



# United States Department of the Interior


## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

March 21, 2011

### Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Douglass-Clark House

other names/site number Clark House, Sumner County Courthouse

2. Location

street & number Long Hollow Pike at Lower Station Camp Creek Road

N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Gallatin

☒ vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Sumner

code 165 zip code 37066

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 N. H. Jr.  
Signature of certifying official/Title

January 28, 2011  
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:)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

3-21-11  
Date of Action

Douglass-Clark House  
Name of Property

Sumner County, Tennessee  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects

1

Total

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

N/A

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

0

## 6. Function or Use

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

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

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

WORK IN PROGRESS

## 7. Description

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

FEDERAL

OTHER: I House

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE, CONCRETE

walls WOOD; Vinyl

roof ASPHALT

other STONE, WOOD

## Narrative Description

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

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Sumner County, Tennessee

(Note: The following description is adapted from the *Historical and Architectural Analysis and Documentation for Effect Under 36 CFR 800 Evaluation*, prepared by Thomason and Associates, Nashville, TN, June 2007).

## 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Douglass-Clark House is located in Sumner County outside the town of Gallatin (pop 23,917). It sits on a rise at the center of approximately two and one-half acres bordered on the north by Long Hollow Pike, the east by Lower Station Camp Creek, and the south and west by new residential construction. Two-and-a-half acres of the property are in the immediate vicinity of the house and form the yard; the additional six acres follow Station Camp Creek southward. A drive that circles the house is accessible from Long Hollow Pike. A Tennessee Civil War Trails interpretive marker sits at the northwest corner of the property along the drive near the entrance to the property to commemorate the Clark family.

The core construction of portions of the Douglass-Clark House occurred c. 1795-1800, during the tenure of Reuben and Elizabeth Douglass. The initial portion of the house is the northernmost two-story log section that was constructed c. 1795-1800. This original portion measures twenty-six feet by eighteen feet on its exterior; the dimensions are typical for a house of that period and setting. In the attic are visible common late eighteenth- to early nineteenth century construction features such as sash-sawn, half-lapped, and pegged rafters; hand-planed and beaded ceiling joists; mortised gable studs; and older hardware such as wrought nails. The type of log notching is unknown without the removal of exterior siding.

The southernmost two-story log section was constructed c. 1850. It contains mid-nineteenth-century construction elements such as butted rafters, neatly sheared nails, and circular-sawn lumber. Like the northernmost section, the type of log notching is unknown without the removal of exterior siding.

The braced-frame walls of the frame one-story portion at the southern end of the Douglass-Clark House appear to be late nineteenth-century elements. The massive stone chimney, however, is of the type common in eighteenth-century dwellings. It is possible that the chimney is an eighteenth-century element that historically served a detached kitchen or freestanding house that was replaced by the current one-story component c. 1830.<sup>1</sup>

Exterior

Currently, the house is one connected building. Entry porches, c. 1940, are on the east and west elevations. Modern vinyl siding covers its exterior. Behind the vinyl is weatherboard siding, which was added over the two log sections around the turn of the twentieth century and possibly when the one-story frame wing was added. Windows predominantly date from the turn of the century and are of double-hung, six-over-six wood construction. Louvered wooden shutters were added to the windows c. 1975 along with metal storm windows. The roof is side-gabled and covered with raised-seam metal dating from c. 1900. Eaves extend a short distance from the roof. External wall stone chimneys from c. 1795-1800 remain on the north and south elevations, and a brick chimney remains between the one and two-story portions.

<sup>1</sup> Dates for the house were determined in part by a physical examination of the building materials and construction techniques done by Michael Gavin from the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University.



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The main facade of the building faces west. Near the center of the two-story component is a c. 1940 entry porch with a poured concrete floor, a gable roof, and metal covered square wood posts. In the gable field is vinyl siding. This main entrance has a c. 1900 pegged wood door. A slightly lower c. 1940 shed-roofed porch, also with vinyl-covered square wood posts, extends to the south. Within it, a secondary entrance with a c. 1940 three-panel, single-light wood and glass door gives access to the one-story wing. Two wood double-hung windows are between the two doors. One wood double-hung window is south of the secondary entrance. North of the main entryway are two wood six-over-six windows. Six six-over-six wood windows, unevenly placed, pierce the upper floor.

The south elevation is dominated by its massive exterior stone chimney. A raised-seam metal shed-roof entrance with a c. 1965 three-pane single-light wood and glass door is west of the chimney. Visible beyond this one-story wall is the southern wall of the two-story section and the exterior brick chimney at its center.

The east elevation is more symmetrical than the west. A c. 1940 gabled entry porch with a poured-concrete floor and vinyl-covered square wood posts is near the center of the two-story section. It has a raised-seam metal front-gable roof; in the gable field is vinyl siding. Entry is through a c. 1965, two-panel nine-light door. Four six-over-six wood windows are on the lower floor and four are on the upper. A central upper-floor, c. 1940 twelve-light casement window is also present. Three one-over-one double-hung wood windows are in the one-story component.

The north elevation is two stories and has a stone exterior chimney as its central element. This elevation has no other fenestration.

Interior

The main entrances on the west and east elevations of the dwelling lead into the central hallway that is part of the c. 1850 portion of the house. The original wood floor is visible in the central hallway. In the hall's northwest corner is a c. 1850 staircase with plank walls and wood steps. A c. 1900 pegged wood door with c. 1930 hardware is in the entryway.

