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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

JUN 16 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Craig, John J., Quarry Historic District
other names/site number Craig, John J., Quarry Historic District

2. Location

street & number At the end of Marmor Road, one-half mile south of N/A not for publication
city, town Miser Station Road - Friendsville X vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Blount code 009 zip code 37737

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-headers for Contributing and Noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: Hist. & Arch. Resources of Blount Co.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Herbert L. Huger
Date: 6/18/89
Deputy SHPO, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper: Amy Schlager
Date of Action: 7/25/89

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/EXTRACTION/Extractive FacilityDOMESTIC/Single DwellingCOMMERCE/Department Store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/Extractive FacilityDOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/20th Century Vernacular Industrial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Brick/Concretewalls weatherboard/Brick

roof Asphalt/Metal/Steelother Metal/Steel

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John J. Craig Quarry Historic District is composed of eighteen buildings, six structures and the quarry pit associated with the late 19th and 20th century marble quarry operation at this site. The quarry is located in a hilly area approximately two miles east of Friendsville and is located within a northeast/southwest band of hills which contain a variety of marble deposits in the western section of the county. The quarry is surrounded by wooded hills with only a few neighboring modern residences located adjacent to the district boundary.

The district contains a variety of buildings and structures associated with the quarry operation from the early to mid-20th century. The largest and most significant building is the Gangsaw building constructed in 1926. This building retains the original marble saws and polishers and continues to be in use. Other major buildings from the 1920s are the company's Commisary building and a residence built by the company for its workers. Adjacent to the quarry pit and next to the Gangsaw building are steel derricks which were erected primarily in the 1920s and 1930s to hoist the marble blocks. The quarry pit itself was opened up in 1896 and has continued to be expanded and deepened to the present.

Also in the district are a series of frame and metal sheds which were built or altered since the early 1940s. The largest of these is the two-story Crusher building which is located adjacent to the quarry pit. This structure was built in 1948 and serves to crush the marble into terrazzo chips. The other structures are small shed used to house machinery for the derricks and store bags of terrazzo. Most of these sheds measure less than 400 square feet and are scattered throughout the district.

The buildings which remain from the 1920s are brick and frame vernacular structures with no decorative detailing. The Office/Gangsaw building is of simple brick construction and its primary feature are large multi-light casement windows which allow light into the building. The Commissary is a one-story, gable front frame building of board and batten construction. The residence is a one-story, gable front frame building with a recessed porch and weatherboard siding. None of the contributing sheds have any decorative features. The contributing steel derricks are approximately 100' high and swivel on round plates.

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Hist. and Arch. Resources of Blount Co.

Most buildings in the district continue to be used for the present marble quarrying operation. The Commissary has been abandoned for many years and is in poor condition. The remaining residence continues to function as a dwelling and is leased out by the present quarry owner. No major modern intrusions have been built in the district and it retains its original early 20th century character. The district is located in a hilly, rural section of the county near Friendsville.

Individual Property Descriptions:

1. Gangsaw building. This one-story brick industrial building was constructed in 1926 in an 11 bay, ell plan design. On the main (west) facade is a 2 bay ca. 1970 frame addition which now contains the offices of the present operator. The original building is of 6 course common bond construction with a poured concrete foundation. Windows are original tri-part 9/9 fixed and hinged metal casement design. Original window lights are of opaque design and the windows have concrete sills. The building has a gable roof of composition shingles and several brick flues. The south facade is 3 bays wide with a small open rectangular water tank adjacent to the building.

The interior is composed of 2 original rooms separated by a brick partition wall. The north room is a large area of open floor space containing original belt driven saws. Marble blocks are brought in through double doors on the east facade to the sawing areas. The south room contains large compressors which power the air jacks which cut the marble in the quarry. Most machinery is original to the building. (C)

2. One-story, ca. 1980 shed roof corrugated metal building located adjacent to east wall of building #1. (NC)

3. One-story, ca. 1926, gable roof storage shed of frame construction with exposed rafter ends and corrugated metal roof. The building shelters an engine which powers adjacent derrick. (C)

4. Derrick power room, 1 story frame, ca. 1926, building with added corrugated metal siding. The siding completely covers the original vertical board siding underneath and renders the building non-contributing to the district. (NC)

5. Derrick power room, 1 story frame, ca. 1926 building with added ca. 1970 corrugated metal siding. The siding completely covers the original vertical board siding underneath and renders the building non-contributing to the district. (NC)

6. One-story, ca. 1926, frame shed with a shed roof and vertical board siding. The building shelters a band saw. (C)

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Hist. and Arch. Resources of Blount Co.

