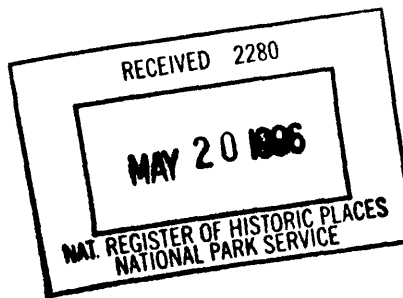


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Williamson, Thomas, House

other names/site number Burns Farmhouse, RD. 1580

2. Location

street & number 2263 Little Rock Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Eagleville

X vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Rutherford code 149 zip code 37060

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination  
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of  
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
X meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
☐ nationally ☒ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays  
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/7/96  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, TN Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

6.21.96  
Entered in the  
National Register

Williamson, Thomas, House  
Name of Property

Rutherford, Tennessee  
County and State

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Contributing

Noncontributing

2

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

2

1

Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

secondary structure

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT (Work in Progress)

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Folk Victorian

I-house

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls WOOD: weatherboard

ASBESTOS: siding

roof METAL: tin; ASPHALT: shingles

other WOOD: log, plank

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation sheets

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X ☒ 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 moved from its original location.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

### Period of Significance

Circa 1870-1945

### Significant Dates

Circa 1870, 1925, 1937, circa 1945

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- X University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

MTSU-Center for Historic Preservation

Williamson, Thomas, House  
Name of Property

Rutherford, Tennessee  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. four acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 53420 3956020  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

Rockvale, TN 70SE

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title RoAnn Bishop, Christopher J. Hetzel, and Carol Van West  
organization MTSU-Center for Historic Preservation date September 25, 1995  
street & number 1421 East Main Street telephone (615) 898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37130

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Ivie Phillips Burns II  
street & number 9548 Concord Road telephone 615-274-836  
city or town Rockvale state TN zip code 37153

**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.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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Williamson, Thomas, House, Rutherford Co., TN

## SECTION 7: Description

The Thomas Williamson House is located on 4 acres in the southeast corner of the Eighth Civil District of Rutherford County, Tennessee. The house is situated in a rural setting and faces south toward Little Rock Road about five miles northwest of Eagleville. It is accessible from State Highway 99 via Jackson Ridge Road.

On the exterior, the farmhouse appears to be a two-story, vernacular I-house sheathed in weatherboard and asbestos siding. However, the house is composed of two parts. The east half of the house is a two-story, single-pen log house constructed in the early 1800s, and the west half is a two-story frame addition constructed in 1870. There is a central hallway connecting the two halves.

The log house was the first house built on the property. Its construction date is unknown, but it probably dates circa 1830 because of its form and materials. A two-story, single-pen log house, sometimes referred to as a stack house, is characterized by two proportionately square or slightly rectangular blocks stacked one atop the other. In such a structure, the logs are typically half-dovetailed and the doorway is roughly centered. The chimney is also located in one gable end, and a boxed-in stairway, usually with a little closet underneath it, provides access to the second story. The extant log portion of the Thomas Williamson House exhibits these characteristics.

A two-story, single-pen, frame addition and hallway were added to the west side of the log house circa 1870 to give it the appearance of a central-passage I-house. This house style was particularly popular in the first half of the nineteenth century and especially in Rutherford County. Middle-class farmers expanded their homes into vernacular, I-house forms to reflect their prosperity and imitate the high-style homes of wealthy plantation owners in the region. These homes typically feature a two-story Greek Revival portico. The decorative Victorian spindle work on the two-story front porch of the house further indicates that the frame addition was added after the Civil War and, combined with data about ownership, supports a construction date of circa 1870. The house form changed in the rear when a shed addition was built circa 1945.

The Thomas Williamson House has a symmetrical, three-bay facade with single-centered doors on both levels, and a nearly full-length, two-story front porch. Two concrete steps

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Williamson, Thomas, House, Rutherford Co., TN

dating circa 1945 lead up to the wooden porch. The porch has squared posts on its first floor and round logs on its second floor. The second floor doorway opens from the upstairs central hall onto the second story of the front porch. This section of the porch has a slightly sloping wooden floor and significantly sloping, beaded-board ceiling. It also retains its decorative Victorian spindle work. The spindle work on the porch's first story was removed sometime after 1940.

The east elevation of the house shows the two-story, gable end of the original log house with circa 1945 one-story shed addition and a circa 1945 enclosed kitchen porch added onto the rear northeast corner. Some of the logs of the original house are visible just above the limestone foundation piers, near the east exterior gable-end chimney. Asbestos siding was added to the exterior walls around both east and west gable-end chimneys. Both chimneys, originally made of dry-laid limestone and brick, were encased in concrete circa 1945. Two original double-hung, six-over-six windows exist in the single-story shed addition. The kitchen porch has two smaller six-over-six windows in its eastern facade. Beneath the porch window, the weatherboards were applied vertically.

