

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96001401

Date Listed: 12/4/96


Tennessee School for the Deaf H. D.
Property Name

Knox
County

TENNESSEE
State

Knoxville and Knox County MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

12/4/96
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

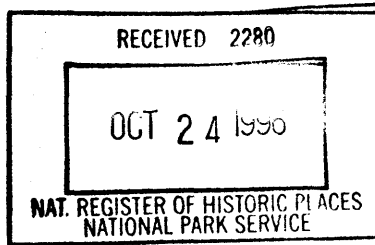
This nomination is amended to delete 1848 as a significant date, since no importance is being claimed for the original Island Home house, which was built in that year but has been altered. Significance for the district is claimed only for association with the school, which did not move to this site until 1923.

This change has been confirmed with the Tennessee SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1401

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 Tennessee School for the Deaf Historic District

other names/site number Island Home; KN. 987-993

2. Location

street & number 2725 Island Home Boulevard N/A not for publication

city or town Knoxville N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Knox code 093 zip code 37920

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally, statewide, locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays 10/21/96
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:)

Margaret M. Way Signature of the Keeper 12/4/96 Date of Action

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

6

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

6

1

Total

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

Historic & Arch Resources of Knoxville & Knox Co., TN

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

EDUCATION-RELATED: dormitory

EDUCATION-RELATED: gymnasium

EDUCATION-RELATED: superintendent's house

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

EDUCATION-RELATED: dormitory

EDUCATION-RELATED: gymnasium

EDUCATION-RELATED: superintendent's house

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof slate

other limestone

Narrative Description

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

EDUCATION
 ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1923, 1924-1940

Significant Dates

1848, 1923 -1924

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Marr, Thomas S., 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:

Knoxville-Knox Co. Metro Planning Commission

Tennessee School for the Deaf
Name of Property

Knox Co., TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 10 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Knoxville, TN 147NW

1	<u>17</u>	<u>240160</u>	<u>3983260</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>240850</u>	<u>3982940</u>

3	<u>17</u>	<u>240520</u>	<u>3982940</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>17</u>	<u>240240</u>	<u>3982940</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Bennett, Senior Planner
organization Knoxville-Knox County Metro Planning Commission date April 1996
street & number Suite 403, 400 Main Street telephone 423-215-2500
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37902

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Tennessee School for the Deaf (State of Tennessee)
street & number 2725 Island Home Boulevard telephone (423) 594-6022
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37920

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

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

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Tennessee School for the Deaf
Knox County, TN

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Tennessee School for the Deaf (T.S.D.) campus is located on Island Home, the former second home of Perez Dickinson, who operated a model farm on the site. Dickinson's house, also named Island Home, was built in 1846, and although it has been altered by the Tennessee School for the Deaf, serves as housing for the school's administrator. The house faces the western entrance to the T.S.D. grounds, and the narrow concrete drives that wind up the hill where the house is located mimic the carriage way that originally led to Island Home. The drive is lined with mature hardwood trees, and the buildings that formed the original complex are located at the crest of the hill behind the home.

In addition to Island Home, five buildings remain from those built in 1923 as the campus of the Tennessee School for the Deaf, Cottage A, Cottage B and Cottage D, all built to function as dormitories, the Administration Building located in the center of the dormitories, and the gymnasium, located below the crest of the hill to the northwest.

