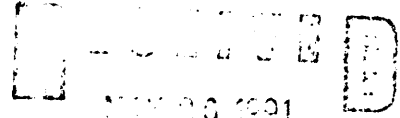


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence  
other names/site number Singleton Tavern

2. Location

street & number 115 Dr. Jackson Road N/A not for publication  
city, town Wartrace x vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Bedford code 003 zip code 37183

3. Classification

|   |   |                                     |                        |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ownership of Property                       | Category of Property                            | Number of Resources within Property |                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing                        | Noncontributing        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <u>3</u>                            | <u>0</u> buildings     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <u>    </u>                         | <u>    </u> sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <u>    </u>                         | <u>    </u> structures |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>3</u>                            | <u>0</u> objects       |
|   |   |                                     | <u>    </u> Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Herbert E. Sawyer 5/15/91  
Signature of certifying official 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.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 6/24/91  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
for Signature of the Keeper  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

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

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Federal Influence

Greek Revival Influence

**Materials (enter categories from instructions)**

foundation limestone, concrete

walls weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other BRICK

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence, a circa 1790 tavern with a circa 1850 residence addition, is located in northeast Bedford County, Tennessee, about fourteen miles northeast from Shelbyville, four miles northeast from Wartrace, and five miles east from Bell Buckle. Situated in the heart of the unincorporated community of Fairfield, Tennessee, the Tavern/Residence is a one-and-one-half story, simple, frame example of Federal-influenced architecture. The Tavern/Residence actually consists of two buildings: a circa 1790 Tavern with a front, circa 1850, addition. The two buildings are connected with a one-story, enclosed dog-trot. The property is bounded on the west by the Garrison Fork of the Duck River, on the south by a road, and to the north and east by farmland. The property is virtually unchanged since its circa 1850 addition, and it retains a high degree of integrity in its location, setting, feeling, and association with its early owners, Robert L. and Elizabeth Sarah Scott Singleton.

A physical description of the structure begins with the oldest portion that served the community and travelers as a tavern, built circa 1790 by a Mr. Heidt. The Heidt Tavern is a symmetrically-arranged weatherboard structure with a side gable roof of asphalt shingles. The Heidt Tavern rests on a cut limestone foundation, as does the circa 1850 addition. Two massive limestone exterior chimneys are located in the east and west gable ends of the Tavern; the chimney to the east side has been partially rebuilt with brick (brick beginning about one third of the way up), while the chimney in the west gable has had its cap replaced with brick. Narrow multi-paned casement windows are situated in each gable end in the attic rooms. The chimney in the east gable end is flanked by windows on the first floor: one four-over-four double hung sash and one six-paned sliding window. The chimney in the west gable is flanked, on the first floor, by a wooden door opening to a small shed porch, a circa 1920 modification, and by a six-over-six double hung window. According to the present caretaker, a portion of the caretaker's cottage, which is presently located about fifty yards west of the Tavern, was at one time attached to the Tavern's side, where this small shed porch is now, and served the family as a kitchen. This move was an early twentieth century alteration, approximately 1920. The Tavern's northern rear (its window and door configuration appear to be slightly altered) features a central, shed porch protecting the rear entrance, a wooden door and two four-paned stationary windows. Windows

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2 Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence

flank this rear porch; one four-over-four double hung sash and one nine-over-nine double hung sash. These windows, while located in their original opening, appear to be early twentieth century replacements.

The circa 1850 addition, the Singleton Residence, is attached to the facade (southern wall) of the Heidt Tavern, facing the road, and is similar in style, scale, and workmanship to the Tavern, creating a harmonious structure. Its symmetrical facade is broken by a projecting central Greek Revival-influenced, gable porch. The columns supporting the porch gable, however, rest on brick piers, certainly a circa 1900 construction method. The central porch is covered with flush boarding, rather than weatherboard. The porch gable end and the upper one fourth of the facade also feature flush board siding. The rest of the structure is constructed of weatherboard, as is the Tavern. The asphalt shingled end gable roof line is broken by two interior brick chimneys. Two identical nine-over-nine windows are situated to each side of the central porch. In the east gable side, a nine-over-nine window is found and is identical to those in the facade. In the west gable end, a wooden paneled and glass paned door with a transom, opens to a side porch, a circa 1950 replacement to the original window. The foundation of the circa 1950 side porch is supported by concrete blocks; a variety of glass bottles laid side-on-side, held in place with cement, fill the space between the concrete block piers. This unique, interesting, and individual treatment shows no sign of structural support, but is found again in the west rear of the caretaker's cottage.

