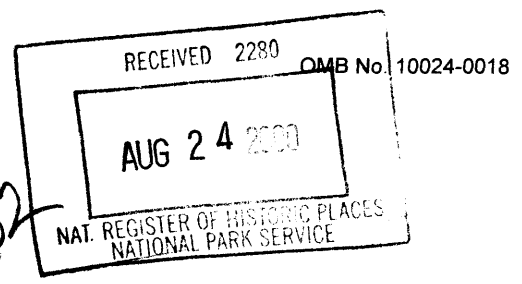


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Robb, Alfred A., House  
other names/site number Cumberland Hall; Robb - Hayes House

2. Location

street & number 529 York Street NA  not for publication  
city or town Clarksville NA  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Montgomery code 125 zip code 37040

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 National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hayes 8/16/00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, 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 9/22/00  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Name of Property

Montgomery 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	
1	1	buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	2	Total

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

Historic and Architectural Resources of  
Clarksville

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, concrete slab  
walls Brick  
roof metal, asphalt shingle  
other Glass, Wood,

**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 N/A**

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

Property is:

- 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 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

circa 1859, circa 1920 - 1930

**Significant Dates**

circa 1859, circa 1920 - 1930

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**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): 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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Tennessee  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 2.2 acres Clarksville 301 SE

#### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>467790</u>	<u>4043280</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </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.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Allen Henderson, Don Sharpe, Patsy Sharpe  
organization Montgomery County Historical Society date October 25, 1998  
street & number P.O. Box 262 telephone 931-647-0828  
city or town Clarksville state TN zip code 37040

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#### Additional Documentation

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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

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#### Property Owner

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

name James Marvin and Elizabeth Hayes  
street & number 529 York Street telephone 931-647-4414  
city or town Clarksville state TN zip code 37040

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**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

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## Architectural Description

The Alfred A. Robb House is a two-story brick, Italianate design dwelling constructed in 1859. The property is located at 529 York Street in a residential section of Clarksville, Tennessee. The house rests on a hill at the end of Georgia Avenue, which was originally the property's driveway. The house occupies an urban lot and there are no associated historic outbuildings. The Alfred A. Robb House has a rectangular plan with a one-story brick wing. This rear wing was originally the detached kitchen but in the early twentieth century, the kitchen was joined with the main dwelling. The dwelling has a hipped roof of asphalt shingles, stone foundation, interior wall brick chimneys, and exterior of common bond brick.

On the main(west) facade is a two-story central projecting bay, which contains the primary entrance. This entrance has original double doors of three-panel wood design, three-light sidelights and a rectangular, three-light transom. Above the entrance is a bracketed wood cornice. This entrance leads into a vestibule which in turn has circa 1920, twelve-light double doors which open into the main hallway. On the second story of this projecting bay, the original double doors leading to the balcony have been removed and replaced in the 1930s with multi-light wood windows when a bathroom was added to the home. The door surround retains its original two-light sidelights and three-light transom. Above this doorway is also a bracketed cornice. The entrance at this location originally led to a balcony and this balcony retains its original metal railing and support brackets. Windows on the main facade are original four-over-six, rectangular wood sashes. These windows have original pedimented metal cornices, wood brackets and decorative cast iron balconies. A decorative frieze with paired brackets surrounds the original portion of the house.

Windows on the south elevation are also four-over-six double hung sash design with pedimented cornices. There are two windows on each story of the south elevation. Separating the stories is a small balcony supported by decorative metal brackets. A small pre-1930 addition, containing a bath and porch is visible from this view. The 1920s connector and original 1850s kitchen are also seen on this elevation.

The north elevation also contains two four-over-six double hung sash windows with pedimented cornices on each story. The enclosed porch area is seen to the east of the original house. The one story 1850s/1920s section of the house contains double hung windows and a single leaf door. The windows have wood lintels and sills. A circa 1920 shed roof porch with simple columns covers this section of the house.

At the rear (east) elevation is a two-story frame section and a one-story brick wing. The wing contains a circa 1960 paired six-over-six sash window and a small brick wing with a paneled wood

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

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door leading to the basement. The original chimney in the kitchen wing has been removed. The two-story frame wing, originally a screened-in porch, was renovated in 1998 and features an exterior of wood panels and six-over-six wood sash windows. Windows were added in the renovation. This renovated wing also added a full-height enclosed elevator shaft.

