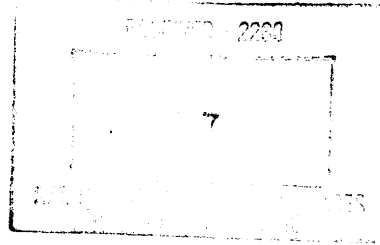


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



3241

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 Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead

other names/site number Brooks-Schumaier Farm

2. Location

street & number 1548 Blue Springs Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Elizabethton

vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

county Carter

code 019

zip code 37643

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 E. Huger
Signature of certifying official/Title

2/22/01
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

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

4-5-01

Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Name of Property

Carter Co., Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	3	buildings
1	1	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
4	5	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

Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

secondary structure

Funerary: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Wood; Shingle

other Glass; Wood; Metal

Narrative Description

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____
 Settlement _____

Period of Significance

c. 1820-c.1906 _____

Significant Dates

c. 1820 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Hendrix, Charles, builder _____

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.

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 TN Dept. of Transportation
 - Federal Agency
 - Local Government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
 Carter County Register of Deeds _____

Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Name of Property

Carter Co., Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 14 acres Carter 207 NE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>400780</u>	<u>4028300</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>400840</u>	<u>4028220</u>

3	<u>17</u>	<u>400700</u>	<u>4028160</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>17</u>	<u>400620</u>	<u>4028280</u>

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 Nathan E Kinser
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date 5/10/00
street & number PO 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 Dr. Daniel R. Schumaier
street & number 1548 Blue Springs Road telephone 423.474.3622
city or town Elizabethton state TN zip code 37643

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.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

DESCRIPTION

The Rueben Brooks Farmstead is located approximately six miles northeast of the city of Elizabethton, in Carter County, Tennessee. The property is located on Blue Springs Road, two miles southwest of Tennessee Highway 91. The historic property originally contained 120 acres when acquired in 1810.¹ The current owner, Dr. Daniel Schumaier, owns approximately 14 acres of that original tract. The farmstead includes the Brooks House, located on the east side of Blue Springs Road, and a complex of other domestic buildings including smokehouse/weavehouse, slave house, and garage to the south and east of the house. Located further to the south stands a wood barn, while to the east is a pond. The Brooks family cemetery is located to the northeast. Few changes have occurred to the buildings of the farmstead, with the exception of full facade length porch added to the front in the 1920s. The current owner removed the Colonial Revival-Style porch addition in 1979, leaving the original portico and frieze in order to restore the antebellum Greek Revival appearance of the dwelling. Deterioration of the portico, however, led to the replacement of the portico columns and balustrade during the renovation period. The integrity of the house has been altered slightly with a one-foot extension to the rear porch during the dwelling's renovation in 1979. Dr. Schumaier based all restoration work on photographs and oral histories of the house.

The Rueben Brooks House, built c. 1820, is a two-story I-house with a rear two-story ell. Constructed by Charles Hendix, the house was designed in the Greek Revival-style, with exterior walls of kiln-dried brick laid in a common bond that rest on a rough-cut stone foundation. A side-gabled roof with projecting eaves support modern rain gutters along the roofline and an ornamented cornice along the facade. The roof is covered with wood shingles, installed in 1979. There are three original exterior chimneys located at each gabled end of the house. These chimneys are semi-engaged with shoulders starting at the half-story.

The north façade exhibits five bays, with two bays flanking a centrally located two-story portico entrance. The Greek Revival portico contains two square vernacular columns, with no ornamentation and two Doric pilasters, as well as balustrades on each story. The portico shelters a plain, multi-panel front door with original fixtures that served as the historic front entry to the house. The centrally located door is slightly recessed behind the front wall (typical of the Greek Revival style), creating a three dimensional effect. The door is topped with a multi-pane, rectangular transom without sidelights. The second-story door, also with original hardware, matches that of the first-story without the transom. Flanking either side of the portico, are two bays that contain two window openings on each floor with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes. Highlighting the window openings are stone lintels with classical Greek key ornamentation. This facade is accented by an ornamented entablature, which is a notable feature of the Greek Revival

¹ Carter County Deed Book, (Roll 116, Book B, Page 300).

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

style. The frieze is decorated with triglyphs and metopes, while the cornice contains mutules with guttae. This cornice occurs only along the façade, although a decorated cornice adorns the west elevation.

The facade also reveals a ghost outline of a previous porch, which was added c. 1920 in the Colonial Revival style. In 1979, the owner removed this porch to restore the house to its Greek Revival style.