1. **Cottage A Dormitory (1923-1924).** Colonial Revival. Two and one-half story brick building with raised basement, hip roof with slate roof covering. Four hip roof dormers each on north and south elevations, and one dormer each on north and south elevations, all hip roof with slate roof covering and shingled walls. Six-over-six double-hung wood windows with marble lintels and sills. Projecting one story front entry on north elevation with flat roof. Front entry door altered. Large ramp leading to front entry on west side of front steps. Vertical bricks make up water table and belt course below second story windows. Irregular plan. (C)
2. **Cottage B Dormitory (1923-1924).** Colonial Revival. Two and one-half story brick building with raised basement, hip roof with slate roof covering. Four hip roof dormers each on north and south elevations, and one dormer each on north and south elevations, all hip roof with slate roof covering and shingled walls. Six-over-six double-hung wood windows with marble lintels and sills. One story ell on west elevation with raised basement and flat roof, six-over-six and three-over-three wood windows. Projecting one story front entry on north elevation with flat roof. Front entry door altered. Ramp leading to front entry on west side of front steps. Vertical brick water table and belt course below second story windows. Irregular plan. (C)
3. **Administration and Classroom Building. Ward Building. (1923-1924).** Colonial Revival. Two and one-half story building with raised basement. Primary entry and facade is on the west elevation, with significant, but secondary facades on the north and south. H-shaped plan. West Facade: Three bay facade formed by central portion of building and flanking ends of north and south ells. Three story brick building with raised basement, gable roof with asphalt shingle roof covering. Central entry in three story portico with gabled roof and square pilasters with Ionic capitals in limestone. Central section has nine-over-nine wood double-hung windows on first and second stories, with third story windows having full arched fan lights consisting of paired six-over-six double-hung windows, with limestone keystones in brick arches. Flanking north and south ells have six-over-six double-hung basement windows and nine-over-nine double-hung wood windows on second story. Third story has a full arched tripartite window with a central nine-over-nine double-hung window flanked by eleven light arched windows. All windows have limestone sills and lintels, with the sills of the third story windows being curvilinear. Coping appears at the gable ends of portion of building on north and south elevations. North and south facades: Projecting gabled three story entry with altered door. Three

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Tennessee School for the Deaf
Knox County, TN

part windows on second story in central entry with flanking four-over-four double-hung windows at front entry and on third story and central twelve-over-twelve double-hung window on second story. (C)

4. **Cottage D Dormitory.** (1923-1924). Colonial Revival. Two and one-half story brick with raised basement, hip roof with slate roof covering. Four hip roof dormers on south (front) and north (rear) elevations, one hip roof dormer each on west and east elevations. Six-over-six double-hung wood windows. Projecting flat roof entry portico with altered entry. One story with raised basement frame shed roof additions on west and east elevations with weatherboard wall covering. Limestone sills throughout brick portion of building. Vertical brick course indicating water table and belt course at sills of second story windows. Irregular plan. (C)
5. **Gymnasium.** (1923-1924). Collegiate Gothic. Two story brick building with raised basement. Projecting third story lantern at front central entry on west elevation. Metal thirty-two light windows on first story and raised basement, forty-eight light metal windows on second story. Boomtown roof on west elevation, with flat roof on building. Three story projecting central entry bay on west elevation with twelve light metal window on first story, eighteen light window on second story. Rectangular plan. (C)
6. **Superintendent's Residence. Island Home.** (1848; ca. 1890; ca. 1925). Modified Italianate. Two story brick with hip roof. Porte cochere on south elevation with square wood columns. Gabled portico on north elevation primary entry, supported by square wood columns with Doric capitals. Eight-over-eight replacement wood double-hung windows. Two offset interior brick chimneys. Additions and modifications include removal of porches on each facade and construction of addition to house bathrooms (c.1890), with radiator systems and wiring on interior, and front portico, porte cochere on south elevation and one story hip roof porch on north elevation. North porch enclosed in the 1920s. Interior modifications include creating a living room, dining room and kitchen in the basement, which had formerly served as servant's quarters. Irregular plan. (C)
7. **Guard House.** ca. 1955. Modern brick building with flat roof, glass doors, and window. (NC)

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Tennessee School for the Deaf
Knox County, TN

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tennessee School for the Deaf was established by the Tennessee legislature in January, 1844. As the Tennessee Deaf and Dumb School; it opened in June of 1845. The first facility used by the students and faculty was a rented residence in East Knoxville (no longer standing), where children received room, board and instruction of a ten months' school term. There were six people in the first class, which grew to nine in the first few weeks of operation. In mid-February, 1846, the school was closed for lack of funds. In the summer of 1846, the school received a gift of two acres of land west of the center of town, and constructed a facility now known as the Knoxville City Hall (NR 5/31/1972 and 12/2/1982). This facility served as the school until 1924, when the institution moved to its present location. In 1923, the ground was broken for new buildings on a 125-acre site in the Island Home section of Knoxville, south of the Tennessee River. In 1925, the name of the school was changed to the Tennessee School for the Deaf.

The first building for which ground was broken on the new campus was the Ward Building, with the cornerstone being laid on November 28, 1923. The building was then called the Administration Building, and was formally dedicated by Governor Austin Peay on November 24, 1924. The two story building, when it was new, housed administrative offices, twenty-two classrooms, a library, an auditorium with a seating capacity of 700 and a shop for vocational training. In November of 1975, the building, which still contains the administrative offices and classrooms for the high and middle schools and a multiple handicapped program, was named for Herschel Rogers Ward who was a teacher, principal and psychologist at the school for forty years until his death in 1959.

