

(Oct. 1990)

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Miller Family Farm
other names/site number Miller Century Farm, Northcove Stock Farm

2. Location

street & number 160 Old Highway 48 NA not for publication
city or town Charlotte vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Dickson code 043 zip code 37036

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Archie L. Hays 3/15/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Office, 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson H. Beall 4/28/05
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Miller Family Farm
Name of Property:

Dickson County, Tennessee
County and State:

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
9	3	buildings
1		sites
3	1	structures
		objects
12	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

agricultural field

processing

agricultural outbuilding

storage

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

agricultural field

agricultural outbuilding

storage

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, concrete

walls Wood, weatherboard, concrete, aluminum, vinyl,

roof tin, metal, asphalt

other glass, concrete, stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1881-1955

Significant Dates

1890 – Construction of farmhouse
Construction of horse barn

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Miller, A.E.C.; Miller, Augustus Lincoln; Miller, V.A.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Center for Historic Preservation, Middle TN State University

Miller Family Farm,
Name of Property

Dickson County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 283 acres Charlotte 48 NE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>468210</u>	<u>4006625</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>467273</u>	<u>4005064</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>468109</u>	<u>4005487</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>467217</u>	<u>4006760</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Jane Murray, Stephen P. Smith
organization Center for Historic Preservation date December 3, 2004
street & number Middle Tennessee State University telephone 615-898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name James A. and Joyce S. Miller
street & number Route Three Box 60 (mailing); 160 Old Highway 48 (street) telephone 615-789-5983
city or town Charlotte state TN zip code 37036

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Miller Family Farm
Dickson County, Tennessee

VII. DESCRIPTION

Established in 1881, the Miller Family Farm is located on Old Highway 48, two miles northwest of Charlotte, the county seat of Dickson County, Tennessee, and about seven miles north of Dickson. Surrounded by other farms, the Miller Farm is in a rural, agricultural setting with rolling hills and fields used for crops and pasturing livestock. The focal point of the farm is the white farmhouse, which is surrounded by barns, outbuildings, agricultural fields, and fencing. Originally built in 1890, the two-story house has evolved over the years to its current configuration and is still used as the primary dwelling for the Millers. The nominated 276-acre property contains a cluster of functional outbuildings designed for specialized uses related to farming. This group of farm buildings consists of several historic buildings built from the 1880s to the 1950s and a few nonhistoric resources. A decorative fence that dates to the 1890s runs along the west side of the house and encloses the southern side yard of an 1893 addition to the house. Three 1930s dams lie northeast of the dwelling, and the fields that surround the buildings feature distinctive terracing, evidence of soil reclamation efforts of the 1930s. Fields once contained a variety of crops, including wheat, corn, and tobacco, as well as dairy cattle. Today they raise beef cattle and use the fields for pasture as well as to grow silage corn and hay. There have been modern changes to the farmhouse on the nominated property, but overall, the farm retains its historic integrity.

MILLER FAMILY FARM BUILDING INVENTORY

(1) Miller Family Dwelling (1890), Contributing Building

The main structure on the Miller Family Farm is the dwelling, a two-story, vernacular house with an intersecting gable roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. The home, built in 1890, was originally a hall-and-parlor house that faced north. An 1893 addition changed the floor plan of the house to an L-shape with the addition of the living room, and the front of the house was changed to face west. In 1996, the dwelling was significantly enlarged to include a sunroom, an additional bedroom, a bathroom, a half bath, a two-car garage, and a breakfast nook. Aluminum siding was also added to the exterior in 1996 along with plastic shutters.

The front or west façade of the Miller dwelling has a two story, three bay central area with three concrete steps leading to a concrete porch built in 1893 with the new addition. This view of the house dates to 1893, when the family added a wing and porch to the original house. The porch features four concrete bases that support square wood two story columns spaced evenly across the porch. Two columns flank the main doors and along with the two columns at the end of the porch, support a shed roof. The upstairs has a wood balcony with wood railing also added in 1893. The shed roof that covers the porch is separate from the main roof. The front windows, flanking the slightly off-center door, are 4/4 double hung windows. This arrangement is the same on the first and second floors. A transom window tops the downstairs door. A small portion of a modern addition is visible from the front of the house and includes a 4/4 double hung window. In 1996, the dwelling was significantly enlarged to include a sunroom, an additional bedroom, a bathroom, a half bath, a two-car garage, and a breakfast nook. This addition is restricted to the rear and does not interfere with the historic appearance of the home.

The north elevation of the house shows the original front of the house as well as part of the modern alterations made in 1996. The north elevation of the historic part of the house consists of three bays with centered doors, flanked by 4/4 double-hung windows. This arrangement is evident on the first and second stories. A transom window tops the downstairs door. The downstairs also features a small porch covered

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Miller Family Farm
Dickson County, Tennessee

by a shed roof that is supported by narrow wood piers over the central doorway. The original gable roof structure is highly visible from this side of the house. The 1996 addition is partly visible on the north elevation. The gable and shed roof addition is one story and includes a sunroom, bathroom, bedroom, dinette, and garage. Modern windows and a door are found here.

The east or rear elevation of the dwelling mainly shows the back of the 1996 addition, including the garage and a rear view of the roofline. Beyond that, one side of the second story of the original house is visible. The addition is restricted to the back of the house and does not interfere with the view of the historic areas of the home.

The south elevation of the dwelling also shows the modern addition, including the garage, laundry room, and bedroom. The gable roof of the bedroom intersects a small shed roof that is attached to the rear of the 1890 section of the house. The shed roof covers a back door, and another door is located on the second story, directly above the first. Moving toward the front of the house, the 1893 living room addition is visible. It features a 4/4 double-hung window on the top and bottom stories and a gable end of the roof. The original parts of the home have a stone foundation and the 1996 addition has a continuous brick foundation.

