

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

November 29, 2010

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Edson Beall Historian

National Register of Historic Places

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
historic name Doe Creek School	
other names/site numberDoe Creek	Church
other flames/site flumber	Ollaron
2. Location	
street & number Doe Creek Road, ap	proximately ½ mile north of Dyer Road N/A not for publication
city or town Sardis	
•	00074
state Tennessee code	TN County Henderson code 477 219 sees
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	1
nomination request for determination of National Register of Historic Places and mee my opinion, the property meets doconsidered significant nationally state.	eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the ets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In es not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be tewide I locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
State Historic Preservation Office	er, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets c for additional comments.)	does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certificatio	n o lor
I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 11.29.73
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet	
determined not eligible for the National Register	
removed from the National Register.	
other (explain:)	

Doe Creek School		Henderson County, Tennessee			
Name of Property		County and State			
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resour (Do not include previous	ces within Property ly listed resources in count)		
□ private □ public-local	⋈ building(s)⋈ district	Contributing	Noncontributing 0	buildings	
public-State	☐ site ☐ structure	1	0	sites	
public-Federal	☐ object			structures	
		-	0	_ objects Total	
		1			
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not pa	e property listing art of a multiple property listing.)	in the National Re	outing resources previ gister	ously listed	
N/A		0	_		
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruction	ons)	Current Functions (Enter categories from i			
EDUCATION/school		VACANT			
RELIGION/church		-			
		<u>-</u>			
7. Description					
Architectural Classifica (Enter categories from instructi	ition ions)	Materials (Enter categories from foundation Stone			
Single-Pen Log		walls Log			
		roof Metal			
		other Wood dla	22		

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

NPS FORM 10-900-A (6-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Doe Creek School lies on Doe Creek Road near the Decatur-Henderson County line in rural Henderson County, Tennessee. The nominated property contains a log church/schoolhouse which was built at the onset of the Reconstruction period, c. 1870. The building and the property on which it sets are owned by the Doe Creek Restoration Board. The building is a single-pen log structure set on a stone pier foundation. The building underwent a restoration in 2007.

Doe Creek Schoolhouse

Originally built during the Reconstruction Period, c. 1870, as a meeting place for a Baptist congregation, the multipurpose building served as a schoolhouse and church for several generations until legendary schoolmaster, Elmer Duck, dismissed the last class in 1948. Mr. Duck served as schoolmaster at the Doe Creek School for fifty-four years, one of the longer tenures in Tennessee.¹

The Doe Creek School is a 24 by 30 foot log building erected c. 1870. The modest one-room building is constructed of large yellow poplar trees, which were cut from the nearby woods and snaked to the site by oxen where they were hewn on two sides before using them to erect the building. The original roof was wooden shingles; this was changed to corrugated sheet metal in later years. A brick chimney is located in the center of the roof.

The east facade contains a single central entrance with plain double doors. Beveled yellow poplar boards nailed to yellow poplar studs enclose the top half of the gable end on both the east facade and west elevation.

The north, south, and west elevations each have two 4/4 double-hung windows. The windows were removed and replaced during the 2007 restoration. The west elevation also has a gable field covered with yellow poplar boards.

The interior features southern yellow pine, tongue and groove flooring and beaded board paneling on the walls and ceiling. At the west end of the room is a raised platform stage that spans the entire width of the room and extends approximately 6 feet from the west wall.

The building was completely restored in 2007. The original building was disassembled and then reassembled replacing deteriorated materials with new materials of the same type. Much of the original materials were used in the restoration. Michael Thomas Gavin, Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University; Murfreesboro, supervised the process. Local

Gordon H. Turner, Sr., The History of Scotts Hill, (Southaven, MS: Carter Printing Co., 1977) "Civil War in Henderson County," section.

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residents donated the necessary new materials. Every effort was made to keep the restored building the same as the original structure. The restored Doe Creek School/Church was rededicated July 15, 2007.

Oriented along an east-west axis, the gable-front building faces the road. Overall, the restored building contains 65% original material. The logs on each exterior wall were counted, and the number of original and new logs was determined. The new logs are discernible by their lack of weathering. The traditional fenestration pattern of the school building called for two windows on each wall except the east one which contained the entrance. At some point, two additional windows had been inserted on the south side to provide extra lighting in the classroom. The original building plan was preserved during the restoration process.

- Comparing the number of original logs to the total, it was determined that 63% of the logs are original.
- All the limestone rocks on which the building rests are original. The front steps contain original limestone rocks, but the mortar now holding them together is new.
- The corrugated roof is new material, but the brick chimney which projects upward from the center consists of original brick.
- The east/front gable field is 27% original material. This was determined by calculating the area of the gable and then calculating the area of the original material used. The gable field on the west elevation is new material.
- The percentage of original material in the outside facings of the six windows was
 determined in the following manner. The total area of the exterior facings was determined,
 and the percentage of original material used was calculated. The longer boards facing the
 windows are 67% original material while the shorter window facing boards are 50% original
 material.
- In the same manner, the percentage of original material in the exterior door facings was determined to be 50%.
- Excluding the roof, chimney, and foundation, the overall percentage of original material on the outside of the building is 59%.

Double doors on the east wall provide entry to the interior. The original building plan was preserved during the restoration process. Inside, the floors are of 1" by 4" tongue-and-groove southern yellow pine boards. Using the area of the floor and the separate areas of new and original material, it was determined that 60% of the floor is original material. Most of the salvaged flooring was used to reconstruct the stage or platform which runs along the west interior wall of the building. The walls and ceiling were of 1" by 2" wooden strips with a bead along one side. These materials were in fairly good condition and much was used in the restored building. It was determined that 75% of the restored interior walls are original material. Considering all interior aspects of reconstruction, the interior is 71% original material. Averaging the overall percentages of exterior and interior original materials, and excluding the roof, chimney, and limestone

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foundation, the percentage of original material in the restored building was determined to be 65%. All new logs were of the same kind and were cut from the same land as were the logs used in the original construction.

The original desks consisted of plank seats and backs nailed to thicker wooden supports. An original desk, loaned by a local citizen, was used as a pattern to fabricate replicas for the restored school. Old school group pictures, owned by Sue Dyer Maness, a student of the school, were used to verify that the desk was the correct pattern used. The original desks were of yellow poplar boards, and the same was used in the replicas. The teacher's desk, c. 1930s, was donated by a local citizen.

Doe Creek School Name of Property	Henderson County, Tennessee County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Education Architecture
■ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	
of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance
	c. 1870-1948
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
Property is:	c. 1870, c. 1920, 1948
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person
☐ B removed from its original location.	(complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A
C a birthplace or grave	Cultural Affiliation
D a cemetery.	AVA
☑ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	N/A
☐ F a commemorative property	Architect/Builder
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Kennedy, Robert, builder
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sh	neets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form	on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A □ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 □ CFR 67) has been requested □ previously listed in the National Register □ Previously determined eligible by the National Register □ designated a National Historic Landmark □ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository:
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

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Doe Creek School Henderson County, Tennessee

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Doe Creek School/Church in Henderson County, Tennessee is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for local significance in education. Built c. 1870, this building was used as a school until 1948. It is the last of the one-room schools that once dotted the region's rural landscape in Henderson County. Eligibility is also under Criterion C as a rare and locally significant example of log public building and construction from the Reconstruction era. A Tennessee Historical Commission marker was obtained for the Doe Creek School/Church and Cemetery in 2009, and a Civil War Trails Marker was approved in 2010.

Settlement Pattern and Significance in Education

Henderson County was deeply divided by the issue of secession in the summer of 1861. The county was one of five in West Tennessee that voted against secession and joining the Confederacy in the June 1861 referendum, but the vote was close and animosities between citizens grew as the violence of the war years escalated between 1861 and 1865. Henderson County was closely associated with two major battles, that of Shiloh(10/15/1966), which occurred south of the county in early 1862 and the Battle of Parker's Crossroads (NR 2/22/1992) at the end of that year.2 The Kennedy brothers, Robert and Hugh, from the Doe Creek area were examples of a family divided. Robert's family was solidly Confederate with five sons and two sons-in-law enlisting. Hugh's family was divided, two sons joined the Union army and one joined the Confederate forces. This began a family feud which lasted into the early 1900s.3

The guerilla warfare and terrorism of the war years mark the beginning of the history of the Doe Creek area. When the fighting was officially over in the spring of 1865 Confederate Privates James D. Kennedy and his brother-in-law Bill Nails returned home. Local folklore has it that the two had been warned before leaving for the war to never return to the Scotts Hill area. They did return, and immediately fought with local Unionists who killed both of them. Kennedy's father, Robert Kennedy, found the bodies and buried them on the highest point of the land he owned. This began the cemetery near the church/school. Later, between 1868 and 1873, Robert Kennedy donated the logs and most of the labor for the construction of the building. This date reflects a local tradition that the log building dates to c. 1870. The date range also reflects significant patterns in the development of public education in Tennessee. Governor "Parson" Brownlow's administration during Reconstruction made public education a major policy goal and the number of white and black children in public schools grew immediately.4 In 1873, the Tennessee General

² Ibid.

³ Freddie Kennedy. Interview by author. April, 2010.

⁴ Oakley, Louise, compl., "History of Henderson County Schools, 1940-41," www.tngenweb.org accessed Sept., 2008. John Eaton, Jr. First Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Tennessee, Ending Thursday, October 7, 1869 (Nashville Printed for George Edgar Grisham) 1869.

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Assembly passed a new public education law. If Doe Creek School was not in operation in 1873, it certainly came into existence after that date.

The gable-front log building, judging from a 1940 account that detailed the early history of white Henderson County schools, was typical of many one-room schools in the county. They were all built of log, measuring roughly 24 by 30 feet. A 1977 history of the Scotts Hill area noted that "all early school houses were of log construction, usually of one room. Heating in the earliest buildings was by wood fires in the fireplace of a chimney. Later, box stoves came into use but the traditional pot-bellied coal stove was a stranger to these parts. Coal was expensive and too difficult to obtain compared to wood in abundance everywhere. Equipment in these schools was very limited and of the crudest kind." The local historian also pointed out that churches, "often doubled later if not immediately for schools. And next to these early buildings were often laid out burying grounds called graveyards." Typical church-school combination buildings in Henderson County included, "Ebenezer, Peace Chapel, Liberty, Doe Creek, Cedar Grove, and Fellowship."5 At the time of its reconstruction, Doe Creek was the only school in Henderson County to retain its historic log building.

In 1927 Governor Henry Horton and the Tennessee general Assembly approved one million dollars for school construction programs. The Doe Creek School was neither replaced nor closed for consolidation. The school is almost on the border between Decatur and Henderson counties and students from both counties attended the school. Neither county school board wanted to spend its money on students from another county; thus sparing Doe Creek from the dictates of the progressive school reformers. Doe Creek School, in that sense, is certainly a reflection of the general poverty of the region in the 1920s. It also is a statement of rural resistance. Rural Tennesseans, according to historian Mary Hoffschwelle, did not "immediately accept the aesthetics of the new schools." Hoffschwelle found that "rural people apparently felt more comfortable in buildings that blended with the vernacular idiom of their built environment," which in this part of Henderson County was largely comprised of log construction.⁶

Whatever explains the continued use of Doe Creek School, it remained a rural school until the state introduced yet another public education reform effort in 1948. Its last class dates to that year. Elmer Duck, a local resident and a descendent of Robert Kennedy, was the schoolmaster of the school from the late 1890s until the closing of the school. According to Sue Dyer Maness, a former student of the school, "Mist' Elmer's kids," attended school here along with other community children. Zena Gurley-Western, a Kennedy descendant, who lived near the school recalls that she, at 3 and 4 years of age, used to, "slip off," and follow her brothers to school. If she made it all the way, she was too young for, "Mr. Elmer," to send her back the 1.5 miles to her home alone, so she got to stay all day. Elmer Duck taught at the school for 54 years, and he is buried in the Doe Creek Cemetery.

5 Turner, ch. 17.

⁶ Mary Hoffschwelle. Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, TN. 1998.

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A 1948 newspaper story about the school, a copy of which is owned by Gale Swift, a Kennedy descendant, from nearby Scotts Hill, states that Doe Creek was then a Freewill Baptist Church along with a school that was, "in fairly good condition with its handmade desks." Other local residents recall that Church of Christ and Baptist services took place in the building during the midtwentieth century. One such local was Scotts Hill Mayor, Carey Johnson, who related that his father, Coy Johnson, a Church of Christ minister, once held services at Doe Creek. The last services took place in the building c. 1980 and it then served as an informal community building, used for funerals and yearly decoration days at the cemetery.

Architectural Significance

The Doe Creek School/Church is believed to be the only extant log building in Henderson County, and the only school building of any sort to remain from the Reconstruction era. Its half-dovetailed notching, rectangular shape, gable-front entrance, and single room interior are typical characteristics of this long-abandoned vernacular construction tradition for rural public buildings. This architectural integrity was maintained by the restoration.

⁷ Letter from Gale Swift to Carroll Van West, Doe Creek file. MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.

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Doe Creek School Henderson County, Tennessee

Bibliography

- "Civil War in Henderson County," Henderson County section, www.tengenweb.org, accessed September 14, 2006.
- Eaton, John Jr., First Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Tennessee, Ending Thursday, October 7, 1869. Printed for Geo. Edgar Grisham, Printer to the State, 1869.
- Hoffschwelle, Mary S. Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1998.
- Kennedy, Freddie. Interview by author. April, 2010.
- Oakley, Louise, compl. "History: Henderson County Schools, 1940-41," Henderson County section, www.tngenweb.org, accessed September 14, 2006.
- Turner, Gordon H. The History of Scotts Hill. Southaven, MS: Carter Printing Company, 1977.

Doe Creek School	County and State			
Name of Property				
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property 0.5 acres	Thurman 23 NW			
UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 16 386761 3925889	Zone Easting Northing			
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing 4			
2	See continuation sheet			
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Betty Hughes	0,0040			
organization Doe Creek Restoration Board	date 3/30/10			
street & number 3904 Old Hickory	telephone			
city or town	state TN zip code 38305			
Additional Documentation				
submit the following items with the completed form:				
Continuation Sheets				
Continuation Sheets				
Maps A USGS map (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating				
Maps				
Maps A USGS map (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating				
Maps A USGS map (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating A Sketch map for historic districts and properties	having large acreage or numerous resources.			
Maps A USGS map (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating A Sketch map for historic districts and properties Photographs	having large acreage or numerous resources.			
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating A Sketch map for historic districts and properties Photographs Representative black and white photographs of Additional items (Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items Property Owner	having large acreage or numerous resources.			
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating A Sketch map for historic districts and properties Photographs Representative black and white photographs of Additional items (Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items	having large acreage or numerous resources.			
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating A Sketch map for historic districts and properties Photographs Representative black and white photographs of Additional items (Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	having large acreage or numerous resources. f the property.			
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating A Sketch map for historic districts and properties Photographs Representative black and white photographs of Additional items (Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items Property Owner	having large acreage or numerous resources. f the property.			

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

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

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Doe Creek School Henderson County, Tennessee

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary includes parcel 012.02 on tax map 152. This represents the property currently and historically associated with the building.

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Doe Creek School Henderson County, Tennessee



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Doe Creek School Henderson County, Tennessee

Photographs

Doe Creek School
Photographs by Doe Creek Restoration Board
Photographs taken September, 2009
Digital Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

East facade, photographer facing west. 1 of 8

East facade and north elevation, photographer facing southwest. 2 of 8

North and west elevations, photographer facing southeast. 3 of 8

West elevation, photographer facing east. 4 of 8

4 01 8

South elevation, photographer facing north. 5 of 8

Interior, photographer facing west. 6 of 8

Interior, photographer facing northwest. 7 of 8

Interior, photographer facing northeast. 8 of 8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

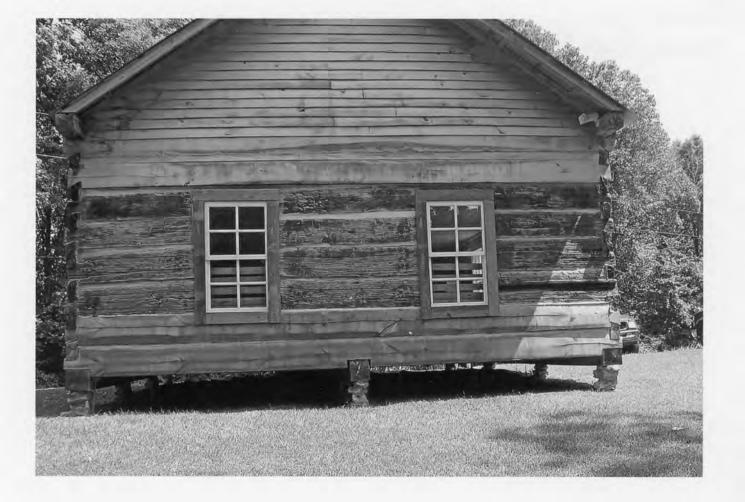
REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

MULTIPLE	
NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Hend	lerson
DATE RECEIVED: 10/14/10 DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/28/10
REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000935	
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LAN OTHER: N PDIL: N PER REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLF	
COMMENT WAIVER: N	
ACCEPTRETURNREJ	JECT
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	
Entered The National of Historic P	Register
RECOM./CRITERIA	
	DISCIPLINE
REVIEWER	
TELEPHONE	DATE





















TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION 2941 LEBANON ROAD NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442 (615) 532-1550



October 1, 2010

Carol Shull Keeper of the National Register National Park Service National Register Branch 1201 Eye Street NW 8th floor Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find the enclosed documentation to nominate *Doe Creek School* to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Brian Beadles at 615/532-1550, extension 125 or Brian.Beadles@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.

State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures