

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 05000186

Date Listed: March 17, 2005

Property Name: Alexander Smith House

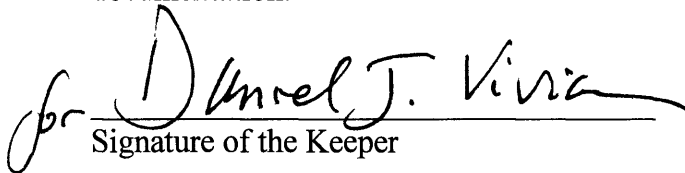
County: Williamson

State: Tennessee

Historic Resources of Williamson County MPS

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

March 17, 2005
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Of the two areas of significance indicated, "Settlement Patterns" is hereby corrected to read "Exploration/Settlement."

The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

(Oct. 1990)

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 Smith, Alexander, House
other names/site number Twenty-four Trees; WM.85

2. Location

street & number 1304 Wilson Pike NA not for publication
city or town Brentwood vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Williamson code 187 zip code 37027

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.)
Michael L. Hagan 1/31/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Office, 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
Daniel J. Vivian 3/17/05

Smith, Alexander, House
Name of Property

Williamson Co., TN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	3	Total

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

Historic and Architectural Resources of Williamson County, TN, MRA

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
OTHER: artist studio

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: I-house
Colonial Revival influence

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone
walls Weatherboard

roof METAL
other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

See Attached 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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Settlement Patterns

Architecture

[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] 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.

Period of Significance

Circa 1800-1920

[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Significant Dates

Circa 1800, 1812, 1920

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

[] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

[] B removed from its original location.

[] C moved from its original location.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

[] D a cemetery.

[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[] F a commemorative property

Architect/Builder

Smith, Alexander, builder

[] 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.)

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 (church)

[] 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

[X] Local Government

[] University

[] Other

Name of repository:

Williamson County Archives

Smith, Alexander, House
Name of Property

Williamson Co., TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 3 acres Franklin 63 NE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>520137</u>	<u>3982398</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </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 Andra Kowalczyk
organization NA date 29 November 2004
street & number 305 West High St. telephone 931-728-8957
city or town Manchester state TN zip code 37355

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 Paul Harmon
street & number 1304 Wilson Pike telephone (615) 371-0004
city or town Brentwood state TN zip code 37027

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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Smith, Alexander, House
Williamson County, Tennessee

DESCRIPTION

The Alexander Smith House is located at 1304 Wilson Pike in Williamson County, Tennessee. Originally, a single-pen dwelling and a smokehouse were the two circa 1800 structures on a 640-acre land-grant tract. Since settlement, both structures took on additions, and the land was parceled out. Today the Smith house remains the centerpiece of a three-acre site called "Twenty-four Trees," named for the trees growing in the spacious front yard. The driveway sweeps around the front yard to the right, ending at a parking area on the home's south side. The nominated property incorporates the original log dwelling from around 1800, within an early nineteenth-century I-house that was updated in Colonial Revival fashion circa 1920, the original smokehouse with additions, and the home's cistern (now incorporated into the house). Two late-twentieth century buildings, a storage shed and a stable, border the east side of the home's back patio area.

Inventory

1. The Alexander Smith House (C, circa 1800, 1812, 1920)

The historic Smith house consists of several components, exemplifying additions over time to a settlement era structure. A single pen with an east entrance dates to circa 1800. This original dwelling, now a dining room, took on an upstairs bedroom very early, evinced by exposed log in a stairwell, now a pantry, in its southwest corner and horse-hair plaster on the bedroom walls. A central hall plan structure was attached onto the dwelling's west elevation by a dog-trot porch, circa 1812. This new section re-oriented the home to face west. A second story was added to the central hall plan building, creating an I-house design typical of the area during the early to mid-nineteenth century. Onsite analysis of materials and construction of the lower floor walls and foundation verify the addition of the I-house's first story by 1812.¹ Both sections are of log construction covered in weatherboard. A kitchen was added to the south elevation of the original single pen structure in the early 1900s, confirmed by its foundation. In 1978 the dog-trot porch was closed in. Interior doorways feature inconsistent floor levels throughout, reinforcing the add-on evolution of the home.

The five-bay west facade of the I-house today features a two-story portico entrance. Photos from circa 1900 show a two-story home with a modest one-story portico, expanding from the central entrance only to the nearest window shutters, right and left. The addition of the two-story, expanded portico with four, square columns and upper- and lower-level balconies has been noted as a common practice in the Middle Tennessee area. It is an example of the popular Colonial Revival style during the period 1900-1920.² Other improvements to the house at that time included concrete steps and electrical wiring. Thus, a vernacular country home such as the Smith House came to be updated to contemporary fashion. According to at least one source, in fenestration, the facade already differed from the more typical three-bay I-house of nineteenth-century farm homes of the Middle Tennessee area.³ However, the "Historic Resources of Williamson

¹ Per Steve Rogers with Claudette Stager, with Paul Harmon present; related by Paul Harmon, December, 2003.

² Center for Historic Preservation, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination: A.E. Perkins House, Campbell County, Tennessee" (Murfreesboro, TN, [date?]), Section 8, pp. 7-8.

