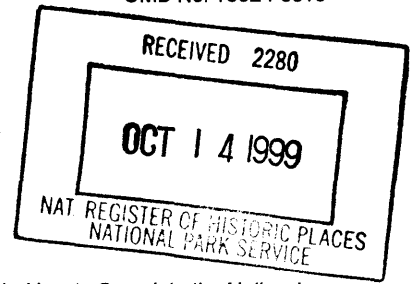


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



1372

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 McLemore House  
other names/site number McLemore, Harvey, House and Estate of Matthews, Maggie, African-American Museum

2. Location

street & number 447 11th Avenue North  not for publication N/A  
city or town Franklin  vicinity N/A  
state Tennessee code TN county Williamson code 187 zip code 37064

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 E. Singer 10/1/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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:)

Edson H. Beall 11/18/99  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

McLemore House  
Name of Property

Williamson County, TN  
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)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

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

N/A

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)

OTHER: Colonial Revival Influence

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Fieldstone, Concrete Block

walls Wood Lap Siding

roof METAL

other BRICK, WOOD

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more 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 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 moved from its original location.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance

1880 - 1947

Significant Dates

1880, 1910

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN - Probably McLemore, Harvey

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:

Williamson County Public, African-American Files

McLemore House  
Name of Property

Williamson County, TN  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .75 acres

**UTM References**  
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Leipers Fork, TN 63 NW

1 16 510840 3975480  
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 Rozanne Folk Wright and Thelma Battle  
organization Franklin Codes Administration/African American Museum date July 1998  
street & number P. O. Box 305/447 11th Avenue North telephone 615-794-7012  
city or town Franklin state TN zip code 37065

#### 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 Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County  
street & number P. O. Box 7023 telephone 615-591-8500  
city or town Franklin state TN zip code 37064

**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 Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

McLemore House  
Williamson County, TN

## 7. DESCRIPTION

The McLemore House is located on the southeast corner of Eleventh Avenue North and Glass Street in Franklin, Tennessee. Harvey McLemore purchased the property lots 14, 15, 16 and 17 of Judge William S. McLemore's subdivision Hard Bargain in 1880 and built his house in the year. He was the third African American to purchase property in Hard Bargain, and built one of the first residential dwellings in the subdivision. Before the Civil War, Harvey McLemore was a slave. Harvey McLemore, at the age of thirty-four, was sold on October 17, 1859, ". . . sound and sensible as a slave for life . . ." to William S. McLemore, then County Clerk McLemore, by Bethenia J. McLemore. She was the future judge's mother.<sup>1</sup>

The McLemore House is currently undergoing restoration for use as an African-American Museum. After surviving 117 years and at least seven generations of the McLemore family, the house sold out of the family in 1997. The house was purchased through the joint efforts of the Williamson County Habitat for Humanity and the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County in 1997. Of the original four lots purchased by Harvey McLemore, the remaining parcel was subdivided into two lots. The newly formed African American Heritage Society, with the assistance of the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, purchased the newly formed lot on which the McLemore House sets.

The house, at time of purchase, was condemned. Restoration efforts on the Colonial Revival influenced house have aided in documenting important information about the house's history. The current house went through two construction stages; the two building phases were:

1. A vernacular Colonel Revival house consisting of three bays with center foyer and staircase - 1880
2. A Colonial Revival Influenced with front porch, two shed roof dormers on the front and a shed roof rear addition extending the entire length of the house added circa 1910.

The McLemore House is a story-and-a-half, with a partial second floor. Situated between two bedrooms upstairs is the landing for the staircase. It has many of the normal features of a two-story Colonial Revival with regard to placement of the chimneys and style of windows. It fits a portion of two descriptions offered in *A Field Guide to American Houses*: a) "...one-story Colonial Revival houses...are generally Cape Cod cottages"<sup>2</sup> and b) a Side-Gabled Roof Colonial Revival. A Cape Cod style house usually has a steep roof pitch, which also allows for habitable space if the area formed by the rafters, is finished. It is a story-and-a-half design, with the rear roof of larger and/or longer than the front section of the roof, covering more floor space than the front half of the house. This is often accomplished by a change in roof pitch similar to that of the McLemore House. However, surviving McLemore descendants

<sup>1</sup> Williamson County Deed Book 2, Page 109

<sup>2</sup> Virginia & Lee McAlester, "A Field Guide to American Houses" (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993), p. 322.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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McLemore House  
Williamson County, TN

have confirmed that the rear addition with its shed roof, was constructed about thirty years after the original structure was built. The fixtures in the bathroom also support this theory. The bathtub is a floor-mounted style with the plumbing enclosed in the wall and a below the floor deck drainage assembly.

The original house was identified during restoration. Aluminum siding was stripped off to reveal one inch by four-inch weatherboard siding - ninety percent (90%) in sound condition. The removal of the asphalt shingle roof exposed a cedar shake roof. The amount of nail holes found in the rafters in the original test patch suggested that the cedar shakes were replaced at least once before the herringbone patterned asphalt shingles were added. Since the gable roof dwelling was built facing the west, from where most of the severe weather comes, the cedar shakes and the deck of the front roof suffered a great deal of damage. The cedar shakes were removed to reveal true oak two inches by four-inch rafters in relatively sound condition spaced at twenty-four inches on center with no ridge beam. The rafters were mitered and butt up end-to-end to form the ridge with a rough grade sawmill oak plank roof deck in a variety of "one inch by \_\_\_ inches" dimensions (i.e., one inch by four inches, one inch by eight inches, etc.). The gable roof was built with a 12/12 pitch on the original McLemore House, and a 7/12 or less pitch on the shed roof rear addition. The house now has a metal roof, although the original house had cedar shakes, it was deemed less expensive to go with a metal roof that would require less upkeep.

The crawl space indicates that the original foundation of the McLemore House was altered when the rear addition was added. The stacked fieldstone foundation walls of the original dwelling were still in place on the front of the dwelling and on the two gable ends. The southern section of the foundation has been partially removed and reused on the southern portion of the rear addition. The stacked fieldstone pier that supported a splice in the rear outer band of the first floor system is still in place. It shows no signs of disturbance during either of the subsequent two construction phases. Three out of four of the original foundation walls remain intact. The west side can only be observed from the crawl space since the front porch addition included a concrete porch for support. The south side is different because the crawl space there was partially dug out for a root and storm cellar. Forming the walls of the root cellar on the south and west sides are the stacked fieldstone foundation walls of the original dwelling, on the north and east by interior stacked fieldstone walls. DuVall and Associates are scheduled to conduct an archeological analysis of the root cellar when exterior debris from restoration is cleared and the access door, which is nailed shut, is opened.

The foundation of the rear shed roof addition that runs the complete length of the Colonial Revival Influenced dwelling is ninety- percent concrete block and ten percent stacked fieldstone. The southern outer band of the original first floor system became the intermediate girder of the third and final structure. The first floor joists are two inches by ten inches and run west to east. The front porch joists' ends are notched on the bottom to allow the fieldstone foundation wall to provide support. This is not the case on the rear ends of the floor joists. They are simply face-nailed to the double outer band at the rear of the original dwelling. The front portion of the crawl space is very shallow. The ground slopes from the northwest corner to the southeast corner. Therefore, the way the fieldstone foundation wall is laid, the floor joists along most of the front wall are notched. There are double floor joists serving as girders to

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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McLemore House  
Williamson County, TN

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support the foyer walls. When the rear shed roof addition was constructed, the double rear outer band served as the girder for the rear, load bearing wall of the original Colonial Revival Influenced dwelling.

