

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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### 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 Henry Farm (additional documentation and boundary increase)  
other names/site number Henry House

#### 2. Location

street & number 305 Henry Lane NA  not for publication  
city or town Brick Mill  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Blount code 009 zip code NA

#### 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.)  
E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr. May 20, 2011  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
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 7-6-11

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## NAME

Originally listed in the National Register in 1974 as the "Henry House," this additional documentation and increased acreage includes the house, outbuildings, agricultural land, and a revised significance statement that shows agricultural and settlement patterns associated with the property. The nominated property should be renamed the "Henry Farm" to reflect these additions.

**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	5	buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
		objects
4	6	Total

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

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

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: transitional Federal and Greek Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK; WOOD

\_\_\_\_\_

roof WOOD; METAL

other WOOD

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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## DESCRIPTION

The Henry Farm is located in rural Blount County, in an area formerly called the Brick Mill Community, which is approximately 8 miles south of the Blount County seat of Maryville (pop. 23,138), ½ mile off the 411 Highway on Henry Lane, in the valley of the Little Tennessee River. Begun in 1833 and completed in 1835, the Henry House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 for its architectural importance as an example of the Federal style. This revised nomination adds outbuildings, acreage, and a more complete description of the property. Historic outbuildings on the property include a smokehouse/garage/chicken coop, a barn believed to date to the eighteenth century, and a twentieth century privy. The agricultural landscape of the Henry farm includes approximately 90 acres of fields for crops and livestock and a historic pond. The listed house, acreage, and historic outbuildings retain their historic and architectural integrity.

### Inventory:

1. Henry House (c. 1833-1835, contributing building) -- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the Henry House is a local example of a simple and restrained style of architecture perhaps best described as Tennessee Federal. It combines elements of the Federal style in its symmetry, low pitched roof, and 6/6 double-hung windows. Greek Revival elements are seen in the principal entrance with sidelights and transom. Fireplace mantels and other interior trim retain more characteristics of the Greek Revival than the more delicate Federal style of decoration. Construction on the dwelling began under the supervision of James Henry. Soon afterward, Henry died and his wife, Narcissa [Howard] Henry, completed the home in 1835.

The Henry residence is a rectangular, two-story, single-pile brick building constructed on a continuous brick foundation. An original one-story, two-room ell extends toward the west from the northern end of the structure. The side-gabled roof is covered with galvanized sheet metal. The brick is laid in common bond with headers every seventh course. The five-bay front (east) façade faces Henry Lane. The dwelling has a central hall plan with 12' tall ceilings in each of the rooms. A one-story porch with a shallow, hipped roof was added to the front of the house by the builder's son, George Washington Henry, in 1853. This porch is decorated along the top with a row of spindles held by sawn wood brackets, and is supported by four turned wood posts.

The treatment of the entryway provides the main emphasis of the façade on a Federal-style house. The Henry House features double two-paneled wood doors flanked by rectangular sidelights and surmounted by a rectangular eight-light transom. Flanking the central entrance on the first story are two wood 6/6 double-hung windows. The wood 6/6 double-hung windows on the second story are placed directly over the openings on the first story, and the front of the house presents a symmetrical appearance. Each opening has a solid wood lintel supporting the wall above it. These lintels have decorative blocks affixed to each end. A plain one-foot wide frieze board with a plain molding at the junction with the soffit completes the trim on the façade.

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The south elevation has a pair of access doors to the basement near the west wall and a small wood-framed window near the east wall of the foundation. There are no openings on the first story; on the second story there are two wood 6/6 double-hung windows, one near each corner. Each has a decorated wood lintel over it, similar to those on the façade. The trim on this elevation is very simple: fascia boards cover the end rafters and a narrow frieze board covers the top of the bricks in the gable. The interior end fireplace is flush with the outside wall and only the corbelled brick chimney at the peak of the roof indicates its presence.

The north elevation of the main house is similar to the south, except that there are two windows on the first story directly below the two windows on the second story. There are no access doors to the basement on this elevation.

An original single-story, two-room brick ell is attached to the rear of the main house at the northwest corner. A fireplace with a corbelled chimney separates the two rooms. The fireplace on the rear (west) wall of the ell addition is flush with the wall like the other two. Two small boarded-up windows flank the chimney on each side. An entry door to the basement is near the northwest corner of the ell. A small entry porch protects the door on the north wall.

A shed-roofed room was added to the south wall of the ell, c.1973, built of old brick that matches the rest of the house. The owners are currently in the process of restoring the house using the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation*. The exterior of the house appears much as it did when the property was listed in the National Register in 1973. The main alteration since nomination is the glass enclosing of the porch on the south side of the kitchen wing.

The two-story brick house remains remarkably intact and in overall stable and good condition. The original central hall portion of the house has two parlors on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second. The original ell is two rooms deep with a dining room and kitchen. The south porch of the ell was enclosed c. 1973 to create a den. The historic core of the Federal house and the interior walls, random-width poplar floors, and tongue-and-groove ceilings are in place, as are original mantels. Original four-panel wood doors and hardware remain in the core rooms. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash and panes with moderately deep surrounds. The risers and balustrade of the staircase leading from the front hall are in excellent condition. The original balustrade of the open-well stair has simple, rectangular wood balusters and paneling below the string. Original paneled wood doors with wood casings, wood baseboards, wood floors, and plaster walls and ceilings are seen throughout the house. Fireplaces are wood, with plain friezes, and simple wood mantelshelves, pilasters with capitals. The fireplaces have either been adapted for modern heating or closed off. The front entry has paneled double doors with three sidelights and an eight-light painted transom. The kitchen is not historic.

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The owners are currently addressing moisture problems in the front hall and in the second floor bedrooms and repairing plaster resulting from those leaks. The Henry House, which retains many family furnishings, has been well maintained since its placement on the National Register.

2. Carriage House (c. 1970, non-contributing building) -- A one-story carriage house with a side gable roof with a centered intersecting gable on the front was constructed where the former slave quarters once were located. Parts of the foundation for one slave house can still be seen near the carriage house. A historic garbage pit can be found near the carriage house where the driveway is currently located.

3. Cistern (unknown date, non-contributing structure, due to condition) – A historic cistern can be found to the south of the Henry House. Although it is filled in, the brick boundary is extant. The in-fill has compromised its integrity.