The current front door of the Miller house leads to a foyer. A bedroom sits to the north through a wood door that is surrounded by wood molding. The room has sheetrock walls and dentil crown molding added during the 1996 remodeling as well as a pair of windows that face the front porch and a single window that faces north through the original façade. A door on the wall across (east) from the paired windows leads to the dining room. To the south of the foyer, through the arched entry original to the house is the living room. Horizontal boards of narrow tongue-and-groove wood sheathing cover the upper 2/3 of the living room and foyer walls. Below the chair rail the wall is vertical tongue-and-groove wood paneling. The Miller home contains one fireplace in the living room with a simple wood mantel; however, the home has no visible chimneys. The house originally had three flues that were removed during the 1996 remodeling. The family added a gas fireplace at this time as well. These rooms feature dentil crown molding as well as deep baseboards where the wall meets the floor. A 1987 fire destroyed the south wall of the living room. It was repaired and covered with sheetrock. The crown molding was added to the living room after the fire and subsequent repairs. The living room has three doorways. One leads to a hallway that connects with the 1996 addition, the other leads directly to the dining room.

The dining room has historic wall paneling identical to that in the living room—horizontal tongue-and-groove above the chair rail and vertical below. There is also dentil crown molding and tall baseboards. The dining room with its dark and distinctive wood paneling may reflect a German tradition of building. The dining room contains four, four-paneled doorways, one that leads to the front bedroom, one that leads to the living room, one that leads to the hallway, and one that leads outside through the original facade of the house. The dining room has an entry with no door that leads to the kitchen. The kitchen contains part of the 1890 house and leads directly to the 1996 addition that includes the breakfast nook and sunroom. The kitchen interior was modified along with the 1996 addition and contains modern building materials, such as sheetrock walls with new molding and cabinetry. A part of one of the original flues is still visible in the kitchen. These rooms show the impact of both additions, and the presence of so many seemingly unnecessary doorways is evidence of the way the house evolved over time. The flooring in the front bedroom, living room, and dining room is hardwood. All of the ceilings in the downstairs portion of the house have been resurfaced with textured materials.

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Miller Family Farm
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Beyond the foyer is a plain wood stairway that leads straight upstairs with no turns. The enclosed stairwell walls feature horizontal tongue-and-groove paneling. The bedrooms at the front (west) of the house, on either side of the stairs, are large. The front room to the south has the original horizontal tongue-and-groove walls, simple crown molding, and tall baseboards. The front room to the north has sheetrock walls, installed during the 1996 remodeling. The south bedroom has four windows and the north bedroom has three windows. At the top of the main flight of stairs is a small landing which leads to another simple, wood-paneled, enclosed stairway that opens to the downstairs rear hallway. The upstairs also has two more bedrooms on the north side of the house and a bathroom. The two bedrooms have sheetrock walls installed in 1996. The upstairs rooms contain dentil trim added in 1996 and original window and door trim in all of the rooms. Before the house had running water, a windmill was used to pump water to a tower in the water shed behind the house. Gravity pipes carried water to the main house, which had a bathroom upstairs with only a tub and basin. Water ran from the upstairs bathroom to the kitchen directly below. The room still serves as a bathroom but now is a full bath with modern plumbing that was added in 1945, including sink, shower/tub combination, and toilet. (C)

(2) Shop/ Original House (1881), Contributing Building
Immediately northeast, behind the main house, is a white wood structure that looks like a barn. The family calls this building "the shop," and it served as the first house and barn for A.E.C. Miller when he bought the property in 1881. The facade of the vertical weatherboard structure currently faces south; however, the original front faced east as indicated by the presence of a door. The family lived in the loft, and the animals lived on the ground floor until the main house was completed in 1890. The wood panels run vertically, and the south side of the building has large sliding barn doors. The gable roof ends with a hay hood on the south end that the Millers added after the family moved out and the space was converted for use as hay storage. The hay hood was a common feature on southern crib style barns, which are loaded from the outside rather than inside due to the extreme heat in late summer. The hanging gable hay hoods on the Miller farm were used to protect a pole to which a pulley was attached so hay could be raised into the loft. The pole is still visible, and the pulley is housed on its original pole inside the barn. The east elevation of the building consists of two bays with a 4/4 double hung window and a doorway on the first story and two 4/4 double hung windows on the second story. The presence of a door indicates that this was once the facade of the original house. The north elevation of the shop is plain and shows only the gable end of the roof and the cut stone foundation that was used to make the house level on its hillside location. The west elevation of the building has two bays of windows, both of which contain a 4/4 double hung widow on each floor. The windows of one bay are not perfectly aligned. All of the first floor windows and the door feature pedimented casings.

The only indication that this was ever a house is the presence of a front door and double-hung windows. The inside is simply a barn with open space downstairs and a hayloft upstairs. The interior is made completely of beams, and the flooring is wood planks. The wood stairway is located on the west elevation of the building. No extant traces of the building's history as a residence remain. (C)

(3) Smokehouse (1930), Contributing Building
The smokehouse lies east of the family dwelling directly behind the garage. It is a 10' x 12' concrete building with a tin roof. The door faces west and the only window is on the north elevation. A wood shutter covers the window opening. The door and window are made of narrow wood boards placed on the diagonal. The floor is made of poured concrete. (C)

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Miller Family Farm
Dickson County, Tennessee

(4) Water Shed (1900), Contributing Building

The water shed is immediately south of the smokehouse. It is the most unique building on the property. This building was used to store water that was brought up from a well equipped with a windmill. The windmill is gone, but the well is still in use, powered by a modern electric pump. The windmill was used to pump water to the tower in the shed, and gravity pipes carried water to the main house and barns. The pipes no longer exist since the family now uses modern plumbing, and the old pipes are no longer necessary. The water shed is of frame construction with vertical tongue-and-groove siding with a hip and gable metal roof. The four-sided water tower that emerges from the center of the roof interrupts the intersection of the roof planes. The roof of the water tower is a shallow pyramidal roof and is sided with painted metal. The storage tank is still in the tower. The upstairs was also used to store grain and hay.

