

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 28 1984

date entered OCT 25 1984

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

1. Name

historic Thomas J.B. Turner House

and/or common Boxwood (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Old Salem Pike N/A — not for publication

city, town Murfreesboro —X vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Rutherford code 149

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Hubert and Clara McCullough

street & number Old Salem Pike (Tennessee Highway 99)

city, town Murfreesboro —X vicinity of state Tennessee 37130

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rutherford County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Murfreesboro state Tennessee 37130

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Rutherford County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979-80 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Boxwood, the Thomas J.B. Turner House, was built c.1840 and is a fine example of a vernacular interpretation of a Greek Revival style farm house located approximately one quarter mile from the Rutherford County seat of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. A two-story, frame addition was attached c. 1850 and also displays vernacular Greek Revival detailing. The house was renovated in 1981 which included repointing the brickwork on the main section of the house in portland cement, the application of aluminum siding on the rear ell, the deteriorated front portico was rebuilt, and a carport was added to the rear of the ell addition. Despite these alterations, Boxwood retains its historical and architectural integrity.

Boxwood is a five-bay, two-story, gable roofed, brick house with interior end chimneys, and a two-story, frame, ell addition to the rear. The north (front) elevation has a central entry covered by a two-story, one bay wide, gable-roofed portico with paneled columns and plain entablature on both levels. The entry consists of a double-leaf, paneled door with sidelights and a broken transom, divided by simple pilasters and set in a shouldered surround. The second story porch entry is less elaborate than the main entry. The double-leaf paneled door is flanked by sidelights and simple pilasters and set in a shouldered surround. Fenestration on this elevation is regular with each window having 6/6 lights and wood sills and lintels. The brick on this elevation is laid in running bond. A simple entablature occurs across the elevation. The brick portion of the house is set on a coursed ashlar limestone foundation.

The east elevation has no window openings. A simple raking cornice occurs at the roof line. The brick on this elevation, as well as the south and west elevations, is laid in common bond.

Only one bay of the south (rear) elevation is visible. One window occurs on each level of this bay and they replicate those on the north (front) elevation. A soldier course occurs over the wood lintels. Four additions of different periods are attached to this elevation. The two-story, mid-nineteenth century, gable-roofed, frame addition has an exterior brick end chimney on its south elevation and a one story pedimented frame porch covering the entry into the kitchen on the west elevation. A single-story, late-nineteenth century, shed roofed, frame addition was attached to the east elevation of the earlier addition. A small, frame, shed-roofed addition was attached to the second story of the north elevation of the main house and to the roof of the late-nineteenth century addition in the mid-twentieth century to house a bathroom. Fenestration from all periods of the additions replicate the 6/6 light pattern in the brick section of the house. A carport was attached to the late-nineteenth century addition in 1981.

The west elevation of the brick section of the house is two bays wide and has one window opening on the second story which has the 6/6 light sash window with a wood sill and lintel as found throughout the rest of the brick section of the house. A soldier course occurs above the lintel.

The interior of Boxwood is arranged in a central hall plan with one room on either side of the central hall on both levels of the brick section of the house. The ell contains the kitchen and dining room on the first level and bedrooms which are arranged off a hallway

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on the second level. The staircase is located at the rear of the central hall. This three-run, open-well, curved staircase has simple balusters, a bowed newel post and a modified greek key motif under each riser. Extant original woodwork includes paneled doors, door and window surrounds, baseboards and flooring. The mantels on the first level of the main section of the house display pilasters supporting a simple entablature and mantel shelf.

No original outbuildings are extant. Three small log structures used for storage, pool support facilities and a guest cottage were moved to the property in the 1960s and are not included in the nomination.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates c. 1840, c. 1850 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Boxwood, the Thomas J. B. Turner House, is being nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its historical and architectural importance to Rutherford County, Tennessee. Thomas Turner was a prominent middle-class farmer in Rutherford County during the mid-nineteenth century. Boxwood is a fine example of a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style in Rutherford County.

Thomas J. B. Turner (1813-1878) was a prominent farmer in southwestern Rutherford County from the 1840s to the 1870s. He married Sarah Jetton (1821-1885) in 1838 and soon after purchased the property where Boxwood is located. The Turners raised eleven children in the house and by the late 1840s built the frame ell addition to accommodate his large family. Four of Thomas Turner's sons served in the Confederacy during the Civil War. Sarah Turner acquired the house and some adjoining farm land at her husband's death in 1878. The house was sold in 1885 to Joseph Jones who sold it to Mr. and Mrs. James Johnson in 1886. The property was inherited by Florence Johnson and Henry S. Sawrie in 1931 who sold it to Jesse D. and Alice Vaughn Brown in 1935. The Browns lived in Boxwood until 1944 when it was sold to William H. Evans. The house was sold to Ruth Neal and John Jackson Garrett in 1960 who moved the three log outbuildings to the property. In 1969 Jerry M. Stembridge bought the property. He used the guest house as a recording studio and added the swimming pool. Boxwood was purchased in 1981 by Hubert and Clara McCullough who renovated the house and added the carport.