4. Multipurpose Barn (c.1792, c.1900, contributing building) – Family tradition holds that the well-constructed multipurpose barn has been on the farm from the beginning. The core of this 60' long X 42' wide braced timber frame center aisle barn could date to the end of the eighteenth century. It features older characteristics such as lapped sills, hewn timbers, mortised and pegged studs joined by the scribe rule technique, and half-lapped and pegged sash-sawn tapered rafters. The building rests on lightly worked limestone blocks. At unknown dates, additions were built on each side: a 10' enclosed aisle on the west and a 10' 8" lean-to on the east, supported by posts. The west side of the barn has had its siding replaced at some point in the late twentieth century. It has vertical oak planks instead of the horizontal yellow poplar weatherboards covering the rest of the structure. The three central aisles now have raised wood flooring while the side aisles' floors consist of dirt. Originally, the barn had a cupola on the south section of the roof. It was destroyed by a windstorm c. 2000. The roof is covered with galvanized sheet metal at present.

Around 1900, a narrow corn crib 13' tall was constructed adjacent to the main section of the barn on the south side and perpendicular to its long axis, forming a cross aisle. The central aisle of the main barn and the new cross passage form a T-shaped interior aisle. The new floor plan of the barn probably indicates changes in agricultural methods that were not accommodated by the older arrangement of space, namely the use and storage of farm machinery.<sup>1</sup> This newer form is referred to as an "Appalachian Barn" by some architectural historians.<sup>2</sup> These barns are usually found in the southern highlands, but their range has not been fully established. The barn on the Henry Farm started out as a traditional center aisle barn and at some point was converted into an

<sup>1</sup> Robert F. Ensminger, *The Pennsylvania Barn: Its Origin, Evolution, and Distribution in North America*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 79-81.

<sup>2</sup> Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns & Other Farm Structures*. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995), 71-72; Caneta S. Hankins and Michael T. Gavin, *Barns of Tennessee*. (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company Publishers, 2009), 34-35.

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Appalachian type barn. More research may discover whether this barn was an early prototype or merely remodeled to copy another local example.

5. Privy (c.1960, contributing building) -- The privy or outhouse sits behind the smokehouse towards the west. The tall square structure is framed and sided with oak dimension lumber and boards. It is covered with a shed type galvanized sheet metal roof. The rafter ends are capped with fascia boards. Aluminum flashing has been applied to the bottom of the walls. Openings at the top of the walls provide ventilation. The original privy was built during the construction of the house in the 1830s. Weather and other damage has forced the family to rebuild it several times over the years. The family tries to salvage wood and other materials to reuse as they rebuild. It is still used today by the construction crew who work on the property and by family members during large family gatherings.

6. Smokehouse/chicken coop/garage (c.1850s, 1910, contributing building) -- The braced-frame smokehouse is 14' wide by 20' 5" long and is built with hemlock lumber. The principal studs are hewn and the secondary ones are sawn. Three exterior walls are clad with weatherboards; the rear wall with oak planks. In 1910, two side sheds were added to the structure. The north shed extends 10 feet from the smokehouse and was used as a chicken coop for game hens. The south shed extends 12' 6" and was used as a garage on the farm when the family purchased their first car in 1920. The front section of the roof of the smokehouse is cantilevered four feet and protects the entrance on the east side. The roof is covered with galvanized sheet metal panels. A battened plank door provides access and a later 6/6 double hung window has been installed on the west wall. The floor is constructed of chestnut planks.

7. Storage shed (c. 1970s, non-contributing building) -- To the west of the smokehouse and privy is a storage shed that houses farm equipment. It has a slanted roof and five compartments that are completely open on the east side.

8. Pole Barn (c.1970s, non-contributing building) Located to the west of the multipurpose barn is a pole barn that was built c.1970s. The barn is primarily used for hay storage today.

9. Hog Houses (c. 1980s, non-contributing buildings, due to date) -- Located to the north of the storage shed are two small now-vacant hog houses constructed in the 1980s.

10. Agricultural Landscape (1792-1961, contributing site) -- As early as 1788, the founder of the farm, Samuel Henry, Jr., had established the homestead and other buildings, and planted the first crop. The land has been in agricultural production since this time. Other aspects of the landscape include trees, one of which can be seen in early images of the house. Trees line the fences that separate the domestic spaces from the agricultural. The fencing and field patterns were established in the early to mid nineteenth century. The east boundary is defined by Henry Lane which follows an ancient Native American path. The fence that divides the property on the north

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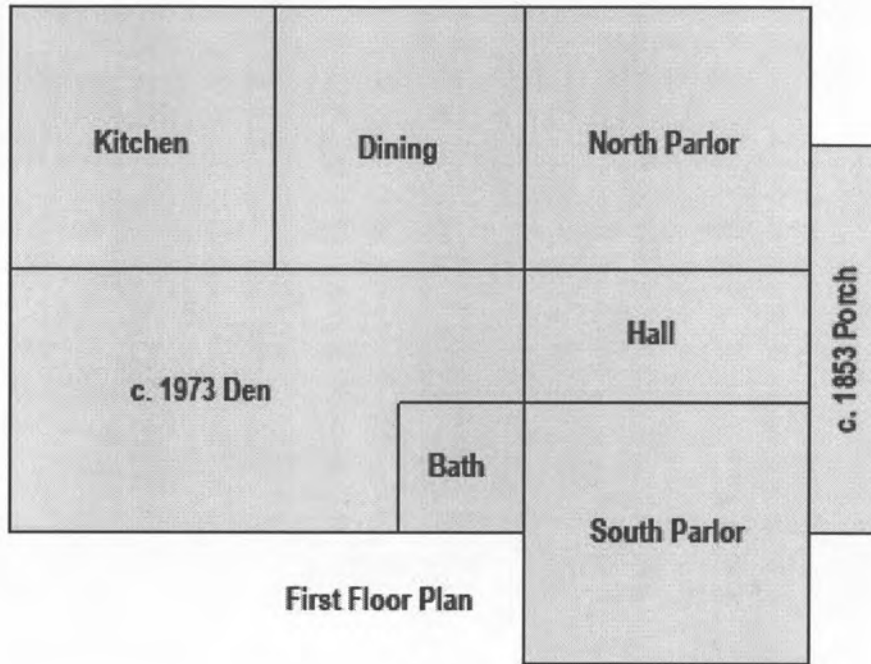
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side follows the natural features of Baker's Creek. The road and creek have served as traditional boundaries between fields since the farm was established. A natural pond lies to the southwest of the Henry House. The pond is fed by a strong spring and Baker's Creek and has always been there. Historically, bass and bluegill filled the pond, but today carp and mussels predominate.

