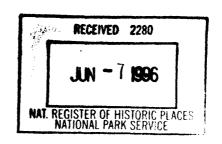
OMB No. 10024-0018

NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

| 1. Name of Property   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| nistoric nameBOYD-WILSON FARM   | 1   |  |
| her names/site numberN/A  |   | ······································       |
| Location  |   |  |
| treet & number 3209 Boxley V  | Valley Road   | N Anot for publication                       |
| y or townFranklin   |   | ☑ vicinity                                   |
|   | TN county Williamson  | 187<br>code <u>094</u> zip code <u>37064</u> |
| State/Federal Agency Certification  |   |  |
| Historic Places and meets the procedural a  Mineets does not meet the National F  nationally statewide in locally.  | neets the documentation standards for registering and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Register criteria. I recommend that this property be See continuation sheet for additional comments.) | Part 60. In my opinion, the property         |
| State of Pederal agency and bureau  | Preservation Officer, Te  |  |
| In my opinion, the property   meets definition  |   |  |
| In my opinion, the property  meets do   | loes not meet the National Register criteria. (□ S  |  |
| In my opinion, the property  meets do comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title  | loes not meet the National Register criteria. (□ S  |  |
| In my opinion, the property meets do comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title  State or Federal agency and bureau  National Park Service Certification reby certify that the property is:   | loes not meet the National Register criteria. ( Solo  |  |
| In my opinion, the property  meets docomments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title  State or Federal agency and bureau  National Park Service Certification eb certify that the property is:  dentered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  | Date  Signature of the Keepes   | Date of Action                               |
| In my opinion, the property  meets docomments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title  State or Federal agency and bureau  National Park Service Certification  eb certify that the property is:  Centered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the  National Register  See continuation sheet.  determined not eligible for the | Date  Date  Date  Entered in the  | Date of Action                               |
| In my opinion, the property  meets do comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title  State or Federal agency and bureau  National Park Service Certification reby certify that the property is:  Dientered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the National Register   | Date  Date  Entered in the National Register  National Register   | Date of Action                               |

| Boyd-Wi | lson | Farm |   |
|---------|------|------|---|
|         |      |      | _ |

Name of Property

Williamson Co. Tn. County and State

| 5. Classification   |  |  |                                    |                 |  |
|---|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Ownership of Property<br>(Check as many boxes as apply)             | wnership of Property Category of Property Number of Reneck as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box) Number of Reneck as many boxes as apply) |  |                                    |                 |  |
| 🖸 private   | ☐ building(s)  | Contributing                                   | Noncontributing                    |                 |  |
| public-local  |  | ·6   | 2                                  | buildings       |  |
| <ul><li>☐ public-State</li><li>☐ public-Federal</li></ul>           | ☐ site<br>☐ structure  | 1  |                                    | sites           |  |
| ☐ public-rederal  | ☐ object   | 2  |                                    |                 |  |
|   | ·  | <u> </u>                                       |                                    |                 |  |
|   |  |  |                                    | objects         |  |
|   |  | 9  | 2                                  | Total           |  |
| Name of related multiple property is not part of Historic Family Fa | operty listing<br>f a multiple property listing.)<br>.rms in Middle Tenne  | in the National                                | ributing resources pre<br>Register | eviously listed |  |
| 6. Function or Use  |  |  |                                    |                 |  |
| Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)             |  | Current Functions<br>(Enter categories from in | estructions)                       |                 |  |
| DOMESTIC:single dw  |  | DOMESTIC:                                      | single dwellin                     | g; seconda      |  |
| dwelling; secondar  | y structure  | structure                                      |                                    |                 |  |
|   |  | AGRICULTURE                                    | : animal facil:                    | ity; stora      |  |
| AGRICULTURE: proces   | sing, storage;   | agricultura                                    | l field                            |                 |  |
| agricultural field,   | animal facility;   |  |                                    |                 |  |
| agricultural outbui   | ldings.  |  |                                    |                 |  |
|   |  |  |                                    |                 |  |
| 7. Description  | *  |  |                                    |                 |  |
| Architectural Classification Enter categories from instructions)    |  | Materials<br>(Enter categories from ins        | structions)                        |                 |  |
| THER: I-House with  | n Italianate   | foundation Limestone                           |                                    |                 |  |
| nfluences   |  | walls Weatherbo                                |                                    |                 |  |
|   |  |  |                                    |                 |  |
|   |  | roof Asphalt s                                 | hingle                             |                 |  |
|   |  |  |                                    |                 |  |

