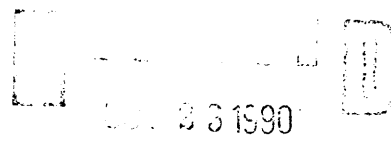


1763

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 Fleming, John M., Home Place other names/site number Duke Farm

2. Location

street & number 1545 South Byhalia Road city, town Collierville state Tennessee code TN county Shelby code 157 zip code 38017

[x] not for publication [x] vicinity

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- [x] private [] public-local [] public-State [] public-Federal

Category of Property

- [] building(s) [x] district [] site [] structure [] object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

-0-

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 [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: Michael L. Boyer

Date: 10/16/90

State or Federal agency and bureau Deputy SHPO, Tenn. Hist. Comm.

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:

- [x] 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: Amy Federman

Date of Action: 12/6/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/secondary dwellingDOMESTIC/secondary dwellingAGRICULTURE/outbuildingAGRICULTURE/outbuildingAGRICULTURE/agricultural fieldAGRICULTURE/agricultural fieldFUNERARY/cemetery**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Greek Revival/Italianatefoundation BRICKwalls WOOD/weatherboardroof ASPHALTother Cast Iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheet

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Section number _____ Page _____

Property Owners

1. Preston and Emily Duke
1545 South Byhalia Road
Collierville, TN 38017
(901) 853-2454
2. Mrs. Paul Duke
3535 Kirby Road
Apt. L-308
Memphis, TN 38115
(901) 365-1445
3. Betty Duke Dickert
2112 Sheffield Street
Kingsport, TN 37660
(615) 288-2273

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The J. M. Fleming Farm surrounds its well-preserved example of a transitional Greek Revival/Italianate plantation home dating from ca. 1850. The farm contains a diverse collection of agricultural tenant houses, outbuildings, sites and related land features that offer a rare opportunity for insight into agricultural land planning and development practices as they evolved through the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century in western Tennessee.

Located on three hundred and eighteen acres of gently rolling terrain overlooking the Nonconnah Creek Bottoms (or marshes) in the extreme southeastern corner of Shelby County near its border with the State of Mississippi, the farm is one of the few surviving agricultural operations within the area known as the Western Chickasaw Cession, an area of Mississippi ceded to Tennessee in 1836. As opposed to the meets and bounds form of land division in Tennessee, the Cession lands were originally surveyed employing the Jeffersonian pattern of range, township and section. When ceded to Tennessee, the pattern remained in effect as it does today. As such, the land of the Cession is the only portion of the State of Tennessee that exhibits strict adherence to this form of land division.

The Fleming Home Place was established on a full section of land, though the main residence and farm complex was centered in the northern half section. The property in nomination includes all of the contiguous acreage of the Fleming Home Place since 1888, with the exception of two one-acre portions separated from the north western corner of the property in 1890 and 1904.

The rectangular property is oriented east-west within the larger section, range and township grid. The property is internally divided into sixths by two north-south longitudinal axes and a single central east-west axis. The main residence for the farm was placed at center on the east-west axis near its intersection with the easternmost of the north-south axes. The drive entering the property from Byhalia Road was established on the eastern portion of the east-west axis; the drive divides a large wooded area created from the north and south halves of the eastern two-sixths of the property. The lot for the house and its complex of outbuildings was created from two small divisions of the middle two-sixths of the property; each

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of these lots forms and equal one-twentieth of the larger division.

The existing pattern of field lines and lanes largely maintains the historical pattern to the present. Aerial photographs from 1937 suggest that crop lands were divided early on by little more than a narrow, untilled berms as opposed to board fences, rail fences or complete hedgerows. Since these fields were largely used for cotton and other crop cultivation, formal fences or hedgerows were unnecessary except where adjacent to pastures. Similar informal divisions of crop lands are still common in the Mid-South region. An important part of the existing field pattern is its system of man-made ponds to provide water for the stock and to control run-off. Each field was provided with its own pond; through time, the locations of some of these features may have changed as they became silted-in. While it is only suspected that the ponds were a part of the original antebellum development pattern, they remain as important features of the agricultural evolution of the property through its historic period.

Structures supporting the farm include tenant houses and other outbuildings built through time. It appears that much of the original antebellum pattern for these features appears to have passed into the realm of archaeology. Structures reflecting the sharecropping era were constructed in places that maintained the basic arrangement of the land pattern.

Farm functions within this organization naturally centered on the main house. A third of a mile-long front drive enters the property from South Byhalia Road and centers on the front door of the main residence; in turn, a long lane leads from the rear of the house lot to connect it with the westernmost fields. Fields to the north and south of the house lot are connected by a north-south lane that crosses the front drive in front of the main residence. From its position on its ridge, the residence commands vistas overlooking the fields to the north, south and west; the lane to the west and the drive to South Byhalia Road. All of these views, along with their corresponding opposites from the fields, retain the strong sense of place, time and social order historically associated with this farm.

The main residence for the Fleming Farm is a

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two-story, three bay, post and timber-frame structure with an L-shaped plan, detailed in a transitional form of the Greek Revival and Italianate design periods. The design of the structure is highlighted by its two-story central pedimented portico supported by monumental columns with fluted shafts and Doric capitals. A frieze extends across the front facade of the house that features regularly spaced Italianate brackets. A cantilevered porch is featured above the front door-- it is notable for its fine cast iron balustrade. The porch is supported by heavy iron beams that extend back into the internal structure of the house. The front entrance beneath the porch is surrounded by a divided transom and divided 1/2 length sidelights; most of its original etched glass lights remain intact. Windows of the front facade were grouped in pairs that contained four-over-four sash lights.

The chimney stacks of the front portion of this residence form another notable feature. They were built internal to the endwalls of the structure; an unusual method for this late period of antebellum construction in Tennessee. Of greater note is the fact that the weatherboard cladding of the outside walls does not cover the stacks; instead, the chimney stacks were left exposed and covered with a coating of stucco. This approach is not common in the Mid-South region.

The plan of the front portion of the home conforms to the typical central hall plan of an I-house, with a single room on either side of the hall on both floors. The variation occurs here in the original rear ell. The ell is composed of a single, long rectangular room on each floor-- a dining room on the first floor and a large bedroom on the upper floor. The rooms of the ell are accessible through doorways from the first floor sitting room and the upper master bedroom. The upper bedroom is also serviced by its own stair, placed along the common wall between the dining room and living room.

Doors, mantels and other interior trim in the house are detailed in an unusual manner in comparison with other structures of contemporary age in West Tennessee. The door and window facings are quite wide and deep, featuring an exaggerated cyma mold as a major element. The mantelpieces are indicative of the transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style of the house. The paneled mantelpiece of the parlor is of particular interest,

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featuring deep pyramidal elements in square and rectangular panels. The doors are an unusual six-panel arrangement of two long panels over two square over two short panels. The panel system of the doors is repeated in the paneling beneath the stair.

