

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Wassom Farm
Other names/site number N/A
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number: 276 Matthews Mill Road
City or town: Telford State: Tennessee County: Washington
Not For Publication: na Vicinity: x Zip: 37690-2525

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Clayton M... 4/9/18
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: _____ Date _____

Title: _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government



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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

other (explain): _____

James Sullivan
 Signature of the Keeper

5-2-2018
 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	2	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

AGRICULTURE / agriculture outbuildings

AGRICULTURE / agricultural fields

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

AGRICULTURE / storage

AGRICULTURE / agricultural fields

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER

Federal

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

BRICK; WOOD; CONCRETE; STONE;
METAL/Aluminum

Narrative Description

Wassom Farm is located in the southeast corner of the intersection of Matthews Mill Road and the Norfolk Southern Railroad about one mile west of the center of the unincorporated community of Telford in a rustic part of Washington County in northeastern Tennessee. Situated about one mile south of US 11E, the main highway in the area, the farm is six miles from the Washington County seat of Jonesborough. The principal building on the farm is the circa 1828 brick farmhouse. The two-story, three-room with central passage house was constructed with Flemish bond red brick on the façade and American common bond on the elevations. The three-bay façade is symmetrical in design and is comprised of a single leaf door flanked by replacement windows on the first story and two replacement windows on the second story. There is a rear one-story two-room ell and two shed additions on the ell's northern side. The low-pitched side gable roof is covered with 5V metal roofing, except for the standing seam roofing on the north part of the ell. Interior woodwork is historic and includes mantels, stairs, and wainscoting. A one-story bungalow porch was added to the house around 1920. Also on the property are a circa 1900 barn and circa 1900 shed. Overall the property retains its historic integrity.

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Setting

Wassom Farm is a 17.2 acre tract of land that includes the house, two outbuildings, agricultural fields and some woodland. The property is located at the western edge of Telford, Tennessee, an unincorporated Census Designated Place which had a population of 910 as of the 2010 Census. It sits within a rural part of Washington County where there is minimal modern development. Historic Embree House (NR Listed 2/14/1978) is located three-tenths of a mile to the east of Wassom Farm. The parcel is bounded on the north side by the Norfolk Southern Railroad, along the east and south sides by Little Limestone Creek, and along the west side by Matthews Mill Road. The house sits about 480 ft. south of the railroad and 95 ft. west of Matthews Mill Road. Agricultural lands of the farm are north, northwest, and west of the cluster of three buildings. The farmed area is almost flat, with a gradual slope downward from north to south and from west to east. The elevation at the northern boundary of the property is 1522 ft. and decreases gradually along the 480 ft. between the railroad and the dwelling to an elevation of 1516 ft. South of the house, the land slopes downward more steeply over the 200 feet between the dwelling and Little Limestone Creek to an elevation of 1495 ft.¹ The area between the buildings and Little Limestone Creek is mostly open with a few mature trees. Also, trees have been allowed to grow near the banks of the creek.

Several other farms are located adjacent to and within sight of Wassom Farm. There are open pastures and farmed land north of the Norfolk Southern Railroad and south of Little Limestone Creek. On the opposite side of Matthews Mill Road from the Wassom Farm's dwelling is the east side of a thirty-five-acre farm with open pastures and farmed land, a farmhouse constructed in the 1920s, a barn and several other outbuildings. Angling across from and slightly north of the dwelling is a small cemetery of approximately 0.5 acres. Two houses built in 1980 and 2010 are located across Matthews Mill Road from the northwest corner of the farm. On the opposite side of Matthews Mill Road and north of the railroad is a house built in 1910. To the east of Wassom Farm lies a 28-acre tract of land occupied by forestland, agricultural lands, and the above-mentioned Embree House. Power lines run along the opposite side of Matthews Mill Road and cross the road south of the dwelling to provide it with electrical service. A dirt driveway enters the property perpendicular to Matthews Mill Road and runs along the north side of the dwelling about forty feet from its north elevation.

Main Dwelling (Contributing)

Exterior

The west façade faces Matthews Mill Road. The two-story brick house facade was built ca. 1828 with a Flemish bond and molded brick at the eave. The façade features a full-length one-story circa 1920 bungalow porch. Four tapered wood columns rest on solid brick porch rail capped with concrete. Centered on each side of the porch is a small arched opening and four rectangular drainage holes in a diamond configuration. Three concrete steps lead to the wood porch floor. The shed roof porch covers a single-leaf door topped with a transom and multi-light replacement windows. Two tapered pilasters rest against the façade, outside of the windows. Directly above the first-story windows are two multi-light replacement windows with soldier arch lintels. Chimneys on the north and south elevations are visible from the façade.

The south elevation faces Little Limestone Creek. The main two-story block has two bays. Each bay has a two six-over-six double-hung windows on each floor, located on either side of a centered chimney. These

¹ "Telford." 36.244446, -82.563620. [Google Earth Pro](#). October 14, 2015. September 7, 2017.

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windows have concrete sills, wood frames, and soldier course lintels. The gable has two small four-pane wood-framed windows that also flank the interior chimney. The rear ell is single-story brick. It is unknown whether the ell was original the house's construction or added later. There are two wood doors. The westernmost door has a single concrete step and is flanked by two windows. The window west of the door is a six-over-six double-hung window and the window east of the door is six-pane casement. To the west of the eastern door is a six-over-six double-hung window. Beneath this window is a single-pane casement window for the basement. Brickwork for the main block and the ell is American common bond. The ell has a single interior concrete chimney located in its center.

The east (rear) elevation of the main two-story block has one six-over-six double hung window in the center of the elevation on the second floor. This window has a concrete sill, wood frame, and soldier arch lintel. Another second-floor window, to the north of the existing window, has been removed and infilled with brick. A window on the first floor is covered by an addition to the ell. Brickwork for this elevation is American common bond with molded brick at the eave. The east elevation of the rear ell has a gable end on the original ell, with a centered six-over-six double-hung wood-framed window. Beneath this window is a single-pane casement window for the basement. A circa 1950 shed addition was constructed on the north side of the ell. It is constructed of wood and its east elevation has two six-over-six double hung windows.

The north section of the rear ell is a circa 1950 wood-framed addition with a metal shed roof. It appears that what was once a wooden porch on the north side of the ell has been enclosed in two stages and was clad with aluminum siding in about 1950. The siding was removed in 2017. The portion located adjacent to the main block protrudes a few feet north from the remainder of the shed addition and has one small six-over-six double-hung east-facing window. The remainder of the shed addition has one wood door and no windows on the north side.

Like the south elevation of the two-story main block, the north elevation has two bays. Each bay has two six-over-six double-hung windows on each floor. However, unlike the south elevation, the north elevation has two interior brick chimneys. Windows are flanked by the chimneys and are, thus, closer to one another than on the south elevation. The gable has two small four-pane wood-framed casement windows. Brickwork for the main block is American common bond.

Interior

The interior of the house has a central entry hall with a living room on the south side, and a parlor and sitting room on the north side. This floorplan appears to be original. A dining room and kitchen are in the rear ell. The shed addition contains a bathroom and a laundry room. The main block's second floor consists of three bedrooms, a hall, and a closet.

The parlor on the main floor is at the northwest corner of the house. It has a two-panel wooden door to the hall and two windows on the west and north sides. The wood floor has sustained substantial damage in the northeast corner. The walls are plaster and there is a nine-inch-wide wood rail about two and one-half ft. from the floor. It also has a nine and one-half inch wood baseboard. A concrete fireplace with a four ft. nine-inch-wide wooden mantel is located on the north wall, west of the window. The ceiling is plaster.

The main floor sitting room is in the northeast corner of the main block. It has no floor. In many places the covering has fallen from the walls, revealing brick. However, the wooden chair rail, similar to that found in

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the parlor, is still in place. It has a two-panel wooden door to the hall. There are windows on the north and east sides. Although the window on the east wall is still intact and visible from the sitting room, it is covered on the other side by the west wall of the ell's shed addition. The concrete fireplace is on the north wall, east of the window, and has a four ft. seven-inch-wide wooden mantel. The ceiling is deteriorated gypsum board.

The main floor's central hall runs the entire width of the main block from west to east. It opens onto the porch and into the bathroom addition of the ell. It has plaster walls and its wood floor has sustained some damage at the east end. The stairs to the upper floor lead south from the east end of the hall.

The main floor living room takes up the south end of the main block. It has two-panel wood doors to the hall and to the dining room in the ell. It has wood floors and a ten-inch wood baseboard. This is the only room in the house with wainscoting. One window is on the west side, and two windows are on the south side, on either side of the fireplace, which has a wooden mantel that is six feet wide. The walls and ceiling are plaster. A small closet, located under the stairs, is in the northeast corner of the room.

The main floor dining room is in the original part of the ell, east of the living room. It has four wooden doors, which access the living room to the west, the kitchen to the east, the bathroom to the north, and the exterior to the south. There are two windows on the south side positioned on either side of the door, and one window on the north side, west of the door to the bathroom. This window has not been covered, and probably opened into what was, at one time, a hallway extension through the western half of the addition. The floor and ceiling are wood, and the walls are plaster. There is a fireplace on the east wall with a five ft. five-inch-wide wooden mantel.

The kitchen takes up the easternmost end of the original part of the ell. It has three wooden doors, which access the dining room, the laundry room, and the exterior. There is one window on the south side, west of the door, and one on the east side. The floor and the ceiling are wood, and the walls are plaster. The fireplace is on the west wall and has a wooden mantel that is six ft. two inches wide.

The bathroom occupies the westernmost portion of the shed addition. It has no interior wall covering, no ceiling, and no floor. One window is on the east side, located in that portion of the room that protrudes beyond the remainder of the addition. The other window accesses the dining room. There are three wooden doors which access the hall, the dining room, and the laundry room.

The laundry room is the easternmost portion of the shed addition. Its floor is wood, but it has no interior walls and no ceiling. Its south wall was the exterior wall of the original ell and is brick. Three wooden doors access the bathroom to the east, the kitchen to the south, and the exterior to the north. There are two windows on the east side. The stairs accessing the cellar are at the easternmost end of the laundry room. Neither of the added rooms have fireplaces.

The upper floor's central hall runs north-south alongside the stairs, which are against the east wall of the main block, and east-west to allow access to the bedrooms on the north side. The west end of the hall is walled off to form a closet. A window frame can be seen in the closet's west wall, thus providing evidence that an upper floor façade window was either planned or bricked in. The stairs along the east wall of the main block are wood and separated from the upper floor hall by a wooden balustrade.

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The upper floor bedrooms at the northwest and southwest corners of the main block have plaster walls, wood floors, and deteriorating gypsum board ceilings. Both rooms are accessed by two panel wooden doors and have nine and one-half inch wooden baseboards. The bedroom in the northwest corner has one window on the west wall and one window on the north wall. It also has a fireplace on the north wall with a wooden mantel that is four ft. six inches wide. The bedroom in the southwest corner has one window on the west wall and one on the south wall. It also has a fireplace on the south wall with a five ft. six-inch-wide wooden mantel.

The upper floor bedroom at the northeast corner of the main block has some substantial differences from the other two. Like the others, this bedroom has a wood floor and a two-panel wood door. However, it has no interior wall coverings and the ceiling is open to the attic. On the north wall is one window and a fireplace with a four ft. five-inch-wide wooden mantel. A portion of the floor is missing in front of the fireplace.

Although it is accessed by concrete steps from the laundry room, the cellar is located beneath the kitchen in the original ell. It is twelve and one-half ft. by nine and one-half ft., with one small window each on the east and south walls. It has no interior wall covering, and the floor is dirt.

This building is a work in process. Floors, ceilings, and walls are damaged or completely missing in several rooms and there are neither working bathroom facilities nor HVAC. The owner is carrying out restoration which should make the building fit for human habitation. All of the windows were replaced in 2017. Special care has been taken to ensure that the replacement windows are the same type and have the identical number of panes as the originals. The windows are wood but clad in aluminum on the exterior.

Barn ca. 1900, non-contributing

About one hundred feet east-northeast of the main dwelling is a small barn with vertical plank siding, partial wood flooring and an adjacent detached shed. A metal, standing seam, gable roof covers a "pass-through" on the south side and a storage area on the north side. The "pass-through" has a large opening, with no doors, at each end, thus allowing persons, animals, or vehicles to pass through the barn. The detached shed adjacent to the east end has a standing seam metal shed roof and horizontal plank siding.

Shed ca. 1900, non-contributing

The shed is located about forty feet south of the southeast corner of the main dwelling. It is on stacked stone piers and has a complete floor system, built-in shelves, and an extended front gable roof covered with 5V metal. The gable extension is supported by braces. The building and braces are covered by vertical plank siding. The building's only door, made of vertical plank siding with metal strap hinges, is located beneath the gable extension on the north side, facing the main dwelling. One window is located on the east side, and one on the west side, but both windows have been covered with wood and metal.

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8. Statement of Significance

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1828

Significant Dates

ca. 1828

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance

Located at 276 Matthews Mill Road, in the southeast corner of the intersection of Matthews Mill Road and the Norfolk Southern Railroad, is a farmstead long known as Wassom Farm, named for the family that owned the property and farmed the land for many years. The ca. 1828 two-story brick house is noticeable from the road, and there are two small non-contributing structures near the house. The farm has local architectural significance under Criterion C as a three-room, central hall farmhouse with Federal details that are best seen in the interior woodwork. Flemish bond brick on the façade and molded brick at the eaves are important features of the exterior. The main level central entry hall and three-room floor plan, paneled doors, chair rails, wainscoting, and historic mantels are characteristic features of the interior. The period of significance is 1828 to correspond with the house's date of construction. Overall, Wassom Farm retains its architectural integrity.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Area History

Settlement of the community now called Telford began about 1780. Old State Route 34 runs along the path of what was once a heavily traveled stage road. By the 1790s a number of blacksmith shops and at least one wagon-making business were located along this route. Little Limestone Creek and its numerous tributaries flowed through the community. This flowing water provided a source of power and by the early 1800s several mills were operating in the area.²

Prior to 1855 the community was known as Millwood, but in that year Colonel George Whitfield Telford made a donation of about four acres of land to the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. This land would be used for livestock yards and for a railroad depot. He also constructed a water supply and a wood yard where fuel could be stored for the locomotives. As a result of Colonel Telford's donation, the name was changed to Telford Depot. Sometime after 1876 the word "Depot" was dropped from the name and the community has since been known as Telford.³ The railroad depot was demolished in 1962. Flag stops continued for a time, but in August 1974 the railroad discontinued passenger service.⁴

Colonel Telford established the Telford Agricultural Manufacturing Company in 1876. Included in the operation were a foundry and a three-story building for woodworking. Between 1880 and 1890 a variety of household utensils, farm tools and other items were manufactured at this factory. The company failed in 1890 and the building was sold to W. A. Maloney III and two other men, who, in 1894, converted the building for use as a roller mill. Maloney constructed two water wheels to use water from Little Limestone Creek. One was used for the mill while the other powered a turbine to produce electricity for the community. After the Tennessee Valley Authority made electric power available to the residents of northeastern Tennessee, use of the power wheel was phased out.⁵

² Bill Fox, "Telford." <http://www.wagsnetn.org/members-only-2/telford/>, accessed 13 October, 2017.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Charlie Clark, "The History of the Telford Railway," *Treasured Times: Life in the West View Area*, West View School, 2003, p. 13.

