## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

|     | RECEDENCE 1250                                  | <del></del> | o. 10024-0018 |
|-----|---|-------------|---------------|
|     | <b>EC</b> 2 3 1997                              |             | 167           |
| NAT | REGISTER OF THE OFFICE<br>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE | LACES       |               |

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 Pro | perty |
|----|------|--------|-------|
|    |      |        |       |
|    |      |        |       |

historic name Brame-Reed House

other names/site number Brame, Melchisedec, House; Reed, L. C., House; Woods, J.T., House

2. Location

| street & n      | umber 1550 Highw | vay 64 W | est |        |         |      | [   | ] not for pu | ublication N/A |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|-----|--------|---------|------|-----|--------------|----------------|
| city or tov     | vn Shelbyville   |          |     |        |         |      |     | 🛛 via        | cinity         |
| state <u>Te</u> | ennessee         | code     | TN  | county | Bedford | code | 003 | zip code     | 37160          |

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

| 3 ,   | Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 🛛         |
|---|--|
|   | eets the documentation standards for registering properties in the |
| 5   | edural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In |
| considered significant                                | the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be  |
| 📋 nationally 📋 statewide 🛛 locally. (See continuation | an abaat for additional comments )                                 |
|   | Sit sheet for additional comments,)                                |
| Aerber L. Thiser                                      | 1/21/97  |
| Signature of certifying official/Title                | Date /   |
| Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer            | Tennessee Historical Commission                                    |
| State or Federal agency and bureau                    |  |
|   |  |
| In my enining, the property II meets II does not may  | t the National Register criteria. (                                |
| additional comments.)                                 |  |
| additional comments.)                                 |  |
|   |  |
| Signature of certifying official/Title                | Date   |
| eightere er eerstyling entetall ritte                 |  |
|   |  |
| State or Federal agency and bureau                    |  |
|   |  |
|   |  |
| National Park Service Certification                   | 2/1  |
| hereby certify that the property is:                  | / Signature of the Keeper / // Date of Action                      |
| entered in the National Register.                     |  |
| See continuation sheet                                | M N 1/23/99  |
| ☐ determined eligible for the                         | 2 Mar                          |
| National Register.                                    |  |
| See continuation sheet                                |  |
| ☐ determined not eligible for the                     |  |
| National Register                                     |  |
| removed from the National                             | an a                           |
| Register.   |  |
|   |  |
| 🗋 other, (explain:)                                   | •  |

Name of Property

| 5. Classification  |  | -,-,   |                                  |              |  |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Ownership of Property<br>(Check as many boxes as<br>apply)Category of Property<br>(Check only one box)         |  | Number of Resources within Property<br>(Do not include previously listed resources in count) |                                  |              |  |
| ⊠ private  | ⊠ building(s)  | Contributing   | Noncontributing                  |              |  |
| ☐ public-local<br>┌┐ public-State  | ☐ district   | 1  | 2                                | buildings    |  |
| public-State   | ☐ site<br>∏ structure                                      | I  | Z                                | _ sites      |  |
|  | ☐ object   |  |                                  | structures   |  |
|  |  |  |                                  | - objects    |  |
|  |  | 1  | 2                                | _ Total      |  |
| Name of related multipl<br>(Enter "N/A" if property is not pa  | e property listing<br>art of a multiple property listing.) | Number of Contrib<br>in the National Reg   | outing resources previ<br>gister | ously listed |  |
| N/A  |  | 0  |                                  |              |  |
| 6. Function or Use   |  | ·····  |                                  |              |  |
| Historic Functions<br>(Enter categories from instruction   | ons)   | Current Functions<br>(Enter categories from ir   |                                  |              |  |
| DOMESTIC: single dwelli  | ing  | DOMESTIC: single dwelling  |                                  |              |  |
|  |  |  |                                  |              |  |
|  |  |  |                                  |              |  |
|  |  |  |                                  |              |  |
|  |  |  |                                  |              |  |
|  |  |  |                                  |              |  |
|  |  |  |                                  |              |  |
| and a second |  |  |                                  |              |  |
| 7. Description   | ·····  |  |                                  |              |  |
| Architectural Classifica   | tion   | Materials  |                                  |              |  |
| (Enter categories from instruction   |  | (Enter categories from instructions)   |                                  |              |  |
| OTHER: Italianate influe   | nced I-House   | foundation STON  |                                  |              |  |
|  |  | walls weatherboa   | ard                              |              |  |
| ·····  |  | roof ASPHALT   |                                  |              |  |
|  |  | other BRICK, GL  | ASS, TIN                         |              |  |
|  |  |  |                                  |              |  |
|  |  |  |                                  |              |  |