North of the central hall, a small hall opens into the c. 1795-1800 living room. In the living room's north wall is the c. 1795-1800 stone firebox and a c. 1880 wood mantle. Modern wood paneling has recently been removed to expose the original log walls. Cement was added over much of the original chinking materials c. 1970. The original wood floor has recently been uncovered. Drywall was placed over the ceiling c. 1970. Wood baseboards and ceiling molding that date to c. 1970 surround the room.

The bathroom on the first floor was added in the southwest corner of the living room in the mid-twentieth century. The fixtures, cabinets, etc., all suggest a remodeling date of c. 1970. It is accessed through the small hallway between the central hall and the living room. This hallway has an original plank wood ceiling and floor. On the walls is c. 1970 wood paneling.

South of the central hall is the c. 1850 south log pen (parlor) which has multiple layers of finishes on the walls. The most recent layer, c. 1970 wood paneling has been removed to expose several layers of historic wallpaper and paint and, finally, a lathe and plaster wall surface. The original wood floor has recently been uncovered. A c. 1850 mantle and c. 1880 metal firebox covering are on the south wall. Drywall covers the ceiling. Wood baseboards, more prominent than those of the living room, surround the room and date to

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the c. 1850 construction of this space.

The present dining room and kitchen wing dates to c. 1830. The dining room is south of the parlor and has a c. 1940 door that provides secondary access to the house on the west elevation. A modern closet is in the north wall of the dining room. Wood paneling has recently been removed from the walls to expose the plaster and lathe original walls. Carpet has been removed to expose historic wood floors. Drywall covers the ceiling. Heavy wood baseboards dating to c. 1830 surround the room and have curved molding details.

In the south wall of the kitchen is a large stone fireplace that likely dates to c. 1795-1800. This may have been attached to an early kitchen or log wing that was later removed. Covering the walls and ceiling of the kitchen is beaded-board siding. Linoleum has recently been removed to expose the wood floor. The ceiling light fixture, appliances, cabinets, wood baseboards, and other kitchen elements are also c. 1970. A glass and wood paneled door on the south wall leads from the kitchen to the exterior.

The staircase leads up into a c. 1850 second floor hall. The original wood plank floor and ceiling have recently been exposed in the second floor hall. The walls are covered with wallpaper dating to c. 1970. A closet is in the southwest corner of the hallway.

Two bedrooms are located on either end of the second floor. They each have modern paneling over the walls. The original wood floors and ceilings have recently been exposed. The north bedroom dates to c. 1795-1800 and has a c. 1900 wood mantel, and the fireplace it surrounds has been filled in with wood panels. A c. 1900 vertical board door remains in its doorway. Wood baseboards dating to c. 1970 surround the room.

The south bedroom on the second floor dates to c. 1850 and has a c. 1850 wood mantel and a fine example of a c. 1880 cast-iron fire grate. It also has a c. 1900 vertical board door. Prominent wood baseboards dating to c. 1850 surround the room.

Between the north bedroom and the central hall is a bathroom and a small room enclosure. The small room (unknown use) is located along the west wall south of the second-story north bedroom. Its ceiling consists of wood planks added c. 1850. In its northwest corner is a small closet with ceiling access to the attic. The second floor bathroom is located along the east wall south of the north bedroom. Within the bathroom are c. 1970 interior finishes and bathroom fixtures.

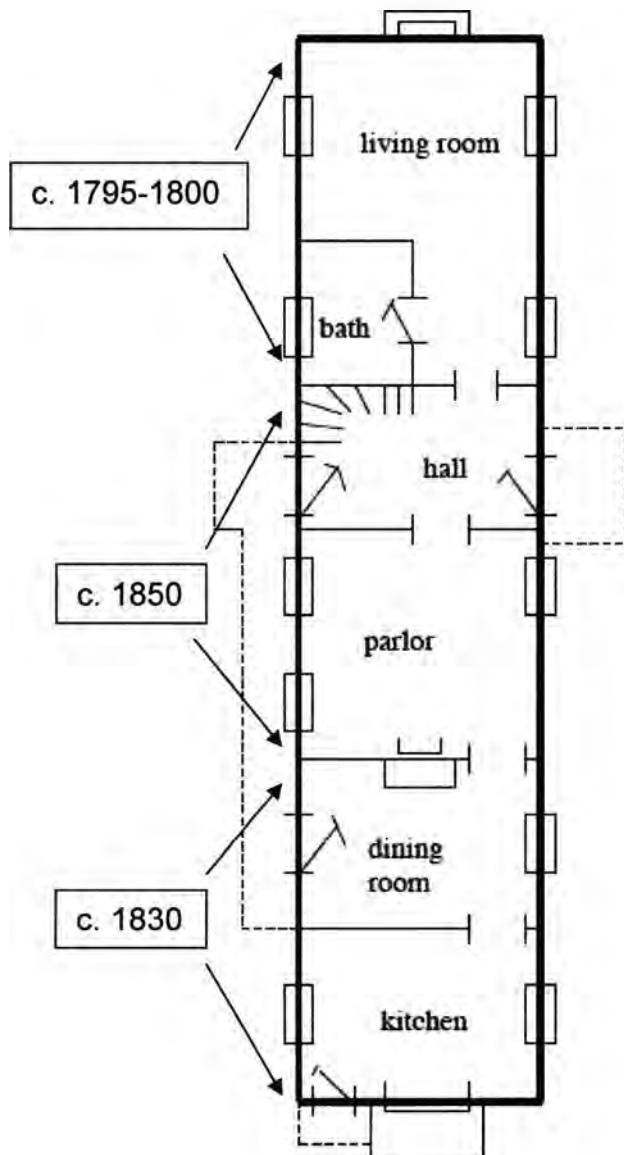
Recent efforts have uncovered much of the original wall, floor, and ceiling material of the interior. Renovation plans will continue to uncover and expose the original material in an effort to restore much of the historic character of the building.

