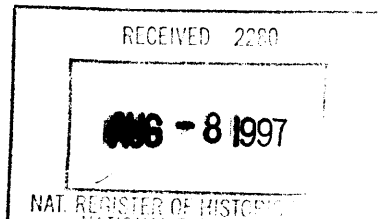


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead

other names/site number Bowers, Henry, Farm; Bowers, Lawrence, Farm; Kirkpatrick, James A., Farm; Kirkpatrick, Nathaniel, Farm

2. Location

street & number 3033 Boone's Creek Road N/A not for publication

city or town Gray ☒ vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Washington code 179 zip code 37615

3. State/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 for 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. Hays
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/15/97
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 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall
May M. Ay

3/12/98

9/16/97

Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead
Name of Property

Washington County, TN
County and State

5. Classification

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 count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

5

1

buildings

0

0

sites

0

0

structures

0

0

objects

5

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, secondary structure

AGRICULTURE: animal facility, outbuilding,
processing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Hall and parlor with Colonial Revival
influence

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof METAL, COMPOSITE SHINGLE

other WOOD, GLASS, BRICK

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets.

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

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C moved from its original location.
- ☐ 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EARLY SETTLEMENT
AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1803 - 1930

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☒ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Tennessee Department of Transportation

Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead
Name of Property

Washington County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.47 acres

BOONE DAM 198 NW

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 372940 - 4027450
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____
☐ 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 Blythe Semmer
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date 1/25/97
street & number P.O. Box 80, MTSU telephone (615) 898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the 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 James R. Kirkpatrick
street & number 6 Okeechobee Dr. telephone (615) 928-0526
city or town Johnson City state TN zip code 37604

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

VII. Description

The Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead is located at 3033 Boone's Creek Road, Gray, Washington County, Tennessee. The 2.47 acre property consists of a c.1803 farmhouse and four contributing outbuildings, constructed from c.1803 to c.1930. The house is a two-story log and frame hall and parlor house with several significant dates of construction. The house underwent major renovations after Nathaniel Kirkpatrick returned to the farm c.1925. These additions were probably begun in the mid-1920s and completed by c.1930. For the purposes of this description they are dated c.1930, reflecting the date by which they were probably completed.

The house now faces State Route 354 (Boone's Creek Road). The main section is a rectangular-plan log house resting on a limestone foundation with a moderately pitched side-gabled roof of copper and exterior-end brick chimneys. The house was covered with weatherboard and enlarged, probably by c.1860. This addition and an early twentieth century addition resulted in the current irregular plan of the house. The portico dates to the Colonial Revival period, c.1900-1930.

The facade of the house is symmetrical, rectangular, and composed of three bays. Paired doors lead into each of the two downstairs rooms of the original hall and parlor log house. The facade is covered in weatherboard and features five one over one double-hung sash windows that were probably replaced c.1930 during the renovation of the house. There is little ornament on the facade; the windows and the two central doors are topped with a simple, unadorned wood lintel. A columned portico that wraps around the facade and east side of the house was added in the early twentieth century. The columns, made of wood, are now covered in tin and have extremely plain capitals. The porch is roofed in the same copper sheet as the main section of the house. The portico covers the porch floor of Crab Orchard stone, probably added c. 1925 to 1930. The c.1890 wooden front doors contain a large glass pane set over decorative wood paneling. The carved detailing around the glass reflects late nineteenth century decorative styles, especially an Eastlake influence. The top portion of the glass is arched and is adorned at either side and at the center point of the arch with a raised trefoil design set upon a raised circle in a square. The raised circle-in-square design is repeated at the lower corners of the glass pane and at all six points defining the corner of the two panels on the lowers part of the doors. Molding outlines the glass and the panels below. Both doors are protected by black-painted wood screen doors that date c.1890.

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

The portico wraps around to cover the east elevation of the main section of the house. The corner of the portico is rounded rather than squared. The section of the chimney on the east side of the house underneath the shelter of the portico is also covered in weatherboard. This chimney was rebuilt at an unknown date in the twentieth century. The brick is exposed above the portico. Simple molding outlines the gable under the roof, and there is one window on the lower story to the south of the chimney. It is also a simple one over one double-hung sash window like those on the facade. To the north of the chimney on the ground is the entrance to the cellar. Two wood doors swing up to reveal the staircase leading underneath the house. North of the two story section of the house is a frame ell addition, also of weatherboard and roofed with composite shingle. The formerly open porch was enclosed with glass c.1930 to form the hallway that provides access to the additions in the rear. The dining room addition visible at the end of the hallway was added c.1930. It forms a T-shaped addition to the c.1860 ell and presents its gable end to the east side. On the gable end there are two paired one over one windows that are now partially boarded over. The door is sheltered by a porch which is roofed with composite shingle.

