

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Morgan, Scott	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 26 1972	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Rugby Colony (Representative Joe L. Evins).

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box #8

CITY OR TOWN:  
Rugby and vicinity

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Morgan, Scott CODE: 129

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>See building descriptions</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Multiple Owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rugby STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Morgan County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Wartburg STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

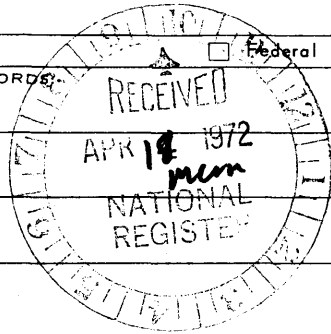
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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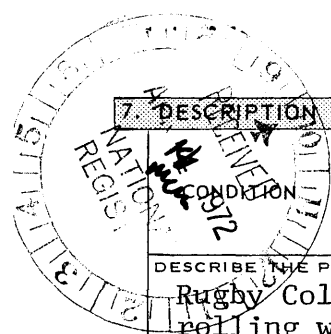
STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Morgan Scott

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 26 1972

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7. DESCRIPTION	
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rugby Colony, established by Thomas Hughes in 1880, was built in the rolling wooded hills of Morgan County. Out of the original total of approximately 65 buildings, 17 remain today. A brief description of each follows:

Kingstone Lisle, on the southwest corner of Cumberland and Central Aves., is the cottage originally built for Thomas Hughes, Rugby's founder, in 1884. With the exception of a small addition on the back of the building, the house has been restored to its original appearance. The exterior is board and batten and has Gothic elements. It is presently owned by the Rugby Restoration Association, is used as a museum house, and is in good condition.

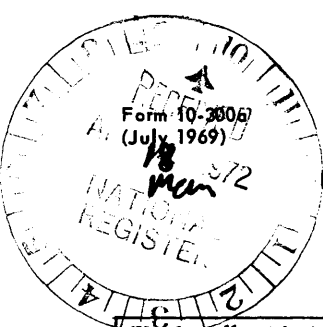
Christ Church Episcopal, on the northeast corner of Cumberland and Central Aves., is an outstanding example of Carpenter's Gothic architecture. Constructed in 1887, the church still gives the same appearance, inside and out, as the time of its construction. In the apse is a fine stained glass window made in Germany in 1887, in memory of Margaret Hughes, mother of founder Thomas Hughes, and Mary Blacklock, mother of the church's first rector, Joseph Blacklock. The rosewood organ is thought to be the oldest reed organ still in use in the United States; the alms basins were carved by Henry L. Fry, who carved one of Queen Victoria's thrones; and the church still uses the original hanging lamps brought from England and altar hangings made in a convent in England in the 1880's. The church is regularly available to the public on tours and is still used for services. It is in good condition and is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee.

Thomas Hughes Public Library, on the south of Central Avenue in the block marked on the original survey as "Public Buildings," was built in 1882. The library contains 7,000 volumes given from 1880-84 by thirty-eight different American and English publishing houses and individual colonists and comprises one of the finest representative collections of Victorian literature in America. Everything in the library is exactly as it was in the mid-1880's; it is shown on regular tours and is also available to researchers by appointment. The building is in excellent condition and is owned by the Hughes Public Library Board, chartered in 1882 by the State of Tennessee.

Walton Court is on the south side of Central Avenue, just east of the Hughes Library. It was built for Robert Walton, the Irish manager of the Rugby colony, in 1880, with additions several years later. The exterior appearance is the same as in the 1880's, but the interior has been considerably altered, with the exception of the original paneled dining room and the plaster work in the halls. The house is privately occupied, available to the public only during pilgrimages; it is owned by Elizabeth K. Crabtree and Virginia K. Zepp and is in fair condition.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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7. Description (cont. page 2.)

Roslyn, built in 1886, is the next building east of Walton Court on the south side of Central Avenue. It was built by Montgomery Boyle, son of Sir John Boyle, vice-president of the Rugby colonizing company. Sir John was a first cousin of the Earl of Glasgow. Both exterior and interior appearances are unaltered, with the exception of an added room on the rear and a modern kitchen. The building is privately owned by Brian L. Stagg, Executive Director, Rugby Restoration Association. It is open to the public only during the annual pilgrimage and is in fair condition.

