United States Department of	the Interior		RECEIVE
National Park Service		A LANDA & LANDA	NEGENVE
National Register	r of Historic Places I	Registration Form	MAR 2 8 2019
1. Name of Property			Natil. Reg. of Historic Plac
Historic name The	ompson Creek Rural Historic I	District	National Park Service
Other names/site number			
Name of related multiple property listing		ources of Bedford County, 7	Cennessee, 1805-1969
2. Location			
Street & Number:	Along sections of U.S. High Thompson Creek Road, Sho Road.		
City or town: Wart	trace State:	TN Count	y: Bedford
Not For Publication:	N/A Vicinity: N/A]	Zip:37183
3. State/Federal Agency	Certification		
I hereby certify that this Xn registering properties in the set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.	.1	nination of eligibility meets the aces and meets the procedural	and professional requirement
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Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Name of Property

Bedford County, Tennessee County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Ventered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

_determined not eligible for the National Register

_removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

5.8.2019

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

tegory of Property	
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Category	of Pr	oper	ty
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Check as many boxes as apply	Che	eck	as	many	boxes	as	app	ly.
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(Check	only	one	box.))

Private	
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Building(s)	
District	x
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
74	64	buildings
51	10	sites
43	4	structures
0	0	objects
168	78	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 6

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions	Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling, Secondary	DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling, Secondary
Structure	Structure
RELIGION/ Religious Facility	RELIGION/ Religious Facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Processing, Storage, Agricultural Field, Animal Facility,	AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE /Processing, Storage, Agricultural Field, Animal Facility,
Agricultural Outbuilding	Agricultural Outbuilding
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	
MID-19 TH CENTURY/ Greek Revival, Italianate	
LATE VICTORIAN	
LATE 19 TH AND EARLY 20 TH CENTURY MOVEMENTS/	Bungalow

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property:

WOOD/Log, Weatherboard, BRICK STONE/Limestone, CONCRETE

Narrative Description

Summary

The Thompson Creek Rural Historic District is an intact rural agricultural area located four miles southeast of Shelbyville in Bedford County, Tennessee. Settled in the early 1800s, the area is composed of both rich agricultural lands along the Duck River and its tributaries, as well as upland hills and ridges. Many of the early settlers were German Lutherans, and their heritage is reflected in the religious buildings and cemeteries that remain. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the area was composed of numerous farmsteads producing corn, hay, wheat, and livestock. These prosperous farms enabled the owners to build substantial dwellings along with many domestic and agricultural outbuildings on their properties. The rural character of the historic district remains evident not only through the cultivated fields and woodlands, but also through the presence of historic roadbeds, stone walls, and other landscape features. Many of the farmsteads remain in the possession of the descendants of original nineteenth-century families that settled the area. Within the 3,765-acre historic district are 249 buildings, structures, and sites of which 175, or 70.3%, are considered contributing to the character of the district. The district meets the registration requirements of the Multiple Property Listing *Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969.*¹

¹ Andra Kowalczyk Martens and Phil Thomason, *Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969.* Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 2018.

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Narrative Description - Introduction

Bedford County is located in Middle Tennessee, approximately sixty miles south of the state capitol of Nashville. Bedford County is bounded by Rutherford County on the north, Coffee County on the east, Moore and Lincoln Counties on the south, and Marshall County on the west. The county's terrain is varied. Approximately two-thirds of the county is in the Central Basin, consisting of flat plains in the northern and western portions where elevations range from 600 to 850 feet above sea level. The remaining eastern and southern portions of the county rise to elevations of 900 to 1,200 feet in the steep hills of the Highland Rim. The Duck River flows from east to west through the center of the county and is imbued with native limestone minerals. Numerous tributaries, including Thompson Creek and Garrison Fork, contribute to the natural watering system of the county. The river bottoms provide rich soil for pasture and crops. These topographical and geological characteristics greatly influenced the county's settlement patterns and agricultural practices, which provided its economic basis from the nineteenth century into the late twentieth century. Today, Bedford County is not only known around the world as the center of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, but it is also one of the state's leading counties in cattle production.

Thompson Creek flows through the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District from south to north, emptying into the Duck River. Upstream from their confluence, Garrison Fork flows from the north into the Duck. The region along Thompson Creek from the old Midway community to the Duck River is one of the most productive farming districts in Bedford County. Pioneers homesteaded in this area in the early nineteenth century even before the establishment of Bedford County, and many of the tracts are still owned by descendants of the original settlers. Only one (the Elrie Brinkley Farm), however, is formally listed as a Tennessee Century Farm, a Tennessee designation for farms in continuous production by a single family line for a century or more. The primary road access to the district is by U. S. Highway 41-A (State Route 16), which runs northwest-southeast through the middle of the district. Completed in 1942, this highway connects the Bedford County seat of Shelbyville with Tullahoma in Coffee County. The Thompson Creek Rural Historic District is located halfway between the two cities.

Landscape Character

Landscape Character - Soils and Crops

The rural historic district encompasses three distinct ecosystems. Parcels along the Duck River and Thompson Creek are fertile bottom lands, generally cleared except for riparian buffer zones and placed in pasture or row crops. Rising from the streams are terrace lands and rolling plains, with relatively good soil best suited for pasturage. The hilltops are less fertile and more difficult to farm, and are largely covered in native timber. Most of the lands within the rural historic district are in the lower range, along the streams and first terraces.

The most common soils in the district are predominantly from the Harpeth group, though the Talbott, Mimosa-Ashwood, Bradyville, and Barfield groups are also represented. Some of these soils are silty loams rich in organic matter and phosphate, providing for very fertile growing conditions; they are likewise generally rich in calcium derived from the underlying limestone. The richest (and geologically most recent) soils in the district are the colluvial ones that occur on first bottoms or flood plains. Except for hill lands and ridgetops, where the soil is often thin, most of the soil is between 30 and 36 inches deep, underlain by

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sediments or limestone residium. The actual topsoil ranges from 6" to 8" in depth, and deeper on bottom lands. Soils on the highest terrain are underlain by sandstone capstone.²

Thickness of the soils in the area is caused by a number of factors, including the resistance of the underlying material to weathering, the volume of residue after such weathering, and the surface erosion rate. In general, the prime topsoil is fairly thick on the lowlands and gentle slopes, while the richer alluvial soils are those in the creek and river bottoms.

The rich lands along the Duck River and Thompson Creek attracted interest soon after the area was opened to legal settlement in 1806, and a number of farms were established even before Bedford County was organized a year later. The settlers moved onto the tracts, built log dwellings and began clearing the land for agricultural production. Most early farms were highly diversified with an aim towards self-sufficiency, but larger farms produced enough for sale or barter.

From early years, farmers concentrated on raising livestock. The soils of the Central Basin (accounting for the river bottoms and first terraces in the area) were part of the great bluegrass belt, and this native grass grew abundantly across half the county. By the late nineteenth century, much of the native grasses had been replaced with introduced grasses such as herds-grass or timothy, which flourished in the rich and well-watered bottoms; in some places it was reported that timothy would grow as high as a man's head.³ Dairy farms were once common, but today the bulk of stock production is the raising of young steers to be sold at markets and sent to western feedlots for finishing.

Other early crops included corn and wheat, and several mills were established in the district for processing these grains into flour and meal. Tobacco production became important in the 1920s and provided a viable cash crop for small landowners and supplemental income for larger landowners. With the decline in subsidies and the recent buyout program, tobacco is no longer grown in quantity in the area. Many parcels were left in timber and cut from time to time, the hardwoods being used for sawtimber and the cedar being cut for shingles, fence rails, and, later, for the manufacture of pencils.⁴ At least two sawmills operated in the district.

Much of the land in the district remains in agricultural production, as it has been since the first decade of the nineteenth century. Most farms have the majority of their fields in pasture, with only isolated plots devoted to row crops. Most pasture land is non-native grasses that displaced the original cover, but some farmers are restoring native grasses.

Many current divisions of the landscape are still defined by the property boundaries of the original large farms. Old property lines and dry-laid stone walls, frequently overgrown with shrubs and trees, remain a visible historic part of the landscape. Sunken roads, streams, and watersheds form other divisions of fields and farms.

² U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, accessed March 10, 2018, http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov.

³ J. B. Killebrew and J. M. Safford, *Introduction to the Resources of Tennessee* (Nashville: Tavel, Eastman & Howell, 1874), 628-29.

⁴ The native "cedar" of the region, Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is actually a juniper.

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Farm fields and pastures of all types range in size from five or ten acres to more than 200 acres. These ranges were true both for historic and present day fields, but the average size of some fields is larger today than in historic times, mainly to accommodate larger farm equipment. Recently, a number of fields formerly planted in row crops have been placed in the Conservation Reserve program of the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Other conservation-minded practices include fencing off cattle from the river and streams, leaving lands in filter strips, and consideration of placing lands under wetland easements.

Livestock production has always been important in the district. In the nineteenth century, cattle, mules, horses, hogs, goats, and sheep were all raised in the district. Swine were raised on many farms, as attested by the numerous smokehouses, but none are raised in the district today. Bedford County is known around the world as the "Cradle of the Tennessee Walking Horse," and several farms feature a few horses. However, beef cattle make up the overwhelming majority of the livestock.

The historic landscape was composed of large farms occupying the bottom lands and terraces along the river and Thompson Creek, with no significant inholdings or smaller farms. A few of the farms have been subdivided, but the majority of their land was transferred to adjacent farms. Only a relatively small number of smaller lots have been parceled off. With only minor exceptions, such as wire fencing replacing old rail fences and stone walls, and modern haysheds taking the role of older stock barns, the district still presents much the same appearance it had in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Landscape Character - Woodlands

When the first settlers arrived, the area was covered in an unbroken Mesophytic forest, though thick canebrakes covered the floodplains along the river and the creeks. The forest was predominantly hardwoods, with ash, sugar maple, tuliptree (locally called "tulip poplar," the state tree of Tennessee), chestnut, and beech predominating, but also including shagbark hickory, elms, black gum, and several oaks in abundance. Understory trees included dogwoods, redbuds, and boxelders. Sycamores were common along streams and in wet areas. While this part of Bedford County is not a part of the vast cedar glade region found to the west of Shelbyville, Eastern redcedar is fairly common on thinner soils.

With the arrival of permanent settlers, the forest lands were quickly reduced in size, and the former woodlands were put into agricultural production. With new homes and barns going up, there was a considerable demand for lumber for framing, shingles, doors, trim, and siding. Other trees were felled to make furniture, carriages and wagons, and for other uses. Isolated woodlots were retained for firewood, or because some hilltops and ravines were unsuited for agriculture. Today, there are more woodlands than in the early part of the twentieth century. Some fields have been abandoned to woods, farmers have placed some land in the Conservation Reserve Program, and some areas along streams have been set aside as riparian buffer zones. More steep areas and hilltops are covered today, as mechanized equipment cannot operate on such steep slopes as could draft animals with hillside plows. Some timber is harvested, mostly as selective cuts.

Redcedar was generally used for shingles, pole construction and fence rails; later, with the establishment of pencil factories in the early twentieth century at Shelbyville and Lewisburg, it became an even more valuable commodity. Yellow poplar was the most frequently used lumber because of its weight and easy workability. It found general use in framing, flooring, trim work, meat salting troughs, and was also the major secondary wood in furniture making. Many log houses and dependencies are constructed from this prized tree. Ash was also used for flooring as well as for tool handles. Most barns are built of white oak on frames of black locust

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or cedar poles. Orchards were common to many of the farms. Apples, peaches, plums, and pears were all being grown in the nineteenth century. People in the district also gathered wild fruit and nuts, including hickories, walnuts, pawpaws, and persimmons.

Landscape Character - River and Streams

This section of Bedford County is a well-watered region, and the strong perennial streams of the area helped define the historic setting. Most early farms were located along water sources: Duck River, Thompson Creek, or smaller unnamed tributaries, or at least by one of the strong freestone springs feeding the aforementioned streams. The Duck River was used for commerce and trade, transportation, milling, and baptisms. Thompson Creek also supported mills, and these streams and smaller branches were used for watering livestock and gardens, for fishing and trapping, and for other miscellaneous uses. The greatest importance of the streams was that the rich silt carried down them over millennia which built up the productive bottomland soils.

Thompson Creek

Flowing through the center of the district, Thompson Creek is a perennial tributary of the Duck River. This stream rises on the Bedford-Moore county line about three miles west of Tullahoma, and flows generally north and northwest through the old community of Raus before entering the historic district about three or four miles below its headwaters. Anthony Creek, its largest tributary, joins it at this point. It then continues north next to Shofner Lutheran Church and Cemetery (NR Listed) on its western bank and under U.S. Highway 41-A (SR 16) before turning northwest and then west for its final mile. It joins the Duck River just below Hooser Bend at the latter's River Mile 237.8.

Two mills were located on Thompson Creek. Near the point at which the creek enters the district was Anthony's Mill, which survives (#13.1). This mill received water from a race diverted from the mill upstream. Two miles further downstream was Sharp's Mill between the current Ayers and Fred Shofner farms. This was a steam sawmill in the early twentieth century, but no remains are visible. The creek was also used for watering livestock and other agricultural purposes. It also provided water for two distilleries; early settler Martin Shofner had a distillery near the present Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery, and the historic Hornaday- Brinkley Distillery, which operated in the years before Prohibition, was located near Anthony's Mill.

Thompson Creek is crossed by three bridges in the historic district. The uppermost is the Cathey Road Bridge, a simple concrete girder span. U. S. Highway 41-A (SR 16) crosses on a much larger concrete girder deck bridge (#26.1 and Bedford County Survey Resource BD-705). The final crossing is the Normandy Road Bridge, another simple concrete span. In addition to the bridges, a number of historic fords once crossed the creek.

Duck River

The longest river entirely within the state of Tennessee, the Duck River forms parts of the historic district's northern and western boundaries.⁵ It enters the district from the east at River Mile 242, just below the mouth

⁵ The entire district is located within one of the river's watershed units, the Upper Duck River Watershed, U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code 060400002.

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of Shipmans Creek, and exits the district at River Mile 237.5, just below the mouth of Thompson's Creek. It is crossed by one bridge in the district, the Three Forks Bridge, though there were fords crossing the river in early years.

The Duck River drains virtually all of Bedford County, and all perennial streams in the county flow into it. It is not navigable by larger craft, though historically it was used for transport of goods in pirogues, bateaux, and flatboats. Large amounts of timber were rafted downriver during annual spring rises called freshets. The current is moderate to swift, depending on rainfall and water levels. Along the district border, the northern bank tends to be higher, with rock cliffs bordering the river in places; the south bank tends to be low, bottom lands.

Major floods occur fairly often, though since the completion of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Normandy Dam twenty miles upstream, they are less severe than they were in the historic period. The Duck often floods, inundating many of the fields and bottoms along the river. The annual spring freshets were fairly predictable and were depended upon for rafting timber or launching large flatboats and other commercial craft. The recurring floods on the river have contributed to the economy of the area. When the muddy floodwaters cover the fields and bottomlands, they drop enormous amounts of sediment washed from upstream, adding to the fertility of the soil.

Mills were common along the river, and on the northern edge of the district three mills were located at the Three Forks, where the Garrison Fork of the Duck on the opposite bank joins the main stem of the river (once called the Barren Fork).

Today the Duck River is a pastoral stream, navigated in the area of the district mostly by paddle craft and small fishing boats. The stream is known throughout the state for its beauty, and recognized nationally for its biological diversity. The Duck River contains more species of fish, mussels, and geniculate snails than any river in North America.⁶

Landscape Character - Hills and Uplands

The district is located at the juncture of two of Tennessee's physiographic regions, the Eastern Highland Rim and the Central (or Nashville) Basin. The hills and uplands in the district are part of the Highland Rim; the Duck River and Thompson Creek bottoms are part of the Basin. The highest points in the district are on a ridge extending north from Daniel Hill. These points reach 1140 feet in elevation. The lowest point in the district is where the Duck River leaves the district boundaries, at an elevation of approximately 750 feet. The higher hills are to the east of Thompson Creek, though a series of hills to the west are nearly as high, reaching 1120 feet in elevation. Daniel Hill is the only formally named upland in the district.

Built Environment - Dwellings, Domestic Buildings, Agricultural Buildings, Structures and Sites

The district contains a wide variety of buildings, structures, and sites constructed from the early nineteenth century to the present. These include dwellings ranging from single-pen log cabins to one of the most

⁶ The Nature Conservancy, "Tennessee's Duck River," accessed July 12, 2018,

https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/tennessee/placesweprotect/duck-river.xml.

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imposing examples of Greek Revival architecture in the southern Middle Tennessee region, agricultural buildings ranging from small smokehouses and sheds to large stock barns, and miscellaneous structures such as bridges, old roadbeds, stone fences, and cemeteries.

Two properties in the district are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Shofner's Lutheran Church and Cemetery [#25.1], was listed in July of 1998. The Absalom Lowe Landis House, also called "Beech Hall," [#37.1] was listed in June of 1987.

Built Environment - Residential Properties

Historic residential buildings in the district date from the initial settlement of the first decade of the nineteenth century to Bungalow form houses from the years preceding World War II. The earliest houses tended to be small, with larger residences later displaying the wealth achieved from economic prosperity in the fertile Thompson Creek valley. Most structures are vernacular, with only a few homes reflecting formal styles of architecture.

Most of the early buildings and structures in the district were of log construction. In most cases they are simple single- or double-pen structures with exposed logs with half dovetail notching. The best surviving example is a single-pen log dwelling on the Shofner-Doochin Farm [#10.10] likely built as the first residence on the property. Another single-pen log structure on the old Martin Shofner tract [#27.4] likely dates from the early period of settlement and may have been the original Martin Shofner residence.

By the 1850s, water-powered sawmills were present in the region, and most subsequent houses built were of frame construction. Early settler Martin Euliss's second house was an L-shaped frame structure built of native poplar and stood west of Thompson's Creek; it burned in 1948 but the foundation [#33.1] survives.

Many structures in the district date from the period after the Civil War. The most prominent example is the imposing Greek Revival-style dwelling of Major Absalom Lowe Landis also known as Beech Hall [#37.1, NR Listed June 25, 1987]. In 1869 and 1870, Landis hired a number of German-American carpenters to construct a large residence on a prominent hill east of Thompson Creek. Beech Hall was named for a number of grand beech trees on the hilltop. The dwelling is a late example of the Greek Revival style, which was popular among antebellum Tennessee planters, and it also has transitional elements from the Italianate style that emerged during the post-war period. The house has two large double-height pedimented porticos supported by Corinthian columns on the two principal facades, but also delicate sawn millwork on the cantilevered balconies, console brackets, and dentillated cornices indicative of the Italianate style.

Several other houses were constructed in this period in the district. In the district is a ca. 1870 frame dwelling [#1.1] on the William S. and Nelle Lacy Russell Tract. This was the original home of George F. Slater. The house plan is rectangular with a central hall passage originally flanked by chimneys (since removed). The central entrance retains an original single-light, glass and wood door flanked by engaged columns. In 1880, George Kimbro constructed a cross-gable plan farmhouse with characteristic Victorian features [#41.1] on the Three Forks Bridge Road. The house as originally built had simple Victorian-era details such as an integral three-quarter length porch supported by chamfered wood columns, gable returns, and corbelled brick chimneys. The house was extensively remodeled in 1929 in the popular Craftsman style.

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Another frame house with similar Victorian era design characteristics is located on the "Aunt Bet"/Samuel Wright Ayers farm off Bill Russell Road. The ca. 1890 farmhouse [#9.1] is a one-and-one-half-story, doublepen plan house with a rear ell. Detailing includes sawtooth work around the porch, chamfered porch posts, corner pilasters, and a corbelled brick chimney. A ca. 1875 dwelling [#3.1], is located at the Susan and Tom Fuss Tract, also on Bill Russell Road. The property was also in the Ayers family at the time of construction. The gabled-ell form house retains its original stone chimney and pressed-tin roof. Also from ca. 1890, the Joseph T. Shofner House house [#40.1] is an imposing two story, gabled-ell plan dwelling with Queen Anne influences. It has a partial-width porch, eave brackets, and tall double-hung sash windows with projecting cornices.

Other Victorian-era houses were once located in the district, but are no longer extant. On the former Martin Shofner "Green Hills" tract are the foundations of an 1870s Shofner house [#27.2], which burned in the summer of 1985. This was a one-and-one-half-story, cross-gable plan house with Gothic Revival details including a bay window on the facade, lancet windows, eave vergeboard, and a partial-width porch supported by milled porch columns. On the Shofner-Doochin Farm are foundation ruins [#10.2] from what was likely an even larger house; the arrangement shows this house, too, had a projecting bay on the main façade.

Approximately half of the residential structures in the district date from the first half of the twentieth century. These are both vernacular structures as well as reflecting the Craftsman style, which was popular during this period. Two of the houses clearly influenced by the Craftsman style were constructed by the Hornaday family that was connected with the original German settlers of the area. Both the Wayde Hornaday house [#36.1] and the William Hornaday house [#29.1] are one-and- one-half-story, frame dwellings featuring pronounced center gable dormers on the upper floor, integrated shed porches supported by battered wooden posts set on brick piers, double-hung sash windows with multiple vertical lights set over single-light lower sashes, and eaves supported by knee braces, all features characteristic of a Craftsman-influenced bungalow. The two houses are quite similar and may have been erected by the same builder.

The ca. 1910 William/Lee Russell house [#5.1] on Russell Road is of similar design, with a center gable dormer, integral shed roof porch, and eaves supported by knee brace brackets. The ca. 1890 George Kimbro house [#41.1] on Three Forks Bridge Road was remodeled in 1929 with Bungalow features including a gable dormer at the roofline, an integral shed roof porch, and eaves supported by knee brace brackets. The smaller George Hill house [#39.1] has similar design features.

Built Environment – Domestic Support Properties

A wide variety of outbuildings and other dependencies are found in the district. These range from tenant houses to workshops, privies, sheds, well houses and springhouses to more modern structures such as garages and meet the registration requirements established in the Multiple Property Documentation form *Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969.*

Slave Quarters and Servant Houses

Slaves provided labor on a few of the larger farms during the antebellum period. No structures known to have been slave housing survive, though the locations of the row of slave quarters on the Martin Euless farm

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[#33] and the Kimbro-Jacobson Farm [#41] are known today. The dependency on the Absalom Landis "Beech Hall" farmstead [#37.2] was evidently built for house servants, however it burned in 2016.

Tenant Houses

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, several houses in the district were built for farm workers. These were typically modest frame structures of simple construction. Most of these were built for hired tenants who helped work the land, but at least one was constructed for a former slave, "Uncle Zach" [#33.4]. This building is no longer extant. Surviving examples of tenant houses include simple double-pen plan, two-room houses on the Carolyn Brinkley Connor/Bryce Brinkley Tract [#13.8] and the Bryce Brinkley Tract [#13.5], a two-room, saddlebag plan dwelling on the Martin King Shofner/D. B. McClain "Daybreak Farm" tract [#28.1], and a four-room, pyramid square-plan house with a tall hipped roof [#27.10] on the Martin Shofner/William Emory Shofner "Green Hills Farm" tract. These types of frame dwellings were generally built with stone foundations, exteriors of weatherboard or board and batten siding, and with interior brick flues or chimneys.

Spring Houses, Well Houses and Water Systems

Before city water was extended to the region, farms were generally dependent on springs. Many farms had spring houses constructed over their water sources. The structures would keep animals from spoiling the springs and were also used to keep butter and other produce cooled. Most spring houses were stone-lined or had concrete runnels, often damming up the flow to keep a shallow cooled pool in which crocks could be kept cool. In the district, these tended to be small, simple structures. Good examples can be found on the concrete structure on the Fred Shofner Farm [#40.12] and the frame example on the Kimbro-Jacobson Farm [#41.5].

In the district there are examples of nineteenth century spring houses with stone bases and remnant material of frame superstructures, as at the Williams Oscar Jenkins Farm [#32.2] and the William Hornaday Farm [#29.6]. Stone walls surrounding a spring on the Martin Shofner/"Daybreak Farm" tract [#28.4] probably supported another springhouse. Where there was no convenient spring, wells were sometimes dug or drilled. These may have been topped with a simple pump. On the Russell Farm, an attractive wooden lattice-clad well house sits atop the well [#5.2]. There is an in-ground cistern behind a tenant house at the Carolyn Brinkley Connor Farm [#13.10] and a deep, stone-lined well at the Shofner Doochin Tract on Shofner Road [#35.2].

The most interesting related resource is the remnants of a hydraulic ram water system on the Martin Shofner/"Green Hills Farm"/William Emory Shofner tract. This water system drew water from the "Blowing Spring" and pumped it uphill to the farmhouse and the barn on the farm. The ram itself is gone, but footings remain from the foundations [#27.1].

Root Cellars

Farm families stored food in subterranean root cellars, generally dug into a bank or hillside near the main house. Being insulated from outside heat or cold, temperatures in such cellars generally averaged in the 50°s, not cold enough to store meats or dairy goods, but suitable for keeping home-canned goods and some vegetables. Remnants of one can be found on the "Aunt Bet"/Sam Ayers Farm [#9.2]. A ca. 1910 concrete

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"potato house" that served a similar function is located on the Fred Shofner Farm [#40.11].

Garages

Within the historic district there are few examples of early garages. Most garages tend to be mid- or latetwentieth century structures. Garages within the period of significance can be found on the William Hornaday farm [#29.2 and #29.4], the Fred Shofner Farm [#40.2] and the Russell Farm [#5.5]. Early garages from this period are typically of frame construction with gable roofs and exteriors of weatherboard or board and batten siding. By the mid-twentieth century garages were often built of concrete block and with hinged double doors or overhead track doors.

Other Dependencies

A variety of other dependencies were constructed around the farms including privies, workshops, and sheds for miscellaneous purposes. Most of the surviving miscellaneous structures are small sheds constructed for a variety of purposes.

Built Environment - Agricultural Properties

The district contains a wide collection of resources related to agricultural production, ranging from small sheds and corncribs to large three-and-four tiered barns. Structures include barns constructed for specific uses, corn cribs, hay sheds, chicken houses, smokehouses, granaries, and other specialized structures.

Barns, Livestock and Hay

Crib Barns

The earliest barns were constructed from or around log cribs or pens. These are generally one-story cribs or pens, rectangular in plan and with framed roofs above.⁷ Three examples survive in the district; a single-pen log crib joined to a later frame granary and with a shared roof on the Shofner-Doochin Farm [#10.11]; a double-pen crib barn with a central runway on the Martin Shofner Farm (original farm)/D. B. McClain Farm/Martin King Shofner Farm "Daybreak Farm" [#28.3], and a substantial four-crib barn, the four corner cribs serving as the base for a two-and-one-half-tier stock barn, on the Russell Farm [#5.7]. These log crib or log pen barns are of hewn logs with half-dovetail or "V" notching. These types of barns were typically later incorporated into larger structures when the availability of sawn lumber in the late nineteenth century allowed for the expansion or additions to existing barns.

Stock Barns

Most of the barns in the district were generalized stock barns. They were usually constructed to feed and house cattle, but in some cases provided stalls for horses or mules as well. The typical stock barn of the area had a platform above the ground floor to which corn or feed would be lifted. Many of the earliest barns have

⁷ Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book, A Field Guide to North American Barns & Other Farm Structures*, (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2004), 20.

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projecting roof sections at the peak called "bonnets;" at this point, a hoisting hook attached to a metal track at the roofline could lift hay from wagons, then it could be pulled down the track into the barn for storage. Later, baled hay was often lifted on conveyors powered by tractors. Once stored, the hay and feed would then be pushed or shoveled through holes into feeding racks on the bottom floor. Larger barns would have central passages or "runways" and side passages for wagons or carts known as "drive-through" wings. Some have corncribs built into one side or another. Often, side sheds or other additions provided additional space for various needs. Some barns are constructed of heavy timbers joined with wooden pegs; others are of lighter unhewn wood or "pole" construction with the outside cladding of vertical board, weatherboard, or board and batten.⁸

Some of the barns are relatively small, such as a ca. 1890 barn with four stable stalls and a crib on the "Aunt Bet"/Samuel Wright Ayers Farm [#9.3] and a small pole barn with side drive-throughs on the Kimbro-Jacobson Farm [#41.2]. Somewhat larger stock barns include a three-tiered pole barn with vertical cladding and a gambrel roof on the George Hill place [#39.5], the two-and-one-half-tiered pole barn on the William Hornaday Farm [#29.3], and a central passage three-tiered pole barn on the Absalom Landis/"Beech Hall" tract [#37.3].

Three barns in the district are of considerable size. A ca. 1920 three-tiered barn on the Russell Farm [#5.6] is of pole frame construction clad in vertical siding and features side drive-throughs. A large cedar and locust-pole frame barn remains on the Martin Shofner/"Storybook Farm" tract [#11.2]. The largest barn in the district is a massive two-tiered pole barn on the Martin Shofner/"Green Hills Farm"/William Emory Shofner tract [#27.3], which at times housed cattle, hogs, and sheep and contained massive amounts of corn. It even was supplied with water from the farm's Blowing Spring, pumped uphill by a hydraulic ram [#27.1].

Tobacco Barns

Tobacco was grown on some farms in the district in the twentieth century, though not to the same considerable extent as in many other Tennessee counties. Tobacco barns were specialized structures, generally of pole frame construction and usually more vertical in design than stock barns. Rather than having platforms or floors to support the heavy weight of hay, they were open on the inside, with wooden racks on several levels. Cut tobacco was speared onto wooden stakes (tobacco sticks) that were then "racked" in the barn for curing. To regulate temperatures, tobacco barns often had hinged openings in the walls to allow air to circulate. Only one dedicated tobacco barn survives in the district, a three-tier rectangular plan structure in poor condition on the Shofner-Doochin Farm [#10.6]. Other barns in the district may have been adapted at times for tobacco production.