The interior of the dwelling was designed with a central hall plan and retains original wood floors, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings. Within the central hallway is a two-story elliptical staircase with a milled newel post and balusters. Scroll work embellishes the sides of the stair. This hallway has an original two-light glass and wood door which opens onto the rear wing. A niche with molded trim sets midway between floors. Decorative cove molding and a ceiling medallion are additional features of the principal hallway. Most doors in the house are original paneled wood design with shouldered architrave molding casings. Windows display shouldered architrave molding on the first floor. Pedimented door and cupboard trim is also found in the Robb house. Several rooms appear to have early twentieth century ceiling lights.

Original cast iron and wood mantels are extant throughout the dwelling. Of particular note is the large living room on the first floor. There are two marble mantels with cast iron cover plates on the north wall. The fireplace mantels feature concentric round arch openings capped by a cartouche keystone, molded spandrels, and a simple mantle shelf. Decorative cove molding, a ceiling medallion and paneling below the windows are also seen in this room.

Another fireplace on the first floor has a simple wood mantle shelf, reeded pilasters capped by anthemions and a modern brick lining. In the dining room are original wood moldings, including a chair rail, cove molding and baseboards. The den contains an original built-in cupboard. Ceilings throughout the first floor retain original plaster rosettes. The rear wing contains a dining area and remodeled kitchen, with circa 1960-70 cabinets. Bathrooms were put in the house during the 1930s. The second story rear wing has a tile floor and paneled wood ceiling, and the first floor of this wing has a wood floor. The floor in the first story of the enclosed porch retains its wood floor, while the second story porch floor is tiled.

The second story of the Robb house has a hall that is the same size as the first floor hall. Floors in all upstairs rooms are made of heart pine. Molded wood trim continues throughout the second floor. There are four bedrooms, each with a built-in closet, and a bathroom. Only the southwest corner bedroom has a fireplace. It is made of cast iron and painted white. Concentric arches capped by a cartouche keystone form the fireplace opening. The fireplace spandrels contain floral motif designs. A stairway leads to an attic space.

The property occupies a landscaped rectangular lot and there is one non-contributing building, a two story brick building constructed in the 1960s, which included an apartment for the current

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National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

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owner's mother-in-law. It is currently used only for storage and has not been inhabited for a number of years, although it remains structurally sound. At the sidewalk in front of the dwelling is a circa 1970 brick entrance gate and stairs. This structure is included as a non-contributing feature to the property.

