

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 27 1985

date entered JUL 25 1985

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

**1. Name**

historic Kitzmilller, Martin, House

and or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number State Highway 36, Boones Creek <sup>US 23</sup> N/A not for publication

city, town Gray N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Washington code 179

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Joyce and David Smith

street & number Route 13, Box 9-1

city, town Gray N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37615

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Jonesborough state Tennessee 37659

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Washington County Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 701 Broadway

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37219-5237

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Martin Kitzmiller House (c. 1801) is a five bay vernacular Federal style residence constructed of random coursed rough cut limestone. The two story central passage house has a basement kitchen banked into a hill, interior end chimneys, and a transomed entry. The interior is distinguished by the fine woodwork of the fireplace mantles, cornices, staircases and doors. Located on the west side of State Highway 36 in Boones Creek, the house is informally landscaped with trees and shrubs. Having undergone few alterations, the Martin Kitzmiller House has retained its architectural integrity.

The main facade faces east toward State Highway 36. It is symmetrically designed with a transomed six panel doorway flanked by two 1/1 sash windows on either side on the first floor and five 4/4 windows on the second floor. A pedimented wooden portico supported by Doric columns projects from the door surround. This is an early twentieth century reproduction similar in style to the original dentil work and cornice return ornamentations. The porch replaced a wooden Italianate porch of 1870 vintage. A denticulated and molded cornice line delineates the eaves below the gable roof on this facade and on the west facade. All of the exterior woodwork is painted white with the exception of the main door which is trimmed with red.

The rear of the house faces west and reveals an exposed limestone basement wall banked into a hill, a practice common in the area prior to 1820. Evidence that a first story porch existed is seen from the wooden blocks embedded in the wall at the first story level. A centrally located transomed entry is also found on this side on the first story level. One double-hung window flanks the doorway on either side while three symmetrically placed double-hung 6/9 sash windows provide light on the second floor. A small casement window is located in the basement wall to the south of the door, and a basement door is on the north.

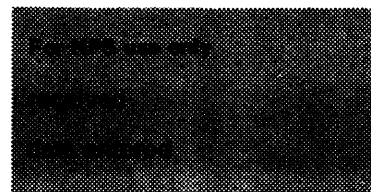
The north and south gable ends of the house have two small attic windows flanking interior end chimneys. There is a basement entry and window on each side, but no other openings to detract from the solid stone construction of the walls. The same denticulated and molded cornice line treatment that is found on the east and west facades is continued on the gable end eaves and cornice returns.

The interior of the Martin Kitzmiller House is defined by a central passage plan. Two transomed doorways are located at either end of the hall. The east (front) door displays three tiers of molded panels and is hung with two hand-wrought strap hinges. The west (rear) door is made of vertical plank and hung with two butt hinges. Other interior doors are six paneled and have box locks, latches, metal or porcelain doorknobs.

The principal staircase in the house is a dogleg stair with winders that is embellished with recessed paneling and wave molding. The stair rail is a half oval shape of unpainted poplar while the banisters are more elaborate, incorporating many full torus and scotia moldings in their form. A stairway leading to the basement kitchen is located under the central hall and is painted with black swirls on a red background. There is no railing on this stairway.

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Continuation sheet Kitzmiller, Martin, House Item number 7

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The chair rails and baseboard moldings used in the parlor, bedroom and hall on the first floor, and two bedrooms and hall on the second floor base their form on the echinus molding. A beaded molding caps the baseboards. The basement kitchen has no moldings or chair rails. The ceilings on the first and second floors are covered with finished planks and painted, and the ceiling in the basement kitchen is supported by exposed beams. Three inch poplar floorboards are used throughout the house.

Wooden fireplace mantles embellished with molded architrave surrounds and mantle shelves supported by brackets are located in each of the four rooms on the first and second floors. The fireplace along the south wall of the basement kitchen has no mantle but does have a massive lintel beam spanning the fireplace opening. The large limestone chimney breasts on all fireplaces are unplastered and create an interesting contrast between the white plaster walls and painted cornice moldings and chair rails.

There are two extant nineteenth century outbuildings associated with the Martin Kitzmiller House. One is a springhouse constructed of limestone and located south of the house. The second building is a bank barn with a limestone foundation and plank siding. It is located north of the house. These structures are on adjacent parcels of land and not included within the boundaries of the nominated property.