The north (rear) facade shows the evolution of the house in the obvious second-floor roof seam, where the log and frame portions were joined. The roof is uneven at this point, and a small offset exists where the frame section projects beyond the log section. The evolution of the house is also evident in the later construction of the circa 1945, one-story shed addition that extends the entire length of the north (rear) side of the house, and in the enclosed, one-story kitchen porch extending out from the northeast corner of the shed addition. A flue, located inside the kitchen, protrudes through the metal roof on the addition's northeast corner.

The kitchen porch has five double-hung, six-over-six windows in its northern facade. A glass storm door is located between the second and third windows of the kitchen porch. Two concrete steps lead from the backyard up to the kitchen porch, which has a slightly sloping wooden floor. A slightly offset interior door opens from the porch into the kitchen.

In the north facade, there are two double-hung, six-over-six windows on the second floor, one in each of the two upstairs bedrooms. On the first floor, in the rear shed addition, there are two single and one double set of double-hung, six-over-six windows. One single window is in the kitchen, but is hidden by the enclosed kitchen porch. The double set of windows is

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Williamson, Thomas, House, Rutherford Co., TN

located in the middle (dining) room. The other single window on the northwest side of the house is in the interior cellar/storage room.

The west facade of the house has a single six-over-six, double-hung window on the northwest corner of the shed addition. This is in the room where the cellar is located. There are no second-floor windows on the western elevation. An exterior chimney is centered in the west gable end of the two-story, frame section of the house. Again, the chimney was encased in concrete, and asbestos siding was applied around the chimney and along the west-end of the rear shed addition circa 1945.

The entire foundation of the house is dry-laid limestone piers. The roof consists of pressed metal shingles except for a small portion on the northeast corner of the shed addition. This portion of the roof was repaired and covered in asphalt shingles. All of the windows and doors in the house are original to the house's construction. The exterior walls of the house are all weatherboard, except for the area around both chimneys and the shed addition's west end. These areas possess asbestos siding.

The interior walls are all wood except for the east side of the second-floor central hall, where the original hewn, half-dovetailed cedar logs are exposed. There is no plaster or dry wall in the house. Wallpaper layered over newspaper exists in the two front rooms and central hall on the first floor, both second-floor rooms, and in the middle room of the first-floor shed addition (dining room). Both the wallpaper and newspaper are peeling, making the horizontal wood walls easily visible. Horizontal beaded boards exist on all the kitchen walls and on part of the dining room's south wall. The mostly random-width, pine/softwood floors are all original. The only plumbing in the house is in the kitchen. There are no bathrooms. Electricity was installed in the house circa 1945, but vandals have since broken into the home and stolen the copper wiring. All of the extant light fixtures in the house are circa 1945.

The interior of the Thomas Williamson House is an interesting adaptation of the central hall, I-house plan, with a shed addition extending along the entire rear length of the house. An enclosed porch extends from the northeast corner of the shed addition. With the exception of the addition, the house is one-room deep, which is typical of the I-house plan. However, the traditional central hall plan is only fully realized on the first floor, where doorways on either side of the hall lead into the front room parlor and bedroom. On the second floor, there is a

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Williamson, Thomas, House, Rutherford Co., TN

door on the west side leading into a second story bedroom, but on the east side, there is only a solid log wall. The only access to the east, second story bedroom is by a staircase in the room directly below on the first floor.

The front door has a single-pane transom and two bull's-eye corner blocks in its interior architrave and opens onto the first-floor central hallway. This hallway contains the original open-well, two-run stairs leading to the second floor. The stairs begin along the west wall and ell back along the north wall. A small closet or storage area exists under the stairs. The baseboards in the hall are six and one-half inches high. Three interior doors open off the main hall. A solid-wood door on the west wall opens into the west chamber. A four-panel door in the east wall opens into the east chamber, and another four-panel door in the north wall beneath the stairs opens into the middle chamber of the rear shed addition (dining room).

The west chamber, located in the circa 1870 frame portion of the house, was originally used as the parlor. Here, random-width, white-painted, wooden boards extend horizontally around the walls from the floor to a height of thirty-four and one-quarter inches. This configuration creates a unique decorative effect similar to wainscot. The fireplace in the west wall of the room retains its original wooden, pilastered mantel, which is painted white. The fireplace here and in the east chamber were both filled in with concrete and now contain small, natural gas heaters. The random-width, wood floor and ceiling are also original. The ceiling here has exposed, white-painted, wooden beams. A single six-over-six window looks from the room onto the front porch. The north wall shows evidence of another single window that was removed and its opening boarded up when the rear shed addition was built circa 1945.

