

## TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

MAR 03 1988

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson CountyHistoric Name: Perkins, Nicholas Tate, House (WM-54)Common Name: Two RiversNATIONAL  
REGISTERClassification: BuildingOwner: Dr. Ben Griffith, Route # 7, Del Rio Pike, Franklin, TN 37064.Location: On Del Rio Pike two-tenths of a mile west of Cotton Road.Contributing:

Buildings	2
Structures	0
Sites	0

Non-Contributing:

Buildings	0
Structures	1
Sites	0

Total: 2Total: 1Description:

The Nicholas Tate Perkins House is a two-story brick central passage plan residence with Federal influenced detailing constructed ca. 1820. On the main (south) facade is an original entrance with a six panel door, fluted Doric pilasters and a pediment with guttae and metopes. Over the door is a four light transom. The majority of windows are original nine-over-nine sash with a few added in recent renovations to match the original. The windows have stone sills and stone flaired lintels with fluted keystones. The entire house is of Flemish bond brick construction. At the roofline is a simple boxed cornice.

The house has a gable roof of composition shingles and exterior end brick chimneys. In the gables above the second story are small four light casement windows. Adjacent to the original two-story brick ell is a two-story frame and brick addition added in 1980. On the west facade is a one-story frame porch added in 1980. The entrance on this facade is original with a six panel door with flaired stone jack arching.

The interior of the house appears to have originally been built in a central hall plan but remodelings in the 20th century have transformed the house into a hall and parlor design. The house was vacant for many years and suffered significant damage. Original wainscoting and Federal influenced fluted mantles are the only remaining original features in the house. To the northwest of the house is an original ca. 1820, brick kitchen. This building is of common bond construction with a gable roof and large brick chimney. The door and windows on the building are modern replacements. Attached to the kitchen is a garage added in 1980 which is non-contributing.

Period of Significance: ca. 1820Area of Significance: ArchitectureCriterion: C

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Nicholas Tate Perkins House is a notable example of an early 19th century brick residence with Federal influenced detailing. Constructed ca. 1820, the house is one of seventeen brick residences built between 1800 and ca. 1830 which retain integrity in the county outside of Franklin. Of these seventeen, four are presently listed on the National Register including Meeting of the Waters and Montpier which are neighboring houses built by the Perkins family. Both Meeting of the Waters and Montpier were built prior to 1820 and have Federal design features similar to the Perkins House.

In 1802, Nicholas Tate Perkins purchased this property just east of the Big Harpeth River. Perkins was born in 1767 in North Carolina and in 1790 married his cousin Ann, who was the daughter of Nicholas Pryor Perkins. The house was completed around 1820 and was designed with Federal style detailing. Originally known as Poplar Grove, the house was the center for the large Perkins estate. Perkins served in the Creek Indian War and was Colonel of the First Regiment, West Tennessee Mounted Volunteers in the War of 1812. He took part in county politics serving on early grand juries and in the state legislature from 1807 to 1809. In 1830, Perkins was listed as owning 24 slaves and 702 acres which was a large estate for the period in the county. Perkins died in 1843 and his house was sold by his son Nicholas Tate Perkins Jr. in 1847.

The house was purchased in 1848 by Simeon Shy. Simeon Shy was a prosperous farmer with real estate valued at \$30,000 in 1860. His son, Colonel William Shy, served in the Twentieth Tennessee Regiment during the Civil War. At the battle of Nashville he was killed on a hill which was named in his honor and is buried at the rear of the house. The Shy family owned the house until around 1890.

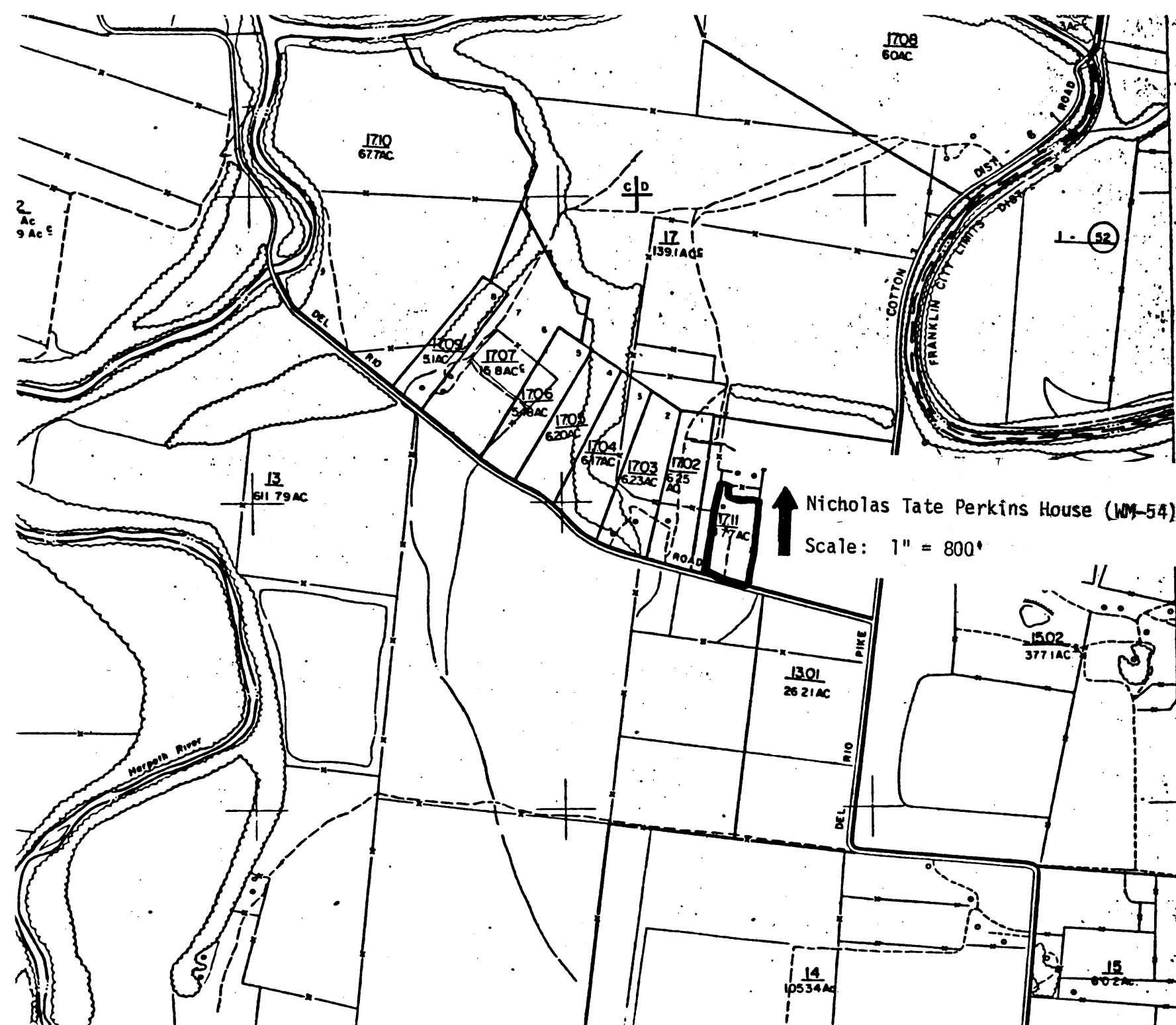
During the 20th century the Perkins House remained vacant for a number of years resulting in some loss of interior details. Restoration in the past two decades resulted in the retention of original exterior detailing and additions have been confined to the rear of the structure. The house sits on a large rural lot with modern homes constructed nearby.

Acreage: 3.4 acres

UTM References: Leipers Fork Quad/16/ 508260/3979280

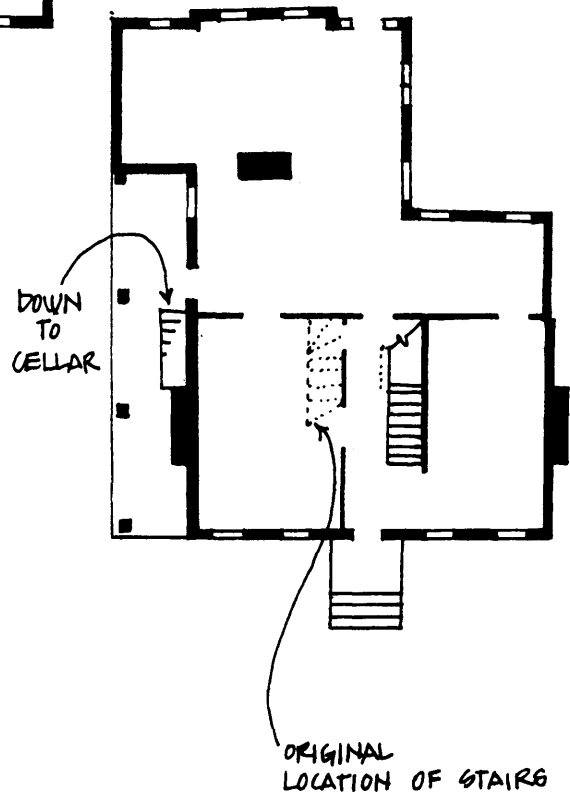
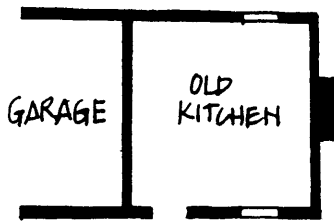
Verbal Boundary and Justification: The boundary for the Nicholas Tate Perkins House is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 51, lot 17.11. This boundary is defined on the west, north and east by fence lines and on the south by Del Rio Pike. The boundary includes the house and adjacent outbuildings and excludes modern farm buildings to the north. The boundary is sufficient to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: Historic Williamson County, Bowman.



↑ Nicholas Tate Perkins House (WM-54)  
Scale: 1" = 800'

# 54 NICHOLAS TATE PERKINS HOUSE



\* NOT TO SCALE