Other Barns

On some of the farms in the district, other barns were constructed for specialized uses. A corrugated metal pig farrowing barn [#40.09] was constructed on the Fred Shofner place in 1952. A small milking barn [#33.6] was constructed on the Martwill Johnson/Van Harrison Ayers Farm in 1962. A small milking barn [#13.3] and a metal clad feeding barn [#13.4] are located on the Bryce Brinkley Farm at the south end of the district.

Hay Sheds

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Older stock barns would store loose hay and later, rectangular bales of hay, on the upper floors. In the late twentieth century, most farms began putting up hay in larger hay rolls that were generally too heavy to lift into barns or be supported there. To protect the hay rolls from the elements, open hay sheds were constructed. These are generally simple structures constructed of sawn timbers and topped by gabled metal roofs. Examples are found on several farms, but they all date from the 1980s and later; since they postdate the period of significance for the district, they are all listed as non-contributing structures.

Harvest/Food Storage Buildings and Structures

Granaries

In addition to hay from the abundant pasturage, some farms raised wheat, oats, and other grains. These were stored in granaries, generally rectangular structures of frame construction. To prevent mice and rats from infesting the grain, they were often raised on substantial posts that incorporated metal guards to prevent rodents from climbing into the structure. A good example is the ca. 1900 "wheat house" on the Fred Shofner Farm [#40.7]. A larger and more modern structure, clad in metal siding, is found elsewhere on the same farm [#40.11]. This building type was likely to be found on a number of other farms as well; for example, the Delsie Johnson/Sam Ayers Farm [#33] was known to have former granary, no longer extant.

Corncribs

Harvested corn was originally stored in crib barns, well-chinked log structures often incorporated into larger barns. Sometimes these were free-standing structures. Later ones were of frame construction, and like the granaries, often resting on raised posts, both to allow for the circulation of air under the floor and to deter infestation by rodents. Surviving examples can be found on the Fred Shofner Farm [#40.8] and on the Martin Bond/Martin King Shofner "Storybook Farm" tract [#11.5]. On the Absalom Lowe Landis Farm, there are ruins of a structure [#37.7] whose foundation consisted of alternating field stones and tree stumps. This structure is located near the farm pond, the large watering hole for livestock. This area would have been a practical location for a corncrib.

Silos

Silos, generally tall cylindrical structures of concrete or steel, were used to store silage and sometimes grain. These structures were apparently uncommon in the district and only the concrete footings for one, located on the Absalom Lowe Landis/"Beech Hall"/Cooper Farm [#37.4] was identified. There is also foundation evidence of the silo once associated with the dairy cow barn [#41.2] at the Kimbro-Jacobson Farm.

Smokehouses

Most of the farms in the district were generalized farms, and a number raised hogs, some for sale, others for domestic use. To process the meat before the days of widespread refrigeration, hams, bacon, and sausages were generally preserved by salting and then dry-smoking the meat. Specialized smokehouses tended to be small- to medium-sized structures, fairly vertical in aspect to provide more space for hanging the meats while being smoked and after curing. Two frame examples survive in the district. The smokehouse on the Russell Farm was later expanded and converted to a guest house [#5.3]. The second is an unaltered smokehouse

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currently in use for storage on Thomas and Susan Fuss Tract on Bill Russell Road [#3.2]. This structure dates from ca. 1890, the same as the dwelling on the property.

Chicken Houses and Associated Structures

Just as many of the farms raised some hogs for domestic use, many also raised chickens for meat and eggs. Chicken houses were usually simple frame coops intended to provide the fowl a safe place to roost at night. Brooding boxes were provided to encourage hens to lay eggs in one place. There are several examples of poultry- related structures within the historic district, including a 1930s frame "hen house" on the Kimbro-Jacobson Farm [#41.3]. Next to it is a small concrete "brooder house" used to incubate eggs and raise small chicks [#41.4]. Modern chicken houses are found on the Fred Shofner Farm [#s 40.3 and 40.4] and the Martwill Johnson/Van Harrison Ayers Farm [#15.11]. There is also an abandoned chicken coop on the Russell farm [#5.9]. These types of structures were typically of frame construction resting on stone or concrete foundations and with metal roofs.

Machine Sheds

As tractors and mechanized equipment began to replace draft animals, a need arose for places to store larger pieces of equipment out of the elements. Older drive-through spaces in stock barns or attached wings were often adequate for farm wagons or small tractors, but larger machinery required larger structures. Machine sheds, usually with multiple bays for several pieces of equipment, were typically constructed of pole construction and with metal roofs. Early examples are found on the Shofner-Doochin Farm [#10.5] and on the Martin Shofner/"Green Hills Farm"/William Emory Shofner Farm [#27.5 and 27.6].

Other Agricultural Structures

A variety of small sheds and other minor structures, often used as workshops, tool sheds, or for other purposes, were located in the survey and are identified in the inventory.

Built Environment - Industrial Buildings and Structures

The Thompson Creek Rural Historic District is almost entirely agricultural in character, but a few minor industries were once located here, of which one building and several structures remain.

At the northern end of the district, a series of substantial mills and factories were located on the Duck River about a quarter mile above the mouth of the Garrison Fork. The Three Forks Mill complex, dating from about 1814 or 1815, at times featured a grist mill, a sawmill, a cotton gin and a spinning factory. No trace remains of the main mill buildings that were situated on the northern bank of the river, but parts of the stone-filled crib dam remain [#42.3], and the route of the old mill race [#42.2] can be traced across a field on the Delsie Hill property. This was the largest industry ever located in the area.

At the southern end of the district on the Bryce Brinkley Farm is a small frame building that housed Anthony's Mill. This ca. 1850 structure [#13.1] was powered by a turbine drawing water from Thompson Creek. The flour mill, the turbine, and some other machinery are still intact, and the mill race [#13.2] can be easily traced across the landscape. The site was also the location of the licensed Brinkey-Hornaday Distillery, which operated here in the late nineteenth century, though no resources remain. Also, portions of a former

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mill building remain intact and are incorporated into a modern dwelling on the Sławomir Wacławik Tract on Bill Russell Road [#2.1]. This was formerly the property of the Ayers family, as noted on the 1878 Beers map.

At least two other smaller industries operated in the district. On Thompson Creek about 1,000-feet above its confluence with the Duck River was a small steam-powered sawmill. A seasonal brandy distillery operated on the Historic "Aunt Bet"/Samuel Wright Ayers Farm on the Duck River; no trace remains of either of these ventures.

Built Environment – Churches

Two church congregations were established in the early years of settlement and shaped the spiritual life of the community. Many of the original settlers were Evangelical Lutherans of German descent and they constructed a log church on the Martin Shofner/"Green Hills Farm"/William Emory Shofner tract soon after their arrival in 1808. A single-pen log structure on the farm [#27.4] may have been this structure, but this has not been substantiated.

The congregation called a pastor in the 1820s, and the congregation grew. By the 1870s, the congregation relocated to Thompson Creek near a ford and constructed its present church, the Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery [#25.1, NR Listed 7/10/1998]. This rectangular plan church exemplifies the waning Greek Revival style with its distyle-in-antis entry, full pedimented front, and classical cornice and architraves over the triple- hung windows. A number of the original settlers were relocated from the old cemetery on the Martin Shofner/"Green Hills Farm"/William Emory Shofner tract [#27.10] to the present well-maintained cemetery surrounding the church [#25.2].

Other original settlers joined the new Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which was established in Middle Tennessee in 1810. They began having camp meetings near the "Three Forks" (named for the junctures of the Wartrace Fork, Garrison Fork, and Barren Forks of the Duck River) at about this time. In 1820, they erected the "Fork Meeting House" on a hill above the confluence. This first structure was destroyed by a storm and replaced with the frame Three Forks Church. The congregation met until at least the 1880s and sporadically afterwards. The church was razed in the 1930s, but the foundation [#6.2] and adjacent cemetery [#6.1] are still present.

Slave families arrived in the area along with the other original settlers and worshipped in the two churches for many years. In 1870, Martin Euless sold to Zack Sims a twelve-acre parcel from which Zack Sims donated a one-acre tract for the construction of a church. Several of the church members were former slaves of the Euliss, Shofner, and other area families. The congregation constructed a simple single-pen log church that today forms the rear of the present Mount Zion-Haley Missionary Baptist Church [#14.1]. The accompanying churchyard [#14.3] is the final resting place for many of the congregation, though earlier burials were located at the other church cemeteries, mostly at the original Shofner Church cemetery where many stones can still be discerned.

Built Environment - Cemeteries

Five historic cemeteries are located in the district. Two are located at churches, and three at former church sites. Two date from the early 1800s and contain the graves of early settlers and their slaves.

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The oldest cemetery is the original Shofner Cemetery [#27.10] on a hilltop on the Martin Shofner/Green Hills Farm/William Emory Shofner Farm. A deed for a church and a cemetery "for all persons who die a natural death" was recorded in February of 1814. It contains a number of graves covered with stone cairns, a few box tombs, and a number of standard headstones.

On the north end of the district, the Cumberland Presbyterian residents of the district established their own cemetery [#6.2] on the grounds of the Three Forks Church, established around 1810. This cemetery also features a number of box tombs and cairn-covered graves along with headstones. Many graves are unmarked today, but their location can be discerned by depressions in the soil. Even though the church has long since been dissolved, there are still occasional burials in the cemetery. The cemetery is mowed and maintained. Across Three Forks Road is the separate Kimbro Cemetery [#7.1] which likely was a part of the Three Forks Cemetery at one time; this small enclosure contains only ten or fifteen graves, only two of which are marked by formal headstones.

With the construction of the Shofners' Lutheran Church [#25.1] in 1871, its cemetery [#25.2] became the preferred burial place for its members. A number of burials were relocated from the old hilltop cemetery, including the graves of Martin and Catherine Shofner. The large cemetery, which remains in active use, contains at least 415 graves in fifteen rows on all four sides of the building. It was inventoried in 2009 as part of a management plan and is well- maintained today.⁹

In the 1850s, African-American slaves were given a plot of land on the western edge of the district by the Euliss-Ayers family and established their own church, today's Mt. Zion-Haley Missionary Baptist Church [#14.1]. On the west side of the church, they established a cemetery [#14.3] that now features more than one hundred graves, many marked by simple fieldstones. The cemetery is well-maintained by congregants and family members.

Built Environment - Turnpikes and Roads

One federal highway, one state highway, and a small number of county roads make up the transportation network in the district.

The district is located between the Bedford County communities of Shelbyville, the county seat, and the small communities of Roseville (historically "Rowesville" or "Rowsville") and Normandy to the east. The present Normandy Road, which diverges from today's U. S. 41-A (SR 16) was the first public road through the area. It runs for approximately three and one-half miles to the small incorporated town of Normandy, terminating in the downtown area at Tennessee Highway 269. The portion of the Normandy Road from the U. S. 41-A (SR 16) junction to the intersections with Three Forks Bridge Road (on the north side) and Shofner Road (on the south side) lies within the historic district. It is a paved, striped dual lane road with only one substantial structure, a single-span reinforced concrete deck bridge over Thompsons Creek.

With the establishment of Camp Forrest outside of Tullahoma during World War II, the need for an improved highway between Shelbyville and Tullahoma became a priority. A new paved, two-lane highway was completed through the district to connect these two cities in 1942. This was made a segment of U. S. Highway

⁹ Dan Sumner Allen IV, *Conservation and Survey Report, Shofner Chapel Lutheran Chapel Cemetery, Bedford County, Tennessee* (Murfreesboro, TN: Cumberland Research Group, 2009).

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41-A and also given the designation as State Route (SR) 16. U. S. Highway 41-A (SR 16) is a dual-lane roadway with broad shoulders constructed with spiral curves and wide recovery zones and signed for 55 mileper-hour speeds through the district. From the junction with the Normandy Road at the Martwill Johnson/Van Harrison Ayers Farm, the highway runs generally east-southeast to cross Thompson Creek in front of Shofners' Lutheran Church, then southeast beyond Thompson Creek Road, leaving the district at the east end of the Martin Shofner/D. B. McClain/Martin King Shofner "Daybreak Farm" [#28]. Increased traffic loads led the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) in the 1990s to start planning the widening of the road to a four-lane divided highway through the district and improve the bridge over the Duck River. The road project has been let for construction, and this nomination is a result of the Section 106 process.

Thompson Creek Road (State Route 276) runs for three miles from U. S. Highway 41-A south for three miles to a junction with State Route 130, the Old Shelbyville Highway connecting Shelbyville and Lynchburg. The first mile-and-one-half of SR 276, from U. S. Highway 41-A to Cathey Lane, is located within the district. This is a dual-lane road with a maintained right-of-way but no shoulders.

The other public roads in the district are all county roads owned and maintained by Bedford County. The principal one of these in the northern part of the district is the Three Forks Bridge Road, which diverges from the Normandy Road and runs generally north to cross the Duck River at Three Forks Bridge. At the top of the hill before the bridge, it connects with Russell Road, which runs generally east and then south to rejoin the Normandy Road; this road is the only unpaved road in the district. Just east of Three Forks Bridge Road, Shofner Road runs south from Normandy Road for approximately one mile to U. S. Highway 41-A (SR 16), which it meets just east of Thompsons Creek. On the south side of the district, the only county road is Cathey Road, a narrow road which leaves SR 276 about a mile-and-one-half south of U. S. Highway 41-A (SR 16) and runs generally west and northwest towards Whiteside Hill Road. With the exception of Three Forks Bridge Road, all of the county roads are relatively narrow, with fences and hedgerows in some cases running right along the road margins. Parts of Cathey Road and Russell Road are framed by overhanging trees.

Traces of some older and now abandoned roads can be seen on some of the farms in the district and are noted in the inventory. The most significant of these is a segment of the original Shelbyville-Tullahoma Road (#11.8) that can be traced on the Martin Bond/Martin King Shofner property.

Built Environment - Stone Fences

On many of the farms are sections of stone fences erected in the nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. The area's abundant limestone rock provided a readily accessible material for fence construction to line roadbeds or delineate fields. Most walls in the district are dry-stack design, without any mortar to bind the stones in place. These walls were erected with alternating stones to fix them in place, and the tops of the fences were often terminated with rows of angled or slanted stones known as coping or "copes." Tradition states that these walls were built both by slaves or paid laborers. With the introduction of wire fence materials in the late nineteenth century, construction of stone fences ceased. However, many sections of original stone walls remain on the landscape and help to define fields, property lines, and roadbeds.

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Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Inventory

The inventory is arranged by the road on which the property is located, the owner's name, Bedford County parcel number, and acreage. Many of the parcels contain agricultural fields or woodlands and do not have a formal address. The inventory includes an overall description and listing of the known buildings, structures, or sites on the property. Some of the properties have been previously surveyed as part of the Tennessee Historical Commission's survey program and are identified with the county prefix BD and inventory number.

Properties that contribute to the character of the district (C) are those that pre-date 1969 and retain their integrity from the nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. Properties that do not contribute to the character of the district (NC) are those which post-date 1969 or have lost their integrity from their era of construction. Parcels composed only of agricultural lands or woodlands and do not contain any buildings or structures are considered contributing sites to the district. Contributing sites or structures can include intact foundations, chimney stones, roadbeds, or retaining walls that have a documented association with a particular farm or route. While the archeological significance of these areas has not been evaluated, identifying and describing these often no longer extant resources provides a means to understand the historic development of the farms and the area in general. The remaining evidence of historic circulation patterns and relationship of topography to the historic built environment helps identify how the cultural landscape evolved over time as the farms passed within the same family from generation to generation. Parcels that are limited in size, lack agricultural features, and are composed of post-1969 buildings and structures including the overall state and county road system are considered non-contributing to the district because they do not help with understanding the development patterns or agricultural features of the district.

The inventory below generally follows the list of Associated Property Types detailed in the *Historic* Agricultural and Architectural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969 Multiple Property Documentation Form, providing more for detail for Agricultural or Domestic Support Properties where necessary. Churches are not a property type within the Bedford County Multiple Property document and are included as a part of this inventory for their significance in architecture.

Bill Russell Road

1. William S. and Nelle Lacy Russell Tract

451 Bill Russell Road, Parcel 096 003.00, 163 acres. Site (C)

Buildings on this 163.2-acre tract are associated with the William Russell/Lee Russell Farm. This tract forms the northwest tract of the farm. The 1878 Beers map indicates the owner of the property at that time was G.F. Slater. George Francis Slater (1832-1912) was born in Lovettsville, Loudoun Co, Virginia. His wife, Mary Elizabeth, was a Jenkins. He is buried in the Shofners' Church Cemetery [#25.2].

1.1. *Residential Property*, ca. 1870. Located on Bill Russell Road, this is a one-story, central passage plan dwelling that has a stone pier foundation, an exterior of weatherboard siding, and a side-gable roof of crimped metal. The symmetrical façade (N) has an original single-light, two-panel, wood door flanked by engaged columns. To each side of the entrance is a window opening covered with wood panels. The roof indicates two openings for interior chimneys flanking a central passage (the chimneys have been

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removed). The building has a one-story rear ell wing with an integral porch on the east elevation. **Building (C)**

1.2. *Hay Shed*, ca. 1980. Located on the tract northwest of the main house group, this one-story hay shed is of metal panel construction, has an open front, and a gable-front metal roof. **Building (NC)**

1.3. Stone Fence, ca. 1810. Several hundred feet of a dry-stack limestone wall borders the farm's north boundary along Russell Road. The battered wall stands about 5' high and has slanted copes. Structure (\mathbb{C})

1.4 *Residential Property*, ca. 1965. This is a one-story, Ranch-style dwelling with a multi-level side-gable roof of asphalt shingles, an exterior of brick, and a slab concrete foundation. The house has original six-over-six, wood-sash windows. The façade (N) has a three-bay porch with square columns. **Building (C)**

1.5 *Barn*, ca. 1950. Behind the house is a small barn with a gable roof of crimped metal and exterior walls of corrugated metal siding. **Building (C)**

1.6 *Utility Shed Building*, ca. 1950. To the north of the small barn is a utility shed building that has collapsed. Its walls had vertical wood board siding, and the roof had crimped metal. Due to loss of integrity, this building is non-contributing to the district. **Building (NC)**

1.7 *Coop*, ca. 1970. Behind the house is a frame chicken coop with a gable-front roof of crimped metal and sides of metal screen. **Building (NC)**

2. Slawomir Waclawik Tract

494 Bill Russell Road, Parcel 092 034.02, 6.2 acres. Site (NC)

The 1878 Beers map indicates that the owner of this property was then the Ayers family. Over time, the tract was subdivided. This tract retains an original mill building, which has been incorporated into a modern structure.

2.1 *Residential Property*, ca. 2005. The current owner, originally from Poland, set out to build a castlelike structure reminiscent of those of his homeland. He built a frame structure around the original mill building on the property. The building is two-stories in height and has a gable roof of standing-seam metal, a concrete slab foundation, and walls of re-purposed plywood. At the southwest corner is a fullheight tower with a crenellated parapet. **Building (NC)**

2.2 *Storage Shed*, ca. 2005. Behind the residence is a frame storage building with a gable roof of standing- seam metal, a concrete slab foundation, and walls of re-purposed plywood. **Building (NC)**

3. Thomas and Susan Fuss Tract

496 Bill Russell Road, Parcel 096 002.00, 5.19 acres. **Site (C)**

The 1878 Beers map indicates that the owner of this property was the Ayers family. Over time, the tract was subdivided. This tract retains the original dwelling and smokehouse.

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3.1 *Residential Property*, ca. 1875. This property originally belonged to the Ayers family. The house plan was repeated on other farm sites of the family in the area. This gable-ell, frame dwelling has a stone foundation, ca. 1940 asbestos-shingle siding, a gable-end, exterior, stone chimney, an interior, brick chimney, and an original roof of stamped metal. Windows are original one-over-one wood-sash design. The main façade (S) has a partial- width porch with ca. 1925 Tuscan columns on wood piers. The main entrance has an original single-light wood door. The rear elevation has two ell wings with gable roofs of original stamped metal. The wings are connected by a hyphen with a flat roof. At the northwest corner, the dwelling has an entrance with a four- panel wood door set within a one-bay porch with a gable roof and milled wood posts. **Building (C)**

3.2 *Smokehouse*, ca. 1875. This is an original frame smokehouse with a gable-front roof of standingseam metal and weatherboard siding. The structure has been placed upon concrete blocks. The façade (S) has a three-panel wood door. **Building** (C)

3.3 *Garage*, ca. 1950. This is a frame garage with a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal and metal siding. The façade (S) has a large bay door with four small lights. Each side of the garage has a shed addition. **Building (C)**

3.4 *Horse Stable*, ca. 1980. This is a small stable with a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal and exterior walls of metal siding. There are two stall openings on the west elevation and a sliding-track door on the south elevation. **Building (NC)**

3.5 *Chicken Coop*, ca. 1990. This is a frame coop with a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal and siding of metal panels. (**Building (NC)**

4. Toby William and Emily Jewel Fuss Tract

500 Bill Russell Road, Parcel 092 034.03, 20 acres. Site (NC)

This parcel was originally part of the Ayers property.

4.1 *Prefabricated dwelling*, ca. 2000. This is a double-wide manufactured home. **Building (NC)**

4.2. *Garage Building*, ca. 2000. This is a large rectangular building with a gable roof of metal and exterior walls of metal siding. The north elevation has a bay door. **Building (NC)**

4.3. *Metal Warehouse Storage Building*, ca. 1980. This is a large, rectangular storage building with a concrete foundation, exterior wall of metal siding, and a gable roof of standing-seam metal. There are two equipment doors on the west elevation. **Building (NC)**

5. William Russell Farm

Bill Russell Road, Parcel 096 004.00, 53.79 acres + approximately 22 acres of Parcel 096 004.01 (on the south side of Bill Russell Road). Site (C)

The property includes twenty-two acres of crop land, 38.79 acres in pasture, nine acres in rotation, five acres of woodlands, and one acre of improved site. This farm was part of the Slater property in the early twentieth century.

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5.1. *Residential Property*, ca. 1910. This is a one-and-one-half-story, frame Craftsman-influenced bungalow built in a central passage plan. The house has a concrete block foundation and is a side-gable roof of original pressed metal shingles. It has an exterior of weatherboard siding. Interior brick chimneys with molded caps pierce the ridge line to either side of center, and a single brick chimney with a decorative clay chimney pot is located at the rear above a projecting rear shed section. The façade (E) has a full-length porch under a projecting pent extending from the gabled roof; it is supported by four battered wooden posts with simple bases and caps. The main entrance is centered and has an original single-light wood door framed by sidelights and above is a transom. The house has one-over-one, wood-sash, double-hung windows with wooden shutters. On the half story above, a shed dormer is centered on the roof and features three one-over-one, wood-sash, double-hung windows. The roof eaves have knee brace brackets. An integral one-story shed wing contains the kitchen and a mud room. There is a single-leaf door to the outside and two, one-over-one, wood-sash, double-hung windows. Across the front yard is a low, stone wall with a wooden picket fence. **Building (C)**

5.2 *Well-House*, ca. 1910. Just to the south of the main house is a small well-house, square in plan with a gable standing-seam metal roof supported by four square posts with bracketed corners. The siding is wooden latticework. **Building (C)**

5.3. *Smokehouse*, ca. 1910. This structure appears to have been constructed as a smokehouse because of its vertical rectangular-plan, but it was remodeled ca. 1960 as a guest house or servant house. The weatherboard structure has a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal. A wood door is centered on the front, and a two- over-two, wood-sash window is in the half story above. A shed roof porch supported by square posts with scrollwork brackets and latticework trim extends across the front. On the south elevation is an added one- story shed wing with two four-over-four, wood-sash windows. The rear elevation of this wing has an exterior stone chimney. **Building (C)**

5.4. *Shed*, ca. 1910. Located behind the smokehouse, this rectangular-plan shed is of wood post construction and is clad in wide vertical board wooden siding. It has a gable-front standing-seam metal roof. **Building (C)**

5.5. *Garage*, ca. 1950. Southwest of the house is a two-bay garage. This rectangular-plan structure is of frame construction, has vertical board siding, and a gable-front metal roof. It retains two original metal-panel bay doors. A shed wing supported by wood posts is located on the south elevation. **Building (C)**

5.6. *Barn 1*, ca. 1920. In front of and southeast of the house is a large stock barn. The three-tier structure is of pole construction, is clad in vertical board, and has a standing-seam metal roof. There are two drive-throughs with double-leaf doors on the north and south sides. **Building (C)**

5.7. *Barn 2*, ca. 1910. North of the house is a barn of pole construction. The two-and-one-half-tier structure is rectangular in plan and has a gable standing-seam metal roof with an overhanging bonnet to protect the hay loft. There are drive-through bays to either side of the building. **Building (C)**

5.8. *Shed*, ca. 1920. Southeast of the main group of buildings is a small, frame shed with a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal, walls of board and batten, and a wooden door on the façade (N). **Building (C)**

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5.9. *Coop*, ca. 1910. To the southwest of the dwelling is an abandoned frame chicken coop. It has a shed roof of standing-seam metal and walls of horizontal wood boards. **Structure (C)**

5.10. *Stone Fence and Gates*, ca. 1910. At the front along Russell Lane is a dry-stack limestone wall that curves back from the road to a pair of stone gateposts. The wall, topped with slanted copes, is three feet high. The gateposts are square and stand about five feet high; they are evidently later than the stone fence and are of cruder, mortared construction. Double-leaf wrought iron gates open between the posts; a section of iron fence continues to the north. **Structure (C)**

6. Three Forks Cumberland Presbyterian Cemetery and Church Site

Bill Russell Road, Parcel 092 034.01, one acre.

The Cumberland Presbyterians erected their first churches at Three Forks ca. 1820 and at Hastings' Camp Ground the following year.

6.1. *Cemetery*. Located on the east side of the road, this church cemetery was established in 1817 and contains thirty-five marked graves and a number of unmarked ones evidenced by depressions. There are both fieldstone markers, formal dressed markers, and a number of cairns. The oldest known burial is the grave of the Rev. William McGee, the first minister of the congregation, who died in 1817. **Site (C)**

6.2. *Church Site*, In the woods east of the church cemetery are the foundation stones of the church building built ca. 1820. The stones indicate the church was rectangular in plan, about twenty-by-thirty feet in dimension, and had a small stoop or entry porch about eight feet square on the north elevation. Site (C)

7. Kimbro Cemetery

Bill Russell Road, in northeast corner of large Parcel 091 016.01.

This small cemetery is located on the west side of the road across from the Three Forks Cemetery [#6.1]. The tax assessor map includes the cemetery as a part of the J. Terry Shofner/Kathleen Lyon Shofner tract [#8]. Some cemetery surveys inventory the cemetery with the Three Forks Cemetery, but local residents consider it a separate burial ground.

7.1. *Family Cemetery*. The Kimbro cemetery is small, measuring about eighteen feet wide and thirty-feet long, and apparently has only a dozen graves, most marked by small fieldstones. There are only two formal grave markers, one of Ben S. Kimbro and his wife, Ellen Kimbro, died 1869, and a memorial stone to Charles W. Kimbro, who served in the 20th U.S. Engineers in World War I. The latter is not actually interred in this cemetery; he is buried in Arizona. The unmarked graves are children of Ben and Ellen Kimbro. There are several Kimbros buried at the Holt Cemetery two miles to the northeast on Cortner Road, outside of the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District. Site (C)

8. J. Terry Shofner/Kathleen Lyon Shofner Parcel

Bill Russell Road, Parcel 091 016.01, 65 acres. Site (C)

This property includes thirty-seven acres of crop land, twenty acres in pasture, and eight acres of woodland. This sixty-five-acre tax parcel is bisected in the western third by Three Forks Bridge

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Road, which turns ninety degrees to form the northern boundary of the parcel. Bill Russell Road forms the eastern boundary of the parcel. Only one structure is located on the property, in the portion to the west of Three Forks Bridge Road.

8.1. *Barn*, ca. 1960. This two-bay vertical board frame barn is of pole construction and has a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal. **Building (C)**

9. Samuel Wright Ayers Farm

Bill Russell Road, Parcel 092 034.00, 148 acres. Site (C)

The Ayers arrived to Bedford County from Surrey County, North Carolina, around 1810-1812. This farm was in the Ayers name by 1870. The 1878 Beers map indicates the farm was then property of a "Mrs. Ayers." Today, descendants refer to the property as the "Aunt Bet" Farm. Since that time, the land was subdivided. This farm joins a 100-acre tract purchased by Thomas Phillip Ayers II in the 1950s from his half uncle, Oscar Ayers (1883-1966), and a forty-acre tract purchased in the 1990s by Samuel Wright Ayers, son of Thomas. The smaller tract was at one time owned by R. E. Ayers (1853-1919), another relative of Thomas P. Ayers II's father.

9.1. *Residential Property*, ca. 1890. The "Aunt Bet" Ayers House is a one-and-one-half-story frame dwelling built in a double-pen plan with a rear ell wing. It has a stone pier foundation and a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal. The house is clad in weatherboard except the area under the porch which has a surface of bead board. A stone chimney is centered at the roof. The main façade (W) has a one-story porch supported by chamfered

posts across the front. The porch is trimmed at the sides by pointed boards. The main entrance retains an original single-light, two-panel wood door with a wood surround. It is flanked by tall window openings but the window sash has been removed.

The north and south elevations are basically identical and feature plain gabled ends with a wide singleboard entablature, and a single tall opening for a double-hung sash window. A second window is located on the northwest side above the first floor window.

A one-story rear ell is joined at the northeast corner and it has a gable metal roof and an original fourpanel wood door on the north elevation. The rear of the main section also has a single-leaf door. A onestory porch extends along the side of the ell and the rear of the front section.