The west façade of the building is unusual because part of the downstairs space is an open-air work area that is supported by narrow wood piers. The upper floor is an overhang that serves as a roof to the work area. To the south of the work area are two entrance doors to the part of the shed that is enclosed. Some of the enclosed portion of the downstairs was used for milking cows and washing clothes in a large kettle, no longer extant. One door is a regular storm door and appears to have been added later. The second story has two 4/4 double hung windows, one at each end. Between the windows is a wide swinging door, much like a hayloft door in a barn. The rear half of the building extends beyond the outside work area to the north. The first story has a wide door opening covered by a sliding door, and the upper story has a 4/4 double hung window.

The south elevation of the building has four bays. Each bay consists of a 4/4 double hung window directly over an entry door. Three of the windows are partially broken, and one is boarded up. The structure is built on a hill, and the cut stone foundation is visible from the south. The east elevation of the building is the rear, facing the fields. The bottom story has a wide opening with a gate in front of it. The north façade of the water shed shows the other side of the work area opening. The second story has a 4/4 double hung window. The area to the rear of the workspace is unpainted and has one door opening. The large number of windows indicates the desire to allow the maximum amount of natural light into the workspaces. (C)

(5) Fields and Terraces (circa 1940), Contributing Site.

Terraces mark two of the historic fields on the farm. One field southwest of the main farmhouse and one directly behind the house still show terracing. The rear and northeast fields of the farm are composed of rolling hills divided into sections for pasture and marked by fences. (C)

(6) Horse and Mule Barn (1890), Contributing Building

The horse barn is located south of the water shed. It is a gable front barn with vertical weatherboard siding. Situated at the rear of the farmstead, the barn was built to take advantage of the natural topography more efficiently. The first floor and loft are easily accessible from the top of a small rise; the ground floor can be reached from the fields below. In effect, the barn acts as a bridge between field and farm.

Of the three historic barns on the property, the horse barn is the largest at 35' wide and 75' deep. The north facade of the barn gives a clear view of the slight cantilevering that runs down each side. The central doorway is covered by double barn doors. Horizontal boards flank the area just above the central doorway. These planks have hinges at the bottom and provide access to corncribs inside. Corn was scooped into the cribs through the horizontal door from a wagon parked in front of the barn. Like the shop, the horse

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Miller Family Farm
Dickson County, Tennessee

barn features a hanging gable hay hood to protect a pole meant to pull hay bales to the loft. The hay was placed in the loft through an uncovered opening at the top. The hay hood juts out well beyond the barn and is supported by two pieces of timber that run at an angle between the hood and the barn.

The horse barn has a gable tin roof that includes the hay hood. A shed roof extends from the back of the barn and forms a connected line visually when viewed from the side. All of the doors are made of vertical board and slide open and closed along exterior poles, including those to the upper floor hayloft. The foundation of the barn is a mix of cut stone and concrete. Inside, the barn has six livestock stalls on each side. A feeder is present at the rear of the barn. (C)

(7) Hog Barn (1890), Contributing Building

The hog barn lies east of the horse barn and faces west. It is much smaller than the horse barn. The hog barn is a bank barn constructed of vertical board. The gable roof is made of metal, as is the shed roof that extends from the main story of the barn. The west façade of the barn features three vertical board doors that slide open along a pole. Three more doors are interspersed between these and slide along another, lower pole. The first story and loft are easily accessible from the top of the rise; the ground floor can be reached from the fields below. In effect, the barn acts as a bridge between field and farm. A chute allows hay to be loaded from the top of a rise at its ground level and the hogs to be fed at the bottom of the rise, also ground level. The rear elevation of the barn faces east and has a shed roof over a contained work area. This area is known as a ramp shed. It is a feature common to western Pennsylvania rear-extension barns and evolved as an alternative to separate out sheds. This ramp shed was built into the original barn and results in a moderate asymmetry that is especially notable when looking at the barn from the side. The ramp shed forms a bridge over the space beyond the rear stable wall, and creates a tunnel-like storage area. This barn is filled with old and antique farm equipment. (C)

(8) Tobacco Barn (rebuilt: circa 1940), Contributing Building

The tobacco barn is south of the hog barn and the façade faces west. It is a simple vertical board building with an asymmetrical, metal, gable roof. The barn measures 35' wide and 30' deep. This barn was built in the 1940s out of timber from a barn that sat on the same site and has been torn down. There is no evidence of the original barn's design. The barn has three bays of hinged double doors that open outward. They are made from the same board as the rest of the barn. The foundation of this building is poured concrete. Inside it has between one and five drying racks, depending on the ceiling height in a given area of the barn. (C)

(9) Milk House (circa 1950), Contributing Building

The milk house is located north of the horse barn. It is a concrete block building with a gable tin roof and poured concrete floors. The north façade of the milk house has a wood door, an opening that is covered by a swinging wood door, and three pairs of fixed windows. The south elevation features a wood door and a 2/2 fixed window. The gable east and west elevations of the building both have two 2/2 fixed windows. (C)

(10) Tractor Shed (1970), Noncontributing Building

The tractor shed is west of the horse barn. It is an aluminum shed building with a metal shed roof and open façade. (NC due to date of construction).

