NPS Form 10-900-b (Rev. 01/2009) OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2015)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items

X
_____ New Submission _____ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Settlement and Agricultural Development of Bedford County in Middle Tennessee, 1805-1969

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Andra Kowalczyk Martens; Philip Thomason date March 21, 2019
organization Thomason and Associates telephone 615-385-4960
street & number P.O. Box 121225 email Thomason@bellsouth.net
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.
(_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer — Date: March 25, 2019

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 5-3-2019

Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969 | Tennessee
Name of Multiple Property Listing | State

Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

E. Statement of Historic Contexts
(if more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)

INTRODUCTION

Bedford County is located in Middle Tennessee, two counties south of Davidson County and Nashville, the state capital. Bedford County is bounded by Rutherford County on the north, Coffee County on the east, Moore and Lincoln Counties on the south, and Marshall County on the west. The county's terrain is varied. Approximately two-thirds of the county is in the Central Basin, consisting of flat plains in the northern and western portions where elevations range from 600 to 850 feet above sea level. The remaining eastern and southern portions of the county rise to elevations of 900 to 1,200 feet in the steep hills of the Highland Rim. The Duck River flows from east to west through the center of the county and is imbued with native limestone minerals. Numerous tributaries contribute to the natural watering system of the county. The river bottoms provide rich soil for pasture and crops. These topographical and geological characteristics greatly influenced the county's settlement patterns and agricultural practices, which provided its economic basis from the nineteenth century into the late twentieth century. Today, Bedford County is known around the world as the center of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, and it is also one of the state's leading counties in cattle production.

The rich lands along the Duck River and its tributaries attracted interest soon after the area was opened to legal settlement in 1806, and a number of farms were established even before Bedford County was organized a year later. Settlers began clearing the land and built log dwellings and agricultural buildings. Most early farms were highly diversified with an aim towards self-sufficiency, but larger farms produced enough for sale or barter.

From the earliest years, farmers concentrated on raising livestock. The soils of the Central Basin (accounting for the river bottoms and first terraces in the area) were part of the great bluegrass belt, and this native grass grew abundantly across half the county. By the late nineteenth century, much of the native grasses had been replaced with introduced grasses such as herds-grass or timothy, which flourished in the rich and well-watered bottoms; in some places it was reported that timothy would grow as high as a man's head. Hogs were a top commodity during the nineteenth century as well as cattle. Dairy farms were once common, but today the bulk of stock production is the raising of young steers to be sold at markets and sent to western feedlots.

Other early crops included corn and wheat, and numerous mills were established for processing these grains into flour and meal. Tobacco production became important in the 1920s and provided a viable cash crop for small landowners and supplemental income for larger landowners. With the decline in subsidies and the recent buyout program, tobacco is no longer grown in quantity in the area. Many parcels were left in timber and cut from time to time, the hardwoods being used for saw timber, and the cedar being cut for shingles, fence rails, and, later, for the manufacture of pencils.

Today, Bedford County has an estimated population of 47,500 residents with the largest number living in the county seat of Shelbyville, which has an estimated population of 21,000. Other notable communities in the county include Wartrace, Bell Buckle, and Normandy, which developed as commercial and trading centers along the Nashville, St. Louis & Chattanooga Railroad in the mid-nineteenth century. Small crossroads communities in the county include Deason, Unionville, Flat Creek, and Wheel. The agricultural character of the county remains largely intact although extensive growth and development is occurring north of Shelbyville along the U.S. 231 corridor towards Murfreesboro. Numerous industries have moved into the county since the mid-twentieth century, and in 2018 only four percent of the work force is employed in agriculture.

This multiple property documentation form provides the background and history of agricultural and related architectural resources associated with the county's settlement and development into the twentieth century.

Within this documentation form are the property types of dwellings and agricultural buildings, such as barns, silos, granaries, dairy buildings, and other outbuildings and structures that support rural farmsteads, including wells, smokehouses, privies, and garages.

This document is arranged to provide an overview of the historical settlement, beginning ca. 1805 when the area was opened by treaty with the Cherokee. This section is followed by a detailed account of agricultural development of Bedford County. These sections address the areas of significance in architecture and agriculture. Property types are then presented along with registration requirements and supporting documentation.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CA.1805-1860

Prior to Anglo-European settlement, the area comprising Bedford County was farmed and hunted by Native Americans during the pre-historic period. The Mississippian culture in particular left traces of their occupation through mounds and box graves. During the historic period of Anglo-European contact, the area was occupied primarily by the Cherokee tribe. Anglo-European settlement was restricted until the 1805 Tellico and 1806 Dearborn treaties opened the region. The Cherokee ceded lands south of the Duck River in Dearborn's Treaty,[1] signed January 7, 1806 and ratified in May 1807. Bedford County was created in 1807, splitting from Rutherford County. The county was named in honor of Thomas Bedford, a prominent landowner in the area and a veteran of the American Revolutionary War. Clement Cannon donated land for Shelbyville, which became the county seat in 1810. The city was named in recognition of Colonel Isaac Shelby, a prominent Revolutionary War officer who later served as governor of Kentucky. In 1810, the population of Bedford County, the most populous county in the state, was 8,242. A small courthouse was built at the northwest corner of the public square in Shelbyville and was used until a permanent brick building replaced it at the center of the square.

Following the Revolutionary War, over forty former soldiers were awarded land grants in Bedford County by the State of North Carolina for their military service. These land grants ranged from as small as forty-five acres and up to as much as 5,000 acres. Many of these soldiers never moved to the county to occupy their land, but later sold the tracts as settlers moved into the area.

Settlement patterns in the county were greatly influenced by the natural topography and associated drainage and soil types. The northwestern to central area of the county lies in the Central Basin, which rises to the hills and narrow valleys shaped by watercourses along the Highland Rim escarpment of the eastern and southern borders of the county. Given the county's abundance of flowing streams, early settlers of the 1810s were quick to establish numerous mills on the Duck River and its tributaries. The Goge Mill is thought to have been the first water-powered corn mill and built in 1809 or 1810. Other mills on the Duck River were the Ledford, John Sim, Wilhoit, and Germany mills. The Duck River, flowing east to west through the center of the county, is fed by Garrison Fork in the northeast portion. Joseph Walker erected a mill in 1812 on this branch, and the community of Fairfield developed around this mill. James Sharp and Jacob Anthony built water mills on Thompson Creek. Other mills were built around the county on Falling, Flat, and Sinking Creeks.[2]

Clement Cannon built the first cotton gin near Shelbyville in 1812. It is known that John Tillman and Tom Mosley and later L. P. Fields had cotton gins in the area of Fairfield. Among the earliest stills for whisky production in

[1] After Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War in the Jefferson administration. The ceded lands lay generally between the Elk River on the southeast, the Duck River on the south and west, and the Duck River on the north.

[2] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee From the Earliest Time to the Present; Together With an Historical and Biographical Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties; Besides a Valuable Fund of notes, Reminiscences, and Observations, etc. etc.,* (Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886) , 862-864.

Bedford County were those of Philip Burrow and John Holt, near an area that became the town of Flat Creek. Philip Burrow, William Wilbourn, and Freeman Burrow settled on Thompson Creek in the Twenty-fifth District. Leslie Bobo and Simpson Neice also built stills on Flat Creek in the Twenty-second District, and Nathan Evans, on Sugar Creek in the Twentieth District.[3]

By 1820, Bedford County's population nearly doubled to 16,012. Intense settlement continued to 1830 when the population reached 30,396. The creation of Coffee County to the east in 1836 and Marshall County to the west in 1838 greatly reduced Bedford County's land area. The creation of these neighboring counties removed several civil districts from Bedford County, and other districts merged together, leaving nineteen of the original districts - First though Eleventh and Eighteenth through Twenty-fifth.[4] These events, along with a cholera outbreak, reduced Shelbyville's population to approximately 600 people, while contemporary neighboring county seats boasted 1,000-1,500 residents.[5]

During the 1830s, major transportation routes were under construction throughout Middle Tennessee that benefitted local and regional economies. The Shelbyville Bridge across the Duck River was built in 1832. An important turnpike built during this period connected Shelbyville with Nashville by way of Murfreesboro, which had briefly served as the state capital from 1818 to 1826 and remained an important county seat and commercial center.[6] In 1837, the turnpike company's president reported that completion of the road was in sight with contracts let for the entire fifty-five-mile route with a toll gate every five miles. The turnpike was complete in 1842, though it suffered financially due to exorbitant costs of rock charged by landowners to build the road.[7] The pike from Shelbyville to Murfreesboro later became U.S. Highway 231. By 1840, the Bedford County population had reached 20,546.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture's 1947 report *Soil Survey: Bedford County, Tennessee*, "Authentic information about the early agriculture is meager."[8] Goodspeed's history noted in 1886 that Bedford County Court records, presumably including tax records, "do not extend farther back than 1848, those previous to that date having been destroyed with the courthouse in 1863 by fire."[9] It can be inferred with fair certainty, however, that farming of the settlement period was subsistence, especially in the hilly area of the Highland Rim where the topography did not support plantation agriculture. In the post-Civil War period, New South advocate Joseph Buckner Killebrew (1831-1906) developed detailed agricultural profiles for counties in Tennessee as a means of encouraging economic development through improvement of agriculture and utilization of natural resources. For Bedford County, Killebrew attributed the "high cultivation of the farms, the value of the livestock, and the diversity of the products" to the area's mineral, soil, and timber resources, as well as its topography and network of watercourses.[10]

[3] Ibid, 862, 864.

[4] Ibid, 865.

[5] Lisa Tolbert, *Constructing Townscapes: Space and Society in Antebellum Tennessee*, (Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 48-49.

[6] James K. Huhta, "Murfreesboro," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, accessed November 30, 2016, https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=952.

[7] Edward C. Annable, Jr., *A History of the Roads of Rutherford County, Tennessee, 1804-1878: Historic Road Research, and Its Applications For Historic Resource Surveys and Local History* (Murfreesboro, TN: Rutherford County Historical Society, 1982), 49-51.

[8] L. J. Strickland, Foster Rudolph, M. E. Swann, Wallace Roberts, and B. L. Matzek, *Soil Survey: Bedford County, Tennessee*, (Washington, D. C.: USDA, 1947), 12.

[9] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*, 867.

[10] "Agriculture in Bedford County, 1874," *Bedford County Historical Quarterly* XI, no. 2 (Summer 1992), 50.

[10] Ibid.

In 1850, there were 72,725 farms in the state of Tennessee of which 986 were located in Bedford County.[11] Antebellum agriculture in Bedford County was a mix of grain crops and livestock based on its varied terrain and natural resources. Many Bedford County farms of the antebellum period retained their produce and products for consumption on site, within the home and barnyard. Corn, wheat, oats, rye, potatoes, and hay fed farm families and their hogs, mules, cattle, and dairy cows. Any superfluous farm products were floated by raft via the Duck River to market in New Orleans or shipped by wagon to the Cumberland River at Nashville. Livestock were driven to Nashville, Birmingham, or Georgia markets. By 1848, the road from Shelbyville into the southern part of the county was macadamized to the Duck River. A bridge across the river was constructed, replacing a ford crossing. Alfred Campbell and several other land owners in the southern portion of the county were commissioners for this road project and another to construct a pike to Flat Creek.[12] These improvements helped outlying farmers more easily access their county seat, with goods and livestock, though the majority of the road from the Duck River to the county line remained dirt.

Other turnpikes were built connecting the Bedford County seat with those of neighboring counties. The Shelbyville & Fayetteville Pike, built in 1852, later became the southern leg of U.S. 231 through Bedford County. That same year, the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad boosted Shelbyville as a trading center and helped increase commerce. The main line of the railroad also established the smaller towns in eastern Bedford County of Bell Buckle, Wartrace, and Normandy. Turnpikes were built to connect these towns to the county seat.[13]

The railroad quickly had a beneficial effect on Bedford County agriculture, as well as the economy of Shelbyville. The numerous general merchants and dry goods stores around the public square were typical of the period. Shelbyville commercial businesses of the 1850s also included two pork packing plants owned by English and Waterhouse & Co., the Gosling, Gilliland & Co. cotton weaving/spinning factories, the Sylvan Mills cotton yarn plant, and Dwiggins steam flouring mill.[14] Edmund Cooper, a local attorney with investments in a Shelbyville weaving mill, quantified the boom in pork processing due to the railroad at Shelbyville, stating that during the winter of 1854-1855, over 10,000 head of hogs had been shipped in for butchering. The resulting revenue to "our farmers," according to Cooper, was at least $120,000. Additionally, 150,000 bushels of wheat were shipped through the Shelbyville depot.[15]

The presence of two pork processors in Shelbyville is indicative of the topography's influence on Bedford County's agriculture. The hilly Highland Rim region of the county, with a bio-diverse forest including oak, hickory, walnut, and mulberry, was well suited for foraging hogs. The terrain and soil types in other parts of Bedford County also contributed to its mixed agriculture. The gently rolling hills, once cleared, were ideal pastures for raising sheep, horses and mules, and cattle, while the flat plains of the northwestern part of the county supported crop agriculture. The varied natural landscape of Bedford County was not suitable for a predominant cash crop such as cotton or tobacco, but the county was a leader in diversity of agriculture. In 1850, Bedford County ranked first in Tennessee in oat production and eighth in corn. The county was also eighth in sheep production that year, fourteenth in hogs, sixteenth in dairy cows, and seventeenth in cattle.[16]

[11] Amanda Jane Townes, "Material Culture as a Primary Resource for Understanding Bedford County, Tennessee in the Civil War Era." (PhD diss., Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, 2011), 87.

[12] Ibid, 43.

[13] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*, 866.

[14] John P. Campbell, ed., *Nashville Business Directory* (Nashville: Smith, Camp & Co., 1857), accessed October 18, 2017, http://www.tngenweb.org/bedford/IndexNashBusDir.htm.