This house has been unoccupied for many years but still retains its integrity and historic appearance. The interior retains original wood walls, original four-panel wood doors with fluted wood surrounds with bullseye corner accents, and original fireplace mantles. **Building (C)**

9.2. *Root Cellar*, ca. 1890. Behind the house are the stone walls for a root cellar, measuring approximately seven feet square. The walls are roughly dressed stone and stand four or five courses tall, surrounding a depression about two feet deep. The wood structure that stood above the root cellar is missing. **Site (C)**

9.3. *Barn*, ca. 1890. This barn was apparently built at about the same time as the "Aunt Bet" house. It is of frame construction, the timbers lapped and joined with wooden pegs, and clad in vertical boards. The

gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The barn rests on a partly dressed stone foundation of large blocks. It features four stable stalls on one side, a cornerib on the other, and a hayloft above. Some boards are missing from the exterior. **Building (C)**

9.4. *Sunken Road*, ca. 1890. Northeast of the barn is a sunken road trace leading into a field along the river. Years of use have left the roadway sunk two or three feet below the natural grade. **Site (C)**

9.5. *Hay Shed*. 2005. One-half mile east of the house site on the farm is a modern hay shed, constructed on a wooden post frame and with a steel roof. It has three large bays for the storage of equipment and large rolled hay bales. **Building (NC)**

Cathey Road

10. Shofner-Doochin Farm

627 Cathey Road, Parcel 097 040.00, 521 acres. Site (C)

The largest farm in the district, this 521-acre parcel extends from Whiteside Hill Road and U. S. Highway 41-A (SR 16) on the north to Cathey Road on the south and is bordered on the east by other Shofner properties. It includes 362 acres of woodlands and 159 acres in pasture.

10.1. *Doochin Residential Property*, ca. 1890/2008. This is a one-story frame, rectangular-plan dwelling with board-and- batten siding, a side-gable metal roof, and a concrete block foundation. There is a full-length screened shed porch on stone piers across the main façade and a small wood stoop at the rear. Windows are sash with two over-one lights. The building was remodeled in 2008 with new siding, roof, windows, and rear stoop. The building retains its original form, but its appearance has been extensively altered. **Building (NC)**

10.2. Residential Property-House Ruins I, ca. 1875. A substantial cut stone foundation remains from what was apparently a large Victorian-era house with a central fireplace and bay window on the facade. The stone foundation is largely intact and outlines the entire perimeter of the house. The foundation walls stand roughly two-feet high for most of the length. A pile of stone and brick rubble at the center marks the site of a central chimney. Site (C)

10.3. *House Site Wall*, ca. 1875. The house ruins mentioned above (10.2) are surrounded by a stone wall constructed of large dressed limestone blocks, most of which are about four-feet long, ten inches high and twelve inches deep. The rectangular wall is mostly about three-feet high and fully encircles the house site. On the east side facing the old roadway is a stile of three large stone steps. **Structure (C)**

10.4. *Roadbed*, ca. 1875. To the west of the house ruins (10.2) runs a broad dirt road extending to the house site from the vicinity of Cathey Road and into the middle of the farm. It is supported on the west side by a substantial limestone retaining wall as it skirts a large gully. **Structure (C)**

10.5. *Equipment Buildings-Machine Shed*, ca. 1915. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan pole frame structure with two open bays for tractors or other equipment. A full-length shed wing runs across the rear. The structure is clad in vertical board siding with weatherboard siding in the gables and has a side-gable roof of standing seam metal. **Building (C)**

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10.6. *Tobacco Barn*, ca. 1890. This pole barn was a tobacco barn, as evidenced by its shape and construction. Much of the siding has been removed or has rotted away, leaving only the shell of the structure. The three- tier structure has a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal. **Building (NC)**

10.7. *House Ruins II*, ca. 1875. Approximately two-tenths of a mile east of the main farm road is the foundation ruins of a small residential structure. The ruins consist of a foundation wall of dressed fieldstone stacked four courses high, with the stone ruins of a collapsed chimney at the north wall. This was apparently a small tenant house. **Site (C)**

10.8. *Stone Fence* north of 10.7. This is a short section of a dry-stack limestone wall associated with the adjacent house ruins. **Structure (C)**

10.9. *Roadbed*, ca. 1850. In front of 10.7, a dirt road continues south to pass in front of 10.10 and extends through much of this parcel. The dirt road is well-defined and is sunk below the ground surface in several locations. **Structure** (\mathbf{C})

10.10. Log Residential Property, ca. 1815. Single-pen log building of hewn and squared logs, assembled with full and half-dovetail notching. This dwelling rests on stone piers and has a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal. The house has a stone chimney at the south elevation and on the main façade is a full length shed roof porch supported by unhewn posts. At the rear is a ca. 1900 shed roof wing with vertical board siding. No window sash remains but the interior has an original mantle and corner stair to the loft. **Building (C)**

10.11. *Crib Barn*, ca. 1850/1900. This structure consists of a ca. 1850 single-pen log crib and a ca. 1900 frame crib or granary. The two are clad in vertical boards and are joined under a common gable roof of standing-seam metal. An open runway is between the two cribs. The logs in the older crib are assembled with a mix of half-dovetail and saddle notching. **Building (C)**

10.12. *Smokehouse foundation*, ca. 1850. To the rear of the dwelling are the foundation stones of a domestic building, thought to have been a smokehouse. **Site (C)**

10.13. *Livestock Enclosure*, ca. 1850. To the northeast of the dwelling is a large rectangular enclosure outlined by a low stone wall and the remnants of a post and wire fence. This enclosure was used as a holding pen for livestock and its outline remains readily visible. **Structure (C)**

10.14. *Roadway Wall III*, ca. 1850. This is a dry-stack stone fence extending approximately eighty feet and located south of the dwelling bordering the roadbed. The wall stands about four-feet high on average and at the top of the wall are slanted copes. **Structure (C)**

10.15. *Roadway Bridge Wall*, ca. 1850. This is a dry-stack wall of limestone was built to fill and carry the old roadbed across a deep gulley. The wall is ten to twelve-feet in height from the ground level. **Structure (C)**

10.16. *Stone Fence*, ca. 1850. This is a dry-stack wall built in a semi-circle design with three to four courses of limestone. The purpose of the wall is unknown. It is located toward the bottom of a steep hill

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and below the ca. 1880 house ruins (#10.2) above. It might have been built to help protect the water in the adjacent spring or to help channel water coming down the hillside. Structure (C)

10.17. *Feed Storage Building*, ca. 1920. Located near the northeast corner of the property, this onestory building is of pole construction, clad in weatherboard siding at front and rear, and a mix of vertical board siding and reused metal roof sheathing on its elevations. It has a shallow gable-front roof of standing-seam metal. It is elevated three feet off the ground. The building faces the old roadbed to the west. Its façade has a central opening flanked by window openings. **Building (C)**

10.18. *House Ruin III*, ca. 1900. Located north of the feed storage building by the Whiteside Lane gate, all that remains of what was evidently a small tenant house is a fieldstone chimney. **Site (C)**

11. Martin King Shofner "Storybook Farm"

727 Cathey Road, adjoined Parcels 112 006.00 and 113 001.00, 129.77 and 50.07 acres, respectively. Site (C)

Bounded on the south by Cathey Road and on the east roughly by Thompson Creek, this 180-acre farm was part of the original ca. 1808 Martin Shofner homestead. In the mid-twentieth century, it was owned by a kinsman, Martin Bond, and there was also a sharecropper on the property during Bond's ownership. The tract was later acquired by Gen. Austin C. Shofner and his brother, Emory, and is now owned by General Shofner's son, Martin, and his family. The 50.07-acre northeastern corner was a part of the original Martin Shofner "Green Hills Farm" tract.

11.1. *Residential Property*, ca. 1900. This is a one-and-one-half-story rectangular-plan, frame dwelling clad in board- and-batten siding. It has a full-length screened shed porch across the main façade (W), a one-story, full shed swing at the rear elevation, a concrete block foundation, single-hung six-over-six wood sash windows. The main façade has a six-panel wood door and a multi-light wood door. The rear elevation has double-leaf wood doors with multiple glass lights. This dwelling has been remodeled in recent years. **Building (NC)**

11.2. *Stock Barn*, ca. 1900. This is a large rectangular-plan stock barn of cedar and locust pole construction clad in vertical board siding. The barn has a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal and has a projecting bonnet over the hayloft opening. The north and south elevation have shed wings; the north shed is used for equipment storage; the south shed is floored with concrete pavers. Some siding was replaced, but original appearance has been preserved. **Building (C)**

11.3. *Dipping Pool*, 1995. A perennial spring feeds this teardrop-shaped manmade pond with sides of stone set in concrete. Stone steps are integrated into wall at the southeast edge. The pond is bordered with interlocking concrete tiles. **Structure (NC)**

11.4. *Stone Fence*, ca. 1840. South and southwest of the barn, this stone fence is built of native limestone and runs about 70 feet in length. It varies in height from two to six feet. It forms a terrace and boundary for a large field. **Structure (C)**

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11.5. *Corncrib*, ca. 1900. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan, frame structure clad in weatherboard siding, with a shed roof of standing-seam metal. The façade (E) has a single-leaf batten door and two wooden hopper windows. The structure is elevated on numerous concrete blocks. **Building (C)**

11.6. *Woodshed*, ca. 1950. This is a one-story rectangular-plan, frame structure clad in vertical board siding and with a shed roof of standing-seam metal. Five open equipment bays are on the south elevation. **Building (C)**

11.7. *Hay Barn*, 2015. This is a large structure with a gable roof and exterior walls of corrugated metal. **Building (NC)**

11.8. *Old Shelbyville to Tullahoma Road*, ca. 1810s. This clear road depression basically forms a continuation of a north-oriented section of Cathey Road across the farm to Shofners' Church. The road is sunken two to five feet in places, and the route can be clearly discerned. **Structure (C)**

12. Jenna Horne Tract

836 Cathey Road, Parcel 113 024.01, 9.4 acres. Site (C)

12.1 *Residential Property*, ca. 1887. This house was built by Peter L. J. Anthony, grandson of original settler Nicholas Anthony. Over time, the one-story, frame double-pen dwelling experienced additions. The original house had a side-gable plan, a central, interior chimney, a partial-width, hipped-roof porch on the façade (E), and a rear shed wing. A projecting, gable-front bay, with a central, interior brick chimney, was added to the façade ca. 1915. A wrap-around porch was added to connect the original façade and the south elevation of the projecting bay, which retains a single-light wood door. This porch has Tuscan columns. There is also a rear ell sunroom addition. On the south elevation of the house is a stone fireplace patio covered with a hip roof with square, wood posts. The house has ca. 2010 pressed-wood board siding and replacement windows. **Building (NC)**

12.2. Barn, ca. 1920. This is a large stock barn with a gambrel roof of standing-seam metal and walls of wood board siding. The hay loft has a bonnet on the east elevation. There are shed wings along the north and south elevations. **Building (C)**

12.3. *Garage*, ca. 2010. Behind the dwelling is a frame, gable-front garage that might be an expansion of an early twentieth-century version. The original garage bay on the east elevation has been enclosed and a shed wing has been added to the south elevation. There are two garage bay doors on the south wall. The exterior of the garage has pressed-wood board siding to match that of the dwelling. **Building (NC)**

12.4. *Garage 2*, ca. 2010. There is a second garage with vinyl siding, garage bay doors on the north elevation, a gable roof, and a shed wing on the south elevation. **Building (NC)**

12.5. *Greenhouse*, ca. 2015. Behind the first garage there is a small greenhouse with a gable roof, metal frame, and plexi-glass walls. **Building (NC)**

12.6. *Shed/Coop*, ca. 2015. Behind the greenhouse, within a fenced paddock, there is a small outbuilding with a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal and exterior walls of vertical wood board siding. The south elevation has a pedestrian opening. **Building (NC)**

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12.7. *Shop/Warehouse*, ca. 2015. This is a large warehouse-type building with a gable roof of standingseam metal and walls of metal panels. On the north elevation there is a multi-light, overhead-track garage bay door. **Building (NC)**

12.8. *Carport*, ca. 2015. This is an open-end carport with a gable-front roof of asphalt shingles. **Building (NC)**

13. Carolyn Brinkley Conner/Bryce Brinkley Tracts

Cathey Road, Parcel 112 025.00, 99.5 acres; Parcel 112 027.00, 19 acres; Parcel 113 023.00, 92.5 acres; Parcel 113 024.00, 56. 5 acres; and Parcel 113 025.00, 10.8 acres. **Site (C)**

These tracts are part of Brinkley family holdings. This composite property includes numerous parcels owned by siblings Bryce Brinkley and Carolyn Brinkley Connor. The 1878 Beers map indicates this land was part of the original Nicholas Anthony homestead. In 1902, M. H. "Bud" Brinkley and his wife Ella Harrison Brinkley purchased sixty acres, which included the Peter L. J. Anthony House (#12.1). Over time, Brinkley amassed a large swath of land on both sides of Cathey Road. The property passed to his son, Elrie, who continued farming the land. In 1972, he deeded different portions to his children, Bryce and Carolyn. They also inherited parcels from their mother, Mable Stephens Brinkley. The house site sold out of the family in recent years.

The farm featured a second dwelling, built in the first half of the twentieth century and known as the Brinkley House. This building was demolished in 2014 as it had become unstable due to a termite infestation. The smokehouse and a shed associated with the dwelling were razed at the same time. All three buildings were located on the south side of Cathey Road, to the west of Thompson Creek. Agricultural buildings, tenant houses, and the old Anthony Mill remain on the north side of the road. In continuous agricultural use, the property is a Tennessee Century Farm.

13.1. *Anthony's Mill*, ca. 1884. This is a one-and-one-half-story, frame building clad in vertical board and set on high stone piers above a former mill race. The structure has a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal. Shed wings have been added to the front and south side, but the original mill structure is largely intact and still contains some milling equipment, including a single run of burr stones, a corn bolter, and miscellaneous other items. This was a turbine mill, with gearing to transfer power to the stones by a belt and pulley system. The turbine is apparently intact, but buried in mud beneath the mill. **Building (C)**

13.2. *Mill Race*, ca. 1890. The race to power Anthony's Mill ran from Thompson Creek about a quarter mile south of the mill in a straight line to the mill while the creek itself meandered to the east. The race can be easily traced, though it is largely eroded. **Structure (C)**

13.3. *Milking Barn*, ca. 1940. This is a two-story, rectangular-plan structure of concrete block construction, with a gambrel roof of standing-seam metal. It is connected by a covered breezeway with the feeding barn, structure 13.4. **Building (C)**

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13.4. *Feeding Barn*, ca. 1940. This is a large, rectangular-plan, one-and-one-half-story barn of frame construction, clad in corrugated metal siding and with by a shallow gable-front roof of standing-seam metal. The structure has small hopper windows on the sides, and three large openings on the front, one large enough for equipment. **Building (NC)**

13.5. *Tenant House I*, ca. 1900. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan, double-pen frame dwelling, clad in vertical board siding and covered with asphalt siding. It rests on stone piers and has a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal. A full-length shed wing runs across the rear. An exterior, gable-end, fieldstone chimney is located on the west elevation. Some windows are missing, but remnants indicate all were double- hung sash with four-over-four lights. **Building (C)**

13.6. *Tenant House Privy I*, ca. 1900. One-story square plan vertical board frame building with a metal shed roof. **Building (C)**

13.7. *Stone Fence*, ca. 1890. A limestone fence, approximately four to five-feet high, runs for approximately one hundred yards on the Brinkley property line south of the farm buildings. The stones are a mix of dressed stone and random rubble. **Structure (C)**

13.8. *Tenant House II*, ca. 1920. In the northwest portion of the property there is a second tenant house. This small structure is a single-story saddlebag-plan structure, clad in vertical boards, resting on a stone pier foundation and topped by a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal. A shed porch roof supported by cedar posts runs across most of the façade (S); there is no porch floor. A single-story shed section extends across the entire rear elevation. Some windows are missing, but the remaining ones indicate they were double-hung sash with four-over-four lights. **Building (C)**

13.9 *Tenant House Privy II*, ca. 1920. This small privy is located behind the house. It has three sides of vertical wood board siding and a shed metal roof. **Building (C)**

13.10. *Cistern*, ca. 1920. This is an in-ground cylindrical structure of concrete and limestone rock. The concrete cap is approximately twelve feet in diameter. There is a square opening in the cap. **Structure (C)**

Highway 41-A South (S)

14. Mt. Zion-Haley Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery

2781 U. S. Highway 41-A S., Parcel 097 022.00, one acre.

There is no recorded exact date of the establishment of the Mt. Zion Haley Missionary Baptist Church. Around 1869, Martin Euless, deeded twelve acres to Zack Sims, who gave an acre of land for the church. Before the church was constructed, the African-American families had worshipped at Shofner's Lutheran Church.

14.1. *Church*, ca. 1870, 1910, 1969. The core of the present church is a log structure constructed ca.1870. This forms the third section of the structure as presently constructed. The church consists of four sections joined in a linear fashion. Each is rectangular in plan with a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal. The front section facing the highway was built in 1969 and forms a shallow narthex or entry

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hall; this section is of concrete block construction with weatherboard siding in the gable field. A single-leaf door is recessed at center and flanked by fixed single-light windows.

The church sanctuary is the next and largest section. This section was built ca. 1910 and is of frame construction. It rests on tapered stone piers and is clad in Masonite siding. Two double-hung sash windows with six-over-six lights are located on each side elevation.

The third section is the original log church. It is now clad in Masonite siding and also rests on stone piers. On the west elevation is a single-leaf wood door which opens onto a small stoop with a gable roof; to either side are small one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The rear and fourth section was built in 1969 and is of concrete block construction with two fixed single-light windows on the north or rear elevation. **Building (C)**

14.2. *Privy*, ca. 1910s. This is a small, one-story, square plan, vertical board frame structure with a shed roof of metal and a single-leaf batten door on the west façade. **Building (C)**

14.3. *Cemetery*, ca. 1860. The church cemetery contains burials dating from soon after the establishment of the congregation. Many of the names commonly represented in the community (Brinkleys, Troxlers, etc) are found on the tombstones, most of which are simple. Some graves are marked only by fieldstones. **Site (C)**

15. Van Harrison Ayers Tract

2783 U.S. Highway 41-A S., Parcels 097 017.00 and 097 017.04, 155 acres and one acre, respectively. Site (C)

Bounded on the south in part by U.S. Highway 41-A S. and by Normandy Road, and in part on the northwest by the Duck River, this 156-acre tract was originally part of the Martin Euliss farm. In 1900, the Martin Euliss farm was split among his four daughters, Lulu Johnson and the Bomar sisters. In the 1920's Mrs. Johnson and her husband, Sam Houston Johnson, purchased the Bomar tract. Upon the death of Mrs. Johnson in 1945, the farm was inherited by her daughter, Martwill Johnson.

15.1. *Residential Property, Johnson House* (Bedford County Survey Resource BD-701) ca. 1890, moved 1944. The main house on the property stood about three-quarters of a mile further back on the property and was moved to the present location in 1944 after the new highway between Shelbyville and Tullahoma (U.S. Highway 41-A, SR 16) was constructed. The dwelling was then remodeled with influences of the Tudor Revival style.

The one-and-one-half-story, central-passage plan house is generally rectangular in plan, rests on a concrete foundation, and has a side-gable roof of asphalt shingles. The house is clad in vinyl siding.

The façade faces south towards U.S. Highway 41-A. It features a single-leaf wood and glass light door at the center, flanked on either side by double-hung sash windows with eight-over-eight lights. An exterior brick chimney is located on the façade between the door and the adjacent window. There is no porch, only concrete steps leading up to the door.

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The west elevation has two, double-hung sash windows with six-over-six lights on the first floor. The east elevation has a one-story, side-gabled recessed bay featuring six-over-six wood sash windows on all sides. Steps lead down to a full cellar below, accessed by a single-leaf door.

The rear elevation has a full-length shed wall dormer, added when the house was moved in 1944. The first floor has an enclosed porch with a single-leaf wood and glass door at the center. Fenestration on this elevation is mixed with two-over-two sash windows on the first floor and six-over-six-light windows on the second floor. **Building (C)**

15.2. *Residential Property, Van and Nancy Ayers House,* 2017. This is a one-story dwelling designed by architect Martin Shofner. The dwelling incorporates numerous hardwoods from the property, as well as other exotic wood species. It has a concrete block foundation, an exterior of vertical wood board siding, and a shed roof of standing-seam metal. The façade (SW) has a five-bay, full-width porch with square cedar posts with a shed roof. Above the porch roof, the upper façade has three, fixed single-light windows. Other windows on the dwelling are one- over-one sash. The rear façade has a full-width screened porch. **Building (NC)**

15.3. *Milk Barn*, 1967. This is a one-story, pole frame structure clad in corrugated metal siding and has by a shallow gable-front roof of corrugated metal. The rectangular structure has three bays, two bays for equipment and one bay for milking dairy cattle. **Building (C)**

15.4. *Hay Shed*, 1985. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan structure of cedar pole construction with a gable roof of corrugated metal. The structure has four open bays, with only a wall only on the north side covered in corrugated metal to provide some protection from the elements. **Building (NC)**

15.5. *Machine Shed*, 1972. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan structure of pole construction with a corrugated metal shed roof. It has five equipment bays. **Building (NC)**

15.6. *Tool Shed*, 2000. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan, prefabricated metal building with a gable-front metal roof and bifolding doors. **Building (NC)**.

15.7. *Road Bed*, ca.1850. West of the house is an old roadbed, sunk one to two feet deep for much of its length. The road appears on a map from the Civil War period. It began on the north at "Shaffner's Bridge" on the Duck River and ran south to Whiteside Hill Road (once part of the Old Normandy Road, now on the south side of New Tullahoma Highway). It has now been encroached upon by the surrounding second- growth forest, but can be followed. **Structure (C)**

15.8. *Stone Fence*, ca.1850. Running nearly a mile along the western boundary of the farm is a limestone wall, standing about four feet high for most of its length. **Structure (C)**

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15.9. *Foxhole*, 1942. A small depression about five feet wide, three feet long, and now about two feet deep is the trace of an old foxhole or machine-gun nest built during a training exercise for the Second U. S. Army during World War II. Nearly one million soldiers were sent to nearby Camp Forrest at Tullahoma for training under Gen. George Patton. Training occurred through the area, and this foxhole is a remnant of the action. There is supposedly a second one, but only this one was located during the survey. It is located in the woods northwest of the Johnson House (15.1), north the sunken road (5.7) and south of stone fence (5.8) wall. **Structure (C)**

15.10. *Garage/Cabin*, ca. 1970. To the southeast of the new dwelling is a one-story, frame building with vertical wood board siding, a gable-front of standing-seam metal, and two bay garage doors on the west elevation. **Building (NC)**

15.11. Chicken Coop, ca. 2017. To the southeast of the new dwelling is a new chicken coop with two-tier shed roofs of corrugated metal and vertical wood board siding. **Structure (NC)**

16. 2802 Highway 41-A S.

Parcel 097 041.06, 5.02 acres. **Site (NC)** This mostly wooded property has a 2016 pre-fabricated dwelling. **Building (NC)**

17. 2804 Highway 41-A S.

Parcel 097 041.05, 7.5 acres. Site (NC) This mostly wooded property has a 2006 prefabricated dwelling. Building (NC)

18. 2805 Highway 41-A S.

Parcel 097 042.01, 8.8 acres. Site (NC) This tract is mostly wooded and contains a ca. 1978 metal warehouse. Building (NC)

19. 2840 U.S. Highway 41-A S

Located on the south side of U. S. Highway 41-A S., this property joins a ten-acre (097 041.01) and a 3.4-acre (097 044.00) parcel. Site (NC)

19.1. *House*, 1988. This one-story L-shaped house is clad in brick veneer and rests on a continuous concrete footing. It has a combination gabled and hipped roof clad in composition shingles. Windows are double-hung sash and the single-leaf main entry door opens onto a small stoop porch. **Building (NC)**

19.2. *Storage Warehouse*, ca. 2000. To the east of the dwelling is a large, rectangular-plan storage building with a gable roof and exterior walls of corrugated metal panels. **Building (NC)**

20. Highway 41-A S.

Parcel 097 041.04, 8.8 acres. **Site (NC)** This mostly wooded property has a ca. 2015 metal warehouse. **Building (NC)**

21. Highway 41-A S.

Parcel 097 041.02, 6.3 acres. **Site (C)** This mostly wooded parcel has no structures. United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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22. Highway 41-A S.

Parcel 097 042.00, 2.2 acres. **Site (NC)** This parcel is bounded on the south by Highway 41-A S. and on the north by Normandy Road.

22.1 This property has ruins of a burned commercial building. The small building had brick veneer on the façade and metal casement windows on the east elevation. **Building (NC)**

23. Ewing B. Jenkins, Jr. Tract

Highway 41-A S., Parcel 097 043.00, 26 acres. Site (C)

This twenty-six-acre parcel is bounded on the south by U.S. Highway 41-A and on the north by Normandy Road. It is divided between crops in rotation and woodlands. There are no structures on the property. This parcel was the original site of the Adam Euless dwelling and barn which no longer exist and which were adjacent to the spring on the parcel. Descendants of Martin Euliss sold this tract in the early 1900s.

23.1 *Tunnel*, ca. 1942. The construction of U.S. Highway 41-A through the historic district divided individual farms. At that time, the Jenkins family owned one such tract and wanted to insure access to either side of their divided property without crossing the highway. They asked for a tunnel under the highway of dimensions that would allow for passage of a wagon. The structure has been obscured by overgrowth, recently cleared for the road-widening project. **Structure (C)**

24. Audrey White Shofner Tract

U.S. Highway 41-A S., Parcel 112 046.00, 63 acres. Site (C)

This 63-acre tract is divided between pasture and woodland; there are no structures on the parcel. This was a part of the original Martin Shofner property, later owned by General Austin C. Shofner. The parcel is the northwest portion of what Shofner descendants refer to as the original "Green Hills Farm."

25. Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery (Bedford County Survey Resource BD-109) Highway 41-A S., Parcel 097 046.00, 2.4 acres.

This 2.4-acre parcel contains the present Shofners' Lutheran Chapel (formerly Shofners' Lutheran Church while still an active congregation) and a large cemetery with the graves of many of the former residents of the district. This property was listed in the National Register July 10, 1998.

25.1. *Shofners' Lutheran Church*, ca.1876. This one-story, rectangular-plan, frame church has a concrete block foundation, weatherboard siding, and a gable-front roof of asphalt shingles. The Greek Revival-style church features a full pediment with weatherboard tympanum. Below the pediment is a full cornice with a plain board entablature. The distyle-in-antis entry is supported by two Corinthian columns with scroll sawn acanthus leaves. The main entrance has paired double-leaf doors with two vertical panels each, a six-light transom and a hooded cornice. The inner side walls of the recessed porch have single-leaf, two-panel wood doors opening into small rooms, used today for storage.

The northwest and southeast elevations are identical, and feature plain weatherboard walls above an eighteen-inch board water table and a plain board entablature below the eaves. Five single-leaf windows

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with original nine-over-nine lights and hooded cornices are spaced evenly along the walls. Some pieces of surviving hardware indicate these windows originally featured operating wooden shutters. The roof and cornice terminate in gable returns. **Building (C)**

25.2. Cemetery, ca. 1807. According to the National Register nomination form for this property, the oldest burial within the cemetery occurred in 1807. Containing more than 415 graves in fifteen rows arrayed on three sides of the chapel, this remains an active burying ground. A number of burials were relocated from the old Shofner Cemetery (27.10) following the construction of the 1876 church building. Later, in 1961, the graves of pioneers Martin and Catherine Shofner were relocated to the front lawn of the church property. Graves are marked by a wide variety of markers and monuments. Other prominent settler family members interred here include those of the Euless, Jenkins, Troxler, Landis, Slater and Searcy families. As a group, the collection of grave markers includes noteworthy funerary designs and symbolic motifs. The Calvin Jenkins (1831-1906) obelisk has a ziggurat-style capitol shrouded in an intricate tasseled drapery. There are several other obelisk designs throughout the cemetery. Engraved symbols include crowns, lilies, doves, lambs, urns, oak leaves, and laurel. There is one Masonic-associated headstone, but the name is illegible. One marker for Woodsman of the World Horace Nutt (1880-1923) features a stylized tree trunk with ferns, lilies, and ivy at its base. Site (C)

25.3 *Fence*, ca. 1871. Surrounding the church and cemetery is a wrought iron fence. The fence dates from the period of the church's construction. The fence was embellished ca. 1945 with two pairs of stone gateposts flanking the entrances to the church. These features were added after the construction of the New Tullahoma Highway (U. S. Highway 41-A SR-16). The property is bounded on the east by Thompson Creek. Above the west bank of the creek there is a road bed that was the historic roadway during the nineteenth century. **Structure (C)**

26. US41-A State Route Bridge 16 Highway and Bridge Number 2SR01600310 Highway 41-A S.

26.1 *Roadway and Bridge*, (Bedford County Survey Resource BD-705), ca. 1942. Constructed to connect Shelbyville to Camp Forrest in Tullahoma, this two-lane highway with bridge carries U.S. Highway 41-A through the district and crosses Thompson Creek. The bridge is located immediately northeast of Shofner's Church and Cemetery (# 25.1). This two-lane bridge has a total length of 125 feet. It is a concrete Teebeam design with four rectangular piers with rounded edges that taper from top to bottom. At each end of the bridge is a concrete abutment that flares into the embankment. The deck of the bridge are a common design and do not directly represent the agricultural or historic significance of the district. TDOT began planning to widen the road and bridge to a four-lane divided highway through the district in the 1990s. The roadway has been widened in recent years both east and west of the historic district and no longer represents its original 1942 design. **Structure (NC)**

27. William Emory Shofner Tract

Highway 41-A S., Parcel 112 047.00, 97.77 acres. Site (C)

This 97.77-acre tract is a remnant of the original 1808 farm settled by Martin Shofner and remains in the hands of a direct descendent. Family tradition holds that Shofner settled on this parcel on account

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of the constant spring on the tract. The parcel is the northeast portion of what Shofner descendants refer to as the original "Green Hills Farm" and was later owned by A. W. Shofner, who built a home here in the 1870s. He later divided the land between his sons, Austin C. and Emory Shofner. One of Austin Shofner's sons owns this parcel today. Also on the tract is a large stock barn, a tenant house, and a number of other structures. A log structure is thought to be from the period of settlement. The tract also contains the original family cemetery, though some graves, including that of pioneer Martin Shofner, have been relocated to the Shofner Chapel Cemetery.

