

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 12 1984

date entered JUL 12 1984

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

1. Name

historic Cedarmont

and/or common Same

2. Location

off TN 96

street & number Route 1, Lynch Road N/A not for publication

city, town Franklin vic. N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Williamson code 187

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Irwin Much

street & number Route 1, Lynch Road

city, town Franklin N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37064

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Williamson County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Franklin state Tennessee 37064

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Williamson County Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Cedarmont is a two-story brick house located on Lynch Road in Williamson County, Tennessee. The main block of the structure was built ca. 1816 and a two-story "T plan" addition was added ca. 1855. The house is a fine example of Middle Tennessee's early brick vernacular farmhouse with added Greek Revival detailing. Cedarmont is located on twenty-seven acres of farmland near the Big Harpeth River and Hayes Creek. It is sited on a hillside and is surrounded by numerous outbuildings. Few alterations have been made to the exterior of the house and it retains its original architectural character.

The main block of the house is two stories in height and one bay deep. This original section was built ca. 1816 and features flemish bond brick on the main (east) facade with five course common bond on the remaining elevations. The house rests on a foundation of cut limestone blocks which is in excellent condition and displays no evidence of settling. Windows in the main block are six-over-six sash and retain many of the original lights. Above the windows is a row of header bond brick and a wooden lintel with large corner blocks. The windows also feature wooden sills and replacement shutters.

The main entryway was added to the structure ca. 1855 and features wooden double doors with rectangular one-over-one paneling. Flanking the doorway are pilasters with Doric motif capitals. Adjacent to the pilasters are recessed sidelights with two narrow lights over a rectangular wooden panel. Above the entrance is a rectangular five-light transom.

On the main facade is a large projecting two-story portico added ca. 1855. This portico has four large rectangular columns with recessed panels and Doric motif capitals. This design is repeated in the pilasters which attach the portico to the main block of the house. The pediment of the portico has a simple entablature with a decorative row of modillion blocks. On the second story is a wooden railing which extends along all three sides of the portico. This second floor porch is reached by a double door entrance which is similar to the main entrance. The original ceilings of the portico were replaced ca. 1900 with tongue and groove framing.

The north and south elevations of the main block are laid in five-course common bond. These elevations do not contain windows and display large projecting brick chimneys and tie rods with star shaped anchors. The west elevation is also laid in five-course common bond as is the ca. 1855 "T-plan" addition. This addition on the west facade is two stories in height and is distinguished by the large veranda on both north and south elevations. The two-story veranda has rectangular posts with Doric motif capitals and wooden railings with square spindles. A concrete floor has replaced the framing on the ground story of the veranda. This block repeats the six-over-six window pattern and lintel configuration. Attached to the rear of the block is a one-story brick ca. 1970 addition which serves as the kitchen for the house.

During the early 20th century Cedarmont stood vacant for many years and was also used as a tenant house. This resulted in the removal or destruction of much of the interior detailing and woodwork. Surviving features include some of the double paneled doors and the railing on the staircase. The upper floor of the main block and both floors of the addition retain their original poplar floors. None of the fireplace mantels have survived but period replacements have been added along with wainscoting in the main rooms.

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Cedarmont is located four miles east of Franklin, Tennessee on Arno Road and received its name from the row of cedars which line the driveway to the house. An original log smokehouse with half-dovetail notching is located approximately 70 feet to the south of the main house. This is the only original outbuilding which remains in existence. To the north of the house is a 19th century cemetery enclosed by a rock wall. A modern garage and guest house have been added at the rear of the main house.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** ca. 1816, 1855

**Builder/Architect**

Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in Williamson County, Tennessee, Cedarmont is an architecturally and historically significant structure of the early 19th century. The building has been nominated under criteria B and C because of its architectural features and association with a prominent Williamson County family. The house is a good example of the evolution of the 19th century brick plantation house in Tennessee and features Greek Revival detailing.

During the early 19th century the Nolen family was one of the most prominent group of early settlers of eastern Williamson County. The family was headed by William Nolen who was a Revolutionary War veteran and he settled along Mill Creek. Other Nolen family members also moved to the Mill Creek area and because of their prominence the community became known as Nolensville. The Nolen family constructed a mill along the creek and owned large tracts of land in this section of the county.

