

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm

other names/site number Hall Rockhaven Farm; Hall, Alexander H., House

2. Location

street & number 440 Proffitt Lane

N/A not for publication

city/town Kingsport

N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Sullivan code 163 zip code 37663

3. State and Federal Agency Certification

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

Herbert L. Huger 6/28/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, TN Historical Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action 7/28/95

Hall, Alexander Doak , Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan
County and State

5. Classifications

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	
10	1	buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
		objects
11	2	Total

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

N/A

Name of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: I-house with Greek Revival &/or

Folk Victorian Influence

Materials

foundation STONE: limestone, concrete

walls WOOD: weatherboard, log

roof metal and shake

other BRICK, WOOD, STONE: limestone

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
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 N/A
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
Property is:

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

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance
CA. 1879-1945

Significant Dates
1882

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A
Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Miller, John ("Jake")

Hass, L. A.

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):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested) NA
- 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:

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.94 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) Boone Dam 198 NW

1	<u>17</u>	<u>367580</u>	<u>403440</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

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 Gail L. Guymon, Consultant

organization/date N/A

street & number 745 Butler Drive telephone (615) 458-9037

city or town Loudon state TN zip code 37774

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mary Louise Hall

street & number 440 Proffitt Lane telephone (615) 239-8934

city or town Kingsport state Tennessee zip code 37663

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 Register Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.)

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

Section Number 7 Page 1

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

The Alexander Doak Hall Farm is located in the 14th Civil District of Sullivan County, Tennessee near the Washington County line in the Fordtown area. It is approximately three miles from the city of Kingsport and ten miles from Blountville, the county seat. This property is part of the area known locally as the "Green Belt" due to the number of farms in the area. Sullivan County is located at the eastern end of the geographical region known as the Ridge and Valley Province. This land form is characterized by steeply rolling hills and thin, stony acidic soil of low fertility which is suitable for grazing livestock and growing various crops.

Tucked into a curve of Proffitt Lane, the nominated property consists of a two story dwelling, one structure, ten outbuildings, and one site on 7.94 acres of gently rolling land bounded on the west by Sinking Creek, a tributary of the nearby South Fork of the Holston River. The boundaries of the nominated property include all the buildings and cave house in addition to an open meadow on the southwest. Several adjoining sections of land on both sides of Proffitt Lane remain in the Hall family and continue to be farmed today. In addition to the acreage nominated, the buffer provided by these neighboring agricultural parcels preserves the original rural setting.

The rural character of the property is further enhanced by the naturalistic plantings of many varieties of flowers and shrubs which meander around the main house, cave house, and meadow. To the rear of the cave house is a 150 to 200 year old walnut tree, one of the largest and oldest in the district according to officials from the U.S. Dept. of Forestry. There are also mature specimens of mulberry and hickory on the property.

Clearly the focal point of the farm, the Alexander Doak Hall House is a two story, three bay frame I-house with a two story rear ell. A stand of virgin poplar, oak, and walnut which grew on Hall land to the east of the site of the house provided all the lumber. After the trees were cut, they were sawn at the Hall family sawmill which was located within the boundaries of the nominated property on Sinking Creek. Completed in 1882, the new house was built to replace the original log house where Alexander and Sarah Hall had lived for a number of years. Clad in narrow weatherboard, it rests on an outcropping of limestone with additional support derived from its original cut limestone block foundation. Although the style of the house is essentially Folk Victorian, a few elements of the Greek Revival style are evident in the pedimented windows, wide frieze board and recessed transom and sidelights surrounding the main entry. The limestone wall which fronts the property was added during the 1980s by the owner, Mary Louise Hall. Although a recent change, the it is in keeping with the rustic character of the house and yard. (Note that all fences are non-contributing.)

The main portion of the house features two interior central chimneys while the ell has one interior central chimney. All chimneys are of the original handmade brick. A twentieth century exterior brick flue vents a stove in the present kitchen. The house has a plain wide frieze, triangular louvered attic vents on each end gable and pedimented wooden lintels on the first story facade and second story gable end windows. Those on the exterior walls of the enclosed ell porches are two-over-two and three-over-one double hung. Inside, the house has the typical two rooms flanking a central hall both upstairs and down. The downstairs room on the east was used as a bedroom while the west room served as the parlor. According to the present owner, at one time, the floorplan for the house was sketched on the outside wall of this downstairs bedroom near the northeast corner. The ell originally contained the kitchen and dining room downstairs with full length one-story open porches on both sides. A small enclosed staircase located in the dining room provides the only access to the two ell bedrooms upstairs. All the downstairs rooms with the exception of the parlor had a door which originally opened directly onto one of the rear porches.

The facade of the house is on the east elevation and has a one-story frame porch which extends three-fourths the length of the facade. Its hip roof is supported by chamfered wooden columns and pilasters ornamented by arched wooden brackets. Although presently lacking any balustrade, the house originally had a sawn cutwork balustrade which extended along both ends of the porch. The original double entry doors which open onto the central hall are flanked by two light recessed sidelights with paneled aprons and topped with a three light recessed rectangular sidelight. This elevation features original windows which are wooden two over two and double hung. The two first story facade windows open on the living room and front bedroom. These have pedimented lintels while those on the three windows on the upper story are flat. Wooden shutters were added to the pedimented windows around 1958. The middle upper story window opens to the upper hall at the top of the main staircase and each of the other two opens onto the two upstairs bedrooms in the main portion of the house.

Section Number 7 Page 2

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

Moving clockwise around the house, the south elevation is a gable end which has a centered two over two double hung window with flat lintel on the upper story and an identical window below which has a pedimented lintel. Attached to the gable end is a two story ell which has a one story enclosed porch with a metal standing seam shed roof running its length. When the porch was enclosed about 1930 to make a new kitchen, the door leading from the original kitchen to the porch was enclosed, however, the door from the dining room remained in place. On the outside wall of the porch, are three two over two double hung windows, an exterior brick flue highlighted by a yellow brick "H", three short three over one double hung windows, and a single door with a bracketed gabled portico. The door has a small rectangular wooden stoop and the steps leading to the ground are enclosed on both sides by a plain sawn balustrade. The door opens into the laundry room, a small extension on the rear (west) elevation of the porch which was added in 1983. At ground level, the porch has a concrete block foundation high enough to allow for three three light pivoting cellar windows.

On the west elevation, the rear of the house is narrow and irregularly shaped due to the projecting ends of each enclosed porch on the ell. The laundry room has another door on the north side of the projection which has a small stoop and sawn balustrade but lacks the gabled portico. A wooden door at ground level on the ell opens into the cellar. Just inside is the cistern which is no longer used. Above this door and centered on the rear wall of the ell is a single two over two double hung window which opens onto the downstairs rear bedroom (originally the kitchen). The projection on the left side of the ell is the small bathroom addition which changed the kitchen's pantry into the Hall family's first indoor bathroom in 1947.