The front or, west, facade of the house is a very simple side gable, three bay house with a hip roof porch. The facade consist of a center door flanked by two windows are approximately the same size as the door. The windows are four-over-six and six-over-six double-hung with storms. The door is a simple wood door with a glass window. The doors and windows are almost hidden by the hip roof porch that is supported by four square posts. In circa 1910 when the porch was added two dormers were added to the half-story above the porch. Do to deterioration, the dormers were not replaced during the re-roofing of the house.

On each gable end is a chimney with stacked fireboxes. The brick chimney on the south end is in better condition than the north end, but both chimneys will have the second floor section re-mortared. The chimney on the north end of the house is square to the top of the two flanking windows. The windows on the north side of the house are missing their original glass and part of their frame. They were originally hinged to open inward. There is also a single rectangular window opening at the beginning of the shed roof addition that was added in circa 1910. The glass is also missing from this window, but it appears to be the same type of window that is on the second floor.

The rear or east elevation of the house consists of the long 'salt box' type roof' that ties the original 1880 house to the circa 1910 addition. Openings in the rear of the house consist of two square side-by-side windows, a wood door with two glass panels, a single square window that consists of four panes that is placed higher than the side-by-side windows and a second solid wood door that served as the entrance to the beauty saloon. From the appearance of the weatherboard, this portion of the addition may have been altered at a later date to accommodate the business. There are vertical boards that separate the single door from the other openings and the weatherboard does not line up evenly as it would have it all been enclosed at the same time.

The south elevation of the house is almost identical to the north elevation. However the chimney on this end of the house has corbeled shoulders up to the chimney flue. It also contains the two flanking windows of six panes each that open inward. In the rear shed roof addition is a single window that sets back further than the window on the north elevation

The rear shed roof addition had chimneys on each outer corner. However, they were not supported with a through-floor masonry foundation, and were surrounded by the shed roof on all sides, which made them susceptible to weather damage. They had collapsed by the time the McLemore house had been purchased and could not be salvaged.

On the first floor, there is a front foyer with a narrow, enclosed staircase on the south side of the foyer. Winders occur at the beginning of the stairs. The foyer separates two rooms, one a bedroom or dining room and the other a parlor.

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McLemore House  
Williamson County, TN

On the second, or half-story, the stairs end at a landing between two bedrooms, one on the north end of the house and one at the south end. The north bedroom has rough sawmill cut planks beginning for the finished floor, extending up all four walls and across the entire ceiling. The planks are not of uniform size, but average one inch by eight inches. The south bedroom has a comparable floor, but all four walls and the ceiling are covered in finish grade one inch by six-inch tongue-and-groove cedar. The door into the north room is made of sawmill grade planks laid vertically with horizontal members spaced in even thirds at the top, middle and bottom. It is hung with unremarkable hinges, fastened with a simple latch and operated with a simple handle like a simple open-type drawer pull.

Windows on the front facade of this Colonial Revival Influenced house are similar to those described in *The Field Guide to American Houses*. On the first floor, they are rectangular in shape and have double-hung sashes. The windows are six-over-six and four-over-six double-hung. In *The Field Guide to American Houses* it states that "equally common are multi-pane upper sashes hung above lower sashes that have only a single large pane, a pattern never seen on colonial originals."<sup>3</sup> McLemore's deviation supports a vernacular interpretation of a classic American Colonial Revival style was probably due to available windows.

There are no windows on the first floor gable ends. However, on the second floor on each gable end there is a single sash, multi-pane window flanking the center gable brick chimney. There are also single sashes; multi-pane windows along the three walls of the rear shed roof addition.

This addition, added by Mary McLemore Matthews, occurred after Harvey McLemore died in 1903. The additions built circa 1910 were the hip roof front porch and the shed roof rear addition. Once again, surviving McLemore descendants support this theory. In addition, the concrete porch is of the style and construction that is normally found on Bungalows and Late Victorian Cottages. The hip roof of the front porch is supported on the east by the front wall. It has side insets, and therefore does not extend the full length of the house. Its base is concrete, with an expansion joint grid of four foot by four-foot squares. The west side is supported by four square posts (four inches by four inches), one at each outer corner to support the hip ends of the porch roof, and two posts spaced equidistant between the two corner posts.

The rear shed roof addition extends the length of the original Colonial Revival Influenced house. A kitchen occupied the north end of the addition. Also part of the addition is a small hallway leading from the back door to the front foyer. The hallway opened off the south hallway wall into a full bath and on the south wall of the bath a hallway opened into a room that served as a beauty shop on the south end. The room was converted into a beauty shop when Maggie Matthews inherited the house from her mother, Mary Matthews, who was Harvey McLemore's daughter. The one-inch by four-inch wood lap siding of the rear wall of the original dwelling was covered in the kitchen, the hall, the bathroom, and in the beauty shop. After being exposed during restoration it was observed that they were almost completely intact, with the only alternations having been made for doors to the rear shed roof addition. The beauty shop

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<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*, page 324.



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McLemore House  
Williamson County, TN

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had a door to the southern interior room of the original dwelling, and an exterior door. Its rafters are two inches by four inches oak, as are its walls. There are two doors on the rear addition - one that is aligned with the original rear door that opens into the foyer and one that opens into the room on the southern end of the addition that served as the beauty shop entrance.

The entrance to the root and storm cellar is masonry that supports a simple single door that slopes from the southern gable end to almost grade level out in the yard. The entrance to the root cellar extends approximately two to three feet past the footprint of the brick chimney.

The exterior front and rear load bearing walls are made of two inches by four-inch studs, but their spacing has not yet been confirmed. It is proposed that they are spaced at sixteen to inches on center; however, they could be spaced the same as the rafters - twenty-four inches on center. The interior load bearing walls are of two inches by four-inch construction and are spaced at eighteen inches on center. The second floor has two inches by ten inches oak floor joists running from west to east.

