



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Wildwood Farms  
Other names/site number The Taylor Farm  
Name of related multiple property listing N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 2737 South Germantown Road  
City or town: Germantown State: TN County: Shelby  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A Zip: 38138

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Claudia J. ... 5/30/17  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting Official: Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

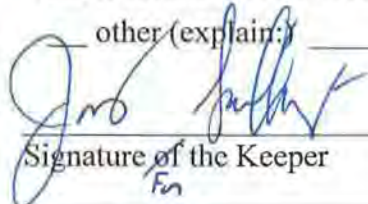
## 4. National Park Service Certification

Wildwood Farms  
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I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

  
 Signature of the Keeper

7.24.2017  
 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	3	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	3	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/ agricultural field/animal facility/  
agricultural outbuilding

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ sports facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/ agricultural field/animal facility/  
agricultural outbuilding

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; CONCRETE; WOOD; SYNTHETICS/vinyl

**Narrative Description**

**Summary**

Wildwood Farms is a 350-acre historic district fronting Germantown Road in Germantown, Shelby County, Tennessee. The property is bounded by Germantown Road to the east, Crestridge Road to the south, McVay Road and McVay Trail Drive to the west, and Stout Road to the north. The nominated property consists of 8 contributing and 3 non-contributing resources. The Wildwood Farms horse stable visually dominates the nominated property, fronting Germantown Road. Related structures, buildings, mature trees and large expanses of open land maintained as pasture and used for training characterize the rest of the farm. Overall, Wildwood Farms retains the integrity of an early-to mid-twentieth century horse farm. It retains both its historical appearance and function, with few intrusions on the landscape.

**1. Main Horse Stable (1935)**

The Wildwood Farms main horse stable is visible from Germantown Road, and is connected to the highway by a paved driveway, separated only by the easternmost horse pasture and a chain-link fence. It is located in pasture 10.

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The main horse stable is a two-story 18,000 square foot Colonial Revival structure with green asphalt shingle roof, white painted brick walls, white wood trim, and a concrete foundation. It has a centered gable bay entrance on both the front and rear elevations and two side wings, creating a cross-shaped plan. The facade or east elevation features a central projecting bay with a brick interior chimney on the northern end and a centered paneled door that has a four-light fixed transom and pedimented door surround. The door is flanked by a pair of 9/9 double hung wood windows on each side. The second story on the projecting bay has a centered 12/12 double hung wood window with radiating brick voussoir above, flanked by two 9/9 double hung wood windows in descending heights on either side. Decorative brick lintels and sills adorn the windows. All windows are painted green. There is a centered round wood louvered vent at the top of the gable encircled with brick and four-equally spaced keystones. Decorative brick quoins adorn the corners of the bay.

The rear or west elevation features a similar central projecting bay with a brick interior chimney on the northern end and an opening for a metal roll-up garage door at the southern end of the first story, a slightly off-centered 9/9 double hung wood window, and a 4/4 double hung wood window on the northern end. The second story features a centered 12/12 double hung wood window with radiating brick voussoir above flanked by one 9/9 double hung wood window on each side. Decorative brick lintels and sills adorn the windows and door opening. Mirroring the main façade, there is a centered round wood louvered vent at the top of the gable encircled with brick and four equally spaced keystones. Decorative brick quoins adorn the corners of the bay.

The one-and-one-half story side gable wings contain nine equally-spaced six-light square metal awning windows on each side of the projecting bays and four symmetrically spaced front-gabled dormers on the second story with a 6/6 double hung painted metal window in each. The north and south elevations are identical. Each features a prominent centered open entrance bay with large wood sliding doors suspended by a long steel frame that runs approximately three-quarters the width of the façade. Each door has a pair of twelve-light fixed windows in the top half and are board-and-batten on the bottom half. Above the sliding doors, an arched thirty-four-light wood window with a brick keystone arch runs the width of the entrance. On the first story, six-light square metal awning windows flank the large sliding doors. On the second story, 6/6 double hung metal windows flank the arched window. There is a centered round four-light window at the top of the gable, encircled with brick and four equally spaced keystones. Mirroring the east and west elevations, decorative brick quoins adorn the corners of each elevation.

The asphalt shingle cross-gable roof has several round metal ventilators and features a cupola at its center. The frame cupola has an octagonal base, shingle roof, and a mix of six glazed and two louvered sides to provide light and ventilation at the center of the stable.

The interior of the main horse stable is arranged along a central hall with two shorter halls perpendicular to it, creating a cross plan. The first story features a long and wide central hall that is approximately 30 feet wide and runs 100 yards long from north to south with 16 stalls on either side. Each stall is approximately 15 feet across by 14 feet 8 inches deep and features dark wood paneling, original hardware, and sliding wood beadboard doors that are open on top except for metal grates. The walls between stalls are solid wood on bottom and grated on top except for some on the northeast side that have solid beadboard on top. These stalls were used to house stallions.

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The east hall is the front entrance to the stable and is occupied by the farm office, a bathroom, equipment room and tack room. The farm office features stained wood paneling, a fireplace with a wood mantle, baseboards, crown molding, and hexagonal tile floors, making this a more finished space and setting it apart from the more utilitarian spaces in the building. The walls of the office feature framed pictures of the farm's most successful horses. The adjoining bathroom features period peach fixtures and tile with brown bullnose accents. Some of the square wall tiles feature hand-painted stenciling of horses, horseshoes, and saddles.

The west hall is entered through the back or western elevation of the building and has open space for vehicles and other equipment to enter through the garage door. A feed room, wash room, and bathroom are located just north of the garage door. The feed room now houses a sprinkler system that was added in the 1990s for insurance purposes.

The second floor is open except for long terraces running the length of the stable on either side. Short wood paneled walls with decorative wood brackets run the length of the terraces and are 2 feet 6 inches high. The terrace on the east side is accessible by an enclosed staircase located next to the office and storage room downstairs and features three storage rooms, haylofts, and a bedroom and bathroom used as a dormitory for horse grooms. These rooms are centrally located inside the projecting bays found on the east elevation and are recessed into the eaves of the roof, creating slanted roof lines in each of the rooms. The haylofts on both sides of the second story feature small square wood doors in the floor that grooms used to send hay and feed directly into the corresponding stalls below. The terrace on the west side was used primarily for hayloft and equipment storage and is only accessible by a ladder located at the northwest end of the stable. All wood used in the construction of the stable was milled on site. Most of the interior woodwork is pine that has traditionally been stained dark.

The building's interior retains a high degree of integrity. From the woodwork and hardware to the exposed roof trusses and wood paneling throughout, the stable retains the look and feel of its 1935 construction. (C)

## **2. Blacksmith Shop/Pump House (1935)**

Also located in pasture 10, these are two, one-story brick buildings connected by a metal shed roof that forms a hyphen and creates additional storage space below. Both sections are Colonial Revival style and have parapet gable ends, a sheet metal roof, and concrete foundation. The larger west section was the farm's blacksmith shop and measures approximately 90 feet long by 28 feet wide, has three open entrance bays, a pedestrian door with transom above, and two boarded windows on the south side. The rear elevation faces north and has two boarded windows, one nine-light fixed wood window and a wood door. This section also has a frame shed roof addition on concrete piers with a single open entrance bay to the south. The blacksmith shop is now used for equipment storage and as a workshop for farm equipment.

The easternmost section of the building was used as a pump house to the well located in the pasture behind the building. The pump equipment is extant inside the building and was added to the farm in 1935. The pump house measures approximately 32 feet long by 23 feet wide and has a solid panel wood door with transom above flanked by 6/6 double-hung wood windows. (C)

## **3. Equipment Shed (c.1990)**

One-story frame horizontal composite board building with composite shed roof and two open bay entrances on the south side. It has two sections, the taller eastern section, approximately 19 feet by 26 feet, and the

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western section, approximately 21 feet by 26 feet. Located in Pasture 10, this structure is adjacent to and west of the blacksmith shop and pump house building. (NC, due to date of construction)

#### **4. Manager's House (1935)**

The manager's house is located west of the main horse stable in pasture 11 and is a one-and-one-half-story Colonial Revival style gable-front-and-wing dwelling that faces south. The house has a green asphalt shingle roof, a boxed eave with a moderate overhang, vinyl siding, and a concrete foundation. On the main or south elevation, a flat roof porch within the ell made by the two wings has wood Doric columns and a wood railing in a cross pattern. A wood balustrade was removed from the porch roof c.2000 and has not been replaced. A wood paneled door with a four-light transom above is flanked by two 1/1 vinyl replacement windows on either side. Symmetrically spaced front-gabled dormers, each with a pair of six-light wood casement windows, and two interior brick chimneys adorn the roofline. The front-gabled wing is on the eastern end of the house and features a pair of symmetrically spaced 1/1 vinyl replacement windows with a pair of symmetrically spaced half-fanlight wood windows in the gable above. The western end of the house has a side-gabled wing with three grouped 1/1 vinyl replacement windows. This wing is original to the 1935 construction and was used as a sunroom.

