneled door leading into a bathroom. All four walls contain a chair rail with plaster below the rail and wallpaper above it. A continuous cornice runs along the four walls. Centered on the ceiling is a decoratively carved medallion.



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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

Due west of this room is a bathroom that was installed in 1909. It contains a six-over-six window that is centered on the west wall. The east wall contains a central doorway while the north and south walls do not possess door or window treatments. There is knotty pine wainscoting on all four walls of this room.

Directly south of the bathroom is an office that was installed in the 1960s. From circa 1860 to the 1960s, this space served as a porch that connected to the kitchen. The north wall of this room contains two modern closet doors. A series of modern one-over-one double hung sash windows run the length of the west wall, thus providing the room with a large amount of natural light. The north wall contains a central historic four-paneled door flanked on either side by single one-over-one double hung sash windows. The east wall of the office contains a central passageway that leads to the kitchen. The original flooring was covered with linoleum circa 1920.

Due east of the office is a passageway and a slender brick chimney. The east wall of the kitchen contains historic horizontal cedar siding and a historic six-over-six double hung sash window in the center of the wall. The south wall contains numerous paneled historic kitchen cabinets that date to circa 1920. These cabinets are fixed upon historic cedar siding. A historic six-over-six double hung sash window occupies the center of this wall. Below this is a large kitchen sink. The west wall contains a doorway that leads to the office. The original flooring of the kitchen was covered with linoleum circa 1920 and the room contains a dropped tile ceiling.

The central hall on the second floor contains inset paneled wainscoting topped with a chair rail on all four walls. A molded cornice runs along these walls. This hallway also contains original poplar floorboards.

A historic eight-paneled door defines the entrance to the historic west bedroom. Centered along the south wall of this bedroom is a historic six-over-six double hung sash window. Along the west wall is a historic central fireplace with an original iron firebox and plain molding resembling

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

Doric pilasters on either side of the brick facing. Small inset panels connect the pilasters to the mantel while a larger fielded panel lies under the mantelshelf. The north wall contains a historic six-over-six double hung sash window. Centered along the east wall of this bedroom is a historic doorway that leads to the central hall. A molded cornice runs along all four walls of this bedroom.

The northern wall of the central hall contains a historic six-paneled door that leads to the historic porch while the east wall of the central hall contains a historic six-paneled door that leads into the east bedroom.

Centered along the north wall of the historic east bedroom is a six-over-six double hung sash window. The east wall of this room contains a historic central fireplace with original iron firebox and a carved mantelpiece with Doric pilasters on either side of the brick facing. Small inset panels connect the pilasters to the mantel while a larger fielded panel lies under the mantelshelf. The south wall contains a six-paneled doorway that is sealed. A molded cornice runs along all four walls of this bedroom.

South of the house is a circa 1824 log smokehouse of half dovetail notching. The structure also contains a buggy shed added circa 1900. The smokehouse and accompanying shed rest on a stone foundation and are topped with a metal roof. (C).

Southwest of the smokehouse are the limestone foundations and shallow square trench of a circa 1824 dairy. (C)

Immediately south of the dairy is a circa 1920 frame chicken house of vertical board construction. The structure sits on a stone foundation and has a metal roof. (C)

Northwest of the chicken house is a circa 1900 board-and-batten wash house that rests on stone piers and is topped with a corrugated metal roof. (C)

West of the wash house is an orchard containing eight to ten pear and apple trees. The orchard is approximately one acre in size and dates to circa 1920. (C)

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

Directly south of the orchard is a small pond created circa 1950. (NC, due to date of construction)

South of the pond is a small cemetery that marks the final resting place of some of the farm's residents. It is believed to hold twelve graves, but only three tombstones remain. (C)

A narrow farm road, which dates to circa 1824, connects the dwelling with the remaining crop production area of the farm. (C)

Southeast of the dwelling and across the farm road lies a two pen frame tractor shed of weatherboard construction. The circa 1930 structure rests on stone piers and is covered by a metal roof. (C)

Due north of the tractor shed is a circa 1900 frame granary of vertical board construction and which rests on stone piers. The structure is topped by a metal roof that has been covered with roofing paper. Support posts on the east and west sides of the structure date to 1995. (C)

North of the granary is a circa 1938 well house that is laid up in concrete block and is topped with a metal roof. The structure rests on a concrete foundation. (C)