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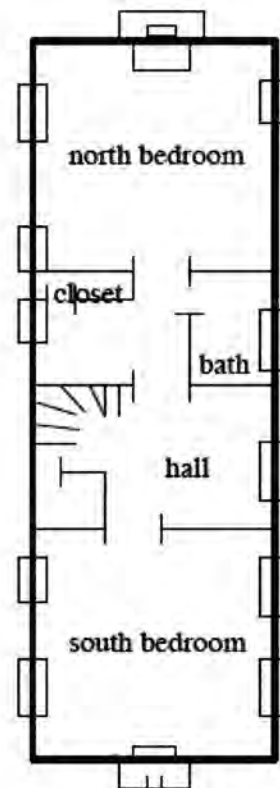
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First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan



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Not to Scale

## 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.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

c. 1795-1959

### Significant Dates

c. 1795-1800—construction of original northern portion  
c. 1830—construction of southern portion  
c. 1850 – construction of central section  
c. 1940—porches added

### Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

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

### Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☒ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Sumner County Government



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(Note: The following Statement of Significance is adapted from the *Historical and Architectural Analysis and Documentation for Effect Under 36 CFR 800 Evaluation*, prepared by Thomason and Associates, Nashville, TN, June 2007).

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Douglass-Clark House in Sumner County, Tennessee, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for is local significance in Exploration/Settlement and Politics and Government. The Douglass family acquired the land on which the nominate house sits in 1786. The family was instrumental in establishing the first Sumner County government in 1786 and continued to be leaders in the settlement and growth of the area in the 1790s. The family constructed the nominated dwelling c. 1795-1800 and owned the property and the house until 1959.

The Douglass-Clark House is also being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture. The original portion of the structure is one of the earliest extant structures in the county. Although some original elements of the structure have been covered with modern materials, much of the original building fabric remains underneath. Recent efforts by the county seek to uncover some of the original building materials.

The period of significance ranges from c. 1795 with the construction of the house until 1959 when the house was sold out of the Douglass-Clark family. The house maintains a high degree of integrity and historic character.

Historical Narrative

The Douglass-Clark House is located in the west section of Sumner County in Middle Tennessee. The ownership of the land associated with the Douglass-Clark House began with Elmore Douglass, who, in 1786, filed a request with North Carolina for 640 acres in what was then Davidson County.<sup>2</sup> Family tradition holds that Elmore's father, Col. Edward Douglass, traveled from Scotland to Virginia in the late 1730s. There, Edward and Sarah George married. Elmore and three other brothers, including one named Reuben, preceded Edward and Sarah into Tennessee.<sup>3</sup> Elmore and Reuben Douglass built the original portion of the extant house on the property Elmore received from North Carolina and became part of a small community on the west side of Big Station Camp near the Douglass Chapel.<sup>4</sup> Local historian Bill Puryear reported that the two operated a tavern on the property.<sup>5</sup> A 1790 deed shows that Elmore bought two young slaves, Arthur, fourteen, and Benjamin, twelve, that year.<sup>6</sup> He also became a captain in the local militia.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Walter T. Durham, *The Great Leap Westward: A History of Sumner County from its Beginnings to 1805* (Gallatin: Sumner County Public Library Board, 1969), 36.

<sup>3</sup> Malcolm Curtis Douglass, *History, Memoirs, and Genealogy of the Douglass Family* (Houston: Biggers Printing Company, 1957), 8 – 10 and Jay Guy Cisco, *Historic Sumner County: With Genealogies of the Bledsoe, Cage, and Douglass Families and Genealogical Notes of Other Sumner County Families* (Nashville: Folk-Keelin Printing Company, 1909).

<sup>4</sup> Durham, *Leap*, 36.

<sup>5</sup> Bill Puryear, telephone interview with Kristen Luetkemeier, May 17, 2007.

<sup>6</sup> Sumner County, Deed, 1790.

<sup>7</sup> Douglass, *History*, 9 and Carol Wells, Sumner County, Tennessee Court Minutes 1787 – 1805 and 1808 –

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Elmore Douglass took an active role in forming the settlement's new governmental structure, as well. Sumner County separated from Davidson County and formed its own political entity the same year that Douglass filed for acreage, 1786, and he became an early county commissioner.<sup>8</sup> Douglass's political influence combined with his tavern license must have made his home an attractive meeting place in the years before the county constructed a courthouse. The county court began meeting on his property shortly after he took ownership. Court meetings occurred "at the house of Elmore Douglass" in 1788, 1789, and 1790. Although county and oral histories suggest that the court meetings took place in the nominated building, these meetings likely took place in an earlier structure on Douglass's property, as there is no physical or documented evidence that the nominated house was constructed prior to c. 1795-1800. However, the Douglass family was instrumental in the establishment of the new county government and the county court system beginning in 1786 when they acquired the property. Court meetings at the Douglass property dealt with wills, deeds, profanity, Sabbath breaking, the payment of fines, unlawful living by couples, base-born children, troop provisioning, taxation, stealing, payment of civil officers, and road building. One charge was even upheld against Elmore Douglass himself; the court fined him six pence for not performing duty as road overseer.<sup>9</sup> Beginning in 1790, a new county courthouse was built and the Douglass property was no longer used for court proceedings.

