

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000450

Date Listed: 4/28/95

Woodward Hall (Boundary Increase)
Property Name

Robertson
County

TN
State

Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

4/28/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification:

The boundary increase area contains only open agricultural land and the site of the historic distillery, with no additional built resources. The resource count is therefore changed to include one (1) new contributing site. The land was historically part of the overall farm property and was added to provide additional historic setting in the vicinity of Beaver Dam Creek, an important landscape feature.

Historic Function: The historic function is Agricultural/Agricultural Field

Acreage: The acreage of the boundary increase area is 16.53 acres.

U. T. M.: The UTM coordinates for the boundary increase area only are:

A	16	516350	4042400
B	16	516760	4042700
C	16	516800	4042500

This information was confirmed with C. Stager of the TN SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 75001775

Date Listed: 4/28/95

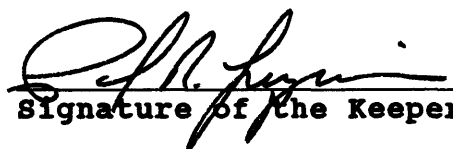
Woodward Hall
(Additional Documentation)
Property Name

Robertson
County

TN
State

Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

4/28/95
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significant Dates:

1994 is deleted as a significant date.

Classification:

The number of contributing resources previously listed should be one (1).

U.T.M.:

The correct coordinates for Point 4 are: 16 515600 4042460.

This information was confirmed with Claudette Stager of the TN SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

RECEIVED

MAR 14 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 16A). Complete each item by marking ☒ 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 WOODARD HALL FARM (Boundary extension)

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 5876 Owens Chapel Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Springfield ☒ vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Robertson code 147 zip code 37172

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 P. Hays
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/8/95
Date

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Del R. Fugate

4/20/95

Woodard Hall Farm
Name of Property

Robertson Co., TN
County and State

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	
9	4	buildings
5	0	sites
2	0	structures
		objects
16	4	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 dwellings; secondary
structures

AGRICULTURE: processing; agricultural field;
animal facility; agricultural outbuilding

FUNERARY: cemetery

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility

LANDSCAPE: garden

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellings; secondary
structures

AGRICULTURE: processing; agricultural field;
animal facility; agricultural outbuilding

FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: vernacular; heavy timber framing

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE; BRICK

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT SHINGLES

other WOOD; METAL

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets.

Woodard Hall Farm
Name of Property

Robertson Co., TN
County and State

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

SETTLEMENT

ETHNIC HERITAGE / AFRICAN-AMERICAN

Period of Significance

1900-1944

Significant Dates

1800, 1854, 1994

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

Woodard Hall Farm
Name of Property

Robertson Co., TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 241.53

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Youngville, TN 306 SE

1	16	516770	4043400
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	16	516850	4042330

3	16	515610	4042460
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	16	516600	4043380

☐ 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 Holly Rine and Carroll Van West
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date August 30, 1994
street & number PO Box 80, MTSU 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.)

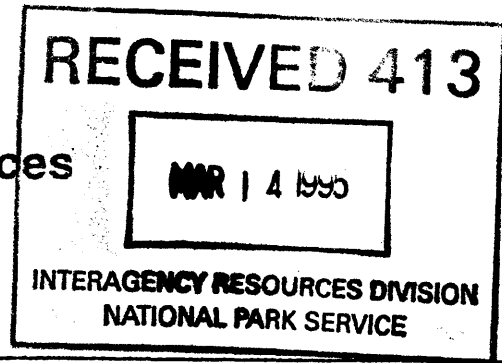
name Joe and Kay Gaston
street & number 5876 Owens Chapel Road telephone 615-384-7514
city or town Springfield state TN zip code 37172

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

VII. DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this revised National Register documentation is to better document the agricultural significance of Woodard Hall Farm, located on Owens Chapel Road, in Robertson County. Previously listed as Woodard Hall (NR 10/10/75), the property is an outstanding example of a Tennessee Century Farm in Robertson County. This revised nomination increases the nominated acreage of the farm from 225 acres to 241.53 acres and specifies in much greater clarity the many significant contributing and non-contributing elements of the farm landscape. At the height of its success, Woodard Hall Farm consisted of approximately 2,000 acres of land, which included all of the revised nomination boundaries of 241.53 acres as well as much of the surrounding land. Throughout its over 200 years of existence as a Tennessee Century Farm, the property has produced dark-fired and air-cured tobacco as well as producing hay, corn, and other grains to feed hogs and support other livestock. In the nineteenth century the farm was also participating in the distillery industry that thrived in Robertson County until prohibition became state law in 1909. The distillery site has not been assessed for its archaeological potential, while the two hundred years of tobacco production remain evident in the numerous dark-fired tobacco barns and fields.

The original 1975 description of the property emphasized, almost solely, the main farmhouse, which is located on the side of a hill north of Beaver Dam Creek. In 1993-94, the owners completed an extensive modernization of the dwelling, which had been abandoned for at least fifteen years and had suffered significantly in the intervening years. This renovation replaced historic plaster, replaced most of the original weatherboard, and removed the pairs of double hung sash windows (installed in 1930) on the main floor of the north facade and restored single double hung windows evident from the original wooden framing, which was left totally intact. The major floor plan alteration involved moving the central staircase from the eastern two rooms to the original dogtrot area (on the opposite side of the same wall). This

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

move reversed the staircase direction to that it would comply with the original basement stairs over which it is located. The second alteration removed the upstairs floor of the dogtrot area and replaced it with two second story walkways; the filled-in dogtrot had served as the central entrance hallway since the 1930s. A photo of circa 1910 appears to show the dogtrot enclosed on the north side but open on the south, which it was protected by porches. The southern wall was probably enclosed when Ed Brown "modernized" the farmhouse in circa 1930. The renovation also involved the removal of a dilapidated circa 1930 kitchen addition which had been crudely attached to the west side of the dwelling. The new kitchen is a compatible one-story gable roof addition that is attached to the main house by a sympathetic six-foot long "hyphen" hallway that emphasizes the twentieth century origins of the kitchen room (the house is NC, due to recent alterations).

