NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 2012)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

142

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



OMB No. 10024-0018

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

istoric name Strickland Place Farr	n		
other names/site number N/A			
. Location			
treet & number 7724-7726 Hwy 76	E	NA no	ot for publication
ity or town White House	~		vicinity
tate Tennessee code	TN county Robertson	The state of the s	e <u>37188</u>
State/Federal Agency Certification	on		
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State or Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title Executive Director, Tennessee Historic	does not meet the National Register crite		
State or Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title	does not meet the National Register crite	ria. ( See Continuation sheet	
In my opinion, the property meets for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title Executive Director, Tennessee Historic	does not meet the National Register crite	Date	

Ownership of Property (Check only one box)    Discrete   Duilding(s)   Contributing   Noncontributing	Strickland Place Farm Name of Property		Robertson County, TN County and State				
(Check as many boxes as apply)    Contributing   Noncontributing   Public-local   district   public-State   site   12   5   building   District   public-Federal   structure   2   sites   16   7   Total   District   Total   Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)   Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960   Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)   Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	5. Classification						
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DOMESTIC: single dwelling DOMESTIC: single dwelling		s)					
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COMMERCE/TRADE: department (general) store AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding	COMMERCE/TRADE: dep	artment (general) store	AGRICULTURE:	agricultural outbuilding			
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding  AGRICULTURE: agricultural field	GRICULTURE: agricultur	al outbuilding	AGRICULTURE:	AGRICULTURE: agricultural field			
AGRICULTURE: agricultural field	AGRICULTURE: agricultur	al field					
OTHER: landing strip	OTHER: landing strip						
7. Description	'. Description						
Architectural Classification Materials	Architectural Classification	on	Materials				
(Enter categories from instructions) (Enter categories from instructions)		s)					
OTHER: Folk Victorian foundation CONCRETE	OTHER: Folk Victorian						
walls CONCRETE, WOOD, STONE			walls CONCR	ETE, WOOD, STONE			
roof METAL, ASPHALT			roof METAL,	ASPHALT			
other GLASS			other GLASS				

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

See continuation sheets

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number

Property Owners

Page

1

Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

#### PROPERTY OWNERS

Wesley Pepper 7726 Hwy 76E White House, TN 37188 615-672-3594

David Pepper 7724 Hwy 76E White House, TN 37188 615-672-5728 NPS FORM 10-900-A (8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

#### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	2	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN
		_		Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

#### 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Strickland Place Farm consists of approximately 99 acres of land located at 7724-7726 Highway 76E near White House, Robertson County, Tennessee (2008 population approx. 10,000). The agricultural property contains sixteen contributing and seven non-contributing resources that form an agricultural historic district. The c. 1915 Folk Victorian farmhouse is the focal point of the district, with the main complex of agricultural buildings directly to its west. This complex consists of a contributing milk house, shop/equipment shed, equipment shed, corn crib, and barn, and a non-contributing corn crib/general store. To the north of this complex are a non-contributing metal barn and poultry house. Directly north of the house are a contributing smoke house and maids' house. To the east of the c. 1915 house is a c. 1972 Ranch house. This home and a moved log smokehouse are the easternmost resources on the farm and are separated from the other resources by landscaping and trees. They do not detract from the historic character of the original farm complex. Four contributing tobacco barns are scattered toward the edges of the property, and a c. 1920 store sits at the southwest corner. The surrounding agricultural landscape contains fields, ponds, and farm roads. Unique to farms in Middle Tennessee, the western portion of the land is the site of a 1930s air landing strip. (Figure 1.) The farm sits on the north side of the highway and a gravel drive leads up to the main house and complex of agricultural buildings. To the east of the property is the site of the future White House Heritage High School. Modern houses line the northern property line along Pinson Lane. Cross Plains Road forms much of the western property line. The property is largely surrounded by agricultural land.

## Main Dwelling (1915, contributing building)

The original two-story 1915 Folk Victorian farmhouse faces south toward Highway 76E. It sits near the center of approximately 95 acres of land and is surrounded by supporting agricultural structures. The house is a two-story, cross gable plan building with a molded concrete block foundation, a raised-seam metal roof (not original), painted molded concrete block walls, original doors, and a central concrete block chimney. The concrete blocks for the structure were made onsite. Smooth concrete block quoins highlight the corners of the building. The house underwent a restoration beginning in 1997 on both the exterior and interior. The exterior restoration work that restored the original doors and replicated deteriorated windows was mostly completed 2007-2008. Original woodwork on the exterior was restored where possible, and replicated where the wood had deteriorated. Work on the interior and the rebuilding of the rear porch are future projects.

The south façade consists of two wings divided by a projecting gable front section. The façade of the western wing has a small one-story entrance porch with Folk Victorian turned and sawn woodwork. Due to major deterioration, the porch was replaced during the c. 1997 restoration. Woodwork was replicated to match the original exactly. The porch has a concrete stoop and a

NPS FORM 10-900-A (6-85)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

#### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page -	3	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS	

raised-seam metal roof. It contains a single original door that is located on the western wall of the projecting gable. (Figure 2.)

The south façade of the projecting gable end contains a pair of replacement one-over-one, double-hung windows on the first story, and a single one-over-one, double-hung wood window on the second story. The original wood windows had deteriorated beyond repair and were replaced with synthetic windows to match the original in design. The windows are surrounded by smooth concrete block quoins and have concrete sills. The first story window also has a concrete lintel. The gable field is covered in original wood fish-scale shingles.

The south façade of the eastern wing contains a one-story Folk Victorian porch. This porch was also replaced during the c. 1997 restoration work due to deterioration. The replacement porch matches the original exactly. The porch stretches the length of the ell, has a concrete floor and a raised-seam metal roof. Four turned wood posts with Folk Victorian woodwork support the porch. Along the south façade of the ell, the western end of the porch contains an original single two-panel, one-light wood door topped with an original single-light transom. The door is original and is surrounded by smooth concrete block quoins. The eastern end of the porch contains a pair of replacement one-over-one, double-hung windows that are surrounded by smooth concrete block quoins and have concrete sills and lintels. Above the porch on the south façade of the eastern wing are two replacement one-over-one, double-hung windows with concrete lintels and smooth concrete block quoins. A gable end projects from the roof line and contains original wood fish-scale shingles in the gable field. Like those of the projecting gable, the original wood windows had deteriorated beyond repair and were replaced with these synthetic windows that match the original in design. The same is true for the east, north, and west elevation windows.