(11) Garage (circa 1990), Noncontributing Building

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A four-car garage lies northwest of the tractor shed. It is a vinyl sided building with an asphalt-shingle gable roof. (NC due to date of construction)

(12) Silo 1 (1923), Contributing Structure

Two poured-concrete silos lie west of the tractor barn. This silo to the north dates to 1923. (C)

(13) Silo 2 (circa 1950), Contributing Structure

This silo dates to 1950. (C)

(14) Shed (circa 1980), Noncontributing structure

A shed lies north of the silos on the site of the old sheep barn, which was torn down in the 1980s. It is an aluminum shed structure with a metal shed roof and open façade. Six metal posts support the roof on the open side. It is used to store hay. (NC due to date of construction)

(15) Hay Barn (circa 1970), Noncontributing Building

The hay barn lies close to the road, west of the shed. It is a vertical board structure with a front facing gable roof and large barn doors that slide open and closed along exterior poles to reveal a central entrance. It is used to store hay. (NC due to date of construction)

(16) Dams, Contributing Structure

A system of fifteen dams constructed at the same time as the terraced fields (circa 1940) is present on the property in the fields north and northeast of the property. Eleven of the dams are simple earthen dams, and the other four are earthen dams with concrete spillways. The placement of the dams is indicated on an attached copy of a Dickson County tax map showing the property boundaries. (C)

(17) Fencing, Contributing Structure

The fencing throughout the property reflects the historic fence lines of the property. Decorative fencing around the house dating to the 1890s runs along the west side of the house and encloses the southern side yard of the 1893 addition. Historic and repaired fencing made of wood, barbed wire, chicken wire, and metal posts is present throughout the property. The portion of the farm that houses the barns and other outbuildings contains wood, wire, and metal fencing with large swinging gates for access among the separated fields. Although the exact proportion of historic and new fencing is unknown, the owners state that the majority of it is at least fifty years old. (C)

The Miller Family Farm presents a unique rural landscape, both in the architecture of its agricultural-related buildings, its central farmhouse, and in its farmscape. The way that the buildings cluster together, encompassed by hillside fields, adds to the integrity and beauty of the rural landscape.

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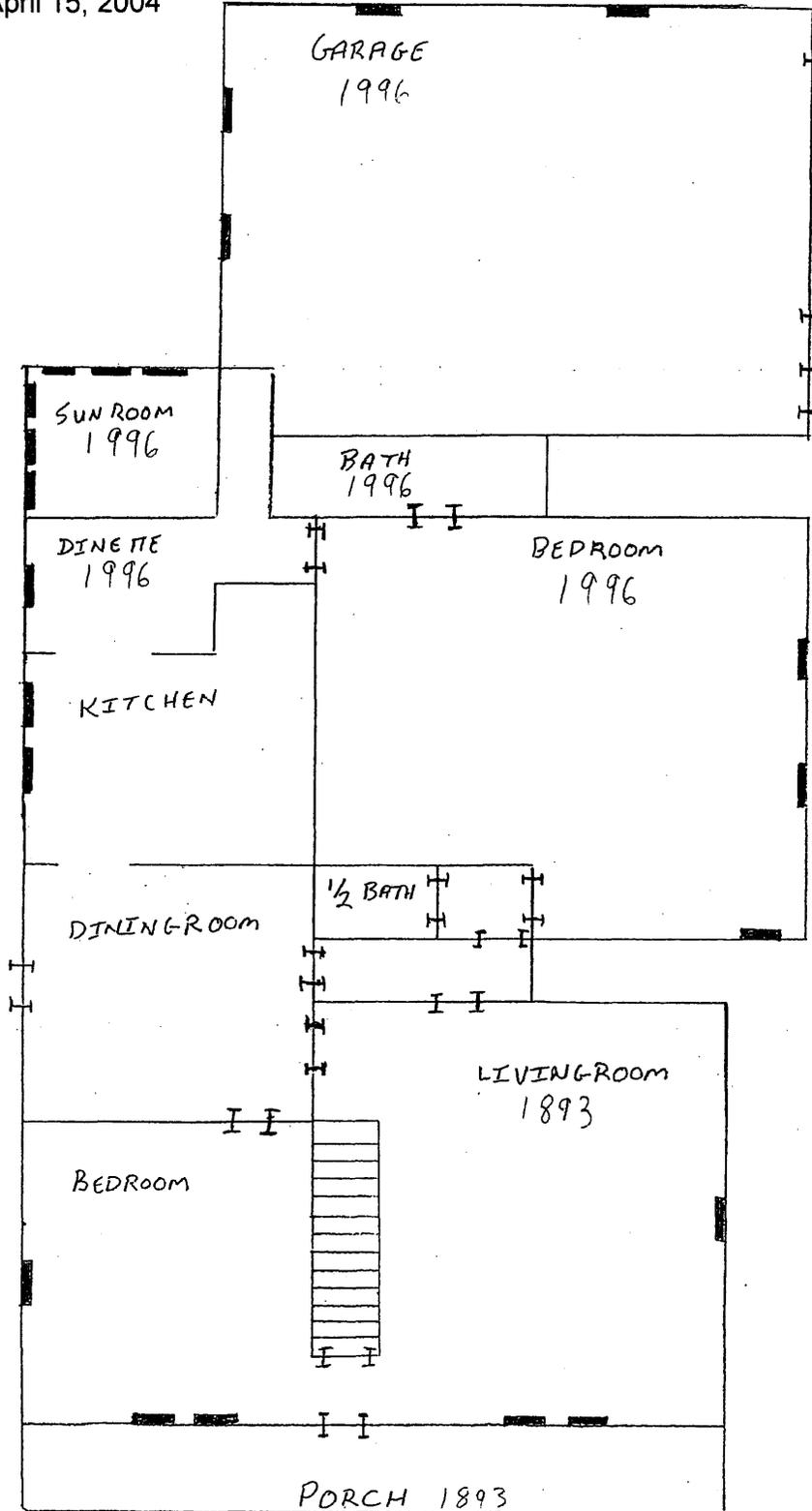
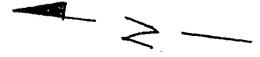
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Miller Family Farm
Dickson County, Tennessee

