

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Hagler, John L., House (Porter House)  
and/or common Porter House

**2. Location**

street & number Poplar Grove Road NW of Springville on \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Springville *nc*  vicinity of congressional district Seventh  
state Tennessee code 047 county Henry code 079

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Felix Porter  
street & number Route 2  
city, town Springville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Tennessee 38256

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Henry County Courthouse  
street & number Courthouse Square  
city, town Paris \_\_\_\_\_ state Tennessee 38242

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Tennessee Historical Commission  
title Historical & Architectural Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1976 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local  
depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 4721 Trousdale Drive  
city, town Nashville \_\_\_\_\_ state Tennessee 37219

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located one mile northwest of Springville, Tennessee, in southeastern Henry County, the John L. Hagler House is on the north side of Poplar Grove Road and .6 mile north of Tennessee Highway 69. The house is encompassed by a large lawn with formal garden, on a slight knolltop above the surrounding rolling countryside.

This vernacular farmhouse was built ca. 1820 by John Hagler. The original section of the house is a one-story, ell-shaped dwelling built of red brick fired nearby by Hagler. The house has a brick foundation and a gable roof now covered by composition shingles. Three exterior chimneys join the roof at gable ends on the east, west, and north elevations. The five bay symmetrical facade (south elevation) of the house is laid in Flemish bond, and the remaining elevations in Common bond. A full cellar lies under the original parlor of the dwelling, and contains a fireplace that shares a flue with the parlor's chimney at the east gable end.

A one-story, almost flat-roofed porch built ca. 1960 is centered on the facade and is supported by four square wooden columns. (This porch replaced an earlier and longer one.) The main entrance consists of two narrow wooden doors with a common transom light and flat arch, and is flanked to the left and right by two windows surmounted by flat arches and featuring 12 over 12 panes with some original glass. Early, possibly original, wooden shutters are hung at these windows, but are no longer on their original hinges and are not moveable. The pegged window frames themselves show evidence of hand tools both inside and out.

In plan, the original section of the dwelling is one room deep and three rooms wide, with one room in the ell on the west elevation. In the front portion of the house, a broad central hallway, reminiscent of a breezeway, divides two rooms of equal size, a parlor to the east and a bedroom to the west. Another bedroom lies in the ell and opens off the front bedroom. These rooms feature 10'6" ceilings. Originally a porch was built inside the angle of the ell, but at the turn of the century this porch was enclosed, and a dining room and kitchen of frame construction were added, making the original ell-shape of the house into a rectangle. This construction resulted in the alteration of the two parlor windows on the original north elevation into doorways into the two new rooms. In 1942 a small frame addition was made to the west elevation of the brick ell; this addition includes a bathroom and dressing/sitting room. In 1979 a large frame keeping room, 20' x 41', was built onto the east elevation of the ca. 1900 addition, and included a new brick chimney on the east gable of the keeping room. This addition, and the other frame additions of the house, were then covered by a veneer of brick from a late nineteenth century commercial building in Paris, Tennessee.

The principal rooms in the early section still contain their original Federal mantles, which are painted white. The mantle in the parlor is slightly more ornate than those in the bedrooms. The original floors of 6" wide poplar planks are intact, along with the poplar baseboards and chair rails in these rooms. The hallway still contains its poplar wainscotting. The original 42" wide panelled doors with their fluted door frames and circular-patterned paterae, a treatment also used for the windows, are still in the house.

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(11/78)

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The heart-of-cherry panels of the parlor door have never been painted and provide a striking contrast to the other painted doors. The original plasterwork is also found in these rooms, along with some of the early walnut windowsills.