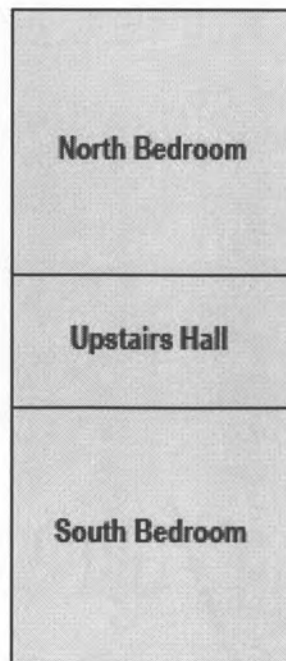
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First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

Figure 1. Henry House Floor Plan. Not to Scale.

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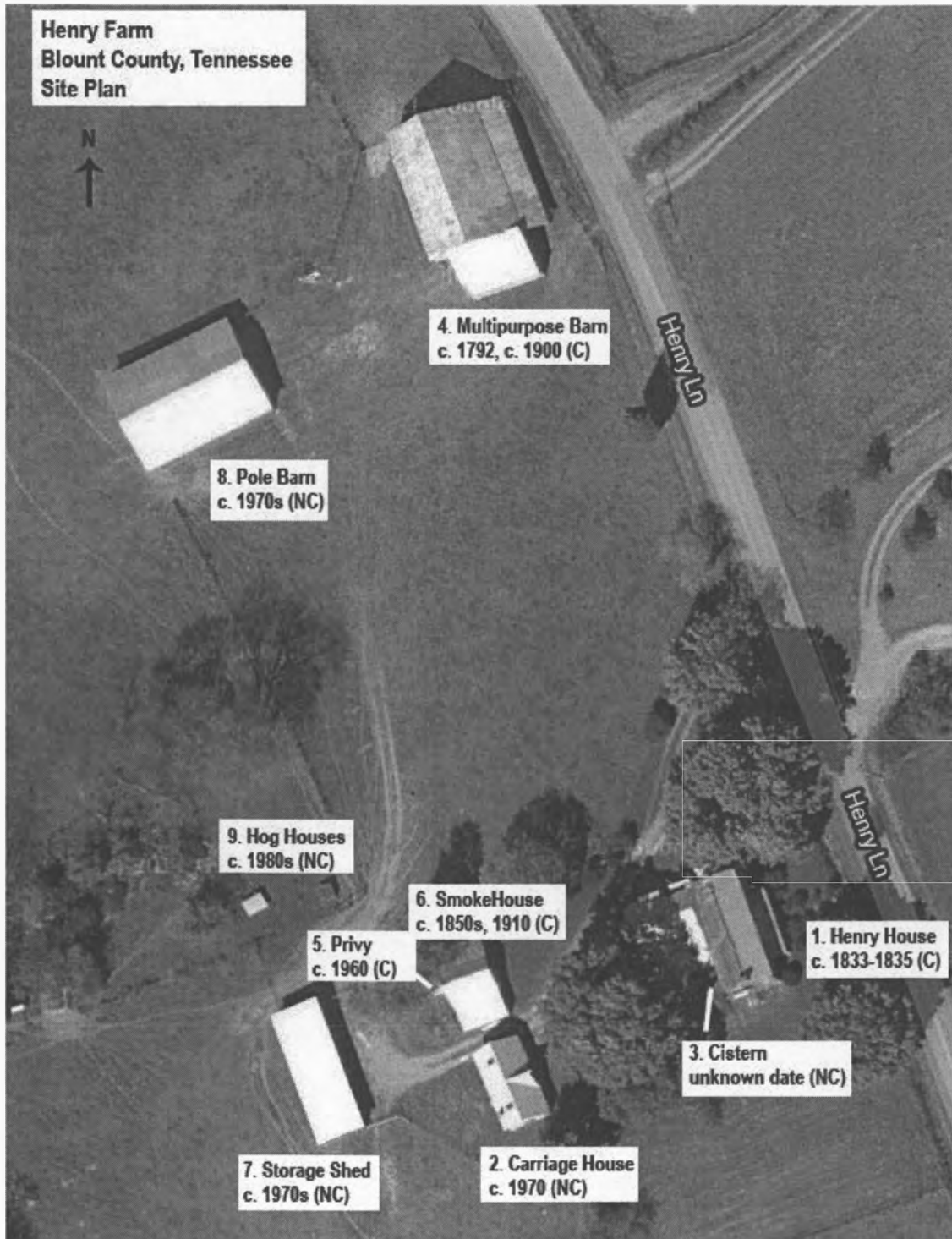


Figure 2. Henry Farm Site Plan.

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 N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1792-1961

Significant Dates

1792 founding of farm
1835 construction of house

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Lattimore, James (carpenter)

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## SIGNIFICANCE

The Henry House was listed in the National Register for architectural significance in 1974. The additional documentation spans from c. 1792 when the founder of the farm, Samuel Henry, Jr., built the multipurpose barn, through 1835 when James and Narcissa Henry built the house, and through 1961 for its agricultural importance. The Henry Farm is significant to the history of Blount County for its representation of settlement patterns and agricultural practices (criterion A) and for its architecture (criterion C). The property retains its architectural and historic integrity.

Criterion A is met by the farm's importance to the early settlement of Blount County and Tennessee. The Henry Farm was established by 1792. During this time, the land that became Blount County had not been settled and Tennessee did not exist as a state. Samuel Henry, Jr., his brothers, and neighbors were the first people to establish a settlement in this area of the frontier during the late eighteenth century. Criterion A is also met by the agricultural history of the property. This farm has been continuously owned and operated by the same family as early as 1792, four years before Tennessee became a state. Six generations later, the farm is still owned and operated by the descendants of Samuel Henry and reflects the changes in agriculture in the East Tennessee region. Criterion C applies to the house and the Appalachian type barn. Both are architecturally distinctive in the area. While the original nomination characterized the house as Federal it is more accurately defined as a transitional style with features of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The barn is an interesting example of a distinctive regional form of barn construction.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

### HENRY FAMILY

As early as 1788, the Henry family lived on this property in Blount County, Tennessee. Originally from Hanover County, Virginia, Samuel Henry, Jr., moved with his father to old Washington County, North Carolina, at the age of thirteen. In 1780, he received land grants for 200 acres on Buffalo Creek and 150 acres on Dry Creek in North Carolina for services during the Revolutionary War. James Henry, Samuel's older brother, fought at the Battle of King's Mountain, and Samuel served in Reddick's company 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment.<sup>3</sup> In 1788, Samuel Henry sold his property to John McInturf and relocated to the land on Baker's Creek in what is now Blount County, Tennessee. At the time, the area he and other settlers chose was still part of Native American territory outside the boundary that was established by the Treaty of Dumplin Creek. Before the land grant was officially signed in 1801 by Governor John Sevier, Samuel Henry had built a house,

<sup>3</sup> Blount County History Book Committee, *The History of Blount County, Tennessee and its People, 1795-1995*. (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing, 1995), 28.