The north elevation closely resembles the south elevation except for window configuration and door placement. The ell's second story has three windows; a smaller one over one double hung window opening onto the rear bedroom and a pair of two over two double hung windows at the opposite end which open onto the other upstairs ell bedroom. Below, the bathroom window is one over one double hung. There are three pairs of one over one double hung windows on the sunroom with a single door at the far end. It has the same bracketed gabled portico as the doors on the opposite side of the ell. To the left of the ell, the gable end of the main portion of the house is identical to its opposing gable end on the south elevation. In 1930, the porch on this side of the ell was enclosed to make a sunroom, however, the three two over two double hung windows on the main wall of the house were unchanged. Inside, the sunroom retains much of the look of a porch because of these windows.

On the inside, the Alexander Doak Hall House retains the typical I-house plan with a center hall and a single room off each side both upstairs and down. Standing just inside the double entry doors, the room on the right (originally a bedroom) is used as a living room and the room to the left (originally the parlor) is now a bedroom. This bedroom is the only downstairs room which has always lacked a door opening directly onto a porch or the outside. At the end of the center hall, the doorway adjoins the ell: The den (originally the dining room) has a door on each wall; the outer wall doors open to the kitchen on one side and the sunroom on the opposite. The off center doorway on the far inside wall opens onto the rear downstairs bedroom (originally the kitchen). This bedroom has a door opening onto the bathroom on the sunroom side and another opening onto the kitchen. The kitchen has one inside door which opens onto the laundry room at the rear. Access to the second floor of the ell is through a boxed staircase on the wall to the left of the doorway at the end of the center hall. This staircase ends directly in the front upstairs bedroom. It is separated from the rear upstairs bedroom by an off center door.

The interior of the house features all the original floors, woodwork, paneled doors, brass hardware, mantels and staircases with the exception of the present day kitchen. All the walls and ceilings are the original horizontal beaded board. The floors are six inch oak boards downstairs and six inch poplar boards upstairs. Walnut was used for all the doors and woodwork as well as the main staircase, balustrade, and spandrel. Primary exterior door and window surrounds are pedimented on the ground floor and flat on the second. Interior surrounds are flat and unadorned. All seven fireplaces retain their original walnut or poplar mantels. The more formal mantels in the downstairs parlor and bedroom feature Greek Revival elements with a projecting mantel shelf supported by a centered fluted bracket and pilasters. Mantels in the bedrooms have the same shelf but lack the bracket and the pilasters are plain. The fireplace in the room which was the original kitchen has been sealed but still has the small wooden mantel shelf. Hearths are

Section Number 7 Page 3

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

either brick or tile with the exception of the downstairs bedroom which is cement. It has the hand and footprints of the owner's older sister, Elizabeth Hall, placed there when she was a small child. Only the dining room fireplace is non-functional.

Although essentially a plain farmhouse, the Alexander Doak Hall House nevertheless exhibits fine examples of nineteenth century carpentry skills from its chamfered dining room cabinet doors to its main open newel staircase. The entire wall beneath the staircase is walnut with horizontal panels. Typical of most nineteenth century homes, there is a small paneled door in the hall which opens onto a closet which makes use of what would otherwise have been wasted space beneath the staircase landing. While the circular Colonial style newel post immediately catches one's eye, it is the single double curved piece of wood which forms the upper portion of the open stringer which is the most impressive element of this staircase. The balusters are round and also Colonial in style. Other examples of original carpentry include the built-in chamfered cabinets in the den (dining room). The back of this cabinet features an opening which was called a "pass through", Food from the kitchen could be placed into the cabinet through this opening to save steps in carrying food back and forth. The kitchen side of the pass through was converted to a closet when the kitchen was moved to the porch. Electricity came to the house in 1947 and there are several ceiling light fixtures still in use which were installed at this time. Indoor plumbing was also added then and the pantry off the original kitchen was converted to a bathroom. The present owner enlarged this space slightly around 1983 through a small extension of the existing exterior walls. The same year, the kitchen was remodeled and the small laundry room adjoining the rear of the kitchen was constructed over the cistern at the rear of the house (west elevation).

The ten outbuildings on the property date from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century while the site, a limestone cave, was carved out by running water eons ago. Nine of these buildings and the site contribute to the property's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings are arranged in two clusters; the first being those sited near the farmhouse. Behind this primary cluster of outbuildings and on the opposite side of a nonhistoric non-contributing fence is a secondary grouping which is comprised of the following: a shop, crib, and barn. At one time, there was a log barn across the road from the house but this structure was demolished when the present early twentieth century barn was built. The following description of the outbuildings begins with those in the primary cluster.

A carriage house/smoke house/granary/woodshed ca. 1900 sits less than 100 feet from the north side of the house. This one and one-half story frame structure rests on a limestone block foundation. It is sided with vertical board on the lower portion while the upper half story is wooden lattice. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with a standing seam metal roof although the original was wooden shakes. The loft portion of the structure was used as a granary, while the ground floor area was divided into areas for the uses cited above and is accessible via an interior staircase. Two of the three doors have been replaced since the structure was built: the door to the woodshed (south elevation) has a sliding wooden door mounted on a metal track (ca. 1940). On the east elevation, the original hinged door to where the carriage was stored was removed about the same time and an overhead garage door installed. This space is used by the current owner as a garage. The other door on the south elevation is a small wooden door which opens onto the corner space which was used for the smokehouse. (C)

The structure known as the cave house sits less than fifty feet from the south side of the house. Built in 1944 directly over a naturally occurring limestone cave, this one and one-half story frame structure was the major focus of activity on the Hall Farm during the last period when the property was actively farmed. The side gabled roof has a standing seam metal roof with exposed rafter tails and the building is sheathed with shiplap siding. A one story porch with a shed roof runs the entire length of the east elevation. Windows are two-over-two and six-over-six double hung except for two light pivoting windows on the north elevation. The first floor room on the north end has a staircase leading down into the cave. This room was known as the milk parlor and was the sales and processing room for the dairy products sold by Vertie Hall. Butter and other items were kept in the cave until the farm's buildings were wired for electricity in 1946. The milk parlor is now used for storage of canned fruits and vegetables. A wash house and pork

Section Number 7 Page 4

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

processing center were housed in the other first floor room where an interior brick chimney is located. An exterior door on the south elevation opens onto a small room with a staircase leading to the two upstairs storage rooms. (C)

The cave itself is quite small, measuring roughly twenty-five feet in length, eight feet in width, and fourteen feet in height. High up on the south wall is a sealed opening through which the water which formed the cave, once flowed. A natural rock formation was utilized by the Halls in a practical, yet unique, way: the family's butter always sat on top of this flat rock and anyone who came to purchase butter knew that butter on this rock was not for sale. Temperatures in the cave range from 53 to 57 degrees year round. It has been mapped, described, and photographed by Lee Trowbridge for inclusion in the Tennessee Cave Survey (see supporting documentation). The description from the cave survey form describes it as:

"a downward sloping entrance passage which has been widened and modified by the addition of a stairway and leads to a single room about 25' long. The right wall of the passage is extensively decorated by flowstone deposits. At floor level in the left side of the passage is a 10' long 1.5' high crawlway. The cave is located in the side of a shallow sink, which is part of a network of depressions leading toward the South Fork, Holston River, about a mile away. This cave appears to be a small side chamber that is a surviving remnant of a much larger, now-collapsed system." (C)