[15] Tolbert, 90-91.

[16] Louis D. Wallace, ed., *A Century of Tennessee Agriculture* (Nashville: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 1954), 313-16, 318, 320, 322, 325, 329.

In the decade leading up to the Civil War, there was a boom in Bedford County agriculture and industry. The increase can be attributed to the railroad and also to the beginning of an agrarian culture transcending subsistence farming. Local leaders organized the first agricultural society of Bedford County in 1857, and county fairgrounds were located near Shelbyville. The society's first President was Hugh L. Davidson, and the vice-presidents were R. H. Sims, G. G. Osborn, Thomas Lipscomb, W. W. Gill, and Henry Dean; treasurer, Lewis Tillman; recording secretary, J. F. Cummings; corresponding secretary, John R. Eakin.[17] The establishment of this group occurred shortly after the Tennessee state legislature created the State Agricultural Bureau in 1854. This agency subsidized the founding of county agricultural societies in order to encourage the advancement of agriculture in the state. The earliest agricultural societies in the state dated from 1819 in Davidson County, 1824 in Washington County, and several others by the 1840s, when the premise of these groups declined under a shroud of planter elitism. The State Agricultural Bureau intervened to impart a more egalitarian image to the society movement. Successfully, the bureau helped revive the movement, and by 1860, agricultural societies and county fairs had proliferated across the state.[18]

Between 1850 and 1860, Bedford County's agricultural statistics increased dramatically: total farms grew from 986 to 1,784, with a corresponding increase in improved acreage in farm use from 101,650 to 184,768. The cash value of farms rose from $2.2 million to $7 million. In terms of value of animals slaughtered, Bedford was a leading county, due to the pork-packing industry at Shelbyville. The monetary values of slaughtered animals increased from $98,516 in 1850 to $295,384 in 1860 in Bedford County[19] while the county's livestock value increased from $686,011 to $1,493,052.[20] During this decade, Bedford County's economy also diversified with manufacturing, with total investments growing from $19,821 to $103,900.[21]

The 1860 agricultural census illustrated the diversity of Bedford County's farming operations. In that year, there were thirty-three farms with 500 or more acres in the county. The largest category of farm size was between 100 and 500 acres, but the majority of farms were under 100 acres. In 1860, neither tobacco nor cotton was a staple cash crop in the county and oat production had decreased since 1850. Bedford continued, however, to lead in corn, cattle, sheep, and hogs. The county made strides in agricultural byproducts, namely butter and wool. These increases in agricultural values and productivity are illustrative of an expanding market versus a growing population, as Bedford County in 1850 had 21,511 residents and 21,854 residents in 1860.[22] At the time of the latter census, 980 county residents were slaveholders, collectively owning 6,744 slaves. Thirty percent of households with slaves had one or two. Most had fewer than ten slaves, and no property owner owned more than 100 slaves.[23]

On the eve of the Civil War, Bedford County was known for its many prosperous and productive farms that produced a variety of cereal crops and livestock. Many farmers owned slaves but typically a large farm of several hundred acres would have at most a dozen slaves to help till the land and support the household. Many farmers and their families resided in log dwellings or small frame houses, and only a few brick dwellings were constructed in the rural sections of the county in the antebellum period. One of the most notable of these was the two-story

[17] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties* 877.

[18] Donald L. Winter, "Agricultural Societies," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, accessed March 21, 2018website http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php.

[19] Townes, 87.

[20] Ibid, and "1860 Federal Census of Coffee County, Part I," *Coffee County Historical Society Quarterly* X, nos. 3 & 4, 1979, iv.

[21] Townes, 21, 87.

[22] Ibid, 21.

[23] Mim Eicher Rivas, *The Beautiful Jim Key: The Lost History of a Horse and a Man who Changed the World*, (New York: Harper Collins, 2005), 57.

brick, Federal-influenced Martin House built in 1809 south of Wartrace (NR Listed-April 14,1972). It was the center of a large farm owned by the Martin family who settled this section of the county in the early 1800s. By the 1840s, several farmers were prosperous enough to replace early log homes with two-story frame dwellings reflecting the popular Greek Revival style of the period. Typically these were built in central passage plans and with two-story classical porticos on the main façade. Examples of these rural homes include the Thomas Montgomery House/Palmetto Farm in the Palmetto community built ca. 1847 (NR Listed-March 28, 1985), the Farrar House built ca. 1848 southeast of Shelbyville (NR-November 7, 1990), and the Grassland Farm/Alexander Greer House built in 1842 on Snell Road southwest of Shelbyville (NR Listed-March 4, 1975). These "high style" dwellings were the exception and most ante-bellum homes were modest log and frame houses built in double-pen or central hall plans.

In 2018, at least seventeen farms in Bedford County remain in the same family from the antebellum era and are recognized as "Century Farms," a statewide program of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. These are farms that have been in the same family for one hundred years or more. Representative Century Farms in the county that pre-date 1860 include the Woodlawn Farm on the old Tullahoma Road established in 1798, the Morgan Place Farm of 1830 near Bell Buckle, and the Stubblefield Farm in the Raus community begun in 1855.[24] All three of these farms continue to be owned by descendants of the original founders. These farms all produced crops such as hay, wheat, and corn, as well as cattle and swine. These and other Century Farms are representative of the county's agricultural heritage that evolved before the Civil War. See Additional Documentation-46-47 for a list of Bedford County Century Farms.

[24] Carroll Van West, *Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective, (*Nashville: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 1986), 125-129.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE, 1860-1900

During the Civil War, though Bedford County supported the Confederate cause, Shelbyville's strong commercial ties to the north influenced a pro-Union sentiment in the city, dubbed "Little Boston." Occupied by Confederate forces during the early years of the war, Shelbyville and Bedford County came under Union control in 1863 following the Tullahoma Campaign. County residents suffered during the war from the occupation by both Union and Confederate armies and guerrilla forces. The commercial center of Shelbyville lost several buildings to fire including the courthouse, along with county records.

Following the Civil War, Bedford County farmers were eager to restore stability and advance agricultural and civic interests. From 1869 to 1873, a new Bedford County courthouse was constructed on the square. Replacing the destroyed courthouse of 1831, this fourth building was constructed at a cost of $1,500.[25] The post-war rebuilding effort included the organization of agricultural promotional groups. In 1870, the Bedford County Agricultural Society held its first annual fair at the fairgrounds located at the corner of West Lane and Turner Street. This location became the site of the Empire Pencil Company after the agricultural fair moved in 1900.[26] Judge Thomas H. Coldwell was the society's director in the 1871-1872 season.[27] The Bedford County Stock Breeders' Society was also established, constructing attractive, spacious buildings at the fairgrounds near Shelbyville. These agricultural associations encouraged the development of new trends and healthy competition, as farmers brought their best produce and stock for exhibition and judging. Judge Coldwell's son, Ernest Coldwell, was director of the Bedford County Agricultural Society in 1888 and later of the Bedford County Stock Breeders Society, as well as a lawyer and successful Republican state representative.

Conditions in Bedford County agriculture and general prosperity varied widely within Bedford County during the late nineteenth century. A 1930 *Bedford County Times* article described a post-war farmer's recollection of four or five years of "flush times." Beginning in 1868, wheat in Bedford County sold for $2.00-$2.50 per bushel, and farmers planted more wheat than ever before in the county. Wheat harvest at the time still required "scythe and cradle," so farmers sought day labor at the public square during the month of June. Wheat cutters were paid $2.00-$3.00 per day, though wheat bundlers were paid less.[28]

Agricultural Commissioner Joseph B. Killebrew's 1874 assessment found that "in no other county in the State are the farms in better condition than in Bedford." [29] He reported well-kept cedar-rail fences and neat and comfortable farmhouses. He conceded that barns and stables might need repairing, but stated Bedford's collection of agricultural outbuildings compared well to those "in the best counties in the State." He continued to describe "ordinary farms, within five or six miles of the county seat," valued at between thirty and thirty-five dollars per acre. Well improved farms could bring fifty to 100 dollars per acre, and even more if closer to Shelbyville.

Killebrew attributed Bedford County's valuable, productive landscape to the absence of cotton crops in most of the county. The soil, not nutrient depleted, was therefore ideal for growing bluegrass, the premium forage for livestock. He quantified the bluegrass region as 150,000 acres from slightly west of Murfreesboro Pike eastward to the Coffee County line and southward to encompass the entire area south of the Duck River.[30] Killebrew's report referenced "an intelligent farmer," who concurred that Bedford County "soils are better adapted to the

[25] "Bedford County, Tennessee," accessed February 6, 2018, www.bedfordcountytn.org/history.html.

[26] Dick Poplin, "Bedford County Following the Civil War," *Bedford County Historical Quarterly*, XI, no. 2 (Summer 1985), 19.

[27] William S. Speer, *Sketches of Prominent Tennesseans*, (Nashville, 1888; Reprinted by the Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2003), 14-15.

[28] Poplin, "Bedford County Following the Civil War," 17.

[29] "Agriculture in Bedford County, 1874," 50.

[30] Ibid, 50.

raising of grasses than any other crop." He confidently stated that "there is not an acre of soil in the county that will not produce some species of grass to perfection." Specifically, herds-grass preferred low marshy land, while timothy, clover, bluegrass, and orchard grass thrived in higher, well-drained land. This farmer estimated that clover, producing two or even three hay cuttings per year, was grown in the 1870s at a rate ten times more than in the 1850s. The best soils could produce two to two-and-one-half tons per acre, "and if properly manured, would produce three tons."[31]

By comparison, cotton was a minor crop, confined to the northwest part of the county. In 1873, total cotton production in Bedford County was 2,338 bales. At the time, there were eleven cotton gins in operation in the county.[32] In 1879, eighty-four percent of cotton came from the west division of the state. The top county (Shelby) alone produced 46,388 bales that year, to put Bedford's 1873 yield in perspective. In Middle Tennessee, Lincoln, Rutherford, Giles, Williamson, and Maury Counties together produced 43,000 bales of cotton in 1879.[33]

With attention on pasture cultivation, Bedford County became known for its livestock. Nearly every farmer raised mules "for export." Mules thrived on bluegrass or clover pastures and required hay and corn only during winter months. The same held true for horses, which were used across classes, gender, and ages of Bedford County residents. Horses were used for riding rather than driving, as buggies were not as common for transportation in Bedford as elsewhere.[34] This lack of horse-drawn vehicles indicated the scarcity of improved roads. Intra-farm roads connected with those on adjacent properties, and horseback was the most appropriate means of travel especially in the steep hills of the southern part of the county.

Agricultural societies, fair exhibitions, and racetracks encouraged improvement of livestock from the infusion of purebred genetics. Bedford County, as in other parts of Middle Tennessee, took advantage of Tennessee's dominance in the horse-racing industry throughout the nineteenth century. The Middle Basin became a nucleus of activities within the first decade of the nineteenth century, with finely bred stallions available for stud service. Andrew Jackson is commonly credited with the expansion of horse racing in Tennessee via vigorous campaigning of his purebred horses through the 1820s. Owner-breeder rivalries encouraged development of local tracks. Lysander McGavock established the Nashville Race Course in 1828, and his half-brother David opened the rival Walnut Course in the 1840s.[35]

In the antebellum period, Tennessee-bred racers were esteemed on the track and as breeding stock. In 1839, of 160 Thoroughbred stallions advertised at stud across the country, thirty-seven were located in top-ranked Tennessee. Between 1834 and 1859, Tennessee stallions sired the winners of nearly 1,200 horse races compared to under 700 winners by sires from all other states for the same period.[36] William Giles Harding's Belle Meade became renowned throughout the turf world as the "Queen" of racing stables.

While the planter class could afford breeding horses solely for sport, their pedigreed stallions were available to outside horseman for "breeding up" their grade stock. This practice spawned new horse breeds to meet the needs of rural farmers and the emerging middle class in county seats and small towns. In Bedford County, commuters to and from Shelbyville enjoyed an increasing number of turnpikes through the mid- to late

[31] Ibid, 51.
[32] Ibid, 51.
[33] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties,* 239.
[34] Agriculture in Bedford County, 1874," 51-52.
[35] Andra Kowalczyk, "Purebred Breeding and Racing Horses," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, accessed February 6, 2018, https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/purebred-breeding-and-racing-horses/.
[36] Louis D. Wallace, ed., *The Horse and its Heritage in Tennessee, Third Edition* (Nashville: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 1951), 18-19.

nineteenth century, affording carriage and buggy transportation. In 1874, the Shelbyville & Tullahoma Pike was constructed a distance of ten miles, directly through the best lands for raising horses.

The rise of horse-drawn vehicles required specialization in horse breeding. Unlike the gallop of a racehorse, the primary gait of the buggy horse was the trot, for steady and prolonged use. Trotting horse were versatile, representing the opportunity for localized race competition, and harness racing was especially popular in southern Middle Tennessee counties.