The east elevation (gable end) of the house has a one-over-one, double-hung window centered on each story. The windows are surrounded by smooth concrete block quoins and have concrete sills. The first story window also has a concrete lintel. The gable field is covered with wood fish-scale shingles and has a wood vent. Exposed scroll-shaped eave brackets are visible at the roof line. Also visible on this elevation are the eastern walls of the north and south projecting gables. The eastern wall of the south projecting gable contains a one-over-one, double-hung window below the one-story porch. The window has a concrete sill and lintel and is surrounded by smooth concrete block quoins. The eastern wall of the north projecting gable end contains a door opening that was boarded with the removal of the rear porch. An appropriate door will be placed in this opening.

The north elevation of the house is composed of the two ells and a projecting gable front section. The easternmost wing was originally covered with a screened porch. The porch was removed due to deterioration, and future restoration work will rebuild the woodwork of the porch to match the original. The shadow of the porch is visible where the paint has been removed, and the concrete

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	4	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN
	-			Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

floor remains. A door opening at the western end of this wing was filled-in with concrete and a boarded window opening is where the door once was located. These will be replaced during future restoration work to match the original.

The north elevation of the gable front contains two one-over-one, double-hung windows. The window on the first story is off-center and has a concrete sill and lintel. The window on the second story is centered with a concrete sill. Both windows are flanked by smooth concrete block quoins. The gable field contains original fish-scale shingles and a wood vent.

The north elevation of the western wing contains a single one-over-one, double-hung window in the first story. The window has a concrete sill and lintel and is surrounded by smooth concrete block quoins.

The west elevation contains the gable front of the western ell. Two one-over-one, double-hung windows are located on the gable end. The window on the first story is off-center, has a concrete sill and lintel, and is surrounded by smooth concrete block quoins. The second story window is centered, has a concrete sill, and is surrounded by smooth concrete block quoins. Original wood fish-scale shingles cover the gable field. Also visible on this elevation are the western walls of the north and south projecting gables. The north projecting gable contains a one-over-one, double-hung window on the first story. The window has a concrete sill and lintel and is surrounded by smooth concrete block quoins. The west wall of the south projecting gable contains the entrance door located within the small porch. The original door is a three-panel, single-light wood door topped by an original single-light transom. Smooth concrete blocks surround the door and form the sill and lintel. A storm door covers the entrance.

The interior is currently undergoing work to restore the original materials. The floor plan remains intact and some original woodwork, doors, beaded-board ceilings, and floors remain. The main stair hall on the first floor is reached through the entrance on the south façade of the eastern ell. The stair is original with paired turned balusters, a square newel post topped with a wood "ball," and a beaded board undercarriage. There are four rooms on the first floor, a den to the east of the stair hall, a living room and office in the projecting gable, and kitchen on the western end. Each of these is undergoing restoration. The den and office retain beaded board ceilings, the original fireplace and hearth remains in the living room, and the plaster has being replaced with drywall. Window and door surrounds are being made to match the originals.

The second floor has a bedroom on the eastern end, and a master suite with bedroom, closet, and bath on the western end. These retain their original floors, beaded board ceilings, and window and door surrounds. New beaded board wainscoting has been placed on the western wall of the east bedroom.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	5	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN
	-			Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

Although some changes have been made to the interior, such as the replacement plasterwork with drywall and the addition to bathrooms, much of the original woodwork remains or is being restored to match the original. The restoration of the interior is not yet complete; the owners have plans to restore the house as closely as possible to its original appearance. Due to deteriorated woodwork, many of the interior window and door surrounds, molding, and floors will have to be replaced. The owners are working to replicate this woodwork where possible.

2. Dwelling (c. 1972, non-contributing building, due to date)

A c. 1972 Ranch dwelling is located several yards east of the main house. The two dwellings are separated by trees, and the c. 1972 dwelling was a non-intrusive addition to the farm property. Typical of Ranch dwellings, the house is a one-story structure with a low roofline and a horizontal form. Like the earlier dwelling, it has a cross gable plan form. The house has a basement and sits on a concrete slab foundation, the roof is covered with composite shingles, and two chimneys are located at the north and south gable ends. All materials are original.

The south, or front, façade is composed of two ells and a central projecting gable front portion. At the western end of the west wing is a garage covered with vertical wood boards. Stacked stone veneer is located along the water table line. At the eastern end of the west wing are double entrance doors. A projecting gable end is located at the center of the façade and is dominated by a large stacked stone exterior end chimney. Paired single-light fixed windows flank the chimney. The eastern wing contains three fixed single-light windows. The westernmost section of this wing is covered with stacked stone veneer and the easternmost end is covered with vertical wood board siding.

The north, or rear, elevation follows a similar pattern as the front. The ells are covered with vertical wood boards and have a stacked stone veneer along the water table line. The projecting gable end is dominated by a stacked stone exterior chimney.

3. Birdbath (c. 1930, contributing object)

A c. 1930 birdbath sits at the southeast corner of the house. This birdbath was made with geodes, similar to those used in the making of mortar for the concrete blocks of the house. The birdbath stands exactly as it did around 1930.

Pond #1 (c. 1965, non-contributing structure, due to date)

A man-made pond is located just west of the main driveway toward the southern end of the property. The pond is associated progressive farming period and the twentieth century production of Black Angus cattle. Although this pond dates to c. 1965, a larger pond was once located just north of this one that dated to the 1920s or 1930s. The c. 1965 pond continues to hold water and is used by horses currently on the farm.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	6	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS
				Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

5. Pond #2 (c. 1965, non-contributing structure, due to date)

A second c. 1965 pond is in the north-central section of the property. This pond no longer holds water, but a visible hole is left in the ground. It also is associated with the progressive farming period and the twentieth century switch to livestock production.