Perhaps the most unique structure on the property other than the cave house is the builders' shack. According to the current owner, this small one-story frame structure housed the carpenter, John "Jake" Miller, and the brickmason, L.A. Hass, from 1879 to 1882 when the house was under construction. Crudely assembled, this one story frame structure is just large enough for two cots, a small table, and a couple of chairs. The side gabled roof has wooden shakes (not the original). Clad in mismatched lapped boards, there is a small window opening on the east elevation and a wooden door on the south. A one-story full length porch runs the length of the facade. A wooden bench on the porch is from the old Hall's School which was located on an adjacent Hall Farm in the mid-1800s. (C)

A few yards to the north of this structure is the outhouse which dates from the 1920s. It is the only structure on the farm which has been moved, however, it has remained in its present location since the early 1940s. It is of typical design, being of frame construction sided with wide vertical boards and covered with a metal roof. Built to serve a large family, it could accommodate three people at a time. As it is no longer in use, it has been placed on a mortared limestone foundation. (C)

The north end of the primary cluster ends across the driveway and slightly further north with a 1930s one-story frame chicken house with a mortared limestone foundation. Currently used for storage, it has a metal shed roof which slopes to the rear and is sided with vertical board. A single door is located on the south elevation. (C)

The smallest structure in the secondary cluster is a log hog pen which is west of the end of the cavehouse. According to the present owner, the logs came from an earlier log house which pre-dated the 1882 farmhouse and the old Hall School House (later the Fordtown Baptist Church). When the log buildings were dismantled, the logs were recycled into the hog pen in the 1930s. The original logs are V-notched and hand hewn while later replacement logs are saddle-notched. It has a metal shed roof and sits on limestone piers. The pen is divided into two stalls with small openings on the east and west elevations for each. A log ramp leads to another rectangular opening high on the south elevation which was used for human egress. No longer in use, the structure is approximately 12 feet long and 8 feet wide. (C)

Adjacent to the hog pen and the westernmost structure of the primary cluster is a 1930s turkey house which is similar in appearance to the chicken house at the opposite end of the property. It is a one-story rectangular frame structure sided with vertical boards. The metal shed roof slopes toward the rear and has exposed rafter tails. There is a smaller shed-roofed extension on the west end. Lacking real windows, the turkey house was ventilated through rectangular hinged sections of vertical board to either side of a centered door on the east elevation. (C)

Behind the fence and west of the chicken house are the buildings of the secondary cluster. The first of these moving west to east, is the only non-contributing outbuilding on the farm; a shop built in 1947. This one-story frame

Section Number 7 Page 5

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

building sits on a concrete block foundation, has a metal side gabled roof and is clad in vertical board. Centered on the north elevation is a hipped ashlar square-cut limestone chimney. The shed has two doors, one a standard door on the west elevation, the other, a sliding door on the east elevation. The shed is used for storage. (NC)

Approximately seventy-five feet west of the shop is the corncrib. Built in the early 1900s, it is a one-story frame structure with a metal gable roof and a shed extension on the east elevation. The crib's foundation is stacked limestone piers with concrete blocks supporting the shed extension. Siding is a combination of vertical board, weatherboard and lattice for ventilation. The gable ends of the crib are open to provide for equipment storage. (C)

A one and one-half story pre-1920s barn sits near the crib on a rise to the southwest. It has a metal gable roof with a one-story shed extension on the west elevation. The siding is vertical board with sections of ventilating lattice on the upper half-story loft and the foundation is formed concrete and concrete block. Doors are located at both gable ends. The latter two structures replaced the original log barn and crib which sat across Proffitt Lane slightly southwest of the house. (C)

Results of a windshield survey performed in 1994 by Gail L. Guymon supplemented by the personal knowledge of Sullivan and surrounding counties, the Hall Farm appears to be the only extant nineteenth century farm within at least a ten mile radius (and perhaps even in all of Sullivan County) which has the original farmhouse and outbuildings intact. While there are a few other examples of I-houses in the county, each which was seen and/or described by Mary Louise Hall, has had incompatible additions or alterations to both the exterior and interior and no longer resemble the simple farmhouses they once were due to the loss of outbuildings and setting.

In contrast, the Alexander Doak Hall Farm retains a high degree of integrity in that, with the exception of the hog pen and the loss of the original log house, barn and crib, the house and outbuildings have been maintained as they were originally with only periodic maintenance and/or slight alterations for the sole purpose of modernization. The entire complex is an excellent example of vernacular design in that the I-house plan was an evolutionary form of the two room dogtrot. The Hall House was built with locally produced materials and (according to family history) required a minimal amount of men to complete. Vernacular forms, while essentially plain, also were frequently ornamented with interpretations of high style designs seen in magazines. In the Hall House, this is seen in the Greek Revival pedimented lintels, the fireplace mantels, and the sawn chamfered porch columns and brackets. The latter are Folk Victorian details, which, according to McAlester and McAlester (1984) covered the period from about 1870 to 1910. The style is defined by the presence of Victorian details on simple folk house forms. These details are usually found on porches and cornice lines such as square porch posts with the corners chamfered, such as those on the Alexander Doak Hall House. The outbuildings are vernacular also, having been constructed in such a way as to minimize the amount of labor and materials needed for construction while producing a structure which served the function for which it was built. With its buffer of adjoining pasture land and open meadows, the farm has also retained its aesthetic setting.

Section Number 8 Page 6

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

The Alexander Doak Hall Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for its association with agricultural history in Sullivan County and, under Criterion C, for the information it conveys regarding vernacular farm complexes and the dominant surviving folk form of nineteenth century domestic architecture, the I-house with Greek Revival details.

Criterion A eligibility is reflected in the Hall Farm's status as one of the between eight and twelve "Century Farms" in Sullivan County (Carroll Van West: personal communication, 1994) and for its association with the county's agricultural history. Properties designated as such under a statewide program jointly administered by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation, must have continued to be owned by descendants of the founding family and under continuous agricultural production for at least 100 years. Statewide, "Century Farms" constitute a group of resources which provide important information about early settlement patterns in the counties where they are located. According to survey information collected by MTSU on Tennessee's Century Farms, the majority dating from the mid-nineteenth century have, at most, only one or two surviving outbuildings; the Hall Farm has nearly a dozen. On the local level, as developmental pressures continue to encroach on neighboring farmsteads and land is subdivided for new housing and commercial development, the architectural and historical significance of the Alexander Doak Hall Farm continues to grow. The history of five generations of the Hall family who were among the first to settle this portion of what is now Washington and Sullivan Counties is an important part of the agricultural history and growth of this area. At one time, it was possible to travel from the Holston River to the community of Gray in Washington County without leaving Hall land.