³ Mary B. Hughes, *Hearthstones* (Murfreesboro, TN: Mid-South Publishing Co. Inc., 1942), see photos, various pages.

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Smith, Alexander, House
Williamson County, Tennessee

County MRA” notes that central passage plan/I houses with three or five bays were the most common form of vernacular design in nineteenth century Williamson County.⁴ The Smith House features two pairs of nine-over-nine double-hung windows to either side of the front entrance, on upper and lower stories. The front entrance features a transom window and two elongated, arched panes within the paneled door. A similar door appears on the upper balcony of the portico. The windows and doors are thought to date from around 1812 or later, as evidenced by the hardware and glass and carpentry. The current owner reports that he has done some repair to the shutters, though has never had to replace an entire shutter and has followed their original design. He believes the shutters are original to at least the late nineteenth century, based on an old photograph. A mid- to late-nineteenth century photograph shows weatherboard on the exterior.

The north and south elevations of the I-house section contain the gable ends, each with an exterior brick chimney with simple corbelling. The south elevation has one nine-over-nine, double-hung, upper-story window to the west of the chimney and one nine-over-nine lower-story window to the east of the chimney. As on the facade, there is a cut limestone foundation. The pitch of the roof on the back portion changes, indicating the later extension of the roof over the dogtrot porch that originally served to connect the circa 1800 dwelling to the 1812 I-house section. This section was closed in around 1978 and now contains the master bath. The south elevation of this former porch features small six-over-six windows, one lower and one upper level, though not exactly in line vertically. At the foundation of this section are two entrances to the limestone-walled cellar.

The south elevation continues as the one-story, early twentieth-century kitchen, which juts out from the original dwelling, and is now used as the dining room. Tandem six-over-six windows appear in the kitchen’s west elevation, and a brick chimney was added after 1966 to the gable-end south elevation of the kitchen. The weatherboard matches that of the original and I-house sections.

The east elevation contains many components, evincing the add-on process of the home’s evolution. Beginning on the south end, the kitchen section has a six-over-six window and a door that serves as the back entrance. Next, the two-story original dwelling juts out further. This original single-pen section historically served as kitchen, living room, and dining room. A pair of six-over-six windows appears on the upper floor, while another pair of windows located below is spaced wider apart. Some of the windows in this section of the house contain sand-cast panes. In the large nook where the original dwelling meets the now-covered dogtrot porch sits a closed-in gazebo, which contains the home’s original cistern. A pair of four-over-four windows appears in each wall of the hexagonal gazebo. The gazebo and dogtrot are covered in wide weatherboard, differing from the narrow boards of the remainder of the home, as it was closed in and covered in 1978. The cistern collected water used inside the home until the 1990s. To the right of the gazebo, a four-over-four window lets light into the former dogtrot area. Large eight-over-eight windows appear on the upper floor of the I-house section’s east elevation and are believed to date to the late nineteenth century.

⁴ Philip Thomason, “Historic Resources of Williamson County MRA,” pp. 7-5 and 7-6.

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Smith, Alexander, House
Williamson County, Tennessee

The north elevation resembles that of the south, with its gable-end chimney. The width of the siding differs between the first and second stories; the upper story features older weatherboard than the lower story. A six-over-six window appears in the upper story of the I-house section. The north side of the former dog-trot section is without fenestration. In 1966 vent grills in the gable ends were added and sealer was applied to the limestone foundation crevices. A metal, standing seam roof was put on, and three central air units were installed in the 1980s, necessary due to the home's compartmentalization.

The floor plan of the I-house section is typical of its form, with equal-sized rooms flanking the central hall on the upper and lower stories. The hall entrance ceiling is nine feet, four inches to the floor. Entrance door and interior doors of the I-house section have knobs imported from England, bearing a British seal of Carpenter and Company. The current owner does not know their exact date, though historic Travellers' Rest's (NR 12/30/69) interest in acquiring the doorknobs leads him to believe they are historically significant. Each gable end of the I-house features a brick fireplace hearth. The brick of these fireplaces was originally made in a beehive kiln on the property. However, the living room (south elevation) fireplace was rebuilt in approximately 1970, following the original design. All floors of the I-house section are original wood, poplar and ash downstairs and pine upstairs. The use of pine for the later upstairs addition perhaps indicates the unavailability of hardwood, as timber became scarcer due to increasing settlement and agriculture over the course of the nineteenth century.

Floor levels vary by a few inches from one section to another, on both stories. Stairs to the upper floor do not appear in the central hall, instead are found behind the I-house section in the former dogtrot between the I-house and the single-pen sections. Plumbing was added mid-twentieth century, and a bathroom is located in the south end of the dogtrot, near the staircase landing. The dogtrot section, closed in 1978 is today brick-floored and features a closed-in sauna at its north end. On its east side, steps rise to the closed-in gazebo, which contains the original cistern under its floor. Seventeen feet deep and fourteen feet in diameter, the cistern held rain, then well water, used into the 1990s. The back entrance opens onto the kitchen, dating from the early twentieth century. The current homeowner added the kitchen's chimney; tile flooring and wood trim from a dilapidated, circa 1900 barn on the property. Next to the kitchen, the dining room (original dwelling) still has its original fireplace, though closed-in. This original single-pen measures seventeen feet, eight inches by seventeen feet, ten inches. A pantry in this room reveals two steps that once led to the home's first bedroom, above. In this pantry, some sections of the original logs are exposed, not covered completely with plaster. The fireplace, now closed in, is original, dating to the circa 1800 settlement period. The original wood mantle is of modest design and painted white. The threshold between the contemporary kitchen and the original single-pen has no door. The materials of this single-pen section date to the settlement period, except for the floor, which was recovered with tongue-and-groove oak and sanded, stained, and waxed between 1967 and 1969 by the current homeowner.