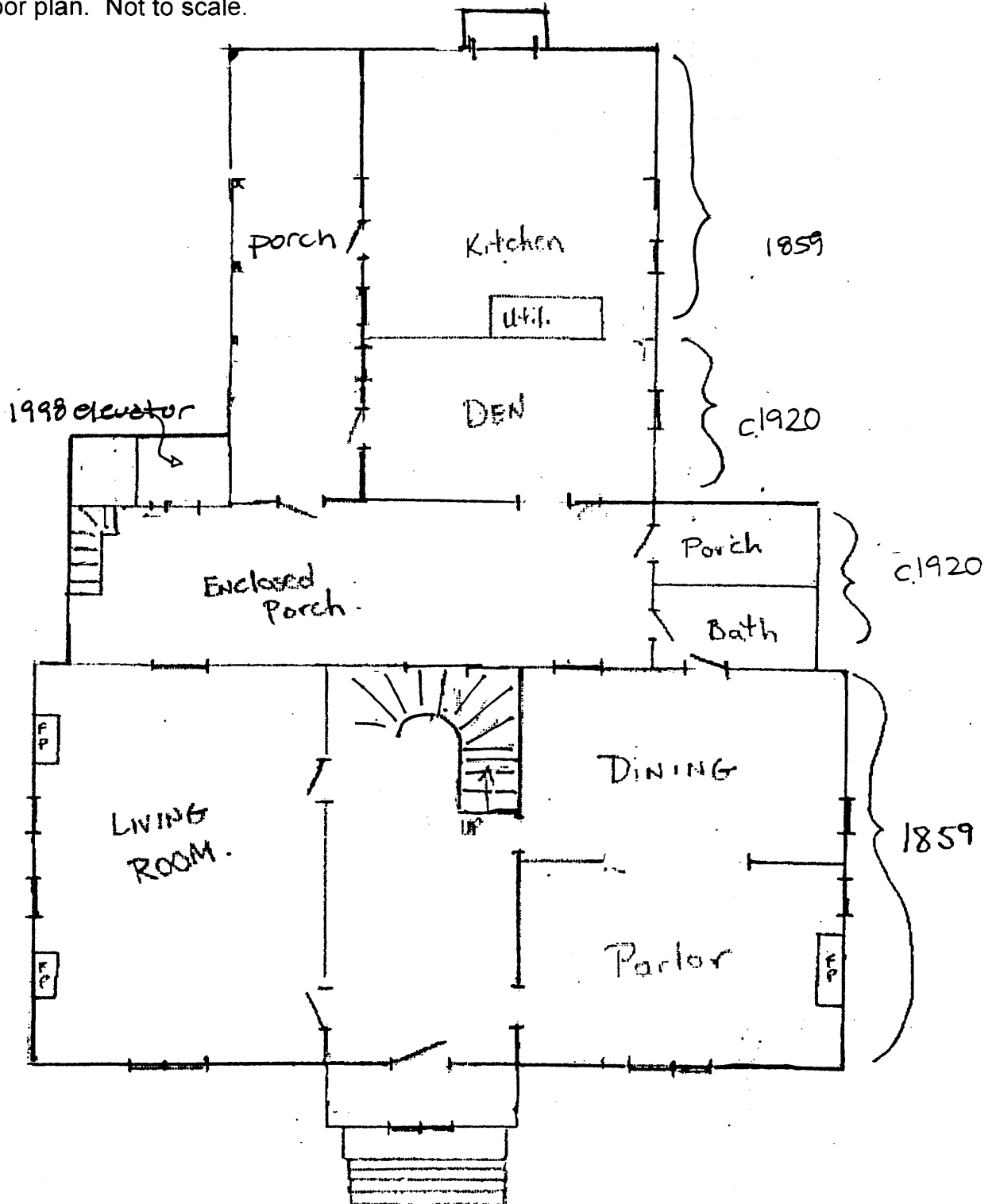
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

First story floor plan. Not to scale.