East Tennessee Century Farms typically relied on corn and a variety of small grains such as wheat, oats, barley and rye as the primary cash crops. Wheat was extremely popular during the middle of the nineteenth century when many gristmills were established on the plentiful creeks and rivers. The Hall Farm had a gristmill on Sinking Creek. Century Farm historian Carroll Van West notes, "Although corn, small grains and flax were staples of the typical East Tennessee farm, the Century Farm records also indicate a tremendous diversity of farm products in the region, from the traditional tobacco to mulberry trees and silkworms. This diversity reflects the significance of the environment in determining the farming landscape." (Van West, 1987:5) The Hall family relied on crop diversity (these included corn, flax, tobacco, popcorn, wheat, oats, millet and hay) over the years in order to remain successful in addition to producing dairy products, raising several kinds of poultry, cattle, horses and sheep. The following vegetable crops were also raised for family consumption and public sale to customers in Johnson City and Kingsport: sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and walnuts. They also sold lumber from wooded acreage and operated a sawmill on the farm. Century Farms also typically had large families since children were needed to provide a good deal of the labor required. Again, the Hall family history reflects this trend with at least three generations producing more than five children each.

The history of this farmstead also mirrors the developmental changes which occurred in agricultural practices across East Tennessee during the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: Prior to the Civil War, farms were typically small self-sufficient entities. With the construction of numerous railroads through East Tennessee after the Reconstruction period, farmers began planting more acreage for cash crops to sell on the open market. As shipment of market goods and products became more reliable and widespread, the farmers' days of self-sufficiency drew to a close and farmers concentrated on the production of cash crops and the establishment of dairy herds. By the turn of the century, farming became "progressive" with the dissemination of information through county extension offices of the Department of Agriculture. Universities studied the effects of new techniques such as the addition of organic compounds to balance soil chemistry, the benefits of crop rotation and the development of new strains of crops and animals. In East Tennessee during the Great Depression, many farms ceased to exist when the newly created Tennessee Valley Authority began buying up valuable bottomland and displacing farm families who knew no other way of life. For those farmers who managed to keep their land, TVA provided further assistance in modernizing farming methods. Today, farms still remain specialized with respect to the production of a limited number of crops or a single commodity, such as milk. This property is typical of such specialization in that the remaining pasture is used to graze beef cattle while the only crop grown at the present time is tobacco.

Section Number 8 Page 7

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

The spatial arrangement of outbuildings relative to the main house reflects the division of labor upon which the successful function of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century East Tennessee farms depended. Typically, the farm wife was responsible for running the household, managing the children and seeing to outside chores which revolved around the dairy, poultry flocks, production of fruits and vegetables, smoking and salting of meat and helping out in the fields when necessary. Outbuildings closest to the house were generally those associated with these tasks. As can be seen on the site map and from the description of outbuildings in the previous section, the Hall Farm has two distinct clusters: the primary one being those closest to the house whose function was related to the tasks just described. The secondary cluster consists of structures which were more closely associated with male tasks.

In a series of area land surveys conducted between 1746 and 1750, Colonel John Buchanan surveyed a tract bisected along Sinking Creek which would later be known as "Hall's Bottom". A portion of this area was originally owned by Jesse Billingsley through a Revolutionary War land grant. The first generation of Halls to leave Virginia and settle in the area were Nathaniel Hall (1750-1833) and his brother, William, who went to Greene County. Nathaniel married Elizabeth Thankful Doak (1747-1833), a sister of the prominent Presbyterian minister, Reverend Samuel Doak. This locally known religious leader founded Washington College and Salem Presbyterian Church (Washington County, NR 9/22/92), the oldest of that denomination in Tennessee. About 1782, Reverend Doak organized a church and school at New Bethel in Washington County.

Nathaniel and Elizabeth established a farm on land near the South Fork of the Holston River in what is now Washington County. According to information collected for the Sullivan County tax list in 1796-97, Nathaniel and Elizabeth owned 157 acres valued at \$650.00 and 136 acres of school land valued at \$350.00. Deeds indicate that Nathaniel gradually increased his landholdings by more than 100 acres between 1795 and 1806.

The Hall family's acquisition of land along Sinking Creek began with Nathaniel and Elizabeth's son, James Hall, and his wife, Elizabeth Biddle Hall. In 1823, they purchased 310 acres along the creek from Billingsley's heirs for their son, Thomas (1804-1888), and his wife, Margaret "Peggy" Hall (1806-1860).

Thomas and Peggy bought two farms on the west side of the Holston River. He deliberately purchased land which would not interfere with the only crossing to the Holston Institute on the opposite side of the river. In the early 1800s, Holston Institute and Boone's Creek were the only educational academies in the area. In order to better serve the youth of the surrounding communities, the Hall family erected a log schoolhouse about one quarter mile west of where the Alexander Doak Hall House now stands. A photograph of this structure shows it was one story with shuttered windows and a gabled shake roof. (In 1848, the Fordtown Baptist Church was established in the schoolhouse, but not officially recognized as a church body until 1877-79). This log school was replaced by a larger frame structure on the opposite side of the road around 1888. Complete with a cupola and bell, it housed the first through eighth grades until around 1935 when Miller Prairie, the first public school in Sullivan County, was opened. The bell from the old Hall's School was installed in the new school.

The 1850 census listed Thomas and Margaret as slaveowners who had accumulated 2,000 acres of land, some of which was farmed. Without doubt, they were among the county's most wealthy and prominent families. Between 1829 and 1846, the couple had 13 children, including a set of twin girls. When the creek would freeze over in winter, Thomas would have the ice cut into blocks and stored in the icehouse. During the summer months, he would sell the ice to neighbors.

Thomas and his first wife lived in a log house near the Hall's School, about one-tenth of a mile west from what is now known as the Alexander Doak Hall Farm. In 1860, the house was destroyed by a tornado and Margaret was killed. After his first wife's death, Thomas married Margaret Pierce (1814-1887), but had no other children. Between 1860 and 1865, he and his second wife had a large two story brick l-house with a two story rear ell, wrap-around porch, and massive chimneys built. This brick house survived until 1988 when it was destroyed by arson but the original log barn and ice house still stand like haunting sentinels behind the burned out ruins of the house.

Section Number 8 Page 8

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

Thomas' will distributed equal values of land and money to his surviving daughters and sons. He also left instructions on how the blacksmith shop should be managed.

Alexander H. Hall (1837-1908) was the seventh of Thomas and Margaret's children and married Sarah A. Irvin (1844-1903) in 1860. He enlisted for a three year term in the Confederate Army in September, 1862 and served as a private in Company "G" of the 60 Tennessee Mounted Infantry along with two of his brothers, Samuel and David. After fighting close to home at Bull's Gap and Carter's Station, he was captured by Union forces at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. His brother, David K. Hall, was killed during the battle. After enduring debilitating conditions as a prisoner of war for two years, Alexander surrendered in Jonesboro, Tennessee in May, 1865 (as a condition of their release, Confederate prisoners formally "surrendered" their allegiance to the Confederacy and swore allegiance to the United States.) He took the oath a few weeks later and was discharged.

Between 1861 and 1886, Alexander and Sarah had eight boys and two girls who lived to adulthood. Like his forefathers, Alexander farmed his land, even going so far as to reroute Sinking Creek which disappeared into holes all over the property. This task accomplished, this generation of Halls found themselves playing host to neighbors from miles around who came to use the newly created "swimming hole" and to watch others swim.