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

See continuation sheets.

| 747 ÷ | 1  | 7  | ; | 2 | m   | S   | ے | n |  | <u>.</u> | _ | <br>_ | 2 |  |
|-------|----|----|---|---|-----|-----|---|---|--|----------|---|-------|---|--|
| Cauni | īv | 21 |   | - | :12 | 116 |   |   |  |          |   |       |   |  |

| 8. Statement of Significance  |   |
|---|---|
| Applicable National Register Criteria (Marx "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)           | Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)  Agriculture |
| A Property is associated with events that have made<br>a significant contribution to the broad patterns of<br>our history.                              |   |
| ogi motory.   |   |
| <ul> <li>B Property is associated with the lives of persons<br/>significant in our past.</li> </ul>   |   |
| C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics<br>of a type, period, or method of construction or<br>represents the work of a master, or possesses |   |
| high artistic values, or represents a significant and   | Period of Significance  |
| distinguishable entity whose components lack  | _   |
| individual distinction.   | circa 1840-1924   |
| D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,<br>information important in prehistory or history.   |   |
| Outtonia Considerations   |   |
| Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)   | Significant Dates   |
| ,   | _circa 1840, c <u>irca 1884, circa 1920</u>                             |
| Property is: N/A  |   |
|   |   |
| ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for<br>religious purposes.   |   |
| religious purposes.   | Significant Person  |
| ☐ B removed from its original location.   | (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)                               |
| C o a bishalasa ay ayaa   | _N/A  |
| ☐ C a birthplace or grave.  | O to I Army or  |
| ☐ D a cemetery.   | Cultural Affiliation  |
|   | _ N / A   |
| ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.   |   |
| F a commemorative property.   |   |
| ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance  | Architect/Builder   |
| within the past 50 years.   | Unknown   |
| •   |   |
| Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)                                      |   |
| 9. Major Bibliographical References   |   |
| Bibilography (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   | Primary location of additional data:                                    |
| preliminary determination of individual listing (36   | ☐ State Historic Preservation Office                                    |
| CFR 67) has been requested  | ☐ Other State agency  |
| previously listed in the National Register  | ☐ Federal agency  |
| previously determined eligible by the National  | ☐ Local government ☑ University   |
| Register  Resignated a National Historic Landmark   | ☐ Other   |
| <ul> <li>designated a National Historic Landmark</li> <li>recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey</li> </ul>                                     | Name of repository:   |
| ,   | tsu Canter for Historic Preservation                                    |

| Boyd-Wilson Farm   | Williamson Co. Tn.   |
|--|--|
| Name of Property   | County and State   |
| 10. Geographical Data  |  |
| Acreage of Property 157 acres  | Leipers Fork 63 NW   |
| UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sneet.)                      |  |
| 1 1 6 5 0 3 1 2 0 3 9 7 5 1 2 0 Northing 2 1 6 5 0 3 5 7 0 3 9 7 3 5 7 0                       | 3 1 .6 5 0 .2 1 .3 .0 3 .9  7 .3  6 .6  Zone Easting Northing 4 1 .6 5 0 .2   7 .8 .0 3 .9   7 .5   2 .8 |
| Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) |  |
| Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)     |  |
| 11. Form Prepared By   |  |
| name/title Carroll Van West and Connie Marti   | n  |
| organization MTSU Center for Historic Preserv  | vation date Dec. 6, 1995   |
| street & number P.O.Box 80, MTSU   | telephone 615-898-2947   |
| city or town Murfreesboro  | state 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 prop                                       | perty's location.  |
| A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having I                                    | arge acreage or numerous resources.  |
| Photographs  |  |
| Representative black and white photographs of the property                                     | erty.  |
| 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 <u>James F. and Judith M. Auer (see cor</u>   | itinuation sheet)  |
| 2000 - 1 11 1  |  |
|  | telephone615-794-3928<br>State zip code  |

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 Senses Division National Park Service P.O. Box 37127. Washington DC 20013-7127; and the Office of

properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this required to obtain

a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et sec.).