First floor sketch plan
By Stephen P. Smith

not to scale
April 15, 2004



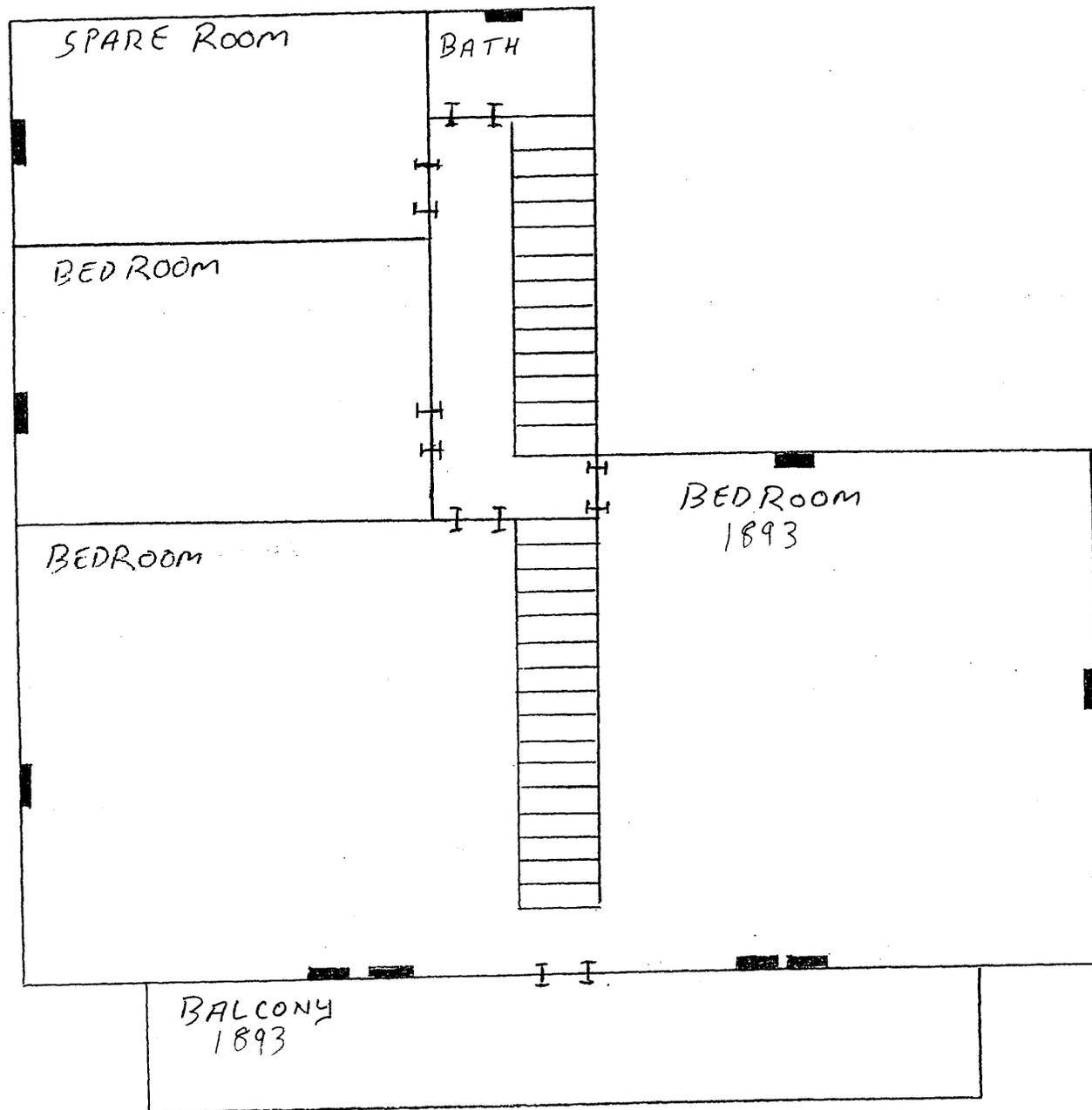
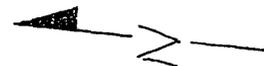
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Miller Family Farm
Dickson County, Tennessee

Second floor sketch plan not to scale
By Stephen P. Smith April 15, 2004



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Miller Family Farm
Dickson County, Tennessee

VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Miller Family Farm¹ on Old Highway 48 northwest of Charlotte (2000 pop. 1,153), in Dickson County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in agriculture in Dickson County and Middle Tennessee. The farm's historic and diverse collection of agricultural buildings, fields, fencing, terracing, and farmhouse contribute to its significance. The Miller Family Farm meets the registration requirements for historic family farms listed in the "Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee" Multiple Property Submission (MPS). It is an intact and excellent example of a family farm that has been continuously operating for over one hundred years that represents the strong agricultural history of the region. As outlined in the MPS, the farm's history and development are associated with "Expansion and the Market Economy, 1850 to 1900," during which time the Millers established their farm in 1881 and grew crops and raised livestock for the market and their own consumption. During the twentieth century, the farm's development is associated with the context of "Rural Reform and Agriculture" as the Millers upgraded and modified their farming processes in accordance with modern agricultural trends and in response to changes in the market economy.

Augustus Ernest Charles (A.E.C.) Miller and his wife Elizabeth Goin Miller established the farm with the purchase of 437 acres of land on November 26, 1881. That same year, he and his son Pasivent S. Miller built the "first house," which the family now calls the "shop." This building, housed domestic animals on the ground level and the Miller family on the second floor until the Millers completed their permanent dwelling in 1890. Trim around the windows and hinged door evidence the building's first use as a home. Once the family moved into the present farmhouse, the first dwelling was converted to full agricultural use to store hay and grain. This multiple-use structure serves as a physical reminder of the sustained effort required to maintain an early homestead. The evolution of the farm over the next century is evident in the extant buildings, field patterns, and overall farmscape.

