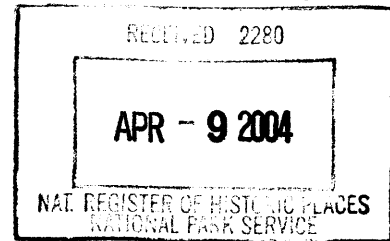


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Idler's Retreat
other names/site number Dillon-Tucker-Cheney House; Cold Chimneys

2. Location

street & number 112 Oak Street N/A not for publication
city or town Smyrna N/A vicinity
state Tennessee Code TN county Rutherford Code 149 Zip code 37167

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 T. Henry / DSH
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/8/04
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
Signature of the Keeper

5/19/04
Date of Action

Idler's Retreat

Name of Property

Rutherford, Tennessee

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)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 1, Total 2.

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / Single dwelling

Social / clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Hotel; Work in progress

Recreation and Culture/swimming pool

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th Century / Greek Revival and Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone / Limestone and concrete

walls Brick

roof Metal / Copper

other Glass

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 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History _____
 Architecture _____

Period of Significance

ca. 1865-1954

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)
 N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dillon, Joseph R., Builder

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):

- 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: _____

Idler's Retreat
Name of Property

Rutherford, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.33 Acres (Smyrna 70 NE)

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 543707 3982473
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 Mary Jenkins-Kline, Owner
organization Rutledge Interiors, Sole Proprietor date July 18, 2003
street & number 22A Middleton St telephone (615)254-6012
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37210

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 Mary Jenkins-Kline
street & number 6406 Johnson Chapel Road telephone (615)371-1805
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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

Narrative Description

Idler's Retreat is a brick, two-story, side gable roof, single dwelling built c. 1865 in the Greek Revival style with Italianate influence. It is located at 112 Oak Street, Smyrna, population 30,000, Rutherford County, Tennessee. Commonly known as the Dillon-Tucker-Cheney House, the house is being returned to the name shown on the 1878 Rutherford County Tennessee Owners Map of Idler's Retreat. It was built in an L-shape plan with a central hall, detached kitchen (NC) and 1950s pool (NC) at the rear of the house. The current owners began rehabilitating the house in 2002. Part of the rehabilitation included the removal and reconstruction of a 1940s two-story rear porch with bathroom, and the removal of a 1950s kitchen addition. The house currently has a central hall with four rooms on the first floor and four rooms on the second floor. The property fronts west onto Oak Street and is surrounded by various hedges and trees. The setting was originally 513 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of farmland with two creeks named Stewarts Creek and Harts Branch. The land was sold off for commercial and residential use over the years and is now approximately 1.33 acres. There are mature oak trees all around the house and a large holly tree that was given to the second owner, the Tuckers, as a birthday gift in the 1890s. The house sits on a level piece of land and faces the downtown area approximately four blocks away. The house originally had a drive that started at the downtown area, which was shortened with the construction of additional roads and residential homes. Idler's Retreat is structurally sound and retains its architectural integrity by maintaining much of its original design and detailing while exhibiting use over time.

The construction is load-bearing walls with wood floor joists and wood rafters. It has a rusticated limestone foundation and exterior walls constructed of twelve-inch thick solid brick. The roof is a side gabled standing-seam metal with layers of tar and paint patching. The 1940s and 1950s renovations of the two-story rear porch into bathrooms and kitchen was removed during the current renovation, started in 2002, and were replaced with a single kitchen on the first floor and a single bathroom on the second floor. There are three interior chimneys that had internal deterioration at the roof caps and appear to have had previous repair attempts based on mismatched brick, new cement mortar and large quantities of caulking. These were restored in the current rehabilitation to accommodate the burning of wood.

Symmetrically placed large six-over-six double-hung windows with interior weights are located on the front and sides of the house. All the windows are original except for two wood sills that have been replaced due to severe water damage. During the removal of the 1950s kitchen in 2002, it appears that one original window was removed to make a doorway to the kitchen. The wood lintels over the windows are also original. Over time, some of the window panes have been replaced but there is still a good portion of the original seeded glass in the windows. Originally there were shutters on every window; however, they were already gone before the current rehabilitation. The exterior paneled doors are original.

The façade (west elevation) of the house has a two-story portico with four supporting paneled Doric piers and matching pilasters, a turned balustrade on the second floor balcony, and heavy paired eave brackets beneath a modified pediment. The brackets also extend along the cornice of the façade. The Italianate influences are continued in the slightly recessed entrance, which has heavily molded sidelights and transoms with the original leaded glass and brackets beneath overhanging lintels. All of the wood balustrades are of yellow poplar and original with the exception of three, which were repaired in 2002 due to dry rot. Two of the piers are original and two were replaced on the portion that was damaged. All of the brackets are original except two that have been repaired. The second owners extended the concrete and stone front porch on the front of the house sometime prior to 1930.

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Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

The south elevation of the original brick portion of the house is relatively featureless without windows or cornice. There is an interior end chimney and iron stars holding the tie-rods at the floor and ceiling level of the second story. A 2003 two-story frame addition abuts the rear brick ell. The first story of the addition has a bank of three, paired six-over-six double-hung windows. The second story has a triple bank of six-over-six double-hung windows. The wall covering is a wood lattice.

The east elevation includes the south end of the main house, the 2003 frame addition, and the brick ell. The south end has two six-over-six double hung windows on the first and second story. The addition, which abuts the ell, has a bank of six-over-six double-hung windows split by a multi-paned door with a six-light transom. The brick ell has a below grade basement entrance, a large six-over-six double-hung window, and a paneled door with a single light transom on the first story. The second story has two six-over-six double hung windows and an interior end chimney. A standing seam metal shed roof extends over the first story of both the addition and ell. Four slender, square wood columns support the roof. The door in the addition has a set of concrete steps leading to it and the door in the brick ell has limestone steps.

