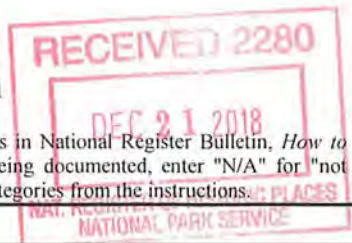


National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Maple Grove Farm
Other names/site number Biggs-Mathis Farm; Biggs, J. Luke, Farm; Mathis, Kenneth, Farm
Name of related multiple property listing Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960

2. Location

Street & Number: 544 Long Creek Road
City or town: Dover State: TN County: Stewart
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A Zip: 37058

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Claude A. Spivey 12/18/18
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: Date

Title: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

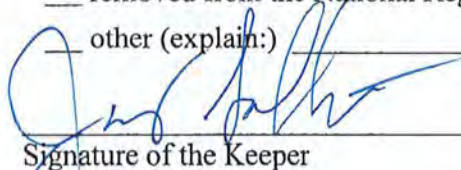
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


 Signature of the Keeper

1-31-2019
 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	9	buildings
2	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
8	10	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/Storage; Animal Facility;

Agricultural Outbuildings; Agricultural Fields

FUNERARY/Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/Storage; Animal Facility;

Agricultural Outbuildings; Agricultural Fields;

Horticultural Facility

FUNERARY/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: T-Plan

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:

STONE/Limestone; CONCRETE; WOOD/Weatherboard;
METAL/Aluminum

Narrative Description

Maple Grove Farm (also known as Biggs-Mathis Farm) is located 5 miles southeast of Dover in rural Stewart County, Tennessee and is situated on the banks of Long Creek, bounded by Heddy and Moore Hollows. Characterized by its low lying pastures and fields, the property envelopes the small farmhouse situated at the end of the lane which rises to meet Long Creek Road. Developed during the early to mid-twentieth century, the farm complex consists of a vernacular unornamented farmhouse; an adjacent root cellar; various outbuildings associated with agriculture; wooded and forested areas; fenced pastures; and a tenant farmer cemetery.

The farm may be thought of as two distinct sections on either side of Long Creek Road. The first section, west of Long Creek Road, contains the farm house (c. 1904), root cellar or flower house (c. 1905), a corn crib (c.1910), and the loft barn (c. 1917), as well as two equipment sheds, a chicken coop, and a greenhouse which lie south of the main house. A garden and an adjacent orchard, as well as a privy, pavilion, and smokehouse are situated north of the farmhouse. Low lying pastures outlined by fence rows rise eastward from the house to meet Long Creek Road.

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The second section of the farm is east of Long Creek Road. It contains Milam Cemetery (c. 1880), a burial plot situated within the road easement for tenant workers who lived and worked in the area. Situated west and within site of the tenant farmer cemetery, a tobacco barn (c. 1917) is located at the edge of Heddy Hollow. Beyond Long Creek Road, the land steadily ascends where it crests the hill and reaches a high point between Heddy and Moore Hollows that overlooks down toward the valley and the farmhouse on Long Creek below. Located at the top of the hill, another smaller pole barn currently exists but is unused due to its deteriorated condition. A larger tobacco barn used for hay storage, a modern residential house (1995), and garage (c. 1996) are also on the property. Further east beyond the house, remnants of old charcoal pits still exist imbedded in the scarred landscape and likely connect the farm to Stewart County's historic iron industry. The farm is also demarcated by a tree-line that outlines the property from neighboring land owners, and contains adjacent heavily forested areas at its steepest points and along ridge lines. Beyond the hilltop where livestock meander grazing in nearby pastures, the tree-lined areas give way to significant remaining timber stands and forested hollows. Areas along and beyond the farm's tree-line once adjoined a network of dirt roads that led to both the Bear Springs and Dover Iron Furnaces,¹ which provided abundant timber stands to fuel nearby furnaces.

