

56-858



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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name The Science Building
Other names/site number T. J. Farr Building
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number: 1 William L. Jones Drive
City or town: Cookeville State: TN County: Putnam
Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a Zip: 38505

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 forth 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 at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Charlotte S. Spr... 2/17/16
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of Commenting Official: Date
Title: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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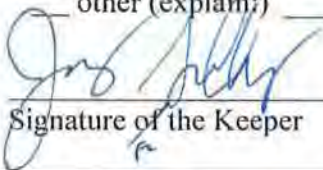
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____


 Signature of the Keeper

4.10.2017
 Date of Action

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 the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/college

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/college

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE/Limestone; ASPHALT; GLASS

Narrative Description

The Science Building is located in Cookeville (2013 population 31,135), Putnam County, Tennessee on the campus of Tennessee Technical University (TTU), formerly Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. Constructed in 1929, The Science Building was designed by legendary Nashville architect Russell E. Hart (*figure 1*), who also oversaw the 1920-1925 reconstruction of the Parthenon (NRHP 2/23/1972) in Nashville's Centennial Park (NRHP 7/15/2008).¹ When looking at historic photos and blueprints of the building, one can see that many original features remain the same.² The Science Building was renamed in 1971 and is now referred to as the T. J. Farr Building, named for the notable TTU educator who is most associated with the edifice.

¹ "Timeline at the Parthenon," Metro Government of Nashville & Davidson County, Tennessee, <http://www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Parthenon.aspx> (accessed November 10, 2016).

² Douglas Edwards, *The Princess Theater presents Cookeville - The Hub of the Upper Cumberland*, Directed by Dewey Mousson (1941), accessed July 16, 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJHWvkq34os>. This promotional video demonstrates just how much the building remains unchanged (visible at time stamp 1:51); this film was narrated by Douglas Edwards, the first television anchorman for CBS news.

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Site

The Science Building faces east on less than one acre of land within Tennessee Tech's campus quadrangle, immediately to the south of Henderson Hall (NRHP 11/7/1985). The Colonial Revival-style Science Building, constructed to serve as the first principal educational building on campus, retains an overall rectangular form with a slight central extension on the west elevation. One of the oldest black oak trees on campus, planted in the early 1900s, grows next to The Science Building and provides shade at the corner of the property. The neighboring building to the north, Henderson Hall, was constructed in 1931 and shares many stylistic similarities with The Science Building; both have similar brick masonry, elaborate stone entryways with quoins, stone stringcourses, double-hung windows, stone jack arch lintels with keystones, and copper downspouts. Surrounding buildings on campus that were developed in the late-twentieth century mimic the style of both The Science Building and Henderson Hall (esp. when looking at the style of windows and brick masonry). However, some buildings in the main quadrangle, Kittrell Hall and Bartoo Hall for example, were originally constructed in the Georgian style and later remodeled in a way that altered the original character of the buildings.

Exterior

The Science Building is a three-story, Colonial Revival-style building with brick bond masonry, double-hung aluminum frame windows, and stone foundation. All elevations except for the west elevation feature a double row of stone, stringcourses that extend completely across the entire elevation between the second and third floors. Two copper gutters and downspouts have been affixed to the far left and right side of the each elevation. An undecorated smooth stone cornice wraps around the uppermost portion of the building.

The east elevation is the most decorative side of the building. The east elevation is ten bays wide with an entryway that consists of two bays. Square, stone quoins flank the elaborate two-story recessed portico and frame-in two windows at the third story. The centrally-located door is adorned with a segmental stone pediment and is tucked into a deeply-recessed portico. Rectangular transom lights surround the wood and glass fifteen-light door. An electric hexagonal, candle lantern made of metal and frosted glass is suspended from the portico ceiling. The exterior lantern is suspected to be an original fixture. Two monumental, two-story, unfluted, Ionic stone columns flank the entryway. The first and second floors feature double-hung, nine-over-nine windows. The first floors are accented with plain, stone sills and lintels, while the second floor windows only have stone sills. The center window at the second story, located in the recessed portico, is a six-over-nine double-hung sash window with stone lintel and surround. Windows on the third floor have a six-over-nine configuration and are capped by stone jack arch lintels with keystones.

The north elevation is less elaborate than the east elevation and is seven bays wide. The first and second floor windows are inset double-hung windows with nine panes in each sash. The first floor windows are accented with plain, horizontal lintels. Windows on the third floor are the same except that they are capped with stone jack arch lintels with keystones and they feature six panes in the top sash and nine panes in the bottom sash. The area between the stringcourses displays a Flemish Bond brick pattern.

The west elevation features a central rear extension that projects outward. The west elevation is twenty bays wide. First and second floor windows within this protruding space are double-hung and have nine panes in each sash. All but one of the double-hung windows on the third floor are six-over-nine configuration, while one window is a six-over-six. The windows within this extension have all been capped with stone jack arch lintels with keystones. There are no stringcourses wrapping around the rear extension. The far left and right

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sides of the west elevation are recessed and feature two different doorways that lead into the basement area. The windows within the recessed spaces vary in how many panes of glass they hold. However, most of the first and second floor windows are double-hung with nine panes in each sash. The windows are more decorative on the third floor as they have been capped with stone jack arch lintels with keystones. It appears as though an area where one of the third floor windows once was has been filled in with brick. There are stone staircases with metal hand rails on each side of the recessed areas on the west elevation and they lead to two different doorways with panes of glass. These doors both allow for entrance into the first floor. Double rows of stone, stringcourses wrap around and create division lines between the second and third floor in the recessed areas of the west elevation. The area between the stringcourses displays Flemish Bond brick patterning.

The south elevation mimics that of the north elevation. The south elevation is seven bays wide. The first and second floor windows feature long, linear, double-hung windows with nine panes in each sash. The first floor windows are accented with plain, horizontal lintels. Windows on the third floor are the same except they are capped with stone jack arch lintels with keystones and they feature six panes in the top sash and nine panes in the bottom sash. The area between the stringcourses displays Flemish Bond brick patterning.

Interior

The interior space of The Science Building is filled with classrooms, office spaces, workrooms, and conference rooms. The largest rooms are used for classroom purposes. Classroom areas provide ample natural lighting as all are positioned along the exterior walls where newly updated double-hung, glass windows exist. The aluminum window frames have been installed over the original wood frames and the glass has been replaced. Two original serviceable stairways at each wing of the building were designed with mahogany wooden rails, metal balusters, paneled newel posts, and stringers decorated with rosette medallions. The green, non-skid vinyl tread covers are not part of the original design and were added for safety reasons.

The Science Building has a main entrance that is entered through the door in the east elevation, which leads into a corridor that has vinyl composition tile flooring and off-white dry wall. Here, and throughout the building, the ceilings are comprised of modern acoustical tile and fluorescent light fixtures. To the north there are reception rooms, offices, storage rooms, and workspaces that all share similar features and finishes including: plaster walls, and carpeted floors that cover stone floors underneath. Continuing northeast where the 120C conference room is located, the doorways are flanked with original dark, paneled, wood framing. The 102C conference room is much like a large office and has carpeting and plaster walls. In the middle of the first floor there is a Learning Resource Center (LRC) room which is often used as a classroom. The LRC room is the dominating space within the first floor. It features original wood doors with modern glass pane additions. The LRC has laminate wood floors that were added more recently when décor was updated. Some of the original wood trim still exists around the baseboards, ceilings, and windows. The LRC is located between the two original staircases on this floor. Underneath the staircase, there is a small, public restroom that has been updated with ceramic, square tile flooring, toilet stalls, toilets, a sink, and mirror. However, the doors and Russwin door hardware date to the early 1900s. On the south end of this floor, there is a large conference room that features hanging portraits of all the previous deans of the College of Education. Dark wood trim and molding accent the interior windows and plaster walls. There is a metal sink, laminate countertop, and wood cabinets along the wall that faces east. This large conference room features original

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five-panel wood double doors. The Dean's room, workspace, and reception room are all similar to previously discussed office spaces.

Upon arriving at the top of the stairs on the north side of the second floor, to the immediate left, a men's restroom can be seen. The stenciled word that reads "Men" on the 2nd floor gentleman's restroom door is an embellishment from the late 1920s. Two unadorned offices exist next to the restroom. These offices are similar to the ones on the first floor (all have plaster/drywall walls, carpeting, florescent lighting, and acoustic tiled ceilings, wood trim/molding and original doors). Outside the office area is a decorative vestibule with doorways that have original dark, paneled, wood framing. Perpendicular to the landing of the staircase are two comparably-sized classrooms. Both have off-white plaster walls, and wood-framed erase board areas that were once chalkboards. Wood trim creates a central division line between top and bottom portions of drywall/plaster in the classrooms. The 204A classroom has been updated with laminate wood flooring and the 203 classroom has vinyl composition tile flooring. The thick baseboards that are within most rooms contain a mixture of both old and new wood and measure approximately 10" in height. The classrooms have desks, chairs, a computer monitor, dry erase boards, projectors, and projector screens. An elevator is centered in between the two classrooms on this wing. These two stairways lead up to the third floor of the building. Heading towards the south side of the building down the corridor, a larger classroom is nestled near the central area of the floor plan. The second floor is dominated by this larger (room 205) classroom. The 205 classroom is identical to the other classrooms on this floor. However, there are two sets of original, double entryway doors that feature a five-panel design made out of handcrafted dark wood. Double-hung windows are plentiful throughout the building and within the second floor. The women's bathroom that is located on the south end of the building, near the stairway has been updated with tile flooring, bathroom stalls, and porcelain sinks/toilets. Similar to many of the bathrooms in this building, the wooden door on this restroom was installed in the early 1900s and has an original Russwin door closer. The offices are identical to the ones on the first floor. The departmental secretary workspace mimics that of the reception rooms on the first floor. The classroom on the south side is identical to the 203 classroom on the second floor.

Upon arriving at the top of the stairs on the south side of the third floor, there is a long corridor that centrally divides the interior space. The south side of the third floor is made up of clusters of offices, and workspaces that are identical to the ones on the first and second floors. Headed towards the north side of the building, there are two classrooms that are the same as the 203 classroom on the second floor. However, the Psychology Lab/Classroom has three glass viewing windows that allow for experimental observations. An elevator is centered in between the two classrooms on this wing. Adjacent to the staircase there are two very plain offices that are similar to the ones on the first and second floor (all have plaster/drywall walls, carpeting, florescent lighting, and acoustic tiled ceilings, wood trim/molding and original doors). Outside the office area is a decorative vestibule with doorways that have original dark, paneled, wood framing. Between the two staircases, on the west side, rests two classrooms centered near the middle of the building. Both of these classrooms are identical to the 203 classroom on the second floor.

The basement rear entrance on the north end of the building opens up into an old, ceramics lab space that is no longer in use. The floors are stone and the walls are red brick. Stone countertop areas wrap around the edges of the room and the bottom half of the countertops are covered in terracotta colored ceramic tiles. A double work sink has been installed near the entrance and is centrally located. The north end basement ceiling is exposed so that metal triangular joists, pipelines, and electrical wiring are visible to the eye.

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Tucked away in the back of the room, there is a small space where elevator equipment is stored. There is an adjoining storage room space with a large ventilation system inside of it. The storage room has a centrally located crawl space. The basement is predominately a crawl space area with a dirt floor that is empty and unoccupied. The rear entrance on the south end of the building leads to the mechanical room. The mechanical room is filled with a chiller system and exhaust fans. Much like the north end room spaces, the floor is stone and the walls are red brick. The south end basement ceiling is exposed so that metal triangular joists, pipelines, and electrical wiring are visible to the eye.

In 1970, a central chiller plant and distribution system was installed in The Science Building. Soon after, ceilings were dropped to improve indoor environment quality. Also, it is believed that the interior stairs were recovered with vinyl in the late 1970s. In 1981, the roof was recovered with new shingles. Electrical updates were completed a year later in 1982. Window pane replacements occurred in 1983, but the original wood frames still exist underneath new aluminum framing. In 1998, a Horace M. Jeffers grant allowed for many technological advances to occur over the years to improve classroom instruction, including the addition of white boards, televisions, and computers. New elevator installation was undertaken in 2000. By 2008, campus-wide lighting upgrades ensued and many fluorescent fixtures were installed. An interior decorating project was accomplished in 2012 as rooms were repainted; many carpets/floor coverings and tiles were replaced. The installation of new air units was also a part of the 2012 building upgrade.

