

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received OCT 7 1985

date entered OCT 20 1985

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

1. Name

historic Mebane-Nuckolls House

and/or common Nuckolls House

2. Location

street & number Macon-Collierville Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Macon  vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Fayette code 047

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Perkins

street & number Route 1 Box 200

city, town Rossville  vicinity of

state Tennessee 38066

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Registrar

street & number Fayette County Courthouse

city, town Somerville state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Situated approximately three miles southwest of Macon, Tennessee, the Mebane-Nuckolls House (ca.1855) is a two-story Italianate building of brick with a one-story rear ell. Facing west, the house is located on a wooded, relatively flat site of 15 acres on the gravel Collierville-Macon Road about one mile south of Macon Road. Also on the nominated property are the original frame kitchen, a nineteenth century frame smokehouse, a nineteenth century log barn, the Mebane cemetery, and the Starkey Hare cemetery (an early settler of Fayette County and the original owner of the surrounding land.) Bordered by open farmland, the site retains its architectural and historical integrity to a high degree.

The front (west) facade is five bays wide with a central doorway having plain sidelights and transom with simple pilasters and a low pediment. On the first and second stories, the narrow 6/6 front windows have louvered shutters and elaborate cast-iron hoodmolds which project from the facade. The brick walls are laid in American bond and have traces of penciling. The low, hipped roof is covered with standing seam metal sheets and has a denticulated cornice with ornate console brackets of terra cotta. The flat roof of the three bay, one story front porch is supported by the paired wooden columns on wooden pedestals separated by low, four-centered pointed arches and paired brackets.

The identical north and south elevations of the house have interior end chimneys and a window on both stories near the facades' rear (east) corners. These windows are the same as those on the front facade with hoodmolds and shutters. The fenestration of the rear (east) elevation consists of a window on each story similar to the building's other windows but with a jack arch.

Attached to the center of the rear elevation is a long, one story brick ell with a gabled, standing seam metal roof. The 6/6 windows have straight lintels and louvered shutters. A shed-roofed veranda with simple pillars runs the full length of the north and south elevations of this wing. A door surrounded by sidelights and a transom is found on the south elevation of the ell.

The interior of the two story section of the house was designed to follow the standard plan of a central hall with two rooms on each floor. The open well, three-run stair is located at the rear of the first floor hall and has a turned newel post and balusters in addition to jigsaw brackets on the risers. There is heavy architrave molding around the windows and the doorways, which have paneled jambs. Other original or early features include trabeated mantels and doors with narrow 2x2 panels and simple hardware.

The rear ell contains two large rooms with fireplaces at their east ends. The west room has moldings with shouldered architraves and paneled doors, while the woodwork of the east room is much plainer.

Immediately to the south of the ell and connected by a short walkway is the one-by-two-bay frame kitchen. The one-story building has a tar-papered hipped roof with a central chimney and multi-pane windows with louvered shutters.

There are two mid to late-nineteenth century outbuildings on the nominated property, a frame smokehouse and log barn. A short distance to the east of these structures is the Mebane cemetery. The plot is surrounded by a simple cast-iron fence and has several nineteenth-century headstones and obelisks. Adjoining this cemetery is the simply-marked burial site of the early Fayette County settler, Starkey Hare, and his family.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** ca. 1855 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mebane-Nuckolls House (ca. 1855) is nominated under National Register criteria A, B, and C for its local architectural significance and its historical associations with the development of Fayette County. The building is a rare and outstanding local example of the Italianate style. The property is further important for its connections with prominent local families, particularly the Mebanes.

The house was built around 1855 for John Howe Mebane (1789–1875), son of Brig. Gen. and U.S. Congressman Alexander Mebane (1744–1795) of North Carolina. The site of the nominated house was bought in 1855 from a local land speculator, B.H. Porter. According to tradition, the only building on the property at that time was a simple log house located somewhat north and east of the cemeteries. Prior to establishing his own home, Mebane had been the manager of the Fayette County plantation of his brother, Dr. William Mebane. By the time of the Civil War, John Howe Mebane had become one of the largest land owners in Fayette County. Upon his death in 1875, his son, William Graves Mebane (1838–1882) inherited the house. Having graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and served as a Confederate Captain, the younger Mebane became a successful farmer like his father.

The ownership of the house was to remain in the Mebane family only a few more years, for at William Graves Mebane's death in 1882, the property was bought by Nathan Blaine as a wedding present for his daughter, Maggie V. Nuckolls. The house and land were passed to her descendants until the building and a portion of the acreage were purchased in 1984 by Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Perkins.

The Mebane-Nuckolls House is relatively unaltered from its original appearance on both the exterior and interior, retaining almost all of its original moldings, doors, hardware, and decorative features. The high degree of its preservation and architectural sophistication is exceptional in rural Fayette County (est. 1824), one of the poorest areas of the state. Among the approximately twenty pre-Civil War houses left in Fayette County, the Mebane-Nuckolls House is a rare and important local example of the Italianate style. The flat-roofed porch with paired columns on pedestals, the sculpted hoodmolds, elaborate brackets, and symmetrical fenestration exemplify this style.

The building is also noteworthy as one of the county's very few residences constructed of brick before the Civil War. Frame construction and the Greek Revival style were much more common in the area, as seen in Hancock Hall (LaGrange, 1857) and Alba Villa (Somerville, 1846). Although Fayette County has two small historic districts in LaGrange and Somerville, the more rural parts of the county have extremely few houses of architectural or historical interest.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Fayette County. Deed Books. Fayette County Courthouse. Somerville, Tennessee.  
Rosser, Ray. "Mebane Family Settles in Macon Area," Fayette Falcon. May 31, 1984, p.7.  
Rosser, Ray. "Mebane-Nuckolls House" (unpublished MS in possession of author).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 15 acres

Quadrangle name Oakland, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

1	6	2	6	8	1	1	0	3	8	9	0	7	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	6	2	6	7	8	7	0	3	8	9	0	7	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	6	2	6	7	9	4	0	3	8	9	0	8	8	0
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 15 acre property is trapezoidal in shape and is bounded on the west by the Macon-Collierville Road and on the north, east and south by parallel imaginary lines (see Tax Map.). The nomination includes the minimum land needed to protect the historical and architectural character of 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 Lloyd Ostby  
Ray Rosser

organization N/A

date August 15, 1985

street & number 4028 Faxon  
117 W. Fayette  
Memphis

telephone 901-458-8735

city or town Somerville

Tennessee 38122

state Tennessee 38068

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Herbert L. Hays*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 9/27/85

### For NPS use only

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

*Amy Schlager*

date 11/20/85

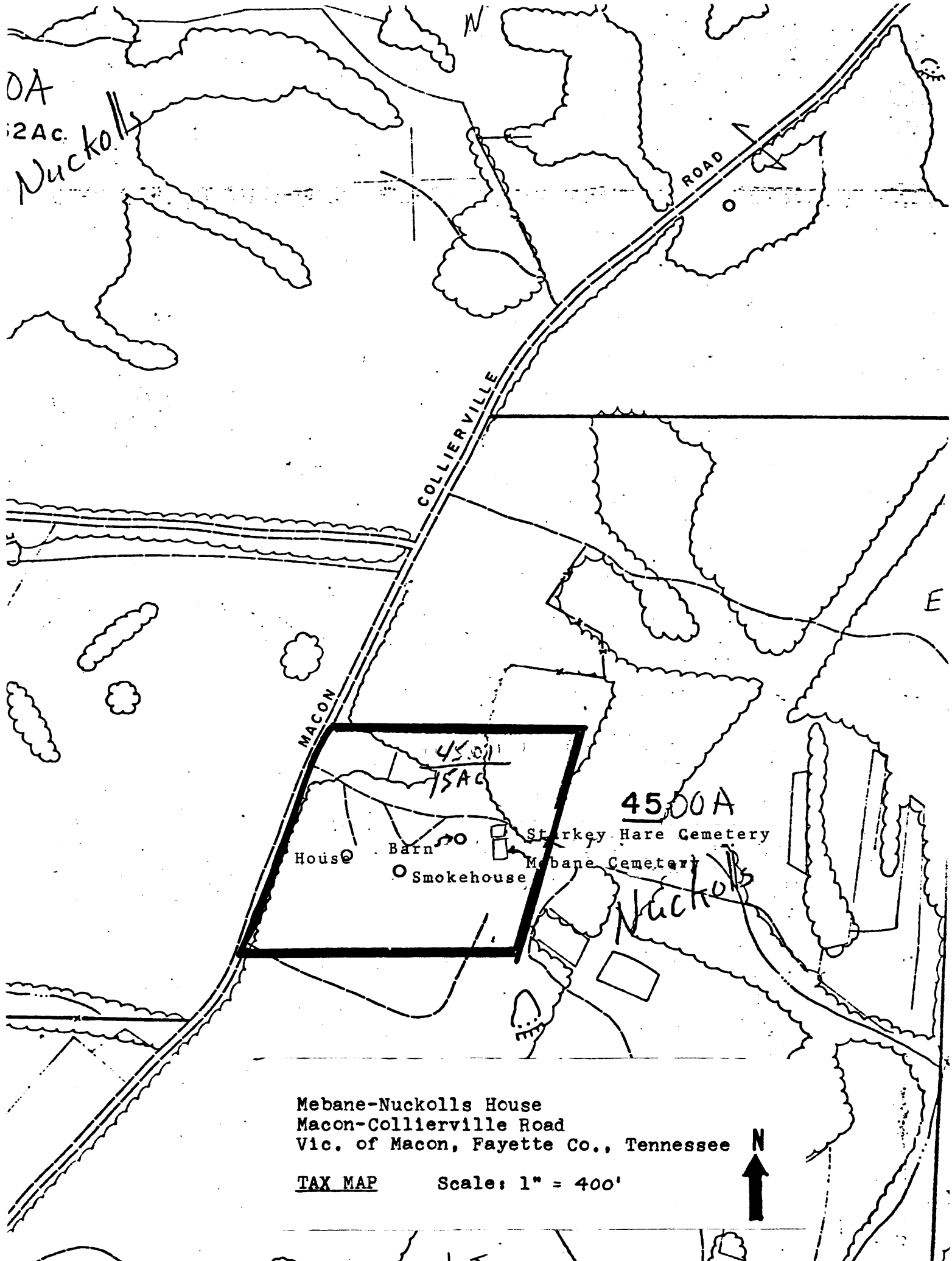
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

0A  
2Ac.  
Nuckolls



Mebane-Nuckolls House  
 Macon-Collierville Road  
 Vic. of Macon, Fayette Co., Tennessee

TAX MAP      Scale: 1" = 400'