Concurrent with the construction of the Administration Building, the Tennessee School for the Deaf built three dormitories, Cottages A, B and D. At the same time, extensive modifications made by the Tennessee School for the Deaf were carried out on the Superintendent's House, formerly Island Home, the second home of Perez Dickenson.

The Ward Building was designed by a renowned architect, Thomas Scott Marr, who himself was an alumnus of the Tennessee School for the Deaf. Marr was born in Nashville in 1866. He attended Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in 1889. He went on to receive an honorary Master of Science degree from Gallaudet College in June, 1924.

After he graduated from Gallaudet in 1889, Marr returned to Nashville and worked in the office of Thompson and Giebel, architects until 1892, when he took the architectural course at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He returned to the Thompson and Giebel firm and after five years, had saved enough funds to open his own architectural offices. In the summer of 1904, Marr employed Joseph W. Holman, a newsboy who learned architecture from Marr. In 1910, Holman was admitted to the partnership, which then operated under the firm name of Marr and Holman.

Thomas S. Marr designed buildings throughout the United States, and many buildings in Nashville are credited to him. Included among them are the Warner Building, the East Nashville Senior High School, the Nashville Post Office, the Methodist Publishing House, the Knickerbocker Theater and the Andrew Jackson, Noel, Sam Davis and James Robertson hotels.

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Tennessee School for the Deaf
Knox County, TN

When he was chosen as the architect for the Tennessee School for the Deaf building, he visited a number of schools in the east to determine what types of buildings were best for use by deaf students. According to Marr, he devised a plan which used features from schools in Maryland and New Jersey. He preferred a cottage plan for the residential buildings, each of which was planned to house thirty to forty students of the same age. Buildings designed by Marr include the Main Building, Cottages A, B, C (no longer extant) and D, the gymnasium and the Scout cabin (no longer extant). In describing his architectural designs, Marr is quoted as saying that "God closed my ears to the petty noises of the world that I might the better vision beautiful buildings."

The significance of the Tennessee School for the Deaf and its original buildings lies in the role it has played in the education of hearing impaired students since its construction in 1924. Even the Superintendent's Residence, although substantially altered from its original Italianate appearance, underwent those alterations during its attachment to the Tennessee School for the Deaf, and has acquired significance in that capacity. The complex is also significant due to the esteem the graduates of the Tennessee School for the Deaf and the citizens of Knox County hold for the campus and for Marr, who was well-known and successful, in spite of his physical handicap. In addition, the buildings are an excellent execution of a Colonial Revival design, and together with its setting, an important symbol of the importance of the Tennessee School for the Deaf in this community. The architectural design of the Ward Building and the adjacent dormitories, with their Colonial Revival styling, is also significant for Knox County. Although other examples of the Colonial Revival style exist in the county, the Ward Building is one of the finest, and one of the only, institutional building that displays that design.

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Tennessee School for the Deaf
Knox County, TN

Bibliography

100th Anniversary of the Tennessee School for the Deaf. n.p., 1945

Faulkner, Charles F. "A Reprieve for the Ward Building." Knoxville-Heritage News Notes. n.d.

Papers of Marr & Holman Architects. Series II: Building Projects - 1920 - 1927. Tennessee School for the Deaf - 1923. T.H.S. Ac. 452. Box 28, Folder 5. Tennessee State Library.

Papers of Marr & Holman Architects. Series II: Building Projects - 1920 - 1927. Tennessee School for the Deaf - 1923. T.H.S. Ac. 452. Box 28, Folder 6. Tennessee State Library.

Smith, Dusty. Letter to Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer. June 1993.

VandeVenter, Robert. Interview with by Ann K. Bennett. March 18, 1993

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Continuation Sheet

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Tennessee School for the Deaf
Knox County, TN

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Tennessee School for the Deaf generally follow along the entry drive to the circle drive. At the circle drive the boundaries include all of the buildings constructed in the 1920s. This includes only a portion of the land of the school property on CLT Map 95, parcel 13.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries noted above encompass the six buildings that remain from the circa 1920 campus of the Tennessee School for the Deaf, including the lawn and drive that frame the Superintendent's Residence (Island Home).