7. One-story frame, rectangular plan, single bay, gable front Commissary constructed ca. 1926. This building served as the quarry's commissary for the employees for many years. On the main (N) facade is an entrance with an original door of diagonal board. The building is of vertical board construction with both horizontal and vertical battens added. The west facade has a small, one-story original shed roof wing. On the east facade are two two-over-two sash windows. On the rear facade is a matching diagonal board door. The building has a concrete foundation and gable roof of metal standing seam. It is presently vacant. (C)

8. 1 story frame, ca. 1940 shed roof shed with building ca. 1970 metal siding. (NC)

9. One-story frame, ca. 1930 shed roof shed with horizontal board siding. (C)

10. One-story frame, ca. 1930 shed roof shed with vertical board siding. (C)

11. Two-story frame, rectangular plan building constructed in 1948. This building was constructed as a crusher building adjacent to the quarry. It has a gable roof of metal standing seam, horizontal board siding, and an open drive thru on the west facade. (NC)

12. 13. 14. 15. 1 story frame, ca. 1950 sheds with gable roofs and metal siding. (NC) (NC) (NC) (NC)

16. One-story frame, rectangular plan residence, built ca. 1926. This residence was one of several homes built by the Craig Company to house its employees but is the only one still standing. The house has a concrete foundation, gable roof of metal standing seam, interior brick flue, horizontal board siding and two-over-two sash windows. On the main (south) facade is a recessed porch with a square column and railing with square balusters. Doors are original 6 panel design. The interior was inaccessible. (C) Adjacent to the house are two contributing outbuildings: a ca. 1926 gable roof shed of frame construction with a vertical board door (C); and a one-story log barn with frame additions built ca. 1926. (C)

17. Ca. 1930, frame platform for weighing and measuring blocks which is a contributing structure. No original scales machinery remains. (C)

18. Ca. 1926, steel derrick which is a contributing structure. (C)

19. Ca. 1926, steel derrick which is a contributing structure. (C)

20. Ca. 1950, steel derrick which is a non-contributing structure. (NC)

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21. Ca. 1950, steel derrick which is a non-contributing structure. (NC)
22. Ca. 1950, steel derrick which is a non-contributing structure. (NC)
23. Quarry pit opened in 1896 which is a contributing site in the district. This pit is approximately 75' to 100' in depth and encompasses a large oval area. Within the pit are exposed marble formations and cut blocks of various sizes. (C)

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Period of Significance

1896 - ca. 1941

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The John J. Craig Historic District is significant under criterion A for its association with the marble mining industry of Blount County. It is the only major historic industrial site in the county which retains early 20th century buildings, structures and sites. The quarry is the only significant marble quarry remaining in the county and is well known for its quality and variety of marble products.

An important marble belt is located in the western section of Blount County which is approximately three miles wide and runs in a northeast/southwest direction from Morganton to Louisville. This marble belt extends for sixteen miles and comes to the surface many times along hillsides. At least twenty-four quarries have operated in this area since the 19th century and they were a major source of employment and income for area residents. The first marble quarry was opened after the Civil War by the Copley Company and the variety and texture of the marble attracted other operators in following decades. Other marble quarries were opened by the Junitia Marble Company, Evans Marble Company, Great Southern Marble Company, Royal Tennessee Marble Company and Quaker Marble Company. Most of these companies operated at the turn of the century and ceased quarrying activities by World War II.