The Civil War had devastated whole stud farms, as well as the average rural horse owner, as private stock was commandeered for service. For four years, horseracing ceased to exist in Tennessee, allowing Kentucky's efforts to advance. After the war, horse-breeding activities, including turf and harness racing, resumed in Tennessee. There was also a growing demand for stylish carriage horses. Belle Meade and Fairview Farm Thoroughbreds, as well as Hermitage Stud and Ewell Farm trotters were esteemed across the country. A distinct breed of trotting horse came to be known as the Standardbred, deriving its name from the standardized test of trotting a mile in 2:30 or faster. Any successful horse was accepted into the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders, established in 1879.[37]

The general trend to use purebred stock led to improved meat animals during this period, across the country and in Bedford County. Farmers there crossed local cows with recently imported Shorthorn breed of bulls. This breed improved docility, calf-bearing, and meat quality, and the resulting grade cows were preferred for dairy purposes, as well. Cotswold sheep were likewise introduced for crossing on local stock. The Cotswold, a dual-purpose wool and meat sheep, increased wool length and was an economical grazer, not requiring large feed ration for growth. In hogs, the purebred Berkshire improved the size of fast-growing but lean native stock. One Bedford County hog farmer, on 166 acres, reported raising eighty-five hogs of 350 pounds on average, an impressive feed conversion ratio for a growing season of six to eight months. Other farmers reported even better results. Hog farming in Bedford County became a major activity, growing from the rank of fourteenth in the state before the war to the rank of fifth in the state in 1874 for hog production. At that time, the estimated value of hogs raised in the county was $550,000.[38]

Killebrew's 1874 report noted that there were 1,667 farms in Bedford County. There had been a notable decrease in average farm size since before the war. In 1860, the county had thirty-three farms of 500 acres or more. By 1874, there was just one farm of 500 acres. Most farms in Bedford County then ranged in size between fifty and 100 acres. Killebrew noted that this downsizing might have an effect on future generations, stating "the farmers are usually contented, and very few desire to remove from the county, except such as desire to procure land in larger bodies for their children." Killebrew praised the soil-working practices of Bedford County farmers, who used a two-horse plow, turning the soil to a depth of ten to twelve inches, followed by a bull-tongue plow.[39]

As noted previously, in the immediate post-war years, wheat production increased in Bedford County. A variety called Walker wheat was popular by 1874. Though not an abundant producer, it was reliable, had plump kernels, and made good flour. Another variety, Mediterranean, was best suited for thin soils. The numerous mills on the Duck River and its tributaries kept a steady business processing Bedford County's wheat crops, as well as wheat from nearby Marshall County. More wheat was brought in by railroad to the city mill in Shelbyville.[40]

[37] Phillip Thurtle, "Harnessing Heredity in Gilded Age America: Middle Class Mores and Industrial Breeding in a Cultural Context," *Journal of the History of Biology* 35, no. 1 (2002): 59-60.

[38] Agriculture in Bedford County, 1874," 51-52.

[39] Ibid, 52.

[40] Ibid, 53.

Lumber was also an important product in Bedford County, and there were saw mills across the entire county. Killebrew's 1874 report stated: "Poplar lumber is worth at mills, $15 per thousand. Cedar from $20 to $25. A great many cedar shingles are made. They sell from $5 to $7 per thousand. Boards of white oak and black oak, are worth from 60 cents to $1.25 per hundred, according to length. One dollar per hundred is paid for making rails. Cedars rails in the cedar brakes sell for two and three dollars per hundred; delivered on the farms, from $5 to $7, according to distance hauled, character of roads, etc."[41]

The Grange was established in the Bedford County in the 1870s, and the Agricultural Wheel, in the 1880s. Both organizations formed to advocate the government for economic and political policies to help farmers improve despressed farm prices and growing rural debt. The National Agricultural Wheel of the United States was founded in Arkansas in 1882, and the first Tennessee chapter opened in 1884 in Weakley County.[42] The group illuminated a growing schism between what it considered authentic country farmers and "sophisticated profiteers." Its name was based in the principle that agriculture was the great wheel that powers all other industries. At its core, the Wheel advocated education and reform. [43] Though eschewing partisan politics, the organization pushed an agenda that linked farming and public policy. There were 1,600 Wheel chapters in the state of Tennessee by 1889, when the organization merged with the National Farmers' Alliance.[44] The impact of the Wheel in Bedford County is unknown, and one account referred to the group as a short-lived organization of "disaffected farmers."[45]

This label likely referenced the post-war class of tenant farmers, or sharecroppers. Though Bedford County agriculture was not based on an intensive plantation economy, some one-third of the pre-war population was African-American. As these freedmen sought authentic livelihoods, it was natural that they gravitated to familiar trades or occupations. Often, they became tenant farmers, though in Bedford County, there were both white and black tenant farmers. There were other more lucrative opportunities for freedmen based on their pre-war activities. A former slave entrusted with an owner's horses, for example, was held in high regard for his horsemanship skills and could do well in a county or even wider region where horses were used for work and sport.

Sharecropping and tenant farming for both white and African-American farmers became a common practice in Bedford County in the late nineteenth century. This class of farmers might relocate annually or every other year and often remained beholden to landlords in a cycle of dependence and subsistence. Tenant farming did little to assuage the impoverished lives of these farmers, who commonly relied on credit with seed and fertilizer suppliers to undertake a season's planting. Tenancy rates ran as high as forty percent in Tennessee in 1890, while the Deep South states of cotton plantation averaged approximately sixty percent of farming activity. Tenancy statistics peaked in 1930 when across thirteen southern and border states the census recorded more than 1.7 million sharecroppers and tenant farmers.[46]

Tenant farming in Bedford County varied throughout socio-economic lines. There was no typical number of acres per tenant farmer in Bedford County. Many farmed between ten and twenty acres, though some worked as

[41] Ibid.

[42] Connie L. Lester, "Agricultural Wheel," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture,* accessed March 21, 2018, http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php.

[43] Poplin, 17-18.

[44] Lester, "Agricultural Wheel."

[45] Poplin, 17-18.

[46] Paul E. Mertz, Sharecropping and Tenancy," in *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 29-31.

few as five acres, and other as many as fifty.[47] During 1874, land in Bedford County rented for between four and five dollars per acre. A sharecropper might owe one-third to two-fifths of the crop, or as much as one-half if located on prime farm land on the outskirts of Shelbyville. In growing wheat, a landowner who purchased seed received half the harvest, or just one-third if the renter provided the seed.[48]

An analysis of the 1880 Census by a local historian extrapolates from the data some useful historical interpretation of tenant farming of that period. Roy Turrentine reviewed agricultural and population schedules of 1880 for Bedford County and noted several districts that experienced declines from 1890 to 1910. These Districts were 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 22, 23, and 24. Seventy-eight farmers were studied, of whom fifty-eight (or 74%) owned draft animals and fifty-seven (73%) owned some machinery such as a plow or wagon. The same number grew more than two crops or had varieties of livestock. There was a wide range of prosperity among tenant farmers. As the historical record illustrated among antebellum land holders, diversity in agricultural ensured a greater chance of success.[49]

In hilly District 1, bordered on the north by Rutherford County and on the east by Coffee County, John S. Davis sold $1600 of goods in 1879. Then aged twenty-four, Davis lived with his widowed mother, three siblings, and an African-American servant. By 1900, Davis was the head of his own household, which included his wife, two daughters, and an African-American youth boarder. The couple had raised four children of eight born to them, indicating a high mortality rate for the period. Still, Davis was well off as a tenant farmer.[50]

District 3, which encompassed Wartrace, included 235 farms, of which seventy-one (30%) were managed by tenants. Ed Campbell of District 3 was a young African-American man of twenty-eight years who was just starting out on his own with a wife and two infant children. He worked seventeen acres valued at $225, owned ten dollars of machinery, and sold $55 in goods in 1879. His livestock, valued at $100, included one horse, one milk cow, six hogs, and 107 poultry. He produced corn, oats, Irish potatoes, and eggs.[51]

At the lower end of the tenant farmer scale was Robert Smith in District 5 in the flat plains of central-northern Bedford County. With his wife, he had five stepchildren and one son, an infant. He worked twelve acres of land valued at $100, owned two dollars in machinery, and sold $100 in goods in 1879. The relatively low land value is perhaps indicative of over-worked soil, as this area of the county was known to have raised cotton. The Smith family had no milk cow, nor hogs, indicating a poorer status than the above contemporaries. The Smith's fifteen chickens produced just sixty eggs, and his main product was corn, labor-intensive in harvesting. He also produced sorghum from one-quarter acre of land and twelve cords of wood.[52]

District 5 was especially populated with tenant farmers. There, 111 tenant-farming families represented 64% of the district's population. Thirty-eight percent of these families, including that of Robert Smith, were of European-American background, had large families on small acreage, owned few animals, and grew just one or two crops. Lacking diversity, these tenant farmers were most vulnerable to poverty, as a bad year in corn or wheat represented economic disaster. These families represented the low end of tenant farming in Bedford County.[53]

[47] Roy Turrentine, "The Tenant Farmer in Bedford County, 1880," *Bedford County Historical Quarterly* XXI, no. 2 (Winter, 1995), 123.
[48] Agriculture in Bedford County, 1874," 53.
[49] Turrentine, "The Tenant Farmer in Bedford County, 1880," 123-24.
[50] Ibid.
[51] Ibid.
[52] Ibid.
[53] Ibid.

The plight of tenant farmers notwithstanding, late-nineteenth century agriculture in Bedford County began to grow beyond the subsistence level. Census records for Middle Tennessee Counties in 1880 indicate that Bedford was a strong, if not leading, producer of a variety of both subsistence and sale commodities. Major crops of this post-war period were corn, wheat, oats, and hay, with lesser cultivation of cotton and tobacco. Livestock raised in the county included hogs, sheep, beef and dairy cattle, and horses and mules.

The 1880 Census counted 2,963 farms in Bedford County.[54] In that year, 203,511 acres of Bedford County's total area of 332,800 acres were improved. The total value of property assessed for taxes was $5,183,560, which included 741 town lots at a total value of $522,515.[55] The cereal products of the county included 1,682,358 corn bushels, 257,425 wheat bushels, 87,408 oat bushels, 6,145 rye bushels, and 108 barley bushels. By comparison, neighboring Coffee County's agricultural output for the same period included 650,290 bushels in corn, 58,160 bushels in wheat, 35,000 in oats, and 4,500 in rye.[56]

Tennessee historically did not produce large crops of rye, instead using the pre-seed stage for livestock grazing in winter. Rye also served as a fertilizer of overworked soil from corn, oats, and wheat. Though during the mid-1880s there were some 25,000 acres in rye production in the state, the yield of 220,000 bushels, or about nine bushels per acre, was low, given the practice of grazing. At the time, Bedford was among the leading rye-growing counties in the state along with Marshall, Lincoln, Rutherford, and Davidson in Middle Tennessee.[57] Bedford County was one of only six counties in the state with mill products exceeding $300,000 in 1880. After Davidson County, Knox County was ranked second, with a production of $444,617; Henry, $365,372; and Bedford, $359,208.[58]

Bedford County's varied topography afforded a diverse agricultural productivity. It ranked high among Middle Tennessee's leaders in numerous products. Therefore, it is useful to consider Bedford's agricultural economy beside comparable Middle Tennessee counties for 1880. In 1880, Bedford County livestock included 11,426 head of horses and mules, 14,188 head of cattle, 16,020 head of sheep and 46,251 head of hogs. For comparison, Coffee County's livestock inventory for 1886 included 4,100 head of horses and mules, 5,800 head of cattle, 7,300 head of sheep, and 20,800 head of hogs. Populations for the two counties were two to one in 1880 when Bedford had 26,025 residents, and Coffee, 12,894.[59] Despite comparable land areas, the topography and soil type favored agricultural success in Bedford over Coffee whose centrally located "Barrens" were not as fertile, but were capable of producing cereal crops with soil cultivation.

In 1880, Bedford County was abundant in corn and hogs. These two agricultural products were a logical match. Though hogs thrived on the mast of native nut and fruit trees, as well as kitchen and table scraps, they fattened on corn. Bedford County ranked third in corn production of eight Middle Tennessee counties in 1880. The census for that year counted 2,963 farms in Bedford County with a cumulative 68,492 acres producing a total of 1,682,358 bushels of corn, or 24.6 bushels per acre.[60] Farmers avoided laborious shucking of corn, instead

[54] Turrentine, "Agricultural Bedford County A Century Ago," 52.

[55] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*, 865.

[56] Goodspeed Publishing Co., *History of Tennessee from the Earliest Time to the Present: Together with an Historical and a Biographical Sketch of the Counties of White, Warren, Coffee, Dekalb, and Cannon, Besides a Valuable Fund of Notes, Original Observations, Reminiscences, Etc., (*Nashville: Goodspeed Pub. Co, 1887), 827-845, 921-951.

[57] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties,* 235.

[58] Ibid, 272.

[59] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*,865; and Goodspeed Publishing Co., *History of Tennessee with Sketch of the Counties of White, Warren, Coffee, Dekalb, and Cannon,* 827-845, 921-951.

[60] Turrentine, 52.

allowing their hogs to convert corn to food. In 1880, Bedford County ranked third among eight Middle Tennessee counties with 46,252 head, or an average of 15.6 head per farm.[61] A spring litter of hogs reached butcher weight by the end of the year, and the arrival of cold weather signaled the annual ritual of hog killing and preserving. Every farm with hogs evidenced outbuildings for curing meat. Neighbors helped each other with the process, and finished meat could be put up for family meals or used a payment or trade. Hogs, therefore, represented the stepping stone from subsistence to market agriculture.