2. Smoke House, circa 1800 (NC)

The construction of the smoke house, with dovetail notching, matches that of the original log home, reinforcing their coinciding date. It is one and one-half stories with a gable end roof. Today it serves as an office, adjoining to art studio additions from 1969-1981. The current home owner closed up the original door to the smoke house when he added on to the structure. Renovations to the smokehouse section include an upstairs

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Smith, Alexander, House
Williamson County, Tennessee

loft and a dug-out, cemented floor. Though the additions to the smokehouse double its size, the original structure is discernible both on the exterior and interior.

3. Stable, 1976 (NC, due to date)

The 1976 stable building is a wood frame building with board-and-batten vertical wood siding. Its gable end roof is covered in green raised-seam metal. There are multiple, multi-light windows which allow for light and ventilation for the visiting artists that use this building as a studio.

4. Storage shed, 1982 (NC, due to date)

This shed, used for storage by the current owner, is a wood-frame building with vertical board-and-batten wood siding. It has a green raised-seam metal, shed roof that slants downward from the front, single-door entrance. It has one window on each of its side facades.

Cistern, 19th century

The home's cistern is seventeen feet deep and fourteen feet in diameter. It collected rain water, which was later supplemented with well water. The exact date is unknown, though the farm's remote location would require a reliable source of water, suggesting a date of construction that coincided with the farm's establishment.⁵ The cistern is now incorporated as part of the house, inside the gazebo.

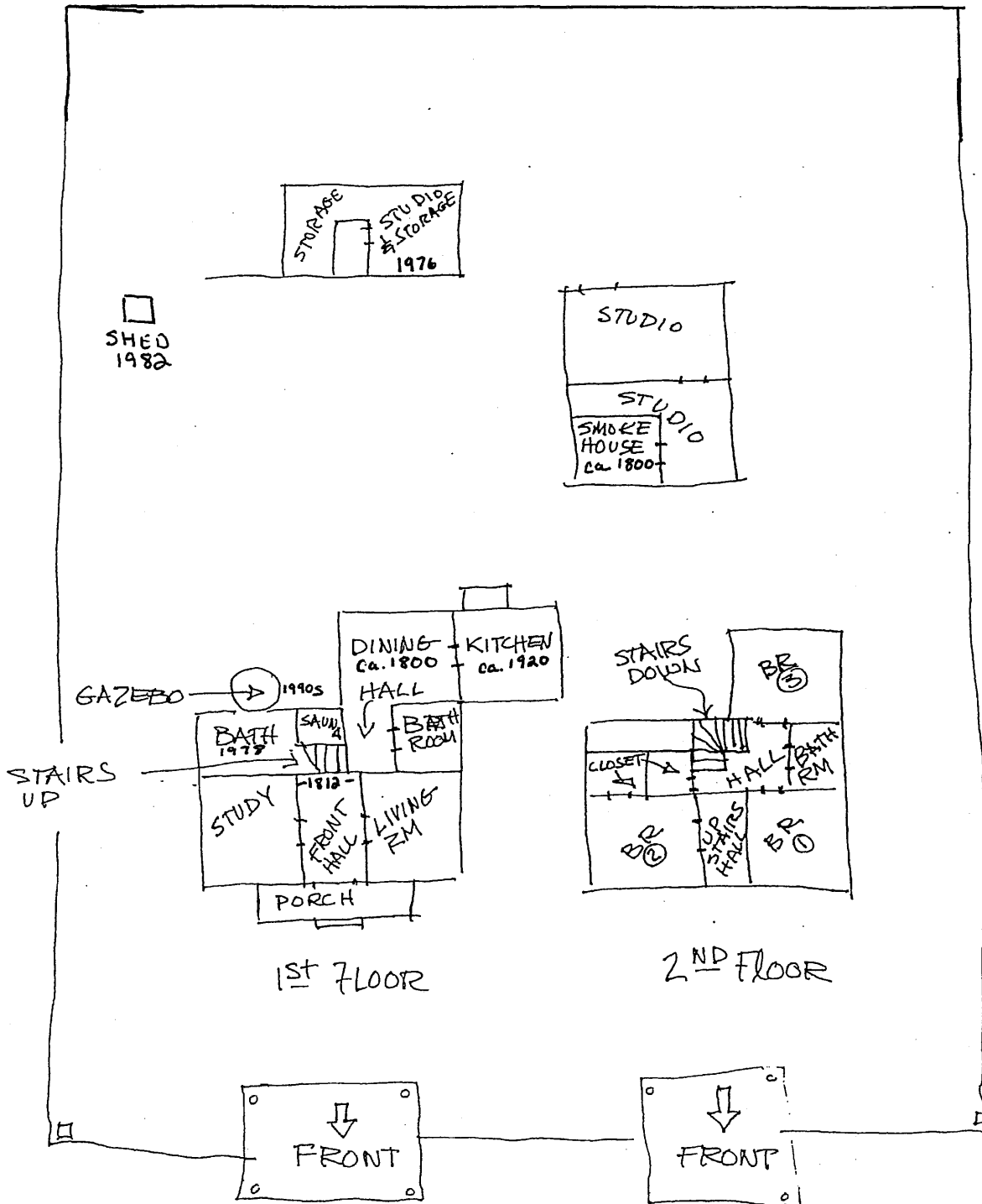
⁵ Lisa C. Tolbert, *Constructing Townscapes: Space and Society in Antebellum Tennessee* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1999), 205.