The John J. Craig Company began quarry operations at this site in 1896. This site was the company's main quarry among four others it operated in the area. In 1902, the company built a tram road connecting this quarry with the railroad and built a sawmill with eight gang-saws. The primary marble types extracted from this quarry were known as Pink Tennessee and Dark Cedar. None of the buildings or structures associated with these early quarry operations exist but the original quarry site is a contributing site in the district.

In 1926, the company expanded its operation and constructed several major new buildings and structures at the quarry site. These included the company's Gangsaw building, Commissary for employees and at least six one-story

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Hist. and Arch. Resources of Blount Co.

residences for quarry workers. This expansion also resulted in the construction of numerous sheds and the erection of steel derricks to replace earlier wooden derricks. During this period the company employed over fifty workers at its various quarries in the area.

The company's expansion of the 1920s was the result of the rising demand for the Craig quarry's marble concurrent with the building boom of the period. The company's marble was purchased and shipped across America and to foreign countries such as Italy and Australia. Several large contracts were for marble used in government office buildings in Washington, D.C. The pink and reddish marble of the main quarry was highly prized and the demand of the 1920s resulted in the expansion of the company's operation.

By 1930, the main quarry employed several dozen workers and the operations were centered around the Gangsaw building. Marble cut in the quarry was hoisted by derricks and brought into the building where it was cut into smaller blocks. The blocks were then hauled to the railroad at Friendsville for shipment to clients. Workers lived throughout the area with at least six residences built by the company on its property to house employees. Of these residences only one remains extant. The company remained in the hands of the Craig family throughout the early 20th century.

The early years of the Depression slowed operations at the quarry for several years but the late 1930s were some of the busiest years of the company as a result of several federal government building programs such as the Work Projects Administration. The company supplied marble for numerous government buildings such as post offices, office buildings, and courthouses. One of its largest contracts was for the interior marble of the National Gallery in Washington. Several state office buildings in Nashville used the company's marble as did the U.S. Post Office in Knoxville.

With World War II, the company's operation declined as building projects lessened and did not revive until the late 1940s. The quarry continued to be owned by the Craig family until 1982 when it was sold to the present owner. The current operation of the quarry is the production of terrazzo chips for terrazzo floors. Over the past several decades small shed have been built in the district but the majority of these are small storage facilities. The overall appearance and character of the district's early 20th century operation remains intact and it is the only major historic quarry in operation in Blount County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Burns, Inez E. History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip. Tennessee Historical Commission, Mary Blount Chapter DAR, 1957.

Maher, Stuart W., and Joe P. Walters. The Marble Industry of Tennessee. Nashville: Department of Conservation and Commerce, 1960.

Morgan, John. Blount County Cultural Resource Survey. Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 16.5 acres.

UTM References

A

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

C

1	6
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7	6	1	5	2	0
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3	9	6	2	7	2	0
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B

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

D

1	6
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7	6	1	1	6	0
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3	9	6	2	7	8	0
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Louisville Quad

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the John J. Craig Quarry Historic District is illustrated on accompanying Blount County tax map 44, lot 3, which is drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'.

The district is bounded on the west by the western legal property line of the lot, on the north by the northern legal boundary of the property, on the east by a line which is 20' from the eastern edge of the quarry pit, and on the south by a treeline which See continuation sheet extends around the base of a hill to the south of the district buildings and structures.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the John J. Craig Quarry Historic District follows an irregular line to include all significant buildings, structures and sites associated with the historic operation of the quarry. The boundary excludes modern residences to the east and southeast.