The field patterns of the Rascoe-Harris Farm retain their early-twentieth century configuration and are defined by historic fences as well as natural barriers, which divide the farm into varying productive units. Fields to the south and east of the domestic complex still continue to produce both hay and tobacco while some of the fields remain as pasture for livestock. The pattern of agricultural fields on this property comprises a contributing site. (C)

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

### VIII. Significance

The Rascoe-Harris Farm, presently a 64 acre farm located at 1135 Liberty Lane in Liberty, Sumner County, Tennessee is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in early settlement and agriculture and under Criterion C as a significant group of historically related farm buildings and architecture dating from the early- to mid-nineteenth century and continuing to the early-twentieth century. The farm is nominated under the registration requirements for Historic Family Farms set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee.

The evolution of the Rascoe-Harris Farm can be traced to the immigration of Alexander Rascoe into Tennessee from North Carolina in 1795. Upon arrival in the Sumner County area, Rascoe made his living in the real estate business. According to the Sumner County Index, Rascoe acquired over 3,000 acres of land between 1795 and 1851. In the early 1820s, he bought a large tract of land in Sumner County from Anthony Bledsoe Shelby. In 1824, Rascoe's son, Thomas Howell Rascoe, constructed the large two-story Federal style I-house on the family land. The 1830 U.S. Population Census lists Thomas Rascoe's family as consisting of five members and six slaves (one male under 10 years, four males aged 10-24 years, and one female under 10 years). At this time, the farm produced a large amount of livestock including sheep, cattle, and swine along with corn, wheat, and oats. Alexander Rascoe recognized his son's natural ability as a middle class planter and deeded a 148 acre tract, that included the 1824 Federal style house, to Thomas Rascoe in August 1832. Soon afterwards, Alexander moved to Davidson County to pursue his real estate practice.

The 1850 Agricultural Census of the Eleventh District of Sumner County listed the cash value of this farm at \$3600. Livestock raised on this farm at this time included horses, milk cows, cattle, sheep, and swine. In addition, the farm produced wheat, corn, oats, peas, beans, Irish and sweet potatoes, butter, cheese, and honey. The 1850 Sumner County Census also listed the household consisting of two

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

parents and ten children. The Slave Schedule of 1850 lists three slaves residing at the farm--an apparent mother and father with a son 11 years of age.

In the 1850s, the Rascoes would have been considered part of the slave owning class due to the relatively small number of slaves in their possession. However, they did not have substantial acreage compared to other Sumner County farms of this time period, most notably the Bradley Farm (a 1,000 acre tobacco farm) and the Brown Farm (a 1,500 acre tobacco and cattle farm). The 148 acre Rascoe Farm simply did not have the economic means to focus solely on tobacco and/or cotton production. Instead, the Rascoes embraced the mid-nineteenth century concept of agricultural self-sufficiency. In Tennessee Farming, Tennessee Farmers, Winters explains this concept by saying,

Antebellum Tennessee farmers saw in agriculture enormous commercial potential. For them farming was, at least in part, a business offering a variety of profitable opportunities. Farmers were imaginative and exhaustive in searching out and exploiting those opportunities. Each farmer found a combination of products and services that best suited his particular circumstances and objectives. This required adjusting his production to the topographical and climatic conditions of his area, to the size and nature of his farming operations, and to the goals and aspirations of his family (p. 74).

Like the majority of farms in Tennessee, labor on the Rascoe-Harris Farm was divided into two separate spheres. The males of the farm, both family members and slaves, concerned themselves with the agricultural duties found in the field and the stables. The owner and manager of the farm was Thomas Rascoe, who was in charge of all business affairs. However, the supervisor of the female work sphere was Sarah Rascoe, wife of Thomas Rascoe. According to an unpublished document entitled "Information Concerning the Rascoe Family in England, Virginia, and Tennessee", Sarah Rascoe "had exceptional executive ability, the regime of her large household and the cabins (sic) of the slaves on the plantation" (p. 4). She controlled all events and

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

activities pertaining to the organization and function of the household and the slave complex. Thus, Thomas Rascoe controlled economic activities on the farm while Sarah directed domestic operations.

Around 1860, the Rascoes built a rear ell kitchen addition on to the south elevation of their house. The construction date of this addition coincides with research found in Caneta Hankins' Hearthstones, in which she states "by the middle of the nineteenth century, most I-houses were enlarged by adding an ell to the rear . . ." (p. 14).

