

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 11 1984

date entered NOV 8 1984

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

1. Name

historic Alexander - Collins House

and/or common Valentine Square (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 111 North Cedar Street N/A not for publication

city, town Winchester N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Franklin code 051

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Beatrice Alexander Collins

street & number North Cedar Street

city, town Winchester N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37398

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Winchester state Tennessee 37398

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on 111 North Cedar Street, four blocks south of the Winchester public square, Valentine Square, the Alexander-Collins House, is one of the largest and most elaborately detailed frame structures in Franklin County. The Victorian vernacular house was constructed in 1899 by Tullahoma builder Franklin Pierce McDowell, but its decoration is largely survival from the Eastlake style of the 1870s and 1880s. The house has one of the finest interiors of a house of this type in south central Tennessee. The major rooms are constructed of different woods, and interior elements - mantels, pocket doors, staircases - are of exceptionally high quality, decorated with carvings and incised work.

The house occupies the eastern half of the block bounded on the northeast by North Cedar Street, on the southeast by First Avenue, the old Huntsville Highway, on the southwest by Shepherd Street, and on the northwest by Second. The house sits on a large wooded lot, with a spacious garden and several outbuildings to the rear. At the southeastern edge of the lot is a level area that was once a tennis court.

The house is a large two-story balloon frame structure covered with yellow poplar weatherboard siding over diagonal sheathing. The house rests on a brick foundation, built in part over the foundations of the 1835 Winchester Female Academy, portions are still visible in the basement. The house has a high hipped roof covered with composition shingles. Two-story, cross-gable bay end sections project at the north and east corners, and from the center of the northwest side. A two-story wraparound porch extends along most of the northeast and southeast sides. At the rear, two plain gabled sections, one two-story, the other one, were originally connected by a one-story shed porch; this porch was enclosed and a new shed porch, constructed in part from elements of the original back porch, was constructed along the rear of the old. Two tall corbeled brick chimneys and a plain brick chimney in a rear gable section connect to numerous fireplaces and flues in the structure, these were constructed by Winchester contractor T. J. Scott.

The eight-bay front faces northeast to North Cedar Street; a two-story gabled bay end projects at the north corner, and the east corner is clipped. A two-story veranda supported by bracketed turned porch posts extends along this front and the southeast side. The porch is decorated with sawtooth trim and the posts are connected by a balustrade with turned balusters. A door at the center opens into the central hall. Another door is located at the clipped east corner, and another door, also facing northeast, opens from the side of the east bay end. These are elaborate Eastlake doors with reeded styles, moldings, incised work and sunburst motif patterns, and are accompanied by the original screen doors with lathe-turned piecework. The double-hung sash windows have 1/1 lights, cedar sills, and are topped by molded cornices. A right-angle gable overhangs the projecting bay end. It is supported by sunburst brackets and decorated with dappled and incised trim. The face of the gable is covered with decorative wooden shingles. A gabled dormer with a 1/1 light window faces the front from the high hipped roof.

Another two-story gabled bay end projects from slightly to the rear of the center of the six-bay southeast elevation, and the wraparound porch continues along this side from the front to this projecting bay section.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Valentine Square

Item number 7

Page 2

The northwest elevation has another bay end in the approximate center, again topped with an embellished gable. A one-story carport and a fire escape are attached to a two-story gabled section at the rear end of this facade.

The rear of the house faces Shepherd Street. Two rather plain gabled sections extend from the main body of the structure. A shed porch originally connected these two sections. It was later enclosed and a new porch built against its rear. The walls are covered with plain weatherboards, and a plain inset brick chimney rises from the gable end of the east gabled section.

The house is laid out on a modified central passage plan. The main entrance opens into the central stairhall which runs the full length of the house. The floors are of pine. The ceiling is of beaded boards. A broad, dog-leg stair is the prominent feature; it rises from a newel post decorated with lions, palm trees, birds, beaded trim and acanthus leaves, and is thought to be the personal work of the house's builder, Franklin Pierce McDowell. The lower surface of the staircase is covered with paneled wainscot, and sunbursts adorn the angles where the stairs join the floor. The effect of the whole is quite spectacular.

The parlor is reached from the central hall by tall paneled pocket doors; the doors are of oak, but surfaced on the inside (parlor) with maple. The interior of the other set of pocket doors, window trim, and baseboards are also maple, and the floors are of heart pine. A natural oak mantel with overmantel is framed by Roman Ionic columns and trimmed with egg-and-dart molding; the small elliptical shelf beneath a beveled-glass mirror in the overmantel is supported by small console brackets. The walls are covered with plaster.

A second set of pocket doors open from the parlor to the dining room. This room is framed and trimmed with oak. Beaded wainscot covers the walls to about five feet, and the ceiling is also constructed of beaded boards. A china cabinet with double-leaf, glass-panel doors with chamfered rails and stiles is built into the wall. The cabinet has adjustable shelves, and is lined with beaded wainscot. The dining room floors are of heart pine.

Behind the dining room is the kitchen. Beaded wainscot of mixed woods again covers the walls to about five feet. The area was divided soon after the house was constructed, when Mrs. Smith Morgan Alexander directed her husband to add a walk-in pantry, which had the effect of dividing a section of the kitchen off as a breakfast nook. The breakfast nook is now used as the kitchen, and the larger, original kitchen section now serves as an informal dining area. The floor in both sections is of oak. A simply molded oak mantel with chamfered posts frames the only fireplace in the house not converted over to coal. The paneled doors in this room feature plain cornerblocks and fluted connecting members.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Valentine Square

Item number 7

Page 3

Across the central hall at the front of the house is the library, which opens to the hall through massive pocket doors. These doors are of oak, but surfaced on the inside with chestnut. The five-panel door to the master bedroom beyond is surfaced on this side with chestnut and on the opposite in cherry, and is topped by a removable transom. The other trim in this room is all of chestnut. The windows are particularly interesting, as their aprons continue down the wall to meet the molded baseboard. The tall mantel and overmantel is similar to that of the parlor, though the beveled mirror here is rectangular. Both the mantel and the green fireplace tiles are decorated with garland trim and Adamesque swags. The floor of the library is of ash, and the east corner of the room is clipped.

The master bedroom beyond the library is trimmed in cherry. The doors are of cherry, including a small handmade door opening to a small stairhall leading to the daughter's bedroom above. The small stair rises in a winding passage lined with beaded wainscot, and contains a small cupboard with a batten door. The oak fireplace in the master bedroom is topped by an oak mantel supported by fluted Ionic columns and decorated with garland trim. The floors in this room are of ash.

Behind the master bedroom is the nursery, later used as a sewing room. The small room features a walk-in closet lined with beaded paneling, plasterboard ceiling, and oak trim and doors. The floors are of ash.

An enclosed shed porch extends across the back between the kitchen and nursery. A four-panel door leads from this porch to the full basement below. A shed porch, constructed largely from original exterior elements of the now-enclosed porch, extends across the back. The original exterior door frames are still in place and a small corner closet with a five-panel door is built into the angle by the rear door. Although this section of the house has been somewhat altered, the design is sympathetic to the structure and not at all apparent without close inspection.

The upstairs is composed of five bedrooms arranged around another center hall. The section at the south side has been subdivided as a separate apartment and contains two rooms and a bath along a small side hall. One of the rooms contains a particularly nice fireplace, its oak mantel is decorated with paterae.

The north bedroom on this floor contains an oak overmantel fireplace framed by fluted columns with egg-and-dart capitals. The coal-burning firebox is decorated with fleur-de-lis trim and garlands. The ceiling in this room and several others is covered with plain sawn boards.

The east bedroom contains a bracketed mantel with blue tiles framing the iron firebox. An oblong beveled-glass mirror in the overmantel is set above a corbeled shelf.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

data entered

Continuation sheet

Valentine Square

Item number 7

Page 4

The daughter's room at the top of the small enclosed staircase contains another similar mantel/overmantel combination with an oval mirror. The assembly is supported by reeded columns with molded capitals and topped with a cornice featuring a dentil course. A walk-in closet behind a small handmade door now contains furnace ductwork.

At the front of the main hall, an oak door opens onto the upper balcony. The collapsed porch was reconstructed in 1980, using the original latework posts. Some of the turned balusters had to be replaced. The balcony and porch below are floored with tongue-and-groove boards. The original late Victorian screen doors still open onto the balcony.

The original smokehouse/wash-house is located a few yards behind the house. The one-story porch has a simple front gable roof and a vertical batten door. An open shed addition has been added to the northwest side of the structure, but is not very visible from any public view. The building now serves as a workshop.

Off the south corner of the house is a small wellhouse with latticework walls and a shallow pyramid roof. The dug well predates the main house and may be a remainder from the old school on the property.

A one-story garage is located some twenty yards to the rear. The small structure is constructed of common bond brick and has double-bifolding doors with six light windows and a hipped roof of composition shingles.

