

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Murray Farm  
other names/site number Murray-Jernigan Farm

2. Location

street & number 9409 Bradyville Road N/A not for publication  
city, town Readyville X vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Rutherford code 149 zip code 37149

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Herbert L. Hays 6/27/91  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. 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:)

Alana Byer 7/31/91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)**

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
 secondary structure  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

**Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)**

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER:

Greek Revival Influence I-House

**Materials (enter categories from instructions)**

foundation STONE, CONCRETE  
 walls WOOD: weatherboard, log  
 roof METAL: tin, ASPHALT  
 other Limestone, Glass, WOOD, plank

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Murray Farm, located on Bradyville Road, is situated eight miles east of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the seat of Rutherford County. Murfreesboro and Rutherford County are located in the geographical region known as the Central Basin. This land form is surrounded by hills and drained by the Stones River. The subsoil of the Central Basin contains limestone and shale. The soil is suitable for grazing livestock and growing timber and various crops.

The Murray Farm consists of a two-story dwelling and fourteen outbuildings situated on 127 acres of land. The timber framed house, built circa 1823, exhibits adaptive characteristics of the vernacular I-house form influenced by the Greek Revival architectural style, capped with a tin gable roof. The front half of the house has the typical I-house plan of a central hallway and two flanking rooms on each floor, while the rear one-story ell consists of three rooms. Its irregular configuration features the I-house form on the front half of the structure combined with additions to the rear: a modern kitchen added in circa 1920 to the existing kitchen and a porch located just off the modern kitchen which was enclosed in circa 1949. The addition of the kitchen and a well house located adjacent to the rear porch were designed to modernize the farm at the time of the property's acquisition by the current owners.

The interior of the house features original wood baseboards, glass window panes, wood mantles, and unaltered staircase, which help the dwelling retain its original appearance. The only major change experienced by the interior of the house is the creation of one two-door closet with wood paneling in each of the upstairs bedroom.

The Murray Farm also includes twelve significant outbuildings which date from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. These outbuildings have not been moved and any alterations are largely inconsequential and reflect the farm's evolution in agricultural processes, a characteristic of the property which underlies its National Register eligibility. In several cases the structures retain their original functions.

The front facade of the Murray farmhouse faces northeast towards Bradyville Road. Its four bay facade consists of a projecting pedimented portico, flanked by shuttered, one-over-one sash windows on the second floor and

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shuttered, six-over-six sash windows on the first floor, which are all original. There is a two-story Greek Revival portico on the center of the facade. The portico is fronted by four Doric vernacular square columns which have square fluted capitals. Two pilasters with a design similar to the columns flank the portico. A latticed balustrade encloses the second story of the pedimented porch while a latticed balustrade encloses only the sides of the first story. The first and second floors of the porch each contain a centrally located door flanked by two sidelights. Both doors are original although the screen doors were added sometime in the twentieth century. The door on the first floor is doubled and has an eight light transom over it which contains the original glass. The door is also flanked with one-over-one sidelights.

The southeast facade is two stories and dominated by a limestone gable wall chimney. This facade features the rear of the storage room.

The southwest (rear) facade of the I-house features on its second floor two original shuttered windows and a smaller two-over-two window. The porch with a wooden floor covers approximately one-half of the first floor and underneath it the stone and concrete foundation is visible. There is a six-over-six sash window which faces the porch and the glass in it is original. There is also a doubled wooden door with screened doors facing the porch. Two square supports front the porch.

The northwest facade of the I-house is dominated by a limestone gable wall chimney. There is an original sash window on this facade located to the right of the chimney.

The one-story ell and its kitchen and porch addition dominate the rear facade of the I-house. Featuring a central chimney, the wing is asymmetrical in appearance. The southeast facade of the wing is fronted by a well house shed which was constructed circa 1949. This facade also features the wooden floored porch with squared supports and exposed stone and concrete foundation. There are two wood doors with metal and screen storm doors and a four-over-four window asymmetrically placed between the doors. Two stone steps lead off the porch on this facade. The ceiling of the porch is the original beaded board.

The southwest (rear) facade of the wing features cross gables and the end of the ell and the circa 1920 kitchen addition. There is an original two-over-two window on the original portion of the facade and a two-over-two window on the kitchen addition. A chimney is located on the slope of the roof of the kitchen.

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The northwest facade of the wing features a four-over-four window on the kitchen. A screened porch is located off the kitchen and faces towards the front of the house. This porch was enclosed in circa 1949.

No major structural changes have been made to the interior of the house. A minor change took place in the upstairs bedrooms when closets were created from wood panelling. The I-house portion of the house features a room on each side of the central hall. Upon entering the central hallway of the house the original staircase with original banisters measuring three feet eleven inches high is predominant to the right. The foyer is carpeted, but has original tongue and groove walls and ceilings. The original pine baseboards measure eight and one-half inches high. The room to the left of the central hallway is a wallpapered parlor with a tongue and groove ceiling. It features an original wood mantle and original baseboards measuring four and one-half inches high.

The parlor to the right of the central hallway features hardwood floors which were added circa 1975. The room is wallpapered and has a tongue and groove ceiling. An enclosed staircase leading to a second floor bedroom is located in the northeast corner of the room. The original baseboards measure four and one-half inches high. The wood mantle is original to this parlor.

Behind the parlor there is a bedroom with a modern bathroom. This bathroom was added to the house in circa 1949, when electricity became available to the Murray Farm. This room is wallpapered and features an original mantle and five inch baseboards. This space once served as a breezeway between the house and the original kitchen in the late nineteenth century. The door which connects this bedroom and the dining room, which is directly behind it in the ell, was once an exterior door and still retains its original appearance as an exterior door.

The dining room is located directly behind the bedroom on the southeast side of the house. As mentioned previously, this room once served as the kitchen until Davis Murray incorporated it into his late nineteenth century ell addition. This room has a tongue and groove ceiling and is wallpapered and carpeted. The mantle which at one time served as the family's cooking source measures six feet five inches high at its highest point and five feet six inches across. The baseboards in this room are four and three-fourths inches high. There is a door which leads from this room to the rear porch and it is equipped with its original latch and string hardware.

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A door measuring six feet two inches high and three feet eight inches across connects the dining room and newer kitchen. This kitchen is located on the northwest side of the dining room. Davis Murray added this newer kitchen in circa 1920 in order to provide more space and to modernize the house. The pine kitchen cabinets were not built, however, until circa 1949. The kitchen has tongue and groove walls and ceilings. A door in the kitchen leads to a small porch on the northwest side of the house which the current owners enclosed with screening in circa 1949.

The central hallway of the I-house contains a staircase which retains its original hardware, including square banisters and stair rails. This stairway turns to the southeast and leads up to a hall and bedroom on the second floor. The door to the portico is located at the end of the hall. The hall has tongue and groove walls and ceiling while the bedroom is wallpapered and has a tongue and groove ceiling. The windows in the bedroom retain their original latch hardware. Within the last five years panelling was utilized to create a closet with two doors at the southeast end of the room. The staircase located in the parlor which lies to the right of the first floor central hallway leads up to another bedroom on the second floor. The two sleeping areas on the second floor were used to separate the male and female children.

The fourteen outbuildings of the complex date from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Twelve of the outbuildings and the fencing contribute to the property's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

A wellhouse, circa 1949, is located adjacent to the rear porch of the farmhouse. It is accessible by the porch and the front of the gable roof meets the roofline of the ell. It is constructed of concrete blocks and it has a raised concrete foundation which simulates stone block. It has a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a small window on its southwest facade. The door to the structure faces the porch and the rear of the wing. This building is still used by the family as a wellhouse.

A garage is located off the northeast corner of the farmhouse. Constructed by Davis Murray in 1926, it was used to house the family's first automobile, a Model T Ford. It is a frame structure with a tin gable front roof and a stone foundation. It is one story and one unit deep. The double doors on the front of the garage have their original hardware. The current saltbox form was created with a circa 1949 addition by the current owners once they acquired the property. The garage is now used for storage. (C)

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A grain shed constructed in circa 1900 is located off the southwest corner of the house. It has been used to store wheat as well as a buggy and farm equipment. It is one story and constructed of wood planks. It has an asymmetrically placed single leaf door on its west end. The opposite end of the structure has a single leaf door to the right and an opening large enough for a tractor with half of this entrance being fronted with a wood fence. This structure is used principally for storage. The grain shed had lost integrity through alterations. (NC)

Next to the shop there is a log chicken/turkey house constructed by Hiram Murray in circa 1900. It is a gable front structure with a tin roof and wood door. This poultry house has saddle corner notching. This building is no longer in use for poultry raising, but is used for storage. (C)

The potato and fruit house, constructed in circa 1920 by Davis Murray, is made of wood plank and has a tin gable front roof. It has its original door. The structure is double walled with sawdust between the walls. This was a device used by progressive farmers in the early twentieth century to keep fruits and vegetables dry and to keep them from freezing while they were being stored. This building continues to be used as a storage facility for vegetables and fruit. (C)

An outhouse dating from circa 1900, constructed by Davis Murray, is located off the northwest corner of the farmhouse. It is constructed of wood planks and has a stone foundation. The original metal and wood hardware remains on the door. This building is no longer in use. (C)

The smokehouse which was constructed by Hiram Murray in 1850 is located just behind the newer kitchen. It is a log structure with square notching construction and a medium pitched tin roof and stone foundation. This is a common Appalachian barn form. A small wooden box directly in front of the smokehouse was used to store milk buckets after they had been washed. The smokehouse is no longer in use for the curing of meats. (C)

Behind the smokehouse along the fence line there is a wood chicken house which was constructed by Davis Murray in circa 1930. It exhibits design characteristics typical of the standardized designs often supplied by extension service agents. The tin roof slants from the front facade to the rear of the structure. A tin roof slants from the front facade to the rear of the structure. A tin overhang covers a set of elongated bays which are

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located on the facade. These openings provide ventilation and adequate light which are necessities for poultry farming. It is no longer in use as a poultry raising facility. (C)

The most important of the outbuildings is the log slave dwelling with half dovetail notching located next to the chicken house. Constructed in 1850 the only visible change to the exterior has been the addition in the last ten years of cement mortar between some of the logs. This was done only as a means of stabilizing the structure. The dwelling has a tin roof and there is a chimney on the west end of the structure. The only door to the structure is centered on the front facade. The dwelling once contained a sleeping loft. It measures eighteen feet seven and one-half inches by sixteen feet five inches. (C)

A chicken shed constructed in 1935 is constructed of wood planks and has one small window with four lights located on its front facade. A triangular piece of particle board is nailed to the facade. The roof is tin and the roofline is slanted downward towards the rear of the structure. This building is no longer used for poultry raising. (C)

The Murray farmhouse and the above eleven outbuildings are surrounded by several different types of fencing systems. A picket fence fronts the farm and dates from circa 1930. On the southeast side of the farm there is a modern post and wire fence. Along the southwest boundary of the property there is log snake fence dating from circa 1900. Along the northwest boundary of the property there is a log picket fence dating from circa 1900. Just past the slave dwelling up to the picket fence that fronts the farm there is a modern post and wire fence. The various fences help to contain the property and create a continuity among the twelve properties of the site. (C)

Located outside the fenced enclosure are three more outbuildings. To the east of the log shop, there is a dairy/hay barn which was constructed in 1910. This building retains its original function. The barn is constructed of wood plank and has a tin roof. It has stalls for housing livestock, as well as a loft for storing hay. Diamond-shaped lattice work openings on the west facade provide ventilation for the loft. (C)

Behind the chicken/turkey house in the south pasture, there is a log spring house with half dovetail notching. The structure was constructed in circa 1975. The overhanging gable roof is tin. The structure has a stone foundation and a wooden door on its west facade. The spring house is no longer in use. (C)

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To the west of the spring house, there is a log milk house also constructed in circa 1875. This building has a tin gable roof and a door on its north facade. The structure no longer retains its original function. (C)

The Murray Farm retains a high degree of integrity in its outbuildings and farmhouse. It exhibits many significant characteristics typical of a mid to late nineteenth century Middle Tennessee farmhouse landscape because an amazingly small amount of alteration has been done on any of the farm's structures and buildings. With the small dirt lane that leads to the house through a cow pasture the farm has also retained its aesthetic setting along Bradyville Road.



**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

ca. 1823-1933

Significant Dates

ca. 1823, 1851

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Murray Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, under Criterion A, for its association with significant settlement patterns in nineteenth century Rutherford 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 a Greek Revival portico.

The Criterion A eligibility of the Murray Farm is closely tied to its listing as one of the county's twenty-three "Century Farms." These properties, designated in a statewide program jointly administered by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation, have been continually productive farms, owned by family members, for at least 100 years. As such, the properties possess significant associations with the settlement history of a particular county. Staff members at the Center for Historic Preservation over the past two years have conducted a comprehensive documentary project of the Rutherford County Century Farms, focusing on a property's surviving historic buildings and the integrity of their historic setting. Among the Century Farms, of Rutherford County, the Murray Farm is one of the most significant examples of a surviving nineteenth century farmhouse and outbuilding arrangement.

The complex is well defined by a series of historic fences, including picket fences, early twentieth century wire fences, and nineteenth century historic log snake fences, which form a rough rectangular arrangement of landscape elements, outbuildings, and the main house. This arrangement of space and several separate outbuildings physically documents the increasing importance of domestic production in agriculture, particularly in the years from 1850 to 1930. Historians Sally McMurry (in Families & Farmhouses in 19th Century America [1988]) and Joan Jensen (in Loosening the Bonds: Mid-Atlantic Farm Women, 1750-1850 [1986]) have recently noted that the growing diversification of farm production and the different domestic spheres of farm men and farm women often are mirrored in the grouping of specialized

See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Griffith: A Bicentennial Publication of the Rutherford County, Tennessee.  
Murfreesboro, 1976.

Jernigan, Mary Duggin. "History of the Murray Family." 1987.

Oral Interviews with Raymond and Mary Jernigan, September, 1990.

Pittard, Mable. Rutherford County. Robert Corlew, ed. Memphis State  
University, 1984.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)  
has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings  
Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 127 acres

### UTM References

A 

1	6	5	6	6	3	2	0	3	9	5	7	1	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

1	6	5	6	7	2	7	0	3	9	5	7	3	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

1	6	5	6	7	2	8	0	3	9	5	7	3	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

1	6	5	6	6	1	2	0	3	9	5	6	3	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

Dillon, TN 315 SE

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The Murray Farm consists of the farmhouse, fourteen outbuildings,  
and a series of fences on 127 acres. See attached sketch and  
property maps.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The Murray Farm includes buildings which contribute to the  
significance of the property and include sufficient property  
to protect the historic character of the farmhouse and its  
outbuildings.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer F. Martin and C.V. West

organization Center for Historic Preservation

date 22 February 1991

street & number Box 80 Middle Tennessee State University telephone (615) 898-2947

city or town Murfreesboro

state Tennessee zip code 37132

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outbuildings around the nineteenth century farmhouse. The Murray Farm contains striking evidence of this pattern in its circa 1850 smokehouse, its late nineteenth century granary, and then the new reliance on poultry production in the twentieth century. The women of the household typically supervised the work that occurred at these buildings and the domestic output of fruit, potatoes, smoked meats, and poultry products was of significant value to the overall prosperity of the farm. Of course, the surviving presence of the slave/tenant dwelling also documents how the farm women relied on African-American slave labor, and later tenant (and in this case African-American) labor on a daily basis.

The Murray Farm was established in the 1820s by William H. Murray and represents one of the earliest farms in southeastern Rutherford County. William H. Murray was born in 1800 in South Carolina. He came to Middle Tennessee in 1823 with his young son, Hiram. William had an 1,100 acre land grant for property along Bradyville Pike. The Tennessee Gazette in 1834 stated that Rutherford County contained "a body of rich farming land under a high state of cultivation." Perhaps this is what attracted William Murray. Soon after his acquisition of the property, Murray built the two-story I-house. On his farm he grew corn and raised livestock.

In 1847 William's son, Hiram W. Murray, who was born in 1822, purchased 400 acres of the 1,100 acre farm. In 1851 William Murray deeded "all of my stock of horse, cattle, sheep, hogs, crops, etc." to the 29-year old Hiram. After Hiram acquired full control of the property, he added a stylish Greek Revival portico to the front of the original I-house in 1851. This symbolized, in architectural terms, a break from the traditional Georgian orientation of the I-house's facade to a more up-to-date, progressive attitude expressed in the commanding Greek Revival portico. In addition, it may well symbolize a deliberate break by Hiram from the more traditional farming practices and lifestyle of his father. Hiram served in the Confederate army during the Civil War, suffering no injuries during the fighting although, according to family tradition, his wife Matilda Lyon Murray suffered a broken arm while trying to keep Union soldiers from taking the family's mules. After the war, Hiram experienced significant financial reverses due to his speculation in Confederate war bonds.

In 1878 Davis B. Murray, Hiram's son, inherited over 456 acres of the Murray family land. Like his father, Davis was a Confederate veteran, having joined the army at age 16. He made changes in the farm's agricultural products. In addition to raising traditional livestock such as cattle and swine, he also raised sheep, turkeys, and geese. He built a new log poultry house to house his variety of poultry. He also expanded

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the farm's production of foodcrops, moving away from a heavy emphasis on cotton to the production of wheat as many Tennessee farmers did in the late nineteenth century. For this new product, he built a grain house. In addition to the new outbuildings, Davis Murray made changes to the farmhouse. To house his family of eight, and to meet the assumptions about proper interior living space typical of the Victorian era, Davis Murray added an ell to the original I-house by 1890, and later added a modern kitchen by 1920. The wooden privy he built for his family in circa 1900 also remains on the property.

In the twentieth century, Davis Murray kept abreast of new trends in farm management. He expanded his chicken production by adding two new chicken houses, whose design reflected the influenced of standardized building plans provided by the local extension agent. In 1926, he also built the farm's first garage.

Davis Murray also made significant contributions to the local community. For his own six children, and those in the surrounding community, Murray pushed for the construction of a public school. When the funds were forthcoming, he donated the necessary land and the school was named in his honor. He also gave the land for the Rock Hill Church of Christ. These two buildings became the social and cultural center for a rural community soon known as the "Murray community," a name it still holds today. The Murray Farm, thus, is associated with a significant settlement pattern in southeastern Rutherford County.

Murray invested in business activities as well. He was an important stockholder in the Murfreesboro and Bradyville Turnpike, a modern road that linked his farm to Murfreesboro and provided better market opportunities for his farm production. He also contributed to the improvement of the old public road connecting the new turnpike and his farm to the rural community of Kittrell. This nineteenth century road, known today as the Murray-Kittrell Road, leaves the Bradyville Pike just a few yards east of the Murray farm driveway and goes directly to Kittrell. Davis invested in the Home Telephone Company at Bradyville as well.

Davis Murray died in 1933 and his property was divided among his six children. One of his daughters, Mae Belle, had been raising her nephew, Raymond Jernigan. Upon her death in 1948, Raymond, along with his wife Mary, inherited her land. In addition, Mae Belle's heirs bequeathed their land to Raymond because he had taken care of her in her last years. Today, Raymond Jernigan and his wife manage 156.5 acres of land.

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The Murray Farm is also eligible to the National Register under Criterion C, for its vernacular architecture. The I-house form, with Greek Revival overtones, in Rutherford County has been previously documented in earlier National Register nominations such as that for the Jarman House (NR 7/6/87) near Lascassas and the Jenkins House (NR 6/16/89) on the Manson Pike. But the context of the Murray Farm is different from these earlier nominations. The Murray family, in the context of its local community, was "wealthy" and "prosperous," but it does not match the architectural statements made by the Jarman and Jenkins Houses or those brick I-house forms which have been previously nominated to the National Register. Consequently, the Murray farmhouse is a quite plain vernacular farmhouse, which has had few changes of an aesthetic or structural nature since its second owner added a largely unadorned Greek Revival portico in 1851. Another difference with earlier I-house form nominations is that this area of the county has experienced little of the suburban growth that so characterizes Rutherford County in the 1970s and 1980s. Consequently, the integrity of setting of the Murray Farm is superior to those earlier nominated properties.

Certainly, the property has several design characteristics of significant interest to architectural historians. Three of its four original facades are basically unchanged since the addition of the Greek Revival portico in 1851, exhibiting original clapboarding and huge limestone chimneys which possess significant information on the nature and quality of folk craftsmanship in the antebellum era. The late nineteenth century ell to the house is very compatible to the original structure and is not visible from the front gate of the property. The circa 1920 kitchen addition does break, somewhat, the lines created in the original front facade, but landscaping elements (a large oak tree) and the setback of the kitchen on the ell make this largely unnoticeable. The "classic" nature of the property's I-house, Greek Revival statement is evident through its reproduction in several history books about Rutherford County, including Carroll Van West's Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Experience (1987), Mabel Pittard's A Pictorial History of Rutherford County (1990), and Griffith: A Bicentennial History of Rutherford County (1976).

The interior integrity of the farmhouse also adds to its significance. Exposed oak paneling, which has been always, and remains, painted white is found throughout the house. The unadorned mantles, baseboards, and doors throughout the house date to the antebellum era. To emphasize the point once again, this is a house where there is little ornament of either neoclassical or Victorian design. Rather the power and clarity of unadorned vernacular forms characterize the interior woodwork. Another strong quality is that individual room spaces and uses remain basically

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unchanged. The house exhibits the classic characteristics of the two-story central hall I-house, with single rooms of almost identical size flanking the central hall on both the first and second floors. The one-story ell is also classic in its own way by adding the typical extra bedroom, dining room, and kitchen deemed necessary by Victorian era families.

Perhaps the property's strongest significant element is the intact historic appearance and arrangement of outbuildings, especially the surviving slave/tenant house, and fences in relation to the farmhouse. The slave/tenant cabin is the only one that remains on the property. However, at one time the property contained nine other slave dwellings with sleeping lofts. The slave census of 1850 shows that William H. Murray owned twenty slaves while his son Hiram owned an additional nineteen slaves. After emancipation, several slave families decided to stay at the farm as tenants, still residing in the former slave housing. This combination of a surviving slave dwelling, nineteenth century outbuildings and antebellum farmhouse creates a very interesting example of a turn of the century domestic complex. The property's high degree of integrity creates a sense of time and place matched by few other Century Farms in Rutherford County.

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Murfreesboro, 1976.
- Jernigan, Mary Duggin. "History of the Murray Family." 1987
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The tax map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service. To supplement this map, the nomination includes a detailed verbal boundary description.

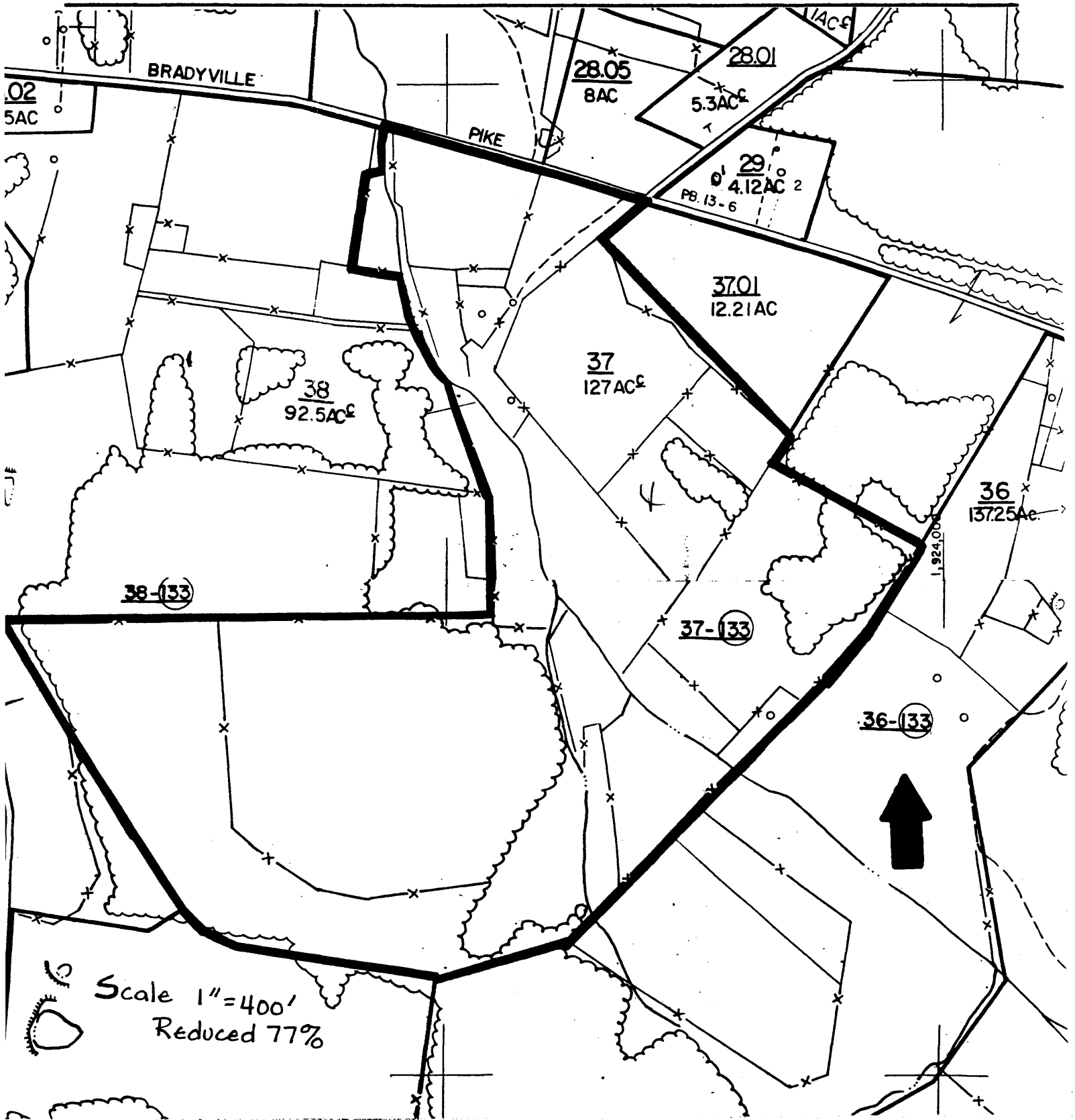


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Murray Farm



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Murray Farm  
Readyville vicinity, Rutherford County, Tennessee  
Photos by: Carroll Van West  
Date: October 1990  
Negs: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

Farmhouse, north facade, facing south  
#1 of 39

Garage, northeast facade, facing southwest  
#2 of 39

Farmhouse, north facade, facing south  
#3 of 39

Farmhouse portico, facing south  
#4 of 39

Farmhouse portico, facing southwest  
#5 of 39

Farmhouse, facing west  
#6 of 39

Farmhouse, kitchen addition, facing south  
#7 of 39

Farmhouse, south elevation, facing north  
#8 of 39

Farmhouse, facing northwest  
#9 of 39

Detail, porch of rear facade, facing northwest  
#10 of 39

Detail, porch of original I-house, facing north  
#11 of 39

Detail, porch of ell, facing west  
#12 of 39

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Section number Photos Page 2 The Murray Farm

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Farmhouse, facing west  
#13 of 39

Interior, first floor hallway and staircase, facing southwest  
#14 of

Interior, first floor hallway, facing south  
#15 of 39

Interior, first floor living room, facing west  
#16 of 39

Interior, mantle in first floor bedroom in ell, facing northeast  
#17 of 39

Interior, first floor dining room, facing northwest  
#18 of 39

Interior, kitchen, facing west  
#19 of 39

Interior, hallway in ell, first floor, facing south  
#20 of 39

Interior, detail of staircase in first floor living room, facing northeast  
#21 of 39

Interior, first floor bedroom, facing west  
#22

Interior, detail of mantle in first floor bedroom, facing west  
#23 of 39

Interior, second floor hallway, facing north  
#24 of 39

Interior, second floor bedroom, facing northeast  
#25 of 39

Interior, central hall staircase from second floor  
#26 of 39

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Well house, connected to ell porch, facing north  
#27 of 39

Grain shed and log poultry house, facing southeast  
#28 of 39

Potato and fruit house, facing west  
#29 of 39

Smokehouse, facing north  
#30 of 39

Log rail fence and outhouse, facing southwest  
#31 of 39

Log rail fence, facing east  
#32 of 39

Chicken shed (1935), looking west  
#33 of 39

Log slave/tenant house, looking southwest  
#34 of 39

Detail, log notching of slave/tenant house  
#35 of 39

Wire fence, grain house, farmhouse, facing north  
#36 of 39

Rear facade of grain house, farmhouse, facing northwest  
#37 of 39

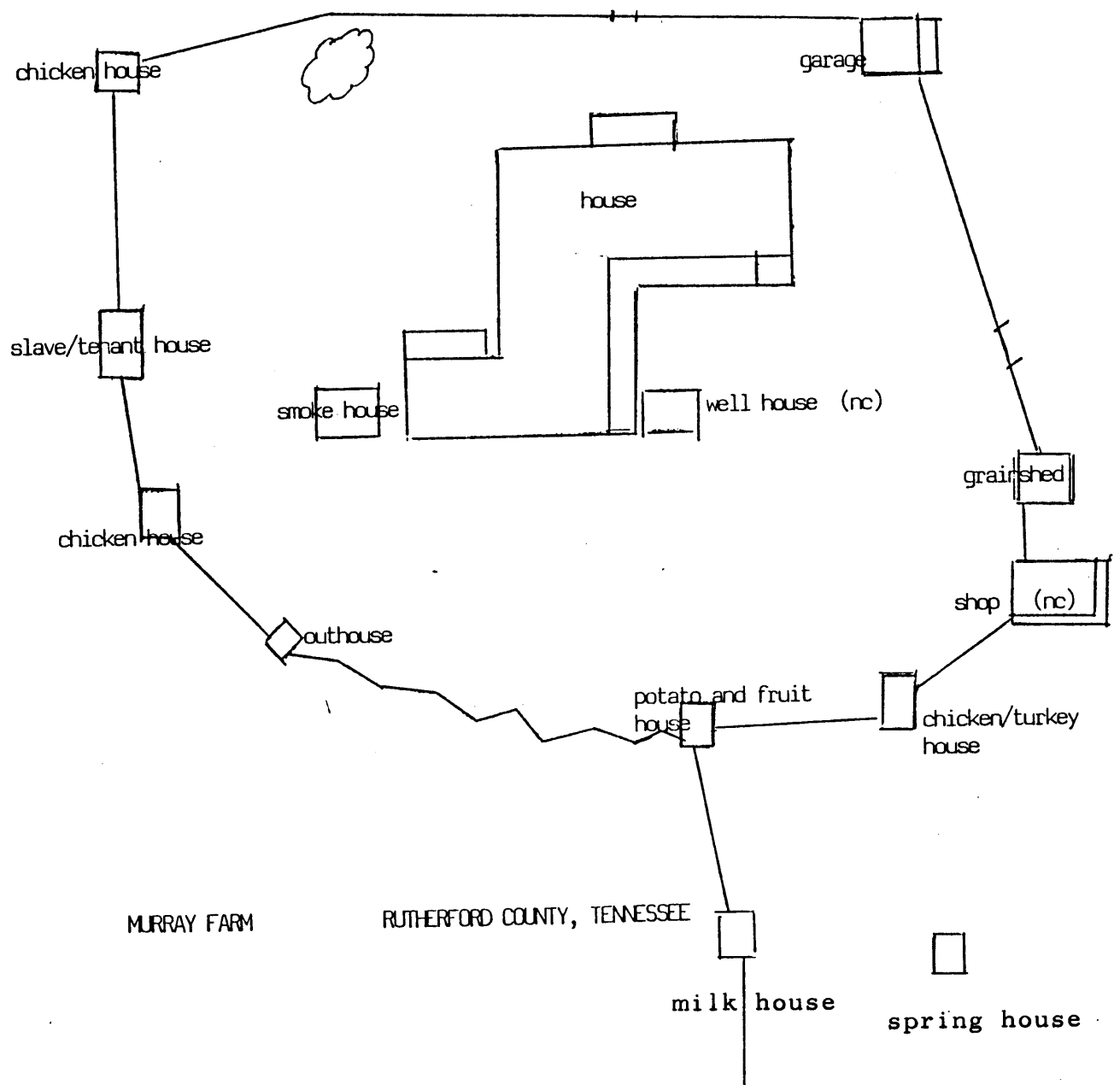
Rear facade of garage, facing northwest  
#38 of 39

Chicken house, facing southeast  
#39 of 39

BRADYVILLE ROAD



north



MURRAY FARM

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE

milk house

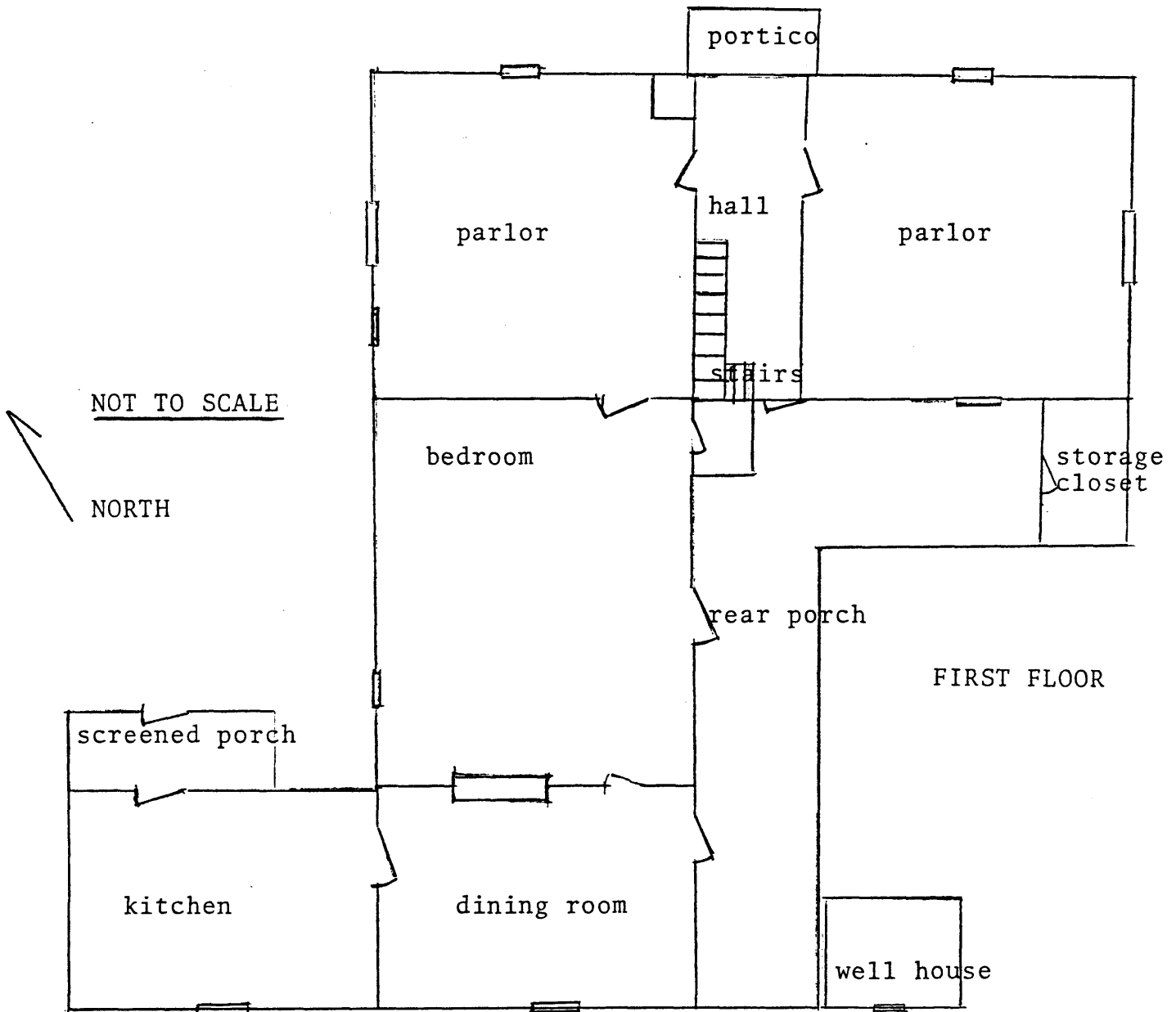
spring house

Not to Scale

MURRAY FARM

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE

MURRAY FARMHOUSE



UPSTAIRS