Following the war, some of the former slaves of the Rascoes chose to stay on the land as tenant farmers. These freedmen continued to work much as they had done while in a state of servitude. After a few years, however, these free blacks left the farm to pursue their own destinies. According to Steven Ash in Middle Tennessee Society Transformed, this was not uncommon because the rural districts of Sumner County lost ten percent of their black population between 1860 and 1870 (p. 186).

Through numerous changes of title, the historic farm passed down through the Rascoe, Watkins, Harris, and Anderson families who are all related through marriage. During the latter half of the nineteenth century, the farm continued to focus on the production of livestock, tobacco, various grains, and potatoes.

In 1891, the Rascoe-Harris Farm passed into the hands of Green B. Harris. Harris made several additions to the built environment of the farm, thus signifying his efforts towards market diversification. These additions included the construction of a wash house, which enabled Mollie Harris (Green's wife) and other females in the household to expand their work sphere beyond the perimeter of the main house. The construction of a granary in the early 1900s suggests that the Harris' needed a grain storage area to care for an increasing number of livestock. Finally, the addition of a buggy shed, for a buggy and then later a car, onto the circa 1824 smoke house symbolized the prosperity of the owners of this farm.

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

The first quarter of the twentieth century witnessed the crop diversification movement and market expansion that eventually evolved into the Progressive era of agricultural production. The first major legislation to promote the modernization of Southern agriculture was the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. This legislation funded the Agricultural Extension Service. In turn, the Extension Service began sending field agents into a South devastated by soil erosion, the boll-weevil, and mineral depletion to preach to frustrated farmers about the merits of scientific farming techniques.

Extension agents stressed the need for crop diversification, promoted the cultivation of fruit orchards, emphasized the importance of sowing pastures with alfalfa and clover in order to fatten cows, and advised farmers to participate in both the dairy and poultry industries. A cartoon from the 1927 issue of the Tennessee Extension Review instructed farmers that in order to have "better agriculture" and "fertile acres", they must abandon the one-crop agricultural system and embrace the Progressive farming methods that utilize "lime, legumes, and livestock" (p. 3). This cartoon originated at the Middle Tennessee Experiment Station in Columbia, a major agricultural center for the area's Progressive farmers.

In the 1920s, the Harris' constructed a chicken house due south of the main dwelling and near the circa 1824 dairy, the circa 1900 wash house, and the circa 1824 smoke house. In an adjoining field due west of the chicken house, the Harris' planted an orchard. The construction of the chicken house and the planting of an orchard contributed to the Harris' annual farm income by providing chickens, eggs, and canned fruit. These new farming activities corresponded with the Progressive idea of a female work sphere and diversified agriculture.

Several acres of well-defined and diversified pastures lay due south and southeast of the main house and outbuildings. These fields represent the male work sphere of a Progressive farm. In the 1920s, the Harris' concentrated heavily on the production of tobacco and livestock (mainly beef cattle). Remnants of the built environment that are still

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

evident in these divided fields include an extant circa 1930 tractor shed. According to Earl Swan, a neighboring farmer who has been managing the Rascoe-Harris Farm for forty years, this farm raised burley tobacco in the early- to mid-twentieth century, along with various types of livestock. This coincides with advice given by agricultural extension agents in the 1920s to northern Middle Tennessee farmers stressing the importance of burley tobacco as a primary cash crop.

Throughout the middle decades of the twentieth century, Southern middle-class farmers focused on bred livestock in addition to their crop diversification agricultural practices. The Rascoe-Harris Farm continued to raise hay and tobacco and breed livestock throughout the 1940s. Today, the farm has an 1800 pound tobacco allotment and continues to raise beef cattle and hay.

The built environment of the historic Rascoe-Harris Farm has undergone very few changes since the 1930s. The farm has strong ties with the new crops and innovative techniques brought about by the Progressive agricultural movement of the early-twentieth century. Evidence of this includes the farm's production of burley tobacco, poultry, fruit commodities, and well-defined and diversified fields and pastures.