#### **Narrative Description**

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

Name of Property

#### 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 who's 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.

#### 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 #

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance** 

1840-1870

#### **Significant Dates**

Significant Person (complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A

# **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- □ Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- □ Local Government
- ☑ University
- □ Other

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

# Bedford County, TN

County and State

| Br | ame-Reed | House |
|----|----------|-------|
|    |          |       |

Name of Property

County and State

| 10. Geographical Data  |                     |                        |          |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Acreage of Property one acre   | Bedford, TN 72 NE   | Ξ                      |          |
| UTM References<br>(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)   |                     |                        |          |
| 1 16 541360 3923500  | 3                   |                        |          |
| Zone Easting Northing  | _                   | one Easting            | Northing |
| 2  | 4                   |                        |          |
|  | C                   | See continuation sheet |          |
| Verbal Boundary Description<br>(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)<br>Boundary Justification<br>(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) |                     |                        |          |
| 11. Form Prepared By   |                     |                        |          |
| name/title Larry Morphis Edited by Susan A. Besser, Ter  | nessee Historical C | Commission             |          |
| organization Center for Historic Preservation  | dat                 | e December 4, 1996     |          |
| street & number MTSU, Box 80   | telepho             | ne 615-898-2947        |          |
| city or town Murfreesboro  | state TN            | zip code 3713          | 2        |
| Additional Documentation<br>submit the following items with the completed form:  |                     |                        |          |

#### **Continuation Sheets**

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 0r 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 Larry and Susan Morphis street & number 1550 Highway 64 West city or town Shelbyville state TN zip code 37160

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.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Brame-Reed House Bedford County, TN

## VII. DESCRIPTION

The Brame-Reed House is located at 1550 Highway 64 West, Shelbyville vicinity, Bedford County, Tennessee. Constructed circa 1840 the two-story I-house has a circa 1850 one-story ell and a circa 1870 two-story porch and cantilevered balcony with Italianate influences. The house is of timber brace frame construction and rests on limestone piers. The original structure has flush-board siding within the porch area of the original I-house and weatherboard on the remainder of the I-house as does the ell portion. The roof is comprised of asphalt shingles. The house is situated on approximately one acre enclosed by a fence setting it apart from the remaining acreage that is used for agricultural purposes. Surrounding the structure are several large maple and walnut trees, including at least five believed to have survived from a large circa 1860 maple grove. In addition to the house there are two outbuildings dating from circa 1840 and circa 1940 respectively.

The south facade of the two-story I-house consists of three bays. The fenestration of the first story consists of two windows and one doorway. Proceeding from west to east, the first bay of the south facade consists of six-over-six double-hung sash window with plain wood molding, resting on a wood sill. This window is flanked by wood louvered shutters. The second bay of the south facade consists of two historic four-panel wood doors surmounted by a five-paned transom of original glazing. Flanking the doors are half side-lights of four panes each. This double door entryway retains two wood frame screen doors. Two limestone steps lead to the porch. The third bay of the first floor of the south facade consists of another six-over-six double-hung sash window with plain wood molding resting on a wood sill, flanked by wood louvered shutters.

The second story of the south facade also consists of three bays, two windows and one doorway. Proceeding from east to west, the first bay consists of a six-over-six double-hung sash window of plain molding resting on a wood sill. This window is flanked by historic wood louvered shutters. The second bay of the second story south facade consists of two historic four-panel wood doors flanked by half side-lights of three panes. The third bay of the second story south facade consists of a six-over-six double-hung sash window with plain molding resting on a wood sill. This window is also flanked by historic louvered wood shutters. The south facade includes a second story cantilevered balcony that extends from the west side of the first bay to the east side of the third bay. This cantilevered balcony is comprised of spindlework and cutout patterns set between square posts with a rounded top creating a distinctive balustrade. The two story porch of the south facade is surmounted by six square wood fluted columns with plain square bases and Italianate bracketing at their upper termini. These columns are connected by additional spindlework style millwork running beneath a plain cornice below the second story tin roof that covers both the porch and balcony. At either end of the south facade are interior circa 1900 chimneys replacing the originals damaged by a tornado that lifted the roof during the early 1900 era.