In 1879, the Halls hired two local craftsmen from the Boone's Creek area, an area carpenter, John "Jake" Miller, and L. A. Hass, a brickmason, to begin building a two story frame house which was finished three years later. The lumber was sawn in the family's sawmill from stands of virgin timber on the farm. The handmade bricks were also reportedly manufactured on the property. During construction, Miller and Hass reportedly lived in the small builder's shack which is one of the property's contributing outbuildings. Miller had just completed the Martin House in Gray before starting on the Hall House (the Martin House is still extant, but the interior has been significantly altered).

In addition to farming, Alexander also served his community as a deputy trustee of Sullivan County for a number of years. Among his duties were the collection of property taxes and the transport of prisoners to the jail in Jonesboro. Mary Louise Hall recalls her father telling a story about one of these trips. Her grandfather and another man were on their way to Jonesboro with a prisoner they believed to be innocent. When they turned their backs to allow the man to relieve himself, he "escaped". Her father would point out the place where this happened whenever they passed it.

Records indicate that at the time he applied for a military pension in 1907, he was in poor health and his land holdings at that time amounted to 170 acres valued at \$1,200.00, however this information is probably inaccurate as family members inherited more than 200 acres after his death in 1908.

Alexander Doak "Dock" Hall (1881-1976), was the eighth son of Alexander and Sarah. After his father's death, Alexander bought out his siblings' interest in the family farm and became the owner of the house in which he and his brothers and sisters had grown up. He wed Vertie Mae Adams in 1912 and continued life on the farm as three generations of his family had done before him. It was during "Dock" and Vertie's lives that several of the earlier original outbuildings were replaced by newer versions (see Section 7) and others, such as the cave house, were built. While "Dock" tended to the fields and livestock, Vertie was busy raising their ten children which included two sets of twins. She was also very involved in the family's business of producing butter, milk, eggs, poultry and vegetables. Some customers came by the cave house to purchase items, others had their purchases delivered by members of the Hall family. They also delivered groceries to neighbors who were too elderly to get out. Surplus milk production which was not sold to individuals went to the Franklin Milk Company in Jonesboro.

The peak production of crops and livestock produced on the Hall Farm occurred during the early decades of the twentieth century. The following types of livestock were raised for consumption by the family as well as income: sheep, cattle, horses, hogs, turkeys, chickens, guinea fowl, ducks and geese. Crops included corn, popcorn, tobacco, wheat, oats, rye, millet, barley, several varieties of fruit from an orchard across Sinking Creek, sweet potatoes and pumpkins.

Section Number 8 **Page** 9

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

Water came from a hand-dug well which served neighbors, Hall's School and the Hall family.

Generations of the Hall family relied on the natural underground cave with it's year-round temperature in the low 50s for the storage of perishable milk products, eggs and produce. Until the cave house was built in 1944, a few steps led from ground level down into the cave. "Nature's refrigerator" was in constant use until electricity came to the farm in 1946.

Mary Louise Hall, one of "Dock" and Vertie's children recalls that their house always seemed to be full of relatives, friends or boarders. Several of the teachers from Hall's School boarded with the family during the week in addition to workmen who stayed during WWII during the construction of the Holston Defense. Seasonal farm laborers also stayed at the house.

After the deaths of "Dock" and Vertie, like her father had done, Mary Louise bought out the interests of her brothers and sisters in 1986 in order to acquire the house and a little over seven acres of land. She works tirelessly at maintaining the house, outbuildings, and landscape pretty much the way she has always known them to be. Farming on the seven acres being nominated is presently the responsibility of a nephew who runs a herd of cattle in addition to growing tobacco.

Section Number 9 Page 10

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

Major Bibliographic References

Carroll Van West, Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective. Nashville: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 1987.

Families and History of Sullivan County, Tennessee. Vol. One, 1779-1992. Compiled by the Holston Territory Geneological Society. Walsworth Publishing, 1992.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide To American Houses. New York: Knopf, 1984.

Oral interviews with Mary Louise Hall, April - September, 1994.

Population Schedule of the U.S. Census of 1850 for Sullivan County, Tennessee. Marion Keith Burgner, transcriber. Clinchdale Press, Knoxville, 1963.

Sullivan County Historical Commission & Association. Historic Sites of Sullivan County. Muriel C. Spoden, compiler. Kingsport Press, 1976.

Sullivan County Historical Commission & Association. Historic Sites of Sullivan County. Muriel C. Spoden, compiler. Kingsport Press, 2nd edition, 1977.

Trowbridge, Lee, Tennessee Cave Survey Report Form, 1601 Westop Trail, Knoxville, 1995.

Section Number 10 Page 11

Hall, Alexander Doak Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

The verbal boundary description of the nominated property is as follows:

Tract No. 1:

BEGINNING at a point in the center of the creek (said point of Beginning being North 69 degrees 21 minutes East 133.66 feet from an iron pin on the northerly side of Proffitt Lane); thence North 69 degrees 21 minutes East 154.29 feet to a point in the center of Proffitt Lane; thence with the center of Proffitt Lane five calls and distances, to-wit: In a northerly direction by a curve to the left having a radius of 307.03 feet, an arc distance of 205.05 feet to a nail at the p.t. of said curve; thence North 07 degrees 06 minutes East 25.26 feet to a nail at the p.c. of a curve; thence in a northeasterly direction by a curve to the right having a radius of 523.15 feet, an arc distance of 273.59 feet to a nail at the p.t. of said curve; thence in an easterly direction by a curve to the right having a radius of 226.39 feet, an arc distance of 10.40 feet to a nail; thence in an easterly direction by a curve to the right having a radius of 226.39 feet, an arc distance of 254.54 feet to a nail at the p.t. of said curve; thence North 26 degrees 35 minutes West, 22.59 feet to an iron pin on the northwesterly side of Proffitt Lane; thence North 9 degrees 10 minutes 37 seconds East 18.78 feet to an iron pin; thence North 39 degrees 41 minutes 30 seconds West 207.68 feet to a post; thence North 45 degrees 53 minutes 26 seconds West 204.72 feet to a post on the southeasterly side of a creek; thence North 45 degrees 53 minutes 26 seconds West, 19.86 feet to a point in the center of said creek; thence with the center of said creek, nine calls and distances; to-wit: South 74 degrees 52 minutes West 90.25 feet; thence South 49 degrees 23 minutes West, 40.0 feet; thence South 49 degrees 23 minutes 41 seconds West 165.81 feet; thence South 52 degrees 08 minutes West 152.39 feet; thence South 1 degree 10 minutes East 134.98 feet; thence South 6 degrees 04 minutes East 201.92 feet; thence South 18 degrees 24 minutes 20 seconds West 144.98 feet; thence South 05 degrees 36 minutes 55 seconds East 101.81 feet; thence South 39 degrees 48 minutes 59 seconds East 159.82 feet to the point of beginning, and containing 7.94 acres, more or less.

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' scale 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.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The 7.94 acres included within the boundaries of this nomination are comprised of a portion of the remaining acreage of the original 310 acres which Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Doak) Hall purchased from Jesse Billingsley in 1823. This is the same acreage which is owned by one of their descendents, Mary Louise Hall. It is more than sufficient to protect the house and outbuildings while also preserving the setting, view, and a portion of the original farm land.