Littleberry Nolen was the son of John Nolen and he bought property throughout the county. In 1806 Littleberry Nolen (also called Berry Nolen) purchased a 185 acre tract along the west bank of Hayes Creek and north of the Big Harpeth River for \$500. Berry Nolen settled on this property and was prominent in local politics serving as a justice of the peace and court official. As early as 1816 Nolen may have constructed the main block of Cedarmont according to family descendants. A deed from 1817 states that Nolen had a residence on this property at that time. The house appears to have been constructed at least by 1823 when 191 acres of land were sold by Berry Nolen to his son-in-law Stephen Nolen for \$2,298 which indicates a substantial improvement to the property.

The original block of the house followed the three bay hall and parlor plan and was two stories high and one bay deep. The main elevation facing east was laid in Flemish bond brick while the remaining facades displayed five-course common bond. The house was constructed in a fashion typical in early 19th century Middle Tennessee with a central hall and flanking rooms on both floors. The house was built with a high pitched gable roof and end brick chimneys.

The main block of Cedarmont appears to have been completed before the purchase of the property by Stephen Nolen. Stephen Nolen married Berry Nolen's daughter Michal Nolen in 1816 and was listed as living on Mill Creek until his purchase of the Cedarmont property in 1823. Stephen Nolen was born in 1790 and was the second child of William Nolen who founded Nolensville. After his purchase of Cedarmont he began farming the rich bottomland around the house. Williamson County Tax Records are consistent between the late 1820s and 1839 as listing Nolen owning 191 acres and several slaves with a net worth of \$6,000. By 1844 Nolen began increasing his property and wealth and upon his death in 1851 owned almost 600 acres, ten slaves and property totaling \$10,000. The list of Nolen's property in his estate settlement is typical of wealthy landowners of the mid-19th century and includes extensive livestock and costly furniture as well as land and slaves.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Franklin, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is rectangular in shape which is 340 feet by 180 feet and has no visible boundary lines. The boundary includes the mansion, smokehouse and cemetery on a 1.5 acre lot which excludes the modern structures to the west of the house. The boundary includes all remaining historic sites associated with the property.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason

organization Thomason and Associates date March 14, 1984

street & number 1700 Hayes Street, Suite 202 telephone 615/320-5732

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hyzer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 6/5/84

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John Clarence Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 7/12/84

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Upon the death of Stephen Nolen, the property passed into the hands of his eldest son, William Martin Nolen. William M. Nolen remodeled the house in the mid-1850s by adding the rear two-story brick section and the large portico on the main facade. These changes were made not only to enlarge the house but also to reflect the popular Greek Revival style of the period. The large two-story portico and Doric motif columns added a monumental appearance to the home. By 1860 Cedarmont continued as a prosperous farm with William Nolen farming several hundred acres and possessing numerous slaves. During the Civil War the house was occupied many different times by both Union and Confederate forces. Cedarmont was not significantly damaged during the war and the Nolen family continued to occupy the house until the end of the century.

William Nolen was married three times and outlived all of his wives. His wives were: Sarah Ann Crump 1823-1853; Miranda Cochrane 1827-1865; and Hardenia Cochrane 1836-1889. Nolen and his wives are buried in the rock walled cemetery located to the north of the house. William Nolen died in 1897 and his property including "the mansion house, barn and stable, corncrib and other outhouses" were willed to his daughter Allie B. Nolen. She married Benjamin Newell and the house and property was owned by their descendants until 1948. During the early 20th century the house was both vacant and used as a tenant house. Extensive damage occurred to the house at this time with much of the original interior woodwork vandalized or destroyed. During these years the exterior was not extensively altered and maintained its original appearance.

After 1948 Cedarmont passed into the hands of Mr. Henry Cheairs who began restoration of the house. In past years several other owners have also worked on its restoration and added new outbuildings on the property. The house is presently owned by the Irwin Much family. Cedarmont continues to display its original architectural character and it remains an important landmark of eastern Williamson County.