The east elevation features 1/1 vinyl replacement windows and an additional dormer with a pair of six-light wood casement windows located in the hipped roof section of the house. This section dates to the original 1935 construction of the house. Also evident from this elevation is a c.1970 garage addition.

The northern or rear elevation features two projecting front-gabled wings. The easternmost wing is the c.1970 garage addition and features a lower-pitched gable than what is seen on the rest of the house. This addition also includes a shed roof porch with square wood posts on the interior of the wing. The westernmost wing mirrors the pitch of the side gables and wing on the south facade. This wing is believed to be original to the 1935 construction. The two wings create a recessed courtyard in the middle.

The west elevation reveals changes made c.1970 when the family altered the side gabled roofline to a wide, shallow pitch to accommodate the addition of two more bedrooms and a bathroom. Brick stairs lead to sliding glass doors that are centered on the façade. Also on the west elevation, a pair of 1/1 vinyl replacement windows are located north of the centered gabled addition, and three grouped 1/1 vinyl replacement windows are located south of the addition as part of the sunroom. A wood fanlight is centered in the gable above.

The interior of the manager's house mostly follows a central hall plan with exception to the 1970s additions made to the rear of the house. Colonial Revival details are extant on the mantel and built-in bookcase in the southeast parlor as well as in the fanlight transom above the doorway and coved ceiling in the center hall. Narrow wood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and wide wood baseboards and moldings are extant throughout much of the house. The c.1970 addition includes an expanded dining room as well as two additional bedrooms, one bathroom, and a garage with utility room on the northern end of the house. The bathroom fixtures mostly date c.1950-70. The kitchen was updated in 2016, but its layout remains the same. Though additions and alterations were made to the north end of the house, the original room configurations and many of the defining architectural details of the rooms on the south end are largely intact.

At its construction in 1935, the manager's house was built for and occupied by the farm's horse trainer and family. In 1946, the Taylors made Wildwood their primary residence and moved into the manager's house while their house was being built on the back of the property. They moved out of the manager's house in

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1952 when their house was complete, and the house reverted back to employee housing at that time. Audrey Taylor Gonzalez (second-generation on the farm) occupied the manager's house from 1963-1970s. It has since reverted back to farm manager housing. Additions and alterations made c.1970 reflect both the changing use of the manager's house over time as well as the adaptation of the house for modern conveniences, as is common of houses on working farms from the early to mid-twentieth century. These changes do not detract overall from its early-to mid-twentieth century appearance. (C)

#### **5. Equipment Shed (c.1990)**

One-story rectangular sheet metal building with shed metal roof and eight open bay entrances separated by wood posts on the east side. It measures approximately 105 feet by 22 feet. The southernmost bay has a shed roof overhanging its entrance. Located north of the farmhouse in the northeast corner of pasture 11. (NC, due to date of construction)

#### **6. Laundry (1935)**

One-story rectangular brick building with a side-gabled composite shingle roof and exposed rafter tails that measures approximately 19 feet long by 15 feet wide. The façade or east elevation has a centered ten-light wood door and faces east. The northern elevation has a centered boarded window. The southern elevation has a centered two-light vinyl replacement window. This building is located north of the manager's house in pasture 11. (C)

#### **7. Secondary Horse Stable (1968)**

The secondary horse stable is a one-story rectangular building running east to west with a metal gable roof, exposed wood rafters, sheet metal siding, and a poured concrete foundation. Dimensions are 130 feet long by 36 feet wide. The interior features a central hall that has ten stalls on either side, with a square window in each. Each end has a single open entrance bay measuring 10 feet 8 inches. The secondary horse stable is located in pasture 10 alongside a gravel road between the manager's house and laborer's house. It was constructed in 1968 in preparation for hosting the 1968 U.S. Open Polo Championship.<sup>1</sup> (C)

#### **8. Laborer's House (c.1935)**

One-story rectangular-plan frame dwelling that faces north. The house measures approximately 28.5 feet long by 22 feet wide and has board-and-batten siding, an asphalt-shingle side gable roof, a central brick chimney, and a concrete pier foundation. The north façade has two, 6/6 double hung wood windows on either side of a 3-light Craftsman door and front gable, screened half-porch that has been screened with square wood posts. The rear elevation has two off-centered 6/6 double hung wood windows on either side of an exterior brick chimney. The east elevation has an asymmetrically-spaced 6/6 double hung wood window and a 4/4 double hung wood window. The west elevation has one 6/6 double hung wood window and a second symmetrically-spaced opening that has been covered in plywood. The laborer's house is located north of the main horse stable in pasture 10. Other than the manager's house, the laborer's house is the last remaining employee housing on the farm. (C)

#### **9. Equipment Shed (c.1950)**

One-story rectangular building with shed metal roof and five open bay entrances separated by wood posts atop brick and concrete footings on the east side. The exterior walls on the rear and side elevations are

<sup>1</sup> Tennessee Department of Transportation, "Evaluation for the Taylor Farm on the Project to Improve State Route 177 from 0.1 Mile North of Winchester Road to McVay Road in Memphis/Germantown, Shelby County, Tennessee," (U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and the Tennessee Department of Transportation, 1991), 6.

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covered with sheet metal. The interior walls are covered with plywood. Located in a pasture behind the horse track, this structure was added shortly after the Taylor family expanded Wildwood Farms in 1949. It appears in a 1952 aerial and is located in the southwest corner of pasture 11. (C)

**10. Melanie Taylor House (2014)**

This one-and-one-half story frame and stone dwelling was constructed in 2014 west of the manager's house and is separated from it and the main farm complex by a grove of trees. Although this house is new infill on the property and does not replicate the historical appearance of earlier structures, according to a 1937 aerial and oral history, it sits roughly in the footprint of an earlier barn and even earlier equipment shed and is not intrusive to the overall landscape. It is located in pasture 11. (NC, due to date of construction)

**11. Field patterns, horse track, fences, and roads**

The farm landscape is enhanced by wood fences, historic roads, and extant field patterns that reflect the farm's continued use as a horse breeding and training facility. The horse track that shows up in the 1935 Mueller plan for the farm is extant and visible in the southeast corner of pasture 11. Round concrete water troughs and a picket line dot the pastureland. Three-board wood fencing is found throughout much of the property, replacing an earlier five-board fence that was historically painted white. Chain-link fencing was added mostly to the boundaries of the property c. 1990 for security purposes, however some of the original woven wire fencing is extant alongside it. Historic farm roads throughout the property are a mixture of gravel and paved surfaces. The main farm complex is situated along the main paved farm road.. (C)



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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1935-1968

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1935, 1949, 1958, 1968

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Mueller, Paul

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 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.) N/A

Property is:

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

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### **Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

Wildwood Farms, a 350-acre property at 2737 S. Germantown Road in Germantown, Shelby County, Tennessee, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in agriculture as a significant extant horse stable associated with the breeding and training of American Saddlebred horses from its founding in 1935 to a transition in 1959 to American Thoroughbred horses that were bred for polo from 1959 throughout the rest of the twentieth century. The farm complex represents this evolution and is an exceptional example of a successful horse farm in West Tennessee throughout the twentieth century. The property is also eligible under Criterion C for local significance in architecture as an extremely intact example of an early-to mid-twentieth century horse farm in West Tennessee. The main farm complex, including the main horse stable, manager's house, and associated outbuildings, constructed between 1935 and 1968, is mostly unchanged from its original appearance and features Colonial Revival details throughout. Limited modernizations to the farm's buildings do not detract overall from the farm's early-to mid-twentieth century setting, appearance, and feel.

### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

#### **Agricultural Significance**

The nominated property was once part of the Cotton Plant Plantation owned by James Kimbrough and was later subdivided into smaller farms owned by several different individuals, including families by the surnames of Jones, Phillips, Eberhart, Eavenson, and Griffins. The property has been a horse farm since at least 1934 when William L. Taylor purchased the Jones and Phillips' farms to total approximately 170 acres and created Wildwood Farms. Additional acreage to the west of the 1934 tract was purchased in 1949 to total 350 acres, all of which remains intact today. The Taylor family has since stabled, bred, and trained saddle, hunter-jumper, harness, and polo horses on the property.

Robert L. Taylor, also known as "Red," was a general manager and officer of the Grenada Cotton Compress Company, a company founded in Grenada, Mississippi, in 1887, that was the predecessor of the Federal Compress & Warehouse Company of Memphis, Tennessee. A history of the company says, "By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the cotton compressing process had greatly facilitated storage and shipment of the fiber, which in turn provided planters with substantial savings in both space and money."<sup>2</sup> Though Robert L. Taylor never attended school, he was a smart business man, and under his leadership the firm grew exponentially in the early part of the twentieth century. His grand-daughter Audrey Taylor Gonzalez remembers, "Any money he made, he immediately put back into the business and purchased another compress."<sup>3</sup> By 1925, their "holdings numbered 28 corporations, totaling 48 cotton compresses with a combined storage capacity of 1.2 million bales."<sup>4</sup> That same year, all 48 compresses were merged into the newly-created Federal Compress & Warehouse Company. Taylor was named president of the company and relocated office headquarters to Memphis, Tennessee. The company's history says, "Under the continued leadership of R.L. Taylor, the new company further expanded until it reached 100 plants. Upon his retirement, he was succeeded by his son,

<sup>2</sup> "Federal Compress & Warehouse Company," private manuscript collection of Federal Compress & Warehouse Company, Inc., Memphis, TN.

<sup>3</sup> Audrey Taylor Gonzalez, interview by author, Memphis, TN, January 3, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> "Federal Compress & Warehouse Company," 193.

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W.L. Taylor, as head of the world's largest cotton warehouse system."<sup>5</sup> The company continued to grow and eventually diversified, becoming Holly Farms before being bought by Tyson Foods in 1989. At that point, company headquarters moved away from Memphis and W.L. Taylor's son and successor Robert Lee Taylor II retired from the company.<sup>6</sup>

In his personal life, Robert L. Taylor was born in Providence, Grenada County, Mississippi in 1872. He married Sarah Wilson Lea of Red Banks, Marshall County, Mississippi, in 1906. Shortly after they married they moved to Memphis and had two sons, Robert L. Taylor Jr. in 1908 and William L. Taylor in 1909. A few years after the Federal Compress merger, the family's eldest son Robert L. Taylor Jr. was killed in 1928 in an automobile accident at the young age of twenty. Upon his death, William L. Taylor became heir to the family's trust and positioned to become president of Federal Compress as well.

Tennessee farmers were some of the state's hardest hit by the Great Depression that began in the winter of 1929-30. By 1932, farm products that had been worth more than \$300 million in 1929 "were valued at a mere \$132 million in 1932."<sup>7</sup> More than 100 banks closed statewide and unemployment rates rose to an estimated 25-30 percent. During this time, many farmers saw their farms either repossessed or were forced to sell, resulting in several smaller farms being sold in the early-to-mid 1930s throughout the state. Many farmers in Shelby County faced the same fate. In Germantown, two smaller farms owned by the Jones and Phillips families were sold to William L. Taylor in 1934. Their acreage totaled approximately 170 acres, and Taylor named the new farm Wildwood Farms. The name Wildwood came from his mother's family's cotton farm in Red Banks, Mississippi, of the same name.

The American Horse Shows Association was founded in 1917 and led to a more organized and standardized format for showing. The sport quickly grew in popularity throughout the 1920s and 1930s. In the South, state and county fairs were the primary locations of such shows, society, and sportsmanship.<sup>8</sup> It is not known when or how William L. Taylor was first introduced to the sport, but he showed interest at an early age. By 1934, when he purchased Wildwood, he was already successfully breeding and training horses for sale.

With the help of notable horse trainer Garland Bradshaw and landscape architect Paul Mueller, Taylor designed and commissioned the 18,000 square foot brick horse stable at Wildwood Farms in the fall of 1934. The impressive stable was credited as the largest of its kind in Tennessee at its completion in 1935.<sup>9</sup> In a letter to his son, Mueller compared the stable's size to that of a World War I-era Zeppelin airship hangar.<sup>10</sup> The stable was specifically designed for Saddle horses, and while it is the centerpiece of the farm, it was part of a greater landscape design developed and executed by Mueller.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Melanie Smith Taylor, interview by author, Germantown, TN, January 9, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Carroll Van West, *New Deal Landscapes* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press), 2.

<sup>8</sup> American Saddlebred Horse Association, "Breed History," American Saddlebred Horse Association and American Saddlebred Registry, Inc., <https://www.asha.net/aboutus/theamericansaddlebred/breedhistory/> (accessed January 11, 2017).

<sup>9</sup> Russell S.Hall, *Images of America: Germantown* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2003),72.

<sup>10</sup> Paul Mueller to Richard C. Mueller, March 28, 1935, private manuscript collection of Chris Little.

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Paul Mueller, a Harvard graduate, worked for a Minneapolis, Minnesota-based landscape architecture firm that had a southern office in Memphis and had worked in the area on and off since around 1920.<sup>11</sup> He is credited with the design of Court Square in Memphis and did work on several homes in the Overton Park neighborhood of Midtown in Memphis.<sup>12</sup> Taylor's father, Robert, was a past client of Mueller and therefore familiar with his work. Mueller arrived in Germantown with his wife Ethel on Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1934, to oversee the construction of not only the Taylor's stable, but also miles of five-board painted fences, the manager's house, and other related outbuildings on the farm. As part of the project, an existing house on the former Phillips property was razed and a new well dug in the northwest corner of pasture 10. A corresponding pump was installed in the new pump house that sat just east of a new blacksmith shop. A letter Ethel Mueller wrote to her son in 1935 describes the fencing as "13,000 feet in all and a wire fence across the back."<sup>13</sup> Mueller had forty-two men on his payroll for the project, including his son Bartram Mueller who would go on to make a name for himself in the Germantown equestrian community as one of the founders of the Germantown Charity Horse Show and the Oak Grove Hunt Club.<sup>14</sup> The stable alone reportedly cost \$40,000 to build. The project was completed in the summer of 1935, just a little more than six months from when it began.<sup>15</sup>

In 1937, horse trainer Eddie Barham introduced William L. Taylor to Audrey L. Thomas of Providence, Rhode Island, at the Devon Horse Show in Devon, Pennsylvania. They married three months later. Audrey L. Thomas was herself part of an equestrian family and co-owned stables called Audrey's Choice of Providence. Although she shared William's love for horses, William was most interested in breeding and training horses where she had a greater interest in showing. Those interests would define their roles at Wildwood for many years. William focused on breeding and training while Audrey alongside their trainers was active in showing them. The couple had daughter Audrey Lucille Taylor in 1939, and son Robert Lee Taylor II in 1941. Though they ran their business out of Wildwood and spent many weekends there, the family continued to live with William's father, Robert, at his home in Memphis until his death in 1945. At that time, they moved to Wildwood and took up residence in the manager's house.

In addition to horses at Wildwood, from 1935 until his death in 1945, Robert L. Taylor maintained a high bred herd of Hereford cattle on the farm. His prize winning bull, T Royal Rupert 49<sup>th</sup>, was the herd's anchor sire. The bull's father was owned by future Oklahoma governor Roy J. Turner and known as the "First Million Dollar Bull of America."<sup>16</sup> The cattle operation continued for about ten years after Robert's death, ending in 1955 with a dispersal sale.<sup>17</sup> After that, the farm was dedicated entirely to horses.

From the mid-1930s through much of the 1950s, William L. Taylor and his wife Audrey bred and trained American Saddlebred horses at Wildwood Farms and showed their horses all over the country. Nearly

<sup>11</sup> U.S. City Directory, Memphis, TN, 1920.

<sup>12</sup> Pauli Brandt and Chris Little, phone interview by author, November 16, 2016.

<sup>13</sup> Ethel Mueller to Richard C. Mueller, February 7, 1935, private manuscript collection of Chris Little.

