National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic nameBolivar-Somerville Stage Road
other names/site number Herron Drive/Stewart Road
2. Location
street & number <u>Herron Drive/Stewart Road, four miles southwest of Whiteville</u> not for publication N/A
city or town Whiteville 🛛 🕅 vicinity
state Tennessee code TN County Fayette/Hardeman code 047/069 zip code 38075
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination clear 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets clear does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant rationally statewide clear locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
State or Federal agency and bureau
In my opinion, the property in meets in does not meet the National Register criteria. (In See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register.
□ other, (explain:)

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resour (Do not include previous)	ces within Property y listed resources in count)	
⊠ private ⊠ public-local	☐ building(s) ☐ district	Contributing	Noncontributing	
public-local public-State	☐ site	0	0	buildings
public-Federal	Structure	0	0	sites
	🗌 object	1	3	- structure:
		0	0	- objects
		1	3	Total
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not pa	⇒ property listing art of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contrib in the National Reg	uting resources previ	ously liste
NA		0		
6. Function or Use		<u></u>		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruction	ons)	Current Functions (Enter categories from ins	structions)	
TRANSPORTATION-Road Related		TRANSPORTATION-Road Related		
		VACANT/NOT IN US	SE	
<u></u>				
				
		<u> </u>		
		·····	×	
7. Description	•	.		
Architectural Classificat (Enter categories from instructio		Materials (Enter categories from ins	structions)	
,	,	foundation N/A		
N/A				
N/A		walls <u>N/A</u>		
N/A		walls <u>N/A</u> roof N/A		

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

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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 who's 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 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** a commemorative property
- **G** 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.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register

- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

e ETHNIC HERITAGE/Native American
SETTLEMENT
Period of Significance
November 18, 1838

Significant Dates November 18, 1838

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

<u>N/A</u>

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 -] Other State Agency
- 🔀 Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository:

Nati	onal f	Park	Serv	/Ice,	Long	Distance	I rails	Office

Fayette/Hardeman, Tennessee County and State

Fayette/Hardeman, Tennessee County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 19 acres

UTM References Hickory Valley 432 NW and Whiteville 431 SW

(pla	ace addition	al UTM reference	s on a continuation sheet.
1	16	302755	3902965
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	301445	3902805

3	16	300585	3902825
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	16	299145	3902685
	See See	continuation sheet	

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Philip Thomason/Teresa Doug	glass

organization Thomason and Associates	date _ April 4, 2005
street & number P.O. Box 121225	telephone 615-385-4960
city or town Nashville	state TN zip code 37212

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name See Continuation Sheet	<u></u>	
street & number		telephone
city or town	state	Zip code _40201

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing
instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any
aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the
Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee

DESCRIPTION

The section of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road included within this nomination is 2.3 miles in length and extends through both Fayette and Hardeman counties, Tennessee. The section begins at the intersection of Stewart Road and the Whiteville-New Castle Road in Hardeman County, approximately 9.5 miles west of the county seat of Bolivar. From this intersection, the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road continues west for 2.3 miles and the nominated section ends at a bridge at an unnamed tributary of the Loosahatchie River in Fayette County. The Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road is now known by the more modern names of Stewart Road in Hardeman County and Herron Drive in Fayette County.

This 2.3 mile section of the original Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road consists of a twenty-foot wide dirt road that extends in an east/west direction (Photo 2). Near the intersection with the Whiteville-New Castle Road is both the original roadbed and a remaining parallel sunken track. This sunken track is approximately eight feet in width and has embankments ten feet in height (Photo 1). Continuing west, the roadbed crosses two small tributaries of the Loosahatchie River over concrete bridges that are included as non-contributing structures (Photo 3). The roadbed continues west until it crosses into Fayette County (Photos 4 and 5). Approximately 1,000' west of the Fayette County line, the roadbed is intersected on the north by the Dink Road that also has a dirt surface.

Continuing west, the roadbed crosses a small tributary of the Loosahatchie River on a modern wood bridge that is included as a non-contributing structure (Photo 6). The roadbed then turns to the southwest and makes a sharp turn to the south approximately 0.8 mile west of the county line (Photo 7). Directly west of this turn is a second parallel sunken track which is approximately eight to ten feet and width and with three to four-foot high embankments (Photo 8). This sunken track section is 1,200' in length and parallels the existing contributing roadbed until they both merge. The sunken track and the existing roadbed merge approximately 250' east of a concrete bridge over a tributary of the Loosahatchie River. The nominated section ends at this concrete bridge. Beyond the bridge the roadbed becomes a modern, paved and improved road that does not retain integrity from the 19th century.

