

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

82

1. Name

historic Camp Bell

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Coles Ferry Pike N/A not for publication

city, town Lebanon me. vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Tennessee code 047 county Wilson code 189

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Reid Thomas

street & number Route 4, Box 25A

city, town Lebanon vicinity of state Tennessee 37087

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wilson County Courthouse

street & number East Main Street

city, town Lebanon state Tennessee 37087

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

"Camp Bell" is located in Wilson County, Tennessee, about two miles northwest of the public square in Lebanon. Situated in a grove of trees on a knoll overlooking Coles Ferry Pike, the house faces south on an eight acre tract, which is all that remains of the original farmstead that encompassed over 200 acres.

A modest example of the Greek Revival style, "Camp Bell" is a one and a half story T-shaped house with a gable roof. The central block is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond; the rear and side wings are covered with weatherboard. The five-bay facade consists of two weatherboarded wings flanking a recessed porch supported by four square posts with lancet-shaped panels. The focal point of the facade is a Greek Revival doorway located in the central bay of the brick section. This elaborate doorway is composed of double leaf doors, each with two vertical panels, that are flanked by two pilasters and sidelights and topped by a transom and corner lights, all in red colored glass. To either side of the doorway is a double hung sash window with six over six lights. Access can be gained to the rooms in the projecting wings from the recessed porch. These doors, located at either side of the porch, have a shouldered architrave trim and a triple-light transom. The porch is surmounted by a lattice-like balustrade at the roof line and, behind it, three gabled dormers with round-arched windows, each connected by another balustrade. The single bay wings each feature a double hung sash window with six over six lights on this elevation.

The east and west elevations each have a one story screened-in porch supported by square posts and topped by a latticed balustrade with finials. A small shed roof addition is attached to the rear of each porch and is flush with the rear of the building. The rear elevation features a one story frame addition with a gable roof. The double hung sash windows occur in groups of 3 with six over six lights and singly with one over one lights. The rear wing is flanked on the east by a one bay gable roof dormer and on the west by a three bay gable roof dormer.

The chimney configuration of the building includes two interior chimneys that originally marked the gable ends of the ca. 1835 brick core. Two exterior gable end chimneys flank the ca. 1855 weatherboard wings.

Alterations of "Camp Bell" include the ca. 1855 main doorway and weatherboard wings flanking the original central brick section all made by Governor Campbell. Additions made in the 1920s include the rear wing, the two screened-in porches on the side elevations and the three dormers and balustrades on the facade. Aluminum siding was added to all but the brick portion by the present occupants in 1972 and storm windows and doors have been installed over the originals.

"Camp Bell's" interior features a central hall plan flanked by two parlors. The doors are framed with shouldered architrave trim and the simplistic mantles are original. Two symmetrical ca. 1925 stairways separate the rear wing from the parlors.

The site includes a ca. 1925 garage on the west side of the house and, to the north, two ca. 1840 square log structures with V-notching originally used as a smokehouse (one nearest to the house) and chicken house. An elaborate garden, of which nothing remains, once occupied the grounds southeast of the house. The garden, designed by Dr. James Merrill Safford, Professor of Geology at Cumberland University, formed a square and was surrounded with shrubs, roses, boxwoods and apple and cherry trees.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1835 **Builder/Architect** William Seawell

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteriou B

"Camp Bell" is significant as the home of one of one of Tennessee's most prominent political and military figures in the nineteenth century, Governor William Bowen Campbell. "Camp Bell" became the home of Governor Campbell at the peak of his political and military career. While in public office Campbell served as district attorney-general, judge, U.S. Representative and Governor; and his military career included service in the Seminole War, the Mexican War and the Civil War. The house is significant because it was the last home of the governor and general, and it reflects his tastes and affluence as he remodeled the residence in keeping with the architectural tastes of the 1850s.