⁵ Bill Fox, "Telford." <http://www.wagsnetn.org/members-only-2/telford/>, accessed 13 October, 2017.

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As mentioned previously, the northern boundary of the Wassom Farm property runs along the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Completed in May of 1858, the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad, as it was called at that time, was the first railroad to traverse northeastern Tennessee. Prior to its construction, three routes were proposed. The southernmost route, which went through the community of Telford, was chosen because it would be near the largest number of existing businesses, and because its cost was estimated to be about quarter million dollars less than the other proposed routes.⁶ With its completion, the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad connected Knoxville, Tennessee with Bristol, Virginia, each of which were, or soon would be, connected to other cities by rail. Thus, the Telford community became connected with the rest of the country through this rapidly-growing and fast-moving transportation network.

Today, Telford has only two businesses (a diner and a bed and breakfast) in operation, and one manufacturing facility. The construction of U. S. 11E to the north has diverted all through-traffic away from the community. Its land use is now primarily agricultural and single-family residential.

Brief History of the Property

The Wassom Farm house was built on property controlled by Embree Farm in the early part of the 19th century and remained in the Wassom family until 2015. Throughout most of those years it was actively operated as a producing farm and contributed to the local agricultural economy. Previous owners of the property stated that tobacco was grown on the farm. Tobacco baskets and sticks were found on the property, which indicates that this statement is accurate. At this time the land is used to farm hay and corn.

On the opposite (western) side of Matthews Mill Road from the Wassom Farm house is Earnest Chapel Cemetery, a historic cemetery founded in 1808. According to Washington County TNGenWeb, the cemetery gets its name from Earnest's Chapel (non-extant), which was probably named for Lawrence Earnest. Mr. Earnest, who was born in Frederick County, Virginia in 1763 and died in Washington County, Tennessee in 1837, was, in 1822, a delegate to the Greene County Convention for the Nolichucky Branch of the Tennessee Society for Promoting the Manumission of Slaves. Members of the Wassom family who lived at Wassom Farm are buried in the cemetery. They include Ida Blound Wassom (1893 – 1973), Stella Viola Wassom (1888 – 1964), John Henry Wassom (1879 – 1945), Charity M. Wassom (1861 – 1911), and Frank M. Wassom (1840 – 1900).

In late August 1863 a Union army advanced southward from Kentucky into East Tennessee. By September 1, this army had entered Knoxville and the city remained in Union hands for the remainder of the war.⁷ Federal infantry in Knoxville used captured trains to advance eastward along the tracks of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. Before they could reach Bristol, Union forces encountered Confederate forces near present-day Watauga and they began to retreat eastward along the railroad tracks on September 6. They soon learned that their route back to Knoxville was blocked by a burning railroad trestle between their location and Greeneville. The Federal forces halted at the Embree House (NR 78002647) where they began

⁶ Johnny Graybeal, *The Railroads of Johnson City*, 1st ed. Hickory, NC: Tarheal Press, 2007, pp 1-47.

⁷ Stephen V. Ash, "Civil War Occupation," The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture Version 2.0 website, 2009, <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=1013>, accessed 12 October 2017.

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to dig in, guard the rail line, and wait for reinforcements.⁸ (Embree House is about three tenths of a mile east of Wassom Farm.)

On September 7, Confederate forces arrived in Telford and the next morning, they moved forward to attack. The fighting was brisk, and Confederate reserves were sent forward from nearby Jonesboro.⁹ Union forces were driven westward along the railroad, for a distance of about one-half mile (this would have taken them through Wassom Farm) where they halted and offered resistance. The pursuing Confederates were compelled to fall back at this point. Union troops took advantage of the lull and continued along the railroad with their locomotive and train cars.¹⁰

Confederate forces resumed their pursuit and drove the Union troops for a distance of about six miles to the bridge at Limestone Station. After a two-hour fight, the Union troops surrendered and very few escaped. The Battle of Limestone Station began less than three tenths of a mile to the east of Wassom Farm at Embree House, where the Union forces had prepared defenses. As the Union forces retreated along the railroad track, and Confederate forces advanced in pursuit, fighting soldiers of both sides passed through Wassom Farm on their way westward to Limestone Station.

About 500 feet south of the Wassom Farm house, near the intersection of Matthews Mill Road and Glaze Road, is the site of Matthews Mill. This grist mill stood as a testament to the importance of agriculture in the Telford area and served as a business where grain was ground and purchased as well as a place at which local residents would meet and share news. Unfortunately, its maintenance was neglected for many years and it had to be demolished in 2013. The land where it stood is currently vacant.

Architectural Significance

The main dwelling at Wassom Farm represents a transitional phase in regional building traditions from a three-room house form to the two-story central hall I-House form that became popular for farmhouses in the 19th century. Historically associated with German or Swiss immigrants, three-room house forms have been known by a variety of names, including the Penn Plan, the Quaker Plan, the Continental Plan, or the Flurkuechenhaus. The form is defined by its square or rectangular footprint and its main level three-room floorplan. The main entry was into a single room, usually called the hall or the Kueche (kitchen). The Kueche was the home's public room and included the kitchen area as well as the staircase, often enclosed in one corner of the room. Two smaller rooms, called the Stube (room) and Kammer (chamber) were considered private spaces and were accessible from the hall. Placement of fireplaces varied: there may be one central fireplace that heated all rooms or multiple fireplaces situated along exterior walls. The house may

⁸ James Maddox, "The Battle of Limestone Station," Welcome to Washington County: TNGenWeb website, <http://tngenweb.org/washington/records-data/washington-county-military-index/miscellaneous-military-records/battle-of-limestone-station/>, 4 Nov. 2000, accessed 12 Oct. 2017.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "The War In Tennessee: A Battle at Limestone Station – Capture of 300 of Our Forces" Correspondence of the *Richmond Enquirer*, Thursday, Sept. 10, 1863, website <http://www.nytimes.com/1863/09/19/news/the-war-in-tennessee-a-battle-at-limestone-station-capture-of-300-of-our-forces-355644132.html>, accessed 12 Oct. 2017.

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feature a second-floor loft or a full second story whose plan may mirror the main level or may vary slightly.¹¹

Wassom Farm was built on land owned by the Embree family, who had moved to Tennessee about 1770 either from New Jersey or Pennsylvania, an area of dense German settlement where three-room houses were common. Seth Smith, a Quaker also from Pennsylvania, built a house for them in the present-day Telford area ca. 1802. The Embree House (NR listed 2/14/1978) is an example of a three-room plan.¹² Other three-room houses in the northern region of East Tennessee are the John and Landon Carter House in Carter County (NR Listed 4/14/1972) and the Samuel Frazier House in Blount County (NR Listed 7/25/1989). The three-room house form was also used in the northern area of the Middle Tennessee region, as shown by its use in Cragfont in Sumner County (NR listed 2/26/1970).¹³ All of these houses were constructed between 1780 and 1805 and demonstrate the proliferation of the form in northern Tennessee as settlers brought it and other traditional construction methods from such German settlement areas as Pennsylvania or New Jersey.

The Wassom Farmhouse, built about thirty years after the Embree House, exhibits a three-room plan but incorporates a central entry hallway, or passage. The inclusion of the entry hall in the main-level floorplan represents a gradual transition in regional building traditions to the popular I-House form, defined by its rectangular footprint, two-room width, one-room depth, and central entry hallway. The I-House form “symbolized prosperity and respectability” in agricultural areas and small towns as it mirrored traditional, folk culture as well as popular culture. Its use flourished, particularly in the Upland South regions of Kentucky and Tennessee.¹⁴

As folklorist and architectural historian Henry Glassie observed, builders in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries used house forms and construction methods rooted in tradition and ethnic heritage. Change, particularly in interior room configurations, occurred slowly, even as exteriors adopted the latest decorative fashions.¹⁵ The Wassom Farmhouse represents this transitional, slow change as the builder retained the traditional three-room floorplan but adopted the central hall, one of the main characteristics of the I-House that was concurrently becoming popular.

Characteristic of the era and the tendency to adopt popular exterior ornamentation, the Wassom Farmhouse has some details associated with the Federal style. These include its lack of exterior ornamentation except for brick molding at the cornice, chimney placement (end location and slightly irregular), and flat lintels. While

¹¹ Edward A. Chappell, “Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement,” in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture* edited by Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986) 47-48; Henry Glassie, “Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building,” in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture* edited by Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986), 406-407; James Patrick, *Architecture in Tennessee: 1768-1896*, (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981), 61-62; Gerald L. Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004),

¹² Patrick, 61. Sources differ on whether the Embree family moved to Tennessee from Pennsylvania or New Jersey.

¹³ Cragfont, Historic American Buildings Survey Collection, Library of Congress. Accessed April 2, 2018, <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/item/tn0148/>.

¹⁴ John A. Jakle, Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer, *Common Houses in America's Small Towns: The Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1989), 121-122.

¹⁵ Glassie, 394-425.

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the windows are symmetrically-placed, the façade has fewer than typical (usually three or five), but the originals were six-pane sashes, which was common for the style in Tennessee. There is evidence mentioned elsewhere that the middle window of the upper-level façade could have been bricked-in. Like the Arts and Crafts porch, the removal of the middle window does not detract significantly from the architectural integrity. Interior features that have been well preserved include fireplace mantels, original doors, and trim.

In addition to the Embree House, there are at least five National Register-listed brick buildings in the area of Wassom Farm that were built in the early to mid-1800s. These five buildings are described below.

Three and one-half miles to the northeast of the Wassom Farm is the Devault Tavern (NR 6/4/1973). It was constructed between 1819 and 1821 as a stagecoach inn and tavern with some Federal architectural elements. The façade and side elevations are all five bays wide. There is a two-story original ell and a one-story ell addition, which was built ca. 1827. It has a coursed limestone ashlar foundation. The walls are brick with Flemish bond on the front façade and sawed timber trusses. There is a pedimented two-story porch that occupies the central part of the façade. The columns have a turned design. The boards trimming the second-floor porch floor and third floor ceiling have segmental arch heads. The cornices on the first and second floors have millwork. The pediment is surrounded by mutules and millwork. Outside-end brick chimneys all rise high above the roof. The main door is a federal fanlight. The second-floor porch door is the same but is smaller. Windows are double-hung sash windows with six over nine lights on the second floor and nine over nine lights in the first floor. It has a gable roof with a hipped south end. The ridge is parallel to the façade. The roof covering is standing seam metal. The cornice is decorated with millwork which is similar to that on the porch.

Less than three miles southwest of Wassom Farm is the Adam Alexander Broyles house (NR 3/21/2011). This Federal style I-House with some Greek Revival characteristics was completed ca 1840. It has a rear ell. It has four flush chimneys, a gable roof covered with tin, and brick walls constructed with common bond brickwork. The main part of the house has three floors – ground, main, and second, while the ell has only one floor. The main floor front porch, which contains late nineteenth century woodwork, extends across the length of the front of the house, as does the second-floor balcony. The property also contains five outbuildings of which two are contributing resources.

Constructed ca. 1859-1860, the Henry Hoss house (NR 12/16/1982) is about seven miles northeast of Wassom Farm. This late Federal style rectangular-shaped, two story brick central hall house has a step-gabled roof, a five-bay façade, a one-story step-gabled brick ell, and a one-story gabled roof brick addition that was built onto the rear ell. Windows in the main block are two-over-two on both stories of the façade and the southwest elevation, but the northeast elevation has no structural openings. The building has brick chimneys that are flush with the five-step gabled ends of the main block. The current porch is a 1940s scaled down version of an earlier, ca. 1912 porch, that was wider and had bungalow proportions. Brick corbeling serves as a frieze across the façade under the pressed metal roof's plain eaves.

The Isaac Cooper House (NR 9/7/1984) is six miles northwest of Wassom Farm. This ca. 1838 two-story, gable roofed, L-shaped three bay farm house was built of handmade brick which was laid in common bond. As of the time of listing the house had a central hall form, but structural evidence indicated that it may have

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originally had a Hall and Parlor plan. It has six-over-six wooden windows with wooden sills and simple brick lintels on all elevations. There is a central entry with four paned sidelights and a seven-paned transom. Interior end chimneys are located on the north and south elevations. The rear ell is a one-story structure projecting from the south side of the east elevation. The ell's gable roof is pierced by a central interior chimney.

About three and one-third miles southwest of Wassom Farm, in the Broylesville Historic District (NR 3/28/1985), is the Thomas Telford house (NR 2/10/1982), which was built in 1815. It is a two story, five-bay, brick, central hall plan Federal style house. Like Wassom Farm, its brick facade is laid in Flemish bond. It has a shingled gable roof and was built using a central hall plan with a rear kitchen ell. There are central entries on both stories with sidelights, but there is no front porch. There are lintels with bull's-eye corner blocks. It has four interior chimneys with corbelled caps, and a brick dentiled cornice along the east façade. Windows and doors have been replaced.

Federal style elements and the I-House or central hall plan are important aspects of the above-described buildings. Brickwork of Flemish or common bond is frequently used, and most are multi-story buildings with one-story ells, as found with Wassom Farm. The Wassom Farm's main dwelling possesses these same features. However, the Wassom Farmhouse is the only building in the area that represents the transitional phase from the three-room floor plan to the I-House form that incorporated a central entry hall.

Modifications

The Wassom Farmhouse retains its integrity as shown by the original three-room with central hall plan, exterior details such as the Flemish bonding pattern and brick molding at the eaves, and well-preserved interior features that include fireplace mantels, original doors, and trim. The house's few modifications do not impact the farmhouse's integrity. It is unknown whether the rear ell is original or was added later; the ell has a wooden porch on its north side that was enclosed in two stages and was clad with aluminum siding in about 1950. The deteriorating siding was removed in 2017 and is temporarily clad with plywood. This addition and its changes are located on the rear of the original block and are not easily visible.

The Arts and Crafts front porch was added ca. 1920, with short tapered columns on elevated brick piers continuous with a rail wall extending to the ground capped by concrete. Concrete sills and brick soldier arch lintels were added on the two-story section of the house at about the same time when the porch was added. The front door is also of the period of the front porch. The porch does not affect the significant interior features, such as the floor plan and trim, or significant exterior features such as the brick moldings at the eave and could easily be removed. Therefore, it does not significantly affect the house's integrity.

Originally, there were two windows on the second floor of the rear elevation of the main part of the house. Both were removed and infilled with brick at an unknown date. All windows, except those in the attic, were replaced in 2017 as part of a rehabilitation to return the building to use. The new windows are wooden but are clad in aluminum on the exterior to prevent water damage. The new double-hung windows match the six-over-six appearance of the originals.