The west elevation contains the gabled end of the house as well as the ell. An exterior end chimney dominates the gabled end. Close to the roofline, flanking either side of the chimney, are two square window openings with four-pane fixed sashes. To the south of the chimney on the first and second floor are two window openings with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes capped with stone lintels with Greek key ornamentation. The ell portion of this facade is characterized by the decorative soffit located under the over-hanging eaves. The ell has two bays containing two window openings on each floor with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes topped with stone lintels with Greek key ornamentation and adorned with louvered shutters.

The south elevation is composed of the main house, as well as the south end of the ell. An exterior end chimney dominates the gabled end of the ell. Flanking the west side of the chimney, at the attic level, is a square louvered window. A window opening with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes is located on the first floor, east of the chimney. The main block of the Brooks House is revealed east of the ell, which is highlighted by three bays. The second story contains three windows, all of which contain six-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes that are adorned with louvered shutters. The window opening furthest to the west is about two feet lower than the other window openings on the second floor. This may have been deliberately done to make room for the over-hang of the ell. On the first floor, the eastern two bays contain window openings with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes that are adorned with louvered shutters. The third bay, which is covered by the porch, contains a multi-paneled door that contains original hardware.

The east elevation reveals the gabled end of the main block and the rear ell. Dominated by an exterior end chimney, the gable reveals two flanking square window openings at the attic level. The window opening to the north contains a wood louvered window, while a window opening to the south contains a four-pane fixed wood sash. The east end of the ell discloses two bays. The second floor displays two window openings with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes flanked by louvered shutters. The first floor, covered by a porch, originally contained two door openings. The door opening to the south, which is now the primary entrance to the house, still exists and is capped with a multi-pane transom.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

The door opening to the north, however, has been bricked-in and replaced by a window opening with three-over-three, double-hung, wood sashes, at an unknown date, but probably c. 1920. The porch has a wood shingled roof and was extended forward by about one foot c. 1920.

The house interior reveals a central hall plan with an attached rear ell. Two rooms flank a central hall on both floors. The house retains many historic features, which includes original wood flooring on the second story. The interior doorways are original and consist of solid wood doors with five panels. In addition, 11" baseboards line the walls throughout the house and are original. All of the flooring and windows on the first floor were replaced due to deterioration in 1976; however, the windows were replaced by wood sashes that display the original divided light pattern. It was also during this time that the owner added ceiling molding in the rooms.

The center hall retains the original staircase. The rail and newel post are original, but the balusters have been refabricated in 1979 to match the original balusters that had to be replaced due to deterioration. The hall has a six-paneled solid wood door. Directly across from this front door is the rear five-paneled door leading to the back porch.

Two parlors are located on either side of the central hall, both of which retain their original fireplace mantels, plaster walls, and 11" wood baseboards. The east parlor has an original Greek Revival style mantel, complete with flanking square columns that support a classical entablature and the mantel shelf. The brickwork in the fireplace was reworked c. 1979, but is fashioned after the original. An original decorative plaster molding adorns the ceiling surrounding the hanging chandelier. The west parlor is similar to the east parlor, but lacks an original decorative ceiling mold (a replica of one was placed there c. 1976).

Behind the west parlor, located in the rear ell, is a kitchen, den, and bathroom. Originally, this space contained two rooms, however, property owners removed the wall separating the two rooms c. 1920, making them into one large room. This ell room lacks its original plaster ceiling. The owner removed it in 1976 because of its dilapidated state. The ceiling now boasts the original wood beams made of yellow poplar. Like the fireplaces in the front parlors, the fireplace in the rear ell has been re-bricked, and includes a wood mantel c. 1920, consisting of wide pilasters that support a mantle shelf. In the southwest corner of the ell room, a bathroom was added in 1979. In addition, a new closet was installed in the northwest corner of the room at that same time.

An open geometrical-plan staircase leads to the second floor. The second floor also retains its original woodwork, including window and doorframes, which contain five-panel doors. Two bedrooms are located on either side of the central hall. The east and west bedrooms contain original fireplaces and mantels similar to those downstairs, 11" wood baseboards, and window sashes.

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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

On the south wall of the west bedroom is a door leading to the two second-story rooms of the ell. The first of these has been converted into a bathroom, c. 1979. In order to do this, the floor was raised about three feet to accommodate the plumbing. The original flooring was replaced after the work was done. A new wall was added to this room as well. It separates the bathroom from the hallway leading to the rear bedroom. The window sash on the east wall, located in the hallway, and the sash on the west wall, located in the bathroom, are original. Three small steps lead to the back bedroom, which retains its original fireplace, mantel, and wood baseboards.