Much of the early hardware for the house also remains intact, including porcelain door knobs and iron escutcheons, locksets and hinges. The hinges are labeled "Greenwood Cin. O." and bear the date "1858" on the reverse. The date on these hinges may be an indication of a period of alteration from the original design of the house. If so, other alterations at this time may include the placement of the brackets on the cornice of the front facade and, perhaps, the change of the original balcony railing to the existing cast iron railing.

Additions to the main residence have been made through time, though none has impaired the integrity of its plan, materials, workmanship or detailing. The rehabilitation of the house in 1989 provided for the addition of a modern kitchen and bathroom core to service both floors of the house. The core was added to the inside (north side) of the ell and replaced a structurally deteriorated porch in this location. The porch itself appeared to have been an addition from ca. 1930-35. The construction of the core did cause a change in the roofline of the ell; this change was largely due to structural deterioration of the original roof and for the provision of sufficient ceiling height in the bathroom area to meet building codes.

Other changes made at this time include a one-story addition made to the rear (western) facade to provide an informal dining area and utility room. A structurally deteriorated bathroom core was removed from the southern facade and replaced with a single story porch. Lastly, substantial dry rot, insect damage and moisture damage to nearly all window systems required their replacement. New wooden sash replacement windows were custom manufactured to the same size, detailing and fenestration to retain the character of the original openings.

Though the recent additions and alterations of the house seem substantial by description, they have provided little impact to the essential integrity of the property. Surfaces, room divisions, trim materials and workmanship

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remain unaffected. New rooms and their details are distinctly different in detailing from the original, thus making them easily read as new materials. In all, the integrity of the property has been overwhelmingly preserved during this effort to provide modern service.

Along with the main residence, the property contains a large number of related farm outbuildings, tenant houses and outbuildings related to the tenant houses. There are also known archaeological sites and those suggested by oral history associated with extant structures or the general pattern of site occupation. Archaeological resources on this site have yet to be tested, but would likely provide valuable documentation of the antebellum period and its evolution in the time since. Site plans have been prepared to accompany this documentation that delineate their organization, orientation and location in the property's land scheme.

Structures contributing to the significance of the property during the historic period are noted (C). Structures built after the historic period are considered non-contributing to the significance of the property and are noted (NC). Archaeological sites known to exist which appear to contribute to the historic character of the property are noted (C). Sites suggested by oral interviews but for which there are no visible remains are noted as unevaluated (U). These structures and sites are described below, grouped according to their function and location within the complex as a whole:

1. Main House Group

a. Garage, 1989. One-story, frame, two-bay with gable roof and weatherboard siding, connected to main house by covered breezeway. (NC)

b. Well House, 1946. One-story, concrete block, one-bay with gable roof. (NC)

c. Commissary/Smoke House, ca. 1850-55. One-story and loft, post and timber-frame, one-bay with gable roof and weatherboard siding. Converted to smokehouse ca. 1924-25. (C)

d. Chicken House, ca. 1924-25. One-story, frame, three-bay with "salt box"-like assymetrical gable roof and novelty siding. (C)

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e. Farm Bell, ca. 1870-75, installed ca. 1924-25. A 15" diameter cast iron bell and yoke, mounted upon a 12 foot-tall cedar post. Yoke is embossed "G. S. Bell Co., Hillsboro, O. #3". Employed for signaling farm hands for the mid-day meal and for emergencies. (C)

f. Detached Kitchen Site, ca. 1850-55, demolished ca. 1925. Site of the original detached kitchen, apparently demolished during the initial occupancy by the Duke family with the adoption of a new kitchen within the main house. Visible surface artifacts consistent with general household refuse are scattered in an area measuring approximately 20' by 20'. (C)

g. Privy Sites, variously from ca. 1850-55, demolished ca. 1940-45. Prior to the development of an interior bathroom addition to the main structure in ca. 1924-25, privies in this general location served the sanitary needs of the occupants of the main residence; in the years that followed, the privies were exclusively employed by the farm hands. Locations of privies migrated through time. No visible evidence present; locations identified by oral history and are undocumented by other means. (U)

2. South Barn Group

h. Dairy Barn, 1948. One-story, concrete block, L-plan dairy barn with gable roof and attached built-up, pre-cast concrete silo secured by rod hoops. (NC)

i. Equipment and Stock Barn, ca. 1924-25. One-story, frame, three-bay with gable roof and symmetrical shed additions, covered with vertical board siding. (C)

j(1). Mule Barn, ca. 1890-95 with additions, ca. 1924-25. One-story with loft, post and timber frame, three-bay with gable roof and symmetrical shed additions, covered with board and batten siding and vertical board siding on additions. Structural evidence indicates that the timber frame was salvaged from an earlier barn and reused in its construction. (C)

j(2). Stock Feeding Shed, ca. 1935-40. One-story, frame, five-bay with asymmetrical gable roof and vertical board siding. (C)

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k. Corn Crib/Tractor Barn, ca. 1910-15 with shed addition ca. 1924-25. One-story, frame, two-bay with gable roof and shed addition, covered with vertical board siding. (C)

3. North Barn Area

l. Hay Barn/Stock Feeding Shed, ca. 1870-75 with additions ca. 1890-95. One-story with loft, post and slab timber frame, three-bay with gable roof and shed additions on three sides, covered with vertical board siding. (C)

4. West Tenant House Area

m. Tenant House, ca. 1850-55 with additions ca. 1890-95 and ca. 1924-25. One-story, post and timber frame, single crib-type with balloon frame additions, four-bays with gable roof covered with sheet metal, shed roofed porch supported by metal pipe posts, board and batten siding, four-over-four sashes, board and cross-batten door and solid single-light replacement door. (C)

n. Corn Crib Site, date unknown but prior to 1937. Location of a 20' by 20' corn crib associated with the West Tenant House, demolished in ca. 1988. Visible remains of foundation piers are present and substantiated by oral history. (C)

o. Smokehouse Site, date unknown. Location of a 15' by 15' smokehouse associated with the West Tenant House, demolished in ca. 1988. Visible remains of foundation piers are present, substantiated by oral history. (C)

5. Garden Area

p. Unknown sites, date unknown. Used as the family vegetable garden since ca. 1925, the garden is littered with surface artifacts consistent with general household refuse from a nineteenth century origin. A cistern or well was apparently located in the northwest corner of the site, according to oral interviews. (C)

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6. North Tenant House Area

q. Tenant House, ca. 1890-95 with additions ca. 1900-10 and 1920-25. One-story, balloon frame saddle-bag type, three bays with gable roof covered with sheet metal, shed-roofed porch supported by metal pipe posts, board and batten siding, four-over-four sashes and board and cross-batten door. (C)

r. Equipment Shed/Chicken House, ca. 1900-10. One-story, balloon frame, two bay with gable roof and vertical board siding. (C)

s. Storage Shed, ca. 1900-10 with shed addition ca. 1924-25.. One-story, balloon frame, two-bays with gable roof and shed addition and vertical board siding. (C)

(Associated with this complex are the remains of a frame privy, now deteriorated to the point of having lost significance as an extant feature.)