The rear or north elevation shows the multiple layers of additions made to the house over time. The central gable visible from the rear links the c.1930 dining room on the east with the c.1860 kitchen on the west. The center point of this gable end aligns with the center of the roof of the original two-story section of the house. Two six over six windows are contained in this elevation at either end of the storage addition. To the east of the center of this elevation is a wooden porch, which is the continuation of the hallway that has been enclosed up to the rear wall of the dining room addition. There is also one six over six window on the dining room addition wall visible in this elevation.

The west elevation of the original two-story section of the house features the original exterior-end brick chimney and a window to the north of the chimney on the second story. The window is a one over one double-hung sash window like the others found in this section of the house. Simple molding again outlines the gable and continues out underneath the portico to meet the end column. This elevation also contains the other side of the c.1860 addition. This ell begins at the original rear wall of the main two-story section of the house. It contains a one-story room, last used as a bedroom, with a moderately pitched gable end and a central brick chimney. There is a paired one over one window in the center of the gable end. Behind this room is the kitchen, also added c.1860, which presents a porch with a wood door on the west elevation, and a storage room. The wood door providing access to the kitchen is protected by a modern metal screen door. A storm window on the south side of the door also opens from the porch into the kitchen. At the rear of the kitchen, the extreme right of this elevation, is the storage room or pantry. The east side of the ell containing

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

the kitchen and storage room opens into the hallway described in the east elevation. The gable end of the c.1860 bedroom is more decorative than that of the main house because of the box cornice. A door entering the bedroom addition is visible to the west of the facade of the main house.

The interior of the house retains an original hall-parlor plan, although the c.1860 ell addition and c.1930 additions make something of an irregular plan with the original section of the house.

The first floor of the c.1803 hall and parlor log structure has two entrances: one enters each of the two rooms. There are two parallel doors on the north wall of this original section of the house. The door in the west room leads to the c.1860 bedroom addition behind it, and the door opening off the east room leads into the hallway. The batten door off the east room presents a six-paneled face north to the hallway and reveals massive iron hinges, horizontal boards, and a box lock on the south side that faces into the room. The flooring in the first floor of the original hall and parlor section is wooden boards approximately three inches in width. It was originally wide boards but was replaced when the house was updated by Nathaniel Kirkpatrick c.1930. The same floorboards are found throughout the first floor of the house. The walls in the first floor are of boards except in the dining room, where modern paneling was added. Pocket doors were placed into the original wall between the two rooms c.1890. These are four-panel doors of wood, painted white, with metal handles.

The east room has a c.1860 mantel although the fireplace has been closed. The brick outer hearth is also intact. The wood mantel exhibits characteristics of the Federal period. It is painted white. The two sides of the mantel have a plain base and fluted pilasters. The top is similar to a stepped cornice. The mantel cornice is divided by its details into three sections, and the center section is twice the width of the two sides. The removal of a bookcase revealed that this room was wallpapered before its renovation c.1930 when a light turquoise blue paint was applied to the walls. The remaining wallpaper on the north wall shows water damage near the door to the hallway. There is a wide baseboard capped with narrow molding running around the room. The molding around the pocket doors is more ornate in this room than in the west parlor as it has a raised edge.

In the west room the molding around the opening for the pocket doors is plain and wider than that found on the other side. This room also has a closed fireplace with the original brick outer hearth. The c.1860 mantel exhibits fine craftsmanship and is classically styled. On either side colonettes support the pedestal-like design above. There are multiple levels in the woodwork of the mantelpiece. The edges of the mantel are detailed with raised sections, and a much wider raised center section adds to the sense of classical symmetry. This mantel is probably contemporary to the

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

bedroom and kitchen additions. It is still in very good condition. The baseboard is the same in this room as in the east room, and the walls were painted the same turquoise blue c.1930.

The west room contains the staircase leading to the two bedrooms upstairs. The original access to the second story of the four room log house was in the same position, although the configuration is unknown. The staircase probably dates to c.1890, the date the hall and parlor were altered with the addition of pocket doors. The staircase is marked by a large newel-post of wood boards. The balusters are turned wood. A section of the wide floorboards next to the staircase in the bedroom above has been removed and replaced with thinner ones, which indicate that the position was changed in the middle of the house's existence.