To the east of the main house is a c. 1820 brick smokehouse/ weavehouse that rests on a roughly cut limestone foundation. The side gable building is covered with wood shingles and faces west, on the same plane as the front facade of the main house. This is an unusual placement for such an outbuilding. While normally located near the main house, smokehouses are like most other agricultural buildings, in that they occupy less conspicuous positions relative to the main house. The Brooks Farmstead is different in this manner because the smokehouse appears to challenge the main house for prominence along the façade. The fact that the smokehouse doubled as the weavehouse and cellar may explain this unusual placement. The north section of the building was used as the smokehouse and the walls on this portion of the building have vented brickwork in diamond patterns, which is often associated with smokehouses. The south end was used as the weavehouse and contains the cellar entrance. The interiors of the two portions retain the original joists. The south gable reveals a centrally located exterior end chimney. One interesting architectural feature of this building is the use of light colored bricks on the south elevation, which are laid out in a pattern forming the letters "C" and "H". These initials may stand for "Charles Hendrix," who was a master mason from Jonesborough, and is thought to be the builder of the house and its accompanying outbuildings.² (C)

Located to the southwest of the smokehouse is a brick slave cabin, c. 1820. The brick structure rests on a rough-cut stone foundation. Like the other buildings, it was built c. 1820. It is one of at least two slave cabins that existed on the property. A second cabin is believed to have been located at a forty-five degree angle from the south end of the extant slave cabin.

The extant cabin has a wood shingled roof, which was replaced at the same time as the other roofs on the premises. The cabin has a centrally located door on the west facade. Each facade contains one window opening with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes, one or more of which may have been added after the original construction. An exterior end chimney is located on the

² Daniel Schumaier of Elizabethton, interview by author, 23 October 1999, Elizabethton.

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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

south gabled end of the slave house. It is slightly different from the chimneys on the main house or smokehouse having only one shoulder and protruding farther from the wall surface than the others. On the interior, only the fireplace is original. The rest of the interior has been refurbished so that the cabin can be used as a guesthouse. (C)

The brick, gable-roof two-car garage is located to the south of the main house. This garage, built in the 1970s, is fashioned in a similar manner to the rest of the outbuildings. (NC, due to date of construction)

Between the house and the garage is a small wood frame shed capped with a metal roof that was built c. 1979. (NC, due to date of construction).

Located about fifty yards south of the slave cabin is a frame barn, built c. 1920.³ The barn is a gable front structure, sheathed with vertical plank siding and covered with a tin roof. It contains a large sliding door on the front and a shed roof extension off the west end. (NC) Outside the period of significance.

Between the barn and the domestic complex is a tennis court, with a high wire fence surrounding it. Installed c. 1985, it is a non-contributing structure. (NC, due to date of construction)

A pond is situated about fifty yards east of the main house. The pond is about 20 yards across and is circular in form. The current owner dug it c. 1979. (NC, due to date of construction.)

The Brooks family cemetery stands 200 yards to the northeast of the house. A stone wall, built c. 1930, encloses the cemetery. Although the stone wall was constructed outside the period of significance, the majority of the graves in the cemetery date from the 1830s to the early 20th century. This cemetery hosts the burial sites of Rueben Brooks and his family as well as other family members and property owners. (C)

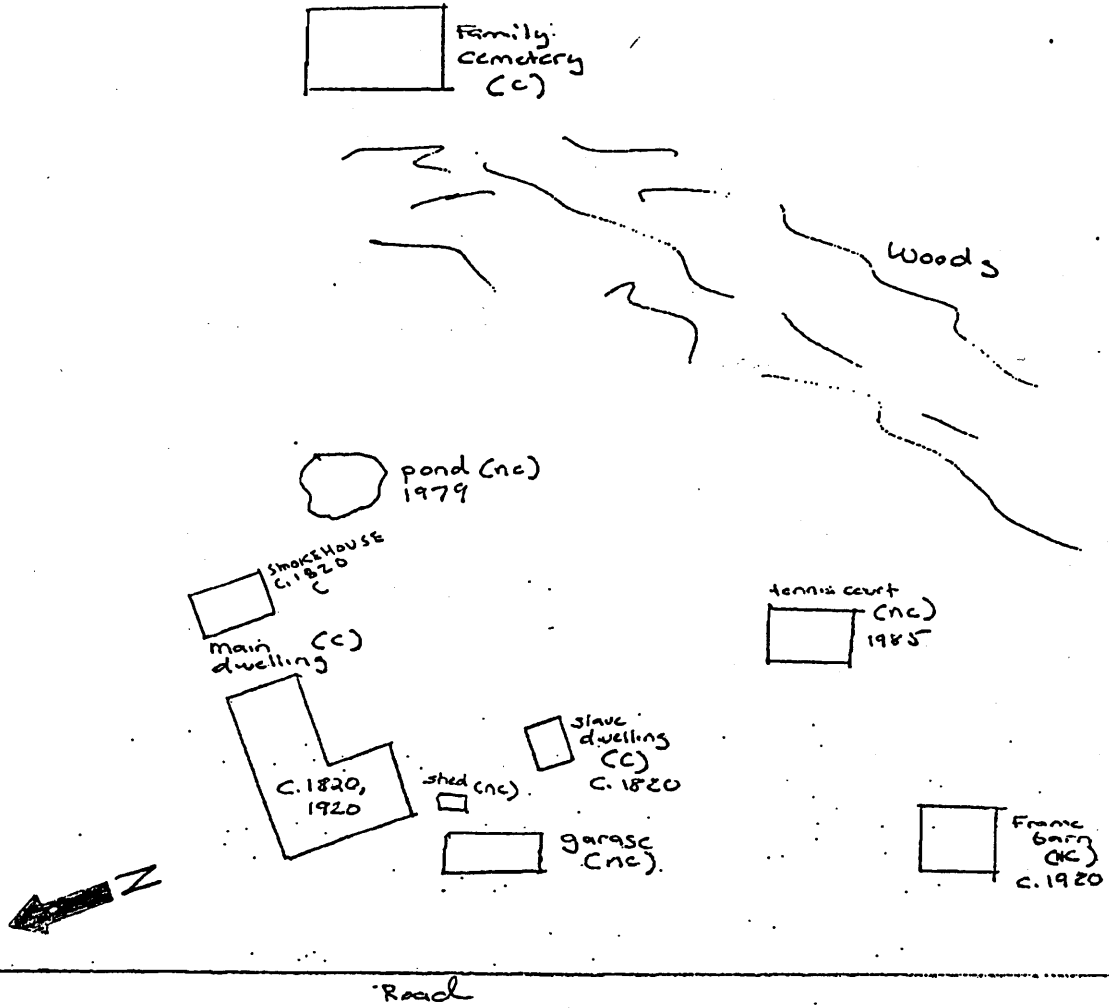
³ Ibid.