t. Eastern Household Refuse Site, date of origin unknown. Visible surface artifacts are concentrated in an area roughly 50' in diameter due east of the field fence line east of the North Tenant House in Field #5. The artifacts appear to be composed of general household refuse consistent with the date of the North Tenant House. (C)

7. North East Tenant House Area

u. Tenant House, ca. 1950-55. One-story, balloon frame saddlebag type, four bays with gable roof covered with sheet metal, shed-roofed porch supported by metal pipe posts, board and batten siding, four-over-four sashes and board and cross-batten doors. (NC)

v. Chicken House, ca. 1950-55. One-story, balloon frame, two-bay with gable roof and vertical board siding. (NC)

w. Pig Barn, ca. 1950-55. One-story, balloon frame, two bay with gable roof and vertical board siding. (NC)

x. Privy, ca. 1950-55. One-story, balloon frame, one-bay with gable roof and vertical board siding. (NC)

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(An earlier tenant house complex at this general site is suggested by aerial photographic evidence from 1937, but is unsubstantiated by oral history or other documentation)

8. South Tenant House Area

y. Tenant House, ca. 1890-95, with shed addition ca. 1924-25. One-story, balloon frame saddlebag type, four-bays with gable roof covered with sheet metal and shed-roofed addition, shed roofed porch supported by metal pipe posts, board and batten siding, four-over-four windows and board and cross-batten doors. (C)

z. Storage Shed, ca. 1900-10. One-story, balloon frame, one bay with shed roof and vertical board siding. (C)

aa. Chicken House, ca. 1900-10. One-story, balloon frame, one-bay with gable roof and vertical board siding. (C)

ab. Privy, ca. 1900-10. One-story, balloon frame, one-bay with shed roof and vertical board siding. (C)

9. South East Tenant House Site

ac. Slave/Tenant House Site, date unknown. Informant information and a visible surface artifacts appear to confirm the location of another tenant house or slave quarter complex in this area, located approximately 300' east of the South Tenant House Area on the mid-northern edge of Field #6 (see site plan). The surface artifacts are widely scattered, but appear most concentrated within a particular 75' by 180' center. (C)

10. South West Tenant House Site

ad. Slave/Tenant House Site, date unknown, demolished ca. 1930-35. Informant information notes a second tenant house complex due south of the South Barn Group. Visible surface artifacts have been located to confirm this site, though there is no apparent evidence of its existence in a 1937 aerial photograph of the farm. (C)

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11. Byhalia Road/Holmes Road Tenant House Site Area

ae. Tenant House Complex Site, date unknown. Informant information notes the location of a tenant house complex in the extreme southeastern corner of Field #6, across from the intersection of Byhalia Road and Holmes Road. No visible surface artifacts are left to confirm this site, though a 1937 aerial photograph of the farm indicates a small, square lot set aside from Field #6 in this area.
(U)

12. Slave/Freedmen's Cemetery Site

af. Cemetery Site, ca. 1851-52; disappeared ca. 1930-35. A strong oral tradition among long-time residents of this community consistently notes the presence of a slave/freedmen's cemetery in this location following the banishment of African-American burials in the Salem Presbyterian Church Cemetery in 1851. The Salem Cemetery is located due east of this site across Byhalia Road. Informants recall visible markers in this area until ca. 1930-35. No visible trace of the cemetery remains today, save for a dramatic change in soil color in this area compared with that of Field #5 surrounding it. (U)

13. Field #2 Tenant House Site

ag. Slave or Tenant House site, construction date unknown, demolished ca. 1930-35. Visible surface concentration of household refuse, including hand-made brick, blown-in-mold bottle fragments, ceramics and stone wares scattered over an area measuring roughly 75' by 150', located in the southwest corner of Field #2. No informant information or photographic documentation supports the location of a structure here. (C)

Associated with these extant buildings and structures are a number of tertiary features related to these structures and to the use of the property, including a reservoir-type gas pump, various dug or drilled wells, cisterns, stock watering troughs and the like. These features were not inventoried or mapped but contribute to the overall character of the historic setting. Also associated with these structures and with

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the overall pattern of site development are many land features, including plank fences, barbed wire fences, lanes, drives, man-made ponds, draws, trees and tree lines, orchards, land terraces and vistas that remain to define the pattern of land division and land planning evident in this property. Some of these features have been given names (e.g.: "Georgia Pond") that are associated with colorful events that occurred through time. Though some of these features have changed (e.g.: electric wire replacing earlier fencing systems), they remain as evidence of the landscape planning of the property and its employment for agricultural purposes through time. Some of these features have been delineated on the accompanying site plans and contribute to the overall historic character of the site. The sum of these features has been included in the count of resources as one contributing resource.

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Inventory , cont'd.

2. South Barn Group, cont'd.

k (1). Gas Pump, manufactured ca. 1920, installed here ca. 1945-50. Hand-pumped, lever and piston, glass reservoir-type gasoline pump with globe top marked "Pan-Am", pump mechanism marked "Self-Measuring Pump, Gilbert & Baker Mfr. Co., Springfield, Mass.". (NC)

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)
Agriculture
Architecture
Archaeology- Historic
Landscape Architecture- Rural

Period of Significance
1850-1940

Significant Dates
1850

Cultural Affiliation
19th century Anglo-American
19th century African-American

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

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:

Tennessee Historical Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 318 acres

UTM References

A

16	254610	3876850
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

16	254610	3876050
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

16	253000	3876080
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

16	253020	3876890
Zone	Easting	Northing

Quad Maps: Collierville, TN
Byhalia NW, MS-TN

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description All property in the northern half of Section 14, Township 1, Range 5 of the West Chickasaw Cession, less two acres in the northwestern corner, bound on the west by Fleming Road, the north by Holmes Road and the east by South Byhalia Road. The southern boundary conforms to the half-section line extending west from the intersection of East Holmes and South Byhalia Roads to its intersection with Fleming Road.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The property in nomination conforms to the property boundaries historically associated with the John M. Fleming Home Place since 1888, less two, one-acre subdivisions from the northwest corner in 1890 and 1904, respectively. The property has continued to operate under its historic use since 1850.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Linn Hopkins

organization Preservation Consultant

date June 24, 1990

street & number 974 Philadelphia Street

telephone (901) 278-5186

city or town Memphis

state TN

zip code 38104

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Fleming, John M., Home Place

The John M. Fleming Home Place is significant under National Register criteria A for its ability to demonstrate and reflect the evolution of the practice of agriculture in western Tennessee, responding as a rural landscape to changes in social, cultural and scientific conditions that effected agricultural practices in the era of 1850 to 1940. Under criterion C, the main residence stands as a significant local example of transitional Greek Revival/Italianate design, featuring distinguished elements that include its bracketed frieze, early cast iron balustrade and interior endwall chimney treatment. Also under criterion C in the area of landscape architecture, the property holds significance for its unusual organizational pattern of land, exhibiting unusual and notable traits of conscious land planning that shaped its use for agricultural purposes. The property contains a number of known archaeological sites significant under criterion D for their potential contributions to a further understanding of the socio-cultural organization of antebellum and post-bellum agricultural activity in western Tennessee.