The east elevation of the Brame-Reed House includes the gable end of the original I-house and the east facade of the circa 1850 ell. The east gable end of the I-house is sheathed by weatherboard, has a plain cornice running beneath the roofline, and contains two windows, one on each story. The first story

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|----------------|---|------|---|--|

Brame-Reed House Bedford County, TN

window is situated on the north side of the facade and consists of a six-over-six double-hung sash window with plain molding resting on a wood sill. The second story window is also situated on the north side of the elevation and consists of a six-over-six double-hung sash window having plain molding and resting on a wood sill. The east elevation of the circa 1850 ell contains four bays and includes a one-story classically influenced portico with two plain square columns supporting a boxed cornice pediment.

Proceeding from a south to north direction, the first bay consists of a modern six-over-six double-hung sash window, circa 1960. The second bay consists of a six-over-six double-hung sash window having plain molding and resting on a wood sill. The third bay consists of four-panel double doors surmounted by a transom of four panes and flanked by half sidelights consisting of three panes. This doorway is protected by two wood framed screen doors and is accessed at the portico. The fourth bay consists of an over-six double-hung sash window having plain molding and resting on a wood sill. An original interior chimney, with projecting round stovepipe, is visible at the top of the roofline between the second and third bays of the ell. At the north end of the ell is an interior original chimney with projecting round stovepipe.

The north elevation of the Brame-Reed House is of weatherboard siding that covers the gable end of the ell as well as a circa 1870 storeroom addition and the portion of north facade of the original I-house that is visible beyond the ell. The roof has a plain boxed cornice over the ell portion of the house and changes pitch slightly over the storeroom addition. The north facade has one bay containing a modern one-over-one double hung sash window with plain molding and no sill, circa 1960. Above this window projects a modern air conditioning unit. The visible north facade of the original I-house has two bays on both the first and second story. The first story, proceeding from the ell addition to the west, contains one bay consisting of an historic four panel wood door with plain molding. The second bay of the first story also consists of a four-panel wood door with plain molding. Each first story doorway is covered by a single wood frame screen door. The second story of the original I-house visible beyond the roof of the 1850 ell consists of two bays. Proceeding from an east to west direction, the first bay consists of a six-over-six double-hung sash window having plain molding and resting on a wood sill, flanked by louvered wood shutters. The second bay also consists of a six-over-six double-hung sash window having plain molding and resting on a wood sill, flanked by louvered wood shutters. A pent roof running just beneath the second story windows extends from the west end of the original I-house to the roof of the ell where the intersection of the two create a valley. This roof is supported by four square columns resting on a porch that extends from the west end of the north facade of the I-house to the ell addition. The columns have plain moldings at their upper termini and plain square bases.

The west elevation of the house includes the west facade of the circa 1850 ell and the west elevation of the original I-house. The west elevation of the ell features five bays consisting of three windows and two doors. Proceeding in a north-to-south direction, the first bay of the west elevation contains a circa 1993 four-overfour double-hung window with plain molding resting on a wood sill, flanked by louvered metal shutters, circa 1970. The second bay also consists of a circa 1970 six-over-six wood sash double-hung window with plain molding. Like the window of the first bay, these windows are also flanked by louvered metal shutters,

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circa 1970. A modern air conditioning unit projects from beneath the third bay. The fourth bay consists of a two panel wood door with plain molding protected by a single wood framed screen

The interior of the house is a central hall plan, typical of classic I-house design. The 1850 ell addition, which runs in a south to north direction, is attached to the rear of the east room of the first floor of the original I-house. The floorplan of the original house is unchanged except for the addition of bath areas within existing space. Historic walls of horizontal boards, originally covered by muslin and wallpaper, have been covered by drywall in all but the parlor. Original baseboards, all doors except one, glazing, and sash remain throughout the house. Original wood flooring remains in all but the kitchen and storeroom areas, though much is covered by carpeting.

The first floor central hall is entered by either a double doorway at its south end or by a doorway opening on the back porch at its north end. Original wood flooring is exposed and the seven-inch baseboards are original. The east wall reveals the stairway that rises to a half-story landing. The stairway is comprised of an unadorned banister with simple round balustrades. The newel post is a simple turned column with a flat newel cap. The stringer has three strips of bead molding that complement the simplicity of the staircase. A wall string runs along the east wall of the stairway. Beneath the nosing of each tread is a small strip of simple molding.