The farm not only reflects the significance of Progressive agriculture, but is also associated with early settlement patterns in Sumner County. Through the architectural integrity of the Federal style farmhouse (1824), early outbuildings (including the circa 1824 smoke house and the foundation of the circa 1824 dairy), and the existence of a family cemetery at the extreme southern end of the farm, the Rascoe-Harris Farm serves as an excellent example of the ability to adapt to changing agricultural and economic trends brought on by broader patterns in American history, such as the Civil War, the depressions of 1890 and 1929, and World War II. Thus, the farm is significant under Criterion A.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

The Rascoe-Harris Farm has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The farm is being nominated under the registration requirements for Historic Family Farms set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee. Furthermore, by being in the same family for 171 years, the historic Rascoe-Harris Farm is also eligible for inclusion in the Tennessee Century Farms Program. This program focuses on the ability of Tennessee farmers to adapt to severe transformations in late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century agriculture. The Rascoe-Harris Farm, under the present ownership of Margaret Anne Harris Anderson and managed by Earl Swan, is an excellent reflection of this adaptation and serves as an example of a significant early agricultural landscape in Sumner County.

Furthermore, the Rascoe-Harris farmhouse is significant under Criterion C because it serves as an excellent example of the Federal architectural influence during the latter part of Middle Tennessee's early settlement period. Built in 1824, the Rascoe-Harris farmhouse contains several Federal style characteristics including a double portico, symmetrical three bay facade/elevations, exterior chimneys, and a steeply pitched roof. The size of the house and its elegant style symbolize the increasing economic success of the Rascoes in the early decades of the nineteenth century.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

### X. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description

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' 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.

The nominated boundaries are those marked as parcel number 34, 64 acres, on the attached Sumner County Tax Map 114.

#### Boundary Justification

The nominated property contains a majority of the original farm acreage that is associated with the Rascoes, Harris', and Andersons and has remained in family ownership.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Rascoe-Harris Farm  
Sumner Co., TN

By: Carroll Van West

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: September 28, 1995

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37243

Farmhouse, north facade, facing south  
1 of 37

Farmhouse, west elevation, facing southeast  
2 of 37

Farmhouse, south elevation, facing northeast  
3 of 37

Farmhouse, south elevation, facing northeast  
4 of 37

Farmhouse, east elevation, facing northwest  
5 of 37

Farmhouse, east elevation, facing southwest  
6 of 37

First floor central hall, facing south  
7 of 37

Parlor, facing west  
8 of 37

Parlor, facing west  
9 of 37

Dining room, facing northeast  
10 of 37

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

Bedroom, facing northeast  
11 of 37

Kitchen, facing southeast  
12 of 37

Office, facing west  
13 of 37

Bathroom, facing west  
14 of 37

Second floor central hall, facing west  
15 of 37

East bedroom, facing west  
16 of 37

East bedroom, facing east  
17 of 37

West bedroom, facing west  
18 of 37

Smokehouse, facing south  
19 of 37

Dairy, facing south  
20 of 37

Wash house, facing west  
21 of 37

Well house, facing east  
22 of 37

Granary, facing northeast  
23 of 37

Tractor shed, facing east  
24 of 37

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rascoe-Harris Farm, Sumner Co., TN

Chicken house, facing north  
25 of 37

Domestic complex, facing north  
26 of 37

Fields, facing northwest  
27 of 37

Fields, facing east  
28 of 37

Cattle pasture, facing south  
29 of 37

Cattle pasture, facing north  
30 of 37

Cattle pasture, facing northeast  
31 of 37

Cattle pasture, facing southwest  
32 of 37

Cattle pasture and cemetery site, facing southwest  
33 of 37

Cemetery, facing west  
34 of 37

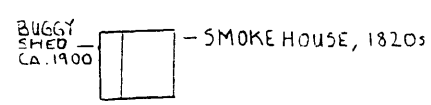
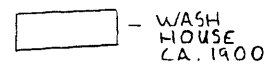
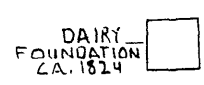
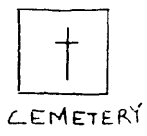
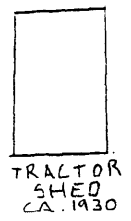
Pond and pasture, facing northeast  
35 of 37

Orchard, facing north  
36 of 37

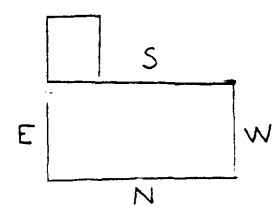
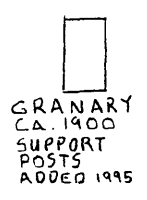
Driveway, facing north  
37 of 37