As renovations were underway in the summer of 1994, the owners allowed the authors of this revised nomination to see the interior of the dwelling. The plaster had been stripped down, leaving only the original heavy timber braced framing of the dwelling. This very significant construction feature of the dwelling, with hand-hewn timber construction, mortise and tenon joints, and the use of wooden pegs located in the southwest L-wing of the building, as well as the west half of the primary north facade, allowed the authors to better date the genesis of the building as clearly from the period of 1792 to 1800. This heavy braced framing of the dwelling was left totally intact in the recent renovation and the surviving framing represents a significant example of construction techniques on the Tennessee frontier. The founding family of the property had established themselves, and achieved a considerable degree of agricultural prosperity, within a decade of the initial settlement of the farm. Investigating the intact historic framing of the dwelling also uncovered that workers for Col. Wiley Woodard, when they first extended the dwelling with a new wing in 1854, had done so with a dog-trot style two-story addition.

The exterior of the building has retained its historic appearance. New renovations have replaced rotted clapboards with new weatherboards which are consistent in size with the

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

historic materials. The primary changes in appearance from the 1975 nomination are the removal of the 1930s Colonial Revival entry, with its paired French doors and wide sidelights, the removal of the dilapidated 1930 kitchen and its replacement with a modern kitchen attached to the main dwelling by a hyphen, and the replacement of the paired double hung windows on both floors of the north facade. The kitchen is a small gable end structure with two windows on both the north and south elevations which match the windows throughout the house. The weatherboards used on the kitchen wing also match those used throughout the house. The kitchen has an exterior door on the north facade and a band of three six over six sash windows. In the gable is another six over six sash window with sidelights. The one-story hyphen has a single nine over nine double hung window on both the north facade and south elevation.

The 1975 nomination mentioned several outbuildings in the domestic complex surrounding the farmhouse. These buildings, as well as those elsewhere on the farm, will be designated as (C) if they are contributing elements and as (NC) if they are non-contributing elements.

Located immediately east of the main house is a historic brick kitchen, built in 1854. Described in the 1975 nomination as a "brick kitchen, which has an unusual double chimney," the building has been restored with a replacement tin roof. It is now used as guest room (C).

Between the kitchen and the dwelling, at the southeast corner of the house, is a historic well, probably late nineteenth century (C). The well is quite ornate. It is stone with a hipped roof cover supported by wood posts and brackets with dentil molding. Its historic hip roof is covered with replacement wood shingles.

Off about seventy-five feet from the southwest corner of the house stands the original log smokehouse with half dovetailed notching, that provides an estimated date of circa 1800 (C). The 1975 nomination described the building as "a fine log smokehouse." It has gone through several roof replacements and currently is roofed with corrugated metal. It stands near the edge of a ravine. In 1975, a log

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

outbuilding used for storage, then as a buggyhouse, and later as a garage still stood nearby the smokehouse; this building was in ruins when one of the authors first visited the farm in 1988. Today, the building is no longer extant. This remaining grouping of buildings (home, kitchen, well house, and smokehouse) constitute the domestic buildings often associated with the women's sphere of influence in a nineteenth century farm. In the case of Woodard Hall, where the owners held slaves, both white and African-American women would have worked in this part of the farm.

The modern intrusion into the historic domestic complex is a modern carport and shop, built in 1990, which stands to the west of the house and north of the smokehouse. It consists of three open bays and a post and beam shop under a continuous gabled asphalt roof, a concrete floor, and clapboard siding like that of the house. (NC, due to date)

Separating the domestic complex and the primary work area of the farm are, first, the remains of a Colonial Revival-influenced pleasure garden (unassessed site), "modeled after the one at the Hermitage," according to the 1975 nomination, and, second, the farm office (NC, due to alterations), built by Wiley Woodard in about 1854 but extensively renovated in 1994. This office stands at the fork in the entrance road to the farm complex. One direction leads to the domestic buildings, while the other road will lead to the fields, agricultural outbuildings, and the site where the distillery once stood along the creek. The office, consequently, served as physical boundary between the domestic complex, the women's sphere of influence within the farmscape, and the barns and outbuildings of the male sphere of influence on the farm. This building faces west and is a small one and a half story frame structure. It has a central entrance with windows on either side and a restored chimney on the north gable end. A porch has been added to the front and the roof slope raised as the office now serves as temporary living quarters and as an office. The first floor is all one room, with a new bathroom and small efficiency kitchen added in 1993. There is a loft which is reached by a narrow stairway.

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

At this point, the original 1975 nomination enumerated several historic outbuildings: "the stable, tobacco barn, tenant house (in use), rockwalled family cemetery, slave graves outside the wall." However, this 1994 survey and revised nomination identified and assessed several other extant historic features of the farm.