By contrast, sheep were purely a market commodity. Anecdotal oral history among Bedford County farmers of the period indicated a disdain for mutton, and even lamb, as gamey in taste and smell. Raised for wool and for sale, sheep directly contributed to household finances. Since they grazed pasture, sheep required little investment, though their numbers across Middle Tennessee did not begin to approach the hog population for the same area. In 1880, Bedford County, ranked third for sheep in Middle Tennessee, counted 16,020 head of sheep, or an average of 5.4 per farm.[62] Hog- versus sheep-raising also illuminates a divide among farmers by property type, thus economic class. Rolling pasture land for raising sheep arose from the highly valued, fertile bottomlands. This terrain was more versatile than the wooded, steep hills where subsistence homesteaders could forage hogs. Sheep were far more vulnerable to predatory dogs, and county taxes of one dollar on male dogs and six dollars on female dogs were designed to control the canine population. These taxes, however, were likely a burden on subsistence farmers, who also hunted for food, with the aid of dogs.[63]

Beef and dairy animals shared some similarities with both pigs and sheep. The majority of their diet consisted of pasture, with supplements of corn or other grains. Like hogs, cattle converted cereals to food and could be driven to market on the hoof. Dairy cows, like sheep, produced a valuable byproduct, milk, for drinking or churning into butter. Whey, considered a dairy waste product, could be fed to hogs as a source of protein. Most farms kept at least one milking cow. Dairy cows, however, required daily attention, and farmers often arranged tenancy agreements, exchanging milking chores for a share of the milk. Beef cattle could fend for themselves on pasture. In 1880, beef cattle outnumbered dairy cows in eight Middle Tennessee Counties, with Bedford ranking sixth for milk cows (5,199 head) and third for beef cattle (8,909 head).[64]

Given their rate of growth, however, cattle represented a greater investment than hogs. A litter of spring-born pigs reached butcher weight by late fall. Cattle, whether for meat, reproduction, or dairy use, were carried over at least one winter to reach maturity. Therefore, they required hay to replace pasture forage during winter months. There is a clear correlation between hay production and livestock numbers, which becomes especially evident after 1900. Additionally, Bedford County farmers met the hay needs of urban horse owners in Shelbyville, as well as Nashville. In 1880, Bedford County farmers had 6,133 acres in hay production, yielding 5,863 tons, or two tons per farm. These numbers ranked Bedford County third of eight Middle Tennessee counties. Davidson County had twice the number of acres in hay production, producing 14,012 tons in 1880.[65]

On every working farm, pasture and hay formed the basic sustenance of work animals, and equines represented the largest investment in terms of time. Whether a draft horse or mule, equines required a minimum of two years of growth before being put to use. They also required training to accomplish their jobs. Though oxen were historically used in other parts of the country, Middle Tennesseans preferred equines, whether for trainability or personality. Mules, the sterile product of crossing a horse and donkey, were particularly popular in Middle Tennessee, and generally across the south. These animals were purported to consume half as much as a horse.

[61] Ibid, 53.
[62] Ibid.
[63] Ibid.
[64] Ibid, 54.
[65] Ibid, 55.

The earliest advertisements for Jacks (male donkeys) at stud in Middle Tennessee occurred in Nashville in 1812.[66] The national mule population doubled during the 1850s, and during the nineteenth century there were millions more mules across the country, mostly in the South, than any breed of horse. Southern horsemen like James Robertson understood that good mules could not be produced from poor mares. The use of well-bred mares for mule-production attests to the value of the working animal on the Southern landscape, especially during a time when conventional wisdom held that a stud of any species could taint the purity of the mare herself.[67]

As a long-term fixture on the farm, an individual horse was a de facto companion animal, as well as an indicator of wealth or success of the farmer. Middle Tennessee gained a reputation for high quality horses and mules. The 1880 Census counted 7,275 horses and 4,151 mules in Bedford County. By comparison, Davidson County that same year had 6,473 horses and 3,509 mules, while Wilson County boasted the most horses (9,166), and Maury County the most mules (8,301).[68] As late as 1922, mules numbered some five million across the country, predominantly found in the rural South.[69]

Oats provided energy for working animals, and wheat was also among Bedford County's important crops. Unlike corn, which required little handling to feed to pigs, the harvest of wheat and oats was labor intensive. By 1880, however, the harvest process was made easier with the introduction in Bedford County of the "McCormick Binder," a machine which bound the sheaves of wheat together. By that time, total annual wheat production had risen to 350,000-400,000 bushels, though the price per bushel dropped to $1.50.[70] Some wheat was ground for home use, but most was fed to animals. Statistics from 1880 indicate that oats had a higher yield per acre than wheat. In Bedford County, one acre could produce on average twice as many bushels of oats as wheat. The 1880 Census recorded 39,589 acres in wheat production in Bedford County, yielding 257,425 bushels, or an average of 6.5 bushels per acre. Bedford County farms that year yielded 13.9 bushels per acre of oats, with 6,270 acres yielding 87,408 bushels.[71]

Cotton and tobacco played minor roles in Bedford County's economy. Cotton was most suited to the flat plains of northwestern Bedford, but it was by no means a dominant crop. Of eight Middle Tennessee counties, Bedford ranked last for cotton in 1880. Just 2,239 acres in the county were in cotton production in 1880, producing 940 bales. By contrast, neighboring Rutherford County that year had 32,657 acres dedicated to cotton with a yield of 12,414 bales.[72] In the mid-1880s, there were a handful of cotton-related industries in Bedford County. Taylor & Hester's cotton-gin, with a carding machine, was operating in the Tenth District; William Taylor's cotton gin was in the Ninth District; W. J. Loyd's cotton-gin and carding machine was in the Eighth District; and George Vernatti's gin, the Fifth District. These locations were all in the north-central part of the county. The Smith gin and carding machine were in the Twenty-fifth District.[73]

Similarly, tobacco was a negligible cash crop in Bedford County. The 1880 Census indicates just fifty-one acres in the county grew tobacco, producing 21,649 pounds. Top-ranking Wilson County had 361 acres in tobacco

[66] Harriet Simpson Arnow, *Flowering of the Cumberland* (University of Kentucky Press, 1963), 211.
[67] Clay McShane and Joel A. Tarr, *The Horse in the City: Living Machines in the Nineteenth Century* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), 12, 13.
[68] Turrentine, 56.
[69] McShane and Tarr, 12-13.
[70] Poplin, 17.
[71] Turrentine, 58.
[72] Ibid, 59.
[73] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties,*862, 864.

that same year, yielding 300,479 pounds. These numbers indicate a large difference in productivity per acre between Bedford and Wilson tobacco crops, 424.5 versus 832.4 pounds per acre, respectively.[74]

Also in 1880, the distilling of whisky contributed to the agriculturally based economy of the county, when there were four distilleries in operation that year. The Zach Thompson Distillery was located near the town of Wartrace in District Three. Marcus L. Rabey's distillery and Blakemore & Co.'s distillery were both located in the Twenty-second District in the south-central part of the county. Each business had a capacity of sixty gallons per day. T. F. Wooton's distillery, in the Twenty-fifth District, had a capacity of forty gallons per day.[75] Historically, Middle Tennessee distilleries on the local level utilized fruit for making liquor. Orchards were common, and fruit was also preserved by home canning. Apples, pears, peaches, cherries, and plums grew well. In the eastern part of the county, blackberries and huckleberries were used to make jams and pies.[76]

Between 1879 and 1889 in Bedford County, total agricultural acreage planted in corn, the dominant crop, decreased slightly, from 68,492 to 61,480. Wheat remained constant, covering 39,589 and 39,168 acres in those respective years. During this period, there was a precipitous drop in the production of sorghum for syrup, from 96,657 to 818 gallons, and of potatoes, from 29,182 to 366 bushels. Since acreage data for these two crops were unavailable, it is difficult to extrapolate any correlation between the decline of these crops and the increase in others. Data indicate approximately 3,000 additional total acres were in agricultural production of some kind in 1889 than in 1879. The decline of Bedford County sorghum does reflect a national trend, as the peak annual production of 24 million gallons occurred during the 1880s, but declined slowly. There was an increase in acres planted in oats from 6,270 to 10,962 and also an increase in hay acres from 6,133 in 1879 to 12,367 in 1889, [77] correlating with the trend of a livestock focus in the county.

The late nineteenth century marked a period of change in the county and wider region. At the time of the 1880 Census, Bedford County had a population of 26,025, of which approximately 4,500 were eligible to vote. During the presidential election of 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland received 171 more votes in Bedford County than did challenger Republican James Blaine.[78] Cleveland carried the swath of Southern states, marking the first presidential victory for the Democrat Party since before the Civil War. The election indicated a turning point in Reconstruction-era politics. At the same time, Southern states, including Tennessee, experienced post-war capitalism in the form of Northern investments. Though Shelbyville's urban merchants had a history of economic ties to northeastern markets, Bedford County attracted new interest in an indigenous resource - cedar trees.

Commonly referred to as Eastern Red Cedar (Juniperus Virginiana), this native evergreen does not belong to the family of Mediterranean cedar genera, rather it is a juniper. Cedar trees were so plentiful in Bedford County that a nineteenth century colloquialism suggested that a man could walk from Shelbyville to neighboring county seats of Murfreesboro or Lewisburg on a rainy day without getting his feet wet since the trees captured most of the rain. After the Civil War, the cedar glades were rapidly thinned by the wooden pencil industry. The American Lead Pencil Company of New Jersey was first documented as harvesting this natural resource in 1890. The company purchased an existing sawmill of H. C. Ryall on Lewisburg Pike near Shelbyville in 1893. The business expanded with headquarters in Lewisburg and a branch in Murfreesboro. The Germania Cedar

[74] Turrentine, 60.

[75] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*,, 862, 864.

[76] Poplin, 20.

[77] Strickland et al., 14; and "Sweet Surghum," at the National Sweet Sorghum Producers and Processors Association webpage http://nssppa.org/Sweet_Sorghum_FAQs.html accessed October 20, 2017.

[78] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties*, 865.

Company originated in Christiana in Rutherford County, but relocated to Shelbyville. The Hudson Lumber Company was another big buyer of local cedar.[79]

These companies were brokers whose harvesting returned little to the local economy while depleting the natural resource. James Radford Musgrave changed this approach, offering to install wire-and-post fencing on Bedford County farms cost-free in exchange for historic cedar split-rail fencing. The business model changed the appearance of the local landscape, and during World War I Musgrave also sparked domestic pencil manufacturing in lieu of exporting cedar to German manufacturers. Later, the Musgrave Pencil Company was established in Shelbyville, providing employment to men and women.[80]

During the 1890s, there were also efforts by the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad Company to promote cash crops along its route in Tennessee to encourage new and profitable business along its route. This railroad line bisected Bedford County from south to north and extended through Normandy, Wartrace, and Bell Buckle. Former state Agricultural Commissioner Joseph B. Killebrew was hired by the railroad in 1893 to produce a series of pamphlets encouraging farmers to grow more tobacco, produce more eggs, and cut more timber to promote commerce along its route.[81] The railroad's president, John W. Thomas, addressed a convention of Middle Tennessee farmers in Shelbyville in 1894 to highlight the accessibility of the railroad line through the county and its potential to improve farm income.

Bedford County's prosperity in the last decades of the nineteenth century resulted in the construction of many new dwellings in the rural areas. Some of these were built as larger farms were subdivided and sold, while others replaced antebellum log or frame homes. Advances in milling and woodworking machinery provided affordable lumber for county residents to construct new dwellings reflecting vernacular forms such as gabled ell and pyramid square and popular high styles such as Queen Anne and Italianate. Pattern books were widely available for these types of new houses that could be built by local carpenters and craftsman. Examples of these types of dwellings include the Queen Anne-style River Side Farmhouse on Shofner Road (NR Listed-December 1, 1997) and the Queen Anne-style John Green Sims House built in 1884 near Wartrace (NR Listed-November 5, 1987). Similarly, many early log barns and other outbuildings on farms were replaced by new agricultural buildings by the turn of the century. The late nineteenth century was also a time of the establishment of farms that remain in the same family to the present and are recognized as Century Farms. In 2018, there were fifteen farms recognized as established between 1860 and the early 1900s. Representative of these farms is the Russell Farm on Bethlehem Road outside of Shelbyville. This farm was established in 1869 by Joel Russell and produced corn, hay, and wheat, as well as cattle and swine.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE, 1900-1940

In 1900, Tennessee agriculture reached its highest point with over 20.3 million acres in cultivation and the average farm size recorded at 90.6 acres. Over the next several decades, the number of farms and the average farm acreage steadily dropped.[82] Although there were fewer and smaller farms in the early 1900s, they were more productive. New gas-powered machinery such as tractors, reapers, binders, tillers, and other implements enabled farmers to more efficiently manage their farms and gradually reduced the need for horses and mules. As machines could do more of the planting and harvesting, the need for manual labor was also reduced. Advances in gas-powered

[79] Charles Woodruff, "The Cedar Trees of Bedford County," *Bedford County Historical Quarterly* XIV, no. 4 (Winter 1988), 107-09.

[80] Lynn W. Hulan, "Musgrave Pencil Company," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture,* accessed February 12, 2018, http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=955.

[81] Carroll Van West, *Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, A Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places* (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1995), unpaginated.

[82] Ibid.

engines and batteries also provided electricity for lighting homes and barns and for operating water pumps and other machinery. The first automobile in Bedford County was seen in Shelbyville around 1903, when S.W. Garrison acquired a Stanley Steamer, and F. N. Sowers bought a gasoline Oldsmobile in 1905.[83]

The influence of science and social science on American culture and agriculture also manifested during this period of progressivism. The Country Life Movement, originating toward the end of the nineteenth century, addressed the migration of rural residents to urban settings. This shift in demographics included the Great Migration of African Americans out of the South in search of economic opportunities in northern urban centers. The trend towards urban migration can be seen in Bedford County between 1890 and 1910, as many rural districts experienced population loss while the Seventh district, which included Shelbyville, grew from 2,906 to 4,453 residents over this twenty-year period. Yet, the Bedford County population did not simply redistribute in favor of the county seat, the total population dropped during this period, from 24,739 to 22,667. Even smaller towns in the county declined. The railroad towns of Wartrace and Bell Buckle both lost population, especially the latter, from 715 to 466. Of Bedford County's outlying Civil Districts, only the Twenty-Fifth progressively increased its population between 1890 and 1910 (from 1,187 to 1,311 people).[84]

The Country Life Movement both purported a rural moralism and addressed social problems of the countryside, sparking a new perspective on American agriculture. Since the end of the Civil War, Southern agriculture had remained backwards and disorganized. The Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890 had provided for federal funding at state colleges for agricultural experimentation, yet practical information did not manage to transcend these insular settings. As a livelihood, farming remained challenging without advances in practices or technology. President Theodore Roosevelt organized a commission to study the loss of rural population amidst fears of food shortages and loss of traditional family values. The commission made recommendations that led to the establishment of agricultural extension services with county agents and home agents. These state employees acted as liaisons between college educators and farmers, home makers, and youth. Programs included 4-H and demonstration clubs.