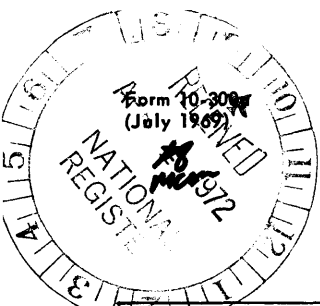
Glen Ray or Villa Ray, is the first house on the right as one climbs the hill proceeding west from the White Oak Creek. It was built in 1880 for Dr. Charles Kemp, a Boston physician and close friend of Ralph Waldo Emerson. The house is owned by Mrs. Nettie Bertam, not accessible to the public, and is in deteriorated condition.

Ingleside, on the corner of Jackson Street and Newbury Road, was built in 1884 as a summer house for Bostoner Russell Sturgis, former U. S. Consul to Canton, China. It is privately owned by Mrs. Minnie W. Myers, is opened during the annual pilgrimage, and presents the same appearance on the exterior as when built. The interior has undergone little alteration, and the house is in good condition.

Newbury House was the first boarding house built in the Rugby colony and was constructed in 1880. It is on the north side of Newbury Road, with its east side facing Faringdon Road. It is owned by Mr. Henry Hamling, is not accessible to the public, and is in poor condition. The exterior has undergone little alteration but has remained unpainted for some thirty years. The interior has been entirely altered.

The Lindens was built in 1880 and 1884 for Mr. Nathan Tucker, original proprietor of the Rugby Commissary. The house is in good condition, presents its original appearance on the exterior and much of the interior, and is privately owned by Mr. James Keen. It is opened to the public on the annual pilgrimage. It takes its name from two huge European Linden trees planted in front in 1884 and still standing. To the rear of the house is a carriage house of outstanding architectural value, unchanged from when built. The house faces Faringdon Road.

Adena Cottage was built in 1880 (with later additions) by a Mr. Ross Brown. It was purchased several years later by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Wellman. Mrs. Wellman (Sarah Worthington Pomeroy) was a granddaughter of Governor Worthington of Ohio, and she named her home "Adena Cottage" after the governor's famous home "Adena" in Chillicothe, Ohio. The building has been considerably altered inside and out, although the exterior front still presents its original appearance. It is the southernmost house on Faringdon Road, is owned by Miss Helen Lourie, Secretary-Treasurer of the Rugby Restoration Association, and is opened during pilgrimages. It is in good condition.



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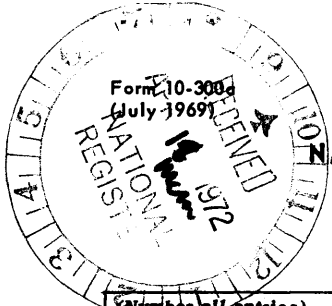
x The Wren's Nest, a gambrel-roofed cottage, was built in 1887 as a "hennerly" for Mr. Wellman, owner of Adena Cottage. The building is just south of Adena Cottage. It was converted into a dwelling not long after its construction; thus the interior has been altered, but the exterior presents the same basic appearance as when constructed. It is in fair condition and is a summer cottage for Mr. William Goodwin, the current owner, who is president of the Rugby Restoration Association.

Office of the Board of Aid to Land Ownership was one of the first two or three buildings erected in the Rugby colony and served as office for the colonizing company (The Board of Aid). It is in deteriorated condition at the moment, but the Rugby Restoration Association, which has purchased it, plans to restore the building to its original appearance inside and out. There is considerable evidence regarding original furnishings, and such things as the drafting tables, bookshelves, countertop, map cases, etc. still exist and will be replaced in the building. The office building faces Central Avenue on the south side, and is just west of the Harrow Road Cafe.

