

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 27 1984

date entered SEP 27 1984

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

1. Name

historic Webb, William Felix House

and/or common Parks Place (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Cox Road, N/A not for publication

city, town College Grove vic. X vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Williamson code 187

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

4. Owner of Property

name Joseph C. Bellenfant

street & number P.O. Box 8

city, town College Grove N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37046

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Williamson County Courthouse

city, town Franklin state Tennessee 37064

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Parks Place is a one-story, frame Italianate farmhouse on Cox Road, one-half mile from Nolensville Road about 30 miles southeast of Nashville in rural Williamson County. Constructed between 1864-72, it maintains the greater part of its original Victorian integrity. Built in a U-shape, the south facade overlooks Cox Road and the Big Harpeth River, while the longer and more elaborate east facade faces the old and now nonexistent road grade. The cross gable protruding from the eastern front relates to the southern block of the house, and in the same way the cross gable on the south front echoes the western portion of the structure. The building is distinguished by long porches with square pillars separated by arches formed by simple brackets. The main entry hall and the kitchen, a later addition, fill up the inner part of the U. Interior and exterior both maintain the original Victorian character, as do extant outbuildings.

The main (south) facade has a four bay porch with arches. The cross gable on the left houses the parlor and its bay window, the frieze above the window held up by paired brackets. The upper part of the gable consists of a deep cornice, paired brackets, and a round attic vent. The east facade, the old road frontage, is similar. Its porch is seven bays long with the same arches and paired brackets in two friezes. The cross gable in the left of this facade houses a small porch and a window where once was a door. Its upper part has the same cornice, paired brackets, and vent. With the exception of those in the bay window, all windows are fourteen feet tall and double-sashed, providing doorways when fully opened. The windows in the back bedroom and dining room which face out onto the east porch are the only access to that porch from the interior.

The interior of the house was restored beginning in 1979. Its main feature is the presence of unusually high fifteen-foot ceilings in all of the original rooms. The entry hall, a rectangle, is divided into squares by an arch, running from floor to ceiling and covered with solid walnut trim. All doors and woodwork in the house are solid walnut. The cast iron fireplace mantel in the parlor is original, as is the parlor bay window, seen from outside. The relief carved front door with its curious red pane of glass, and intricately crafted iron hinges in all inside doors are all present from the original construction.

Only two outbuildings remain that date from the same time period of construction as the house. The outhouse, adjacent to the west, is a gabled, frame structure. The barn, further west, is the only other extant outbuilding contributing to the site. It is three bays wide, with a dogtrot down the middle flanked by stalls on the first floor. Second-floor windows provide access to the large hayloft, and wheel windows on either end provide additional ventilation. The ridge of the gabled roof is broken in the center by a low, rectangular monitor. Gable-roofed itself, the monitor has lattice-work sides to allow even more air into the upper reaches of the barn. Later outbuildings included in the nomination are a frame smokehouse and two frame storage buildings.

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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input 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. 1864-72 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Parks Place is nominated under National Register criterion C as a locally noteworthy example of the Italianate style. The house was constructed between 1864 and 1872 for William Felix Webb, a prominent local businessman. The architectural character of the building is exemplified by excellent craftsmanship and design as seen in the arched porches, bracketed cornices, and interior woodwork.

In 1814 and 1816 William S. Webb made two purchases of land totaling almost six hundred acres from two local landowners, Newton Cannon and Alexander Rogers, respectively. These tracts were originally parts of land grants from the State of North Carolina, one to Lord Nelson and the other to Alexander Martin. These and surrounding tracts were soon controlled, through gifts and purchases, by William's son, James S. and his wife Margaret. The nominated house was built circa 1864-72 for William Felix Webb, the son of James S., and his wife, Cleopatra Haley. When Cleopatra Haley died, William Felix married her sister, Adeline, and continued to occupy the house.

William Felix Webb owned the Waldorf Livery Stable across from the Union Station depot in Nashville, and soon found his residence too far from his office. So, in December of 1888 the house was sold to Joseph T. Demumbrane. A member of the 45th Tennessee Regiment and wounded at the Battle of Shiloh during the Civil War, Demumbrane died in the house. His daughter, Laura, married Archie Hughes Dobson and continued to maintain the building.

In 1910, the house and 352 remaining acres were sold to Arthur R. Parks, the man and the family from whom the building derives its historic name. Mr. Parks lived in the house until his death in the 1940s, at which time the property was divided among several heirs. The house was inhabited by family members and various tenants until about 1970, after which time it sat idle and fell into a state of disrepair. The house and the land on which it sits were transferred in 1979 to Joe C. Bellenfant, the present owner, and his daughter, Emy Joe Bellis, the present resident.