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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

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

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Period of Significance

1929-1962

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Farr, T. J.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hart, Russell E. (Hart, Freeland & Roberts)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under criterion B for its association with educator T.J. Farr, for whom the building was named. Farr is historically significant as an important educator within the small, rural community of Cookeville, Tennessee and was the first Education Department administrator for the state-authorized four-year college.³ His research and publications that were developed during his career within this building encouraged literacy and teacher effectiveness in rural schools, most notably during his efforts in conjunction with associations he was affiliated with such as the Tennessee Folklore Society. The period of significance begins in 1929, when Farr began his tenure in the Education Department, and ends in 1962 with Farr's retirement. The property is the one site chiefly associated with T. J. Farr as it has continued to be utilized as an education building and it served as Farr's workspace for 33 years as he successfully thrived within his career.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Educational Impacts in Connection to The Science Building

T. J. Farr was born in Bolton, Mississippi in 1902. Farr grew up on a southern plantation farm in rural Mississippi where education was not a central focus for most people in the area. That stated, he decided early in life that he not only wanted an education, but he wanted to help others get a well-deserved education, too. After graduating from high school, he taught for one year in his first classroom at Fletcher Hill School in Flora, Mississippi in 1918. In 1922, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Mississippi College and was given the title of "Special Distinction." Farr gained brief, yet valuable experience while on various faculties at such educational institutions as Mississippi College (1922-23), Clarke Memorial College (1923-28), and the University of Colorado (summer 1929) before committing to his tenure position at Tennessee Tech. During the 1920s, Farr was already beginning to collect data and look at how changes in expenditures, enrollment, attendance, and teacher qualifications could lead to educational expansion in Mississippi. His research would eventually lead to his 1931 publication, entitled "History of the Public Elementary and Secondary School System in Mississippi from 1798 to 1930."⁴

In 1929, T.J. Farr was hired at Tennessee Tech to teach (English and education courses) and became the first administrative chair for the Education Department for the newly state-authorized four-year college in Putnam County, Tennessee.⁵ With the State Board of Education authorizing a complete college program, the first class of four-year graduates received bachelor's degrees that June.⁶ During this time, Farr was busy developing publications that were useful to rural educators and researchers. There was a strong rural initiative to improve literacy in rural schools, and Farr recognized and created goals to meet these needs. Due to his love and promotion of writing, he sponsored and led the first Poetry Society created on campus and organized meetings shortly after publishing his article "A Study of Modern American Poetry." The poetry group was comprised of student members that were directed by Farr. Poetry meetings were designed to

³ Jennifer S. Shank, interview with Annette R. Saldaña, July 26, 2016. Ms. Shank is the current Dean of the College of Education at Tennessee Technological University.

⁴ Patricia Leonard, interview with Annette R. Saldaña, July 17, 2016. Ms. Leonard is Dr. T.J. Farr's daughter-in-law.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "History and Traditions," *Tennessee Tech University News*, Last modified June 15, 2014, <https://www.tntech.edu/about/history-and-traditions/>, accessed January 5, 2016.

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inspire and support student literacy. One poetry meeting in particular featured entertainment by Clara Cox Epperson who was the Poet Laureate of Tennessee.⁷ During this visit, Epperson read prose aloud from “Clarke Gems,” a published poetry book that was edited by Farr and developed by his previous students at Clarke Memorial College in the late 1920s.

Farr’s pursuits to improve education were extensive as he quickly began pursuing his Ph.D. He was among some of the first faculty members that were employed at Tennessee Tech with a doctoral degree (*figure 5*). He used his teaching experiences and conducted research to compile data to develop publications. By 1930, he had written and published “Improving the Teaching of English in the Secondary School” and “The Factors Affecting the Success of Student Teachers.” By 1931, he had completed his terminal degree and finished his publication titled “History of the Public Elementary and Secondary School System in Mississippi from 1798 to 1930.” Farr’s research began to be sought out by other universities in the South.⁸ A reference to Farr’s dissertation was listed in the United States Department of the Interior Office of Education’s 1932 bulletin entitled *Bibliography of Research Studies in Education, 1930-1931*. It was quite a feat for someone in Cookeville, Tennessee to have achieved higher education to this extent and to broaden such educational research as Farr did as a resident in this small, agriculturally-focused community. (The 1930 U. S. Census reveals that at this time there were only 3,738 residents in Cookeville.)

Farr was engaged in research to reveal more about the education of African American students in rural areas. He used data to discover more about the hindrances that African American students faced when trying to obtain high achievement test scores. Though many scholars during the 1930s stated that African Americans were unable to learn or that they were mentally disabled and didn’t have the potential for intelligence, Farr took a different approach. His research findings, published in 1931, unveiled his conclusion that three major things were holding African American youth back in their studies. Farr felt that students often were not doing well in school because of their terrible living conditions, inability to read and understand text, and the quality of schools/teachers was inferior when compared to the “all white” schools.⁹ The first education specialist of blacks in the Office of Education, Ambrose Caliver, developed a bibliography called *Education of Negroes* in 1937 and it included a reference to Farr’s work that was titled “The Intelligence and Achievement of Negro Children.” According to Patricia Leonard, he was very interested in and encouraged the education of black students.¹⁰

By 1933, it had become known around campus that Farr was the department head of Education at Tennessee Tech, and he had earned the important title. In 1934, Farr was featured in the first volume of *Who’s Who Among the Young Men of the Nation*, which detailed Farr’s biography.¹¹ Tennessee Tech highly publicized the fact that Farr had earned the distinction of being listed in the book. In the years

⁷ “Poetry Society is Organized,” *The Oracle*, October 1930.

⁸ Harry M. Barrett letter to T. J. Farr. 19 October 1931, T. J. Farr Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Volpe Library, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN.

⁹ T. J. Farr, “The Intelligence and Achievement of Negro Children,” *Education*, (1931): 491-495.

¹⁰ Interview, Patricia Leonard.

¹¹ Durward Howes, *America's Young Men*, Los Angeles: Richard Blank Publishing Company, 1934: 43.

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that followed, he was integral to the development of an instructional program for educators as it was in its beginning stages of growth. Budget cuts led to the elimination of many courses and faculty during the Great Depression.¹² Under the leadership of Farr, the department managed to remain in existence despite the struggles and economic downturn that the school and public faced. By 1938, there were only two main program divisions at Tennessee Tech, “Arts and Sciences” and “Professional and Technical Subjects.”¹³ The College of Education came into existence and blossomed after Farr became a pivotal influence.¹⁴ In the 1951 *Eagle Yearbook*, it states that most of “the expansion of the department of education has been under the direction of Dr. T. J. Farr.”¹⁵

In the early 1930s, Farr had begun to form a close working relationship with J. A. Rickard, a history professor at Tennessee Tech, who was interested in the development of a Tennessee Folklore Society (TFS). Rickard called a meeting of interested parties that resulted in the formation of the TFS that became a branch-off of the American Folklore Society. “A meeting was held on November 10, 1934, in Room 1 of the Administrative Building at Tennessee Tech. The fifty Tennesseans who attended, most of whom were educators, succeeded in adopting a constitution and electing officers.”¹⁶ TFS’s typed constitution, by-laws and related papers were found in possession of T. J. Farr after his passing; these were donated by Patricia Leonard to the T. J. Farr Papers, an archival collection housed at Tennessee Tech’s Volpe Library.¹⁷

During this time, Farr was actively engaged in reading and contributing to the American Folklore Society’s *Journal of American Folklore* that many educational scholars found interest in. Farr’s “Riddles and Superstitions of Middle Tennessee,” published in 1935, was very popular and referenced by many scholars. Only two extensive folklore collections of riddles in the middle Tennessee area have been produced and one was published by Farr.¹⁸ Farr discussed how it took several years of collecting stories to finally produce his 1939 article entitled “Tennessee Folk Beliefs Concerning Children.”¹⁹ Additionally, he contributed an informational article about Appalachian superstitions to *Southern Folklore Quarterly* in the late 1930s.

There is an exhaustive list of writings and articles developed by T. J. Farr as can be seen from his publication list in his resume, biography, and within the collection box in the Tennessee Tech Volpe Library (*figures 6 and 7*).²⁰ Farr had a passion in explaining how knowledge of language and dialect in rural areas could help

¹² “Past Presidents,” *Tennessee Tech University News*, Last modified April 11, 2016, <https://www.tntech.edu/president/past-presidents> (accessed January 5, 2016).

¹³ “History and Traditions.”

¹⁴ Interview, Jennifer Shank.

¹⁵ Tennessee Technological University, *Eagle Yearbook (Cookeville, TN: Graduating Class of 1951)*, 1951, Archives and Special Collections, Volpe Library, Tennessee Technological University, 54.

¹⁶ Ted Olson and Anthony P. Cavender, *A Tennessee Folklore Sampler: Selections from the Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin, 1935-2009* (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2009), 399.

¹⁷ Interview, Patricia Leonard.

¹⁸ *A Tennessee Folklore Sampler*, 175.

¹⁹ T. J. Farr, “Tennessee Folk Beliefs Concerning Children,” *Journal of American Folklore*, 17, no. 203 (1939), 112-116.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, Patricia Leonard.

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improve classroom education. Publications that he contributed to the quarterly academic journal, *American Speech*,

brought to light information about the translation of Appalachian language and expressions. In 1936, he wrote "Folk Speech of Middle Tennessee"; three years later, he contributed an article called "The Language of the Tennessee Mountain Regions." By 1940, he provided a publication that was called "More Tennessee Expressions." According to old letters and archives, he stayed in high demand as the lead speaker at countless college and secondary educational conferences/ceremonies in the area as he was considered to be the most influential local writer in the field of education to advocate for student literacy in Cookeville, Tennessee.²¹

Farr was the publication editor for the Tennessee Folklore Society (TFS) *Bulletin* which was distributed to all paying members. To this day, the *Bulletin* that was developed by TFS is noted as being one of the oldest repeatedly, unceasingly published regional journals in the nation and has attracted the attention of folklore scholars and educators all over the country. "Originally the Tennessee Folklore Society *Bulletin* was headquartered at Tennessee Tech, where it flourished under the guidance of T. J. Farr," until it was moved to George Peabody College for Teachers in 1952 and edited by William L. Griffith until 1966.²² Members at Peabody and numerous other colleges, including Cumberland University, Fisk University, and University of Florida (among others), mailed their folklore stories, songs, and related research materials to Farr's office on campus. William Fowler, a principal in Maury County, utilized folklore in his thesis dissertation at Peabody, a product of his collaboration with Farr.²³

TFS helped to collect and promote folk music in the area.²⁴ Farr had a great interest in using folklore to help students learn reading and writing in rural schools. He stated that "folk songs and ballads embody distinct qualities of composition and sentiment. Their simplicity and directness, their treatment of heroic themes, and their strange repetitions and refrains appeal to students and help them understand and appreciate artistic literature."²⁵ Farr was a driving force, influencing many music educators to join such as Charles Faulkner Bryan, noted in *A Hot-bed of Musicians: Traditional Music in the Upper New River Valley-Whitetop Region*:

For Charles Bryan, membership in the TFS opened the door to the serious consideration of Appalachian folk music. In the close company of such enthusiasts as T. J. Farr, Flora McDowell, L. L. McDowell, and George Pullen Jackson, Bryan could hear and participate in the discussions as debates that were current to the 1930s and early 1940s. In Cookeville, the

²¹ Ibid.

²² Charles K. Wolfe, "Tennessee Folklore Society," *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, Last modified February 28, 2011, <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=1330>, accessed January 5, 2016.

²³ William E. Fowler, letter to T. J. Farr, 1 December 1936, Box 5, Folder 6, T. J. Farr Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Volpe Library, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN.

²⁴ William L. Montell, *Grassroots Music in the Upper Cumberland*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2006, 261.

²⁵ T. J. Farr, "Some Uses of Folklore in Teaching English," *Peabody Journal of Education* 17, no. 4 (1940): 260-262.

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very birthplace of the TFS, the tools were forged for his own participation in the scholarly and creative promotion of what he came to view as his native music.²⁶

Farr was persistent in sending handwritten and typed letters to people all across the region so that they may become members of the organization. Eleanor Roosevelt even accepted Farr's invitation to join the TFS while he served as the organization's second president (*figures 8 and 9*).²⁷ Her membership attracted additional members throughout the years (*figure 10*). Eleanor Roosevelt was an active member and gathered folklore materials for the organization the same year that T. J. Farr served in leadership. Her collection of TFS materials is stored in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum in New York in box 1390 which is labeled "Tennessee Folklore Society, November-December 1938."²⁸ Farr's outreach efforts, that led many important people to join the organization, enabled folk literature to thrive in many rural areas and classrooms.

A main objective of the TFS was to collect stories for present and future use in order to conserve cultural heritage.²⁹ T. J. Farr carried out this mission in the courses that he taught within The Science Building by collecting and sharing folklore stories of students.³⁰ Articles boasted about the increase of joining members. Having such well-known members in the TFS, brought attention to the organization and Tennessee Tech.³¹ At meetings such as those held for the Tennessee council of teachers of English, Farr often addressed the TFS, and spoke about the significance of folklore in education. For instance, in 1937, he gave a speech on the "brief history of Tennessee's folklore and how it may be used in teaching."³² The aims of many in attendance were to discover ways to prevent Middle Tennessee students from scoring poorly on academic achievement tests as they were having trouble with grammar and speech.³³

Before World War II, much consideration was made to determine whether or not the TFS could continue to hold meetings (*figure 11*). Transportation was difficult and many educators struggled to pay fees for membership. Despite the obstacles that stood in the way, Farr stood strong in his efforts that would allow the

²⁶ Paula H. Anderson-Green, *A Hot-bed of Musicians: Traditional Music in the Upper New River Valley-Whitetop Region*, Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2002, 83.