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

Additional property owner:

Dr. Tom Warren, 409 Boyd Mill Ave., Franklin, TN 37064

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

VII. Description

The Boyd-Wilson Farm, 3209 Boxley Valley Road, Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee, is an agricultural historic district composed of a historic farmhouse, several historic outbuildings, and historic sites on 157 acres. The Boyd-Wilson Farm is one of the few historic farms in Williamson County to retain its agricultural integrity from a period in the county's history when agriculture was the basis of prosperity. The farm is sited on the east side of the West Harpeth River and the river is in fact the western boundary of the property. The historic Boyd Mill Ruins (NR 4/13/88) are located within the property. Only the stone foundation of the Mill is extant, but the Mill's history is intertwined with that of the Boyd-Wilson Farm. The farmhouse is reached from Boxley Valley Road by way of a dirt road, which terminates between the main farmhouse and a garage/carriage house.

The farmhouse has several distinct periods of construction, circa 1840, circa 1884, circa 1920, and 1976. Its north facade (circa 1884) is two-stories high, with heavy braced frame construction, a central hallway, and brick (originally limestone) chimneys at the gabled ends. The chimneys were altered from limestone into limestone-base and brick chimneys circa 1920. The windows and doors are placed symmetrically on the front facade, while the interior is arraigned around a central hallway with two large flanking rooms. This type of house is often called an "I-house" or "Tennessee Federal." The house is set on limestone piers and the outside walls are weatherboarded in poplar cladding. The north facade is dominated by a two-story classically inspired portico, which was added in 1976, with four square fluted columns and a flat roof which projects from under the eaves of the main roof. The portico has a simple molded cornice with no decorative detail. The portico is slightly indented from the gabled ends, and does not quite run the full length of the north facade. The main roof and the porch roof are both currently composed of asphalt shingles. The 1976 portico replaced a dilapidated one-story portico, of a folk Victorian influence, that was built circa 1884. The fenestration is three symmetrical bays on both stories. A central doorway is flanked by two windows on the first story. The door is in turn flanked by two wrought-iron, glass paned electric lamps, which were added in 1976. The doorway has an original rectangular transom composed of a single pane of glass. The original double paneled door is surrounded by plain wooden trim with no decorative details. The original four-over-four double-hung sash windows on the first and second stories are horizontally aligned and are of the arched Italianate variety. The original shutters are rectangular, square on the bottom, curved on the top, and flank all four windows on the front facade. Centered on the second story, horizontally aligned with the main entrance, is an original "hanging" wooden door.

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

The west elevation has two parts. The north end shows the brick gable-end chimney of the I-house, and a one story flat roofed addition, which was added to the rear of the main block of the house in 1976. It contains a bathroom, closet and an extension of the central hall; it has a six-over-six double-hung window and rests on a concrete foundation. The south end of the west elevation contains rear wing of the house, which gives the home an L-shaped appearance. This section is in fact the older part of the home (circa 1840). This wing is attached to the main block and appears to be an extension of the main block of the house. This wing has a gabled roof, which is double sloped on the west exposure over the original rear porch of the house, The southwest corner of the porch was enclosed perhaps as late as circa 1920. The remaining recessed porch has three free standing columns with simple Doric capitals. Three bays on this wing are asymmetrically arranged around an original door. Both windows are original six-over-six double-hung windows. On the roof slope, near where the wing connects with the I-house, is a single dormer window of the one-over-one double hung sash type. Two brick chimneys are present, one inside and one outside the gabled ends.