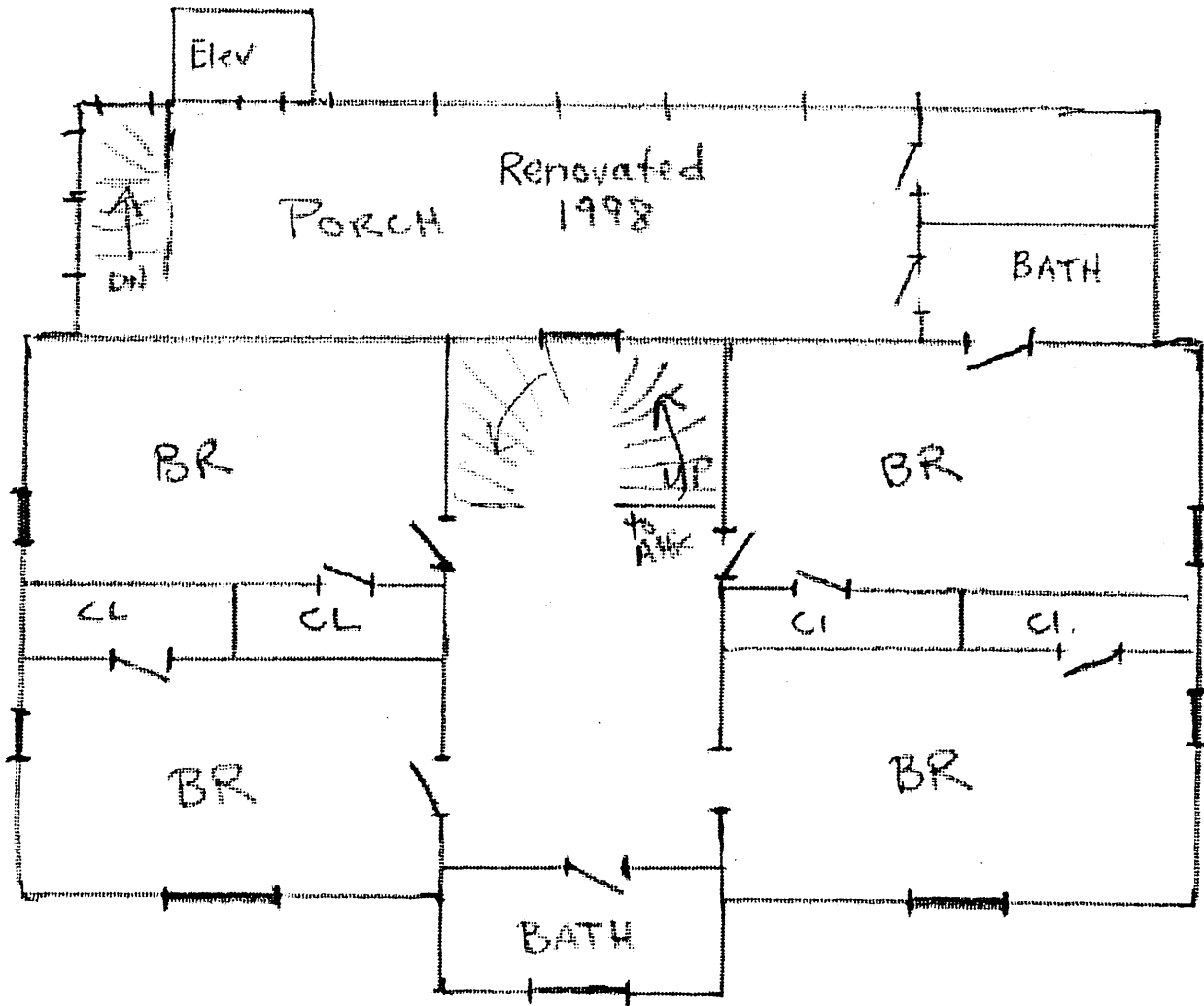
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

Second Story floor plan. Not to scale.



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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

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## Statement of Significance

Completed in 1859, the Alfred A. Robb House is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C as a locally significant example of nineteenth century Italianate architecture. The symmetrical facade, multi-light windows with decorative cornices, bracketed entry and cornice are some of the character defining features of the exterior of this Italianate house. Inside, the house retains ceiling rosettes, wood molding, plaster walls, wood floors and historic fireplaces. The Alfred A. Robb House is a prime example of the large homes built in Clarksville during the pre-Civil War years. This was a time when fortunes were being made in tobacco, merchandising, banking, and politics. Reflecting this prosperity, impressive two story brick houses, such as Robb's house, were being built. Except for some early twentieth century changes and a recent modification at the rear of the property, the house has retained much of its original character both inside and out. The Alfred A. Robb House meets the registration requirements of the Historic and Architectural Resources of Clarksville.

The Alfred A. Robb house was built on a site approximately one-quarter mile from the confluence of the Cumberland and Red Rivers. The land was purchased from Gustavus Henry, a lawyer and political figure in Clarksville, and was once part of his estate known as Emerald Hill (NR 1971). In 1856 Henry's estate spanned from the river south all the way to Jefferson Street and from First Street on the west to Robb Street on the East. Before purchasing the land for the present house, Robb owned a vast piece of property across Robb Street and bordering Henry's property to the west. About the time Robb purchased this land, Henry also was selling other portions of his property as Clarksville continued to grow. He sold a lot that adjoined Robb's to W. A. Forbes. The Robb House is one of several large anchor homes in the locally-designated Emerald Hill Historic District and is featured in historic tour guides and brochures. It is also located one-block from the Forbes-Mabry House (NR 1997) and two blocks from the Christopher A. Smith House (NR 1987).

Alfred Robb was the son of Joseph Robb who came from Scotland to America in the late 1700s and settled in North Carolina. Born in 1809, Alfred Robb graduated from the University of Nashville in 1837 and began his law practice in Gallatin in 1844. Robb married Mary E. Conrad of Robertson County and moved to Clarksville in 1846. The Robbs eventually had five children. Robb practiced law in Clarksville with the locally-prominent lawyer and politician James E. Bailey.