Bedford County's first county agent was J. O. Tackett, whose period of service lasted from August 21-November 17, 1917. Tackett's brief tenure was followed by that of C. M. Franklin, from November 18, 1917-June 30, 1918. Following a gap in agents, Julius R. Hickerson took office October 16, 1918 and left the position February 28, 1919. He wrote a report that shed light on the apparently difficult implementation of the extension service in Bedford County. Hickerson's responsibilities covered not only Bedford, but also Moore County. The area was "too much for one man," evidenced by his failure to visit Moore County even once. A cumulative 536 miles were traveled in 1918 by agents in Bedford County, where roads were still mainly dirt, and automobiles were scarce. The agents traveled by rail, team, horseback, or on foot. Another disadvantage to the extension program in 1918 was a summer of drought, causing the failure of all demonstration farms in the county.[85] Perhaps the greatest challenge, however, was Hickerson's audience, or rather, the extension agents' lack of rapport with them. Resistance to urban planners was at issue.

Hickerson wrote: "This is a very self-satisfied and conservative county. They have not, as yet, learned the duties and the office of County Agent. It is my earnest opinion, that the only way to reach the farmers is through community organizations. In this meeting, the county agent can make the farmers realize that they are robbing their land of its fertility and awaken them to better methods and improved conditions."[86] A new agent, W. L.

[83] Poplin, 20.
[84] *Bedford County Historical Quarterly* X, no. 4 (Winter 1984), 100.
[85] Roy Turrentine, and Al Simmons "The UT Extension Service: Transforming Tennessee for 100 Years," *Bedford County Historical Quarterly* XXXVI (2010), 128-130.
[86] Ibid, 129-133.

Fowler, took the office November 29, 1920 after a hiatus of the program in Bedford County. Fowler remained on the job for four years, which can be interpreted as a more positive reception than his predecessors among Bedford County farmers. This was a period of progressivism during which time the State Agricultural Extension Agency encouraged new farming practices, including erosion prevention, lime application, crop rotation, specialty crops, and development of breeded, then hybrid, livestock.

A most notable development of domesticated livestock breed occurred in Bedford County during this period, with the progress of the Tennessee Walking Horse as a recognized equine breed. The Tennessee Walking Horse had origins in the nineteenth-century practice of crossing horses of different breeds based on selected traits, in this case, the animal's gait. Area horsemen developed the foundation of a new breed of horse, selecting for traits of smooth gait and docile temperament, for sure-footed transportation, as well as harness racing. Tennessee trotting and pacing horses competed successfully on interstate circuits from Alabama to Pennsylvania, while the state's Thoroughbred horseracing was in decline by the end of the nineteenth century. Nashville's West Side track closed for development of the site as the 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition. Belle Meade's long history of Thoroughbred breeding came to an end, and Fairview Farm also dispersed its stock.[87] However, trotting and track racing remained popular in Bedford County. In 1904, the Bedford County Agricultural Society established new fairgrounds east of Shelbyville. The new facilities, including a quarter-mile racetrack, remained in use until 1930.[88] In 1906, however, the State of Tennessee passed anti-gambling legislation, collapsing the sport and industry of horseracing. Non-wagering harness racing became the highlight of county fairs, and the most competitive horses for the sport descended from the early settlers' gaited horses.

Bedford and neighboring Coffee Counties were the cradle of the Tennessee Walking Horse. Coffee County farmer James R. Brantley bought a black stallion named Black Allan for $110.00 in 1903. The horse was out of a Morgan mare and by a cross-bred stallion of Narragansett Pacer and Thoroughbred genetics. Black Allan's ancestor, Hambletonian, was the foundation horse of the Standardbred Trotter breed. Though registered in the American Trotting Registry, Black Allan had a peculiar gait that prevented his use as a trotter. Used extensively at stud, he was known for his gait and coloring, solidifying these traits in the local equine gene pool. Brantley sold the stallion to his friend Albert M. Dement of Wartrace, an action he later regretted, but one that confirmed the stallion's future as the foundation sire of the new breed.[89]

The Tennessee Walking Horse was originally called the Walking Saddle Horse, named for its fast and fluid running-walk gait. The lack of improved roads in Bedford County influenced the development of a horse with a comfortable gait. Spending many hours in the saddle, country doctors and circuit riders favored the Walker, which became a multi-purpose animal for riding, driving, and light farm work. It also became a popular mount on farms, affording the coverage of vast land areas with a quick and smooth stride. As with other livestock, farmers delighted to show off their best horses and the first formal horse show for the breed was held at Wartrace in 1906 on the town square. In Middle Tennessee, the development of a distinct horse breed was a profound, localized expression of the trend of improving livestock with the infusion of purebred genetics.

In addition to horses there was also the improvement of dairy cows, cattle, swine, and poultry breeds. Just as horses had become an animal for show, the improvement of other livestock resulted in their exhibition at fairs and shows. In January of 1922, the first annual Bedford County Poultry Show was held over the course of three days in Shelbyville. The local show reflected the emphasis on purebred fowl among area farmers, who also sent poultry exhibits to the State Fair. During this period, advances in poultry raising included the introduction of

[87] Kowalczyk.
[88] Poplin, 19.
[89] J. R. Brantley, "The Foundation Site Roan Allen F-38," in the Bedford *County Historical Quarterly* XXXI, no. 3 (Fall 2005), 67.

incubators for hatching chicks, and brooder house were built to raise them. Agricultural agents made in-roads with Bedford County farmers at this time, conducting practical demonstrations, such as lamb trimming, that were attended by white and African-American farmers.[90] Hog farmers of Bedford County also gravitated towards pure breeds, including Duroc and Poland China. Milk cow numbers increased in the 1920s and included registered Jersey stock.[91] With the construction of a Carnation plant in Murfreesboro and the Bedford Cheese plant in Shelbyville, dairy farming grew in importance in Middle Tennessee counties.

Automobile and truck travel in the early 20th century also spurred development in Bedford County. The Dixie Highway Association was established in 1915 in Chattanooga and promoted the development of a major north-south road, for the purpose of drawing "snow birds" to sunny Florida. Once completed in the 1920s, the Dixie Highway ran from the Canadian border in Michigan to Miami, Florida.[92] The route through Bedford County became U.S. 41-A, redirecting the roadbed of the historic Shelbyville and Tullahoma Turnpike.

Road improvements during the period had a direct influence on new agricultural trends. At the time, local USDA extension offices strongly encouraged the development of dairy operations. Area farmers could upgrade and have their barn facilities inspected for selling milk to commercial businesses. Bedford Cheese Company milk trucks had daily routes to pick up large cans full of fresh milk that farmers left at the road. The cans were left on stands the height of the milk truck's bed for easier handling. The driver swapped out the previous day's empty cans. Cows were milked by hand twice daily, and milk deliveries arrived at the cheese plant around 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

The overall prosperity of Bedford County's farms declined significantly after World War I. The depression of 1921 led to a collapse in farm product prices across the country and many farmers left their land and moved to urban areas in search of work.[93] The loss of farm income also prevented many farmers from purchasing tractors and other labor saving machines. The Great Depression of the 1930s exacerbated difficulties for Bedford County farmers but the New Deal programs instituted by President Franklin Roosevelt after 1932 such as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) sought to boost farm income and promote conservation and replenishment of soils.

The creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1933 authorized the construction of dams and powerhouses along the Tennessee River to bring electricity to the Tennessee Valley including Bedford County. Tupelo, Mississippi, was the first community to acquire TVA electricity on February 27, 1934 from the Wilson Dam and many others soon followed. As the first dams were completed and transmission lines erected, the TVA partnered with the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to bring electricity to farmers. For private companies, the cost of extending transmission lines into rural areas averaged two thousand dollars per mile, and the payback on this investment was poor compared to urban areas. President Roosevelt created the temporary Electric Home and Farm Authority in December of 1933 to assist potential consumers in the TVA region to purchase electrical appliances. The Electric Home and Farm Authority lent funds to farmers in test areas to determine what the market might be for TVA electricity. After appliance sales in the test areas increased by 300 percent, Roosevelt and Congress increased funding for the REA for rural electrification.[94]

[90] Turrentine, and Simmons, 132, 133.

[91] Poplin, 20.

[92] Claudette Stager and Martha Carver, ed., *Looking Beyond the Highway: Dixie Roads and Culture,* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2006), 18-20.

[93] Thomas D. Clark, "Agriculture" in *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, editors Charles Reagan Wilson and William Ferris (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 6.

[94] George T. Blakely, *Hard Times and New Deal in Kentucky, 1929-1939*, (Lexington, Kentucky: University of Kentucky Press, 1986), 140.

Prior to the 1930s, electricity was only available on farms through gas powered engines and batteries. In 1930, only ten percent of American farms had electricity.[95] Most farmers still illuminated the interiors of their homes and farm buildings with kerosene lanterns, cooled their perishables with root cellars and springhouses, and heated their homes with wood or coal. Much of the rural south did not previously have electrical power, and residents' quality of life fell far below national standards.

By the end of 1935, the TVA had worked with the REA to build over 200 miles of rural electric lines in the region. A follow-up survey of households along some of the new rural lines found that eighty-nine percent had electric irons to replace the heavy, iron ones which had to be heated on stoves or fireplaces, and that sixty-nine percent had radios for entertainment.[96] As soon as farms were electrified, the purchase of labor-saving appliances soon followed. As a public utility, TVA was able to sell its electricity sixty-three percent below the national average. By 1939, 1,500 miles of transmission lines were built in the Valley Region to serve 105,800 consumers, of which one-third lived on farms.[97]

TVA's scope extended beyond providing electricity. In 1934, the TVA conducted a comprehensive survey of Bedford County and produced a detailed report of agricultural and industrial data. The report included a full survey of farm properties with names of owners and tenants, acreage per farm, livestock and crops raised, and other descriptive information, as well as recommendations for future land use and farming practices. TVA found Bedford County as Killebrew had described fifty years prior, reporting, "In this area is some of the best agricultural lands in the State of Tennessee, and, in fact, some of the most favorable agricultural conditions of the entire country exist in this portion of the State."[98]

At the time of the TVA survey, Bedford County had a population of 21,700 residents and eighty-seven percent of the population lived outside incorporated towns. The African-American population of Bedford County at that time was approximately 20 percent, indicating a drop from approximately one-third of the population in the mid- to late-nineteenth century. There were 2,801 farms at that time in the county, totaling 283,434 acres, eighty-six percent of the county's land area. Farm products were valued at $2,871,082, and manufacturing products, at $3,387,512. Bedford County's strong manufacturing base helped diversify its economy and thus provide a more stable economy than in neighboring counties during the Depression years. Using 1929 unemployment figures and 1930 Census numbers, TVA calculated a 3.26 percent unemployment rate for Bedford County, the lowest among a nine-county area of southern Middle Tennessee, where unemployment otherwise ranged from 5.48 percent in Lincoln County to 14.23 percent in Lawrence County at the same time. [99]

In this sense, Bedford County defied the greater forces affecting unemployment rates across Middle and East Tennessee, where loss of urban employment opportunities during the Depression pushed people to return to farm life as a means of subsistence. Half (51.2% or 1.6 million) of the Tennessee Valley's residents were farmers occupying 24.5 million acres.[100] In Bedford County, approximately half of the total population (10,000 of 21,077) relied in part or in full on industrial employment, and many farmers of this period supplemented their farm income with factory work.

[95] Ibid., 139.

[96] Patricia Bernard Ezzell, *TVA Photography, Thirty Years of Life in the Tennessee Valley*, (Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 2003), 40.

[97] "TVA Program," in *Architectural Forum*, August, 1939, n.p.

[98] Tennessee Valley Authority, *Agricultural-Industrial Survey*, (Knoxville, TN: Tennessee Valley Authority, 1934), 10.

[99] Ibid., 6, 41.

[100] Tennessee Valley Authority, *The First Fifty Years: Changed Land, Changed Lives*, (Knoxville: Tennessee Valley Authority, 1983), 14.

The TVA studied a fifteen-county area of Middle Tennessee, identifying over 36,000 farms covering almost three million acres producing an annual agricultural income of $28.5 million.[101] The area included 280 industrial businesses producing an annual income of $18.25 million. The total population of this 65,000-square-mile area was 234,267. Over eighty-five percent of residents lived outside incorporated towns. Of those rural residents, approximately forty percent were sharecroppers or tenants.[102] This figure is slightly less than farm tenancy rates across the greater TVA region, where nearly forty-three percent of farmers were tenant farmers and did not own the land they farmed.[103]

In general, TVA observed in the wider southern Middle Tennessee area a need for greater dairy production and consumption among residents. The agency anticipated such improvements with rural electrification. Though electricity was available in Shelbyville by the 1890s,[104] most rural residents lived by natural daylight rhythms for thirty more years. For supplementing the income of tenant farmers, TVA referenced an intra-agency report regarding the implementation of farm demonstration activities. In typical multi-faceted TVA philosophy, the report suggested a multi-county study to effect a "systematic program of rural planning… in view of establishing a self-supporting, profit-producing, well-balanced, social, educational, agricultural, and industrial life."[105]

Regarding public school curricula, the TVA report found "training along too classical and scientific lines" more suitable for "urban classes." Rural students should not have such an education "thrust upon them," as they were likely to pursue an agriculture-based vocation. Instead, their studies, TVA advised, ought to follow more practical training in agriculture and home economics, "involving a physical demonstrational practice in the form of field laboratory work."[106]

The TVA report also found fault with the use of County Extension Agents in the management of the emergency crop reduction program of the 1930s, a controversial federal program to eliminate what was deemed surplus agricultural products in an attempt to raise prices. The TVA determined that local clerks could handle this temporary task as to allow the county agents to re-vamp their programs for long-term benefit of farmers and their lands.