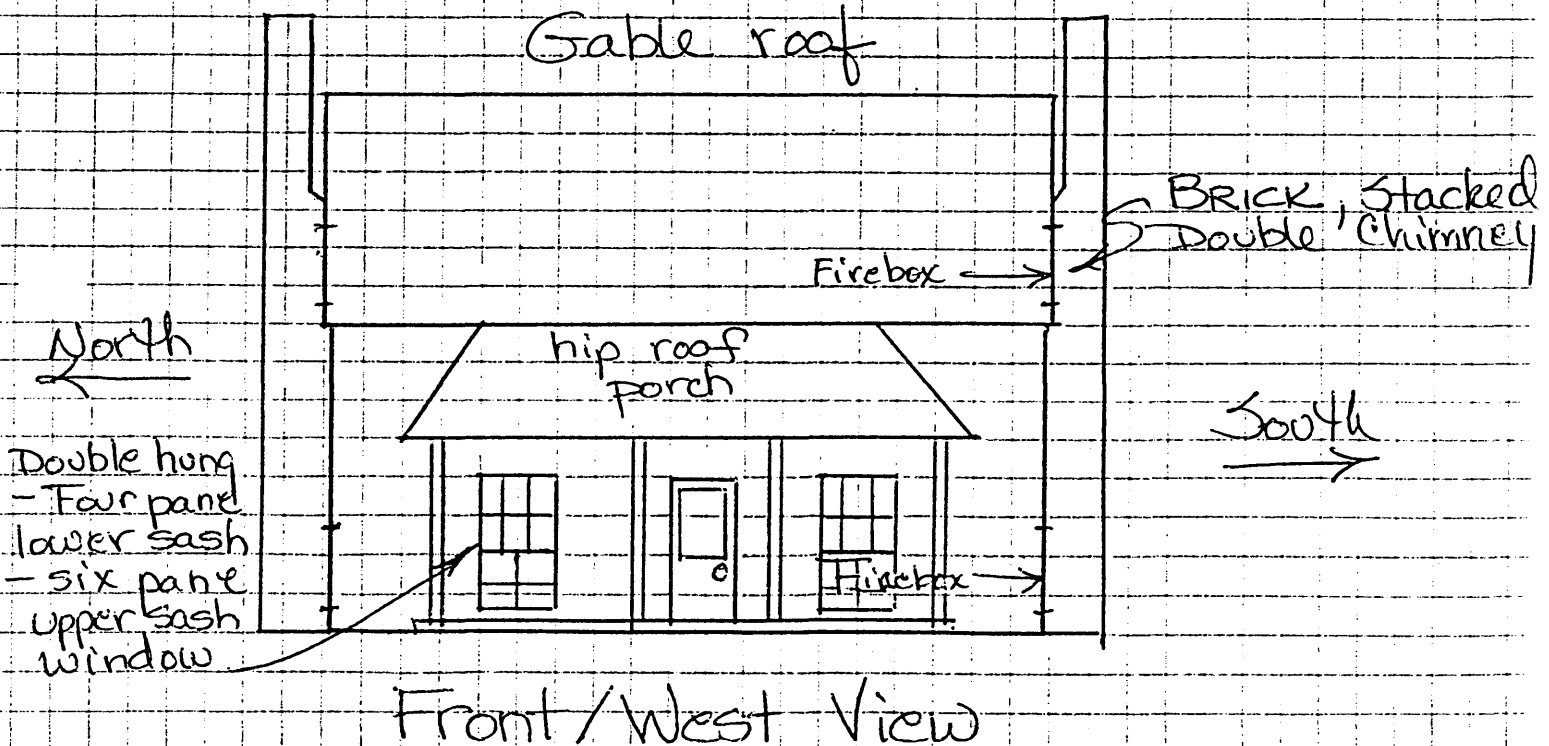
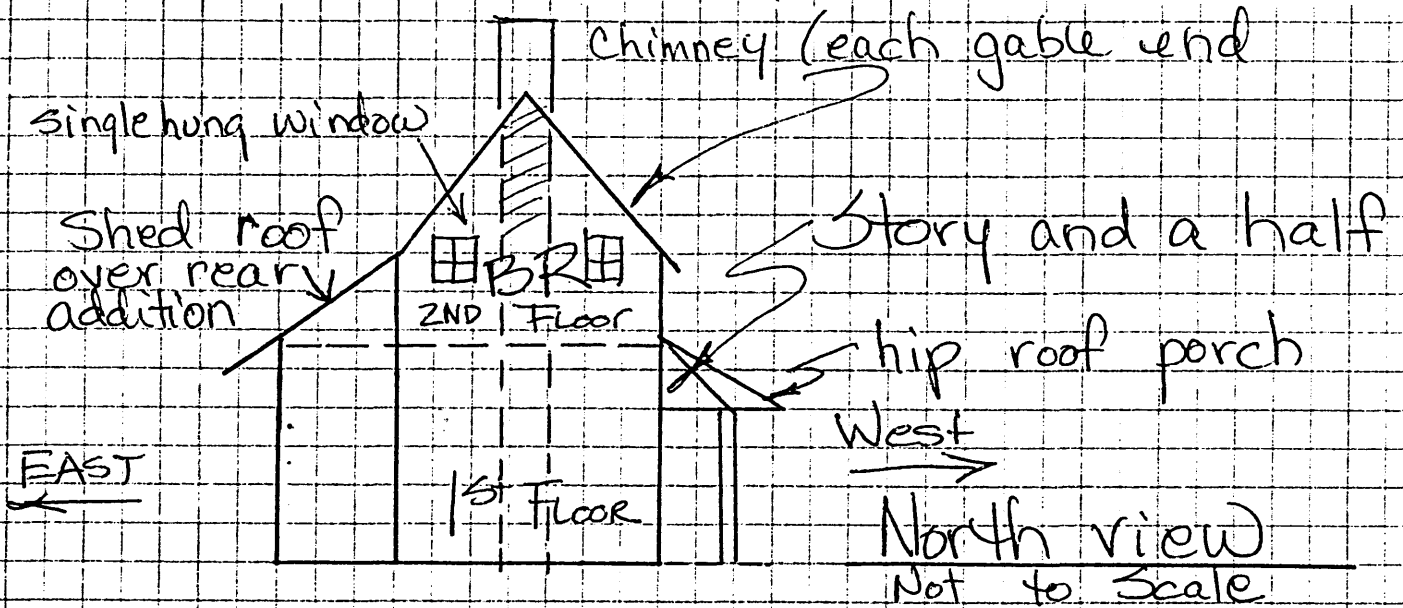
Except for the decorative mantels, the internal woodwork is very plain and has little uniformity. The rooms and foyer forming the first floor of the original Colonial Revival influenced dwelling have a simple baseboard trim. The door frames are plain and vary from one door or one room to the next. When Harvey McLemore built the original dwelling, he made use of materials available to him. He probably did not have custom ordered matching doors because the price was probably unaffordable at the time he built his house. On the other hand, non-matching fireplace mantles were more of the norm for the period.

