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NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. ¹ 1990)	RECEIVED 418 30024-0018
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	AUG 7 1995
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being docum architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subtentries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, wo	e each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or ented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, postegories from the instructions, Place additional
1. Name of Property	
historic name Rockvale Store	
other names/site number <u>Williams Brothers Grocery; Win</u> Dogwood Junction Antiques & Gi	drow's Grocery; B & W Market; fts
2. Location	
street & number 8964 Rockvale Road	N∕A □ not for publication
city or townRockvale	N∕A □ vicinity
stateTennessee codeTN countyRutherford	code <u>149</u> zip code <u>37153</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for regist Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this proper nationally statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional commend Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Officer, Tennessee Historical (State of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.	ering properties in the National Register of CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property arty be considered significant ents.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	- 1
I hereby certify that the property is: I determined eligible for the National Register. I determined not eligible for the National Register. I removed from the National Register. I other, (explain:)	Entered in the Date of Action National Rogister .14.95

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Name of Property

County and State

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Re (Do not include pr	sources within Propert eviously listed resources in the	y e count.)
☑ private ☐ public-local	L building(s) ☐ district	Contributing		ь. 9 г.
public-State public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure		0	
	object			structures
	•			•
		1	0	Total
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of	operty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of cor in the National	ntributing resources pre Register	eviously listed
N/A	·	0		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from		
COMMERCE/TRADE:	general store	COMMERCE/TH	RADE: specialty	<u>y store</u>
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	instructions)	
•	rian style with	foundation STON		
Italianate	details	walls WOOD): weatherboard	1
		roof METAL		
		other WOOD		

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

Rockvale Store

Name of Property

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.)	
N/A						
Property	is:					

- □ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- **C** a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.

Bibilography

- 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.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

Rutherford County, TN

County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) COMMERCE ARCHITECTURE Period of Significance 1884-1945 **Significant Dates** 1884 Significant Person (Complete if Criterion 8 is marked above) N/A Cultural Affiliation N/A_____ Architect/Builder N/A Primary location of additional data:

- T State Historic Preservation Office
- □ Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- 🖄 University
- Other

Name of repository:

MTSU-CHP

Rockvale Store	Rutherford County, TN County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 1.68 acres	Rockvale, TN, 70 SE
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
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(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 Dr. Carroll Van West and Susan	A. Besser
organization MTSU Center for Historic Press	
-	
street & number 1421 E. Main	telephone615-898-2947
city or townMurfreesboro	stateTN zip code37132
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	ng large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the p	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_June Kay Maxwell/Cynthia West	
street & number <u>1430 Margaret Close</u>	telephone 615-896-1716
city or townMurfreesboro	stateTN zip code37130
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for	or 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 listings. 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, cathoring, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect

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 20503.

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION				
	1			

Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN

VII. Description

The Rockvale Store, 8964 Rockvale Road, Rockvale, Tennessee, is located in the unincorporated village of Rockvale, Rutherford County, Tennessee, at the intersection of Versailles Road and Rockvale Road, which is formerly State Highway 99. (The property is further bounded on the north and west by the remaining property of Stegall & Stegall; on the east by State Route 99; and on the South by the property of B. W. Carlton.)

Constructed in c. 1884, this frame, weatherboard, one-story gable roof building with shed extension is of the Folk Victorian style with Italianate details. This building rests on a limestone pier foundation and retains much of its architectural integrity. A historic photograph of c. 1900 pictures the Rockvale Store much as it looks today. Next door, to the southwest side, stood a feed store building, which was connected to the store by a covered walkway. The date of the removal of the feed store building is unknown. The original roof of the Rockvale Store documented in this historic photograph appears to be cedar shingles; presently there is a standing seam metal roof, which is need of repair and replacement. Additionally, this historic photograph is beneficial in depicting the missing porch supports and detailings. The porch supports and detailings will be carefully restored to this 1900 appearance.