²⁷ Malvina T. Scheider, *White House letter to T.J. Farr on behalf of Eleanor Roosevelt*, Letter, December 15, 1936, T. J. Farr Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Volpe Library, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN.

²⁸ Anna E. Roosevelt, *Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, Part 1, 1884-1964, Special Collections and Archives, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, Hyde Park, NY.*

²⁹ Constitution of the Tennessee Folk Lore Society, n.d., Box 6, Folder 4, T. J. Farr Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Volpe Library, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN.

³⁰ J. A. Rickard, Letter to A. Theodore Johnson, 25 January 1935, Box 5, Folder 6, T. J. Farr Papers. Archives and Special Collections, Volpe Library, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN.

³¹ "The Tennessee Teacher: English Section," *Tennessee Education Association*, October, 1937. Farr Collection, (accessed July 17, 2016).

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*

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organization to flourish.³⁴ Once all of the other founders of the TFS had vacated and moved on to work at other campuses (for ex. Rickard left Tennessee Tech in 1938), Farr was the last original member left at Tennessee Tech to lead the way in terms of editing, publications, and recruitment. Edwin R. Hunter gave a speech in 1952 at the TFS Silver Anniversary meeting in which Hunter explained that T. J. Farr was a predominant leader of TFS. Farr was the only Tennessee Tech educator described in Hunter's speech as being a leading force in TFS.³⁵ Additionally, library archivist Megan Atkinson says that T. J. Farr's publications and activity in the TFS are noted from 1935 to 1961.³⁶

Folklore collected from students by T. J. Farr in his classrooms led to publications and the preservation of historical sayings, riddles, stories, games, and music of Appalachian areas. One goal was to use folklore in the classroom to help improve skills in English by implementing it into the curriculum. "Many early members of the society, mostly English teachers, were already involving students in the collection of folklore and were using folk tales, legends, riddles, and proverbs published in the *Bulletin* as teaching aids to introduce students to the folk "literature" of Tennessee."³⁷ A letter written by J. A. Rickard makes it clear that Dr. Charles Pendleton was in charge of carrying out student folklore implementation at Peabody and Dr. Farr was in charge of this mission at Tennessee Tech.³⁸ Farr taught required English courses for those in the Education program and implemented the TFS plan in his Rhetoric and Composition courses which were housed on the second floor of The Science Building.³⁹ Farr (1940) stated that "The emphasis upon folklore should in no sense supplant the study of artistic or classic literature, but should aid in giving students an appreciation of their language and literature in stimulating them to creative effort."⁴⁰

Farr was very dedicated to improving teacher effectiveness in rural areas of Tennessee. The state requires that teachers engage in professional development opportunities that target educational needs. Farr was the first person at Tennessee Tech, to push forward with the idea of a state Educational Conference for teachers that would be facilitated on the campus of TTU. In 1945, Tennessee Tech hosted the first Annual Educational Conference to be held on campus. His conference sessions gained popularity as they had appealing guest speakers and workshop activities. Sharpe and Talbert (1981) state that "this conference has been an annual event since it was implemented by Dr. T. J. Farr, former Dean of the College of Education, in an attempt to bring effective inservice education to the region."⁴¹ Also, important was the offering of campus Saturday classes that were created by Farr in the 1940s for rural schoolteachers. Holding classes on weekends helped teachers further their education while still allowing them to work Monday through Friday in the classroom. Farr worked with school principals in various counties to ensure that teacher attendance

³⁴ Irving Wolfe to T. J. Farr, 27 November 1942, Box 5, Folder 6, T. J. Farr Papers. Archives and Special Collections, Volpe Library, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN.

³⁵ *A Tennessee Folklore Sampler*, 400.

³⁶ Megan Atkinson, Interview with Annette R. Saldaña, June 27, 2016.

³⁷ *A Tennessee Folklore Sampler*, 404.

³⁸ J. A. Rickard letter to A. Theodore Johnson,

³⁹ Interview, Megan Atkinson.

⁴⁰ T.J. Farr, "Some Uses of Folklore in Teaching English," 262.

⁴¹ Joseph D. Sharpe and Gene Talbert, "Inservice for Diverse Educators," 19 November 1982, <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED231802.pdf> (accessed July 10, 2016).

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could be accounted for.⁴² The 1971 Tennessee Tech program of commemoration states that Farr was “active in innovating workshops, seminars, and conferences for improving the professional preparation of public school teachers throughout the University’s service area.”⁴³

Upon graduating from Tennessee Tech, one of Farr’s previous students wrote a biographical piece about him as part of her graduate study at Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee. Rose DuBois stated that under Farr’s leadership, the Future Teachers of America chapter at Tennessee Tech won the “Banner Chapter of the Nation” award in 1947, the only chapter to ever win the national award in Tennessee. He also served as the state director of Future Teachers’ Chapters all over the state for all high schools and colleges. DuBois mentioned how Farr installed Kappa Delta Pi at Tennessee Tech to encourage leadership for outstanding education majors. Farr was later presented with an Honor Key, the highest award given by the organization. She claims that under his direction, “Tennessee Tech carried through more campus workshops than any other college in the state.”⁴⁴ Farr even arranged for bus transportation to carry students to Tennessee Tech workshops, as travel was difficult. Additionally, DuBois noted that Farr initiated student teaching opportunities so that education majors could gain experience in both elementary and secondary schools. She explained how Farr helped countless students gain teaching positions in schools once they had graduated from Tennessee Tech.⁴⁵ DuBois wrote a short poem in 1953 that acutely summarizes the significance of educational leadership that Farr bestowed upon the community of Cookeville, Tennessee:

Leadership

Dr. Farr, who has vision
To make his mark upon the walls of fame,
Reaches out in education,
And with workshops, folklore, writes his name.

Tennessee Tech will long remember
A man who came in twenty-nine.
Teachers, students, parents, and others
Appreciate Dr. Farr who has been so kind.⁴⁶

Farr proved to be very dedicated in his role as an educational leader, so much so that a new position was created for him within the Education Department.⁴⁷ In 1949, Farr became the first Director/Dean ever elected

⁴² Donald Moore, letter to T. J. Farr, 6 October 1948, Box 5, Folder 6, T. J. Farr Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Volpe Library, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN.

⁴³ Edell Hearn, “Dr. T. J. Farr,” (program notes for *A Program of Commemoration*, Tennessee Technological University, October 15, 1971). Farr Collection, (accessed July 17, 2016).

⁴⁴ Rose DuBois, “Dr. T. J. Farr: A Leader in Education at Tennessee Tech,” July 27, 1953, T. J. Farr Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Volpe Library, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Interview, Patricia Leonard.

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within School of Education at Tennessee Tech.⁴⁸ His vitae reflects that he was a member and leader in many professional organizations: President Tennessee Association Edition and Psychological professors (1941-1942, secretary 1940-1941), Middle Tennessee Council Teachers of English (1947-1948), Member Tennessee Curriculum Committee Secretary State Young Men's Christian Association Committee (1939-1941), Tennessee Education Association, National Education Association, American Association Colleges for Teacher Education (Tennessee representative since 1959), Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, American Psychological Association (associate), Southern Association Colleges Secondary

Schools (member Tennessee Committee, secondary commission, 1949), Tennessee Public School Officers Association, Future Teachers of America (state director, *figure 12*), Tennessee Folk Lore Society (secretary 1935-1936, president 1937-38, treasurer 1942-1955), National Council Teachers English, National Society for Study of Education, and Kappa Delta Pi (given honorary golden key).⁴⁹

Leonard dedicated many items that are in the T. J. Farr papers collection and provided the archives for safe keeping in the Volpe Library. She mentioned that Farr was very instrumental in education and helped countless students earn their degrees over the years. Leonard went on to add, though, that many of his contributions may not be documented by alluding to the idea that you can't encapsulate the sort of kindness and lovingness he shared with others. She says that people throughout the community often stopped her in public to tell her how important Farr was in their lives. She said that one particular student even said Farr was so generous that he permitted him to work from home temporarily as he was not able to make it to campus for class. Leonard talked about how Farr used storytelling in his classes and used real world connections to make content relatable to students.⁵⁰ Tennessee Tech mentioned that his "willingness to give generously of his time to individuals with personal, scholastic, and financial problems was recognized by generation after generation of students."⁵¹

Notable alumnus Kenneth Jernigan faced many challenges while at Tennessee Tech and Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee. He was blind, and that often caused the uninformed to not understand his worth as a teacher candidate. He also needed financial support to continue during his graduate studies, as his family was poor. Farr was documented in a book titled *The Blindness Revolution: Jernigan in His Own Words* as being one of the best supporters of Jernigan. For instance, Farr wrote an exceptional reference letter on Jernigan's behalf in 1947 which contributed to him earning a prestigious teaching scholarship from the American Federation for the Blind. Jernigan succeeded in becoming a teacher and then later became the longtime leader and President for the National Federation of the Blind.⁵²

In 1949, an elementary school located on campus along with Central High School (now Cookeville High School) became labs for education majors due to the implementation of Farr's plan to improve the quality of

⁴⁸ Calvin Dickinson, Interview with Annette R. Saldaña, June 28, 2016.

⁴⁹ Interview, Patricia Leonard.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Hearn, "Dr. T.J. Farr."

⁵² Jim H. Omvig, *The Blindness Revolution: Jernigan in His Own Words*, Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing, Inc., 2005: 12.

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teaching in rural areas. These innovative field experiences that Farr developed and directed for student teachers were referred to as the Tennessee Tech Training School.⁵³ Field experiences expanded and continued to provide opportunities for teacher candidates to get needed hands-on experience at both the elementary and secondary level. Farr continued to make provisions for the Tech Training School until he passed away in 1962.⁵⁴ Today, these field experiences are labeled as Practicum or Residency.

Farr assisted many individuals who had to overcome educational barriers due to poverty. Farr led the Tennessee Tech Education Department through the Depression as an advocate for literacy. Tennessee Tech commemorates Farr as he contributed to the expansion of rural education by promoting educational opportunities throughout his 33 years of service at the university. Farr's death and retirement occurred in 1962. At this juncture, economic and social conditions within the community had become much more stable. As the namesake of the building, Farr is considered the most influential person to have served within the T. J. Farr building. When Farr passed away three administrative positions opened up as the workload that Farr carried was arduous and more help was needed to handle the vast responsibilities of the department. The second elected Dean of the Education Department, Edell Hearn (1971), mentioned that Farr laid the foundation for the accreditations that were achieved by the College of Education at Tennessee Tech.⁵⁵

After their deaths, T. J. Farr and his wife Lottie Farr left behind scholarship endowments for future students who are majoring in the field of Education at Tennessee Tech. Both served Tennessee Technological University extensively through their service to the College of Education. Between 1929 and 1994, one or both of the Farris served Tennessee Tech. Dr. and Mrs. Farr were both given the title of Emeritus Faculty of the university and their influence will be felt for generations to come.⁵⁶

The College of Education at Tennessee Tech would have likely failed to thrive had it not been for the persistence and efforts of Farr to improve rural education for students who were interested in becoming teachers and researchers. Though the education program could have easily fallen to the wayside due to hard economic times, Farr never gave up on his dream of teaching and of helping others become better leaders in schools. Many of the students that Farr worked with faced poverty and struggled with issues in reading and writing, and yet generations of students found support through the educational program that Farr established. As the state of Tennessee began to set laws that required teachers to expand their own education and professionalism, Farr led the way in providing those living in Cookeville (and surrounding areas) with the guidance they needed to become better educators. With Farr as the first and longest serving leader within the Tennessee Tech Education Department, generations of students were able to gain some of the same opportunities as teacher candidates living in larger, metropolitan cities. The College of Education continues to serve teacher candidates, while embracing diversity of all who seek a brighter future. Farr has left behind a legacy in education that shall live on for centuries to come. The Science Building deserves recognition as it has been, and continues to be, an important educational landmark within the community of Cookeville, Tennessee.

⁵³ *Eagle Yearbook*, 54.

⁵⁴ Interview, Patricia Leonard.

⁵⁵ Hearn, "Dr. T.J. Farr."

⁵⁶ Interview, Patricia Leonard.