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McLemore House  
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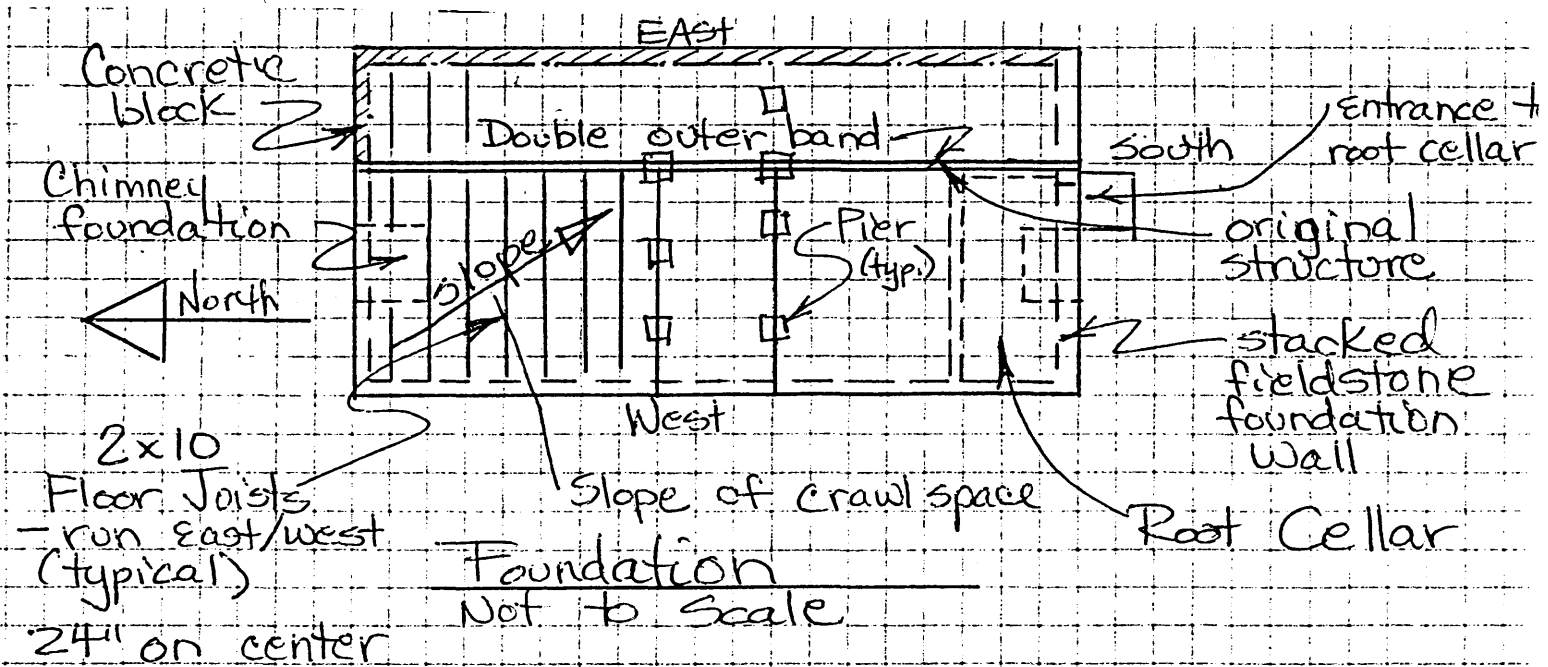


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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McLemore House  
Williamson County, TN

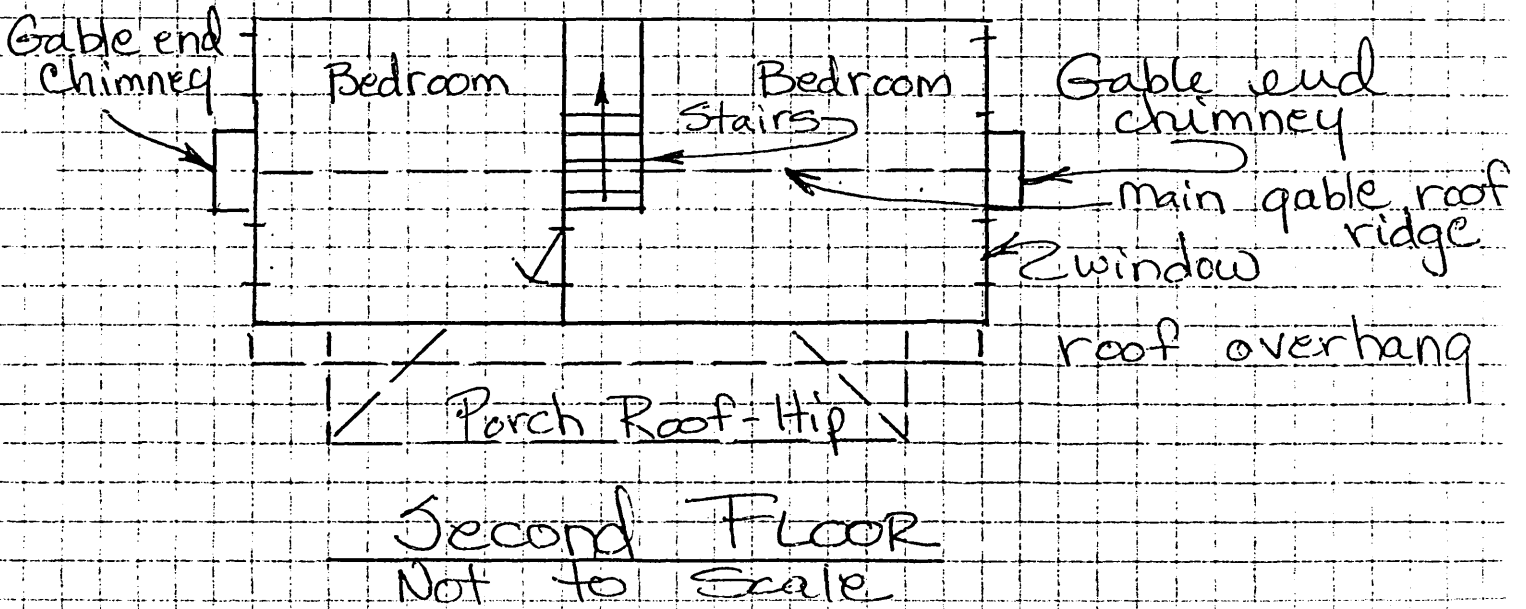
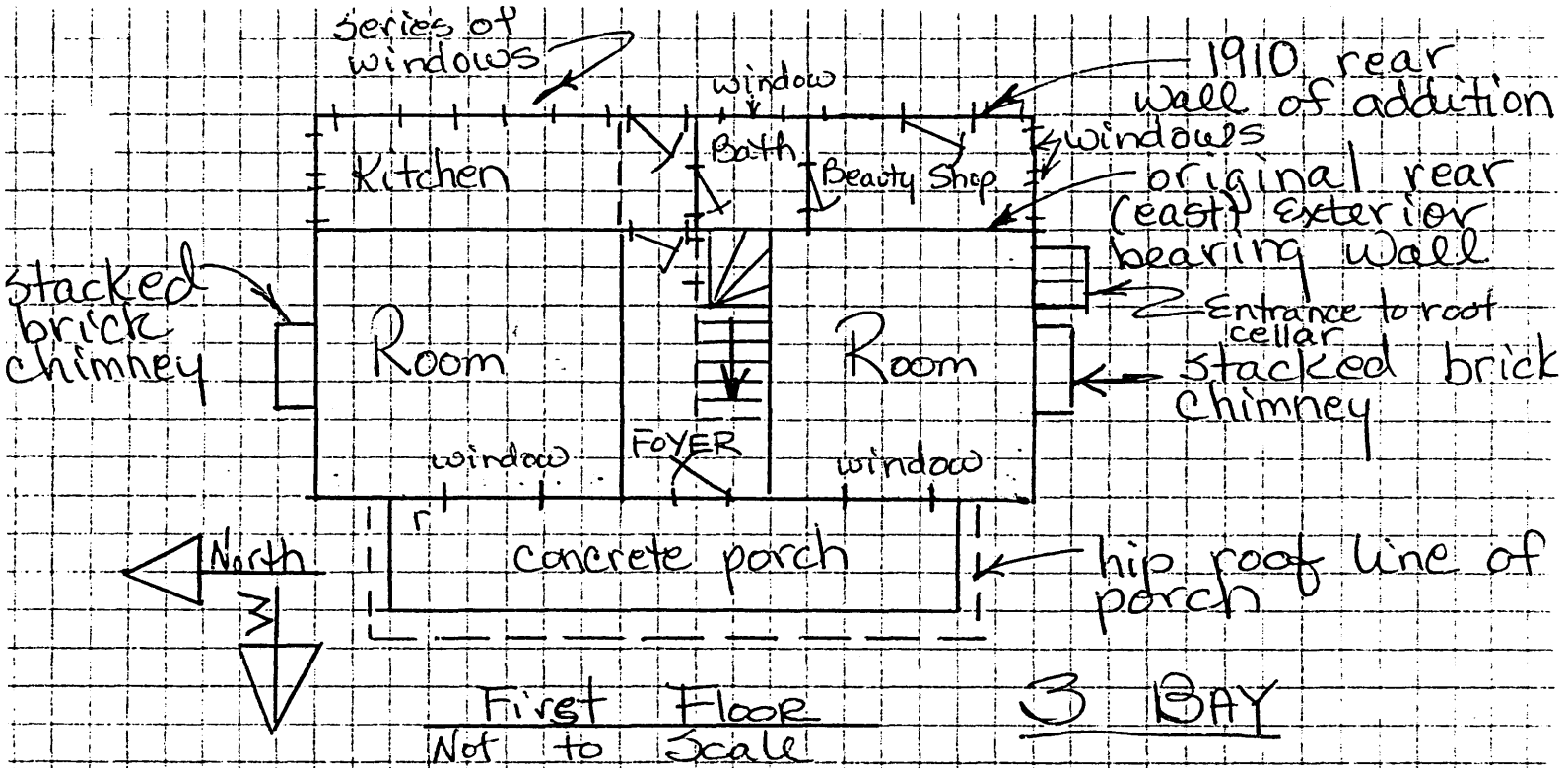