The south elevation, or the rear of the house, shows two original four-over-four arched Italianate windows on the second story of the I-house and two six-over-six double-hung windows of the 1976 bathroom addition. This elevation also shows the rear of the circa 1840 wing, which was altered in 1976. The weatherboard on this section dates to 1976. Symmetrically arranged around the brick chimney are two six light windows in the gable end; the gable returns contain electrical wiring for exterior lights. Directly below are two four-over-four double-hung windows, which date circa 1920. To the west, in the shed addition to the wing, is a six light window, which dates circa 1920.

The east elevation has a five bay layout. Roughly centered in the elevation is a projecting gable roofed shed, circa 1920, which contains a door, leading to the stone cellar. Flanking the projecting shed are two sets of windows. The windows to the south of the door are similar to the north facade of the I-house, being arched Italianate four-over-four double-hung sash types, circa 1884. The windows to the north are rectangular and also of the four-over-four double hung sash type, dating circa 1840. The different sets of windows, and the different probable dates of construction, of the two primary sections of the ell wing indicate that the wing was added to the primary I-house in stages. The first stage may have been original construction, circa 1840, when the house was merely two rooms arranged around a central chimney. In the circa 1884 expansion of the house, these two rooms became a dining room and a small kitchen, comprising an ell addition to the northeast parlor. In circa 1884, the owners also attached a new, larger kitchen to the original two rooms, turning the older kitchen into a dining room and designating the first dining room as another parlor. The kitchen was later modernized with electricity circa 1920.

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co.. TN

The interior is based on a central hall with ell plan. In the circa 1884 I-house, the central hallway has an original staircase leading to the second floor. The interior walls of the central hallway are plastered and the floors are pine (four inch pine floors). An opening to the west leads to the master bedroom. The west wall contains a circa 1884 plain wooden mantel and firebox for the outside gable end chimney. The plaster walls were replaced with drywall in 1976. A door located on the south wall of this bedroom leads to the 1976 bathroom addition.

East of the central hall is the northeast parlor, which contains, in the southwest corner of the room, a circa 1884 box staircase that leads to the second floor. This room also has a circa 1884 wooden unadorned mantel. The staircase is the only access to the bedroom above as there is no opening on the second floor to this northeast side of the I-house section.

The next section of the first floor interior lies in the circa 1840 wing of the house. The room to the south of the parlor is the living room, with an original mantle in the center of the south wall.

The living room opens south into the dining room, which is carpeted over the original pine floors. A "false" door is located in the east wall. This door does not open and is not represented on the east elevation. When these two rooms were joined to the new I-house section circa 1884, this door was covered over. A hanging wooden cupboard, circa 1884, is built into the north wall next to the mantel. A door in the west wall leads to the recessed porch on the east elevation.

The kitchen is reached by an opening in the south wall of the dining room. The kitchen has a linoleum floor, added in circa 1920, and the walls are beaded horizontal plane paneling. An original mantel is in the south wall flanked by two original windows. A door in the east wall leads to the recessed porch on the west elevation.

The second story is only found in the circa 1884 I-house section of the dwelling. A door is located in the north wall of the second floor hall. This door opens to the outside of the house on the front facade, north elevation. A door to the west leads to a bedroom, which is pine paneled (circa 1976). East of the second floor hall is the northeast bedroom, the only entrance being by means of the first floor staircase in the parlor. South of this bedroom is attic space located over the rear wing of the house which was originally divided into bedrooms. The dwelling is a contributing building (C) within the historic district.

The farmstead of the Boyd-Wilson Farm Historic District mixes early nineteenth and early twentieth century elements. Contributing buildings, structures and sites are designated as (C); noncontributing buildings, structures and sites are designated as (NC).

A five feet tall limestone hitching post (C), which dates circa 1884, is located in the front yard of the house, north elevation.

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

To the south of the main house is what is styled as a tenant house/service quarters, which is post and beam construction with an interior of horizontal beaded poplar paneling and a gabled tin roof. The building (circa 1840) sits on stone piers and is in the process of being restored into a guest house. The level of restoration is extensive and the building now reflects current materials and construction techniques (NC, due to date and level of alterations).