John M. Fleming (1818-1888) was born and raised in a farming family in the Laurens District, a part of the Piedmont Region of South Carolina. Though both he and his wife, Eliza Moseley (1820-1860), were natives of South Carolina, they joined with other members of the Moseley family in moving westward to find new opportunities in the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana which had opened for settlement in the late 1830s and 1840s. Some members of the Moseley family settled nearby in Marshall County, Mississippi and in Memphis, Tennessee, while others remained further east in Madison County, Alabama. Fleming, though, chose to acquire land in the vicinity of Collierville in the West Chickasaw Cession along the Tennessee-Mississippi border, where he purchased the entirety of Section 14, Township 1 and Range 5 by land contract on September 27, 1849.

The 1850 Census of Shelby County places Fleming on the property with his family, farming with the aid of thirteen male slaves and eleven female slaves. By comparison, Fleming was one of the largest slave holders in Civil District 10. His brother-in-law, Tully Emperor Moseley, and his family were entered on the Census as the next household, suggesting that the Moseley family may have

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been occupying the property with the Fleming family at the same time or living on an immediately adjoining tract-- perhaps the southern half of section 14.

Fleming's ability to immediately establish himself and his family on a large land tract suggests that he was possessed of significant financial resources at the time of his arrival. Though he only placed his worth at \$6,400 in real estate in 1850, the value of his slave holdings alone would have represented a personal wealth at least double this amount. It is likely that many of these slaves were brought to West Tennessee with Fleming to establish the new enterprise. Unfortunately, no antebellum tax records survive in Shelby County from this period to shed light on the family's total wealth at this early date.

Returns for the 1860 Census show that Fleming estimated the value of his real estate at \$13,000 and his personal property at \$35,000, and making him, by comparison with others in the census, one of the wealthiest men in all of rural Shelby County. His slave holdings had increased to twenty-eight, housed in seven dwellings on the site. A comparison of the ages of slaves between the 1850 and 1860 Slave schedules suggests that many of the slaves counted in 1850 were not the same individuals enumerated in 1860. The nature of this turnover in slave personnel is not specifically known, though some may easily be attributed to deaths and to slave-trading activities. At least one family group is recognizable among the slave returns for 1860.

A comparison of the Agricultural schedules from the Censuses of 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 shows that Fleming carried out a diversified farm program of crops and livestock. A table comparing these returns is attached as a continuation sheet. The returns clearly show that the farm was reasonably self-reliant and that it was by no means a single-crop enterprise. Major fluctuations in the amounts of oats, cotton, peas/beans, potatoes and like crops reported from decade to decade may suggest the adoption of crop rotation methods to conserve soil quality.

Aside from their agricultural pursuits, Fleming was a leader in local religious circles as a Ruling Elder of the Salem Presbyterian Church (now Collierville Presbyterian Church) from 1850 until his death in 1888. The church was

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Fleming, John M., Home Place

located across Byhalia Road from the Fleming Home Place near the intersection with Holmes Road. The church cemetery remains there to this day. The Flemings joined the church on March 30, 1850; Fleming was elected Elder on the same day. Surviving records of the church note that Fleming was appointed with W. T. Farley "to lay off and superintend the burial ground at this church, and they be instructed to stop the burying of black people on the ground belonging to the church...". This prohibition may support the strong local tradition of the establishment of a slave cemetery on Fleming's farm across from the Salem Church lot in the north east corner of the property.

Following the Civil War, the Fleming Home Place was managed with the assistance of John M. Fleming's only son, Samuel T. Fleming (1844-1929), until the elder Fleming's death. Two important subdivisions from the original half-section parcel of the Home Place were made by Samuel T. Fleming in the years following his father's death. The first was a one-acre subdivision at the northwest corner of the property to the Public School Directors of the 10th Civil District for the establishment of a rural school, recorded on January 6, 1890. The second one-acre subdivision was made adjacent to the school lot on October 3, 1904 for the establishment of Good Sheppard Lodge #20, a black Masonic organization. These small subdivisions reduced the acreage of the farm to its current size of 318 acres. Both parcels remained in these uses until the 1940s, but are now the site of a single private home. This two-acre parcel is not included within the boundary of the nomination.

In general throughout the Southern states, the slave system gave way to the sharecropping system in the years following Emancipation as the means to manage agricultural production. This was also the case here, initiated by John M. Fleming and continued by his son, Samuel T. Fleming, until the farm was sold in 1913. The Duke family continued the sharecropping system following their purchase of the property in 1924. According to the farm day books in the possession of the Duke family, the share cropping system was maintained on the property until the late 1960s. The evolution of the property during the sharecropping period provided the Fleming Home Place with the majority of its present appearance as represented by its standing structures.

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Fleming, John M., Home Place

The exact means of implementing sharecropping may have varied from farm to farm and county to county, but the basic structure seems constant in the period. Here, according to the members of the Duke family and as supported by the farm day books, the cotton acreage to be share-cropped on a yearly basis was proportionately divided among the various tenant families for cultivation. The balance of the farm not in cotton production was retained for corn, hay and other crops used to support the beef cattle, dairy cattle, mules and other farm animals. Labor provided by the sharecropping families in managing these crops and other non-cotton activities was paid by the hour in cash.

The exchange of credit extended by the landowner to the sharecropper formed the heart of this tenant farming system, extending to the cash, foodstuffs, seeds, fertilizers and other daily or seasonal needs of the sharecropper in planting and cultivating the crop. The credit period was initiated on March 15 with the start of the preparation of the fields and extended until early July with the conclusion of active cultivation of the cotton plants. The onset of the credit period was referred to as "the church doors opening" by the Duke farm sharecroppers; the crop was "laid by" when cultivation ceased for the season. The accounts were settled after the fall harvest of the sharecropper's cotton crop. The small groups of outbuildings that surround each surviving sharecropper cabin demonstrate that the occupants were allowed to raise hogs and chickens for their own use or for resale.

Dairy activities were carried out by the Duke family on other farms in the 1920s and 1930s but were not initiated here until 1947. Though not contained within the historic period of the farm's activity, the dairying operation centered in the 1947 dairy barn on the property represents yet another phase of diversification and evolution in agricultural practice both here and in the Mid-South as a whole. The cessation of the sharecropping system in the 1960s in favor of the lease of cotton acreage for cultivation by others is yet another phase in this agricultural evolution as it continues today.

The method of dividing the land and the provision of the placement of structures within it-- both agricultural

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Fleming, John M., Home Place

and domestic-- are interesting aspects of the significance of the Fleming Home Place as an aspect of rural landscape architecture. On the one hand, the land plan here is a rare survivor of an antebellum agricultural landscape. Though the property evolved to fit changing agricultural systems and patterns, the changes occurred within this original matrix of land division.