A 1941 two-story rear porch replaced an 1885 sleeping porch when the house was loaned to the government to use as a USO club during World War II. At the same time, central heat was added to the first floor. When the last occupants, Brainerd and Frances Neel Cheney, moved into the house to use as a permanent residence in 1958, they had renovated the first floor porch into a bathroom and sitting area and the second floor porch into two private baths and closets. The Cheney's also removed a frame one-story kitchen that was attached to the main house by the second owners. In its place they constructed another one-story kitchen and removed a window to create a door to the outside.

The north elevation has six six-over-six double hung windows. Two are flanking the interior end chimney on both the first and second story. The remaining two windows are on the ell with one window on each of the two stories. The western portion of the north elevation has an extension of the bracketed cornice from the façade while the ell on the eastern portion has a box cornice.

There are five original fireplaces with mantles in the house. Four of them are neo-classical in design with brick surrounds. The neo-classical design is evident in the simple capped pilasters and mantles. The fifth fireplace, on the first floor, has a more elaborate mantle than the other four. This is evident by the heavy moldings and "bull's-eye" design centered in the frieze, reminiscent of the Italianate style of a more costly mantle. The heart of pine hardwood floors and trim are original throughout the house and are in good condition. A interior feature of the house commented on frequently by past visitors is the free hanging circular staircase in the entry. It was wondered as to what help the staircase up. The staircase was constructed of hard pine with black walnut stair rails built by Eli C. Mitchell, a well-known cabinetmaker in the area.¹ Mitchell had a wood turn lathe driven by a mule which he used to construct parts of the staircase.

All interior walls are covered in original plaster and it is evident some type of hair was mixed into the plaster. Due to a leaky standing seam roof and neglect, the original plaster ceilings were lost except in the main entry on the first and second stories. The plaster walls had many layers of wall coverings. During the 2003 renovation, the remaining wall coverings were removed to expose the original plaster beneath.

¹ Waller, Everett. *Eli C. Mitchell*.

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Section number 7 Page 3

Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

The large interior and exterior doors are made of poplar and mortise-and-tenon construction. All interior locks and doorknobs are engraved with a date showing them to be made in 1857. They have been cleaned, repaired and reinstalled in their original locations. The interior door surround is detailed with applied moldings in the Italianate style.

At the time of World War II the third owners let the government use the house as a USO Club. During this time, an electrical conduit was installed on the first and second floor and a coal-burning furnace was installed in the basement, which the furnace has since been removed. Ductwork was installed for the first floor in a crawl space underneath to distribute the heat. This was the only source of heat other than the fireplaces. In the late 1950s, air conditioning and a gas furnace were installed. The fireplaces and their chimneys were altered at an unknown date with smaller openings and smaller flues to accommodate the burning of coal. During the 2003 renovation this was discovered and they were opened up to their original size. All the hearths and mantles are in good condition.

The base molding used on the first floor was made in two parts. The bottom portion is walnut with a poplar tongue-and-groove portion attached at the top of the base. In the rear room over the basement is a firebox that was closed and plastered over, and cork was applied over the hardwood floors at an unknown date. In this room and the basement below, charred basement floor joists show evidence of a fire at some time. During the 2003 renovation the cork flooring was removed to reveal much of the original floor had been replaced. This was subsequently removed and replaced with a similar heart pine to match the original.

There is a separate two-story brick out-building (NC) that was built to the east of the house at the same time as the main house. It served as a detached kitchen and servants' quarters. The side gable roof, which collapsed due to neglect sometime in the 1990s, was asphalt shingle over metal on wood framing. During the 2003 rehabilitation, the roof was rebuilt and covered with asphalt shingles, and double-hung replacement windows were built to match the previous windows. When the roof and second floor collapsed, the central fireplace and chimney, and one interior wall partially collapsed and the stairs leading to the second floor completely collapsed. The walls of this building are load bearing masonry brick on a stone foundation with wood lintels over doors and windows. There are two entrances on the south elevation with stone steps leading up to them. There is a partial basement under half of the first floor with recessed steps from the rear of the building to the outside. The flooring that survived the collapsed is constructed of narrow wood and remaining walls are plaster.

In the 1950s a Gunite pool (NC) was put in across from the servants' quarters house. Part of the original driveway remains and runs along the south side of the house to the rear of the house and continued to the dairy barn demolished at an unknown date. The west and south side of the house are enclosed with privet hedges.