- 6. Dark-fired Tobacco Barn (c. 1930, c. 1988, contributing building)
- This c. 1930 dark-fired tobacco barn is located along the main drive toward the southern end of the property. The original frame structure was covered with metal c. 1988, but the interior maintains its original framework. It is a two-story gable-end building with drive-through openings on the east and west sides. An original shed-roof extension is on the south end for processing tobacco leaves. An original shed-roof extension on the north end was used as a tobacco stripping room. The original board-and-batten siding was replaced c. 1988 due to deterioration, but was replaced with a similar synthetic material to match the board-and-batten original. Although the siding is modern, the interior maintains integrity of design and materials. The barn is now used for horses. When converted into a horse barn, the entrance on the east side was made smaller.
- 7. Burley Tobacco Barn (c. 1941, contributing building)
  This c. 1941 one and one-half story burley tobacco barn sits along the southern property line and is a frame structure with a metal gable roof and shed roof extension. It has a central gable-end opening and is covered in vertical wood board siding. The barn is no longer in use.
- 8. Corn Crib/General Store (c. 1930, c. 1996, c. 2008, non-contributing building, due to alterations) An original one-story corn crib (c. 1930) forms the northern half of a replicated general store just west of the main house. The store more than doubled the size of the corn crib and is a rectangular frame structure with a stepped parapet roofline and a full-front porch. The original corn crib was restored in c. 1996, and then was expanded and converted into this store c. 2008. The original portion of the structure sits on a poured concrete foundation, while the c. 2008 section sits on a concrete block foundation. Due to the significant alterations, this structure is non-contributing.
- 9. Milk House (c. 1955, contributing building)

A one-story concrete block milk house is located just north of the corn crib/store just west of the main house. It is a small one-story structure with a gable roof and a gable front entry door. It sits on a poured concrete foundation. This milk house is typical of those built across Middle Tennessee during the twentieth century and was used to store milk on the farm for personal use. It maintains a high degree of integrity of design and materials.

10. Shop/Equipment Shed (c. 1930, contributing building)

A one-story shop and equipment shed is located just north of the milk house and just west of the main house. It is a frame, gable roof structure covered with vertical wood boards and a metal roof.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page _	7	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

The entrance is in the gable end and is sheltered by a gable metal-roof overhang. A shed roof addition is attached to the south end. It dates to the first half of the twentieth century and has continuously served as a shop and equipment shed for the farm.

11. Equipment Shed/Garage (c. 1950, c.1988, contributing building)

A second equipment shed and garage, dating to c. 1950, is located west, or to the rear, of the smaller shop and equipment shed. It is a rectangular structure with a slightly slanting metal roof. It has three garage-door entrances along its south elevation. The shed was original covered with vertical board siding; due to deterioration of the wood boards, the building was covered with metal c. 1988. The interior of the shed retains much of the original wood framework.

12. Corn Crib (c. 1930, contributing structure)

A c. 1930 corn crib is located west of the equipment shed/garage. It is a small rectangular onestory frame structure covered with vertical wood boards and a metal gable roof. It is raised slightly off the ground, with wood lattice work covering the openings, to allow proper ventilation for the corn. The entrance is in the gable end.

13. Stock Barn (c. 1940, contributing building)

The c. 1940 frame stock barn is a one-story gable roof building covered with a metal roof and vertical wood board siding. The upper portion of the barn is a hay loft, and a triangular hay roof is located in the east gable end. Large openings are located in the center of each gable end, and a vehicle opening is located in the south aisle of the east gable end.

14. Pole Barn (c. 1977, non-contributing building, due to date)

This c. 1977 pole barn is a one-story metal barn with a low-pitched metal gable roof. Upright poles set in poured concrete provide the framing of the barn walls, and wood trusses provide support for the roof.

15. Poultry House (c. 1977, non-contributing building, due to date)

The c. 1977 chicken coop is located along the main drive just north of the c. 1977 pole barn. It is a long rectangular one-story metal building with a metal gable roof and a concrete slab foundation. It was constructed for the large-scale poultry operation on the farm and once accommodated up to 60,000 chickens. Poultry production here lasted for about 12 years, and the poultry house is currently used for hay storage. The building is non-contributing due to date.

16. Burley Tobacco Barn (c. 1941, contributing building)

This two-story c. 1941 burley tobacco barn sits at the northern end of the property. It is a frame building set up on wood piers. It has a metal gable roof and is covered in vertical board siding. An original shed roof extension is on the northern end of the barn. Entrances are in the gable ends and the lower level is open for ventilation and equipment access. It is currently used for storage.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8 Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN
Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

17. Dark-fired Tobacco Barn (c. 1930, contributing building)

This two-story c. 1930 dark-fired tobacco barn sits at the northern end of the property. It is a frame building with a metal roof, and is covered with vertical wood board siding. It is a gable roof building with an original shed roof extension on the west side for smoking and processing. Double barn doors on the south side provide access. The barn is currently used for storage.

18. Maid's Quarters (c. 1930, contributing building)

A duplex is located on the east side of the main drive, just north of the main house. It is a simple, rectangular, side gable building with two central entrance doors and a central brick chimney. It sits on a concrete foundation, is covered in weatherboard, has a raised-seam metal roof, exposed rafter tails, and a shed roof porch.

- 19. Smokehouse (c. 1955, contributing building)
- This concrete block smokehouse sits just to the rear, or north, of the main house. It has a corrugated metal gable roof, exposed rafter tails, a concrete foundation, and a single-door entrance on the west gable end.
- 20. Smokehouse (c. 1840, c. 1996, non-contributing building, moved structure)
  This log smokehouse sits on stacked stone, has a raised-seam metal roof, and a single entry on the south gable end. All of the materials are original to the c. 1840 structure. The smokehouse was moved on to the property c. 1996, and is thus non-contributing.
- 21. Car Dealership and Appliance Store (c. 1920, contributing building)

This one-story frame car dealership and appliance store is located at the southwest corner of the property. It is adjacent to a concrete block store that is no longer part of the Strickland property. The concrete block structure was the Strickland Mercantile Company and the c. 1920 frame building was Henry Strickland's adjacent car dealership and appliance store. The business operated in this building from the 1920s until Mr. Strickland's death in 1953. He sold cars and appliances such as refrigerators and radios to members of the community. The building is a gable front building with an original shed roof extension toward the west. It is sheathed in vertical board siding. Large double door entrances are on the south side. It is currently used for storage.