The Greek Revival structure was constructed ca. 1835 by William Seawell and later purchased by Campbell's parents, David and Catharine Bowen Campbell, in 1842, from William Seawell and William Douglass. William B. Campbell, in 1844, purchased his father's holdings in the family home "Camp Bell." Governor Campbell moved to Lebanon in 1853 where he was made president of the Bank of Middle Tennessee. In 1858 he purchased his mother's share of the house and property, giving him full ownership of "Camp Bell" and over two hundred acres.

William Bowen Campbell, born in Sumner County, Tennessee, in 1807, studied law in Virginia. He began his law practice in Carthage, Tennessee, in 1829, and continued until 1853, except for periods of public and military service. Campbell's career in public service included: attorney-general of 5th judicial district of Tennessee, 1831; a Whig member of the U.S. House of Representatives, 25th, 26th, and 27th Congresses, 1837-1843; judge of 4th judicial circuit, 1847-50; and Governor of Tennessee, 1851-53 (he was the last Whig Governor elected in Tennessee). In 1865 he was re-elected to the U. S. House of Representatives.

Campbell's military career began with his organizing and serving as captain of a company in the Second Regiment Tennessee Mounted Volunteers in 1836, bound for the Seminole War. Later Campbell served as colonel of the First Regiment Tennessee Volunteers in the Mexican War. He led his regiment known as the "Bloody First" with the motto "Boys, follow me" in the battles of Monterey, Vera Cruz and Cerro Gordo. When the Civil War erupted both the Union and Confederate governments wanted Campbell in their service. William Campbell chose to remain loyal to the Union and accepted a position as brigadier general in June 1862, but resigned in January 1863.

On August 19, 1867, William Bowen Campbell died in his home, "Camp Bell." "Camp Bell" has remained in the Campbell family with Mrs. Mary Williamson Thomas, great-granddaughter of Governor Campbell, as present owner. The once large farmstead of over two hundred acres has been reduced through time to an eight acre tract.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical Dictionary Tennessee General Assembly 1796-1969, No. 31, Smith and Wilson County.
 Brandau, Roberta Seawell, ed. History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee. Nashville, Tenn.: The Parthenon Press, 1964.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 8
 Quadrangle name Lebanon Quadrangle scale 1:24000
 UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>562330</u>	<u>4008920</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of "Camp Bell" are outlined in red on attached Tax Assessor's Map No. 58. The nominated tract contains eight acres, the traditional setting for the house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Wright, Student and Intern
 organization Middle Tennessee State University date April 23, 1981
 street & number N/A telephone 615-898-2544
 city or town Murfreesboro state Tennessee 37130

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Styer date 3/3/82
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Keptner of the National Register William Egan Entered in the National Register date 4/15/82
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received MAR 17 1982
date entered

Continuation sheet Camp Bell Item number 9 Page 2

Campbell, Margaret. Telephone interview by David Wright, April 2, 1981.