Reuben Douglass acquired 140 acres of property from his brother Elmore in 1789.<sup>10</sup> He married Elizabeth Edwards in early 1791 and had a household on this property, likely living first in an earlier structure built by Elmore. Physical evidence suggests that the original portion of the nominated house was constructed by Reuben and Elizabeth c. 1795-1800. One genealogical source names nine children in the family.<sup>11</sup> The 1820 census indicates that the household consisted of thirteen free white individuals. Owned by Reuben Douglass by 1820 were twenty-four slaves: fourteen female and ten male.<sup>12</sup> Over the next decade the family continued to accumulate wealth and land. When Reuben Douglass wrote his will in the 1830s he left thirty-three slaves, a half interest in a distillery, four houses, four saddles and bridles, eight beds, four bureaus, furniture, 750 dollars, stock, farming and household implements, and 260 acres to family members.<sup>13</sup>

At some point before 1850, the Douglass-Clark House and surrounding acreage passed from Bennett Douglass, the son that inherited Reuben's property, to Reuben's daughter, Emma.<sup>14</sup> 1831 was an important year for Emma; she married her husband, a man from Maryland named William Clark, and had her first child, Jane.<sup>15</sup> William Clark was a Protestant minister and died in 1847. Nine children are attributed to the couple in one genealogical source, and the names of ten free white people are shown as part of Emma Clark's household in the 1850 census.<sup>16</sup> Education was important to the Clark family, and they had the social standing to take advantage of educational opportunities. The school age children were

1810 (Bowie: Heritage Books, Inc., 1995), 2.

<sup>8</sup> DeeGee Lester, *Around Gallatin and Sumner County* (Dover: Arcadia, 1998).

<sup>9</sup> Wells, *Court*, 2 - 15.

<sup>10</sup> North Carolina, NCG1, 360 - 361.

<sup>11</sup> Cisco, *Historic*.

<sup>12</sup> United States, 1820 Census, Sumner County, listing for Reuben Douglas.

<sup>13</sup> Sumner County, Will Book II, 152.

<sup>14</sup> Sumner County, 1878 deed book, 127.

<sup>15</sup> Cisco, *Historic* and United States, 1850 Census, Sumner County, listing for Emma Clark.

<sup>16</sup> Cisco, *Historic* and 1850 Census.

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all attending school in 1850, and Reuben, the oldest son, was a teacher.<sup>17</sup>

The slave schedule included in the 1850 census indicates that Emma Clark owned six slaves by that time. Most, if not all of them, appear to be different people than the ones left to her by her father. The people willed to Emma on her father's death in 1832 were named Minerva, Marcellus, Cornelia, and Mary.<sup>18</sup> The only information given for the individuals included in the 1850 Schedule are age and gender. They were five males aged twenty-five, eighteen, ten, seven, and one, and one baby female not yet a year old.<sup>19</sup>

Operations on the Clark farm were typical of regional large-scale farms and the family continued to grow and prosper in the 1850s. Emma Clark and her two oldest sons were both listed as farmers on the 1860 census. Her children David, Edward, Ellen, and Sophia attended school. Her son William, twenty-one by that year, was listed as "idiotic" and later documents indicate that his mother and siblings supported him. Emma's estate that year was valued at \$6,000 reflecting a substantial farm for the period.<sup>20</sup> The farm contained fifty improved acres on which were grown fifty bushels of wheat, 250 bushels of Indian corn, thirty bushels of Irish potatoes, and twenty-five bushels of sweet potatoes. The family and their slaves produced 250 pounds of butter. Emma Clark also owned one horse, six cows, two oxen, eight other cattle, and thirty swine.<sup>21</sup> As the family's prosperity increased the house occupied by Emma Clark was enlarged in the mid-19th century. The physical evidence of the Douglass-Clark House indicates that it was between ca. 1840 and 1850 that builders expanded it to its current size.<sup>22</sup>

The Civil War deeply affected life for everyone in Sumner County. In a pattern common across Middle Tennessee, free white male voters struggled with the prospect of leaving the Union. Support for the independent Confederacy grew, particularly after the Battle at Fort Sumter in April of 1861. In June of that year, Sumner Countians elected to support the referendum to declare Tennessee independent nearly 100 to one, making Tennessee the last state to leave the Union.<sup>23</sup> The Clark family was especially affected by the war. All of the Clark men except for the mentally disabled William served in the Confederate army and three died as a result.<sup>24</sup> Edward, seventeen and a student, enlisted as a private in the Seventh Tennessee Infantry. His brother Reuben, older by ten years, followed him and also enlisted as a private with the Seventh Tennessee Infantry. The unit organized in May of 1861, and moved within two months to Staunton, Virginia, where they fought as part of the Army of Northern Virginia under General Robert E. Lee. David Clark, situated between the two in age, left his job as a teacher to fight; he ultimately joined the Thirtieth Tennessee Infantry, which acted in military campaigns in Mississippi. Charles Clark joined the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry in 1862, a unit that was active in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio. According to an essay found in the papers of Corinne Bone, Edward was killed in November of 1862. David died near Raymond, Mississippi in May of 1863, the day after the Battle of Raymond. Reuben's death was more typical of Civil War soldiers; he died in December of 1864 from pneumonia contracted after exposure and an injury. Captured along with most of his comrades during the Ohio fighting, Charles escaped, rejoined

<sup>17</sup> 1850 Census.

