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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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brooks, R. M., General Store and Residence
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number State Highway 52 and Brewstertown Road N/A not for publication
city, town Rugby vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Morgan code 129 zip code 37733

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <u>3</u> | <u>1</u> buildings |
| | _____ sites |
| | _____ structures |
| | _____ objects |
| <u>3</u> | <u>1</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Herbert L. Anger 3/3/92
Signature of certifying official Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Alvina Byers 4/14/92
entered in the National Register

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Commercial Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls Weatherboard

roof METAL, ASPHALT

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The R. M. Brooks General Store and Residence is located at the intersection of State Highway 52 and Brewstertown Road in the Rugby vicinity, Morgan County, Tennessee. The simple frame building, built in 1930, is an L-plan with the store portion of the building projecting towards the road and the house portion forming the ell. The store portion of the building has a gable roof with a false front extending above the roof line containing the name of the store and other advertising information. The exterior of the entire structure is weatherboard and all trim is wood. The store and house exterior have always been painted white. The trim colors have been black, green and the current rust color. The porch and house roof is the original metal roof. The store roof is now asphalt shingles. Built in the fork of Brewstertown Road and State Highway 52 the store originally was surrounded by trees. Gradually, land has been cleared to make way for outbuildings, but the rural setting remains.

The front, or northeast, facade of the store contains four double hung, single pane, wood windows. The front door of the store is wood with the upper half being a single pane glass with a wood screen door. A shed roof porch supported by four 4 X 4 wood timbers covers the front of the store. The porch roof begins approximately eight feet from the top of the front facade with a pitch of 4/12. The porch floor was originally wood, but is now concrete. A shed roof addition was added to the easterly side of the main portion of the store in 1934. The addition contains a single leaf solid wood door. Located in front of the store are two log hitching posts that were added in the late 1970's. Located at the southeast end of the original building is a hand water pump that is no longer used. At the northwest corner of the facade is a utility sink and water spigot added in the 1960's. A concrete pad and a Gulf sign are all that remain from the gasoline pumps that were there from 1930 to March 1990.

The northwest elevation of the store has two small rectangular windows placed about one foot from the top of the roof line. These wood hopper windows are single panes that pull to the inside and up by metal chains.

Located at the rear of the northwest elevation of the store is the residential portion of the building. The main facade of the house faces the northeast, as does the store, and is recessed twenty feet from the store front. The northeast facade of the house contains an integral porch

 See continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet**

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Brooks, R. M., General Store & Residence

Property Owners:

Linda Brooks Jones
P.O. Box 5252
Rugby, Tennessee 37733

Bobby Brooks
Blacklock Farms
Rugby, Tennessee 37733

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roof and two shed roof dormers containing two double hung three-over-three wood windows in each. The front porch roof pitch is 4/12. Originally, the porch ran the entire length of the house, but the southeastern portion was partially enclosed in circa 1965. The porch floor is wood and the roof is supported by a corner 4 X 4 wood post. Smaller 2 X 4 supports are spaced evenly across the length and width of the porch and are used to screen in the porch. The main facade contains two double hung three-over-one wood windows and a wood door with three single pane security windows and a metal storm door. Six light stationary wood windows are located on the northeast and northwest sides of the porch addition. The metal roof pitch is 5/12.

The northwest elevation of the house contains two sets of paired three-over-one double hung wood windows and a single three-over-one double hung window on the first floor. There is one double hung three-over-one wood window located at center gable on the second story.

The rear, or southwest, elevation of the house and store is an addition added in 1934 at the same time the shed roof addition was added to the southeast elevation of the store. Originally there was an open porch along the rear of the house. This elevation contains one aluminum sliding window with two double panes; a single leaf wood and glass door with a wood screen door leading to a six foot by six foot concrete stoop; two horizontal two-over-two double hung windows; a three pane awning window; a boarded up window and a full size two-over-two double hung window. On the southeast side of the stoop is a covered concrete block pump house that was used until city water was available. Originally a shed that housed the Delco generator was located southeast of the pump house.

The southeast elevation of the store has a solid wood two panel door, paired double hung one-over-one wood windows, a solid wood five panel door, one double hung one-over-one wood window, one two-over-two wood double hung single pane wood window, a single leaf two panel wood door and, and a three vertical pane fixed wood window. Located at the attic level of the rear gable is a small window. The roof pitch on the store is 6/12. There is a stove vent brick chimney near the rear of the front gable portion of the store.

The interior of the store has flush horizontal wood walls. The front portion of the floor is pine. The back portion of the floor is composed of a subfloor of heavy particle board and needs to be refloored. The shelves along the walls are simple wood boards. The wood counters were handmade and have shelves on the front portion. Some counters are covered with white and red marble slabs.

