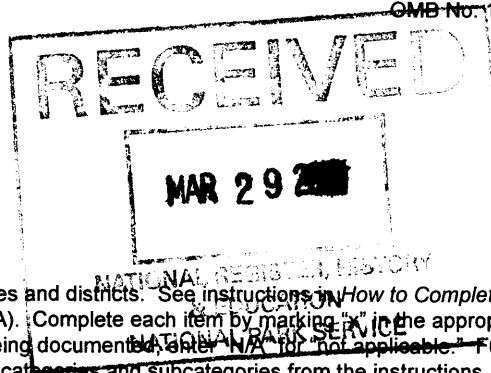


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Officer Farmstead

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 189 Rock Springs Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Monterey

vicinity

stat Tennessee code TN county Overton code 133 zip code 38574

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.)

Herbert L. Haysen  
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/16/01  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other,

(explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

5-2-01

Officer Farmstead  
Name of Property

Overton County, Tennessee  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure           |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object              |

Contributing	Noncontributing	
11	1	buildings
3	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
14	1	Total

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

Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960  
MPS

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
secondary structures  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:  
processing  
storage  
animal facility  
agricultural field

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

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:  
agricultural field  
storage

**7. Description**

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

OTHER: I-house with Queen Anne influence

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone  
walls STUCCO; Weatherboard  
roof Tin  
other Weatherboard; Log  
BRICK; GLASS

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation sheets

**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**

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

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SETTLEMENT  
 AGRICULTURE  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 MILITARY: Civil War

**Period of Significance**

1806-circa 1951

**Significant Dates**

1806, circa 1835, 1864, circa 1900

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Officer, William A. and Fincher, Thomas, builders

**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:

Center for Historic Preservation, MTSU

Officer Farmstead  
Name of Property

Overton County, Tennessee  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** approximately 536 acres Monterey 331 NE

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>655240</u>	<u>4006680</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>655560</u>	<u>4005120</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>656400</u>	<u>4006280</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>653720</u>	<u>4005980</u>

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Grindstaff, Sean Reines, Chris Armstrong, Carroll Van West  
organization Center for Historic Preservation date December 15, 2000  
street & number Middle Tennessee State University—Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

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

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

#### Photographs

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

#### Additional items

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

### Property Owner

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

name Walton Officer  
street & number 504 Agee Street telephone 931-839-772  
city or town Monterey state TN zip code 38574

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Officer Farmstead  
Overton County, Tennessee

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## DESCRIPTION

The Officer Farmstead is located on Rock Springs Road approximately ten miles southeast of Livingston, the county seat of Overton County, Tennessee, and about two and half miles from Monterey, a late nineteenth century railroad town in Putnam County. The nominated boundaries of the Officer Farmstead contain approximately 536 acres, comprising the domestic environment of the dwelling and its immediate outbuildings, together with the property's historic barns, a tenant house, the extant historic agricultural fields, and a family cemetery. The farm is located in the Upper Cumberland Plateau—an area comprised of eleven counties situated on a plateau that divides East Tennessee from Middle Tennessee. Established in 1806, Overton County was formed from the lands in the eastern part of Jackson County, Tennessee. Its original boundaries included all of the present limits of Overton, Fentress, and Pickett counties, and parts of Clay, Putnam, Cumberland, and Morgan counties. The hillside setting of the Officer Farmstead, with an adjacent creek ensuring a steady supply of water and the primary forests and fields of the farm nestled within a combination of relatively flat land and rolling hills, indicates the general landscape forms preferred by the earliest settlers of the Plateau. Land of this quality and topography could successfully support livestock and market agriculture, including staple crops such as tobacco and corn. Even today, much of the surrounding countryside in the Upper Cumberland remains active farmland, and livestock husbandry is the most common agricultural pursuit. The Officer Farmstead is one of the most significant and well-preserved family farms in the Upper Cumberland, both for the high level of integrity found in the extant historic structures and the documented role of the Officer family in the settlement of the county.

### 1. Officer House (c. 1835, 1900, 1940)

The William Alexander Officer house was built c.1835 by Officer and his brother-in-law Thomas Fincher. The two-story I-house, with circa 1900 Queen Anne influenced bargeboard porch columns and brackets and interior decoration, contains an L-shaped floor plan and sits on a limestone foundation. James Boswell, who occupied the house c.1940, covered the original weatherboard of the house with stucco. However, portions of the stucco have eroded away on each elevation leaving the original weatherboard exposed. The side-gabled roof of the house, constructed with wood shingles, was replaced with tin around 1940. Two exterior end stone chimneys are located on the east and west elevations of the house. The ell also contains two chimneys, a centrally located stone chimney, and a brick slope chimney located near the south elevation. A second story was added to the original one-story ell around 1900.

A one-story wood porch, with Queen Anne-influenced trim, supported by eight wood machine-carved Queen Anne style posts, covers the symmetrical three bay north facade. The porch rests on a stone foundation with stone steps leading to the entrance bay of the house. The

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Officer Farmstead  
Overton County, Tennessee

porch contains a half-hip roof covered with tin. The entrance bay consists of a two-paneled Queen Anne-style wood door with a single pane of glass set in a wood frame. The remaining bays contain window openings with circa 1835 four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash, although recent vandalism at the property has broken a few of the original panes of glass.

The east elevation is marked with the gable end of the I-house, which is adorned with cornice returns and an exterior end stone chimney that is flanked by two window openings on the first floor with four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash. The stucco around the lower portion of the elevation has eroded, exposing the original weatherboard. South of the gable end is the two-story side gable wing extension, which displays an asymmetrical fenestration. The first floor contains two window openings with different lights. The northernmost window contains four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash, while to the south is a window opening with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash. Located to the south of this window is a door opening, capped with a metal shed roof. A wood paneled door with an accompanying wood frame screen door fills the door opening. The second floor exhibits two window openings containing six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash. Large portions of the stucco along this elevation have fallen off, especially near the door and window openings at the south end.

The south elevation reveals the rear of the main block and the gable end of the ell. The main block consists of two window openings on the second floor that contain six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash. A full width shed roof porch covered with a standing seam metal roof, and supported by four machine-carved posts, divides the two floors of the main block. The original wood shingles of the roof were also covered with tin around 1940. Nestled in the ell of the house, the shed roof porch joins a similar porch located along the west elevation of the addition. The first floor of the main block contains a door opening consisting of a two-paneled wood door and a wood screen door. The gable end of the wing consists of a window opening with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash on the first floor. The stucco is relatively intact along this elevation, however, portions of the material have fallen off just below the window on the gable end of the addition.

Highlighting the west elevation is the gable end of the I-house and the rear addition. An exterior stone chimney flanked by four window openings (two windows on each floor) with four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash adorns the gable end of the main block. A cornice return completes the ornamentation of the gable end. The west elevation of the rear addition consists of an asymmetrical arrangement of window and door openings. The first floor consists of two window openings, one with four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash, and the other with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash. A door opening located to the right of the window openings contains a two-paneled wood door that is accompanied by wood screen door. The second floor consists of two window openings with six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash. One of the windowpanes is broken, but otherwise the glass is historic. Two square wood posts and two metal posts of

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Overton County, Tennessee

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unknown dates support the shed roof porch that is connected to the ell wing. The porch roof is covered with standing seam metal. The stucco on this portion of the elevation remains mostly intact.