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Sketch plan of house, not to scale.



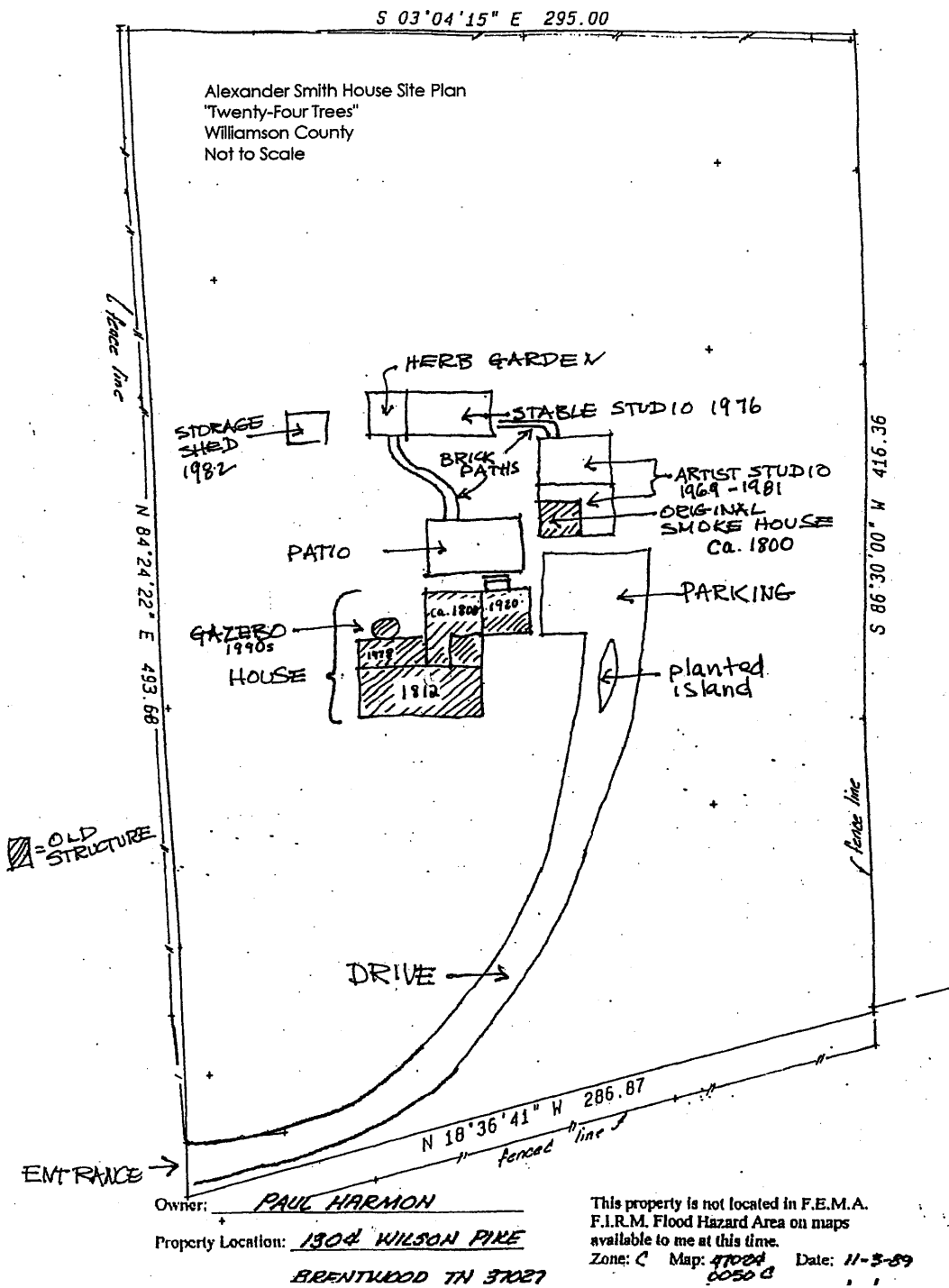
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Sketch plan of property, not to scale.