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Addendum

Wassom Farm may be likely to yield information important to local history and prehistory. Based on artifacts that have been uncovered and a brief consultation with archeologists, the farm may have archaeological significance that has not been fully explored or documented. The property is within the area identified as land on which the early phases of the Civil War Battle of Limestone Station were fought along the railroad track which forms the northern boundary of the property. During recent searches, artifacts from the Civil War as well as prehistoric relics were found. At this point in time, no archaeological investigations have been made on the property.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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- Chappell, Edward A. "Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement." In *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, 27-57. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986.
- Clark, Charlie. "The History of the Telford Railway," *Treasured Times: Life in the West View Area*, West View School, 2003.
- Cragfont. Historic American Buildings Survey Collection, Library of Congress. Accessed April 2, 2018, <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/item/tn0148/>.
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- Fox, Bill. "Telford." Watauga Association of Genealogists ~ Northwest Tennessee. April 09, 2014. Accessed October 17, 2017. <http://www.wagsnetn.org/members-only-2/telford/>.
- Glassie, Henry. "Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building." In *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, 394-425. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986.
- Graybeal, Johnny. *The Railroads of Johnson City*. 1st ed. Hickory, NC: Tarheal Press, 2007.
- Jakle, John A., Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer. *Common Houses in America's Small Towns: The Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1989.
- Maddox, James. "The Battle of Limestone Station." *Welcome to Washington County TN GenWeb*, Betty Jane Hylton, 4 Nov. 2000, tngenweb.org/washington/records-data/washington-county-military-index/miscellaneous-military-records/battle-of-limestone-station/, accessed 12 Oct. 2017.
- Patrick, James. *Architecture in Tennessee: 1768-1896*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981.
- "Telford." 36.244446, -82.563620. [Google Earth Pro](https://www.google.com/maps/@36.244446,-82.563620). October 14, 2015. August 31, 2017.

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

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 17.2 **USGS Quadrangle** Telford, TN

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

1. Latitude: 36.244446 Longitude: -82.563620

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Wassom Farm is shown as the highlighted line on the accompanying plat titled "SURVEY, WASSOM FARM, 2014."

In the 5th Civil District of Washington County, Tennessee, beginning at a point where the eastern right-of-way boundary of Matthews Mill Road intersects with the southern right-of-way boundary of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, proceed east 1,252' along the southern right-of-way boundary of the Norfolk Southern Railroad to its intersection with the western property line of 142 Matthews Mill Road. Then proceed southwest 129' along the western property line of 142 Matthews Mill Road to Little Limestone Creek. Then proceed west, then south, then west 2,148' along Little Limestone Creek to the eastern right-of-way boundary of Matthews Mill Road. Then proceed north 67' along the eastern right-of-way boundary of Matthews Mill Road to its intersection with the east property line of 255 Matthews Mill Road. Then proceed north 356' along the east property line of 255 Matthews Mill Road to its intersection with the east right-of-way boundary of Matthews Mill Road. Then proceed north 671' along the eastern right-of-way boundary of Matthews Mill Road to the point of origin.

The nominated property is parcel 15.02 on the attached Washington County map.

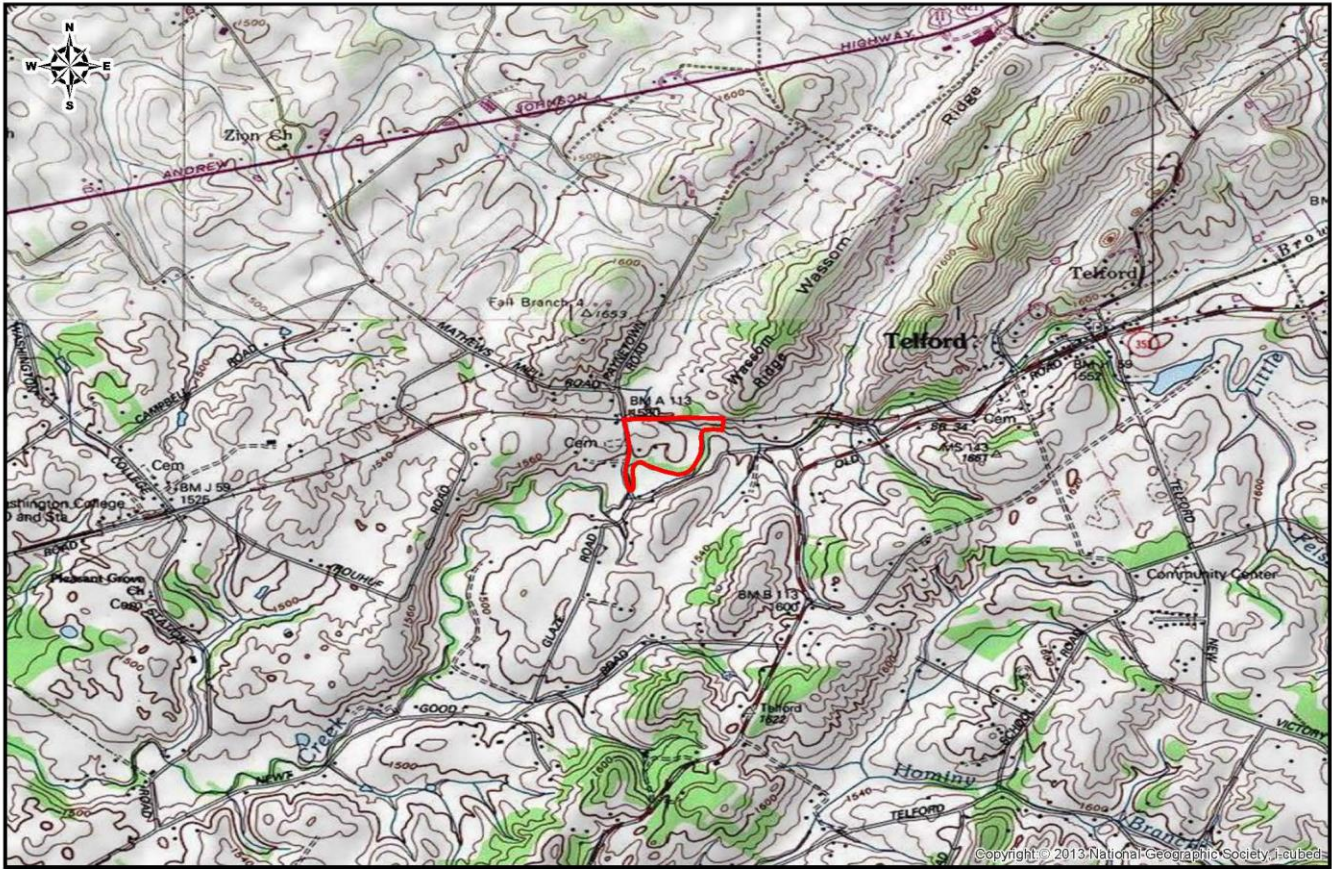
Boundary Justification

The boundaries described above include two lots. Lot 1 is five acres and is the property on which the house and two outbuildings are located. Lot 2 is 12.2 acres and contains land farmed by owners of Wassom Farm. The northern boundary is the southern right-of-way boundary of the Norfolk Southern Railroad along which Union troops retreated and Confederates advanced during early stages of the September 8, 1863 American Civil War Battle of Limestone Station.


This is the current boundary of the nominated property.

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Legend

 Wassom Farm

Quadrangle Name: Telford, TN
 NGA Ref. No.: USGSX24K44496
 NSN: 7643016394673
 County: Washington

Wassom Farm

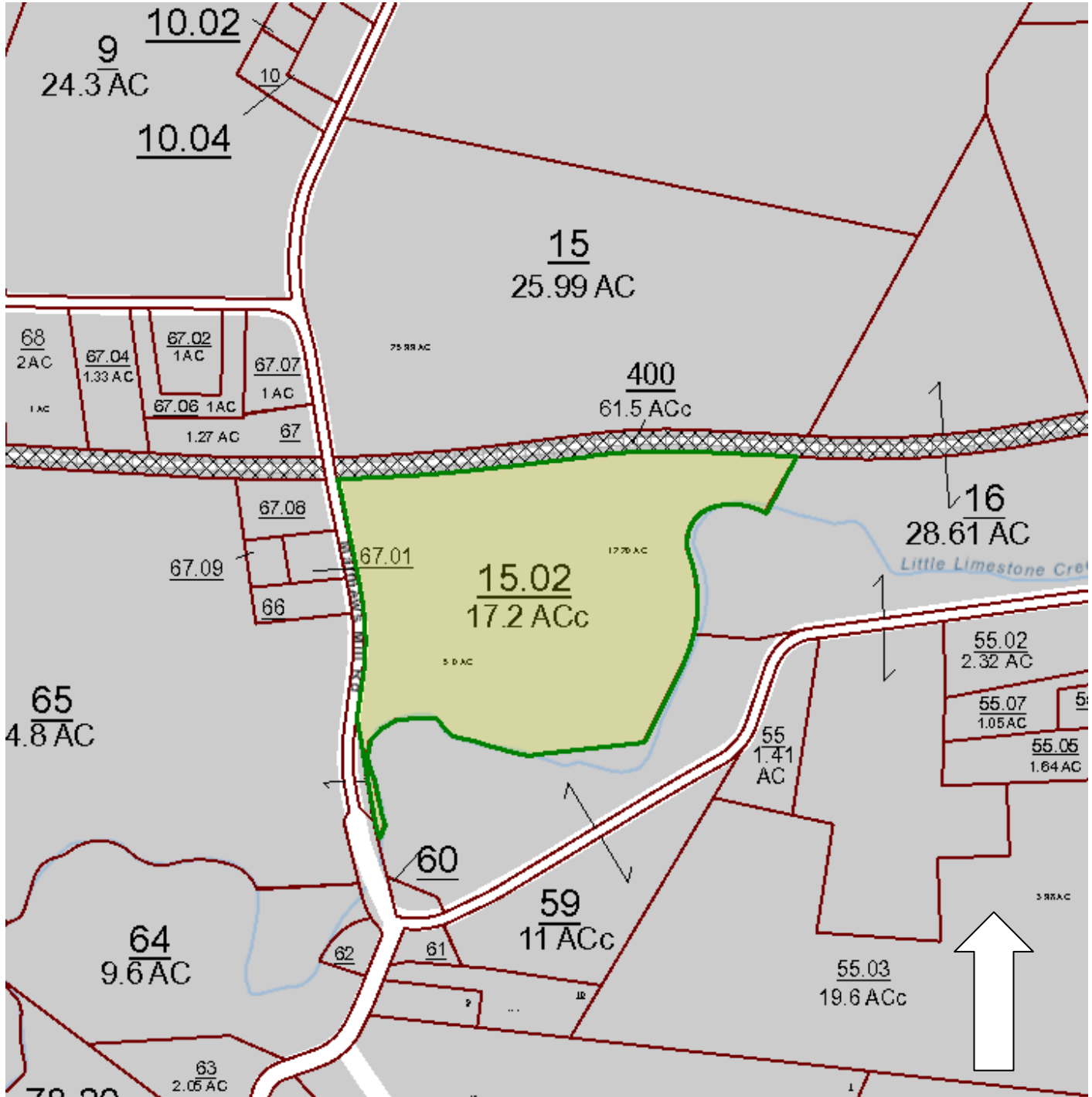


Map Created: August 22, 2017
 For: Gray Stohart
 By: Rene' Mann, Planning Department
 First Tennessee Development District
 3211 North Roan Street
 Johnson City, TN 37601
 Software Version: ArcGIS ArcMap, Version 10.1

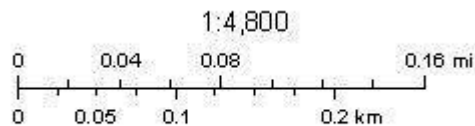
All data, information, and maps are provided "as is" without warranty or any representation of accuracy, timeliness or completeness. The data is not guaranteed accurate for suitable for any use other than that for which it was gathered. The information is not to be used for development of construction plans or any type of engineering services.

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Washington County map



Wassom Farm
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11. Form Prepared By

Name Gray Stothart & Rebecca Schmitt

Organization First Tennessee Development District/Tennessee Historical Commission

Street & Number 3111 Roan Street Date April 2, 2018

City or Town Johnson City Telephone 423-928-0224

E-mail gstothart@ftdd.org State TN Zip Code 37601

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Name of Property: Wassom Farm
City or Vicinity: Telford
County: Washington State: Tennessee
Photographer: Gray Stothart
Date Photographed: November 30, 2017

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

- 1 of 26. House, exterior, west façade, camera facing east
- 2 of 26. House, exterior, west façade and south elevation, camera facing northeast
- 3 of 26. House, exterior, south elevation, camera facing north
- 4 of 26. House, exterior, south and east elevation, camera facing northwest
- 5 of 26. House, exterior, east elevation, camera facing west
- 6 of 26. House, exterior, east and north elevation, camera facing southwest
- 7 of 26. House, exterior, north elevation, camera facing south
- 8 of 26. House, exterior, north elevation and west façade, camera facing southeast
- 9 of 26. Shed, exterior, north façade and east elevation, camera facing southwest
- 10 of 26. Barn, exterior, east and south elevation, camera facing northwest
- 11 of 26. House, interior, hall, camera facing east
- 12 of 26. House, interior, living room, camera facing northwest
- 13 of 26. House, interior, parlor, camera facing southeast
- 14 of 26. House, interior, living room wainscot, camera facing southeast
- 15 of 26. House, interior, living room fireplace, camera facing south
- 16 of 26. House, interior, second level stairs, camera facing north
- 17 of 26. House, interior, second level northeast bedroom, camera facing southwest
- 18 of 26. House, interior, attic, camera facing southwest
- 19 of 26. Fields, exterior, camera facing north