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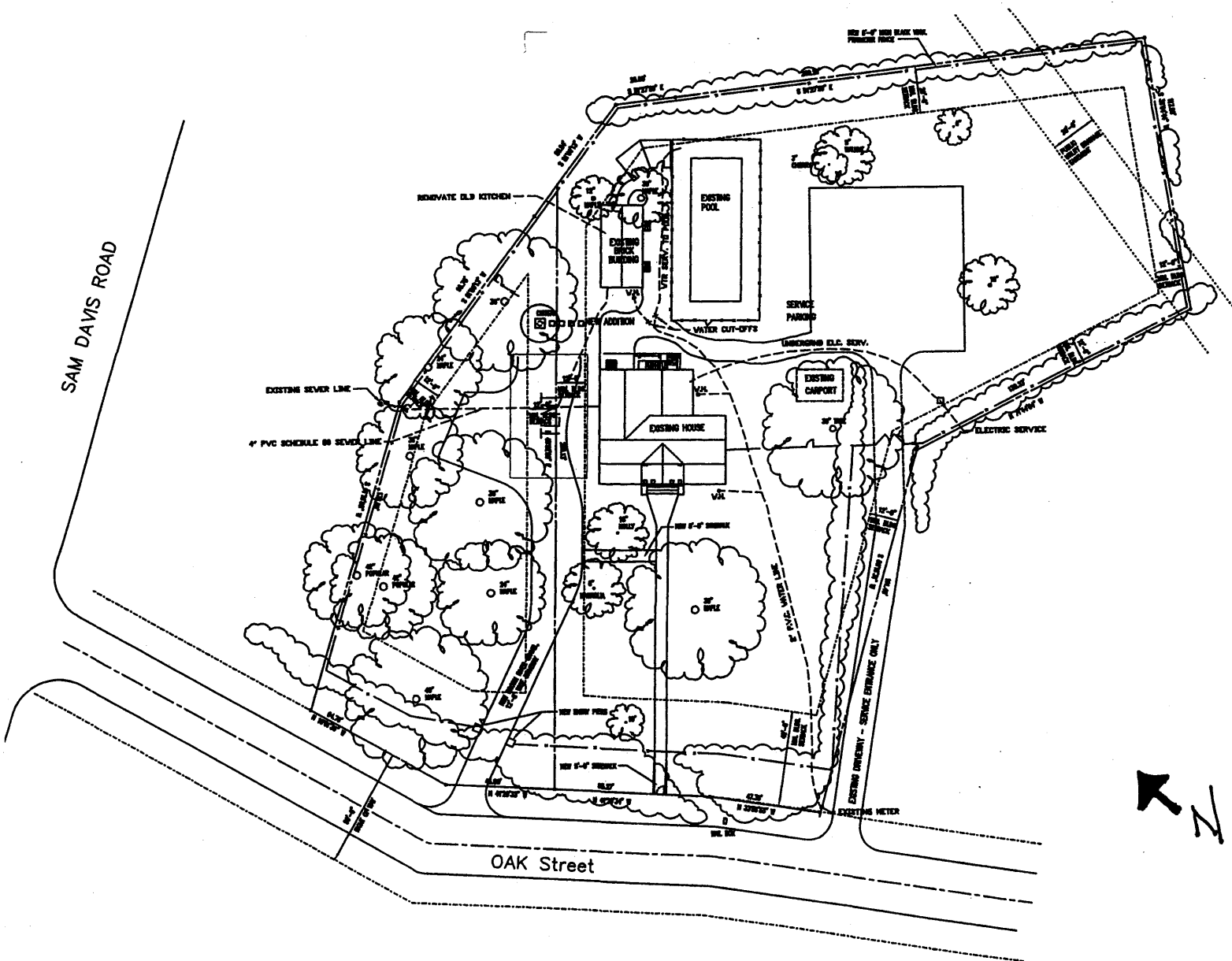
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Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

Site Plan

Not to scale



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National Park Service

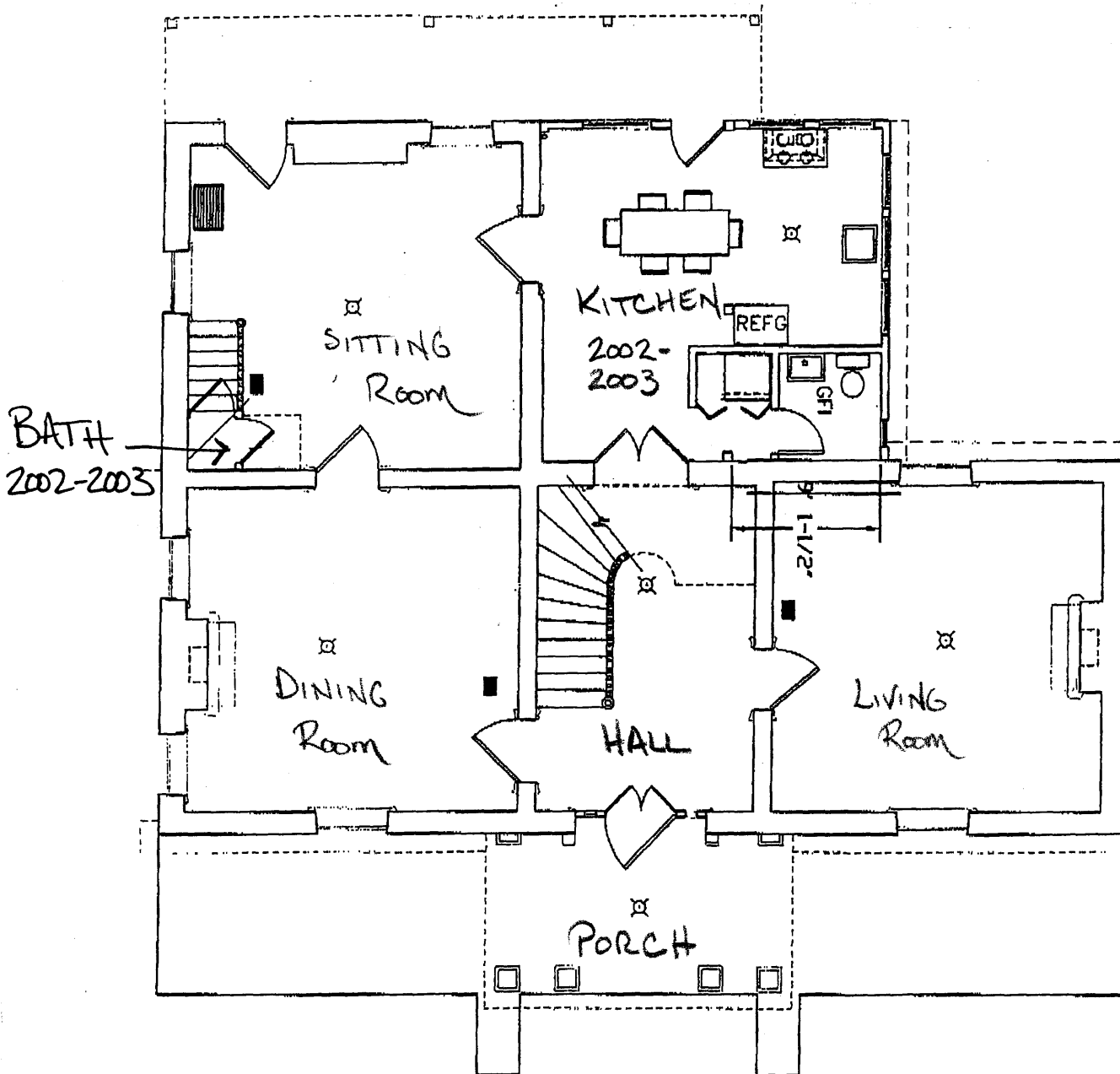
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Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