The Officer house has a central hall plan, with roughly equal size rooms flanking the hallway. The main block is joined to a two-story ell with two rooms on each floor. Although unoccupied, and subject to vandalism, the house's interior retains integrity, and documents the historic wood craftsmanship of the dwelling. There is a central hall staircase with circa 1900 Queen Anne-influenced detailing that includes fancy turned newel posts and balusters, which are embellished with scrolled panels. The entrance door to the hallway exhibits Queen Anne/Eastlake detailing and dates circa 1900.

Flanking the central hall are large parlors that retain circa 1835 mantels. The west parlor also has a circa 1835 enclosed box staircase that provides access from the first floor to the second story rooms of the ell-wing. Also extant through the dwelling are circa 1835 interior wood paneled doors, wood flooring, and baseboards. The second story ell rooms are roughly finished compared to the attention to architectural detail found in the main block.

Although an amount of the stucco added to the dwelling circa 1940 has fallen off, giving the house a misleading appearance of deterioration, the house is structurally sound, retains its historic layout of rooms, and retains its significant architectural elements and craftsmanship. It is a contributing building. (C)

## 2. Cantilever barn (c. 1810, 1900)

The cantilever barn, known by the Officer family as the "crib", lies in a valley approximately 75 yards northeast of the Officer house. According to Officer family history, corn would be brought to the original double-crib barn, shucked, and stored in one of the two pens inside the barn. Cows were kept in the remaining pen. The barn consists of a rectangular floor plan built with poplar logs, which served as the most widely used type of building material for both houses and outbuildings by the Upper Cumberland's earliest settlers. The log cribs were covered c. 1900 with vertical board siding on the east, north, and west elevations while a tin roof was installed c. 1940. The gable wall is approximately 20-25 feet high with the entire length of the barn measuring close to 60 feet in length. To make the barn even more durable, half-dovetail notching was used to secure the ends of the logs. This angular notch was popular in the Upper Cumberland not only for its beauty and practicality but also because it made a building structurally sound by pulling each log toward the inside of the structure, thus securing it from being kicked out and eliminating the necessity for pins and nails. Family history holds that the iron hinges found throughout the barn and smokehouse are the work of an Officer slave who served as the farm's blacksmith. Wood

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National Park Service

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Officer Farmstead  
Overton County, Tennessee

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pegs keep the logs in place throughout the interior. Double doors on the east elevation of the barn provide a main entrance. Openings on the gable ends also serve as entranceways (C).

### 3. Smokehouse (c. 1810)

The smokehouse sits adjacent to the southeast corner of the house. Used by generations of the Officer family to smoke and store meat (primarily hog meat), the smokehouse is a rectangular chesnut log building, with a gable end entrance and an overhanging gable tin-covered roof. Like the cantilever barn, the ends of the logs are held together with half-dovetail notching. A wood door, also made from chestnut, serves as the entrance bay. The interior consists of one room with exposed beams on which meat was hung for curing. (C).

### 4. Well house (c. 1900)

The well house sits by the east elevation of the house, to the southeast of the smokehouse. The well house follows a box construction floor plan measuring approximately 10' x 10' with a side-gabled tin roof. The walls are vertical wood siding. A wood door on the elevation facing the Officer house provides the only entrance bay. The interior has exposed beams and a dug well, with hardware in the center to lower and raise a bucket. (C).

### 5. Lumber House and Cellar (c. 1915)

The lumber house is near the west elevation of the house adjacent to the road. The lumber house has two levels, with a dug-out cellar of brick and rock set in concrete serving as the foundation for a frame, weatherboard upper level. It has a rectangular floor plan measuring approximately 18' x 12' with a front-gabled tin roof entrance at the lower level. The facade consists of one entrance bay with stone walls, a wood top, and a front-gabled tin roof on the lower floor. The upper floor contains horizontal wood siding with a front-gabled tin roof supported by wood posts on each end. On the east elevation, the lower floor is underground with the top of the brick foundation barely visible. The upper floor consists of one bay with a single 4-pane window. The lower floor of the south elevation is also underground. The upper floor consists of horizontal wood siding. On the west elevation, the lower floor is underground while the upper floor consists of one bay with a single 4-pane window. The lower floor of the interior consists of an earthen floor, brick walls, and a set of steps leading to the upper floor. The upper floor contains one room with a wood floor, wood walls, and exposed beams. (C)

### 6. Privy (c. 1920)

The privy sits directly across from the smokehouse. The building follows a rectangular floor plan measuring approximately 15' x 10' with vertical wood siding and a side-gabled tin roof. The building's size, method of construction, and interior, reflects the standardized plans for a "sanitary privy" encouraged by agricultural extension agents and public health officials in Tennessee during the 1920s and 1930s, but the family does not know of any direct source for the building's



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Officer Farmstead  
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construction. Part of the south elevation wall has been removed, but the building retains its structural integrity. (C).

## 7. Chicken house (c. 1920)

The chicken house is south of the privy. The building follows a rectangular floor plan measuring approximately 20' x 15' with vertical wood siding and a side-gabled roof. The chicken house is no longer in use today. (C).

## 8. Garage (c. 1929)

The garage is south of the chicken house. The structure follows a rectangular floor plan measuring approximately 20' x 15' with vertical wood siding and a side-gabled tin roof. There is a single door opening on the east elevation. The interior consists of one room with exposed beams. Currently, the structure serves as a woodshed (C).

## 9. Cattle barn (c. 1920)

The cattle barn is approximately 100 yards south of the domestic complex of the Officer farmstead. The building has a rectangular floor plan measuring approximately 25' x 35' with vertical wood siding and a front-gabled roof. The facade consists of an entrance bay on the lower floor with a wide, double-door opening. There is a hayloft opening, covered by a gable-roof hay hood, above the entrance bay. The south elevation contains a wide, double-door opening on the lower floor. The walls and roof on the west elevation remain intact. The interior consists of four pens on both sides of the barn used to store hay and cattle. Its most interesting feature is that the stalls on the west side have been adapted from an earlier half-dovetailed notched log building. The current property owner does not know the original history of the log building; it may have been an earlier log crib on the farm that was adapted into the more standard cattle barn of the early twentieth century. (C).

## 10. Pond (c. 1940)

To the east of the barn is a pond, developed by the family as part of its involvement in the programs of the Soil Conservation Service. The pond is a contributing site. (C)

## 11. Hay barn (c. 1940)

A gable roof box-construction hay barn stands adjacent to the pond and the cattle barn. The barn suffers from both wind damage and deterioration. It is a non-contributing building (NC, due to deterioration.)

## 12. Tenant house (c. 1900)

The T-shape gable roof, box-construction tenant house has four symmetrical bays on its east facade, consisting of window openings flanking two front doors. This is a typical style for tenant houses of circa 1900 and is sometimes classified as a "Cumberland House." (C)

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Officer Farmstead  
Overton County, Tennessee

## 13. Tobacco Barn (c. 1950)

The gable-roof burley tobacco barn is of box construction. It has a large center aisle, flanked by two side aisles and is covered with a tin roof. The barn is a contributing building.(C)

## 14. Officer Cemetery (c. 1828)

The Officer Cemetery is a small rural family cemetery located adjacent to a historic field of the Officer Farmstead. Access to the cemetery is on Peaceful Valley Road. The cemetery is placed at the top of a small hill that overlooks much of the Overton Farm. It is roughly rectangular in shape, measuring a total area of approximately one acre. Historic tree lines designate the boundaries of the cemetery and the road that leads up to it. The road leading up to the cemetery is blocked by a metal gate. The current owner of the land is Mary Ann Chambers, who, along with Walton Officer, are trustees for the cemetery.