Once the centerpiece of a large farm, the Martin Kitzmiller House now sits on less than two acres in an area surrounded by suburban development. Few of the original design features of the house have been altered although the house has been modernized in recent years by the installation of electricity, heat, and plumbing.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** c. 1801 **Builder/Architect** Martin Kitzmiller

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Martin Kitzmiller House (c. 1801), located near Sinking Creek and Reedy Branch in Boones Creek, Tennessee is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance to Washington County and upper East Tennessee as a fine example of early nineteenth century vernacular Federal style architecture expressed in limestone. Seven other stone houses are currently listed in the National Register from this area. The importance of the Martin Kitzmiller House is derived from its more elaborate and larger exterior and more finely detailed interior than the previously listed properties. This finely crafted limestone farmhouse was recently sensitively restored by the current owners for use as a residence and business. Despite few alterations, the Martin Kitzmiller House retains its architectural integrity.

Martin Kitzmiller (1772–1865) emigrated from Pennsylvania to Tennessee with his wife Mary in 1800. The following year he purchased land from James Owens, constructed his own house and began farming. Two of Kitzmiller's five children also built residences (non-extant) in Washington County. The Kitzmiller family members were early and prominent congregants of the Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church, the second church organized in the county.

Martin Kitzmiller's youngest child, Elizabeth (1810–1890) married John DeVault (1809–1851), a farmer, in 1834. Kitzmiller deeded the house to her and her son Valentine in 1856 under the conditions that he was "to have free and uninterrupted access to the premises, especially the little room, and will be maintained in a comfortable manner..." When her father died in 1865, Elizabeth Kitzmiller DeVault inherited the farm, the house, and all of its contents.

In 1860, Elizabeth was now the proprietor of a prosperous farm and resided in the house with her father and family. That same year, her daughter Mary married Henry Hodges, a local farmer and Elizabeth leased the farm and buildings to the couple in 1882. The farm remained in the Kitzmiller family until 1906–7 when it was purchased by S.B. Pierce. The Pierce family owned the farm until 1978.

Architecturally, the Martin Kitzmiller House is a finely crafted vernacular Federal style residence which is an excellent example of an early nineteenth century limestone farmhouse. Seven other limestone houses in upper East Tennessee have already been listed in the National Register and four of these houses are in Washington County: Dungan Stone House (c.1792, NR 1973), Embree House (c. 1780–70, NR 1978), George Gillespie House (c.1792, NR 1977), and Peter Range Stone House (c. 1804, NR 1983). The Henson Hunt House (c. 1790–1812, NR 1979), the Ripley Stone House (c. 1790, NR 1978), and the Wills-Dickey Stone House (c. 1790, NR 1973) are in Carter, Greene, and Sullivan counties, respectively. These stone houses are executed in a vernacular style with little exterior detailing and are two or three bays wide. The Martin Kitzmiller House is the largest and most finely detailed of the eight, being five bays wide with some exterior detailing such as a simple wood cornice, gable returns and simple corbeled chimney caps. Interior features include a paneled

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.97 acres

Quadrangle name Boone Dam, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is 1.97 acres in size and rectangular in shape. It is bounded on the east by State Highway 36 and on the north, south, and west by adjacent property lines. It includes enough land to protect the historical setting and architectural integrity of the Martin Kitzmiller House.

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

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

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

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Historic Preservation Planner

organization First TN Development District

date February 4, 1985

street & number 207 North Boone St., Suite 800

telephone (615) 928-0224

city or town Johnson City

state Tennessee 37601

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Michael L. Hager*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 6/11/85

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 7-25-85

Keeper of the National Register

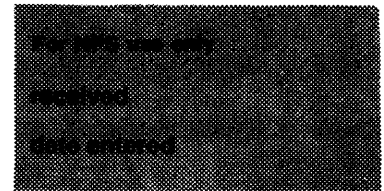
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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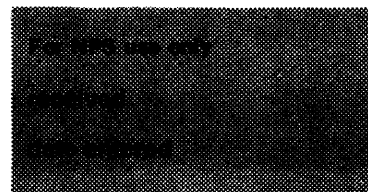
Continuation sheet      Kitzmiller, Martin, House      Item number 8

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dogleg staircase with turned newel post and balusters, original batten doors complete with original hardware, woodwork and a fine collection of Federal period mantels. Exterior alterations include the replaced one story porch over the main entry, a poured concrete deck and 1/1 windows on the first floor, all on the east (main) facade. The vernacular Federal style is prevalent in East Tennessee housing stock utilizing brick and frame but houses executed in stone are relatively rare. With the inclusion of the Martin Kitzmiller House in the National Register, most of the known extant examples of this type of late eighteenth-early nineteenth century architecture in upper East Tennessee will be recognised as the finite and important resource they are.