Boxwood was named for the row of large boxwoods which flank the path to the house. This fine example of a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style in Rutherford County retains many of its original interior features including a curved stairway in the entrance hall with a modified Greek key motif under the risers and mantels with pilasters supporting a simple entablature and mantel shelf. The brick on the main section of the house was repointed with portland cement in 1981 and the rear frame additions were sheathed in aluminum siding. Despite these alterations the house conveys its historic context and retains its architectural integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cemetery Records, Rutherford County, Tennessee,
Deed Records, Rutherford County, Tennessee.
Federal Census, Rutherford County, Tennessee. 1840,1850,1860,
Marriage Records, Rutherford County, Tennessee.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately one acre

Quadrangle name Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>551040</u> Easting	<u>3963170</u> Northing	B	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Robyn Keyport</u> <u>Robin Krawitz, Historic Preservation Specialist</u>		
organization	<u>N/A</u> <u>Tennessee Historical Commission</u>	date	<u>July 1984</u> <u>September 13, 1984</u>
street & number	<u>1311 Greenland Drive # 63</u> <u>701 Broadway</u>	telephone	<u>615/890-1595</u> <u>615/742-6722</u>
city or town	<u>Murfreesboro</u> <u>Nashville</u>	state	<u>Tennessee 37130</u> <u>Tennessee 37203</u>

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hyper

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 9/20/84

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

[Signature] Entered in the
National Register date 10-25-84
Keeper of the National Register

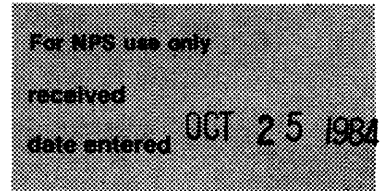
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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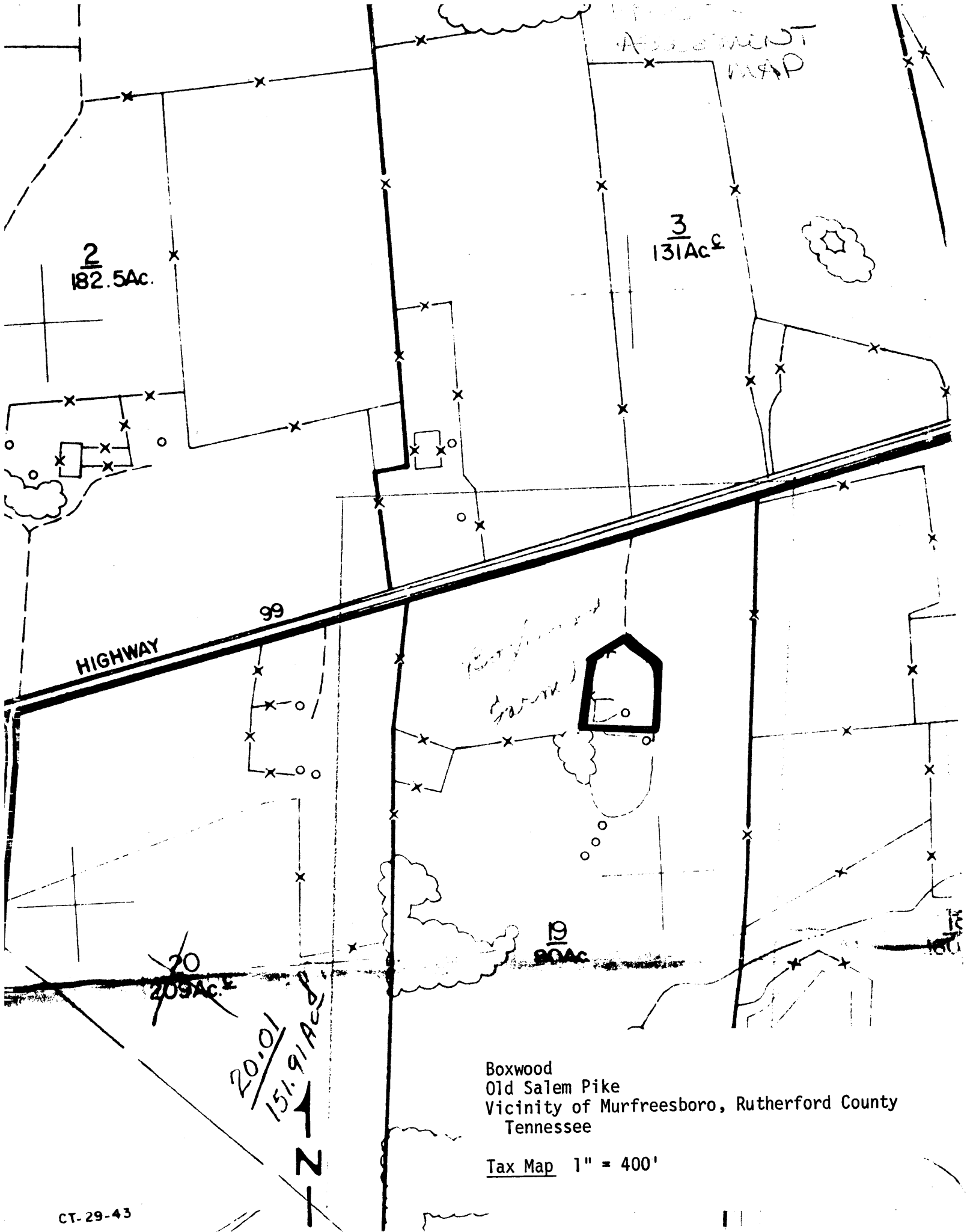
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The nominated property is pentagonal in shape which is roughly 225 feet by 250 feet and bounded on the west and northwest by an existing fence line, on the east and northeast by the gravel driveway, and on the south by a fence line. This boundary includes enough acreage to insure the historic setting and architectural integrity of Boxwood.



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Rutherford County, TENNESSEE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION APPROVAL

Substantive Review

Keeper

Amy Schlager 5/3/88

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The correct UTM for Boxwood is 16/549460/3962830