The southeast facade of the store consists of the original double entry, raised panel wood doors with transom, flanked by two large four over four sash windows. The windows are covered with original operable shutters. The shutters are a flat panel design and are latched with a diagonal batten. A board and batten type door, which acts as a service entry to storage room in the shed room addition, is located to west of the window. A full width porch with low pitched hip roof extends across the primary facade. The original porch supports were square columns with a chamfered edge, connected by flattened arches. The porch is presently supported with 4 x 4 posts probably added since 1970. The front gable cornice is embellished with the original five sets of paired brackets. A sixth set of brackets is mounted

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Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN

below the cornice of the east corner of the building. A wide band of trim is discontinuous across gable end and located just above the brackets on the east corner.

The northeast elevation on the long side of building contains no doors or windows, but has an air-conditioning unit (circa 1980), centered in the upper half of the wall. A wide band of trim is located at cornice. A sign which identifies a former owner, Windrow Bros. Gro., is painted on this facade and a Dr. Pepper trademark is painted directly on weatherboard.

The northwest elevation is weatherboard with a back door which services the main room and a shuttered window to the west of the door. A small opening is located in the attic area, perhaps originally a window. Above this window opening is a small wooden ventilation vent, centered in the top of the gable point of the roof. Lower, to the west, is a small metal ventilation vent, possibly added in circa 1980. The original wood back door has been replaced with a metal security door. A concrete block foundation is presently in place to be covered with wooden decking which will facilitate loading and unloading of goods.

The southwest elevation is a solid wall of historic weatherboard, original to the construction of the building. During the 1980s, vertical board siding was placed on this elevation. The current owners, during the restoration of the property, removed the vertical board siding and found the original weatherboard wall largely intact. At some unknown time, probably at the time of the addition of the vertical siding, tar paper was placed on the weatherboard, acting as a separation from the vertical boards. Some of this tar paper remains in place today and will be removed as the owners have the funds for the removal and restoration of the original weatherboard.

The interior rectangular floor plan consists of four rooms. The main room measures 37 feet by 20 feet, and contains historic built-in merchandise shelving which measure 26 feet long on northeast wall and 29 feet on southwest wall. This shelving is 96 inches high and 12 inches deep. The

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Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN

configuration of the shelving contains a row of drawers at 30 inches high. The original mail drop slot for the time period when Rockvale served as a United States Post Office is located in the southeast portion of the store. Original crown molding embellishes top of shelving and cases. The interior wall surfaces were fabricated from wood 5 1/2inches wide and installed horizontally. The ceiling surface was fabricated from wood 5 1/2 inches wide, with planks running from the southeast side to the northeast side. The floor is diagonally laid 2 $3\setminus 4$ inch wide poplar, and original to the building. Great care has been taken during this restoration to remove the years of soil on the floor by At least ninety percent of the original careful cleaning. floor remains intact and in usable condition. The owners have patched a few small sections of the floor with compatible boards. These sections, which are located to the rear center of the store, are usually covered by merchandise displays, either wholly or in large part.

An office area is 10 feet by 15 feet. The ceiling in this area has been lowered to eight feet in circa 1970. The wall surface, which is prefinished wood paneling, was added during this 1970 renovation. Small restroom facilities (measuring 4 feet by 10 feet) were added in 1994 by utilizing space from the original storage area. Vertical board siding removed from exterior of the southwest corner of building has been installed as wall and ceiling surface in restroom area. The original storage area measures 17 feet by 10 feet. This area is unfinished, just as it was throughout the building's period of significance.

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Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN

VIII. Statement of Significance

The Rockvale Store, located in Rockvale, Rutherford County, Tennessee, was built by Francis (Frank) Marion Carlton in 1884. The store is located at the forks of the road, opposite the intersection of Versailles Road and Rockvale Road, formerly State Highway 99.

Rockvale Store is eligible under Criterion A for listing in the National Register for Historic Places due to its local significance in the development of commercial trade in Rockvale, a rural farming community, from 1884 to the present. It is also a locally significant example under Criterion C as a commercial building of Folk Victorian style, with Italianate details.