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Henry's Station, several mills (one of which remained active until the 1940s)<sup>4</sup>, a church, and a barn that is still functional today on his 620 acre land grant on Baker's Creek. By 1792, he had planted the first corn crop before his family arrived from Virginia. Henry's Station soon became known as a trading post for citizens of Knoxville to exchange goods for local produce and Native American crafts after the Cherokee War ended. The only remaining building built by Samuel Henry is the barn. (Inventory # 4)

Samuel Henry's fifth son, James, acquired the land in 1822. James served as a second lieutenant during the War of 1812 in Captain John Steven's Company from 1814-1815.<sup>5</sup> With the help of his brother-in-law, James "Buck" Lattimore, Henry obtained plans and specifications from Virginia for a new house. James died shortly after construction began and it was left to his wife, Narcissa [Howard] Henry, to finish the house. It was completed in 1835 and she continued to live there until her death c.1883.<sup>6</sup> (Inventory # 1) The Henrys used slave labor to make the bricks and cut wood from nearby forests for construction of the house.

The farm went to George Washington Henry, third son of James and Narcissa. He and his wife Isabelle [Harle] Henry had eight children and continued to farm the 620 acres. After purchasing land nearby on Old Niles Ferry Pike, he built a frame house, now known as the Henry-Presley House, for his family to live in. During 1853-1855, George improved his mother's home by replacing the stone steps at the front door with a large sawn and turned wood porch, installing green shutters on the windows (gone), putting a glazed finish on the interior walls, and painting the exterior woodwork for the first time.<sup>7</sup> After his mother's death, George W. was given first option to purchase the plot of land with the house because he and his wife had sons who could inherit the land and keep it in the family.

James Duffield Henry, oldest son of George W. and Isabelle Henry, moved into the family home in 1891 with his wife of two years, Mattie Elizabeth Nuchols. Through his mother's family, James was related to George Washington, the first president of the United States. James's maternal great grandfather, George Duffield Harle, was a cousin of Washington and the family was in possession of an original copy of his will.<sup>8</sup> Five of their six children were born in the Henry house (the oldest, William G. Henry, was born in Wildwood, Tennessee). The amount of land decreased from 620 acres to 428 acres. After Mattie's death, James Duffield married Isabelle Scott Porter and they had three sons.

<sup>4</sup> Inez Burns, *History of Blount Count Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip, 1795-1955*. (Maryville, TN: BTA, 1957, revised 1988), 219.

<sup>5</sup> *Descendants of James and Samuel Henry Revolutionary War Soldier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. (Knoxville, TN: Padd Letter Service, 1962), 287.

<sup>6</sup> The dates for Narcissa Henry's death are conflicting and include 1880, 1883, 1884, and 1885.

<sup>7</sup> Leo J. Goodsell, *Architectural/Historical Assessment for Proposed Improvements to State Route 33 (US-411) from the End of the Four-Lane Section in Madisonville to State Route 115 (US-129) in Maryville: Monroe, Loudon, and Blount Counties*. (Nashville: TDOT, 1992), 27.

<sup>8</sup> *Descendants of James and Samuel Henry*, 289.

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The land with the house went to George D. Henry and his wife Beuna Hunt Henry in 1927. The family added modern utilities to the house during this time but still “kept its charm.”<sup>9</sup> They installed running water in the house. Prior to this, rainwater was captured and stored in a cistern located adjacent to the house, the remains of which can still be seen. The Henrys also signed up for electricity, which helped to increase the productivity of their farm. The Little Tennessee River had been utilized to produce electricity since early in the twentieth century by the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa). Surplus electricity was sold to businesses and farmers through subsidiaries throughout much of the valley.<sup>10</sup> By the mid-1930s, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) had entered the electric power business and began to supply “cheap electricity that could power an endless variety of labor-saving devices [which] increased the farm’s efficiency.”<sup>11</sup>

Henry increased the number of cattle that he raised for market and introduced tobacco as a new cash crop of the farm. Tobacco was grown in addition to the traditional wheat and corn crops that were ground at the mill. It was during the ownership of George D. Henry that one of the current owners, Larry French, began to work on the farm as a teenager and eventually ran the farm after he graduated high school.

The next change in ownership occurred in 1980. The house and land went to Dorothea Elizabeth Henry French (George D. and Beuna’s only child) and her husband Rue M. French. They continued to produce tobacco, cattle, and hay on the farm. Currently, the seventh generation of Henry descendents, Larry, Penny, and James French, own and operate the farm. They own 90 acres where the house and buildings are and another 27 acres across Henry Lane to the east where a tobacco barn is located (which are not included in this boundary increase).

## AGRICULTURE

The Henry family has been actively raising crops and livestock for six generations spanning two hundred years. This tradition illustrates the continuing importance of farms and agriculture to the people of the state. Like most farms in Tennessee, the Henry Farm has gone through various changes in agricultural techniques. From the subsistence farming days of Samuel Henry, Jr. to the market-oriented crops of today, this farm has followed the progressive changes that are characteristic of many Tennessee farms.

During the period of early settlement, subsistence farms were common. Farmsteads were often isolated and families had to fend for themselves. Samuel Henry, Jr., established a grist mill on his property and grew corn and grain to process and then sell in communities further down river.

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Alberta and Carson Brewer, *Valley So Wild: A Folk History*. (Knoxville: East Tennessee Historical Society, 1975), 232-248.

<sup>11</sup> Carroll V. West, *Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective* (Nashville, TN: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 1986), 75.