Next to the tenant house/service quarters is a smokehouse of post and beam construction that has been heavily modified in 1994 and has lost most of its historical integrity. The original weatherboards have been replaced due to salt damage from the food preservation processes of the nineteenth century (NC, due to date and level of alterations).

In close proximity to the smokehouse, to the west side of the dwelling, is an ice house, which is a framed and weatherboarded structure sitting on a rock foundation. The walls are filled with sawdust for insulation. The ice house is dated circa 1884. (C)

Located near the West Harpeth River to the northwest of the house is a circa 1840 log corncrib, which was surrounded by a barn/shed with a stone foundation, and has a metal roof with signs of wooden shingles underneath, circa 1900. (C)

Next to the main house to the west of the dirt road leading from Boxley Valley Road is a frame gable roof weatherboarded stock barn, which was converted into a garage/carriage house in the 1920's. (C)

The dirt road (C), which was originally a spur trail of the Natchez Trace, leads from the house to the mill on the West Harpeth River. It is a contributing site

The mill site, previously listed in the National Register, is a contributing site. Intact are limestone foundations for the mill building, which collapsed circa 1900. These are "large stone piers spaced four to five feet apart which supported the original three story mill building. Along the river's edge are large stone foundations which supported the section of the mill constructed over the river bank" (National Register nomination). (C).

Near the mill is the miller's house (C), which is a central passage two room folk Greek Revival house, with a rock pillar foundation. This building is dated circa 1884 and the operator of the mill resided there when the mill was in operation.

The tenant house/service quarters, ice house, smoke house, barn and stock barn comprise the main domestic complex of the original farmstead. The work that supported the residents of the farmstead was done in this area. The fact these buildings and structures were located near the main house is an indication of their importance to the farmer and his family.

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

On the south end of the property are several fields which were used to raise corn, tobacco and other grains and the grazing of livestock. Located directly adajacent to the main house is a fruit orchard and kitchen garden area. In the middle of one of these fields is a circa 1920 transverse crib frame barn, which was used to store hay and livestock (C). The pattern of these fields (C) is indicative of the rural agricultural nature of the farmestead in the nineteenth century. The fields of the Boyd-Wilson Farm are well defined production spaces that still retain the layout developed by the Boyd family in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They remained largely fields for livestock grazing (mules, oxen, and horses used to move grain in and out of the mill complex) and for growing corn and small grains for livestock feed, as well as to process at the mill from the mid-nineteenth century to circa 1976.

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

VIII. Statement of Significance

The Boyd-Wilson Farm is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significant association with the agricultural history of Williamson County. It meets the registration requirements for the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee Multiple Property Nomination.

What today is known by local Williamson County residents as the Boyd-Wilson Farm is one of the few remaining historic agricultural complexes in the Leiper's Fork area that is still intact. The fertile lands adjacient to the West Harpeth River produced abundant crops such as tobacco, corn, and other grains. These plentiful lands also provided acreage for raising and breeding livestock. All of these commodities, in turn, supported the mill business (Boyd Mill, NR 4/13/88) that has already been recognized by listing in the National Register. Livestock especially was important for the transportation of grains at the mill and the fertile open fields of the farm provided for a large herd of horses and mules. The close proximity to the river also made transportation of goods easier for the mill business. By placing the mill site into its context as part of a larger farm complex, this nomination adds significantly to our understanding of nineteenth and early twentieth century agricultural life in Williamson County.

When Hendley Stone acquired the land east of the West Harpeth River in 1807, Williamson County was on the brink of becoming one of the most prosperous counties in Tennessee. Stone apparently built an early mill at some point between 1807 and 1824 when the mill is first mentioned in a lawsuit between John Witherspoon and James Hughes over a dispute concerning changing the course of the Old Natchez Trace. It is again mentioned in 1828 in a deed between Hendley Stone and his son Nicholas, where certain additional lands were given to his son, suggesting that the mill was not built by the Boyd family in 1850 as many residents and historians have maintained.