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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McLemore House  
Williamson County, TN



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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McLemore House  
Williamson County, TN

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harvey McLemore House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its significance under criterion A for Social History and the importance Harvey McLemore played in the African-American community of Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee. Harvey McLemore was the slave of Judge William S. McLemore of Franklin, Tennessee. He was born in Franklin in approximately 1835. This date is approximated by the information provided in Deed Book 2, Page 109, where the following transaction is recorded:

For the consideration of eleven hundred dollars, to me in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I have this day bargained and sold [,] and do hereby transfer and convey to William S. McLemore, a Negro man slave named Harvey McLemore, about thirty four years of age. I warrant said slave to be sound and sensible and a slave for life. Witness my hand and seal this 17th day of October 1859.

Bethenia J. McLemore<sup>4</sup>

To date, no other records are known to confirm Harvey's date of birth other than the record of sale. In addition, little information is available about Harvey McLemore's life since the oldest surviving descendent, his great-granddaughter Ora Mai Hughes Manier, was born six years after Harvey McLemore's death in 1903. His great-grandson, William Murry, also survives, but was born in 1921 and stated in an interview that he knew very little about his great-grandfather, Harvey McLemore.

To analysis what Harvey McLemore experienced when he was freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, three sources: "Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880" by W. E. B. DuBois; "Black and White - Land, Labor and Politics in the South" by Timothy Thomas Fortune; and "Negro Thought in America, 1880-1915" by August Meier generally explain the Freedman's experience. Harvey McLemore's contact with William S. McLemore in 1866 as required by the Freedman's Bureau also presents a picture of a former slave's life.

Harvey McLemore's Franklin depended on agriculture and lumber mills for a great bulk of its revenue. His contract with William S. McLemore reveals that he chose to farm. William S. McLemore furnished ". . . forty acres of good land near the town of Franklin . . ." and Harvey McLemore agreed to ". . . cultivate the same for the present year [1866] twenty-five acres in cotton and fifteen acres in corn." Harvey McLemore had to furnish his own labor and ". . . everything necessary to cultivate said land." Harvey McLemore had to harvest and deliver to William S. McLemore one third of his corn crop. All of his cotton had to be delivered to a ". . . gin in the neighborhood of Franklin or at any other place to be designated by the said W. S. McLemore . . ." Who then sold the cotton for the best price and returned two-thirds of the proceeds of the sale of the cotton to Harvey McLemore. However, the stipulation was made that the one-third of the cotton proceeds Judge McLemore retained had to be sufficient to pay the rent on the

<sup>4</sup> Williamson County Deed Book 2, page 109.

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McLemore House  
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land Harvey McLemore was farming. Judge McLemore also - in exchange for reimbursement by Harvey McLemore at ". . . fair market price . . ." - guaranteed Harvey McLemore ". . . whatever provisions he may need for himself or the hands he may have to employ . . ." to satisfy his contract.<sup>5</sup>

To date, no records have been found to confirm whom he employed to help him. It is reasonable to consider that he would use family members - children, relatives or extended family members - to help him meet his contractual demands since this would insure that he would receive the best return for his efforts.

DuBois states that the post-Civil War south looked upon "Negro labor" as a means of greater profit ". . . than was possible under the slave system."<sup>6</sup> During these years immediately after the Civil War, DuBois asserts that the South was persistent in its efforts to recover from a financially disastrous defeat at the expense of the newly freed Negroes. Negro suffrage was being vigorously debated, and DuBois states that in the third annual message of President Andrew Johnson on December 3, 1867, ". . . all masking of the Negro problem [was] removed. He [was] no longer evasive as to the relation of the black worker to the white worker and his whole economic argument [was] drowned in race hate." Johnson is quoted as having proclaimed that ". . . in the progress of nations, Negroes have shown less capacity for government than any other race of people . . . On the contrary, wherever they have been left to their own devices they have shown a constant tendency to relapse to barbarism."<sup>7</sup> Harvey McLemore faced making a living in a hostile post-Civil War South that hated the Freedman's Bureau control and Reconstruction.

Harvey McLemore apparently had a good relationship with his former owner, and accepted the opportunity to ". . . seek the advice of [his] former master . . ."<sup>8</sup> As shown, Judge McLemore helped Harvey McLemore establish himself as a farmer, even though he was not allowed to be completely self-sufficient. Harvey McLemore did not have to resort to migration, which August Meier describes as "one possible solution to the economic and racial difficulties of Southern Negroes . . ."<sup>9</sup> Meier concurs with DuBois; former slaves such as Harvey McLemore faced economic exploitation, political intimidation, injustice in the courts, and mob violence. However, Harvey McLemore was fortunate than the majority of former slaves. His former master was a district judge. His Freedman's Bureau contract with Judge McLemore and the will that the judge helped him compose in 1895 show that he received wise and fair guidance. It may also imply that a close relationship existed between the judge and Harvey McLemore when he was still a slave.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., Williamson County Contract Book 1865-1866, page 180.

<sup>6</sup> W. E. B. DuBois, "Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880" (Athenaeum, New York, 1992 reprint), page 185.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., page 339.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., page 351.