22. Air Strip Site (1930s, contributing site)

The fields in the western portion of the property were used as an airstrip during the 1930s. The open fields along Cross Plains Road provided space for a landing and take-off strip for air shows and personal pleasure. The site remains largely unchanged as an open field. (Figure 3)

23. Agricultural fields and landscape (1903-1960, contributing site)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page _	9	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

This includes fields, pastures, tree lines, and farm roads throughout the property. These elements of the agricultural landscape in tandem with the built components mentioned above are integral to the operation of a working farm. Fences and gravel farm roads providing access to the fields and pastures on the property are maintained by the current owner. Although some new landscape features have been added near the house, such as fencing and sidewalks, the overall agricultural setting retains integrity.

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

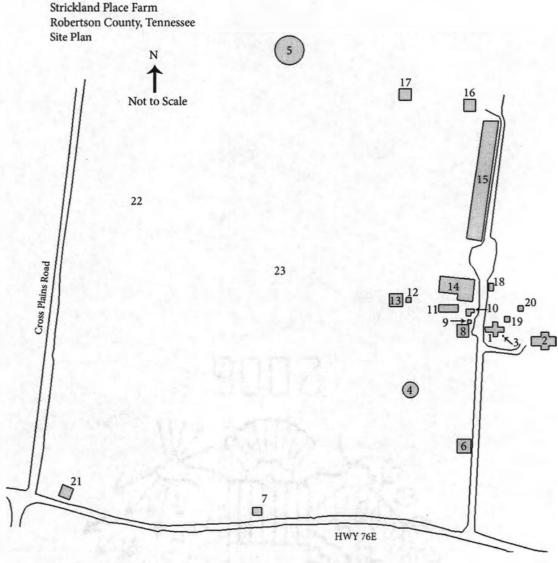
Section number

Page

10

Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

Figure 1.



- 1. MainDwelling, 1915 (C)
- 2. Dwelling, c. 1972 (NC)
- 3. Birdbath c. 1930 (C)
- 4. Pond #1, c. 1965 (NC)
- 5. Pond #2, c. 1965 (NC)
- 6. Dark-fired Tobacco Barn, c. 1930, c. 1988 (C)
- 7. Burley Tobacco Barn, c. 1941 (C)
- 8. Corn Crib/General Store, c. 1930, c. 1996 c. 2008 (NC)
- 9. Milk House, c. 1955 (C)
- 10. Shop/Equipment Shed, c. 1930 (C)
- 11. Equipment Shed/Garage, c. 1950, c. 1988 (C)
- 12. Corn Crib, c. 1930 (C)

- 13. Stock Barn, c. 1940 (C)
- 14. Pole Barn, c. 1977 (NC)
- 15. Poultry House, c. 1977 (NC)
- 16. Burley Tobacco Barn, c. 1941 (C)
- 17. Dark-fired Tobacco Barn, c. 1930 (C)
- 18. Maid's Quarters, c. 1930 (C)
- 19. Smokehouse, c. 1955 (C)
- 20. Smokehouse, c. 1840, c. 1996 (NC)
- 21. Car Dealership and Appliance Store, c. 1920 (C)
- 22. Air Strip Site, 1930s (C)
- 23. Agricultural Fields and Landscape, 1915-1960 (C)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number

Page

11

Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

Site Plan

Strickland Place Farm	Robertson County, TN		
Name of Property	County and State		
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)		
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Agriculture		
■ 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.	Period of Significance 1915-1960		
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.			
Criteria Considerations N/A (Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.) Property is:	Significant Dates 1915—construction complete on house (earliest extant building on property)		
■ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.			
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A		
C a birthplace or grave	Cultural Affiliation		
D a cemetery.	N/A		
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.			
☐ F a commemorative property	Architect/Builder		
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Mongold, L. M., and Gregory, I. O.		
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sh	eets.)		
9. Major Bibliographical References			
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form	on one or more continuation sheets.)		
Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A  preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register Previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Primary location of additional data:  State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository:		
#	MTSU Center for Historic Preservation		

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

IPS FORM 10-900-A OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	12	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS
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#### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Strickland Place Farm, originally established in 1903, is an approximately 99-acre property at 7724-7726 Highway 76 E, Robertson County, Tennessee. The property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in agriculture as an significant example of an early twentieth century Tennessee family farm that embraced such progressive agricultural programs as dark-fired and burley tobacco production while also diversifying the farm's income by operating a general store that sold automobiles, tractors, and electrical appliances and by operating an airfield that provided weekend entertainment with airplane rides and barnstorming stunts. The property meets the registration requirements for agricultural significance for historic family farms in the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960 MPS. The period of significance ranges from 1915 when construction on the main dwelling was complete to 1960. The main dwelling stands as the earliest extant building on the property.

Henry C. Strickland and Susie Edison Strickland established the Strickland Place Farm on April 6, 1903, and the initial farm size of 110 acres was slightly larger than the average size of a Tennessee farm (90.6 acres) at that time. But as discussed in the MPS, the Stricklands' farm operations reflected many of the significant trends in Tennessee agriculture in the first half of the twentieth century. The Stricklands would make their average-sized farm productive by exploring new crops, by participating in farmer organizations, and by investing in new technology, for use on the farm and to swing to their neighbors. In his faith in technology, Strickland mirrored the agricultural strategy of hundreds of other young farm families, who embraced the philosophy of progressive agriculture.

"In the first two decades of the twentieth century," the MPS states, "Tennessee farms became more diversified than ever before. Breeded beef cattle and dairy cattle became important contributors to the Middle Tennessee economy." <sup>2</sup> The Stricklands mirrored this significant pattern: they invested in new livestock breeds, such as Jersey cattle (for milk production; an extant milk house is on the property, inventory # 9) and Black Angus cattle (for beef production). The shift to livestock production is also reflected in the farm's ponds, for both milk and beef cattle.

