

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

MAR 03 1988

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

NATIONAL REGISTER

Historic Name: Johnson, James P., House (WM-739)

Common Name: Laurel Hill

Owner: Joel Spaulding, Laurel Hill Farm, Columbia Pike, Franklin, TN 37064.

Location: On Highway 31, three-tenths of a mile south of West Harpeth Road.

<u>Contributing:</u>		<u>Non-Contributing:</u>	
Buildings	1	Buildings	1
Structures	0	Structures	0
Sites	0	Sites	0
<u>Total:</u>	1	<u>Total:</u>	1

There is one stone

Description:

The James P. Johnson House is a two-story brick central passage plan residence with Greek Revival detailing constructed in 1854. The house was originally constructed in an ell plan. On the main (east) facade is a ca. 1880 portico with chamfered porch columns and Doric motif capitals. Beneath the first story eave of the porch is dentil molding. On the second story balcony is a railing with square spindles and diagonal bracing. The main entrance is original with paired Italianate design frame arched panels and two light sidelights. Separating the door and sidelights are Doric motif pilasters and above the door is a large stone lintel. Above the main entrance, the second story has a corresponding door of a similar design.

Windows have been altered on the house with those on the first story ca. 1960 eight-over-six sash while those on the second story are nine-over-nine replacement sash. Above the windows are stone lintels, and below are stone sills. The house is of Flemish bond brick on the main facade with the side and rear facades of seven-course common bond. The house has a gable roof, stone foundation, and exterior end brick chimneys. In the foundation are vent windows with stone lintels. At the rear of the house is a ca. 1955 one-story brick addition with a frame porch, and attached to the ell is a two-story brick addition.

The interior retains its original staircase with a simple newel post and square balusters, architrave door molding, and several Greek Revival influenced mantles with architrave molding in first floor rooms. No photographs were permitted. At the rear of the house is an 1854 two-story brick kitchen of seven and eight-course common bond. The windows are six-over-six replacement sash, and the interior has been remodeled into a guest house. On the west facade is a one-story ca.1960 brick addition. Because of the numerous alterations, this building is non-contributing. There are no other significant outbuildings.

Period of Significance: 1854 - ca. 1890

Area of Significance: Architecture/Agriculture

Criterion: B and C

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The James P. Johnson House is a notable example of a central passage plan brick ante-bellum residence. The house is also notable for its association with James P. Johnson a well known stock raiser and horse breeder. The house was the center of the Laurel Hill Stock Farm, which was famous during the 19th century in middle Tennessee for its horse and cattle breeding. Despite the addition of a ca. 1880 porch and recent window alterations, the basic form and plan of the residence remains intact.

Thomas and Harriet Patterson Johnson moved to Williamson County from Kentucky in 1832. Thomas Johnson was a farmer, stock raiser, and also served as contractor for the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. His son, James P. Johnson, graduated from Nashville University in 1847 and farmed in Davidson County for several years. In 1853 he sold this property and inherited the Laurel Hill Stock Farm from his father. Johnson married Sarah Sykes, and they had ten children.

By the late 1850s the Laurel Hill Stock Farm was well known for its breeding of horses and cattle. Johnson formed a stock dealership in the 1850s known as Johnson, Brown and Gibson and the purchased and sold livestock in these years. By 1860, Johnson owned several hundred acres and was noted for his successful stock farming activities.