# RAJCOE-HARRID FARM

N  
↓  
SUMMER CO-TN

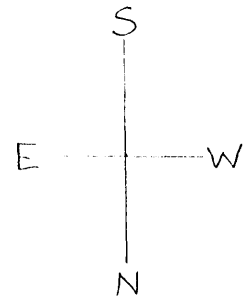
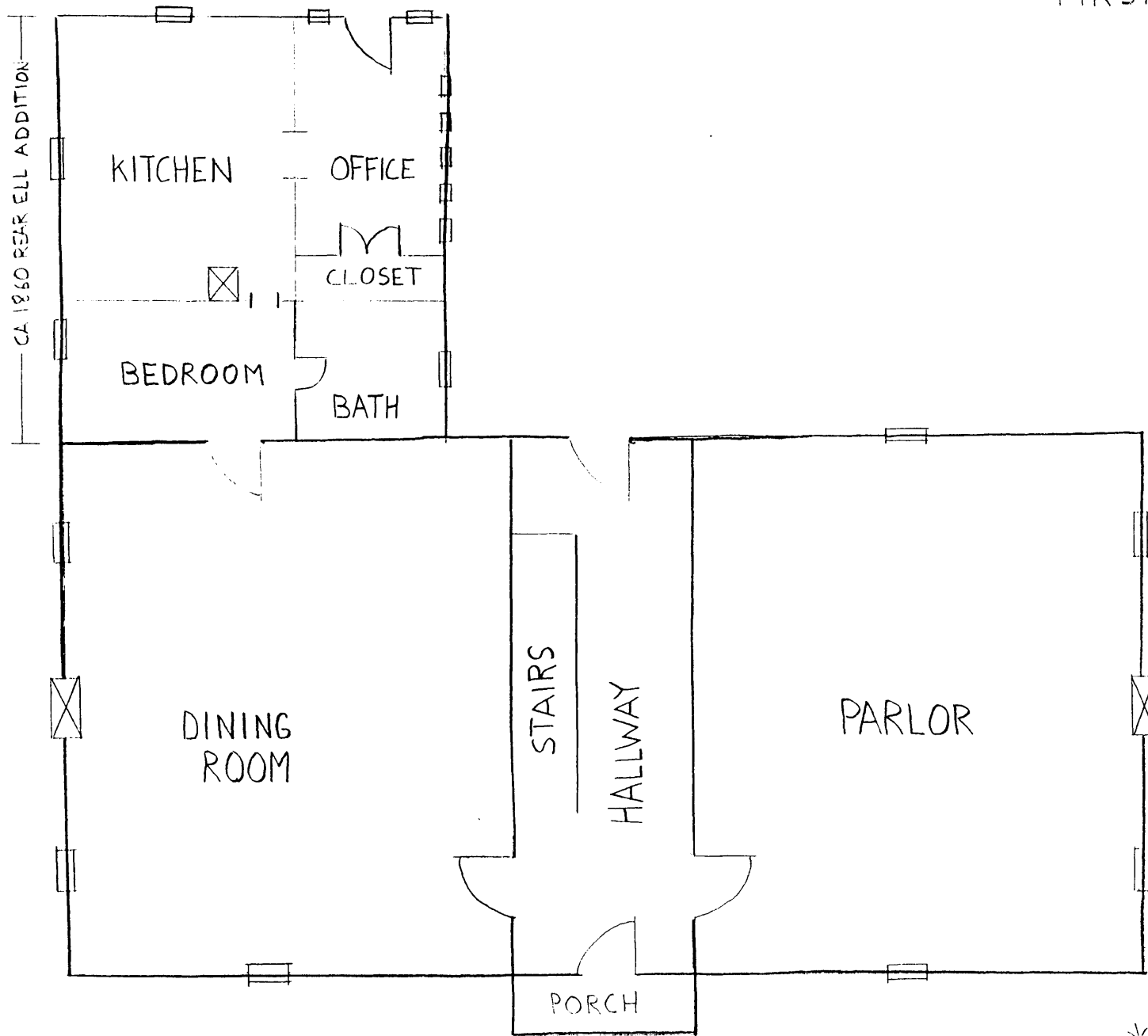