Moreover, the family also added diversity to their agricultural output. "Extension agents also urged farmers to continue to diversify their production of fruits and vegetables for the ever-expanding urban centers of Tennessee. Many farms added orchards for apples, peaches, apricots, cherries, pears, and plums not only for their own consumption but for sale at nearby towns or to wholesale

<sup>1</sup> Cited in the Multiple Property Submission, page E-22

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Cited in the Multiple Property Submission, page E-22-23

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	13	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN
				Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

companies for distribution at the state and national levels." The Stricklands, for example, invested in a fruit orchard in the 1940s (no longer extant), purchasing seeds from Stark Bros. Nurseries & Orchards Co. in Louisiana, Missouri. This allowed the family to market fruit to the growing urban markets of the region, especially Clarksville in Montgomery County, Springfield in Robertson County, and Nashville in Davidson County. In using the state road that ran in front of the farm to connect to urban markets, the family also took advantage of another major pattern reshaping Tennessee agriculture: the Good Roads Movement of the progressive era, which improved market access for Middle Tennessee farmers. "According to the MPS "...the new roads improved the ability of farmers to take their products to urban markets and encouraged the development of truck farming as a cash source on family farms."

The Strickland's' farm operations also are significantly tied to a specific agricultural pattern noted for Northern Middle Tennessee, especially the "Black Patch" belt of Montgomery, Robertson, and Sumner counties: tobacco production. Henry C. Strickland was a local leader in the tobacco industry, which reshaped much of the landscape of northern Middle Tennessee in the first half of the twentieth century. His farm lay squarely in Tennessee's "Black Patch," which had been famous for its dark-fired tobacco production since the early nineteenth century. Strickland in the 1930s served as one of the district chairmen of the Dark Tobacco Growers Co-Operative Association. It grew out of the earlier Dark Tobacco District Planters' Protective Association (1904-1914) as well as developments in the aftermath of the general agricultural depression that occurred after World War I and resulted in the creation of the Kentucky-based Burley Tobacco Growers' Co-Operative Association and the Dark Tobacco Grower's Co-Operative Association. The Dark Tobacco Co-Operative had 56,000 members by 1922, the year that Strickland joined the organization. On November 23, 1922, Strickland received his official notice of acceptance in the Co-Operative, and the organization asked for "your loyal cooperation in every way that may help to make it achieve its great aims, for the interest of you and your fellow growers." But both cooperatives initially encountered stiff resistance from the major tobacco companies. As historian Tracy Campbell notes, "The implacable hostility of the tobacco companies caused the burley association to release its growers from their contracts in 1925. Yet when the farmers went to the open market, they found themselves blacklisted by the tobacco companies. Prices fell, and while

<sup>4</sup> Cited in the Multiple Property Submission, page E-23. Also see, Dan Pierce, "Good Roads Movement," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), 367.

<sup>7</sup> Strickland Place Farm File, Tennessee Century Farms Collection, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Cited in the Multiple Property Submission, page E-23. Also see, Thomas J. Whatley, A History of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station (Knoxville: University of Tennessee, 1994), 19-21.

Dark fired tobacco is used for smokeless tobacco (snuff, chewing), while air cured burley is used for cigarettes.
Rick Gregory, "Desperate Farmers: The Dark Tobacco District Planters' Protective Association of Kentucky and Tennessee, 1904-1914," Ph.D. diss., Vanderbilt University, 1989.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	14	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN
				Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

most of America was enjoying the relative prosperity of the mid-1920s, tobacco farmers groped for ways out of their chronic poverty."8

The difficulties for farmers who joined the tobacco co-operatives underscore why Henry Strickland turned to new income sources, such as his mercantile business. From c. 1920 to 1950, he operated a general store, Strickland Mercantile Company, which sold refrigerators and various electrical appliances (inventory #21). He also sold automobiles and gasoline. He pursued the better transportation agenda in a different way, by turning to the skies. Strickland Place Farm is the first identified Tennessee Century Farm in Middle Tennessee to incorporate an airstrip into the farm's landscape. His daughter Elizabeth Strickland Ford and her husband Winsor Ford did most of the flying. This business started c. 1930 when Strickland began to buy equipment and supplies from Louie Gasser, the manager of McConnell Airport, the City of Nashville's major airbase at that time. It ended c. 1938 after Winsor Ford died.

Strickland Place Farm was also one of two known farms in Robertson County that had airstrips used by stunt pilots. The second was the S.R. Russell Farm north of Springfield. Winsor Ford and Clifton Tribble travelled across the county performing air stunts. Locally, Ford and his wife Elizabeth, Tribble, and H.C. Strickland would take people for a plane ride for one dollar.<sup>9</sup>

To address the agricultural crises of the Great Depression, farmers again turned to agricultural cooperatives for solutions, especially as government policy encouraged the creation of cooperatives. Strickland already had joined the Tennessee Farm Bureau when it formed in the 1920s. The Bureau in 1941 helped to create the Tennessee Burley Tobacco Growers' Association and Strickland immediately joined this new cooperative. He also became a member of the Tennessee Producers Livestock Marketing Association in the 1940s. In addition to raising prices through market cooperatives, the Farm Bureau directed its attention to agricultural education, publishing magazines and pamphlets, and conducting educational sessions. The Farm Bureau strongly supported the rural reform movement, advocating better rural health programs, better roads, better schools, and rural electrification. Strickland's long participation in and associations with these agricultural organizations/cooperatives document how fully he was involved with modern or progressive farming.

When applying the assessment tools listed in the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960 MPS, the significance of Strickland Place Farm lies in how it mirrors several significant patterns in Tennessee agriculture from 1900 to 1960. The farm is strongly associated with the new crops and techniques of the progressive farming movement, especially burley tobacco and

<sup>8</sup> Tracy Campbell, *The Politics of Despair: Power and Resistance in the Tobacco Wars* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1993), 153.