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Smith, Alexander, House
Williamson County, Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alexander Smith House, 1304 Wilson Pike, in Brentwood, Williamson County, Tennessee, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for its significance in settlement patterns. First settled around the turn of the nineteenth century, members of the Smith family lived here, subdivided land among them, farmed the land, and improved their farmstead and farmhouse over numerous years. This pattern of settlement is seen throughout the region and the Smith house is a good representation of it. Williamson County has many National Register listed properties, some listed for their significance in settlement patterns. The Alexander Smith House differs from most of these because it represents the earliest settlement and the evolution of the house through much of the twentieth century. Under Criterion C, the Alexander Smith House is important as an example of a residence that evolved from a basic log dwelling into a substantial I-house with Colonial Revival styling, fitting the pattern documented in the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Williamson County MRA." Character-defining features of the house include its symmetric façade with a two story portico and simple balustrades, brick chimneys, and five-bay plan. Inside, the house retains wood floors, fireplaces, staircases, and wood trim from its earliest settlement period into the twentieth century. Overall, the house retains its integrity.

Land grants from North Carolina to westward pioneers were a common reward for military service in the late eighteenth century, accounting for the settlement of Middle Tennessee in large-acreage tracts. This wilderness territory possessed abundant wildlife and timber for sustenance and settlement, and various tribes of Native Americans migrated throughout the region, partaking of natural resources. The indigenous people were often inhospitable to white settlers, requiring construction of protective forts. Western movement had advanced to Middle Tennessee in the site of Fort Nashborough, where approximately two hundred settlers lived, including James Leeper (also spelled Leiper), who with his two brothers were among the signers of the Cumberland Contract. James Leeper's 1780 marriage to Susan Drake became the first recorded at the pioneer settlement.⁶

By that same year, the first white settlers had also arrived to the area that came to be called Brentwood, Tennessee, twelve miles south of Fort Nashborough in adjacent Davidson County, building a fort at today's Wilson Pike and Old Smyrna Road. Settlers called the area Mayfield Station, after an early land beneficiary, Southerland Mayfield.⁷ In this Brentwood area, James Leeper received a land grant of 640 acres from the state of North Carolina for his military service while at Fort Nashborough.

On April 1, 1781, James Leeper accompanied a group of men out of Fort Nashborough to defend it against an Indian attack, a skirmish later called the Battle of the Bluff. Leeper suffered a serious wound that later

⁶ Nell McNish Gambill, *The Kith and Kin of Captain James Leeper and Susan Drake, His Wife* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1946), 9-16, 41, 74; Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, Tennessee, and Williamson County Historical Society, *National Register Properties: Williamson County, Tennessee* (Franklin, Tennessee: Hillsboro Press, 1995), 20; Vance Little, *Historic Brentwood* (Brentwood, TN: JM Publications, 1985), 24-25; and Lyn Sullivan Pewitt, *Back Home in Williamson County* (Franklin, TN: Hillsboro Press, 1996), 37, 111.

⁷ Little, 24-25; and Pewitt, 37.

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Smith, Alexander, House
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claimed his life.⁸ Before dying, Leeper composed a will, dated April 16, 1781 to his “welbeloved [sic] wife Susannah,” leaving her “the lands [he had] entered in Henderson’s Office.”⁹ In July, Susannah Leeper gave birth to their daughter, Sarah Jane Leeper. The widow and daughter continued to live at Fort Nashborough for three years, until Susannah’s death left Sarah an orphan. The little girl went to live with a maternal uncle (of the Drake family) outside the fort until she married Alexander Smith at age seventeen, in 1798.¹⁰

By the turn of the nineteenth century, James Leeper’s brother Hugh had received a land grant of forty acres in the area eponymously referred to as Leiper’s Fork (1785). Settlers had abandoned Mayfield Station after Southerland Mayfield had been killed by an Indian attack circa 1788. The Tennessee State Legislature created Williamson County from Davidson County, October 26, 1799. Franklin became the county seat in 1800.¹¹ Thus, despite the threat of attack from native people, the area continued to attract new settlement.

Around this same time, Alexander and Sarah (Leeper) Smith settled on 640 acres of land that North Carolina had granted to James Leeper.¹² Tax Records for Williamson County in 1800 show Alexander Smith as owner of 640 acres in the Little Harpeth Valley, corroborating a circa 1800 construction of the log cabin and smokehouse. According to tax records, between 1801 and 1813, the total acres recorded in Smith’s possession varied from 618-620.¹³ By 1812, according to contemporary analysis of the Smith house, the family had added the I-house to the original cabin. The extra space had certainly been needed for a growing family, evidenced through census records: daughter Elizabeth Clemmons was born in 1800; son James, 1801; another son was born in 1803 but lived only three years; another son was born in 1805; son Benjamin Drake, 1808; daughter Susannah Drake, 1811; and daughter Mary Emeline, 1815.¹⁴

By 1820, the Smith family consisted of nine members and ten slaves, as listed in that year’s census record. This ratio generally indicates the family’s wealth, as Williamson County’s white-to-slave population for that year was two-to-one (13,593: 6972). Alexander Smith is represented as having earned a living in agriculture.¹⁵ He was also one of three Tennessee commissioners surveying the Tennessee-North Carolina border to determine their official boundary. The Smith family also erected structures of industry on the property, in addition to pursuing agricultural income, operating a flour and meal mill and a furniture factory.¹⁶ Today the

⁸ Virginia McDaniel Bowman, *Historic Williamson County: Old Homes and Sites*. Nashville: Blue and Gray Press, 1971; Gambill, 13-14, 20, 41; and Pewitt, 111.