From 1846 until his death in 1862 Robb was involved in the civic life and politics of Clarksville and Montgomery County. He was one of the founders of the local bank, a trustee of the Montgomery Masonic College and Stewart College and a major stockholder in the Franklin Wharf Company of Clarksville. He served on the Board of Directors of the Masonic College from 1851-1855. The institution became Stewart College in 1856 and Robb continued as a Trustee of that institution. These colleges were predecessors to Austin Peay State University. Robb Hall (demolished), a

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

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dormitory on the campus was built through the philanthropy of Robb. Robb was a prominent Democrat and was elected mayor on the Know Nothing Party ticket in 1855. He was also a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1861 where he introduced a resolution against wartime profiteering in food.<sup>1</sup>

In December 1861, Alfred A. Robb joined the 49th Tennessee Regiment, formed at Fort Donelson (NR 966). The regiment was led by his law partner James E. Bailey. On February 5, 1862, Lt. Col. Robb changed his will, providing for his wife by willing all real and personal property to her in the event of his death. On February 15th 1862, Robb was wounded at the Battle of Fort Donelson. He was taken by boat to Clarksville and moved to his home where he died on February 17, 1862.

The original Robb estate encompassed many acres. The home remained in the Robb family until July 1910, when the Robb children sold the property to Joe Goldberg. Goldberg subdivided the property creating Georgia Avenue from the driveway and also creating York and Helen Streets. The land became Crestwood Subdivision and was platted and registered in the summer of 1910. By 1927 almost every lot had a house constructed on it, making it one of Clarksville's earliest subdivisions. Goldberg sold the house to Ann Potter DeMyer, who sold the property to James Marvin Hayes Sr. and his wife, Ann, on May 23, 1934. In 1962, Mrs. Hayes sold the property to her son James Marvin Hayes, Jr. and his wife Elizabeth, the present owners.

As was mentioned above, there are several other houses in Clarksville constructed around the same time the Alfred A. Robb house was built. As an example, Tip Top is a circa 1859 Greek Revival residence that was modernized with Colonial Revival details between 1909 and 1911. The exterior of Tip Top retains significant features from the earlier period, while the interior of the house is more representative of the later time. The large two story columns of the facade give this house an appearance totally different than the Robb House. Another Clarksville house built circa 1859 is the Christopher H. Smith House. This house is representative of a transitional style combining features of Greek Revival and Italianate designs. Although the massing of the house is similar to the nominated house, the Smith House differs in the use of arched windows and more elaborate details around the entry and window. The two story brick, gable and wing plan Forbes-Mabry house is another circa 1859 Italianate residence in the city. Like the Robb House, it has pedimented window cornices, brackets and decorative metal balconies. However, the massing and form of the house are different than the Robb House. Emerald Hill is a two story brick residence that was remodeled around 1910 with an impressive classical facade. In the quality of its design and level of integrity, the Alfred A. Robb House compares favorably with the houses noted.

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<sup>1</sup> Robb lived in the house being nominated for less than three years. Although he may have been an important leader in Clarksville, it appears that most of his significant activities occurred when he lived elsewhere.

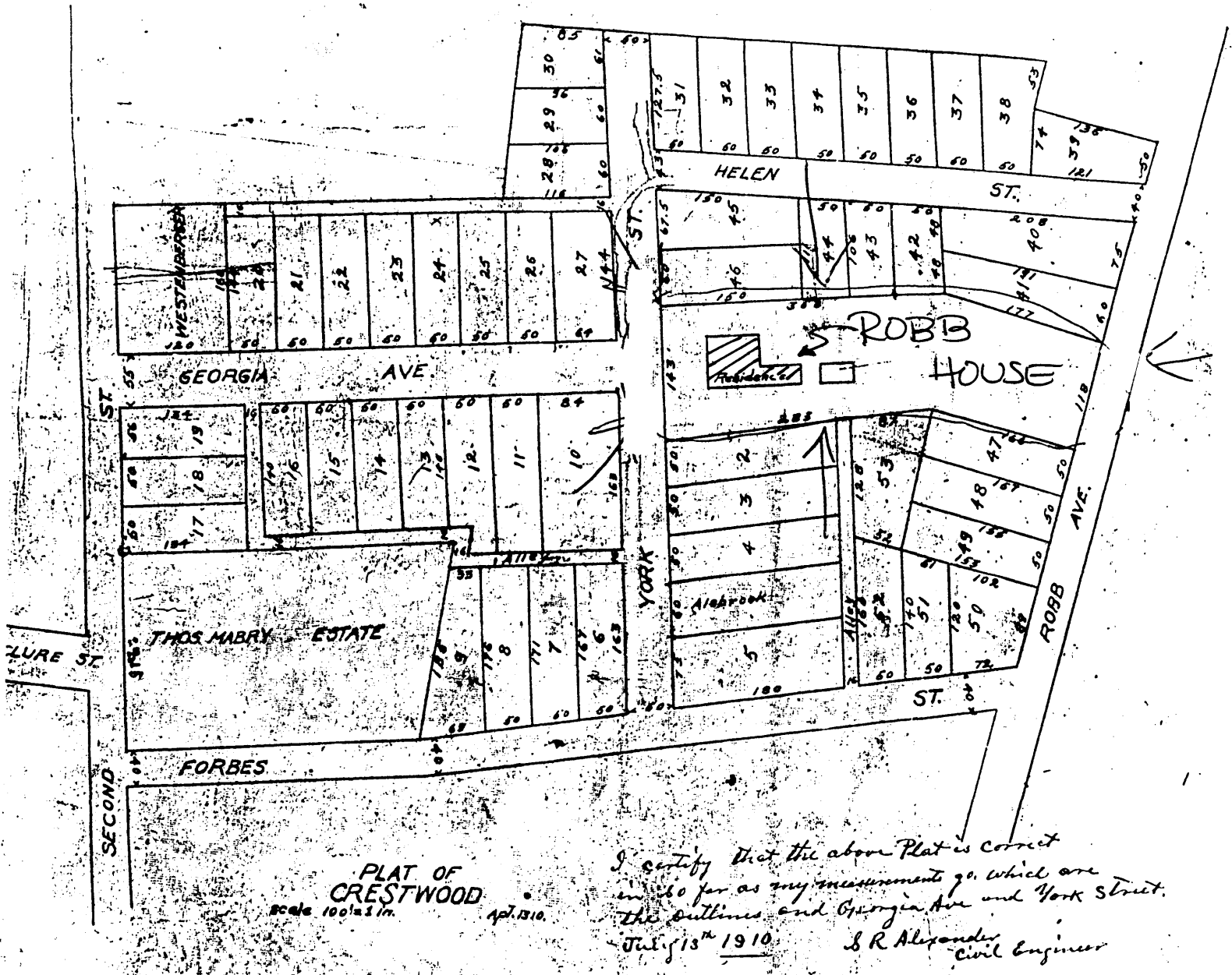
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

1910 plat of Crestwood showing location the Robb House.



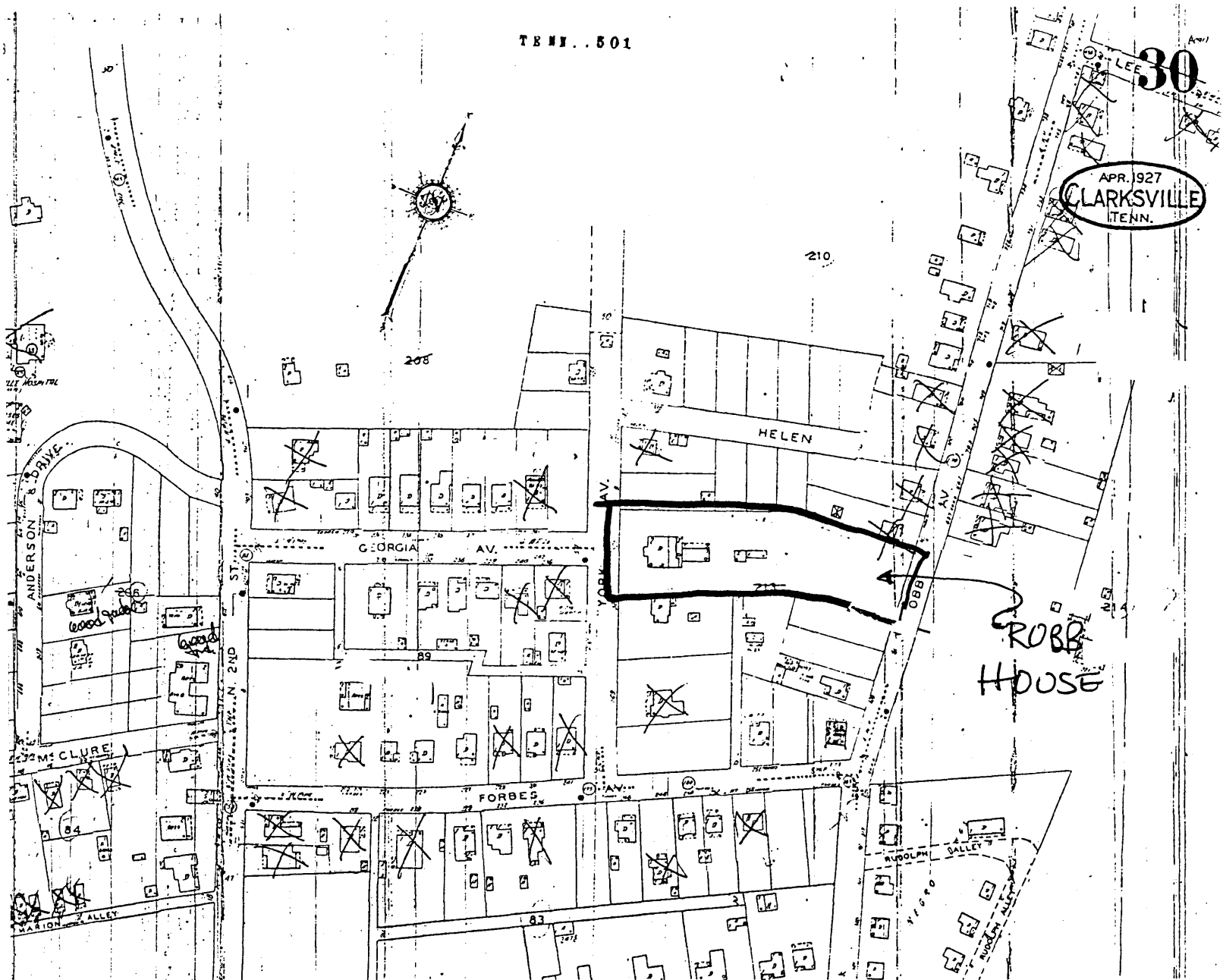
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

1927 Sanborn map.



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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 10

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

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## Bibliography

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Montgomery County Will Book P:62.

Montgomery County , Tennessee Deed Books: 78:334. 84:597, 85:86, 82:110, 95:39646:482,

Titus, W. P., *Picturesque Clarksville: Past and Present*, Clarksville, Tennessee: Privately Printed 1887; reprint ed., 1972.

Waters, Charles, ed. *Historic Clarksville: The Bicentennial Story 1784-1984*, **rest of citation?**