In Bedford County, the TVA specifically enumerated areas for improvement in agricultural and industrial profitability, including some overlap. The first recommendation addressed seed improvement. Though town merchants shared a generally favorable relationship with farmers who supplied wholesale goods, the survey found that there was a general lack of information or knowledge of new products to enhance productivity and sales, such as new seed or fertilizer products. Bedford County feed mills purchased a good amount of corn for mixed feeds from outside the county, due to the poor quality of corn grown by local farmers. A seed improvement campaign would advise growing all-yellow or all-white varieties of corn for a better market price. The TVA report also encouraged Bedford County farmers to consider growing alfalfa. (This recommendation, however, seems randomly based on "information… that a large percentage of the alfalfa used …is being obtained from the far West,"[107] rather than sound knowledge of local conditions, which historically were not conducive to growing and drying the plant species.)

[101] Franklin, Giles, Maury, Bedford, Marshall, Lewis, Hardin, Perry, Wayne, Lawrence, Lincoln, Benton, Hickman, Coffee, and Moore.
[102] Tennessee Valley Authority, *Agricultural-Industrial Survey*, 10.
[103] Tennessee Valley Authority, *The First Fifty Years: Changed Land, Changed Lives*, 14.
[104] Poplin, 19.
[105] Tennessee Valley Authority, *Agricultural-Industrial Survey*, 15.
[106] Ibid..
[107] Ibid., 8.

Other recommendations included various cooperatives or community services, such as a feed mill, creamery, lime crusher, livestock marketing, potato storage, and goat projects. Noting the shipping needs of twenty local businesses, the TVA report suggested that cooperative could even be established to manufacture paper-boxes and cartons for these industries. The TVA also recognized the depletion of area cedar glades and advised a reforestation project in cooperation with adjoining counties. The report simultaneously suggested a home-craft industry based on native red cedar for building chests and tables.[108]

The TVA report provided data comparing agricultural produce county by county within its thirteen-county area of study. By far, Bedford stood alone in 1934 as the leading hog producer, shipping out 4,700 tons of meat, with Lincoln County ranked second at 2,100 tons shipped out. Bedford County also led in turkeys, an industry previously unreported, producing 9,173 birds; Maury County was the next most productive turkey grower, with 7,130 birds in 1934. In sheep meat, Bedford County was second with 675 tons to Maury County's 800 tons. In cattle, Bedford ranked third with 1,600 tons behind Franklin County (1,660 tons) and Giles (2,667 tons).[109]

Over the course of the previous six decades, Bedford County agriculture trended towards hay and livestock over fruit trees and crop production. The most striking evidence is in the consistent increase of acreage in hay production, from 6,133 acres in 1879 to 44,570 in 1939, representing a 627 percent increase. Noteworthy is the introduction after 1929 of the Lespedeza legume species, which immediately supplanted all other grass types (accounting for 35,486 acres in 1939). During this same period, there were increases in rye (119 percent) and tobacco (175 percent), though the latter still represented a minimal fraction of the total agricultural production. Conversely, between 1879 and 1939, there were sharp decreases in wheat (77 percent), oats (66 percent), and corn (40 percent).[110]

The introduction of Lespedeza reflects the influence of federal scientific studies during the New South period of progressive farming. Investigations comparing hay proteins found that Lespedeza was equivalent to cool-season Alfalfa, an insignificant crop in Middle Tennessee due to the humid Southern climate. News from the studies filtered through County Extension Agents to area cattle and dairy farmers, who welcomed an alternative legume that adapted well to local conditions and also fixed nitrogen. The hay was also a popular forage for horses, and the rise of the Tennessee Walking Horse breed in Bedford County also contributed to the expanding hay production, as well as the local economy. Beginning in the 1930s, Bedford County established itself as the center of the Walking Horse breed and developed a distinctive horse culture.

While owners of the proto-Tennessee Walking Horse had been exhibiting their horses at county fairs and the State Fair in Nashville for many years, a group of breeders and trainers envisioned a national show while dining at Wartrace's Walking Horse Hotel.[111] The Tennessee Walking Horse Exhibitors & Breeders Association was established in 1935, and 115 sires were selected as foundation stock for qualification within the breed registry.[112] Black Allan was deemed the first foundation sire of the breed, officially recorded as "Allan F-1." The Tennessee Walking Horse "Celebration" inaugural show was held in Shelbyville in 1939.[113] Strolling Jim, descending in three lines from Black Allan, was the first ever World Grand Champion. The creation of the Celebration show centralized the Walking Horse activities in Bedford County and bolstered Bedford County's agricultural economy.

[108] Ibid., 18.
[109] Ibid., 36.
[110] Strickland et al., *Soil Survey*, 13.
[111] "The History of Wartrace,"
[112] Monte Arnold, Earnhart's Brooks: "Never Spilled a Drop," in Bedford County Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXXVI, no. 1 (Spring 2010), 20.
[113] Rivas, 32, 97.

The greatest distribution of Bedford County agricultural products was for Tennessee Walking Horses and mules, with sales ranging from inter-county to regional dealers to northern buyers. During the 1940s, Bedford County was still predominantly rural. According to the 1947 Soil Survey report for Bedford County in the pre-World War II period, "most of the farm income [was] derived from livestock and livestock products." Thus, most farms were fenced and cross-fenced with woven wire, barbed wire, rail, or even hedges of locust or mock-orange. Farming continued to enjoy advances in technology, especially from the widespread purchase and use of gas-powered tractors in the 1940s. By this period, Bedford County farmers appear to have embraced the services of the Agricultural Extension agency. The Tennessee State Veterinarian's office also provided important information on animal health, conducting seminars on problems such as diseases in dairy cows.[114]

Even by the 1940s, Bedford County agriculture was largely consumed or processed locally, especially cotton, milk, and hay. Enough wheat, hogs, and lambs were produced to outsource to Nashville as well. Wool was pooled and sold to northern buyers. The county had a network of paved state highways and local roads, yet many roads in the rural areas continued to be dirt or gravel. In 1940, just 655 Bedford County farms were located on graded hard-surface roads; 1,111 farms were on gravel or shale roads; 567 were on improved dirt roads; and 478 were on unimproved dirt roads.[115]

One of the most important influences on Bedford County agriculture was rural electrification. Rural electrification of Bedford County and the region occurred within a remarkably short period of time. By 1956, over 500,000 farm families received TVA power from fifty-one rural electric systems.[116] Over eighty percent of the region's farms had electric service compared with three percent in 1933.[117] Electrification brought increased prosperity to farmers in the region and assisted in the development of new industries and manufacturers in small towns and rural areas.

Historian Paul Conkin grew up on a farm in Greene County, Tennessee, and later wrote about the transformative effect of TVA electricity: "The local TVA distributor had extended electric lines to all of the homes in our village by 1950. This meant that everyone could have a refrigerator and a stand-alone freezer."[118] Farmers bought pumps to supply fresh water from wells and springs and indoor bathrooms could then be installed and eliminate the need for privies. Electric heaters did away with burning wood or coal in stoves and fireplaces. Electric ranges in the kitchen did away with the time consuming and labor intensive use of wood stoves. As Conkin noted, "Thus, in not much more than a decade, most local families had reduced the amount of work dedicated to home sustenance by at least 80 percent – few or no morning and afternoon chores (feeding, milking, gathering eggs, slopping hogs), no wood cutting for fuel, little canning or preserving of meats and vegetables."[119]

In the post-war period, agriculture continued to support Bedford County's economy. The Tennessee Walking Horse industry grew enormously among professional horse trainers, amateurs, and youth riders. Bedford County youth also participated in 4-H, attesting to the continuation of agricultural traditions of the county. Four-H activities were social events in addition to exhibition of livestock and demonstrations of animal husbandry, including pageants, parades, cooking classes, judging teams, and educational programs.

[114] Turrentine, and Simmons, 136.
[115] Strickland et al., *Soil Survey*, 11, 12.
[116] *Alabama Rural Electric News,* Vol. 10, no. 9, September, 1956.
[117] Ellis L. Armstrong, ed. *History of Public Works in the United States, 1776-1976,* (Chicago: American Public Works Association, 1976), 352.
[118] Paul K. Conkin, *A Revolution Down on the Farm, The Transformation of American Agriculture since 1929*, (Lexington, Kentucky: University of Kentucky Press, 2008), 86.
[119] Ibid. 87.

The 1950s and 1960s were a period of transition in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, however, as the grandeur of the World Grand Champion title became more coveted than the well-being of the horses in training. At this time, the practice of "soring" of horses' feet and legs emerged, with the use of abusive and painful means to accentuate the breed's unique gait. In response, Congress enacted the Horse Protection Act of 1970, to little effect. These inhumane training practices have tarnished the Walking Horse industry, though the breed remains the most associated with Tennessee, serving as a state icon.

Bedford County's agricultural development in the late 20th century mirrored that of the state and rural America. After World War II, it became increasingly difficult for farmers to have sufficient income from products produced on farms of 100 acres or less. Many small farmers sold their property which was then consolidated into larger farms. Mechanization of farms promoted labor decline and the rise of agri-business which was an economic system based on a company's control of the production, processing and marketing of farm products.[120] In the post-war decades the rise of agri-business led to the concentration of farm products such as soybeans, corn and livestock. In Tennessee, the number of farms dropped by two-thirds while the average size of farms doubled.[121]

In Bedford County, the rise of agri-business was particularly illustrated in the rise of the poultry industry. The Arkansas–based Tyson Foods Inc. opened a poultry plant in Shelbyville in the late 1960s and expanded the plant in 1974. The company encouraged farmers in the county and region to construct large chicken houses to supply the processing plant. This plant continued to expand in the late twentieth century and many farms now contain several chicken houses as part of the Tyson supply network.

Today, agriculture in Bedford County is increasingly reflective of the agri-business model of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. There are now over 100 farms which have between 500 and 1,000 acres and almost a dozen which are over 1,000 acres in size. The agricultural landscape is now comprised of 41% pasture, 38% croplands and 18% woodlands.[122] Much of the pasture land is used to raise cattle; and corn and soybeans dominate the croplands. Numerous farms are also used to pasture horses, most notably the Tennessee Walking Horse breed. Bedford County's agricultural heritage is rich and its landscape reflects the many changes to the state and region's agricultural development.

[120] Charles Reagan Wilson, "Agribusiness," in *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, editors Charles Reagan Wilson and William Ferris (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 13.

[121] Donald L. Winters, "Agriculture," in *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, Carroll Van West, ed. (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), 12.

[122] Bedford County Agricultural Census, 2010, (Washington D.C: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2010).

F. Associated Property Types

1. Name of Property Type

Property Type: Historic Agricultural and Architectural Resources Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969.

Subtypes:

A. Residential Properties
1. Log
2. Vernacular Forms
3. Tenant Houses/Slave Quarters
4. High Style

B. Agricultural Properties
1. Barns, Livestock and Hay
2. Dairy Buildings
3. Poultry Buildings
4. Harvest/Food Storage Buildings and Structures
5. Equipment Buildings
6. Mills

C. Domestic Support Properties
1. Springs, Springhouses, Wells, Cisterns
2. Smokehouses
3. Privies
4. Garages
5. Sheds
6. Fences, Walls

D. Transportation-Related Properties
1. Roads, Roadbeds

E. Religious Properties
1. Family Cemeteries

2. Description:

The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (TN-SHPO) has on record some 750 survey numbers for historic resources surveyed in Bedford County, though it is likely there are some gaps in that numerical series. The first survey of architectural and historical resources of Bedford County was performed in the 1980s by Middle Tennessee State University. The survey covered only twenty percent of the county's total area. Subsequent surveys occurred within the county during the mid-1990s when infrastructure projects (i.e., road or cellular tower development) triggered Section 106 review. For example, in 1996, Thomason and Associates Historic Preservation Planners surveyed along State Route 16/U.S. 41-A S., which runs between Shelbyville, the Bedford County seat, and Tullahoma in neighboring Coffee County. That survey was performed over a distance of 11.9 miles beginning at the highway's intersection with State Route 64 in Bedford County. The survey route continued to the southeast along U.S. Highway 41-A and across the county line. The project was initiated as a Section 106 survey for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)'s expansion of the

two-lane highway to four and five lanes with a median and shoulders. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) at that time was characterized as rural with cultivated farmlands and forests. Properties within that APE that appeared to date from 1945 or earlier were surveyed.

Another resource of information on Bedford County agriculture is the Century Farms program. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture initiated the Century Farms program in 1975 to an honor farms in continuous production by a single family for a century or longer. The program also serves to document and interpret the state's agrarian history and culture. Since 1985, the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University has administered the Century Farms program, which currently listed over 1800 certified farms. Of this total, there are thirty-four Century Farms in Bedford County.

Bedford County contains a wide variety of buildings, structures, and sites constructed from the early nineteenth century to the present. The following common property types are prevalent in Bedford County and represent the progression of architecture and agriculture in the county. This document discusses the character-defining features and associative qualities of the property subtypes within the agricultural context of Bedford County.

A. Residential Properties

Dwellings range from early nineteenth-century single-pen log cabins to vernacular house forms to high-style architectural examples. Primary dwellings on Bedford County farmsteads may be significant for architecture and/or agricultural traditions.