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11. Form Prepared By

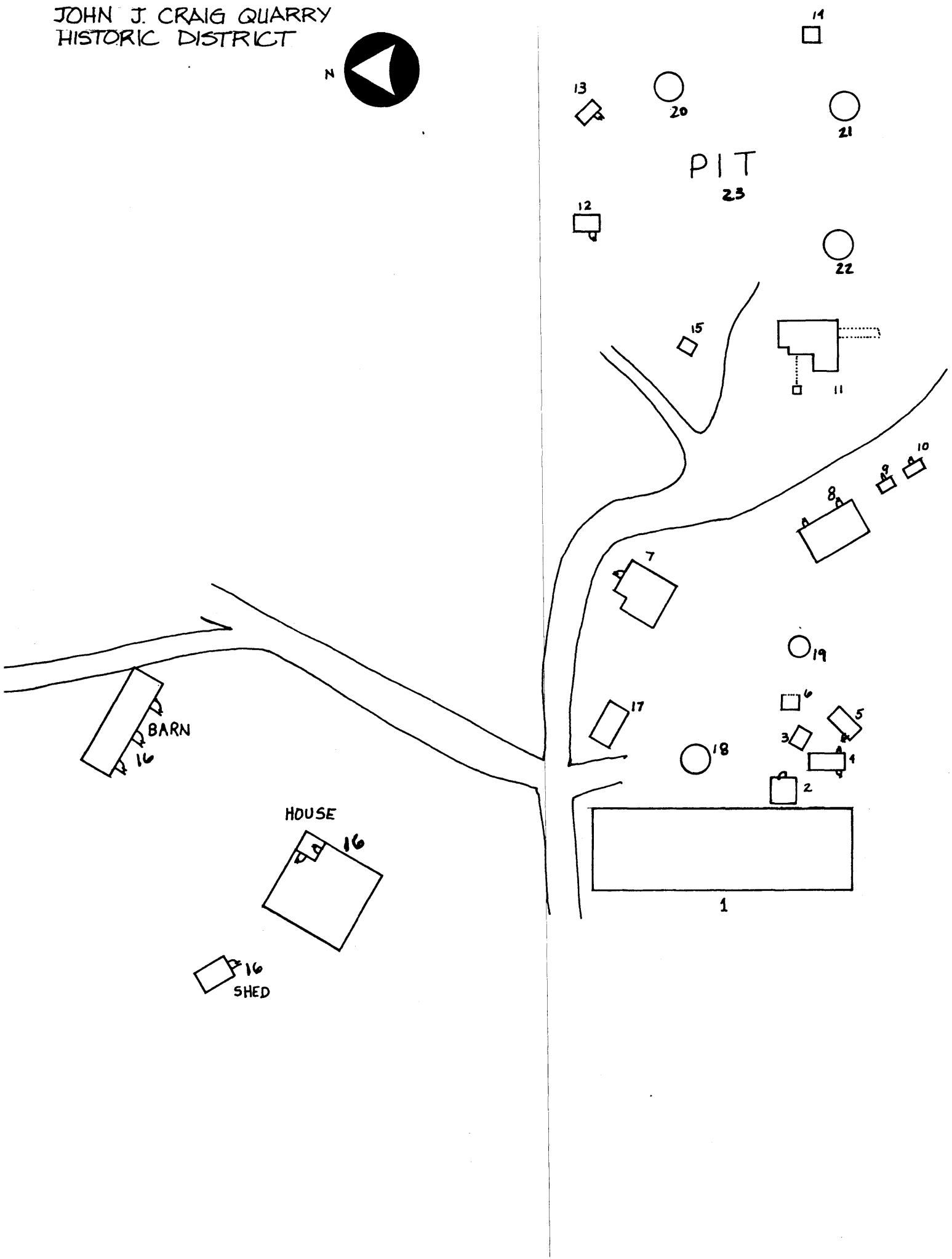
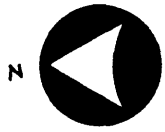
name/title Philip Thomason