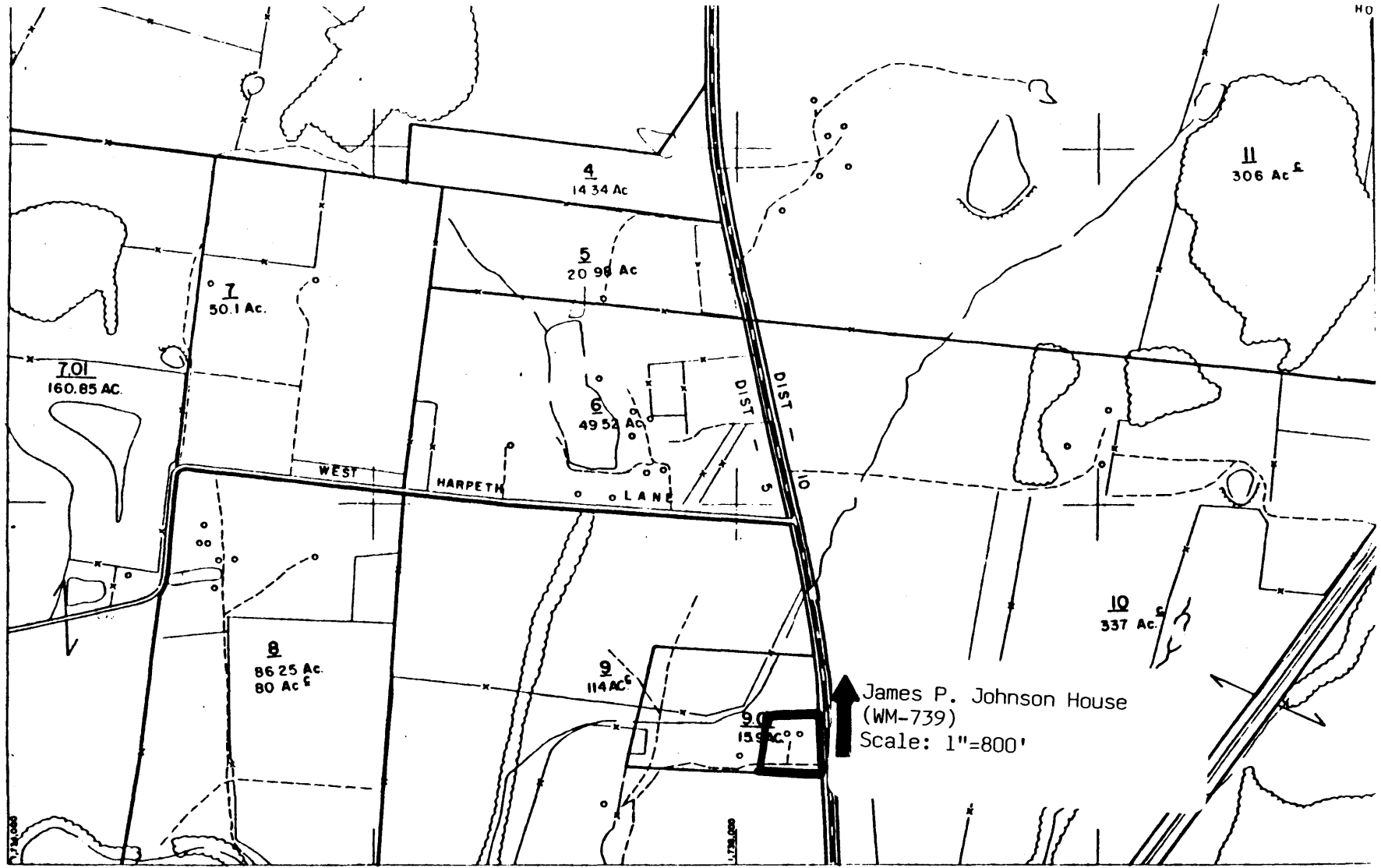
In the late 19th century, the farm continued to be one of the best known in middle Tennessee. By 1878, Johnson owned a large estate of 700 acres and the Laurel Hill farm became well known throughout Middle Tennessee for the breeding of harness horses and cattle. Johnson's activities were noted in the 1886 Goodspeed biographical index and he was listed as one of the county's leading farmers and stock dealers. By the early 1900s the farm had passed into new ownership and its fame as a stock farm ceased. Almost all of the historic outbuildings have been razed but the main residence and kitchen survive. The house has not been significantly altered and retains its original site and setting.

Acreage: 2.0 acres

UTM References: Spring Hill Quad/16/510590/3966150

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary of the James Johnson House is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 118, lot 9.01. The boundary is drawn to include the house and kitchen and exclude modern outbuildings to the west. The boundary is defined on the north, west and south by fence lines and on the east by Highway 31. The boundary is sufficient to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: Goodspeed's History of Tennessee