Section Number Photos Page 12

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

Hall, Alexander Doak Farm
440 Proffitt Lane
Kingsport, Sullivan County, Tennessee
Photos by: Gail L. Guymon and Bob Harris
Date: April, 1994 and March, 1995
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee

Setting, looking east up Proffitt Lane
#1 of 40

Farmhouse, northeast facade, facing southwest
#2 of 40

Setting, meadow to south of house, facing west
#3 of 40

Farmhouse, east facade, facing west
#4 of 40

Farmhouse, north elevation, facing south
#5 of 40

Farmhouse, west elevation, facing east
#6 of 40

Farmhouse, south elevation, facing north
#7 of 40

Cavehouse, northeast elevation, facing southwest
#8 of 40

Cave entrance
#9 of 40

Cave interior
#10 of 40

Carriage house, farmhouse, and cavehouse, west elevation, facing east
#11 of 40

Barn, north elevation, facing south
#12 of 40

Crib, north elevation, facing south
#13 of 40

Hog pen, northeast elevation, facing southwest
#14 of 40

Shop, northeast elevation, facing southwest
#15 of 40

Carriage house, east elevation, facing west
#16 of 40

Builders' shack, southeast elevation, facing northwest
#17 of 40

Section Number Photos **Page** 13

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

Outhouse, southwest elevation, facing northeast
#18 of 40

Chicken house, east elevation, facing west
#19 of 40

Turkey house, east elevation, facing west
#20 of 40

View of center hall and main staircase
#21 of 40

Newel post and balustrade in center hall
#22 of 40

Staircase landing
#23 of 40

Detail of landing and handrail at curve
#24 of 40

Staircase to rear ell 2nd story
#25 of 40

Mantle in downstairs parlor (now bedroom)
#26 of 40

Mantle in downstairs bedroom (now living room)
#27 of 40

Mantle in dining room (now den)
#28 of 40

Mantle and sealed fireplace in kitchen (now downstairs ell bedroom)
#29 of 40

Hand/footprints of Elizabeth Hall, sister of Mary Louise on outer hearth
#30 of 40

Mantle in 2nd floor east bedroom
#31 of 40

Cupboard in dining room (now den)
#32 of 40

Door in downstairs bedroom (now living room). Phone on wall is original to house.
#33 of 40

Main entry doors
#34 of 40

Door between 2nd floor ell bedrooms
#35 of 40

Hardware on door to ell staircase (original)
#36 of 40

Section Number Photos **Page** 14

Hall, Alexander Doak, Farm
Name of Property

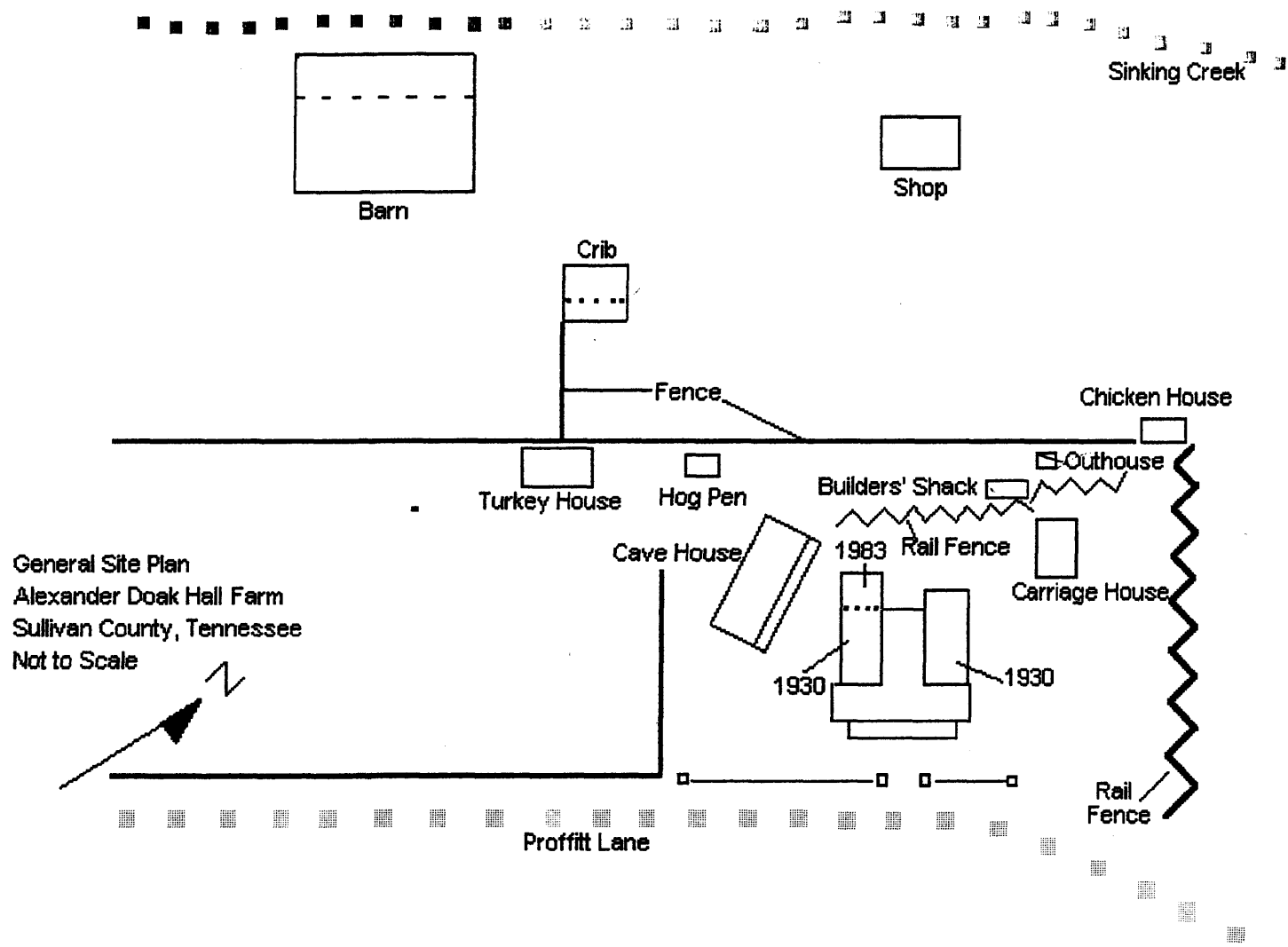
Sullivan County, Tennessee
County

Pedimented door surround from sunporch looking into bedroom (originally the kitchen)
#37 of 40

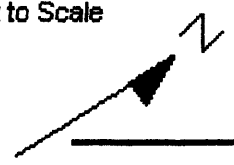
Original plank walls and ceiling
#38 of 40