⁹ Original document in Courthouse, Nashville, TN, Book 2, p. 10; reproduced in Gambill, 20-21.

¹⁰ Gambill, 14, 15, 41, 71, 74; and Bowman, 50.

¹¹ Heritage Foundation, 20; Little 24-25; Marshall Morgan, “A Look at Yesterday,” in *Town of Franklin and Williamson County Directory – A Civic Government Handbook* (Franklin, TN: Carter House Association, 1963); and Pewitt, 111.

¹² Original document in Land Grant Office, Nashville, TN, No. 388, Book G, p. 184; reproduced in Gambill, 16.

¹³ Bowman, 50; and Louise Gillespie Lynch, ed, *Tax Book I, Williamson County, Tennessee, 1800-1813* (Franklin, TN: author, 1970), 20, 35, 50, 70, 93, 120, 158, 190, 224, 256, 287, 321, 354.

¹⁴ Bowman, 51-52; Gambill, 76-77; and United States Census Office, Fourth Census, 1820, State of Tennessee, Williamson County (Washington, DC, 1959); Fifth Census, 1830, State of Tennessee, Williamson County; Sixth Census, 1840, Microfilm, James Walker Library, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN.

¹⁵ United States Census Office, *Fourth Census, 1820*.

¹⁶ Gambill, 74, 76; and Little 26.

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Smith, Alexander, House
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location of these structures remains unknown, as the 640 acres became dispersed among later generations, and there are no known archaeological sites associated with Leeper. However, the family's various vocations indicate economic prosperity in a growing region.

In 1821, the eldest daughter, Elizabeth Clemmons, married into another prominent family in the area, the Hadleys. She and her husband Denny Porterfield Hadley (NR 4/14/88) received a gift of 200 acres from Alexander Smith, where they built a home, referring to the property as Green Pastures. They also received a female slave and other property.¹⁷

The 1830 census record shows the Smith household at eight, with twelve slaves. Two years later, daughter Mary Emeline married well-to-do Richard Christmas, and Alexander Smith repeated his gift of 200 acres to the new couple. At "Ashlawn," they built the sprawling, brick home. The 1840 census record was the last to show Alexander Smith in agriculture, as he died July 22 that same year. As indicated by the ages and number of family members, all of the Smith children had moved out except daughter Susannah Drake and her husband Thomas Petway, married February 2, 1832. Their own daughter Mary Elizabeth rounded out the household to five. At the Smith house, there were thirteen slaves, indicating the family's continued wealth.¹⁸

Alexander Smith had made a will October 29, 1838. In it, he expressed confidence in wife Sarah's judgment regarding the allocation of his entire estate among three children, James L., Benjamin Drake, and Susan D. Petway, noting his previous gifts of land to two other daughters.¹⁹ From the 1850 Census, it is clear that three of the Smith adult children, all with families of their own, lived within the same district of Williamson County as the original property. The Benjamin D. Smith, Susan D. Petway, and Elizabeth Hadley families listed agriculture as their livelihoods. Then-sixty-nine year old Sarah Smith was living with son Benjamin and his family.²⁰ Benjamin according to local historian Vance Little's book, became a lawyer, and then a Presbyterian minister.²¹

Thomas and Susan Petway's daughter, Mary Elizabeth married William Baine Galbreath, living in Memphis, Tennessee. The Galbreath's apparently received part of the original James Leeper land grant property through Susan, for in 1897, the couple sold to their own son, William Duncan Galbreath, for one dollar, 221 acres "lying on the east and west sides of Wilson Pike . . . about three miles South of the town of Brentwood, Tennessee. The place is now known as the Galbreath farm."²²

The property, however, later passed to Galbreath's daughter Susie E. Woolwine for just under \$10,000 in 1902. The sale was for 219.5 acres, "being a part of the entry of Alexander Smith, the grandfather of the grantor, Mary E. Galbreath, nee Petway," and sold to Mrs. Woolwine "as a separate estate free from the

¹⁷ Bowman, 51-52; Gambill, 76-77; and Little 26.

¹⁸ Gambill, 75, 83, 85; and U.S. Census 1830, 1840.

¹⁹ Gambill, 76, 77, 80.

²⁰ Louise Gillespie Lynch, ed, *1850 Census of Williamson County* (Franklin, TN: Williamson County Historical Society, 1970), 122, 126, 128.

²¹ Little, 26.

²² Williamson County Deed Book 19, 1897, pp. 444-445.