The east chamber, entered through the door in the east wall of the hallway, is in the original log portion of the house. It retains its original fourteen and one-half inch high baseboards, original pilastered, wooden mantel, and random-width flooring and ceiling. Both the ceiling and mantel are painted white. A boxed stairway, also painted white, begins along the north wall and ells along the west wall of this room, providing access to the second floor. A small closet or storage area exists under the stairway. In the south wall, a single six-over-six, double-hung window looks onto the front porch. Directly opposite the window on the north wall, a four-panel door opens into the kitchen.



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The door in the north wall of the first-floor central hallway leads into the dining room, the middle room of the house's rear shed addition. The floors in the dining room, as well as in the shed addition's other two rooms (kitchen and interior cellar/storage room), are more uniform than those in the older sections of the house and are about three-quarters of an inch wide. Double six-over-six double-hung windows are centered in the north wall. Three doors open out of the dining room: a three-panel/three-vertical-pane door on the east wall leads into the kitchen; a solid-wood door on the west wall opens into the interior cellar/storage room; and a four-panel door in the room's south wall opens into the first-floor central hall. An original light fixture, installed circa 1945, hangs from the ceiling in the center of the room. Both the dining room and kitchen ceilings are painted, beaded boards. Beaded boards also exist on the dining room's south wall. It is believed that these boards were salvaged from an old ell addition that existed behind the original log house. The construction of early ell additions was common among I-houses in Middle Tennessee in the nineteenth century, and many still exist. However, the construction date for this non-extant ell addition is unknown. According to family reports, it existed until 1945 when the single-story, shed addition was built along the rear of the house. The non-extant ell contained, in boxcar order, an unenclosed breezeway, a dining room, and a kitchen. A fireplace existed between the two rooms, and a small covered porch opened off the kitchen's east side. This porch extended over the well, so that a person could pump water while still under shelter of the porch.

Immediately west of the dining room is the interior cellar/storage room. The interior cellar is a unique architectural element of the Thomas Williamson House. The cellar was built circa 1937 during the heyday of the home economics movement and measures nine feet one inch long, five feet three inches wide and approximately six feet five inches high. It has limestone and concrete walls, a dirt floor and a wooden cover, and was used to store canned goods. Indeed, the cellar still contains some old canned vegetables and glass canning jars. The date "1937" and the initials "S.E.R." (standing for Searcy E. Ralston, a great-uncle of the current owner) are written in the concrete near the entrance to the cellar. However, this inscription may not refer to Searcy E. Ralston as the builder. The family believes that Ralston perhaps helped to construct or make repairs to the cellar at this time, but he was apparently not known to do that kind of work. The room has two single six over six, double-hung windows, one in the north wall and one in the west wall. Another window existed in the south wall at one time, but was removed and its opening boarded up with the construction of the rear shed addition.

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Williamson, Thomas, House, Rutherford Co., TN

The kitchen is located in the circa 1945 addition just east of the dining room. Two smaller six-over-six, double-hung windows are positioned above the kitchen sink in the east wall. A larger six-over-six, double-hung window is in the north wall and looks into the enclosed kitchen porch. The door leading onto the porch stands to the right of the single window, but is mostly hidden by a stove placed in front of it. On the opposite (south) wall, a four-panel door opens into the east chamber. Originally, a window existed here, but it was replaced with a door when the original, non-extant ell was added to the house.

Upstairs, there are two bedrooms and a central hall. However, the two bedrooms do not connect and must be reached by separate stairways. The main central stairway leads to a second floor hallway and the west bedroom. The west bedroom is slightly larger than the east bedroom and exists in the newer, frame portion of the house. It is accessed through a solid-wood door from the upstairs hallway. The boys in the family occupied this room. The east bedroom, where the girls slept, is accessed by the boxed stairs in the east chamber on the first floor because there is no door at the top of the central hall to the girls' bedroom. A solid-wood door exists at the ell in the boxed stairs. Neither bedroom has a fireplace, although there is evidence of an earlier fireplace in the east bedroom. Both second-floor rooms have wide, wooden ceilings and random-width floors.

The second-floor central hall has no ceiling and consequently provides a glimpse of the framing inside the attic of the house's original log half. This upstairs hall is particularly interesting because it reveals where the old log house and the new frame addition are joined. The half-dovetail notching in the cedar logs is evident here. A two-panel, single-pane door in the south walls opens onto the nearly full-length, second-floor porch located on the south facade.