<sup>18</sup> Sumner County, Will Book II, 152.

<sup>19</sup> United States, 1850 Census, Slave Schedule, listing for Emma Clark.

<sup>20</sup> United States, 1860 Census, Sumner County, listing for Emma Clark.

<sup>21</sup> United States, "Production of Agriculture in District No 7 in the County of Sumner in the Post Office Sandersville," (1860), 21.

<sup>22</sup> Gavin, "Report."

<sup>23</sup> Lester, "Sumner County."

<sup>24</sup> United States, 1860 Census, Sumner County, listing for Emma Clark.



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the cavalry, and survived the war to return to his home in Sumner County.<sup>25</sup>

In addition to the loss of her sons, Emma Clark also suffered due to the Union occupation of Sumner County during most of the war. United States army occupation of the area began in 1862. A diary kept by one teenaged-woman with intense Confederate sympathies in nearby Gallatin describes the ongoing occurrence of brutal retributive killings by Union occupiers.<sup>26</sup> The violence, particularly between people unattached to the regular armies of either United States or Confederate States, was often worse in more rural locations than in towns such as Gallatin.<sup>27</sup>

Following the Civil War, the Clark family became symbolically attached to the local Confederate commemoration of the war.<sup>28</sup> The essay found in the papers of local resident Corinne Bone demonstrates the importance placed on Confederate heritage by some community members. Its language, which describes the war as "the grandest struggle the world has ever know, the southern sons' defense of their country," makes clear both the romanticism of the age in which it was written and the transcending importance of Confederate memory to the writer and her audience. The family became intimately attached to Confederate commemoration efforts when the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy took the name Clark for their group. The essay detailing the decision to use the name described it as the most fitting way possible to honor Emma Clark, her sacrifices during the war and her loss of three sons.<sup>29</sup>

The years following the war saw a gradual improvement in the family's holdings. The 1870 agricultural census valued the farm at \$8000 and improved acreage increased from fifty in 1860 to 300 in 1870. In many ways, livestock holdings were similar to pre-war patterns; they included one horse, four mules and asses, five cows, eight other cattle, and twenty-two swine. A new focus appeared, though; the family possessed seventy-five sheep in 1870 and produced eighty pounds of wool. They also grew 170 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of Indian corn, 100 bushels of oats, thirty bushels of Irish potatoes, twenty bushels of sweet potatoes, four tons of hay and produced fifty pounds of butter and twenty-five pounds of honey.<sup>30</sup>

By the 1880 census, the household had changed. Emma Clark is listed as "mother in law" instead of "head of the family" after deeding the Douglass-Clark house and some property in 1878 to her son-in-law A. D. Brown.<sup>31</sup> Brown is listed on that census as a physician, and his wife Ellen was listed as keeping house. Emma's handicapped son William remained a member of the household, and two servants, Nancy Dorris, cook, and Hardy Kirkpatrick, farm laborer, are also listed.<sup>32</sup> Emma Clark died in 1882 and her will left

<sup>25</sup> National Park Service, "Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System" viewed at <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/> on June 14, 2007 and Unknown, "A Bit of Unwritten History," viewed at the Sumner County Archives and at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnsumner/clark.htm> on June 14, 2007.

<sup>26</sup> Alice Williamson, diary (Gallatin, 1864), available at the Duke University Special Collection and viewed on their website <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/williamson/text.html> on June 14, 2007.

<sup>27</sup> Miranda Fraley, "The Politics of Memory: Remembering the Civil War in Rutherford County, Tennessee," Indiana University Doctoral Dissertation, 2004.

<sup>28</sup> Walter Durham, telephone interview with Kristen Luetkemeier, May 16, 2007.

<sup>29</sup> Unknown, "Unwritten."

<sup>30</sup> United States, "Production of Agriculture in Seventh District in the County of Sumner in the Post Office Gallatin," (1870).

<sup>31</sup> Sumner County, 1878 deed book, 127 and Beers map of Sumner County, 1878, available at Sumner County Archives and Tennessee State Library and Archives.

<sup>32</sup> United States, 1880 Census, Sumner County, listing for A. D. Brown.



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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9Douglass-Clark House  
Sumner County, Tennessee

sixty acres and the care of William to her daughter Ellen. Other children received property as well.<sup>33</sup>

The house and property remained in the possession of Emma Clark's descendants well into the early 20th century. After a legal issue caused the property to be sold at auction, Roland Dorris, a grandson of Emma and William Clark, purchased approximately seventy-three acres of it in 1930. The Dorris family occupied the house over the next several decades and added the existing porches on the east and west facades. In 1959, his heirs sold this parcel to Newman and Sarah J. Cheek. This is the first time that the property was sold from the family and marks the end of the period of significance. The Cheeks sold it next to Parkes and Katherine M. Armistead who owned the dwelling until January 2007.<sup>34</sup> Much of the surrounding acreage had been subdivided in the early 2000s for a residential suburban-style development.