Original flooring and pegged balustrade in 2nd floor ell bedroom
#39 of 40

Closeup of original flooring in 2nd floor ell bedroom
#40 of 40

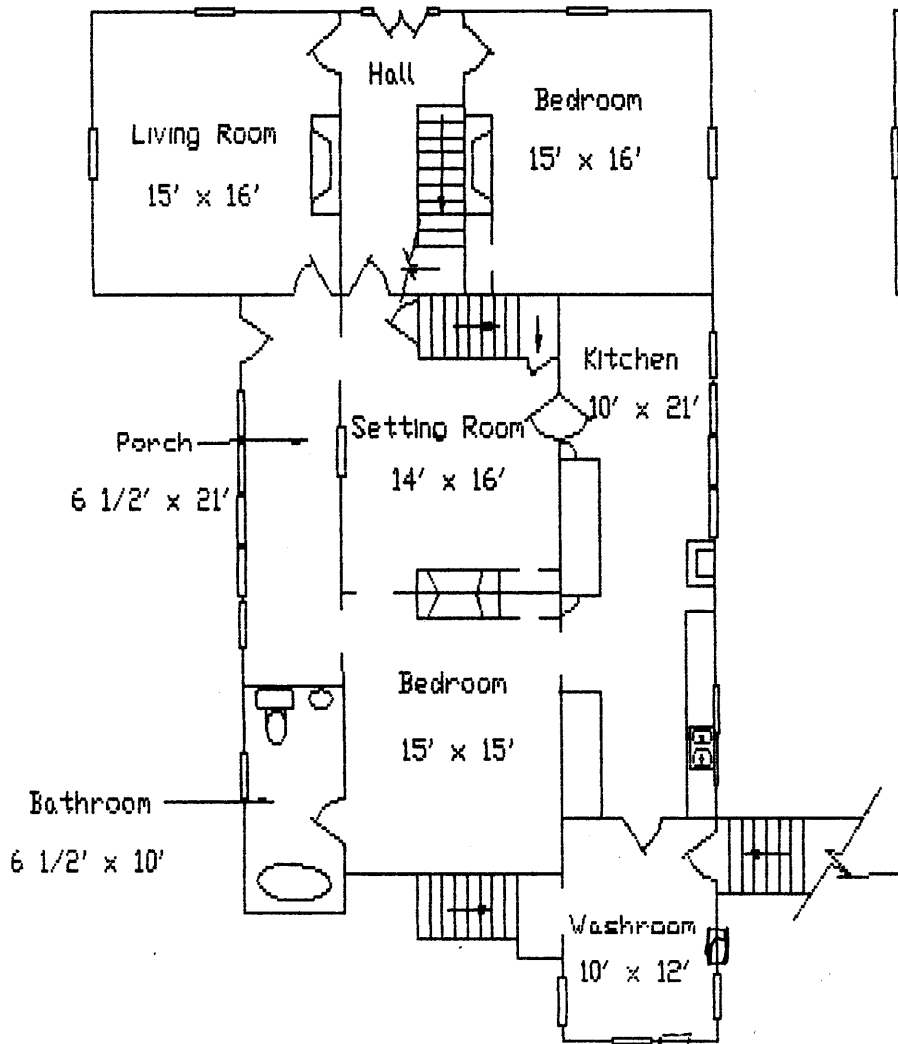


General Site Plan
 Alexander Doak Hall Farm
 Sullivan County, Tennessee
 Not to Scale