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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee



Brooks Farmstead
Carter Co., TN.
NTS: 2000

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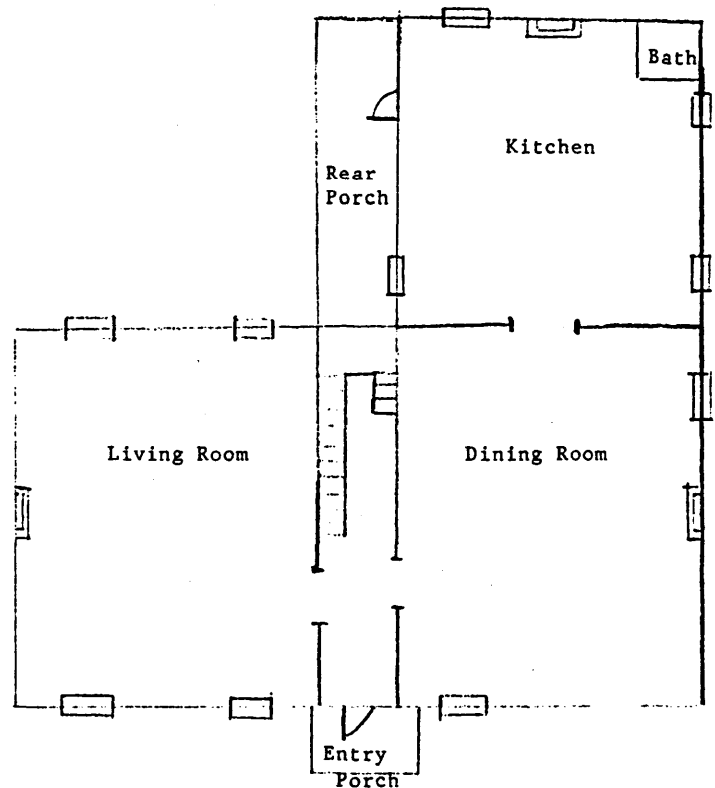
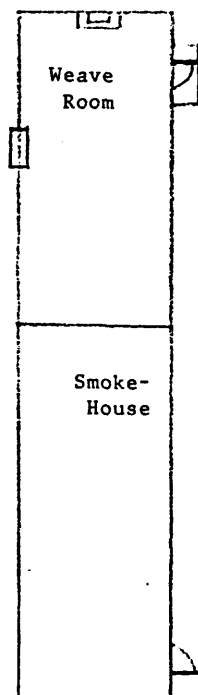
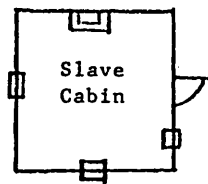
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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