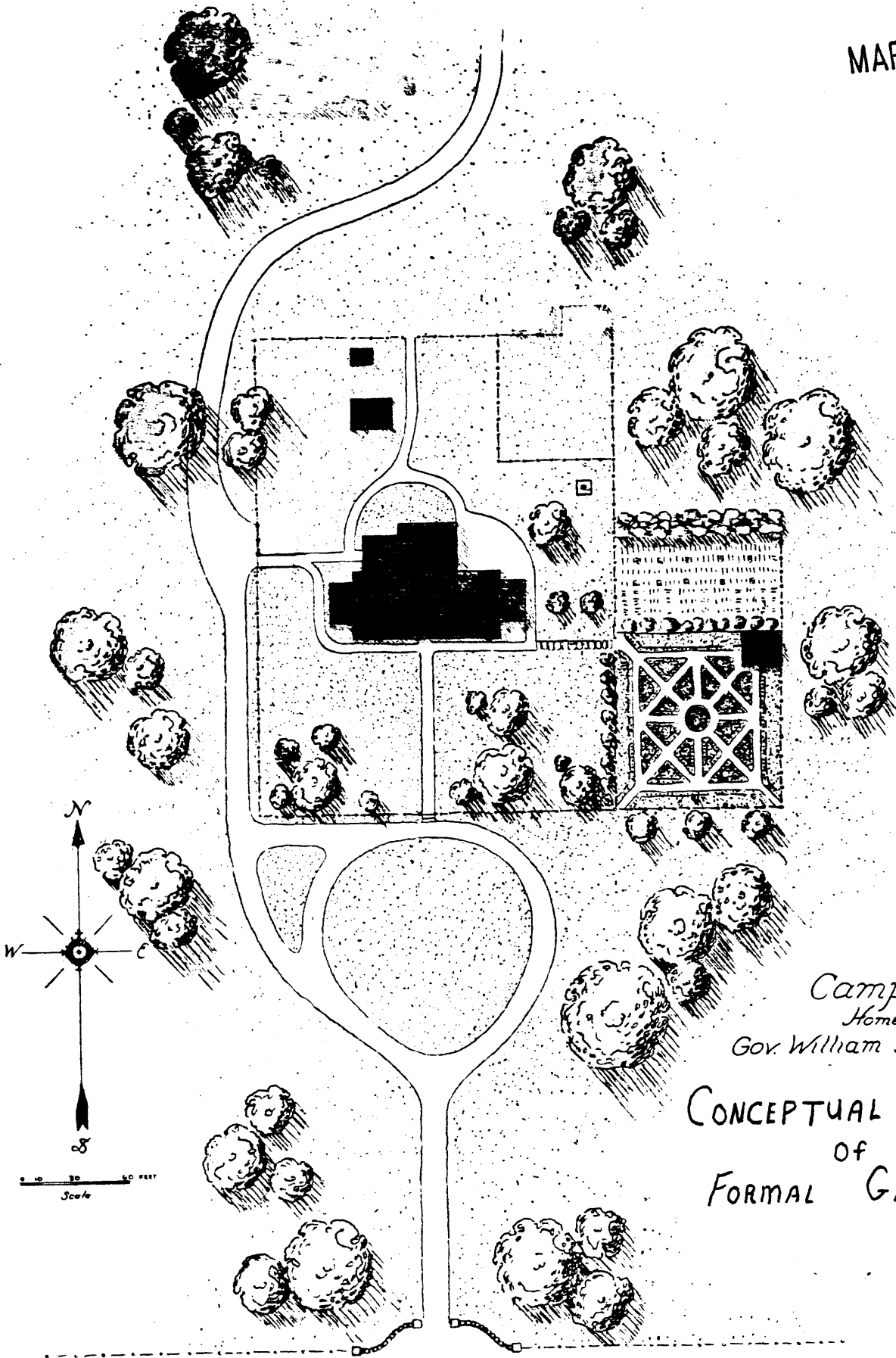
Pilcher, Margaret Campbell. Historical Sketches of the Campbell, Pilcher and Kindred Families. Nashville, Tenn.: Marshall & Bruce Co., 1911.

Thomas, Mary Williamson. Interview by David Wright, April 2, 1981. Telephone interview by David Wright, April 10, 1981.

Warner, Ezra J. Generals in Blue. Baton Rouge, Louisiana,: Louisiana State University Press, 1964.

Wilson County Deed Books, Wilson County Courthouse, Registrar's Office.