Born in Gotha, Saxony in 1825, A.E.C. Miller immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1837, married Elizabeth Goin in 1851. In 1869 Miller moved his wife and nine children to Tennessee and then in 1881 purchased the 437 acres that became the Miller Family Farm. The family had a total of fifteen children, ten of whom survived to adulthood. The founding of this farm was much later than the average date of 1844 for the establishment of Middle Tennessee Century Farms. The acreage at the founding date in 1881, however, is very close to the Middle Tennessee average of 436.2.² A.E.C. Miller sold off about 54 acres of the original tract. He and his wife conveyed the land over to their sons, Augustus Lincoln (A.L., James's grandfather) and V.A. Miller in 1888. When A.L. Miller died in 1940, half of the land was willed to V.A. Miller, and four years later he bought the other half of the land from its heirs. V.A. Miller and his wife, Ethel, sold half of the land to their son James and his wife Joyce in 1949. In 1979, V.A. Miller transferred the remaining property to his son, James A. Miller, who currently operates a beef cattle farm on the family property and lives in the farmhouse. This theme of continuity is significant in its contribution to the history of Tennessee agriculture.

¹ The current owner's grandfather A.L. Miller named the farm "Northcove Stock Farm." He used this name selling stock to make his transactions or sales more official during the early twentieth century. The family still has envelopes and letterhead with that bear this title.

² Carroll Van West, "Continuity and Change in Tennessee Agriculture: The Century Farmers of Tennessee," Tennessee Historical Quarterly 3 (Fall 1988): 163-167.

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Miller Family Farm
Dickson County, Tennessee

By the last decade of the nineteenth century, the Miller's were successful farmers who grew a hay, tobacco, and corn for the market and a variety of other vegetables for their own consumption. They also raised mules, hogs, and sheep. Their operation expanded, necessitating the construction of new outbuildings and a permanent farmhouse. Situated at the rear of the farmstead, the hog barn, a gable front bank barn, was built by A.L. Miller in about 1890 to house hogs and hay. The design was site-specific and meant to take advantage of the natural topography. Undoubtedly the barn has performed many practical functions in the past, including barn dances in the loft, and currently serves as a storage place for a variety of materials. A second, slightly larger gable-front barn was also built during the same period to house mules and loose hay and currently stables horses.

Another unique structure on the farm is the water shed that was built in 1900 to store and supply the house and farmyard with water. The ground level of the water shed was used to house chickens and to store firewood. Other parts of the building were used for washing and cows. The upper level contains the water storage tank. This multi-purpose structure's function is common to Tennessee farms; however, its appearance is not. Originally water was pumped, powered by a windmill, from a hand-dug well in the hollow north of the house. Nick Bear, a local well digger, replaced this well in 1911. Bear dug the well with a steam engine and now, with the assistance of an electric pump, it furnishes water to the Miller Family Farm's main house, the first house that housed family descendents, and the farmyard.

The farmhouse was modernized in several stages. Initially constructed in 1890, the house was heated by a two wood stoves and lit with oil lamps. During the early twentieth century, a Delco System was installed to provide battery operated electric light. The Delco System consisted of a bank of up to ten rechargeable batteries and exposed wiring. Between 1928 and 1930, the farm received electricity from public utilities; however, the visible wiring remained in use until it was replaced in the 1980s. The wood stoves were replaced with propane stoves during the 1940s and today the dwelling is equipped with a modern HVAC system dating to the 1990s alterations.

This farm is an example of the progression of agriculture in Tennessee. Like many Middle Tennessee farmers, the Millers originally raised hogs, sheep, and mules, and grew hay, tobacco, and corn. Approaching the turn of the century, the Millers expanded their agricultural production to include honeybees, and sorghum. During the 1930s production shifted to wheat when the Millers participated in the federally funded land conservation program to build terraces and dams on the fields southwest of and immediately behind the house. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) provided assistance and government subsidies to farmers to make modifications to their farms in an effort to curb the depletion of fertile topsoil. These terraces counteracted traditional farming techniques of planting on hillsides and allowing the fields to lay barren during winter months. The terraces were cut into the hilly fields of the farm to create stepped flat fields that allow water to soak into the ground and not form run offs that cause the water to be lost and the topsoil to erode. These terraces are extant. The fifteen dams, also extant, were used to control the water run offs and provided a water source for stock. Additionally the TVA provided the Millers with technical assistance and access to phosphate-based fertilizers. With TVA assistance, the Miller farm became a model of progressive farming techniques in Dickson County. Because of their use of modern farming practices, the local farm agent would use the Miller farm as demonstration farm, bringing other farmers to the Miller's to demonstrate progressive farming and the success of phosphate-based fertilizers. It was also during the 1930s that the Millers added orchards for pear, apple, peach, and pecan trees. Only one tree remains from the orchards.

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In the 1940s, when the market changed, the Millers again altered the focus of their agricultural production and began raising dairy cattle—a trend common in Middle Tennessee. They built a milk barn with three electric milking machines, which are no longer extant, in 1950. They continued to operate as a dairy farm until the 1980s when the Millers shifted to beef cattle production. The fields are currently used for pasture and to grow silage corn and hay. The family continues to use their fields for both the growing of crops and the grazing of cattle as they did historically.

The Miller Family Farm was registered as a Century Farm in 2002. The Tennessee Century Farm Program recognizes the homesteads of Tennessee farm families who have worked at least ten acres of a farm in continuous agricultural production for more than one hundred years.