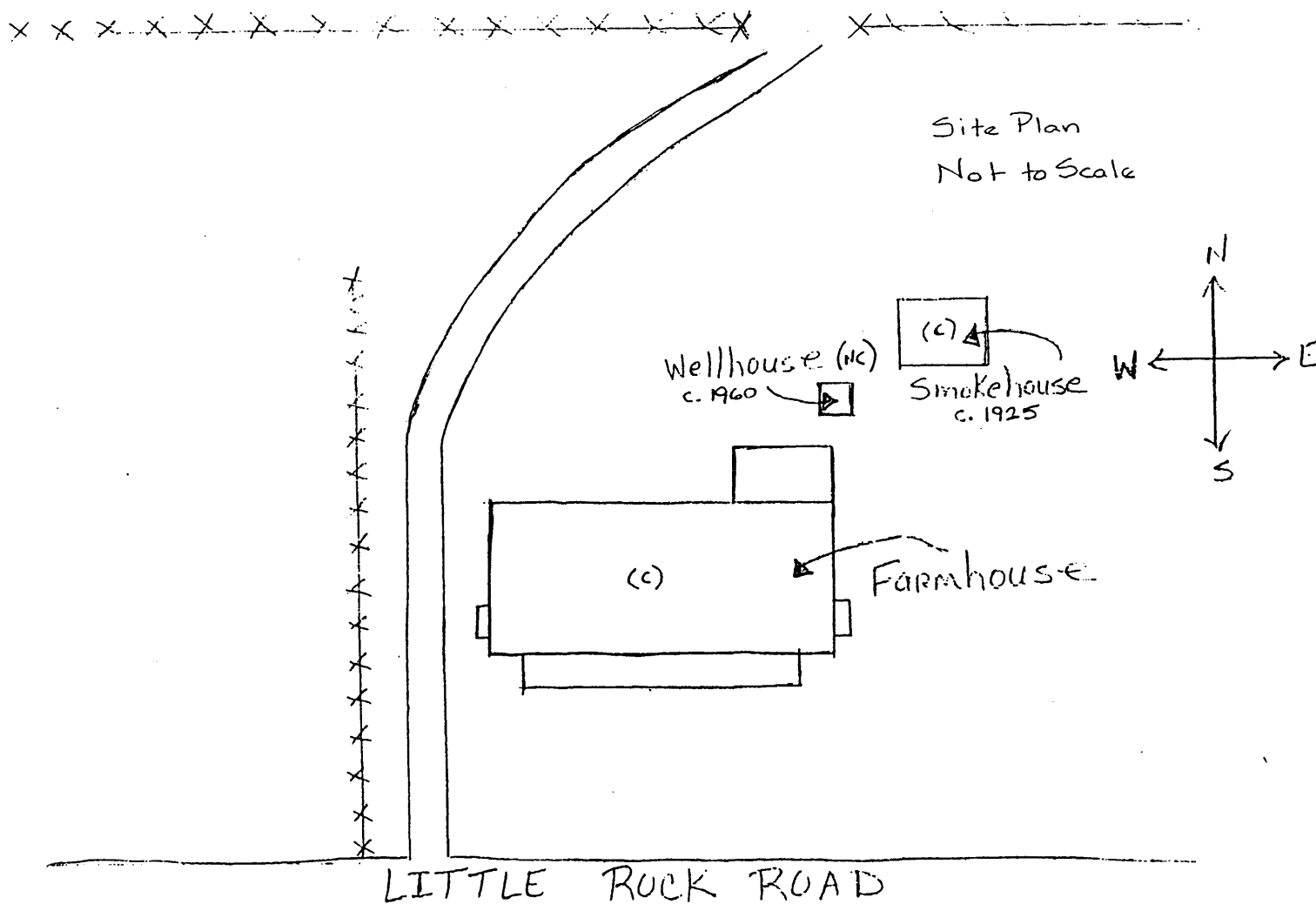
Currently, two outbuildings exist on the nominated property: a well house and a smokehouse. The concrete block well house (NC) was built circa 1960. The smokehouse (C) was constructed circa 1925 and is located slightly behind and to the east of the house. It is a wooden, rectangular building with a metal, front-gable roof facing west and extending over sheds on its north and south sides.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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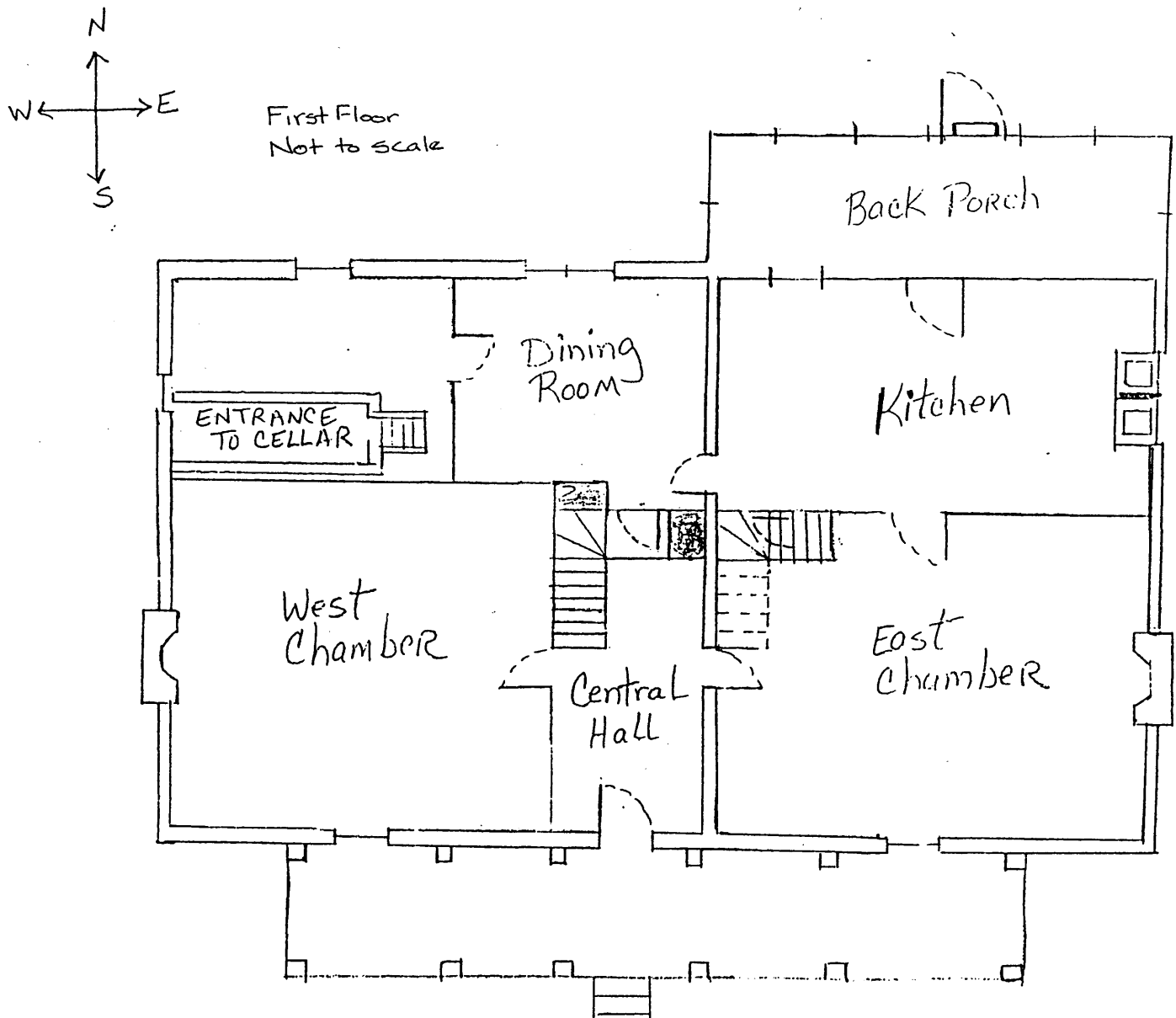
Williamson, Thomas, House  
Rutherford County, TN



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Williamson, Thomas, House  
Rutherford County, TN



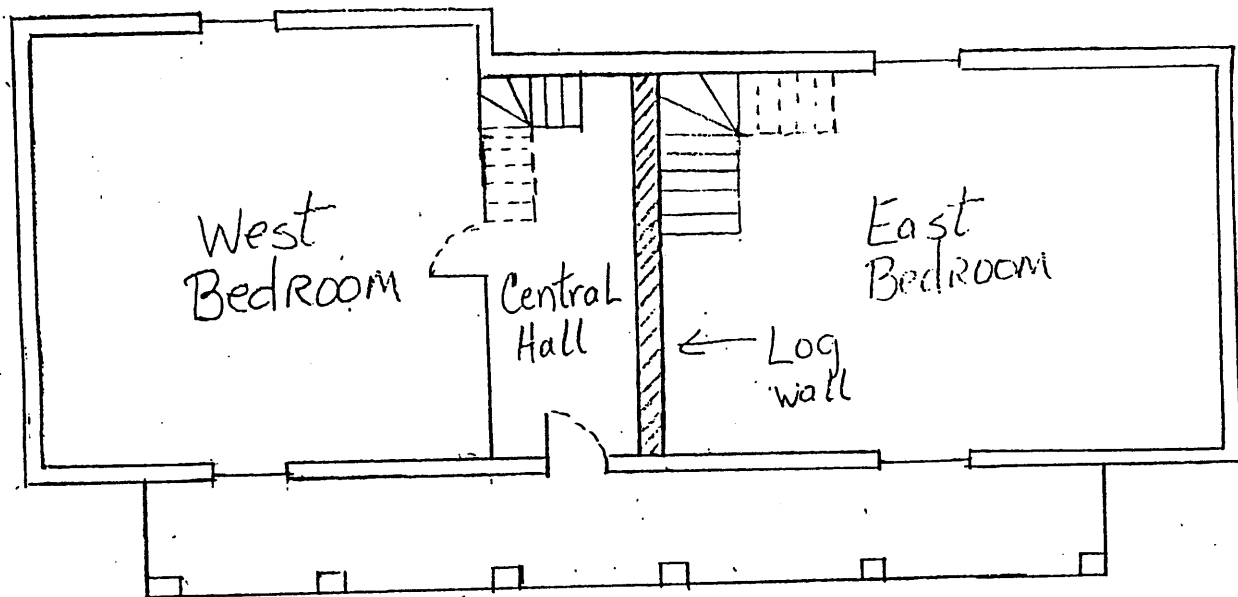
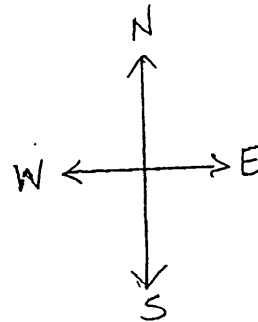
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Williamson, Thomas, House  
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Second Floor  
Not to Scale



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Williamson, Thomas, House, Rutherford Co., TN

## SECTION 8: Statement of Significance

The Thomas Williamson House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a significant local example of vernacular architecture. The house is an example of a two-story, single-pen, log house converted to a central-hall I-house circa 1870. It is significant because it was transformed into a central-hall I-house at a relatively late date for that building form, and yet conforms to almost all of the architectural characteristics associated with the I-house type. It also represents an unusual blending of log and frame construction techniques. The house's exterior is that of an I-house, but the interior shows both the original frontier tradition of log construction and the later style of Victorian domesticity.

Constructed in Middle Tennessee from the 1820s to the 1880s, the I-house type was popular with successful, middle-class farmers wanting to imitate grand plantation manors in the region. Unable to afford the construction of totally new homes, these individuals built additions to existing log houses to create larger and more spacious residences. The appearance of wholly new structures was achieved by sheathing an old house and new addition in weatherboard siding and constructing a front porch or portico.

The I-house, sometimes called the "farmer's mansion," is identified by its exterior gable-end chimneys, three-bay symmetrical facade, and two-story, one-room-deep, two-room-wide floor plan. It is distinguished on the interior by its central hall plan, and the fact that all rooms are accessible through the doors in either the first or second floor hallway. I-houses are also characterized by the addition of a rear ell with a one- or two-story veranda or porch. The construction of rear ells was popular in the mid nineteenth century, and residents frequently added them to older I-houses to form a T- or L-shaped plan. Ells often enclosed an area between the main house and an original detached kitchen. Family dining rooms, modern kitchens, bathrooms, and living quarters first appeared in this wing.

The conversion of the Thomas Williamson House into an I-house form occurred much later than most other I-houses in the area. Most extant examples of I-houses in Middle Tennessee date to the early or mid nineteenth century, whereas the Thomas Williamson House was built circa 1870. The Sam Davis Home (NR 12/23/69), the Dement House (NR 6/26/86), and the Jarman Farmhouse (NR 7/06/87) are some of the more prominent examples of Rutherford County I-houses listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These antebellum

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houses, however, all feature commanding two-story Greek Revival-styled porticoes. This defining architectural trait is also documented in the following previously listed Rutherford County I-houses: Boxwood (NR 10/25/84); Collier-Lane-Crichlow House (NR 8/23/78); Hiram Jenkins House (NR 6/16/89); William B. Jordan Farm (NR 7/13/92); and the Murray Farm (NR 7/31/91). As historian Caneta S. Hankins concluded in Hearthstones: The Story of Rutherford County Homes: "The most common alteration made to the facades of the I-houses is a dominating two-story Greek Revival portico. While Rutherford County has no surviving examples of houses built in the true [temple] Greek Revival style, it has Greek Revival I-houses in abundance, built in both frame and brick." (p. 15) This observation underscores the architectural distinctiveness and significance of the Thomas Williamson House. Built in I-house form after the Civil War, it features Victorian spindlework columns on an almost facade-wide two-story front porch. This gave the house a very "up-to-date" appearance, when first constructed in 1870, compared to the traditional, and by that time dated, Greek Revival porticoes found on the homes of his neighbors.