Also on the property, to the east of the house, are the foundations of an early twentieth century tennis court, long since removed.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1899 **Builder/Architect** Franklin Pierce McDowell

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Valentine Square, the Alexander-Collins House in Winchester, is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its significance to Winchester and Franklin County in architecture. The large frame structure is a spectacular vernacular survival of the Eastlake style of architecture, and is one of the largest and most decorated structures in Winchester, Tennessee (population 5,821). The two-story, eight bay frame house features a two-story wraparound veranda, projecting gabled bay ends, a high hipped roof, and bracketed cornice. The interior is particularly ornate; the rooms are arranged around a broad central stairhall and are constructed and trimmed in different woods. Intricate carving, wainscoting, elaborate overmantels and other decorated structural elements are found in the principal rooms. The house sits on a large landscaped lot and is surrounded by original outbuildings including a smokehouse/wash-house, wellhouse, and early twentieth century garage. The house has remained in the family of the builder and was carefully restored in 1980.

The history of the site begins in 1835 when the home of a Dr. Turner stood alone on the block bounded by the Huntsville Highway, Second Avenue, SW, Cedar, and Shepherd Streets. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church purchased the property for \$267.50 that year to establish a girls' school. According to Goodspeed's 1886 History of Tennessee, the Winchester Female Academy "was erected in 1835, and the school opened in December of the same year." The brick building is thought to have been two stories in height with a central entrance tower. It functioned in this capacity, apparently without a state charter, until 1849. In that year the trustees sold the property to the Reverend John Biddle, then president of the Academy and Presbyterian minister in the town. The school continued to advertise as the "Winchester Female Academy" but was known locally as "The Biddle School." Two succeeding changes in ownership resulted in the charter in 1857 for the Winchester Female Seminary and the 1860 charter for Robert Donnell University (named for an outstanding Presbyterian cleric); the school eventually folded after the opening of Mary Sharp College in the town. The property was purchased for \$900 on January 7, 1881, by the First School District of Franklin County. A free school operated on the property until 1894, when "one of the small scholars fulfilled the half-dream of many a disgruntled pupil; he set fire to the school and burned it to the ground."

Smith Morgan Alexander (1849-1932), a Lynchburg native, Confederate veteran of the 41st Tennessee Regiment, and former schoolteacher, who, in 1888, established the Home Bank and Trust Company on the Winchester public square, purchased the lot and demolished building from the school district on January 20, 1899, for \$1,000. He had a large frame residence constructed on the property, in part over the foundation of the old academy. The builder was Franklin Pierce McDowell, another Lynchburg native who had a carpentry and furniture business in Tullahoma. T. J. Scott of Winchester laid the brick foundation and constructed the three tall corbeled brick chimneys. Alexander moved his family into the new house in 1901 and named the property "Valentine Square" after his only daughter, Mary Valentine Alexander.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Collins, Beatrice Alexander. Personal Interview. May 1984.
"Winchester Female Academy." Franklin County Historical Society.
(July 1973).
Drewry, Dorothy. "Restored Collins House to be Viewed." Winchester Herald Chronicle
January 1981

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.9 acres

Quadrangle name Winchester, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	8	0	5	4	0	3	8	9	3	6	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is bounded on the northeast by North Cedar Street, on the southwest by 1st Avenue, on the southeast by Shepherd Street and on the northwest by adjoining property lines. This boundary includes enough land to preserve the historical and architectural setting of Valentine Square.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Quin, Preservation Planner