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During this time, other Century Farms in the area were growing hay, grain, and corn, while raising cattle, sheep, horses, and swine.<sup>12</sup> Traditionally, corn was a subsistence crop that was not sold at market.<sup>13</sup> After he received permission from the County Court to build the mill in 1815, the Henry farm's crop production became more market-driven. This occurred at a much earlier period than many other Tennessee farms. The Henry family eventually owned several gristmills, including the Brick Mill (Brick Mill Site, NR 7/25/89), in the area. During the next two generations, little changes were made the farm. The owners were George Washington Henry from c. 1880-1891 and James D. Henry from c. 1891-1927.

George D. Henry made many improvements to the farm between 1927 and the end of the period of significance in 1961. This included the introduction of electricity and running water to the house in the 1930s. He raised cattle and hogs, and grew wheat and corn during his ownership of the farm. Often, cattle and hogs were raised solely for consumption on the farm, but selling live animals or cured meat was not uncommon. The Henrys had raised commodities for market almost from the beginning. George D. Henry had introduced another cash crop, tobacco, to the land in 1927. This shows a continuance of the family's reliance on marketing the products of their farm. Historically, tobacco has been a very important crop for Tennessee farmers. Burley tobacco was the earliest type of tobacco grown in East Tennessee and it has proved to be a lucrative crop.

George D. continued to operate the farm until his grandson, Larry French, took over after he graduated high school and he continues to work the farm today.<sup>14</sup> Larry French, the primary farmer of the Henry Farm, raises cattle, feed, and tobacco, and practices crop rotation. According to the family, this practice has always been done to ensure the sustainability of the land in order to maintain a viable farm. He currently has five fields devoted to tobacco, but only two are in use during any given growing season. A particularly rich field can be found near the creek on the high ground. He also uses a portable irrigation system to water his fields.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT

During the late 1700s, Tennessee was on the frontier. In the beginning of early settlement of Blount County, Tennessee, hostilities between the settlers and Native Americans were common

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<sup>12</sup> Tennessee Century Farm Files, Blount Co., Collection held at the Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation.

<sup>13</sup> Carroll V. West, "Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1994).

<sup>14</sup> The current manager of the farm, Larry French, did not take the recent "Tobacco Buy-out." This was a part of the Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act which branched from the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. The current owners view tobacco as a heritage crop and intend to continue raising tobacco until it is no longer profitable. Larry French, the primary farmer of the Henry Farm, practices crop rotation. According to the family, this practice has always been done to ensure the sustainability of the land in order to maintain a viable farm. He currently has five fields devoted to tobacco, but only two are in use during any given growing season. A particularly rich field can be found near the creek on the high ground.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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Blount County Tennessee

occurrences. The Henry Farm was established as early as 1792 when the Multipurpose Barn was constructed. It survived attacks by Native Americans which occurred during the eighteenth century. During the brief State of Franklin period, the government signed the Treaty of Dumplin Creek with the Cherokee.<sup>15</sup> Signed at the home of Hugh Henry, Samuel Henry's brother, this 1785 agreement allowed white settlers to occupy the French Broad and Holston River area which consisted of the current Blount, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, and Sevier counties. Houston's Fort was close to the Cherokee capital and Henry's Station was located directly on the main warpath. As early as 1792, neighbors of Samuel Henry stayed at his fortified station with a detachment of militia to protect them.<sup>16</sup> The next spring, Henry's fort became a location for a meeting between Governor William Blount and the Native American Chief, John Watts. Although this meeting lasted two days, Blount reported that "Watts was friendly but that he made no promises."<sup>17</sup>

In August of that year, Watts returned with 200 warriors who surprised and captured the settlers in the fields. Tensions came to a halt when General 'Mad Anthony' Wayne defeated the Northern Confederacy of Indians and the Chickamauga towns in Tennessee were destroyed. In early November, 1794, Watts and 400 warriors met with Governor Blount at the Tellico Blockhouse and a treaty was signed. The blockhouse (which no longer stands) became the headquarters for dealing with Native Americans in the area and Samuel Henry was paid for accommodating travelers for these meetings at his station.<sup>18</sup>

After hostilities with the Native Americans ended, Henry's Station became a social center in the area. Henry built a large grist mill located approximately one-half mile from his home in 1815 with a foundation of brick hand-made on the site by his slaves. The mill used imported French-burr millstones.<sup>19</sup> "While sawmills and fulling mills were important economic contributors, no rural community could survive without having a grist mill nearby to process its grain for market."<sup>20</sup> The Brick Mill community took its name from this mill because it was the only one of its kind in the area. Samuel Henry's sons expanded the business by a wagon trade to Atlanta. Once mail routes were established, Brick Mill became a regular stop. Although the mill was torn down in the 1980s, the village remains a farm community and is now known as Greenback.

## SLAVERY

The Henry families were slaveholders before the Civil War. The bricks for the mill were made by slave labor in 1815. Samuel Henry's son, James Henry, was active in slave trading. A Blount County deed book shows that James Henry bought a "mulatto boy named Ned aged 14,

<sup>15</sup> Carolyn Sakowski, *Touring the East Tennessee Backroads*. (Winston-Salem, NC: John Blair Publisher, 1993), 250.

<sup>16</sup> Judy C. Henry, ed., *A Henry Family History: Descendants of Samuel Henry, Sr.* (Porter, TX: BTA, 2002).

<sup>17</sup> Sakowski, *Touring the East Tennessee Backroads*, 285

<sup>18</sup> Brewer and Brewer, *Valley So Wild*, 76.

<sup>19</sup> Linda B. Albert and B. Kenneth Cornett, *Blount County*. (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2010), 48.

<sup>20</sup> West, *Tennessee Agriculture*, 13.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14 Henry Farm (additional documentation and boundary increase)  
Blount County Tennessee

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'warranted to be sound and sensible in every way except in one of his arms which was sprained.'" He paid \$400 for him.<sup>21</sup> According to the 1830 federal census, James Henry, Jr. owned ten slaves, four males and six females, in all age groups.<sup>22</sup> These enslaved people worked the stone, shaped the bricks, and chopped the wood for the house of James and Narcissa Henry. Narcissa continued to own slaves until the Civil War, in fluctuating numbers. According to the 1846 tax records, she is listed as having only three slaves. In the 1860 slave schedule, she is listed as having ten slaves.<sup>23</sup> In the same census, George W. Henry, future owner of the Henry Farm, is listed as owning four male "mulatto" slaves, aged between six and thirty.<sup>24</sup> Both family members are listed as having one slave house on their respective properties. It is possible that there were two slave houses on the section of the Henry Farm still owned by the family. Although the slave houses have been torn down and the carriage house built over them, part of the foundation of at least one still exists near the carriage house and driveway.