<sup>14</sup> Hall, *Germantown*, 79.

<sup>15</sup> Ethel Mueller to Richard C. Mueller, June 18, 1935.

<sup>16</sup> Dianna Everett, "Hazford Rupert 81<sup>st</sup>," Oklahoma Historical Society Online Encyclopedia, <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=HA057> (accessed January 11, 2017).

<sup>17</sup> Advertisement of Cattle Dispersal Sale at Wildwood Farms, April 9, 1955, private collection of Audrey Taylor Gonzalez.

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everywhere they showed, their horses placed in the top of their class.<sup>18</sup> In addition to breeding, training, and showing horses, both William and Audrey held other positions within the community. Audrey is credited in part for the creation and organization of the Germantown Charity Horse Show, held annually since 1947.<sup>19</sup> She was also involved in various social clubs and philanthropic organizations, including as president of the Crippled Children's Hospital in Memphis for four years in the 1960s. The hospital was formed in 1919 by a group of Episcopal clubwomen to offer free healthcare and occupational therapy to its patients. The Hospital eventually housed and educated its patients as well. It was sold to form the Children's Foundation of Memphis in 1982.<sup>20</sup> Throughout her life, Audrey was also a member of the Junior League in Memphis, the Little Garden Club, University Club, Memphis Country Club, Memphis Hunt and Polo Club, and other social clubs in Florida, where the family kept a winter home. The Taylor's were members of Saint George's Episcopal Church in Germantown.

Though he remained very active on the farm breeding and preparing horses for sale, William L. Taylor inherited his father's business and position as president of Federal Compress in 1945. Throughout the farm's early history, including Robert's tenure as president, Federal Compress held its annual picnics on the property near the extant laborer's house in the northwest corner of pasture 10. Whole pigs were roasted in the ground, and a dance floor placed in the pasture.<sup>21</sup>

Sometime after the Taylor's made Wildwood their primary residence in 1946, they constructed clay tennis courts to the north of the manager's house. Both William and Audrey were avid tennis players and actively involved in the tennis community. William played for his alma mater, Princeton University, and won several Memphis Open Tournaments. He even made the quarterfinals at Wimbledon. Locally, the Taylors were founding members of Germantown's International Tennis Club and hosted the club at Wildwood from 1947 until the late 1970s when the club moved indoors to the University Club of Memphis. Over the years, many successful athletes played on the Taylor's courts, including William's former teammate at Princeton, John Van Ryn Jr., who was the Wimbledon Doubles Champion of 1929 and 1930 and winner of the United States Doubles in 1931 and 1935. The clay courts at Wildwood are no longer extant.<sup>22</sup>

The Taylor's employed many people in the running of Wildwood Farms. One groom was hired for every three horses, meaning anywhere from 8-10 horse grooms were employed at one time depending on the number of horses they had at the time. Following Wildwood's first trainer, Garland Bradshaw, Eli "Sonny" Long succeeded him as the Saddle horse trainer at Wildwood and maintained that position from about 1945 to 1958, when the farm converted to Thoroughbreds for polo, and trainer Glenn Hart was hired. Hart maintained that position until after the U.S. Open in 1968.

<sup>18</sup> "Wildwood Farm Entries Capture Honors at Show," *Courier News*, Blytheville, Arkansas, October 5, 1936; "Horse Show," *Greenwood Commonwealth*, Greenwood, Mississippi, September 7, 1938; "Horse Show," *Courier News*, Blytheville, Arkansas, August 27, 1947; "Tennessee Horses in Show Here," *Delta Democrat*, Greenville, Mississippi, June 7, 1959.

<sup>19</sup> Betsy West, "The Story of the Germantown Horse Show," Germantown Charity Horse Show, <http://gchs.org/our-history/> (accessed January 9, 2017).

<sup>20</sup> Patricia M. LaPointe, "The Memphis Crippled Children's Hospital School, 1917-1982," Memphis and Shelby County Room (Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 1986), 1.

<sup>21</sup> Audrey Taylor Gonzalez, interview by author, Memphis, TN, January 3, 2017.

<sup>22</sup> Alexander Wellford Jr., "International Club History," e-mail message to Melanie Smith Taylor, January 5, 2017.

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Some of the farm's employees lived in laborer's housing on the property, including two small houses that were located on the northern end of the property (no longer extant) as well as a house referred to as the "Gatehouse" that was used by the cattle manager and later the family's butler, located at the front of the property along Germantown Road. There were also at least two older farmhouses that pre-date the Taylor's presence on the farm that employees lived in. These fronted and were accessed by Stout Road and are no longer extant. The small board and batten house located north of the stable is the only laborer's housing that is extant other than the manager's house and is representative of this property type on the farm's landscape.

The Taylors sponsored the first steeplechase in Germantown that ran for three years between 1948 and 1951 on the property's polo fields located just south of the barn in pasture 6, fronting Germantown Road. This steeplechase was on the same circuit as the Iroquois Steeplechase in Nashville. While city horse tracks were more suited to flat racing, the steeplechase was considered a country sport and usually conducted over natural terrain.<sup>23</sup> A picture of the steeplechase at Wildwood Farms from c.1950 shows riders racing along a natural track defined only by flags in the ground, a tree line, and a crowd of spectators along the sides.

In 1949, the Taylor's added to Wildwood Farms with the purchase of an additional 180 acres west of the horse stable, totaling 350 acres that are intact today. On the additional acreage in pasture 12, they built a brick two-story Neo-Greek Revival style house in 1952.<sup>24</sup> This house is no longer extant. It was razed in 2014 after being vacant for many years and falling into a state of disrepair. The site of the house is evident by an extant circle drive, parking pad, and plantings that lined the drive and marked the entrance to the house.

Along with sporting events and corresponding social gatherings, the Taylors often hosted prominent horses passing through town. Throughout the 1950s, the famous Budweiser Clydesdales often stayed at Wildwood Farms whenever they passed through the area on exhibition. The stable at Wildwood was one of few in the Southeast large enough to house them all and the stalls were larger than average. When Anheuser-Busch's union laborers went on strike in the summer of 1969, the Clydesdales along with their Dalmatian mascot spent a month at Wildwood Farms awaiting the resolution of the strike and employees' return to work.

By the mid-1950s, the Taylors were already showing interest in the sport of polo. In 1956, Audrey Taylor was pictured presenting awards to the Germantown Polo Team, and when Robert Lee Taylor II attended Princeton University between 1959-1963, he was part of a revival of the sport on campus. With Robert positioned to eventually take over the running of Wildwood, the Taylors decided to make a change in the use of Wildwood to better suit his and their growing interests. In 1958, there was a dispersal sale at Wildwood that marked a major transition on the farm. All of the farm's American Saddlebreds were sold and replaced with American Thoroughbreds used primarily for polo. Robert Lee Taylor II worked to further develop the farm's polo operation throughout the rest of the twentieth century. He hosted the Memphis Hunt and Polo Club at Wildwood between 1965 and 2003, and developed additional polo fields in the 1960s on land south of the present-day boundaries of Wildwood Farms, located on the southeast corner of Germantown Road and

<sup>23</sup> National Steeplechase Association, "History of Jump Racing," National Steeplechase Association, <http://www.nationalsteeplechase.com/history/> (accessed January 18, 2017).

<sup>24</sup> Tennessee Department of Transportation, "Evaluation for the Taylor Farm," 6.

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Winchester Road. The Taylors continued hosting polo matches on this land until 2000 when part of the land was conveyed for the construction of Bill Morris Parkway-State Route 385.

One of the property's most significant events of the 1960s occurred in 1968, when heavy rains and flooding in the Chicago area prompted the move of the U.S. Open Polo Championship from its usual location in Oak Brook, Illinois, to Germantown.<sup>25</sup> The Taylors hosted the U.S. Open Polo Championship at their polo property south of Wildwood Farms from September 28 to October 6, 1968. Five teams competed. This was the first time the U.S. Open was held in the South since its inaugural competition held in New York in 1904.<sup>26</sup> The family hosted riders and stabled their horses at Wildwood. Additional barns and storage facilities were constructed specifically for this purpose, including one stable that is still extant. Elaborate parties were held on the property to commemorate the occasion.