One of the most important elements of the farm landscape is its documentation of the use of tenant farmers as a labor force. Since tobacco and the farm's distillery business demanded considerable labor, slaves, then tenants, have continually lived at Woodard Hall Farm. With the end of slavery (no slave quarters remain extant), a system of tenancy was developed. In Wiley Woodard's 1877 will, item eight, he bequeathed upon three of his former slaves and servants, Charry, Elizabeth and Amanda, twenty-five, ten and ten acres of land, respectively. He also made provisions for money to build houses for these three and their families. His restrictions to the use of this land were that only these women and their families live on the land; after the death of these women, the land would remain in the Woodard family estate, these women and their families would not work for any other family, and no school would be set up on the land. These rather draconian standards were not unusual for tobacco planters in Robertson County. According to the research of historian Rich Gregory, the Washington family at Wessyngton (NR 5/06/71) imposed even tougher restrictions. (1) The new tenant houses were built in the same area where the slave quarters were originally located. This area was east of the house where the quarters were not in plain view of the house but close enough where the slaves had easy access to their domestic duties in the house. There are two extant tenant houses on the property. One is located near Beaver Dam Creek, about 250 yards east of the main dwelling. It is an example of a saddlebag-plan house, a vernacular type that was very popular for slave cabins and tenant houses (C). This particular house is constructed with weatherboarding and had a shed addition to the east side. It is currently is abandoned but adequate historical materials exist to assess it as a historic site associated with post-Civil War African-American tenancy. In the late nineteenth century, the dwelling also is associated

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

with the distillery industry as it was first used as a bonding house for the Beaverdam Distillery; after local prohibition at the turn of the century, it became a tenant house for the Jones family among others.

The second tenant house (C), is located about two hundred yards east of the main house and north of the tenant house on the creek. This house is located in the midst of several twentieth century structures which remain in use for present farm operations. It is a circa 1880 saddlebag variation with a shed extension in the rear. The house faces southeast and is in excellent condition. Originally constructed for the family of Lorenzo Chatman, it has served as the residence for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cook, African-American tenants and farm operators, since 1943. This house offers an excellent example of the evolution of African-American tenant farming throughout the twentieth century.

Located around the Cook's dwelling are several outbuildings which reflect the trend towards mechanization in the early twentieth century. To the west of the house are a circa 1900 transverse crib barn (C) and a circa 1920 equipment shed which has a small corn granary in the center section (C). The barn is a small stock barn suitable for the use of a single tenant family in the days when mules were the primary power source for machinery in the tobacco fields. The main entrance faces west, and the building is constructed with vertical planks. There is an overhanging gable protecting the track and pulleys of an extant hay loft, with an opening to the hay loft. The equipment shed is constructed with weatherboards and has an open shed on the south side and a closed shed on the north side. The building was originally a small granary. The central section is completely closed and accessed from the west side. This building serves as storage for gas powered farm equipment. This building would have replaced the stock barn since animals would no longer be used as often with gas powered equipment, and the small openings of the stock barn would not be able to accommodate the larger motorized vehicles. The multiple storage areas serve to house different types of equipment according to their size.

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

Two other small historic outbuildings, constructed at least before 1940 according to Jack Cook, are directly northwest of the tenant house. One is a horizontal plank smokehouse (C) and the other is another small rectangular storage shed covered in corrugated metal (NC, due to alteration). Around these sheds are pieces of mechanized farm equipment which speak to the mechanization of the Woodard Hall farm complex. These buildings stand at a distance from the main house and are the closest outbuildings to the fields and tobacco barns around which the tenant farmers life revolved.

In the former tobacco fields north of the domestic complex and the primary work area of the farm are three extant historic tobacco barns, two dark-fired and one air-cured. About fifty yards north of the Cook tenant house is a gable tin roof rectangular tobacco barn, constructed between 1880 and 1900 (C). About five hundred yards further north, at the edge of a large field and a wooded area, is another gable tin roof rectangular tobacco barn (C), constructed as well at the turn of the century. The boards on the lower half of the south elevation were replaced in 1990. The materials and methods of replacing the boards was consistent with historic practices and appearance. The support posts and the racks in all of the tobacco barns are historic and provide information on the construction techniques of late nineteenth century tobacco barns and on the cultivation and processing of tobacco throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The third extant historic tobacco barn, dating to the early twentieth century, is for the curing of burley tobacco (C). It is located near the center of the farm, with large fields to its north, west, and east.

Not only are the tobacco barns artifacts of the historic production of tobacco on the farm, but the fields speak to the landscape of tobacco production. The fields are still defined by historic tree lines and retain, at least, their appearance in the early twentieth century. These fields

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

have yielded corn, tobacco, small grains and hay for most of their history of production. The field patterns are a contributing site (C). In recent years, the family has raised soybeans, wheat, corn, tobacco, vegetables, and hay. The main house is separated from the fields by a tree line and more recently by a fence that encloses grazing land for horses. The farm is crossed by a historic nineteenth century farm road (C) which runs along a tree line that takes the traveller to the land used for timber for the saw mill that once stood on Beaver Dam Creek. Throughout the property, historic tree lines separate Woodard Hall farm from its neighbors and encloses the homeplace that has passed from Thomas Woodard Sr. to Joe and Kay Baker Gaston.

A historic family cemetery for the Woodard family and descendents lies in a wooded area about two hundred yards west of the main house across a ravine (C). The graves of the family are enclosed in a stone wall, erected under the direction of Wiley Woodard in the 1850s. The most prominent graves within the walls of the cemetery are those of Wiley Woodard (d. 1877) and his wife Elizabeth (d. 1891). Both graves are marked by identical and imposing obelisks. The size of the markers reflects the fact that Woodard Hall reached its pinnacle of wealth and production during the lives of Wiley and Elizabeth Henry Woodard. There are also the graves for Wiley's parents, Thomas and Elizabeth, from 1836. Also present are the graves for Wiley's brothers and some of Wiley's and his brothers' descendants.