The nearly mathematical pattern may be the sole result of the whim of John Fleming in shaping his farm environment to his liking, especially since comparable examples of this approach to land division are not known in the Mid-South region. It could also be that the calculated pattern may simply be a response to the unerring system of land division in evidence in the Jeffersonian land grid surrounding this particular place. In any case, the plan was not the result of an accident, and it was certainly in place by the time of the construction of the principal residence, no later than ca. 1850.

Motives aside, the plan does serve a practical purpose for a farming operation, a character undoubtedly not lost to the Presbyterian sensibilities of Fleming. The east-west axis of the farm centers the main house, surrounded by the working core of daily farming activity. This central complex is contained on the highest ridge of the property, advantageous for drainage and the easy oversight of field activity. Outbuildings placed on this ridge near the house were not only convenient to the family but also minimized the potential for erosion from over-grazed, heavily trodden barnyards if placed on a slope. The provision of more than fifty acres of wood lot at the front of the home not only was esthetically pleasing but also insured easy access to an ample source of fuel for cooking and heating. In short, the structure provided by this land plan is seemingly an example of an individual's approach to consciously organize an agricultural enterprise as a system, making the land and its buildings function like a single, efficient tool in and of itself.

The attention to the function of land as a part of an entire agricultural system was not an uncommon concern of agricultural reformers and theorists in the antebellum period. Reformers like Edmund Ruffin and others promoted

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Fleming, John M., Home Place

concepts of systematic approaches to agricultural organization, crop diversification, crop rotation and drainage/erosion control in the 1840s and 1850s through widely-read periodicals like the Soil of the South, Southern Cultivator, American Farmer and the Virginia Planter. While it cannot be said that Fleming was influenced by the writings of Ruffin and others in shaping his plan, the same goals and objectives are reflected in his landscape plan and the agricultural practices carried out on the Fleming Home Place.

The geometrical division of the property is also not out of character with the general cultural affinity towards Classical geometry, order and symmetry that characterized much of the town planning, architecture, and decorative arts of the antebellum period. While the Fleming Home Place may be the exception rather than the rule in the land patterns of Southern farms and plantations, it none-the-less reflects the general concepts of planning activity that characterized its era of development.

The architectural design of the main residence of the Fleming Home Place also wells from this tradition of geometry and symmetry. The John M. Fleming Home stands as a significant local example of the architectural forms of farm or plantation residences constructed during the transition from the academic interpretations of the Greek Revival style to that of the asymmetrical forms of the Italianate. The use of an adapted I-house plan overlaid with a central, two-story pedimented portico containing a cantilevered balcony is a common part of plantation architecture in Tennessee. Examples like the Eli Rayner House (NR 5/9/77) of Memphis, the Joshua K. Hutchison House (NR 7/7/88) of Brownsville, Haywood County, Tennessee, the A. S. Stratton House on South Rowlett in Collierville, Shelby County, Tennessee (part Collierville Historic District, NR 3/12/90) are all contemporary examples of this approach and transitional style of detailing. Out of respect to Fleming's place of origin, this form and its details were also common to the Piedmont of South Carolina and much of the Southern states as a whole.

There are specific traits of the design and construction of the Fleming Home that are worthy of

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Fleming, John M., Home Place

additional note. It is quite clear that little, if any of the materials employed in this structure were procured on site but were milled elsewhere and shipped here for installation. Recent repair work on the house has revealed numerous trim pieces and at least one door marked in pencil or by sign brush with the label "J. M. Fleming, Collierville, Tenn." . The cast iron work of the porch, the locksets, the dated and labeled hinges and the iron supports of the cantilevered porch all were made remote to the rural area of this property. It is possible that some of these elements may have been manufactured at foundries in Memphis. The other house parts labeled with the names of firms in Cincinnati and elsewhere reflect the general sophistication of established trade networks between Memphis and other cities in this early period.

The suggestion is made that the sophistication of the property's design and the use of acquired parts from different sources reflects the knowledge and experience of an architect or master builder. If so, the identity of its designer is unknown.

A final note is due the basic structural system of the house itself. While the structure employs a traditional post and timber framing method in its core, the frame is not entirely the product of the broad-ax and adz but is instead mostly circular-sawn. The technology inherent in producing circular sawn beams, studs and board stock has not been previously documented at this early date in West Tennessee.

Ayre's Descriptive Handbook of the Great Southern Route was published in 1858 to promote the opening of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. It noted in the description of Collierville that "In the vicinity of this station are three steam and two water-power mills, successfully operating in lumber and produce." . The lumber mills cited may have been those of W. H. Lockwood and John Lynch, both of whom are listed in directories from the early 1870s. Turned by steam, sawmills like these would have been able to reach the speed necessary to drive a circular saw and cut large timbers like those used in the Fleming House.

The substantial number of known historical archaeological sites present on the grounds of the John M. Fleming Home Place represents the opportunity to recover

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Fleming, John M., Home Place

significant information relating to the social, cultural and agricultural organization of nineteenth and twentieth century farm activities both in antebellum and post-bellum systems. It can be expected that answers to numerous questions can be provided by archaeological testing and recovery on the Fleming Home Place. Among these are:

* What was the original pattern of organization of antebellum slave quarters, barns and other structures in relation to the surviving landscape architectural plan? If different than the plan in evidence today, when, how and why did the pattern change to its present form? How many evolutionary steps were there in producing this plan?

* What other features of the original organization of the property can be determined, such as the location of landscape features like gardens or orchards, or the presence and location of landscape structures like gazebos, well houses, arbors and related elements? How do the locations of these features relate to the historical landscape pattern in evidence today?

* Is there a relationship between the location of slave quarters and the division of labor within the farm system? Were there separate areas of slave housing for domestic servants as opposed to field hands? If so, does this separation reflect any pattern of hierarchy or privilege among the slave population? Do the artifacts present underscore this pattern?

* Is the diversity of agricultural crops reflected in evidence of dietary habits of the slave and later sharecropper population, as compared with the findings of excavations at other antebellum and post-bellum sites? Were the diets of slaves supplemented by non-farm produced foodstuffs or wild game?

* What was the level of self-sufficiency or self-reliance of the farm? What trade patterns are indicated by ceramics and other cultural artifacts not produced on this farm? What pattern of consumption and income-level is reflected by these artifacts? Is this pattern consistent with families of similar income levels as the Flemings? If not, why?

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Fleming, John M., Home Place

* If a slave cemetery exists on the property as suggested by traditional history, what burial customs are represented by the interments? Are the burial customs represented reflective of the European-American traditions of the property owners, or is there evidence of the survival of African traditions? If African traditions are in evidence, is there evidence of change in these customs as compared with those demonstrated in sites of earlier origin?

In sum, the John M. Fleming Home Place stands as a significant example of numerous patterns of architectural, agricultural and rural landscape architectural practices in West Tennessee and in nineteenth and twentieth-century America as a whole. Its potential for archaeological testing and recovery can provide for many significant contributions to the site-specific and general understanding of farming enterprises during the same period.