Wildwood Farms continues its rich equestrian tradition, breeding and training Thoroughbreds since the early 1960s, specializing in polo ponies, hunter-jumper, and riding horses. In 1989, Robert Lee Taylor II married noted equestrian Melanie Smith inside the main horse stable at Wildwood Farms. Smith is most recognized for her longstanding equestrian career, being named the American Grand Prix Association Rider of the year in 1978 and being only one of two riders to earn the "Triple Crown of Show Jumping" in 1980 by winning the American Invitational, International Jumping Derby, and the American Gold Cup all in the same year. She was also the only rider to do so with the same horse. For this and her many other achievements, Smith was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1982. Her show jumping career culminated in a Team Gold Medal at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984. After Robert Lee Taylor II's death in 2005, Melanie Taylor greatly downsized the business of the farm, however, she still maintains a number of horses both for pleasure and sale.

### Architectural Significance

Much has been written about the Tennessee Walking Horse and the farms that housed them, predominantly found in Middle Tennessee, but less has been written about the horse industry in West Tennessee. Wildwood Farms is a good example of an historic and successful horse breeding and training facility in this region of the state. Wildwood's prominence and success as an American Saddlebred horse breeding and training facility is evident in the farm's overall landscape and in the architecture of individual buildings. The transition to American Thoroughbreds for polo ponies is also marked on the landscape with the addition of a more modern stable.

The main horse stable was constructed with great craftsmanship and retains a high degree of integrity as a 1935 horse stable. Architectural details often absent on such farm buildings as well as materials used highlight the importance of this structure on the property. Other Tennessee horse farms from the same era boast large horse stables, but are not as large or stylized as the one at Wildwood Farms. The main horse stable at Harlinsdale Farm (NRL 05 03 2006) in Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee, for example, is also the primary architecturally significant building on its farm and was also built in 1935; however it is not

<sup>25</sup> Melanie Smith Taylor, interview by author, Germantown, TN, January 9, 2017.

<sup>26</sup> Horace A. Laffaye, *Polo in the United States: A History* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2011), 233.

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as large or high-style as the stable at Wildwood.<sup>27</sup> Wildwood's main horse stable is a good example of Colonial Revival architecture that was popular in the southeastern United States at this time. The stable's interior plan and design balance work spaces for employees, a wide training area the length of the stable's center hall, and larger than average size stalls for horses. Carefully-designed landscaping around the main horse stable adds to the intentionality of its design and placement within the farm landscape.

*Barns of Tennessee* authors Caneta Hankins and Michael Thomas Gavin call barns "the most representative architectural statement in an agricultural environment."<sup>28</sup> This statement is certainly true of Wildwood Farms. Despite important architectural details extant on the blacksmith shop, pump house, and manager's house, the main horse stable remains the architectural showpiece of the farm. When landscape architect Paul Mueller and his client William L. Taylor designed the layout of Wildwood Farms, their design intentionally gave prominence to the horse stable. Rather than a more traditional placement of a stable or barn in rear of a house with a front-gabled entrance, Wildwood Farms represents a departure from tradition and places emphasis and pride on the horse stable itself rather than a residence. The stable is positioned lengthwise with a cross-gable entrance that faces the highway and makes a statement as to the farm's originally-intended purpose as a horse breeding and training facility and not a private residence.

The blacksmith shop, pump house, manager's house and other related outbuildings are linked architecturally to the main horse stable in a Colonial Revival style. The size of the blacksmith shop is proportionate to the size of the main horse stable in that it is large enough to accommodate and shoe a great number of horses. The pump house is a somewhat unexpected architectural feature as it was built to house basic utilities, however the intention to link this building architecturally to the others within the main farm complex reflects the importance of a greater plan and design for the entire farm. Both the blacksmith shop and pump house are placed along the main farm road and are located just northwest of the main horse stable on the way to the manager's house. The manager's house was also built in a Colonial Revival style. These core buildings create the main farm complex that was designed and carried out by landscape architect Paul Mueller in 1935. Each building was part of the original plan and designed to coordinate architecturally with one another. Because the farm was foremost a place of business for the Taylors and showing their horses an important part of selling them, it is evident that emphasis was placed on the aesthetic as well as the function of the farm as a whole.

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<sup>27</sup> Carroll Van West, "Harlinsdale Farm Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places," United States Department of Interior National Park Service, 2006.

<sup>28</sup> Caneta Hankins and Michael Thomas Gavin, *Barns of Tennessee* (Virginia Beach: Donning Company Publishers, 2009), 6.



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Tennessee Department of Transportation. "Evaluation for the Taylor Farm on the Project to Improve State Route 177 from 0.1 Mile North of Winchester Road to McVay Road in Memphis/Germantown, Shelby County, Tennessee." U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and the Tennessee Department of Transportation, 1991.

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

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 350 **USGS Quadrangle** Germantown, 409 SE

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84:  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude:35.077450  | Longitude:-89.828002 |
| 2. Latitude: 35.066917 | Longitude:-89.828056 |
| 3. Latitude: 35.068270 | Longitude:-89.812647 |
| 4. Latitude: 35.077234 | Longitude:-89.812613 |

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is at 2737 South Germantown Road and includes all property that is roughly bound by Germantown Road to the east, Crestridge Road to the south, McVay Road and McVay Trail Drive to the west, and Stout Road to the north, as documented in the enclosed Shelby County Tax Map.

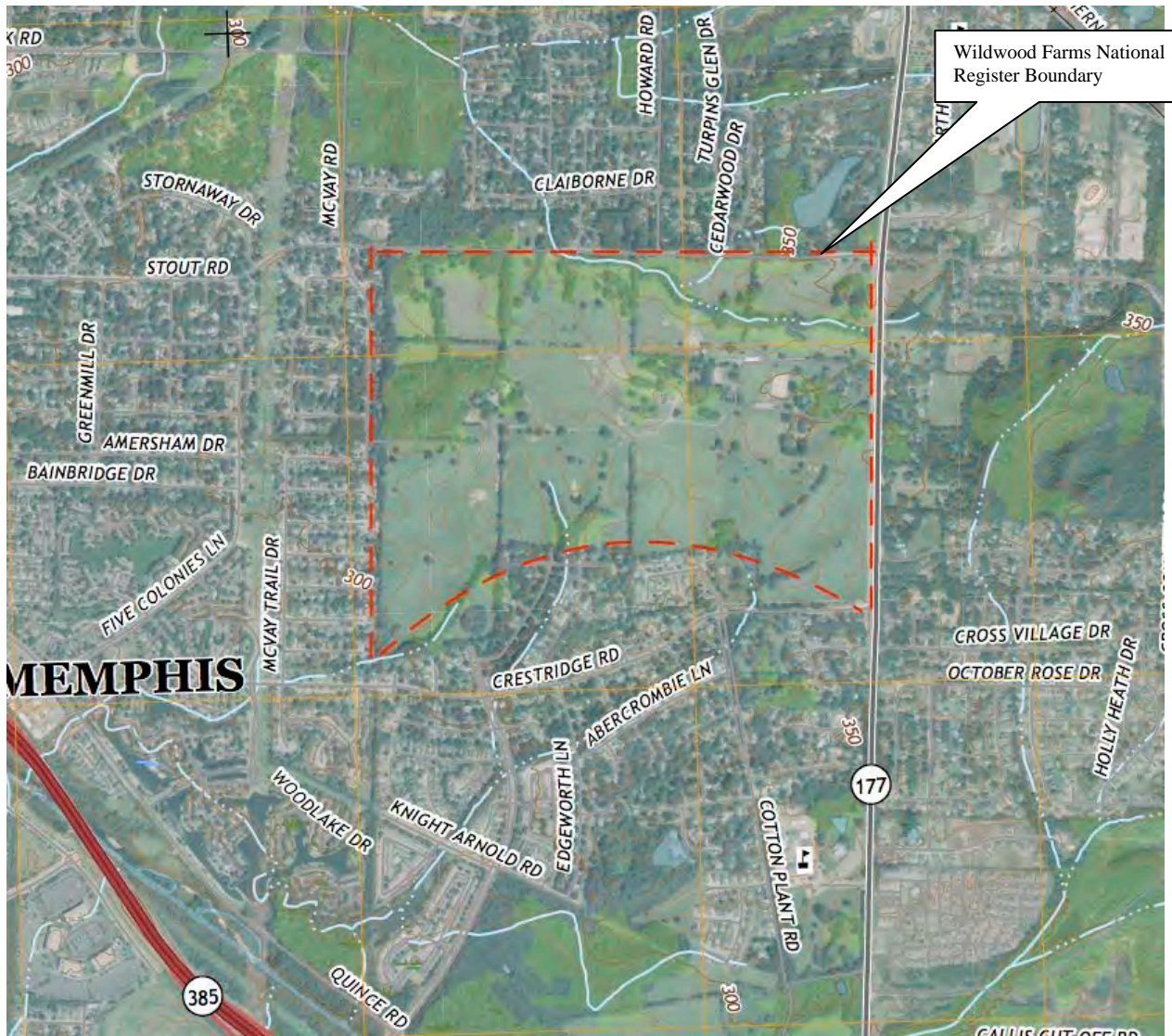
**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated property are those of the 350 acres historically associated with the Wildwood Farms property, and include the main horse stable, a farmhouse, outbuildings, and fields maintained as pasture land that pertain to the Taylor family's American Saddlebred and later American Thoroughbred horse breeding and training programs.