The two structures, the circa 1790 Tavern and the circa 1850 Residence, are connected by a dog-trot/breezeway enclosure. This connection was not, originally, enclosed but for security reasons was enclosed circa 1930. This simple, narrow connection with windows and doors in both the east and west sides is recessed from both the Residence (approximately fifteen feet on the west elevation and approximately thirteen feet on the east elevation) and the Tavern (approximately one foot on each elevation), and is not apparent from the property's entrance.

The interior of the circa 1790 Tavern is composed of two main rooms, with two small baths, a small hall, and kitchen within an area that might have originally served as a rear entrance. Upstairs are sleeping quarters, two small rooms. The two main rooms, original to the Tavern's construction, on the first floor are quite large with twelve foot ceilings of wide plank boards, wide plank hardwood floors, walls of paper over tongue and groove set above four foot high wainscotting, and a large fireplace in each room. The bedroom in the northwest side is slightly smaller than the main,

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence

"tavern," room. The door into the bedroom, a wooden, single leaf, paneled door with a glass pane above the panel, is located in the northwest rear wall. The large fireplace is also located in the western wall; it is brick with a stone hearth surrounded by a large (approximately five and one-half feet tall) wooden paneled mantle, a narrow mantle shelf. One window, six-over-six, is located to the southwest of the fireplace. Another original window, in the room's southern wall, features four-over-four lights, and rests on a paneled, hinged opening. Two large wooden six-paneled interior doors are original elements; one is located in the eastern wall, into the main room, and one is located in the north wall, into the bath.

To the north<sup>^</sup> rear of this bedroom is a small rectangular bath. The bath features the same wide plank boards on the floor, but the walls and ceiling are covered with modern sheets of paneling. One window, a small modern four-light sliding window, is located in the west wall.

A small store room, access through a small wooden door (approximately four feet), is situated underneath the enclosed stair well in the northwest corner of the bedroom.

The "tavern" room is the second, larger room on the first floor. It is clearly considered, with its more decorative elements, the room for formal entertaining or dining. The large rectangular room also has wide plank board flooring and plank ceiling, identical plain baseboards about six inches wide, papered walls above wainscotting; the crown mold, however, is heavier and turned for a more decorative appearance and the mantle surrounding the fireplace is more elaborate with wooden panels and pilasters supporting the mantle shelf. The fireplace, in the east side, is flanked by windows; one four-over-four light double hung sash and one six-light sliding window. A large six-paneled wooden door leads to the north rear area which has been divided into three rooms: a hall, a bath, and a kitchen. The door from the tavern's main room leads into the small hall. to the west is a small modern bath, with vinyl floors and paneled walls, and a small four-over-four light window in the north wall. To the east is the modern kitchen; a long narrow room with modern paneling, vinyl floors, and two windows, one nine-over-nine lights to the north and one six-over-nine lights to the east. A wooden door in the north wall provides an exit from the tavern's rear. The enclosed stairs to the second floor are located in this rear hall; a small wooden primitive door encloses the steep stairway.

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 4 Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence

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Two attic rooms are located on the Tavern's second floor. Separated by the stair hall, these rooms are directly above the bedroom and dining room below, but are located under the Tavern's rafters, and the rooms are low and narrow with steep sloping ceilings. The floors on the second floor are similar to those on the first floor - wide hardwood planks. The walls and ceilings have been covered with modern paneling. Two small casement windows are located on either side of the chimney in the east and west gable ends. In the east bedroom, the windows have twelve lights, in the west bedroom the windows have six lights.

The dog-trot/breezeway connection between the circa 1790 Tavern and the circa 1850 Singleton Residence addition, is reached through the Tavern's front door, an original element, a heavy wooden door with its original hardware. The exterior weatherboarding of the Tavern and addition make up the interior walls. The ceiling's rafters are left exposed. The floors are hardwood planks. When the dog-trot was enclosed, circa 1930, windows and doors were placed in the east and west sides so that the space could be open to the summer breeze.

A wooden, double door, with vertical panels, leads into the circa 1850 Singleton Residence addition. The addition contains three large rooms and one small bath, a modern adaptation. A large central hall, with ceilings of approximately twenty feet, forms the core of the addition. Within this hall are four doors; the double door to the north rear dog-trot/breezeway, the entrance double leaf wooden door with vertical panels and enhanced by an etched diamond-paned transom and sidelights set on wooden panels, and two wooden interior single leaf doors, identical in size and detail, into the east and west bedrooms.

