

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

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

For NPS use only

received **MAY 29 1987**

date entered **JUN 25 1987**

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

1. Name

historic Baptist Female College Dormitory/Woodbury College Dormitory/Adams, Dr. Jesse F., House

and/or common Baptist Female College/Adams House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 210 South College Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Woodbury

N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee

code 047

county Cannon

code 015

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" 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 Dr. Richard E. Green and Dr. Fay Guidroz-Green

street & number 210 South College Street

city, town Woodbury

N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee 37190

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cannon County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Woodbury

state Tennessee 37190

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cannon County Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977

federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville

state Tennessee

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 at 210 South College Street in Woodbury (pop. 2,160), Cannon County, Tennessee, the Baptist Female College/Adams House is a two-story, common bond brick building capped by an asphalt shingle gable roof that exhibits the influence of Italianate and Greek Revival architectural styles. Its L-shaped configuration places a heavy reliance on the basic I-house form. Highlighted by wooden trim on the baseboards and built-in clothes cupboards, the interior features the typical hallway and two flanking rooms on each floor typical of the I-house, while the north wing originally had two first floor and three second floor rooms. The house is now a private residence, but it initially served as a dormitory for the Baptist Female College and later Woodbury College. Standing a few hundred yards south of the main college building, the dormitory once was an integral part of a landscaped drive that connected the college to the town's main road. Today, that landscaped drive is South College Street, a neighborhood that is among Woodbury's most historic and aesthetically pleasing. The historic fabric of the building, both in its exterior and interior, has experienced little change since the building's original construction in 1859-1860. The building retains a high degree of historic integrity.

From the east (front) facade, the house displays typical I-house form. A three-bay facade consists of a projecting pedimented portico, flanked by single twelve-light shuttered windows which are original and retain most of the original leaded-glass rectangular panes. Stone lintels and wooden shutters frame the windows. The current owners added the present shutters in 1983; however, there is evidence of previous hardware for shutters on the east facade windows. There are two internal end chimneys with a south chimney featuring a plain flue design and a north chimney of single flue design. The difference between the two chimneys suggests that the south chimney has, at some time, been repaired or replaced, although no date for this change can be documented. The two-story classical portico has upper and lower story narrow double door entries. Both double doors are trabeated with classically detailed molded wooden sidelights and transoms of leaded glass. The double doors on both the first and second stories are original; their sidelight pilasters display vertical Doric form. The two-story wooden pedimented portico is supported by Doric-inspired columns. The pediment itself has a cornice and corona and exhibits molding details that create the appearance of three pediments within one. In the early 1930s, the two-story porch extensions, which extended beneath the second story windows, were removed, leaving the east facade with its present appearance. The eaves of the east facade show a decorative frieze and singular intricate double-pendant brackets. This decorative treatment is continued along the north facade and can be found on all three end gables.

The west and south facades of the house demonstrate its L-shaped configuration. On the west (rear) facade, the wooden frieze is plain.

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There are two symmetrically-placed single twelve-light windows. The second floor window has a plain stone lintel. The first floor window, however, contains no lintel. According to family tradition, Dr. Adams, soon after purchasing the old dormitory in 1924, found that the wall surrounding this window "had bucked out." In replacing the brick at this area of the house, Dr. Adams decided against replacing the lintel of the window. The gable end of the wing features a decorative frieze with singular intricate double-pendant brackets. The frieze, however, abruptly ends where the west end of the second story porch has been enclosed to conceal modern heating and cooling equipment. The one-story kitchen/dining room, with a concrete foundation, has an asphalt composition shingle roof with a chimney of single flue design. Attached to the west end of this addition is a shed carport that Dr. Adams added to the back of the kitchen in the late 1930s.

The south facade continues the decorative detailing found on the east facade's frieze with singular intricate double-pendant brackets on its gable with returns. The south side of the "L" has a two-story porch extending along the full length of the two-story projection. The supports for the porch and its second story railings are plain wooden square posts. The second floor has two doors and two twelve-light windows, each with a stone lintel. The doorways and windows are at their original location; a modern screen door has been added to the door on the westernmost end of the porch. Otherwise the doors, according to family tradition, are original to the period of the school dormitory. They provided the students with direct access to the outside of the building. Evidence of a former stairway that linked the first and second floors of the wing from the outside also can be found on the west end of the porch. This former stairway connected the two floors on the outside and provided for easier access for the students. The wing's chimney is centrally-located and of single flue design. The first floor of the porch originally contained five doors and two twelve-light windows; however, one of the doorways at the eastern end of the wing was converted to a window at an unknown date. Today the first floor porch has four doorways; two connecting interior rooms to the porch, one connecting the porch to the kitchen and one connecting the porch to the foyer. The one-story kitchen/dining room contains a set of four eighteen-light windows framed by a stone lintel. The heating and cooling unit for the first floor has been located outside of the house proper, and stands beside an eight-light window for the basement of the one-story kitchen/dining room.

Architectural investigations indicate that the one-story kitchen/dining room is an addition to the house. Outside, on the west facade,

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under the carport shed, can be seen a break line in the brick. The brick is slightly different on either side of this break line. Following the line upward, it goes over to meet the chimney forming a gable line. Inside, a large beam extends from the inside edge of the kitchen square to meet the main rear addition wall. Thus, indications are that the kitchen was originally detached and connected to the main house by a covered passageway. The kitchen, at an unknown later date, was incorporated into the main dormitory. These changes, according to interviews with the current owner, took place at least prior to 1905.

The north facade of the building is generally expressive of the classical order and symmetry often associated with the I-house form. There are six symmetrically-placed twelve-light windows, each with a stone lintel on the two-story portion of the building. However, the easternmost windows are located underneath the western end of the gable; the wing has two additional pairs of windows. The eaves show a decorative frieze and singular intricate double-pendant brackets made of wood. The one-story kitchen/dining room contains two twelve-light windows. The north facade demonstrates that the brick work has been repointed in the twentieth century. According to the family, this brick work took place in 1924 when Dr. Adams acquired the property as his private home.

No major structural changes have been made to the interior of the house. Originally the first floor of the building contained a south parlor (today the living room), which featured a fireplace with wooden mantle; an entrance hall with a staircase leading to the second floor, a door to the front porch as well as a door to the rear; and a dining room, which featured a fireplace and wooden mantle identical to that of the south parlor, in the I-house portion. The wing had a bedroom (today the den), with separate outdoor entrance, a second bedroom (today the study), again with separate outdoor entrance, and the kitchen (today a breakfast room, kitchen, and bathroom). Only the flooring of the south parlor, which had been heavily water-damaged, is of recent origin. It was replaced in the early 1980s by owner David Arnold.

Otherwise, the hardwood floors of ash and poplar, wooden baseboards, and staircases of the first floor are original. The two staircases, in fact, are very similar. The staircase in the front hall is forty inches wide and has a simple round banister, square stair rails, and a turned baluster. The stair in the rear wing is thirty-six inches wide and has an octagonal banister, square stair rails, and a turned baluster. The baseboards are twelve inches high downstairs and six and one half inches in height on the second floor. The fireplaces are original and can be

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found in every room except the hallways and the back downstairs room. While the kitchen has a brick fireplace, the others have wooden mantels in a simple classical vernacular style. The mantels are identical except that the south parlor and dining room on the first floor contain a decorative beveled edge which the others lack. That the more decorative mantles are located in the social/public sections of the dormitory is typical of the period.