27.1. *Blowing Spring Water System*, ca. 1810s. On the north side of the one of the farm hills is a strong perennial spring from which a strong draught of cool air emerges. This spring was long utilized for domestic use and stock watering. A hydraulic ram was once located here, and a square stone box in the stream bed, roughly two-feet square and one-foot high is the source from which the water was drawn. A pipe led from the stone box to the ram, which is no longer extant. Nearby is a four-by-five-foot poured-concrete base on which a later pump was located; it also is no longer extant. The ram and the pump fed water to the houses on the site and also to the stock barn. **Site (C)**

27.2. *House site*, (Bedford County Survey Resource BD-707) ca. 1870. This house site includes the stone foundation for a one-story, frame Victorian house. It was built by Austin Williams Shofner and his wife, Rachel Connor Shofner. Later rented to tenants, the house burned in 1985. The extensive foundation walls, four or five feet high in places, still show the footprint of the house. The cut-stone foundation goes deep into the grade, indicating a basement level. The owner has a sepia photograph of the dwelling with large planted shrubs in the fore-yard. The dwelling was a gable-ell plan and had ornate vergeboard and a bay window with Gothic-arch windows on the façade. **Site (C)**

27.3.*Stock Barn*, ca. 1880. This is a two-tiered livestock barn of frame construction, with vertical wood board siding and a triple-pent roof of standing-seam metal. The barn has a large central bay and single-tier equipment bays on either side. This is one of the larger barns in the district and at times housed sheep, cattle, and pigs, as well as storing large amounts of corn. **Building (C)**

27.4. Log Building, ca. 1806. This is a single-pen, log building measuring nineteen-by-twenty-three feet and assembled with full and half-dovetail notches. The structure rests on stone piers and replacement concrete block piers and has a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal. The gable field above the log pens has weatherboard siding. Speculation among the property owners and Shofner descendants suggest that the structure may have been the original Shofner Lutheran Church, which was known to be a log structure; alternately, it may have been the original Martin Shofner dwelling. In either case, this is likely the oldest structure surviving in the district. **Building (C)**

27.5. Equipment Shed 1, ca. 1900. This is a shed of pole frame construction with a shed roof of standing- seam metal, weatherboard siding, and five open equipment bays. The structure is collapsed and does not retain integrity. **Building (NC)**

27.6. *Equipment Shed 2*, ca. 1940. This is a shed of pole frame construction with two open equipment bays and a roof of standing-seam metal. The structure has no exterior siding, though some metal is attached to the south side. **Building (C)**

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27.7. *Culvert*, ca. 1930. This small, stone box culvert is located just south of the farm boundary with Shofners' Church (Resource 25). It is constructed of dressed fieldstone and is approximately three feet high, three feet wide, and eight feet long, the width of the farm road. **Structure (C)**

27.8. *Cattle pen and chute*, ca. 1910. This is a cattle pen with a wooden chute for loading cattle to trucks. It is located south of the barn; the chute has a wooden ramp set between two large cedar trees. **Structure** (\mathbf{C})

27.9. *Tenant House*, (Bedford County Survey Resource BD-706) ca. 1910. This one-story frame dwelling is square in plan and features a high-hipped roof of standing-seam metal. The building rests on stone piers and is clad in weatherboard siding. The façade faces southeast and features a single-leaf wood door and a shed porch supported by unhewn posts. A single brick flue pierces the roof in front of the ridge. Other openings for sash windows are located on the southwest and northeast elevations. On the rear elevation facing northwest there is a doorway for a single-leaf door and another opening for a sash window. **Building (C)**

27.10. *Shofner Cemetery*, ca. 1814. In 1814, a deed was written for a one-acre plot for construction of a Lutheran church and a burying ground for "all persons who die of natural causes." Approximately one hundred graves marked by tombstones, cairns, box graves, or simple fieldstones, or discernable by depressions in the ground, are located here. There are forty-four headstones, thirteen of which are Shofner graves.

Some of the original burials were relocated to the Shofners' Lutheran Church Cemetery (#25.2) following the construction of the 1876 church (#25.1) at that property. Observed (extant) markers here date from 1826 through 1899. Unmarked graves and simple field stones are present in this cemetery, as well. According to the property owners, slaves were buried in this cemetery along with their owners. Those graves are reported to be on the left of the entrance within the cemetery.

One field stone is clearly marked "E. E." It is believed that this was a member of the Euless family, given its close proximity to other Euless family members. A number of pioneer Brinkley family members are also buried here. The cemetery is maintained by descendants. **Site (C)**

28. Martin King Shofner "Daybreak Farm"

U.S. Highway 41-A S., Parcel 113 004.00, twenty-two acres and Parcel 113 018.00, 132 acres. Site (C)

This property consists of 130 acres of woodlands and thirty acres of pasture. Bounded on the north by U. S. Highway 41-A, and on the west by the Absalom Lowe Landis "Beech Hall" tract (#37), this farm was, according to some Shofner descendants, believed to be the site of the original Martin Shofner settlement dating from 1808. It is known that Martin Shofner's land was inherited by his grandson Monroe Shofner, who passed the property to his son, Austin Williams Shofner. In the twentieth century, this tract was owned by A. W. Shofner's sister and was a tenant farm. Gen. Austin C. Shofner acquired thrity-five acres along the highway in the 1960s and later acquired the remainder of the farm when the life estate of his kinsman, D. B. McClain, expired.

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28.1. *Tenant House*, ca. 1880. This is a one-story, saddlebag plan, frame dwelling with board-andbatten siding, a three-quarter length shed porch across façade (W), a full-length shed section at rear, and a side- gable roof of crimped metal. There are two, four-panel doors on the facade, and the windows are covered with working batten shutters. The house is raised on stone piers and some replacement concrete block piers. The flue has been removed. **Building (C)**

28.2. *Shed*, ca. 1880. This is a small one-story, rectangular-plan structure clad in vertical board and board- and-batten siding. It has a gable-front roof of crimped metal with projecting bonnet, and original shed wings on the east and west elevations. The west wing is open shed while the east wing is enclosed as feeding room. **Building (C)**

28.3. *Crib Barn*, ca. 1890. This double-pen log barn with a central open runway had small log feeding pens along either side. The building has a gable metal roof. **Building (C)**

28.4. Spring, ca. 1890. The spring behind the tenant house has rock walls four feet high, lined with concrete. There is evidence of a spring house built over the spring but there are few remains. Structure (C)

28.5. *Roadbed*, ca. 1820. The road in front of the house was originally a public road extending south to adjacent properties; it connected with the extension of Hornaday Lane on the William Hornaday farm. It was long in use, as evidenced by areas sunk as much as ten feet below grade. **Structure (C)**

<u>Hornaday Lane</u>

29. William Hornaday Farm (Bedford County Survey Resource BD-708)

195 Hornaday Lane, Parcel 113 003.00, 356 acres. Site (C)

This 356-acre farm is bisected by Thompson Creek Road and consists of 123 acres of crop land, 123 acres of woodland, ninety-eight acres in pasture, and two acres of improved sites. It is bounded on the north by the Absalom Lowe Landis "Beech Hall" parcel (#37) and on the west by Thompson Creek. Hornaday Lane is a dead-end road into the portion of the parcel on the east side of Thompson Creek Road. The property was purchased in 1898 by William Thomas Hornaday of the Raus community located further up Thompson Creek. William Thomas Hornaday's original residence is no longer extant. A dwelling from 1928 remains on the property.

29.1. *Residential Property I*, 1928. This dwelling was is a Craftsman-influenced bungalow form that prevailed in the 1920s. The one- and-one-half-story, rectangular-plan dwelling has a brick foundation, original weatherboard siding, and a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal with a large gable dormer on the main façade (S). The house has an interior central, brick chimney. The roofline flares forward from the main block of the structure to form a full shed porch supported by tapered square wood posts set on brick piers. The porch wraps around the west gable end, covered by a shed roof as well. The three-bay façade is arranged around a central entrance with an original single-leaf wood door with four tall lights, set between two vertical sidelights. Windows to either side are double-hung wood sash with four-over-one lights. The central dormer on the upper floors has four similar windows.

The east elevation features a one-story carport replacing the three-quarter porch on the west side, but

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of similar scale. The carport has concrete block walls at the base and square wood posts supporting a shed roof. A one-story shed roof wing extends across the rear of the structure. **Building (C)**

29.2. *Garage/Shed*, ca. 1920. East of the main house is a small, one-story, rectangular-plan garage. It has weatherboard walls, double-leaf vertical board garage doors, and a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal. A small open shed wing extends across the north elevation. **Building (C)**

29.3. *Barn*, ca. 1920. This large stock barn is rectangular in plan and of pole construction with vertical wood board siding and a gambrel roof of standing-seam metal. The barn features a full loft, a central runway and a projecting bonnet to protect the hay hoist. A one-story shed wing extends across the east elevation and features a gated opening for storage of a farm wagon. **Building (C)**

29.4 *Garage*, ca. 1960. This gable-front building of concrete block construction has a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal. A ca. 2000 vinyl garage bay door and a single-leaf metal door with a fixed six-light window are located on the façade (S). **Building (C)**

29.5. *Hornaday Lane Road Bed*, ca. 1890. The road to the farm was likely constructed around 1890 when William Thomas Hornaday established the farm. The country road section ends at the present Hornaday House; however, it once extended north to present U.S. Highway 41-A and the road bed can be traced west of the house and on the adjacent Shofner property. **Structure (C)**

29.6. Spring House, ca. 1900. This original spring house has limestone walls and interior steps. Structure (C)

29.7. *Sawmill*, ca. 1890. This is a one-and-one-half-story, frame building clad in board-and-batten siding and set on log piers. The structure has a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal. A shed wing has been added to the east elevation. **Building (C)**

In the southern portion of the large parcel is a second group of buildings, including a house and outbuildings.

29.8. *Residential Property II*, ca. 1880. This is a one-story, frame dwelling with weatherboard siding, a side-gable roof of crimped metal, and concrete block foundation. The main façade (W) has two boarded door openings. The hip roof porch wraps around to the north elevation. This portion of the porch has been enclosed, as has been the small section of the southwest corner of the façade porch. The dwelling has been further altered with vinyl-sash windows. **Building (NC)**

29.9 *Shed*, ca. 1920. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan shed with a concrete-block foundation, walls of vertical wood board siding, and a gable-front roof of crimped metal. The gable-end façade has two wood paneled doors. **Building (C)**

29.10. *Stock Barn*, ca. 1920. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan stock barn with walls of vertical wood board siding and a gable roof of crimped metal. The interior is divided by individual livestock stalls. **Building (C)**

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29.11. *Stock Barn II*, ca. 1930. This is a large stock barn with walls of vertical wood board and a gambrel roof of standing-seam metal. The interior has a central runway and livestock stalls. **Building (C)**

29.12. *Dairy Barn*, ca. 1930. This one-story, rectangular-plan building has walls of concrete block and a side gable roof of crimped metal. The façade (W) has a recessed opening. Windows are original four-light casement design. **Building (C)**

29.13 *Stone Fence*, ca. 1920. On the portion of the property on the west side of Thompson Creek there is a stone fence on the stream bank along south property line. It appears to be a simple retaining wall to prevent erosion of the grade. **Structure (C)**

30. Hornaday Lane, Parcel 113 021.02, 5.1 acres. Site (NC) This property has a 1982 dwelling of frame construction and a gable roof. Building (NC)

<u>Normandy Road</u>

31. **300 Normandy Road**, Parcel 096 030.01, 6.86 acres. **Site (NC)**

This parcel is bounded on the north by Normandy Road and on the west by Shofner Road.

31.1. *Residential Property*, 2005. This is a one-and-one-half-story frame dwelling with an exterior of synthetic siding and a gable roof of standing-seam metal. **Building (NC)**

31.2 Farm building, 2005. This is a large, irregular-plan metal building. Building (NC)

32. William Oscar Jenkins Farm (BD-140 in the Bedford County Survey)

336 Normandy Road, Parcel 096 030.00. 2.7 acres. Site (C)

The present dwelling is the result of a 1941 reconstruction of the original house on the same site. The original house was the home of Reverend William Jenkins and his wife Mary, a sister to Martin Euliss, another early settler on Thompson Creek. The house is believed to have been built in 1825, as tradition holds that the first-born child of Rev. William Jenkins was born in the house. On the death of the Reverend in 1877, the property went to his son, John Whitson Jenkins. The farm remained in the family into the twentieth century, but the house was allowed to deteriorate and was put up for sale in 1941. William Oscar Jenkins of Pueblo, New Mexico, purchased the property to keep it in the family. He decided the house was beyond repair and tore it down, salvaging re-usable materials. Leaving the original stone chimneys intact, he built the present house to replicate the original. Jenkins' sister, Mrs. Howard Shofner, Sr., resided in the house until her death in 1961, when her son bought the property.

32.1. *Residential Property*, 1941 William Oscar Jenkins House (Bedford County Survey Resource BD-140) The dwelling is a two-story, frame Greek Revival-style reconstruction from 1941 and has a poured concrete foundation, an exterior of vinyl siding added ca. 2004, and a side-gable roof with standing-seam metal. At each gable end is an original ca. 1825 exterior, limestone chimney. The façade (N) is symmetrical with a full-height, central portico with a gabled pediment supported by four square, wood columns salvaged from the original house. To each side of the portico there are two six-over-six, vinyl-sash windows on each story. The main entrance has a ca. 2000 oval-light door. The upper floor has a balcony accessed by multi-light wood double doors. The rear elevation of the

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dwelling has a one-story wing with an integral porch on the west elevation and an exterior, brick chimney on the south elevation. **Building (C)**

32.2. Spring House, ca. 1900. Located to the southeast of the dwelling is a ca. 1900 spring house with limestone walls. The frame superstructure is partially intact. There are two limestone cisterns nearby. Structure (C)

32.3. *Garage/Apartment*, 2004. The current owner built a two-story garage with upper-floor apartments to the southwest of the main dwelling. It has vinyl siding, vinyl windows, a gable roof of standing-seam metal and two bays doors on the façade (N). **Building (NC)**

32.4 *Kennel*, 2004. Behind the main dwelling is a one-story dog kennel. The current owner formerly showed Collie Dogs nationally and still keeps retired show dogs. The kennel has a gable roof of standing-seam metal, vinyl siding, and an incised porch on the west elevation. **Building (NC)**

33. Sam Wright Ayers and Van H. Ayers Tract

Normandy Road/Three Forks Bridge Road, Parcel 097 017.02, 51.58 acres, Parcel 097 017.01, 67 acres, and Parcel 097 017.03, 50.01 acres. **Site (C)**

This tract is historically associated with the homestead of Martin Euliss (1819-1900), son of Adam Euliss (1778-1843) and his wife Dorothea Turley Shofner Euliss (1783-1871), daughter of Martin Shofner. Martin Euliss' sister, Mary, married Reverend William Jenkins, the pastor of the church. The latter couple built a home (#32.1) on the south side of Normandy Road. Martin and his wife Cassander built their home on this tract. The Martin Euliss farm was divided among his daughters, including Mrs. Sam Houston Johnson. This tract was the property of Delsie Johnson, who married Thomas Phillip Ayers, Sr. Their grandsons are the current owners.

Bisected by the Normandy Road and bordered by U.S. Highway 41 A (SR-16) on the south and Three Forks Bridge Road on the east, buildings on this 168-acre tract today are associated with the Delsie Johnson Farm. This property is composed of three tax parcels - one parcel of 51.58 acres owned by Sam Ayers on the south side of Normandy Road, a second parcel of 50.01 acres owned by Van Ayers on the north side of Normandy Road, and a third parcel of 67 acres owned by Sam Ayers at 125 Three Forks Bridge Road and bounded by Normandy Road on the south.

33.1. *Euliss House Site*, ca. 1850. A few dressed stone foundation blocks, some old maple trees, and a few clumps of daffodils are all that remain of the old Martin Euliss house on the Normandy Road. According to Mr. Van Ayers, the house was a two-story frame structure built of native poplar on an ell-plan. It burned in 1948. During the Civil War, this was a Union Army camp site. **Site (C)**

33.2. *Road Bed*, ca. 1830. Running by the east side of the old house site down to the old barn site is a road trace, sunken by continual traffic two feet or so below the earth grade. The road remains in use today. **Structure (C)**

33.3. *Slave Quarter Row Site*, ca. 1850s. At the base of a hill north and west of the Euliss house site stood a row of frame slave quarters. These dwellings are no longer extant but stone foundations can still be discerned as well as some chimney remains. **Site** (C)

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33.4. "Uncle Zach's House" Site, ca. 1900. Northwest of the old house group stood a solitary cabin occupied into the mid-twentieth century by Zach Sims, descendent of Euless slaves. Sims was later given or sold a piece of adjacent property to the farm, and his descendants still occupy it today. Some foundations stones remain visible. Site (C)

33.5. *Road Bed*, ca. 1830. The nineteenth century Stage Road from Shelbyville to Normandy once followed this route, a hundred yards or so north of the current Normandy Road. Part of the road can be traced across the Delsie Johnson farm as a sunken trace about one foot below the surrounding grade. **Structure (C)**

33.6. *Milk Shed*, ca. 1930. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan structure on the edge of a field below the Euless House site. The structure rests on stone piers, has a side-gable standing-seam metal roof, and is covered in vertical board siding. The milk shed was constructed by Thomas Ayers, grandfather of the current owner. **Building (C)**

33.7. *Spring*, ca. 1900. Below the Euliss House site, near the Milk Shed is a natural spring that has been lined and covered with limestone blocks. **Structure (C)**

33.8. *Mobile Home*, ca. 1970. This residence consists of two single-wide mobile homes, joined together to form a double-wide residence. **Building (NC)**

33.9. *Hay Barn*, ca. 2000. This is a large one-story, rectangular-plan structure of frame construction with a gable steel roof and used for storing rolled hay bales. **Building (NC)**

34. Bedford County "Normandy Convenience Center"

Parcel 097 042.02, 1.2 acres. Site (NC)

This is a paved lot between Hwy 41-A on the south and Normandy Road on the north. This is a county- owned site provided for Bedford County rural residents for the drop-off of garbage and recycling materials.

Shofner Road

35. Dianne Shofner Doochin and Adam Emory Doochin Tract

Bounded by Shofner Road on the east and Highway 41-A S. on the south, Parcel 097 045.00, 91 acres. Site (C)

This 91-acre farm is bisected by Thompson Creek and extends from Normandy Road on the north to U.S. Highway 41 A on the south and lies on both sides of Shofner Road.

35.1 C. F. Jenkins House Site, ca. 1850. This site originally was the location of the ca. 1850 C.F. Jenkins House. Some foundation stones remain and there is a sizeable extant well toward the rear of the site. Site (C)

35.2 Well, ca. 1850. This is a dug well lined with cut limestone. The interior measures approximately

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three feet square and eight feet deep to the water level. At grade, the well is lined with concrete blocks. A section of cyclone-fence gate has been laid over the blocks. **Structure (C)**

35.3. *Stock Barn*, ca. 1920. This collapsed barn was a two-and-one-half-story building of pole frame construction, clad in vertical board and with a gable-front roof of standing seam metal. The structure had an open central runway, feeding stalls, and a hayloft above. A one-story equipment shed was joined to the north side. Due to its condition this building no longer retains integrity. **Building (NC)**

35.4. *Outbuilding*, ca. 1920. There is a second collapsed building, located to the southwest of the house site. It may have been a smokehouse and appears to have been a one-story frame building with a roof of crimped metal and a stone foundation. Due to its condition this building no longer retains integrity. **Building (NC)**

35.5. *Stone Fence I*, ca. 1850. A dry-stack limestone fence runs from the rear of the barn west to Thompson Creek. It is sited atop a manmade berm running perpendicular to the creek. **Structure (C)**

35.6 *Stone Fence II*, ca. 1850. A second dry-stack limestone fencel is located at the southern property line, just north of Highway 41-A (SR-16). It runs between and is perpendicular to the creek and Shofner Road. **Structure (C)**

36. Wayde Hornaday Farm

152 Shofner Road, Parcel 096 031.00. Site (C)

The property consists of sixty-seven acres in pasture, twenty-three acres of crop lands, six wooded acres, and one acre of improved site. The farm was settled by the Hornadays, contemporaries of the Shofners, Jenkinses, and other early settlers. The Hornadays originally settled around Raus further south on Thompson Creek. This farm was established around 1915.

36.1. *Residential Property*, (Bedford County Survey Resource BD-702) ca. 1915. This one-and-one-half-story frame house is a Craftsman-influenced bungalow. It has weatherboard siding, a brick foundation, interior brick chimneys, a gable roof and a central dormer on the main façade. The main (W) façade has a wrap-around porch supported by tapered wood posts on brick piers. The main entrance has double-leaf wood-and-glass doors flanked with sidelights and above is a transom. Windows are original double-hung design with three- over-one vertical light sash. At the roofline are knee brace brackets. A one-story shed roof wing extends across the rear elevation. **Building (C)**

36.2. *Shed*, ca. 1970. Just to the north of the house is a one-story vertical board utility shed with a gable-front metal roof and double-leaf doors on the front. **Building (NC)**

36.3. *Barn*, ca. 1920. This is a three-tier wood pole barn clad in vertical boards with a gable-front roof of standing-seam metal and with a bonnet on the front to protect the hay hoist. The barn has two drive-throughs to either side of center and a one-story tractor shed wing on the northwest elevation. **Building** (C)

36.4. *Hayshed*, ca. 1990. This is a large one-story hayshed, rectangular in plan, with open sides and a gabled metal roof supported by braced poles. **Building (NC)**

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Thompson Creek Road

37. Absalom Lowe Landis Farm, "Beech Hall"

Thompson Creek Road, Parcel 113 002.00, 223 acres. This property was individually listed in the National Register in 1987. Site (C)

This 223-acre farm on Thompson Creek was a part of a land grant issued to John Landis (1794-1854) of North Carolina. His son, Absalom Lowe Landis constructed "Beech Hall" in 1869. Following A. L. Landis' death in 1896, the property passed to his daughters, Melissa and Helen Narcissus. Melissa's husband, Jacob M. Shofner, purchased the entire interest in the place soon afterwards. On his death in 1916, the land passed to Shofner's daughters, Argentine (Argie) (1873-1954) and Alice. Argie married William Prentice Cooper (1870-1961), a prominent farmer and banker who served as mayor of Shelbyville (1905-07), and later in the Tennessee General Assembly where he became Speaker of the House (1915-17). The Coopers lived in Nashville but maintained "Beech Hall" as a summer residence. Argie Cooper later bought out her sister's interest. The Cooper's son, William Prentice Cooper, Jr. (1895-1969) was an attorney who served as Governor of Tennessee from 1939 to 1945. "Beech Hall" remains in the Cooper family today.

37.1. *Residential Property, Absalom Lowe Landis House, "Beech Hall,*" (Bedford County Survey Resource BD-108), 1869. This is a two-story frame dwelling built in the Greek Revival style but exhibiting transitional elements from the Italianate style. The central passage plan dwelling features two- story pedimented porticos supported by fluted Corinthian columns on the main (W) and north elevations. The house rests on a stone foundation, has

a two-story ell section extending from the northeast elevation, a standing-seam metal roof, and brick chimneys. The main façade is symmetrical with a central entrance with original double-leaf wood paneled doors flanked by sidelights and above the entrance is a transom. One the second story is an identical entrance which opens onto a cantilevered balcony which is supported by heavy console brackets decorated with stylized flowers. The balcony railing is distinguished by its delicate sawn work. Windows are original one- over-one wood sash set within surrounds with decorative cornices. The north elevation has a similar portico and entrance. The rear ell wing has similar doors and windows as on the primary elevations. A one-story wood porch extends the full length of the ell and has octagonal wood columns. **Building (C)**

37.2. Servant Quarters House Site, ca. 1869. Situated just behind the main house was a one-story rectangular frame structure that was apparently constructed for house servants. This two-room saddlebag plan house was centered on a brick central chimney and rested on a cut limestone foundation. Its original design matched that of the main house with cornice returns and a dentilled entablature. The building, however, is no longer extant, and only the foundation and chimney remain. **previously listed as Building (C), now Site (C).**

37.3. *Barn*, ca. 1915. This frame stock barn is rectangular in plan, clad in vertical-board wooden siding, and has a standing-seam metal roof. It has an open central runway through the center from the north to the south wall. An integral shed wing runs the length of the north wall. Part of the barn rests on a cutstone foundation, indicating the barn may rest on the site of an earlier structure. A hay hoist on a metal track is located at the apex of the roof. **Building (C)**

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37.4. *Silo Foundation*, ca. 1925. Adjacent to the barn at its northeast corner is a circular foundation for a silo. The foundation is of concrete construction, is about twenty-five feet in diameter, and stands about ten-feet high. The silo itself was razed in past decades. **Structure (C)**

37.5. *Tractor Shed*, ca. 1920. This small building, located to the west of the barn, was rectangular in plan and of pole construction. It was sided with vertical boards and had a gable-front standing-seam metal roof. The east and west gable ends were open. The structure collapsed in the last ten years. Due to its loss of integrity this building is non-contributing to the district. **Building (NC)**

37.6. *Stone Fence and Gateposts*, ca. 1869 and ca. 1940. Running along the front boundary of the property facing Thompson Creek Road is a stone fence of dry-laid stone construction, topped with slanted copes. The driveway is flanked by square mortared stone pillars topped with concrete caps added ca. 1940. **Structure (C)**

37.7. *Shed*, ca. 1900. Located approximately a third of a mile east of the barn complex are the remnants of a farm shed. The structure is rectangular in plan with weatherboard siding, and a side-gable roof of standing- seam metal. The structure collapsed decades ago and all that remains is the gable roof and a portion of the eastern wall. Due to its loss of integrity this building is non-contributing to the district. **previously listed as Building (C), now Building (NC)**

37.8. *Tenant House*, ca. 1900. A few hundred feet east of *Shed* (37.7) are the remains of a small frame dwelling. It was rectangular in plan, constructed of sawn wooden timbers clad in wooden siding, and has a side-gable standing seam metal roof. A shed porch extended across the south side. All that remains today are some sill logs, metal from the roof, and miscellaneous wooden debris. Due to its loss of integrity this building is non-contributing to the district. **Building (NC)**

37.9. *Farm Pond and Dam*, ca. 1900. Located just north of the Tenant House remains is a small farm pond of about 1 acre in size. It is impounded by a simple earthen dam. The pond provided water for livestock, and is preserved as a fishing pond today. **Structure (C)**

37.10. *Road Bed*, ca.1870. This road bed runs from the east side of Thompson Creek Road past the barn complex east to *Shed* (37.7) and continues along the south side of the *Farm Pond* (37.9) to the *Tenant House* (37.8). The road continues to the east to the edge of the present property, where there is a third set of ruins, a *House Site* (37.11). **Structure (C)**

37.11. *House site*, ca. 1870. At this location are the stone pier foundations and a large, stone chimney for a ca. 1870 dwelling which was at this site. The foundation stones mark the footprint of the house. Site (C)

38. William Prentiss Cooper III et al Parcel

Thompson Creek Road, Parcel 113 022.00, eighty acres. Site (C)

This eighty-acre parcel is woodlands and agricultural fields. It is located on the west side of Thompson Creek Road and it does not have any structures.

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Three Forks Bridge Road

39. George D. and Glenda F. Hill Tract

199 Three Forks Bridge Road, Parcel 097 020.00, sixty-three acres. Site (C) The property consists of forty-three acres of crop lands, twelve acres in pasture, seven wooded acres, and one acre of improved site.

This property was owned by several families including Dean, Thomas, Reed, and Wesson. Mrs. Elizabeth Troxler Wesson was the previous owner of the property and sister to William Hornaday. The Troxler family is associated with the early German Lutheran settlement of the area. The parcel is today owned by George D. and Glenda Hill.

39.1. Residential Property, ca. 1930. This is a one-story, gable-front, frame Craftsman-influenced dwelling. It has a concrete block foundation, a gable roof of standing-seam metal and an interior brick chimney. The house is clad in replacement vinyl siding. The main (E) façade has a projecting gable entry porch supported by square wooden posts on square brick piers. The entrance has an original wood and glass door. Windows are original four-over-four-light double-hung wood sash on all walls. **Building** (C)

39.2. *Shed 1*, ca. 2000. This is a small prefabricated metal shed with a gable-front roof. **Building (NC)**

39.3. *Shed 2*, ca. 2000. This is a prefabricated metal storage shed with gable-front roof and double-leaf doors. **Building (NC)**

39.4. *Barn 1*, ca. 1930. Located north of the house is a frame barn with a gable-front roof of crimped metal and walls of vertical wood board siding. The center bay is enclosed and is flanked by drive-through bays. **Building (C)**

39.5 *Barn 2*, ca. 1930. Located north of the house, this three-tier pole barn is clad in vertical board and has a gambrel roof of crimped metal with an overhanging bonnet on the south façade. Drive-throughs are located to either side of the main section. An original one-story shed tractor shed is joined to the west side and on the east side is a ca.1980 equipment shed wing with a shed roof. **Building (C)**

40. Frederick Michael Shofner Farm

295 Three Forks Bridge Road, Parcels 091 016.00 and 097 051.00, 107 acres total. Site (C) The property consists of forty-nine acres of crop lands, thirty-nine acres in pasture, eighteen wooded acres, and one acre of improved site.