1. Log Dwellings

Log buildings represent the earliest home type in Bedford County. With abundant timber during the settlement period, pioneers first constructed functional homes of native hardwood. These homesteaders generally migrated from the Carolinas or Virginia, and some were of German ancestry, bringing the Midland tradition of log building with them. Half-dovetail and full-dovetail were common notching patterns used, though saddle, square, and V-notching were also utilized.[123] Native limestone of Bedford County also provided a most durable material for building foundations. Original log dwellings in Bedford County served their purpose until settlers established their farms and grew their families. Then, a log home could be expanded with additions and/or sided with weatherboard covering, or simply abandoned after the construction of larger frame homes.

2. Vernacular Forms

By the 1850s, water-powered sawmills were present in the region, and most subsequent houses built were of frame construction. Bedford County residential architecture follows vernacular patterns of the greater Middle Tennessee area. The most common nineteenth-century house forms include the gabled-ell, saddle-bag, pyramid-square, and central-passage plans. The gabled-ell is typically one- or one-and-one-half-stories in height. Beside the projecting gabled bay is a partial-width porch.
The saddle bag plan is characterized by a central chimney and two entrances on the façade. This house type is generally one story in height. The pyramid-square plan also is typically one story and takes its name from is square footprint and pyramidal or hipped roof. The central-hall plan might have one or two stories, known regionally as the I-house. This plan most often has a side-gable roof and symmetrical façade often with either a one-bay entrance porch. A rear ell or T is a typical addition.

[123] Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998), 36, 75, 82.

3. Tenant Houses/Slaves Quarters

This category of domestic architecture is not limited to any particular construction material or house plan. Rather, it is distinct in its purpose and spatial location on the farmstead. Though Bedford County's topography did not support plantation agriculture, the antebellum slave population accounted for approximately one-third of people in the county. Slaves provided labor on a few of the larger farms during the antebellum period. When the practice of tenant farming emerged after the Civil War, tenant and farm worker houses became common. These were typically modest frame structures of simple construction in vernacular forms. These types of frame dwellings were generally built with stone foundations, exteriors of weatherboard or board and batten siding and with interior brick flues or chimneys.

4. High Style

The agricultural economy of Bedford County produced considerable wealth for large-scale farmers. Some of them displayed their prosperity via grand homes constructed in high styles of architecture. Popular styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century include Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, American Foursquare, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Craftsman/Bungalow. Examples of all of these high style dwellings have been identified in rural Bedford County in previous surveys.

B. Agricultural Properties

1. Barns, Livestock and Hay

Crib Barns

The earliest barns were constructed as log cribs or pens. These are generally rectangular in plan and with framed roofs above.[124] Log crib or log pen barns are of hewn logs often with half-dovetail or "V" notching. These types of barns were typically later incorporated into larger structures when the availability of sawn lumber in the late nineteenth century allowed for the expansion or additions to existing barns.

Stock Barns

The most recognizable barn form is the "three-portal" barn attributed to German cultural influence. Essentially, it is a transverse frame barn with shed-roof side bays flanking the large main section, which on the interior contains consecutive stalls, or "pens," to each side. The gambrel roof is its signature feature, which has an opening to a hayloft at its peak. The barns continue to be in use for horse stabling, hay storage, and equipment cover.
Older stock barns would store loose hay and later rectangular bales of hay on the upper floors. In the mid-1960s, the large round baler was introduced, allowing farmers to bale hay in large quantity. These rolled hay bales, colloquially called ton bales, were generally too heavy to lift into barns or be supported there. To protect the hay rolls from the elements, open hay sheds were constructed. These are generally simple structures constructed of sawn timbers and topped by gabled metal roofs.

Most of the barns in Bedford County were built for general use as stock barns. They were usually constructed to feed and house cattle, but in some cases provided stalls for horses or mules as well. The typical stock barn of the area had a platform above the ground floor to which corn or feed would be lifted. Many of the earliest barns

[124] Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book, A Field Guide to North American Barns & Other Farm Structures*, (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2004), 20.

have projecting roof sections at the peak called "bonnets;" at this point, a hoisting hook attached to a metal track at the roofline could lift hay from wagons, then it could be pulled down the track into the barn for storage. Later, baled hay was often lifted on conveyors powered by tractors. Once stored, the hay and feed would then be pushed or shoveled through holes into feeding racks on the bottom floor. Larger barns would have central passages or "runways" and side passages for wagons or carts known as "drive-through" wings. Some have corncribs built into one side or another. Often, side sheds or other additions provided additional space for various needs. Some barns are constructed of heavy timbers joined with wooden pegs; others are of lighter unhewn wood or "pole" construction with the outside cladding of vertical board, weatherboard or board and batten.[125]

Tobacco Barns

Tobacco was not a major cash crop in Bedford County, though some was grown. Tobacco barns were specialized structures, depending on curing method used. In tobacco regions, there were historically three major methods - fire-cured, flue-cured, or air-cured – each associated with a barn type. Air-curing was most prevalent method, which did not require specialized barn specification.[126] These barns generally were of pole frame construction and usually more vertical in design than stock barns. Rather than having platforms or floors to support the heavy weight of hay, they were open on the inside, with wooden racks on several levels. Cut tobacco was speared onto wooden stakes (tobacco sticks) that were then "racked" in the barn for curing. To regulate temperatures, tobacco barns often had hinged openings in the walls to allow air to circulate.

Hog house

Hogs were historically a major livestock animal in Bedford County. Even into the early-to-mid-twentieth century, a farm family might have raised a hog or two for personal use. A hog house was a simple, frame enclosed shelter, with an opening the size of a pig and covered with a shed roof. Larger scale swine production became more common in the mid-twentieth century.

2. Dairy Buildings

During the Progressive period of the early twentieth century, State Agricultural Extension Service offices introduced new farming practices and methods. Commercial dairy-based businesses opened in Bedford County (Bedford Cheese Company) and neighboring Middle Tennessee counties, encouraging farmers into dairy operations. Inspection of facilities was required, resulting in upgrades of existing buildings and/or construction of new ones. Historically, farm families stored milk in spring houses to keep cool. New laws required milk to be cooled to fifty degrees within hours of collection, leading to the introduction of a new building type, the milk barn.[127] It concrete-block walls facilitated both a stable temperature and easy cleaning for sanitation. The milk barn was often located adjacent to the stock barn where cows were houses. Many dairy buildings date after the 1940s when rural electrification allowed for the installation of milking machines and refrigerators.

3. Poultry Buildings

Standardized chicken coops appeared on the Middle Tennessee landscape beginning during the Progressive farming period at the turn of the twentieth century. Agricultural extension offices encouraged farm women to raise and sell chicken products to supplement farm income. Thus, chicken coop structures were sited close to a

[125] Ibid, 120.
[126] Ibid., 127.
[127] Ibid., 140.

dwelling's back door. These rectangular structures typically have a shed metal roof and rectangular window openings on one side.

Just as many of Bedford County farms raised some hogs for domestic use, many also raised chickens for meat and eggs. These were usually simple frame coops intended to provide the fowl a safe place to roost at night. Brooding boxes were provided to encourage hens to lay eggs in one place. Today, chicken houses are found throughout Bedford County, as modern farm families raise their own eggs for home and sale.

4. Harvest/Food Storage Buildings and Structures

Silos came into use in the late nineteenth century. They evolved from wooden structures to larger concrete cylinders used in first two decades of the 20th century. Often, these concrete silos are no longer in use, remaining on the landscape as outdated agricultural fixtures. As the county is still predominantly rural, many farms are active, producing crops for silage in need of storage. Modern Harvestore silos and cylindrical, metal granaries, from the second half of the twentieth century, are found throughout the landscape. Empty concrete silos can be found juxtaposed with their more modern equivalent.

Farm families employed various methods for storing perishable products. Milk, for example, could be stored daily in a cold, running stream. Root vegetables could be stored for several months in a cellar.
Farm families stored food in subterranean root cellars, generally dug into a bank or hillside near the main house. Being insulated from outside heat or cold, temperatures in such cellars generally averaged in the 50°s, not cold enough to store meats or dairy goods, but suitable for keeping home-canned goods and some vegetables.

5. Equipment Buildings

The shed row outbuilding is a multi-bay, three-sided structure used for equipment storage. It can be a highly informal structure with simple pole framing and vertical wood board siding. Typically it has a shed roof of sheet metal. Some examples have roofs with a forward overhang. The spacing of the poles corresponds to the width needed for farm vehicles. Shed rows are found even where farming equipment is no longer present, as the structures are useful for general storage.

6. Mills

Bedford County's numerous water courses afforded mills throughout the area. Mills became community hubs, and a mill owner prospered from his business. Generally, mills have common proportions based on the type of wheel and water flow. Extant examples have a rectangular plan and a greater height than barn type buildings, in order to accommodate the required mechanical equipment. Abundant native limestone of Bedford County was essential to the milling industry for mill stones. Housing specialized equipment, mills were not readily adapted for other uses after the building type became obsolete. Given their prevalence in the nineteenth century, this property type may be under-represented on the current landscape, and the remaining examples are not in use for their original purpose. Some mill buildings such as the Fairfield Mill on the Garrison Fork have been converted to residences while others are tourist attractions as at Ledford's Mill on the Duck River.

C. Domestic Support Properties

1. Springs, Springhouses, Wells, Cisterns

Before city water was extended to the countryside, farms were generally dependent on springs. Natural springs were common in Bedford County. Many farms had spring houses constructed over their water sources. Springhouses were small structures that covered a farm family's fresh water source. It commonly had a gable roof and an access door, and perishable products could be temporarily stored in the cool water from the underground spring. The structures kept animals from spoiling the springs and were also used to keep butter and other produce cooled. Most spring houses were stone-lined or had concrete runnels, often damming up the flow to keep a shallow cooled pool in which crocks could be kept cool.

Where a natural spring did not occur, farm families dug wells in search of a water source. Wells are still in use in rural areas, for home use and livestock watering. More recent pumphouses serve the same purpose of covering the opening of a dug-out or machine-drilled well. Cisterns were constructed to store water. These structures are likely uncommon in Bedford County, an area abundant in flowing streams.

2. Smokehouses

Smokehouses are found across the county and are mostly of frame construction. Log smokehouses in Middle Tennessee date from the antebellum period.[128] The smokehouse is often the outbuilding sited most near to the dwelling. The dimensions of smokehouses do not vary greatly and generally are no larger than 80 square feet, being slightly deeper than they are wide. Invariably, they are covered with a gable-front roof and have one central entrance.

Historically, Bedford County raised a great number of hogs, for home consumption and for sale. Before refrigeration, hams, bacon, and sausage were generally preserved by salting them and then dry-smoking them. Specialized smokehouses tended to be small- to medium-sized structures, fairly vertical in aspect to provide more space for hanging the meats while being smoked and after curing.

3. Privies

Most extant privies in Middle Tennessee are from the twentieth century. Privies were generally located behind the house. Privies typically had three sides of vertical wood board siding and a shed metal roof

4. Garages

The first automobiles in the county were seen in the county seat of Shelbyville. The garage is an early-to-mid-century addition to Bedford County rural residences. Early garages from this period are typically of frame construction with gable roofs and exteriors of weatherboard or board and batten siding. The one-story, frame structures are invariably located behind and to the side of the main dwelling. They can have an open bay or feature side-hinged double doors. Mid-twentieth century garages, often of concrete block construction, feature lateral sliding track doors or overhead sliding track doors. Their gable-front roofs are often clad in metal. Some still function as cover for vehicles, while others are used for general storage of outdoor tools.

5. Sheds

Utility buildings for storage of various farm tools and implements are common structures on the built landscape. They are vernacular in design and constructed with materials at hand. Purely functional in purpose, sheds lack architectural details though provide support to working farms and/or households.

6. Fences, Walls

[128] West, "Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee," unpaginated.

On many of Bedford County farms are sections of stone fences erected in the nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. The area's abundant limestone rock provided a readily accessible material for fences. Most walls are dry-stack design and lack any mortar to bind the stones in place. These walls were erected with alternating stones to fix them in place, and the tops of the fences were often terminated with rows of angled or slanted stones known as coping or copes. Tradition states that these walls were built both by slaves or paid laborers. Bedford County's natural cedar glades also were commonly used for fencing, though these structures largely disappeared from the landscape when the pencil industry cannibalized cedar forests and fences. With the introduction of wire fence materials in the late nineteenth century, construction of stone fences ceased. However, many sections of original stone walls remain on the landscape and help to define fields, property lines and roadbeds.

D. Roads and Roadbeds

The major roads and highway through Bedford County began as nineteenth-century turnpikes between Shelbyville and smaller towns in the county or adjacent county seats of Middle Tennessee. During the 1830s, major transportation routes were under construction, helping to expand local and regional economies. An important turnpike built during this period connected Shelbyville with the state capital at Nashville by way of Murfreesboro, which had briefly served as the state capital from 1818 to 1826 and remained an important county seat and commercial center. The turnpike was complete in 1842. The pike from Shelbyville to Murfreesboro later became U.S. Highway 231.

Goodspeed's 1886 history of Bedford County stated:

> "The turnpikes of this county, their establishment and the number of miles of each are as follows: Shelbyville, Murfreesboro & Nashville Pike, built in 1832, 12 miles; Shelbyville & Fayetteville Pike, built in 1852, 9 miles; Shelbyville & Lewisburg Pike, built in 1856, 11 miles; Shelbyville & Unionville and Shelbyville, Richmond & Petersburg Pikes, built in 1858, 18 miles of the former and 9 of the latter; Shelbyville & Fairfield Pike, built, part in 1859 and completed in 1865, 8 miles; Shelbyville. Flat Creek & Lynchburg Pike, built in 1875, 9 miles; Shelbyville & Fishing Ford Pike, built in 1875, 5 miles; Shelbyville & Tullahoma Pike, built in 1874, 10 miles; Shelbyville & Wetumpka Pike, built in 1881, 5 miles; Shelbyville & Versailles Pike, built in 1885, 8 miles; Wartrace & Beach [sic] Grove Pike, built in 1874, 6 miles; Bell Buckle & Flatwood Pike, built in 1882, 5 miles; Bell Buckle & Beech Grove Pike, built in 1882, 6 miles, and Bell Buckle & Liberty Gap Pike, built in 1882, 5 miles."[129]

While most of these turnpikes were incorporated into county or state roads, others were abandoned or became private farm roads. Inter-farm roads connected neighbors, and these original roadbeds are still discernible on the landscape. Older roadbeds dating to the nineteenth century remain visible throughout the county.