First Floor Plan

Not to Scale



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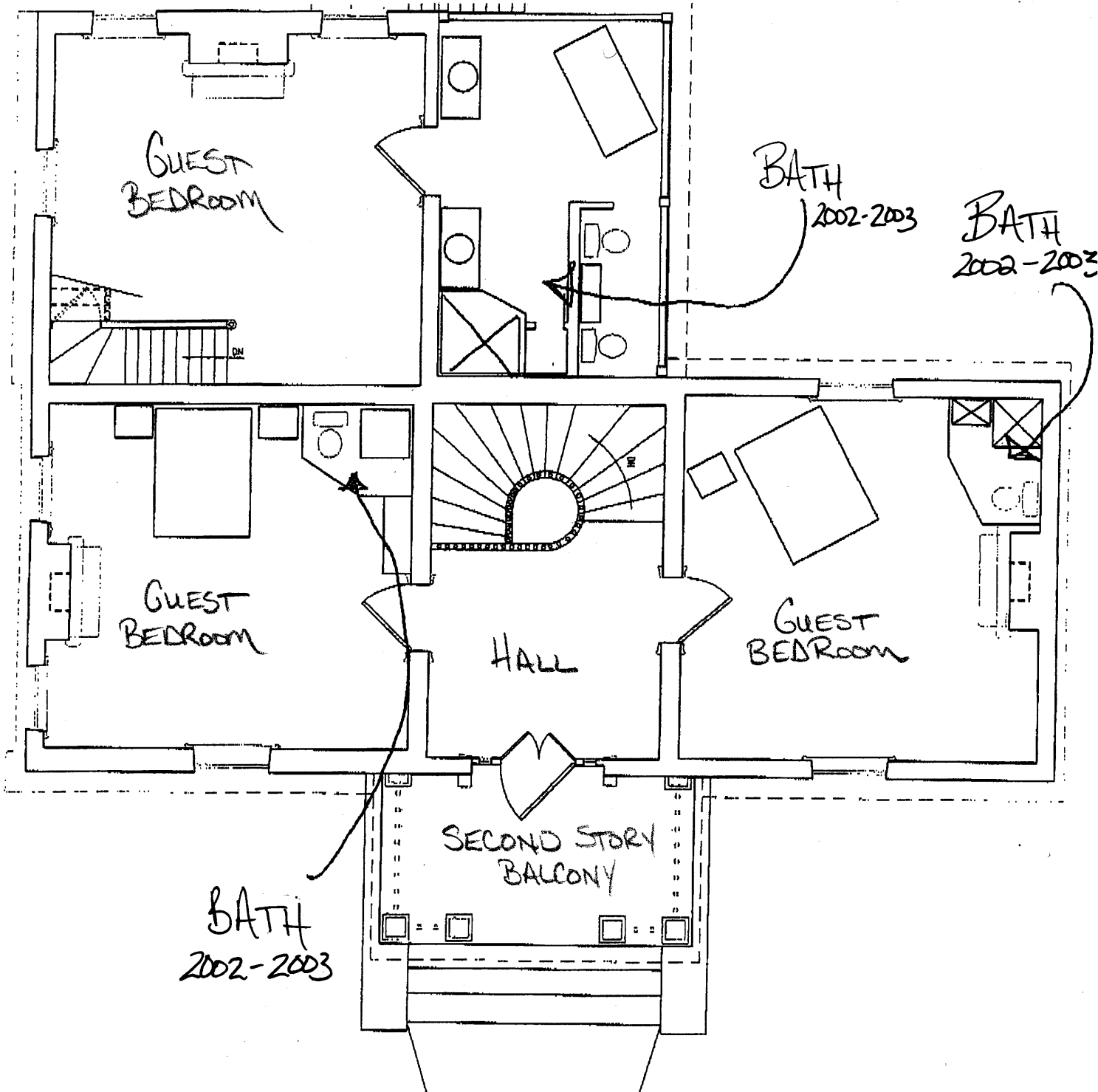
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Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

Second Floor Plan

Not to Scale



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Rutherford County, Tennessee