Outside the wall, to the southeast, is an African-American cemetery (C) for former slaves at Woodard Hall as well as later tenants. This spatial arrangement of burying family members and slaves in the same vicinity, but with the physical separation of the wall, is a telling artifact of the walls of cultural separation between blacks and whites on nineteenth century southern farms. Some African-American graves have small stones indicating the presence of a grave, but most of the graves are unmarked and are visible by the settling of the ground on the site. Many of the descendants of the Woodard slaves, many of whom kept Woodard as their surname, used the site to bury family members after the Civil War as they worked the farm as tenants. One surviving headstone for a tenant that can be read is for Katie

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

Patterson (1893-1921), identified as the wife of Calvin Woodard.

At the southeast corner of the nominated property is a historic spring and distillery site associated with Wiley Woodard's whiskey business of the mid to late nineteenth century. This extremely prosperous business created much of the farm's wealth in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. Only archaeological ruins and foundations mark the distillery site, but the site was documented in a Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for 1888 (see attached copy). The site has not been professionally assessed and evaluated for its archaeological significance, but the above surface features appear substantially intact and the site probably retains the potential of yielding significant information about the distillery industry of nineteenth century Robertson County and is a contributing site (C) under Criterion A. The extended boundaries of this nomination include land associated with the production of the distillery and land that produced corn used in the production of whiskey.

ENDNOTES

1. Rick Gregory, "Robertson County and the Black Patch War, 1904-1909." Tennessee Historical Quarterly 39(Fall 1980): 345-46.

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Woodard Hall Farm, along Beaver Dam Creek four miles east of Springfield in Robertson County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significance in agriculture, settlement, and African-American ethnic heritage. The original 1975 nomination emphasized the significance of the house and its architecture as well as a brief family history. On the agriculture significance of the property, the original nomination noted: "Since 1792 a continuous farming operation has gone on there. A tobacco base is under cultivation and the smokehouse was in use this winter. Vestiges of slave cabins and graves are a link with the agriculture of the past. It is a good example of what a farm was like a hundred years ago, and that is becoming unusual." This revised historic district nomination makes the agricultural significance of the property more explicit as it also explores the association of the property with African-American ethnic heritage and the distillery industry of nineteenth century Robertson County. It 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.

Established in 1792 by Thomas Woodard, Sr., who came from Edgecombe County, North Carolina, Woodard Hall is the oldest Tennessee Century Farm in Robertson County and is one of the few two hundred year old Century Farms in Middle Tennessee. The county itself was not established until 1796. Thomas Woodard originally purchased a 180 acre tract of land from John Standly who received 228 acres of land as a grant for his services in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Over his lifetime, it is unknown how many additional acres he acquired, but in 1836, Thomas Woodard, Sr., willed the homeplace and an additional 205 acres to his youngest son Wiley Woodard. Other acreage was divided between Wiley's five siblings. Wiley increased the size of his farm to approximately 2,000 acres at its height. The nominated 241.53 acres is the remaining portion of the mid-nineteenth century Woodard Hall plantation that still belongs to family members.

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

Wiley Woodard continued to produce tobacco, corn, and small grains and to raise hogs as his father did before him. He also continued to work in the family distillation business and became one of the most profitable distillers in the area. In Thomas Woodard, Sr.'s inventory and estate auction at the time of his death in 1836, he was in possession of two stills, one of which was purchased by his son Thomas, Jr., for \$1 while another son, Arthur Woodard, bought the second still for \$10. Also listed in the inventory were two barrels plus twenty-one gallons of brandy and one barrel plus thirty-one gallons of whiskey. This shows that Thomas Woodard had a modest distilling business centered on home use and local markets. It is stated in the Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham, and Houston Counties of Tennessee (1887), that "small distilleries were found in almost every hollow, and it is asserted that on some streams there was a still-house at every hundred yards." None of these stills were able to support much more than personal use for family consumption, medicinal purposes, and limited barter trade.

Wiley Woodard expanded the scope of the family distilling business into a market-oriented and market-driven industry in competition with such prominent Robertson County businesses as the nearby Pitt Distillery (NR 12/18/73). According to farm records, he and his brother-in-law John Henry in 1839 sold \$1,190.76 worth of whiskey. Farm papers document that they purchased large amounts of corn and made payments to Wilson Pitt, another Robertson County distiller, for transporting the whiskey to markets in Nashville and Trenton, Tennessee. Over the next two years their profits continued to increase. In 1841 Wiley recorded a profit of \$1,406 on \$2,636 worth of total sales. By 1847, Wiley and Henry were shipping whiskey and apple and peach brandy to markets in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Canton, Mississippi. Wiley continued to expand his markets and his records show that in the 1850's he had customers in not only the areas mentioned above, but also in Alabama, Kentucky, Missouri and New York. In 1860 he sold \$14,850 worth of whiskey and brandy, again according to historic farm records.

The distilling business became so large that he was forced to hire extra help to handle the volume. In 1855, he hired

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John Johnson to work for him at \$125 per year; his contract was renewed in 1857. Later that year he hired Daniel Hackney to work for \$12 a month. Then in March of 1859 Patrick O'Conner, a professional distiller from Ireland, was hired by Wiley at \$18 a month, according to farm records.