<sup>9</sup> Yolanda Reid and Rick S. Gregory, *Robertson County, Tennessee* (Nashville: Turner Publishing, 1996). Online version accessed through Google books, December 9, 2009.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	15	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS
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breeded livestock production. The farm is also strongly associated with such important agricultural reform organizations as the Dark Tobacco Growers' Co-Operative and the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

The farm contains dwellings and/or outbuildings, such as the tobacco barns (inventory #s 6, 7, 16, 17) and milk house that are significant representatives of twentieth century domestic architecture and of twentieth century farm buildings. Indeed, the concrete block construction of the historic Strickland House is a rarity among Tennessee's historic family farms. Constructed 1912-1915, the projecting central gable and its fish-scale shingling in the gable end marked the house stylistically as a Folk Victorian building. But by using rock-faced concrete block materials, Strickland also made his statement of architectural modernity since so few farmers in Middle Tennessee used that material in the 1910s. (Figure 2.)

The lack of rock-faced concrete block farm houses in Middle Tennessee is interesting in light of architectural historian Pamela Simpson's conclusion that "the striking aspect of concrete block's history is the rapidity with which the public accepted it. The seemingly instant popularity of the new concrete block was commented on again and again by contemporary writers." But what quickly appeared in American suburbs was translated much more slowly to the rural landscape. Simpson's research found that Sears Roebuck were marketing a concrete block machine by 1905 that allowed owners to build their own homes. But at the Strickland Farm, L. M. Mongold of White House was the house's primary builder, and I. O. Gregory of Springfield was responsible for making the molded concrete blocks that are such a defining characteristic of the dwelling. The concrete blocks for the home were made on the farm, and utilized ground geodes in the make-up of the concrete. Geodes were later used to build a birdbath (inventory # 3) that still stands in front of the home. From surviving family records, the Trussed Concrete Steel Company in 1912 of Detroit, Michigan, provided what it called "Trus-Con Por-Seal" to seal the concrete pores from the "absorption of moisture and dampness." The following year, Strickland looked to a firm from Franklin, Kentucky, the Southern Specialty Company, to provide concrete paint for the house.

By using concrete in his home, Strickland was following advice found in many bulletins and pamphlets that extolled the virtues of new materials like concrete. *Permanent Farm Construction*, published by the Portland Cement Association, argued that concrete was perfect not only for silos and cellars, but also for houses, hog houses, milk houses, dairy barns, corn cribs, garages, implement sheds, manure pits, and chicken houses. An announcement at the end of the 70+ page pamphlet reminded farmers that "plans and construction details for the larger types of farm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Pamela H. Simpson, Cheap, Quick, & Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930 (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1999), 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This information is from invoices and correspondence that the family has.

NPS FORM 10-900-A (#.86)

#### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	16	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN	
		2 11 12		Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS	

The Strickland Place Farm meets the registration requirements of the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS. Strickland Place Farm contains elements that are both typical and atypical of farms mentioned in the MPS. The MPS allows for wide latitude in the amount of farm acreage and the 99 acres of this farm are fairly typical. Gable-front-and-wing house (or uprightand-wing) forms are a common house form on farms in the state. What is not common is to have one constructed of concrete block. As noted above, there were publications promoting the use of concrete on farms. The MPS mentions that concrete outbuildings were promoted for farms in the twentieth century, but it does not discuss concrete block farmhouses. Northern Middle Tennessee, where the farm is located, is especially known for tobacco production and the Strickland Farm has four tobacco barns. This may be a typical pattern, but including both dark fired and burley tobacco production on the farm makes this farmstead unusual. As on many farms, Strickland Place also has a historic stock barn, corn crib, equipment shed, and milk house. While this is a typical representation of farm outbuildings mentioned in the MPS, it is not that common to see all these types of historic outbuildings remaining on an active farm. Having both a commercial store and airstrip for entertainment gives the Strickland Place Farm uniqueness not found in most century farms. Family farms did have commercial enterprises on their property but few farms historically had as many diverse resources as this farm in Robertson County.

Henry C. Strickland died in 1953 and the farm passed to his wife Susie, who died in 1954. Susie passed the farm to her daughter Elizabeth Pepper. Elizabeth died in 1955 and her son Wesley Pepper, only 11 years old in 1955, inherited the farm. Wesley worked on the farm during those years, but primarily lived in Springfield until he graduated high school in 1962. Upon graduation, Wesley returned to the farm to take over full-time operation property. In recent years, Wesley (father) and David Pepper (son) have jointly occupied the farm. David purchased the house parcel in 1996 and worked to restore the main dwelling from 1997 through present. Wesley Pepper and his wife Carolyn live in a c. 1972 dwelling just east of the main dwelling. From 1996 to 2008, the Peppers converted a historic corn crib into a replica of an early twentieth century mercantile store. The store is now an attraction for local residents, historical groups, and senior citizen groups in Robertson County. By choosing to move part of the farm into the "agri-tourism" business, the family continues to diversify the farmstead.

13 Simpson, 26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Permanent Farm Construction (Chicago: Portland Cement Association, n.d.), after p. 72.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	9	Page	17	Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

#### 9. MAJOR BIBIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Campbell, Tracy. *The Politics of Despair: Power and Resistance in the Tobacco Wars.* Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1993.
- Gregory, Rick. "Desperate Farmers: The Dark Tobacco District Planters' Protective Association of Kentucky and Tennessee, 1904-1914," Ph.D. diss., Vanderbilt University, 1989.
- Permanent Farm Construction. Chicago: Portland Cement Association, 1936.
- Reid, Yolanda G. and Rick S. Gregory. *Robertson County, Tennessee*. Nashville: Turner Publishing, 1996.
- Simpson, Pamela H. Cheap, Quick, & Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1999.
- Strickland Place Farm File. Tennessee Century Farms Collection, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.
- West, Carroll V., et al., eds. *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. Nashville: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998.
- Whatley, Thomas J. A History of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Extension Service, 1994.