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The Rugby Post Office is located in the front easterly corner. The small room is approximately six feet by eight and one-half feet and was constructed in 1959 by Clyde Cooper. The post office area consists of a wood base attached directly to the floor and the easterly wall of the store. The top portion of the post office room consists of screen on two walls and the post office boxes on the third wall. The boxes date from 1880 and are from the original Rugby Colony.

Located on the southeast wall of the store are three smaller rooms. The 1934 addition contains two rooms and the third room is in the original 1930 portion of the store. The first or northern most room housed the kerosene pump in the front portion and cases of pop in the rest. This room can be entered from the store or the middle storeroom. The middle room served as a storeroom for the excess boxes of groceries. It can be accessed from either the store or the front storeroom. Located in the original 1930 portion of the store is an abutting room which served as an office, this room can only be accessed from the store. A cast iron stove is located in front of the second storeroom and is attached to a freestanding brick flue.

A third storeroom is located at the rear of the store in the southeast corner. This larger storeroom is part of the 1934 rear addition and is larger than the other storerooms. It was used for feed and grains. Originally dry goods and shoes was located in front of the rear store room. Located to the west of the dry goods and shoes and the doorway to the storeroom was the fabric area. These areas are now filled with collectibles and memorabilia. Two wood counters stand perpendicular to each other in the westerly section of the rear section of the store

The residential portion of the building can be entered through a door on the southwest wall near the center of the store. The first floor of the house contains an office, bedroom and living room in the original 1930 portion and a kitchen, dining room, laundry room, and bathroom in the 1934 rear addition. The interior walls and ceiling of the house are sheetrock and are currently in need of repair. The original wood floor is covered with square wood tiles that replace a linoleum covering. The trim in the house is simple and contains varying widths of wood baseboard. The stairs to the second floor are located between the living room and bedroom and are steep and narrow in width. The second floor consists of two bedrooms.

There are three outbuildings associated with the R. M. Brooks General Store and Residence. A small frame barn built circa 1934 and located northwest of the store, was used to house milk cows. The upper loft was used to

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store hay for stock feeding. The simple vertical board, gable roof barn has a metal roof. A shed roof addition is located on the east end of the building. An attached toilet, used by family and workers, is located on the east end of the addition. The barn is currently in poor condition. (C)

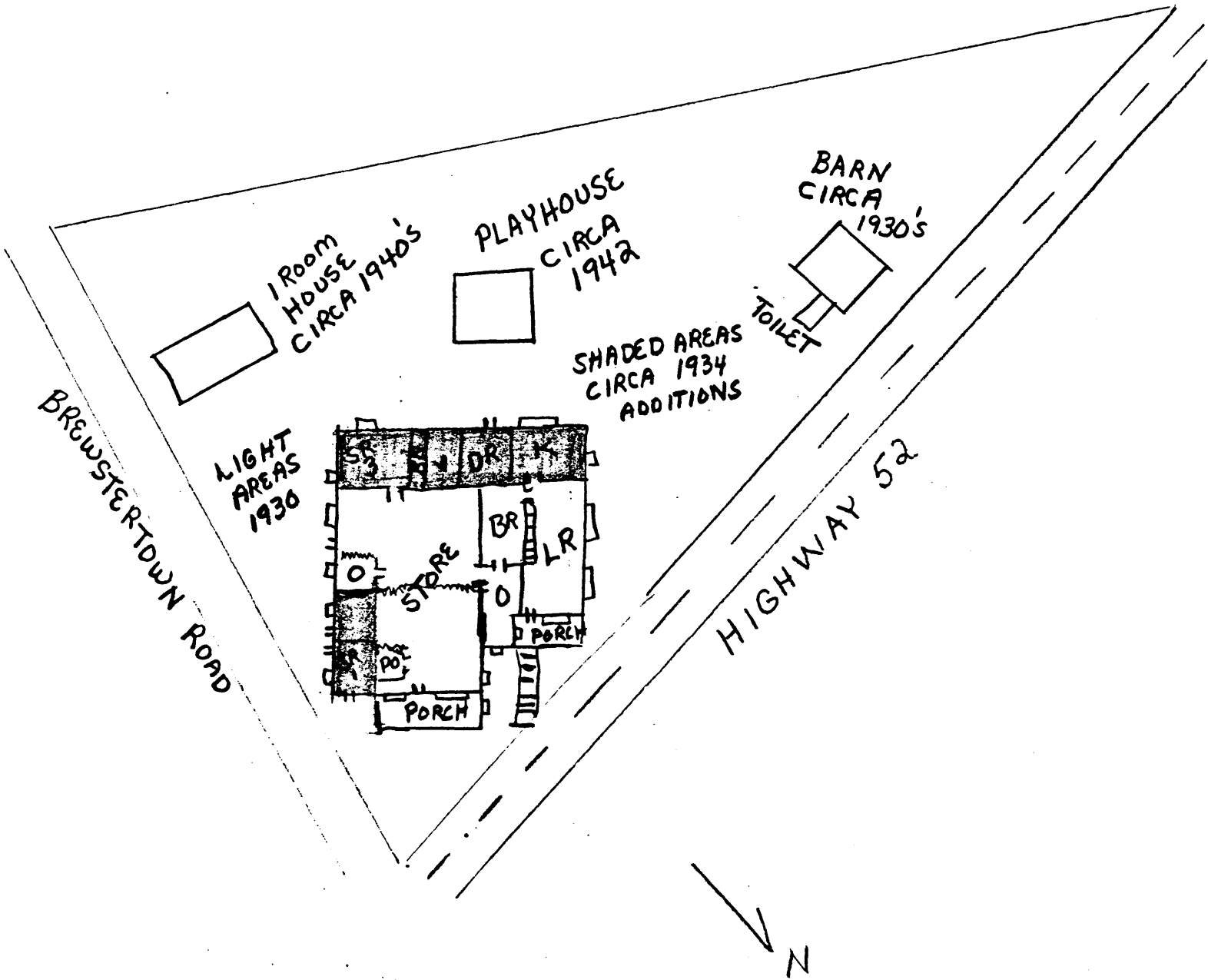
A playhouse, built for R. M. Brooks' granddaughter, in 1942 by Rugby resident and craftsman, Bill Kennedy, is located behind the store. The small weatherboard playhouse has a gable roof and an open porch. A single wood panel door and a two-over-two double hung window dominate the front of the building and a single double hung window is on the rear wall. (C)