Although the original use of these rooms is unknown, speculation can be made based on studies of similarly arranged buildings. The south parlor was probably a social/entertainment room where visitors could be met and entertained; student group activities could have also taken place in this room. The dining room was another social center within the house; communal dining for the students probably took place here. In all probability, the two bedrooms of the wing were reserved for students. The rooms share a chimney flue and both have identical wooden mantles over the fireplaces. The eastern most bedroom has a stairway that leads to the second floor, connecting this probable student area to the student area of the second floor wing. Otherwise, the upstairs wing does not connect the front portion of the house inside. The rooms contain large clothes cupboards. Measuring six feet eight inches in height by three feet in width and thirteen inches in depth, the cupboards retain their original wooden double doors and keyhole. Students were able to store their clothes and belongings in the cupboards, allowing more beds to be placed in each room due to the absence of chests of drawers and other furniture used for storing clothes.

The kitchen has always been located in the westernmost chamber of the first floor. Upon acquiring the house in 1924, Dr. Adams transformed a portion of the kitchen area into a bathroom; the remainder of this area the family used as a dining room. Today the current owners use this dining room area as a breakfast room. The kitchen is a square set into the right rear of the room; it has exposed brick walls. The kitchen and bath have an L-shaped area for dining and a door from the rear of the "L" leads to the shed-style carport.

Originally, the second floor had a large bedroom with fireplace and mantle, hall with staircase (today the upstairs foyer), and a second bedroom with fireplace and mantle in the I-house portion of the building. The wing originally contained two roughly equal bedrooms; the easternmost room contains a staircase to the first floor and the westernmost room has a doorway to the second floor porch. Both possess a fireplace and mantle and clothes cupboard. Today, the easternmost bedroom is a dressing room,

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while the western bedroom is the master bedroom. The exact use of these rooms in the past is unknown today, but, since each of the four bedrooms contains the identical type of clothes cupboards found in the first floor bedrooms (and the bedroom in the southern corner contains two such cupboards), it can be assumed that the entire second floor was reserved as sleeping quarters. In general, these rooms contain their original woodwork, fireplaces, mantles, and hardwood floors, and they retain all the original doorways of the building when it served as a dormitory. However, the current owners in 1984 transformed a portion of the bedroom in the northeastern corner into a bathroom.

Today, the building displays layout characteristics, such as very limited access between the two wings and outside access for most rooms, that are common to a dormitory. These characteristics have been largely retained, although they are inconvenient for a private residence. Due to the many original outside doors, the original clothes cupboards found in every room except for the parlor, dining room, and kitchen of the first floor, and the layout of the rooms, the building has the feel and appearance of a dormitory. Despite its use as a private residence for over sixty years. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Records are not available which detail the prior existence of outbuildings on the property. Today, there are no extant outbuildings.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1859-1917; 1924-1934 **Builder/Architect** Wharton, William

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Baptist Female College/Adams House, built by William Wharton in 1859, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A, B, and C. The house has two distinct periods of significance. It is eligible under criterion A for its use as a dormitory at the Baptist Female College, later Woodbury College, from 1859 to 1917. It is eligible under criterion B because of its association with Dr. Jesse F. Adams from 1924 to 1934. Adams, a local physician who was a social and humanitarian leader in Cannon County, used the building as his private dwelling. It is also eligible under criterion C for its significance to Woodbury and Cannon County in architecture. The building is a vernacular form exhibiting the craftsmanship of William Wharton, an important local builder, and is a significant example of the transitional Greek Revival/Italinatate style typical of the period in middle Tennessee.

Private education in Cannon County dates to the county's earliest years. Established in 1836, Cannon County had its first academy, Laurens Academy in Woodbury, by 1838. Chartered by the state legislature, Laurens Academy charged tuition and, for all practical purposes, was a private school. It stood at the corner of College Street and Stage Road (present-day U. S. Highway 70S) in Woodbury and remained in existence until 1873. The county's first sectarian school was Marion Academy, located near Readyville, established in 1854 by the Salem Association of the Baptist Church. Three years later, local citizens at Porterfield established a nonsectarian academy known as the Philosophean Institute. Neither the Marion Academy nor the Philosophean Institute survived the Civil War. In 1869, the Auburn Baptist Church chartered the Auburn Academy.

By 1857, leaders of the Woodbury Baptist Church decided that the town needed a proper college for its young women. In 1857, the church sponsored a mass meeting which established the Baptist Female College "to be a school of scientific and literary pursuit and not for the study of theology." This college was to produce teachers for local schools, not preachers for Baptist congregations. More importantly, it would school the young women in the proper modes of behavior, conversation, and knowledge expected of a young antebellum lady.

The Woodbury Baptist Church sold stock in its new venture and accepted subscriptions. The college's first trustees purchased two and one half acres for the school site; then M. R. Rushing of Woodbury donated land for a street at least sixty feet wide which would link the school site to

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Woodbury, Tennessee, 319 SE

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	8	3	5	2	0	3	9	6	4	8	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Baptist Female College/Adams House is as shown by the red line on the accompanying tax map entitled "N"-39-K. The lot measures 125' by 289'. It is all of the historic property currently associated with the house.

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 Kent Whitworth and Hollynn Hewgley

organization Center for Historic Preservation

date April 6, 1987

street & number Post Office Box 80, MTSU

telephone (615) 898-2947

city or town Murfreesboro

state Tennessee

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. Harper

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 5/22/87

For NPS use only

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

Entered in ~~the~~

National Register

date

6-25-87

J. Allouez Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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the Stage Road (present-day U. S. Highway 70S). This street soon became known as College Street, now South College Street. Initially, the street contained two lanes with a shaded walk down the middle. Today, South College Street is a paved road.

The cornerstone for the Baptist Female College was laid in 1859, but the state legislature did not actually charter the school until 1860. While many women from Woodbury attended the school and probably lived at home, the college from its beginnings desired to attract students from the county and the general middle Tennessee area. M. R. Rushing, one of the school's trustees and principal donors, contracted with William Wharton to build a dormitory between 1857 and 1859 for students. One of the dormitories is the present residence at 210 South College Street. The second dormitory stood at the head of Hollis Creek Road, but burned in the mid-twentieth century and no longer exists.

The dormitory played a pivotal role in the students' education. For many, the building provided a home away from home. Connected directly to the school buildings by College Street, the dormitory was within easy walking distance of the college buildings. It also stood several blocks away from the business district of Woodbury, isolating the young women from the temptations of stores, cafes, and other places of activity where men would tend to congregate. In that sense, the dormitory was an important sanctuary for the young women. Here students studied, ate, and slept. With the majority of students away from home for the first time, the dormitory also provided them with the comforts of home and gave them a physical sense of safety and shared community. With the social pressures and strictures faced by white women in antebellum, and later nineteenth century, society, the college dormitory allowed women the chance to enjoy the fellowship of their sex and potentially create female networks of support and companionship.

"As an educational institution," county historian Robert Mason has noted, the Baptist Female College "was regarded as a success, but financially it was a failure."¹ Due to its denominational character, its exclusive female student body, its heavy debt, and the demands of the Civil War, the college faced bankruptcy by 1867. In August of that year, Cannon County citizens and church and college officials met to decide the college's future. They elected a new board of trustees and renamed the college the Woodbury Male and Female College, with the provision that the school would be nondenominational.

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The establishment of the Woodbury Male and Female College gave the institution the stability it needed to expand and prosper. Courses such as orthography, mental arithmetic, philosophy, chemistry, and "all the higher studies taught in any college" were offered. By 1884 the school had a president and five teachers. In 1896, the college acquired the services of E. L. Lehman as president who guided the institution for the next twenty years. Due to Lehman's excellent record as an administrator and educator, Woodbury College became a prestigious private school, and was often called Lehman Academy in recognition of the outstanding work of its president.

There are no extant records detailing the use of the dormitory during this second period of the school's history. Tradition has it that the building remained a girls' dormitory throughout the life of Woodbury College.

By the twentieth century, educational reformers nationwide were urging states and communities to develop a sound program of public education. Public education at the high school level developed slowly in the South. In the nineteenth century, Cannon County had established small public schools where a rudimentary elementary education could be acquired; in 1873, for instance, the county had forty such schools, but it had no public high schools. In 1917, the board of trustees for Woodbury College closed the school's doors. The following year the school served as the Brandon Training School, but graduated only one student. In 1919, the college's stockholders filed the necessary legal papers transferring the school and its buildings to the Cannon County government for use as a public school.

After its acquisition of Woodbury College, county officials ordered the demolition of the old school building built by William Wharton and raised some \$20,000 for the construction of a new school. The new school opened in 1920 and provided classes for grades one through twelve.

The transformation of Woodbury College into the Woodbury High School marked a new era in the history of education in Cannon County. However, the Woodbury College had left an enduring mark on the community. Woodbury College, according to county historian Robert L. Mason,

...was probably as good as most of the academies in the small towns of the time. Certainly, its alumni respected it. It helped educate many local business and professional men, some of whom went forth in the

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state and nation and served with honor and distinction (W. C. Houston, Sterling Brown, Frank K. Houston, Charles Miller, John White, Thomas Ross, and Hugh Lawson, Jr.). It provided a classical education and inspired a love of reading and learning that remained with some of its graduates throughout their lives. Warren Smith, Walter Hancock, and Sterling Brown built up large libraries. Many local women received a liberal education there and afterwards graced their homes with literacy and taste. Some of them served as teachers.

The main college building and the second dormitory no longer exist, making the present building the only extant structure of the former Baptist Female College and Woodbury College campuses.

There are no records detailing the use of the old Baptist Female College dormitory at 210 South College Street for the years 1920 to 1924. In 1924, however, Dr. Jesse F. Adams, a Cannon County native born at the Short Mountain community in 1881, acquired the building for use as his private home. A 1911 graduate of the Vanderbilt University Medical School, Adams returned to the Short Mountain community to begin practice. However, he soon moved his office to Bradyville where he practiced medicine until 1924.

Upon moving to Woodbury, Adams acquired the old Baptist Female College dormitory for his private residence. As Section #7 of this nomination details, the Adams's made no major structural changes to the interior of the house, choosing only to modernize the kitchen. Adams also transformed a portion of the original kitchen area into a bathroom. Between 1924 and his death in 1964, Dr. Jesse F. Adams made many significant contributions to the economic, social, and humanitarian life of Woodbury. He owned the town's first ice factory and later was instrumental in acquiring Woodbury's first modern factory, the Armour and Company Cheese Plant in 1935. Twelve years later, Adams played a prominent role in convincing the Colonial Shirt Corporation to locate a factory in Woodbury. He also served as president of the Bradyville Bank, the Cannon County Banking Company, and the Bank of Commerce in Woodbury. Clearly, Adams was one of the town's leading businessman through the middle decades of the twentieth century.

Today, Adams is most fondly remembered in Woodbury and Cannon County for his contributions to medicine in Cannon County. Fresh from medical

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school, Adams served as the county health officer from 1912 to 1916, incorporating the latest techniques in progressive medicine in his work. He also served a second term as health officer from 1926 to 1934. More importantly, Adams established the county's first hospital, the Good Samaritan Hospital, from 1933 to 1934 during the midst of the Great Depression. According to local tradition, Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs both upset and encouraged Adams to start his own recovery program in Woodbury. He built the hospital without direct government assistance, allowing patients to pay their medical bills by contributing labor to the building at a rate of one dollar for every hour of work. He contracted with Henry Hoover, a local craftsman, to design and supervise the construction of the hospital.

When completed in 1934, the Good Samaritan Hospital opened a new era in Cannon County's medical history. It was a two-story building of about 12,000 square feet, containing seven private rooms, two nurses' rooms, two double-bed wards, two five-bed wards, and a six-bed ward. At first, the laundry and cooking for the hospital took place at Dr. Adams' private dwelling. When the dormitory was completed in the late 1850s, the site's brick kiln was transformed into a cistern. This cistern supplied water to the basement where the laundry for the hospital was prepared. (The cistern remains in use on the south side of the house.) As Cannon County grew in population, the original hospital proved to be inadequate. In 1950, Adams raised money for and supervised the addition of an L-shaped wing that added a new patient wing, a laboratory, service areas, and operating rooms to the building.

The Good Samaritan Hospital was a significant contribution by one man to the general health and well-being of an entire community, providing them with medical services heretofore unavailable in Cannon County. For most local residents, the hospital symbolized the contributions of Dr. Adams to the community.

Upon Dr. Adams' death in 1964, his wife and heirs donated a parcel of land adjacent to the Baptist Female College/Adams House for the construction of the Dr. and Mrs. J. F. Adams Memorial Library, the town's first public circulating library. Henry Hoover executed the architectural designs of a Nashville firm and the building opened to the public in 1966.

The Baptist Female College/Adams House is also eligible under criterion C because it represents a significant transitional phase in Southern architecture in the 1850s and 1860s. Its designer and builder was

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William Wharton, a local craftsman of considerable reputation during the second half of the nineteenth century. For the original Baptist Female College, Wharton designed and built both dormitories and the college building. The only other acknowledged Wharton building extant in Woodbury is the Bill Brevard House, a significant example of late nineteenth century domestic architecture featuring Queen Anne detailing which stands on U. S. Highway 70S on the outskirts of town. The Baptist Female College/Adams House is a building from Wharton's early career in Cannon County. The house demonstrates his skill to mix the details of two popular styles of the mid-nineteenth century, the Greek Revival and the Italianate. Historic photographs attest that the three college buildings, the main building and the two dormitories, were remarkably alike in their style and decorative trim. In each case, Wharton successfully mixed Greek Revival and Italianate detailing. As is common with a transitional building, a basic form of the earlier style, vernacular Greek Revival with a heavy reliance upon basic I-house form, is retained, with decorative elements of the newer style, in this case Italianate, integrated into the building's composition. The Baptist Female College/Adams House shows the decided influence of the Greek Revival style in its symmetrical, formal form and pedimented portico.

The influence of the Italianate style is demonstrated in the bracketed eaves. These fairly ornate brackets also represent the emergence and stylistic influence of machine-produced decorative architectural elements. The basic shape of the vernacular I-house is present, though it is somewhat atypical with the "L" wing. This form is the result of the building's original design and use as a dormitory.

The Baptist Female College/Adams House's place as an essentially vernacular form exhibiting excellent characteristics of architectural transition in the decorative treatment, along with its design as a dormitory, make this building a significant piece of evidence about the building career of William Wharton and the development of architecture in Woodbury and Cannon County. As a building marking the architectural transition from vernacular Greek Revival to Italianate detailing, the Baptist Female College/Adams House is equaled by only one other extant house in Woodbury. The Christopher Columbus Brown House, located just off the northeast corner of the square in Woodbury at 110 Water Street, shares many of the same architectural characteristics of the Baptist Female College/Adams House, but was built in 1869, ten years after the old dormitory. The Brown House may be evidence of the popularity of the college in the community and an example of a later builder borrowing ideas from the college buildings for his own home. The Wiley House, at

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113 Summitt in Woodbury, is another extant house dating from the 1850s. While much more ornate in its detailing, it, too, shares stylistic details with both the Baptist Female College/Adams House and the Brown House. Its builder, however, is unknown.

For its historical associations with private education in Cannon County as a dormitory for both the Baptist Female College and Woodbury College, for its associations with Dr. Jesse F. Adams, a business and social and humanitarian leader in twentieth century Cannon County, and for its architectural significance as an vernacular example of mid-nineteenth century transitional Greek Revival/Italiniate styles in Woodbury, and Cannon County, the Baptist Female College/Adams House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

ENDNOTES

¹ Robert L. Mason, History of Cannon County, Tennessee (Woodbury: Cannon Co. Historical Society, 1984), p. 137.

² Ibid., pp. 141-142.