The east bedroom is a large rectangular room with twenty foot ceilings of hardwood boards, wide plank floors, papered walls, two windows (nine-over-nine lights), one in the east side and the other in the south facade, and a large interior fireplace in the west interior wall. The bedroom in the west side is almost identical; a large fireplace in the interior wall, a nine-over-nine light window in the facade, twenty foot ceilings, and wide board floors. In the western, exterior wall the original window has been replaced with a wooden and glass door with a transom leading to a side porch. A small wooden door in the northeast corner of the bedroom leads into a small bath, a circa 1950 modification.

The property contains the caretaker's residence, a contributing building, and a barn/garage, circa 1900, also a contributing building. According to the present caretaker, a portion of the caretaker's residence was attached

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 5 Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence

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to the northwest side of the Tavern. After its removal, circa 1920, about fifty yards to the west, two additional rooms were added to the north side and west rear. The caretaker's residence is a small tin, gable roofed, board and batten cottage, with shed roofs over an open side porch to the south, entry porch to the east, and an addition to the north. The shed/barn/garage is a three bay, plank barn with a front gable roof (tin) with shed extensions to the west and east.

The Tavern/Residence is located in a rural area of Bedford County, bounded on the west by the Garrison Fork of the Duck River, on the south by a road, and on the north and east by farmland. The property's integrity is enhanced through its rural, riverside setting; several mature trees surround the buildings and pasture land extends to the east and north. A mill, recently completely reconstructed, but sited on its original, early nineteenth century location, on the west side of the river, adds to the setting, although it is not included in the boundaries. While the original Singleton acreage was reduced in a 1920s sale to its current 2.46 acres, the property retains an untampered association with its rural environment.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1790-1830

ca. 1850-1920

Significant Dates

ca. 1790

ca. 1850

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence, situated alongside the Garrison River in Fairfield, Tennessee, fourteen miles northeast of Bedford County's seat of government at Shelbyville, is significant in the county's history as one of the earliest surviving examples (believed to be the earliest extant) of accommodations within the county for travelers. In addition to its historical contribution with regard to housing the visitor, as the Heidt Tavern, the Singleton Residence is significant for its architecture, clearly and distinctly exhibiting the evolution of the circa 1790 tavern into an 1850's residence. For its early contribution to the history of Bedford County as an operating tavern for approximately thirty to forty years, and as an architectural example from Bedford County's antebellum period of the transition from commercial to private use in approximately 1840 to 1850, the Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C.

The unincorporated town of Fairfield is one of the oldest towns in Bedford County; Fairfield is in the county's first district. Early settlers along the old Nashville-Chattanooga trace found a good mill site on the Garrison Fork of the Duck River; one was erected on the east side of Garrison Fork by a Mr. Heidt, who also operated a store, post office, and tavern. Mr. Heidt's tavern, circa 1790, exists today as the rear portion of the circa 1850 Singleton Residence.

Fairfield, in its formative days, consisted of two towns. The west side of the Garrison Fork, called Petersburg, was owned by Dr. James L. Armstrong. The land on the east side of the Garrison, where the Tavern is located, was owned by William Henry Davis and was called Fairfield. Fairfield and Petersburg merged into one town, Fairfield, by the 1830s. Henry Davis bought the mill, post office, presumably the tavern, and land from the previous owner, Heidt. Around 1840, William Henry Davis sold this land, approximately 165 acres, to Dr. Robert L. Singleton. Dr. Singleton, a practicing physician, married Elizabeth Sarah Scott, the daughter of another family of Fairfield settlers. Singleton also operated the mill

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 2.46 acres

UTM References

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Zone      Easting      Northing

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Wartrace, TN 78 SE

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence is shown on the accompanying Middle Grand Division, Bedford County, Tennessee Tax Assessor's maps number 53 and 54 as lot 17.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries include the Tavern/Residence, barn, and caretaker's house. It is bounded on the northeast and east by pastureland, on the south by Dr. Jackson Road, and on the west by the Garrison Fork of the Duck River. The boundary includes sufficient land to protect the integrity of the nominated property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lynn Hulan, Historic Preservation Consultant  
organization Hulan Johnson, Inc. date May 1991  
street & number P.O. Box 245 telephone (615) 389-6131  
city or town Wartrace state TN zip code 37183



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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2 Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence

until a period during the Civil War in which Fairfield was captured by the Union Army; to prevent the mill being used by the Confederates, the gears were destroyed. After the war, the mill was moved to the west side of the Garrison Fork where a reconstructed version serving as a residence stands today. The mill site and the Heidt Tavern/Singleton Tavern are all that exists on the landscape from that early nineteenth century settlement period. There is, in addition, a human connection as descendants of the Singleton/Scott family own the property which includes the Tavern/Singleton residence, a garage/barn, and a caretaker's cottage.