The small wood frame, weatherboard sided one room house located southeast of the store was built circa 1945. The simple asphalt shingle gable roof house has a simple porch with a wood spindle railing, four over four double hung windows, and two single leaf wood door. The house was occupied by a single woman, Lucy Archer, for a period of time. Later, Lois Brooks and her husband used it as a vacation place. (NC)

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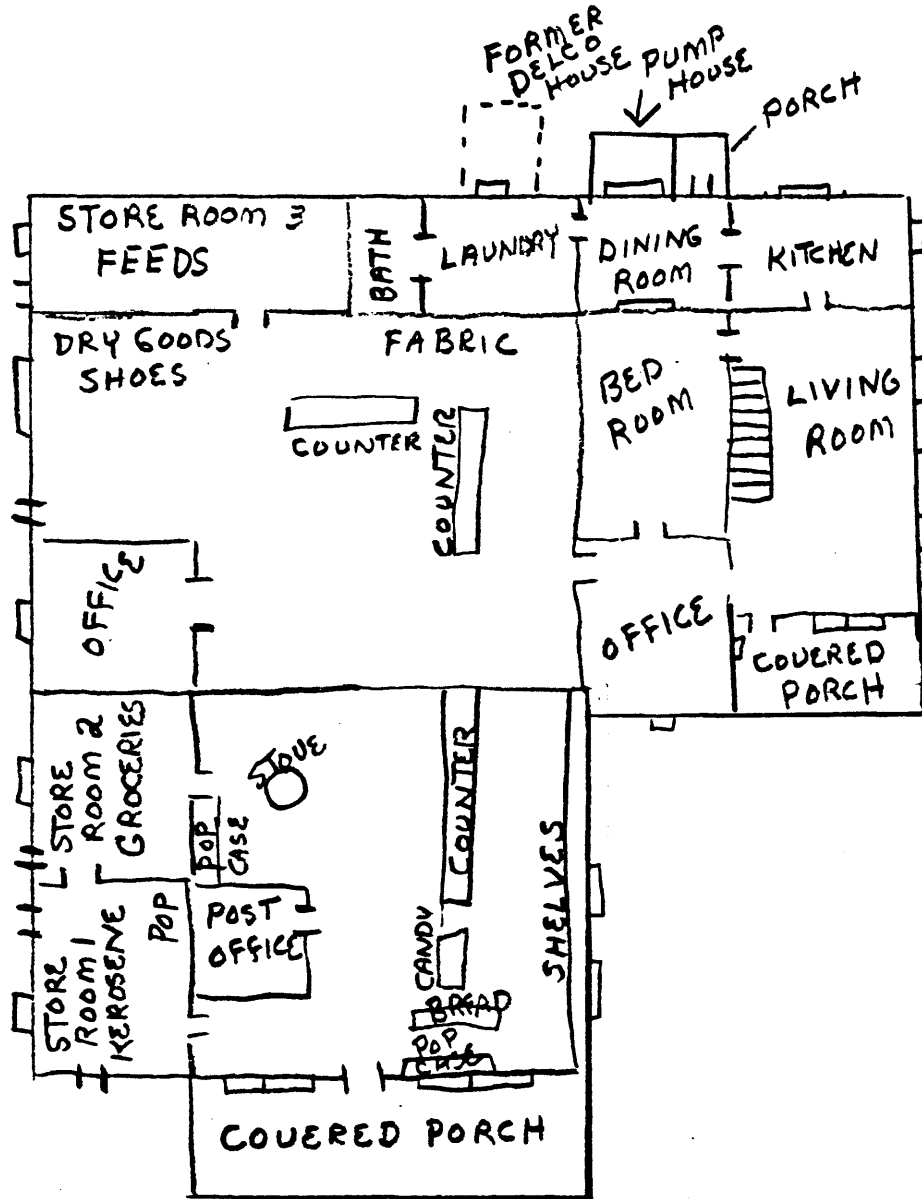


Not to Scale

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Not to Scale

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1930-1942

Significant Dates

1930, 1934

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brooks, R. M.
Monday, Bryd

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The R. M. Brooks General Store and Residence is eligible for the National Register under criterion A for its significance in commerce and social history to Rugby and Morgan County. In 1930, R. M. Brooks perceived a need for essential services in the rural Rugby area and founded the R. M. Brooks General Store which has been a center for commercial exchange and social interaction for community members and visitors since that time. A general store in the truest sense, it has served as a vital lifeline to Rugby residents. Customers could obtain items needed for daily living; food, farming equipment, seeds, clothing, heating fuel, repairing and building material, hunting gear, gasoline and automotive needs, and healing preparations.

Along with being a major commercial enterprise in the Rugby area, the store was also a community gathering place. The store, with its pot-bellied stove and rocking chairs, not only offered opportunities for social exchange, but also served compassionate and charitable necessities. Nettie Brooks, Robert's wife would gather in the back of the store with Ollie Monday and other ladies to tenderly line the coffin of a neighbor's still-born baby. The coffins were made by Ollie's husband Byrd Monday, a carpenter who helped in the original construction of the store. Quilting frames were hung in one section of the store and the church women would quilt on winter days. The finished products were sold to raise funds for the church. At Christmas, the aisles of the store became assembly lines where holiday treats and fruits were bagged to be distributed to children and adults of the community.

The general store, constructed by R. M. Brooks, was to be a temporary structure. However, with the beginning of the Depression, the store became a permanent structure. Because it was meant to be a temporary building, the floor was built in haste over a stump causing a rise in the center of the room. Prior to the building of the Rugby store, R. M. Brooks operated a store five miles away in the small community of Armthwaite.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.8 acres

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Rugby, TN 128A SW

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Brooks Jones, owner

organization N/A

street & number P.O. Box 5252

city or town Rugby

date January 1992

telephone (615) 628-5252

state Tennessee

zip code 37733

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The simple frame store is fairly typical of small general stores of this period. The L-plan building with the false front store differed from other stores of the period with its attached residential portion. In 1934, the store was among the first to have electricity supplied by a Delco generator.

Motor vehicles were a luxury in rural Rugby at the time the store opened. The most common form of travel by local residents was by horse and wagon. Often one person would bring orders from several neighbors for Saturday delivery. As a service to the customers, delivery of goods in R. M.'s truck was commonplace with deliveries sometimes ten to fifteen miles away. A few customers who could afford telephones used the wall crank telephone to place orders. In keeping with humanitarian precepts, R. M. Brooks trustingly provided credit for those who could not afford to pay cash.

Timbering and farming were the major occupations in Rugby until recently. Improved travel, education and communication have drawn Rugby's human resources to the cities and larger towns. In earlier years, it was common to see men during seasonal lay-offs sitting on the front porch of the store whittling with sharply honed knives. The challenge of whittling was not to have a finished carved product, but to have the thinnest, highest pile of shavings.

A Knoxville Journal article dated November 1974 recalls, "Friday nights one would find local youth huddled around the radio listening to the boxing bouts of the likes of Jack Dempsey and Joe Louis." Saturday nights, the older generation, the fox hunters, sat around the glowing iron Cannon stove. The odor of strongly brewed coffee from the enameled pot surrounded the men fortifying them for the long night of conversation. The group, made up of varied occupations and backgrounds, would sit for hours rehashing the hunt, that had occurred earlier bragging about the attributes of their hounds, and relieving the tension of their respective responsibilities in the way they enjoyed most. Dr. Cooper, physician from Oneida, Silas Hicks, businessman from Robbins, Cordell Hull, farmer and namesake of the Secretary of State and R. M. Brooks were Saturday night regulars. This ritual lasted until age caught up with them and they could hunt no more.

The store was also the center of Rugby's political life. Every politician who ran for office made it a priority to spend time in the Brooks Store. While candidates were there, members of local families would make trips to the store. More voters could be reached in a day in the Brooks Store than

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in a week of stumping. Any and all campaign posters, cards, buttons and electioneering material could be found in abundance. Then, as now, the store was used as a location for people to register to vote, pay their taxes and get shots for their animals. Posters announcing any and all community events were viewed and duly noted for good attendance.

Since 1959 the Rugby Post Office has occupied one corner of the store. Verda Brooks, daughter-in-law of R. M. and Nettie Brooks serves as Postmistress. When Rugby was in danger of losing its Post Office, Mrs. Brooks made a bid and was awarded Contract Post Office status for twelve hundred (\$1,200.00) dollars a year. She is committed, as is the entire Brooks family, to retaining the Rugby Postmark. The post office equipment dating from 1880 purchased by Mrs. Brooks originally belonged to the Rugby Colony.

Prior to 1959, a green mail bag hung on a nail by the store's door. People placed their mail in the bag and it was picked up by the mail carrier for out of town delivery. At that time the Post Office was located in Rugby, a mile east of the store. The Brooks family would fetch the mail for themselves and for the people at their end of town. The contents would be placed in a box on the wall. Recipients would go through the mail and pull out what belonged to them.

R. M. Brooks General Store has been in continual use since its construction, many years seven days a week from six in the morning until late at night. It has endured through the Depression, World War II, and recessions, serving as a mainstay for Rugby community members. In recent times it has become extremely difficult to continue to operate as a store. The services offered by supermarkets and convenience stores combined with the high cost of acquiring goods has limited the stock that can be offered to customers. Although competition has limited the type goods that can be offered by the R. M. Brooks General Store, the family has continued to operate the store and provide a glimpse of the past to customers.

The R. M. Brooks General Store has served as a paradigm for the community. The Volume 1, 1977 issue of the Rugbian, states, "The store to this day is still the commercial hub of Rugby...Indeed R. M. Brooks supplied Rugby and Brewstertown with practically everything they needed." The R. M. Brooks General Store and Residence in Rugby, Tennessee, is located in the fork of Brewstertown Road and State Highway 52. The store was a major part of both the commercial and social history of the community of Rugby and surrounding area. It provided not only the groceries and goods for the local residents, but also served as an important community social center, with

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its informal gatherings by the men and women of the community and its more organized quilting parties and voter registration activities and as a mail stop. Four other stores were in operation in the area at the time the R. M. Brooks General Store was constructed. With the exception of the Norris Store located seven miles from the Brooks store, the other three stores were smaller and carried limited goods. These stores were also in business for a much shorter period of time.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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January 29, 1988.

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Morris, Doug. "Its Business as Usual at Daddy Bob's Store." The Knoxville Journal, Friday, November 7, 1974.

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R. M. Brooks General Store
State Highway 52 and Brewstertown Road
Rugby, vicinity Morgan County, Tennessee
Photos by: Linda Brooks Jones
Date: September 1991
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

Facing south, northeast facade
#1 of 14

Facing south, northeast facade
#2 of 14

Facing south, northeast and northwest elevation
#3 of 14

Facing southeast, northwest elevation
#4 of 14

Facing northeast, southwest elevation
#5 of 14

Facing west, southeast and southwest elevation
#6 of 14

Interior detail
#7 of 14

Interior detail
#8 of 14

Interior detail
#9 of 14

Interior detail, Post Office
#10 of 14

Interior detail
#11 of 14

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Barn
#12 of 14

Playhouse
#13 of 14

Ca. 1945 house
#14 of 14

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The R. M. Brooks General Store and Residence is located in the northeast angle of a triangular piece of property bounded by State Highway 52 on the north and Brewstertown Road on the south with the closing leg of the triangular property running northeast and southwest. See attached Morgan County Tax Map # 3, Lot 7.*

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the property includes the store/residence, barn, playhouse, and small house and is sufficient to protect the historic setting of the property.

*The tax map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service. To supplement this map, the nomination includes a detailed verbal boundary description.

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