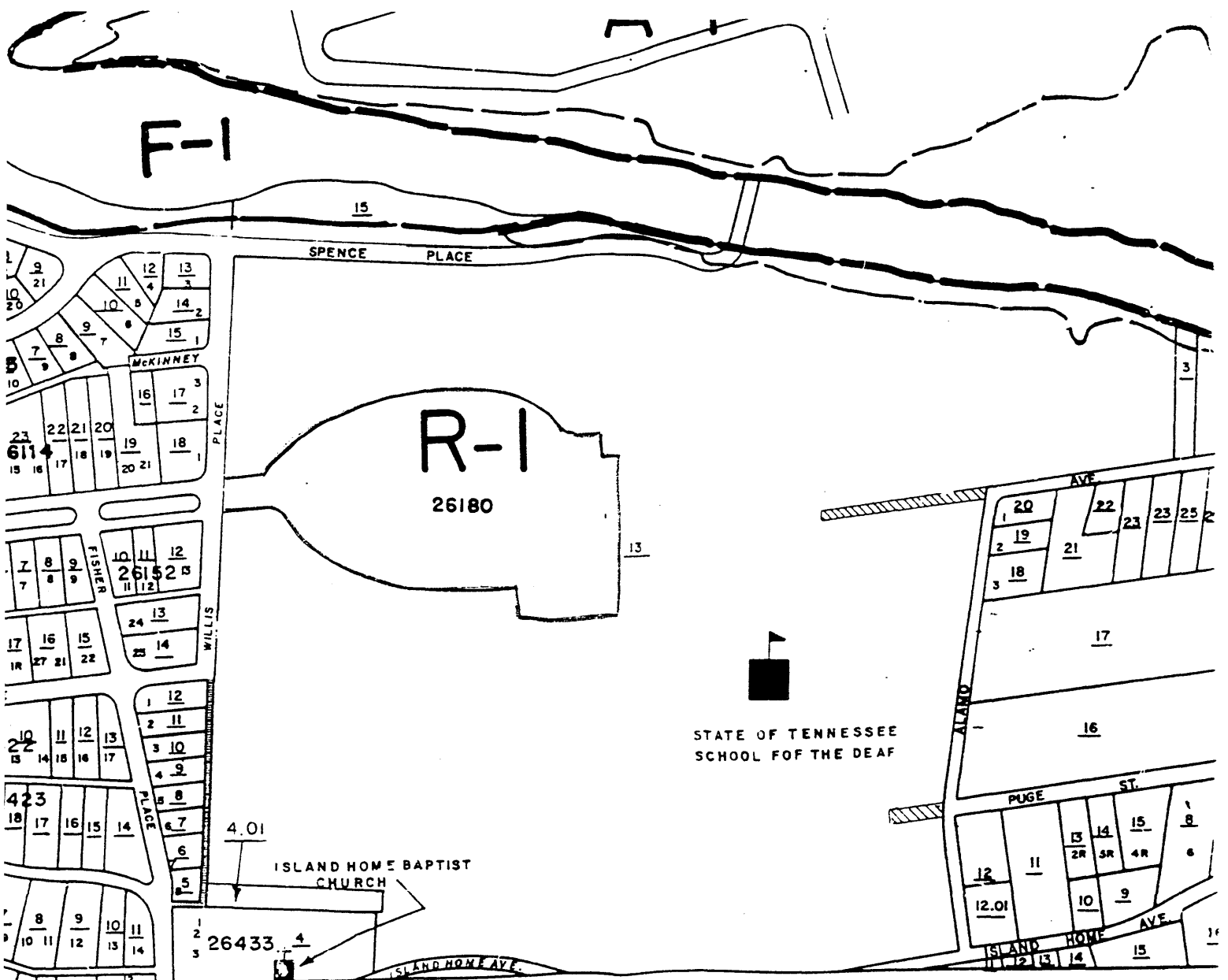
The tax map for this property has the scale of 1" = 400'. This scale map is prepared by the Tennessee Board of Equalization for areas of large acreage. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

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Tennessee School for the Deaf
Knox County, TN

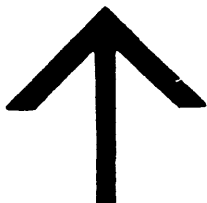


ADOPTED BY COUNTY COMMISSION
ON 3rd & FINAL READING 4/17/79

F 19.9

COMMISSION

SSION



MAP 1 of 2
Scale 1" = 400'