By 1830, town lots for Fairfield were laid off. Petersburg lost its separate identity; it all became one village, Fairfield. Between 1830 and the 1850s Fairfield was one of the most flourishing towns in Bedford County with a mill, a cotton gin, a wool carding mill, a saw mill, a general store with a post office, blacksmiths, doctors, a tanyard, schools, and churches. Fairfield, however, suffered an economic setback which led to its decline when, in the early 1850s, the newest mode of transportation, the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, bypassed Fairfield for the Bell Buckle and Wartrace route to Chattanooga. It was about that same time, in the 1850s, that Dr. Singleton built another house in front of the older tavern, and connected the two with a dog-trot type connection.

The Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence is maintained in excellent condition and retains its integrity of location and feeling. The Tavern's location, in a rural, water-oriented spot with convenient access to a scenic highway, reminds an observant and sensitive traveler of a nineteenth century community stop-over. The design and materials of the Tavern and Residence are intact, with minor alterations such as a re-built chimney in the east gable end and some interior twentieth-century adaptations. In addition, the Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence is today associated with an owner whose families were the early nineteenth century settlers, the Scotts and Singletons, of Fairfield, Tennessee.

The Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence represents a period of Bedford County's history that is no longer abundant on its landscape. Resources such as the Tavern are disappearing. The Martin House, a circa 1810 residence, (NR 4/14/72) is very close to the Singleton Residence, both physically, within two miles, and in age. The Martins contributed, as well, to the growth of Fairfield, not only by their economic presence in the community, but by establishing an early school, the Martin School, in 1828. A stage coach stop, Chockley Hall, circa 1852, in Wartrace (four and one-half miles to the southwest of Fairfield), built by Jessye Chockley, is another type of early housing for the traveler. Chockley Hall is extant

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and today a residence. The Walking Horse Hotel, circa 1907, (NR 7/19/84), is, of course, a much later addition to the evolution of the travel business; it is a direct response to the needs of the railroad traffic and operates today in its original form and function. The Holland House, a circa 1810 log tavern built in Shelbyville by William O. Whitney and frequented by such famous Tennesseans as Andrew Jackson, was demolished in the early 1960s.

For its contribution to Bedford County's architectural history, the Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence represents a simple side gable plan that is quite different from the county's other earliest residences: the Martin House is a large two story brick (bricks were hand-made on the land), circa 1810, considered a fine home when built; the Jeremiah Cleveland House is a circa 1830s frame residence with a low hipped roof. In its physical appearance, the Singleton Tavern is most similar to a property in Shelbyville, the Alexander Eakin House, a circa 1833 cottage, (NR 4/23/90, East Shelbyville Historic District). The Tavern's original use as lodging for paying guests might account for its less decorative exterior appearance. The circa 1850s addition is appropriate in scale and style, and in keeping with the original Tavern structure's materials and workmanship.

The Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its contribution to Bedford County's history as the single surviving example of the county's earliest tavern, and for its architectural contribution to Bedford County as an antebellum structure, converting from commercial to private use. In addition, the Tavern's architectural elements are virtually intact and are valuable contributions to the architectural heritage of Bedford County's landscape. The Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence is nominated to the National Register under Criteria A and C.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   2   Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 2

Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence

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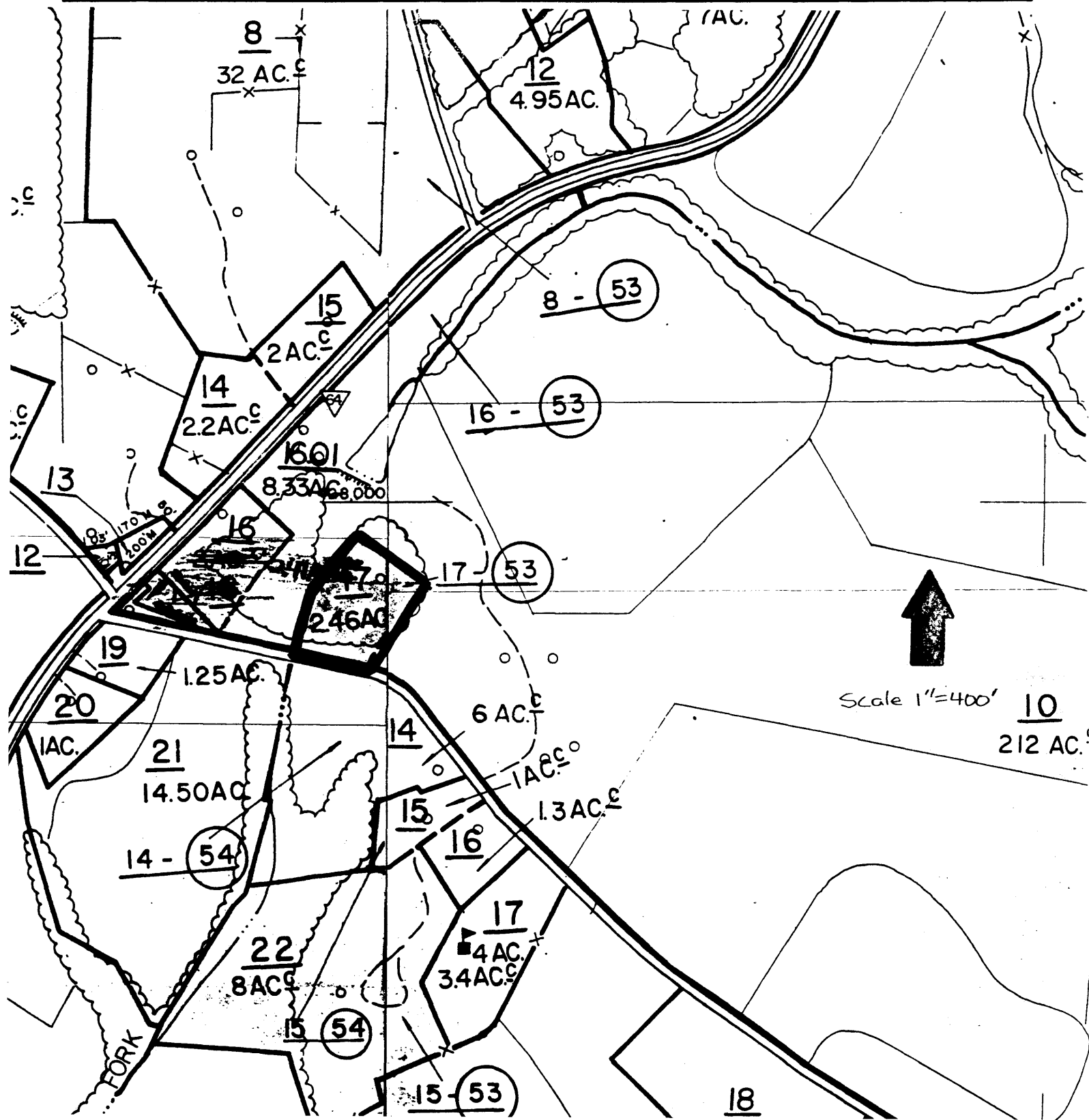
The tax map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service. To supplement this map, the nomination includes a detailed verbal boundary description.

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Section number 10 Page 3

Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence



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Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence  
Wartrace vicinity, Bedford County, Tennessee  
Photos By: Lynn Hulan  
Date: December 1990/January 1991  
Negs: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

Facing northwest, overview  
#1 of 20

Facing north, south facade  
#2 of 20

Facing north, south facade  
#3 of 20

Facing southwest, east elevation  
#4 of 20

Facing southeast, west elevation and north elevation  
#5 of 20

Facing east, west elevation, detail of original chimney  
#6 of 20

Facing south, north elevation  
#7 of 20

Detail of porch, south facade  
#8 of 20

Facing west, east facade, caretaker's cottage  
#9 of 20

Facing north, barn  
#10 of 20

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photos \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2 Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence

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Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence  
Wartrace vicinity, Bedford County, Tennessee  
Photos By: Wanda Johnson  
Date: February 1991  
Negs: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

Interior detail, facing southwest, entry, ca. 1850 residence  
#11 of 20

Interior detail, facing southwest, fireplace, ca. 1850 residence  
#12 of 20

Interior detail, facing east, fireplace, ca. 1850 residence  
#13 of 20

Interior detail, facing northwest, original ca. 1790 tavern window  
configuration within dogtrot  
#14 of 20