There are at least 35 unknown gravesites. Established at least by circa 1828 according to the earliest readable tombstone of Richard Fancher, a Revolutionary War veteran, the nominated property is one of the oldest cemeteries in the county. In most of the research material collected about the site, the cemetery is referred to as the Officer Cemetery. The founding families of the Officer Cemetery, judging from cemetery records and headstones, appear to be the Officer and Boswell families. Currently there are 48 legible head stones. Of this number, there are seven Civil War Veterans and one Revolutionary War Veteran. Two of the Officer family headstones are ceremonial. These belong to James Officer who died in 1810 (a Revolutionary War Vet) and his wife Margaret who died in 1814. They are both buried in Pennsylvania according to Walton Officer. The headstones were erected by members of the Officer family c. 1980.

The majority of the 39 historic, pre-1950 grave markers out of 48 legible headstones (from an estimated 83 burial sites) in the cemetery are grouped toward the west end of the cemetery. The markers are arranged in north-to-south rows, with the headstones facing east. The great majority of extant grave markers date between 1828 (the earliest marker that had a death date listed) and 1950. The cemetery remains in use in Overton County, with the latest interment being that of James Boswell in 1992.

The majority of the grave markers are small and have very little ornamentation, and are made of limestone, granite and sandstone. There are however, approximately seventeen very distinctive comb graves. The comb graves are a grave cover composed of two rectangular slabs of stone laid with their long sides touching, creating a gabled shape, at

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Officer Farmstead  
Overton County, Tennessee

the head of which a headstone with a carving is usually placed. The result is similar to a gable-end grave house, except there are no "walls" to the structure. The first comb grave was built over the grave of Louisa Hampton in 1888, and the last one was built over the grave of Pauline Boswell in 1915. Several comb graves have headstones that are interesting documents of folk art. Sarah Davies' comb grave was a locally hand carved headstone and grave cover with no ornamentation. Isack Walker's comb grave is hand crafted as well. Isack's name is phonetically spelled and his headstone is decorated with a five-pointed star. The star stands for the spirit, piercing the darkness as an expression of their triumph against the overwhelming odds of oblivion. The headstone of Pauline Boswell's (c. 1915) comb grave was professionally done. The headstone is ornately decorated, the letters are stenciled, and a carving of a lamb was placed on top. This shows that the tradition of hand carving was over, replaced by more mainstream Victorian era commercial themes, like the lamb to symbolize the death of a child.

Located at the east end of the cemetery, away from the Officer family, are six grave markers, circa 1980, that were erected near the location of where six Confederate soldiers, who were killed at the Officer house, were buried in a mass grave in 1863. Near these graves is a granite bench that was dedicated to James I. Parker on the second Sunday in June 1998. Parker was a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Murfreesboro Camp #33. Parker, with the help of Juanita Heard, did the necessary research to obtain the free markers provided by the U.S. government for the six Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

The cemetery is well maintained and retains a strong sense of location, association, design, feeling, workmanship, materials, and setting. (C)

## 15. Field patterns (c.1900-c.1940)

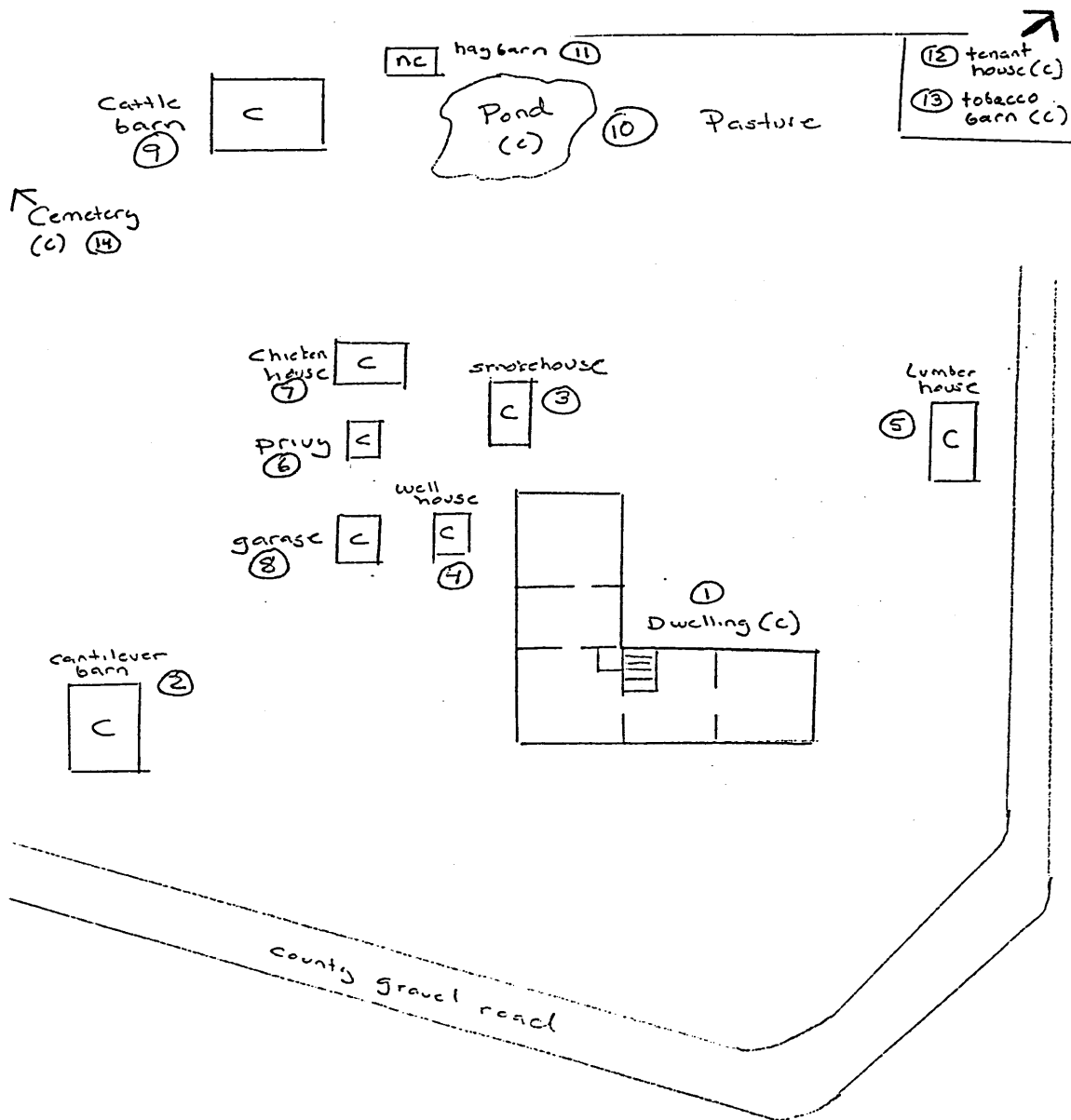
The extant fence lines and tree lines of the farm document its shift to progressive market-driven crops in the early to mid-twentieth century; especially pasture for livestock and burley tobacco crops. The setting of the house, on a limestone outcropping overlooking a spring and on poorer value land away from the primary agricultural fields is an excellent physical record of the organization of an antebellum farmstead in the Upper Cumberland. (C)