FIRST FLOOR

MAIN HOUSE, SMOKEHOUSE, SLAVE CABIN

NOT TO SCALE



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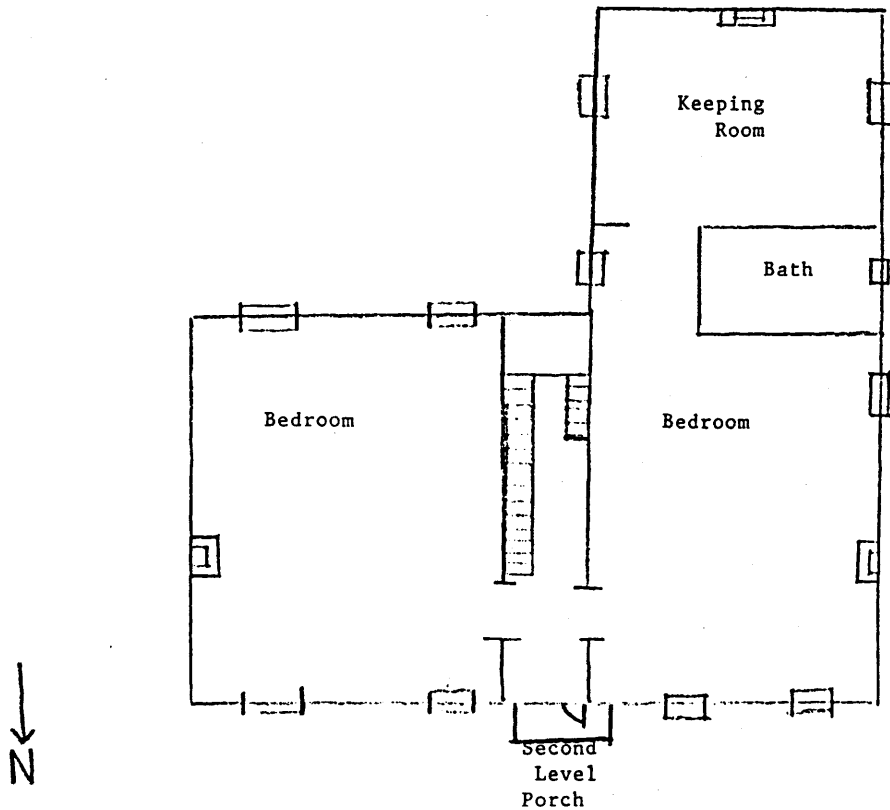
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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

SECOND FLOOR

MAIN HOUSE

NOT TO SCALE



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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rueben Brooks Farmstead is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Located at the site of a large and prominent natural spring, the property is eligible under Criterion A for its associations with the settlement patterns of Carter County in the early nineteenth century up into the early 20th century. The Brooks House, in conjunction with the extant slave cabin and smokehouse/weavehouse provides an excellent representation of early settlement patterns in the region. Slaveholding was not a dominant pattern in Appalachia Tennessee and the slave cabin is a rare survival in the Upper Tennessee region, marking a slave-owning plantation in Carter County. Of the houses and farms in Carter County listed in the National Register, none contain extant slave dwellings. Under Criterion C, the Brooks House is an excellent example of a brick I-house with prominent Greek Revival style influences.

In 1812, Rueben Brooks, Sr., purchased the first parcels of land that eventually became the Brooks family farm. He obtained the land from a local sheriff's sale.⁴ The land had originally belonged to a John Michael Smithpeter who received the property as a land grant for his service in the Continental Army, which included combat at King's Mountain. The Smithpeter connection to the land is of interest because Rueben Brooks, Sr., married Smithpeter's daughter Mary before he purchased the land.⁵ It appears that Smithpeter had some financial troubles, perhaps during the infamous Panic of 1819, and thus sold the rest of the farm to Brooks around 1820. It was during this time that Rueben Brooks built the house and the accompanying outbuildings.⁶ The Brooks farm grew corn, tobacco, wheat, and contained a large apple orchard.⁷

The house is situated within 100 yards of Blue Springs, a large, deep spring excellent for agricultural needs. The presence of the spring gives a good indication as to why Brooks favored the area. Since obtaining water was a necessity for early pioneers, it stands to reason that a natural spring would be an ideal site to settle. Certainly, it helps to account for why Smithpeter acquired the property in the first place. Ever since cultivation of the surrounding land began, property owners have noted the presence of Native American artifacts; the current property owner still finds arrowheads around the spring. Clearly, native groups used the spring heavily before white settlement. Today, the Brooks Farmstead surrounds the spring, which was sold to the City of Elizabethton for its water supply in the mid-1920s, after the arrival of the large German-owned rayon plants in the city.

⁴ Carter County Deed Book, (Roll 116, Book B, Page 300).

⁵ Mildred Kozsuch, ed., Historic Reminiscences of Carter County Tennessee (Johnson City, TN: The Overmountain Press, 1985), 94.

⁶ Carter County Deed Book, (Roll 116, Book B, Page 300).