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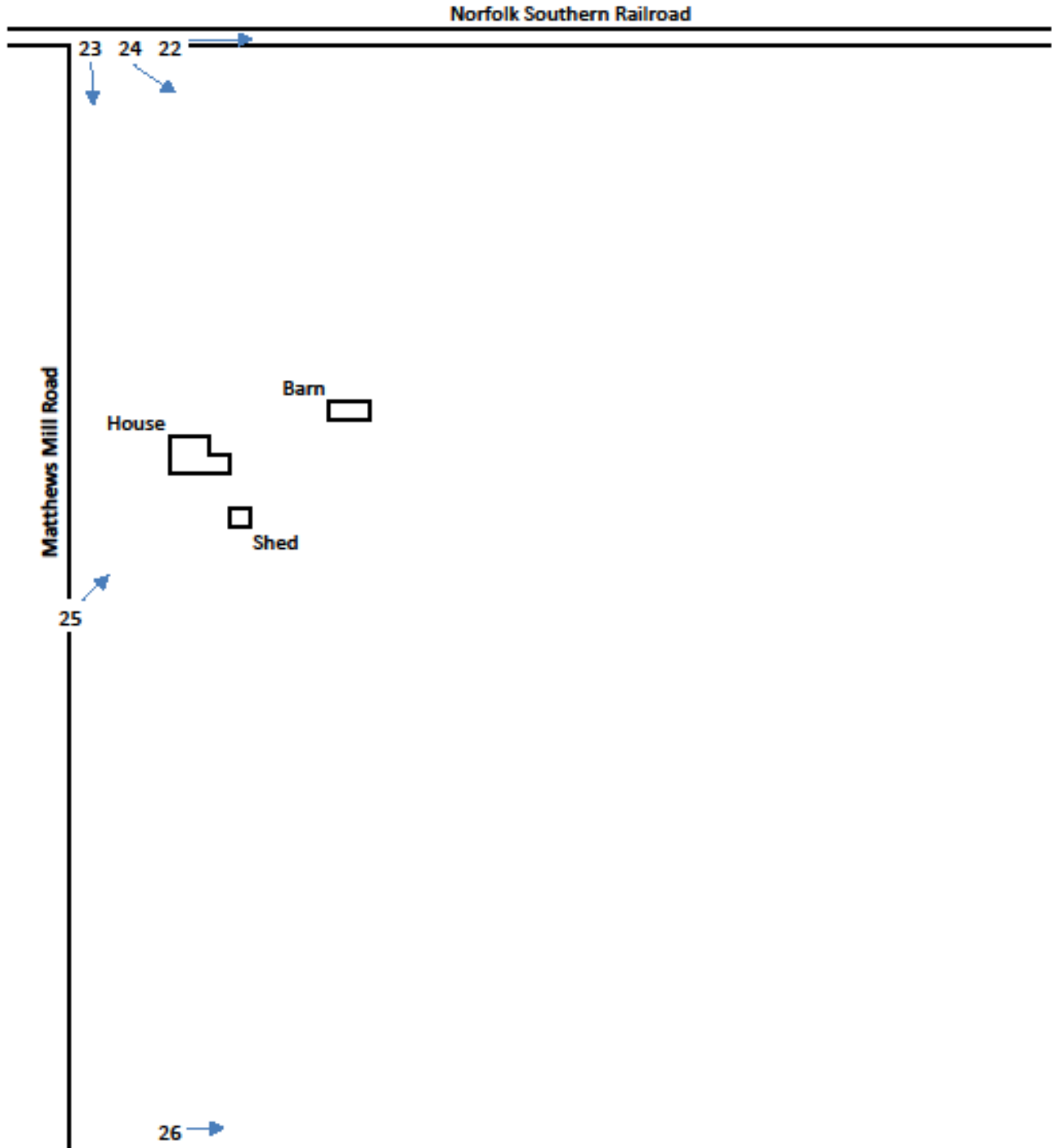
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-
- 20 of 26. Fields, exterior, camera facing northeast
 - 21 of 26. Fields, exterior, camera facing east
 - 22 of 26. Fields, exterior, railroad, camera facing east
 - 23 of 26. Fields, exterior, fields, camera facing south
 - 24 of 26. Fields, exterior, fields, camera facing southeast
 - 25 of 26. Fields, exterior, fields, camera facing northeast
 - 26 of 26. Fields, exterior, site of Matthews Mill, camera facing south

Wassom Farm
Name of Property

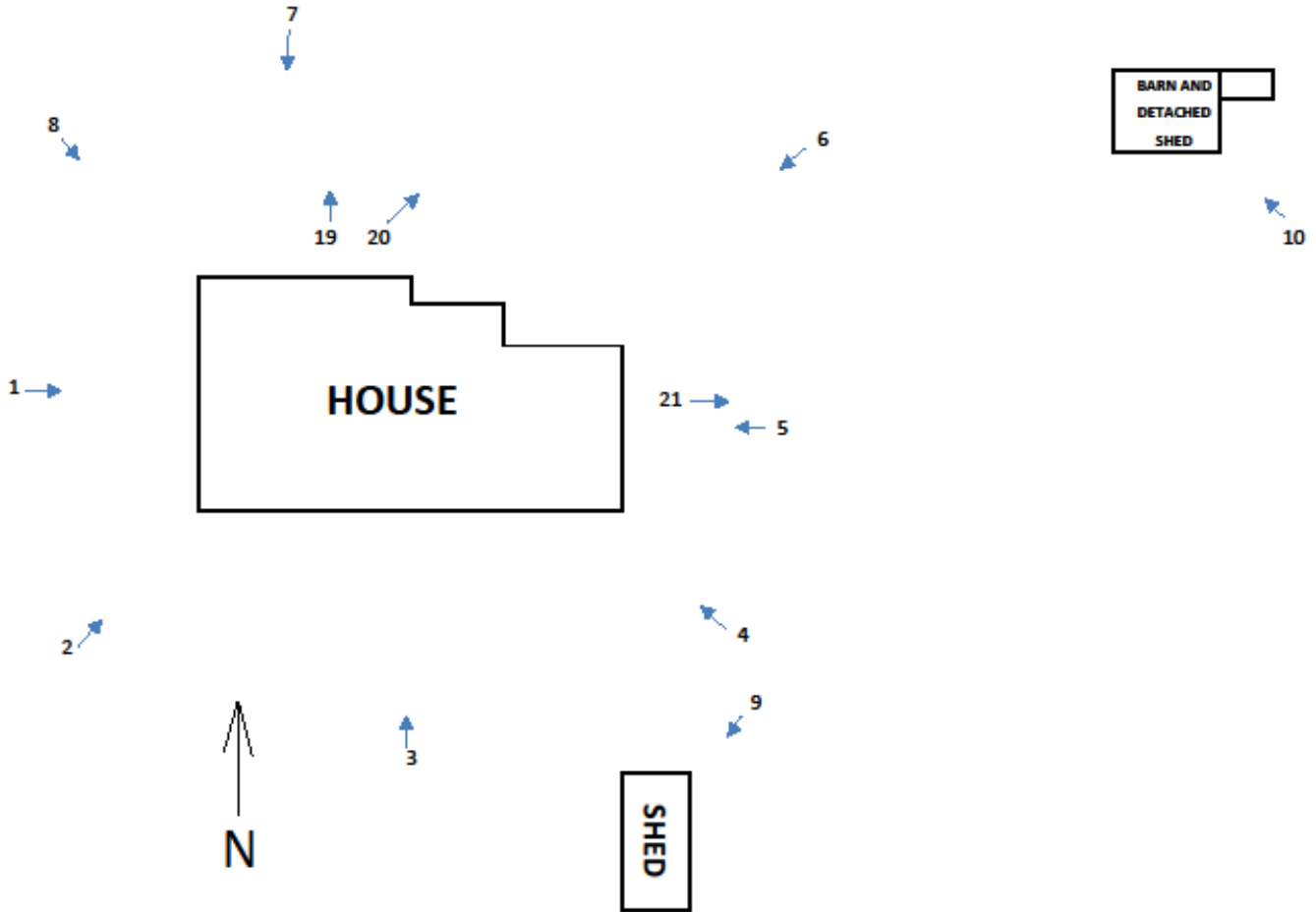
Washington County, TN
County and State

Site Plan



Wassom Farm
Name of Property

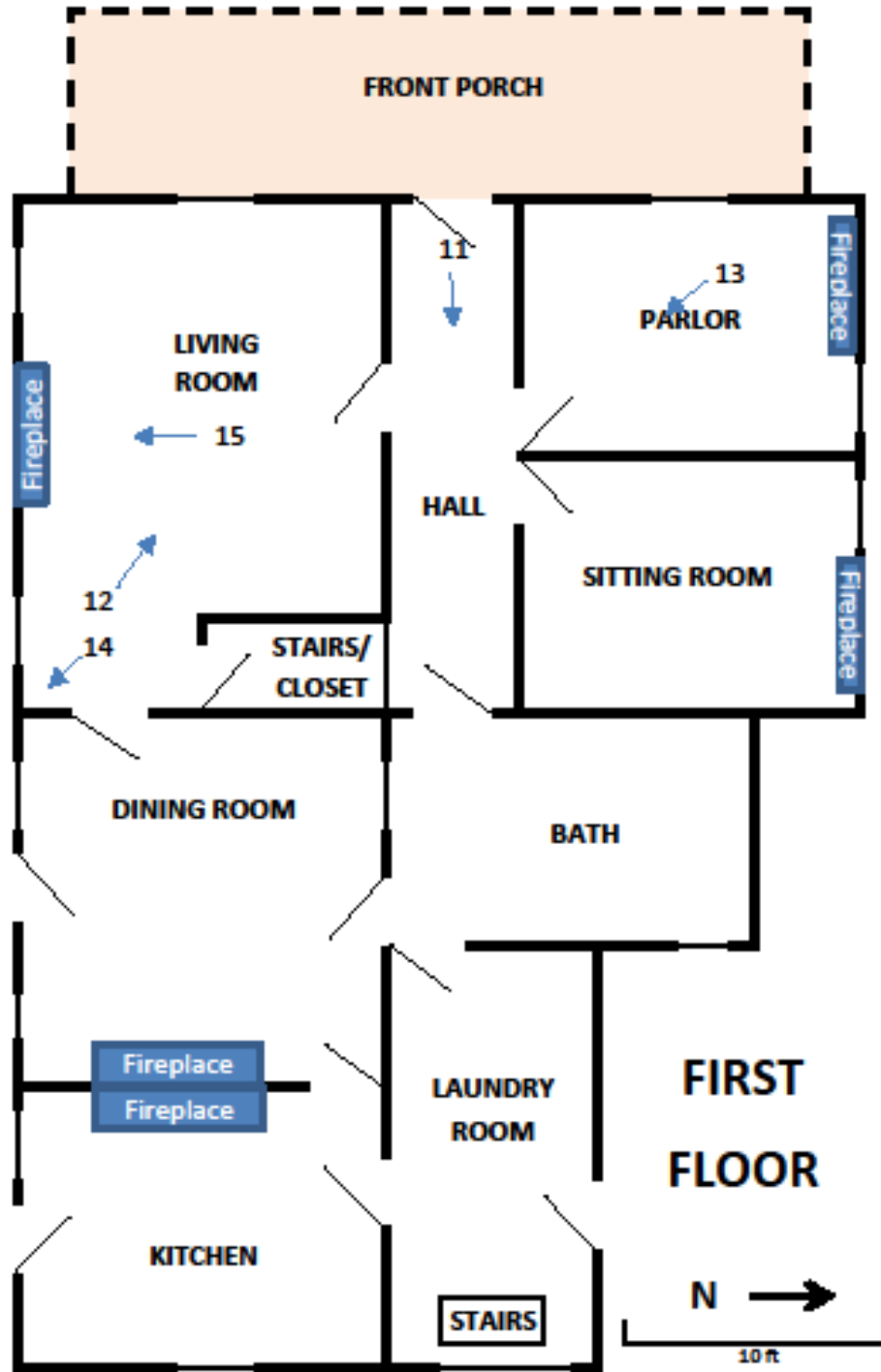
Washington County, TN
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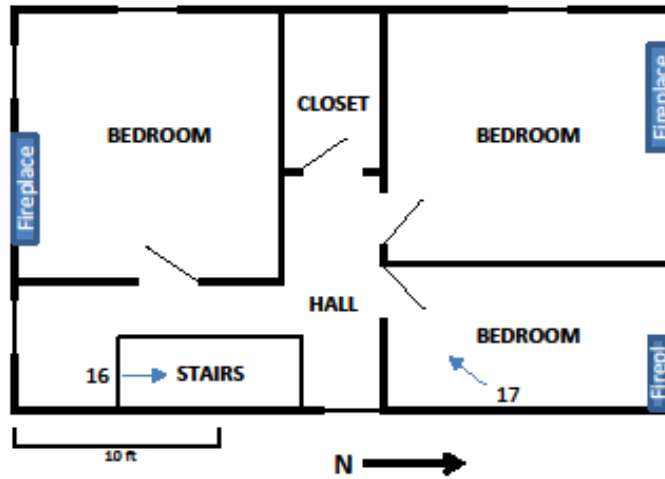
Floor Plan



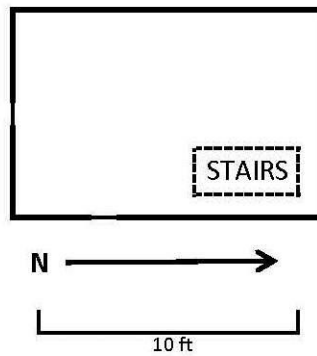
Wassom Farm
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SECOND FLOOR



CELLAR



Property Owner:

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

Name Harold Patrick Stern

Street &

Number 142 Matthews Mill Road

Telephone (423) 913-3812

City or Town Telford

State/Zip TN / 37690















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672
DAVE STONE DAVE STONE
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DAVE STONE DAVE STONE
#22099 QTY 672
553-090

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IMPROVING



























National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 4/11/2018 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 5/29/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 5/2/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

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



RECEIVED

DEC 22 2017

TN HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

RUSTY CROWE
3RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT
CARTER, UNICOI AND WASHINGTON
COUNTIES

SUITE 8, LEGISLATIVE PLAZA
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0203
(615) 741-2468
1-800-449-8366 1-2468
(Carter, Unicoi and Washington Counties)
FAX 615-253-0359

Email: sen.rusty.crowe@capitol.tn.gov

Senate Chamber
State of Tennessee
NASHVILLE

CHAIR
HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEMBER OF COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR ARMED
FORCES,
VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

December 20, 2017

Tennessee Historical Commission
State Review Board
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37214

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that Wassom Farm in Telford, Tennessee will be considered by the State Review Board for nomination to the National and Tennessee Registers of Historic Places.

I would like to express my full support of this. This property tells a historical story that should be remembered and preserved for future generations to come.

As ever, thank you for all you do for the people we both serve.

Sincerely,

Senator Rusty Crowe
Chair, Senate Health and Welfare
3rd Senatorial District



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

February 8, 2018

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

National Register Nomination

- *Wassom Farm, Washington County, Tennessee*

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct nomination for listing of the *Wassom Farm* to the National Register of Historic Places. We received one comment from Senator Rusty Crowe of the 3rd Senatorial District in support of the nomination.

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,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:hb

Enclosures(2)

56-2265



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin 16A. Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Wassom Farm
Other names/site number N/A
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number: 276 Matthews Mill Road
City or town: Telford State: Tennessee County: Washington
Not For Publication: na Vicinity: x Zip: 37690-2525

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

C. D. ... 2/10/18
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public -- Local
- Public -- State
- Public -- Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Returned

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

AGRICULTURE / agriculture outbuildings

AGRICULTURE / agricultural fields

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

AGRICULTURE / storage

AGRICULTURE / agricultural fields

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: I-House

Returned

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

BRICK; WOOD; CONCRETE; STONE;
 METAL/Aluminum

Narrative Description

Wassom Farm is located in the southeast corner of the intersection of Matthews Mill Road and the Norfolk Southern Railroad about one mile west of the center of the unincorporated community of Telford in a rustic part of Washington County in northeastern Tennessee. Situated about one mile south of US 11E, the main highway in the area, the farm is six miles from the Washington County seat of Jonesborough. The principal building on the farm is the circa 1828 brick farmhouse. The two-story central hall plan I-House was constructed with Flemish bond red brick on the façade and American common bond on the elevations. The three bay façade is symmetrical in design and is comprised of a single leaf door flanked by replacement windows on the first story and two replacement windows on the second story. There is a rear one-story two-room ell and two shed additions on the ell's northern side. The low pitched side gable roof is covered with 5V metal roofing, except for the standing seam roofing on the north part of the ell. Interior woodwork is historic and includes mantels, stairs, and wainscoting. A one-story bungalow porch was added to the house around 1920. Also on the property are a circa 1900 barn and circa 1900 shed. Overall the property retains its historic integrity.