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Officer Farmstead  
Overton County, Tennessee



NTS:2000 N↑

United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Officer Farmstead  
Overton County, Tennessee

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Officer Farmstead in Overton County, Tennessee, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under Criterion A in the themes of agriculture, settlement, and military history. The farm is also eligible under Criterion C as an architecturally significant grouping of related farm buildings. The ages of the buildings range from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century up to the 1940s, and together illustrate the history of a Middle Tennessee farmstead. Additionally, the outbuildings on the farmstead, especially in the c. 1810 cantilever barn, which is unusual to Middle Tennessee, represent a fine collection of folk architecture. It meets the registration requirements for agricultural, settlement, and architectural significance of a historic family farm in the Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960 MPS.

Alexander Officer first settled in Overton County around 1806 when the county was established. Moving from Kentucky, Officer and his wife Henrietta Lancaster settled approximately four miles east of the hamlet of Standing Stone (now the location of the town of Monterey) on the Walton Road which linked Kingston, Roane County, on the Tennessee River, with Carthage, Smith County on the Cumberland River. To Alexander and his wife were born four children: Margaret, James, William Alexander, and Robert (who died a few years after his birth). Two significant farm buildings—the c. 1810 cantilever barn and the smokehouse—date to this period of initial settlement, marking the beginning of the agricultural landscape of Overton County. Perhaps even more important is the setting of the farm. The house site is on a limestone outcropping, which looks down on a small valley watered by a creek, nearby a spring, and was close to the only major road of the region, the Walton Road. Thus, Officer's choice for his farmstead met most of the characteristics of early settlement noted in Donald Winters' book, *Tennessee Farming, Tennessee Farmers* (1994):

Successful settlers understood the criteria for selecting a viable farm site. They sought a location with good soil, reasonably level and well-drained terrain, a supply of timber, and a source of fresh water. Beyond these essential requirements, they looked for outcroppings of limestone for fertilizer lime, stones for chimneys and fences, a stand of oak or red cedar for furniture and utensils, and, perhaps, falling water for a future gristmill. Those anticipating the possibility of commercial ventures at a later time—by all indications, the vast majority of them—often chose sites with transportation links to potential markets. (15-16)

Indeed, transportation was important enough that the family operated a "stand" for travelers as early as 1812. Margaret Officer later married Thomas H. Fancher, and by 1835, Fancher and his brother-in-law James Officer completed construction of the present Officer farmhouse, where Fancher, Margaret Officer, and her two brothers lived until 1836. Upon leaving the farmhouse,

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Fancher turned the property over to James Officer. By this time, the farm included the house, the cantilever barn, a smokehouse, and over 1000 acres of farmland. James kept the property until late 1836 when it was bought from him by his brother William Alexander Officer as a permanent residence for himself and his wife Cynthia Holford.

Even though the geography, soil, and climate of the Upper Cumberland were not conducive to the typical plantation crops—tobacco or cotton—of antebellum Tennessee agriculture, William Alexander Officer established what was very much a plantation in this region. According to a biographical questionnaire at the Tennessee State Library and Archives of his grandson William Robinson Officer, William Alexander Officer was “a prominent farmer and stock man in Overton County” who “owned a number of slaves” until after the Civil War. In the twenty-five years between his purchase of the Officer property and the beginning of the Civil War, William Alexander Officer dealt heavily in livestock, acquired more property in Overton County, and found himself in excellent financial condition. Unlike most other farms in the area that tended to be rather small, the Officer farmstead was one of the largest in Overton County with over 1000 acres. To distinguish the farm even more from its counterparts in the Upper Cumberland, slaves assisted the Officer family in working the land (two of them, Abraham and Robert, remained at the Officer farmstead until the 1870s as hired workers). The uniqueness of the farm becomes clear when its size is compared with figures gathered by Frank Owsley in his study *Plain Folk of the Old South* (1949). Owsley compiled census data from 1850 to prepare a chart of landownership in the Highland Rim region (which included Overton County). According to his numbers, only about 4% of the total number of landowners in the region owned at least one thousand acres of land and owned slaves as well.

William Officer belonged to that select group of Overton County planters. At the time of the 1850 census, William Officer and his wife Cynthia had five children and owned seven slaves. The agricultural census listed 225 improved acres and 700 acres of unimproved land, giving the entire farm a land value of \$3,000. Livestock—with swine production leading the way—was a mainstay of the farm’s commodities, valued at \$2,465. The Officers owned 13 horses, 15 mules, 5 milk cows, 90 beef cattle, 4 oxen, 30 sheep, and 450 pigs. Crops were mixed, but dominated by corn. 2,500 bushels of corn were produced in 1850, followed by 260 bushels of oats, 80 bushels of wheat, and four bushels of rye. Between 1850 and 1860, Officer increased his crop production compared to his livestock, perhaps because of a much larger number of slaves. By 1860, census figures show that Officer owned sixteen slaves, four of whom were males between 20 and 36. He owned only one child-bearing age female slave—a twenty-two year old—but in the coming decade, he could anticipate more, since he owned 4 girl slaves between the age of seven and thirteen. The Officer Farmstead clearly gained in value between 1850 and 1860. The number of improved acres had jumped by a third to 300 acres, more than doubling the value of his land to \$8,000. Cattle numbers were down—there were seven milk cows but only 47 beef cattle—while swine production,

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decreased dramatically to 260 pigs. The numbers of sheep increased to 40; there were two more oxen as well. Perhaps most importantly, Officer began to produce for more specialized markets.

Corn (3,500 bushels), oats (150 bushels), and wheat (200 bushels) were in abundance, but Officer also produced 20 pounds of honey, 25 tons of ham, 25 pounds of beeswax, and 75 bushels each of sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes.

During the Civil War, however, much of his property was confiscated and destroyed by Union forces. The 1870 census, for instance, listed his livestock holdings as drastically diminished, from 260 pigs to 140 pigs, 55 cattle to 32 cattle, and 40 sheep to 18 sheep. Corn production was down from 3,500 bushels to 2,000 bushels. Officer's wealth had been one reason why marauding soldiers targeted his farm. Another reason was that Officer was an active Confederate supporter in a region very much divided between the North and South. The farm in 1864 became the setting for a bloody confrontation between Confederate raiders and Union cavalry.

On March 10, 1864, Colonel William B. Stokes, commander of the Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, U.S.A. which was based in Sparta, White County, sent out between seventy and eighty men under Captains Joseph H. Blackburn and Shelah Waters on a scout up the Calfkiller River Valley between Sparta and Standing Stone (present-day Monterey) in search of enemy guerrillas. About ten miles from Sparta, they skirmished with a force numbering between 100 and 150 Confederates under the command of Colonel John Hughs.