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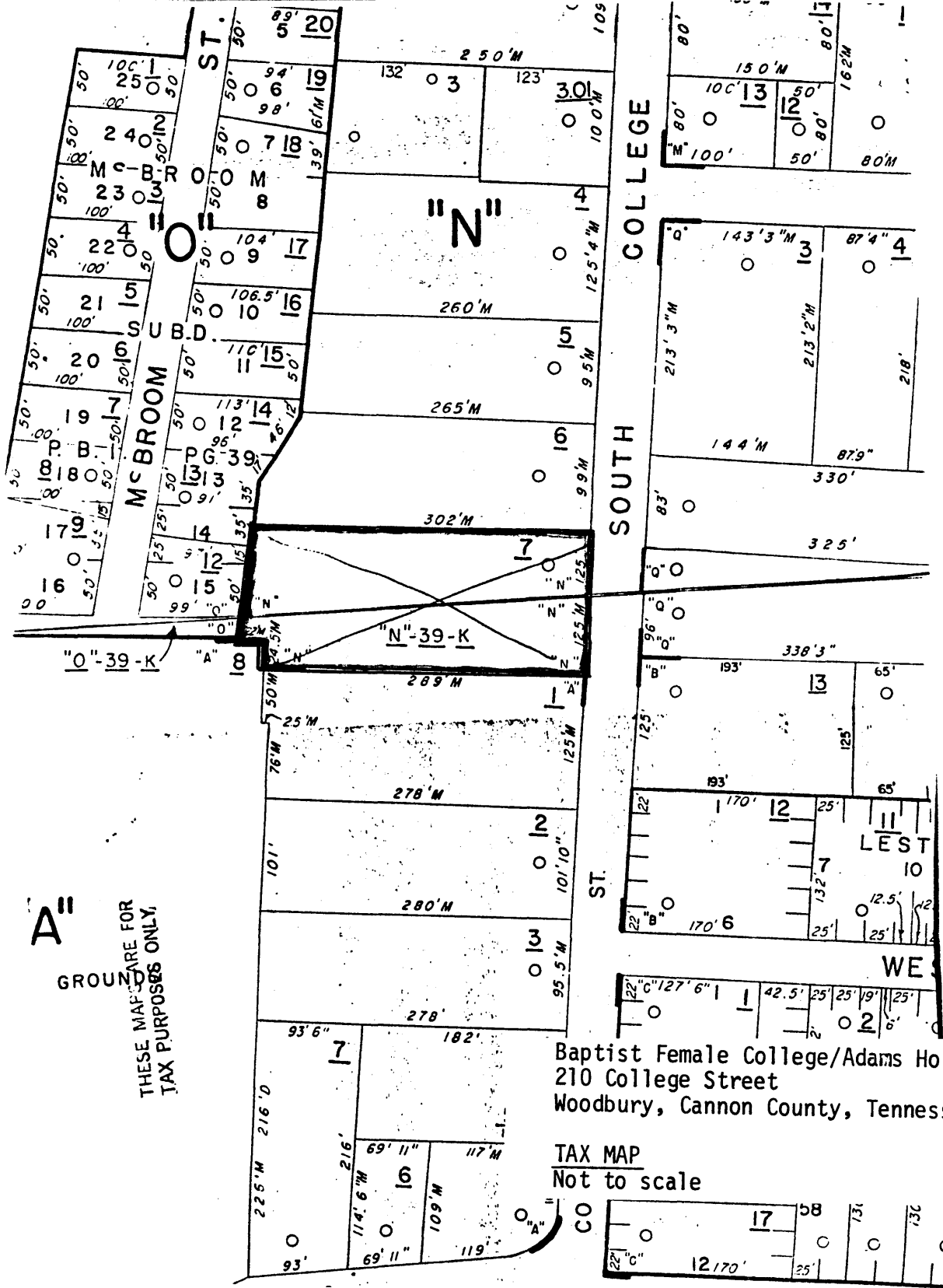
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Baptist Female College/Adams House



Baptist Female College/Adams House
210 College Street
Woodbury, Cannon County, Tennessee

TAX MAP
Not to scale