Interior detail, facing east, ca. 1790 Tavern Main Room  
#15 of 20

Interior, facing east, fireplace, ca. 1790 Tavern  
#16 of 20

Interior detail, facing south, ca. 1790 Tavern, bedroom  
#17 of 20

Interior detail, facing northeast, ca. 1790 Tavern, bedroom  
#18 of 20

Interior detail, facing northwest, ca. 1790 Tavern, fireplace  
#19 of 20

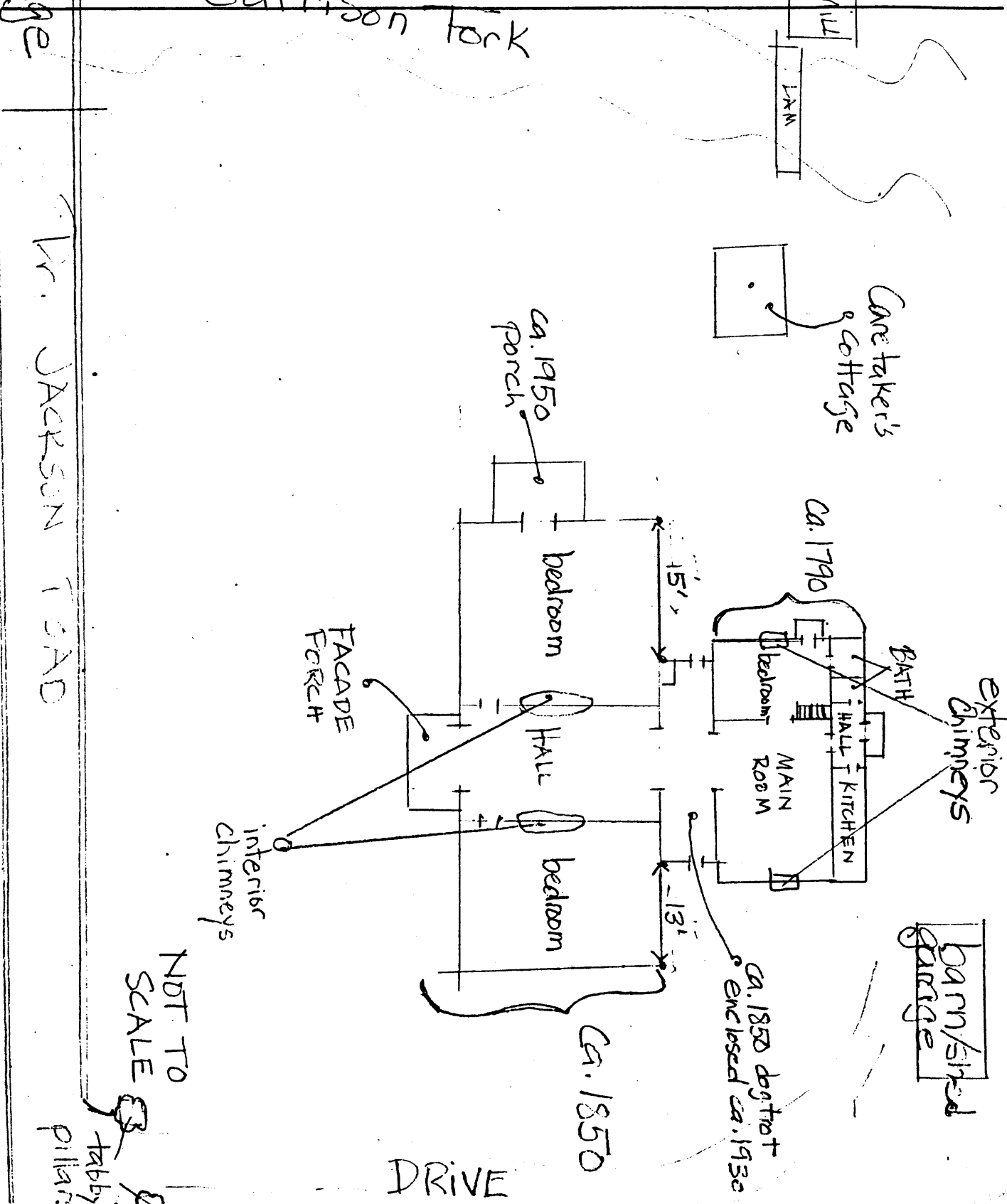
Interior detail, facing west, ca. 1790 Tavern, second floor  
#20 of 20

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

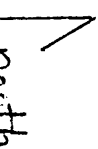
Section number          Page         

Heidt Tavern/Singleton Residence



Mr. JACKSON ROAD

NDT TO  
SCALE



tabby  
pillar

DRIVE