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Smith, Alexander, House
Williamson County, Tennessee

debts, constraints, or liabilities of her present or any future husband.”²³ A 1911 deed of sale shows that the Lewisburg and Northern Railroad purchased from Susie Woolwine a strip of land running through this property, as Middle Tennessee commerce continued to expand into and connect urban hubs. It was during this period of Woolwine’s ownership that the Smith house experienced the Middle Tennessee trend of an architectural facelift, in the form of a Colonial Revival portico, and installation of modern amenities, such as an attached kitchen. The trend towards Colonial Revival can be seen nationwide during this period. Two notable local examples of this transformation include Ashlawn in Williamson County, changed during the 1940s, and Rippavilla (NR 7/19/96) in adjacent Maury County, which was updated in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1919 George May purchased the entire property from Susie Woolwine.²⁴

The Alexander Smith House is historically significant as an extant example of an early structure of Middle Tennessee settlement, dating from approximately the same period of establishment of Williamson County, on land granted to pioneers for militia service. Additions and improvements to the home exemplify both the family’s prosperity through agriculture and the architectural forms and styles that characterize Middle Tennessee. While most of the properties under the National Register multiple listing for Williamson County are brick homes dating to as early as the 1820s, the Alexander Smith House precedes these, representing the settlement period of the county and the immediately subsequent period of prosperity.

According to the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County *National Register Properties: Williamson County, Tennessee*, the Alexander Smith House evolved in a fashion typical for the area. The earliest structures of pioneers consisted of one- and two-story log cabins of dovetail or “V” notching. The agricultural economy thrived on abundant natural resources and temperate climate, and prosperity can be measured in additions, installation of weatherboard over log exteriors, and improvements to vernacular architectural forms. New structures were typically attached to settlement dwellings by means of a dogtrot. The I-house plan, a two-story center-hall flanked by equal sized rooms on upper and lower stories, was the predominant farmhouse form in the region during the nineteenth century. The “Historic Resources of Williamson County MRA” also notes that in the early 1900s many new homes were built with classical detailing and many older homes were remodeled “to provide more ornate and pretentious facades.”²⁵ New brick homes in the Federal style began to appear in town and on the countryside in the first third of the nineteenth century. One such example is Green Pastures, at 612 Franklin Road, the home of Denny P. Hadley (NR 4/14/88) and wife Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander and Sarah Smith, built on property given to the newly married couple by the bride’s father. The earlier vernacular forms maintained a contemporary appearance as owners followed architectural trends, including the Greek Revival columns of the middle nineteenth century and the more modest Colonial Revival of the early twentieth century.²⁶

Twentieth-century changes to the house include exterior additions displaying the owner’s awareness of changing styles and the financial ability to carry out a major façade transformation of a new portico and up-

²³ Williamson County Deed Book 27, 1902, pp. 391-393.

²⁴ Williamson County Deed Book 33, 1911, p. 534; Book 43, 1919, p. 108.

²⁵ Philip Thomason, “Historic Resources of Williamson County MRA,” p. 7-6.

²⁶ Bowman, 50-51; Center for Historic Preservation, Section 8, pp. 7-8; and Heritage Foundation, 20-21.

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per balcony, circa 1920. Concrete steps were added to the new porch. A new kitchen was added during the 1910s, creating a separate space for cooking. Other interior improvements include plumbing and electricity during the mid-1900s, reflecting accessibility to these new luxuries. The home's most recent owner added late-twentieth century improvements, installing a metal roof, central air units, and connecting to city water.

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Smith, William, House
Williamson County, Tennessee

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- Williamson County Deed Books: 19, pp. 444-445; 27, pp. 391-393; 33, p. 534; 43, p. 108; and 144, p. 431.

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Tennessee

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal boundary description and boundary justification

The nominated property consists of the three-acre parcel 8, Williamson County tax map 35. This includes all the land currently associated with the nominated property.

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Smith, Alexander, House Williamson County,
Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos by: Carroll Van West, Middle Tennessee State University

Date 12/03

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

- 1 of 32: Overview of Alexander Smith House and front yard.
- 2 of 32: Front west façade of house.
- 3 of 32: Front west façade of house with portico and south elevation chimney.
- 4 of 32: South elevation of house.
- 5 of 32: South elevation showing I-house and added kitchen.
- 6 of 32: Rear (East) elevation consisting of (from left to right) kitchen, original section, back of I-house and gazebo-enclosed cistern.
- 7 of 32: North elevation and partial west façade.
- 8 of 32: Front door on first floor porch. (west façade).
- 9 of 32: Interior of central hall of I-house showing entrance with original locks.
- 10 of 32: Living room; photographer facing south.
- 11 of 32: Study; photographer facing northeast.
- 12 of 32: Front hall with stair, looking into dining room; photographer facing east.
- 13 of 32: Interior of original dwelling showing original fireplace; photographer facing northeast.
- 14 of 32: Detail of original fireplace in dining room.
- 15 of 32: Inside pantry showing original log construction of circa 1800 dwelling.
- 16 of 32: Interior of kitchen showing cabinets from dismantled barn.
- 17 of 32: Hallway, now enclosed, originally attached circa 1800 log cabin to circa 1812 I-house.
- 18 of 32: Bath and sauna area.

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Tennessee

19 of 32: Bath and sauna area with cistern in gazebo area.

20 of 32: Staircase in first-floor hall.

21 of 32: Upstairs of hall between circa 1800 log dwelling and circa 1812 I-house; photographer facing east.