<sup>9</sup> August Meier, "Negro Thought in America, 1880 - 1915" (Ann Arbor Paperback, The University of Michigan, 1995 reprint), page 59.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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McLemore House  
Williamson County, TN

Timothy Thomas Fortune, called the foremost Negro journalist of his time, echoes DuBois' opinions. Fortune began the New York Globe in 1881, which became the New York Age, the leading Negro paper in the country during the 1880's and 1890's, and founded the Afro-American League in 1887. He speaks of political solutions by challenging the South to act like a parent teaching children by example - to truly embrace the Constitution, wipe out illiteracy among Negroes, and to embrace law and order. "... predicated upon right and justice..."<sup>10</sup> He goes on to express a more positive view of the future of blacks in the South than DuBois.

While Fortune recognized "... debt-slavery of sharecropping and the crop lien system ..." as the main grievance of Southern blacks, Fortune advised his people to be patient and to take their time in gaining the skills necessary to participate as peers with whites.<sup>11</sup> He likened his fellow Negroes during this period to Rip VanWinkle - after sleeping in slavery for so long, they had to reorient themselves to a completely new life. He calls the Southern Negroes "... the producing class ... principally agriculturists ... [that] will invest their surplus earnings in the purchase of soil [,] the great hope of the future."<sup>12</sup> That is exactly what Harvey McLemore did.

Harvey McLemore apparently worked very hard and enjoyed reasonable success as a farmer. In 1880, he was able to buy four lots in the Hard Bargain Subdivision. He purchased Lots 14, 15, 16 and 17 from Judge William S. McLemore in 1880 for the sum of four hundred dollars, one hundred dollars per lot. He was the third African American to purchase property in Hard Bargain and built one of the first black residential dwellings in this neighborhood.

The community of Hard Bargain began as Perkin's Addition, a subdivision of 80 acres by P. G. S. Perkins in 1854 and located northwest of Franklin along Sharp's Branch of the Harpeth River and River Road (known now as Del Rio Pike).<sup>13</sup> Originally a group of eighteen lots that ranged in size from two to eleven acres, it was bounded on the east from Bridge Street to River Road by a new city street that would become Fifth Avenue North (Hillsboro Road), on the north by River Road, on the west by the estate of Judge DeGraffenreid and on the south by a lot known as the Fairgrounds, owned by Mrs. Mary McGavock Southall.

Although the lots sold quickly between 1855 and 1856, there was no substantial development on more than 80 percent of the eighteen lots until after the Civil War. Two of the lots containing an aggregate total of 5.8 acres and located on the high point of Perkins' Addition at the north end became the new location of Harpeth Academy, previously located on West Main Street. A large brick structure, it was dismantled during the Civil War by Union troops when Franklin was under occupation to enable them to build a powder magazine at Fort Granger. In 1875, the site of Harpeth Academy became the first section

<sup>10</sup> Timothy Thomas Fortune, "Black and White - Land, Labor and Politics in the South" (Arno Press and the New York Times, New York, 1968 reprint), page 161.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., Foreword.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 207.

<sup>13</sup> Archives, Williamson County Register of Deeds, Plat of Record, Book W, page 239.

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of the Mount Hope Cemetery. The cemetery later expanded and would include Lots 8, 9, 10, a portion of 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 by 1920.

In 1867, during Reconstruction, Hard Bargain began its transformation from an enclave of large, primarily undeveloped parcels of property to the one hundred and eighteen-year-old African-American community it is today. The First Colored Baptist Church was founded in July 1867 after A. W. Moss, Franklin's Postmaster, sold a portion of Lot 13, near the point where Sharp's Branch runs parallel to Fifth Avenue North, to William Perkins, Joseph Carothers and Dood Parks. They served as "Trustees" to the church - its white benefactors. This was a common practice in the Reconstruction South, though less controlling in the Upper South than the Lower South. The church was destroyed twice by fire during the past one hundred and thirty years, but the third surviving structure is still home to a small group of descendants of members of its original congregation. The first anchor of four that would draw African Americans to Hard Bargain, it provided a spiritual base for the community and also served a utilitarian purpose: on the site was a spring that was the source of fresh water for the residents of Hard Bargain for decades.

Judge William S. McLemore purchased Lots 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Perkin's Addition with an aggregate total of between thirteen and fifteen acres (discrepancy in exact amount of acreage found in deeds of sale dating 1865, 1866 and 1869) and re-subdivided them into a group of twenty-two lots. Registering the plat on March 17, 1873 in Deed Book 3, Page 588, W. McLemore named the new subdivision "Hard Bargain". There is no direct record that confirms his reasons for using that name. One theory is that it was the name of the ante-bellum home of P. G. S. Perkins located on the present site of the Jewell Tobacco Warehouse and lay adjacent to Perkins' Addition. Union forces during the Civil War burned this dwelling. Another theory, told in two versions, stated that Judge McLemore paid W. B. Reese four thousand dollars for the fifteen acres, a considerable sum for any Southerner after the Civil War, but also exorbitant when the average price of an acre in Perkins' Addition had been one hundred dollars in 1856. This expense was passed on to African Americans purchasing lots that averaged well under an acre in size. Fred Williams, grandson of one of the early leaders of Franklin's African-American community A. N. C. Williams, stated that he remembers hearing members of this neighborhood say that they had to drive a "hard bargain" - presumably with Judge McLemore - to purchase their lot(s) in his subdivision.

No other African American purchased as many lots as Harvey McLemore. He built his Colonial Revival Influenced house in 1880, the same year he purchased his property. Harvey McLemore built the house on Lot 14, at the corner of a "Street" and Vine Street (now Glass Street). He had his dwelling in the city; separate from the land he cultivated. This concurs with the tendency of former slaves to live away from where they worked. If allowed to build houses on plantations, a remote location was preferred. This was carried on after they were emancipated. Hard Bargain was located on the northwest limits of Franklin, and was considered a desirable place to live for blacks in Franklin. It was close enough to their places of employment, but isolated from the white community. It was the first subdivision of its kind in Franklin, and would become a black middle class neighborhood of teachers, carpenters, masons and farmers.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Interview with Mary Mills on December 10, 1997.



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Harvey McLemore retained Lots 14 and 15 for his estate. Lot 16 became the estate of his granddaughter, Jennie V. (Matthews Hughes) Murry, and is where Harvey McLemore's great-granddaughter Ora Mai Hughes Manier and great-grandson, William Murry, now reside. Although Harvey McLemore bequeathed ". . . to[his] wife Eliza all the property [he] possessed of both real and personal during her natural life," she in turn followed the instructions in his will to pass the property his dwelling sat on to Mary Matthews, their daughter. She followed suite and gave the property to her daughter, Maggie Matthews.

Her daughter, Maggie Matthews would later convert a section of the rear addition circa 1910 to support herself as a beautician for African Americans in the community. The rear addition to the house included the modern amenities including the kitchen, bath and beauty shop. Improvements were possible because parts of McLemore's estate, from the original four lots, were sold to either relatives or other African-Americans trying to locate in the Hard Bargain community. The exact date when the beauty shop actually started is unknown. Matthews occupied the house until her death in 1989.