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USGS Topo Boundary Map

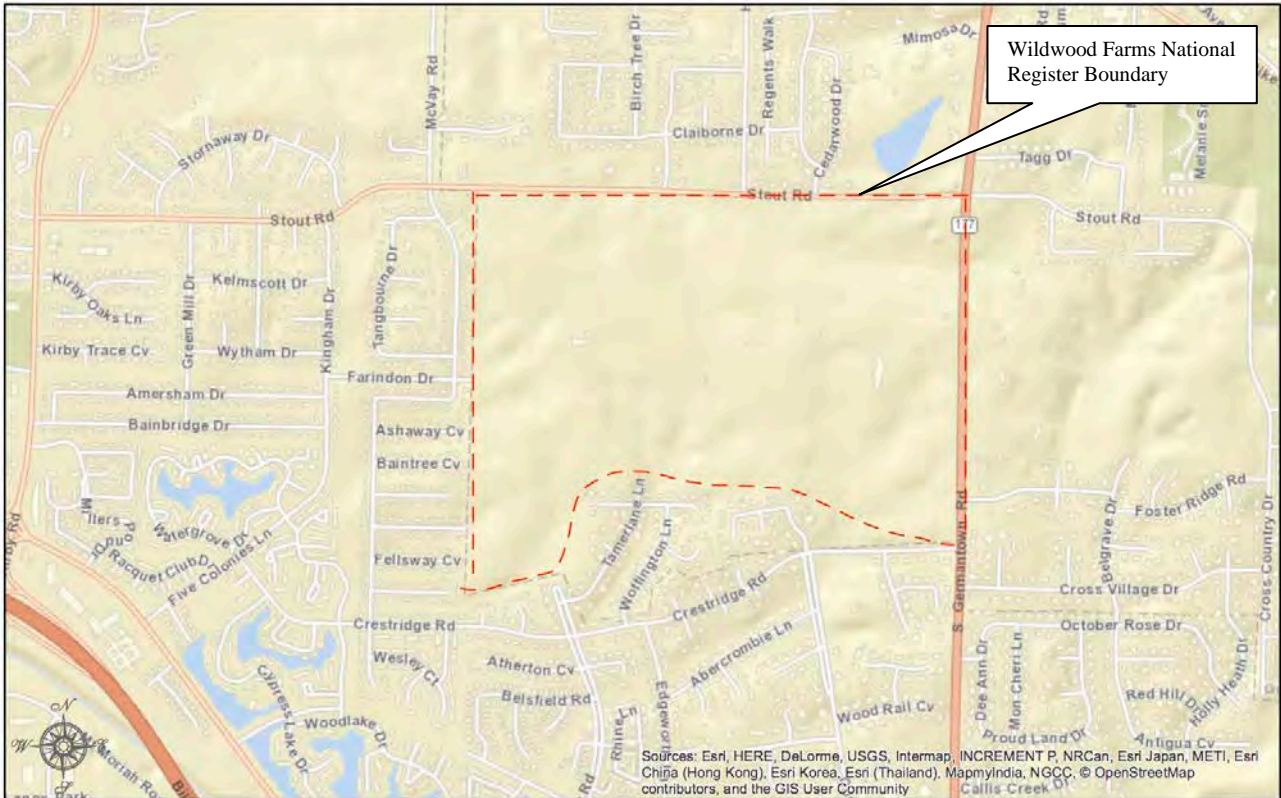


USGS Topo - Germantown Quadrangle 2016  
7.5 Minute Series  
Scale 1:24,000

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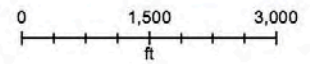
**Boundary Map**



**CHEYENNE JOHNSON, ASSESSOR**  
**SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

DISCLAIMER: THIS MAP IS FOR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. IT IS NOT CONCLUSIVE AS TO LOCATION OF PROPERTY OR LEGAL OWNERSHIP AND THEREFORE, SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON AS A REPRESENTATION OF ANY PROPERTY FOR ANY PURPOSE.

MAP DATE: January 28, 2017



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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name	Katie S. Randall		
Organization	N/A		
Street & Number	420 N. Chestnut St.	Date	January 24, 2017
City or Town	Florence	Telephone	615-743-5862
E-mail	<a href="mailto:katiesrandall@gmail.com">katiesrandall@gmail.com</a>	State	AL Zip Code 35630

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Wildwood Farms  
City or Vicinity: Germantown  
County: Shelby State: Tennessee  
Photographer: Katie Randall  
Date Photographed: December 21, 2016

- 1 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Exterior, Façade or East Elevation. Facing west.
- 2 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Exterior, Façade or East Elevation., Central Projecting Bay. Facing southwest.
- 3 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Exterior, East and North Elevations. Facing southwest.
- 4 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Exterior, North Elevation. Facing south.
- 5 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Exterior, West Elevation. Facing east.
- 6 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Exterior, South Elevation. Facing north.
- 7 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, Center Aisle. Facing south.
- 8 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, Northwest Stalls and Ladder to West Loft. Facing northwest.
- 9 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, Stall Interior. Facing east.
- 10 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, Southwest Stalls and Vehicle Storage Area. Facing southwest.
- 11 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, East Projecting Bay and Main Entrance. Facing east.
- 12 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, Farm Office and Fireplace. Facing northwest.
- 13 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, Farm Office. Facing east.
- 14 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, Farm Office Bathroom. Facing north.
- 15 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, Tack Room. Facing south.
- 16 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, Storage Room. Facing north.
- 17 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, West Projecting Bay and Garage Door Entrance. Facing west.
- 18 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, Staircase to East Loft and Door to Storage Room. Facing north.
- 19 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, East Side of Second Story. Facing east.

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- 20 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, West Side of Second Story. Facing southwest.
- 21 of 43. Main Horse Stable, Interior, East Loft. Facing north.
- 22 of 43. Blacksmith Shop and Pump House, Exterior, Façade. Facing northeast.
- 23 of 43. Blacksmith Shop and Pump House, Exterior, Façade. Facing north.
- 24 of 43. Pump House, Exterior, Main Façade. Facing north.
- 25 of 43. Noncontributing Equipment Shed, Exterior, Façade. Facing northwest.
- 26 of 43. Manager's House, Exterior, Façade. Facing north.
- 27 of 43. Manager's House, Exterior, Façade and East Elevation. Facing northwest.
- 28 of 43. Manager's House, Exterior, East Elevation, Dormer and c.1970 Garage Addition. Facing west.
- 29 of 43. Manager's House, Exterior, East and North Elevations. Facing southwest.
- 30 of 43. Manager's House, Exterior, North and West Elevations. Facing southeast.
- 31 of 43. Manager's House, Exterior, West Elevation. Facing east.
- 32 of 43. Manager's House, Exterior, West and South Elevations. Facing northeast.
- 33 of 43. Manager's House, Interior, Living Room. Facing east.
- 34 of 43. Manager's House, Interior, Center Hall. Facing north.
- 35 of 43. Manager's House, Interior, Sunroom. Facing southwest.
- 36 of 43. Noncontributing Equipment Shed Behind Manager's House. Facing west.
- 37 of 43. Laundry, Façade and South Elevation. Facing northwest.
- 38 of 43. Secondary Horse Stable, Exterior, South and East Elevations. Facing northwest.
- 39 of 43. Laborer's House, Façade. Facing south.
- 40 of 43. Noncontributing Melanie Taylor House. Facing northwest.
- 41 of 43. 1950s Equipment Shed, Main Façade and North Elevation. Facing southwest.
- 42 of 43. Site of razed 1952 house. View of extant circular drive. Facing west.