Narrative Statement of Significance

Idler's Retreat at 112 Oak Street in Smyrna (population 25,569), Rutherford County, Tennessee, is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a locally significant example of relatively unchanged nineteenth-century Greek Revival architecture with Italianate influences. Features include large windows, a low-pitched roof, and two-story Greek Revival entry porch with Italianate influences such as paired brackets in the entablature above the recessed doors. The simply decorated Greek Revival cornice on the façade carries the same paired brackets as seen above the doors. The layout of the house is that of a two-story L-shaped central hall plan dwelling. The house is characterized by its Italianate two-story portico, paired eave brackets, and large windows. There is one room on either side of the hall, one in the ell, and a 2003 kitchen addition directly through the hall. Idler's Retreat is also being nominated under Criterion A in the area of social history. Frances and Brainerd Cheney played a major role as contributors to the agrarian movement and the world of literature. Agrarians were a part of a large movement in response to encroachment of and the technology coming to the South. During the Cheney's residence at Idler's Retreat, many well-known writers such as Flannery O'Connor and William Faulkner were guest at the house.²

The end of the eighteenth century brought an interest in classical buildings. One of the reasons for this interest was American sympathy in Greece's involvement in the war for independence (1821-1830), being a newly independent country. Additionally, the War of 1812 resulted in a diminished American preference for British influence. Characteristics of the Greek Revival style include a low pitched roof emphasized by a wide band of trim, porches with variations of Doric columns and the recession of the front door which is surrounded by sidelights with rectangular transom lights above. Beginning in the 1840s, the Greek Revival style began a gradual decline in popularity. Styles that began to take its place were Gothic Revival and Italianate styles. Characteristics of the Italianate style include things such as an L-shaped plan, decorative brackets beneath low hanging eaves and tall narrow windows.³

Idler's Retreat is an example of Greek Revival with Italianate influences and details similar to the Two Rivers home (NR 2/23/1972) built by the McGavock family in 1859 in neighboring Nashville. Similarities include things such as the interior trim around the doors and inside the jambs, the two-story Greek Revival/ Italianate influenced entry porch, the brackets that extend along the cornice of the façade, and the trim on the Doric columns.⁴

In the early 1800s, farmers north of the now defunct settlement of Stewartsborough proposed to build a town. The new town was called Smyrna. Local resident Silas Tucker, sometimes known as Major, gave a plot of ground to be used for the new town's public square. The property on which Idler's Retreat stands was purchased from Charles Lewis Davis, father of Sam Davis (Sam Davis House, NR 12/23/1969) October 27, 1865 and the house built around that same time by J. D. Dillon, a successful Smyrna merchant.⁵ A Tennessee map dated 1878 refers to the house as Idler's Retreat.⁶ The son of Silas Tucker was John F. Tucker who, in 1882, bought the property known as Idler's Retreat and changed the name to Tucker Place. Known changes made to the house during the Tucker's residence included the construction of a rear sleeping porch in 1885 and cutting an opening in wall to

¹ Sells, Toby. *Smyrna Home was Haven for Writers*. Rutherford Courier News, No. 49. 4/11/2002.

² Whittle, Dan. *Tucker Place visited by Faulkner*. The Rutherford County Daily News Journal. 9/26/1999.

³ McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984. p.179-184.

⁴ _____. *The Tucker House*. *Hearthstones: The Story of Rutherford County Homes*, p43. Oaklands Association, Inc. 1993.

⁵ Hughes, Mary B. *'Tucker Place' is Smyrna Landmark, Home Built by Pioneer Family*. The Rutherford County Daily News Journal.

⁶ _____. Tennessee Property Owners Map, Rutherford County, 1878. Tennessee Genealogy. URL: <http://www.tngennet.org/rutherford/map1878/district03.htm>. Accessed: 4/9/2002

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Rutherford County, Tennessee

create a doorway connecting the room in the ell of the house to the other second floor rooms. This opening was plastered over during the 2003 renovation.

Upon the death of John F. Tucker, the house was left to his wife, Linnie Cannon Tucker who remained in the house until her death in 1939. Upon her death, the house was left to their four children, Dr. Everett Tucker, Mrs. Eleanor Tucker, Mrs. Linnie Tucker Jones, and Hickman Tucker. Mrs. Walter Hibbett, a cousin of the Tucker children, bought the interest of most of the house in the early 1940s. Mrs. Hibbett then willed the house to Frances Neel Cheney, a niece of one of the four children, and her husband Brainard Cheney. During World War II, the house was lent to the United Service Organization (USO) to use as headquarters for the USO as an Officer's Club and for the entertainment of soldiers at the Smyrna air base. At that time the rear porch area on the first floor was the kitchen for the USO club.

In 1952, the Cheney's regained use of the house from the USO and began renovation of the house for use as a residence. They only used the house as a summer home until 1958 since the lack of heat source other than the fireplaces encouraged them to winter in Nashville in a house that provided a more substantial heat source. In 1953 the house was renamed "Cold Chimneys." Part of the 1950s renovation included turning the first floor porch into a bathroom, and sitting area and the second floor porch was converted into two private baths and closets. A frame one-story kitchen that was attached to the main house by the Tuckers was removed. In its place another one-story kitchen was constructed and a window in the ell was replaced with a door to the outside.

Beginning in the 1920s, Mr. Cheney became involved in a movement in southern literature called the Agrarian Movement. The Agrarians adopted their name from their resistance to industrial capitalism and their insistence that southern rural and small-town culture was the remedy. They were a group of social critics who believed if the South lost dependence on their agrarian culture, their identity would be lost as well.⁷

Mr. Cheney's involvement with the Movement stemmed from his time in Vanderbilt University's English Department in Nashville, Tennessee. It was there that a literary group known as the Vanderbilt Agrarians started publishing a literary magazine, *The Fugitive*, for which Cheney wrote articles. Published between 1922 and 1925, this magazine encompassed all areas of literature, including poetry and criticism, evolving to include social and political concerns. Primary members of this group were John Crowe Ransom, Donald Davidson and Allen Tate.⁸

By 1925 the magazine ceased publication and the group began to disband, although Ransom and Davidson remained interested in maintaining contact between the members. It was these two men put into action an idea for a book that the other members had discussed in previous years. Allen Tate and Robert Penn Warren, former members of the group that Ransom and Davidson contacted, were very interested in the project. The four authors were primarily responsible for the planning and printing of the "southern book" *I'll Take My Stand: The South and the Agrarian Tradition*, which was published in 1930 and soon began being referred to as a "Southern Manifesto." The book was a basic statement of the social, economic, cultural and political position of the Agrarians.⁹ Some of these Agrarian members kept Idler's Retreat busy for many years with frequent visits and stays.¹⁰

⁷ *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture*, 1998 ed., s.v. "The Agrarians."