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Miller Family Farm
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IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The Miller Family Farm is on Old Highway 48 in Charlotte, located on county parcels 20, 20.04, and 26.03 documented in the attached Dickson County Tax Map 056.

Boundary Description

The nominated boundaries contain the historic and legal property associated with the Miller Family Farm and currently owned by James and Joyce Miller. The boundaries are indicated on the attached Dickson County Tax Map. Although the scale is greater than 1" = 400', this is the only scale map available for rural areas of Tennessee.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos by: Stephen P. Smith
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
Date: January and April 2004
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, TN

Miller Family Dwelling: west façade, facing east
1 of 38

Miller Family Dwelling: north elevation, facing south
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Miller Family Dwelling: south elevation, facing north
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Miller Family Dwelling: southeast view, facing northwest
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Miller Family Dwelling: first floor living room, facing north
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Miller Family Dwelling: first floor bedroom, facing south
6 of 38

Miller Family Dwelling: first floor dining room, facing south
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Miller Family Dwelling: principal stairwell, facing east
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Miller Family Dwelling: back stairwell, facing east
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Miller Family Dwelling: upstairs middle bedroom, north side of house, facing north
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Miller Family Dwelling: upstairs front bedroom, north side of house, facing west
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Miller Family Dwelling: upstairs front bedroom, south side of house, facing southwest
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Miller Family Dwelling: upstairs, spare bedroom, north side of house, facing northeast
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Miller Family Dwelling: upstairs bedroom, facing east
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Shop/ Original House: east elevation (original façade), facing southwest
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Shop/ Original House: west elevation and south facade, facing northeast
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Shop/ Original House: first floor stairway, facing north
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Shop/Original House: downstairs interior, facing north
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Shop/Original House: upstairs interior, facing north
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Smokehouse: north elevation and west facade, facing southeast
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Smokehouse and Water Shed: facing south
21 of 38

Water Shed: south and east elevations, facing northwest
22 of 38

Field Terraces: facing southwest
23 of 38

Horse and Barn: north façade and west elevation, facing southeast
24 of 38

Horse and Mule Barn: west elevation, facing east
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Hog Barn: south elevation and west facade, facing northeast
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Hog Barn: north and east elevations, facing southwest
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Hog Barn: hay chute, facing west
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Miller Family Farm
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Tobacco Barn: north elevation and west facade, facing southeast
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Tractor Shed: east façade, facing west
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Milk House: north façade and east elevation, facing southwest
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Garage and Tractor Shed: north and east facades, facing southwest
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Silos: east elevation, facing west
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Former Sheep Barn and Hay Barn: facing west
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Dam 1
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Dam 2
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Dam 3
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Farmscape: facing southwest
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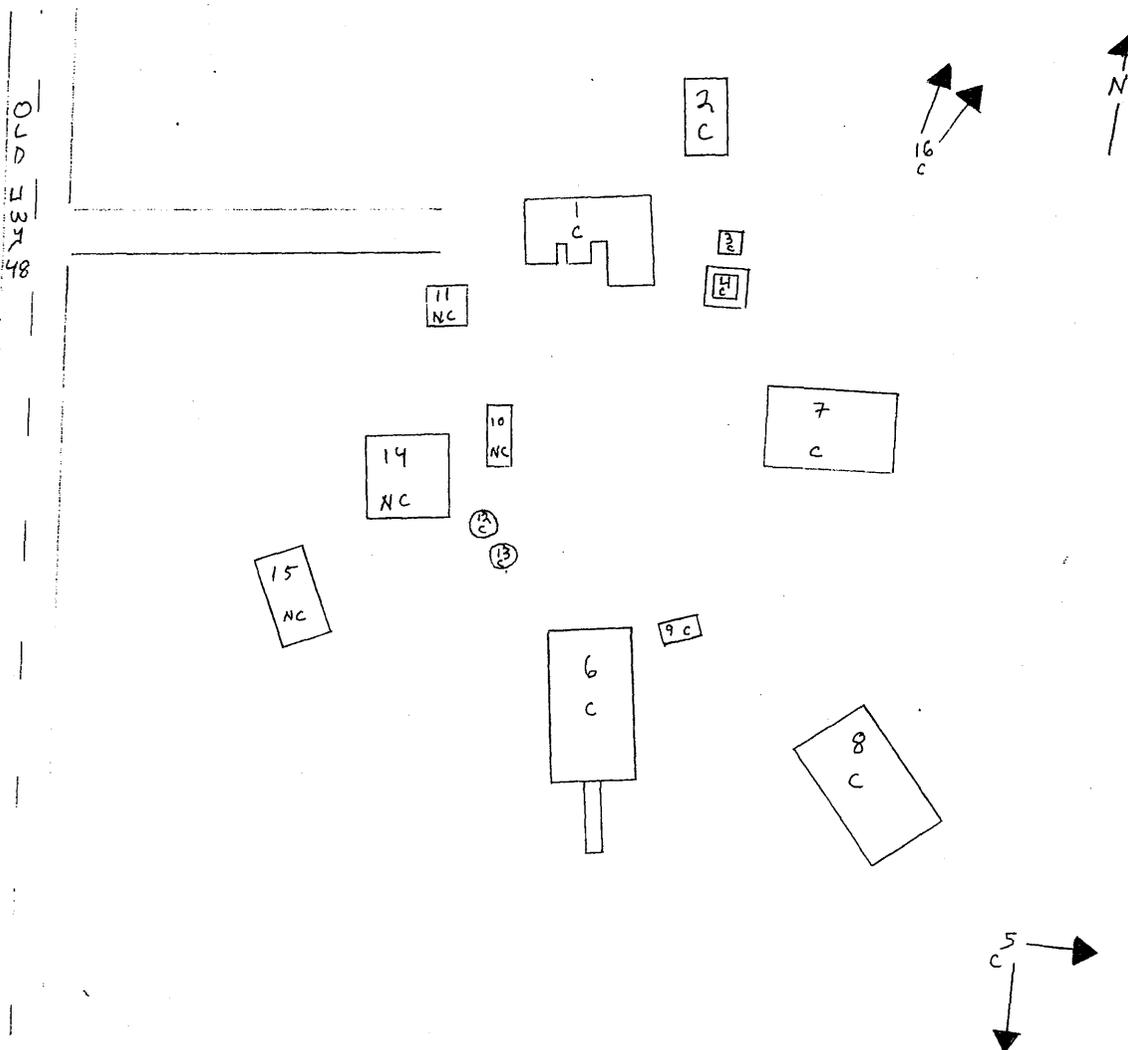
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Miller Family Farm
Dickson County, Tennessee