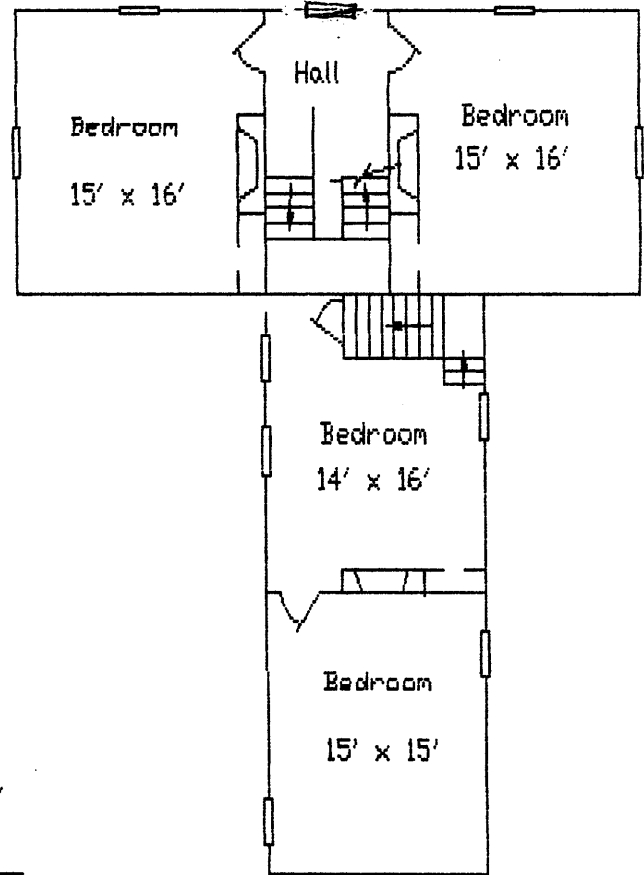


The Alexander Doak Hall House

First Floor



Second Floor

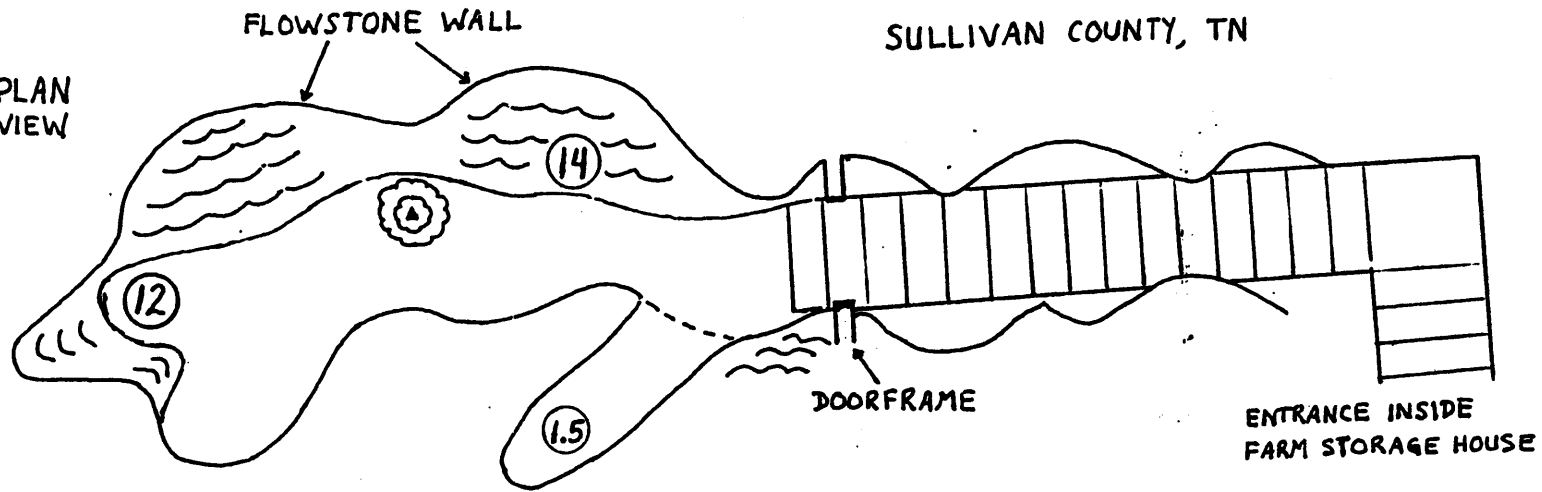


Floor Plan
Alexander Doak Hall House
No Scale

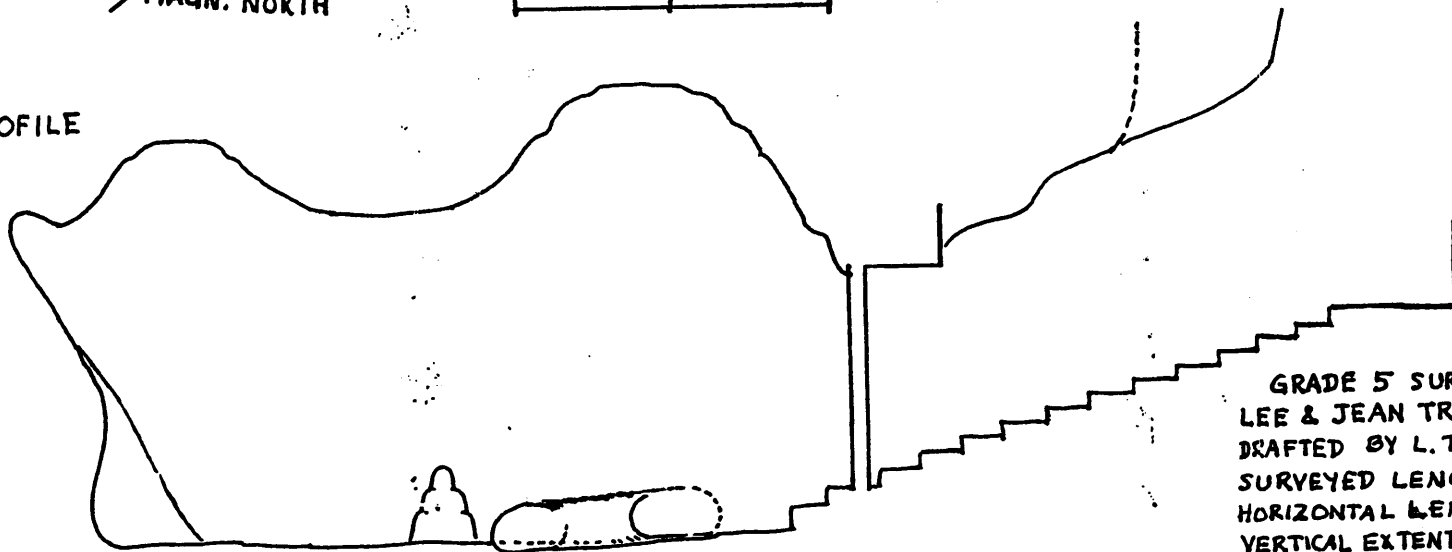
ALEXANDER DOKE HALL CAVE

SULLIVAN COUNTY, TN

PLAN VIEW



PROFILE



GRADE 5 SURVEY 7-24-94
LEE & JEAN TROWBRIDGE
DRAFTED BY L. TROWBRIDGE
SURVEYED LENGTH 58'
HORIZONTAL LENGTH 52'
VERTICAL EXTENT 14'

Tennessee
Cave
Survey

1601 Westop Trail
Knoxville, TN 37923

5-90

TENNESSEE CAVE SURVEY REPORT FORM
Fill out one page for each entrance.

County: SULLWAN TCS#: _____ Ent#: 1 # Ents: 1

Cave Name: ALEXANDER DOKE HALL CAVE

Latitude (N): 36° 26' 55" Longitude (W): 82° 28' 34"

Topographical map: Name: BOONE DAM Number: 198NW

Indication of cave on topographical map: S (Actually, best indication is house sym.)
None = N Sink = S Contour distortion = C Inflowing stream = I
Spring = X Quarry = Q Marked as cave = M

Elevation of Entrance in Feet: 1380'

Ownership and entrance status: P
Private = P Government = G NSS owned or leased = S Park = K
Gated = L Commercial = C Destroyed or blocked = B
Biologically significant - entry restricted = B
Entry forbidden (explain on back) = N

Gear needed for main part of cave: N
Normal = N Rappel and prusik = R Knee pads = K Handline = H
Wading = W Boat or swimming = B Wet suit = T Other (explain) = O

Entrance description: L Artificial (explain) = T
Horizontal: Extremely big = E Walk in = L Stoop or duck = H
Crawl = K
Vertical : Very wide pit = O Pit = P Chimney/climb = C
Bells out = B

Entrance indication in the field: S (House!)
Sink = S Spring = X Inflowing stream = I Bluff or outcrop = B
Hillside = H Roadcut = R Level ground = L Quarry = Q
Flooded = ~~F~~ Wet weather streambed = W

Mapping status: 5
Unmapped = U Sketch = 1 Sketch w/ estimated scale-North = 2
Pace & compass = 3 Tape & compass = 4 Tape, compass & clinometer = 5
Tape, compass & clinometer on tripod = 6 Theodolite = 7

Geological formation: Name: _____ Code: KN

Physiographic province: Name: _____ Code: V

Cave length (feet): 58 Vertical extent (feet): 14

Depth of each pit (feet): —

Number of pit(s) rigged to explore main part of cave: —

Reported by: Lee Trowbridge Date: 2/26/95

- Please provide the following information on the back or attach extra sheets:
1. Copy a portion of the topographical map with the cave location marked.
 2. Specific directions to the cave including prominent field and topographic landmarks. Include distances and compass angles.
 3. Complete narrative description of the cave including interesting scientific and historical information. Describe how the entrance appears in the field and its dimensions.

ALEXANDER DOKE HALL CAVE is a small cave used located under a farm storage house on the property of the owner in southern Sullivan County. To locate the cave, from US Rt 23, starting at the Washington County-Sullivan County line, proceed north for three quarters of a mile. Turn west onto Proffitt Lane. The owner's house, storage house, and cave are located on the north side of the road 0.7 miles from this intersection, at 440 Proffitt Lane.

The cave entrance is located inside the storage house. The cave itself consists of a downward sloping entrance passage which has been widened and modified by the addition of a stairway, and leads to a single room about 25' long. The right wall of the passage is extensively decorated by flowstone deposits. At floor level in the left side of the passage is a 10' long, 1.5' high crawlway. The cave is located in the side of a shallow sink, which is part of network of depressions leading toward the South Fork, Holston River about a mile away. This cave appears to be a small side chamber that is a surviving remnant of a much larger, now-collapsed system.

Alexander Doke Hall Cave is named for the grandfather of the present owner, Mary Hall. It has been in the Hall family since they moved to the present property in 1823. It was used for food storage, and modified by stages over the years. The entrance was widened, concrete stairs added, and the floor was paved with flagstones. A food storage house was built over the cave entrance in 1943-44.

Visited and surveyed 7/24/94 by Lee & Jean Trowbridge. Report - Lee Trowbridge, 2/26/95.