The 1878 Beers Map indicates a house at this location with the name G. Williams. The property came into the Shofner family ca. 1890 when Joseph T. Shofner purchased it. The farm has remained in the family for the next three generations, belonging in order to Cecil, Fred, and Michael Shofner, the current owner.

40.1. *Residential Property*, *Joseph T. Shofner House*, ca. 1890. This is a two-story frame, gabled-ell house with Queen Anne influences. The house is clad in a mix of weatherboard and board-and-batten siding, rests on a random ashlar stone foundation, and has a cross-gable roof covered in asphalt

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shingles. An interior brick chimney breaks the roof at the gable junctions. The main (W) façade faces south towards the farm driveway (originally a county road that crossed the river to the west). A one-story, partial-width porch is supported by original chamfered columns and has a bellcast roof with a wrought-iron railing. The main entrance has a single-leaf paneled wood door with a single light and molded wood surround. Windows are original double-hung sash with one-over-one lights. The house has gable returns and wood eave brackets. An original two-story ell extends from the rear with a one-story, partial-width shed porch. A one-story gable wing extends from the west elevation. **Building (C)**

40.2. *Garage*, ca. 1950. This is a one-story, concrete-block, rectangular-plan garage with a side-gable metal roof. There are two garage bays with wood panel doors. **Building (C)**

40.3. *Chicken House 1*, ca. 1950. This is a small, one-story, rectangular-plan, weatherboard frame structure with a shed metal roof, screened hopper windows, and a single-leaf wood panel door. **Structure** (C)

40.4. *Chicken House 2*, ca. 1950. This is a small, one-story, square -plan, weatherboard frame structure on a concrete block foundation with a shed metal roof, single-leaf batten door on the east elevation, and a single one-over-one-light window on the south elevation. This structure served as an incubator house for the farm poultry flock. **Structure (C)**

40.5. *Wood Shop*, ca. 1950. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan building of frame construction clad in corrugated metal siding and with a gable-front metal roof. The building has a sliding garage door on the south elevation, a wood batten door on the east elevation, and a fixed four-light window on the east elevation. The structure was used as a wood shop by Mr. Cecil Shofner, an accomplished cabinetmaker and furniture maker. **Building (C)**

40.6. *Tool Shed*, ca. 1950. This is a one-story, frame building clad in corrugated metal siding and has a gable-front metal roof. An overhead track door is located on the east elevation. **Building (C)**

40.7. *Granary*, ca. 1900/1950. This granary was built in two stages. The rear section dates from ca. 1900, when the farmhouse was built, and the front section was added ca. 1950 at the onset of modern farming operations. The one-story frame building is clad in metal siding. The rear section rests on stone piers, and the newer front section on poured concrete piers. **Building (C)**

40.8. *Barn*, ca. 1900. This is a one-story building of frame construction with vertical board walls and a gable-front metal roof. There are two original equipment shed wings. **Building (C)**

40.9. *Barn II*, ca. 1952. This is a one-story, rectangular-plan barn used for the farm's pig farrowing operations. It is clad in corrugated siding, rests on a concrete block foundation, and has a standing-seam metal roof. There are large double-leaf metal doors on the south elevation and three fixed windows on each elevation. **Building (C)**

40.10. *Granary II*, ca. 1952. This is a rectangular-plan building clad in corrugated siding, resting on a concrete block foundation, and has a gable-front standing seam roof of metal. A large ventilation fan was built into south elevation. **Building (C)**

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40.11. *Potato House*, ca. 1910. According to the late Mr. Fred Shofner, this concrete block building was used as a garage and later converted for produce storage. It is a square-plan, one-story, concrete-block building banked into the hillside south of the house. It has a door opening on the south elevation. The structure has a concrete roof surrounded by metal fencing. After the auto shed was removed, the subterranean structure was used to store potatoes. **Building (C)**

40.12. Spring House, ca. 1900. Built along a small tributary stream of Thompson Creek, this was a relatively large spring house, about fifteen feet square. It has dressed fieldstone walls, a concrete slab roof, and a door opening on the west side. **Building (C)**

40.13. *Pond and Dam.* 2009. This large earthen dam was constructed west of the house and north of the main farm road. The structure impounds two or three acres of water for a farm pond. **Structure (NC)**

40.14 *Entrance Lampposts*, ca. 1965. At the end of the long driveway from Three Forks Bridge Road there is an entrance to the house yard. It includes a cattle guard flanked by lampposts converted from post augers. The entrance was constructed by Cecil Shofner ca. 1965. **Structure (C)**

41. Kimbro-Jacobson Farm

309 Three Forks Bridge Road, Parcel 097 019.00, sixty-nine acres. Site (C) The property consists of forty-two acres in pasture, twenty acres of crop lands, six wooded acres, and one acre of improved site.

This farm is a remnant of vast holdings first taken up by James Patton and Andrew Erwin. In 1812, George Kimbro, a native of Orange County, North Carolina, acquired 400 acres of the Patton and Erwin lands running north to the Duck River. The original Kimbro dwelling was a log structure uphill from the present house and on the east side of Three Forks Bridge Road, which bisects the property. The present house was constructed ca.1880 by George Barksdale Kimbro, a maternal great-grandfather of the current owner, Jane Jacobson. Her grandparents, Clarence Payne Meadows and Joella Kimbro Meadows, took ownership of the farm in the 1920s.

41.1. Residential Property, George B. Kimbro House, ca. 1880/1929. The house as originally constructed was a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story cross gable plan frame house clad in weatherboard siding with a brick chimney at the juncture of the two gables and another to the north of the main entrance. In 1918, the property passed to George Kimbro's five children. His youngest daughter Joella, who was born in the house, and her husband C. P. Meadows purchased the property from her siblings. The couple began remodeling the dwelling to incorporate elements of the then- prevailing Craftsman style. The southern cross-gable section was removed and a prominent center gabled section became the dominant design element. The two chimneys remain in their original locations but both are now at the ridge of the side-gable standing-seam metal roof. The house rests on a continuous limestone foundation and is covered in replacement vinyl siding. The main (E) façade has an integral porch supported by square wood columns. The entrance has an original glass and wood door flanked by sidelight. Windows are one-over-one wood sash design. At the eaves are knee brace brackets. In 1976, Doug and Jane Meadows Jacobson became owners of the property. At that time, they expanded the dwelling with the addition of a wing on the north elevation. This wing includes a master bedroom and bathroom and a utility room. **Building (C)**.

41.2. Barn, ca. 1899. Located to the southwest of the house, this two-tier stock barn is of frame

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construction, is clad in vertical board siding and has a gable roof of standing-seam metal. Drive throughs wings are located on the east and west elevations. A one-story equipment shed wing is on the west elevation. A concrete silo foundation is on the front of the barn. The silo was constructed in the 1920s when C.P. Meadows had the farm inspected and upgraded for conversion to a Grade A dairy facility. A shed roof wing was added to the north elevation of the barn for calves. **Building (C)**

41.3. *Hen House*, ca. 1930. This small structure is rectangular in plan and clad in vertical board siding. It has a shed roof of standing seam metal and a single-leaf batten door. **Structure (C)**

41.4. *Brooder House*, ca. 1940. This small structure is rectangular in plan and of concrete construction; it was used for incubation and to keep young chicks warm and safe. The side-gable structure has a metal roof. **Structure (C)**

41.5. *Spring House*, ca. 1910. Located behind and to the west of the house, this small rectangular-plan, frame structure has a concrete foundation, horizontal and vertical board siding, a side-gable metal roof and two single-leaf batten doors on the east side. **Building (C)**

41.6. *Shed*, ca. 1930. Northwest of the house is a small work shed. The rectangular-plan structure is clad in vertical board and has a shed roof of standing-seam metal. A single batten door is located on the front. **Building (C)**

41.7. *Woman's Building*, ca. 1996. This "woman's building" was constructed for Mrs. Jacobson to do canning and other domestic activities. This one-story rectangular-plan structure is clad in vertical board siding and has a side-gable shingle roof. Double-leaf wooden batten doors are centered on the façade under a small shed porch. **Building (NC)**

41.8. *Workshop*, ca. 2000. This large workshop building is rectangular in plan, is clad in corrugated metal siding, has a gable roof of standing seam metal, and has a solid metal pedestrian door and a sliding-track vehicle door on the west elevation. **Building (NC)**

41.9. *Hay Shed*, ca. 2015. This is a rectangular-plan, open-sided structure for storage of hay. It has metal posts and a gable roof of standing seam metal. **Building (NC)**

41.10. *Carport*, ca. 2010. This is a rectangular-plan, open-sided structure to the south of the dwelling. It has square, metal posts and a gable roof of standing seam metal. The carport has two parking bays. **Building (NC)**

41.11. *Storage Shed* ca. 2000. This is a frame structure with a gambrel roof of asphalt shingles, vertical wood board siding, and double doors. **Building (NC)**

41.12. *Storage Shed*, ca. 1990. This is a frame structure with a gambrel roof of metal, vertical wood board siding, and one-one-one, aluminum-sash windows. **Building (NC)**

42. Delsie Hill Farm

Three Forks Bridge Road, Parcel 092 033.00, 101 acres. Site (C)

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The property consists of sixty-seven acres of crop lands, twenty-three acres in pasture, and eleven wooded acres.

The northernmost farm in the district was originally owned by Patton and Erwin, then part of a 425-acre tract purchased by William McGee. This tract was owned by Jerry Kimbro Ayers in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. Thomas P. Ayers purchased this tract from his father around 1918. It was inherited by Agatha Ayers Clark in the late 1940s and was then transferred to her daughter Delsie in the late 1980s. In the early 1900s, the Ayers owned three separate farms, owned by three brothers. This was a contiguous tract of land inclusive of the current Hill and Samuel Ayers farms and the subdivision development on both Three Forks and Russell Roads. There were three homes of similar design, including one at each of the farms. Today two of the homes are standing – the one on the Samuel Ayers (Aunt Bet) farm and the other on Russell Road.

42.1. *Residential Property Ruins*. 1895. Adjacent to Three Forks Bridge Road stands the house ruins of the Jerry Kimbro Ayers House constructed in 1895. The stone piers, original foundation and two prominent limestone chimneys remain. The house was occupied until the late 1990s and demolished in 2002. **Site (C)**

42.2. *Three Forks Mill Race Trace*, 1815. Running across the lower field on the farm is a slight depression which marks the route of the headrace for the Upper Mill of the Three Forks Mill complex. The depression is approximately two feet deep and six feet wide today, but would have been considerably deeper when in operation. It has since largely silted in and become a part of an agricultural field. **Structure (C)**

42.3. *Three Forks Mill, Mill Dam Ruins,* 1815. Located on the Duck River at the western end of the farm, and about a quarter mile above the river's confluence with the Garrison Fork, are remnants of the mill dam which served the Upper Mill of the Three Forks Mill complex. This mill, which was a combination grist mill, sawmill, cotton gin and spinning factory, stood on the north bank of the river, but no trace remains of the mill building today. Remnants of the mill dam include pegged wooden cribbing, some of the original stone fill, and some heavy cast iron spikes in the bedrock of the bank that helped secure the dam in place. Extensive damage was done to machinery during the Civil War. The dam was destroyed in 1902 by a flood.¹⁰ **Site (C)**

43. Christopher Kyle Shofner Tract

Three Forks Bridge Road, Parcel 097 018.00, 19.93 acres. **Site (C)** This 19.93-acre parcel was an agricultural field, now covered in woods. There are no structures.

44. George E. Shofner Tract.

Three Forks Bridge Road, Parcel 097 018.01, ten acres. **Site (C)** This 10-acre parcel was an agricultural field, now covered in woods. There are no structures.

¹⁰ Bedford County Historical Quarterly, Volume 6, Number 3.

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45. Joseph Terry Shofner Tract

Three Forks Bridge Road, Parcel 091 016.02, 107 acres. Site (C)

This 107-acre agricultural tract has no structures. The Duck River forms the west property line of the parcel.

46. Rocky and Cindy DaCosta Family Partnership Tract

Parcels 091 015.00 and 091 015.01, 199 acres. Site (C)

This farm includes 196 acres of cattle-grazing land and a one-acre improved lot with a ca. 1985 brick home at 385 Three Forks Bridge Road. The property is bounded on the north and west by the Duck River. Mr. DaCosta runs cattle on this property as well as other tracts he is leasing from neighbors in the historic district.

46.1. *Residential Property*, 1985. This is a brick dwelling with a side-gable roof of asphalt shingles, one-over-one double-hung sash windows, and an exterior, end brick chimney on the east elevation. The façade (S) has a partial-width porch with a gable-front roof and slim, Tuscan-motif columns. **Building** (NC)

46.2. *Barn*, ca. 1920. This is a large frame barn with vertical wood board siding and a gable roof of crimped metal with a bonnet projecting from the hay loft. **Building (C)**

46.3. *Hay Barn*, ca. 2000. This is a large hay storage barn with a gable roof and exterior walls of metal siding. **Building (NC)**

46.4 *Wood Storage Shed*, ca. 1980. This is a storage shed with a gable roof of metal and exterior walls of corrugated metal siding. **Building (NC)**

46.5. *General Storage Shed*, ca. 1970. This is a one-story, small, frame storage shed with a gable front-roof and plywood walls. It has a shed addition on the side elevation of fiberglass. **Building (NC)**

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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



A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- \underline{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 a birthplace or grave.

- D a cemetery.
 - E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
 - F a commemorative property.less than 50 years old or achievingG significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1810-1900 Exploration/Settlement

1850-1968 Agriculture

1839-1930 Architecture

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Name of Property Bedford County, Tennessee County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Encompassing an approximate 3,765-acre contiguous tract in the 25th District of southeastern Bedford County, Tennessee, the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The Thompson Creek Rural Historic District is significant locally in exploration/settlement, as the area within its boundaries includes some of the earliest known tracts settled in Bedford County upon the ceding of lands south of the Duck River by the Cherokee in 1807. The district is significant for agriculture, reflecting the earliest and on-going land use within the boundaries. The Thompson Creek Rural Historic District's contiguous collection of farms was settled largely by a group of German Lutheran descendants who migrated to Tennessee from their previous homes in west-central North Carolina, They brought with them a devotion to their faith, which established the Lutheran denomination in Middle Tennessee. In architecture, the district retains both vernacular forms from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and distinct architectural styles. The period of significance extends from ca. 1810 when evidence of the first settlers began arriving in the area is documented in the area and continues to 1969, when agribusiness practices marked a shift in Bedford County farming. The landscape continues to reflect the period of settlement in architecture and land use for agriculture and/or as scenic viewsheds. The district is marked by various other historic resources such as mill races, stone fences, historic roadbeds, and several cemeteries. Some fields have been in continuous agricultural production for more than two centuries. The district meets the registration requirements of the Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969 Multiple Property Documentation form.

The landscape of the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District continues to reflect local significance in the areas of exploration/settlement, agriculture, and architecture. The region was originally settled by a group of devout Lutherans and newly split Cumberland Presbyterians who built a prolific agricultural community in the fertile bottomlands and undulating hills surrounding the valley. They cherished the picturesque landscape as much as they valued the resources it comprised. The settlers and their descendants inter-married and perpetuated the farming and religious traditions established in the early years of the nineteenth century. Thus, neighbors of the Thompson Creek community were often family. These relationships are evident in the transfer of lands within the historic district and are discussed in sections below. On occasion, members of the Thompson Creek community products. While some acreage was put in cotton, the land was not conducive to a plantation economy. Some of the pioneer families owned slaves, who became eventually became free to develop their own community, farms, and churches, contributing to the built environment. Residential, agricultural, and religious buildings continue to represent the built landscape of the historic period.¹¹

In addition to the three cited areas of significance, a number of resources in the district may have the potential to yield additional information important to the history or the prehistory of the area. No archaeological testing was undertaken for this project, however, the potential for significance under Criterion D is possible.

¹¹ Additional context related to the district's agricultural history is established in the Multiple Property Documentation form *Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969.*

Bedford County, Tennessee County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance

SIGNIFICANCE IN EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

The historic district features resources associated with the early exploration and settlement of Bedford County from ca. 1810-1838. The earliest expedition to present-day Bedford County occurred under Alexander Greer in 1783. Samuel Barton and the Edmiston Land Company undertook other explorations of the area.¹² Though North Carolina and Tennessee issued land grants for this area in the late 1790s and early 1800s, it was then still Native-American territory. Settlers began to arrive after the Tellico Treaty of 1805 opened up Tennessee lands north of the Duck River, a major tributary of the Tennessee River. Thompson Creek, flowing north into the Duck River, therefore was still entirely within Cherokee territory. The Cherokee ceded lands south of the Duck River in Dearborn's Treaty, signed January 7, 1806 and ratified in May 1807. Splitting from Rutherford County, Bedford County was created in December of 1807, soon after settlement restrictions were lifted.

The county was named in honor of Thomas Bedford, a prominent landowner in the area and a veteran of the American Revolutionary War. Though most county records were destroyed by a fire during the Civil War, it is known from an early marriage license that the first sessions of the court were held in 1808 in the home of a "Mrs. Payne."¹³ Deed records are also difficult to track. Awards of land grants for military service are available from state records, however. North Carolina granted land in Bedford County between 1785 and 1800 to over a dozen persons for their military service during the Revolutionary War. The State of Tennessee also awarded land grants between the years 1800 and 1810 to over two dozen individuals.¹⁴

Many grants were not claimed by their recipients, but rather sold to eager and entrepreneurial westward pioneers. An example of this is early settler Clement Cannon who owned over 900 acres on Thompson Creek in eastern Bedford County in 1809. His property, not located near the center of the county, did not meet the legal requirements for the establishment of a county seat. Not to be deterred, Cannon managed to acquire a thousand acres of North Carolina land grant No. 15 on March 23, 1810. The heirs of Robert Smith, the original grantee, sold this tract, which represented just twenty percent of Smith's original award. Centrally located, the land was suitable for establishing a town for the Bedford County seat, and Cannon donated 100 acres of his acquisition for the city of Shelbyville.¹⁵ The city was named in recognition of Col. Isaac Shelby, commander of a 240-man regiment that fought at King's Mountain in 1780. A small county courthouse was

¹³ Goodspeed Publishing Co., *The History of Tennessee From the Earliest Time to the Present; Together With an Historical and Biographical Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties; Besides a Valuable Fund of notes, Reminiscences, and Observations, etc. etc., (Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886), 867.*

¹⁴ Ibid, 862-63.

¹⁵ Ibid; 863 and Amanda Jane Townes, "Material Culture as a Primary Resource for Understanding Bedford County, Tennessee in the Civil War Era," (Ph.D diss., Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, 2011), 155.

¹² Timothy and Helen Marsh, "Bedford County," Tennessee Encyclopedia and History and Culture, accessed March 1, 2018, http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/index.php.

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built at the northwest corner of the public square in Shelbyville and was used until a permanent brick building replaced it at the center of square.

Homesteaders poured into the outlying county, where topography and associated drainage influenced soil type, settlement patterns, and agricultural use. The northwestern to central area of the county lies in the Central Basin, giving rise to the hills and narrow valleys shaped by watercourses along the Highland Rim escarpment along the eastern and southern borders of the county. Given the county's abundance of flowing streams, early settlers were quick to establish numerous mills on the Duck River and its tributaries. The Duck River, flowing east to west through the center of the county, is fed by Garrison Fork and Thompson Creek in the northeast portion. James Sharp and Jacob Anthony built early water mills on Thompson Creek.¹⁶

The Mills at Three Forks of Duck River (#42.3) were established before 1816, probably about 1813 or 1814 by Reverends William McGee, Samuel King, and their neighbor Thomas H. Bernard. The first two men also co-founded the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (#6.2) in this area of the Thompson Creek valley. Deeds speak of the mills in 1816 and at an early date a Spinning Factory called "Bernards Factory" was in operation with water supplied by either dam or race operating at Three Forks. The races criss-crossed the mill tract south of the dam. The mills experienced both success and failure through the years. Along with the mills, the Three Forks supported a tanyard and a large warehouse operated by Rev. William McGee in 1816.¹⁷

The Goodspeed history of Bedford County lists numerous families of the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District among the early settlers, including the Burrows, Holts, Erwins, Bomars, Mullinses, Shaffners [Shofners]; Kimbroes, Hooziers, Ewells, Thompsons, Parsonses, Bobos, Landers, Landises, Anthonys, Enlisses [Eulisses] and Maupins. Several of these prominent pioneer families were among a group of Lutheran emigrants from north-central North Carolina. They arrived to the area of Thompson Creek beginning around 1808.

The Lutheran pioneers included members of the Schaeffner family, whose patriarch was Michael Schaeffner (1721-1800), a German immigrant born near Frankfort-on-the-Main. He had settled with his family in Orange County, North Carolina, by way of Philadelphia. Passage to the United States was contracted by labor to be performed after arrival. The eldest son, also named Michael, was hired out in Philadelphia, while the rest of the family - Michael, Sr., and wife Margathea Fogelman Schaeffner, sons George, Martin, Peter, and daughter Magdalena - moved south. The junior Michael re-joined his family after satisfying the family debt.¹⁸ The family appeared on the Orange County, North Carolina, tax lists for 1779.¹⁹ Numerous other settlers on Thompson Creek were also from Orange County.

¹⁶ Goodspeed Publishing Co, The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties, 864.

¹⁷ Bedford County Historical Quarterly, Volume 6, Number 3.

¹⁸ C.L. Shoffner, *The History of One Branch of the Shoffner Family; or, John Shofner and his Descendants, including also Records of the Shoffner Reunions,* (Nashville, TN: McQuiddy Printing Company, 1905), 49.

¹⁹" Michael Shofner (1721-1810)," from *Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet*, accessed March 5, 2018, http://www.genfiles.com/anthony-files/Michael_Shofner.pdf.

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The surname Schaeffner was Anglicized, and various historical records refer to Shaffner, Shoffner, and Shofner. Michael, George, and Martin Shofner had served in the Revolutionary War chiefly under General Nathaniel Greene. Martin was a Private in the North Carolina Cavalry regiment. Historically, a private would have been granted 640 acres to settle west of the Appalachians. Martin Shofner (1758-1838) might have secured a Revolutionary war land grant, but there is no record known of Martin or his brothers having obtained such a grant.

Oral histories surrounding the Shofner family's immigration to Bedford County vary. One family legend suggests that Martin Shofner visited the area during the exploration period of the eighteenth century and made a note of the lands along Thompson Creek for a future settlement. He supposedly later led the settlers to the area. Another family legend states that the colony of Lutherans made the trek across the Appalachians, the Cumberland Plateau, and the Highland Rim and then simply settled on the first good farm land they encountered.²⁰

Other histories are more detailed, suggesting that John Martin Shofner (1787-1857), son of Martin and Catherine Cooke Shofner (1762-1823), accompanied the brothers Clement and Newton Cannon to survey vast portions of present-day Bedford County, Tennessee. In one version of this scenario, John Shofner then returned to North Carolina in 1805 following two years of surveying, reporting to his family of the promising lands in Middle Tennessee.²¹ While these events are plausible, the date is unlikely for survey of the Thompson Creek area south of the Duck River, which was Cherokee territory until 1807. Another version has John Shofner's surveying with the Cannons in 1808, the same year his parents, Martin and Catherine, arrived in Bedford County with their sons Christopher (1789-1826), Frederick, and Austin (1801-1852), Martin's brother, Peter, and others from North Carolina including members of the Anthony, Troxler, and Euliss families.²²

The Troxlers appear to have homesteaded mostly in an area outside the northeast boundary of the historic district. One property within the district (#39), a 63-acre parcel with a small ca. 1920 dwelling, was formerly associated with Mrs. Elizabeth Troxler Wesson.

Martin Shofner homesteaded on Thompson's Creek, near where the Shofners' Lutheran Church [#25.1] now stands. Peter also settled on Thompson's Creek. Martin's descendants went on to farm parts of Martin's holdings or adjacent lands. His son, Frederick, established a large farm along the Duck River at the northwest corner of the district, while daughter Dorothea Turley Shofner married Martin Euliss, and they had

²⁰ Richard Quinn, Interviews with Martin King Shofner, descendent of Martin Shofner, 2012.

²¹ C.L. Shoffner, *The History of One Branch of the Shoffner Family*, 15.

²² Charles Henry Armstrong's history as cited by Rebecca Smith and Kate Carothers, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, "Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, July 10, 1998), Section 8, Page 5.

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the next large land holding to the south. Son Austin Shofner farmed a large tract near the south-central portion of the district.

Martin Shofner's brothers Michael and George, who remained in North Carolina, founded their own branches of the Shofner family tree. Their sister, Magdalena, married Jacob Anthony Sr. (1754-1833), a Prussian immigrant to Orange County, North Carolina. The couple also remained there, while two of their sons immigrated to Bedford County with their Uncle Martin Shofner. Nicholas and Jacob Anthony, Jr., appeared on the 1812 tax list of Bedford County, Tennessee.²³ The Anthonys were listed among the early settlers of Bedford County in Goodspeed's history, with Jacob Anthony building one of the earliest mills on Thompson Creek. The Anthony brothers homesteaded near each other on Thompson Creek, in the southern part of the district in an area that came to be called Midway.²⁴

An independent history of the settlement period suggests the first Shofner to arrive in Bedford County was John's sister, Margaret Shofner Burrow, wife of Philip Burrow. This couple has been recorded as settling near the confluence of Thompson's Creek and the Duck River.²⁵ Goodspeed's history, written in 1886, stated, "From information gleaned from such men as Nimrod Burrow [son of Philip and Margaret] and Thomas S. Word, Esqs., of Flat Creek, and J. E. Scruggs, Esq., of Fairfield, who are among, if not the oldest citizens now living, the writer is of the opinion that the first settlement of the county was made about 1805 and 1806, as follows: Clement Cannon set tied [sic] near the present site of Shelbyville, in the Seventh District; Philip Burrow, William. Wilbourn and Freeman Burrow settled on Thompson Creek, in the Twenty-fifth District; John Blackwell settled near Three Forks of Duck River; Capt. Mat Martin and brother, Barkley, and William McMahan settled on Garrison Fork of Duck River, in the First District. The above settlements were all made at about the same time, and if any were made prior to them, no information of the same can now be found."²⁶

Despite the discrepancies, it is fair to state that the Shofner, Burrow, Anthony, and Euliss families, along with the Kimbro, Ayers, and Holt families, were represented in the Thompson Creek vicinity by 1810-12. In 1812, George Kimbro, a native of Orange County, North Carolina, acquired 400 acres bounded by the Duck River on the north. The Kimbros were members of Three Forks Cumberland Presbyterian Church (#6.2) on the eastern edge of the present farm. George B. Kimbro married Francis Minerva Ayers, connecting these major landowner families of the district.

Martin Euliss (in some accounts spelled Ewliss, Eules, or Euless) was married to Shofner's daughter

²⁵ Charles Henry Armstrong's history as cited by Smith and Carothers, Section 8, Page 5.

²⁶ Goodspeed Publishing Co, The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties, 862, 864.

²³"Jacob Anthony, Jr." *Our Family Story*, accessed March 10, 2018, http://sherrysharp.com/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I19308&tree=Roots.

²⁴"Jacob Anthony, Sr." *Our Family Story*, accessed March 10, 2018, http://sherrysharp.com/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I19299&tree=Roots

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Dorothea and took up a parcel (#s 15 and 33) north of the Shofner Farm. The Kimbros were early settlers on land in the northwest part of the historic district (#41). Troxlers, Cortners, Jenkins, and others settled on lands adjacent to the district to the east around Roweseville or to the west around present Jenkins Chapel and the John Shofner property. These pioneers represented the settlement of the Thompson Creek area of newly established Bedford County, contributing to the earliest census record. In 1810, the population of Bedford County, the most populous county in the state due to land area, was 8,242.

After two years of surveying Bedford County, John Shofner returned to North Carolina and in 1810 married Amelia Shofner, daughter of his uncle, Michael. The couple joined relatives in Bedford County in 1815, settling on the northwest side of the Duck River about five miles from Shelbyville.²⁷ An 1863 map depicts "Shaffner's Bridge" across the Duck River at the location of John Shofner's property. The bridge carried a road from John's property on the west across the Duck River before splitting to the north and south. The north leg crossed Thompson's Creek, near where Phillip Burrow and Margaret Shofner Burrow purportedly settled, and continued to the Cobb place before crossing the Duck River upstream. The south leg from the split in the road (#15.7) terminated at the east-west road between Shelbyville and Rowesville, the main town of the Twentieth-fifth District.

John and Amelia Shofner raised a large family of fifteen children, ten of whom reached adulthood. Though the John Shofner property is not included within the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District, due to intervening intrusions, this homestead is illustrative of the Shofner family heritage and traditions. The John Shofner household preserved the use of the German language in speaking, singing, and Bible study. John Shofner's children also learned English, and eventually the use of the German language lapsed. John built a log schoolhouse on his property where Jenkins' Chapel stands. He supplied his children with topical reading materials, including subscriptions to the Nashville Banner, the Republican Banner, the Nashville True Whig, and the Evangelical Lutheran Intelligencer.²⁸ John Shofner, like his father Martin, was a devout Lutheran.