Francis (Frank) Marion Carlton (14 June 1851-20 September 1906), the son of Kenion Carlton, was educated in St. Louis, Missouri, and returned to the rural Versailles area of Rutherford County to become one of the leading citizens of the community. He married Minerva Elizabeth Taylor (3 August 1853-5 February 1927) on December 14, 1876. Five children were born to the Carltons, but only two survived childhood maladies. Perhaps, due to Frank Carlton's business education, he recognized the significance of symbols such as a general store to the community. In addition to building Rockvale Store, he donated land for the Rockvale Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1889, and the Rockvale School. Carlton was one of three Directors of the facility which functioned as a high school.

The rural community of Versailles, in which the village of Rockvale is located, began as a portion of the western territory of the state of North Carolina. This community was the center of activity for the Tenth District of Rutherford. Formed in 1840, the Tenth District became the Eighth District in 1972. Prior to being a part of the Tenth District, Versailles was a portion of Williamson County. According to The Tenth District and Its People 1983, the village of Rockvale, located at the headwaters of the Little Harpeth River, became an outgrowth of Versailles after 1870. By 1879, Rockvale had grown to an extent that it received

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Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN

its first U. S. post office. This rural village has kept its post office ever since.

The possibility of a regular income, however slight in a rural village, from the post office business proved to be an attraction to Francis (Frank) Carlton, who established and built the nominated property as a combination general store and post office in 1884. Frank (Francis) Carlton established the first general store in Rockvale, known simply as the Rockvale Store. The presence of a general store in a community was a sign of progress. This social and cultural function of the rural general store was doubly true when it combined commercial services with post office services. People gathered daily for the delivery of mail and newspapers and often eagerly awaited the opening of letters to find out the latest family news or business developments. A drop slot for mail still exists in the front portion of the store. Mail service for Rockvale continued at this store until the institution of the Rural Free Delivery in Rutherford County in 1901.

In small rural communities, local businessmen commonly combined a general store with the local post office. Indeed, without the patronage of the post office, stores often found it impossible to stay in business. Customers needing the services of the post office came to the building and then bought goods and items from the proprietor. Customers were also able to use the postal service to mail order larger consumer items from the increasing proliferation of mail order catalogs in late nineteenth century America. During this period, Thomas F. Carlton and Farnas M. Carlton held the title of postmaster.

During the period from 1901 to 1907, the Rockvale Store's function as a post office was discontinued with the advent of Rural Free Delivery. There is a great likelihod that there would have been a decrease in the volume of potential customers, who took advantage of the opportunity to purchase various items in conjunction with the checking of their mail. However, Rockvale Store's function as a post office connection was reestablished with the addition of a rural route in 1907 operating from the store with Andrew A. Scott

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Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN

as its carrier. This function continued until 1934 with Scott serving as the carrier. Scott is said to have "never missed serving all his route every day." (1)

Rockvale Home Mutual Telephone Association was established in 1916 to facilitate communications in the area. Prior to this time, vital contact so important to this isolated community was aided by the leaving of messages at Rockvale Store. These messages which might announce the birth of a child or extend an invitation to Sunday dinner would be relayed as patrons came to check on mail or purchase groceries. Leaving messages at the store continued for local residents who did not have access to the telephone system.

Rockvale Store served as much more than a place to purchase sugar, flour, thread, or boiled eggs. The general store was the nerve center of the community. In the social culture of rural areas, the importance of the general store was essential to the lifeblood of the community. Informal gatherings of local farmers on a rainy day, small talk between wives, children skipping rope--these happenings that many take for granted served to strengthen the community.

Operating from Rockvale Store an important community service was established in the 1920's. The service provided delivery of goods such as needles, pins, buttons, thread, and embroidery cloth to outlying areas. Once a function of the Pack Peddler (a nineteenth century traveling salesman), the Rockvale Store service consisted of a horse-drawn covered spring wagon carrying these important items to the community on a regular basis. Operating from Rockvale Store, Price Smotherman provided this service and would herald his coming with a long blast on his bugle. Certainly, this extension of Rockvale Store was a welcome change from the daily routine of the isolated farm wife.