A few outbuildings stand on the property. A nineteenth century log tobacco barn is located 150 yards north of the house. The logs are half dovetail notched, with some square notching, and are covered by a frame vertical board shell with a tin roof. A large early twentieth century frame vertical board barn with a tin roof is located 75 yards north-northwest of the house.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1820

**Builder/Architect** John L. Hagler

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John L. Hagler House, built ca. 1820, is significant for its association with the settlement of Henry County and of West Tennessee. The section of Tennessee west of the Tennessee River was not opened for white settlement until after the signing of the Chickasaw Treaty of 1818, and Henry County itself was not formed until 1821. John Hagler's modest, one-story, ell-shaped brick farmhouse is one of the earliest, if not the earliest, remaining dwellings built in this new area that became Henry County, and one of the oldest houses in West Tennessee.

John Leland Hagler was born in North Carolina in 1788, and while still a young man moved with his family to Stewart County, Tennessee, just across the Tennessee River from Indian territory. In 1813 Hagler served as a private in the East Tennessee Militia Infantry during the War of 1812. After this service Hagler returned to Stewart County where he received two land grants.

With the signing of the Chickasaw Treaty late in 1818, the land west of the Tennessee River was opened for white settlement. In 1819, John Hagler's brothers Joel and Willis T. Hagler were among the first to cross the river and settle in the future Henry County. John Hagler soon followed his brothers, and by around 1820 he had built a log cabin, fired the necessary brick, and erected the Hagler House, with the help of slave labor. Hagler prospered in this new country, and from his original land grants of 225 acres in Henry County and possession of a few slaves, he increased his estate to more than 1200 acres of land and forty-seven slaves in 1850, in an area where many of his neighbors had small farms and few, if any, slaves.

Upon Hagler's death in 1857, his house and a portion of his land were left to his daughter, Evalina, and her husband, Nathaniel Porter. Porter was a prominent citizen of Henry County, serving as magistrate and as chairman of the County Court. He was also the first representative from Henry County in the Tennessee State Legislature after the War Between the States. When Porter died in 1867, the Hagler House and farm was inherited by the Porters' son, Nathaniel B. Porter, who lived in the house until his death in 1910. The house and 110 acres of the original Hagler farm are now owned by Felix Porter, a direct descendant of John L. Hagler. Unlike many houses of such age, the John L. Hagler House has never left the possession of the family of its original owner.

Architecturally, the house reflects the vernacular styles used in contemporary "dogtrot" log structures. A simple, one-story, ell-shaped dwelling, the Hagler House is unique in this area of West Tennessee because of its age and that this style is preserved in

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Goodspeed, 1887, History of Henry County, TN.  
 Henry County Tax List, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Microfilm copies.  
 McLeod-Johnson, E., 1958, A History of Henry County, Tennessee Vol. I.  
 Tennessee Land Grant Books, Tennessee State Library and Archives, microfilm copies.

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreage of nominated property 8.26  
 Quadrangle name West Sandy Dike, Tenn. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A	<u>16</u>	<u>395610</u>	<u>4013400</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The nominated property consists of a single 8.26 acre subtract of land that contains the John L. Hagler House and associated outbuildings, and measures 900'x400', fronting on Poplar Grove Road. This subtract is outlined in red in Tract 42 on the accompanying map of 1 inch=400 feet

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Toplovich, Cultural Resource Surveyor  
 organization Tennessee Historical Commission date December 1979  
 street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371  
 city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays  
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 1/3/80

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
W. Ray Jones date 3/13/80  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: Beth Groves date 3/4/80  
 Chief of Registration

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brick. The house's frame additions detract very little from the original facade of the house. The interior of the original section has been well preserved with little change, and an attempt has been made to retain the character of this early interior in the newer rooms. Although a formal garden has been placed behind the house, the John L. Hagler House retains much of its original fabric, character, and setting.

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U. S. Census, Henry County, TN. and U. S. Census Special Slaveholders Schedule,  
Henry County, TN for 1850, Tennessee State Library and Archives, microfilm copies.

War of 1812 Rosters, sheet 933, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

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scale. The original map is located at the Tennessee State Board of Equalization in Nashville, Tennessee.