Production at the distillery was interrupted by the Civil War, but it was also one of the first businesses to revive at the end of the war. All the needed materials were readily available at low costs, and by September of 1865, Wiley Woodard was able to ship 249 gallons of whiskey to Lyon and Company in Nashville. J.B. Killebrew's 1874 Introduction to the Resources of Tennessee, reported that Wiley Woodard & Co distillers were producing 1000 barrels of re-distilled whiskey annually. Re-distilling was a process which increased the purity of the whiskey giving it a higher proof. After the war's end wholesale liquor dealers began to establish themselves in Springfield. The wholesale business was begun by John Woodard (Wiley's cousin), William Moore and Thomas L. Green immediately after the war. It was reported by Killebrew that by 1874 Wiley Woodard & Co's wholesale dealership had annual sales of about \$75,000. The largest wholesale operation in Robertson County at that time was that of John Woodard and William Moore, which was grossing approximately a quarter of a million dollars annually. Even with the quick resurgence of Wiley Woodard's distilling activities, he began to lose critical market share and access to newer and more aggressive distillers, some of whom happened to be relatives like John Woodard.

The expansion of Wiley Woodard's distilling business reflects his involvement in the market revolution of the nineteenth century. As stated by historian Carroll Van West in the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee Multi-Property Nomination cover form, before 1850 "commodities might be exchanged and bartered within the immediate community or county, but rarely would farmers attempt to expand their commercial horizons to larger marketplaces." Insufficient means of transporting goods to far off markets helped to restrict goods to a local economy like the one in which Thomas Woodard, Sr.'s distillation production participated. With easy railroad access created by the

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construction of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad that passed through Springfield, Wiley Woodard, only a few decades later, was able to ship his whiskey and brandies to distant markets. As noted in his financial records, he was also able to ship in large amounts of corn to supply his stills. There was never a corn crop at Woodard Hall large enough to support a distilling business with the output of that of Wiley Woodard's. Woodard actually bought and imported corn for his distillery business. Any corn grown on the farm was for personal use. It would not have been as profitable to use the land for growing corn since more money could be made with the production and sale of tobacco along with the production and sale of whiskey and brandy.

Wiley Woodard was able to help his own cause in bringing better means of transportation to Robertson County. He served in the Tennessee State Legislature between 1849 and 1853. During that time he sponsored the construction of the both the Springfield and Manscoe's Creek Turnpike and the Edgefield and Kentucky Railroad. During that decade, he also one of the original investors of the Springfield National Bank. Although the railroad was not completed until 1860, both projects were successful. By 1854, Wiley Woodard was making enough profit to more than double the size of his house. He also added a brick kitchen and a frame office. By 1860 his sales totalled \$14,850; his real estate was valued at \$60,000, and his personal estate was valued at \$52,195.

Around 1880 many Robertson County businessmen made the change from distilling to participating in the wholesale tobacco business. By 1894 only five Robertson County distilleries were listed by the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue as having deposited whiskey in warehouses. Two of Wiley Woodard's descendants were listed among the five; they were his son Daniel Woodard and his daughter Josephine Woodard Brown, who had inherited the Wartrace Distillery from J. S. Brown. Prohibition became a state law on January 1, 1909 and with it died the last of the Robertson County distilleries.

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

The significant association of the Woodard Hall Farm with the nineteenth century whiskey business in Robertson County was one facet of the property's agricultural significance deserving of greater documentation. Another area is the representative nature of its dark-fired tobacco production, and the fact that the farm has been a producer of tobacco since the early 1800s. Tobacco was in production at Woodard Hall during the lifetime of Thomas Woodard, Sr., and it remains in production today. The extant buildings associated with the tobacco industry on the property are all post-Civil War buildings. After Wiley Woodard's death in 1877, the homeplace and 408.73 acres passed to his intellectual and somewhat eccentric son George Rogers Woodard. In his will he made the stipulation that one of his other sons, Daniel, receive use of the still house and the orchard for the production of whiskey and brandy. Daniel also received his own adjacent tract of land. The rest of Wiley's children also received rather large tracts of land and so the large 2000 acre operation was broken apart. Now the production of tobacco no longer shared in importance with whiskey but stood on its own, along with livestock, corn, and grains, as the primary agricultural commodities at Woodard Hall. Dark-fired tobacco, like whiskey and brandy, played a very important part of the market revolution in Robertson County. While Robertson County whiskey and brandy travelled all over the nation, Black Patch tobacco travelled all over the world. The largest market for dark-fired tobacco was, and still is, Western Europe and Japan. Tobacco production boomed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By 1900 Robertson County farmers were planting 13,488 acres of tobacco and yielding a total of 10,431,470 pounds. Corn, wheat and livestock were also being produced in the area, but even taken together, their production did not come close to rivaling the dominance of tobacco. For most of this period, Ed Brown managed the farm, probably in close consultation with Josephine Woodard, the sister of George Rogers Woodard. Josephine was an excellent business woman and had earlier managed the farm in the 1890s.

For tobacco to be such a dominant crop, there has to be a rather large labor force to tend to its production. Thus,

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

the agricultural history of Woodard Hall Farm is closely related to its significance in African-American ethnic heritage. The Woodards had slaves in the antebellum era. After the Civil War the family turned to the practice of tenant farming that so many other Southerners adopted. There are known to have been at least three tenant houses located in the same vicinity as where the slave cabins once stood. It is also known that at least three of the Woodard's former slaves served as tenant farmers. Two tenant houses remain as evidence of the post-Civil War labor problems and the solution that one time slave owners developed. The continued occupation of at least one tenant house, by the same African-American family, since 1943 up to present day, helps one to understand the economic and cultural power of the tenant farming system, especially as it pertains to African-Americans. Another contributing property associated with African-American ethnic heritage is the slave and tenant cemetery. The mere fact of the continuity of black burials here, from the antebellum era to at least the 1920s, emphasizes that the cemetery was a place of separate identity for the African-Americans who worked at Woodard Hall Farm.