To the west of the central hall is a sitting room entered through a two panel wooden door. Baseboards are ten and one-half inches. Centered in the north wall of the room is a two panel wooden door leading to the rear porch. The west wall of the room contains three distinctive features. Proceeding from south to north, is a two panel door allowing entrance to a small closet. Centered on the wall is a fireplace with brick firebox and wood mantelpiece. The elaborate mantelpiece, circa 1880, consists of Ionic columns supporting an entablature of classical influences. An oval-shaped mirror, mantel shelf supported by consoles, and applied low arabesque relief below the mantel shelf and in the upper corners enhance the mantelpiece. A six-oversix double hung sash window is on the north end of the west wall. Centered in the south wall of the room is a six-over-six double hung sash window.

To the east of the central hall lies a parlor entered through a two-panel wood door. Baseboards in the parlor are ten and one-half inches. The south wall of the room contains a six-over-six double-hung sash window. The east wall of the room contains, proceeding from north to south a six-over-six double-hung sash window; a fireplace with brick firebox surrounded by a wood mantelpiece with simple molding and plain pilasters on either side; and an historic two panel wood door allowing access to a small closet. The north wall of the room contains a two-panel wood leading to the den.

The den is the first room entered moving north from the original I-house structure into the circa 1850 ell. All walls of the room contain the original ten and one-half inch baseboards. The southeast quadrant of the room

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has been converted to a modern bathroom. The east wall of the room contains a single six-over-six doublehung sash window. The west wall of the room contains a single historic wood door, inset with two vertical panes of glass, which allows access to the rear porch. The north wall of the room consists, on the west side of a two panel wood door and threshold leading to the dining room. In the center of the wall, there is a fireplace that has been filled by masonry and faced with tile. The fireplace is encompassed by a wood stained mantelpiece, circa 1880, consisting of smooth Doric columns that support a simple rectangular entablature. A simple rectangular mirror is located just above a boxed mantle shelf.

The dining room can be entered from the den and is directly north. All four walls of the dining room contain the original ten and one-half inch baseboards. The west wall of the room contains a single leaf four-panel wood door that allows access to the rear L-shaped porch. The south wall has a four-panel door leading to a small closet that is adjacent to the den fireplace. The east wall of the dining room contains a entryway that provides access to the east portico. It is comprised of two inward opening four panel wood doors flanked by half sidelights of four panes each and surmounted by a transom of four panes. The kitchen is entered through the original doorway and threshold, but lacks the original door.

The kitchen lies at the north end of the 1850 ell. The northwest quadrant of the kitchen contains modern cabinetry, sink and kitchen appliances. All four walls of the kitchen contain historic ten and one-half inch baseboards. The east wall contains an historic six-over-six double hung sash window. The north wall proceeding from west to east contains a modern one-over-one double hung sash window above the location of a modern stove. Above this window an opening has been created to accommodate a modern air conditioning unit. Originally the window had been an historic doorway leading to the exterior. East of the window is a centrally located fireplace having a brick firebox with stucco facing surrounded by an mantelpiece of stained wood with a simple mantel shelf above and plain pilasters on either side. Beyond the fireplace is a two-panel wooden door. Above the door is a niche of modern construction presently used for storage of books. The west wall contains a two panel wooden door and threshold leading to a small room of modern addition created by enclosing a portion of the rear porch. At the north side of the wall is an open bay leading to the circa 1870 storeroom addition that has been partitioned to include a modern half-bathroom.

The second story of the original I-house is accessed by the central hall stairway that leads to a half-story landing that runs parallel to the north wall. On the north wall above the half-story landing are ten-and-one-half inch baseboards and one central opening consisting of a six-over-six double hung sash window. The south side of the landing is surmounted by an unadorned banister resting on simple spindles. The three walls of the second story landing have ten-and-one-half inch baseboards. The east wall of the second story landing contains a two-panel wooden door and is adjacent to the east bedroom. The west wall of the second story landing contains an historic two panel wooden door and is adjacent to the west bedroom.

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|                | ····· | -    |   |                    |

The east bedroom is entered from the second story landing by way of a two panel wooden door. All four walls of the east bedroom contain ten-and-one-half inch baseboards. The north wall of the bedroom contains a wooden plank door providing access to an attic space above the 1850 ell addition. The northeast corner of the room has been enclosed to create a modern bathroom. The east wall of the room contains, proceeding from north to south, a six-over-six double hung sash window now incorporated into the modern bathroom section of the east bedroom; and historic fireplace with brick firebox and a decorative iron facing, that is surrounded by a mantle with simple molding above the plain pilasters on either side; and a two-panel wooden door with simple molding in the south side of the wall. The south wall of the east bedroom contains a single six-over-six double hung sash window that overlooks the second floor balcony.