⁷The People of Carter County, Tennessee, Carter County Tennessee and its People 1796-1993 (Elizabethton, TN: Carter County History Book Committee, 1993), 20.

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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

Charles Hendrix, a brick mason from Jonesborough, is attributed as the builder of the Brooks House and outbuildings, however, little is known about him. If the letters on the weavehouse are Hendrix's initials, then they are an extremely rare Tennessee example of a Mid-Atlantic trait documented in several historic farm buildings in states such as Pennsylvania. The extant slave dwelling and smokehouse/ weavehouse show how the builder unified the domestic complex with his choice of brick as a building material. Only in "fine estates" would one find brick as the building material for "unimportant" outbuildings. The combination smokehouse and weavehouse also give a unique characteristic to Hendrix's work, especially where he may have "signed" his work in the brick pattern of the gable end.

In 1842, Brooks, Sr., deeded the land, including the house, to his son Rueben Brooks, Jr.⁸ Evidently Brooks, Sr., bought more land after the original purchase in 1812 because he gave his son one hundred and thirty-five acres of land, which is ten more acres than he bought in 1812. The Brooks family sold the farm in 1906.⁹

Perhaps because he was a slave owner, Rueben Brooks, Jr., was an avid and prominent "secessionist." As a slave owner, Brooks, Jr. owned as few as two slaves and as many as six.¹⁰ A letter written by H. M. Folsom to Thomas A. R. Nelson, who won the congressional election for the first district of Tennessee in 1859, corroborates Brooks, Jr.'s support for the Confederacy. Folsom reported to Nelson that "your main and principle loss was on Stoney Creek and you will be able to account for that when you remember that Rueben Brooks lives there."¹¹ This shows Brooks' support of "secessionism" because he backed Landon Haynes, who was an ardent "secessionist," in the 1859 election.

Local historians have claimed that because of the family's Confederate leanings, the property was used as a Confederate campsite during the war. Although no evidence of this can be found in the official records of the war, the presence of Blue Springs on the property would have been attractive to officers from either side of the conflict. Another piece of evidence that suggests that the property was a Confederate campsite is that Rueben Brooks, Jr.'s son, William, was an ardent supporter of the South. He joined the 59th Infantry Regiment of the Confederate Army (also known as 1st (Eakin's) Tennessee Battalion: Cook's Regiment: 59th Tennessee Mounted Infantry Regiment) and was appointed 1st lieutenant of company C.¹²

⁸ Carter County Deed Book, (Roll 119, Book K, Page 60).

⁹ Carter County Deed Book, (Roll 21, Page 416).

¹⁰ Kozsuch, *Reminiscences*, 94.

¹¹ Frank Merritt, *Early History of Carter County: 1760-1861* (Kingsport, TN: Kingsport Press, 1975), 163.

¹² People of Carter County, *Carter County*, 34.

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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

William Brooks recruited a large number of his friends and neighbors into his company. On July 4, 1864, bushwhackers, many of whom later joined the Union Army to keep from being tried for crimes committed as civilians, shot William Brooks while he was out trying to recruit more men for the Confederacy.¹³ He made it home and died in his upstairs room. The bloodstain is still present on the floor where he laid.

In 1906, the property was sold to Henry Cole.¹⁴ It moved through four more ownerships before Dr. Schumaier bought it in 1976.¹⁵ These owners included Reverend N.T. Shoun (1924)¹⁶, Judge James Elliot (1928)¹⁷, Harry Scott (1963)¹⁸, and Wilbur Gray (1972)¹⁹. All of the changes that occurred c. 1920 are believed to have been the work of James Elliot. Elliot built the Colonial Revival porch on the facade, and thus, can be assumed to have made many of the other changes. After buying the house in 1976, Dr. Schumaier went to great lengths to restore the home to its antebellum appearance.

Under Criterion C, the Brooks Farmstead qualifies as a significant Greek Revival residence in Carter County. Adherence to the formalism and symmetry of the Greek Revival style is embodied throughout the exterior of the Brooks House. The classical temple form is expressed in the low-pitched roof and imposing two-story projecting pedimented portico, which is supported by square columns and pilasters. Resting on a Doric entablature, ornamented with classical detailing such as triglyphs, mutules with guttae and metopes, is the low-pitched pedimented roof of the portico. Centrally located, the portico reinforces the symmetrical appearance of the façade by enveloping the central bay and uniformly disbursing the remaining bays. The trabeated window and door openings, a hallmark of Greek Revival architecture that shuns away from arches, is evident in the stone lintels decorated with Greek key designs, which embellish the fenestration of the façade and west elevation. Moreover, the multi-light transom above the main entrance, which was often presented as an ornamental fanlight in earlier Federal styles, takes the form of a simple rectangle, further reinforcing the linear qualities of the Greek Revival style. The pattern exhibited on the entablature is repeated on the wide frieze that graces the façade. The simple approach to ornamentation is continued in the soffits, highlighted with evenly spaced mutules, which grace the over-hanging eaves of each elevation.

The Greek Revival influence is carried into the interior of the house and is predominately displayed in the mantles. Raised square and rectangular panels, consistent with the style,

¹³ Kozsuch, *Reminiscences*, 95.

¹⁴ Carter County Deed Book, (Book 21, Page 60).

¹⁵ Schumaier, interview, October 23, 1999.

¹⁶ Carter County Deed Book, (Book 67, Page 269).

¹⁷ Carter County Deed Book, (Book 79, Page 510).

¹⁸ Warranty Deed for property, 1963.

¹⁹ Warranty Deed for property, 1972.

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Carter County, Tennessee

highlight square pilasters that support molded entablatures. This pattern is replicated in eight mantles that are located in the main block. Fluted and shouldered architrave door trim continues the Greek Revival influence throughout the interior.

The Greek Revival elements of the Brooks House, reflected the latest in architectural style, and represented the next stage in the development of the county's architectural traditions. The Carter Mansion c. 1780 (NR 1972) in Elizabethton is a three-room plan vernacular style house of exceptional interior craftsmanship. Sabine Hill c. 1818 (NR 1973) in Elizabethton expressed a McIntyre-inspired Federal style in its dignified entrance. The Alfred Carter House c. 1819 in Elizabethton shows the persistence of late Federal style in the slender columns of its two-story portico. All three of these landmark houses are frame; Brooks' new dwelling, on the other hand, is brick. In addition, the style of Brooks' House owes much more to classical traditions and represents a more sophisticated expression of those traditions than the three earlier homes.

The house stands as a fine example of early antebellum architecture in Carter County.²⁰ In *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Virginia and Lee McAlester noted that, "The Greek Revival style was the dominant style of American domestic architecture during the interval from about 1830 to 1850 during which its popularity led it to be called the National Style."²¹ They further state the final years of the 18th century brought an increased interest in classical buildings to both the United States and Europe. This was originally based on Roman models, but shifted to Grecian models as early 19th century research pointed to Greece as the mother of Rome. In addition, two other factors enhanced Greek influence in this country. These included Greece's involvement in a war for independence (1821-1830), which aroused much sympathy from the newly independent United States; and the War of 1812, which diminished America's affection for British architectural trends.²²

Adding to the architectural significance of the property is the historic cemetery, which has a good collection of both hand-carved headstones and Victorian era funerary arts, such as a weeping willow marker for Rueben Brooks, Jr.

²⁰ Kozsuch, *Reminiscences*, 94.

²¹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 182.

²² *Ibid.*, 182-184.

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Warranty Deed for property, 1972.

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Brooks, Rueben, Farmstead
Carter County, Tennessee

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the Rueben Brooks Farmstead is delineated on the accompanying plat map (scale 1' = 400'). It includes the house, extant outbuildings and cemetery that are historically associated with Rueben Brooks. The nominated property consists of approximately 14 acres on Blue Springs Road two miles from highway 91 in the Stoney Creek community. The property is bordered by Blue Springs Road and Blue Springs Creek, and is situated six miles from Elizabethton, Carter Co., Tennessee. Lot 61 on the accompanying Carter Co. Tax Map 22 represents the property. The property also includes the cemetery located at the northeast corner of lot 61, thus bringing the total acreage to approximately 14 acres.

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PHOTOS

Photos by: Carroll Van West
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
Date: April 2000
Negatives; Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243

North facade and west elevation, facing southeast
1 of 34

North facade, facing south
2 of 34

Detail, entablature, north facade, facing southeast
3 of 34

West elevation, facing east
4 of 34

Gable end, south elevation, facing northeast
5 of 34

South and east elevations, facing northwest
6 of 34

Gable end, east elevation, facing northwest
7 of 34

East elevation and north facade, facing southwest
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Central staircase, first floor, facing south
9 of 34

Parlor, first floor, facing northeast
10 of 34

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Parlor, first floor, facing east
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Dining room, first floor, facing west
12 of 34

Den and kitchen, ell wing, first floor, facing southwest
13 of 34

Northwest bedroom, second floor, facing northeast
14 of 34

Original door, second floor landing, from northwest bedroom, facing east
15 of 34

Northwest bedroom, second floor, facing southwest
16 of 34

Modern bath, second floor, ell wing, facing northwest
17 of 34

Hallway, ell wing, second floor, facing north
18 of 34

Mantel and bedroom, ell wing, second floor, facing south
19 of 34

Slave dwelling, facing west
20 of 34

Interior, slaving dwelling, facing southeast
21 of 34

Smokehouse and weavehouse, facing east
22 of 34

Smokehouse and weavehouse, facing southwest
23 of 34

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Smokehouse and weavehouse, facing north
24 of 34

Detail, smokehouse, facing west
25 of 34

C. H. signature in brick, smokehouse and weavehouse, facing south
26 of 34

Domestic complex, from barn, facing west
27 of 34

Barn, facing northeast
28 of 34

Modern garage, facing north
29 of 34

Modern storage shed, facing northeast
30 of 34

Tennis courts, facing southwest
31 of 34

Cemetery, facing northeast
32 of 34

Cemetery interior, facing north
33 of 34

Weeping willow grave marker, facing west
34 of 34

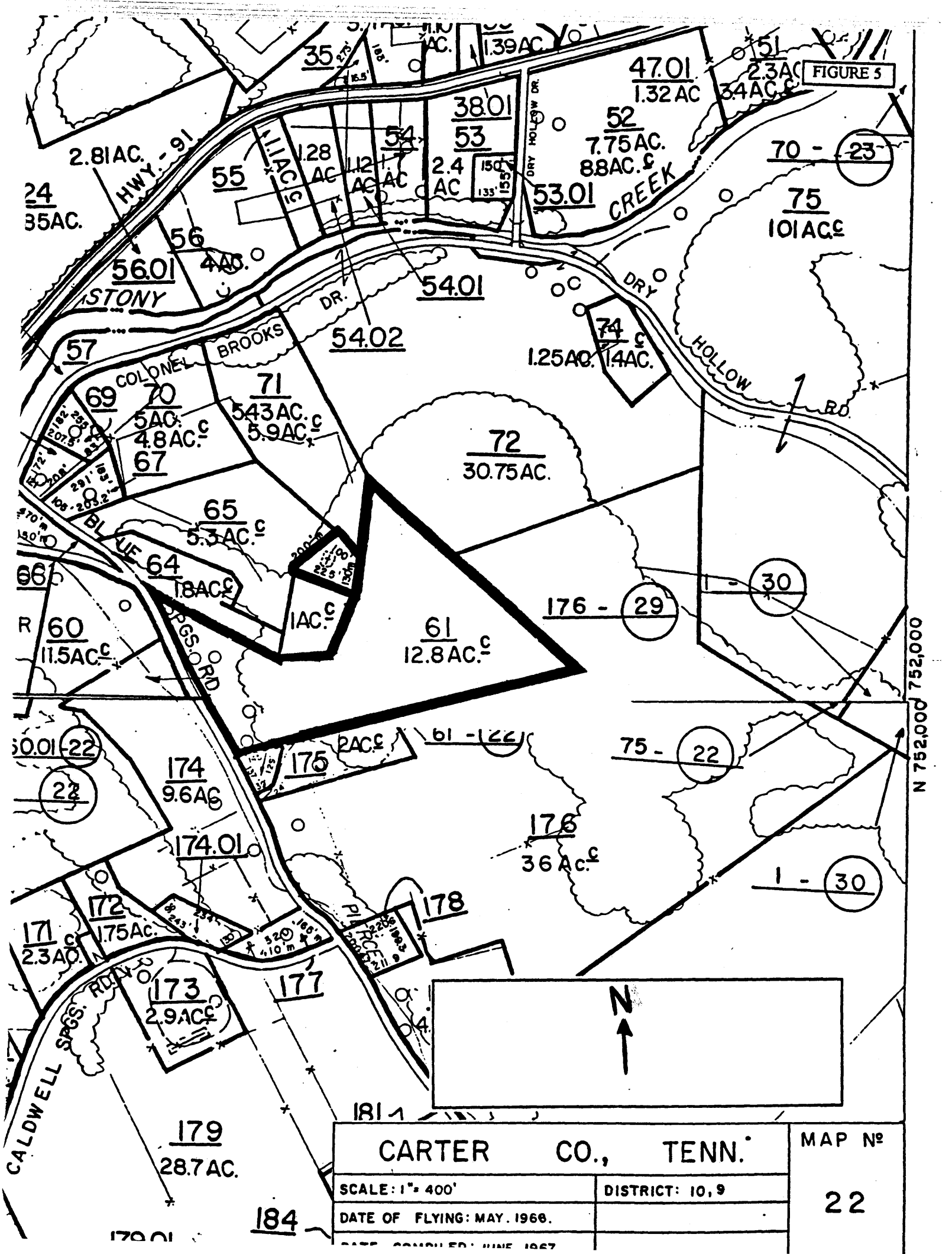


FIGURE 5

CARTER CO., TENN.

MAP No

SCALE: 1" = 400'

DISTRICT: 10, 9

DATE OF FLYING: MAY, 1966.

22

DATE COMPILED: JUNE 1967