organization South Central Development District date August 22, 1984

street & number P.O. Box 1346 telephone (615) 381-2040

city or town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 10/3/84

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 11-8-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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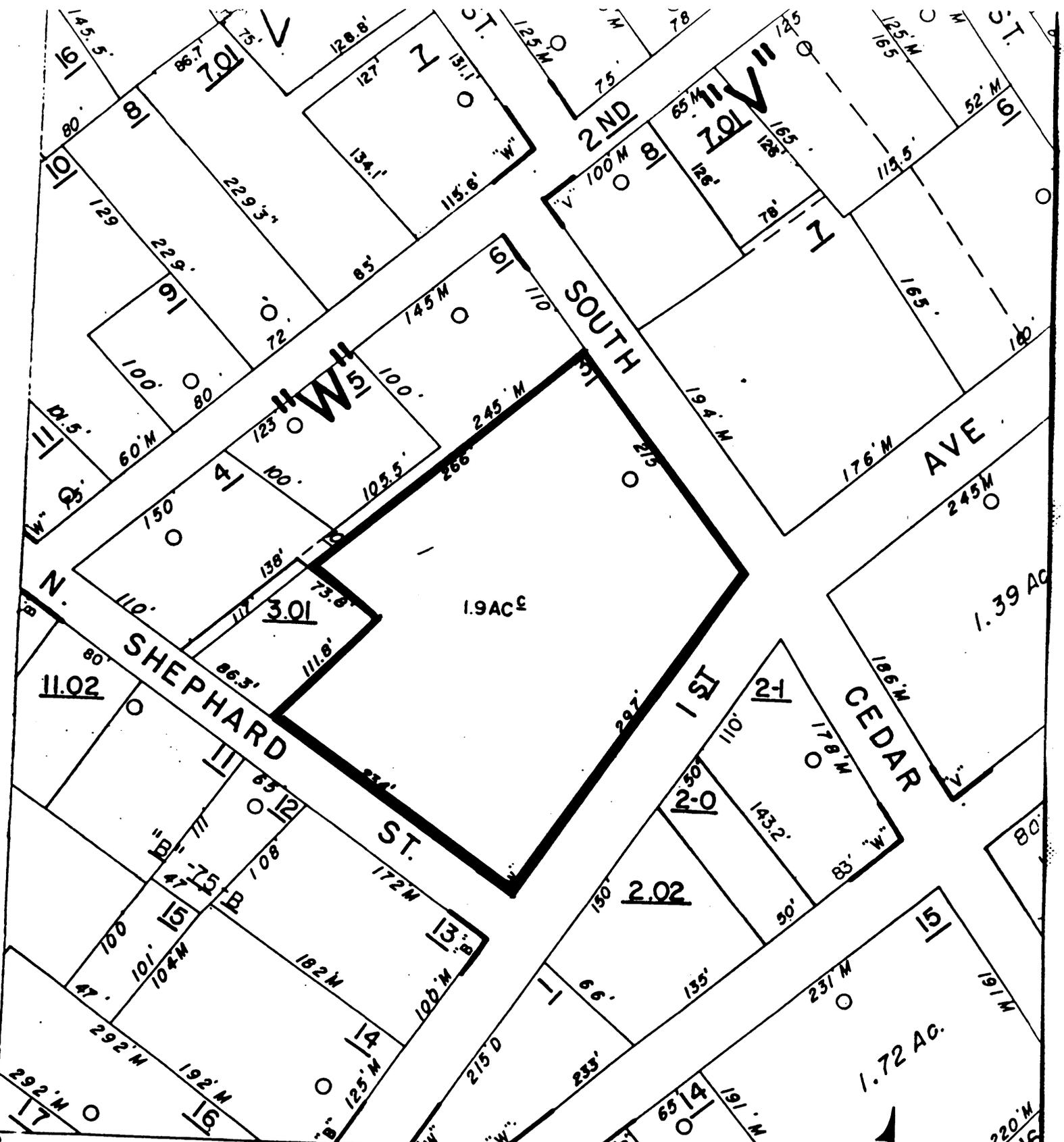
Date entered

Continuation sheet Valentine Square

Item number 8

Page 2

The large frame structure was a survival of the Eastlake style of architecture, featuring a two-story balcony with turned porch posts and balusters, projecting bay ends, cross-gables supported by brackets decorated with a sunburst motif, and extremely tall corbeled brick chimneys. The principal rooms inside the house are trimmed in different woods - maple, chestnut, ash, cherry, and oak - and retain their original mantels, doors, and other interior elements. The massive stair in the central hall is particularly fine and features carvings of lions, birds, sunbursts, and acanthus leaves; another small stairhall connects the master bedroom downstairs with the daughter's chamber above.



Valentine Square (Alexander-Collins House)
 111 North Cedar Avenue
 Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 100'

PREPARED BY
 TORIN BOUNTNEY

Map No 65N 9 (Grouped) Parcel 6
 Civil District 1 - Winchester
 Scale 1" = 100'

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DIVISION OF
NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAMS
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Section number 10 Page 2 Valentine Square

The verbal boundary description should read:

The nominated property is bounded on the northeast by North Cedar Street, on the southeast by 1st Avenue, on the southwest by Shepherd Street, and on the northwest by adjoining property lines. The boundary includes enough land to preserve the historical and architectural setting of Valentine Square.

Herbert L. Harper
Herbert L. Harper

2/14/90
Date