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Setting

Wassom Farm is a 17.2 acre tract of land that includes the house, two outbuildings, agricultural fields and some woodland. The property is located at the western edge of Telford, Tennessee, an unincorporated Census Designated Place which had a population of 910 as of the 2010 Census. It sits within a rural part of Washington County where there is minimal modern development. Historic Embree House (NRHP 78002647 Listed 2/14/1978) is located only three-tenths of a mile to the east of Wassom Farm. The parcel is bounded on the north side by the Norfolk Southern Railroad, along the east and south sides by Little Limestone Creek, and along the west side by Matthews Mill Road. The house sits about 480 ft. south of the railroad and 95 ft. west of Matthews Mill Road. Agricultural lands of the farm are north, northwest, and west of the cluster of three buildings. The farmed area is almost flat, with a gradual slope downward from north to south and from west to east. The elevation at the northern boundary of the property is 1522 ft. and decreases gradually along the 480 ft. between the railroad and the dwelling to an elevation of 1516 ft. South of the house, the land slopes downward more steeply over the 200 feet between the dwelling and Little Limestone Creek to an elevation of 1495 ft.¹ The area between the buildings and Little Limestone Creek is mostly open with a few mature trees. Also, trees have been allowed to grow near the banks of the creek.

Several other farms are located adjacent to and within sight of Wassom Farm. There are open pastures and farmed land north of the Norfolk Southern Railroad and south of Little Limestone Creek. On the opposite side of Matthews Mill Road from the Wassom Farm's dwelling is the east side of a thirty-five acre farm with open pastures and farmed land, a farmhouse constructed in the 1920s, a barn and several other outbuildings. Angling across from and slightly north of the dwelling is a small cemetery of approximately 0.5 acres. Two houses built in 1980 and 2010 are located across Matthews Mill Road from the northwest corner of the farm. On the opposite side of Matthews Mill Road and north of the railroad is a house built in 1910. To the east of Wassom Farm lies a 28 acre tract of land occupied by forestland, agricultural lands, and the above-mentioned Embree House. Power lines run along the opposite side of Matthews Mill Road, and cross the road south of the dwelling to provide it with electrical service. A dirt driveway enters the property perpendicular to Matthews Mill Road and runs along the north side of the dwelling about forty feet from its north elevation.

Main Dwelling

Exterior

The west façade faces Matthews Mill Road. The two-story brick house facade was built with a Flemish bond and molded brick at the eave. The façade is dominated by a full-length one-story circa 1920 bungalow porch. Four tapered wood columns rest on solid brick porch rail capped with concrete. Centered on each side of the porch is a small arched opening and four rectangular drainage holes in a diamond configuration. Three concrete steps lead to the wood porch floor. The shed roof porch covers a single-leaf door topped with a transom and multi-light replacement windows. Two tapered pilasters rest against the façade, outside of the windows. Directly above the first-story windows are two multi-light replacement windows with soldier course headers. Chimneys found on the north and south elevations are visible from the façade.

¹ "Telford." 36.244446, -82.563620. [Google Earth Pro](#). October 14, 2015. September 7, 2017.

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The south elevation faces Little Limestone Creek. The main two story block has two bays. Each bay has a two six-over-six double-hung windows on each floor, located on either side of a centered chimney. These windows have concrete sills, wood frames, and soldier course headers. The gable has two small four-pane wood-framed windows that also flank the interior chimney. The rear ell is single-story brick. There are two wood doors. The westernmost door has a single concrete step and is flanked by two windows. The window west of the door is a six-over-six double-hung window and the window east of the door is six-pane casement. To the west of the eastern door is a six-over-six double-hung window. Beneath this window is a single-pane casement window for the basement. Brickwork for the main block and the ell is American common bond. The original portion of the ell has a single interior concrete chimney located in its center.

The east (rear) elevation of the main two-story block has one six-over-six double hung window in the center of the elevation on the second floor. This window has a concrete sill, wood frame, and soldier course header. Another second-floor window, to the north of the existing window, has been removed and filled-in with brick. A window on the first floor is covered by an addition to the ell. Brickwork for this elevation is American common bond and molded brick at the eave. The east elevation of the rear ell has a gable end on the original ell, with a centered six-over-six double-hung wood-framed window. Beneath this window is a single-pane casement window for the basement. A circa 1950 shed addition was constructed on the north side of the ell. It is constructed of wood and its east elevation has two six-over-six double hung windows.

The north section of the rear ell is a circa 1950 wood-framed addition with a metal shed roof. It appears that what was once a wooden porch on the north side of the ell has been enclosed in two stages and was clad with aluminum siding in about 1950. The siding was removed in 2017. The portion located adjacent to the main block protrudes a few feet north from the remainder of the shed addition, and has one small six-over-six double-hung east-facing window. The remainder of the shed addition has one wood door and no windows on the north side.

Like the south elevation of the two story main block, the north elevation has two bays and each bay has two six-over-six double-hung windows on each floor. However, unlike the south elevation, the north elevation has two interior brick chimneys. Windows are flanked by the chimneys and are, thus, closer to one another than on the south elevation. The gable has two small four-pane wood-framed casement windows. Brickwork for the main block is American common bond.

Interior

The interior of the house has a central hall plan with a living room on the south side, and a parlor and sitting room on the north side. A dining room and kitchen are in the original rear ell. The shed addition contains a bathroom and a laundry room. The main block's second floor consists of three bedrooms, a hall, and a closet.

The parlor on the main floor is at the northwest corner of the house. It has a two-panel wooden door to the hall, and two windows on the west and north sides. The wood floor has sustained substantial damage in the northeast corner. The walls are plaster and there is a nine inch wide wood rail about two and one half ft. from the floor. It also has a nine and one-half inch wood baseboard. A concrete fireplace with a four ft. nine inch wide wooden mantel is located on the north wall, west of the window. The ceiling is plaster.

The main floor sitting room is in the northeast corner of the main block. It has no floor and in many places the covering has fallen from the walls, revealing brick. However, the wooden chair rail, similar to that found

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in the parlor, is still in place. It has a two-panel wooden door to the hall. There are windows on the north and east sides. Although the window on the east wall is still intact and visible from the sitting room, it is covered on the other side by the west wall of the ell's shed addition. The concrete fireplace is on the north wall, east of the window, and has a four ft. seven inch wide wooden mantel. The ceiling is seriously damaged gypsum board.

The main floor's central hall runs the entire width of the main block from west to east. It opens onto the porch and into the bathroom addition of the ell. It has plaster walls and its wood floor has sustained some damage at the east end. The stairs to the upper floor lead south from the east end of the hall.

The main floor living room takes up the south end of the main block. It has two-panel wood doors to the hall and to the dining room in the ell. It has wood floors and a ten inch wood baseboard. This is the only room in the house with wainscoting. One window is on the west side, and two windows are on the south side, on either side of the fireplace, which has a wooden mantel that is six feet wide. The walls and ceiling are plaster. A small closet, located under the stairs, is in the northeast corner of the room.

The main floor dining room is in the original part of the ell, east of the living room. It has four wooden doors, which access the living room to the west, the kitchen to the east, the bathroom to the north, and the exterior to the south. There are two windows on the south side positioned on either side of the door, and one window on the north side, west of the door to the bathroom. This window has not been covered, and probably opened into what was, at one time, a hallway extension through the western half of the addition. The floor and ceiling are wood, and the walls are plaster. There is a fireplace on the east wall with a five ft. five inch wide wooden mantel.

The kitchen takes up the easternmost end of the original part of the ell. It has three wooden doors, which access the dining room, the laundry room, and the exterior. There is one window on the south side, west of the door, and one on the east side. The floor and the ceiling are wood, and the walls are plaster. The fireplace is on the west wall and has a wooden mantel that is six ft. two inches wide.

The bathroom occupies the westernmost portion of the shed addition. It has no interior wall covering, no ceiling, and no floor. One window is on the east side, located in that portion of the room that protrudes beyond the remainder of the addition. The other window accesses the dining room. There are three wooden doors which access the hall, the dining room, and the laundry room.

The laundry room is the easternmost portion of the shed addition. Its floor is wood, but it has no interior walls and no ceiling. Its south wall was the exterior wall of the original ell, and is brick. Three wooden doors access the bathroom to the east, the kitchen to the south, and the exterior to the north. There are two windows on the east side. The stairs accessing the cellar are at the easternmost end of the laundry room. Neither of the added rooms have fireplaces.

The upper floor's central hall runs north-south alongside the stairs, which are against the east wall of the main block, and east-west to allow access to the bedrooms on the north side. The west end of the hall is walled off to form a closet. A window frame can be seen in the closet's west wall, thus providing evidence that an upper floor façade window was either planned or bricked in. The stairs along the east wall of the main block are wood and separated from the upper floor hall by a wooden balustrade.

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The upper floor bedrooms at the northwest and southwest corners of the main block have plaster walls, wood floors, and deteriorating gypsum board ceilings. Both rooms have nine and one-half inch wooden baseboards and are accessed by two panel wooden doors. The bedroom in the northwest corner has one window on the west wall and one window on the north wall. It also has a fireplace on the north wall with a wooden mantel that is four ft. six inches wide. The bedroom in the southwest corner has one window on the west wall and one on the south wall. It also has a fireplace on the south wall with a five ft. six inch wide wooden mantel.

The upper floor bedroom at the northeast corner of the main block has some substantial differences from the other two. Like the others, this bedroom has a wood floor and a two panel wood door. However, it has no interior wall coverings and the ceiling is open to the attic. On the north wall is one window and a fireplace with a four ft. five inch wide wooden mantel. A portion of the floor is missing in front of the fireplace.

Although it is accessed by concrete steps from the laundry room, the cellar is located beneath the kitchen in the original ell. It is twelve and one-half ft. by nine and one-half ft., with one small window each on the east and south walls. It has no interior wall covering, and the floor is dirt.

This building is a work in process. Floors, ceilings, and walls are damaged or completely missing in several rooms and there are neither working bathroom facilities nor HVAC. The owner is carrying out restoration which should make the building fit for human habitation. All of the windows were replaced in 2017. Special care has been taken to ensure that the replacement windows are the same type and have the identical number of panes as the originals. The windows are wood, but clad in aluminum on the exterior.

Barn (ca. 1900)

About one hundred feet east-northeast of the main dwelling is a small barn with vertical plank siding, partial wood flooring and an adjacent detached shed. A metal, standing seam, gable roof covers a "pass-through" on the south side and a storage area on the north side. The "pass-through" has a large opening, with no doors, at each end, thus allowing persons, animals, or vehicles to pass through the barn. The detached shed adjacent to the east end has a standing seam metal shed roof and horizontal plank siding.

Shed (ca. 1900)

The shed is located about forty feet south of the southeast corner of the main dwelling. It is on stacked stone piers and has a complete floor system, built-in shelves, and an extended front gable roof covered with 5V metal. The gable extension is supported by braces. The building and braces are covered by vertical plank siding. The building's only door, made of vertical plank siding with metal strap hinges, is located beneath the gable extension on the north side, facing the main dwelling. One window is located on the east side, and one on the west side, but both windows have been covered with wood and metal.

The main dwelling and both outbuildings are contributing resources.

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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.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1828-1920

Significant Dates

1828

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years old or achieving

significance within the past 50 years.

Returned

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Statement of Significance

Located in the southeast corner of the intersection of Matthews Mill Road and the Norfolk Southern Railroad is a farmstead long known as Wassom Farm, named for the family that owned the property and farmed the land for many years. The two-story brick I-house with Federal detailing (ca. 1828) located at 276 Matthews Mill Road is noticeable from the road, and there are two other contributing buildings near the house. The farm has local significance under Criterion C for architecture as a good example of a circa 1828 I-house with Federal detailing. Much of the exterior is as it was when it was constructed. Multi-light windows, Flemish bond brick on the façade and molded brick at the eaves are important features of the exterior. Paneled doors, chair rails, wainscoting, and historic mantels are characteristic features of the interior. The Period of Significance is 1828-1920 to encompass the house's original construction, construction of the outbuildings, and the addition of the porch on the facade. The early twentieth century façade porch does not detract from the early nineteenth century architecture of the house. The Wassom Farm retains its architectural integrity.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Area History

Settlement of the community now called Telford began about 1780. Old State Route 34 runs along the path of what was once a heavily traveled stage road. By the 1790s a number of blacksmith shops and at least one wagon-making business were located along this route. Little Limestone Creek and its numerous tributaries flowed through the community. This flowing water provided a source of power and by the early 1800s several mills were operating in the area.²

Prior to 1855 the community was known as Millwood, but in that year Colonel George Whitfield Telford made a donation of about four acres of land to the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. This land would be used for livestock yards and for a railroad depot. He also constructed a water supply and a wood yard where fuel could be stored for the locomotives. As a result of Colonel Telford's donation, the name was changed to Telford Depot. Sometime after 1876 the word "Depot" was dropped from the name and the community has since been known as Telford.³ The railroad depot was demolished in 1962. Flag stops continued for a time, but in August 1974 the railroad discontinued passenger service.⁴

Colonel Telford established the Telford Agricultural Manufacturing Company in 1876. Included in the operation were a foundry and a three-story building for woodworking. Between 1880 and 1890 a variety of household utensils, farm tools and other items were manufactured at this factory. The company failed in 1890 and the building was sold to W. A. Maloney III and two other men, who, in 1894, converted the building for use as a roller mill. Maloney constructed two water wheels to use water from Little Limestone Creek. One was used for the mill while the other powered a turbine to produce electricity for the community. After the Tennessee Valley Authority made electric power available to the residents of northeastern Tennessee, use of the power wheel was phased out.⁵

² Bill Fox, "Telford." <http://www.wagsnetn.org/members-only-2/telford/>, accessed 13 October, 2017.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Charlie Clark, "The History of the Telford Railway," *Treasured Times: Life in the West View Area*, West View School, 2003, p. 13.

⁵ Bill Fox, "Telford." <http://www.wagsnetn.org/members-only-2/telford/>, accessed 13 October, 2017.

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As mentioned previously, the northern boundary of the Wassom Farm property runs along the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Completed in May of 1858, the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad, as it was called at that time, was the first railroad to traverse northeastern Tennessee. Prior to its construction, three routes were proposed. The southernmost route, which went through the community of Telford, was chosen because it would be near the largest number of existing businesses, and because its cost was estimated to be about a quarter million dollars less than the other proposed routes.⁶ With its completion, the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad connected Knoxville, Tennessee with Bristol, Virginia, each of which were, or soon would be, connected to other cities by rail. Thus, the Telford community became connected with the rest of the country through this rapidly-growing and fast-moving transportation network.

Today, Telford has only two businesses (a diner and a bed and breakfast) in operation, and one manufacturing facility. The construction of U. S. 11E to the north has diverted all through-traffic away from the community. Its land use is now primarily agricultural and single-family residential.

Brief History of the Property

The Wassom Farm house was built on property controlled by Embree Farm in the early part of the 19th century and remained in the Wassom family until 2017. Throughout most of those years it was actively operated as a producing farm and contributed to the local agricultural economy. Previous owners of the property stated that tobacco was grown on the farm. Tobacco baskets and sticks were found on the property, which indicates that this statement is accurate. At this time the land is used to farm hay and corn.