E. Family Cemeteries

Cemeteries in Bedford County may be affiliated with a church congregation or may be a family burial place on private land. They should be associated with early settlement or later communities historically associated with agricultural landscapes in the county. Cemeteries may include simple, plain grave markers and distinctive funerary art.

[129] Goodspeed Publishing Co, *The History of Tennessee With Sketch of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford and Marshall Counties,* 866.

3. Significance

Criterion A

The historic agricultural and architectural resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969, may be significant under Criterion A for their association with settlement of the county and development of the agricultural economy. The historic resources include dwellings, domestic buildings associated with dwellings, agricultural buildings relating to crops, livestock, and storage, fences, walls, roads and roadbeds that compose individual historic districts. Collectively, these resources are important to the overall built and natural landscape of Bedford County from its early development until the late twentieth century.

Criterion B

The historic agricultural and architectural resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969, may be significant under Criterion B for their association with the homes of individuals significant in the history of agriculture. These may include individuals who were prominent in promoting innovative agricultural practices, introduced new farm products or were responsible for important changes in land use or conservation.

Criterion C

The historic agricultural and architectural resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969, may be significant under Criterion C as collections of buildings embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style, or method of construction. Over the course of the period of significance, Bedford County's building stock reflects trends in architectural design and construction representative of the wider Middle Tennessee region. These resources may be significant under Criterion C in the areas of architecture if they are notable for their architectural design and are part of a unified rural landscape and retain their original character.

Criterion D

Some historic farms may have extant archaeological resources. These resources must be evaluated for their eligibility, both individually and as contributing elements, under Criterion D.

4. Registration Requirements

To be eligible for listing as a historic resource of the "Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969" under this MPDF, a resource must: a.) be located within the geographic area defined in Section G (below); b.) have been constructed during the period of significance between ca. 1805 and 1969; c.) possess historical associations related to Bedford County's settlement and/or agricultural development; d.) retain sufficient historic architectural integrity to convey its significance.

Some historic family farms in Bedford County may be related by history, family, place, and/or agricultural products and may be better understood as a rural historic district. The registration requirements for a rural historic district would follow those generally set for rural districts throughout the country - a contiguous set of properties that convey a sense of time and place and may be distinguished as a related entity from the surrounding countryside. Under this criterion the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District southeast of Shelbyville meets registration requirements and a National Register nomination for this district has

been submitted within the context of the "Historic Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969."

Within the context of Bedford County's rural agricultural history during the period of significance, resources should retain original location, physical elements, aspects of designs, and historic associations. The seven qualities of integrity should apply.

These aspects include:

Location - A resource must be located at its original site.

Design - A resource must retain the majority of its historic construction elements. A resource should retain its historic appearance and configuration, including its historic engineering and architectural components as relates to design and function.

Setting - A resource's historic physical setting must be intact. It should not be concealed or obscured by substantial buildings and structures constructed past its period of significance.
Materials - A resource must retain and exhibit its historic construction materials. It will still retain integrity of materials if in-kind replacement materials are used, including earth, rock, concrete, steel, brick, wood, glass, and tile to match the historic material. Replacement materials that do not imitate those from a resource's period of significance, or where there is a substantial loss of historic fabric, will result in a loss of integrity.

Workmanship - A resource must retain the qualities of workmanship that were imbued in its historic design and materials.

Feeling - Resources must retain a sense of time and place from its period of significance.

Association - Resources must be able to retain sufficient characteristics to link the property with its role within the context of hydroelectric power.

It is common for residential and agricultural buildings to experience alterations as architectural sensibilities change and agriculture practices and technologies evolved. Some dwellings, for example, may have been expanded with growing families and accumulation of wealth. These alterations generally occurred within the period of significance and reflect historic significance in their evolution. Even some replacement of historic elements or materials may be acceptable if alterations do not diminish the historic physical integrity of the resource. Major alterations resulting in negative impact would include a change in height of a resource, change in roofline, removal of character-defining features, or massive additions. These kind of significant alterations negate the resource's integrity. The addition of numerous new features, such as modern barn buildings, may have a negative effect on the integrity of a farmstead's historic site plan.

G. Geographical Data

This Multiple Property Documentation Form includes the area of modern Bedford County, Tennessee. Bedford County is an area of 475 square miles bounded by Rutherford County on the north, Coffee County on the east, Moore and Lincoln Counties on the south, and Marshall County on the west.

H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods
(Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)

Historical research for the "Historic Agricultural and Architectural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969" was conducted at various repositories in Middle Tennessee. These included a review of source materials at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville and the Local History Room of the Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library in Shelbyville, Tennessee. Additionally, the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (TN-SHPO) provided information on surveys of historic properties in Bedford County. In addition, research included interviews with and history from descendants of pioneer families who remain attached to their ancestral landscapes. Another resource of information on Bedford County agriculture is the Century Farms program. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture initiated the Century Farms program in 1975 to an honor farms in continuous production by a single family for a century or longer. The program also serves to document and interpret the state's agrarian history and culture. Since 1985, the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University has administered the Century Farms program, which currently listed over 1800 certified farms. Of this total, there are thirty-four Century Farms in Bedford County.

The SHPO has on record some 750 survey numbers for historic resources surveyed in Bedford County. The first survey of architectural and historical resources of Bedford County was performed in the 1980s by Middle Tennessee State University. Subsequent surveys occurred within the county during the mid-1990s through early 2000s, as infrastructure projects (i.e., road or cellular tower development) triggered Section 106 review.

The MPDF "Historic Agricultural and Architectural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969" is the result of an intensive survey of the Thompson Creek valley in Bedford County. This survey was initiated in 1996 as a Section 106 survey for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)'s expansion of the two-lane State Route 16/U.S. 41-A highway to four and five lanes with a median and shoulders. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) at the time of that survey was characterized as rural with cultivated farmlands and forests. The Consultant of that survey project, Thomason and Associates, identified properties within the project APE that appeared to date from 1945 or earlier. The APE extended a distance of 11.9 miles beginning at the highway's intersection with State Route 64 in Bedford County to the southeast across the county line to Tullahoma in neighboring Coffee County.

The same Consultant resumed and revised an incomplete National Register nomination project for the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District, beginning in December of 2017. The "Historic Agricultural and Architectural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969" serves to support the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District National Register nomination, submitted to the TN-SHPO in April, 2018. For this project, the Consultant conducted an intensive survey and study of a limited area of Bedford County surrounding the Thompson Creek valley. That survey included site visits to forty-six individual properties to document buildings, sties, and structures established or constructed during this time period 1805-1969. At each property, historic resources were described and photographed for inclusion within the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District National Register nomination form. The collection of buildings, structures, and sites identified in the Thompson Creek Rural Historic District are representative of the property types discussed in the "Historic Agricultural and Architectural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969" MPDF. They are common property types prevalent in Bedford County and represent the progression of architecture and agriculture in the county from its period of settlement to within the fifty-year mark.

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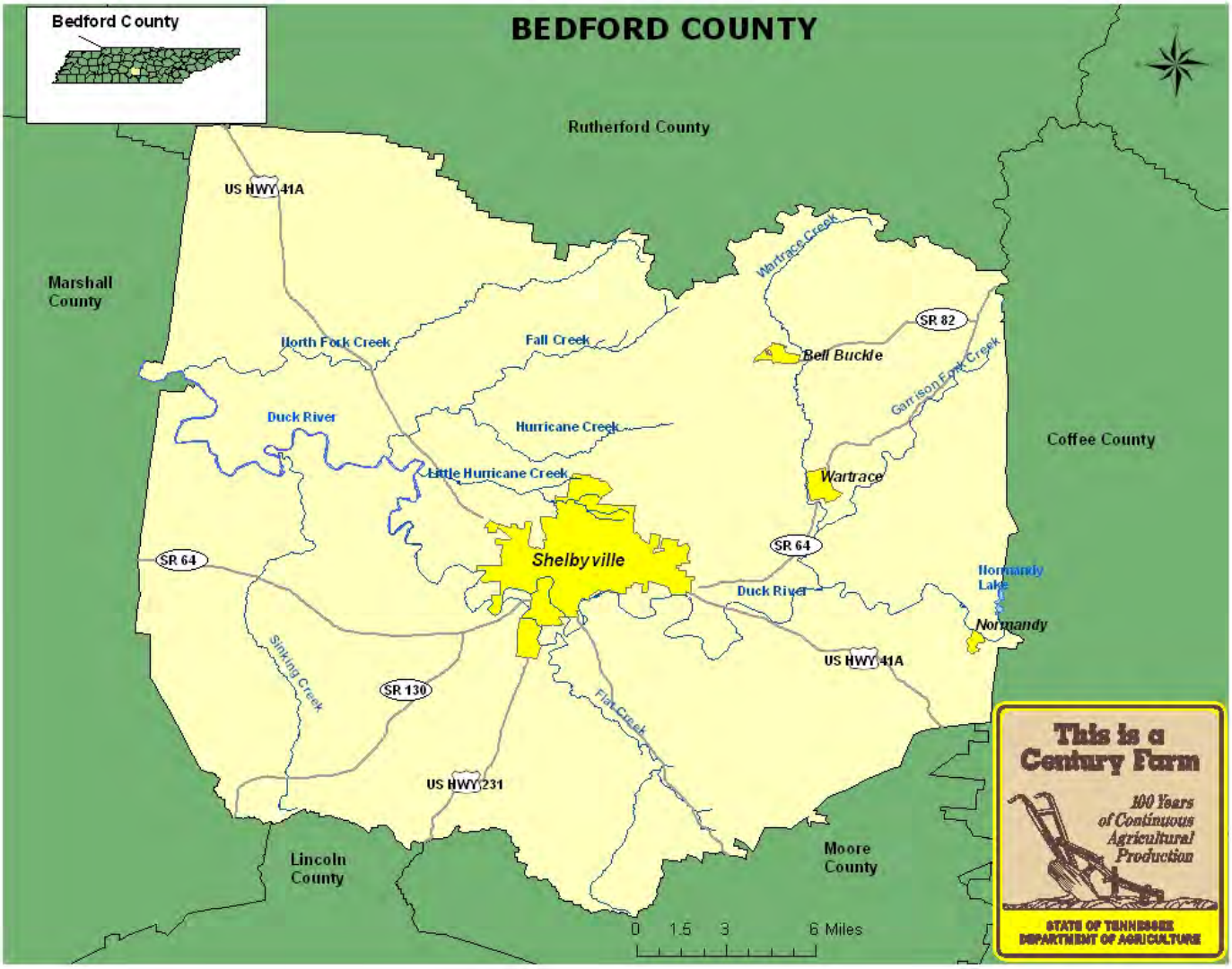
Additional Documentation



Bedford County Century Farms

	Date Founded			
BSA Farm	1914	Phillips Farm	1910	
Dement Home Place	1897	Roberts Farm	1811	
Elrie Brinkley Farm	1902	Rowesville Valley Farm	1894	
Farrar Farm	1851	Russell Farm	1869	
Fox Run Farm	1890	S and S Livestock Farm	1903	
Garrondale Farm	1820	Sallie Creek Farm	1899	
Hawkins Farm	1896	Spring Hill Dairy Farm	1842	
Hillview Acres	1857	Spring Hill-/Spencer Eakin	1842	NRL
J.C. Leming Farm	1900	Stow-Ha-Wa Farm	1842	
Joe Tom Walker Farm	1879	Vannatta Farms Inc.	1850	
Joe Tom Walker Farm	1879	Walker Farm	1837	
John Elam Scruggs	1830	Wayside Farms	1838	
Knight Farm	1863	Wherley's Farm	1827	
Lokey/Bomar Farm	1861	Willow Wood	1841	
Lynn Home Place	1903	Woodlawn Farm	1798	
Meadow Dale Farm	1852	Wooten-Kimbro Farm	1910	
O.D. Stubblefield Farm	1857	Wright Farm	1907	
Parker's Farm	1812			

The Tennessee Century Farms Program was started in 1975 as a part of the nation’s bicentennial celebration, with the purpose to honor and recognize the efforts of Tennessee families that had farmed the same land for one hundred years or more.

Bedford County Century Farm general county map and list: Accessed August 12, 2018. http://www.tncenturyfarms.org/bedford-county/

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	COVER DOCUMENTATION
Multiple Name:	Agricultural Resources of Bedford County, Tennessee, 1805-1969 MPS
State & County:	,

Date Received: 3/28/2019 Date of 45th Day: 5/13/2019

Reference number: MC100003897

Reason For Review:

__ Appeal	__ PDIL	__ Text/Data Issue
__ SHPO Request	__ Landscape	__ Photo
__ Waiver	__ National	__ Map/Boundary
__ Resubmission	__ Mobile Resource	__ Period
__ Other	__ TCP	__ Less than 50 years
	__ CLG	

__X__ Accept _____ Return _____ Reject __5/3/2019__ Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The MPS Cover provides a context on the agricultural development of the county. While the context covers the period 1805-1969, the materials in the context provide little information related to the post 1950 era of agriculture in the county, and provides no guidance on evaluating resources from the post 1950 era. It is still a useful document for pre-WWII agricultural resources, but any post war resources would need extra context and evaluation.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept Cover document

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments: No see attached SLR: No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.