x Pioneer Cottage, on the southwest corner of Central Avenue and Donnington Road, was the first building constructed in Rugby. It took its name from the fact that it was a place of temporary shelter for many new colonists arriving in Rugby. Author Thomas Hughes himself stayed in the cottage on his first visit to Rugby, and it was here that he wrote his letters about Rugby to the London Spectator that were later incorporated in his book Rugby, Tennessee. The house is owned by Mrs. Grace Seabolt, is in poor condition, and is not accessible to the public.

x Oak Lodge, on Donnington Road, was originally called "The White House" and was built by Mr. T. Lyon White and run as an overflow guest house in conjunction with the Tabard Hotel. Verandahs running around three sides of the house have been removed except on the front, and an original outside staircase for access to the separate upstairs servants' quarters has been removed. The interior has been changed considerably except for the parlor and central hall, and the house is in fair condition. It is owned by Mr. Thomas Martin, and is opened during annual pilgrimages.

x Uffington House, on the northwest corner of Uffington Road and Central Avenue, was built over a period of several years, beginning in 1880. The initial section of the house was originally the residence of Mrs. Zoe Underhill, the daughter of New York Sun editor Charles Dana. With additions it became, in 1882, the home of Madame Margaret Hughes, mother of author-founder Thomas Hughes. Very little of the interior is changed. On the exterior a bay window overlooking a spring has been removed, and the west verandah has been removed. Historically, this is the most significant dwelling in the colony; numerous important visitors both from America and England were entertained here by the Hughes family.



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\* Ruralia is almost entirely changed from the date of its construction in 1886. A large front porch (a late addition) has been enclosed, interior walls removed and relocated. It is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Irving Martin and is in good condition.

Twin Oaks, located between the Boyle Circle and Central Avenue in the western end of Rugby, has been completely restored to its original appearance. The exterior is authentic in every detail, and interior wainscotting, floors, etc. have been retained. It is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Riley Thomas and is opened during pilgrimages. The house is in perfect condition.

Just across the county line in Scott County is the Rugby Cemetery, where many of the original settlers of the colony, including Thomas Hughes' mother are buried.

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

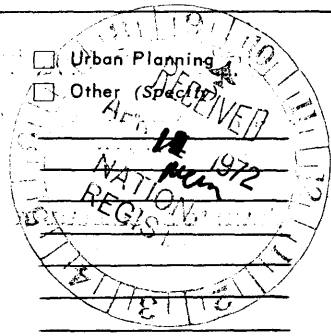
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On October 5, 1880, Thomas Hughes, English author of the classic Tom Brown's Schooldays, founded an English colony in Morgan County, in the northern Cumberland Mountains of East Tennessee. Explicit in Hughes' intentions in the establishment of this colony which he named "Rugby" after the ancient public school in England that was his alma mater and the setting of Tom Brown's Schooldays, were a number of significant ideas and hopes, some of which were outgrowths of important social movements in Great Britain at that time.

Hughes activities in English social, economic, political and literary life were considerable. Of the creator of Tom Brown, author Charles Kingsley observed: "He has seven times more irons in the fire and heats each of them seven times more than anyone else." His Tom Brown books were the first important schoolboy novels; they set the tone for the veritable fad of schoolboy literature that followed, all of which, according to one authority on Victorian literature, was only so many variations on Hughes' original theme. More than that, the criticism of the English public school system inherent in the books and the contrasting praise of the reforming zeal of Dr. Thomas Arnold, then headmaster at Rugby, did more than any other works to reform the English public schools. Hughes' importance in this realm is chronicled in two significant works, David Newsome's Godliness and Good Learning, and the chapter entitled "Thomas Hughes and the English Public Schools," in Asa Briggs' Victorian People. Several other important works followed Hughes' schoolboy books: biographies, of such figures as Alfred the Great and publisher Daniel Macmillan, whose fortune had been made by Tom Brown's Schooldays; religious tracts such as A Layman's Faith, a work that more than other translated the complexity of the Anglican faith into the terms of the working man, The Old Church: What Shall We Do With It?, and The Manliness of Christ; The Scouring of the White Horse, a local color novel about the White Horse Vale in England's Berkshire Hills; and most important to our subject of Rugby, Tennessee, a book published in London by Macmillan in 1881 entitled Rugby, Tennessee Being Some Account of the Settlement Founded on the Cumberland Plateau.