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TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
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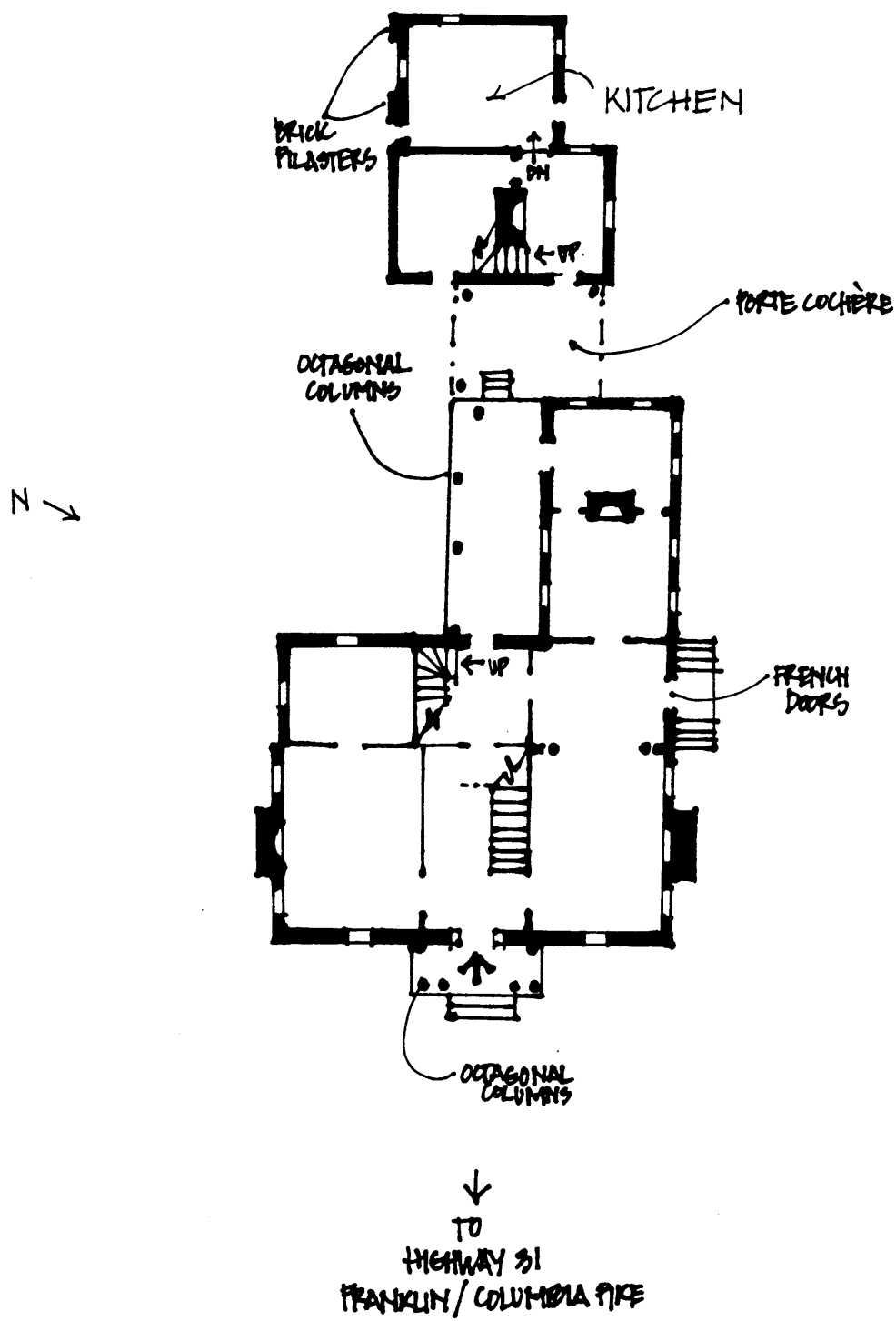
1 PARCEL NUMBER
 + PARCEL HOOP
 --- INTERIOR TRACT LINE
 - - - DISTRICT LINE
 20 SUBD LOT NO
 --- PARCEL OUTLINE
 1120 AC TOTAL ACREAGE
 H SECTION CORNERS

37 (M) PARCEL B CONTROLLING MAP NO
 O IMPROVEMENT
 - - - FENCE
 (C) CEMETERY
 CHURCH
 SCHOOL
 WOODS AREA
 POND

--- CREEK
 --- STATE LINE
 --- CO. LINE
 --- CORP. LIMITS
 --- TRANSMISSION
 --- ROAD
 --- RAILROAD
 --- BRIDGE LINE

James P. Johnson House
 (WM-739)
 Scale: 1"=800'

739 JAMES P. JOHNSON HOUSE



* NOT TO SCALE