After the infamous Black Patch War, between the American Tobacco Company Trust and local farmer associations at the turn of the century, and the continuing fluctuating tobacco market, Woodard Hall passed to the hands of Wiley's daughter Josephine Woodard Brown after the death of her brother George, who remained unmarried and had no heirs. She had to purchase the home at auction after having to go to court to prevent the land from being divided. She was able to purchase 228.5 acres of land, which is the historic homeplace that Thomas Woodard, Sr., acquired. While Woodard Hall was owned by Josephine Brown it was operated by her son Edwin Hart Brown, who bought the farm from his mother in 1932 for \$14,000. During these years, tobacco remained in constant production. Edwin Brown also expanded into more livestock production when he began to raise sheep along with the hogs that were always kept on the farm. In 1970, when Edwin's daughter Josephine Brown Cervantes inherited Woodard Hall Farm, soybeans were added to the farm's production while sheep were removed.

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Woodard Hall, Robertson Co.; TN

Today, the farm is owned by Joe and Kay Baker Gaston. Mrs. Gaston represents the sixth generation in the Woodard family to be in possession of the land. The farm currently consists of 241.53 acres of the once 2000 acre plantation. They purchased land that was once owned by Wiley Woodard and contained one tenant house down by the creek, and the distillery site. They also recently purchased a forty acre site that they plan on using as grazing land for cattle production. There is no known connection between these forty acres and the historic boundaries of the farm.

This revised nomination no longer relies on the architectural significance of the earlier 1975 assessment. The Woodard Hall dwelling remains in its original location within the larger rural landscape represented by the farm. The heavy braced frame of the dwelling remains a significant example of construction techniques on the early Tennessee frontier. The farm as a whole is as an excellent example of the evolution of a tobacco farm in Robertson County. The evolution of the house itself speaks to the success of Wiley Woodard in the market revolution of the mid nineteenth century as he was able to increase the size of the house as he became a successful whiskey and tobacco producer and wholesaler. He went from a small 1792-1800 heavy timber framed house, which reflected the frontier and settlement period of Robertson County, to a house with Georgian influences of order and wealth. The surrounding outbuildings also speak of his success as he was able to add a modern kitchen and office, thus separating the male and female spheres of farm production by placing the office at the crossroads of the farm as the physical boundary between the domestic area of the home and the business area of the farm. The barns reflect the historic importance and dominance of tobacco in this region of Middle Tennessee, especially the production of dark fire tobacco. The fields retain their historic definition with the surrounding tree lines, and the placement of the tobacco barns throughout the fields also speaks to the dominance of tobacco in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The tenant houses also represent this period of time of post-Civil War agricultural practices. These houses are especially relevant to the study of African-American participation in

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

tobacco production after the Civil War. The modern age is also represented on the Woodard Hall complex with the presence of the equipment shed and different types of machinery around the tenant house which is still in use.

But the true historical significance of Woodard Hall Farm is in how these different historical elements work together within the greater farm landscape. In a paper given at the 50th Annual Meeting of AASLH, at a session organized by the office of the Keeper of the National Register, National Park Service, historian Carroll Van West analyzed the farm landscape:

Around the house were arranged the major domestic outbuildings: a brick kitchen, a log smokehouse, and a storage building and carriage house. Here the supervision largely belonged to the plantation mistress; the domestic unit was her sphere. To the west, across a steep ravine, stood the walled family cemetery with stones for the family's slaves and tenants scattered outside the walled enclosure.

The largely male domain of the farm, where the tobacco crop was produced, was carefully segregated from the domestic setting of the house. A farm office for the overseer stood at the crossroads to the house and the plantation barns. To the east stood slave cabins before the Civil War; later tenant houses were erected, with one tenant, Jack Cook, who has worked the farm since 1943, still in residence. Around his house stands the farm's primary work buildings, the animal barn, workshop, and tobacco barn. This sharp distinction between the more domestic family sphere controlled by the women and the male world of horse and mule barns, tobacco barns, and tenant houses speaks volumes about class, race, and gender divisions and work and social relationships found on southern farms.

With Woodard Hall Farm still used as a productive agricultural property, it will continue to explain and represent the evolution of Tennessee agriculture from the eighteenth century to the present.

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Woodard Hall Farm nomination encompasses 241.53 acres and is illustrated on the accompanying Robertson County tax map 71 as parcels #12, #13, and #19.01. These lands include the house and all outbuildings described in the nomination and all are in the ownership of the Gaston family.

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.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain all of the historic property associated with the Woodard Hall Farm under single family ownership.

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

Photos by: Carroll Van West

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: April 1994

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, TN

North facade, facing southeast
1 of 47

North portico, facing south
2 of 47

East elevation and south elevation, facing northwest
3 of 47

South elevation, facing north
4 of 47

Original 1792 dwelling section, facing northwest
5 of 47

Modern kitchen and hyphen, facing north
6 of 47

Kitchen hyphen, facing north
7 of 47

West elevation, facing east
8 of 47

Central fireplace, first floor, facing east
9 of 47

Central fireplace, second floor, facing northwest
10 of 47

Basement, facing east
11 of 47

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

Wooden pegs detail, basement, facing west
12 of 47

Log smokehouse, facing south
13 of 47

Garage and carport, facing northwest
14 of 47

Detached kitchen, facing north
15 of 47

Well, facing west
16 of 47

Office, facing northeast
17 of 47

Pleasure garden site, facing east
18 of 47

Primary work area, tenant house, facing south
19 of 47

Stock barn, facing east
20 of 47

Cook tenant house, facing northeast
21 of 47

Equipment shed, facing west
22 of 47

Wood shed, facing north
23 of 47

Field directly north of Cook tenant house, facing east
24 of 47

Tobacco barn, facing southwest
25 of 47

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

Historic farm road, facing south
26 of 47

Northernmost tobacco barn, facing north
27 of 47

Westernmost tobacco barn, facing south
28 of 47

Northeast field, facing southwest
29 of 47

Northwest field, facing southeast
30 of 47

Westernmost fields, facing west
31 of 47

Northcentral fields, facing northeast
32 of 47

Northwestern most tobacco field, facing north
33 of 47

Farmscape from northwestern tobacco field, facing southeast
34 of 47

Natural fence lines, western boundary of farm, facing west
35 of 47

Northcentral fields, looking towards primary work area,
facing east
36 of 47

Tenant house nearest creek, facing east
37 of 47

Beaver Dam Creek and southeast field, facing southeast
38 of 47

Beaver Dam Creek and distillery site location, facing north
39 of 47

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Woodard Hall Farm, Robertson Co., TN