Hughes was a liberal member of Parliament and a Queen's Counsel. He was a partisan of trade unionism for years while "combinations of employees against employers" were yet technically illegal in Britain; according to one writer on the subject, "for seventeen years Hughes was the only powerful pen at the service of trade unionism." He was

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hughes, Thomas, Rugby, Tennessee: Being Some Accounts of the Settlement Founded on the Cumberland Plateau (New York, 1881).

Mack, Edward and Armytage, W.H.G., Thomas Hughes, the Life of the Author of Tom Brown's Schooldays (London, 1952).

Stagg, Brian L., "Tennessee's Rugby," Tennessee Historical Quarterly Vol. XXVII (1968) No. 3.

"Town of Cultured Ghosts," Holiday Magazine, October, 1948.

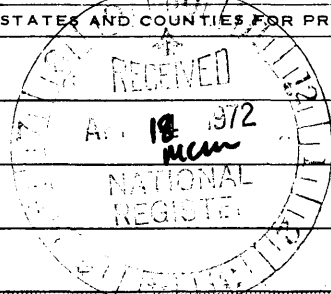
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	36° 21' 45"	84° 42' 50"		°	'	"
NE	36° 22' 11"	84° 41' 49"				
SE	36° 21' 27"	84° 41' 21"				
SW	36° 21' 10"	84° 42' 00"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 525

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		Morgan	129
		Scott	151



NO  
UTP  
C

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Brian L. Stagg, Executive Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Rugby Restoration Association** DATE: **March 19, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P. O. Box 8**

CITY OR TOWN: **Rugby** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Herbert L. Harper

Title Director of Field Services  
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 3-29-72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

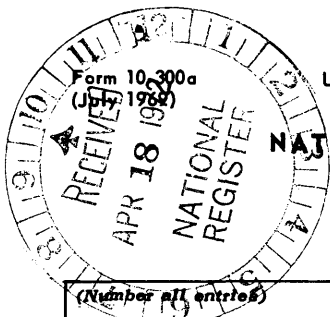
Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/26/72

ATTEST:

William J. Hendry  
Keeper of The National Register  
APP 9 8 1972

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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8. Significance (cont. page 2.)

a founder of the Working Men's College in London--an institution that is still in operation--and served as principal for eleven years. His importance to the Co-operative and Christian Socialist Movements in England was monumental; just a year before he founded his Rugby colony he co-authored A Manual for Co-operators. The rest of the Co-operative Movement began to pass him by, but he yet desired a testing ground for his ideas. During the American Civil War he was a supporter of the Union cause (in his sense meaning simply "for unification," rather than partial to the differences of either geographical division), and he contributed numerous articles to American periodicals during those years.

He consistently supported legislation in Parliament on behalf of the working classes. Hughes did more than any other man in his time to elevate and ennoble the working man. He was one of the greatest of non-conformists, and was possibly the greatest combination of novelist, statesman, philanthropist, and reformer that England has produced.

In a very real sense the details of the colony at Rugby and the ideas of the man Thomas Hughes are inseparable. The life and thought of the man were the clay from which the Rugby colony was moulded.

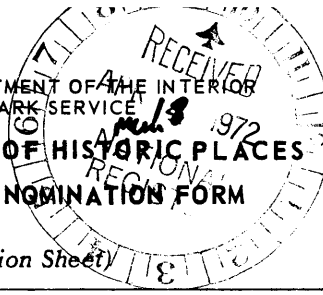
First of all, the most striking detail of the colony is an outgrowth of the great catholicity of Hughes' concerns. For Hughes, the great friend of the working man, was also concerned with the plight besetting the younger sons of the gentry. To these young men there were only three acceptable professions: doctor, lawyer, or priest. Social pressure forbade entrance into manual trade, which would constitute a disgrace to the family; the three "learned professions" were already overly full in England. And so Hughes turned to America, the land of self-made men, to find an outlet for the talents of these usually well-educated young men. And thus Rugby--a colony where younger sons might enter manual trade without disgrace... an agricultural community, Hughes hoped. Here Hughes revealed his pastoral nature, for in Rugby he wanted mechanics and industry in the medieval sense of the words; not sprawling factories polluting their surroundings and the lives of their workers, but industrious self-sufficiency almost characteristic of feudal times, with the "middle men" eliminated as much as possible.