At the north end of the west room is a very small hallway between the doors to the main hallway to the right and the bedroom to the left. The c.1860 bedroom is one step lower than the c.1803 house. This room is covered in wallpaper. The outer walls in particular show water damage, and the wallpaper has been removed from the area surrounding the fireplace due to deterioration. The floorboards are narrow, and the exterior door visible from the facade opens at the outside edge of the south wall. The door has a glass pane and dates to c.1890. This door may have served as an entrance to a room used as a post office during Lawrence Bowers' tenure as postmaster from 1866 to 1900. The room may have been constructed for that purpose. The fireplace on the north wall of this bedroom has been closed, and a stove has been added to provide heat. The Kirkpatrick family believes that the mantel in this room may be original to one of the two downstairs rooms of the original log house section and was moved here during the c.1860 remodeling of the house that installed new mantels in those public rooms. It is simpler in design than the mantels in the hall and parlor rooms on the front of the house.

Part of the east side of the c.1860 bedroom addition was removed in the late 1920s or by 1930 for the addition of a modern bathroom, which is accessible from the small hall area at the entrance to the bedroom. The bath is long and narrow, and on its east wall is what was originally the exterior window for the c.1860 ell. The window was painted for privacy. The bath is tiled in green on the lower half of the walls and has a porcelain bathtub and toilet.

To the east of the bathroom is the enclosed porch that now serves as a hallway for access to the kitchen and dining room. There were doors to the hallway from each of the two rooms of the original living space and a small hallway leading to the bedroom (which may have served as the post office). Therefore, the kitchen could be accessed from the other part of the c.1860 addition without ever

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entering the main living area. As the exterior window in the bathroom and the weatherboarding on the west wall of the hallway indicate, this space was a porch when the c.1860 addition was constructed. It can be accessed by a step down from the rear door of the east room described above. On the east wall of the hallway there is an early twentieth century half-glass door leading to the porch on the east elevation. Two one over one sash windows and a sidelight next to the door, probably added c.1930, form the new exterior wall of this space. It is floored in thinner boards, like the rest of the first floor, and is painted yellow.

Moving south to north, a batten door of vertical boards leads from the hallway left into the kitchen. The kitchen exhibits characteristics of the Better Homes/Better Farms movement of the 1920s through its indoor plumbing, including the installation of a 1920s porcelain sink to the north of the entrance. On the south wall is a simple mantel dating to the construction of the ell c.1860. The fireplace has been closed and a stove was added in its place c.1930. To the west of the fireplace are four built-in wood cabinets covered by wood doors. The kitchen is lit by a single bare lightbulb fixture. The floors are wood, and despite the addition of running water and electricity, the space has a very spartan appearance. No coverings have obscured the boards of the walls and ceiling, which are painted the same yellow color as the hallway. A c.1930 partition wall on the north side of the room leads into the storage area, which contains two windows looking north.

West of the kitchen is the dining room, which was added c.1930. The upper portion of the walls of this room are covered in modern paneling, which was added within the past thirty years over original Art Deco influenced wallpaper. Barn siding covers the lower portion. A c.1930 door provides access into this room from the breezeway, and another door on the south wall leads to the porch described on the east elevation. A small closet space was added c.1980 to the north wall near the door of the hallway.

The hallway terminates in a wood porch along the east side of the storage room at the rear of the kitchen. A step down leads into the rear yard.

The staircase in the west parlor of the original section of the house leads to the upper story. The second floor is reached five steps from the turn of the stairs. A stair hall was created upstairs in the west bedroom when this staircase was altered c.1890. A small closet space was created out of the corner of the north wall in the stair hall. The second floor has c.1860 floorboards that are much wider than those found in the rest of the house. There is an exception close to the staircase where

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the placement of the stairs was changed c.1890. The floorboards in this area have been replaced with ones approximately three inches in width like those downstairs.

The alteration of the staircase changed the shape of the west bedroom. The right edge of the mantel now lies almost flush with the north wall that separates the bedroom from the stair hall. The mantel has very small and simple pilasters and a plain cornice compared to those found in the downstairs rooms of this section; it probably dates to c.1930 as it exhibits characteristics of the Colonial Revival. One window in this bedroom opens on the facade. The wallpaper in this room now shows considerable water damage.