In addition to the Lutheran group, this area of Bedford County was also the location of one of the county's early Presbyterians congregations. After the establishment of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church as a result of the Great Awakening, church members in the lower Thompson Creek valley began holding camp meetings about 1810. The "Fork Meeting House" evolved from the campground. An early church was erected about 1820.²⁹

By 1820, the population nearly doubled to 16,012 in Bedford County, All the homesteading on Thompson Creek notwithstanding, the area was largely isolated with no major roads leading into the county seat of Shelbyville. Though the city and the county made steady growth, the 1830s were tumultuous years for Bedford County. The brick courthouse building in Shelbyville was destroyed by a tornado in 1830. By that

²⁸ Ibid, 23-24.

²⁷ C L. Shoffner, *The History of One Branch of the Shoffner Family*, 9-10, 15-16, 29, 50.

²⁹ Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*, 883.

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year, the county's population had increased to 30,396. The creation of Coffee County to the east in 1836 and Marshall County to the west in 1838 substantially reduced Bedford County's land area. The creation of these neighboring counties removed several civil districts from Bedford County, and other districts merged together, leaving nineteen of the original districts – First though Eleventh and Eighteenth through Twenty-fifth-the last containing the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District.³⁰ These events, along with a cholera outbreak, reduced the county's population. At a time when neighboring county seats boasted 1,000-1,500 residents, Shelbyville's population was just 600.³¹

During the 1830s, however, major transportation routes were under construction throughout Middle Tennessee that benefitted local and regional economies. The Shelbyville Bridge across the Duck River was built in 1832, accessing the southern part of the county towards the communities of Flat Creek and Raus. An important turnpike built during this period connected Shelbyville with the state capital at Nashville by way of Murfreesboro, which had briefly served as the state capital from 1818 to 1826 and remained an important county seat and commercial center.³² In 1837, the turnpike company's president reported that completion of the road was in sight with contracts let for the entire fifty-five-mile route with a toll gate every five miles. The turnpike was complete in 1842.³³ The pike from Shelbyville to Murfreesboro later became U.S. Highway 231. By 1840, the Bedford County population was 20,546.

The occasion of pioneer Martin Shofner's death in 1838 reflects an end of the settlement period. A deed entry, regarding the disposition of one of Shofner's original properties, illustrates the close associations of the families of the settlement period, in kinship and land holdings. The entry recorded that on December 10, 1838, Phillip and Margaret Burrow relinquished to their son Nimrod Burrow "all rights &c [sic] in undivided nineth part of a tract of land, which by the Last Will and Testament of Martin Shofner/ deceased, falls to us, Phillip Burrow and Margaret Burrow, lawful legatees named in said will, land on Thompsons Creek in District No. 25. Adjoining lands of Robert Harrison, John Smith and Adam Phillips. Wit: H. Holt and Austin Shofner. Reg: 7 Jan 1839."³⁴ Members of the Shofner, Holt, and Burrow families, along with those of the Ayers, Euliss, Kimbro, and Jenkins families remained prominent residents in the Thompson Creek community. They continued to develop the landscape with agricultural and residential buildings and structures, perpetuating the historic agrarian use of the Thompson Creek valley.

³³ Edward C. Annable, Jr., A History of the Roads of Rutherford County, Tennessee, 1804-1878: Historic Road Research, and Its Applications For Historic Resource Surveys and Local History (Murfreesboro, TN: Rutherford County Historical Society, 1982), 49-51.

³⁰ Ibid, 865.

³¹ Lisa Tolbert, *Constructing Townscapes: Space and Society in Antebellum Tennessee*, (Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 48-49.

³² James K. Huhta, "Murfreesboro" *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, accessed November 30, 2016, https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=952.

³⁴ Bedford County Deed Book HH, *Geneaology Trails*, accessed March 19, 2018 http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/bedford/deed.html, 241

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SIGNIFICANCE IN AGRICULTURE

Lands in the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District have been in continuous cultivation and pasturage for more than two centuries and many parcels continue to be owned by descendants of the original settlers. The properties collectively represent a significant agrarian landscape with a period of significance from 1839-1968 which, in its size, number of resources, and integrity of features and setting is unique to Bedford County. On the state level only a few other areas of comparable size, historical development, quality of resources and integrity of landscape have been identified including the National Register-listed Ashwood Rural Historical District and the nearby proposed Big Bigby Historic District in Maury County and the Leipers Fork Historic District in adjacent Williamson County. The Thompson Creek Rural Historic District also resembles in part the smaller Berlin Historic District in Marshall County whose more modest farm residences are similar to many on Thompson Creek.

The Thompson Creek Rural Historic District contains extremely fertile agricultural lands, mostly in the bottom lands along the namesake creek and the Duck River at the northern and northwestern edges of the district. In some places, the rich soil is four feet deep, making it easy to cultivate. These prized lands have remained in continuous production since they were first cleared, and still represent some of the best lands in southern Middle Tennessee.

The district is also significant for its relatively undisturbed integrity of setting. With the exception of a few post-1969 residences and modern agricultural outbuildings on small tracts, the landscape retains much of its historic appearance. Many fields established in the early 1800s remain in production, and the old fence lines, stone walls, and intra-farm roads are readily discernible. The district is significant to Bedford County for its geographic size and the large number of historic agricultural structures such as barns, granaries and sheds, and other associated resources.

The natural landscape and topography greatly influenced agricultural products. Antebellum agriculture in Bedford County was a mix of grain crops and livestock based on its varied terrain and natural resources. Many Bedford County farms of the antebellum period retained their produce and products for consumption on site, within the home and barnyard. Corn, wheat, oats, rye, potatoes, and hay fed farm families and their hogs, mules, cattle, and dairy cows.

Little historical record remains detailing agriculture of the early settlement period in Bedford County. The Tennessee Shofners, however, maintained regular communication with their North Carolina family through letters and visits. Their written correspondence provides a record of important events in the lives of Bedford County homesteaders. In her book *Constructing Townscapes: Space and Society in Antebellum Tennessee*, Lisa C. Tolbert handily utilized John Shofner's letters to illustrate the developing landscape in early to mid-nineteenth-century Bedford County.

In an 1834 letter to his brother Michael in North Carolina, John Shofner enthusiastically lauds the transformation of the landscape and economy. He wrote that their father Martin had "settled here in a thick forrest of heavy timber and the powerfullest cain brake," continuing, "We now have large farms open …and

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our farms are productive." John Shofner's 1834 letter explained that in the early years, there was no place to sell hogs or cattle, other than to the "drovers," and "we had no mills and now we have plenty and in some plases whare they haint got the water power they bild mills to go by steam." Shofner further noted that in the early years, women of Bedford County "had to spin all thare thread, now thare are spinning factoreys all over...[and] weaving factorey[s]."³⁵ The expansion of agriculture and the local economy were closely connected.

Goodspeed's history indicates the numerous mills constructed from the earliest days of settlement. The Duck River and its many tributaries afforded mill sites across Bedford County. Specifically on Thompson Creek were the mills of James Sharp and Jacob Anthony. The brothers Jacob and Nicholas Anthony had immigrated to Bedford County with their Uncle Martin Shofner in 1808 and homesteaded on Thompson Creek.³⁶ A small community, called Midway, grew up around the Anthony mill site. The Anthonys held large land tracts in this area and were life-long farmers.

Before the development of turnpikes beginning in the 1830s, rural Bedford County residents worked their lands to provide for their own and neighbors' food needs. In the hills of southeastern Bedford County, residents of Thompson Creek traveled on foot or horseback along a network of trails connecting individual farm tracts. No public road connected Thompson Creek settlers with their county seat, preempting the expansion of agricultural production, with no access to a wider market. John Shofner's letters to his brother detailed the progress of the first turnpike, between Shelbyville, Murfreesboro, and Nashville. His enthusiasm was evident, despite the five- or six- mile distance from his property to Shelbyville. He embraced the road as "our turnpike."

The Duck River itself impeded access to the county seat, located on the north bank. Antebellum and post-war bridges across the Duck were concentrated in the central region of the county, connecting Districts Seven and Eleven to Shelbyville.³⁷ By 1848, the only county road from Shelbyville into the southern-central part of the county was macadamized to the Duck River. A bridge across the river was constructed, replacing a ford crossing there. Land owners in the southern portion of the county were commissioners for this road project and another road to Flat Creek.³⁸ These improvements helped outlying farmers access their county seat, including moving crops and livestock, though the majority of the roads from the Duck River to the county line remained dirt and often difficult to travel in wet weather.

In 1852, the main line of the Nashville & Chattanooga Railway established the towns in eastern Bedford County of Bell Buckle, Wartrace, and Normandy. A spur line connected the county seat to Wartrace.

³⁵ Tolbert, *Constructing Townscapes*, 46-47, 133.

³⁶ "Jacob Anthony, Sr." *Our Family Story*.

³⁷ Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*, 866-67.

³⁸ Townes, "Material Culture as a Primary Resource for Understanding Bedford County," 43.

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Turnpikes with toll gates were built to connect these rail towns to the Shelbyville.³⁹ The railroad and its depot at Shelbyville quickly had a beneficial effect on the city and on Bedford County agriculture. The numerous general merchants and dry goods stores around the public square were typical of the period, and Shelbyville commercial businesses of the 1850s also included two pork packing plants owned by English and Waterhouse & Co., the Gosling, Gilliland & Co. cotton weaving/spinning factories, the Sylvan Mills cotton yarn plant, and Dwiggins steam flouring mill.⁴⁰

Edmund Cooper, a local attorney with investments in a Shelbyville weaving mill, quantified the boom in pork processing due to the railroad at Shelbyville, stating that during the winter of 1854-1855, over 10,000 head of hogs had been shipped in for butchering. The resulting revenue to "our farmers," he reported, was at least \$120,000. Additionally, 150,000 bushels of wheat were shipped through the Shelbyville depot.⁴¹

Hogs were historically free-ranged in the forests of the southeastern part of the county including the Thompson Creek valley. The hilly Highland Rim region of the county, with a biologically diverse forest including oak, hickory, walnut, and mulberry, was well suited for foraging hogs. The rolling hills of the Thompson Creek Valley, once cleared, were ideal pastures for raising sheep, horses and mules, and cattle, while the flat plains of the northwestern part of the county supported crop agriculture. The varied natural landscape of Bedford County was not suitable for a predominant cash crop such as cotton or tobacco, but the county was a leader in its diversity of agriculture. In 1850, Bedford County ranked first in Tennessee in oat production and eighth in corn. The county was also eighth in sheep production that year, fourteenth in hogs, sixteenth in dairy cows, and seventeenth in cattle.⁴²

On the eve of the Civil War, the 1860 Agricultural Census illustrated the diversity of Bedford County's farming operations, in acreage and produce. In that year, there were thirty-three farms with 500 or more acres. The largest category of farm size was between 100 and 500 acres, but the majority of farms in late-antebellum Bedford County were under 100 acres. Within the historic district, there is evidence of at least one farm in the first category. Jane Jacobson, the current owner of the George Kimbro homestead (#41), has traced the Kimbro family's association with 600 acres (including her sixty-nine-acre parcel) to at least 1852. Thus, Kimbro, who immigrated to Thompson Creek from North Carolina in 1812, represented one of the larger farms in the historic district in the mid-nineteenth century.

As in 1850, neither tobacco nor cotton was a staple cash crop in Bedford County, and oat production decreased by 1860. Bedford continued, however, to lead in corn, cattle, sheep, and hogs. The county made strides in agricultural byproducts, namely butter and wool. In terms of value of animals slaughtered, Bedford

³⁹ Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*, 866.

⁴⁰ John P. Campbell, ed., Nashville Business Directory (Nashville: Smith, Camp & Co., 1857), accessed October 18, 2017, http://www.tngenweb.org/bedford/IndexNashBusDir.htm,.

⁴¹ Tolbert, *Constructing Townscapes*, 90-91.

⁴² Louis D. Wallace, ed., *A Century of Tennessee Agriculture* (Nashville: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 1954), 313-6, 318, 320, 322, 325, 329.

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was a leading county, due to the pork-packing industry at Shelbyville. The monetary values of slaughtered animals increased from \$98,516 in 1850 to \$295,384 in 1860, while livestock value increased from \$686,011 to \$1,493,052. Total farms increased from 986 to 1,784 for the same period, with a corresponding increase in improved acreage in farm use from 101,650 to 184,768. The cash value of farms rose from \$2.2 million to \$7 million. During this decade, Bedford County's economy also diversified with manufacturing, with total investments growing from \$19,821 to \$103,900.⁴³ These increases are illustrative of an expanding market as well as a growing population with Bedford County recording 21,511 residents in 1850. Farmers in the Thompson Creek valley certainly took part in the growing agricultural economy of the mid-nineteenth century.

By the 1860 Agricultural Census, a trend of subdivided family farms among second- or third-generation households had become apparent. This trend is evident among a number of the descendants of the earliest settlers such as the Anthony, Jenkins, Euliss, and Shofner families. In the 1850 census, Nicholas Anthony was listed as a farmer in the 25th District of Bedford County He was the head of the household, which also included wife Sarah (age 67), sons Laton (age 24) and Jasper (21), and daughter Katharine (27) Anthony. His brother Jacob Anthony was listed in this census as located "two doors prior." By the late 1850s, Nicholas suffered from some form of dementia. In October 1858, a jury found him "unable to take care of his business." The court appointed his son Laton as his guardian. Nicholas died within a year, and his widow Sarah ("Sally") and son Laton were administrators of his will.⁴⁴ Court records indicate that Nicholas left one farm property (114 acres on Thompson's Creek in the 24th Civil District) to his children and his homestead (198 acres in the 25th Civil District) to Sarah until her death, and thereafter the homeplace went to their children.⁴⁵

Several members of the Anthony family held tracts of less than 100 acres. Only Adam Anthony owned 200 improved and 100 unimproved acres, valued at \$10,000. Other family members had thirty, forty, and fifty acres, mostly improved. William Shofner held similar land with similar acreage and value to that of Adam Anthony. Loton Shofner (1813-1899), son of John and Amelia and grandson of patriarch Martin, owned forty acres. Two other grandsons of Martin- the brothers Plummer and Mitchell Shofner, sons of Austin (1801- 1852) and Rebecca Cook (1798-1875) - each owned 100 acres. Plummer owned forty head of swine and Mitchell, twenty, while many farmers in the area owned between two and ten.⁴⁶

Almost all residents in this area owned at least one horse in 1860, and it was not uncommon for farmers to own up to four horses. Reverend William Jenkins, pastor of the Shofner Lutheran Church and other farranging congregations, owned four horses to meet his travel needs. His neighbor and brother-in-law, Martin

- ⁴⁴ "Laton J. Anthony," *Our Family Story*, accessed March 10, 2018, http://sherrysharp.com/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I19296&tree=Roots
- ⁴⁵ "Nicholas Anthony," *Our Family Story*, accessed March 10, 2018, http://sherrysharp.com/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I19283&tree=Roots

⁴³ Townes, "Material Culture as a Primary Resource for Understanding Bedford County," 87.

⁴⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, Bedford County, Tennessee, 1860.

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Euliss (1819-1900), demonstrated considerable wealth in owning fourteen horses in 1860, as well as 200 acres of improved and 100 acres of unimproved land, valued at \$8,000. His widowed mother Dorothea Turley Shofner Euliss (1783-1871), listed separately in the Census as "Dora," owned ten horses and 100 acres of improved and twenty-five acres of unimproved land valued at \$3,000. Every farmer owned at least one milk cow, if not two or three.⁴⁷

In the antebellum period, John Shofner and his sons operated cotton gins, raising, buying, and selling cotton on a large scale. He manufactured hats and caps. He was also an investor in Pitts Grain Fans, located on his farm on the Duck River. The business operated as Shofner & Pitts.⁴⁸ John Shofner died in 1857 and at the time of his death, he owned seven slaves, though previously was known to have owned many more.⁴⁹

John's eldest son, Joel (1811-1862), picked up his father's correspondence with Michael Shofner, his uncle, in North Carolina, commenting on local costs for slaves and land. In an 1857 letter, Joel wrote: "Our country is in flourishing condition[:] lands have got Remarkably high so that it is not uncommon to bring 50 or 60 dollars per acre and some as high evin as \$100.00 dollars per acre[.] Negroes also sell high likely men from 14 to 17 hundred dollars without any trade[,] and produce of all kinds demand the cash at fair prices."⁵⁰

Joel and his wife Matilda Shofner, daughter of his uncle Daniel Shofner, had married in 1831 and migrated to Tennessee in 1838, settling near his Thompson Creek relatives. He raised cotton, operating a gin for his own and public use, and owned a saw mill and lumber business.⁵¹ Evidenced in an 1858 letter to his uncle, Joel Shofner also reported doing "a heavey businesss" in selling reapers and threshing machines.⁵² These collective business dealings indicate the prosperity of the Shofner family as well as Bedford County generally in the antebellum period.

In the mid-nineteenth century many of the landowners along Thompson Creek owned slaves, but the landscape did not support large plantations as in other sections of middle Tennessee. A review of the slave censuses for this section of Bedford County shows that slave ownership was limited, with most households owning a dozen slaves or fewer. In 1850, Martin and Doratha Euliss were listed as each owning twelve slaves and eleven in 1860.⁵³ George Kimbro owned seven slaves in 1850 and both William and Plummer

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Shoffner, *The History of One Branch of the Shoffner Family*, 19-20.

⁴⁹ Ibid, 37-38.

⁵⁰ Stephen V. Ash, *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed, 1860-1870: War and Peace in the Upper South* (Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press, 1988), 16.

⁵¹ Shoffner, The History of One Branch of the Shoffner Family, 37-38

⁵² Ash, *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed*, 19.

⁵³ U.S. Census Bureau, Slave Census, Bedford County, Tennessee, 1850 and 1860.

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Shofner owned eight slaves each in 1860.⁵⁴ These families represented some of the largest slave owners in the district and many families owned between one and five.

The looming war heightened political divisions in Bedford County as illustrated within the extensive Shofner family. Joel Shofner died during the war, unaware of the final outcome to the Southern cause and the effects on Southern families and farming. He was buried in the Shofner plot at on his father's farm. Joel and Matilda had seven sons and three daughters who grew to adults. During the Civil War, the family was divided with several sons and sons-in-law joining opposing armies. Two of Joel's sons, John E. and Daniel Peyton, and two sons-in-law, Joseph B. Woosley and John C. Woosley, joined the Confederate Army, though Joel's son, Thomas J., and another son-in-law, James S. Floyd, joined the Union Army. Later, son Michael K. Shofner also joined the Union Army. Still another son of Joel and Matilda, Loton Davis Shofner, who settled on Thompson Creek, had a strong Union sentiment, though did not enlist with either army. Most of these young men survived the war and returned home to continue farming on and around Thompson Creek. James S. Floyd, however, died at the Battle of Stones River in nearby Murfreesboro in 1863 and was buried in the National Cemetery there.⁵⁵ Another casualty was Mitchell Shofner (May 15, 1823-September 21, 1863) who perished at Chickamauga. His remains were interred there, and the family erected a memorial headstone within the old family cemetery (#27.10). Mitchell was the son of Austin Shofner (1801-1852) and Rebecca Cook (1798-1875) and grandson of the family patriarch, Martin Shofner. Joel Shofner's brother, Michael, raised four sons and seven daughters with his wife Sophronia Morton on the homestead of two men's father, John Shofner. Michael supported the Whig party before the war and then became a Republican. Yet, the couple's eldest son, Jacob M. Shofner, served in the Confederate Army in Company A, Seventeenth Tennessee Infantry. In 1862, he married Melissa E. Landis, daughter of Absalom Lowe Landis, who built Beech Hall (#37.1) overlooking Thompson Creek in the late 1860s.

This section of Bedford County did not experience any major battles or skirmishes. This area was occupied by soldiers of both sides until the Tullahoma Campaign of 1863 which resulted in the retreat of General Braxton Bragg's Confederate army from Shelbyville to Tullahoma and then on to Chattanooga. Family lore suggests units of the pursuing Union Army under General William S. Rosecrans camped briefly along the Duck River and Thompson Creek. This area remained under Union control until the end of the war.

After the Civil War, Bedford County farmers sought to restore stability and advance agricultural interests. The war devastated the area landscape. A former Confederate soldier walking through Bedford and neighboring Rutherford Counties noted that the "country wears the most desolate appearance" without "a stalk of corn or blade of wheat growing."⁵⁶ However, over the next decade many of the farms had regained their prosperity, and Bedford County was noted as one of the most productive in middle Tennessee.

A detailed examination of the agricultural economy of Bedford County occurred in the mid-1870s. In the post- Civil War period, New South advocate Joseph Buckner Killebrew (1831-1906) developed detailed

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Shoffner, *The History of One Branch of the Shoffner Family*, 37-39.

⁵⁶ Ash, *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed*, 86.

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agricultural profiles for counties in Tennessee as a means of encouraging economic development through improvement of agriculture and utilization of natural resources. For Bedford County, Killebrew attributed the "high cultivation of the farms, the value of the livestock, and the diversity of the products" to the area's mineral, soil, and timber resources, as well as its topography and network of watercourses. Bottomlands, as those of the Thompson Creek valley, were especially prized and productive. Farming evolved with the notable diminution of farm size. Between 1870 and 1875, farms in Bedford County ranged in size between 50 and 100 acres and there was just one farm of 500 acres. Hog farming especially increased with the county jumping from fourteenth to fifth in the state in swine production from 1850 to 1870. In 1874, the estimated value of hogs raised in the county was \$550,000. The favored domesticated breed was the Berkshire, crossed on native swine. Similarly, farmers crossed native cows with newly introduced Shorthorn bulls. Grade cows were preferred for dairy purposes. Mules and horses were also dominant factors in the agricultural economy, with many being sold outside the county. Horses were used for riding rather than driving, as buggies were not as common for transportation in Bedford as elsewhere.⁵⁷

The increase in grazing livestock can be applied to the farms of the Thompson Creek valley, where tracts cleared of timber were cultivated for pasture and hay crops. Killebrew's report referenced a "Mr. Shofner," "an intelligent farmer," who concurred that Bedford County "soils are better adapted to the raising of grasses than any other crop." He confidently stated that "there is not an acre of soil in the county that will not produce some species of grass to perfection." Specifically, herds-grass preferred low marshy land, while timothy, clover, bluegrass and orchard grass thrived in higher, well-drained land. Shofner estimated that clover, producing two or even three hay cuttings per year, was then grown at a rate ten times more than in the 1850s. The best soils could produce two to two-and-one-half tons per acre, "and if properly manured, would produce three tons."

In 1874, the Shelbyville & Tullahoma Pike was constructed a distance of ten miles and the existing and the existing Tullahoma Dirt Road was macadamized. The former road was not the current U.S. Highway 41-A (SR-16) to Tullahoma, through the Thompson Creek valley, which remained largely an area of interconnecting farm paths and dirt roads. This improved road is shown on the 1878 Beers map of Bedford County which also shows other roads in use at this time. Some of these remain in use as farm roads while other sections are abandoned but still appear on the landscape. The map also identifies homes in the district and their occupants. Many of these families were prominent in Bedford County history in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, especially the Euliss, Shofner, Brinkley and Hornaday families.

Thompson Creek settler Martin Euliss was one of the major landowners in the district in the 1880s. In addition to his 500 acres, he owned another forty acres elsewhere in the county and seventy in Coffee County. He was vice-president of the Bedford County Agricultural Society in 1887.⁵⁹ Since the 1850s,

⁵⁷ L. J. Strickland, Foster Rudolph, M. E. Swann, Wallace Roberts, and B. L. Matzek, *Soil Survey: Bedford County, Tennessee*, (Washington, D. C.: USDA, 1947), 12-13.

⁵⁸ "Agriculture in Bedford County, 1874," Bedford County Historical Quarterly XI, No. 2 (Summer 1992), 51

⁵⁹ Goodspeed Publishing Co, The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties, 862-63

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agricultural societies and fairs helped spur advances and healthy competition among area farmers, who came to identify themselves as a distinct social class.⁶⁰

Jacob Shofner was also a prosperous farmer and major promoter of and stockholder in the Bedford County Agricultural Fair. Governor Frazier appointed Jacob to represent the State of Tennessee as a St. Louis World's Fair Commissioner. His and Melissa's sons, John E., Hugh L., and Finis E., were also successful farmers and supporters of the fair in Bedford County. Of the couple's three daughters, Emma married into the local Maupin family, who were among the early settlers, and the youngest, Argie, married William P. Cooper, a prominent lawyer of Shelbyville.⁶¹

At the south end of the Twenty-fifth District, M. H. "Bud" Brinkley in 1902 purchased a sixty-acre tract historically associated with the Anthony homestead on Thompson Creek. The purchase included the 1887 dwelling built by Peter L. J. Anthony, grandson of pioneer Nicholas Anthony. Brinkley and his wife, Ella (nee) Harrison, raised two children, daughter Ocie and son Elrie, in the home. The farm was once the center of a small community known as Midway, which featured a general store and the Anthony mill.⁶² Cathey Road, running through the farm, did not appear on maps before Brinkley's purchase, and it is unclear if the road name is associated with George Cathey, who was granted 2,500 acres in Bedford County between 1785 and 1790 from the state of North Carolina.⁶³

The Brinkleys raised corn, hay, hogs, timber, and mules. On their farm, they also grew pears and apples for use at the Brinkley & Hornaday distillery, in operation after 1889. William Thomas Hornaday was a large planter who had first settled in Raus, south of Midway. The distillery also purchased fruit and corn from surrounding farms, providing an intra-county market for other local farmers. No trace of the distillery remains, and there is conflicting information on its site, either on Thompson Creek at the intersection of Thompson Creek Road and Cathey Road near the Anthony Mill (#13.1) or on Shipmans Creek, to the southeast. The distillery's original equipment is now on display at Ledford's Mill to the east on Shipman Creek.

During this period, the prominent families of the Thompson Creek valley operated their farms with both their family's labor and that of tenants or sharecroppers. Most families prior to the Civil War owned slaves, and after emancipation, some of the former slaves stayed on the land for wages or a share of the crops. Poor white farmers were also similarly employed. There are several tenant house examples within the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District, including on the Shofner tract (#27) and on the Brinkley tracts (#12 and #13). The Shofner tenant house (#27.9) was built for laborers such as the Hill family who sheared sheep, raised

⁶⁰ D.G. Beers and Company, *Bedford County, Tennessee* (Philadelphia: D.G. Beers and Company, 1878).

⁶¹ Shoffner, *The History of One Branch of the Shoffner Family*, 53-56.

⁶² Bryce Brinkley and Carolyn Brinkley Conner, "Elrie Brinkley Farm," *Tennessee Century Farms* accessed March 20, 2018, www.tncenturyfarms.org/elrie-brinkley-farm/.

⁶³ Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*, 862-63.

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pigs, and tended tobacco. The Brinkley tenant houses date from ca. 1900 (#13.5) and ca. 1920 (#13.8). These dates coincide with the purchase of the farm in 1902 by Bud Brinkley.

In the early twentieth century, the district's farm continued to prosper, and there were new developments in agriculture, including the emergence of the Tennessee Walking Horse breed in Bedford and Coffee Counties. The Tennessee Walking Horse had origins in the late-nineteenth development of trotting horse breeds for buggy and carriage use, as well as recreational harness racing. The first formal horse show for the locally-developing Walking Horse breed was held at nearby Wartrace in 1906 on the town square. By 1938, a group of Bedford County horsemen created the Tennessee Walking Horse Exhibitors & Breeders Association. The Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration inaugural show was held in Shelbyville in 1939 and it continued to be prominent in Bedford County's agricultural economy into the mid-twentieth century.⁶⁴

Farming practices in the district largely mirrored those elsewhere in Bedford County in the twentieth century as owners modernized their equipment, increased diversification, and constructed new domestic and agricultural buildings and structures. The Meadows, Brinkley, Shofner, and Ayers families all illustrate this progressive development on their properties and are representative of property owners in the district.

In the early 1920s, Clarence Payne Meadows and Joella Kimbro Meadows, took ownership of the historic Kimbro farm (#41) in the north part of the district. George Kimbro had arrived to the Thompson Creek valley in 1812 and acquired 400 acres. One of his descendants was Joella Kimbro who married Clarence Meadows and acquired the farm. Their improvements and practices illustrate key agricultural trends of that period in Middle Tennessee, including dairy, poultry and fruit orchard operations. The Meadows adapted a ca. 1899 stock barn (#41.2) for use as a Grade A dairy facility. A shed wing was added to the north elevation of the barn for calves. In the 1930s and 1940s, they constructed a Hen House (#41.3) and a Brooder House (#41.4) for raising chickens. The milk operation was an important source of income for the family into the 1950s. They sold their milk to Bedford Cheese in Shelbyville. They also raised chickens for eggs and meat for sale and for the family table. Each year, Mrs. Meadows mail-ordered 50-100 chicks that she raised, then dressed out the fryers and stored them in a rented freezer locker in Shelbyville. A pear and peach orchard supplemented the household income, as well, and Mr. Meadows grew tobacco for several years.

Elrie Brinkley, son of Bud and Ella Brinkley, purchased an adjoining tract to that of his parents before marrying Mable Stephens in 1924. In the 1940s, Elrie Brinkley carried on his father's work and also contributed to the area's agricultural economy in another way. Purchasing a wheat thresher, he traveled to many surrounding farms to facilitate the harvest of wheat. Brinkley's thresher enabled local farmers to justify wheat production that could reach outside markets. Brinkley, his wife Mable, and their two children, Bryce and Carolyn, expanded the farm's production to include tobacco, crimson clover, wheat, grapes and peaches, honey bee hives, sheep, goats, and walking horses. Carolyn helped organize an amateur Walking Horse show, held on the Brinkley farm. The B-B Horse Show attracted 1,000 spectators and as many as sixty-five entries from 1946 through 1948. Bryce was very active in 4-H, even winning a trip to the National 4-H congress in Chicago for his essay on colt production. With his father Elrie, Bryce operated a Grade-A

⁶⁴ Mim Eicher Rivas, *The Beautiful Jim Key: The Lost History of a Horse and a Man who Changed the World*, (New York: Harper Collins, 2005), 32, 97.