site plan not to scale



Miller Farm
Dickson County, TN
Farmscape
November 4, 2004
Approximate Scale 1"=30 feet

- Index
- 1 - Dwelling (C)
 - 2 - First House (Shop) (C)
 - 3 - Smoke House (C)
 - 4 - Water Shed (C)
 - 5 - Field Terraces (C)
 - 6 - Horse Barn (C)
 - 7 - Hog Barn (C)
 - 8 - Tobacco Barn (C)
 - 9 - Milk House (C)
 - 10 - Tractor Shed (NC)
 - 11 - Garage (NC)
 - 12 - Silo (C)
 - 13 - Silo (C)
 - 14 - Former Sheep Barn (NC)
 - 15 - Hay Barn (NC)
 - 16 - Dams (C)
- ↳ see dam site plan

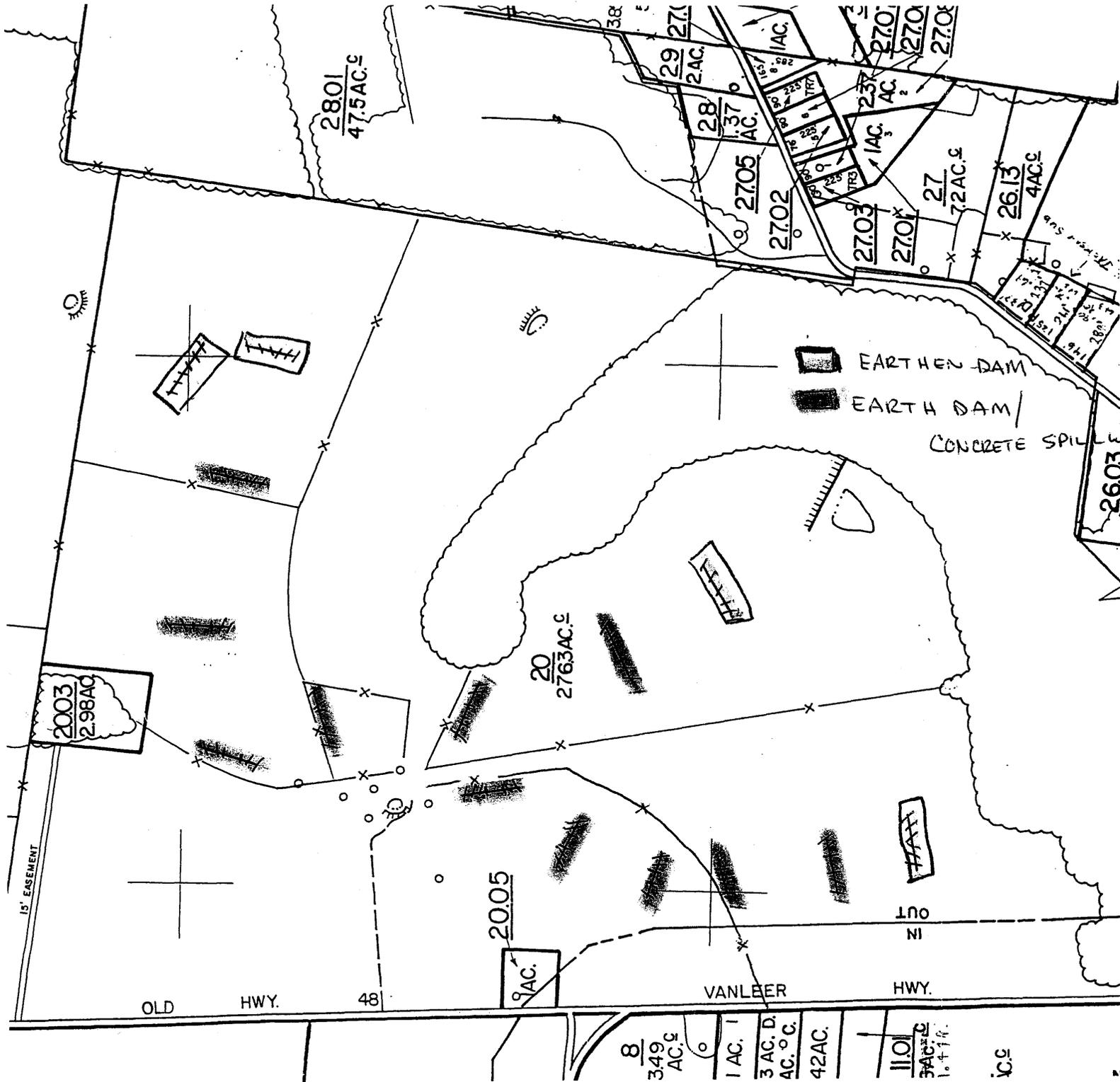
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Miller Family Farm
Dickson County, Tennessee

site plan of dams (approximate location)



Not to Scale

F6

1992 Aerial Photograph
MILLER FAMILY FARM
DICKSON CO. TN