Harvey McLemore proved to be an industrious man and showed the entrepreneurial spirit that DuBois and Fortune spoke of in their writings. He provided a financial base for his family through farming and real estate. His family has occupied Lots 14 and 15 for at least 118 years. His great-great-granddaughter, Laverne Holland, lived in the original house until 1997, when the Williamson County Habitat for Humanity and the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County purchased it from the Maggie Matthews estate. Laverne was the recipient of a Habitat for Humanity house built on the area of Lot 14 that served as the family garden.

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## 10. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

### Verbal Boundary Description

The Harvey McLemore House is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Glass Street and Eleventh Avenue North. Beginning on Glass Street and moving northeast the boundary survey describes the original property as: North 76 degrees 04 minutes 16 seconds East and measuring a distance of 129.89 feet; thence south 13 degrees 49 minutes 49 seconds East and measuring a distance of 121.51 feet; thence South 77 degrees 19 minutes 42 seconds West and measuring a distance of 122.81 feet; and thence North 17 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds West and measuring a distance of 119.01 feet to the point of origin at the aforementioned southeast corner at the intersection of Glass Street and Eleventh Avenue North. This survey was performed immediately before the sale of the McLemore property to the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, and was generated at the request of the Williamson County Habitat for Humanity in order to properly register a Plat of Record on this subdivision of Harvey McLemore's original estate.

This boundary changed when the plat was put to record and became: beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of Glass Street and Eleventh Avenue North, North 76 degrees 04 minutes 16 seconds East and measuring 64.24 feet; thence South 17 degrees 38 minutes 55 seconds East and measuring a distance of 120.49 feet; thence South 77 degrees 19 minutes 42 seconds West and measuring a distance of 65.18 feet; and thence, North 17 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds West and measuring a distance of 119.01 feet to the point of origin at the southeast corner of the intersection of Glass Street and Eleventh Avenue North. This lot became Lot 1.

The surveyor for the plat was William C. Cockrill, registered with the State of Tennessee. The total lot size is 0.18 acres or 7728 square feet of area total. On the east, the estate of Ora Mai Manier - Harvey McLemore's great-granddaughter - is still intact and of record in Deed Book 113, Page 663 at the Williamson County Register of Deeds. On the south, the property sits adjacent to the estate of Jerry Gosey, Jr. and wife, Thelma, and is recorded in Deed Book 135, page 231 at the Williamson County Register of Deeds.

### Boundary Justification

The Harvey McLemore House sits on the remaining parcel of land historically associated with the house.

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

### McLemore House

447 11th Avenue North

Franklin, Williamson County, TN

Photographs By: Mary Pearce

Date: August 1998

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, TN

West facade, looking east

1 of 18

North elevation, looking southwest

2 of 18

East elevation, looking west

3 of 18

South elevation, looking northeast

4 of 18

Interior detail, parlor mantel

5 of 18

Interior detail, bedroom or dining room mantel

6 of 18

Interior detail, west facade window

7 of 18

Interior detail, downstairs door

8 of 18

Interior detail, downstairs molding

9 of 18

Interior view, downstairs hallway

10 of 18

Interior detail, stairs

11 of 18

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Interior detail, upstairs mantel  
12 of 18

Interior detail, upstairs window  
13 of 18

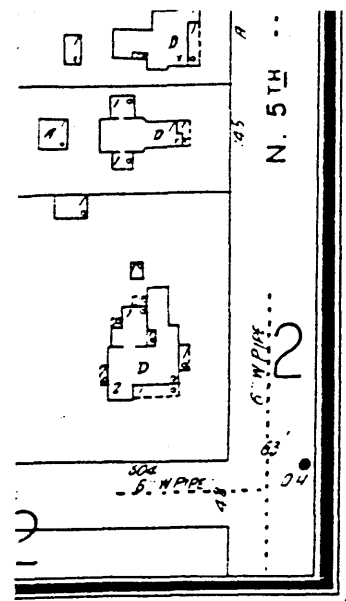
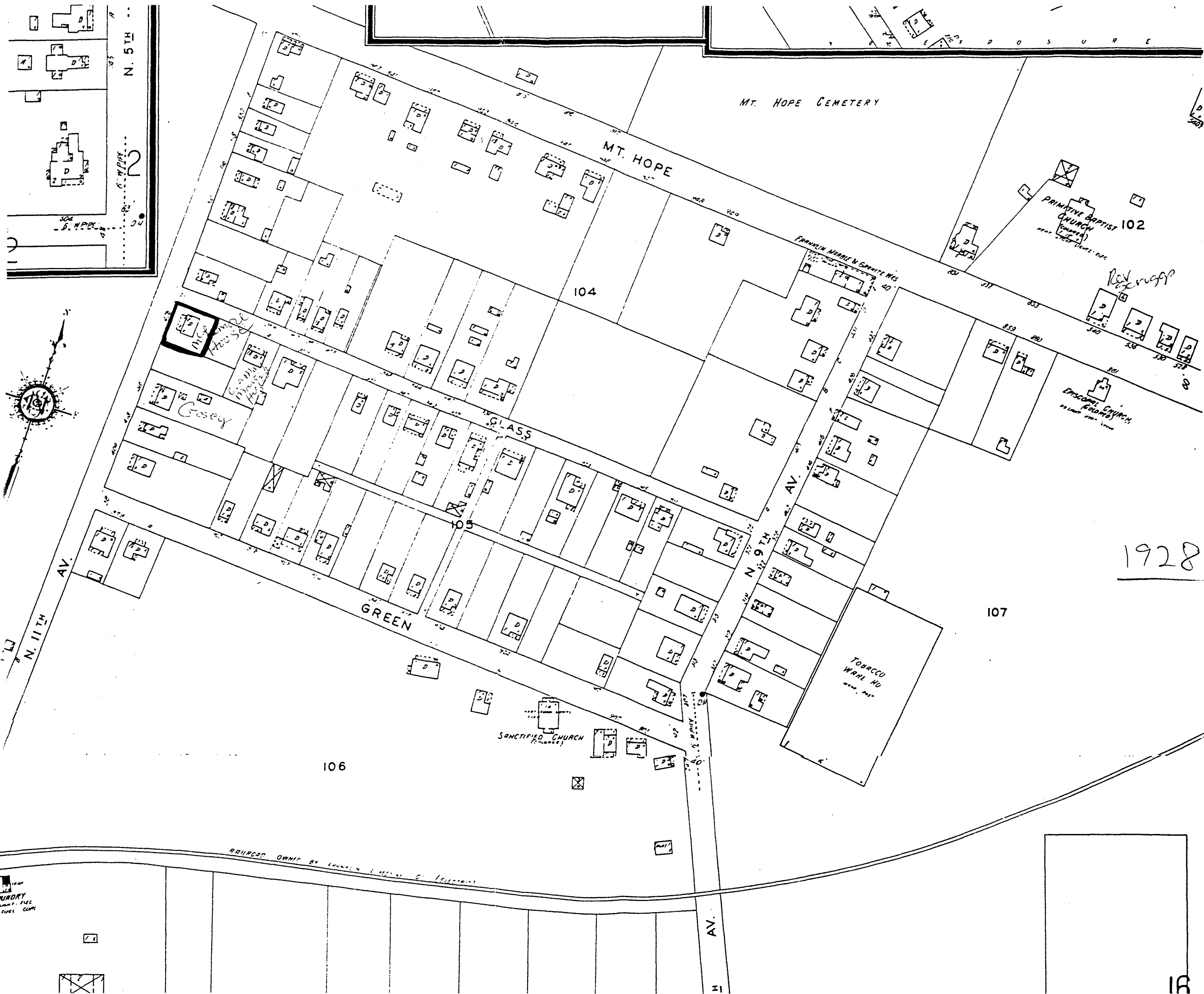
Interior detail, upstairs room  
14 of 18