The east bedroom also contains an c.1860 mantel, which is painted white. This room was painted blue c.1930. A small sconce to the right of the fireplace also indicates the influence of the Colonial Revival. The low ceilings upstairs have been dropped and are now of c.1930 ceiling tiles. There is one window on the north wall and two on the facade.

Directly behind the house is the original smokehouse, which is a log and board structure built on a log foundation. Handmade square nails were used in the construction of this c.1803 building. The eaves of the metal gable roof overhang the wooden door at the extreme right of the facade as well as on either side. (C)

Behind or to the north of the smokehouse is a c.1930 rectangular automobile shed, which is built of wood and covered in metal siding. It also has a metal gable roof. (C)

To the immediate west of the automobile shed lies a c.1925 wooden chicken house of rectangular construction, topped with a metal shed roof and sided with metal on the two ends of the structure. The facade of this building has four windows of six panes each, although four panes are missing from the westernmost window. (C)

To the northwest of the house and to the west of the chicken house lies a two-story wooden tobacco barn built in the late 1920s. (NC, due to deterioration)

South of the tobacco barn is a c.1925 wooden barn used to store livestock and equipment when Nathaniel Kirkpatrick began his dairy farm operation. It has a metal roof and an attached corn crib on the south end. This building is in need of repair as several boards and some parts of the roof are missing, but it remains functional as storage space and was used for horses in 1995. (C)

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

VIII. Significance

The Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, presently a 2.47 acre tract located at 3033 Boone's Creek Road in Gray, Washington County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in early settlement and the changing nature of local agriculture. It is also eligible under Criterion C as a significant group of farm buildings dating from the beginning of the nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries. The house itself is significant as an example of a surviving log structure in good condition from one of the earliest settlement areas of the state. The additions and changes to the house reflect the impact of architectural styles such as Federal, Eastlake, and the Colonial Revival in the rural vernacular architecture of the area. The evolution of the house's structure and its use reflect the changing social and economic environment. Its changes and those of the outbuildings on the farmstead demonstrate how one of the earliest farmstead in the area adapted to progress and agricultural development in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead was evaluated by the Tennessee Department of Transportation in 1995 and determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The evaluation states that "this log structure, because it had been protected by the weatherboard, appears to be in very good condition, rendering it a fine example of log construction in the Johnson City-Gray area. It has some local significance [as] a communication and legal center for the community and area."

The Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead is among the first generation of family farms established in Tennessee, and it is the third oldest documented historic family farm in Washington County. Ownership of the land that was to become the Bowers-Kirkpatrick farm can be traced to Thomas Melvin, who obtained 144 acres from the state of North Carolina in the late eighteenth century. Melvin sold fifteen acres of his property to John Cowin on February 21, 1794. Cowin later sold his land to James Crabtree in 1803. The property entered the Bowers family on August 7, 1811, when Henry Bowers paid James Crabtree \$1,110 for 103 acres on the south side of Boone's Creek. The plot bordered land owned by William Ellis, Thomas Melvin, and William Bean, the state's first settler.

The date of construction of the house is difficult to determine as no records exist among deeds or other official documents describing it until the Bowers family was living on the property. It was probably built by the time Henry Bowers acquired the farm in 1811. When he bought the property he had a young wife, Nancy Taylor, and five children. Lawrence Bowers, the youngest, was born on October 27, 1810, and would later inherit his father's house and land. Lawrence Bowers' daughter

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

Rowena married Dr. James A. Kirkpatrick July 11, 1873. Thus the ownership of the property passed into the Kirkpatrick family.

James and Rowena had a son, Nathaniel Dulaney Kirkpatrick, in 1877. He married Charmian Young, and they had five children. When Nathaniel Kirkpatrick died, his property was divided among the children so that each received ten acres. The eldest daughter, Martha Kirkpatrick Debeck, received the parcel containing the house. When she died, her brother James R. Kirkpatrick inherited the house and land surrounding it. He is the current owner of the property.

The Bowers-Kirkpatrick farmstead house is significant as an early log hall-parlor dwelling in good condition. The weatherboard has preserved the original hall and parlor section of the house. The log mortise and tenon construction is still visible above the ceiling tiles on the second floor, and there appears to be very little deterioration. The original interior of the log dwelling has been historically remodeled, but the original walls have not experienced many alterations. The few window openings throughout the original section of the house and the parallel, paired entryways to both room on the first floor are original to the log structure.