#### ARCHITECTURE

Originally constructed c. 1795-1800 as a log one-pen dwelling, the Douglass-Clark House survives as one of the earlier extant log houses in Sumner County. The first permanent settlers arrived in what is now Sumner County just prior to 1780. They began erecting dwellings across the area, and, like other areas of Tennessee, log became a widely used building material. The use of log can be attributed to a number of factors: widespread availability of timber, settlers' familiarity with the material and building technique, and relative ease of transport by rolling or dragging short distances.<sup>35</sup> As a result, log houses could be built fairly quickly as shelter for new settlers. In addition, stone chimneys were a prominent feature of many early log dwellings. Also a widely available building material, the stone chimney was an elegantly crafted detail that gave the house a sense of refinement.<sup>36</sup> As originally built, the one-pen Douglass-Clark House stood out as a prominent structure in the early Tennessee landscape.

Few pre-1800 log structures remain in Sumner County. Of these, most have been altered or incorporated into larger houses over their 200+ year history. For example, the NR-listed 1798 King Homestead in Cottontown (NR 1/30/78) began as a one-room log structure, but underwent significant historic log and frame additions to create a modern dwelling. Dixona (NR 7/5/1973), built by Tillman Dixon in the Dixon Springs area in Smith County, was originally a large eight-room log dwelling; it is now flanked on either side by significant historic brick additions. Similarly, the Douglass-Clark House has undergone expansions and alterations throughout its 220-year history. Two expansions have occurred, one log addition c. 1850 and one braced frame addition c. 1830. These additions and the twentieth-century siding are common changes to early log dwellings in the area. Often, "log buildings have been preserved by being incorporated into larger structures, even if they seem to be lost in the exercise."<sup>37</sup> Although the logs are no longer visible on the exterior of the Douglass-Clark House, the structural logs, stone chimneys, and the general form of the structure maintain their historic integrity. Recent ongoing efforts to expose and restore original material on the interior will only add to the historic integrity of the structure.

In 2007, Sumner County purchased approximately eight acres on which sits the Douglass-Clark House and

<sup>33</sup> Sumner County, Will Book 4, 233.

<sup>34</sup> Peggy Bone Colella, "Clark Family" viewed at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnsumner/clark.htm> on June 14, 2007; Chancery Court, Minutes (Sumner County: Chancery Court, 1928), 58; Sumner County Deed Book 101, 127; Sumner County Deed Book 179, 274; and Sumner County Deed Book 27, 252.

<sup>35</sup> Durham, Thomas, and Creasey, 17

<sup>36</sup> Ibid, 20.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, 28.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Douglass-Clark House  
Sumner County, Tennessee

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the surrounding landscape elements including portions of Station Camp Creek. The county has been awarded two TDOT Transportation Enhancement Grants that address the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Douglass-Clark House. The first was awarded for FY 2009 to implement Phase One of the Station Camp Greenway and Trailhead beginning at the Douglass-Clark House. The second, awarded for FY 2010, will restore the historic Douglass-Clark House as a Tourist Information and Interpretive Center that will provide visitors information regarding the history and landscape of the county. Restoration plans will work to maintain and improve the architectural and historic integrity of the house.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Douglass-Clark House  
Sumner County, Tennessee

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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National Park Service

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Douglass-Clark House  
Sumner County, Tennessee

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- Sumner County. Deed Book 227.
- Sumner County. Record Book 1018.
- Sumner County. Record Book 1532.
- Sumner County. Record Book 2512.
- Sumner County. Record Book 2514.
- Sumner County. Will Book II.
- Sumner County. Will Book 4.
- United States. 1820 Census.
- United States. 1850 Census.
- United States. 1850 Census Slave Schedule.
- United States. 1860 Census.
- United States. 1880 Census.
- United States. "Production of Agriculture in District No 7 in the County of Sumner in the Post Office Sandersville." 1860.
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Douglass-Clark House

Name of Property

Sumner County, Tennessee

County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.54 acres Cottontown 310 NE

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 539529 4026407  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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 Elizabeth Moore, Projects Coordinator; Description and Statement of Significance adapted from  
Historical and Architectural Analysis and Documentation for Effect Under 36 CFR 800 Evaluation,  
prepared by Thomason and Associates, Nashville, TN, June 2007

organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date Oct. 4, 2010

street & number Box 80, MTSU telephone 615-898-2947

city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

### Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Sumner County (County Executive Anthony Holt)

street & number 355 Belvedere Drive telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Gallatin state TN zip code 37066

**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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Douglass-Clark House  
Sumner County, Tennessee

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### Verbal Boundary Description

The Douglass-Clark House consists of 2.54 acres and is a portion of parcel 042.01 as identified on the attached Sumner County Tax Map 124. The nominated boundary excludes the narrow portion of the parcel that extends south along Station Camp Creek.

The nominated property is bounded on the north by Long Hollow Pike; on the east by Station Camp Creek and Lower Station Camp Creek Road; and on the west by adjacent residential and agricultural parcels. The south boundary line follows the parcel boundary and extends in a straight line to the parcel boundary on the east side of the property.