N CO	Robertson County, TN County and State			
Name of Property				
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property 98.65 acres				
UTM References				
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 16 526209 4027274	3 16 525780 4036647			
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Verbal Boundary Description				
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
Boundary Justification				
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepared By	2			
Ti. Tomit repared by	THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN			
name/title Carroll Van West, Elizabeth Moore				
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation	date December 7, 2009			
street & number Box 80	telephone 615-898-2947			
city or town Murfreesboro	state TN zip code 37132			
Additional Documentation				
submit the following items with the completed form:				
submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets				
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number

10 Page

18

Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

#### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### **Verbal Boundary Description and Justification**

The Strickland Place Farm consists of six parcels totaling 98.65 acres. The parcels are roughly bounded on the south by Highway 76E, on the west by Cross Plains Road, on the north by residential properties, and on the east by the White House Heritage High School property.

The historic dwelling sits on a 1.87 acre parcel, parcel 106 010.00 on the attached Robertson County Tax Map, near the center of the site. It is surrounded by a 92.70 acre agricultural parcel, parcel 106 009.00 on the attached Robertson County Tax Map. Four additional parcels (106 007.00; 095 159.00; 095 160.00; and 095 161.00) along the western edge of the property at Cross Plains Road each contain 1.02 acres of agricultural fields. A 50-foot easement between subdivided parcels along the northern property line provides access from Pinson Land into the property. These six parcels make up 94.57 acres of the original 110-acre farm and are all of the extant land historically associated with the property.

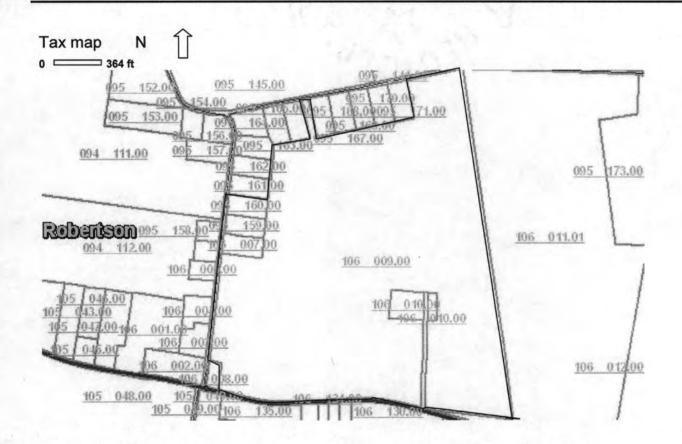
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number

10 Page

19

Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number

Photos

Page

20

Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographs by: Elizabeth Moore

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date:

March 2009, September 2009

Digital Files:

Tennessee Historical Commission

Nashville, Tennessee

1 of 32

Main Dwelling (1), south façade, photographer facing north

2 of 32

Main Dwelling (1), east elevation, photographer facing west

3 of 32

Main Dwelling (1), east and north elevations, photographer facing southwest

4 of 32

Main Dwelling (1), north elevation, photographer facing south

5 of 32

Main Dwelling (1), west elevation, photographer facing east

6 of 32

Dwelling (2), south façade, photographer facing north

7 of 32

Dwelling (2), west and north elevations, photographer facing southeast

8 of 32

Main Dwelling (1) and Dwelling (2), photographer facing north

9 of 32

Birdbath (3), photographer facing north

10 of 32

Pond #1 (4), photographer facing southwest

11 of 32

Pond #2 (5), photographer facing northwest

12 of 32

Dark-Fired Tobacco Barn (6), photographer facing southeast

13 of 32

Dark-Fired Tobacco Barn (6), interior, photographer facing west

14 of 32

Burley Tobacco Barn (7), photographer facing east-northeast

15 of 32

Corn Crib/General Store (8), photographer facing southwest

16 of 32

Milk House (9), photographer facing west-northwest

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number		arm, Robertson County, TN rms in Middle Tennessee MPS			
17 of 32	Shop/Equipment Shed (10), photographer facing	u west			
18 of 32	Equipment Shed/Garage (11), photographer fac	and Million and the			
19 of 32	Corn Crib (12) and Stock Barn (13), photographer facing west-northwest				
20 of 32	Corn Crib (12), photographer facing northeast				
21 of 32	Stock Barn (13), photographer facing west				
22 of 32	Pole Barn (14), photographer facing west				
23 of 32	Poultry House (15), photographer facing northwest				
24 of 32	Burley Tobacco Barn (16), photographer facing northwest				
25 of 32	Dark-Fired Tobacco Barn (17), photographer facing north-northwest				
26 of 32	Maid's Quarters (18), photographer facing east				
27 of 32	Smokehouse (19), photographer facing east				
28 of 32	Smokehouse (19), Main Dwelling (1), and Tenar facing south	nt House (18), photographer			
29 of 32	Smokehouse (20), photographer facing northeas	st			
30 of 32	Store (21), photographer facing north				
31 of 32	View toward Air Strip Site (22), photographer fac	cing southwest			
32 of 32	32 of 32 Agricultural Landscape (23), photographer facing northeast				

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number

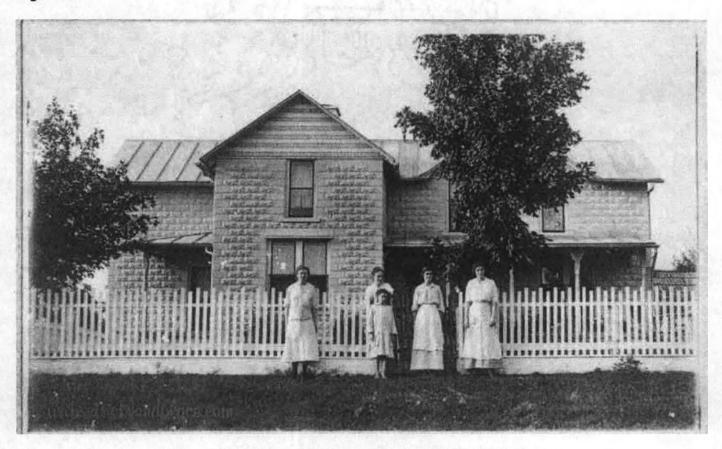
Historic photos

Page

22

Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

### Figure 2.



1915 photo of house taken when house was completed.

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

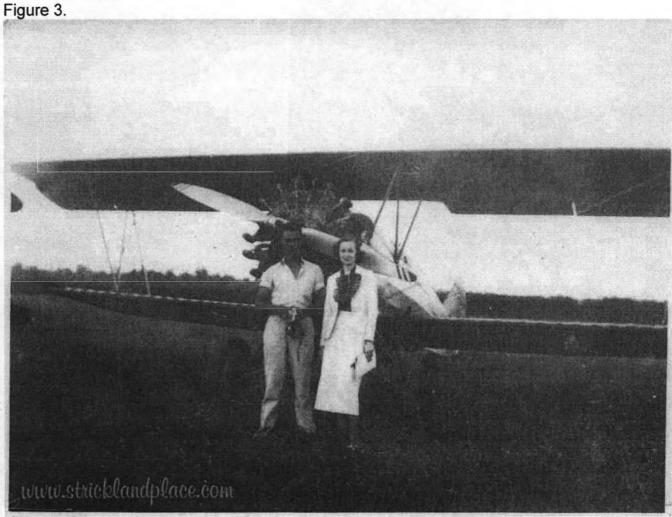
Section number

Historic photos

Page

23

Strickland Place Farm, Robertson County, TN Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS



1930s photos of airplane in west fields.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Strickland Place Farm NAME:
MULTIPLE Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Robertson
DATE RECEIVED: 2/19/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/04/10 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/19/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/05/10 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000142
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N
VACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/31/10 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
Entered in The National Register of Historic Places
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWERDISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Strickland Place Farm Robertson Co. TN

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Strickland Place Farm Robertson Co. TN

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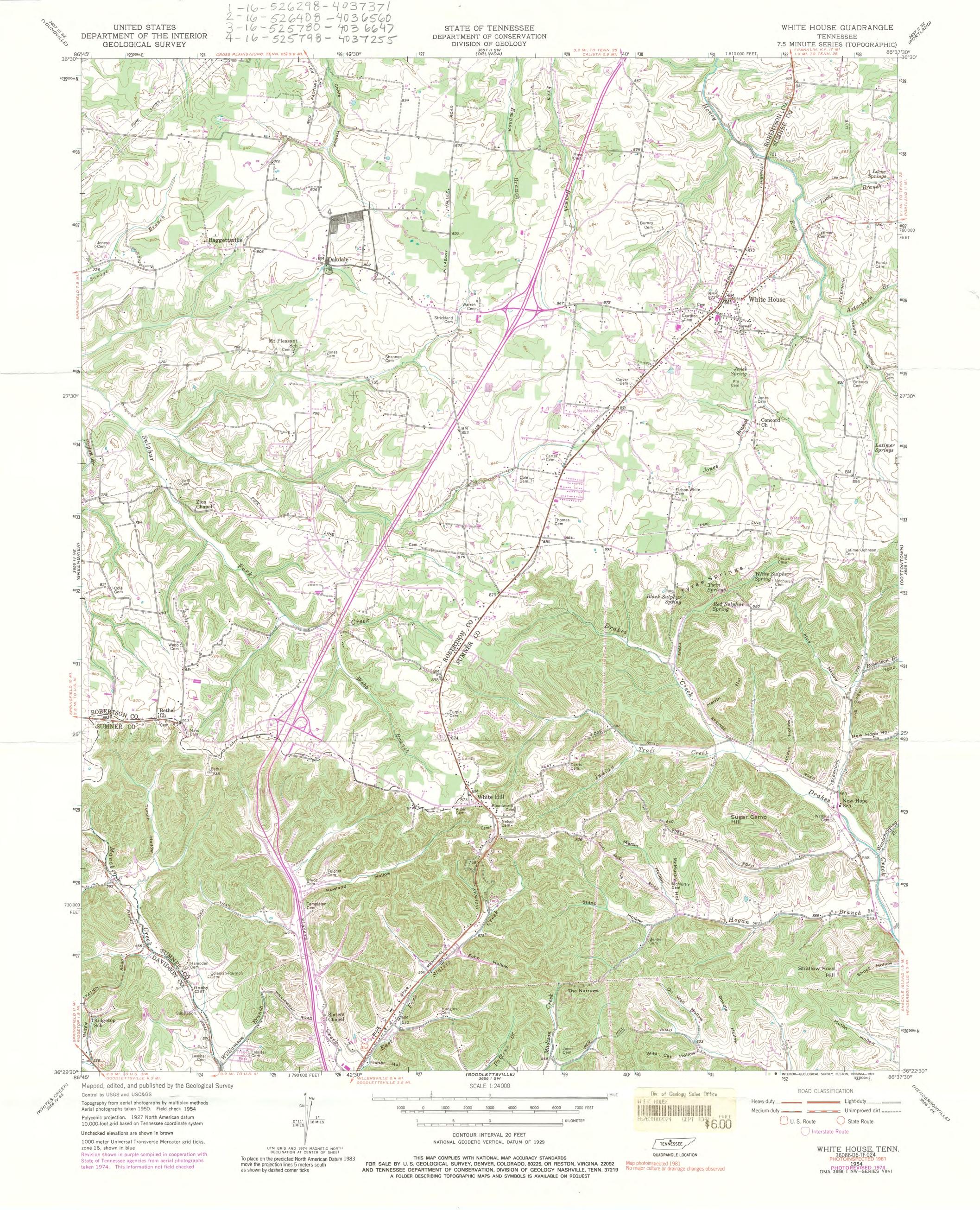
Strickland Place Farm Robertson Co TN



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Strickland Place Farm Robertson Co. TN





## TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2941 LEBANON ROAD NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442

(615) 532-1550

RECEIVED 2280 FEB 1 9 2010 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

February 4, 2010

Carol Shull Keeper of the National Register National Park Service National Register Branch 1201 Eye Street NW 8th floor Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the documentation to nominate the Strickland Place Farm to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Claudette Stager at 615/532-1550, extension 105 or Claudette.stager@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.

E. Patrick Mikty 1.

State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM:cs

**Enclosures**