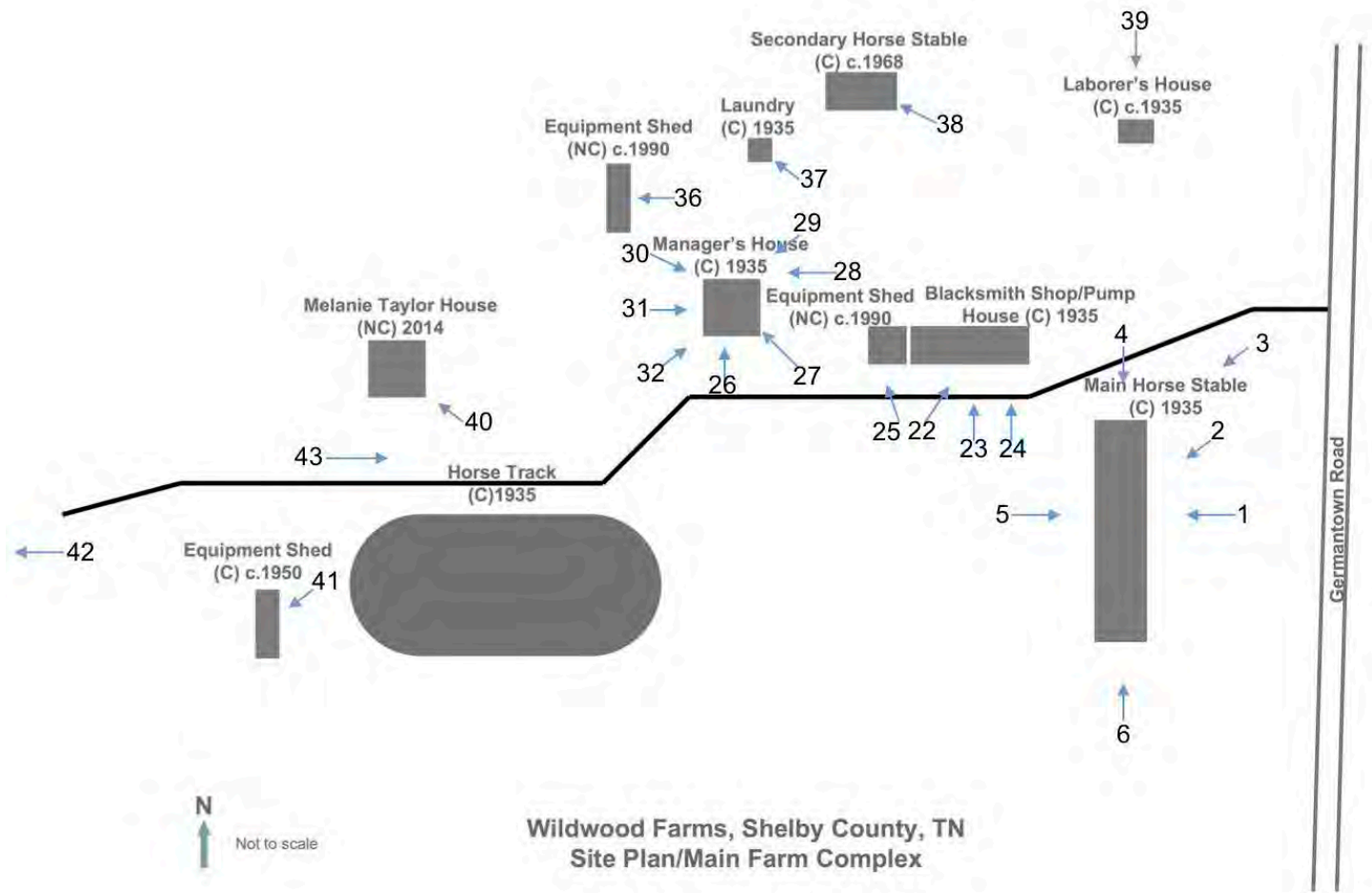


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43 of 43. Paved farm road with a view of the main farm complex. Facing east.