ORCHARD  
CA. 1920



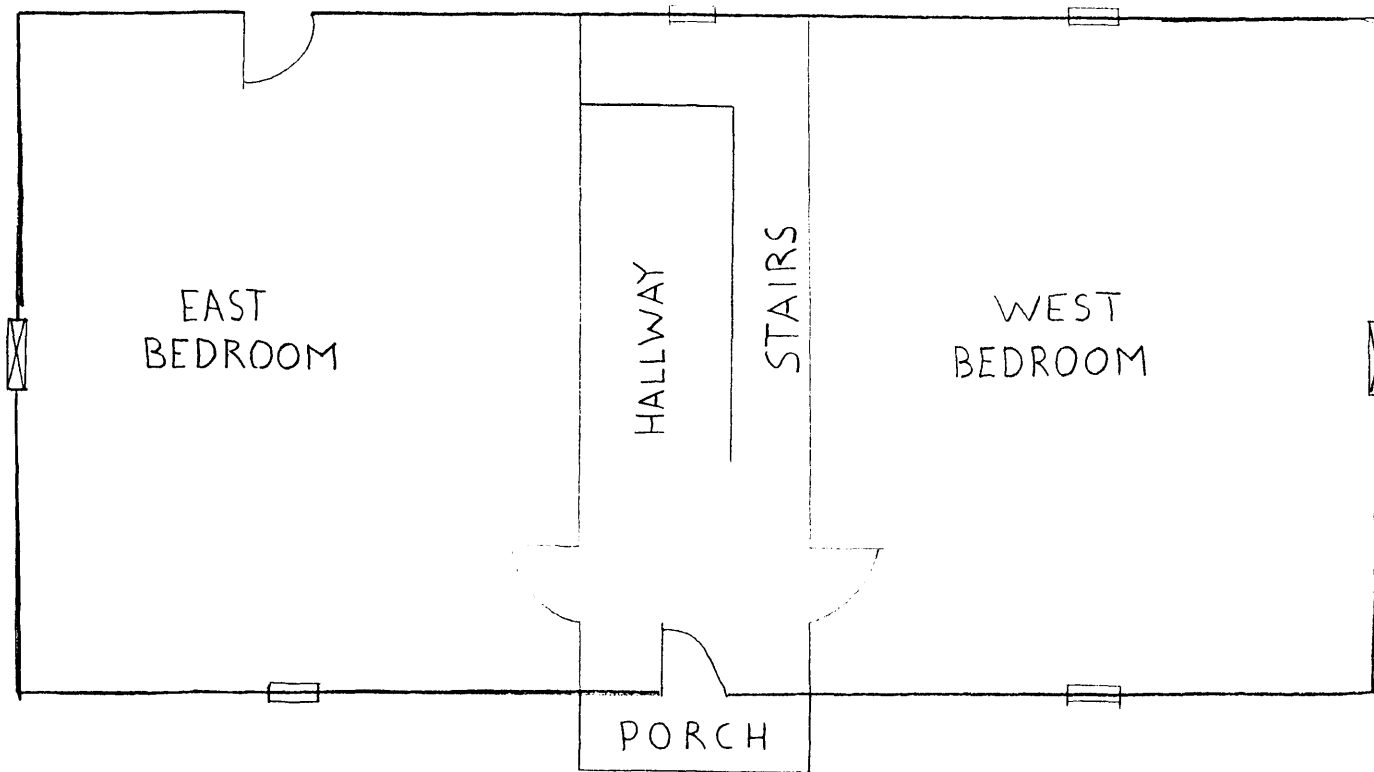
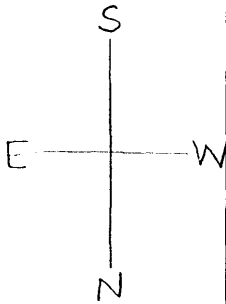