22 of 32: Upstairs hall of circa 1812 I-House; photographer facing east.

23 of 32: Upstairs bedroom #1.

24 of 32: Upstairs bedroom #1.

25 of 32: Upstairs bedroom #2.

26 of 32: Upstairs bedroom #2.

27 of 32: Upstairs bedroom #3 in circa 1800 dwelling.

28 of 32: Upstairs bedroom #3 in circa 1800 dwelling.

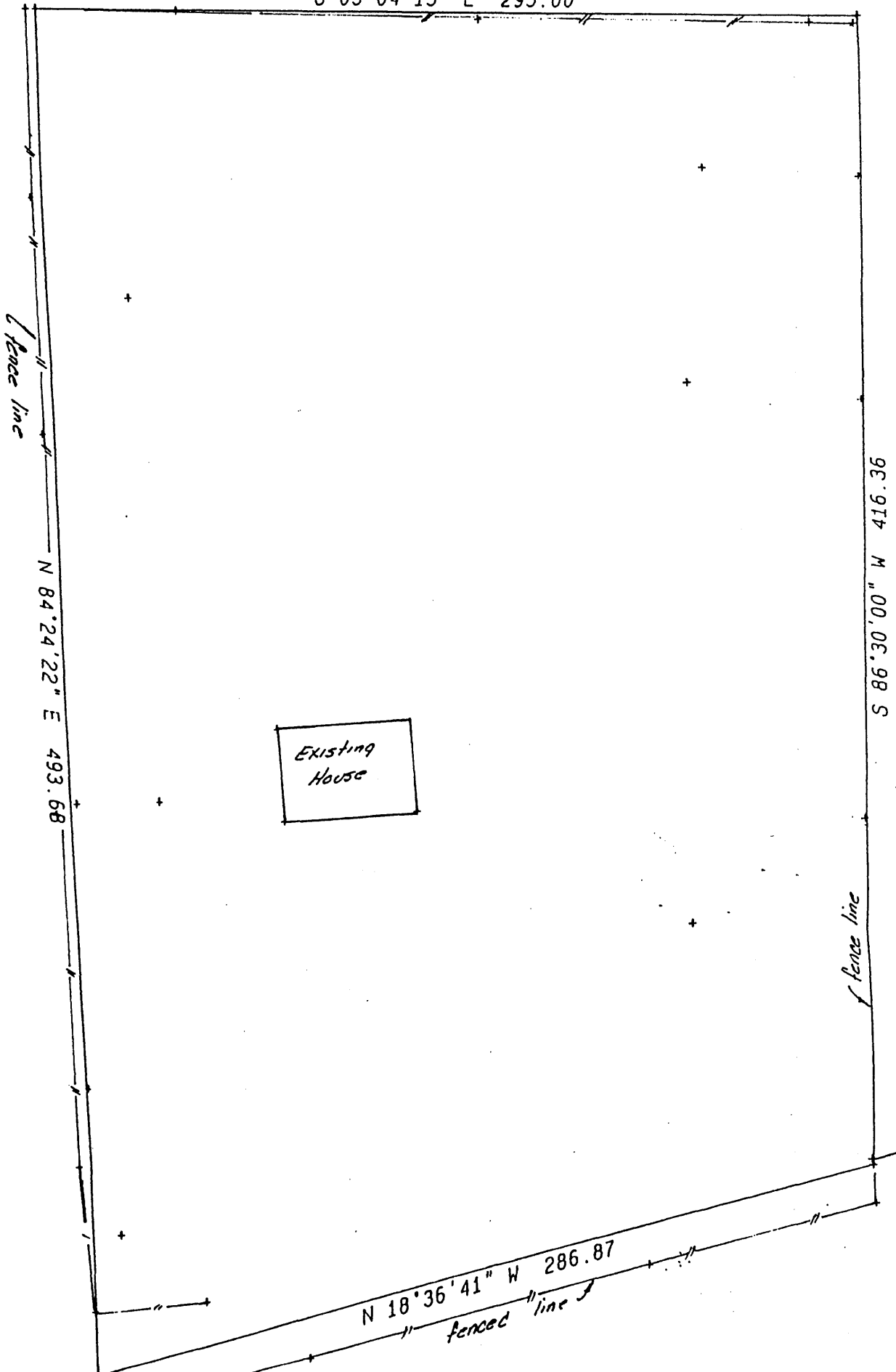
29 of 32: Stairs going from bedroom #3 into upstairs hallway.

30 of 32: Upstairs bathroom.

31 of 32: Rear yard, looking at log smokehouse/studio; photographer facing southeast.

32 of 32: Exterior of circa 1800 smoke house (left), showing closed-up original entrance, with late twentieth century addition (right); photographer facing northeast.

S 03°04'15" E 295.00



Owner: PAUL HARMON
 Property Location: 1304 WILSON PIKE
BRENTWOOD TN 37027
 Property Map 35 Parcel 8
 Record: Book 144 Page 431

This property is not located in F.E.M.A.
 F.I.R.M. Flood Hazard Area on maps
 available to me at this time.
 Zone: C Map: 47004 Date: 11-3-89
0050 C
 Scale: 1" = 50' Date: 10/06/99



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