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Martin, Deana. *The Agrarian Movement at Vanderbilt University*. URL: <http://athena.english.vt.edu/~appalach/essaysA/agrarian.htm>. Accessed: 2/11/2004.

¹⁰ Sells, Toby. *Smyrna Home was Haven for Writers*. Rutherford Courier News, No. 49. 4/11/2002.

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Rutherford County, Tennessee

Although the Agrarian Movement made little or no headway in their resistance to capitalism, individually they contributed fiction, poetry and criticism both to Southern literature and literature as a whole. When the group finally disbanded, many of the members continued to engage in social commentary and political activism. The importance of this group was enormous in that it was the literary beginning for many of the South's most influential writers.¹¹

In addition to his writing for *The Fugitive*, Mr. Cheney was a writer and author of a number of other publications including the Cheney Papers. The Cheney Papers consist of a copy of the play "Strangers in This World" and a play dealing with the topic of snake handling by using music and dance. Mr. Cheney wrote four novels including *Light Wood*, 1939; *River Rogue*, 1942; *This is Adam*, 1958; and *Devil's Elbow*, 1969. Mrs. Cheney was a Library Scientist at Vanderbilt University. The Cheney's were friends with many important writers and fellow agrarians of the time such as Robert Penn Warren, Caroline Gordon, Flannery O'Connor, and Allen Tate. Robert Penn Warren enlisted Mr. Cheney's guidance through a crucial scene of his Pulitzer Prize winning novel *All The Kings Men* at Idler's Retreat.¹² Mr. Cheney died in 1990 and Frances Neel Cheney died in 1996. Since the Cheney's had no children, they left the house to nephew Roy Neel, former chief-of- staff to Vice-President Al Gore who, in 1999, sold the house to the current owner, Mary Jenkins Kline, who is renovating the home into a bed and breakfast.

The property surrounding the house has changed over time as it has been subdivided for residential housing. The house now has a little over one acre left from the original five hundred, however, the large oak trees planted around the time the house was constructed are still very prominent and integral to the setting.

The home commonly known as "Idler's Retreat", "Dillon-Tucker-Cheney House" and sometimes "Cold Chimneys" is a locally significant example of a Greek Revival house with high style Italianate influences such as paired eave brackets which are also found in the entablature above the doors on the façade. It has a rich social history and has served in a variety of capacities ranging from a residence to a USO club and now a bed and breakfast.

¹¹ Martin, Deana. *The Agrarian Movement at Vanderbilt University*. URL: <http://athena.english.vt.edu/~appalach/essaysA/agrarian.htm>. Accessed: 2/11/2004.

¹² Sells, Toby. *Smyrna Home was Haven for Writers*. Rutherford Courier News, No. 49. 4/11/2002.

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Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

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National Park Service

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Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

Geographical Description

Verbal Boundary Description

Idler's Retreat, located at 112 Oak Street in Smyrna, Rutherford County, Tennessee, sits on 1.33 acres (Rutherford County Tax Map 027H, Parcel 031). The property is located in a wooded subdivision on a level piece of land facing the downtown area of Smyrna.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the nominated property include a 1.33-acre lot associated with Idler's Retreat.