On the opposite (western) side of Matthews Mill Road from the Wassom Farm house is Earnest Chapel Cemetery, a historic cemetery founded in 1808. According to Washington County TNGenWeb, the cemetery gets its name from Earnest's Chapel (non-extant), which was probably named for Lawrence Earnest. Mr. Earnest, who was born in Frederick County, Virginia in 1763 and died in Washington County, Tennessee in 1837, was, in 1822, a delegate to the Greene County Convention for the Nolichucky Branch of the Tennessee Society for Promoting the Manumission of Slaves. Members of the Wassom family who lived at Wassom Farm are buried in the cemetery. They include Ida Blound Wassom (1893 – 1973), Stella Viola Wassom (1888 – 1964), John Henry Wassom (1879 – 1945), Charity M. Wassom (1861 – 1911), and Frank M. Wassom (1840 – 1900).

In late August 1863 a Union army advanced southward from Kentucky into East Tennessee. By September 1, this army had entered Knoxville and the city remained in Union hands for the remainder of the war.⁷ Federal infantry in Knoxville used captured trains to advance eastward along the tracks of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. Before they could reach Bristol, Union forces encountered Confederate forces near present-day Watauga and they began to retreat eastward along the railroad tracks on September 6. They soon learned that their route back to Knoxville was blocked by a burning railroad trestle between their location and Greeneville. The Federal forces halted at the Embree House (NR 78002647) where they began

⁶ Johnny Graybeal, *The Railroads of Johnson City*, 1st ed. Hickory, NC: Tarheal Press, 2007, pp 1-47.

⁷ Stephen V. Ash, "Civil War Occupation," The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture Version 2.0 website, 2009, <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=1013>, accessed 12 October 2017.

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to dig in, guard the rail line, and wait for reinforcements.⁸ (Embree House is about three tenths of a mile east of Wassom Farm.)

On September 7, Confederate forces arrived in Telford and the next morning, they moved forward to attack. The fighting was brisk, and Confederate reserves were sent forward from nearby Jonesboro.⁹ Union forces were driven westward along the railroad, for a distance of about one-half mile (this would have taken them through Wassom Farm) where they halted and offered resistance. The pursuing Confederates were compelled to fall back at this point. Union troops took advantage of the lull and continued along the railroad with their locomotive and train cars.¹⁰

Confederate forces resumed their pursuit and drove the Union troops for a distance of about six miles to the bridge at Limestone Station. After a two hour fight, the Union troops surrendered and very few escaped. The Battle of Limestone Station began less than three tenths of a mile to the east of Wassom Farm at Embree House, where the Union forces had prepared defenses. As the Union forces retreated along the railroad track, and Confederate forces advanced in pursuit, fighting soldiers of both sides passed through Wassom Farm on their way westward to Limestone Station.

About 500 feet south of the Wassom Farm house, near the intersection of Matthews Mill Road and Glaze Road, is the site of Matthews Mill. This grist mill stood as a testament to the importance of agriculture in the Telford area and served as a business where grain was ground and purchased as well as a place at which local residents would meet and share news. Unfortunately, its maintenance was neglected for many years and it had to be demolished in 2013. The land where it stood is currently vacant.

Architecture

The main dwelling at Wassom Farm is an interesting example of early nineteenth century building of I-House form with Federal details. Although it does not have some of the high-style examples of the Federal style, the architecture overall closely relates, as shown by the lack of exterior ornamentation, chimney placement (end location and slightly irregular), along with flat lintels. The brick molding is found at the cornice. While the windows are symmetrically-placed, the façade has fewer than typical (usually three or five), but the originals were six-pane sashes, which was common for the style. There is evidence mentioned elsewhere that the middle window of the upper-level façade could have been bricked-in. Like the Arts and Crafts porch, the removal of the middle window does not detract significantly from the architectural integrity because they were historic modifications made during the period of significance. Interior features that have been well preserved include fireplace mantels, original doors, and trim.

⁸ James Maddox, "The Battle of Limestone Station," Welcome to Washington County: TNGenWeb website, <http://tngenweb.org/washington/records-data/washington-county-military-index/miscellaneous-military-records/battle-of-limestone-station/>, 4 Nov. 2000, accessed 12 Oct. 2017.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "The War In Tennessee: A Battle at Limestone Station – Capture of 300 of Our Forces" Correspondence of the *Richmond Enquirer*, Thursday, Sept. 10, 1863, website <http://www.nytimes.com/1863/09/19/news/the-war-in-tennessee-a-battle-at-limestone-station-capture-of-300-of-our-forces-355644132.html>, accessed 12 Oct. 2017.

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Although it appears to have the I-House form, the main dwelling has a modified floor plan. Typically, the I-House floor plan is two rooms wide, one room deep, and two stories tall. The north end of the Wassom Farm's main dwelling has two rooms (parlor and sitting room on the main floor and bedrooms on the upper floor). There is no evidence that the original room arrangement was altered with the addition of walls.

Adjacent to the Wassom Farm is the farm on which the historic Embree House is located. This stone farmhouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 (78002647) and is significant for exploration/settlement, architecture, military, and industry. The original section of this house is a forty feet by twenty-five feet, two and one-half story principal mass of sturdy coursed rubble stone bearing wall construction built between 1780 and 1790. An iron forge was established on the property in about 1769 by Mose Embree II and his wife, Sarah. Embree House was used as a fort house for early settlers and their families prior to 1795 as they sought protection from area Indians. Today, the Embree House is occupied and maintained by its owner, who also owns Wassom Farm.

There are at least five NR-listed brick buildings in the area of Wassom Farm that were built in the early to mid-1800s. These five buildings are described below.

Three and one half miles to the northeast of the Wassom Farm is the Devault Tavern (NR 6/4/1973). It was constructed between 1819 and 1821 as a stagecoach inn and tavern with some Federal architectural elements. It is a near-square structure that measures approximately thirty-five feet by forty-five feet and is two stories in height. The façade and side elevations are all five bays wide. There is a two-story original ell and a one-story ell addition, which was built ca. 1827. It has a coursed limestone ashlar foundation. The walls are brick with Flemish bond on the front façade and sawed timber trusses. There is a pedimented two-story porch that occupies the central part of the façade. The columns have a turned design. The boards trimming the second floor porch floor and third floor ceiling have segmental arch heads. The cornices on the first and second floors have millwork. The pediment is surrounded by mutules and millwork. Outside-end brick chimneys all rise high above the roof. The main door is a federal fanlight. The second floor porch door is the same but is smaller. Windows are double-hung sash windows with six over nine lights on the second floor and nine over nine lights in the first floor. It has a gable roof with a hipped south end. The ridge is parallel to the façade. The roof covering is standing seam metal. The cornice is decorated with millwork which is similar to that on the porch.

Less than three miles southwest of Wassom Farm is the Adam Alexander Broyles house (NR 3/21/2011). This Federal style dwelling with some Greek Revival characteristics was completed ca 1840. The Adam Alexander Broyles house features an L-shaped plan. It has four flush chimneys, a gable roof covered with tin, and brick walls constructed with common bond brickwork. The main part of the house has three floors – ground, main, and second, while the ell has only one floor. The main floor front porch, which contains late nineteenth century woodwork, extends across the length of the front of the house, as does the second floor balcony. The property also contains five outbuildings of which two are contributing resources.

Constructed ca. 1859-1860, the Henry Hoss house (NR 12/16/1982) is about seven miles northeast of Wassom Farm. This late Federal style rectangular-shaped, two story brick house has a step-gabled roof, a five bay façade, a one-story step-gabled brick ell, and a one-story gabled roof brick addition that was built

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onto the rear ell. Windows in the main block are two-over-two on both stories of the façade and the southwest elevation, but the northeast elevation has no structural openings. The building has brick chimneys that are flush with the five-step gabled ends of the main block. The current porch is a 1940s scaled down version of an earlier, ca. 1912 porch, that was wider and had bungalow proportions. Brick corbeling serves as a frieze across the façade under the pressed metal roof's plain eaves.

The Isaac Cooper House (NR 9/7/1984) is six miles northwest of Wassom Farm. This ca. 1838 two-story, gable roofed, L-shaped three bay farm house was built of handmade brick which was laid in common bond. It has six-over-six wooden windows with wooden sills and simple brick lintels on all elevations. There is a central entry with four paned sidelights and a seven paned transom. Interior end chimneys are located on the north and south elevations. The rear ell is a one-story structure projecting from the south side of the east elevation. The ell's gable roof is pierced by a central interior chimney.

About three and one-third miles southwest of Wassom Farm, in the Broylesville Historic District (NR 3/28/1985), is the Thomas Telford house (NR 2/10/1982), which was built in 1815. It is a two story, five bay, brick, Federal style house. Like Wassom Farm, its brick facade is laid in Flemish bond. It has a shingled gable roof and was built using a central hall plan with a rear kitchen ell. There are central entries on both stories with sidelights, but there is no front porch. There are lintels with bull's-eye corner blocks. It has four interior chimneys with corbelled caps, and a brick dentiled cornice along the east façade. Windows and doors have been replaced.

Federal style and Federal elements are important aspects of the above-described buildings. Brickwork of Flemish or common bond is frequently used, and most are multi-story buildings with one-story ells, as found with Wassom Farm. The Wassom Farm's main dwelling possesses these same features. However, it is somewhat unique in the fact that it has features of an I-House and a Federal Style building, while also possessing features atypical of those styles, such as the modified floor plan.

Modifications

Front Porch and Front Door: An Arts and Crafts front porch was added circa 1920, with short tapered columns on elevated brick piers continuous with a rail wall extending to the ground capped by concrete. Concrete sills and brick and mortar lintels were added on the two-story section of the house at about the same time when the porch was added. The front door is also of the period of the front porch. These alterations could be considered a popular historic change. There are no descriptions of the façade's early appearance and no photos were taken of the house before the existing porch was added.

Rear Addition: It appears that what was once a wooden porch on the north side of the ell has been enclosed in two stages and was clad with aluminum siding in about 1950. The deteriorating siding was removed in 2017 and is temporarily clad with plywood.

Bricked Windows: Originally, there were two windows on the second floor of the rear elevation of the main part of the house. The northernmost window has been removed and filled in with brick. There is also evidence that there were three windows across the second floor of the façade. A close examination of the

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exterior bricks reveals that the bond pattern and mortar is slightly different in the area between the two extant windows. An examination of the interior of the house also indicates that a window has been filled in. The dates of these alterations are unknown.

Replaced Windows: All windows, except those in the attic, were replaced in 2017. The original six-over-six double-hung wood windows were removed and six-over-six double-hung windows have been installed. These windows are wooden, but are clad in aluminum on the exterior to prevent water damage.

The modifications described above do not negatively affect the overall integrity/significance of the house. The addition of the front porch had the greatest impact in terms of appearance, but it is estimated to have taken place almost 100 years ago and has become a historic change in and of itself. The rear addition is mostly hidden from view from Matthews Mill Road and was added to provide access to indoor bathroom and laundry facilities. It did not alter original parts of the house. Although the shed addition covers windows, those windows are still intact. The bricked window on the second floor of the east elevation of the main part of the house can be clearly seen by anyone viewing the rear of the building, but cannot be seen from Matthews Mill Road. The location of the middle window on the upper level of the façade can be seen only by a very close examination of the exterior or by going inside the closet at the west end of the hall. The windows installed in 2017 are the same size and appear the same as the windows they replaced. There was no need to enlarge or fill in the openings. These modifications do not touch or impact the features which give the building significance such as the well-preserved interior features that include fireplace mantels, original doors, and trim.

Addendum

Wassom Farm may be likely to yield information important to local history and prehistory. Based on artifacts that have been uncovered and a brief consultation with archeologists, the farm may have archaeological significance that has not been fully explored or documented. The property is within the area identified as land on which the early phases of the Civil War Battle of Limestone Station were fought along the railroad track which forms the northern boundary of the property. During recent searches, artifacts from the Civil War as well as prehistoric relics were found. At this point in time, no archaeological investigations have been made on the property.

Wassom Farm
 Name of Property

Washington County, TN
 County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (Insert bibliography here- cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Ash, Stephen V. "Civil War Occupation," *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. 25 Dec. 2009 <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=1013>, accessed 12 Oct. 2017.

Clark, Charlie. "The History of the Telford Railway," *Treasured Times: Life in the West View Area*, West View School, 2003, p. 13.

Edwards, Allen. "The Ghost at Wassum [sic] Farmhouse." *Treasured Times: Life in the West View Area*, West View School, 2003, p. 12.

Fox, Bill. "Telford." Watauga Association of Genealogists ~ Northwest Tennessee. April 09, 2014. Accessed October 17, 2017. <http://www.wagsnetn.org/members-only-2/telford/>.

Graybeal, Johnny. *The Railroads of Johnson City*. 1st ed. Hickory, NC: Tarheal Press, 2007. 1-47.

Maddox, James. "The Battle of Limestone Station." *Welcome to Washington County TN GenWeb*, Betty Jane Hylton, 4 Nov. 2000, tngenweb.org/washington/records-data/washington-county-military-index/miscellaneous-military-records/battle-of-limestone-station/, accessed 12 Oct. 2017.

"Telford." 36.244446, -82.563620. Google Earth Pro. October 14, 2015. August 31, 2017.

Required

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

Wassom Farm
Name of Property

Washington County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 17.2 **USGS Quadrangle** Telford, TN

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

1. Latitude: 36.244446 Longitude: -82.563620

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Wassom Farm is shown as the highlighted line on the accompanying plat titled "SURVEY, WASSOM FARM, 2014."

In the 5th Civil District of Washington County, Tennessee, beginning at a point where the eastern right-of-way boundary of Matthews Mill Road intersects with the southern right-of-way boundary of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, proceed east 1,252' along the southern right-of-way boundary of the Norfolk Southern Railroad to its intersection with the western property line of 142 Matthews Mill Road. Then proceed southwest 129' along the western property line of 142 Matthews Mill Road to Little Limestone Creek. Then proceed west, then south, then west 2,148' along Little Limestone Creek to the eastern right-of-way boundary of Matthews Mill Road. Then proceed north 67' along the eastern right-of-way boundary of Matthews Mill Road to its intersection with the east property line of 255 Matthews Mill Road. Then proceed north 356' along the east property line of 255 Matthews Mill Road to its intersection with the east right-of-way boundary of Matthews Mill Road. Then proceed north 671' along the eastern right-of-way boundary of Matthews Mill Road to the point of origin.

The nominated property is parcel 15.02 on the attached Washington County map.