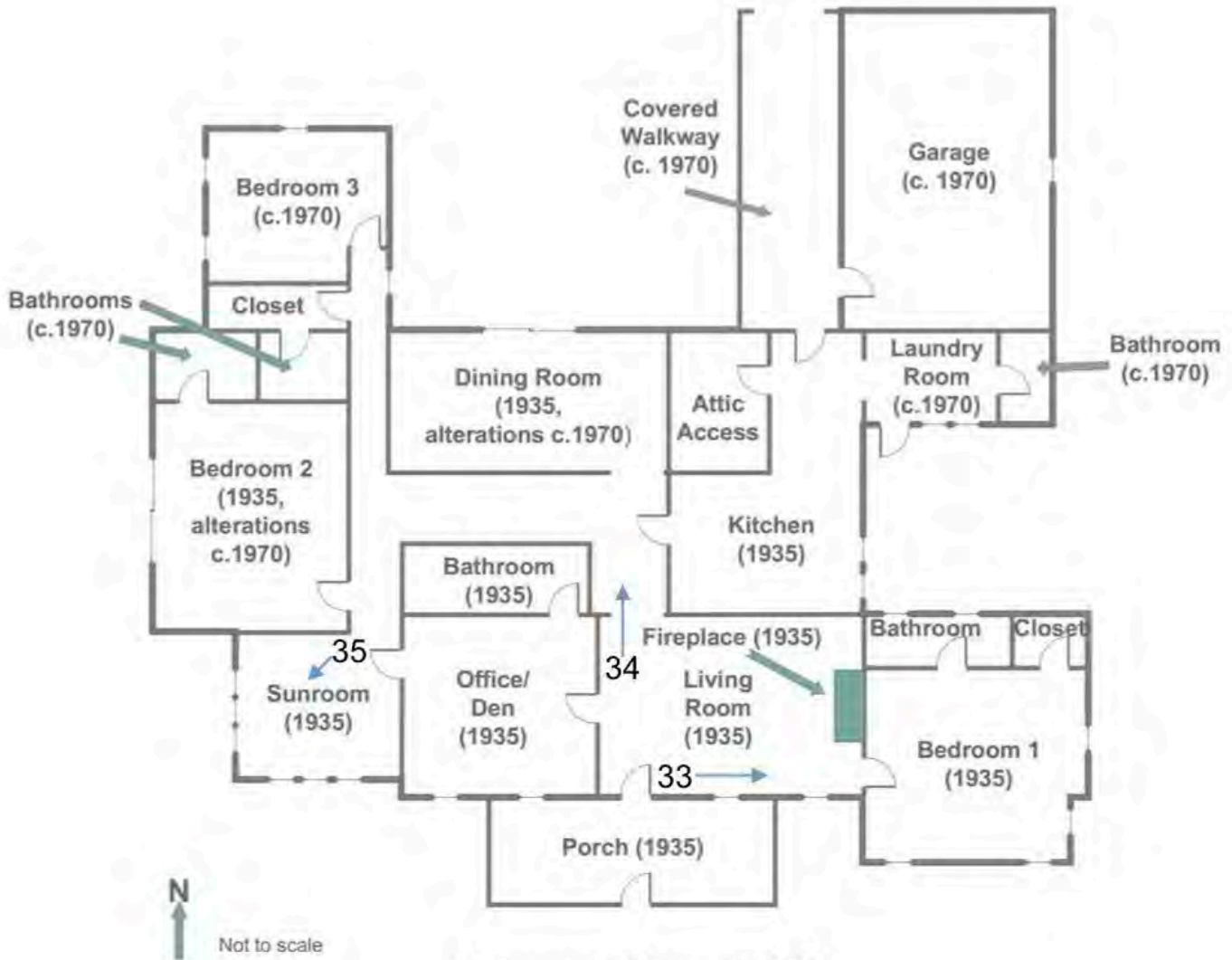
Site Plan with Photo Key



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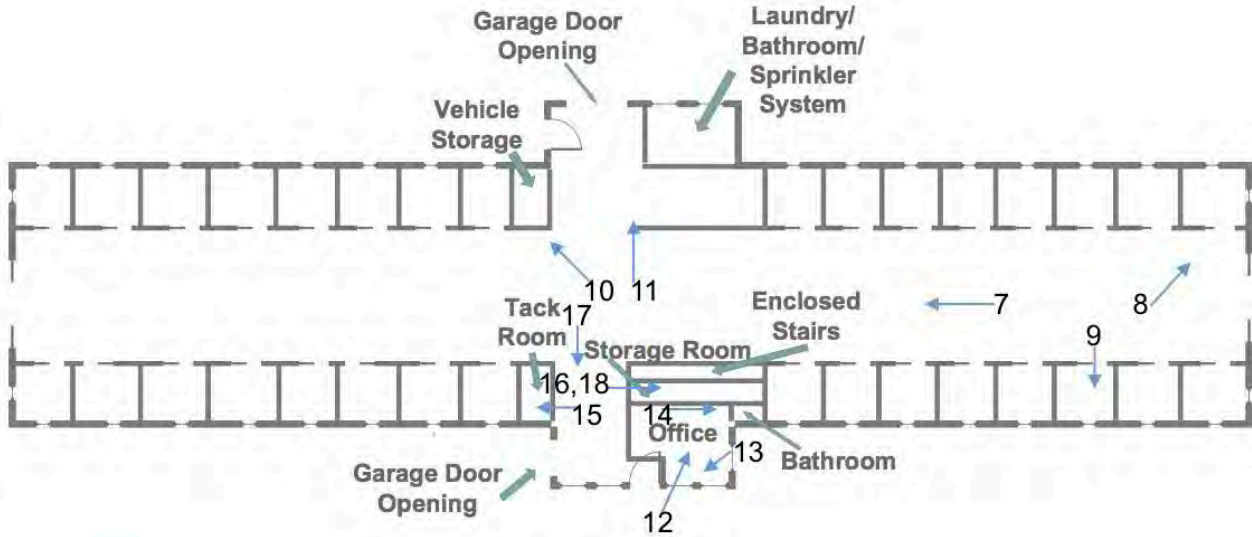
**Floor Plan with Interior Photo Key**



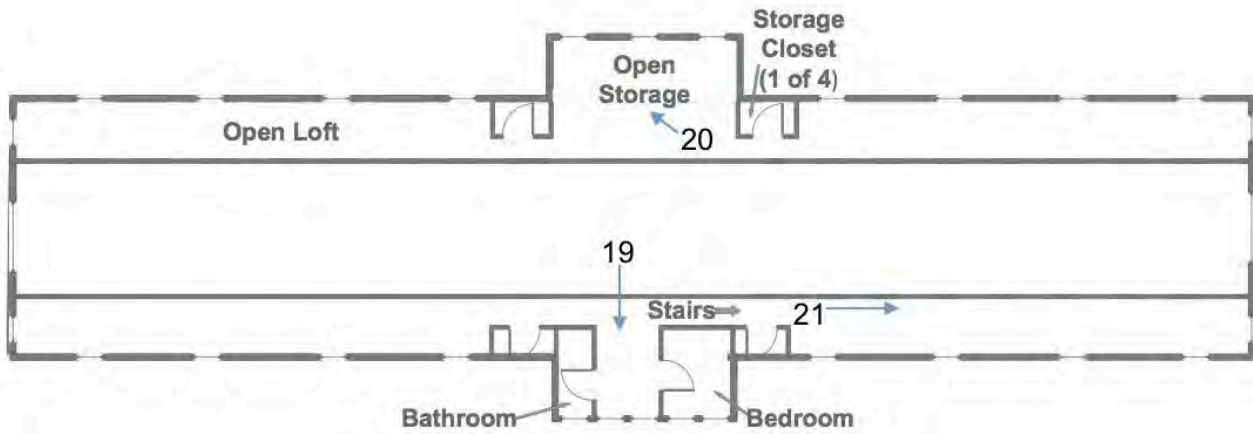
**Manager's House (1935)  
Interior Floor Plan**

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**Main Horse Stable (1935)  
Interior Floor Plan - Level 1**



**Main Horse Stable (1935)  
Interior Floor Plan - Level 2**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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N/A

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**Figure 1: Wildwood Farms Aerial, c.1935**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

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**Figure 2: Wildwood Farms Main Horse Stable, c.1935**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Wildwood Farms

-----  
Name of Property

Shelby, Tennessee

-----  
County and State

N/A

-----  
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page 30



**Figure 3: Wildwood Farms Horse and Main Horse Stable in Background, c.1935**



**Figure 4: Wildwood Farms Horse and Blacksmith Shop/Pump House in Background, c.1935**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Wildwood Farms
-----
Name of Property
Shelby, Tennessee
-----
County and State
N/A
-----
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page 31



Figure 5: Wildwood Farms Landscape Design by Paul Mueller, 1935

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Wildwood Farms
----- Name of Property
Shelby, Tennessee
----- County and State
N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page 32

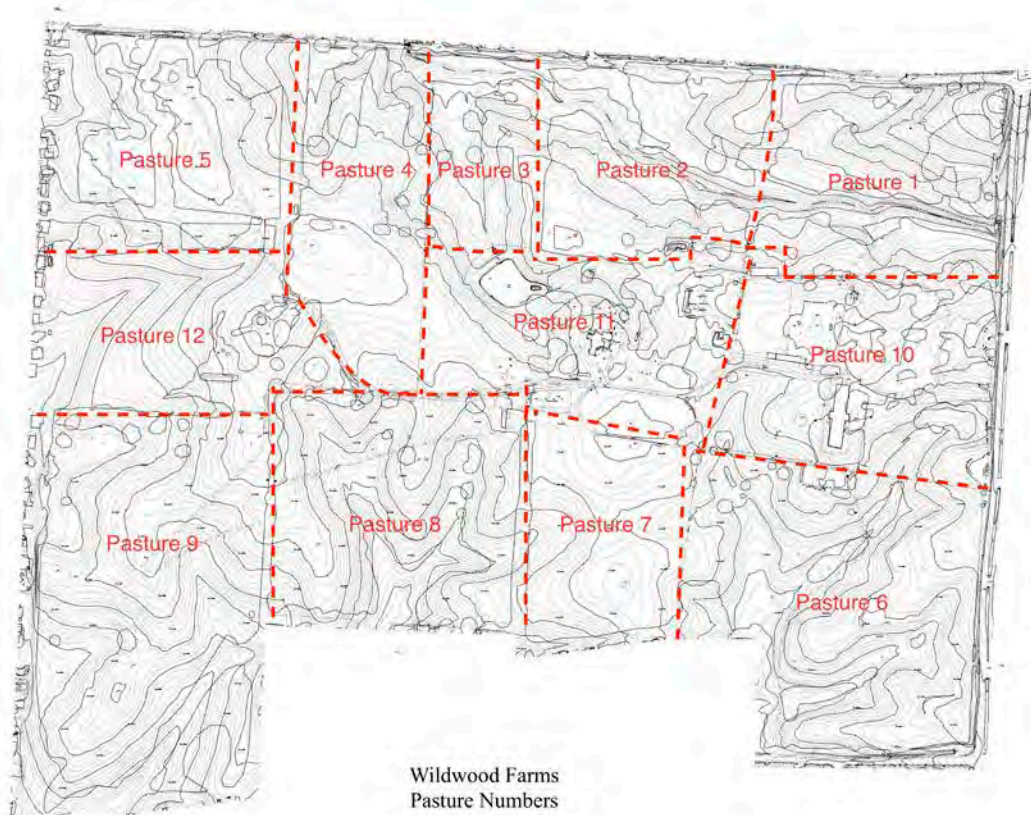


Figure 6: Wildwood Farms Topo Map Showing Pasture Division and Numbers

Map Courtesy of Page-Duke Landscape Architects



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**Property Owner:**

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

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Name	Melanie Smith Taylor		
Street & Number	2731 S. Germantown Rd.	Telephone	901-482-0571
City or Town	Germantown	State/Zip	TN/38138

































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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination  
Property Name: Wildwood Farms  
Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
State & County: TENNESSEE, Shelby

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

Reference number: SG100001371  
Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

X Accept       Return       Reject      7/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Excellent, high-style horse barn/stable. Farm served as center for national polo club as well

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

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

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

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



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



May 30, 2017

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

*National Register Nomination Wildwood Farms, Shelby County, Tennessee*

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

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

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:hb

Enclosures(3)