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Major Bibliographical References:

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Reeves, Le Roy. Ancestral Sketches. Lynchburg, VA: J. P. Bell, 1951.

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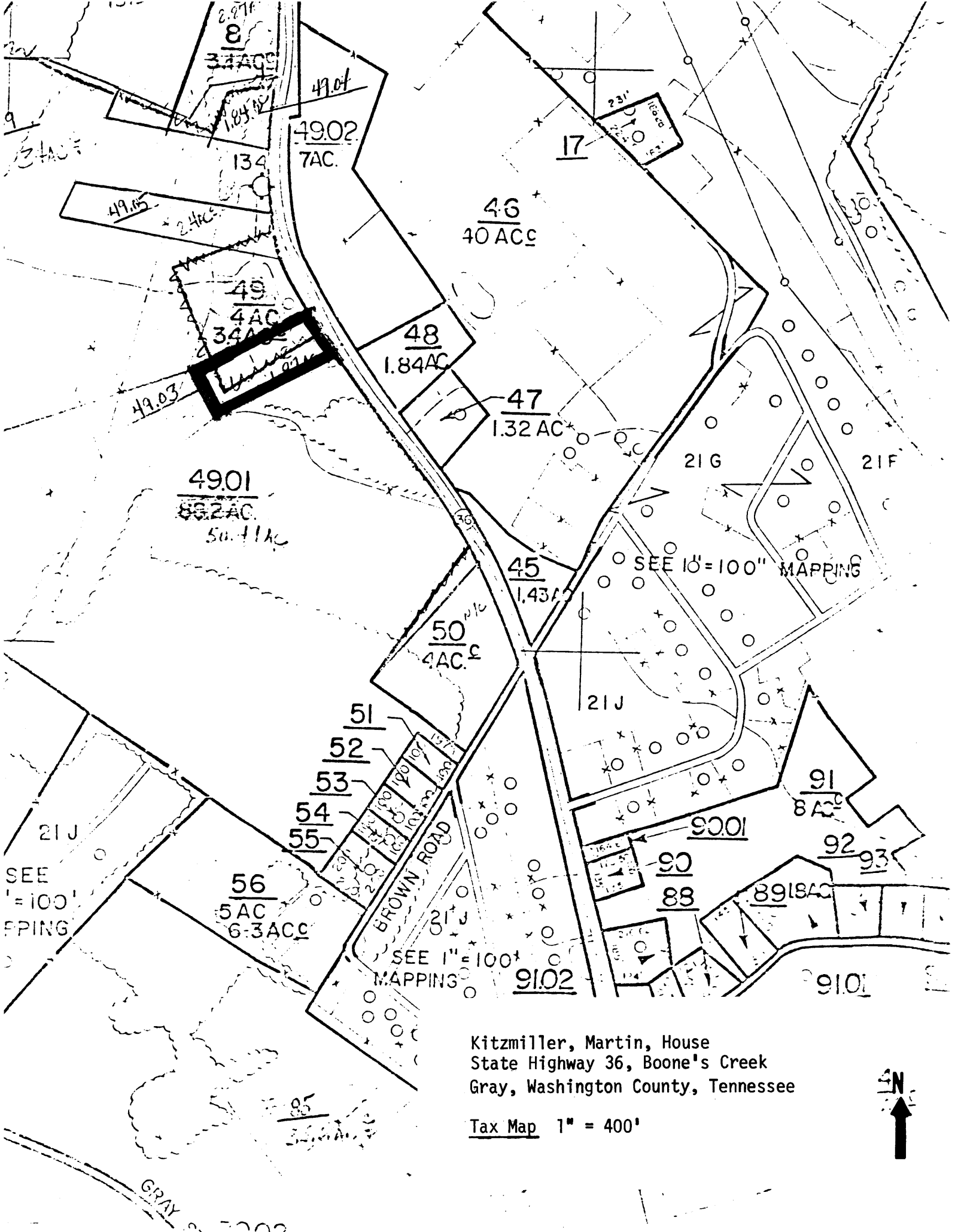
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Washington County. Deed Books, 1796-1983. Washington County Courthouse, Jonesborough, TN.

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Washington County. Will Books, 1859-1895. Washington County Courthouse, Jonesborough, TN.



Kitzmilller, Martin, House  
 State Highway 36, Boone's Creek  
 Gray, Washington County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 400'