Casualties were minimal on both sides. On March 12, Stokes dispatched a larger detachment of two hundred men for similar service. In his report, Stokes made brief mention of an incident at the Officer farmhouse. While his men were out, Stokes wrote, "They succeeded in killing 7 Texas Rangers, men of the most daring and desperate character. Among these was Lieutenant Davis, the leader of the band." "These men," Stokes continued, "had been murdering and robbing Union citizens" in the region.<sup>1</sup> According to a letter by L.W. Chapin appearing in *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, those killed at the Officer Farmstead were connected to "Col. John Hughes' scouts in Middle Tennessee." The lieutenant who was murdered, whom he referred to as "Lieut. Gulue," left Hughes' command "and went to William Officer's at the foot of Cumberland Mountain in Overton County, to spend the night." He "was captured with his men there the next morning, seven in all, and all were murdered."<sup>2</sup>

Accounts vary as to the number of soldiers killed at the Officer Farmhouse and the exact circumstances surrounding the incident. In a letter dated April 29, 1864, Private Robert E. Hill of Company D, 8<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry stated that Davis was wounded on March 11 and taken to a private home, where he and the others were murdered the next day.<sup>3</sup> Private Henry W. Graber of Company B related that Lieutenant Davis and eight of his men "were surrounded in a house" by

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two companies, one of which was under Captain Blackburn. An armed standoff apparently took place during which Davis and the others "kept them [Stokes' men] from the house all night, until their ammunition gave out." Badly wounded with a broken ankle, Davis finally surrendered when Blackburn promised to spare their lives and treat them as prisoners of war. They were murdered after turning over their arms.<sup>4</sup> Another primary account mentions Private William R. Davis of Company D, 8<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry as being at the Officer Farmstead with the other soldiers on March 12. Before meeting the same fate as his comrades, he killed his guard and escaped.<sup>5</sup>

Mrs. Officer and her daughter Frances had risen early on the morning of March 12 to prepare breakfast for Davis' men and Johnny King, a small boy or young man from Manchester, Tennessee who had accompanied them but was not a soldier. Also present was John H. Officer, son of William and Cynthia Officer and a Private with Colonel George C. Dibrell's 8<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry, C.S.A., who was home on weekend furlough. The Officers and their guests were seated around the table eating or preparing to eat when Stokes' men rode up and began to dismount. They entered the house and began to terrorize the family and their guests, whose guns were stacked in the hallway. John Officer avoided detection by hiding in the loft above the kitchen. After killing the six soldiers, Union troops twice tried to burn the house. On both occasions, William Alexander Officer, Sr. managed to extinguish the fire before it could spread. Stokes' men, satisfied with their work, soon departed.<sup>6</sup>

The eyewitness account of Officer family slave Abraham H. Officer affirms that all of the soldiers except Davis were shot inside the house. According to A.H. Officer, Davis was "wounded and couldn't walk. They carried him out of the house and stood him up by the gate post and shot him." Before his execution, Davis yelled: "You ought not do this. I have never done anything but my sworn duty." As Union troops fired on one Confederate, Oliver Shipp, inside the house, a stray bullet wounded Cynthia Officer. King "went in the house" and "hid in a corner." Officer told the Union troops that King "was an orphan boy going about from house to house." Satisfied that King was not a Confederate soldier, Stokes' men did not harm him. A.H. Officer also claimed to have prepared John Officer's hiding place. As Union forces prepared to leave, A.H. Officer heard Captain Ezekial "Zeke" Bass inform William Alexander Officer, Sr. that their intention was to kill him and burn the home. The only reason they refrained from doing so was to allow William Alexander to care for his wounded wife.<sup>7</sup> After the Union forces left, A.H. Officer is said to have loaded the dead soldiers onto an ox cart and hauled them to the Officer family cemetery. John Officer emerged from his hiding place, bid his parents farewell, and eventually made his way back to his regiment.<sup>8</sup>

According to recent research by Benjamin F. Cooling and Noel Fisher, incidents such as the Officer Farm killings were commonplace in the Upper Cumberland Plateau, where divided sympathies among the populace and increasingly determined resistance to Union occupation as the war progressed produced widespread guerrilla, or "partisan" warfare. Here and elsewhere,



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this type of fighting was of a localized and clandestine nature and employed by both sides. It pitted community members, neighbors, friends, and acquaintances with divergent sympathies and political views regarding secession and the war against each other. It was most often done by loosely organized bands of armed and mounted civilians, draft evaders, army deserters, and stragglers. Since spring 1861, Overton, Putnam, White, and Fentress counties in Tennessee were the scenes of particularly intense and widespread reciprocal violence between Unionist and secessionist guerrillas.

The two most formidable Confederate guerrilla leaders to operate in this locale were Colonel John Hughs and Champ Ferguson. Hughs, a regular officer with the 25<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry, was ordered by General Braxton Bragg to go the Upper Cumberland region on a mission to collect absentees in August 1863. Cut off from his unit by Federal forces moving toward Chattanooga, Hughs took command of all guerrilla bands in the area and embarked on an eight-month campaign to hunt Unionist bushwhackers. His fluctuating command included those killed at the Officer Farmstead. Ferguson was the most feared Confederate guerrilla in the Upper Cumberland. He made "unrelenting war" upon Unionists in the Calfkiller Valley of White County and elsewhere. His primary Unionist adversary was "Tinker" Dave Beatty. In July 1865, he was tried for the numerous murders he allegedly committed during the war. Alexander Officer, Sr. who lived five miles from Ferguson "in the upper edge of Putnam County, Tennessee," was one of only four witnesses to testify on his behalf.<sup>9</sup>

In June 1862, former DeKalb County Congressman William B. Stokes was authorized to raise a cavalry regiment to counter the increasingly widespread guerrilla activity in Tennessee. On 24 January 1864, General George Thomas, commander of the Union Department of the Cumberland, ordered Stokes' Fifth Tennessee Cavalry to Sparta for a prolonged campaign to break up and destroy Confederate guerrilla bands infesting the region. On 18 February, Stokes occupied Sparta where he concluded that Hughs' men were running rampant through the region. On 22 or 24 February, Hughs' men ambushed a detachment of Stokes' command on the Calfkiller River. Stokes reported that "a great many of the rebels were dressed in our uniform at the time the two companies were attacked, and several of my men were killed after they had surrendered." The desire to avenge this atrocity committed by Hughs' men at the "Battle of Dug Hill," or "Battle of the Calfkiller," may have prompted the killings at the Officer farmhouse.<sup>10</sup>

Benjamin F. Terry organized the Eighth Texas Cavalry in September 1861. It was known throughout the war as the "First Regiment of Texas Rangers," or more commonly "Terry's Texas Rangers." The 8<sup>th</sup> Texas performed the bulk of their service in Tennessee and participated in all major Army of Tennessee campaigns from late 1861 through March 1864. For part of this period, Brigadier-General John Wharton commanded them. At various times, they were formally or informally attached to Morgan's, Forrest's, or Wheeler's cavalry forces. By 1864, they had

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developed a reputation for their proficiency at scouting behind enemy lines and harassing Union armies. William Slaughter was last recorded as "left in Middle Tenn. and supposed captured." Shipp was also thought to be captured as of February 1864, although his whereabouts are not indicated. Samuel Garrett was recorded as being "sick" at Rome, Georgia in November 1863. Garrett's presence reflected the fact that his regiment was divided into two parts in late 1863 and early 1864. That portion which served with Wheeler remained in East Tennessee, while the rest was stationed at Rome.<sup>11</sup> Garrett obviously decided to stay in the plateau, uniting with neither half of the regiment. Lipscomb became separated from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Alabama Cavalry at the Battle of Stones River in 1862-63, during which it served in Wheeler's Brigade. Upon reaching the Upper Cumberland, these stragglers and possibly others joined Hughs' informal partisan network and continued their operations against Union occupation forces and civilians. It was common practice for regular soldiers separated from their regiments to fall in with guerrilla bands for varying amounts of time. Their association with Hughs, coupled with the nature of the war in the Upper Cumberland, would have made them prime targets for Stokes' men.