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Dairy Farm and later a beef cattle operation. Bryce continued to raise beef cattle until the late twentieth century.

The buildings on the Frederick Michael Shofner farm in the district also illustrate the progression of land use of the farm, reflective of local trends. Joseph T. Shofner purchased the property ca. 1890, building a large home (#40.1). The earliest extant agricultural buildings include a ca. 1900 Granary (#40.7), a ca. 1900 Corncrib (#40.8), and a ca. 1910 Potato House (#40.11), indicating an early focus on crops. Second-generation owner Cecil Shofner returned home from a career as a teacher in Memphis and placed the farm in solely row-crop agricultural use. When Cecil's sons went to college in the mid-twentieth century, Cecil branched out into livestock raising, building a large pig farrowing barn and two chicken houses on his property and running cattle on an adjacent tract [#8] belonging to a relative at that time. By the 1970s, Cecil retired and share-leased one-third of the operation to a local farmer. Fred Shofner later became the third generation to own the property, followed by his son and current owner Frederick Michael Shofner.

Thomas Phillips "Phil" Ayers II's (1923-2008) career as a farmer illustrates the increasing application of science in agriculture. After service in the U.S. Navy, Ayers graduated from Tennessee Tech with a degree in agriculture. In addition to continuing the family farm in the Thompson Creek district, he also worked as a field representative for Carnation Milk Company, the Bedford Cheese Company, and Purina Feed Company. Phil's son, Van Ayers, also developed a career in agri-science at the University of Missouri and recently returned to the family farm in the district.

These examples of multi-generational farm properties are representative of the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District. Large-tract farms are still in use, mainly for cattle grazing and hay production. Few of these tracts have been developed with new residences, however. Some descendants of the early settlers reside in the historic houses of their forebears. Others live elsewhere, but maintain close ties to their ancestral homes. As a group, the farms within the district demonstrate continuous use in agriculture from the settlement period to today.

SIGNIFICANCE IN ARCHITECTURE

The Thompson Creek Rural Historic District contains a wide variety of dwellings, domestic outbuildings and agricultural buildings and structures which date primarily from the early-1800s to 1930. The district's resources demonstrate the progression of building types from the modest early buildings to larger and more comfortable homes and more numerous and efficient agricultural buildings. As farm wealth increased, so did the size and number of buildings and dependencies. Few ranch or mid-century property types were documented after 1930.

The earliest dwellings built in the district were of log construction but only two remain on the landscape. The most intact example is the single-pen log dwelling on the Shofner-Doochin Farm [#10.10] constructed ca. 1815. This dwelling retains its exterior wall stone chimney, half-dovetail notching and interior features. Another single-pen log structure on the old Martin Shofner tract [#27.4] likely dates from the early period of settlement and may have been the original Martin Shofner residence. This log dwelling was later converted for agricultural use.

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By the 1850s, water-powered sawmills were present in the region, and most houses built after the Civil War were of frame construction. Dwellings built after the war include the George Slater House constructed ca. 1870 [#1.1] in a central hall plan. This dwelling retains much of its original design. The most prominent post- war dwelling is the Greek Revival-style Absalom Lowe Landis House, also known as Beech Hall [#37.1, NR Listed, June 25, 1987]. The dwelling is a late example of the Greek Revival style and it also has transitional elements from the Italianate style. The house has two large double-height pedimented porticos supported by Corinthian columns on the two principal facades, but also delicate sawn millwork on the cantilevered balconies, console brackets, and dentilled cornices indicative of the Italianate style.

Several dwellings built in the late nineteenth century also remain in the district including the dwellings of farm owners and tenant houses. On Bill Russell Road is a ca. 1890 dwelling [#9.1] which is a one--story, double-pen plan with a rear ell. Detailing includes sawtooth work around the porch, chamfered porch posts, corner pilasters, and a corbelled brick chimney. A ca. 1890 dwelling [#3.1] is located at the Susan and Tom Fuss Tract and this gabled-ell form house retains its original stone chimney and pressed-tin roof. Also from ca. 1890, the Frederick Michael Shofner house [#40.1] is a two story, gabled-ell plan dwelling with Queen Anne influences. It has a partial-width porch, eave brackets, and tall double-hung sash windows with projecting cornices.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, several houses in the district were built for farm workers. These were typically modest frame structures of simple construction. Surviving examples of tenant houses include simple double-pen plan, two-room houses on the Carolyn Brinkley Connor/Bryce Brinkley Tract [#13.8] and the Bryce Brinkley Tract [#13.5], a two-room saddlebag plan house on the Martin King Shofner/D. B. McClain "Daybreak Farm" tract [#28.1], and a four-room, pyramid square-plan house with a tall hipped roof [#27.10] on the Martin Shofner/William Emory Shofner "Green Hills Farm" tract. These types of frame dwellings were generally built with stone foundations, exteriors of weatherboard or board and batten siding and with interior brick flues or chimneys.

In the early twentieth century a number of new dwellings were built in the district. These are both vernacular structures as well as reflecting the Craftsman style which was popular during this period. Two of the houses with clear Craftsman influences were constructed by the Hornaday family. Both the Wayde Hornaday house [#36.1] and the William Hornaday house [#29.1] are one-and one-half-story, frame dwellings featuring pronounced center gable dormers on the upper floor, integrated shed porches supported by battered wooden posts set on brick piers, double-hung sash windows with multiple vertical lights set over single-light lower sashes, and eaves supported by knee braces, all features characteristic of a Craftsman-influenced bungalow.

Little new construction occurred in the district between ca. 1930 and ca. 1969 and there are no notable examples of the Ranch style or Minimal Traditional style from this period [1.4 is a simple ranch plan house]. Most modern dwellings in the district were constructed within the past thirty years. The pre-1969 dwellings which remain in the district reflect the wide variety of vernacular and high style houses which were built in rural Tennessee in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

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In addition to the dwellings, the district's farmsteads also retain a wide variety of domestic outbuildings. Several farms retains original spring houses which were stone-lined or had concrete runnels, often damming up the flow to keep a shallow cooled pool in which crocks could be kept cool. Examples of spring houses include the concrete structure on the Fred Shofner Farm [#40.12] and the frame example on the Kimbro-Jacobson Farm [#41.5]. In the district there are examples of nineteenth century spring houses with stone bases and remnant material of frame superstructures, as at the Williams Oscar Jenkins Farm [#32.2] and the William Hornaday Farm [#29.6]. Farm families also stored food in subterranean root cellars, generally dug into a bank or hillside near the main house. Remnants of one can be found on the "Aunt Bet"/Sam Ayers Farm [#9.2]. A ca. 1910 concrete "potato house" that served a similar function is located on the Fred Shofner Farm [#40.11].

Within the historic district there are few examples of early garages. Most garages tend to be mid- or latetwentieth century structures. Garages within the period of significance can be found on the William Hornaday farm [#29.2 and #29.4], the Fred Shofner Farm [#40.2] and the Russell Farm [#5.5]. Early garages from this period are typically of frame construction with gable roofs and exteriors of weatherboard or board and batten siding.

The district contains a wide collection of resources related to agricultural production, ranging from small sheds and corncribs to large three-and-four tiered barns. The earliest barns were constructed from or around log cribs or pens. These are generally one-story cribs or pens, rectangular in plan and with framed roofs above. Three examples survive in the district; a single-pen log crib joined to a later frame granary and with a shared roof on the Shofner-Doochin Farm [#10.11]; a double-pen crib barn with a central runway on the Martin Shofner Farm (original farm)/D. B. McClain Farm/Martin King Shofner Farm "Daybreak Farm" [#28.3], and a substantial four-crib barn, the four corner cribs serving as the base for a two-and-one-half-tier stock barn, on the Russell Farm [#5.7]. These log crib or log pen barns are of hewn logs with half-dovetail or "V" notching.

Most of the barns in the district were generalized stock barns. They were usually constructed to feed and house cattle, but in some cases provided stalls for horses or mules as well. Some of the barns are relatively small, such as a ca. 1890 barn with four stable stalls and a crib on the "Aunt Bet"/Samuel Wright Ayers Farm [#9.3] and a small pole barn with side drive-throughs on the Kimbro-Jacobson Farm [#41.2]. Other barns are of considerable size. A ca. 1920 three-tiered barn on the Russell Farm [#5.6] is of pole frame construction clad in vertical siding and features side drive-throughs. A large cedar and locust-pole frame barn remains on the Martin Shofner/"Storybook Farm" tract [#11.2]. The largest barn in the district is a two-tiered pole barn on the Martin Shofner/"Green Hills Farm"/William Emory Shofner tract [#27.3], which at times housed cattle, hogs, and sheep and contained large amounts of corn.

Other agricultural buildings in the district include hay barns, granaries, corn cribs, smokehouses and machine sheds. These types of structures are found on many of the farms and are general modest frame or concrete buildings. Examples of these types of agricultural buildings and structures include the ca. 1900 "wheat house" on the Fred Shofner Farm [#40.7], the ca. 1890 smokehouse on the Thomas and Susan Fuss Tract on Bill Russell Road [#3.2], and the ca. 1930 frame "hen house" on the Kimbro-Jacobson Farm [#41.3]. The

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district contains dozens of agricultural buildings and structures which are representative of the development of the district's farmsteads over time.

In addition to the dwellings and agricultural buildings and structures, the district also contains two churches, the National Register-listed Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery [#25.1] and the Mount Zion-Haley Missionary Baptist Church [#14.1]. The Shofners' Lutheran Church displays the Greek Revival style with its distyle-in-antis entry, full pedimented front, and classical cornice and architraves over the triple-hung windows. This well preserved church is one of the most architecturally significant properties in the district. The Mount Zion-Haley Missionary Baptist Church is a modest log and frame structure and its present appearance dates to 1969.

RELIGION IN THE DISTRICT

Religion was an important facet of life for the earliest settlers of the Thompson Creek community. Religious life in the historic district is reflected in resources associated with three church groups that populated the lower valley. These groups represent the Lutheran, Presbyterian, and African-American communities of the historic district.

In Tennessee, the Lutheran faith first appeared in Sullivan County at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Lutheranism arrived in Middle Tennessee with the German Lutheran settlers of the Thompson Creek valley. Many of the original settlers of this part of Bedford County were members of a German Lutheran colony that migrated together from west central North Carolina. Meeting first in their homes, they established the first Lutheran community west of the Alleghenies. This congregation became the "mother church" for numerous others in Middle Tennessee.

In 1820, the first Tennessee Lutheran Synod was established in East Tennessee as a result of the steady, yet slow, rise in the numbers of German immigrants throughout East and Middle Tennessee. The Thompson Creek congregation began to grow, precipitating the need for a pastor. Early in 1824, Martin Shofner and Michael Fisher, another Lutheran pioneer in Bedford County, petitioned the North Carolina Lutheran Synod for a minister in Bedford County. The North Carolina Synod selected Reverend William Jenkins, a young man of twenty-two who became licensed to preach on May 24, 1824 at St. John Church in Cabarrus County, North Carolina.⁶⁵

Jenkins first arrived in Bedford County to a camp meeting in the area of Bell Buckle. In attendance was Thompson Creek resident Nimrod Burrow. Rev. Jenkins informed attendees he was in search of Martin Shofner's homestead. Burrow escorted Jenkins to Shofner's place, and Jenkins became the first pastor of the Lutheran church on Thompson Creek. His first service, in October of 1824, was attended by fifty-two worshippers, including ten slaves. Jenkins officiated his first communion service in March of 1825. Thirty-eight people attended the communion service, five of whom were slaves.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ Rebecca Smith and Kate Carothers, "Shofner's Lutheran Church" National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, (Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 1998) Section 8, Page 5.

⁶⁶ Ibid, Section 8, Page 5.

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No money was available to pay Jenkins, and he made a livelihood building wagons. It is known that Jenkins built the second carriage in the county for John Shofner for \$600, indicating the latter's wealth. Despite the label of permanent pastor at his new church, Jenkins was a much needed circuit rider throughout the region. He reported to his authorities in North Carolina that by the end of his first year, he had travelled 3,000 miles on horseback to preach 175 times, baptized eighty-five children and fourteen adults, and participated in over eight funerals.⁶⁷

During this early period of Jenkins' tenure, the Lutheran congregation made plans to build a church. Martin Shofner donated land for the first church, a log building constructed in ca 1825. According to Goodspeed's history, "The Lutherans came into the county at an early day and erected a church on Thompson Creek about 1826, though they were organized several years before that time."⁶⁸ Destroyed by fire several years later, the first Shofner congregation church was replaced by a second building of unknown construction date. It stood just west of the present-day church, within the historic cemetery whose oldest grave marker dates from 1807. After the construction of the present church building in 1876, the congregation used the second church building as a schoolhouse. The latter structure is no longer extant. The Shofners' Lutheran Church (#25.1) was individually listed in the National Register in 1998 for its architectural significance, and for its associations with the establishment of the Lutheran faith in Tennessee.

Founding members and leading figures of the Thompson Creek community have been buried in the original cemetery surrounding the church. Members of the Shofner, Ayers, Jenkins, and Euliss families, as well as the Reverend William Jenkins and his wife, Mary Euliss, are interred in the cemetery. The wealth of the congregation is evidenced in numerous elaborate grave markers that showcase local masonry skills. Included in the cemetery are several family plots, indicating the important connection of the church over many generations to the pioneer families of the community. The importance of the church is also reflected in the relocation of a number of burials from the old Shofner Cemetery (#27.10) to the Shofners' Lutheran Church Cemetery (#25.2) following the construction of the new church building (#25.1). Around the time of construction of U. S. Highway 41-A (SR-16) in front of the church yard, descendants of Martin and Catherine Shofner relocated their ancestors' graves here, as well. Their new graves are embellished with a concrete border wall, corner finials of a floral bud motif, and a bronze plaque donated on June 29, 1941 by the Shelby Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The site of the new graves in the front lawn of the church property emphasizes the position of Shofner's leadership in establishing the Lutheran faith in the Middle Tennessee region.

⁶⁷ Richard Smith, "The History of Jenkins Lutheran, a Speech delivered at Decoration Day, May 19, 1996,": *Bedford County Historical Quarterly* XXII, no. 3, Fall 1996), 101.

⁶⁸ Goodspeed Publishing Co, The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties, 883.

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Rev. William Jenkins also established the Cedar Hill Church on the property of Colonel Loton Shofner, approximately three miles northwest of the Shofner Church.⁶⁹ Later, the church was renamed Jenkins Lutheran Chapel (NR Listed October, 17 1997). Jenkins resided in the Thompson Creek community and served both congregations until his death in 1877.

Reverend William Jenkins's wife was born Mary Euliss, sister of Martin Euliss (1819-1900). Mary and Martin were offspring of Adam Euliss (1778-1843) and his wife Dorothea Turley Shofner Euless (1783-1871), daughter of Martin Shofner. The Eulisses were natives of Orange County, North Carolina. According to Goodspeed's history, the couple migrated to Bedford County around 1810. Martin married Miss Casander Bobo in 1848. Her parents, Elisha and Lucy Dean Bobo, were natives of South Carolina. Martin and Casander Euliss were Lutherans, worshipping at the Shofner Lutheran Church [#25.1].⁷⁰ Martin Euliss and his parents were interred in the Shofner Lutheran Church Cemetery [#25.2] with impressive markers, including a prominent obelisk. Shortly after their marriage, they built a home on Thompson Creek ca. 1850 (#33.1). Goodspeed's history states: "Martin Euliss started in life for himself almost penniless, but by energy and perseverance has accumulated considerable property. His farm, consisting of 500 [acres] is about eight miles from Shelbyville, besides this he owns seventy acres in Coffee county and forty acres in this county. He and wife are members of the Lutheran Church and their children belong to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church."

The Presbyterian Church mentioned above refers to a second religious congregation established in the Thompson Creek community in the early settlement period. This group held camp meetings beginning ca. 1810 near the Three Forks of the Duck River at the north end of the district. The Three Forks Cumberland Presbyterian congregation was one of the first groups associated with the new church, as frontier Calvinists split from the established Presbyterian Church as a part of the Second Great Awakening. The split was grounded in the belief that self-appointed ministers could establish churches and preach based on their calling from Christ, without the requirement of educational training at a church seminary.

The Cumberland Presbyterian group in the lower Thompson Creek valley began holding camp meetings near the Three Forks (named for the junctures of the Wartrace Fork, Garrison Fork, and Barren Forks of the Duck River). They established the "Fork Meeting House" at the campground site ca. 1810. The Rev. William McGee who owned the site of the Three Forks Mills, a large tobacco warehouse, and large acreage north and south of Barren fork, was a cofounder of the congregation in 1810 along with his brother-in-law and neighbor Rev. Samuel King.

Land was purchased in 1816 from Patton and Erwin but church minutes reflect the congregation was established before the date of the deed. An early church was erected about 1820, but it was destroyed by a storm.⁷¹ A second church was built, but was evidently only used intermittently in later years, as it does not appear in the 1887 list of existing churches in Goodspeed's History of Bedford County published that year.

⁶⁹ Smith and Carothers, "Shnofer's Lutheran Church" National Register Registration Form, Section 8, Page 7.

⁷⁰ Mary Reeves, "Shofner Chapel Celebrates Bicentennial," *Shelbyille Times-Gazette*, May 30, 2008, accessed March 15, 2018, http://www.t-g.com/story/1433069.html.

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The congregation was active into the 1930s, and the church building was razed late in that decade. However, the site of the church still exists and its foundation stones can be clearly discerned (#6.2). The adjacent Three Forks Cemetery (#6.1) dates from at least 1817. Rev. William McGee died in 1817 and is buried in a marked grave in the cemetery (#6.1) on the site.⁷²

Residing just west of the Three Forks Cumberland Presbyterian Church (#6.2) were the Kimbros, one of the earliest settlers on lower Thompson Creek. George B. Kimbro was married to Francis Minerva Ayers, representing another prominent local family. The Ayers family owned a large tract of land that surrounded the church property, which included a cemetery (#6.1). The Ayers and Kimbro families were also intermarried with the Holts, all located in the northern portion of the historic district. For example, Jeremiah Kimbro Ayers (1851-1919) was the son of John Layne Ayers (1813-1863) and Sarah Holt Ayers (1816-1875). Jeremiah and his wife Emma Phillips Ayers (1866-1931) were parents of Thomas Phillip Ayers, Sr. (1888-1941), a successful farmer on Thompson Creek.

The Three Forks Cumberland Presbyterian Church congregation was intermittently active. Its members gravitated to other congregations and/or changed denominations, attesting to the close family ties across the Thompson Creek valley. The paucity of burials within the Three Forks Cumberland Presbyterian Church cemetery (#6.2) reflects the movement of its members away from the church, some to the Shofner Lutheran Church and others, elsewhere. Thomas Phillip Ayers Sr. and his wife Delsie Johnson Ayers (1888-1941), as well as their son Thomas Phillip Ayers, II (1922-2008), are buried in the Shofner Lutheran Cemetery (#25.2). Thomas Phillip Ayers, Sr.'s parents and grandparents, are among twenty Ayers family members buried in the Holt Cemetery, between 1863 and 1949. This cemetery is located outside the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District.

Within both of the Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations were African-American slaves. After the Civil War, Martin Euliss deeded twelve acres to Zack Sims, an African American. In turn, Sims donated or sold a one-acre tract for the establishment of the Mt. Zion-Haley Missionary Baptist Church ca. 1870. The core of the present Mt. Zion-Haley Missionary Baptist Church (#14.1) dates from soon afterwards, though successive additions and changes no longer reflect the historic appearance. In later years, the Sons and Daughters of Cyrene purchased a lot from Raymond Sims. Next to the church building is the Mt. Zion-Haley Missionary Baptist Church cemetery (#14.3). Buried here are members of former slave families associated with earlier settlers of the community.

In addition to the above properties and resources is the Kimbro Cemetery (#7.1) in the north part of the district. The small cemetery has a handful of burials of the Kimbro family on land that original was settled by George Kimbro.

⁷¹ Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*, 883.

⁷² Bedford County Historical Quarterly XI, No. 3.

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Conclusion

The Thompson Creek Rural Historic District is locally significant in the areas of exploration/settlement, agriculture, and architecture. The original settlers built a prolific agricultural community in the fertile bottomlands and rolling hills surrounding the valley. The settlers and their descendants inter-married and perpetuated the farming and religious traditions established in the early years of the nineteenth century. The family relationships are evident in the transfer of lands within the historic district and remain a part of the fabric of historic district. Slaves owned by the early settlers, who eventually became free to develop their own community, also contributed to the built landscape. Residential, agricultural buildings and landscape features continue to represent the historic period.

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	Primary location of additional data:
X	State Historic Preservation Office
	Other State agency
	Federal agency
	Local government
	University
	Other
Nan	ne of repository:

Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Name of Property Bedford County, Tennessee County and State

. Geographical Data			
Acreage of Property	3,765	USGS Quadrangle	Normandy
Latitude/Longitude (Datum if other than W (enter coordinates to 6	GS84:		
1. Latitude: 35.48140	5	Longitude: -86.353974	
2. Latitude: 35.48140	5	Longitude: -86.305136	
3. Latitude: 35.42668	7	Longitude: -86.300527	
4. Latitude: 35.42508		Longitude: -86.353974	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District is an irregular shape encompassing forty- six contiguous properties along Thompson Creek and within the surrounding hills from the confluence of Thompson Creek with the Duck River on the north to the historic Midway community at Thompson Creek Road and Cathey Road on the south. From the north edge to the south edge of the historic district is a distance of approximately 3.8 miles; the distance across the historic district from east to west is approximately two miles. The following Bedford County tax parcels compose the 3,765-acre historic district:

Parcel 096 003.00	Parcel 097 043.00	Parcel 113 023.00	Parcel 097 045.00
Parcel 092 034.02	Parcel 112 046.00	Parcel 113 024.00	Parcel 096 031.00
Parcel 096 002.00	Parcel 097 046.00	Parcel 113 025.00	Parcel 113 002.00
Parcel 092 034.03	Parcel 112 047.00	Parcel 097 022.00	Parcel 113 022.00
Parcel 096 004.00	Parcel 113 004.00	Parcel 097 017.00	Parcel 097 020.00
Parcel 092 034.01	Parcel 113 018.00	Parcel 097 017.04	Parcel 091 016.00
Parcel 091 016.01	Parcel 113 003.00	Parcel 097 041.06	Parcel 097 051.00
Parcel 092 034.00	Parcel 113 021.02	Parcel 097 041.05	Parcel 097 019.00
Parcel 097 040.00	Parcel 096 030.01	Parcel 097 042.01	Parcel 092 033.00
Parcel 112 006.00	Parcel 096 030.01	Parcel 097 041.01	Parcel 097 018.00
Parcel 113 001.00	Parcel 097 017.02	Parcel 097 044.00	Parcel 097 018.01
Parcel 113 024.01	Parcel 097 017.01	Parcel 097 041.04	Parcel 091 016.02
Parcel 112 025.00	Parcel 097 017.03	Parcel 097 041.02	Parcel 091 015.00
Parcel 112 027.00	Parcel 097 042.02	Parcel 097 042.00	Parcel 091 015.01

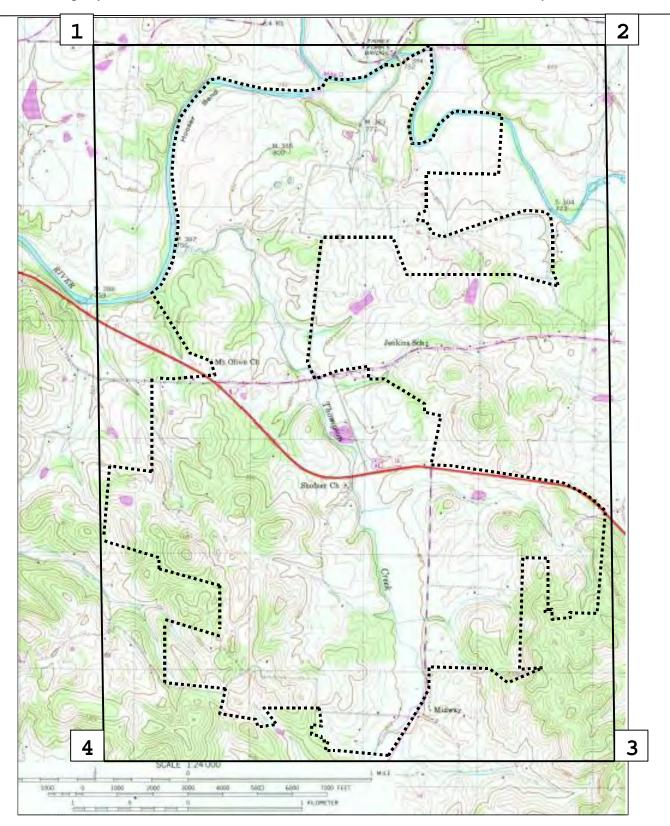
Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Name of Property Bedford County, Tennessee County and State

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District is drawn to include the largest number of contiguous properties which retain integrity and are associated with the families which settled and farmed the area in the nineteenth century. The northern boundary follows the contour of the Duck River which was a natural boundary for the lands settled by the various families in the early 1800s. The west, south and east boundaries are drawn to include properties which are historically associated with the nineteenth-century ownership of the Shofner, Ayers, Jenkins, Euliss, Brinkley, Kimbro, and Landis families. In many cases this ownership extends more than 200 years and represents continuity on the landscape. The majority of the district's parcels continue to be used for either agricultural purposes or woodlands. To the west, south and east of the district's boundary are properties which are not historically associated with the German and Lutheran heritage of the Thompson Creek area. Many of these parcels also include post-1969 agricultural buildings and dwellings which do not reflect the architectural and historical development of the area.

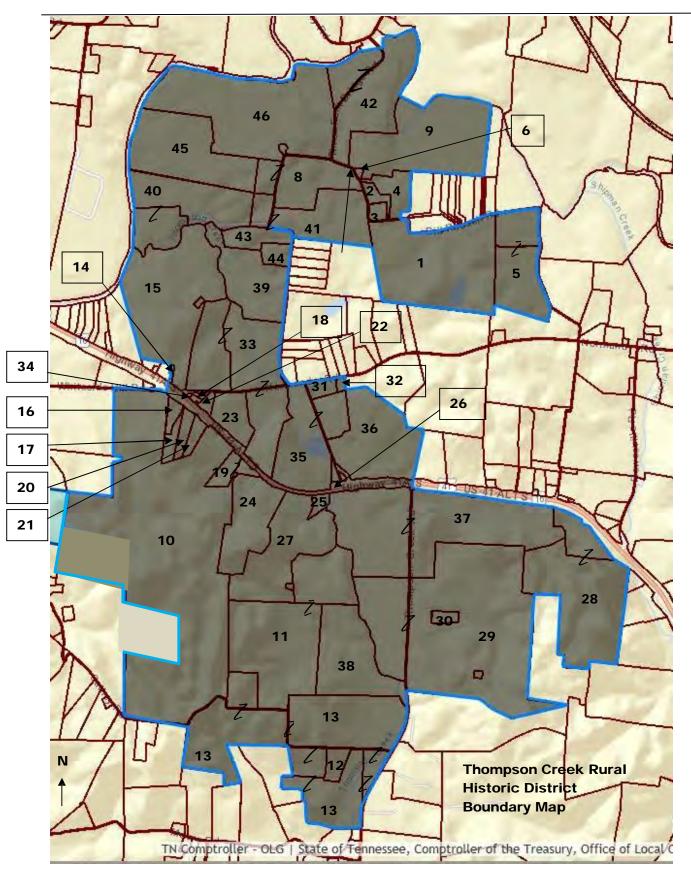
Thompson Creek Rural Historic District

Name of Property



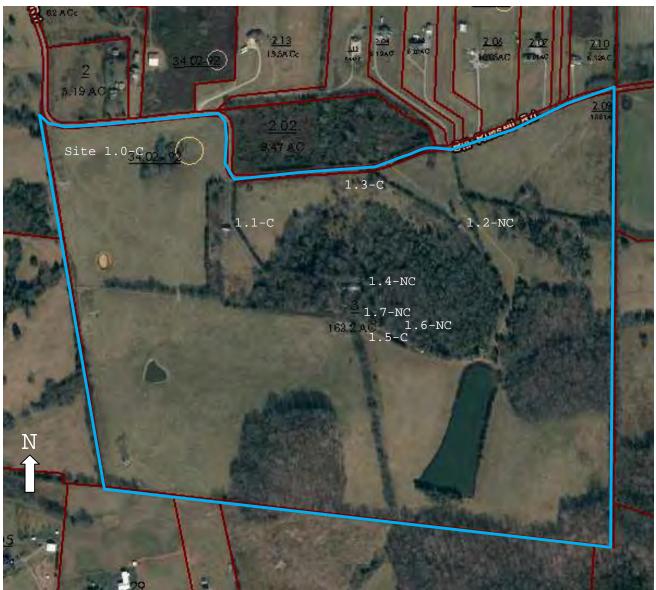
Location Map, Latitude/Longitude Coordinates on Normandy USGS Quadrangle map, scale 1:24,000

Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Name of Property



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Site Plans



Map of Inventory Parcel #1 with resources 1.0-1.7

Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Name of Property



Map of Inventory Parcel #2 (outlined in pink) with resources 2.0-2.2; Parcel #3 (outlined in green), 3.0-3.5; Parcel #4 (in blue), 4.0-4.3; Parcel #6 (outlined in yellow), 6.1-6.2; and Parcel #7 (in light purple),7.1 is a part of Parcel #8 (dark purple) that extends off map. Parcel #8 is shown in its entirety on page 89.