Election day was an important event in any community. In Rockvale, it drew most of the male population to the grounds of the Rockvale Store where elections took place "under one of the two huge oak trees on the south side of store."(2) The polls would be open from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The

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Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN

population of the Rockvale community traveled to the grounds in buggies, wagons, and on horseback. In bad weather, voting took place inside Rockvale Store. Voting continued here until a new consolidated county school was opened in 1928.

With the construction of the new school, many of the community functions that once happened at the store, like election day balloting and political speeches on the front porch, moved to the modern brick school building (no longer extant). Unlike many rural stores, Rockvale Store managed to survive the Depression years, which proved especially devastating in rural Rutherford County. A 1947 history of the county noted: "the average farmer in Rutherford County who had survived the crash was in dire need of aid from someone." (3)

The Williams family acquired the business in circa 1940 and operated it as "Williams Bros. Grocery" until 1960. Today, a faded "Dr. Pepper" soft drink sign is still visible on the northeast elevation. The sign helps to document how the store's business changed in the mid-twentieth century due to the improvement of the local road system (old Tennessee Highway 99 passes directly in front of the building) and the increase in automobile traffic. General stores needed catchy signs to slow down passing motorists and to attract their business. Also, the Williams family added gasoline pumps to the store to serve the motoring public. The pumps once stood in front of the porch, but were removed about In 1960, the ownership changed again and the store 1990. became known as the "Windrow Bros. Store" until 1990. From 1990-1994, the store was known as B & W Market. In 1994. Rockvale Store was purchased by its current owners.

In addition to serving as a polling place, general store, and post office, Rockvale Store bears the evidence of time in its walls. Bullet holes remain in the southeast wall the result of an unnamed feud. Currently, Norman Burns, director of Rocky Mount State Historic Site, is finishing his Master's thesis on the feuds and violence of the Rockvale area of Rutherford County. His final research may uncover more information on the role of the Rockvale Store

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Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN

in this local pattern of early twentieth century violence.

This building is significant as a surviving remnant of rural commercial architecture in Rutherford County. The Folk Victorian with Italianate details style practiced in rural communities is embodied in this building. The building retains historical integrity in such details as the paired brackets, crown molding, and cove trims which reflect the availability of pre-cut detailing due to the expanding railroad system. This detailing was generally manufactured in distant mills and transported to local lumber yards, of which there were several in nearby Murfreesboro. The source of the lumber for this store is unknown.

The architectural details such as the porch supports and flattened arches reflect the Italianate style which had been popular since 1840 and followed the typical method of being translated into the vernacular late in the period. As the first commercial establishment in Rockvale, and the only commercial store to stay in business into the final decades of the twentieth century, the Rockvale Store has significance beyond its architectural style.

Compared to other surviving country stores in Rutherford County, the Rockvale Store may well be the earliest store building still extant and still serving a commercial function. Miller's Grocery in Christiana is a early twentieth century building that still serves as a local store, with gas pumps. The rural community of Lascasass has two rural stores. The more recent is a small brick general store, with gas pumps, known as Pearcy's Store. It was built on old Tennessee Highway 96 in about 1920. A second general store, now used for storage, stands less than one hundred yards to the west, again on old Tennessee Highway 96. This rectangular frame store probably dates to the turn of the century, judging from the extant detailing on the porch. The building has been covered with tin siding, at an unknown date, and a concrete block extension was added to the south elevation of the property, probably circa 1970. The historic general store at Link, a rural community south of Rockvale, still exists. However, circa 1975, the building was moved to the Cannonsburgh Pioneer

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Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN

Village in Murfreesboro as part of a recreated frontier village. Also on Tennessee Highway 99, near the communities of Versailles and Eagleville, is the Puckett Store. This large general store remains, but the interior has changed drastically due to its conversion into a rural health center and retirement home operated by the Veterans Administration. Perhaps, the most famous store in Rutherford is now Manuel's Store in Milton. Once a general store, this building now houses a Cajun restaurant. Additions have been made to the rear, to accommodate more seating, and the entire building has been covered with wide wooden paneling in the 1980s.