Passage of General Orders Number 100 on 24 April 1863 by the War Department established guidelines for the treatment of civilians and defined guerrilla warfare. Unlike before, no distinction was to be drawn between squads of regular cavalry and guerrillas operating behind Union lines. A "no quarter" policy was adopted in dealing with guerrillas. Instead of being treated as regular prisoners of war, those caught engaging in such activity were considered "highway robbers or pirates," and could be shot on the spot.<sup>12</sup> Union soldiers stationed in the vicinity of Sparta routinely gave no quarter when fighting bushwhackers and renegade cavalry. This is precisely the fate that befell the six Confederate soldiers killed at the Officer Farmhouse.

Lincoln's December 1863 Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction was the centerpiece of Union occupation policy. It offered a pardon to all Southern civilians who took an oath of allegiance to the Union. A.H. Officer stated that on 28 February 1864, Union soldiers under Colonel Stokes "forced" William Alexander Officer "to take the oath of allegiance at Sparta." "Oath breaking" was common practice in occupied areas. The harshest consequences awaited those citizens caught harboring Confederate soldiers and guerrillas after taking the oath. It was standard practice for Union occupation forces to seize private property and burn homes of secessionists known or suspected to be in complicity with guerrilla bands.<sup>13</sup> At the time of the killings, William Alexander Officer had a reputation for harboring Confederate soldiers. The fact that he did so after having taken the oath was in direct violation of this policy and made him a prime candidate for such punishment.

In the Reconstruction Era following the war, William Alexander Officer had nothing left except his farm but quickly regained his prominence in the commercial world as a farmer and livestock

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trader. By the time of his death on September 18, 1886, Officer was one of the most prominent landowners, with over 1100 acres, and farmers in the Upper Cumberland. The farm was deeded to Officer's son James Lancaster.

From 1886 until 1904, William Alexander Officer's son, James Lancaster Officer (born 1853) and his wife Emma Hampton occupied the Officer Farmstead and controlled its farmland. During his occupancy of the house, a well house was added to the property near the west elevation of the farmhouse at the same time that a second story was added to the ell of the Officer home. It was during this period that the owners gave the house its "Victorian updating" in the form of the new front porch and the interior central hall staircase. The farm continued its previous operations of trading livestock and raising hogs and sheep. Food grown on the property continued to be used for both family subsistence as well as trade in the market economy with the primary crops being corn and cane.

Upon James Officer's death in 1904, his son W.C. Officer occupied the Officer house until 1915 with the farm continuing full operation. In 1915, James' daughter Cynthia Officer married Gib Boswell, and they immediately began their tenure on the Officer property although W.C. Officer still officially owned the land. Once living on the farm, Boswell, under W.C. Officer's guidance, added a chicken house, an outhouse, a lumber house, a storage shed, and a cattle barn to the property. All of the new buildings are evidence that the family now was participating fully in the progressive farm movement of the early twentieth century, which emphasized more cash crops, such as poultry and cattle, as well as more sanitary living conditions, as seen in the modern privy. It was also during this time that the farm began its concentration on producing burley tobacco as a cash crop. Producing burley tobacco became a major trend among progressive agriculturalists throughout the plateau region, with Carthage and Hartsville, Trousdale County, becoming major warehouse centers.

After Gib Boswell's death, his son James Boswell occupied the property beginning around 1929. James Boswell added a garage to the existing property adjacent to the chicken house. In 1940, Boswell also made some renovations to the house that included covering the original wood shingles of the house and porch with tin and covering the original weatherboard with stucco. He also took the farm into the age of soil conservation by terracing fields and building a pond for the growing livestock industry of the farm. The Officer family also sold almost 300 acres of farmland at auction to James Boswell later that year, which decreased the overall land area of the property to its present total of 825 acres. Boswell occupied the house until his death in 1992. During his stay there, the Officer farmstead continued to prosper under the leadership and care of several generations in the Officer family, including W.C. Officer, William Bradley Ray (another of William Alexander Officer's great-grandsons), and Walton Officer (another great-grandson).

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Today, the Officer farmhouse has remained vacant since September 1992. Since that time, ownership of the property has turned to Walton Officer and Jack Ray, both of whom have acted as co-managers of the property for the past eight years. While the farm's operations have decreased considerably over the years, both Officer and Ray lease the property out to a number of farmers in the area.

It is evident that the Officer Farmstead has upheld a great degree of continuity over the past 165 years both in its farm operations and in ownership by several generations of the Officer family. The reputation of the family in the Upper Cumberland region as prominent farmers and landowners is illustrated from Alexander Officer's settlement in Overton County during the early 1800s to Walton Officer's efforts at preserving the Officer property today. Tennessee Census records dating from the 1820s through the mid-twentieth century indicate that not only did members of the Officer clan settle in Overton County, but many of them also became prominent landowners in other parts of the Upper Cumberland region as well, including White, Putnam, Pickett, Fentress, Clay, and Jackson counties.

The Officer farmstead is also architecturally significant as an excellent example of a group of buildings that convey the impact of both the early settlement landscape and then the later progressive farm landscape of the Upper Cumberland. In their study of the cantilever barn, architectural historians Lawrence Wodehouse and Marian Moffett found that this unique type of log construction was concentrated in upper East Tennessee, with scattered examples in neighboring states surrounding the region. They documented no examples in Middle Tennessee. The cantilevered double-crib barn at the Officer farmstead reflects the general pattern of this barn type in that it has two separate log cribs with an open space between the cribs, covered by an overhanging gable roof. Wodehouse and Moffett believe that most cantilever barns were constructed between 1870 to 1915, but Officer family tradition clearly dates this barn before the Civil War. Surviving blacksmith-forged hinges and hardware on the barn, as well as the hand-hewn quality of the logs and notches, provide credence to the early construction date for the building.

Other important examples of folk architecture at the Officer Farmstead include the half-dovetailed log smokehouse, the brick and frame lumber house/cellar, the well house, and the dwelling, which is a classic expression of the various stages experienced by the folk I-house form as families adapted it to new fashions over time. The overall setting of the farmstead, surrounded by the fields and related work barns, including a c. 1900 tenant house, demonstrates common land use patterns from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, especially the cluster of domestic outbuildings near the farmhouse, its location on a prominent point overlooking a spring, and the placement of the tenant house out in the fields nearby a tobacco barn.