White cemetery from African-American cemetery, facing
northeast
40 of 47

White cemetery, facing north
41 of 47

Woodard family headstones, facing west
42 of 47

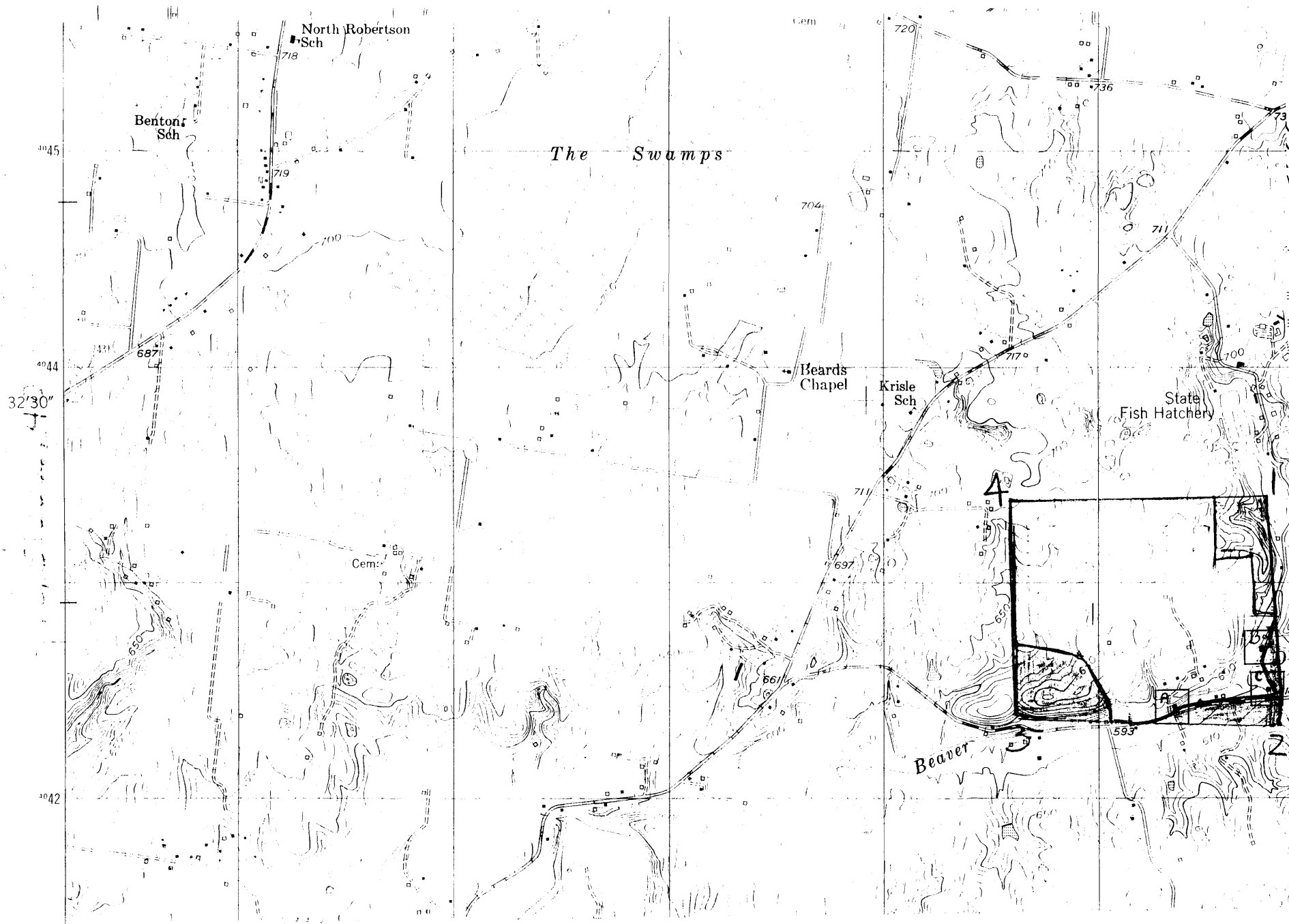
Elizabeth Woodard headstone, facing west
43 of 47

Wiley Woodard headstone, facing west
44 of 47

African-American cemetery site, facing south
45 of 47

African-American cemetery site, facing north
46 of 47

Katie Patterson headstone, African-American cemetery, laying
flat on the ground
47 of 47



Woodard Hall Farm
Robertson County TN
1" = 400' ↑

70

Jacquelyn
Guthrie
278-267

HARRY STARK
138-48
135-206

13

228.5 Ac.
220.5 Ac. ±

E.H. Brown
83-363

Porter Brown Limestone
139-252
139-254
152-252

domestic area

12

11 Ac.
L.M. Callis
218-30
134-136

BEAVER

Paul D. Rainwater
140-101 NO. 19.51

CHAPEL

15

14

1 AC.

ROAD

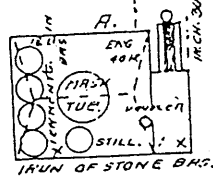
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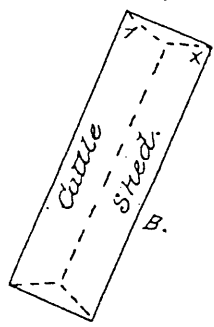
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116' 300' to 12
510' F.C. STABLE.
TRE HO.