The historic west bedroom is entered from the second story landing by way of a two panel wooden door. All four walls of the west bedroom have ten and one-half baseboards. The south wall of the bedroom contains a single central bay consisting of a six-over-six double hung sash window that overlooks the second floor balcony. The west wall, proceeding from south to north, contains a two-panel wooden door with simple molding that provides access to a small closet. East of the window is a centrally located fireplace having a brick firebox with stucco facing surrounded by a mantelpiece of stained wood with simple mantle shelf above and plain pilasters on either side. Beyond the fireplace is an historic six-over-six double hung sash window.

The south wall of the second story landing contains a central bay consisting of two inward opening four panel wood doors flanked by half side-lights of three panes each. The north side of the landing is surmounted by a banister resting on simple spindles. The three walls of the second story landing have ten and one-half inch baseboards. The east wall of the second story landing has a two panel wood door leading to the east bedroom. The west wall of the second story landing contains wood doors flanked by half side-lights of three panes each.

Approximately thirty yards northwest of the Brame-Reed House there is an historic smokehouse, circa 1840. It is flanked by non-contributing modern additions on either side. The smokehouse is constructed using a framework combining hewn and sawed timbers covered by the original weatherboard siding. The south facade of the smokehouse contains a single central bay consisting of a two-panel wood door. The original smokehouse has a standing seam gable roof with corner brackets that support the three foot overhang. Due to the large additions to each side of the smokehouse, this building is non-contributing. (NC)

Ten feet north of the Brame-Reed House there is a circa 1940 utility shed sided with circa 1940 composition sheathing simulating brick. Asphalt shingles cover the gable ends and modern aluminum forms the roof covering. The shed is entered by a single plank door in its south facade. (NC)

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The Brame-Reed House is a significant example of a two-story timber frame farm dwelling reflecting local patterns of the middle Tennessee influenced I-house. Alterations made to the dwelling reflect the affluence and inclination to alter the facade demonstrating the owner's preference to keep the house style current with the 1870 period. The Brame-Reed House retains its historical integrity throughout each modification making only the necessary changes for twentieth century adaptations for comfort, use, and livability.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



BRAME - REED HOUSE

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



BRAME-REED HOUSE

SECOND FLOOR

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



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## VIII. SIGNIFICANCE

The Brame-Reed House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance to Bedford County and is a significant example of the manner that an I-house evolved to an L-shaped house with a Greek Revival portico on the ell portion in 1850 and then to its present Italianate influenced facade, circa 1870. Reflected in the present version are exterior details such as a two-story porch with Italianate details such as the fluted columns with bracketed capitals and a cantilevered porch with spindlework detailing. Interior details such as mantelpieces, ten-and one-half inch high baseboards, four-panel and two-panel doors remain intact. It is significant locally as an good example of an I-house with Italianate influences. Typically, an I-house was modified with a Greek Revival style two-story porch on the facade as evidenced by the Farrar Homeplace in Bedford County listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. A future survey of the county may reveal additional I-houses with Italianate stylistic characteristics. The Brame-Reed House retains its architectural integrity and reflects the manner that these Italianate modifications were incorporated into the existing dwelling to demonstrate the owner's affluence and standing in the community.

The tract on which the Brame-Reed House sits was part of a large Revolutionary War land grant made to George Doherty that came into the possession of the Reverend William Knight in the early 1800s. On April 13, 1819 Melchisedec Brame, in turn, purchased 261 acres of land from William Knight that included the present plot on which the house is located and the surrounding twenty-four acres of farmland. Melchisedec Brame was born in Caroline County, Virginia in 1773 and emigrated to Bedford County, Tennessee in 1817. In 1820 Brame's household in Bedford County consisted of his wife Sarah, brother William. four children, and nine slaves. It is not known what or if an earlier house was located on the grounds, but architectural evidence suggests c. 1840 as the construction date. Melchisedec Brame died in 1845 and was buried approximately sixty yards north of the house where his grave slab lies broken in several pieces. The small cemetery where his grave lies contains other unmarked graves.

The Brame-Reed House I-house form derived from the British form of housing that was typical of the Tidewater South and is noted in McAlester's <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u>. According to James Patrick. <u>Architecture in Tennessee</u>, the I-house or central passage plan was also prevalent in Tennessee from 1810 to 1850. Settlers built the type of house with which they were familiar. This phenomenon, cultural diffusion, as discussed by Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," could be explained by the migration of the Brame's from Virginia. Melchisedec Brame simply followed the typical building pattern of his ancestry.