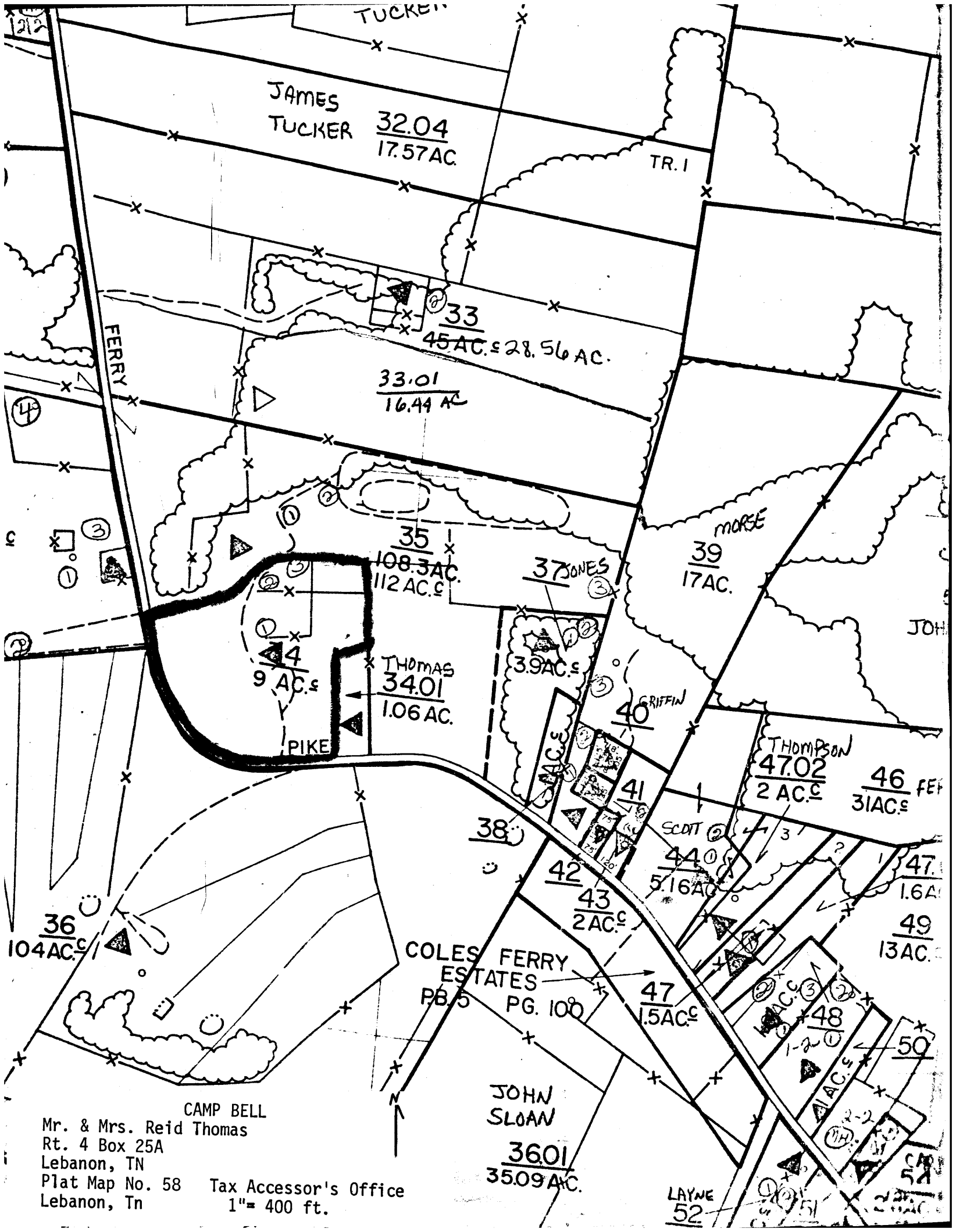
MAR 17 1982



Camp Bell
Home Of
Gov. William B. Campbell

CONCEPTUAL RENDERING
OF
FORMAL GARDENS

Drawn By Clyde Seale



Mr. & Mrs. Reid Thomas
 Rt. 4 Box 25A
 Lebanon, TN
 Plat Map No. 58 Tax Assessor's Office
 Lebanon, Tn 1" = 400 ft.

LAYNE
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