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

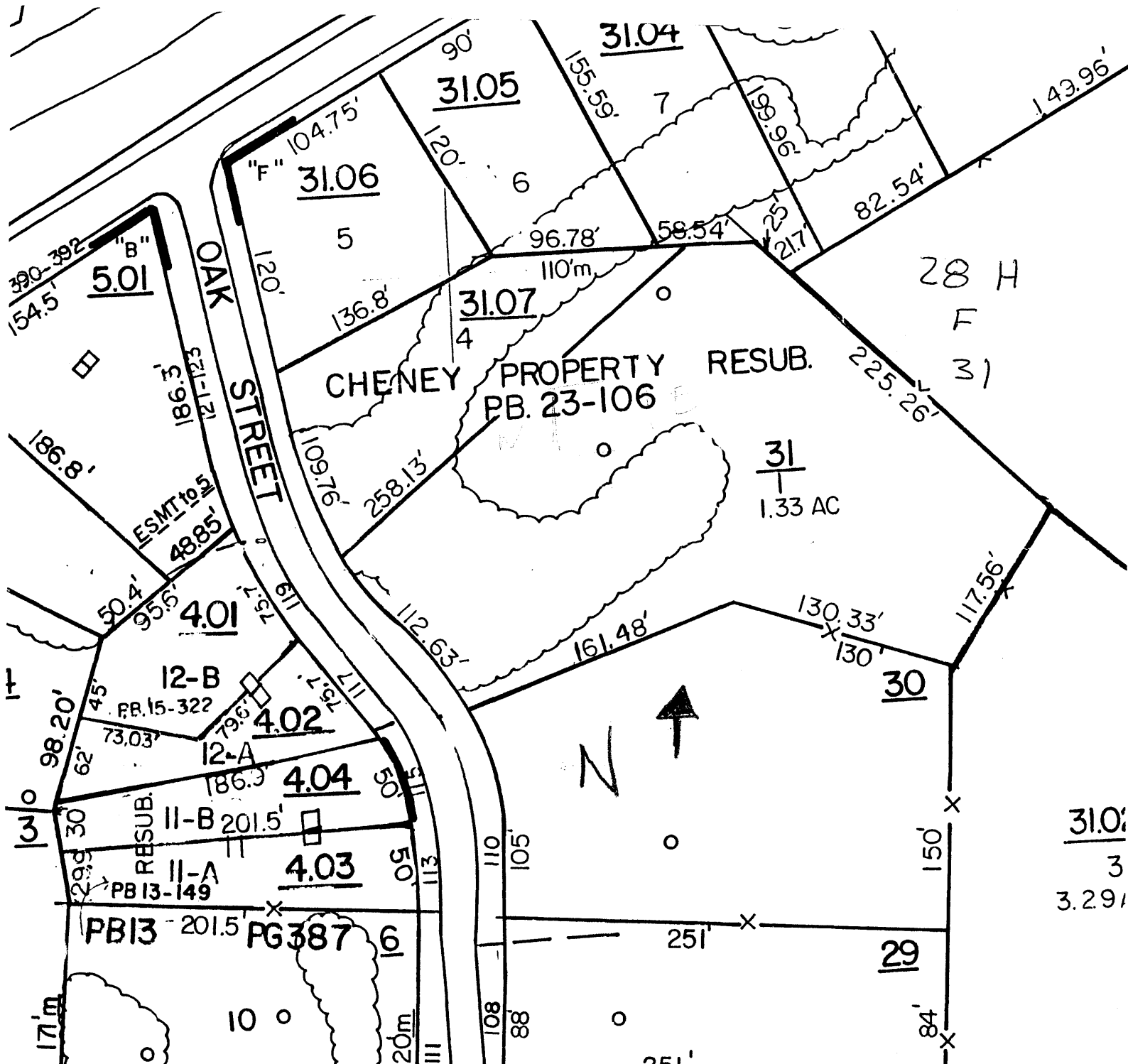
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Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

Rutherford County Tax Map 027H

Parcel 031

Scale: 1 1/4" = 100'



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 13

Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

Photographer: Rebecca Johnson
Date: November 2003
Location of Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Rd.
Nashville, TN 37243-0442

1. NW façade
facing SE
2. SW elevation
facing NE
3. Front porch
facing east
4. Front porch detail on west façade
facing east
5. South elevation of kitchen addition on east elevation
facing north
6. East elevation showing part of NC detached kitchen and pool
facing west
7. North elevation
facing south
8. Interior detail
9. Freestanding stair in center hall facing east
10. Bath in second story ell

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Idler's Retreat
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Rutherford

DATE RECEIVED: 8/18/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/01/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000475

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10/1/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 10/1/04

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

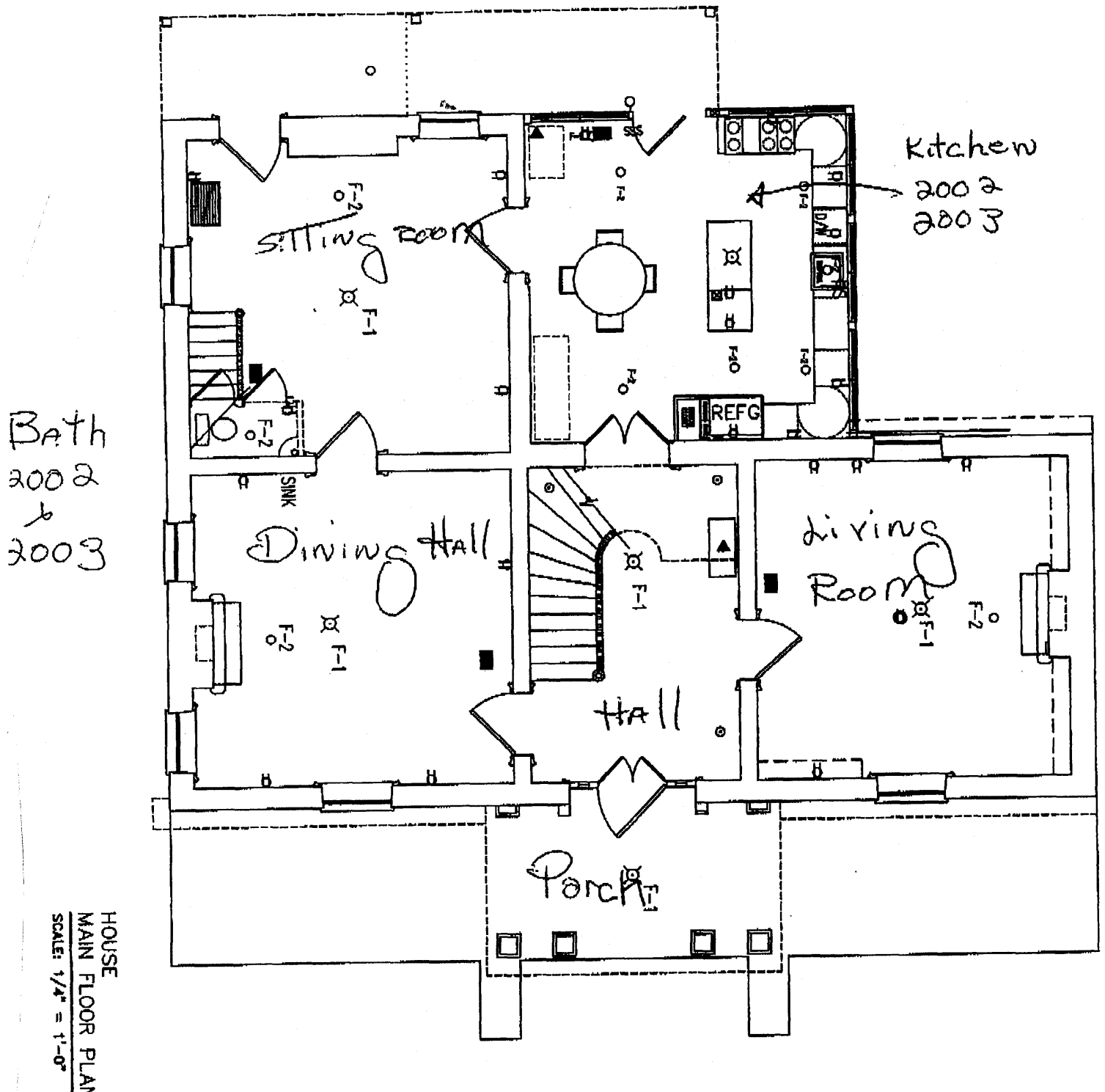
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