### Verbal Boundary Justification

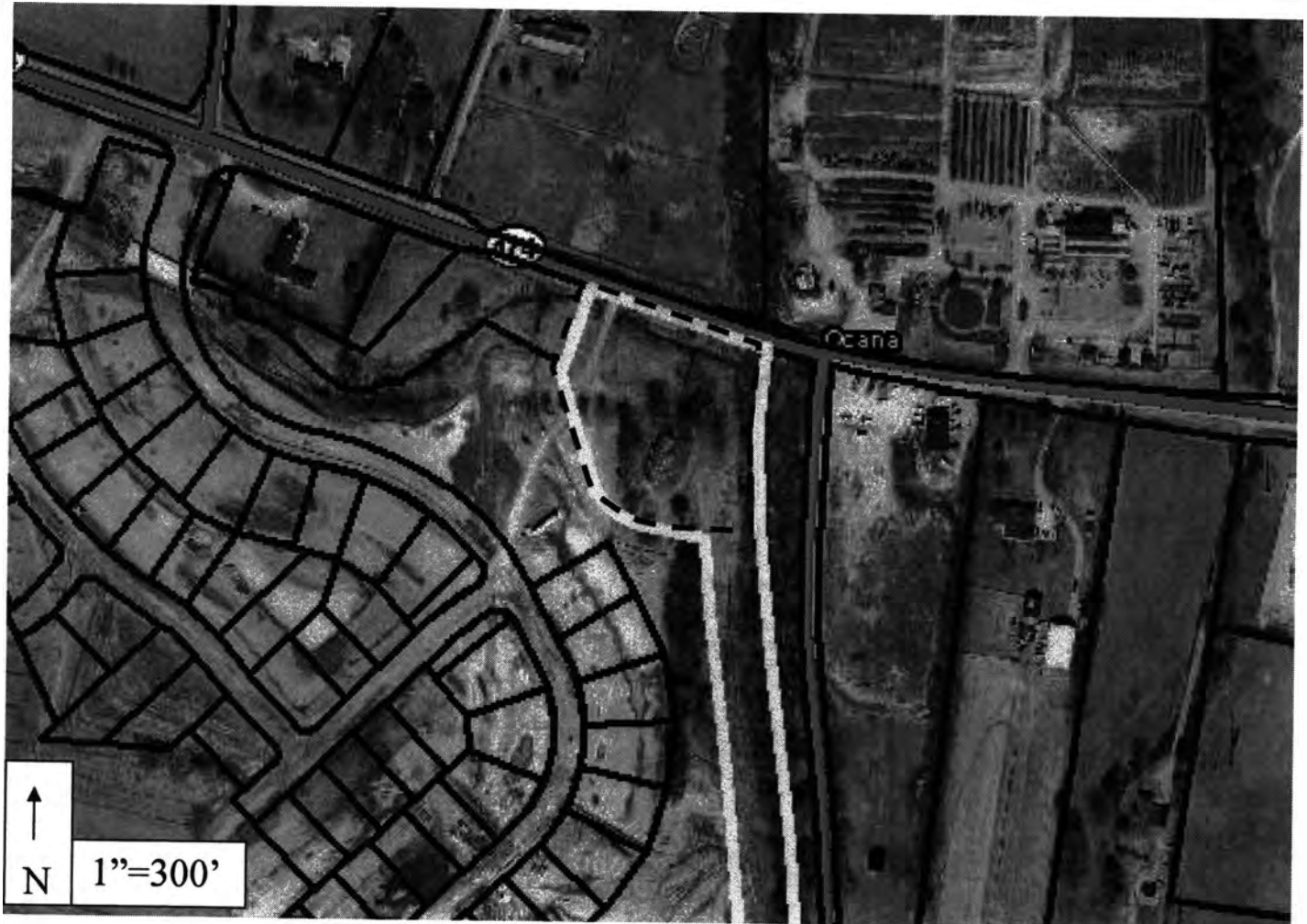
The nominated property includes all of the remaining land immediately associated with the house and contains all extant resources associated with the property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Douglass-Clark House  
Sumner County, Tennessee



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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Douglass-Clark House  
Sumner County, Tennessee

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs by: Elizabeth Moore, Projects Coordinator  
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: July 27, 2010

Digital Files: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 1 of 21  | West façade, photographer facing southeast.               |
| 2 of 21  | West façade, photographer facing northeast.               |
| 3 of 21  | South and east elevations, photographer facing northwest. |
| 4 of 21  | East elevation, photographer facing west.                 |
| 5 of 21  | East and north elevations, photographer facing southwest. |
| 6 of 21  | North elevation, photographer facing south.               |
| 7 of 21  | First floor hall, photographer facing west.               |
| 8 of 21  | Stair, photographer facing north.                         |
| 9 of 21  | Living room, photographer facing southeast.               |
| 10 of 21 | Living room, detail of mantle, photographer facing north. |
| 11 of 21 | Parlor, photographer facing south.                        |
| 12 of 21 | Parlor, detail of wall layers.                            |
| 13 of 21 | Dining room, photographer facing west.                    |
| 14 of 21 | Kitchen, photographer facing south.                       |
| 15 of 21 | Second floor hall, photographer facing west.              |
| 16 of 21 | North bedroom, photographer facing north.                 |



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Douglass-Clark House  
Sumner County, Tennessee

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- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 17 of 21 | North bedroom, photographer facing south.      |
| 18 of 21 | South bedroom, photographer facing south.      |
| 19 of 21 | Station Camp Creek, photographer facing south. |
| 20 of 21 | Site, photographer facing west.                |
| 21 of 21 | Site, photographer facing south.               |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Douglass--Clark House

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Sumner

DATE RECEIVED: 2/01/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/09/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/24/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/19/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000098

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 3.21.11 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.