The arched porches and paired brackets on the south and east facades, the round attic vents, and the fourteen-foot windows on both porches illustrate the outstanding architectural character of the house. On the interior, much of the original context has been preserved. Fifteen-foot ceilings still exist in all of the major rooms. The doors and woodwork are all of solid walnut, including the trim on the floor-to-ceiling arch in the entry hall. The cast-iron mantelpiece in the parlor is original. Of special note are the intricately designed hinges which still support the doors of all the major rooms.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bowman, Virginia, Historic Williamson County: Old Homes and Sites, Nashville: Blue and Gray Press, 1971.
Interview with Virginia Bowman, Williamson County Historian, October 1983.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 4.5 acres

Quadrangle name College Grove, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

B

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

C

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

D

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

E

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

F

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

G

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

H

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached sheet

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas A. Clarkson

organization Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County

date November 1983

street & number P.O. Box 723

telephone 615/790-0378

city or town Franklin

state Tennessee 37064

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 National Park Service.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 8/21/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-27-84

Joyce M. Sammons
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Parks Place

Item number

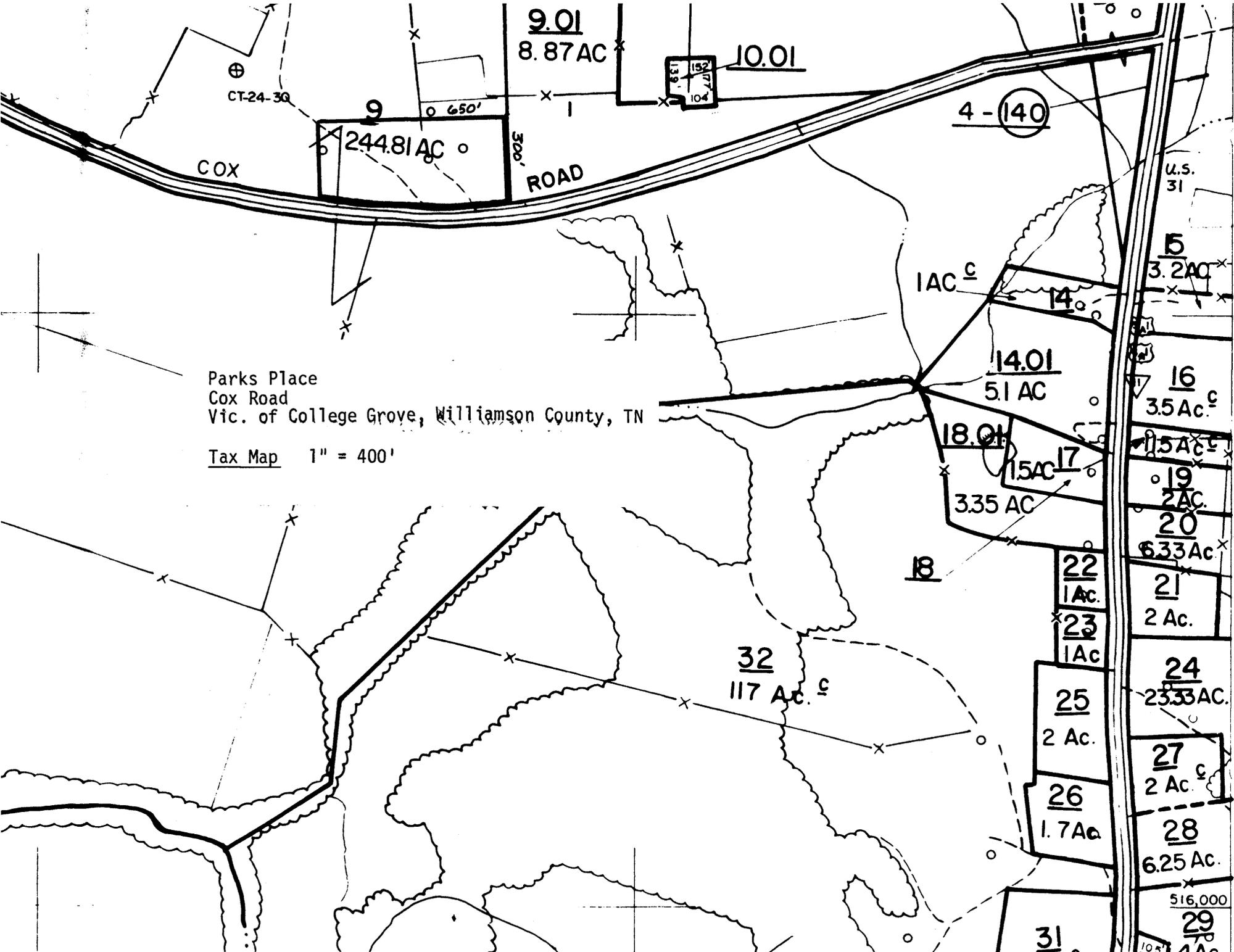
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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property measures 300' x 650' and is bounded on the south by Cox Road, on the east by an adjoining property line, and on the north and west by imaginary lines parallel to the south and east boundaries respectively. The boundaries were selected to include the house, outbuildings, and minimum land needed to protect the integrity of the rural farm setting.



Parks Place
 Cox Road
 Vic. of College Grove, Williamson County, TN

Tax Map 1" = 400'

U.S.
31

5

3.2 AC

16

3.5 Ac. c

19

2 AC

20

6.33 AC

22

1 Ac.

21

2 Ac.

23

1 Ac.

24

23.33 AC

25

2 Ac.

27

2 Ac. c

26

1.7 Ac.

28

6.25 AC

516,000

29

10.51 AC

31