First floor plan (corrected)



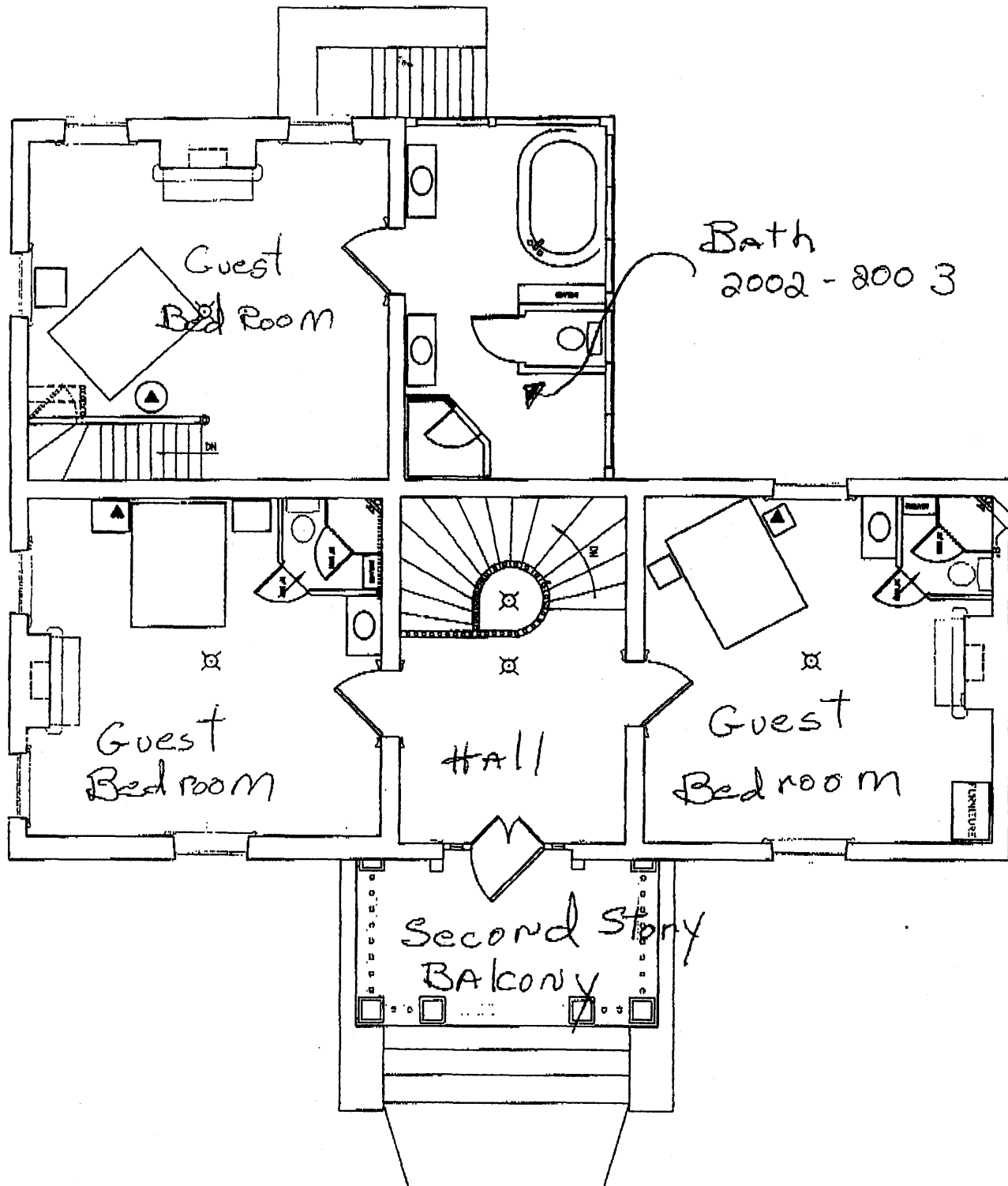
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

Second floor plan (corrected)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page NA

Idler's Retreat
Rutherford County, Tennessee

Clarification of sale

Roy Neal sold the house to Stewarts Landing Development Company in 1999. They subdivided the property. The nominated parcel was recorded on June 29, 2000 as parcel 31, deed book 668, page 603. The current owner bought the property on June 5, 2001 at auction.

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| <p><i>Herbert L. Harper</i> Herbert L. Harper</p> | <p>D\$HPO TN Historical Commission</p> | <p><i>8/16/04</i> Date</p> |
|---|--|--------------------------------|