The first additions to the house and some of the redecoration took place c.1860 when Lawrence Bowers had assumed ownership of the house from his father. An active participant in the political life of the community, Bowers was in possession of sufficient land to donate a parcel for the establishment of Boone's Creek Academy in 1851, for which he served as chairman of the board. He donated more land for the construction of Boone's Creek Road. By doing so, he insured that his farm would be in the direct line of communication and trade. He served as postmaster for Boone's Creek from February 27, 1866 to November 30, 1900, when the post office was moved from Bowers' house to Jonesborough. The dates of his service as postmaster coincide with the approximate date of the first additions to the house. The separate exterior door to the c.1860 bedroom addition, visible from the road, may be the entrance to the Boone's Creek Post Office. The separate room may have also functioned as an office for Bowers' duties as magistrate and chairman of the county court. Fashionable Greek Revival details in the public spaces of the house would have served as a signal of Bowers' position in the community and the house's function as a governmental space as well as the residence of a prominent citizen until his death in 1901.

The c.1890 to c.1900 additions to the house indicate the effect of Eastlake style on the area. The addition of pocket doors to divide the hall and parlor of the first floor is an unusual adaptation of the Victorian parlor to a traditional vernacular dwelling. The staircase with the turned balusters was

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

another effort to bring the log house up to date with current fashions when Dr. James A. Kirkpatrick, a prominent local physician, and his family lived in the house. The two Eastlake wood front doors also date from this period.

The Country Life or Better Homes, Better Farms movement of the first three decades of the twentieth century had a profound effect on the Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead. The idea, primarily expounded by city-dwellers and intellectuals, that organization and efficiency would improve rural life and increase farm production led to changes in both the farm house and outbuildings. Nathaniel Kirkpatrick had been an accountant and hardware merchant in Johnson City for several years before he dissolved the hardware partnership in 1925. He then decided to move his family back to his family home in the late 1920s. As he was not a lifelong farmer, Kirkpatrick was likely to implement the progressive farming practices that were being supported by proponents of the Better Homes, Better Farms movement. His choice of tobacco and dairy farming, along with corn and other crops for the family's use, was in tune with the agricultural advice of the day. The county extension agent for neighboring Greene County reported in the *Tennessee Extension Review* in January 1929 that "farmers of this county are more optimistic than they have been for eight years" as tobacco and milk prices were high. Dairy herd improvement organizations were popular in the state in the late 1920s as well. The state extension service, in fact, established a burley tobacco demonstration farm in Greene County and a dairy demonstration farm in Marshall County during this period. The Kirkpatricks operated a successful dairy, which remained in production even during the depths of the Depression. Nathaniel Kirkpatrick farmed until his retirement in 1960.

The modernized kitchen and chicken house, both added during the 1920s, indicate the importance of the farm wife's role in agriculture in the first part of the twentieth century. The Better Homes, Better Farms movement advocated poultry raising as an additional source of income for farm families. The money raised through the sale of eggs and poultry could help pay for improvements in plumbing, electricity, and appliances that would make the farmhouse more livable. Therefore, the farm wife's role is also reflected in the improvements to the interior of the house, particularly the kitchen. As David Danbom writes in *The Resisted Revolution: Urban America and the Industrialization of Agriculture, 1900-1930*, the woman was the foundation of the farm family and therefore of rural society. As a result, many reforms were directed at improving the quality of her life. "The principal suggestion critics made for the lightening of the farm wife's work load was that rural people acquire household conveniences like central heating, sewing machines, iceboxes, modern ovens, electricity, and hot and cold running water" (62). As Mary Hoffschwelle observes in her study of early twentieth century rural life in Tennessee, improving rural homes with new technology

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

and furnishings was a major program of the home demonstration extension service of the 1920s, under a theme called "Better Homes, Better Farms." The kitchen of the Bowers-Kirkpatrick house shows the addition of electricity as well as running water and a late 1920s sink. The original electric connection is visible on the porch on the west elevation of the kitchen addition. The addition of the bathroom on the first floor is another modernization of the farm house for the convenience of the family.

The Colonial Revival portico and alterations to the interior of the house are examples of how farm families were advised to modernize their homes. The portico gave the old structure a newer, fashionable appearance that symbolized prosperity and progress in the eyes of reformers. The alteration of the Washington County farm landscape in the Better Homes, Better Farms movement reflects the increasing influence of urban taste in the countryside during the 1920s and 1930s.

The automobile shed on the Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead is another improvement in farm life suggested by the Better Homes, Better Farms movement. Cars would make farm life better by bringing the farm family out of isolation and into social interaction with their communities. It particularly reflects the period when Nathaniel Kirkpatrick began farming around 1930 when many rural families were acquiring automobiles. The automobile was also necessary for Nathaniel Kirkpatrick to maintain his job as an accountant in neighboring Johnson City at the same time he farmed. The shed is a sign that the Kirkpatricks were using modern technology.

The livestock barn is the physical legacy of the profitable dairying operation started by Nathaniel Kirkpatrick. It also indicates the impact that the move to breed livestock had on farming in the area. Improvements and standardization in breeding were part of the progressive farming movement of the period.

The alterations to the farm buildings and the house of the Bowers-Kirkpatrick farmstead illustrate the influence of several generations of use and change. The property evolved from a log house in the earliest days of Tennessee's settlement to a prominent private house and public building during the mid-nineteenth century and finally to a modern farm of the 1930s. Throughout their history, the house and outbuildings were modernized to suit the changing needs of the Bowers and Kirkpatrick families. The alterations to the property did not destroy the fabric of the original house but left its structure intact. The fact that the farmstead has remained in the same family for close to two centuries has insured its maintenance. The Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead today is a reminder of the past of the rapidly developing area that once was the site of Tennessee's first settlement. The range

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

of architectural styles it exhibits demonstrate how residents of upper East Tennessee adapted national fashions to their own uses and makes the farmstead significant in both architecture and the settlement patterns and agricultural development of the area.

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

X. Boundary Description

Verbal boundary description

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 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.

The nominated boundaries are those marked by parcel number 74, 2.47 acres, on the attached Washington County tax map 21.

Boundary justification

The nominated property contains the remaining original family acreage surrounding the house and outbuildings of the Bowers-Kirkpatrick farmstead.

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead
Washington County, TN

By: Carroll Van West
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
Date: October 25, 1996
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243

Farmhouse, south facade, facing north
1 of 30

Farmhouse, south facade, facing west
2 of 30

Farmhouse, east elevation, facing west
3 of 30

Farmhouse, east elevation, facing west
4 of 30

Farmhouse, north elevation, facing south
5 of 30

Farmhouse, west elevation, facing east
6 of 30

Farmhouse and outbuildings, facing east
7 of 30

East room, first floor, facing west
8 of 30

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

East room, first floor, detail of mantel, facing east
9 of 30

West parlor, first floor, detail of pocket doors, facing east
10 of 30

West parlor, first floor, detail of pocket doors, facing east
11 of 30

West parlor, first floor, detail of mantel, facing west
12 of 30

West parlor, first floor, facing north
13 of 30

West parlor, first floor, facing north
14 of 30

Bathroom, first floor, facing north
15 of 30

c.1860 bedroom addition, first floor, facing northeast
16 of 30

Breezeway, first floor, facing north
17 of 30

Kitchen, first floor, facing south
18 of 30

Kitchen, first floor, facing east
19 of 30

Storage area, first floor, facing east
20 of 30

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Bowers-Kirkpatrick Farmstead, Washington County, TN

Dining room, first floor, facing south
21 of 30

Stair hall, second floor, facing east
22 of 30

East bedroom, second floor, facing east
23 of 30

West bedroom, second floor, facing west
24 of 30

Farmstead, facing southeast
25 of 30

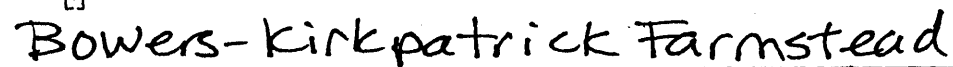
Smokehouse, facing northeast
26 of 30

Automobile shed, facing northeast
27 of 30

Chicken house, facing northeast
28 of 30

Tobacco barn, facing west
29 of 30

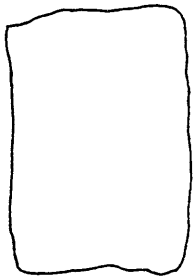
Livestock barn, south elevation, facing northeast
30 of 30



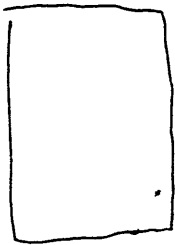
4

Bowers - Kirkpatrick Farmstead
Washington Co. TN

not to
scale



tobacco
barn (NC)



livestock
barn (C)

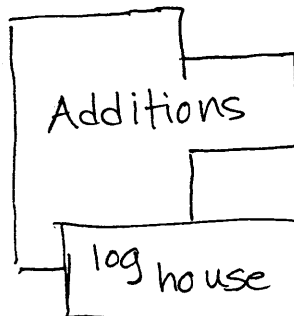
automobile
shed (C)



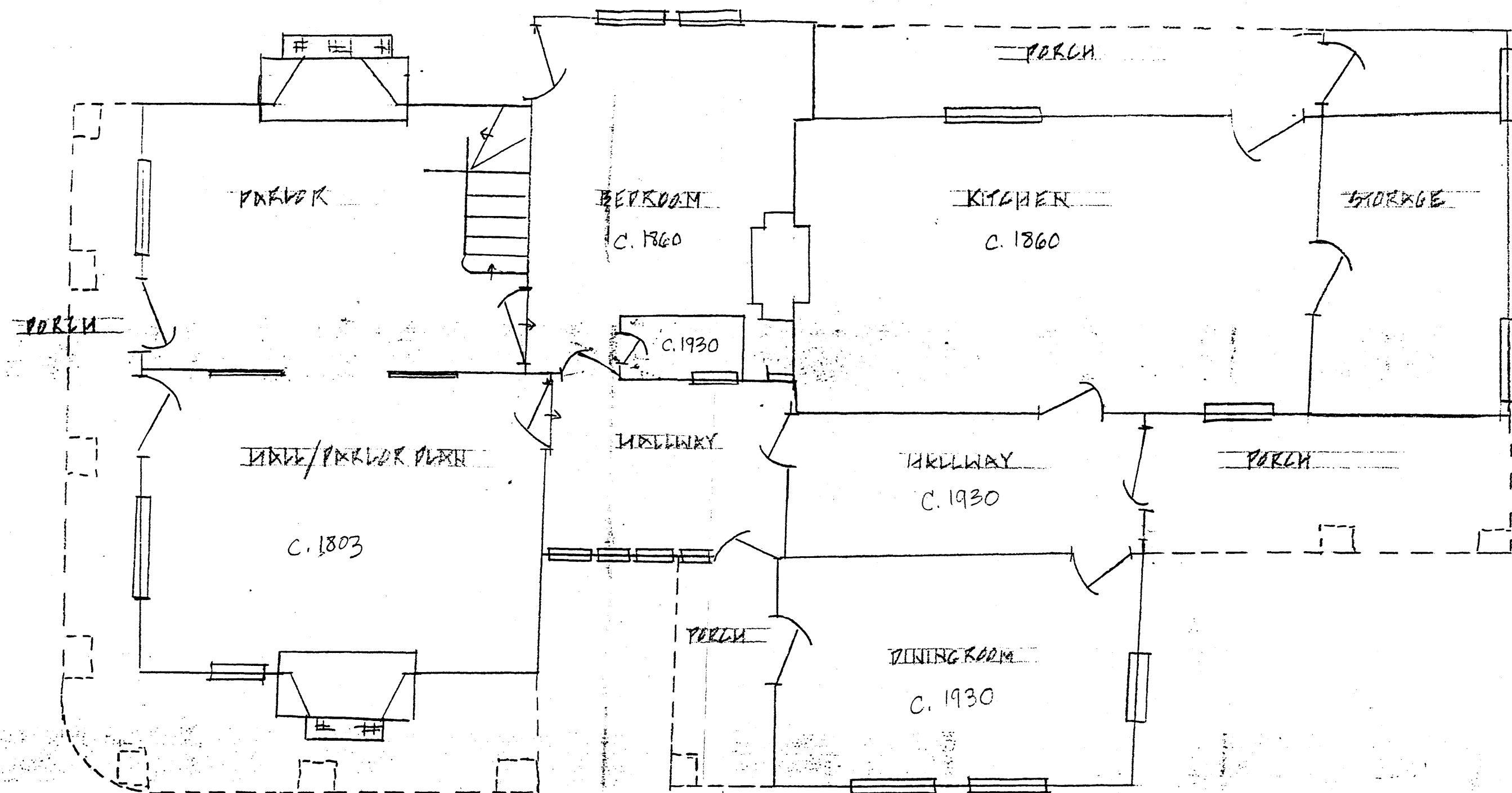
chicken house (C)



smokehouse
(C)



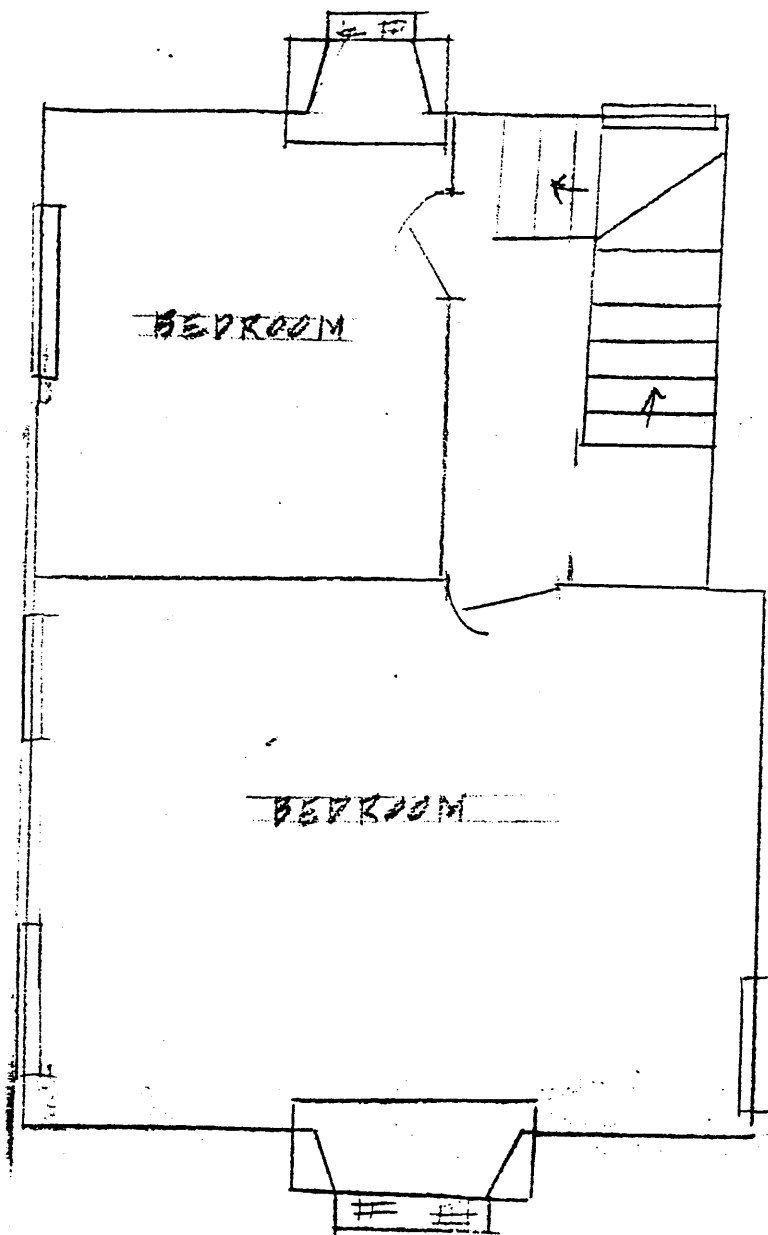
BOONE'S CREEK ROAD



FIRST FLOOR

Bowers - Kirkpatrick Farmstead
Washington Co., TN
not to scale

NOTE: the circa 1803 section is log construction with the joints of the roof beams joined by mortise and tenon

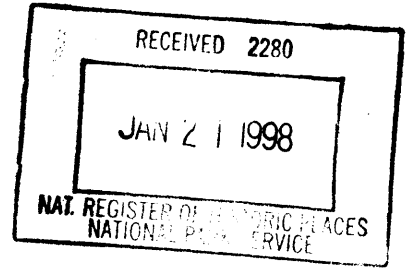


○ SECOND FLOOR

Bowers - Kirkpatrick Farmstead
Washington Co. TN
not to scale



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442
(615) 532-1550



January 15, 1998

Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
National Register Branch
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20013

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find a notarized statement from James Kirkpatrick regarding the Bowers - Kirkpatrick Farmstead in Washington County, Tennessee. Mr. Kirkpatrick previously objected to the listing of his property in the National Register, but would now like it listed. The Bowers - Kirkpatrick Farmstead was determined eligible by your office on September 11, 1997.

If you have any questions about this or if additional information is needed, please contact Claudette Stager at 615/532-1560.

Sincerely,

Herbert L. Harper
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

HLH/cs

Enclosure

pc: James Kirkpatrick
Jeanne Kirkpatrick