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Comparison of Agricultural Schedules (1850-80)

COMPARISON OF AGRICULTURAL SCHEDULES
John M. Fleming, 10th Civil District
Shelby County, Tennessee

Year	Impr. Ac.	Unimp. Ac.	Value	Machines	Horses	Mules
1850	130ac.	70ac.	\$2,000	\$700	1	8
1860	350ac.	470ac.	\$15,000	\$700	6	7
1870	40ac.	320ac.	\$900	\$100	2	2
1880	200ac	120ac.	\$3,500	\$200	2	4

Milk Cows	Oxen	Other Cattle	Sheep	Swine	Val. Stock
4	2	4	0	72	\$1,200
9	4	20	40	80	\$3,000
6	2	15	18	47	\$740
22	0	6	65	33	\$700

Bu. Corn	Bu. Oats	Cotton Bales	#Wool	Bu. Peas & Beans
850	100	2 (400#)	0	0
1500	0	64 (400#)	75	500
580	0	11 (450#)	0	0
1200	200	26 (unspec)	0	100

Bu. Irish Pot.	Bu. Swt. Pot.	#Butter	Tns. Hay	\$ Home Mfr.
10	40	15	1	\$5
15	400	100	-	-
0	0	0	-	-
50	500	160	-	-

Gal. Wine	Orch. Prod.	Anim. Slaug't	\$ All Farm Prod.
-	-	-	-
3	\$20	\$500	-
-	-	\$400	\$1700
-	-	-	\$2667

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Comparison of Agricultural Schedules

1880 Census Categories, Only

\$ Fence	Wages	Sheep Sold	Sheep Slaug't
\$250	\$800	12	8

Sheep Killed (by dogs)	Sheep Killed (disease)	# Fleece	lb. Fleece
3	2	47	800 lb.

#Chickens	#Eggs	#Apple Tr.	Bu. Apple	#Peach	Bu. Peach
50	1500	50	300bu	100	250bu.

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John M. Fleming Home Place
1545 South Byhalia Road
Collierville Vicinity
Shelby County, Tennessee
Photographs by: Gerald Smith
Date: May, 1990
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, TN

Facing east towards Byhalia Road from the mid-point of the entrance drive.

Photo 1 of 47

Facing northeast across the "Woods Pond" at the midpoint of the entrance drive.

Photo 2 of 47

Facing west towards the main house from the midpoint of the entrance drive.

Photo 3 of 47

Facing southwest towards the Southern Barn Group from the entrance drive near the main house.

Photo 4 of 47

Facing north, looking down the transverse lane at the terminus of the entrance drive towards the North Tenant House group.

Photo 5 of 47

Facing west to the main house from the terminus of the entrance drive.

Photo 6 of 47

View of the front stair hall with the kitchen beyond at center.

Photo 7 of 47

View from the stair hall into the formal parlor.

Photo 8 of 47

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Section number _____ Page 2 Photographs

View of the parlor's mantelpiece.
Photo 9 of 47

View from the stair hall into the original living room.
Photo 10 of 47

View of the original living room with the door to the
original dining room at right.
Photo 11 of 47

View of the original dining room from the original living
room.
Photo 12 of 47

View of the original dining room in the rear ell, with
doors to the southern porch at left and to the kitchen
addition at right.
Photo 13 of 47.

View of the original dining room, facing back towards the
original living room door at right. The door to the
kitchen addition is at left.
Photo 14 of 47

View of the kitchen within the new addition.
Photo 15 of 47

View of the stair hall from the middle landing, with the
door to the balcony at left and the door to the original
master bedroom at right.
Photo 16 of 47

View of the northern bedroom.
Photo 17 of 47

View to the original master bedroom from the stair hall.
Photo 18 of 47

View of the original master bedroom.
Photo 19 of 47

View from the rear ell bedroom back towards the original
master bedroom.
Photo 20 of 47

View of the rear ell bedroom.
Photo 21 of 47

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Section number _____ Page 3 Photographs

View of the back stair in the ell, leading to the original dining room.

Photo 22 of 47

Facing north towards the southern facade of the main house.

Photo 23 of 47

Facing northwest towards the Well House and Commissary/Smokehouse.

Photo 24 of 47

Facing south towards the northern facade of the house, with the Garage at right.

Photo 25 of 47

Facing west towards the garage.

Photo 26 of 47

Facing west towards the north barn, with the garage at extreme left.

Photo 27 of 47

Facing east towards the western facade of the main house, with the commissary/smokehouse at right, the chicken house at left and the farm bell above the chicken house.

Photo 28 of 47

Facing southwest towards the commissary/smokehouse.

Photo 29 of 47

Facing northwest towards the chicken house.

Photo 30 of 47

Facing southeast towards the south barn group, with the corn crib at left, the equipment and stock barn at left center, the dairy barn at right center and the mule barn at left.

Photo 31 of 47

Facing southwest towards the mule barn.

Photo 32 of 47

Facing north towards the main house with the mule barn at left and the equipment and stock barn at right.

Photo 33 of 47

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Section number _____ Page 4 Photographs

Facing northeast towards the dairy barn at right and the equipment and stock barn at left.
Photo 34 of 47

Facing north towards the west tenant house at left, the mule barn and stock feeding shed at center, and the equipment and stock barn at right.
Photo 35 of 47

Facing northeast towards the west tenant house, with the north barn at left and the main house and outbuildings at right.
Photo 36 of 47

Facing west down the rear lane with the west tenant house at left and the garden area at right.
Photo 37 of 47

Facing generally east towards the main house along the rear lane.
Photo 38 of 47

Facing east towards the pond in field #3, with the north barn at extreme right and the north tenant house at left center over the pond.
Photo 39 of 47

Facing south towards the main house along the transverse lane from the north tenant house group.
Photo 40 of 47

Facing northwest towards the north tenant house group.
Photo 41 of 47

Facing northeast over field #5 from the gate beside the north tenant house group.
Photo 42 of 47

Facing northwest towards the northeast tenant house group.
Photo 43 of 47

Facing north towards the northeast tenant house group.
Photo 44 of 47

Facing south towards the south tenant house.
Photo 45 of 47

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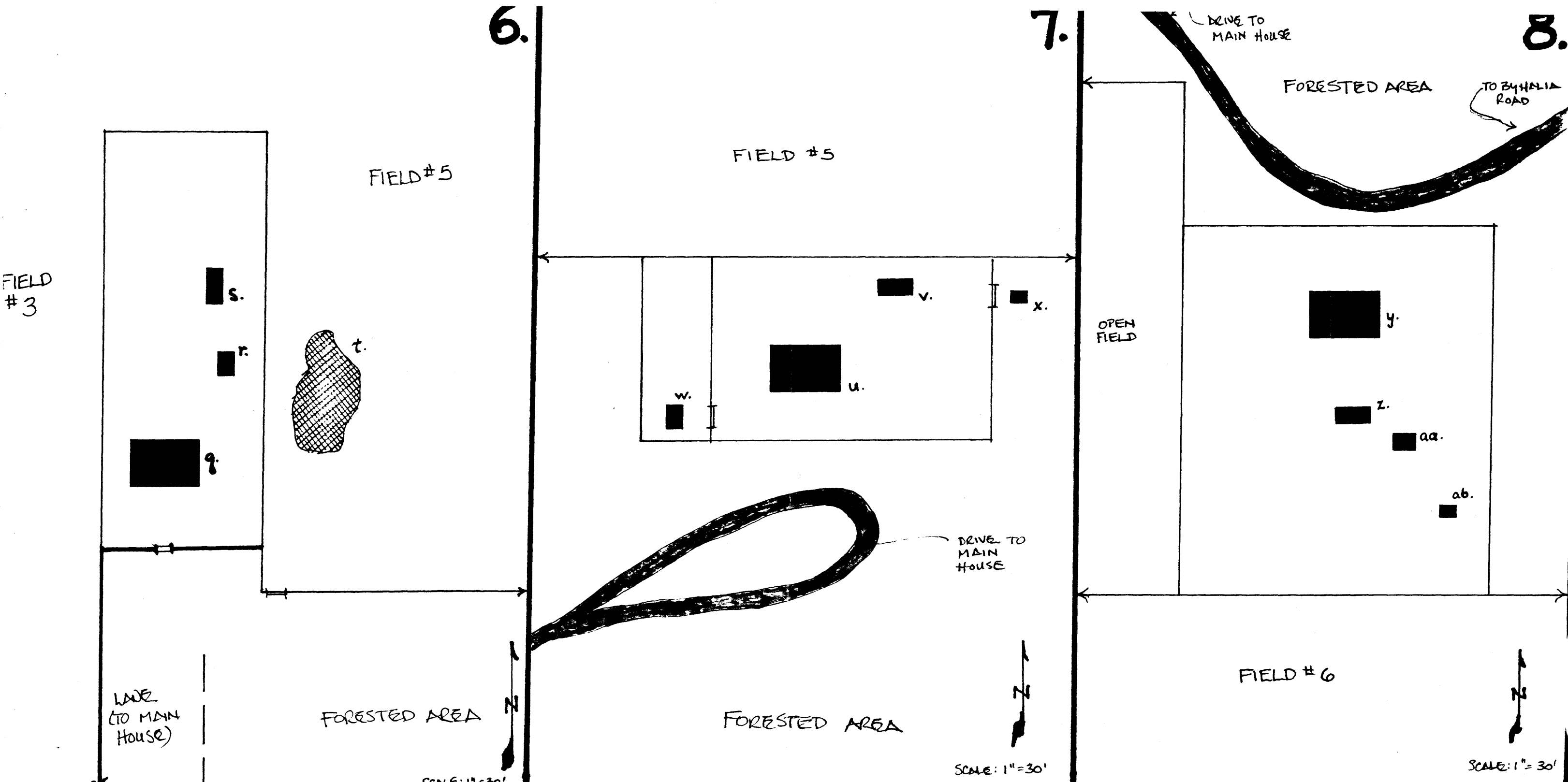
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Photographs

Facing southwest towards the south tenant house group.
Photo 46 of 47

Facing southeast from the south barn group across field
#6.
Photo 47 of 47



6. NORTH TENANT HOUSE AREA

7. NORTH EAST TENANT HOUSE AREA

8. SOUTH TENANT HOUSE AREA

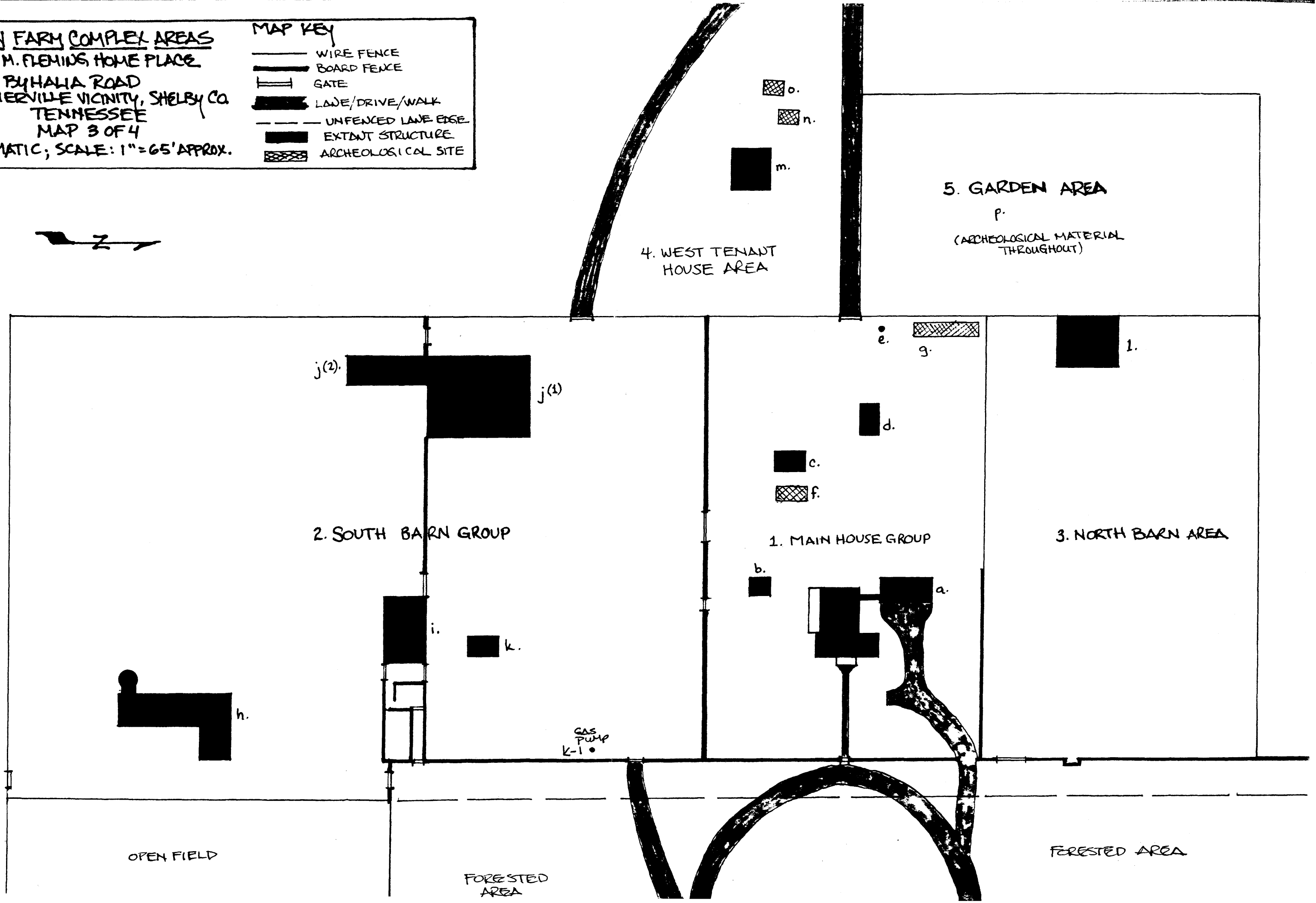
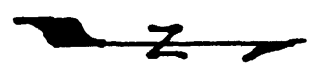
REMOTE TENANT HOUSE AREAS
 JOHN M. FLEMING HOME PLACE
 1545 SOUTH BYHALIA ROAD
 COLLIERVILLE VICINITY, SHELBY CO.
 TENNESSEE