And here we see Rugby as a testing ground for another of Hughes' interest: the Co-operative Movement. For in speeches at the Cooper Union in New York and elsewhere he referred to his new Rugby settlement as a "cooperative colony," with its own co-op store and co-operative farms and herds. But all these things were options to the colonists; none were forced upon them. But surely sadly to Hughes, the cooperative element in Rugby's economic life did not last very long. In Hughes' ideas about community life and the importance of the Church one may also see Rugby as an outgrowth of Hughes' Christian Socialist thinking. Nowhere did this approach Marxist thought, however, for



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ownership of land was predominately private and a sense of healthy and good-natured competition was encouraged, a sense Hughes had avowedly learned on the football fields at Rugby, England. The Rugby Board maintained parks and reserves along the rivers and a section of public buildings for the common good of the colonists.

Two more interests of Hughes were tapped in founding Rugby: the improvement of Anglo-American relations, and the healing of remaining breaches resulting from the Civil War. Tennessee, which had itself been divided during the war, Hughes regarded as "not too far south and not too far north," and a good locale to promote brotherly communication between the two. The choice of site had depended considerably on its proximity to the newly constructed Cincinnati Southern Railroad, joining the Queen City to Chattanooga.

And finally, Hughes envisioned a great Anglo-American university rising among the trees at Rugby, a place for the meeting of great minds of both countries. This dream was to some extent realized for the short span of four years, during the operation of Rugby's Arnold School, a preparatory school fashioned after England's Rugby and named for its great headmaster and father of poet Matthew Arnold. Rumor in British and American newspapers stated, in fact, that the poet-reformer himself was coming to America to serve as headmaster of this school that was to arise at Rugby, Tennessee.

Indeed, numerous great minds of both countries were immensely interested in the colony, although not all of them made the trip to see "this lovely corner of God's earth," as Hughes called it. The young Theodore Roosevelt volunteered accommodations at his New York home to any colonists bound for Rugby who needed temporary lodging or a friend in this country. Julia Ward Howe corresponded with Hughes about the colony, and Charles Dana, editor of the New York Sun (and author of the line, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus") placed his widowed daughter and her children there. The very idea of Rugby itself was one that had jelled in Hughes' mind during correspondence with and visits to the poet James Russell Lowell in Boston as much as ten years earlier.

Hughes' mother ventured to the colony at the age of eighty-three and lived there until her death at the age of ninety. In the biography of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, by his son Hallam, there is a parting scene in which Mrs. Hughes informs the aging poet that she is leaving England to join her son's colony in America.

Contemporary periodicals credited Rugby with an influence far greater than the sum of its colonists, of which there were about 450 at Rugby's peak in 1884. The advertising and publicity (some adverse) attracted great attention, and Harper's Weekly, in October, 1880, stated that Rugby was responsible for beginning a "new wave" of English emigration to this continent and announced that "England's second colonization of

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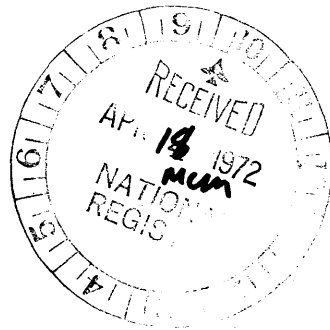
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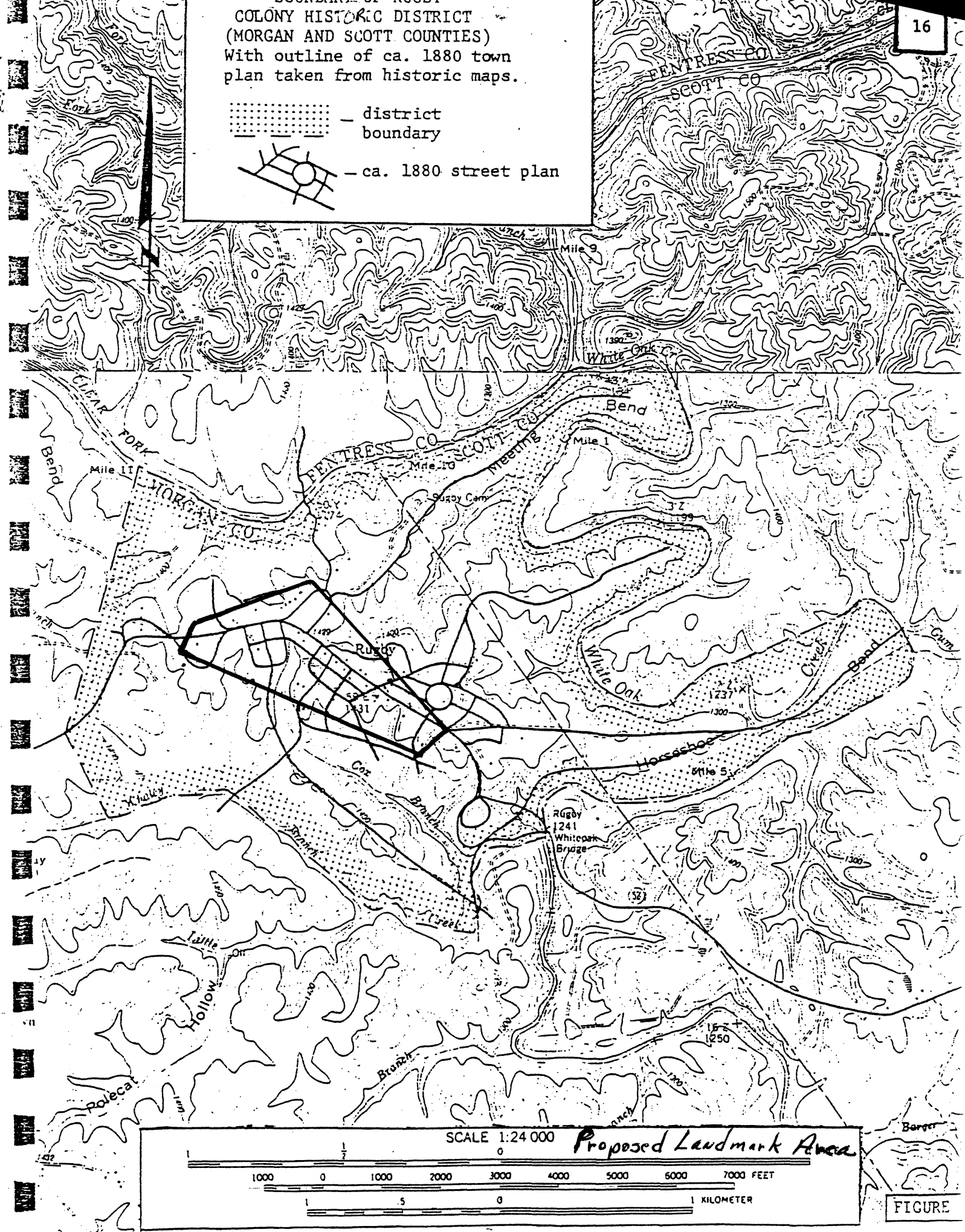
~~of~~ America" had begun. The London Times editorialized that Hughes was doing a better job on behalf of England in Rugby than Gladstone in Egypt. Many important British families were represented at Rugby by young gentlemen and ladies, and the local newspaper (edited by an Oxford graduate) observed that there were so many apparent "lords in mufti" and "dukes incognito" in the colony that a special Rugby edition of Who's Who or Debrett's Peerage was in order.

Today seventeen of an approximate original sixty-five buildings remain; the Rugby Restoration Association is seeking an eventual complete restoration of this unique English colony.



BOUNDARY OF RUGBY COLONY HISTORIC DISTRICT (MORGAN AND SCOTT COUNTIES) With outline of ca. 1880 town plan taken from historic maps.

— district boundary  
— ca. 1880 street plan



SCALE 1:24 000

Proposed Landmark Area

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 5 0 1 KILOMETER

FIGURE