Richard Reynolds, son-in-law to Hendley Stone, bought the land and mill in 1829. Richard Reynolds was the son of George Reynolds, who served in the Revolutionary War. According to the previous National Register nomination, the mill "was constructed ca. 1840 by William A. Boyd. Boyd was the son of William Irby Boyd who constructed a nearby log cabin ca. 1800 (NR 4/13/88). The mill was a turbine powered grist mill which served the needs of the local farmers and residents. The mill building was a large two-story frame structure with a gable roof and one-story wing." William A. Boyd built the first part of the present dwelling, which is now part of the ell, circa 1840. Between 1850 and 1880 the farm passed through the hands of several relatives of the Reynolds family until 1884 when the land and mill was sold to John E. Boyd. John E. Boyd expanded business at the mill and also expanded the size of the farmhouse to its present appearance as an I-house with ell. Apparently the Boyd family already owned land near

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

this area and wanted to acquire the whole area as an estate. The Boyds operated the grist and saw mill and occupied the houses near the mill. The whole estate became more prosperous as improvements were made and goods were sold. A small Greek Revival house was located near the mill to house the operator of the mill and became known as the "miller's house." This rare, surviving example of a dwelling built specifically to house a skilled nineteenth artisan still stands near the mill ruins. Again quoting the earlier National Register nomination for the Boyd Mill Ruins, "the mill was a landmark in the community for many years." In 1900 the mill was sold to B.F. and J.A. Short, but the property surrounding the mill remained in the Boyd family until 1924 when it was sold to C.B. Wilson. The mill was in operation till 1922 when it was again sold. In the mid-1960's Edwin Manning bought the mill and eighty acres surrounding it and the Boyd Mill Farm was again intact. In 1994 the farm complex was sold to the Manning's daughter, Judith Auer, and her husband, James Auer, who now own 149 acres of the original Boyd-Wilson Farm and are taking steps to restore the house and outbuildings as much as possible to their original appearance.

The community that surrounds the Boyd-Wilson Farm was known as Bingham. When the mill was in operation, this farm became the center of this small rural community. Flour and cornmeal were ground at the mill and men would come by horseback and wagon to have the miller grind their grain. During the two to three hour wait goods were bartered, livestock was traded and gossip and tall tales were among the topics shared by these farmers. Most people at some point drifted to the mill area, if for no other reason than to socialize. The families in this area became intertwined and often the Old Natchez Trace was busy with traffic from folks coming to and from the mill. As population increased, so did the need for more housing and additional crops, thus contributing to the prosperity of the area.

The agricultural dominance of the area is evidenced by the main farmhouse itself. The Italianate influences such as the arched windows symbolized a family that aspired to be of an elevated social and economic status. Over the years, changes were made in the house to suit the needs of the families. The stone cellar kept the foods cool and served as a refrigerator. Other outbuildings, such as the smokehouse, ice house, service quarters, log corn crib, old dirt road, later early twentieth century barns, and the significant miller's house, all contributed to the existence and prosperity of the family and community as a whole. This community known as Bingham represented a visual metaphor of the institution of the family. Families grew up together, reared their children together and worked together to form bonds that could not readily be broken. With their close proximity to one another, these people progressively formed a close-knit community that encompassed the values and integrity of the aristocratic farmer.

Today the land is still used for agriculture, grazing, and animal storage. These current uses reflect well the historic uses of the fields. The size and configuration of the fields have not

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

changed since, at least, 1920, according to oral interviews with long-time residents of the area. Grazing and hay production have been important here for 100 years. The fields also were used to produce grain crops that not only were ground at the mill, but more importantly, were used as feed for the many animals that worked on the farm and at the mill. The mill operated in the era without gas or steam power. Animals--oxen, mules, and horses--were key sources of power for the mill operations, especially moving processed grains to and from the mill works. Two historic barns document the need for animal power in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century on this farm. Many of the descendants of the original families still live near the area and contribute to keeping the history and importance of the Boyd-Wilson Farm alive.