Interior detail, upstairs wall  
15 of

Interior detail, upstairs door  
16 of 18

Interior detail, upstairs floor  
17 of 18

Detail, root cellar  
18 of 18

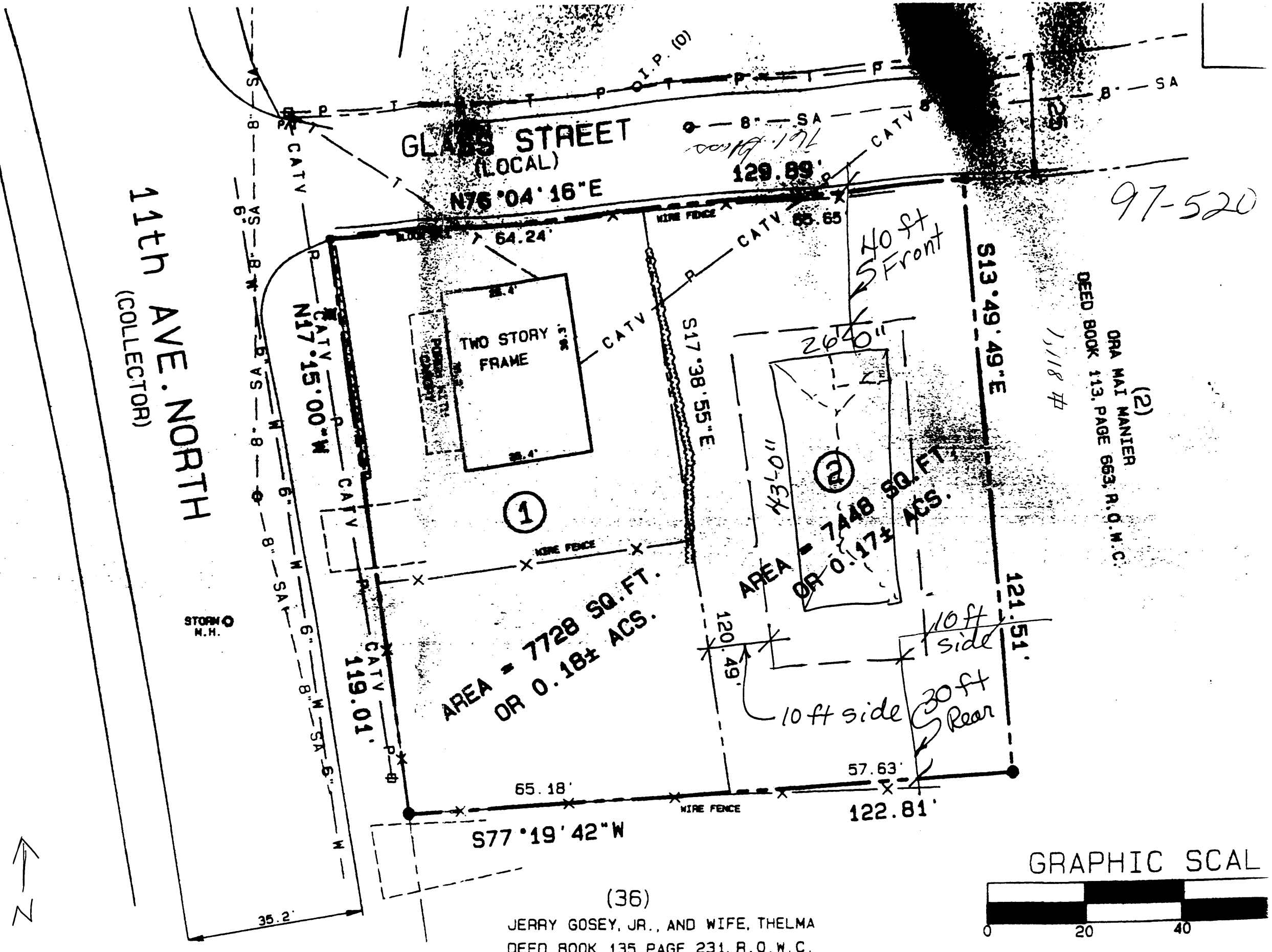
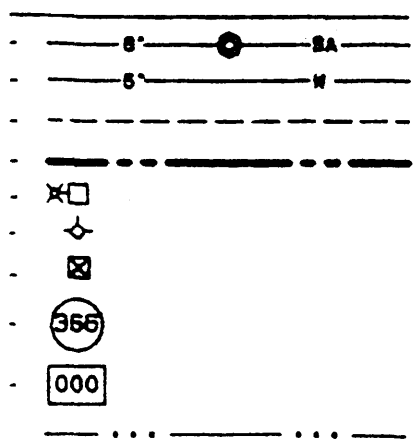


1928

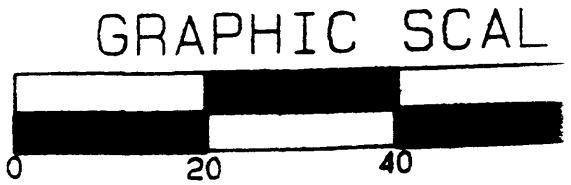
WASH  
LAUNDRY  
LIGHT-FACE  
TUBS  
CUPB

INFORMED SURVEYORS. P.C.  
 19 27 1/2 SOUTH  
 TENNESSEE 37212  
 (5) 292-2661  
 Parcel 1

not affected by the 190 year floodplain  
 information taken from Floodplain Map  
 dated 7-15-88  
 OR OTHER SURVEY MEASUREMENTS OF  
 ANY KIND THE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE CHAPTER  
 1000, ADOPTED BY THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF  
 SURVEYORS.  
 I ON RECORDED PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 988, R.O.W.C.  
 BE TAKEN FROM FIELD MEASUREMENTS OF STRUCTURES SHOWN  
 INFORMATION FURNISHED BY UTILITY OWNER REPRESENTATIVE.  
 ACKNOWLEDGES THAT ALL LOTS HAVE ADEQUATE BUILDING  
 VARIANCES WILL BE REQUESTED.



97-520  
 DEED BOOK 113, PAGE 663, R.O.W.C.  
 (2)  
 ORA MAT MANIER



**CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL**  
**STREET NAME AND STREET NAMES**  
 Street Names Approved By The Williamson  
 Department.  
 Planning Department Date



**CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF SEWER SYSTEM**  
 I hereby certify that the following water system outlined or indicated on the final

(36)  
 JERRY GOSEY, JR., AND WIFE, THELMA  
 DEED BOOK 135, PAGE 231, R.O.W.C.