In the 1850s and later, concurrent with the Greek Revival era, Middle Tennessee became the heartland for a new "columned" style of architecture and many wealthy planters of the time added porticos and columns to

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Brame-Reed House Bedford County, TN

existing structures. Around 1850, the heirs of Melchisedec Brame constructed the ell with Greek Revival portico that is appended to the rear of the original I-house. Records indicate that this modification was made by his brother William or his son William B. M. Brame, a successful merchant in Shelbyville and son-in-law of the town's first mayor.

n the late 1850s, the farmhouse and lands came into the possession of L.C. Reed who operated a small store on the property. His wife, Mary Jane Reed ran a school that was located in a maple grove near the house. In 1856, the Shelbyville to Lewisburg Turnpike was constructed along the route of present day Highway 64 and Reed and subsequent owners may have collected tolls from a nearby toll house shown on period maps.

During the Civil War an engagement between Union cavalry and Confederate cavalry under General Joseph Wheeler took place within two miles of the Brame-Reed House in the direction of Shelbyville. The engagement, which took place on October 7, 1863, involved some 3,000 to 4,000 combatants and the house was said to have been used as a hospital for wounded soldiers.

During the Reconstruction period the "columned" style of architecture continued to be popular with wealthy plantation owners. Though not a wealthy man, L. C. Reed may have imitated the wealthy by his 1870 addition of an Italianate colonnade and balcony to the front of the original I-house. This would make the Brame-Reed House and Wilson County's James Harvey Davis House (circa 1860) similar in that both have three bay facades and columned porches that provide an "oblique reference" to the columns of Greek and Roman tradition (Patrick, 181).

In the late 1870s, the Brame-Reed House came into the possession of John Cotner who conveyed it to his grandson J. T. Wood Sr. in 1892. J.T. Wood Sr. and his wife Madora lived in the house together until her death in 1956. When J.T. Wood Sr. died in 1963, J.T. Wood Jr. bought the house and property from the estate, living there until his death in 1982. The property was divided into several tracts and sold at auction after J.T. Wood Jr.'s death in order to settle his estate. The Brame-Reed House and surrounding 25 acres came into the possession of the present owners, Larry and Susan Morphis, in 1983.

As a significant example of a nineteenth century Middle Tennessee central hall I-house, circa 1840, the Brame-Reed House demonstrates architectural evolutionary patterns common in the county. The addition of the ell, circa 1850, and the influences of the late nineteenth century vernacular interpretation of the picturesque movement demonstrated by the addition of an Italianate facade, circa 1870, reflect the success of the farm complex and changing architecture.

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## X. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Verbal boundary description

The nominated property begins at point A north along fence line 208 feet, moves east for 208 feet, then south for 208 feet and follows Highway 64 West right of way in a westerly direction, approximately one acre, as documented on the enclosed Bedford County Tax Map 101, Parcel Number 7. The Tax Map for this nomination has the scale 1'' = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1'' = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

Boundary justification

The nominated property includes the Brame-Reed House, an example of the nineteenth century I-house with historic additions, approximately one acre of land and the non-contributing smokehouse and non-contributing shed.

18,265

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PHOTOGRAPHS Brame-Reed House Bedford County, TN

By: Carroll Van West MTSU Center for Historic Preservation Date: September 20, 1996

Photo of house, south facade, facing north 1 of 22

Photo of house, cast facade, facing west 2 of 22

Photo of house, east facade, facing northwest 3 of 22

Photo of house, north facade, facing southwest 4 of 22

Photo of house, west and north facades, facing southeast 5 of 22

Photo of rear porch well enclosure, facing northwest 6 of 22

Photo of screen door and wood framed door with vertical glass panes, rear porch, facing east 7 of 22

Central hall and stairway. first floor, facing northeast 8 of 22

Sitting room. first floor, facing southwest 9 of 22

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Parlor, first floor, facing southeast 10 of 22

Parlor, first floor, facing north 11 of 22

Den, first floor, facing north 12 of 22

Dining room, first floor, facing east 13 of 22

Dining room, first floor, facing south 14 of 22

Kitchen, first floor, facing north 15 of 22

Stairway, half-story landing, facing northeast 16 of 22

Landing, second floor, facing southeast 17 of 22

Landing and west bedroom, second floor, facing west 18 of 22

West bedroom, second floor, facing west 19 of 22

East bedroom, second floor, facing southeast 20 of 22

Smokehouse, facing northwest 21 of 22

Utility shed, facing northeast 22 of 22