In the context of surviving rural country stores in Rutherford County, the Rockvale Store appears to be the oldest, still in its original mid-1880s setting. This survival of a late nineteenth century country store adds significance to the property's significant associations with commerce in the village of Rockvale and rural Rutherford County.

Endnotes

¹ Fred Nance and John <u>Nance, The History of Versaill</u>es, The <u>Tenth District & Its People, 1983</u> (Murfreesboro: Rutherford County Historical Society, 1983),243.

² Nance, 109.

³ Carlton C. Sims<u>, ed., A History of Rutherford</u> County Murfreesboro: private, 1947), 207.

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Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN

IX. Bibliography

<u>Griffith! A Bicentennial Publication</u>. Murfreesboro: Rutherford County Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

Nance, Fred and John W. <u>The History of Versailles, The</u> <u>Tenth District & Its People, 1983</u>. Murfreesboro: Rutherford County Historical Society, 1983.

Mankin, Jack R. "A Country Store (1912-1914)." Rutherford County Historical Society <u>Publications</u>, 6(Winter 1976); 1-57.

Maxwell, June Kay. Personal Interview. 26 September, 1994.

McAlester Virginia and Lee. <u>A Field Guide to American</u> <u>Houses</u>. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Sims, Carlton C., ed. <u>A History of Rutherford County</u>. Murfreesboro: private, 1947.

Westbrooks, W. H. "A History of Link Community." Rutherford County Historical Society <u>Publications</u>, 11(Summer 1978), 36-57.

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Rockvale Store Rutherford County

X. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

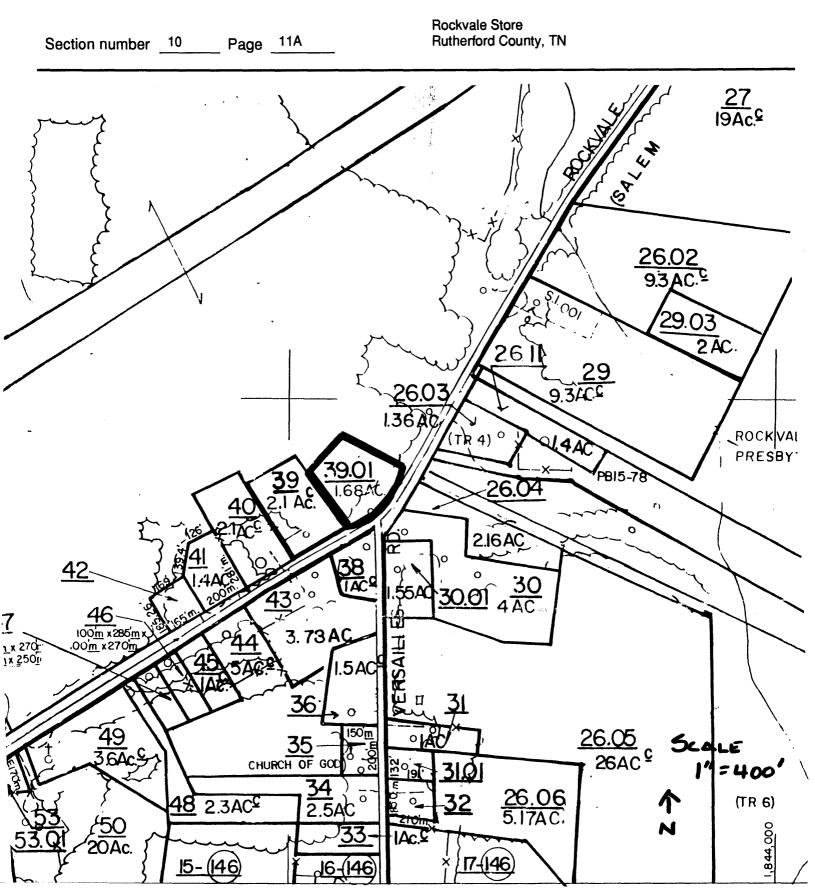
The nominated property is designated as parcel 39.01 on the attached Rutherford County Tax Map 139.