RASCOE-HARRIS FARMHOUSE  
SUMNER CO, TN  
FIRST FLOOR

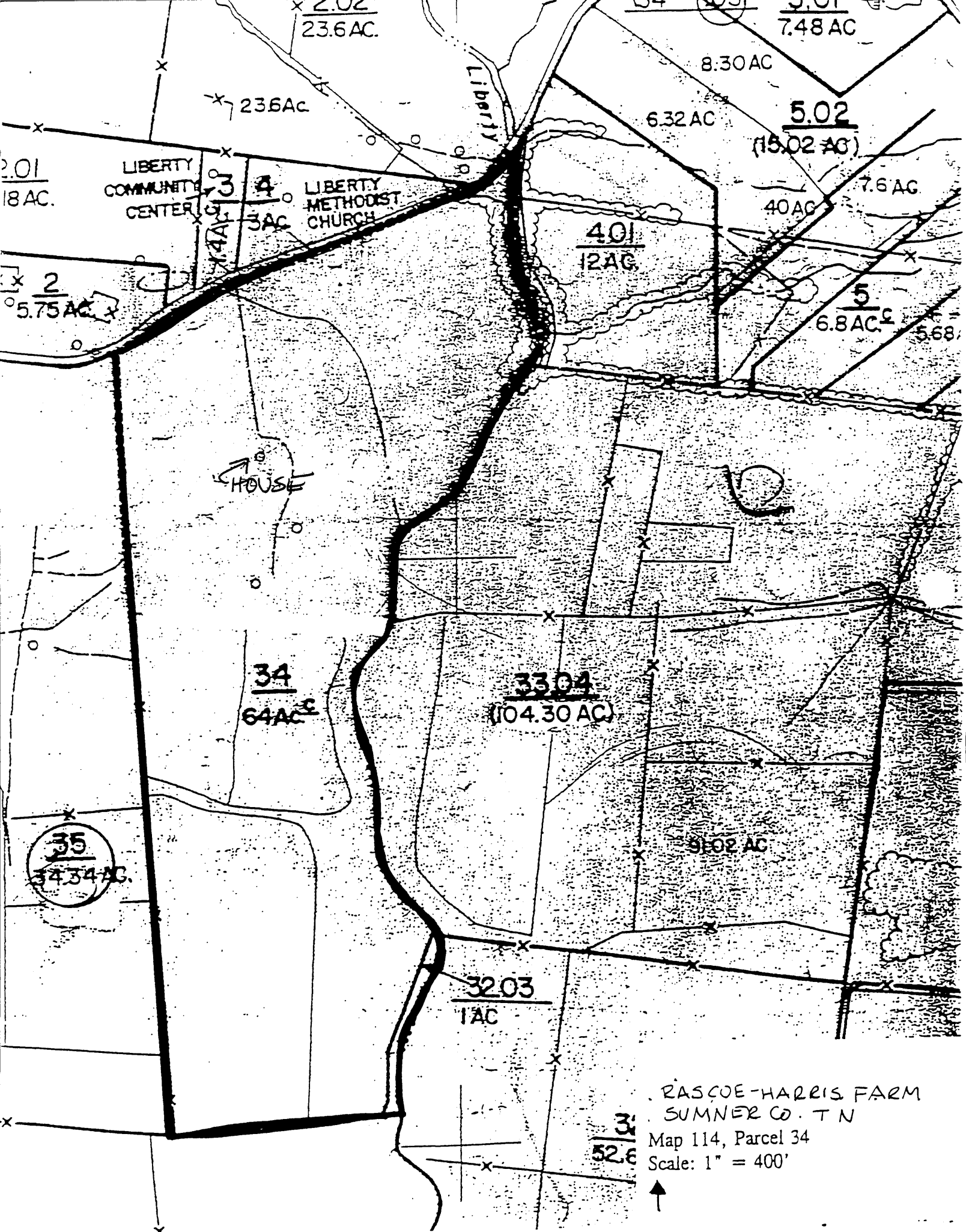


\*NOT TO SCALE

RASCOE-HARRIS FARMHOUSE  
SUMNER CO., TN  
SECOND FLOOR



\*NOT TO SCALE.



LIBERTY  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER

LIBERTY  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

HOUSE

RASCOE-HARRIS FARM  
SUMNER CO. TN  
Map 114, Parcel 34  
Scale: 1" = 400'



2.01  
18 AC.

23.6 AC

5.01  
7.48 AC

8.30 AC

6.32 AC

5.02  
(15.02 AC)

7.6 AC

40 AC

40  
12 AC

5  
6.8 AC

5.68

34  
64 AC

33.04  
(104.30 AC)

91.02 AC

35  
3434 AC

32.03  
1 AC

3  
52.6