The house too is an important artifact of the evolving prosperity and periods of agriculture at the farm. Circa 1840, it was a two-room frame dwelling, typical of the antebellum landscape. But after the Civil War and Reconstruction periods, as Tennessee farms in general recovered from the war, the farm and mill became more productive and profitable. By 1884, the family significantly expanded the house, although its new I-house configuration spoke to earlier, more antebellum, building traditions in Middle Tennessee. The next improvements to the house came circa 1920, following the agricultural prosperity of the World War I years. Electricity and a new kitchen reflected the ideas of the progressive farming movement that was re-shaping rural life and agriculture during the early twentieth century. The final changes to the house, in 1976, reflected the long-lasting popularity of architectural elements associated with the Colonial Revival movement as well as reflecting the farm's production and history in the latter half of the twentieth century. The mill no longer operated and high yield agricultural production was no longer crucial to the farm's survival and the family's well-being.

The Boyd-Wilson Farm is significant as a representative example of an agricultural district that has maintained its agricultural setting. Over such a space of time, few other nineteenth century mill complex properties have been left intact as the Boyd-Wilson Farm has been. Its association with the Boyd Mill lends to its importance; the previous National Register nomination described the Boyd Mill Ruins as "the most visible and extensive of any historic mill site in the county." When the extensive mill ruins are located within the context of the entire farm complex, the significance of the property to the agricultural history of Williamson County becomes readily apparent. The setting of the farm buildings, domestic complex, and the fields for livestock and grains that made the mill operation possible represents a rare and significant artifact of nineteenth and early twentieth century agricultural history in this Middle Tennessee county.

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of 157 acres is defined by the marked boundaries for Map No. 76, Parcels 30 and 31 on the attached Williamson County Tax Map.

The Tax Map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 800'. This scale 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" = 800' 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 of 157 acres represent all of the extant historic farmland associated with the Boyd-Wilson Farm.

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Boyd-Wilson Farm,. Williamson Co., TN

**PHOTOGRAPHS** 

Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN.

Photos by: Carroll Van West

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: December, 1995.

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

2941 Lebanon Road

Nashville, TN 37243

North facade, facing south

1 of 25

East elevation, facing southwest

2 of 25 ·

East elevation, facing northwest

3 of 25

East elevation, facing northwest

4 of 25

South elevation, facing north

5 of 25

South elevation, facing north with smokehouse and icehouse

6 of 25

West elevation, facing northeast

7 of 25

West elevation, facing northeast

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

Central staircase, first floor, facing southwest

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Parlor staircase, first floor, facing southwest

10 of 25

Living room mantle, facing north

11 of 25

Cupboard, dining room, facing northeast

12 of 25

Wall for northeast bedroom, from second floor landing, facing southeast

13 of 25

Hitching post, facing north

14 of 25

Smokehouse, facing south

15 of 25

Tenant house, facing east

16 of 25

Barn, with corn crib, facing northwest

17 of 25

Corn crib in barn, detail, facing west

18 of 25

Ice House, facing north

19 of 25

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Boyd-Wilson Farm, Williamson Co., TN

Garage/shed facing west

20 of 25

Miller's house, facing northeast

21 of 25

Old Boyd Mill foundation, facing west

22 of 25

Fields and transverse crib barn, facing south

23 of 25

Fields, facing southeast, from behind domestic complex

24of 25

Fields, facing south

25 of 25

m. 11 miller House c. 1884 (c) Field Road (4) 1 - hitching post c. 1884 (c) g aras e c.1920 < 1 house c. **1840**, 1884, 1920 west barn, with رءي log com house nc  $\subset$ Cc. 1840, C.1884 Harpell, Ruch 1900) tenant nc nc house Orchard garden Smoke house wire fence Soule y Valley Road barn C. 1920 fence field fence fields (c) Boyd-Wilson Farm Williamson Co., TN NT NTS: 1996

Main house Boyd-Wilson Form Williamson Co., TN NTS: 1996