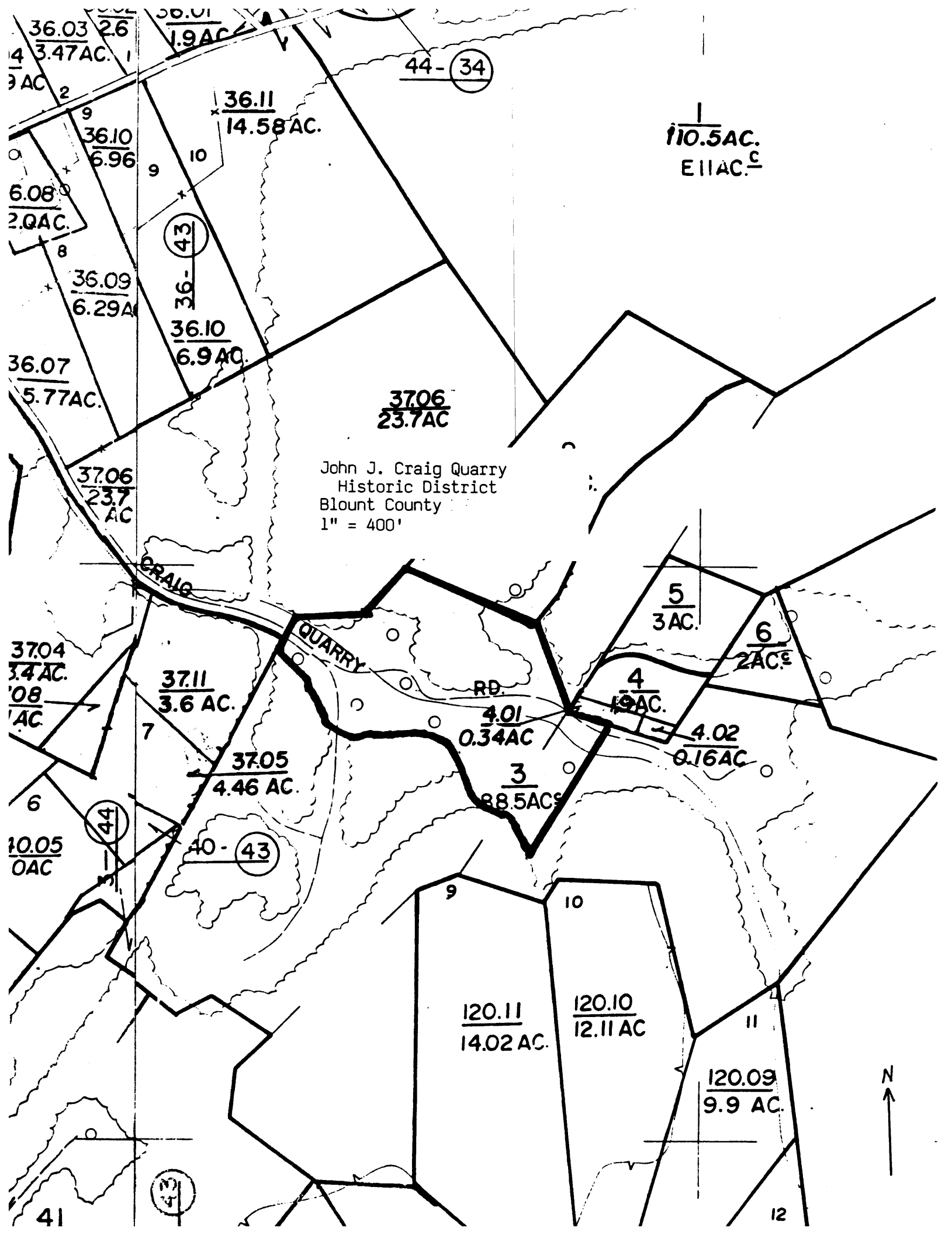
organization Thomason and Associates date 3/30/89

street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-383-0227

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

JOHN J. CRAIG QUARRY
HISTORIC DISTRICT





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Photographs
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John J. Craig Quarry Historic District
Miser Station Rd., Friendsville vic., Blount County, TN
Photographs By: Thomason and Assoc.
Date: Fall, 1988
Location of Neg: THC

View: Buildings 8, 9, 10, towards southwest.
Photo # 1

View: Building 11, towards east.
Photo # 2

View: Quarry pit, towards east.
Photo # 3

View: Building 1, Gangsaw, north and west facade.
Photo # 4

View: Building 1 Gangsaw, and 2, south and east facades.
Photo # 5

View: Building 1, Gangsaw, south and west facade.
Photo # 6

View: Building 7, Commissary, north and west facades.
Photo # 7

View: Building 16, residence, north and east facades.
Photo # 8

View: Building 16, residence, north and west facades, associated shed.
Photo # 9

View: Building 1, interior machinery.
Photo # 10

View: Barn associated with Building 16, residence.
Photo # 11