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

1 OF 21



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

2 OF 21





DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

3 of 21



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

4 of 21



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

5 OF 21



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

6 of 21



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE SUMNER COUNTY, TN

7 of 21





Douglas-Clark House SUMNER County, TN

6 of 21



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

9.24



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

10 of 21



Douglass-Clark House

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

11 of 21





Douglass-Clark House

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

12 of 21



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

BIF21



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

14 of 21



DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

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Douglass-Clark House

SUMNER County, TN

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Douglass-Clark House

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

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DOUGLASS-CLARK HOUSE

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

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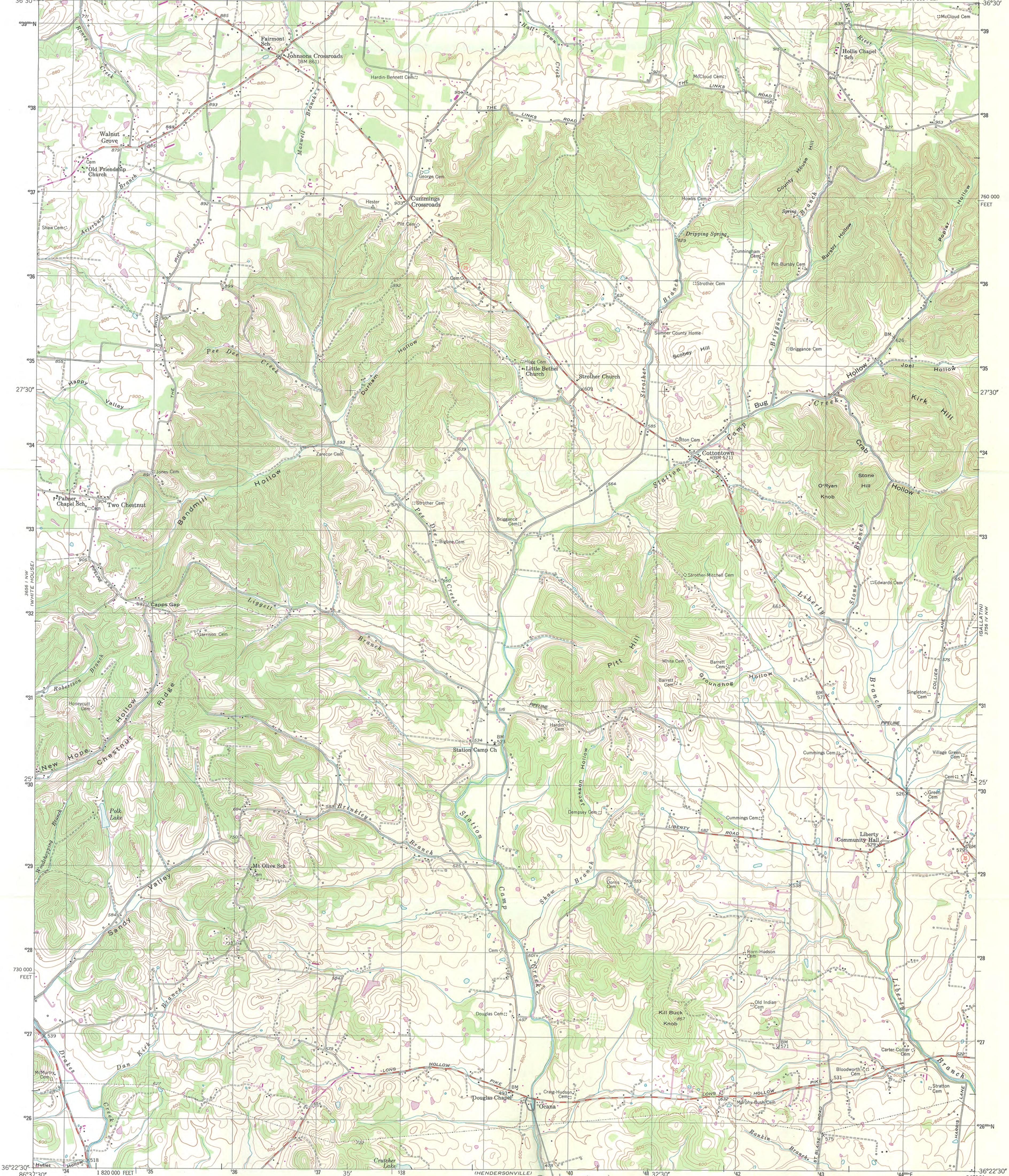


Douglass-Clark House

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

21 of 21









**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442  
(615) 532-1550



January 26, 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:

Please find the enclosed documentation to nominate the *Douglass-Clark House* to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Brian Beadles at 615/532-1550, extension 125 or [Brian.Beadles@tn.gov](mailto:Brian.Beadles@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures