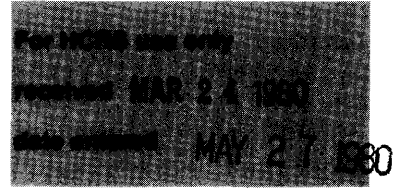


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

1. Name

historic Mosby-Bennett House

and/or common Hunter Lane House

2. Location

street & number 626 Poplar Pike not for publication

city, town Memphis vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state Tennessee code 047 county Shelby code 157

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Murray Reiter

street & number 6751 Post Oak Cove

city, town Memphis vicinity of state Tennessee 38138

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shelby County Registrar's Office

street & number 160 North Main Street

city, town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Memphis Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January, 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Memphis Landmarks Commission

city, town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

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

Set back approximately 45 feet from the northern right-of-way of Poplar Avenue in East Memphis, the Mosby-Bennett House is located on an elevated parcel of land which is presently being prepared for commercial development. The house will serve as a focal point for the complex, which will consist of one-story modern office buildings situated to the north, east and west of the house.

Framed with heavy timbers and covered with weatherboard, the Mosby-Bennett House is a two-story rectangular structure with a slate-covered gable roof and brick foundation. When constructed as a plantation home in 1852, the structure reflected the influence of the Greek Revival mode. This influence is still predominant and can be seen in the symmetry of the facade, the decorated cornice, the paneled pilasters which accent the central bay of the facade and the corners of the building, and the use of transom and sidelights around the entrances. However, the house was remodeled in the 1870's; at that time many Victorian decorative details were added. Porches featuring chamfered posts with brackets, perforated railing and scrollwork trim above the roof line were built on each elevation. Other additions included bargeboards on the end gables and scrollwork above window cornices on the facade and above the peak of the central gable. Thus, the building visually records changing tastes in residential architecture from the mid-to late-nineteenth century.

The five-bay facade, which faces south, features a one-story flat-roofed porch in front of the three central bays, which contain a recessed entrance between two windows. Each window is a six-over-nine double hung sash with plain architrave, moulded cornice head topped by scrollwork, and green louvered shutters. The double leaf main door, with its two-light transom, features rectangular glass lights over moulded wood panels, all with beveled corners. Not the original doors, they were probably added in the 1870s. The remaining windows on the facade--one on either side of the porch and five in the second story--are six-over-six double hung sash with scrollwork above the moulded cornice heads and green louvered shutters. Each side of the central bay of the facade is defined by a pair of paneled pilasters rising the full two stories. Single pilasters are found at each corner of the building. In the center of the facade's roofline is a gable with a box cornice and scrollwork at the peak; the cornice and frieze, both of which are decorated with brackets, are interrupted by a gap in the center of the facade, thus creating the effect of a gable with return. An interior brick chimney covered with stucco is found at each end of the front and rear slopes of the gable roof.

The side elevations of the house reflect not only the alterations of the 1870s but also remodeling that probably occurred in the early 1900s. In 1870, porches were added in the center of each elevation; those in the gable ends were smaller but identical in detailing to the front porch. On the west elevation the porch covers a single leaf paneled door with transom flanked by six-over-nine double hung sash windows. The porch on the east elevation has been enclosed. The north end contains a door with a three-light transom below a square panel as well as side lights; the two remaining walls of the porch have rectangular multi-paned windows above vertical siding. The original posts can still be seen between the windows. On the wall plane inside the porch are two six-over-nine windows. In each gable end there is a single window north of the porch. However, the second story of the west elevation has four windows while the second story of the east elevation contains three windows. All of these windows are six-over-six double hung sash identical in configuration to those on the facade, with one exception; there is no scroll work above the cornice heads.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



80

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

Both gables feature cornice returns and a pair of four-over-four double hung sash windows. In the 1870s bargeboards were added.

In the early 1900s the rear porch was enclosed with a two-story flat-roofed frame addition on the east end. A second two-story addition was later built across the remainder of the elevation. In the side elevation of the west addition there are no windows, but in the side elevation of the east addition there is a six-over-six double hung sash window with plain architrave in each story. The east elevation reflects one further addition; a one-story kitchen wing was added to the east end of the rear elevation and contains a small eight-over-eight sash window on the east side.

As has been described above, the rear elevation has undergone extensive alteration. In addition to the enclosure of the porch, and the subsequent construction of a second rear addition, another one-story porch was built across the eastern two-thirds of the elevation; chamfered posts, reused from the earlier porch, on concrete bases support arches with latticed spandrels. Beneath the east end of this porch, a one-story kitchen wing was built; this contains a door with transom. To the west of this in the wall plane of the two-story enclosed porch, a small window, a pair of multi-paned casement windows, and a door with sidelights under a rectangular multi-light window have been used as infill between the posts of the original porch. Steps to the basement are found between the kitchen wing and the doorway to the enclosed porch. In the remainder of the rear elevation, there are two windows above the porch--a triple hung sash window with two lights per sash on the east end and, next to it, a six-over-six double hung sash window. On the west end there is a four-over-four double hung sash window with louvered shutters in each story.

In the 1852 portion of the house, both the first and second stories contain four rooms with a wide central hall. A doorway from each room opens onto the hall. On the first floor a straight staircase with a carved newel post and turned balusters is located along the east wall of the hallway. This staircase also features scrollwork at the side of each tread. Beneath the stairway can be seen the outline of an opening, now sealed, for a stairway to the basement. In the rear wall of the first-floor hallway is a double leaf paneled door with transom and sidelights. On the east side of the first floor, the front room is connected to the rear room with a pair of disappearing doors. On the west side, the front and rear rooms are separated by a small room containing storage space; this appears to have originally been either a side hall or butler's pantry. A doorway from the west porch opens onto this area. The rear east room and front west room both contain marble fireplaces with arched openings. Above the arch the former features a cartouche while the latter has a keystone. The rear west room has a plain wood mantle-piece featuring pilasters. The same mantle is also found in all the second floor bedrooms and was probably original to the front rooms as well. All these original rooms feature wide moulded baseboards, ornate metal covers for floor heating vents, moulded aprons under six-over-six windows and moulded window architraves. The rear rooms have moulded cornices while the front rooms have picture rails. The additions at the rear of the house contain a kitchen on the east end, a bathroom on the west end and an enclosed porch between with a single turn staircase with window on the north wall. The second floor features four bedrooms, a bath and closets between the two west bedrooms, and a second bath in the east end of the enclosed porch. The original wide

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

plank flooring is still intact. A curved stairway is located in the central hall on the north end of the west wall and leads to a room in the attic. This room spans the width of the house and provides access to the remainder of the attic.

The house until recently had several frame outbuilding--three gazebos, a carriage house, a small barn and a one-story frame house. These were all located to the north of the house. However, all but two gazebos on the northeast and northwest corners of the house have been or will be removed. These gazebos, twelve feet in diameter, are octagonal with pointed arches in each side. A brick sidewalk leads from the drive along the east side of the house to the front porch and continues on to the porch on the west elevation. There is also a brick patio at the rear of the house. Several large magnolia trees are situated in front of the house.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1852 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

A simplified interpretation of the Greek Revival style to which Victorian decorative elements were later added, the Mosby-Bennett House is representative of the type of architecture once found in the rural areas around Memphis. However, urban expansion and modern commercial development have destroyed almost all examples of these building forms. Thus, the Mosby-Bennett House is significant in several respects. Apart from being one of the oldest houses in the area, it is a last vestige of an agrarian economy that once flourished in what is now an urban area. In addition, the house is architecturally significant for the manner in which it interprets the Greek Revival style, of which there are very few examples in Memphis.

Evidence of the building's architectural evolution can be seen on the various elevations. Greek Revival styling is evident in the symmetry of the facade, the decorated cornice, the trabeated entrances, the tall first-floor windows and the pilasters found on the facade and at the corners of the house. In 1870 the new owner embellished the house with Victorian details in the form of curvilinear bargeboards; porches on each elevation that feature bracketed posts, perforated railings, and gingerbread trim above the cornice; and scrollwork above both window cornices and the peak of the facade's central gable. This integration of differing stylistic elements has produced a truly distinctive house.

The house's interior design reflects its role as the headquarters of a large plantation as well as the need to adapt to a southern climate. Porches located on each elevation can be reached through tall windows. Rooms and hallways are large with fourteen-foot ceilings. However, aesthetic considerations are also apparent. Fine craftsmanship can be seen in the moulded wood trim, carved wood mantelpieces and turned balusters of both staircases. While most of the interior ornamentation is characterized by simplicity, in keeping with the Greek Revival influence, the addition of two marble mantelpieces, a heavily carved newel post and picture rails in the 1870s interject a Victorian note.

Built in 1852 by Samuel and Joseph Mosby on a 5,000 acre estate, the house was rented by the Mosby family to Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence Hall during the Civil War. Reputedly, General Ulysses S. Grant stopped at the house en route to the Battle of Shiloh. In 1870 the house and farm were purchased by Mr. George Bennett, a famous breeder of race horses. Mr. Bennett remodeled the exterior of the house adding a variety of Victorian ornamental details. Mr. Bennett also added a banquet hall in the basement and a Delco lighting system. At the rear of the house he built three gazebos. The property was later purchased by the Smith family, who subdivided the farm and sold off small tracts of land. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Lane bought the house in 1945 and lived in it until 1979. The house is presently owned by Mr. Murray Reiter, who plans to restore and adapt the house for commercial use.

The boundaries of this nomination have been drawn to include only the land occupied by the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with Mrs. Hunter Lane by Mrs. Eleanor Hughes, 3 July 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Germantown

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	2	3	9	7	9	0	3	8	8	7	8	1	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

See area outlined in red on attached Shelby County Assessor's map. (This map has been reduced.) *see continuation sheet rec'd 5/15/80 KOC.*

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Benton

organization Memphis Landmarks Commission date December 10, 1979

street & number Suite 901, 22 N. Front Street telephone 901/528-2834

city or town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert E. Hagen

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 3/6/80

For HCRS use only

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

J. W. Ray Luice date 5/27/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristen J. O'Connell date 5/5/80

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

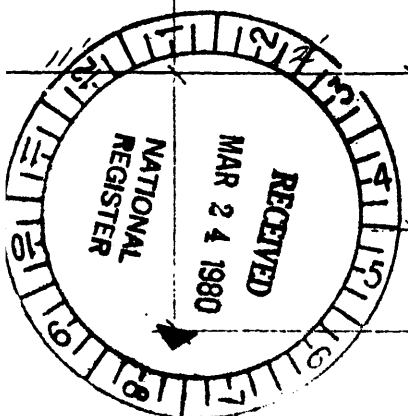
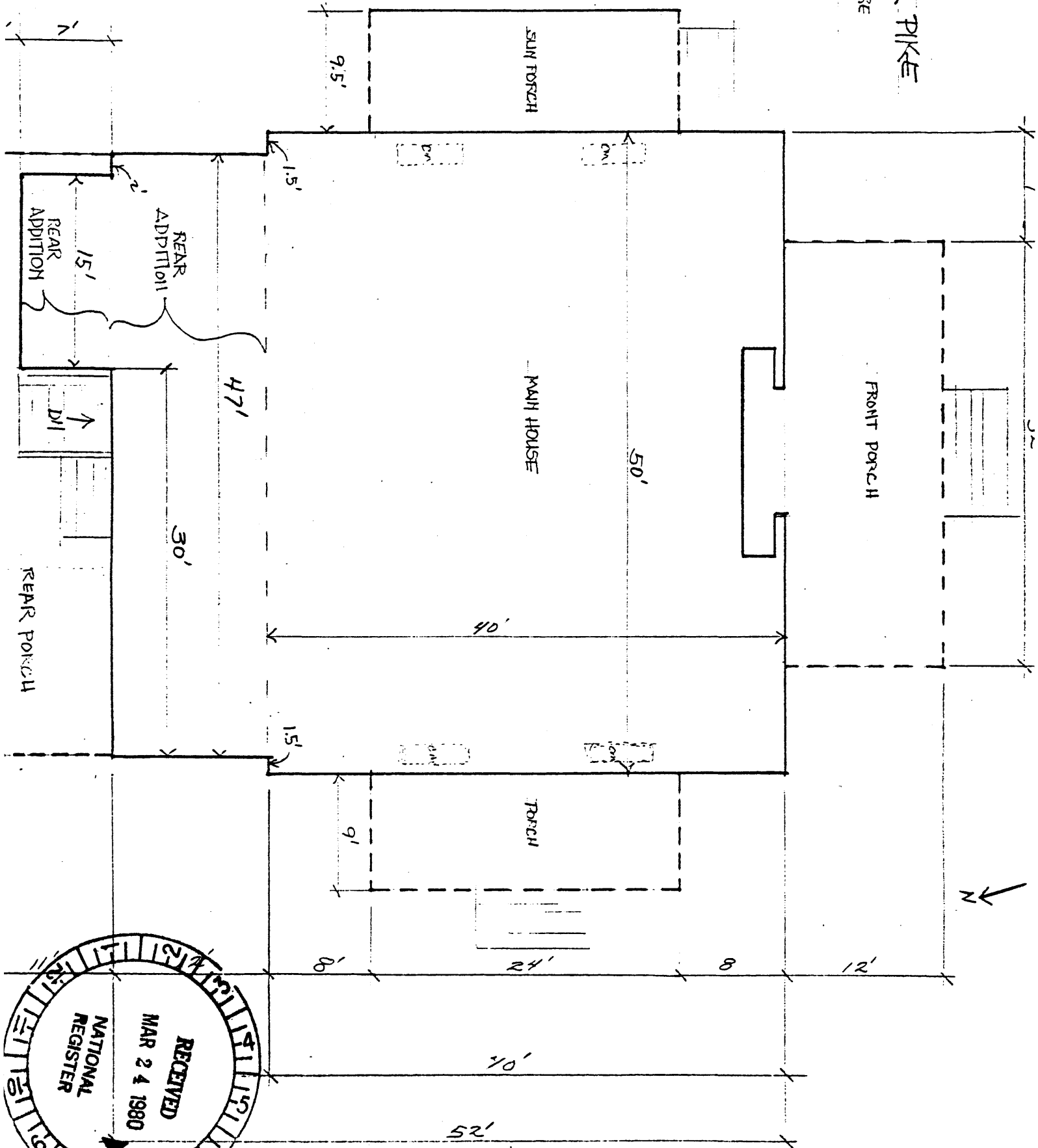
Page

Verbal Boundary DescriptionMosby-Bennett House

Beginning at a point on the north right of way of Poplar Avenue at the east side of a roadway currently under development and as yet unnamed, the boundary line proceeds north at a right angle to Poplar 102 feet, then east at a right angle to the west boundary line 95 feet, then southerly 102 feet in a diagonal line to the north right of way of Poplar Avenue, then west 110 feet along the north right of way of Poplar Avenue to the point of beginning.

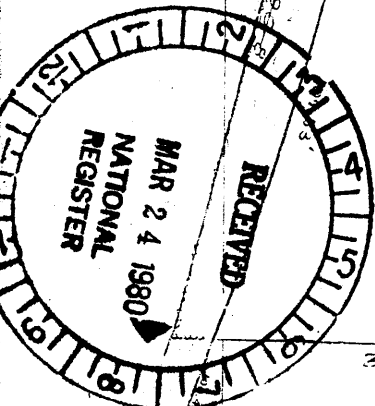
6256 POPLAR PIKE

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATIONS



- 1. PARTIAL NUMBER
- 2. PARTIAL BOOK
- 3. CHURCH PROP
- 4. RAILROAD
- 5. CREEK
- 6. WARD LINE
- 7. SECTION NUMBER
- 8. STATE LINE
- 9. CO. LINE
- 10. CITY LIMITS
- 11. PROPERTY LINE
- 12. ORIGINAL T.W. LINE
- 13. R.O.W. LINE
- 14. IMPROVEMENT

L-30



SHELBY CO. TENN.		SHEET NO.	
SCALE: 1" = 100'	WARD: 80 & 81	K-30	
DATE COMPILED 1970	DATE OF FLYING 1962		



K-30