Throughout its 2.3 mile length, this section of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road is generally consistent with widths of approximately twenty feet and embankments that range from two to five feet in height. At the east end of the nominated property is a multiple track section that parallels the existing roadbed. The section of parallel road south of Stewart Road is especially noteworthy and has embankments over ten feet high. The road extends through woodlands and cultivated fields and there are no buildings or structures adjacent to the road throughout this length. The three non-contributing structures included in the boundary are modern wood and concrete bridges. Four dwellings are shown on the Hickory Valley and Whiteville USGS quad maps along this section of the roadbed, however, none of these properties remain extant. The roadbed is owned and maintained by the Fayette and Hardeman County Highway Departments. The two sunken track sections that parallel the existing roadbed are in private ownership.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - SUMMARY

This section of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage, also known as Stewart Road and Herron Drive, is significant under National Register criterion A for its association with the Cherokee Trail of Tears of 1837-1839. Under criterion A this roadbed was used by a detachment of 660 Cherokee as it traveled west from Bolivar towards Memphis on November 18, 1838. Conducted by John Bell, this detachment traveled for three months through Tennessee and Arkansas before disbanding on the edge of the Indian Territory in January of 1839. The majority of the roads used by this detachment have been paved or altered in the 20th century. This section of roadbed has never been paved and continues to be used as a rural county road.

The roadbed is significant under criterion A for its direct connection and association with the routes taken by the Cherokee detachments. The roadbed provides a physical link and sense of time and place of the actual Cherokee experience. They provide an understanding of the difficulties inherent in overland travel in the 1830s and the challenges faced by the Cherokee on a daily basis. The Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road is also significant for the information it conveys about the type of road conditions and characteristics experienced by the Cherokee. It provides information on construction techniques, design elements, and use patterns of early 19th century roads and highways in the region. Roads of the early 19th century varied in widths, materials, and maintenance, and roadbeds used by the Cherokee have the potential to explain why certain routes were taken and the difficulties involved in their use.

This nomination only addresses the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road within the context of the Cherokee Trail of Tears. Additional research may also identify the roadbed as eligible under additional state and local contexts for its role in 19th century transportation and settlement patterns.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Construction of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road commenced in 1825 when eight citizens of Fayette County were appointed to mark out a road beginning at some point in the line between Hardeman and Fayette in a direction from Somerville to Hatchy (now Bolivar) running westward the nearest and best way to Shelby County the east boundary, in a direction to Memphis. ¹ It took several years to complete this road with the section out of Memphis not finished until 1829.² By 1830 this State Road was completed and regular mail and stage coach service was begun from Jackson to Bolivar, then west to Somerville and Memphis. Known as both the Stage Road and Post Road, this route is shown on the 1832 Samuel A. Mitchell map of Tennessee and other state maps of the 1830s (Maps 1 and 2).³

The John Bell detachment of Cherokee utilized this section of roadbed between Bolivar and Somerville on November 18, 1838 as they journeyed west. The John Bell detachment was the only overland detachment of Cherokee that proceeded west with a military escort. The members of this detachment were largely treaty Cherokee who signed or supported the Treaty of New Echota and were considered traitors by the majority of Cherokee who traveled west. The soldiers assigned to this detachment went along to protect this group of Cherokee

² Ibid, 26.

³ Samuel A. Mitchell, *Map of Tennessee, 1832*, and David Burr, *Postal Route Map of Kentucky and Tennessee, 1835* (Rumsey Map Collection, www.davidrumsey.com).

¹ Dorothy Rich Morton, Fayette County, (Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1989), 25.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee

from possible acts of revenge by those who opposed the treaty. In order to avoid contact with the other detachments, John Bell's group of Cherokee decided to travel west through Memphis and Arkansas rather than take the Northern Route used by the majority of the Cherokee Nation.

This detachment of approximately 660 Cherokee left the encampment at Fort Cass in Bradley County on October 11th. Because the journey west was accompanied by the U.S. Army, the daily location of this detachment was carefully recorded. The military was commanded by Lt. Edward Deas who recorded the progress of the detachment and to whom payments were made for provisions, tolls, and ferries. After leaving Fort Cass the detachment crossed the Tennessee River three times in the Chattanooga vicinity and climbed Monteagle Mountain on October 25th. The detachment then passed through Winchester, Fayetteville, Pulaski, and Lawrenceburg before reaching the Tennessee River at Savannah. From November 10th to the 13th the detachment was ferried across the Tennessee River and continued west reaching the Hatchie River on November 16th. On November 16th and 17th, the detachment was ferried across the Hatchie River at a ferry operated by Austin Miller. The detachment then passed through Bolivar and proceeded west on the Stage Road to Somerville. The John Bell detachment with its many wagons and horses utilized the Stage Road through Hardeman and Fayette counties on November 18th. The detachment reached Memphis on November 22nd and were ferried across the Mississippi River to Arkansas on the 23rd and 24th. The detachment then marched through Little Rock and disbanded near the Vinyard Post Office in Arkansas, just outside the Indian Territory, on January 7, 1839.⁴ Along its journey this detachment recorded 23 deaths during its three months of travel.

Throughout the rest of the 19th century this section of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road continued to be used as the main east/west thoroughfare connecting Bolivar with Somerville. As late as 1923, this road continued to be a dirt road known as the Bolivar and Somerville Road (Map 3). ⁵ The increase in automobile ownership and the Good Roads movement of the 1920s led to intense efforts to create paved national and state highways. Construction of what is now US 64 through Hardeman and Fayette Counties commenced in the late 1920s and this new highway became the preferred route from Bolivar to Somerville. Built four miles to the north, this modern paved road diverted much of the automobile traffic away from the original Bolivar-Somerville State Road (Map 4).⁶ The Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road then became a system of paved and unpaved county roads. Two sections of this roadbed were renamed Stewart Road and Herron Drive in the mid-20th century and were never paved or widened.

This section of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road retains much of its integrity from the 19th century. The Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road has been accurately identified as one of the roadbeds used by the Cherokee through historical research, early 19th century maps, and on-site field investigations. The identification of this roadbed as the location of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road has remained consistent throughout the 19th and 20th century. The Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road retains physical characteristics typical of an early 19th century roadbed. The roadbed is approximately twenty feet in width that is typical of category 1 roadbeds of the 19th century. The heavy usage of the road in the 19th century has resulted in an overall sunken appearance with embankments ranging from two to five feet in height. The roadbed also has two well-preserved sections of multiple tracks that parallel the existing roadbed.

⁴ Duane H. King, "Report on the Cherokee Trail of Tears: Correcting and Updating the 1992 Map Supplement, " unpublished manuscript, National Park Service, 1999, 113-119.

⁵ "Hardeman County, Tennessee, Division of Geology, 1923," Map on file at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

⁶ "Hardeman County, State Highway Department Map, 1938," Map on file at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee

The Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road has an earth and gravel surface and no modern paving surfaces are visible. Along this 2.3 mile section are two small metal culverts and a small modern wood bridge that do not significantly detract from the road's design elements. The roadbed retains its rural setting and extends through woodlands and cultivated fields. There are no major intrusions within the viewshed of the roadbed.

The Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road retains sufficient integrity and significance to meet National Register criteria for its association with the Cherokee Trail of Tears. The road was utilized by some 660 Cherokee led by John Bell as they traveled west to Memphis on their way to the Indian Territory. This section of roadbed possesses a strong sense of time and place from the period of the Trail of Tears of 1838.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee



Map 1: The Samuel A. Mitchell Map of Tennessee in 1832 shows the Bolivar-Somerville Road.

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Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee



Map 2: David Burr Postal Route Map of Kentucky and Tennessee, 1835 showing the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Map 3: The Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road continued to be an active east/west road as late as the early 1920s (1923 Map of Hardeman County).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee



Map 4: The Hardeman County, Tennessee Highway Map shows the route of US 64 as the main east/west route to Somerville. The Stewart Road section of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road does not appear on this map.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 9

Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee

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- Ehle, John. The Trail of Tears: The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation. New York: Anchor Books, 1988.
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- Hoig, Stanley. Night of the Cruel Moon: Cherokee Removal and the Trail of Tears. New York: Facts on File, 1996.
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- Perdue, Theda. "The Trail of Tears," *The American Indian Experience: A Profile 1524 to the Present, Philip Weeks, ed. Arlington Heights, Illinois: Forum Press, 1988.*
- United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. "Trail of Tears (The Cherokee Removal Route/1838-39) National Historic Trail Study and Environmental Assessment." June, 1986.

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Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road is shown as the dashed line on the Fayette County tax maps 74 and 93, and on Hardeman County tax map 66. All three maps are drawn at a scale of $1 = 400^{\circ}$. This is the only scale map available for the rural areas in the state. The dashed line includes the roadbed within a twenty foot wide corridor as well as a wider section to include multiple tracks at the eastern boundary of the road. This boundary encompasses the right-of-way of Stewart Road in Hardeman County and Herron Drive in Fayette County. The boundary is also drawn to include a small section of parcel 1 on Hardeman County tax map 83 (illustrated on map 66). This section includes one of the sunken roadbeds that parallels Stewart Road. Similarly, a section of parcel 8 on Fayette County tax map 93 is also included to encompass a parallel section of sunken roadbed. The Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road is bounded on the east by the right-of-way of the Whiteville-New Castle Road, on the west by the modern paved section of Herron Drive, and on the north and south by cultivated fields and woodlands. This property includes approximately 19 acres.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road is drawn to include the remaining section of this 19th century roadbed that retains integrity in Hardeman and Fayette Counties. This 2.3 mile section is bounded on both the east and west by paved and improved roads that do not meet registration requirements for this property type. The boundary is drawn to be twenty feet in width to encompass the entire right-of-way of present-day Stewart Road and Herron Drive. Two concrete bridges and a wooden bridge are included as non-contributing structures to the property. The boundary follows the historic roadbed of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road as well as to include two adjacent sections of parallel tracks that are included as contributing structures to the property. No other sections of parallel tracks that are included as contributing structures to the property. No other sections of parallel tracks that are included as contributing structures to the property. No other sections of parallel tracks that are included as contributing structures to the property. No other sections of parallel tracks that are included as contributing structures to the property. No other sections of parallel tracks that are included as contributing structures to the property. No other sections of parallel tracks that are included as contributing structures to the property. No other sections of parallel tracks have been identified along the length of this right-of-way. This section of roadbed has not been significantly altered since the 19th century and possesses much of its sense of time and place from the period of the Trail of Tears.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 11

Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee

Tax map ↑



Map 6: Boundary of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road in Fayette County (Fayette County tax map 74, 1' = 400').

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 12

Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee

Tax map ↑



Map 5: Boundary of the Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road in Hardeman County (Hardeman County tax map 66, 1" = 400').

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 13

Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo by: Thomason and Associates Date: April, 2002 Location of Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, TN

- Photo No. 1: Section of the parallel track south of Stewart Road showing deep sunken section, view to the northeast.
- Photo No. 2: Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road (Stewart Road) in Hardeman County, view to the west.
- Photo No. 3: Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road (Stewart Road) in Hardeman County, view of the road and the concrete bridge over the Loosahatchie River, view to the east.
- Photo No. 4: Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road (Stewart Road) in Hardeman County, view to the west.
- Photo No. 5: Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road (Stewart Road and Herron Drive) at the Hardeman/Fayette County line, view to the west.
- Photo No. 6: Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road (Herron Drive) in Fayette County, view of the roadbed and wooden bridge, view to the east.
- Photo No. 7: Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road (Herron Drive) in Fayette County, view of the roadbed before the curve to the south, view to the west.
- Photo No. 8: Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road (Herron Drive) in Fayette County, view of the abandoned section of roadbed north of the Herron Drive on parcel 8 of map 93, view to the west.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number owners Page 14

Bolivar-Somerville Stage Road Fayette and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee

OWNERS

Stewart Road Section

Superintendent Hardeman County Highway Department 401 Fairgrounds St. Bolivar, TN 38008 (731) 658-7554

Herron Drive Section

Fayette County Highway Department P.O. Box 579 Somerville, TN 38068 (901) 465-5232

Tax map 83, Parcel 1

Marcus and Mariette Stewart 3170 Southern Ave. 3E Memphis, TN 38111 (901) 323-9558

Tax Map 93, Parcel 8

Robert Wilson/Wilson Family Ltd. 8035 Whiteville-New Castle Rd. Whiteville, TN 38075 (731) 254-8589