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

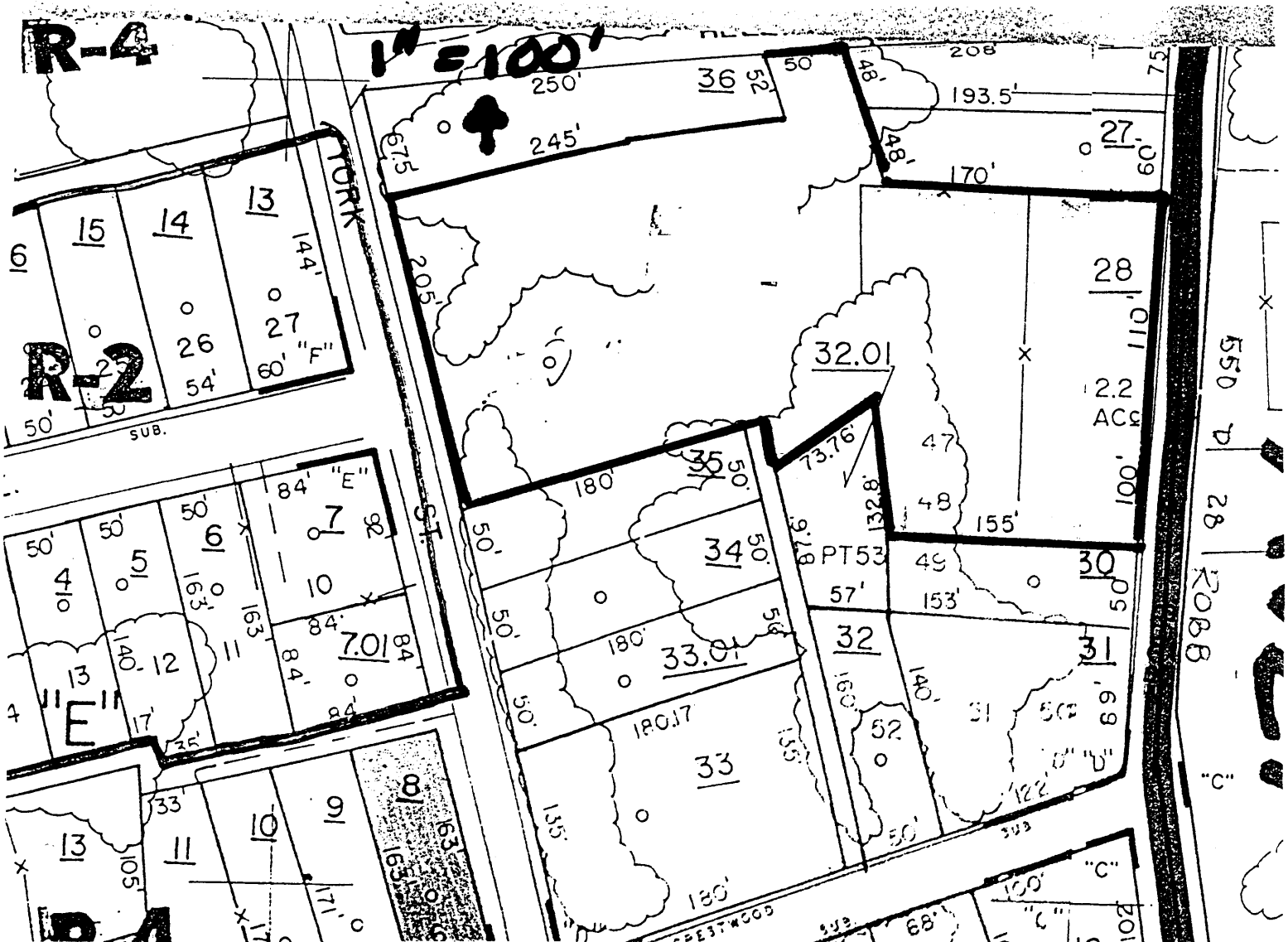
Section number 10 Page 11

Verbal Boundary Description

The Alfred A. Robb House located at 529 York Street in Clarksville, Montgomery County, Tennessee sets on approximately 2.2 acres of land (see tax map 66-C).

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes all the remaining property historically associated with the Alfred A. Robb House.



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number     photos     Page     12    

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

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## Photograph Log

Photos by: Allen Henderson  
Date: October 1999 and July 2000  
Negative: Tennessee Historical Commission

West facade, facing east  
# 1 of 26

South elevation, facing northeast  
#2 of 26

North elevation, facing south  
#3 of 26

East elevation, facing northwest  
#4 of 26

East elevation, facing southwest  
#5 of 26

Front entrance  
#6 of 26

Entrance hall, facing east  
#7 of 26

Staircase  
#8 of 26

Entrance hall, facing west  
#9 of 26

Living room  
#10 of 26

Front parlor  
#11 of 26



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

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Dining room  
#12 of 26

Den  
#13 of 26

Den  
#14 of 26

Kitchen  
#15 of 26

Upstairs hall  
#16 of 26

Upstairs hall  
#17 of 26

Hall bathroom  
#18 of 26

Hall bathroom  
#19 of 26

Northwest bedroom  
#20 of 26

Southwest bedroom  
#21 of 26

Southwest bedroom  
#22 of 26

Southwest bedroom  
#23 of 26

Downstairs connector between main house and kitchen  
#24 of 26

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 14

Robb, Alfred A., House  
Montgomery County, Tennessee

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Upstairs rear porch  
#25 of 26

Upstairs rear porch  
#26 of 26