The second distinctive feature of this dwelling is its unique combination of a two-story log house and later balloon-frame construction to create a traditional (from the exterior at least) Middle Tennessee farmhouse. Early one-story single-pen log houses typically evolved into an I-house form with the addition of log or frame sections. However, there were many different ways in which individuals converted older one-story log dwellings to the I-house form. Some people incorporated older, log structures into the I-house design, while others retained them as rear ells. The Sam Davis Home (NR 12/23/69) and the Dement House (NR 6/26/86) are two examples of I-houses that include an original log structure as a rear ell. In contrast, the Thomas Williamson House exemplifies the practice of using an older, log structure as an integral part of the I-house form. Dating to circa 1830, the house originally consisted of a two-story, single-pen log structure. This building was converted into an I-house circa 1870 when the owner constructed a two-story frame addition onto the original log structure. The entire house was then sheathed with weatherboard siding to give it a more refined appearance. A two-story, front porch and rear ell were also constructed. The transition from log to frame construction is visible in the upstairs hallway where there is no ceiling, and where the roof line of the rear elevation is broken by the different grades of the two sections.

Other significant architectural features of the farmhouse are the wainscoting effect achieved in the first-floor west chamber (parlor), the exposed, hewn cedar logs in the second-floor

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central hall, and the entirely unique (if not just odd) presence of an interior cellar. No door exists between the east bedroom and the upstairs hallway because the log wall of the original two-story, single-pen log house divides these two spaces. The upstairs bedrooms are only reached by using separate stairways. The fact that no door was ever cut in the log wall to allow convenient passage between the two upstairs bedrooms is representative of how the house was divided into male and female spheres. According to Burns family members, the girls slept in the east bedroom, which was slightly smaller, and the boys slept in the west bedroom.

The front porch with its decorative spindle work and beaded board ceiling is typical of architectural changes made in the mid- to late-nineteenth century. Porches were added to the austere facades of houses to add distinction and provide ventilation as an extension of the hallways. Millwork, brackets, and Italianate arches were among the more lavish architectural details used in porch decoration. The almost full-length, two-story porch is also significant because most extant I-houses in Middle Tennessee possess more traditional two-story, center porticos.

The circa 1945 shed addition gave the house a more rectangular configuration. It contained a kitchen on the northeast corner, a dining room in the center, and a third room on the northwest corner, built around an existing cellar. The cellar was built a short distance from the house in 1937 and was originally accessed from the breezeway of the old ell addition. It became a unique part of the house with the construction of the new shed addition circa 1945 and remains one of the architecturally significant aspects of the Thomas Williamson House.

The Thomas Williamson House has remained in one family since the 1870s. It was sold or passed down through the women in the family to the current owner, Ivie Phillip Burns, II. Thomas S. Williamson owned the property in the mid-1870s. After his death in June 1875, Rutherford County Chancery Court divided the property among Williamson's widow, Jane M. Williamson, and their four children. In the settlement of the estate, Mrs. Williamson received a dower of 130 acres. According to the D.G. Beers 1878 map of Rutherford County, the property also included a house. The map also notes that Mrs. Williamson was known for "farming and growing of fine stock." Ivie Phillip Burns II, a descendant of Mrs. Williamson and the property's current owner, said the Williamsons grew hay, corn, and tobacco and kept a few dairy cattle on the farm until the middle of the twentieth century. After Mrs. Williamson's death in May 1903, three of the children sold their shares in the



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dower to the fourth child, Martha Emma Love, and her husband, James T. Love. In that same year, the Loves sold a portion of the property to their daughter, Effie, and her husband, David Crockett Ralston. David Ralston lived in the Thomas Williamson House until his death in 1950.

According to Charles Ivie Burns, Ralston's grandson, the old ell extended from the northeast corner of the house. The construction date of the ell addition is unknown. The ell contained a roofed but unenclosed breezeway, a dining room, and a kitchen with a side porch on the east elevation. The ell was torn down shortly after Charles Burns's two uncles, Clifford and Buford Ralston, returned home from World War II in 1945. At that time, the house's existing one-story shed addition was built along the entire length of the north (rear) facade, repairs were made to the two-story front porch, and the house was wired for electricity.

One of the Ralston's sons, Clifford, purchased the farm from the other Ralston heirs in 1961. After Clifford's death in 1978, the property remained vacant for a number of years and went into decline. It was divided into three tracts in November 1992 and sold at public auction. It was at this time that the current owner acquired the house and the surrounding 40 acres.

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## 10. Geographical Data:

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Williamson House consists of the farmhouse and immediate domestic area within the fence, including front, back, and side yards, and two outbuildings: a smokehouse (C) and well house (NC) as identified in the marked portion of Parcel 34 on the attached Rutherford County Tax Map 140.