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The location of the family cemetery also reflects notions of space and distance in nineteenth century rural communities. The cemetery overlooks the entire farm, and is isolated away from any farm buildings. The founding families of the Officer Cemetery, judging from cemetery records and headstones at the cemetery, appear to be the Officer and Boswell families. The headstones of James Officer (died 1810) and his wife Margaret (died 1814) have the oldest marked death dates on them. According to Walton Officer, the headstones are just ceremonial and do not mark their actual gravesite. They are both buried in Pennsylvania; members of the Officer family had the headstones erected circa 1980. With Conley's grave unmarked, this makes Richard Fancher's headstone the oldest, with a death date of 1828. With 35 unknown graves in the cemetery, it is likely that the establishment of the cemetery occurred earlier.

A predominant form of grave marker in the Upper Cumberland Plateau is the comb grave. The comb graves are a grave cover composed of two slabs of stone laid in a gabled shape. Comb graves may vary from about three feet to about eight feet in length, from about one and a half to about three feet in height, and from about two to about four feet in width. Inscriptions may be written on either slab or on a separate tombstone. The usual explanation given by local residents for the peculiar form is that it protected the graves from the rain. Similar structures stand in Alabama, Arkansas, and east Texas.

The significant cemetery art feature of the Officer Cemetery is the comb graves. There are approximately 17 of these grave houses in the cemetery that were built between 1888 and 1915. Several comb graves have headstones that are interesting documents of folk art. Sarah Davies comb grave was a locally hand carved headstone and grave cover with no ornamentation. Isack Walker's comb grave is hand crafted as well. Isack's name is phonetically spelled and his headstone is decorated with a five-pointed star. The star stands for the spirit, piercing the darkness as an expression of their triumph against the overwhelming odds of oblivion. The headstone of Pauline Boswell's (c. 1915) comb grave was professionally done. The headstone is ornately decorated, the letters are stenciled, and a carving of a lamb is placed on top. This shows the tradition of hand carving was over, replaced by more mainstream Victorian era commercial themes, like the lamb to symbolize the death of a child.

Folklorists have hypothesized that the comb grave house was used mostly in the early settlement era, but evidence from the Cumberland Plateau indicates that comb grave houses remained popular from 1860 to the early twentieth century. According to Walton Officer, the comb graves were built by members of his family from locally quarried stone.

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The cemetery is also where family members and slaves buried the Confederate soldiers who died in the March 12, 1864, firefight at the Officer Farm. The buried soldiers were Second Lt. Robert S. Davis, John P. York, Oliver Shipp, Samuel Garrett, William Slaughter, and William Lipscomb. Contrary to the legend that has existed all these years, only one of the six soldiers was a Texas Ranger, William Slaughter. He belonged to Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Texas Rangers. Davis, Shipp, and Garrett were members of the 8<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry and Lipscomb was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Alabama Cavalry. Buried in a mass grave, appropriate markers were erected for the soldiers in 1982 to signify where the soldiers were laid to rest.

The Officer Cemetery is still in use today. The most recent burial was James Boswell in 1992. The Boswell's and most of the other people buried there are related to the Officer family; with the exception of the Confederate soldiers killed at the Officer house located three quarters of a mile away. According to Walton Officer, while the cemetery contains mostly family members, the cemetery is open to anyone in the community that would like to be buried there. Few farms have been fully documented or nominated to the National Register of Historic Places from the Upper Cumberland; therefore the extant buildings at the Officer farmstead convey a significant collection of the types of buildings associated with a comparatively well-do rural family from the early nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century.

## Endnotes

1. See Report of Col. William B. Stokes, Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, Sparta, Tenn., 28 March 1864, in Lieutenant Colonel Robert N. Scott, comp., *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865*, Series I, Vol. 32, Part I, Serial no. 57 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1891), 494. Hereafter cited as O.R. All 128 volumes reprinted and republished, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: The National Historical Society, 1971 (all O.R. citations are to 1971 editions); and O.R., Report of Col. John M. Hughs, Twenty-Fifth Tennessee Infantry, Dalton, Georgia, 28 April 1864, Series I, Vol., 32, Part I, Serial no. 57, 55. Hughs documented this skirmish as occurring on 10 March, while Stokes dated it to 11 March. Stokes is in error regarding the statement that all of the men murdered at the Officer Farmstead were Texas Rangers because Lipscomb was from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Alabama Cavalry.
2. L.W. Chapin, Livingston, Tennessee, to *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, n.d., in *Confederate Veteran* III, no. 10 (October 1995): 301.
3. Paul Robert Scott, "Eighth Texas Cavalry Regiment, C.S.A.," M.A. Thesis, The University of Texas at Arlington, 1977, 174 and 286. Hill's letter mentioning the incident appears in Pauline Scott Goldman, ed., "Letters From Three Members of Terry's Texas Rangers 1861-1865," M.A.

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Thesis, University of Texas, 1930, 160-161.4. See H.W. Graber, *A Terry Texas Ranger: The Life Record of H.W. Graber* (Dallas: n.p., 1916; reprinted with a new introduction by Thomas W. Cutrer, Austin, Texas: State House Press, 1987), 301-304; and Scott, "Eighth Texas Cavalry Regiment," 174.

5. Ibid., 174-175 and 283.

6. John Roy Dillard, *Standing Stone, Tennessee; Monterey Early History* (Nashville: Harris Press, 1989), 188-191.

7. John T. Moore, comp., Biographical Questionnaire of A.H. Officer, 1922, Tennessee Civil War Veterans Questionnaires, Microfilm 485, ACC-485-1, Biographical Questionnaires, A-Z, Manuscripts Division, Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville.

8. Dillard, *Standing Stone, Tennessee*, 192-193.

9. Thurman Sensing, *Champ Ferguson, Confederate Guerrilla* (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1942), 208 for the number of witnesses, 216 for the quote, and 216-220 for Officer's testimony.

10. O.R., Report of Col. William B. Stokes, 24 February 1864, Series I, Vol. 32, Part I, Serial no. 57, 416 for Stokes account of this action and alleged atrocity; and Stephen V. Ash, *When the Yankees Came: Conflict and Chaos in the Occupied South, 1861-1865* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1995), 57-58, 63, 127-129 for context on vengeance as a motivation for committing such acts.

11. Scott, "Eighth Texas Cavalry Regiment," 146, 174, 217-221, 271, 276, 293, 301, 309; and for the reference to the regiment being divided at this time, see Jeffries, *Terry's Rangers*, 90.

12. Benjamin F. Cooling, *Fort Donelson's Legacy: War and Society in Kentucky and Tennessee, 1862-1865* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1997), 221-222; Noel C. Fisher, *War At Every Door: Partisan Politics and Guerrilla Violence in East Tennessee, 1860-1869* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997), 90-92 for an explanation of the no quarter policy.