MAP 4 OF 4

- MAP KEY**
- STRUCTURE
 - ▣ ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE
 - DRIVE/DRIVE
 - BOARD FENCE
 - BARBED WIRE FENCE
 - ⊥ GATE

MAIN FARM COMPLEX AREAS
JOHN M. FLEMING HOME PLACE
 1545 BYHALIA ROAD
 COLLIERVILLE VICINITY, SHELBY CO.
 TENNESSEE
 MAP 3 OF 4
 SCHEMATIC; SCALE: 1"=65' APPROX.

MAP KEY
 — WIRE FENCE
 — BOARD FENCE
 — GATE
 — LAWE/DRIVE/WALK
 — UNFENCED LAWE EDGE
 ■ EXTANT STRUCTURE
 ▨ ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE



4. WEST TENANT HOUSE AREA

5. GARDEN AREA

P.
 (ARCHEOLOGICAL MATERIAL THROUGHOUT)

2. SOUTH BARN GROUP

1. MAIN HOUSE GROUP

3. NORTH BARN AREA

OPEN FIELD

FORESTED AREA

FORESTED AREA

GAS PUMP
 K-1

j(2) j(1)

e. g.

1.

d.

c.

f.

b.

a.

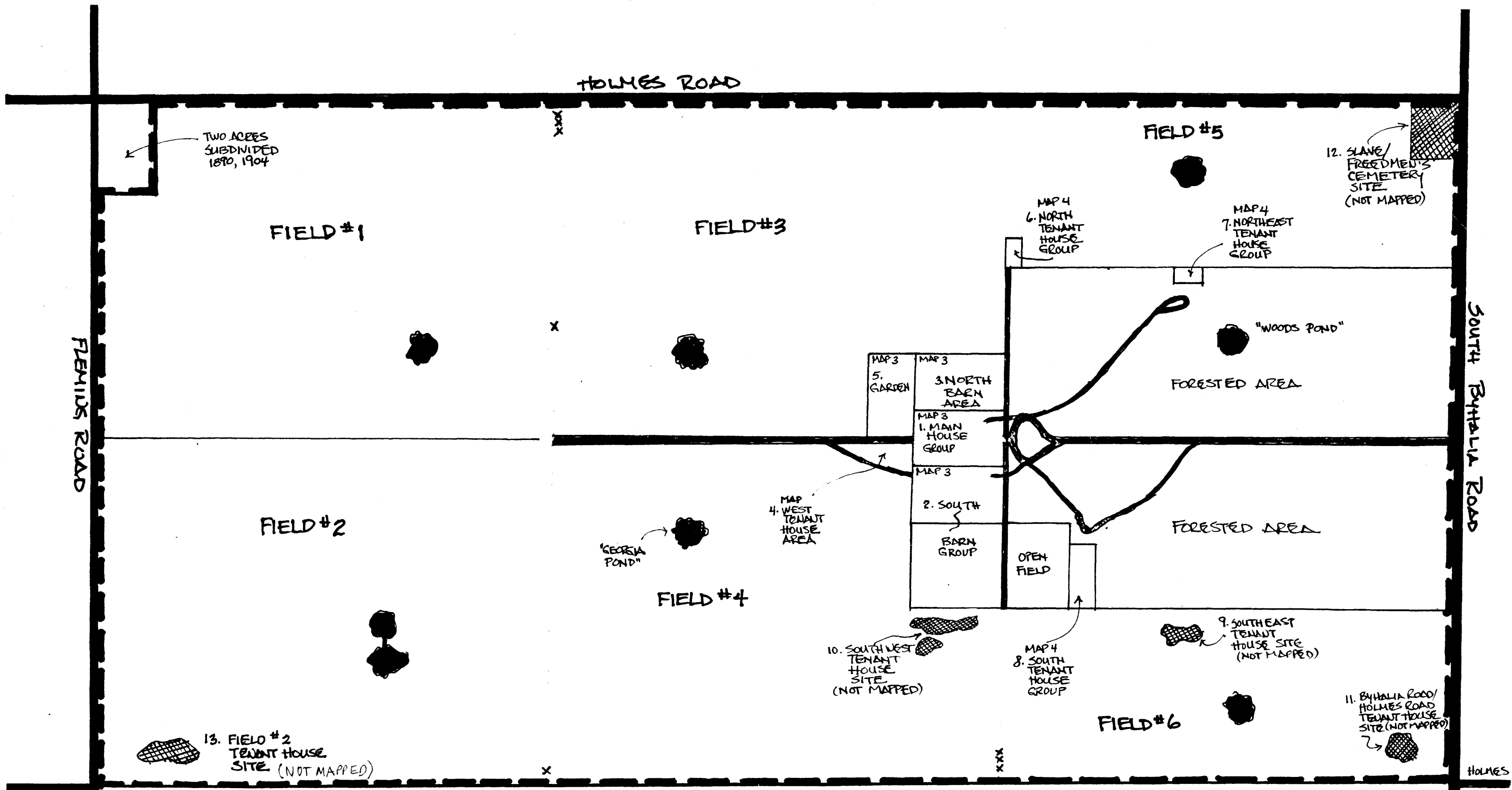
i.

k.

o.

n.

m.



SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN - CURRENT
 JOHN M. FLEMING HOME PLACE
 1545 SOUTH BYHALIA ROAD
 COLLIERVILLE VICINITY, SHELBY CO.
 TENNESSEE

MAP 2 OF 4

MAP KEY

- MAJOR ROAD BOUNDARY
- PROPERTY LINE BOUNDARY (NRHP)
- BARBED WIRE FENCE LINE
- LANE/DRIVEWAY
- UNMAPPED ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE
- POND
- FENCELINE TREES

SCALE: 1" = 352'










HOLMES ROAD

FLEMING ROAD
(ESTABLISHED
CA. 1916)

SOUTH BYHALIA ROAD

ORIGINAL
LAND ORGANIZATION PATTERN
JOHN M. FLEMING HOME PLACE
1545 SOUTH BYHALIA ROAD
COLLIERVILLE VICINITY, SHELBY CO.
TENNESSEE
CA. 1849-1858
MAP 1 OF 4

MAP KEY

-  MAJOR COUNTY ROAD
-  SOUTHERN PROPERTY LINE
-  FIELD DIVISION LINE
-  SUGGESTED FIELD DIVISION LINE
-  LANE/DRIVE
-  POND
-  FOREST

SCALE: 1" = 352'