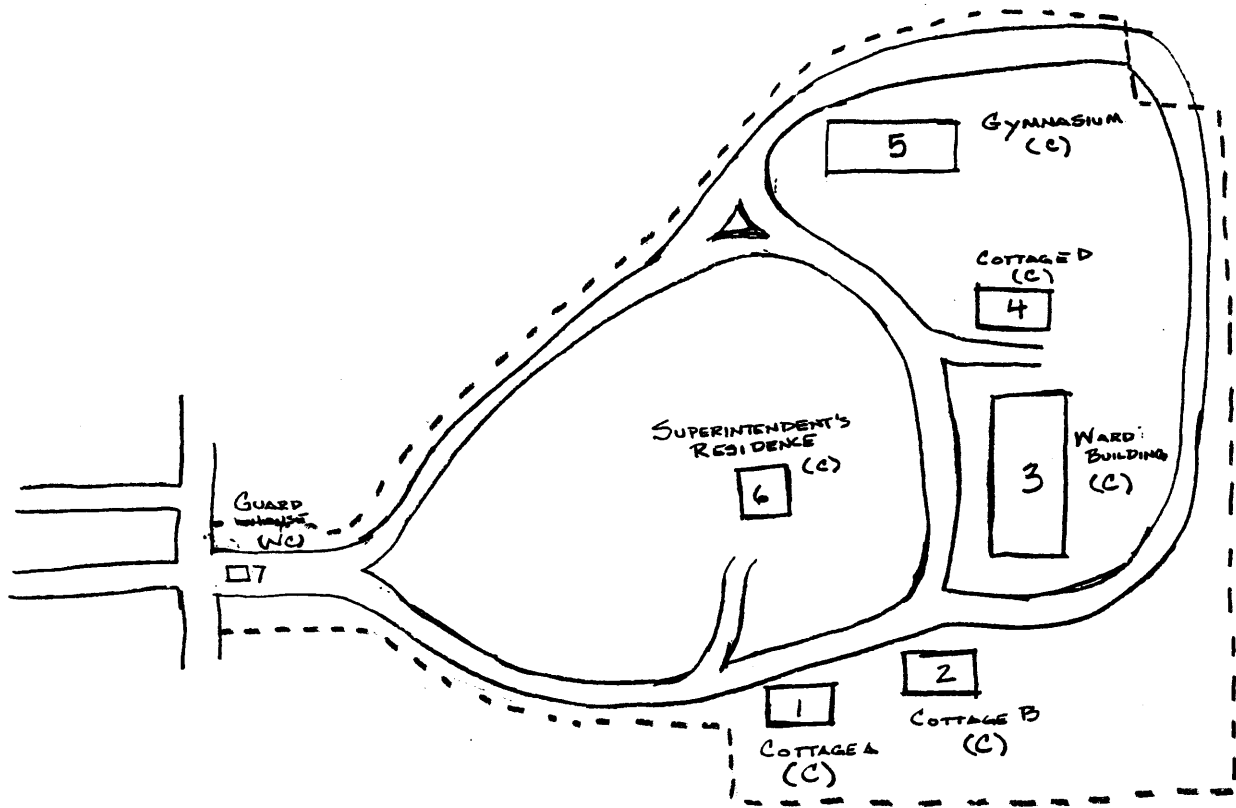
81	82	83
94	95	96
108	109	110

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Tennessee School for the Deaf
Knox County, TN



TENNESSEE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
KNOX Co., TN

NOT TO SCALE



--- APPROX. BOUNDARY

MAP 2 of 2
SITE MAP

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National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

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Tennessee School for the Deaf
Knox County, TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Tennessee School for the Deaf
2725 Island Home Boulevard
Knox County, Tennessee
Photographs by: Ann K. Bennett
Date: July 24, 1994
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Cottage B, north (front) elevation, facing southeast
#1 of 6

Cottage A, south and east elevations, facing southwest
#2 of 6

Ward Building, west (front) elevation, facing east
#3 of 6

Cottage D, south and west elevations, facing northeast
#4 of 6

Gymnasium, west (front) and south elevations, facing northeast
#5 of 6

Superintendent's Residence, west (front) elevation, facing northeast
#6 of 6