The Tax Map for this nomination has the scale of 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' scale adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

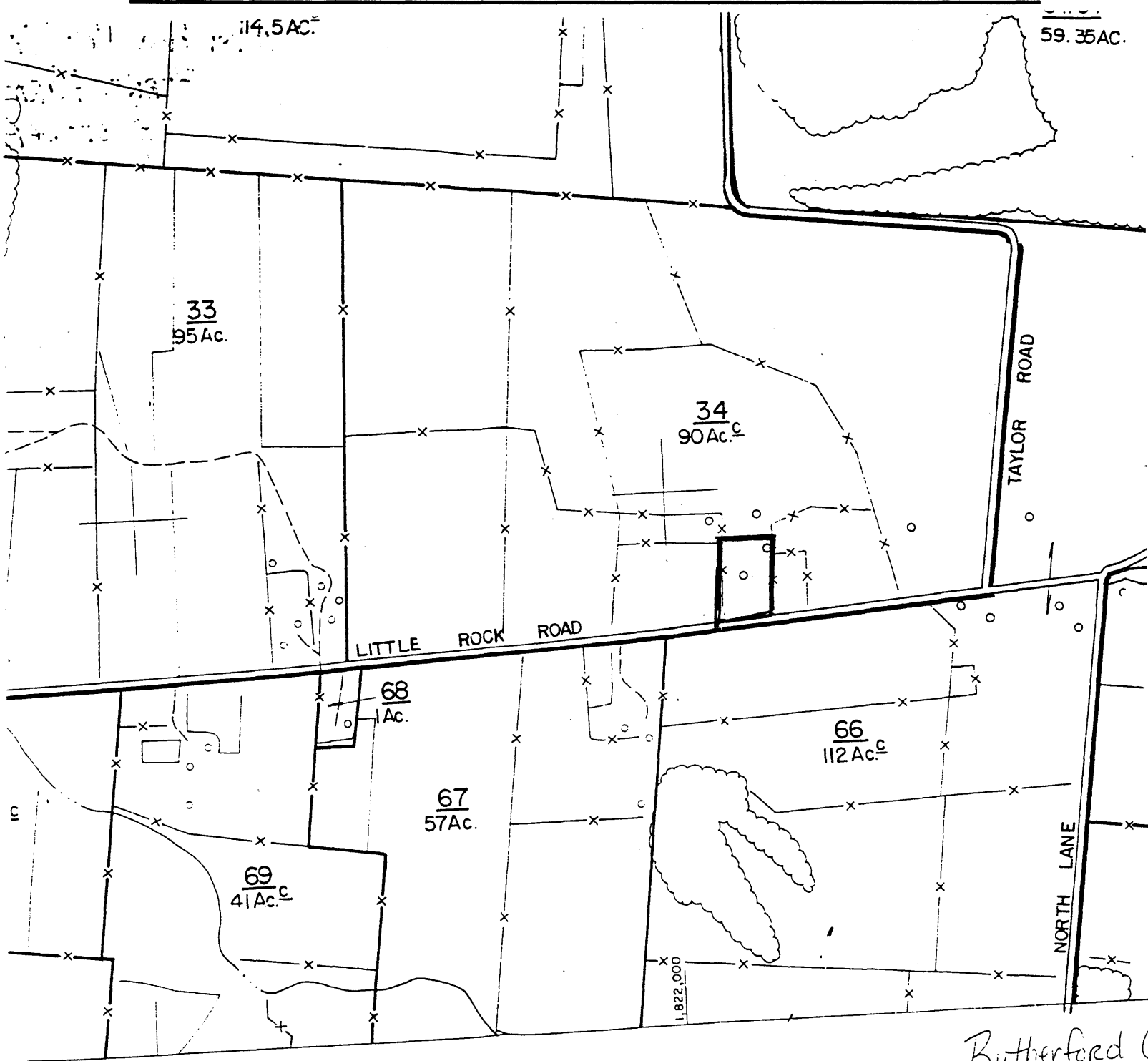
The boundaries of the nominated property include buildings that contribute to the significance of the property and includes sufficient property for the protection of the historic character of the farmhouse and its outbuildings.

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Rutherford C

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Williamson, Thomas, House  
Rutherford Co., TN

Photos by: Carroll Van West  
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: August 1993

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37243

South (front) facade, facing north  
1 of 20

South facade, detail of porch, facing north  
2 of 20

East elevation, facing northwest  
3 of 20

North elevation, facing south  
4 of 20

West elevation, facing southeast  
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Central hall, first floor, facing north  
6 of 20

West parlor, first floor, facing west  
7 of 20

East parlor (log section), first floor, facing east  
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East parlor (log section), first floor, facing northwest  
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Kitchen, first floor, facing east  
10 of 20

Kitchen, first floor, facing west  
11 of 20

Dining Room, first floor, facing south  
12 of 20

Dining room, first floor, facing north  
13 of 20

Cellar room, first floor, facing west  
14 of 20

Central hall staircase, from second floor, facing west  
15 of 20

East bedroom (log section), facing west  
16 of 20

Log wall, central hall, second floor, facing east  
17 of 20

West bedroom, second floor, facing west  
18 of 20

Well house and rear view of house, facing southwest  
19 of 20

Smokehouse, facing east  
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