The tax map for this nomination has the scale of $1^{"}=400^{"}$. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for Rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the $1^{"}=400^{"}$ adequately meets our needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property contains all the extant historical property associated with the Rockvale Store.

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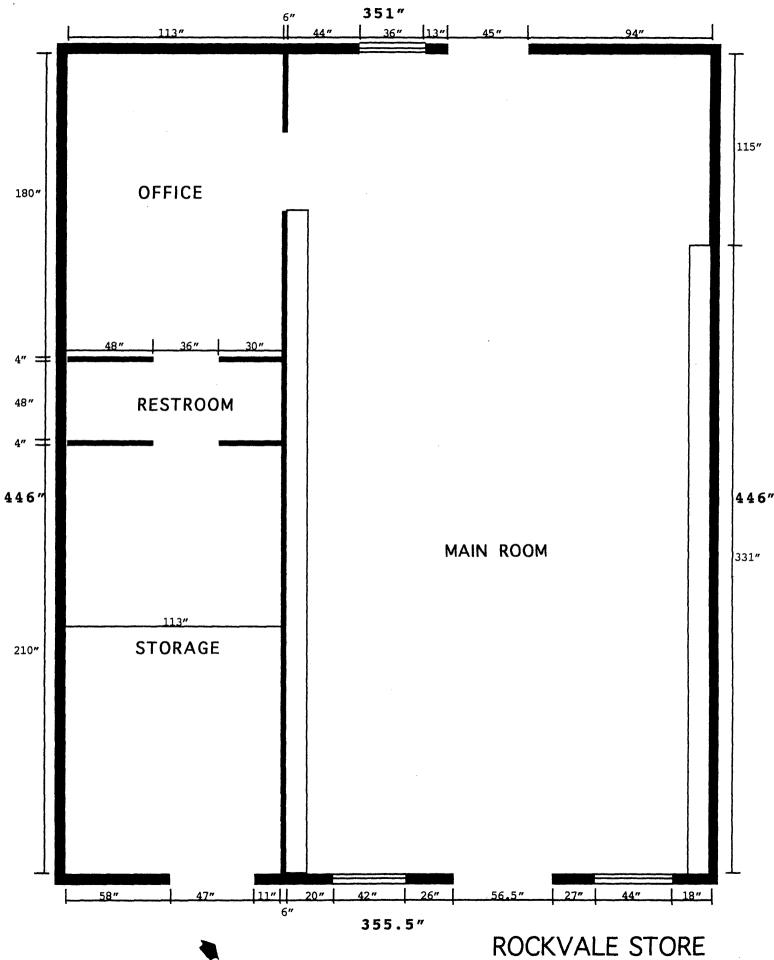
Section number PHOTOS Page _____12

Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN PHOTOGRAPHS Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN Photographs by: Carroll Van West MTSU Center for Historic Preservation PO Box 80, MTSU Murfreesboro, TN 37132 Date: September 29, 1994 and April 6, 1995 Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission 2941 Lebanon Road Nashville, TN 37243 Historic photograph, circa 1900 #1 of 17 Southeast facade, facing northwest #2 of 17 Southeast facade, porch detail, facing west #3 of 17 Northeast elevation, facing southwest #4 of 17 Northwest elevation, facing southeast #5 of 17 Southwest elevation, facing northeast #6 of 17 Southwest elevation, facing northeast #7 of 17 Store interior, under restoration, facing southeast #8 of 17 Store interior, under restoration, facing northwest #9 of 17 Original shelving, facing northeast #10 of 17

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Rockvale Store, Rutherford County, TN Original shelving, facing northeast #11 of 17 Office space, facing northwest #12 of 17 Storage room, facing southeast #13 of 17 Interior front door, after restoration, facing southeast #14 of 17 Ceiling and walls, after restoration, facing northwest #15 of 17 Original shelving, after restoration, facing northeast #16 of 17 Original flooring, after restoration, facing northwest #17 of 17



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