NO EXPOSURE.



IRON OF STONE BKG.



BEAVER DAM DISTILLERY.

DANL. WOODARD.

NS 496 - 6TH DIST. OF TENN.

Sour Mash. Cap. 30 Bushels.

NO NIGHT WATCHMAN. NO HEAT. LIGHTS: KERO. OIL.
50' 1" HOSE. NOT IN OPERATION. TO COMMENCE FINISH
1st 88. FUEL: WOOD.

449 B'LS. IN BOND JAN. 1888.

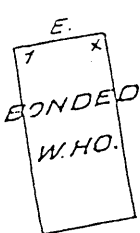
Beaver Dam Creek.

Situated 5 Miles E of Springfield Tenn.

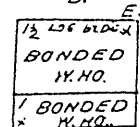
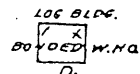
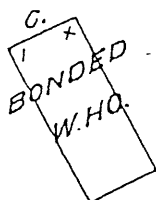
Hillside.

TOP LINE OF BANK.

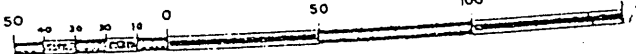
465'



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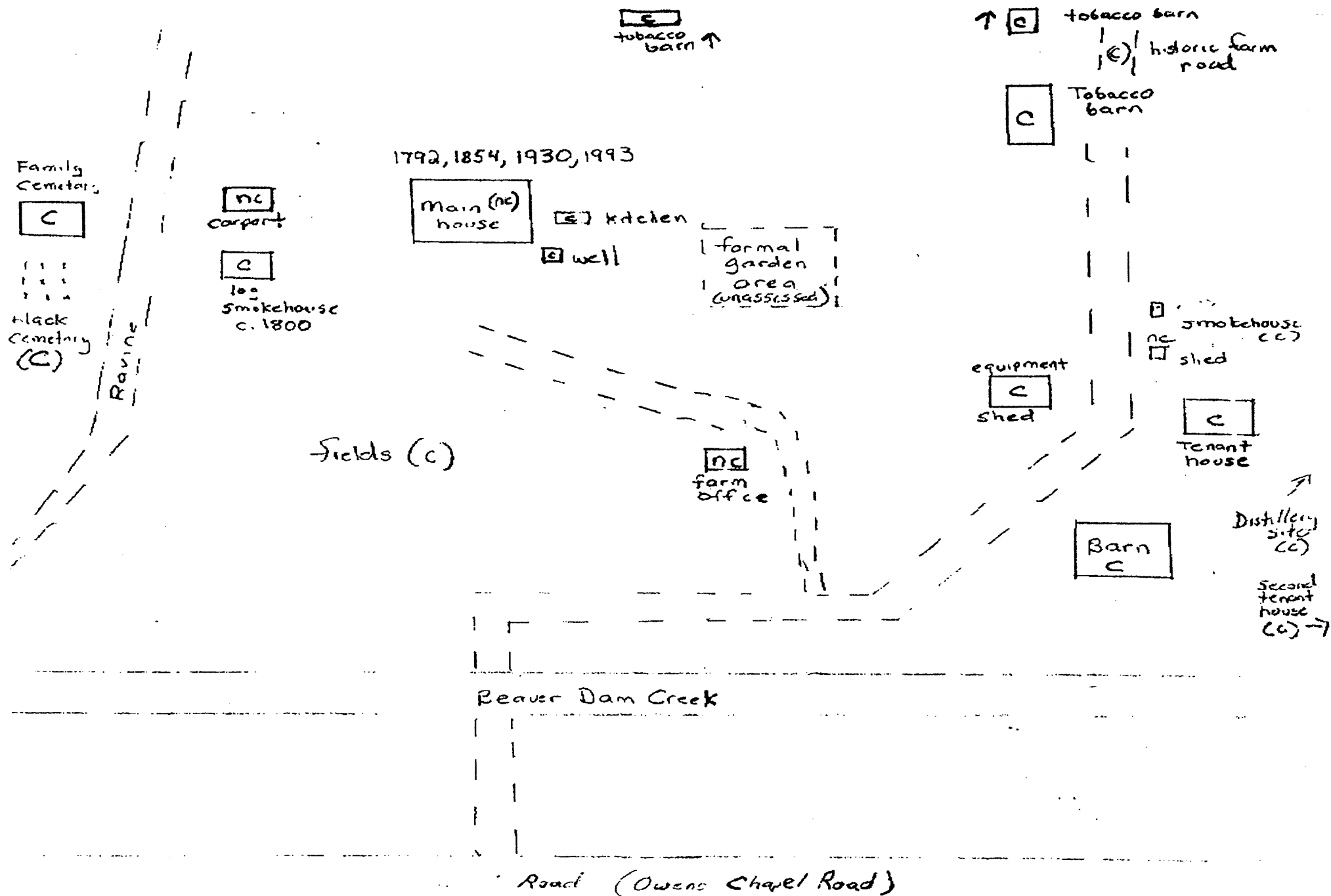


Scale of Feet.



NO EXPOSURE.

1888



NOT-TO-SCALE

Sketch map Woodward Hall Farm (1792)
Robertson County, TN

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11/11/11