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Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deepest admiration to all those who provided me the possibility to complete this nomination. I give the utmost gratitude to T. J. Farr's daughter-in-law, Patricia Leonard, whose archival documentation and stimulating conversation helped to expand this research. I also would like to thank Calvin Dickinson and Michael Birdwell who led me to make invaluable connections with many people with ties to both T. J. Farr and the Tennessee Folklore Society. I am grateful for Randal Williams who provided encouragement and exemplars of nominations to aid me as I structured the layout of my draft. I greatly appreciate Megan Atkinson who was a great help in guiding me as I investigated archival boxes within the Volpe Library at Tennessee Tech. Furthermore, I would also like to acknowledge with much appreciation the crucial role of Caroline Eller of the Tennessee Historical Commission, who assisted with multiple editing and revision suggestions. Lastly, I would like to give special thanks to the College of Education for providing me with full access to the T. J. Farr Building and supporting me as I interviewed many campus colleagues.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)			State Historic Preservation Office
previously listed in the National Register			Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register			Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark			Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	X		University
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #			Other
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #		Name of repository: Tennessee Technological University	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre **USGS Quadrangle** Cookeville West- 326 NE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Latitude: 36.174470

Longitude: -85.504725

Verbal Boundary Description

The Science Building (T.J. Farr Building) is located on the campus of Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Putnam County, Tennessee. The nominated property is bordered by a large asphalt parking lot to the west, William L. Jones Drive to the south, Henderson Hall to the north, and the northern end of the campus quadrangle/Derryberry Hall to the east.

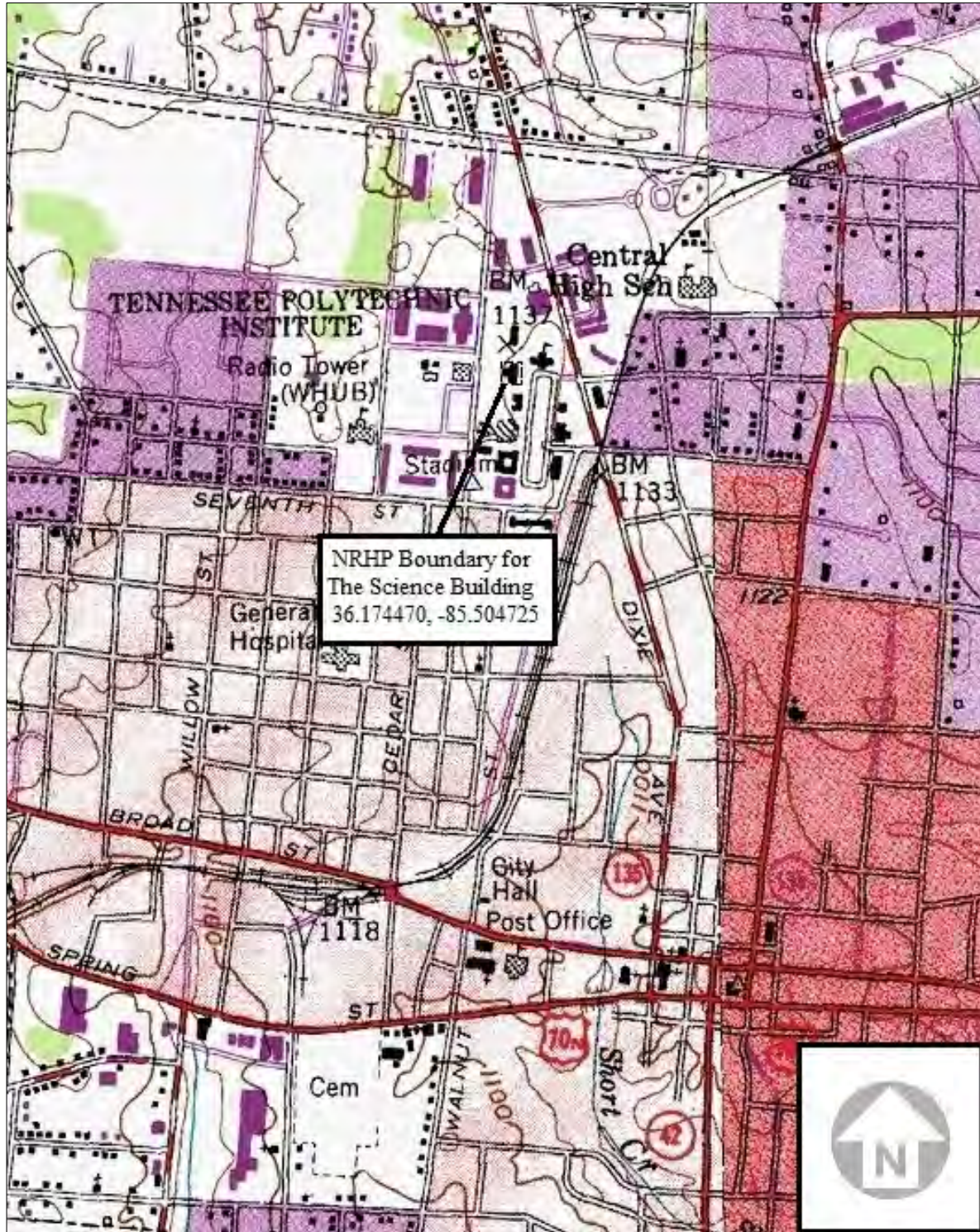
The boundary for The Science Building is shown as the bold black dashed rectangle on the accompanying property tax map. Beginning at point A/the NW corner (36.174661, -85.504965), the boundary extends 151 feet south to the SW corner. From that point, the boundary extends east 103 feet to the SE corner. From that point, the boundary extends north 153 feet to the NE corner. From the NE corner, the boundary extends 107 feet to the west and terminates at point A.

Boundary Justification

The property boundary includes the nominated building and immediately adjacent ground that is historically associated with The Science Building.

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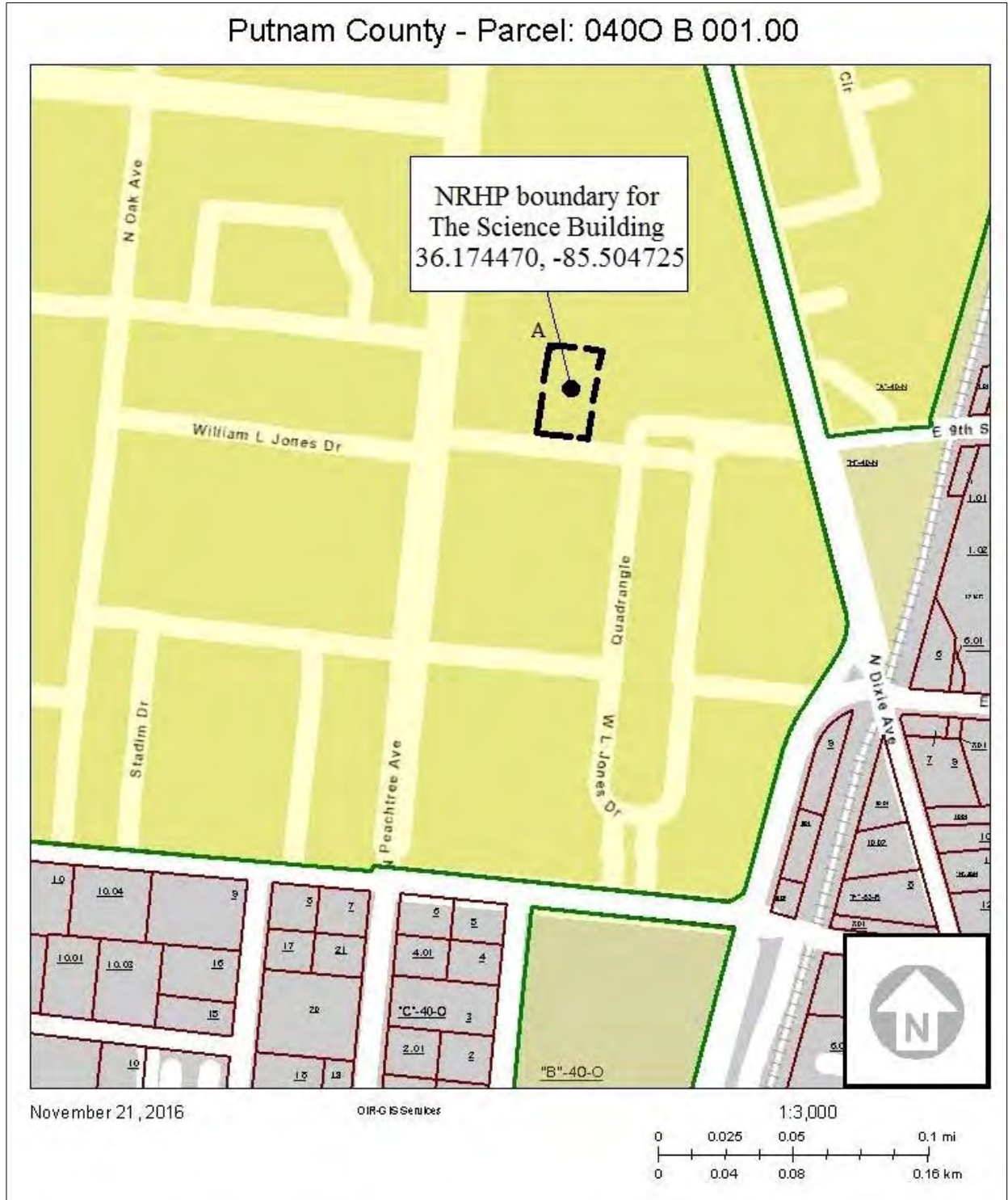


2016 USGS Topographical map, Cookeville West quadrangle (326-NE), Tennessee.
Original map at 1: 240000 scale.

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NRHP Boundary Map



OIR-GIS Services Property Map, The Science Building, TTU, Putnam County, TN.
Retrieved from: State of TN Real Estate Assessment Data.

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11. Form Prepared By

Name Annette Saldaña (TTU College of Education Advisor & Instructor)

Organization Tennessee Technological University

Street & Number 1 William L. Jones Drive (P.O. Box 5162) Date 11/6/2016

City or Town Cookeville Telephone (931) 372-6336

E-mail aSaldaña@tntech.edu State TN Zip Code 38505

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Photograph Log

Name of Property: The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)

City or Vicinity: Cookeville

County: Putnam

State: Tennessee

Photographer: Annette R. Saldaña

Date Photographed: August 21, 2016

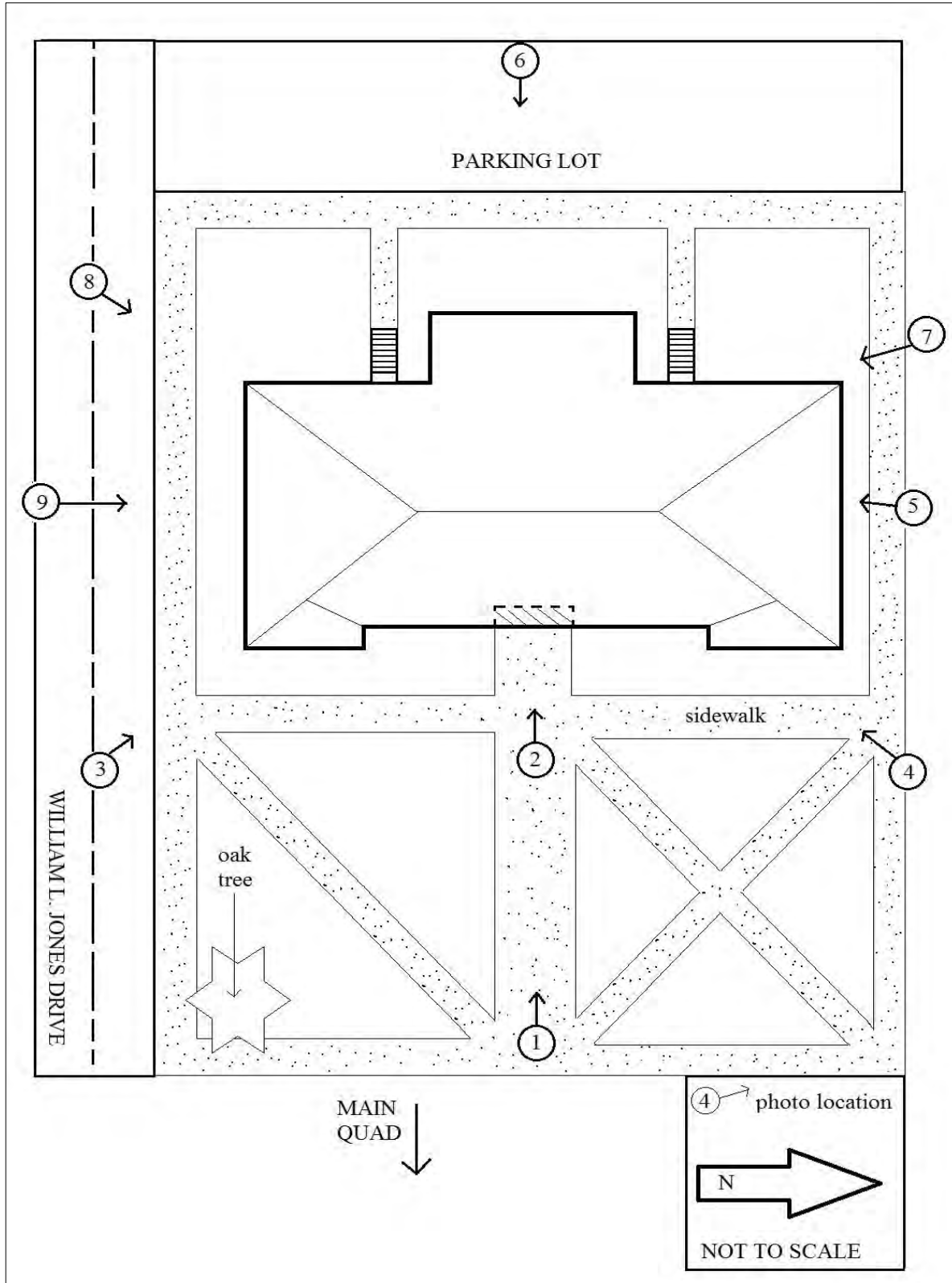
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 22. East elevation (façade). Photographer facing west.
- 2 of 22. East elevation, entrance detail. Photographer facing west.
- 3 of 22. Southeast oblique. Photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 22. Northeast oblique. Photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 22. North elevation. Photographer facing south.
- 6 of 22. West elevation. Photographer facing east.
- 7 of 22. Northwest oblique. Photographer facing southeast.
- 8 of 22. Southwest oblique. Photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 22. South elevation. Photographer facing north.
- 10 of 22. Interior view of east entryway, 1st floor. Photographer facing east.
- 11 of 22. Interior view of east entryway, 1st floor. Photographer facing west.
- 12 of 22. Office 102A, 1st floor. Photographer facing southwest.
- 13 of 22. Detail view of wood baseboards and paneling, 1st floor hallway. Photographer facing northwest.
- 14 of 22. Northwest stairwell, 1st floor. Photographer facing southwest.
- 15 of 22. Dean's conference room, 1st floor. Photographer facing southwest.
- 16 of 22. Detail view of 5-panel wood double doors, 1st floor. Photographer facing south.
- 17 of 22. Detail view of men's restroom door, 2nd floor. Photographer facing northwest.
- 18 of 22. Detail view of wood paneling, 2nd floor vestibule. Photographer facing northwest.
- 19 of 22. Interior view of northwest stairwell, 2nd floor. Photographer facing west.
- 20 of 22. Classroom view, room 205, 2nd floor. Photographer facing west.
- 21 of 22. Departmental secretary office. Photographer facing southeast.
- 22 of 22. Classroom view, room 308, 2nd floor. Photographer facing southwest.

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property

Putnam County, Tennessee
County and State

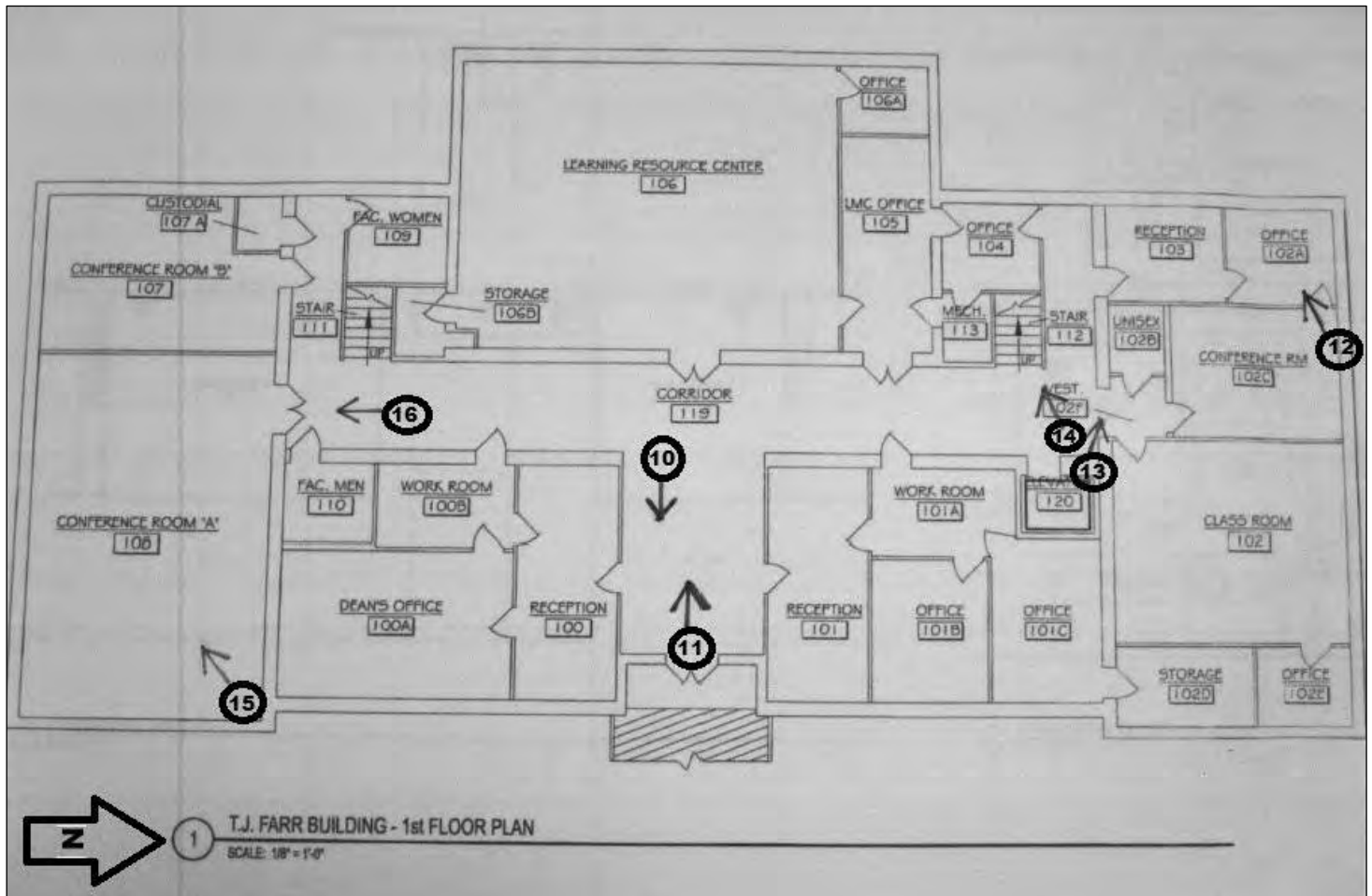
Site Plan with Photo Key



The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property

Putnam County, Tennessee
County and State

First Floor Plan with Photo Key



The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property

Putnam County, Tennessee
County and State

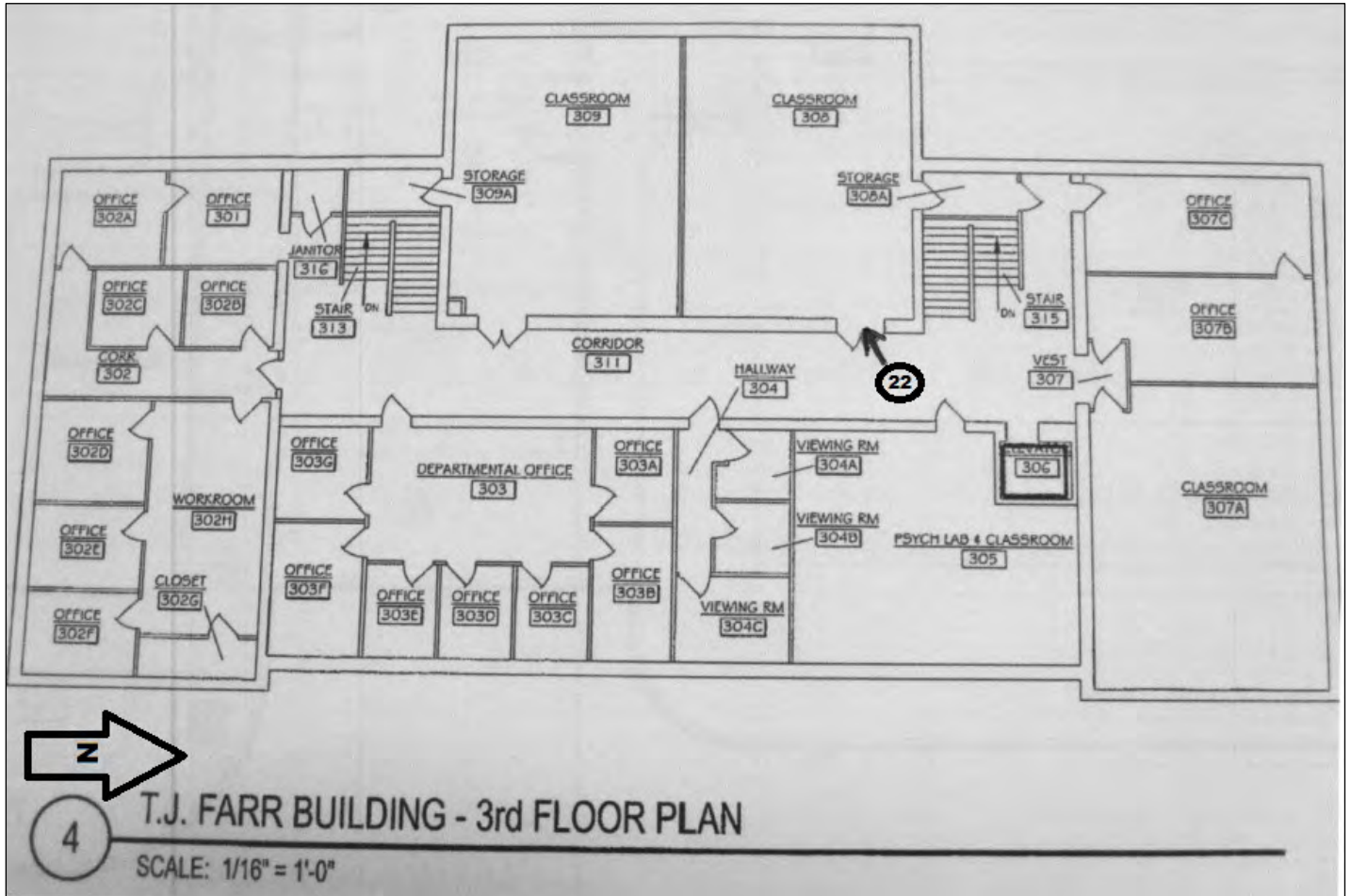
Second Floor Plan with Photo Key



The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property

Putnam County, Tennessee
County and State

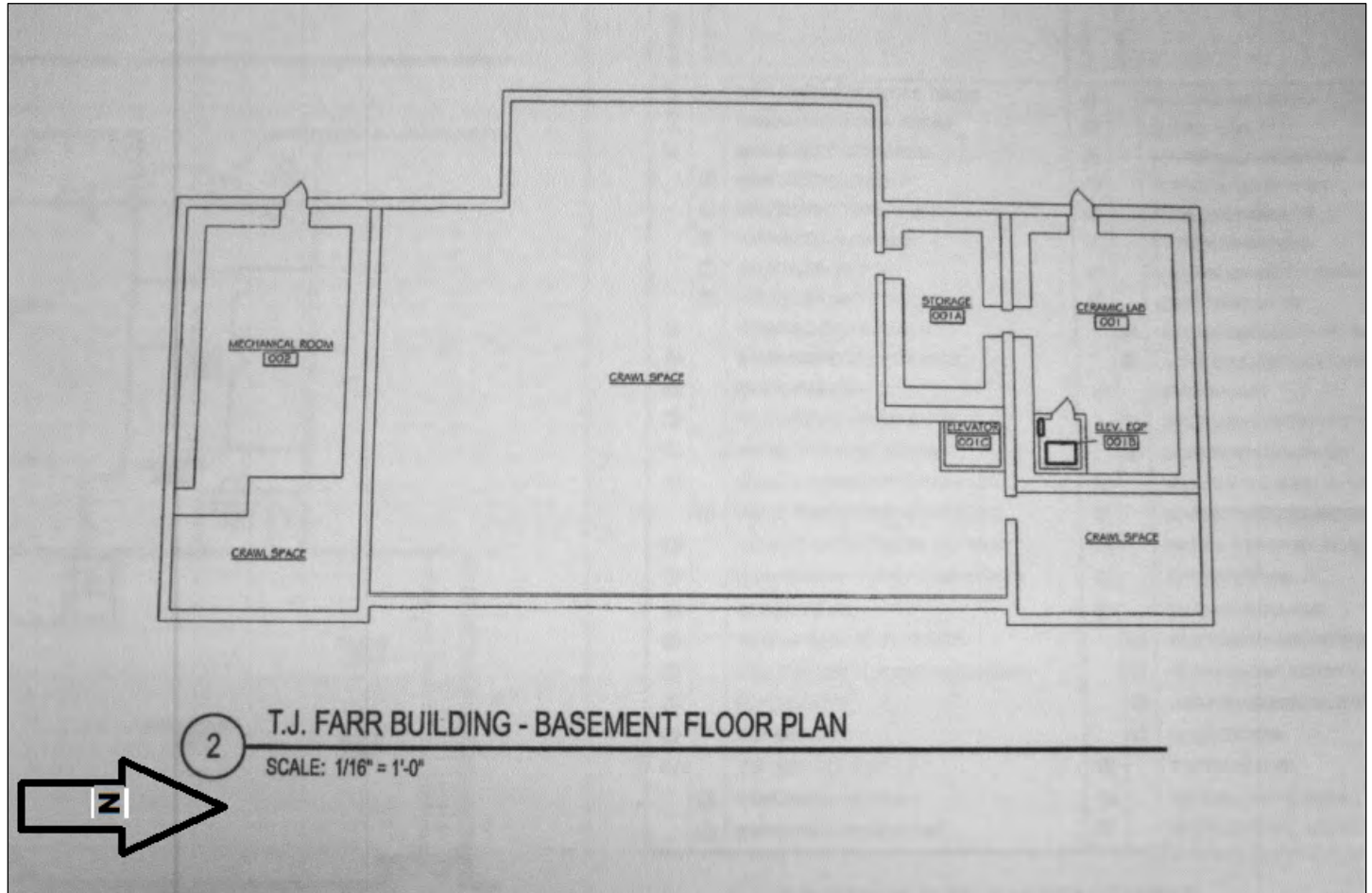
Third Floor Plan with Photo Key



The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property

Putnam County, Tennessee
County and State

Basement Floor Plan



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)

Name of Property

Putnam County/Tennessee

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 33

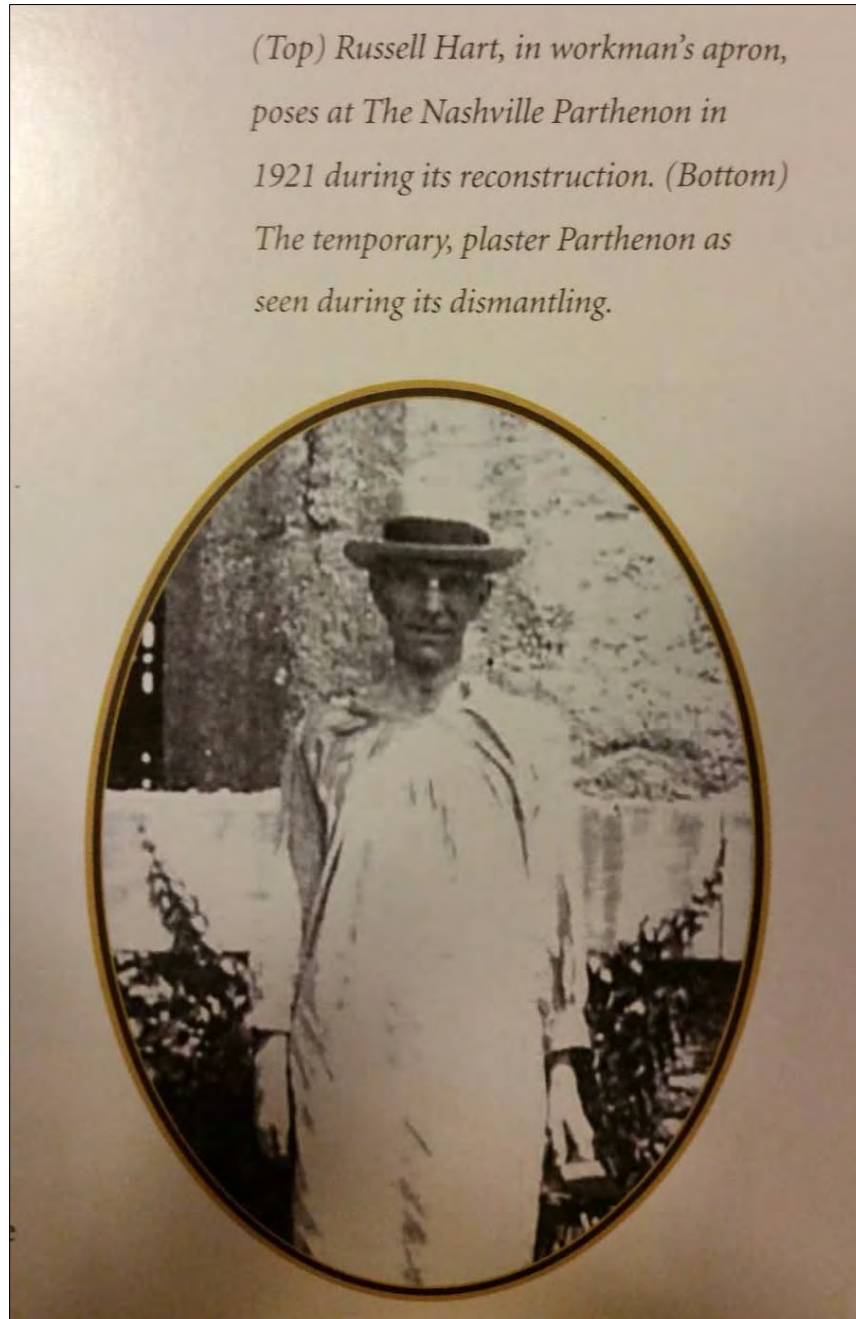


Figure 1: Russell Hart, architect of The Science Building, 1921.
Source: Hart Freeland Roberts: 100 Years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)

Name of Property

Putnam County/Tennessee

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 34



The **Science** Building, constructed in 1929, was the first classroom structure built at TPI. It housed the agriculture, biology, chemistry, and education programs. Later the structure was named the T.J. Farr Building in memory of the director of the School of Education. The building now houses classrooms and offices of the College of Education.

Figure 2: The Science Building/T. J. Farr Building, southeast oblique, n.d.
Source: The Campus History Series: Tennessee Technological University.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)

Name of Property

Putnam County/Tennessee

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 35



Figure 3: “Tennessee Polytechnic Institute Quad.”

Early view of the campus quad, The Science Building (left) and Henderson Hall (background), c. 1930.

Source: Dixie College and Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (TPI) Collection, Volpe Library Archives, Tennessee Technological University.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property
Putnam County/Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 36



Figure 4: 1936 photo of T. J. Farr (left) with Mr. J. E. Lane (right) in the Department of Education.
Source: Volpe Library Archives, Tennessee Technological University.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property
Putnam County/Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 37



Figure 5: Farr wearing doctoral robe/featured in front row (third faculty member from the right) outside of the Home Economics Building at Tennessee Tech, 1934.
Source: Volpe Library Archives, Tennessee Technological University.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property
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County and State
N/A
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Section number figures Page 38

-2-

Biography included in 1934-35, 1936-37, and 1938-39 editions of America's Young Men.

Biography included in 1935-36 ^{and 1938-40} editions of Who's Who in American Education.

Biography included in 1936-37 ^{and 1940-41} editions of Who's Who in America.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Middle Tennessee Council of Teachers of English
Middle Tennessee Education Association
Tennessee Education Association. ^{National Council of Teachers of English}
National Education Association.

MISCELLANEOUS
Delegate to Hazen Student Counseling Conference, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, summer 1936, ^{1937, 1938}

Delegate to Hazen Student Counseling Conference, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania, summer 1937.
^{Delegate to Hazen Student Counseling Conference at Ursinus College, Ursinus, Pennsylvania, Summer 1938.}
Speaker, English Section, Middle Tennessee Education Association, 1938.

Attended meeting of Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 1938.

Participated in State Teacher Training Seminar, George Peabody College for Teachers, summer terms 1938 and 1939.

Attended meeting of National Council of Teachers of English, 1938.

Attended meeting of Southeastern Folklore Society, 1939.

PUBLICATIONS
"A Study of Modern American Poetry." The Mississippi Educational Advance, December, 1927.

"Improving the Teaching of English in the Secondary School". The High School Quarterly, October, 1930.

"The Factors Affecting the Success of Student Teachers." Education, April, 1930.

"A Comparison of Class Rating with Self Ratings." School and Society, April 11, 1931.

"The Intelligence and Achievement of Negro Children." Education, April, 1931.

"History of the Public Elementary and Secondary

Figure 6: Excerpt from T. J. Farr's curriculum vitae, n.d.
Source: personal collection of Patricia Leonard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property
Putnam County/Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 39

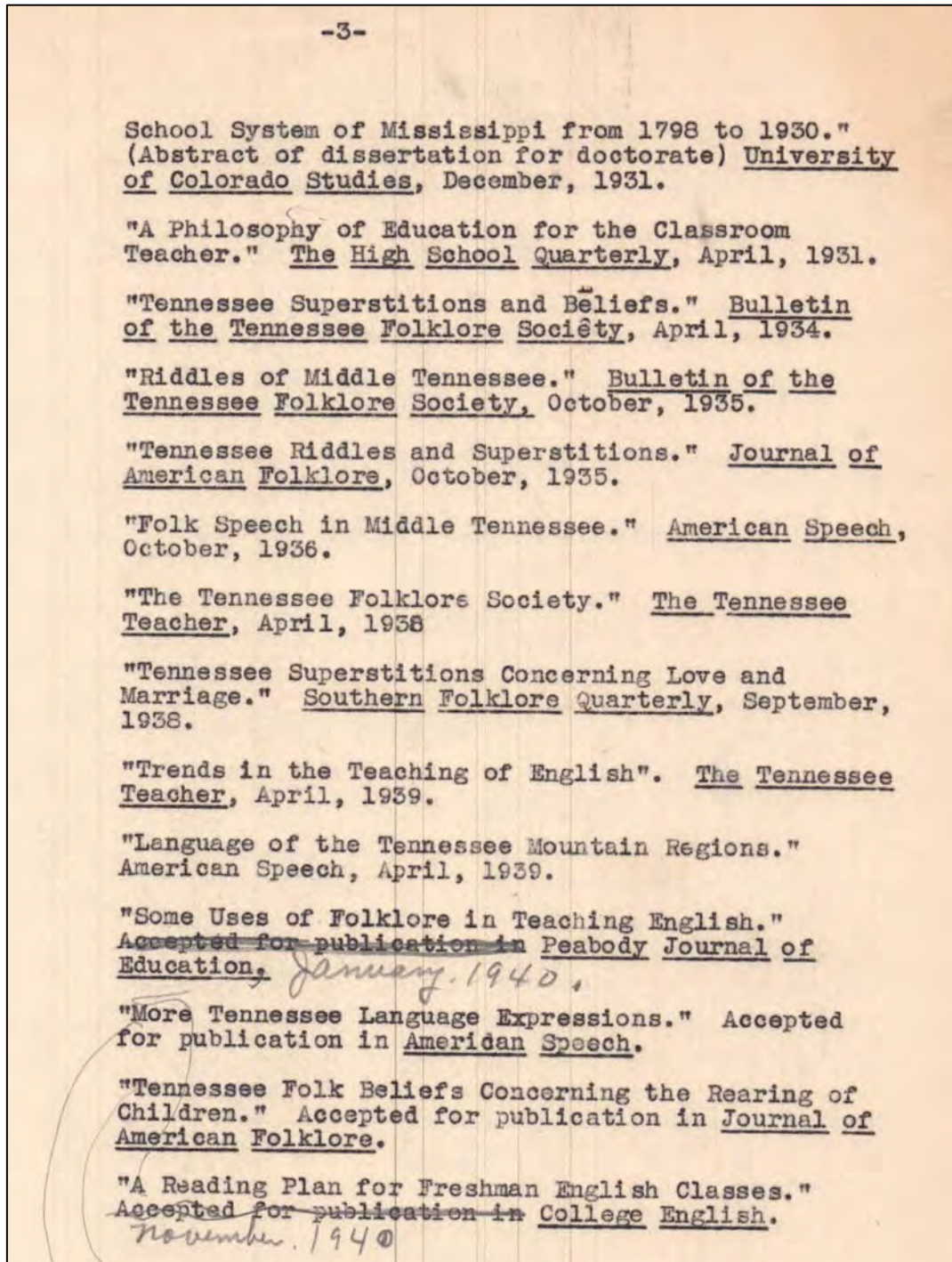


Figure 7: Additional excerpt from T. J. Farr's curriculum vitae, n.d.
Source: personal collection of Patricia Leonard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property
Putnam County/Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 40

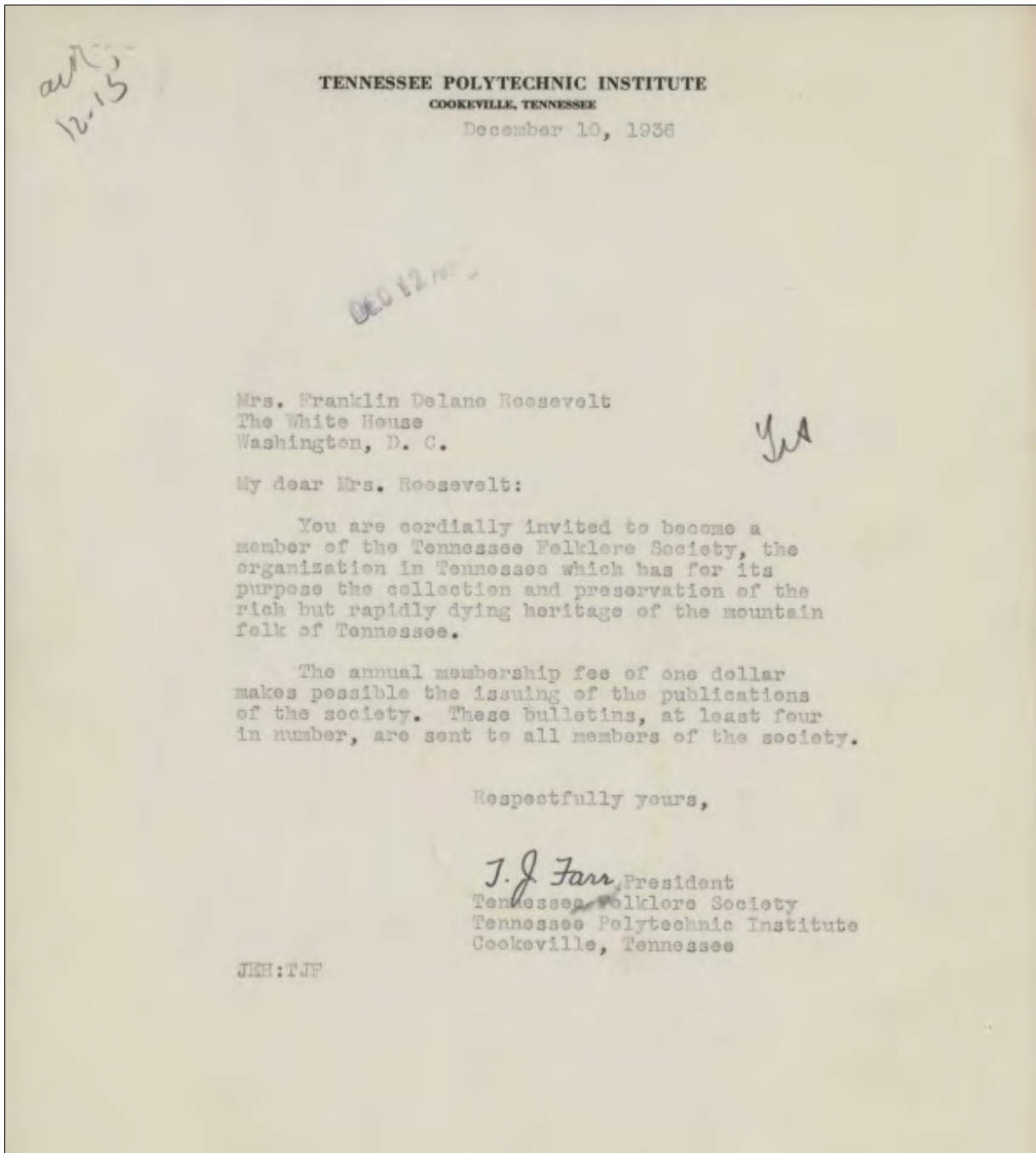


Figure 8: Dr. Farr's TFS invitation to Eleanor Roosevelt, 1936.
Source: Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property
Putnam County/Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 41

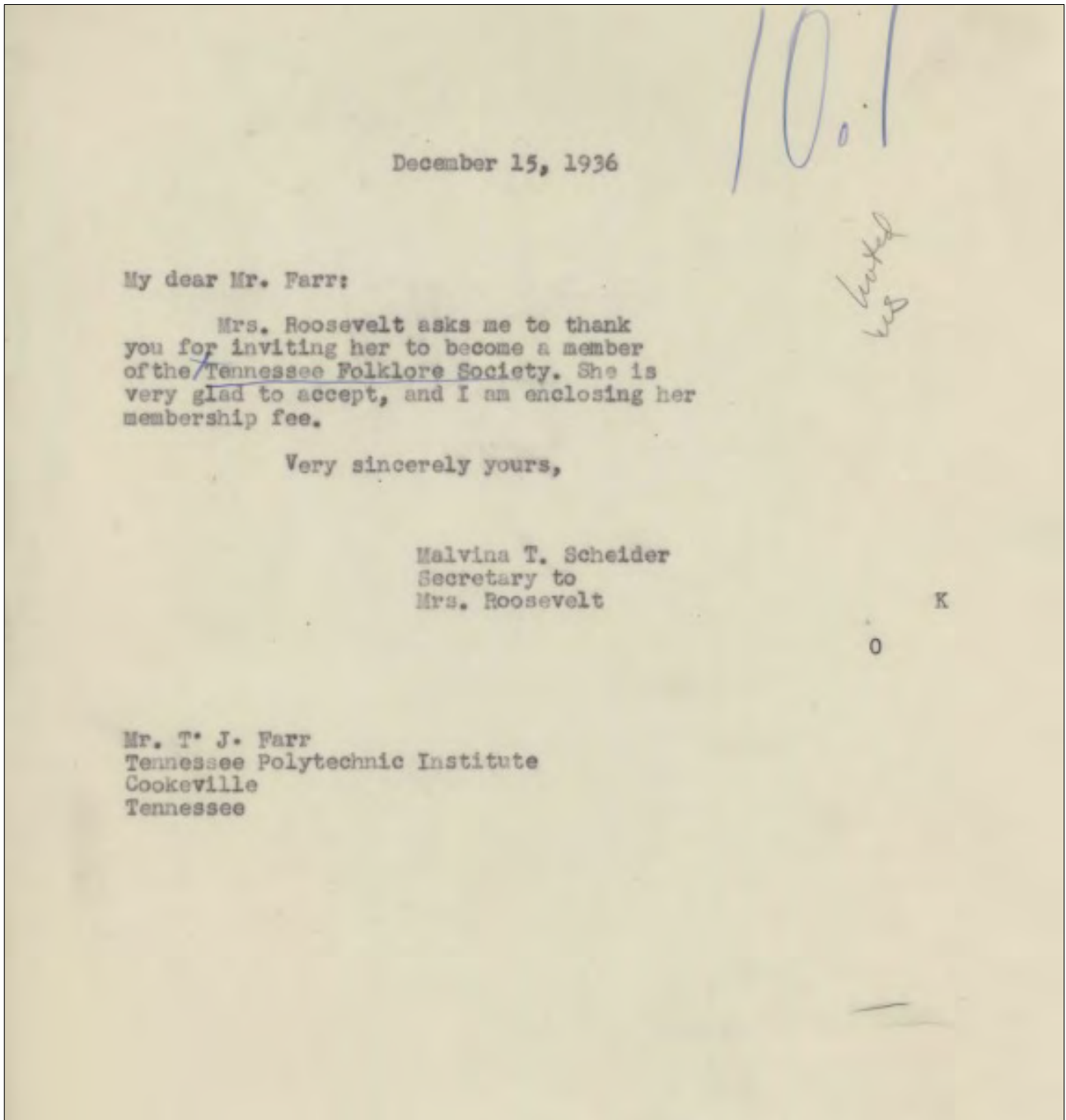


Figure 9: Eleanor Roosevelt's TFS membership acceptance letter, 1936.
Source: personal collection of Patricia Leonard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)

Name of Property

Putnam County/Tennessee

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 42

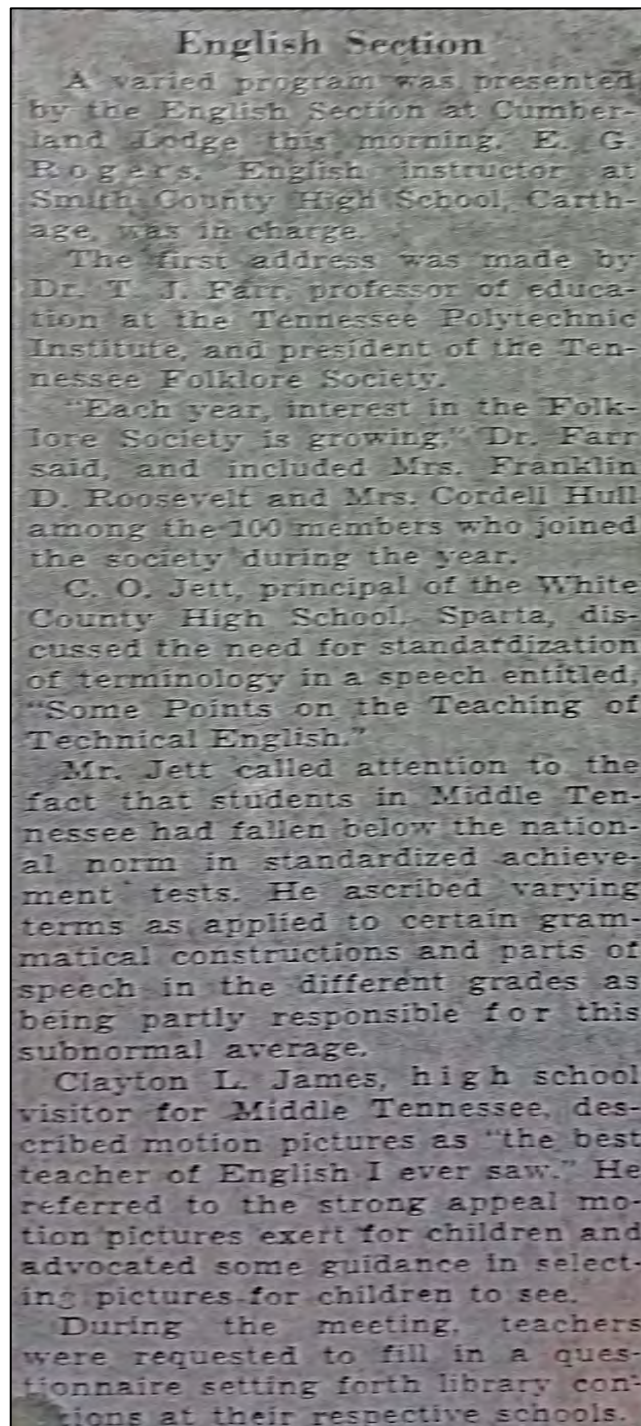


Figure 10: TEA English Section/newspaper article, 1937.
Source: personal collection of Patricia Leonard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property
Putnam County/Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 43

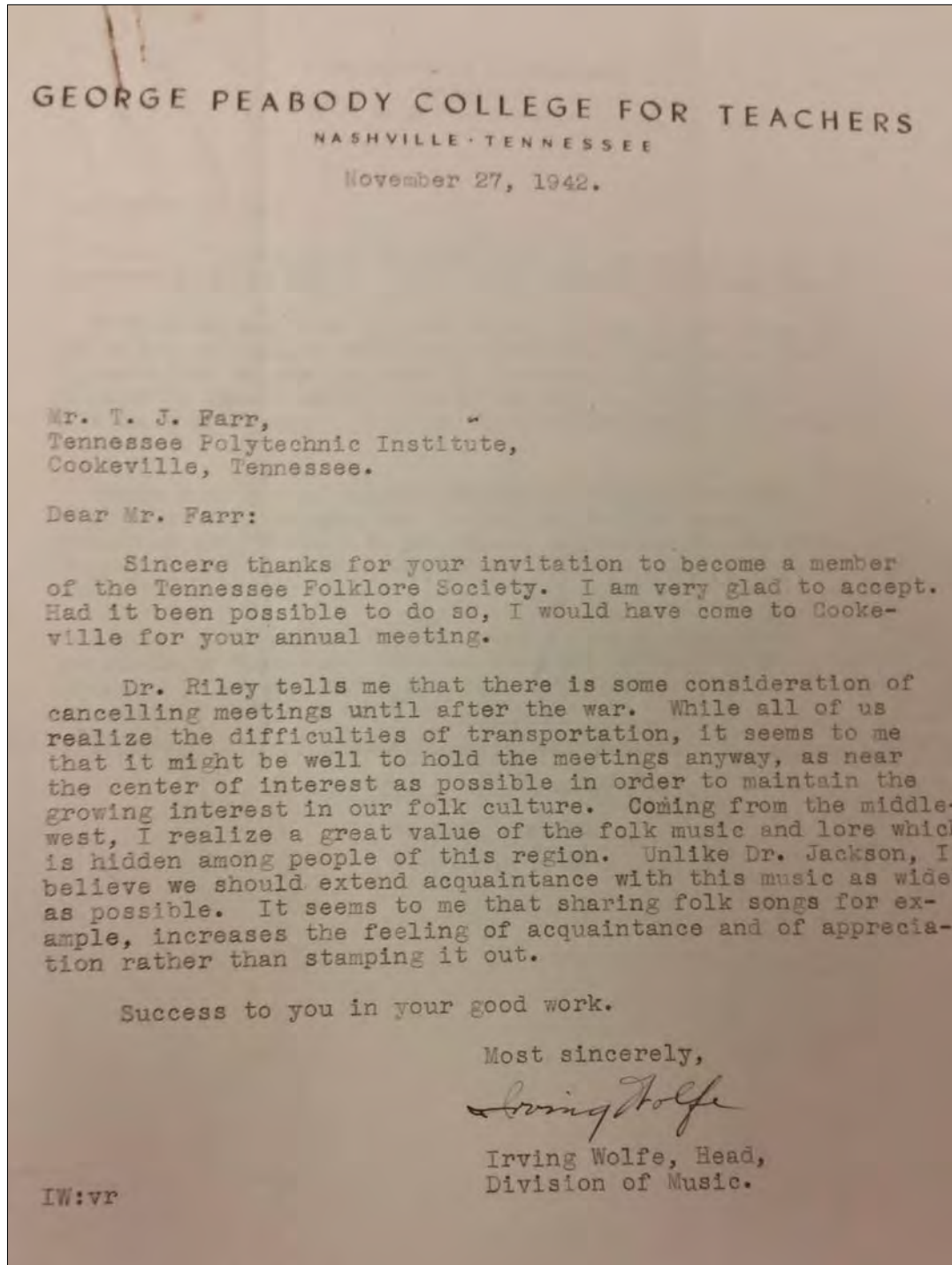


Figure 11: Letter to Dr. Farr from Dr. Wolfe, 1942.
Source: Tennessee Tech Volpe Library Archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property
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County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 44



Figure 12: Future Teachers meeting with Dr. Farr/newspaper article, 1949.
Source: The Side-Lines (MTSU newspaper).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building)
Name of Property
Putnam County/Tennessee
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number figures Page 45



Figure 13: Student teacher and Dr. Farr/newspaper article, n.d.
Source: personal collection of Patricia Leonard.

Property Owner:

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name State of Tennessee Department of Education (TTU c/o Dr. Philip Oldham, Acting President)
Street &
Number Dixie Avenue North Telephone 931-372-3241
City or Town Cookeville State/Zip TN/38501



1 FARR



WELCOME, STUDENTS!
College of Education

TU TENNESSEE TECH
UNIVERSITY

11

T.J. FARR

FARR









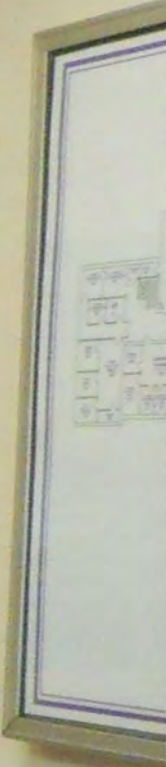








COLLEGE OF EDUCATION







EXIT

CAUTION

HONORS
PROGRAM
ROOM 204

IBLE





108

Conference Room



207 MEN

MEN





2048

Honors Program
Office









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Discipline

Telephone Date

DOCUMENTATION:

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW

CLG: Cookeville, Tennessee
PROPERTY: The Science Building (T.J. Farr Building)
ADDRESS: 1 William L. Jones Drive, Cookeville, Putnam County, Tennessee

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL EVALUATION

NAME OF OFFICIAL: *Ricky Shelton*
TITLE: *Mayor*
 ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:

Please see attached

SIGNATURE: 
TITLE: Ricky Shelton, Mayor, City of Cookeville, TN DATE:

THC STAFF EVALUATION

ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under criterion B for its association with educator T.J. Farr, for whom the building was named. Farr is historically significant as an important educator within the small, rural community of Cookeville, Tennessee and was the first Education Department administrator for the state-authorized four year college. His research and publications that were developed during his career within this building encouraged literacy and teacher effectiveness in rural schools, most notably during his efforts in conjunction with associations he was affiliated with such as the Tennessee Folklore Society. The period of significance begins in 1929, when Farr began his tenure in the Education Department, and ends in 1962 with Farr's retirement. The property is the one site chiefly associated with T. J. Farr as it has continued to be utilized as an education building and it served as Farr's workspace for 33 years as he successfully thrived within his career.

SIGNATURE: 
TITLE: Caroline Eller, National Register Coordinator-Historic Preservation Specialist DATE: November 23, 2016

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE: January 23, 2017

RETURN FORM TO:

CAROLINE ELLER
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214



Office of the Mayor

January 11, 2017

Tennessee Historical Commission
Attn: Caroline Eller
2941 Lebanon Pike
Nashville, TN 37214

RE: The Science Building (T.J. Farr Building)

Dear Ms. Eller:

I am in receipt of your correspondence relative to the above. The Cookeville Historic Zoning Commission met January 10, 2017 to consider the approval of supporting the nomination of the T. J. Farr Building located on the Tennessee Tech University Campus on the National Register.

I am pleased to say the Historic Zoning Commission supports the nomination of the T.J. Farr Building, as do I. Tennessee Tech is a true local landmark, as well as a great community partner. As we continue to grow as a community, we feel it is of the utmost importance to preserve our historical sites for future generations.

If you would like to discuss further, or if I may be of more assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ricky Shelton".

Ricky Shelton
Mayor

Enclosures

RS/tj

CC: Ken Young, Certified Local Government Coordinator, City of Cookeville Planning Department



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Caroline.Eller@tn.gov
(615) 770-1086

November 23, 2016

The Honorable Ricky Shelton
Mayor, City of Cookeville
P.O. Box 998
Cookeville, TN 38503

RE: The Science Building (T.J. Farr Building)

Dear Mayor Shelton:

Enclosed please find a draft nomination for **The Science Building (T.J. Farr Building)** located in Cookeville, Putnam County, Tennessee. The property is located within the jurisdiction of the Cookeville Certified Local Government. This program requires that the historic zoning commission and the chief local elected official review all National Register nominations within the city before they are presented to the National Register State Review Board. The nomination is scheduled to be presented at the January 25, 2017 State Review Board meeting. A fact sheet explaining the procedure is enclosed.

A copy of the draft has also been sent to the office of Mr. Ken Young, Certified Local Government Coordinator. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to me by January 23, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding the Certified Local Government program or the National Register, please contact me at (615) 770-1086 or Caroline.Eller@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Caroline Eller
National Register Coordinator-Historic Preservation Specialist

CE/ce
Enclosures (3)

pc: Ken Young, Certified Local Government Coordinator, City of Cookeville

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW

CLG: Cookeville, Tennessee
PROPERTY: The Science Building (T.J. Farr Building)
ADDRESS: 1 William L. Jones Drive, Cookeville, Putnam County, Tennessee

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION EVALUATION

NAME OF COMMISSION: *City of Cookeville Historic Zoning Comm.*
DATE OF MEETING: *1-10-2017*
HOW WAS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED OF THE MEETING? *NOTICE IN HERALD CITIZEN*
 ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER *AGENDA POSTED ON CITY*
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER *WEBSITE*

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:

The Science Building (T.J. Farr Building) meets National Register Criterion B for local significance in Education. The building is most associated with prominent TTU educator, T.J. Farr, whose productive life increased teacher effectiveness and encouraged literacy in rural schools. The period of significance is defined as 1929-1962, which best reflects the time Farr's important work was being completed. The Cookeville HZC/CLG has determined that the property holds sufficient integrity to meet the listing criteria.

SIGNATURE: *Ken Young*
TITLE: Ken Young, Senior Planner, Certified Local Government DATE: *1/10/2017*

THC STAFF EVALUATION

ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:

The Science Building (T. J. Farr Building) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under criterion B for its association with educator T.J. Farr, for whom the building was named. Farr is historically significant as an important educator within the small, rural community of Cookeville, Tennessee and was the first Education Department administrator for the state-authorized four year college. His research and publications that were developed during his career within this building encouraged literacy and teacher effectiveness in rural schools, most notably during his efforts in conjunction with associations he was affiliated with such as the Tennessee Folklore Society. The period of significance begins in 1929, when Farr began his tenure in the Education Department, and ends in 1962 with Farr's retirement. The property is the one site chiefly associated with T. J. Farr as it has continued to be utilized as an education building and it served as Farr's workspace for 33 years as he successfully thrived within his career.

SIGNATURE:
TITLE: Caroline Eller, National Register Coordinator-Historic Preservation Specialist DATE: November 23, 2016

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE: January 23, 2017

RETURN FORM TO:

**CAROLINE ELLER
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214**

**COOKEVILLE HISTORIC ZONING COMMISSION
JANUARY 10, 2017
5:00 P.M.**

- (1) CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2016.**
- (2) CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF PLACEMENT ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER, THE SCIENCE BUILDING (T. J. FARR BUILDING), LOCATED ON THE CAMPUS OF TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY IN COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE. REQUEST SUBMITTED BY STAFF ON BEHALF OF THE TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION.**

**COOKEVILLE HISTORIC ZONING COMMISSION
MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2017
5:00 P.M.**

The Cookeville Historic Zoning Commission met on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 45 East Broad Street, Cookeville, TN 38501.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Carney, Calvin Dickinson, Cathy Lamb, Chris Wakefield, and Julia Woodford.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alma Anderson and Greg Stamps.

STAFF PRESENT: Ken Young and Jayne Barns.

STAFF ABSENT: James Mills and Jon Ward.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Woodford and Lindsay McReynolds.

CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2016. Lee Carney made the motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2016. Cathy Lamb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. **APPROVED.**

CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF PLACEMENT ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER, THE SCIENCE BUILDING (T. J. FARR BUILDING), LOCATED ON THE CAMPUS OF TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY IN COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE. REQUEST SUBMITTED BY STAFF ON BEHALF OF THE TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION. Ken Young stated that the Tennessee Historical Commission has submitted a National Register draft nomination for the T. J. Farr Science Building located on the campus of Tennessee Technological University for consideration by the City of Cookeville Certified Local Government (CLG). The CLG program requires that the Historic Zoning Commission and the chief local elected official review all National Register Nominations within the city before they are presented to the National Register State Review Board. The nomination is scheduled to be presented at the January 25, 2017 State Review Board meeting.

The Tennessee Historical Commission submission states that the T. J. Farr Science Building is eligible for the National Register for the following reasons: "The Science Building (T.J. Farr Building) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under criterion B for its association with educator T. J. Farr, for whom the building was named. Farr is historically significant as an important educator within the small, rural community of Cookeville, Tennessee and was the first Education Department administrator for the state-authorized four year college. His research and publications that were developed within his career within this building encouraged literacy and teacher effectiveness in rural schools, most notably during his

efforts in conjunction with associations he was affiliated with such as the Tennessee Folklore Society. The period of significance begins in 1929 when Farr began his tenure in the Education Department, and ends in 1962 with Farr's retirement. The property is the one site chiefly associated with T. J. Farr as it has continued to be utilized as an education building and it served as Farr's workspace for 33 years as he successfully thrived within his career."

In the opinion of the Planning Department Staff, the CLG request as submitted for the nomination of the T.J. Farr Science Building to the National Register is appropriate and it is recommended that the City of Cookeville Historic Zoning Commission fully endorse the nomination and in addition, request that Mayor Ricky Shelton as chief executive officer of the City of Cookeville offer his endorsement as well.

Calvin Dickinson stated that the T. J. Farr was the Dean of Education and Founder of the Tennessee Folklore Society and the building was used for the Education Department after it was a Science Building. Mr. Dickinson added that Henderson Hall located to the right of the T. J. Farr Building is already on the Historic Register and that he submitted the application for the Historic Register for that building in 1985. Both buildings were built in the 1920's. There is a brass plaque inside the front lobby that designates Henderson Hall as being placed on the Historic Register.

Mr. Dickinson stated that the exterior of the building cannot be change once it is on the Historic Register, but buildings can be torn down and are not protected by the designation,

Cathy Lamb made the motion to support and endorse the nomination of the T. J. Farr Science Building to the National Register. Julia Woodford seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. **APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORT:

Ken Young reported that a Certificate of Appropriateness for 605 North Dixie Avenue was approved administratively for the removal of canopy tree that was in danger of falling. Jeff Fitzpatrick recommended the removal of the tree as soon as possible and that it be replaced with 40'-50' canopy tree such as oak or sugar maple in the spring.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:20 P.M.

SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

SUBMITTED FOR RECORDING

**JAYNE BARNS CPS
PLANNING ASSISTANT**

**CALVIN DICKINSON, CHAIRMAN
COOKEVILLE HISTORIC ZONING**



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 770-1089



February 17, 2017

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the documentation to nominate *The Science Building* in Putnam County, TN to the National Register of Historic Places. The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the listing of *The Science Building* to the National Register of Historic Places. Certified Local Government (CLG) notifications were sent out to the CLG Coordinator and the Mayor. Both the Mayor and CLG Coordinator responded in favor of listing, and the correspondence is enclosed.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Caroline Eller at 615/770-1086 or Caroline.Eller@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:ce

Enclosures(3)