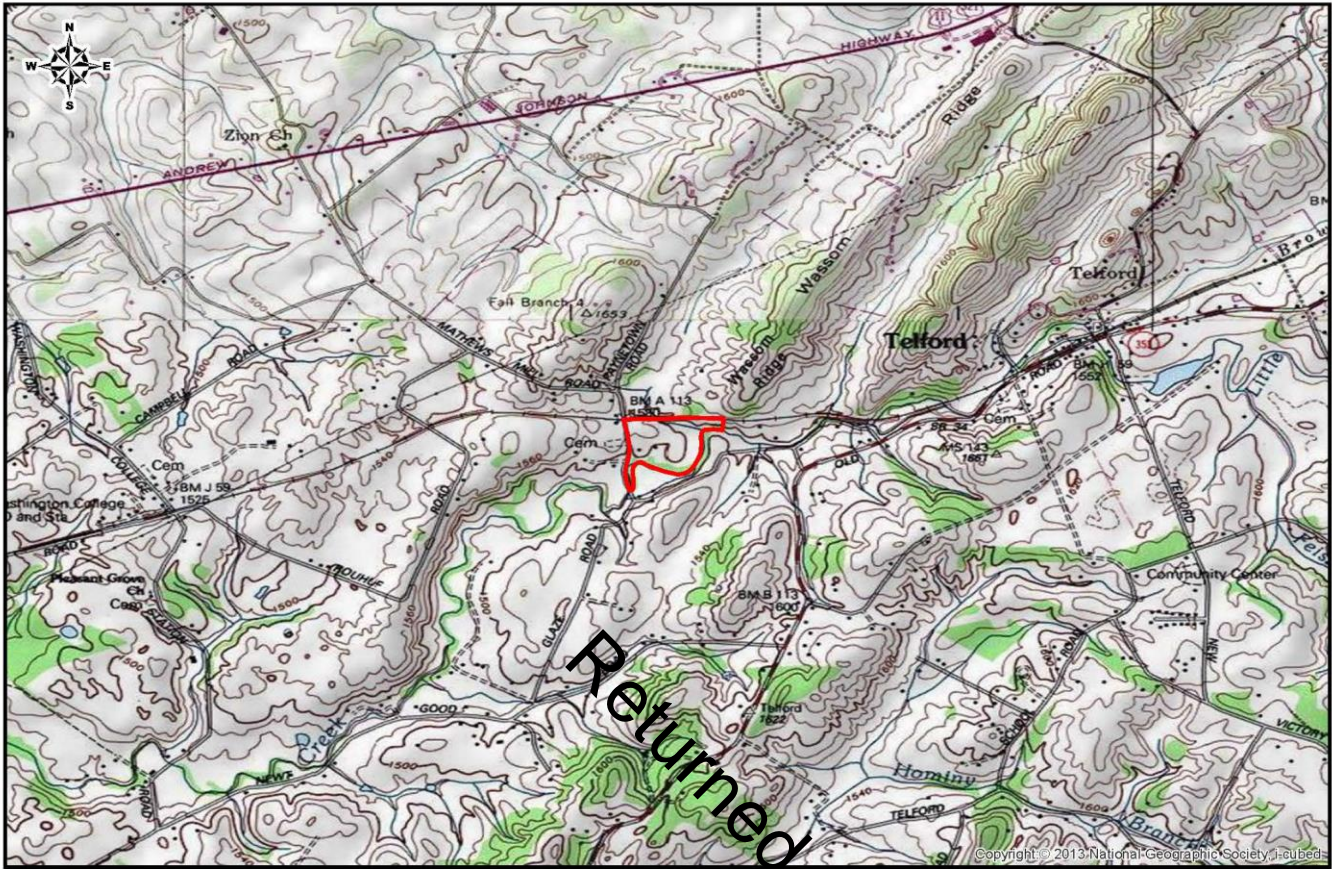
Boundary Justification

The boundaries described above include two lots. Lot 1 is five acres and is the property on which the house and two outbuildings are located. Lot 2 is 12.2 acres and contains land farmed by owners of Wassom Farm. The northern boundary is the southern right-of-way boundary of the Norfolk Southern Railroad along which Union troops retreated and Confederates advanced during early stages of the September 8, 1863 American Civil War Battle of Limestone Station.


This is the current boundary of the nominated property.

Wassom Farm
 Name of Property

Washington County, TN
 County and State



Legend

 Wassom Farm

Quadrangle Name: Telford, TN
 NGA Ref. No.: USGSX24K44496
 NSN: 7643016394673
 County: Washington

Wassom Farm

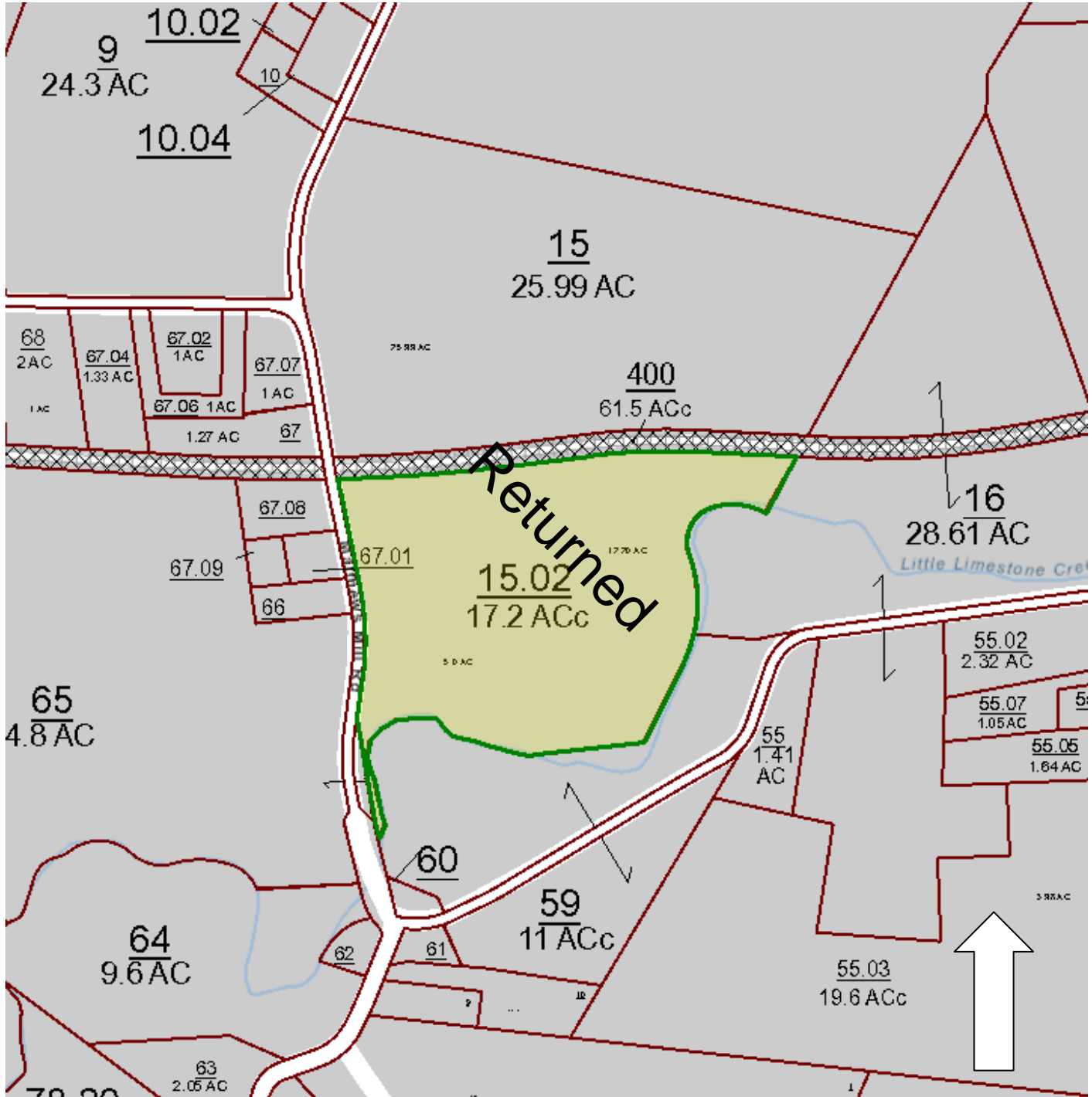


Map Created: August 22, 2017
 For: Gray Stohart
 By: Rene' Mann, Planning Department
 First Tennessee Development District
 3211 North Roan Street
 Johnson City, TN 37601
 Software Version: ArcGIS ArcMap, Version 10.1

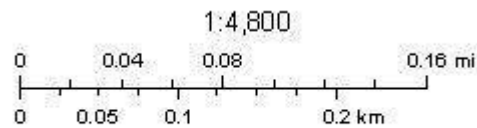
All data, information, and maps are provided "as is" without warranty or any representation of accuracy, timeliness of completeness. The data is not guaranteed accurate for suitable for any use other than that for which it was gathered. The information is not to be used for development of construction plans or any type of engineering services.

Wassom Farm
Name of Property

Washington County, TN
County and State

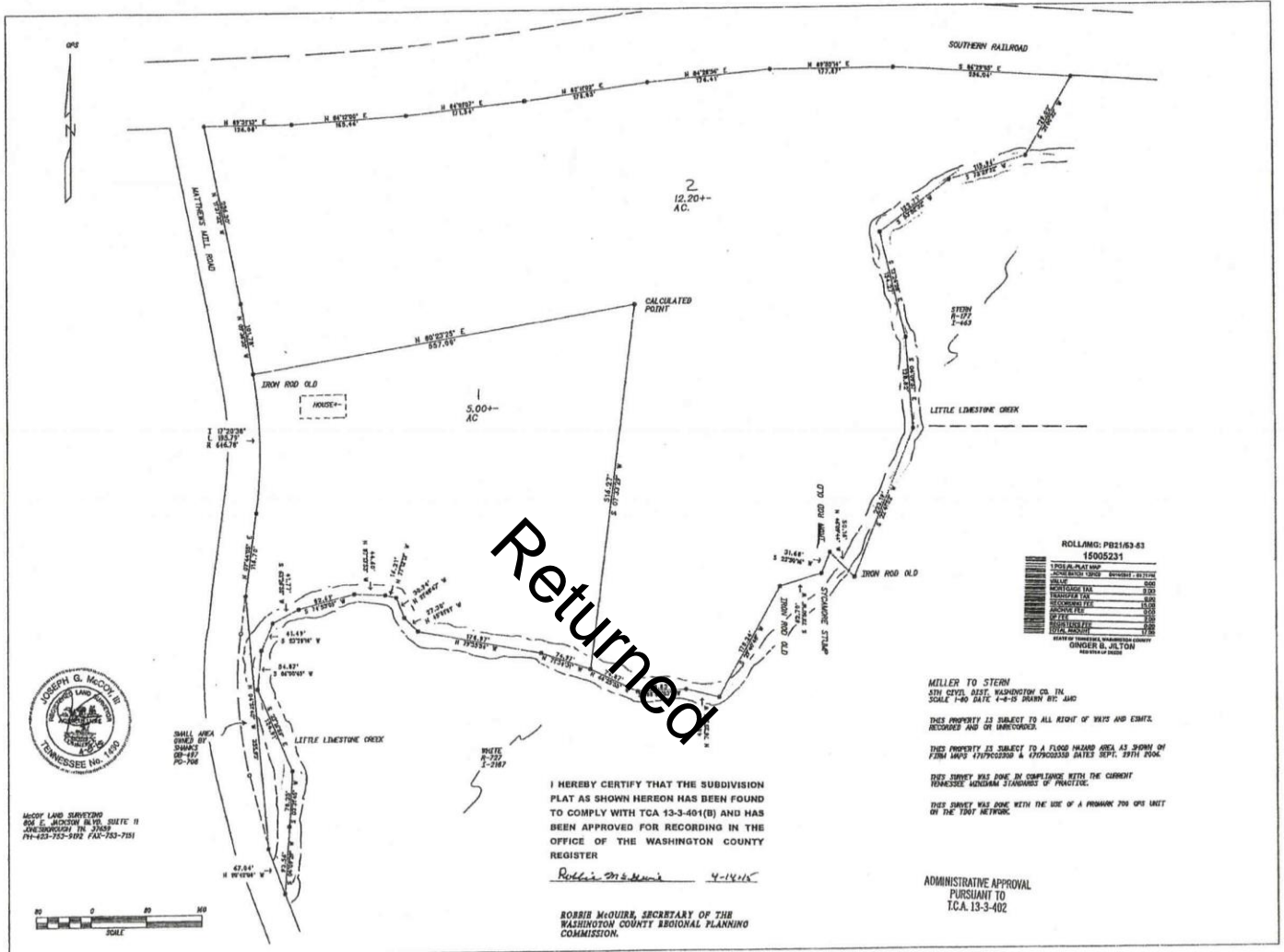


Washington County map



Wassom Farm
 Name of Property

Washington County, TN
 County and State



Survey Wassom Farm, 2014

Wassom Farm
Name of Property

Washington County, TN
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name Gray Stothart
Organization First Tennessee Development District
Street & Number 3111 Roan Street Date _____
City or Town Johnson City Telephone 423-928-0224
E-mail gstothart@ftdd.org State TN Zip Code 37601

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)

Returned

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.

Wassom Farm
Name of Property

Washington County, TN
County and State

Name of Property: Wassom Farm
City or Vicinity: Telford
County: Washington State: Tennessee
Photographer: Gray Stothart
Date Photographed: November 30, 2017

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

- 1 of 26. House, exterior, west façade, camera facing east
- 2 of 26. House, exterior, west façade and south elevation, camera facing northeast
- 3 of 26. House, exterior, south elevation, camera facing north
- 4 of 26. House, exterior, south and east elevation, camera facing northwest
- 5 of 26. House, exterior, east elevation, camera facing west
- 6 of 26. House, exterior, east and north elevation, camera facing southwest
- 7 of 26. House, exterior, north elevation, camera facing south
- 8 of 26. House, exterior, north elevation and west façade, camera facing southeast
- 9 of 26. Shed, exterior, north façade and east elevation, camera facing southwest
- 10 of 26. Barn, exterior, east and south elevation, camera facing northwest
- 11 of 26. House, interior, hall, camera facing east
- 12 of 26. House, interior, living room, camera facing northwest
- 13 of 26. House, interior, parlor, camera facing southeast
- 14 of 26. House, interior, living room wainscot, camera facing southeast
- 15 of 26. House, interior, living room fireplace, camera facing south
- 16 of 26. House, interior, second level stairs, camera facing north
- 17 of 26. House, interior, second level northeast bedroom, camera facing southwest
- 18 of 26. House, interior, attic, camera facing southwest
- 19 of 26. Fields, exterior, camera facing north

Wassom Farm
Name of Property

Washington County, TN
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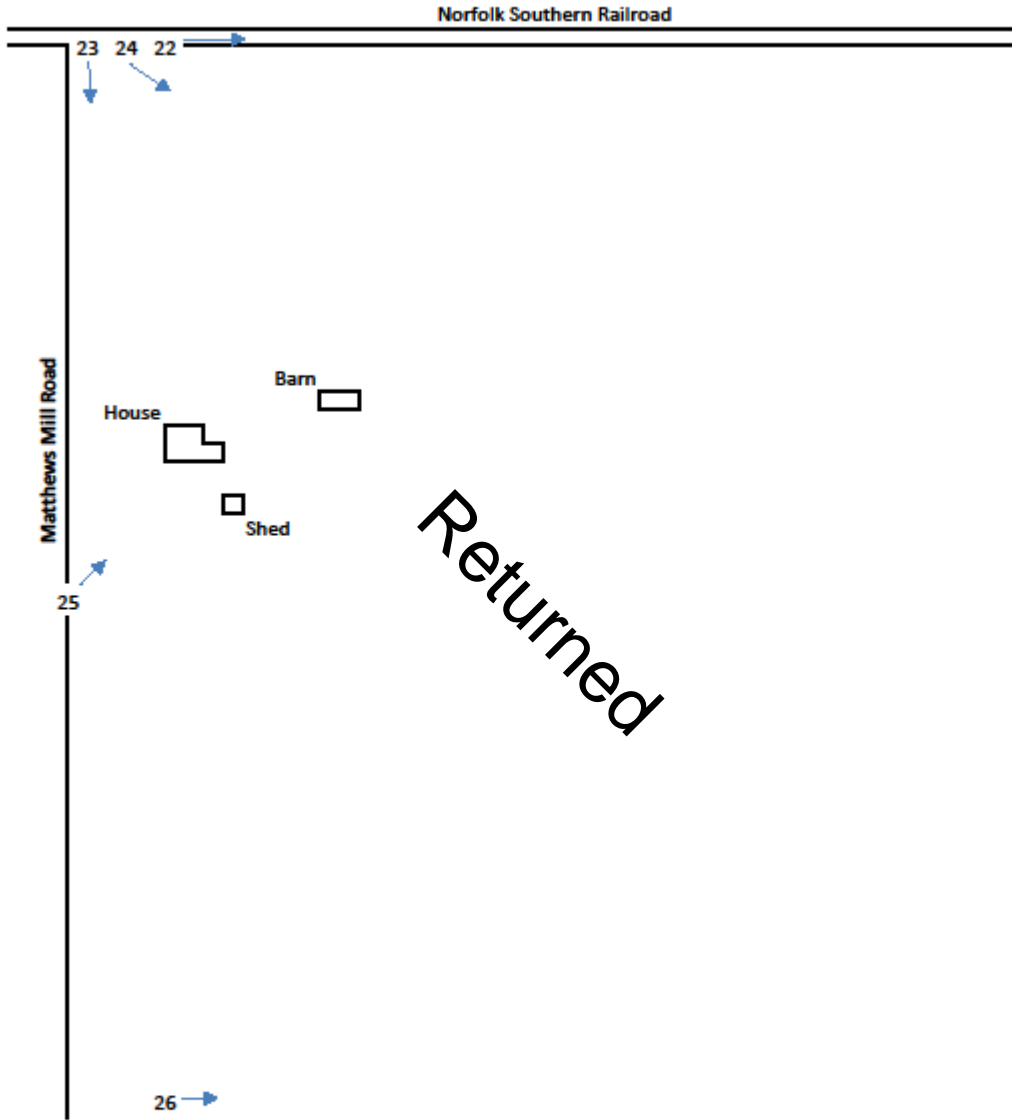
-
- 20 of 26. Fields, exterior, camera facing northeast
 - 21 of 26. Fields, exterior, camera facing east
 - 22 of 26. Fields, exterior, railroad, camera facing east
 - 23 of 26. Fields, exterior, fields, camera facing south
 - 24 of 26. Fields, exterior, fields, camera facing southeast
 - 25 of 26. Fields, exterior, fields, camera facing northeast
 - 26 of 26. Fields, exterior, site of Matthews Mill, camera facing south

Returned

Wassom Farm
Name of Property

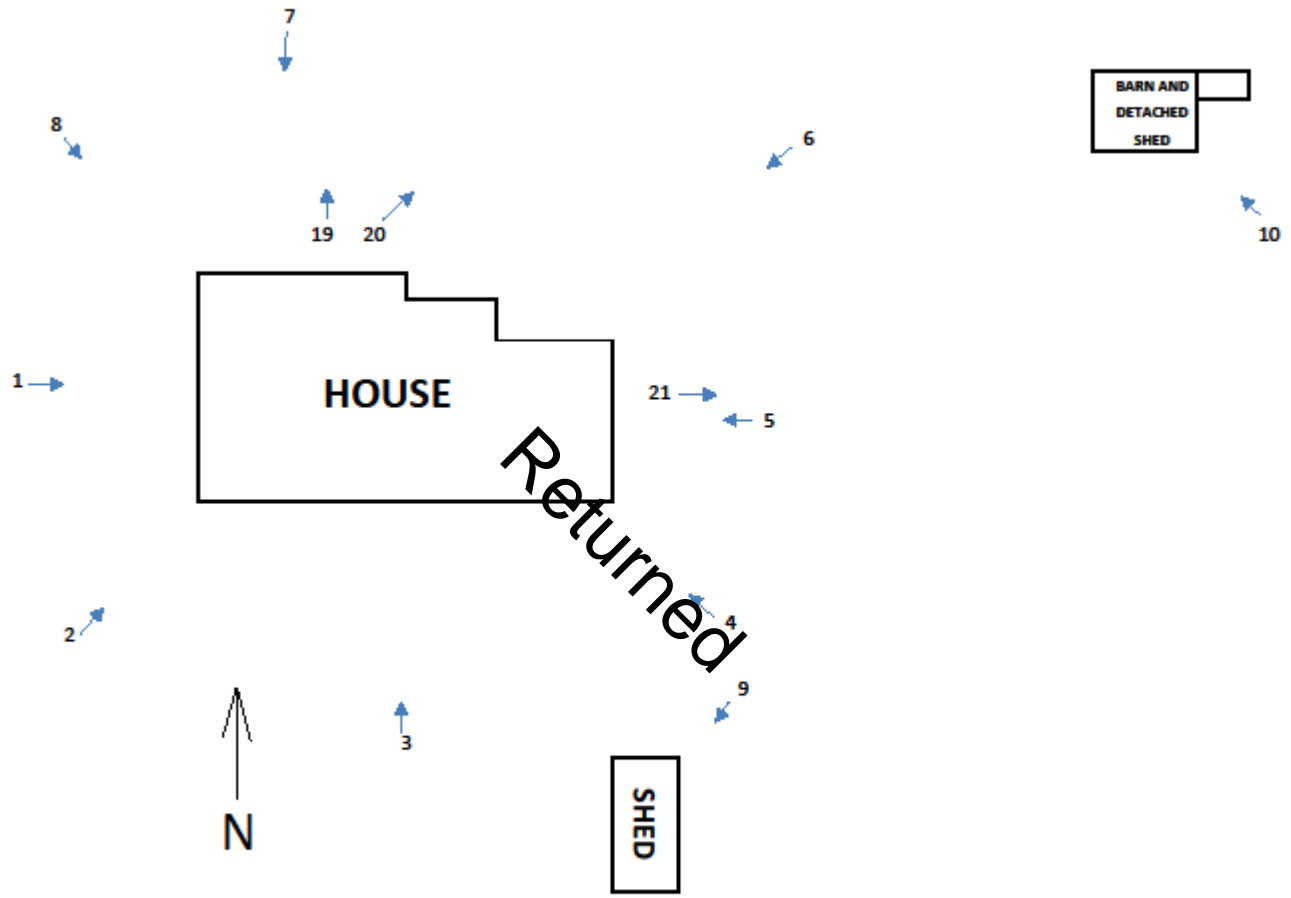
Washington County, TN
County and State

Site Plan



Wassom Farm
Name of Property

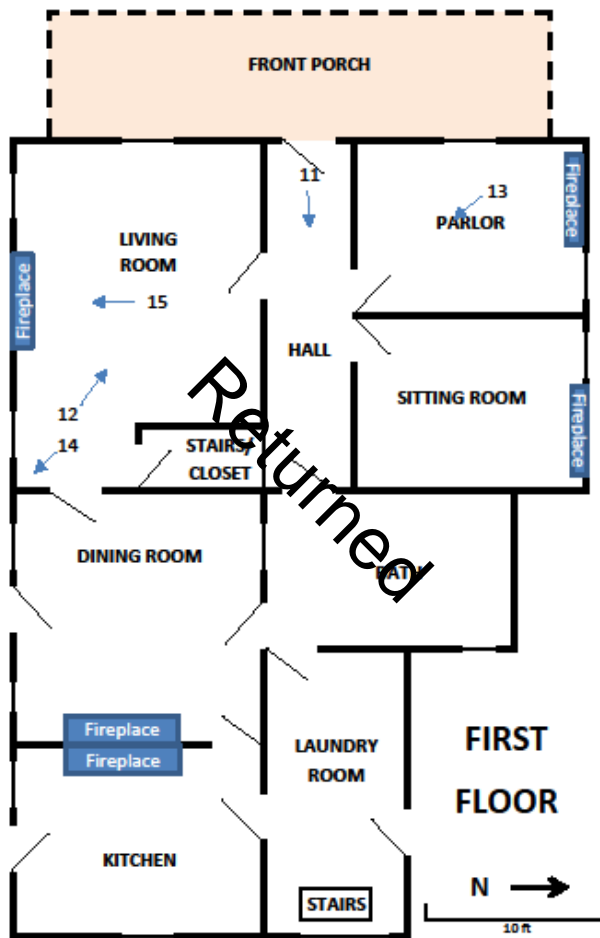
Washington County, TN
County and State



Wassom Farm
Name of Property

Washington County, TN
County and State

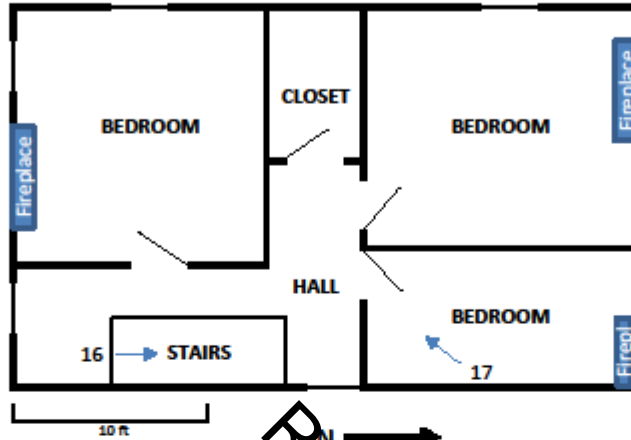
Floor Plan



Wassom Farm
Name of Property

Washington County, TN
County and State

SECOND FLOOR

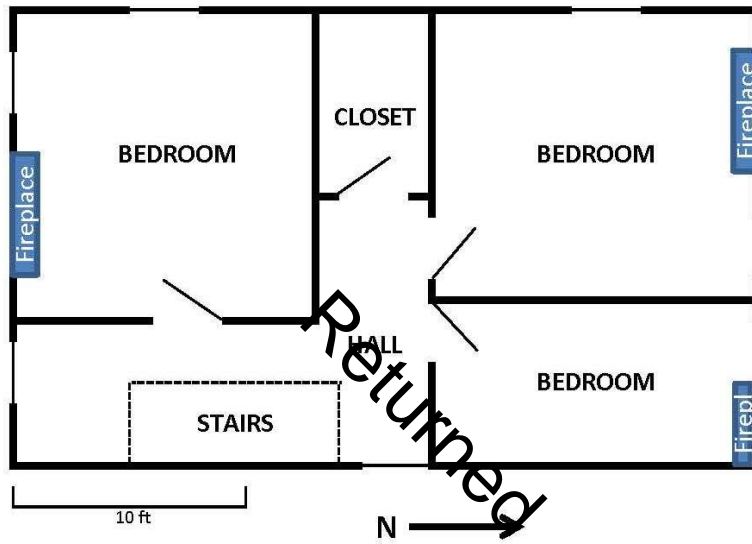


Returned

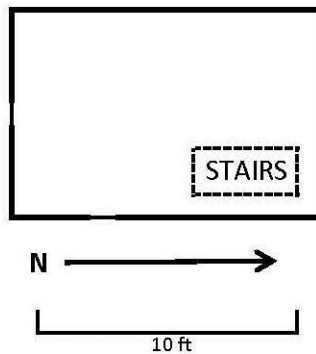
Wassom Farm
Name of Property

Washington County, TN
County and State

SECOND FLOOR



CELLAR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Wassom Farm

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: TENNESSEE, Washington

Date Received: 2/12/2018 Date of Pending List: 3/9/2018 Date of 16th Day: 3/26/2018 Date of 45th Day: 3/29/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100002265

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 3/22/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: See return sheet

Recommendation/ Criteria: Return

Reviewer Jim Gabbert  Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date 3-22-2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : **Yes** see attached SLR : No

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



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation Sheet

Property Name: Wassom Farm, Washington County, TN
Reference Number: 100002265

Comment

The nomination for the Wassom Farm is being returned for substantive revision.

The nomination was submitted under Criterion C, for local significance as “a good example of a circa 1828 I-house with Federal detailing” and a period of significance that extends from 1828-1920 “to encompass the house’s original construction, construction of the outbuildings, and the addition of the porch...”

Based on the images provided, there are some issues raised with this claim of significance. First of all, the house is not an I-house, which by definition, is only a single room deep. This house exhibits a three room and central hall configuration on both floors that appears to be the original plan. The “Federal” detailing seems limited to a simple corbel at the cornice and a symmetrical façade on the exterior and the simplified door and fireplace surrounds in the interior. Changes to the house, including most prominently the full-width shed-roof porch, but also the replacement of original 9/9 windows with 6/6 clad windows, the replacement of window lintels on the main block of the house (perhaps coinciding with the new porch, since the bricks used are of 20th century manufacture), and the potential loss of the central window (or door) on the second floor all have significant impact on the integrity of the building as “a good example.” The blanket statement provided in the nomination that alterations “Like Arts and Crafts porch and removal of the middle window do not detract...because they are historic modifications made during the period of significance” indicates a lack of understanding of how the period of significance is applied to Criterion C and how to assess integrity overall. There is no explanation of why the porch is a significant addition to the building that warrants extending the period of significance.

Given the nature of the properties noted in the comparative context, and the changes to the house itself, claiming architectural significance based on stylistic elements may prove

difficult. Without knowing the context of the area, the *form* of the house, with its central hall and unbalanced plan reminiscent of the continental plan (3 room configuration) may be an avenue to explore. Is this a regional, vernacular expression?

If research does support significance under Criterion C, the period of significance would most likely be limited to the date of construction. The outbuildings, constructed at a later date, would be noncontributing, as would the porch.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Gabbert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

Jim Gabbert, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
3-23-2018



RECEIVED

DEC 22 2017

TN HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

RUSTY CROWE
3RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT
CARTER, UNICOI AND WASHINGTON
COUNTIES

SUITE 8, LEGISLATIVE PLAZA
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0203
(615) 741-2468
1-800-449-8366 1-2468
(Carter, Unicoi and Washington Counties)
FAX 615-253-0359

Email: sen.rusty.crowe@capitol.tn.gov

Senate Chamber
State of Tennessee
NASHVILLE

CHAIR
HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEMBER OF COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR ARMED
FORCES,
VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

December 20, 2017

Tennessee Historical Commission
State Review Board
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37214

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that Wassom Farm in Telford, Tennessee will be considered by the State Review Board for nomination to the National and Tennessee Registers of Historic Places.

I would like to express my full support of this. This property tells a historical story that should be remembered and preserved for future generations to come.

As ever, thank you for all you do for the people we both serve.

Sincerely,

Senator Rusty Crowe
Chair, Senate Health and Welfare
3rd Senatorial District



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



April 6, 2018

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

National Register Nomination

- *Wassom Farm, Washington County, Tennessee*

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the revised true and correct nomination for listing of the *Wassom Farm* to the National Register of Historic Places.

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,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:hb

Enclosures(2)