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property



Map of Parcel #5 with resources 5.0-5.10.

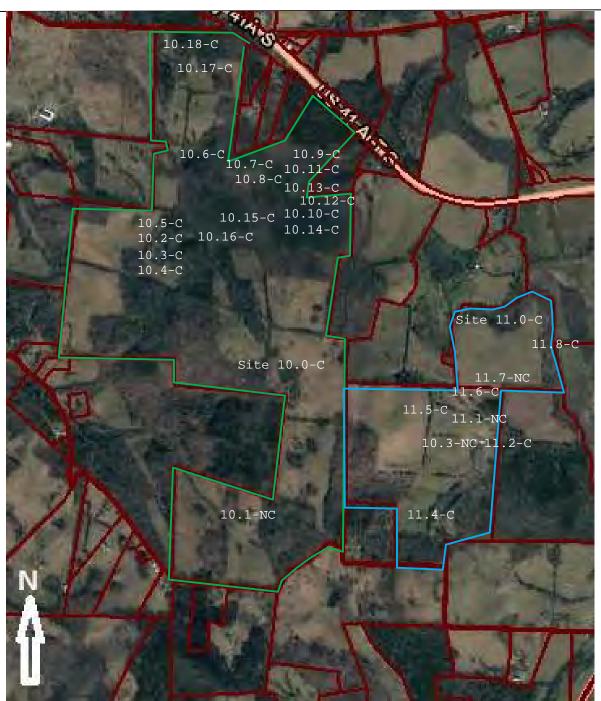
<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property Bedford, TN

County and State



Map of Parcel #8 (Blue), with resources 8.0-8.1 and Parcel #9 (Yellow) with resources 9.0-9.5.

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Map of Parcel #10 (green), with resources 10.0-11.18, and Parcel #11 (blue), with resources 11.0-11.8.

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property



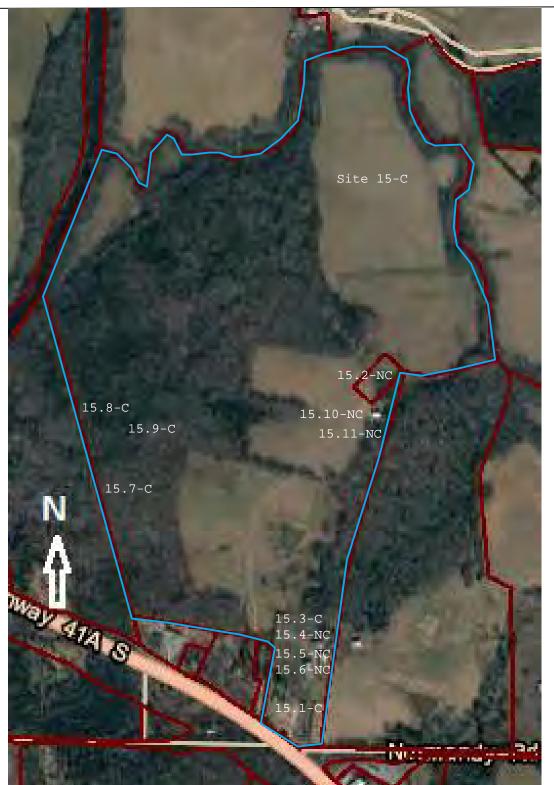
Map of Parcel #12 (yellow), with resources 12.0-12.8, and Parcel #13 (blue), with resources 13.0-13.10.

Thompson Creek Rural Historic District
Name of Property



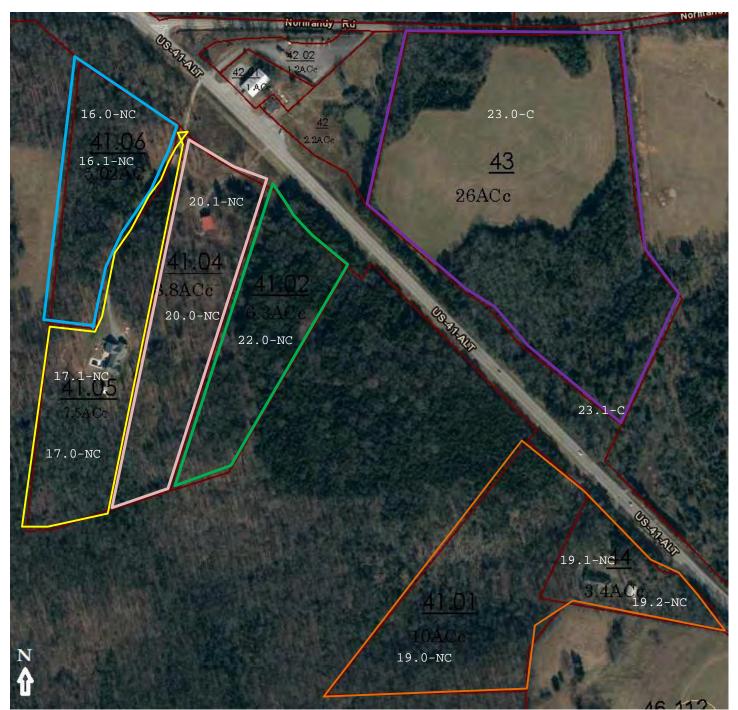
Map for Parcel #14 (yellow), with resources 14.1-14.3, and Parcel # 34 (blue), 18 (pink), and 22 (green).

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property



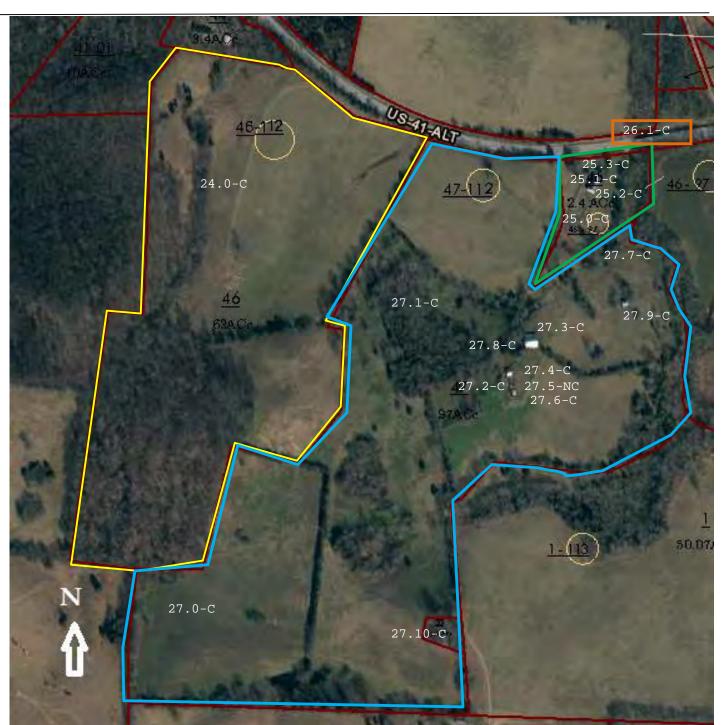
Map of Parcel #15 (blue), with resources 15.0-15.11

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property Bedford, TN County and State



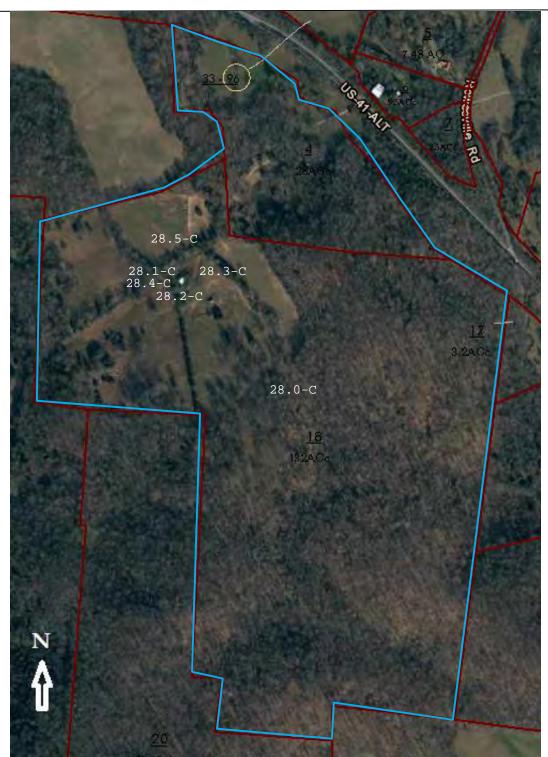
Map of Parcels #16 (blue), #17 (yellow), #19 (orange), #20 (pink), #21 (green), and #23 (purple).

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property Bedford, TN County and State



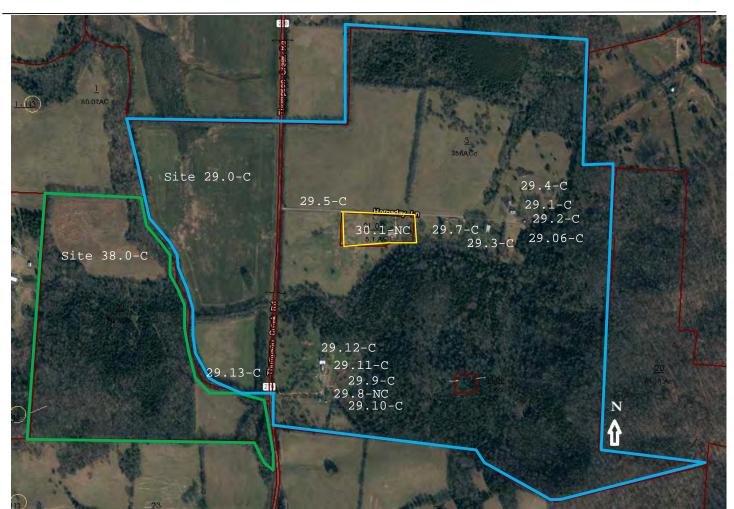
Map of Parcels #24 (yellow), #25 (green), #26 (orange), and #27 (blue), with resources 27.1-27.10

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property



Map of Parcel #28, with resources 28.1-28.5

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property



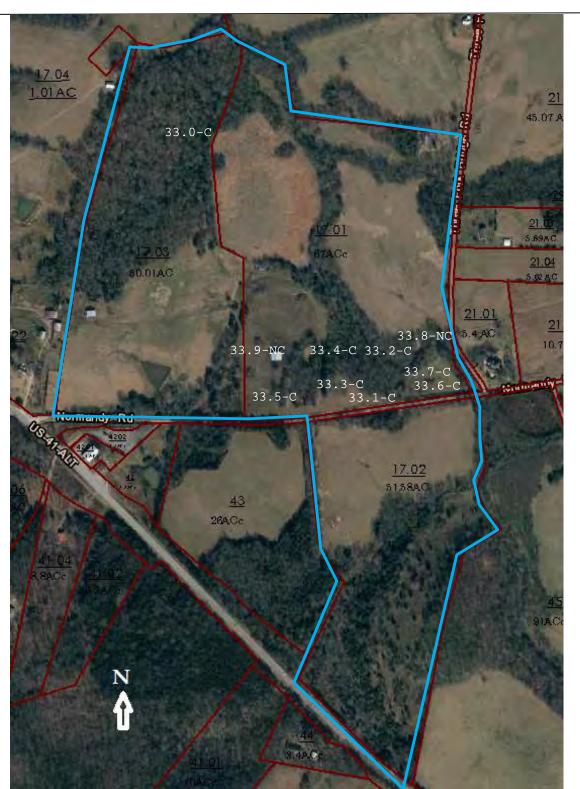
Map of Parcels #29 (blue), with resources 29.1-29.12, #30 (yellow), and #38 (green).

Thompson Creek Rural Historic District
Name of Property



Map of Parcels #31 (blue) and #32 (yellow).with resources 32.1-32.4

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property



Map of Parcel #33 (blue), with resources 33.1-33.9.

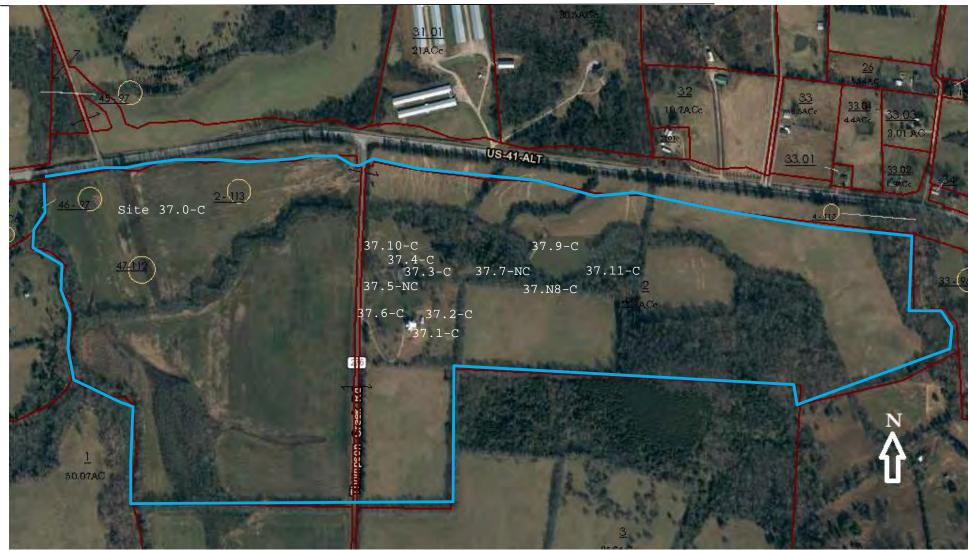
<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property



Map of Parcels # 35 (blue) and #36 (yellow).

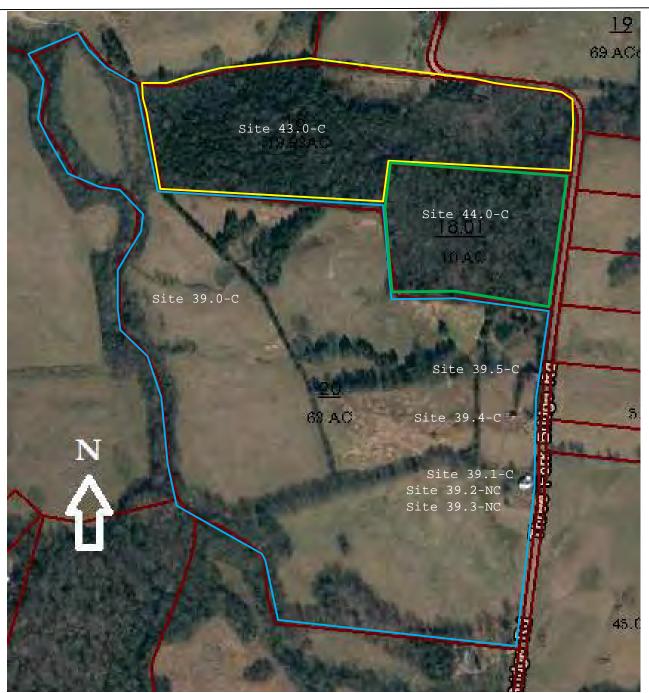
<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property Bedford, TN

County and State



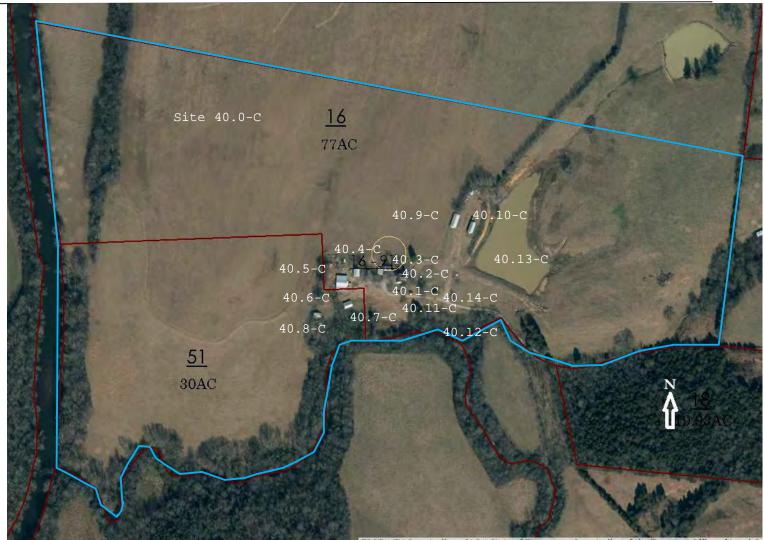
Map of Parcel #37 (blue), with resources 31.1-37.10.

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property



Map of Parcels # 39 (blue) with resources39.1-39.5, #43 (yellow), and #44 (green).

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property



Map of Parcel #40 (blue), with resources 40.1-40.14

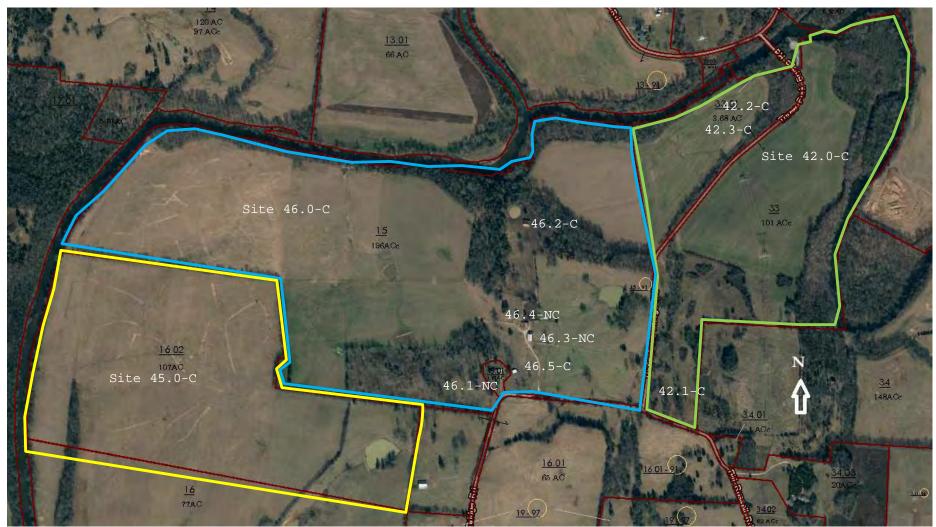
<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property Bedford, TN County and State



Map of Parcel #41 (blue), with resources 41.1-412

Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Name of Property Bedford, TN

County and State



Map of Parcels #42 (green) with resources 42.1-42-3, #45 (yellow), and #46 (blue) with resources 46.1-46.5

Thompson Creek Rural Historic District

Name of Property

Bedford County, Tennessee County and State

Photo Log

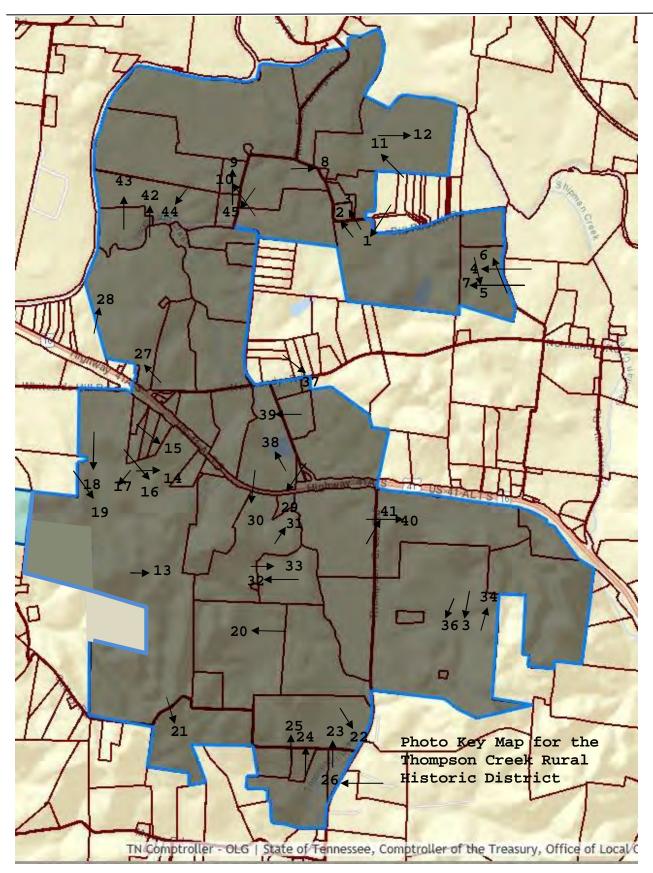
Name of Property:Thompson Creek Rural Historic District City or Vicinity: Shelbyville, Tennessee County: Bedford County State: Tennessee Photographer: Jenny Andrews; Andra Martens Date Photographed: December 2017-February 2018

- 1 of 45. 1.1 Central-passage Slater House, view to the southwest.
- 2 of 45. 3.1 Gable-ell Ayers House, view to the northwest.
- 3 of 45. 3.2 Smokehouse, view to the north.
- 4 of 45. 5.2 Bungalow Russell House, view to the northwest.
- 5 of 45. 5.6 Barn, view to the south.
- 6 of 45. 5.7 Barn, view to the north.
- 7 of 45. 5.9 Coop, view to the west.
- 8 of 45. 6.2 Cumberland Presbyterian Cemetery, view to the east.
- 9 of 45. 8.0 Landscape view to the north.
- 10 of 45. 8.1 Barn, view to the northwest.
- 11 of 45. 9.0 Landscape view to the northwest
- 12 of 45. 9.1 Vernacular Ayers House, view to the east.
- 13 of 45. 10.0 Landscape view to the east.
- 14 of 45. 10.10 Shofner Log dwelling with stone chimney, view to the east.
- 15 of 45. 10.11 Crib barn, view to the southeast.
- 16 of 45. 10.15 Cut stone road wall, view to the east.
- 17 of 45. 10.16 Semi-circular stone wall, view to the southwest.
- 18 of 45. 10.9 Old postal road, view to the south
- 19 of 45. 10.2 House Site foundation, view to the southeast.
- 20 of 45. 11.5 Corncrib, view to the west.
- 21 of 45. 13.0 Landscape view to the south.
- 22 of 45. 13.1 Anthony Mill, view to the southeast.
- 23 of 45. 13.3 Brinkley Dairy barn, view to the north.
- 24 of 45. 13.5 Tennant house, view to the north.
- 25 of 45. 13.6 Privy, view to the north.
- 26 of 45. 13.7 Stone wall, view to the west.
- 27 of 45. 15.1 Johnson House, view to the northwest.
- 28 of 45. 15.7 Old road bed (continuation of #10.18 in Photo 19) view to the northeast.
- 29 of 45. 25.1 Shofners' Lutheran Church, view to the southwest.
- 30 of 45. 27.1 Blowing spring, view to the south.
- 31 of 45. 27.9 Shofner Tenant House, view to the northeast.
- 32 of 45. 27.11 Old Shofner Cemetery, view to the west.
- 33 of 45. 27.0 Landscape view to the east.
- 34 of 45. 29.1 Bungalow Hornaday House, view to the northeast.
- 35 of 45. 29.3 Barn, view to the south.
- 36 of 45. 29.7 Mill, view to the south.
- 37 of 45. 32.1 Jenkins House, view to the southeast.
- 38 of 45. 35.0 Landscape view to the north of Thompson Creek.

Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Name of Property Bedford County, Tennessee County and State

- 39 of 45. 35.2 Stone-lined well, view to the west.
- 40 of 45. 37.1 Landis House, view to the east.
- 41 of 45. 37.9 Stone wall, view to the northeast.
- 42 of 45. 40.1 Joseph Shofner House, view to the north.
- 43 of 45. 40.3 Coop, view to the north.
- 44 of 45. 40.12 Spring House, view to the southwest.
- 45 of 45. 41.4 Brooder House, view to the southwest.

<u>Thompson Creek Rural Historic District</u> Name of Property



Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Name of Property Bedford County, Tennessee County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name	Andra Kowalczyk Martens, Jenny Andrews, Phil Thomason, Richard Quin				
Organization	Thomason and Associates				
Street & Number	P.O. Box 121225	Date	August 29, 2018		
City or Town	Nashville	Telephone	615-385-4960		
E-mail	Thomason@bellsouth.net	State TN	Zip Code <u>37212</u>		

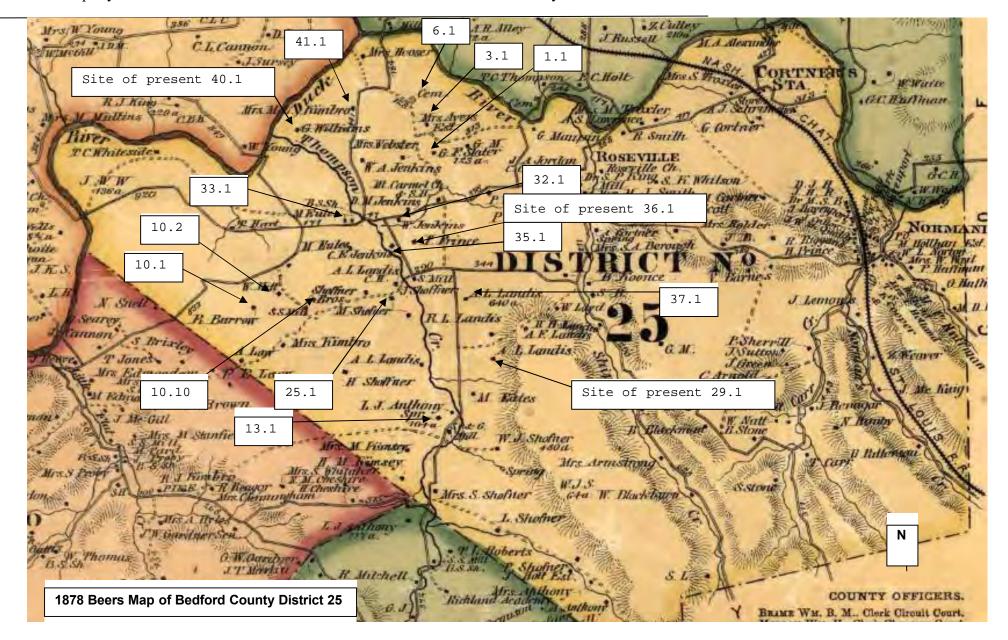
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Thompson Creek Rural Historic District Name of Property





























































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC FLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

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Requested Action:	ted Action: Nomination								
Property Name:	Thompson Creek Rural H	istoric District	District						
Multiple Name:	Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969 MPS								
State & County:	TENNESSEE, Bedford								
Date Rece 3/28/20			Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List: 5/13/2019						
Reference number:	MP100003898								
Nominator: SHPO									
Reason For Review	• •		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
Appea	I	PDIL	Text/Data Issue						
SHPO	Request	Landscape	Photo Map/Boundary Period						
Waive	r	National							
Resub	mission	Mobile Resource							
X Other		TCP	Less than 50 years						
		CLG							
X Accept	Return	Reject5/8/2	<u>019</u> Date						
Abstract/Summary Comments:	farmsteads, lone barns, a circulation patterns, field	and ruins that mark smaller fa and woodlot patterns all com	many historic resources. Cemeteries, arms (since consolidated), together with prise a district that meets the erion D potential, although D is not						
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept / A & C	·····							
Reviewer Jim Ga	abbert	Discipline	Historian						
Telephone (202)3	54-2275	Date							
DOCUMENTATION	I: see attached comme	nts : No see attached SL	R : No						

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



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE 2941 LEBANON PIKE NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214 OFFICE: (615) 532-1550 E-mail: <u>Claudette.Stager@tn.gov</u> (615) 770-1089

March 25, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley Keeper of the National Register National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228 Washington, DC 20240

- Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969 Multiple Property
 Documentation Form
 - Thompson Creek Rural Historic District, Bedford County, Tennessee National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The three enclosed disks contain the true and correct nominations for listing to the National Register of Historic Places the *Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1968 Multiple Property Documentation Form* and, under the multiple, the *Thompson Creek Rural Historic District, Bedford County.* We received no comments.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Holly Barnett at (615) 770-1098 or Holly.M.Barnett@tn.gov.

Sincerely, 1 und the Stupp

Claudette Stager Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:hb Enclosures(3)

Thompson Creek Historic District Inventory Breakdown

Inv #	C-Building	NC-Buildings C-Site	NC-Sites	C-Structures	NC-Structures										
1	3		1	1	Ne Structures										
2	5	2	1												
3	3		1												
4	3	3	1												
5	8		1	2											
6			2												
7			1												
8	1		1												
9			3												
10	4		5	8											
11	3	3	1	2	1										
12	1	7	1												
13	6	1	1	3											
14	2		1	-											
15	2		1	3	1										
16	-	1	1		-										
17		1	1												
18		1	1												
19		2	1												
20		1													
21			1												
22		1	1												
23			1	1											
24			1												
25						PL-3 (1-bui	ding, 1-site	e, 1-structur	e)						
26					1										
27	4		4	2											
28	3		1	2											
29	9	1	1	3											
30		1	1												
31		2	1												
32	1		1	1											
33	1	2	4	2											
34			1												
35			2	3											
36	2		1												
37	1		3	4		PL-3 Buildir	ngs (B 2 of 3	3-Now NC b	uilding, B 3 of 3 now C	Site), 1 C b	uilding now	in inventor	y a 1915 ba	rn not inclu	ded in NR)
38			1												
39	3	2	1												
40	10		1	3											
41	4		1	2											
42			3	1											
43			1												
44			1												
45 46			1												
46	1 74		1 51 10	40											
	/4	64 5	5 1 10	43	4										
\vdash	Contributing	Total 169													
Noncontributing Total 78															