## CIVIL WAR

East Tennessee political ideology differed from the rest of the state during the Civil War. Due to the geographical isolation and differing political opinion, a large percentage the people of the region remained loyal to the Union even after Tennessee seceded. The Henry family was divided in their allegiances during the Civil War. One father and son fought on different sides: Captain James Montgomery Henry served in Company L, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee Cavalry Regiment (US), and his son Captain William H. Henry served in Company D, 19<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry (CS).<sup>25</sup> After the war, both father and son returned home.

Civil War activity near the Henry Farm occurred around the brick mill built by Samuel Henry located approximately ½ mile from the Henry House today. According to the official Civil War records, there was considerable activity around the Brick Mill community in the fall of 1863.

After the Civil War, slave labor disappeared. However, many newly emancipated freedmen returned to the farms where they had worked previously and became paid laborers. This situation was common in Blount County immediately after the war. Later still, many owner-operated farms converted to tenant farming, but the Henry Farm did not follow this trend. The family continued to farm the land themselves.

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<sup>21</sup> Blount County, TN Deeds, 1819-1833.

<sup>22</sup> U.S Census Bureau. 1830 Federal Census.

<sup>23</sup> U.S Census Bureau. 1860 Slave Schedule.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Brewer and Brewer, *Valley So Wild*, 170.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Blount County Tennessee

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## ARCHITECTURE

The Henry House was listed in the National Register in 1974 under criterion C. Planned by James Henry, Jr., the house took two years to build and was finished in 1835 by Narcissa Henry following her husband's death. After the Native American threat had passed, business and trade had begun to expand. The four Henry sons set up wagon routes into the Cherokee Nation where they made regular trips swapping sundries for furs and hides. Farmers in the Little Tennessee valley started to improve their housing stock, and the simple log houses began to give way to finer and more stylish residences. The Henrys' brick dwelling still retains its character, detail, and symmetrical appearance.

Fashionable new houses were built in the area from wood, brick, and stone. In northern Blount County at Lowe's Ferry, James Gillespie constructed a neat Federal-style house from quarried marble in 1802 (NR 7/25/89).<sup>26</sup> Although building with stone had started dying out by 1810, many brick dwellings were erected on the local landscape as time went on. The George Bowman House (1828), the Dr. Robert P. Eaton House (1830), the John Blair House (1838), and the Robert Hughes House (c.1839) are some contemporary examples built in Blount and the surrounding counties. Braced wood frame examples of the Federal style of architecture found nearby include the Phillip Hammontree House (1810) and the Michael Robertson House (1859).<sup>27</sup>

The multipurpose barn is an interesting example of a traditional braced timber frame barn built c. 1792 that was converted in the late nineteenth-- early twentieth century to an "Appalachian" type barn by adding a shed-roofed corn crib adjacent to the south end. This addition created a cross aisle perpendicular to the existing central aisle. This covered passage provided additional work space for farmers to load and unload wagons while protected from the weather. The new floor plan indicates a change in agricultural functions from the earlier arrangement; namely, the use of more complex and larger farm equipment. The Appalachian barn is a regional barn type and can be found throughout the Upland South from West Virginia to as far west as Arkansas and Missouri.<sup>28</sup> The design of the barn "reflects a certain notion about the proper arrangement of interior barn space held by a segment of the farm population."<sup>29</sup> This notion certainly included the use, variety, and storage of modern farming equipment. Shelter, utility, and convenience must have played a role in the evolution of this barn type.

The Henry Farm retains integrity of setting, association, materials, and workmanship with its historic multipurpose barn, farmhouse, smokehouse, privy, and agricultural landscape. Because

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<sup>26</sup> Albert and Cornett, *Blount County*, 98.

<sup>27</sup> James Patrick, *Architecture in Tennessee, 1768-1897*. (Knoxville: UT Press, 1981), 81-97; Joe Spence, ed., *Landmarks of Loudon County: Its History Through Architecture*. (Glouster Point, VA: Hallmark Publishing Company, 1997), 23, 111, 57, 135, 137, 76.

<sup>28</sup> Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 71.

<sup>29</sup> Hankins and Gavin. *Barns of Tennessee*, 34.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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the house is already listed on the National Register, the additional acreage encompassing the agricultural landscape and related building provide a broader and more contextual assessment of the Henry Farm. The farm maintains its historic significance in architecture from the previous nomination and adds significance in agriculture and settlement of the area.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Blount County Tennessee

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Blount County Tennessee

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U.S Census Bureau. 1860 Slave Schedule

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Henry Farm (additional documentation and boundary increase)  
Name of Property

Blount County Tennessee  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 93.07 acres Binfield 138 NE

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>761612</u>	<u>3951925</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>761365</u>	<u>3950794</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>762002</u>	<u>3951003</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>760940</u>	<u>3951594</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 Michael Thomas Gavin/Preservation Specialist & Sara Rieger/Graduate Research Assistant  
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date August 2010  
street & number Box 80 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 Ginna, James, and Larry French  
street & number 2029 Rivergate Dr. telephone (865)202-8764  
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37920

**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 Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Blount County Tennessee

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## BOUNDARY

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes approximately 93 acres identified as parcels 100 004.00 and 100 004.01 on the attached Blount County Tax Maps. The nominated property is bounded Henry Lane on the east and adjacent agricultural parcels on the south, west, and north.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated property contains all of the extant acreage historically associated with the property still owned by a descendant of Samuel Henry.

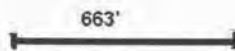
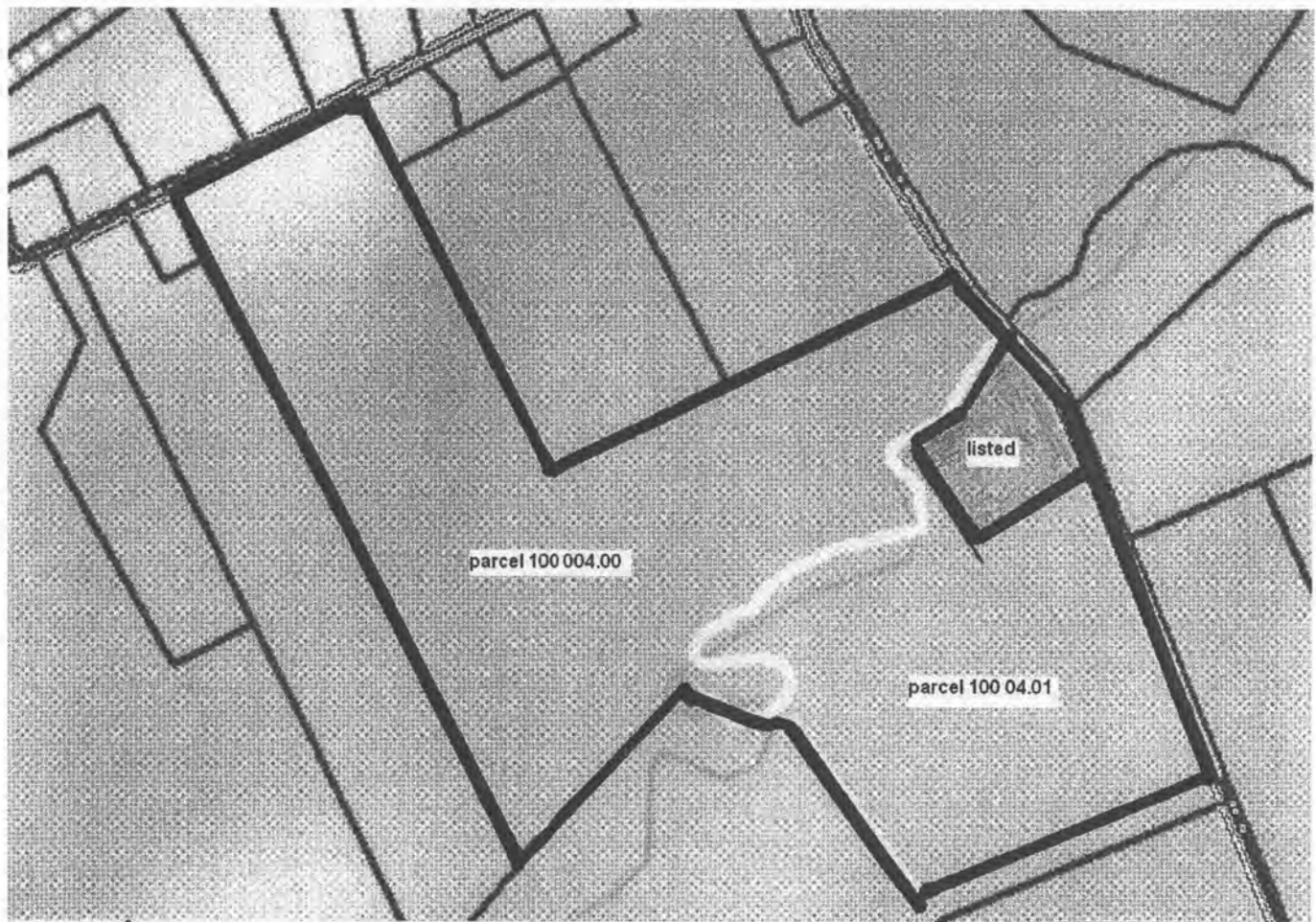
The original National Register listing for the house had four undefined acres. These were defined in 1992. The expanded boundary includes 93 acres that supports the agricultural significance of the property.

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Tax map



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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Blount County Tennessee

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs by: Michael Gavin, Caneta Hankins, and Sara Rieger  
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: July 2010

Digital Files: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

- 1 of 27 Henry House (inventory #1), east façade and south elevation, photographer facing northwest
- 2 of 27 Henry House, south elevation, photographer facing north
- 3 of 27 Henry House, north and west elevations, photographer facing southeast
- 4 of 27 Henry House, stair hall, photographer facing east
- 5 of 27 Henry House, stair hall, photographer facing west
- 6 of 27 Henry House, stair hall, detail of stairs
- 7 of 27 Henry House, stair hall, detail of door into South Parlor
- 8 of 27 Henry House, south parlor, photographer facing southwest
- 9 of 27 Henry House, north parlor, photographer facing north
- 10 of 27 Henry House, dining room, photographer facing north
- 11 of 27 Henry House, kitchen, photographer facing east
- 12 of 27 Henry House, c. 1973 den, detail of exterior wall of original ell
- 13 of 27 Henry House, upstairs hall, photographer facing east
- 14 of 27 Henry House, south bedroom, photographer facing southwest
- 15 of 27 Henry House, north bedroom, photographer facing north
- 16 of 27 Carriage House (inventory #2), photographer facing southwest

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number           photos    Page      22      Henry Farm (additional documentation and boundary increase)  
Blount County Tennessee

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- |          |                                                                                                                                |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 of 27 | Cistern (inventory #3), photographer facing northeast                                                                          |
| 18 of 27 | Multipurpose Barn (inventory #4), photographer facing northwest                                                                |
| 19 of 27 | Multipurpose Barn, photographer facing northeast                                                                               |
| 20 of 27 | Multipurpose Barn, detail of East Wall                                                                                         |
| 21 of 27 | Privy (inventory #5), photographer facing northeast                                                                            |
| 22 of 27 | Smokehouse (inventory #6), photographer facing west                                                                            |
| 23 of 27 | Storage Shed (inventory #7), photographer facing west                                                                          |
| 24 of 27 | Pole Barn (inventory #8), photographer facing west                                                                             |
| 25 of 27 | Agricultural Landscape (inventory #10), photographer facing north from domestic complex toward Pole Barn and Multipurpose Barn |
| 26 of 27 | Agricultural Landscape, general view northwest of domestic complex                                                             |
| 27 of 27 | Agricultural Landscape, view of pond southwest of domestic complex                                                             |

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Images from the 1973 National Register nomination



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Henry Farm (additional documentation and boundary increase)  
Blount County Tennessee

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Henry Farm (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Blount

DATE RECEIVED: 5/27/11      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/17/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/05/11      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/12/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000417

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    7-6-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.













































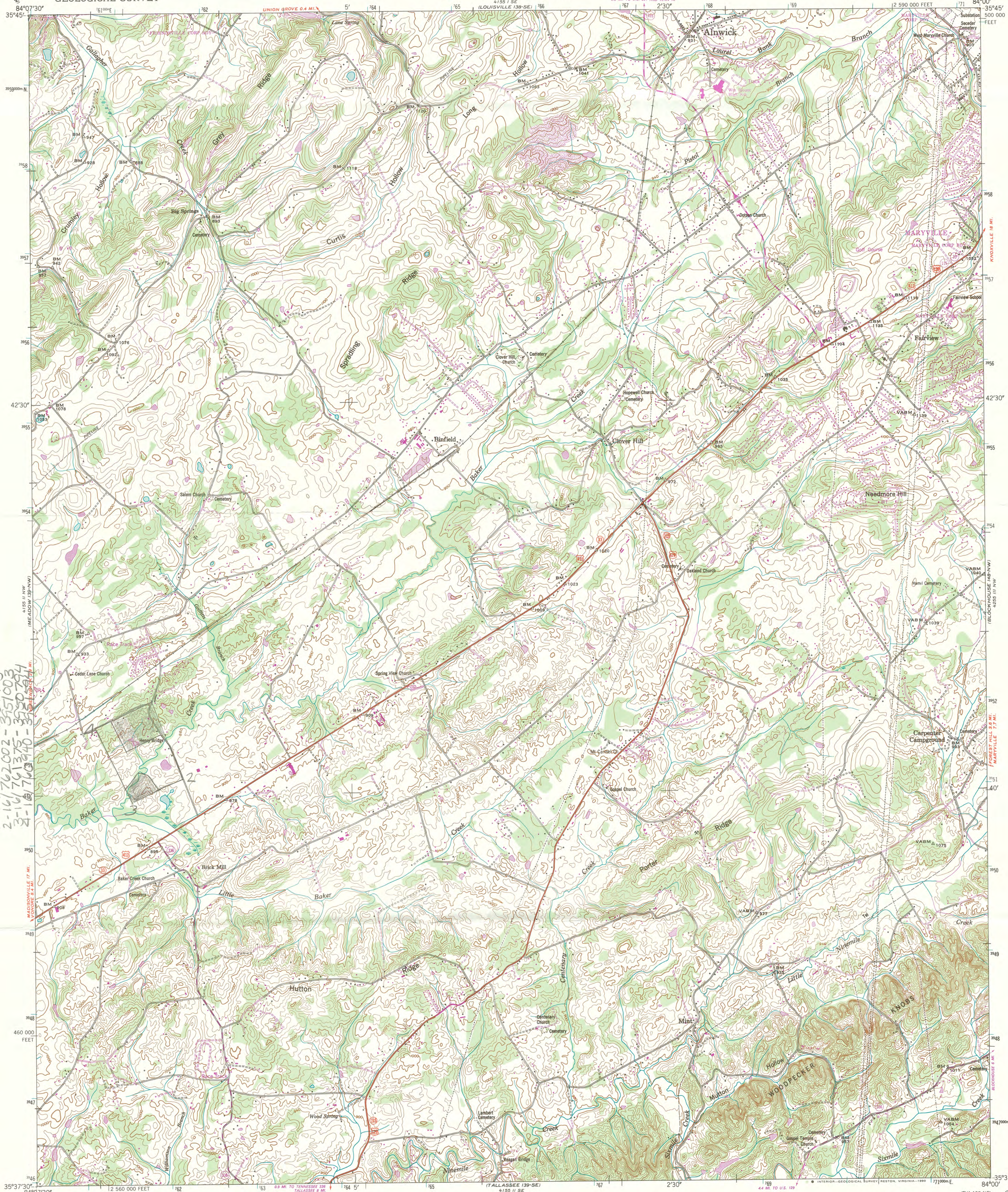












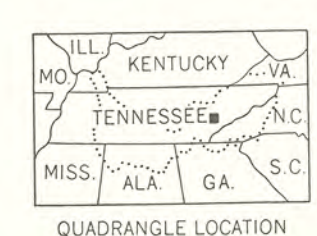
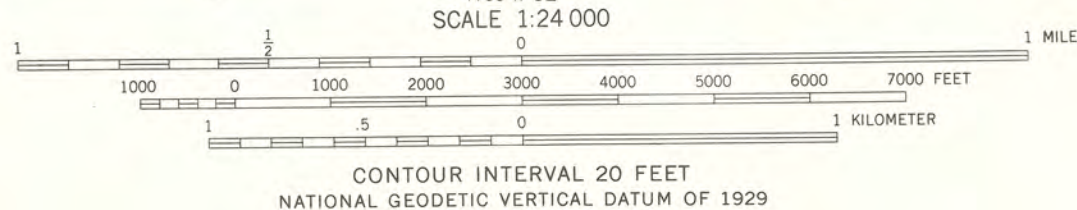
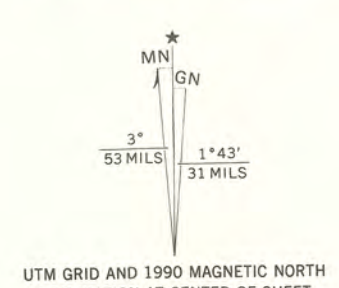
Henry Farm (additional documentation  
of boundary increase)  
Blount County, TN  
1-161 761612 - 3951925  
2-161 762002 - 3951003  
3-161 761375 - 3950794  
4-161 760340 - 3950594

Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority  
Published by the Geological Survey

Revised by TVA in 1952 by photogrammetric methods using aerial photographs taken 1952 and by reference to TVA-USGS quadrangle dated 1941. Map field checked by TVA, 1952

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Tennessee coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum  
To place on the North American Datum 1983 move the graphic lines 9.0 meters south and 8.4 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine purple dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION (TVA 139-NE)

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

   Interstate Route   
    U. S. Route   
    State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, DIVISION OF GEOLOGY, NASHVILLE, TENN. 37243  
AND U.S. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 37402  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Tennessee Valley Authority from aerial photographs taken 1985 and other sources  
This information not field checked. Map edited 1990

**BINFIELD, TENN.**  
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1952  
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\$ 6.00  
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**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442  
(615) 532-1550



May 20, 2011

Carol Shull  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service  
National Register Branch  
1201 Eye Street NW  
8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the documentation to nominate the *Henry Farm* to the National Register of Historic Places. The Henry House was listed in the National Register in 1974 and this new documentation adds acreage and areas of significance.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Claudette Stager at 615/532-1550, extension 105 or [Claudette.stager@tn.gov](mailto:Claudette.stager@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM:cs

Enclosures