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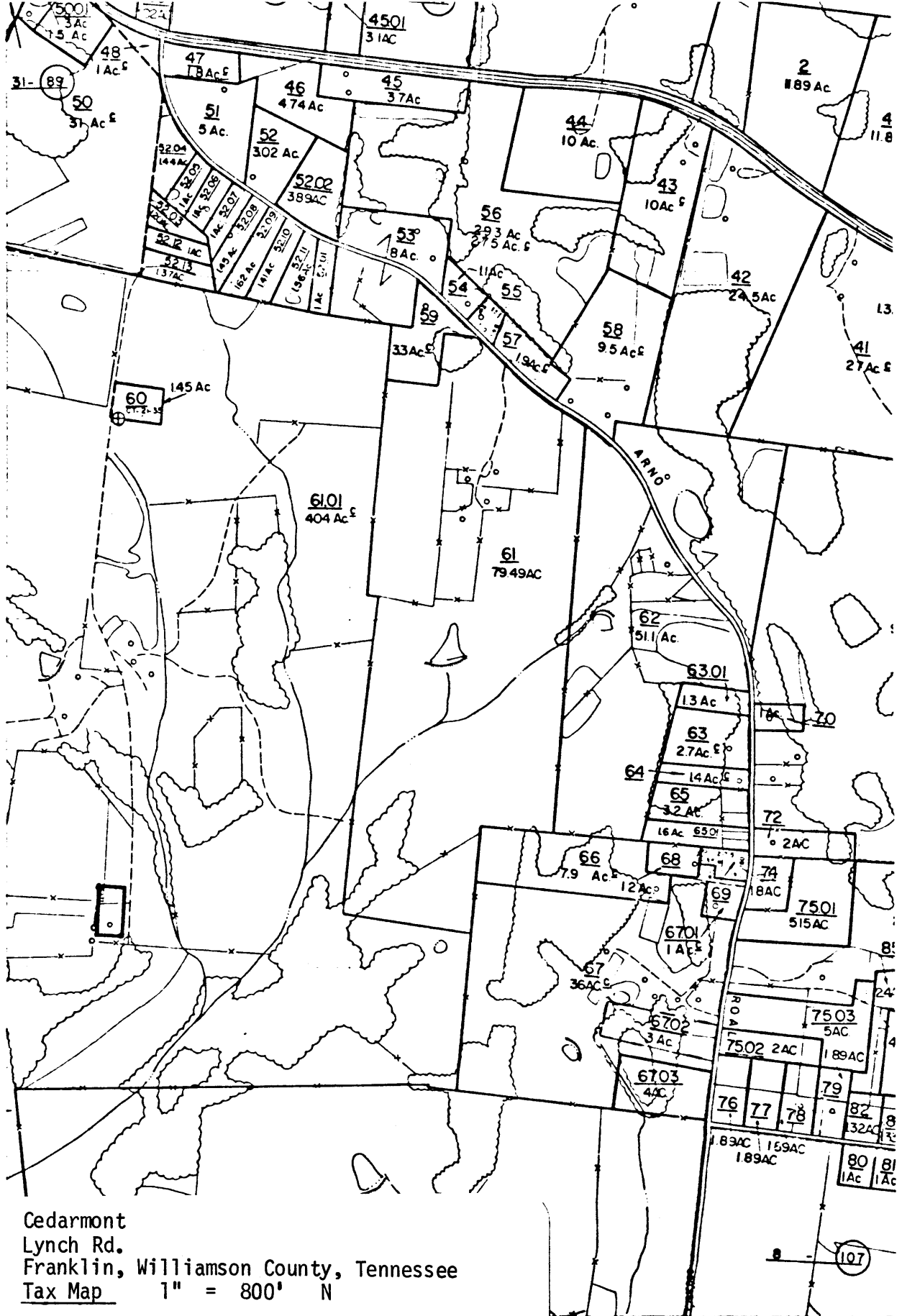
Bowman, Virginia. Franklin, Tennessee. Interview. February 27, 1984.

Crutchfield, James. A Heritage of Grandeur. Franklin, Tennessee: The Carnton  
Association, 1981.

Lynch, Louise. "Middle Tennessee Crossroads." Undated manuscript on file at the  
Williamson County Public Library.

Lynch, Louise. Our Valiant Men. Franklin, Tennessee: Private Printing, 1976.

Williamson County Courth Records. Register's and County Clerk's Offices, Williamson  
County Courthouse, Franklin, Tennessee.



Cedarmont  
 Lynch Rd.  
 Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee  
 Tax Map 1" = 800' N

5 PARTIAL NUMBER  
 7 PARTIAL AREA  
 - INTERIOR TRACT LINE  
 - C.S. LINE  
 - SUB LOT LINE  
 - PARCEL OUTLINE  
 172 AC TOTAL ACREAGE  
 SECTION CORNERS