13. See Fisher, *War At Every Door*, 134-136 for a good discussion on the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction; Moore, comp., A.H. Officer Biographical Questionnaire, TSL&A for the reference to William Alexander Officer, Sr. taking the oath of allegiance; and Ash, *When the Yankees Came*, 45, 60, 63-67, 73 for the consequences of breaking the oath.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Officer Farmstead encompasses approximately 536 acres, located within Parcels 5 and 10.01, and corresponding to portions of Parcel 3 and Parcel 10, marked on the attached Overton County Tax Maps 121 and 127 (Scale 1' = 400'). Beginning at the southeast corner of the outlined tax map, the boundary extends northeast, following the contours of Rock Springs Road. Upon reaching the point where Parcel 5 and 6 meet, the boundary line extends west along the northern edge of Parcel 5; continuing northward along the western boundary line of Parcel 6 and circumventing the Officer Cemetery to the north. The boundary line then descends in a southwesterly direction beginning at the extreme northeastern point of Parcel 2 and continuing along the eastern boundary of Parcel 2 until reaching the point where Overton and Putnam County meet. Following a straight line in a southeasterly direction, the boundary line meets at the point of beginning.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain all extant significant resources associated with the Officer Farmstead. The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings, fields and cemetery that maintain historic integrity and which best represents the historic qualities of the Officer Farmstead. Only a small portion of Parcel 10 containing the cemetery is included in the nomination. That portion of Parcel 3 located east of Rock Springs Road is not included in the nominated farmstead due to its lack of historic resources associated with the Officer Farmstead. There are no other domestic or farm related outbuildings outside of this boundary that are associated with the Officer Farmstead.

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## Photographs

Officer Farm

Overton Co., Tennessee

Photos by: Carroll Van West  
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: October and November 2000

Officer Farmhouse, facing north

1 of 35

Officer Farmhouse, facing northeast

2 of 35

Officer Farmhouse, facing south

3 of 35

Officer Farmhouse, facing southeast

4 of 35

Officer Farmhouse, facing west

5 of 35

Officer Farmhouse, central hall staircase, facing north

6 of 35

Officer Farmhouse, west parlor with box stair, first floor, facing northeast

7 of 35

Officer Farmhouse, west parlor fireplace, first floor, facing west

8 of 35

Officer Farmhouse, east parlor fireplace, first floor, facing east

9 of 35

Officer Farmhouse, ell wing, first floor, facing north

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Officer Farmhouse, detail of second floor balustrade, facing northwest  
11 of 35

Officer Farmhouse, ell wing, second floor, facing south  
12 of 35

Cantilever barn, facing northwest  
13 of 35

Cantilever barn, facing southeast  
14 of 35

Cantilever barn, detail  
15 of 35

Smokehouse, facing north  
16 of 35

Smokehouse, facing northwest  
17 of 35

Well house, facing north  
18 of 35

Lumber house, facing north  
19 of 35

Chicken house and privy, facing northwest  
20 of 35

Cattle barn, facing north  
21 of 35

Tenant house, facing west  
22 of 35

Field patterns, facing northwest  
23 of 35

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Field patterns, facing southwest  
24 of 35

Field patterns, facing north  
25 of 35

Field patterns, facing west  
26 of 35

Cemetery, facing northwest  
27 of 35

Detail of Bradley Harris tombstone, facing west  
28 of 35

Detail of James Officer tombstone, facing northwest  
29 of 35

Detail of Margaret C. Fancher tombstone, facing west  
30 of 35

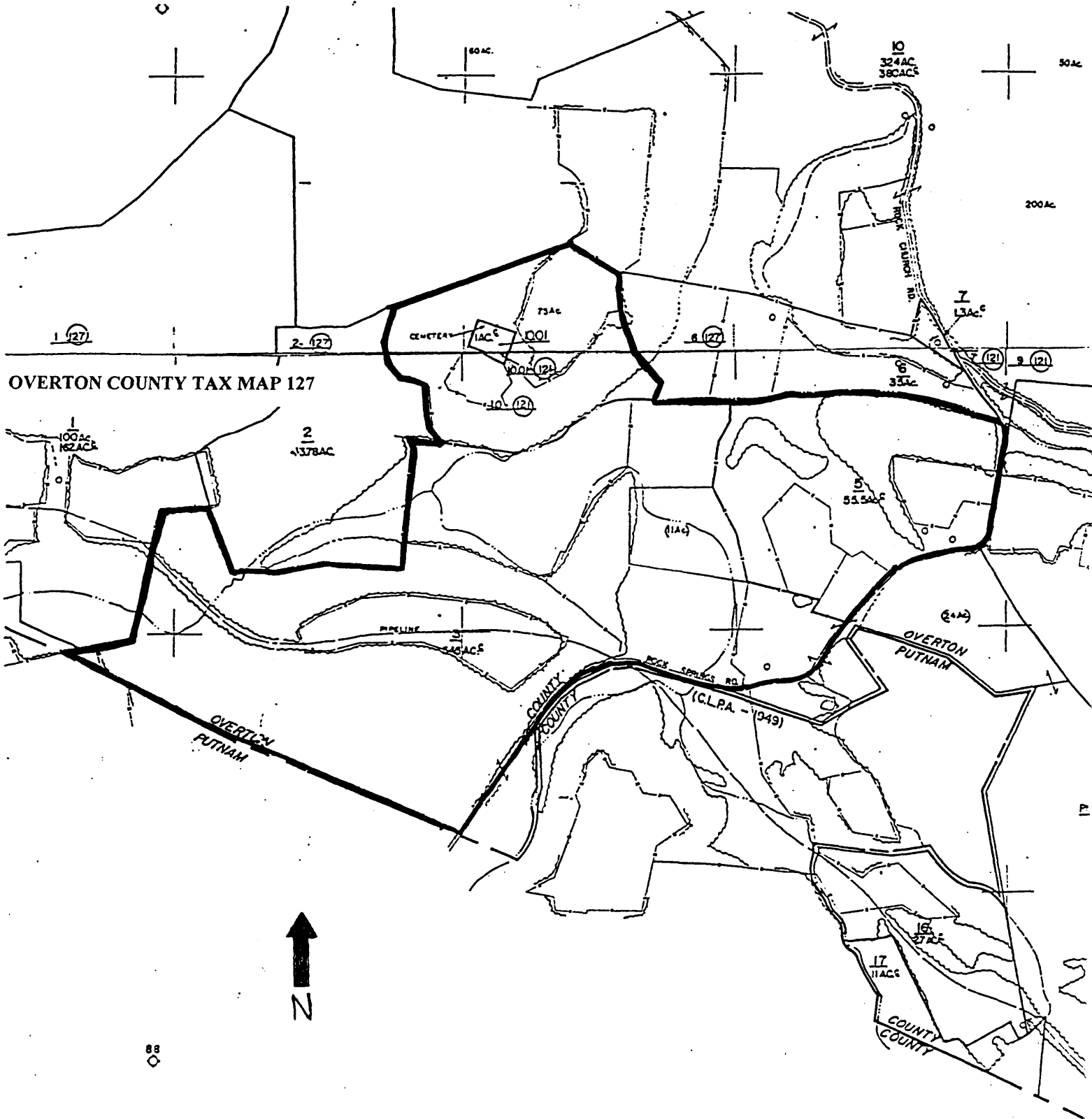
Detail of Sarah Davies tombstone and comb grave, facing west  
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Detail of Isack Walker tombstone and comb grave, facing west  
32 of 35

Detail of Louisa Hampton tombstone and comb grave, facing west  
33 of 35

Overview of comb graves in cemetery, facing southwest  
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Overview of Confederate grave markers, facing northwest  
35 of 35



**OFFICER FARMSTEAD  
OVERTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

SCALE 1" = 400'