Maple Grove Farm remains an intact working farm and retains its historic integrity exemplifying the rural character and agricultural landscape of a Stewart County farm situated along Tennessee's western Highland Rim. Situated on the banks of Long Creek, the farmhouse is surrounded by farm land which has seen minimal changes since the Biggs family owned it. Originally purchased from iron master Samuel Stacker's estate in 1875, the farm was historically sourced for timber to make charcoal used in the area's early thriving iron industry, specifically the operation of nearby Bear Spring Furnace. Today, the present area surrounding the farm is predominately agricultural in use which includes beef cattle production, about 100 acres of cropland, and the remainder forested.

1. Farmhouse, 1904 (contributing building)

The two-story farmhouse constructed of white oak, with no ornate details, rests on a limestone rock foundation taken from Long Creek. Originally built from 1902 to 1904 in a two-story T-shaped plan, two L-shaped porches existed on the both of the first level corners of the east-facing façade and connected by a breezeway, including a small porch originally located on the west (rear) elevation just outside the kitchen. The central interior staircase to the upper story was originally accessible only from the main entry through the L-shaped porch (southeast corner of façade).

Over the years the farmhouse has evolved to accommodate its occupants' needs. During the early 20th century, the house was modified to add modern conveniences (electricity in 1919, a waterline in 1928, and a telephone line in 1929). Towards the end of the Period of Significance, in the 1950s, the form of the house changed with additions including a bathroom set on a limestone rock foundation on the rear, west elevation; extension of the kitchen to create a utility area which enclosed a porch at the northwest corner of the south elevation; and a back porch set on a concrete foundation. The breezeway was enclosed at the center of the house toward the north elevation and access to the interior central staircase was modified and the main entry to the house was relocated through the central living room.

¹ State of Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Geology. Map of Stewart County. Walter F. Pond State Geologist. (Nashville, TN: State of Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Geology, 1937). TSLA Map Collection, Map #2099.

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Alterations during the 1970s and 1980s included enclosure of the façade porches, installation of a carport, and a second bathroom addition on the rear. These alterations retained the farmhouse's plain, vernacular character. One large limestone chimney still exists in the center of the house (north elevation). Remnants of a limestone chimney also still exist in the attic overlooking the east façade, but it is now closed off. All of the windows were replaced with vinyl windows (the same size and visual configuration as the originals), except for three located on the second story on the rear of the house (rear, west elevation) during the 1990s.² The original farmhouse's gable roof is still covered and maintained in the original fish-scale style tin, while a 5V crimp metal roof now covers the post-1950s additions. The original weatherboard exterior is extant though covered with modern vinyl siding that could easily be removed. The overall unornamented, vernacular character of the farmhouse is intact

EXTERIOR

The principal east-facing façade consists of two elevations that converge to convey the farmhouse's historic T-shaped plan. The front entrance is situated at the convergence of the elevations within a one-story screened-in porch. To the south of the front entrance is a one-story enclosed porch, covered by a metal shed roof and featuring paired 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows. This area was enclosed in the 1970s to create a small dining room. The adjacent screened-in porch also has a metal shed roof. It is accessed via a decorative metal screen door. The main entry door into the home is a 6-panel wood door with two top glass insets. Just east of the main entrance are two side-by-side double-hung vinyl windows, and one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window.

Connected to the porch area is the two-story front gable east elevation that overlooks the front yard, containing a double-paned sliding vinyl window on the first floor and a second-story attic space with a 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. The gable roof line has simple boxed cornices, painted white and returned at all gable ends, topped with the original fish-scale style tin roof. A carport addition during the 1970s extended the metal roofline angle over a one-story addition which meets the north elevation, and continues the boxed cornices roofline. Following this alteration, three separate and symmetrical 1/1 large double-hung vinyl windows located on the northern elevation and one small 1/1 vinyl double hung window on the east elevation were restricted from view by the carport.

Flush with the one-story carport addition, the northern elevation moves west toward the rear corner of the house with one large 1/1 double hung vinyl window located in the original L-section, formerly a porch. The porch was enclosed originally during the 1950s and altered with the carport addition in the 1970s. A single 1/1 double hung vinyl bedroom window is also located in the second story gable of the north elevation.

The west elevation, considered the rear of the house and adjacent to Long Creek, is comprised of four windows on the first level and three on the second level. The three upper-level 6/6 double-hung windows are original to the house, while the bottom four 1/1 double hung vinyl windows were installed in the 1990s. The two bathroom additions, initially completed during the 1950s and later in 1980s, also flank the house along the west elevation, including a utility room addition, and an open porch which was repaired in recent years due its deteriorated condition. All of these additions including the porch have a metal shed roof. The south elevation encompasses the utility room addition along with concrete steps that enter the south elevation at the porch. Two separate single 1/1 double hung windows are located in the kitchen area along the south elevation, and another located just before meeting the dining room area, which was created upon enclosure

² All of the original windows for the house have been retained by the owner, interview with Susan Hawkins, June 2018.

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of the original L-shaped porch in the 1970s. A small chimney once existed on the south façade for a cooking stove, but was removed during the 1950s.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Biggs-Mathis House has a T-shaped plan. Although alterations have been made to the farm house throughout the decades to meet the evolving needs of its occupants, many original features are extant. The first and second story of the house retain the original wood plank floors (except the kitchen), while the central chimney and mantel located in the living room and adjacent bedroom are also original to the home. The farmhouse originally had nine rooms, located on both the first and second floors, consisting of four or five bedrooms, a large storage room, kitchen, dining/parlor, an upstairs attic space, including two porches on the east (front) façade) and a small porch located off the kitchen (rear, west elevation). Enclosure of the front and back porch areas and bathroom additions created a total of 12 interior rooms. The walls are plaster and original to the house, and have only been painted or covered with wood paneling. The T-shaped plan and design is still visible in the remaining original L-shaped porch (northeast corner).

First floor

The original front entrance from the eastern façade had two doors: one opened into the dining room/den area, and the second door opened directly to a staircase that led to the upper story rooms and attic space. Visitors entered through an L-shaped porch with 2/2, double-hung, wood sashed windows looking out from the parlor (living room) and front bedroom visible from the front porch. The once open L-shaped porch has been enclosed, and visitors now enter through a screened porch directly into the dining area and adjacent den (south facing doorway). Enclosure of the breezeway at the center of the house which connected the two L-shaped porches during the 1950s created additional interior space to the living room area. Today, the main entrance opens directly into a small dining room area located east off the den and kitchen, and contains two side by side double hung vinyl windows along the east wall, including a small table and chairs. The den area is also immediately visible and extends off the current house entrance. A staircase opens directly into the den, and a closet now exists underneath the staircase for storage. The original access to the staircase through the porch was closed off to the exterior porch area in the 1950s. A drop-ceiling was later added in the 1970s, and a kitchen bar cut in the wall dividing the den and the kitchen in the 1980s to provide a more open area and movement between kitchen and den. Located at the west end of the den is a doorway to a bathroom which has one small window, including a bathtub that likely dates to the bathroom addition to the west elevation in the 1950s. Another doorway located off the den (south) extends into the kitchen, while a third doorway leads into the present-day living room area. The walls are plaster and have only been painted or covered with wood paneling.

South of the den and extended from the small dining room is the kitchen. A cooking stove connected to a small chimney, used in this room for cooking and heating purposes, was once located along the south wall. During the 1950s, the south wall was covered by cabinets where the current cooking stove now exists.³ In addition, the west walls were further extended to create the present washer/dryer (utility room) and enclosed an original porch. Later, a second bathroom was added in the 1980s, and a different porch was reconstructed and replaced many times.⁴ Double-hung windows located on the south elevation and original to the house were replaced with two smaller 1/1 double hung vinyl windows along with additional cabinets in the kitchen in the 1990s.

³ The kitchen has been enlarged at least twice. An interview with previous owner, Kenneth Mathis, confirmed an original stovepipe/chimney existed along the south-facing wall for a cooking stove.

⁴ Kenneth Mathis, interview with previous owner of Biggs farm by Susan Hawkins, 2005.

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From the den (north), a hallway opens along the north wall into the living room. This room was previously used as both a sitting room and/or bedroom by the Biggs and included a large hearth and fireplace.⁵ Today, this room functions as a family living room and the large hearth and fireplace were updated in c. 2003; the chimney portion remains in the same location from original construction. A closet next to the fireplace was added later at an unknown date. Moving north through the living room, a door leads to a bedroom and study located off the living room and is connected by an adjoining wall that includes a fireplace and mantel. Another door from the original entrance off the L-shaped porch is still visible on the south wall, while another door leads east into the front bedroom. During the 1950s, the breezeway between the porches was enclosed and incorporated into this room (see floor plans).⁶ The pine wood paneling was added sometime in the 1950s or 1960s, followed later with a drop-ceiling. The wood floors are original to construction.

Located on the north side of the living room is a bedroom. The fireplace and hearth adjoined the adjacent living room and also opened into this room as well, yet it is presently now closed off to this bedroom. The mantel above the fireplace is original to the house. Modifications include three closets built along the north facing wall, wood paneling covering the plaster walls, and carpet covering the wood floors. Two 1/1 double-hung windows in this room are vinyl replacement windows (west elevation). A doorway leading to a smaller room was once used as a small bedroom, yet now used as study. This small room has two 1/1 double hung windows and was originally was part of the original L-shaped porch, connected by a breeze way that extended the length of the house (See floor plans). The L-shaped porch was enclosed sometime in the 1950s, and a doorway that leads from this room into the carport added in the 1970s.

The front room facing east is used as a bedroom and is the only room in the house with a larger double sliding window. A total of six windows exist in this room and the original windows were replaced with the similar sized vinyl double-hung windows. Wood paneling and carpet was added in the early 1970s, although the wood floors remain underneath and are original to the home. At one time, a wood-burning stove was located in this the room with a limestone chimney found in the attic and directly above this room. In all likelihood, this room was historically used as a bedroom but remained separated from the rest of the house by the porch breezeway that created the open L-shaped porches.⁷ The large closet was added to the room at an unknown date.

Second Floor

There are four rooms on the second level. The only modifications to the upstairs included the addition of carpet over the original wood floors, along with wood paneling in all of the rooms except for the storage room (attic, south elevation). The staircase landing at the top of the stairs has two doorways. A simple 2/2 paneled doorway leads through the south wall into a large, windowless storage room with brown fiberboard covering the walls, ceiling, and floor added sometime in the 1970s. A second entrance on the north wall leads through a simple 2/2 paneled doorway into two more rooms (northwest corner) which have been used as bedrooms since the 1970s. The first bedroom has one 6/6 double hung window that is original to the house. A closet was added at an unknown date, and the built-in bookshelves were added in the 1980s. The small wood doorway with a pocket door located on the east wall leads into the unfinished attic. A small 1/1 double hung window on the east wall of the attic looks east toward Long Creek Road and over the front yard. The third door on the north wall of the bedroom has three windows; the small ones are original 6/6 double

⁵ James R. Settle, interview by Susan Hawkins, June 2017.

⁶ James R. Settle, Sketch, June 2017.

⁷ James R. Settle, Sketch, June 2017.

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hung windows (west elevation) and the large one is a replacement 1/1 double hung vinyl window (north elevation). The room has only one closet.

OUTBUILDINGS

The resources located north of the house include a smokehouse, a concrete pavilion, and a privy modified into a playhouse. A garden is also located in front of the pavilion and privy (front yard facing east) and is surrounded by a wood plank fence, similar to the way that it was in the early 20th century.

2. **Smokehouse**, c. 1990s (non-contributing building due to age)

This small (8.4' x 8.8') 1990s smokehouse constructed of prefabricated treated lumber is located on the north side of the house. The front gable structure with a metal shingle roof is set on concrete cinder blocks and has a wooden door on the eastern elevation. This new smoke house replaced an original smokehouse located directly behind the house.

3. **Concrete Pavilion**, c. 1990s (non-contributing structure due to age)

Constructed in the 1990s on a concrete (13.5' x 20.5') pad, the pavilion has a gable styled metal roof situated on treated lumber posts and supported by angled trusses.

4. **Privy**, c. 1900 (contributing building)

This original privy (4.1' x 5') is a board and batten structure with a metal gable roof and front door facing south. It stands next to the pavilion. The interior was modified by filling in the pot hole and covering it with linoleum for use as a child's playhouse in the 1970s. The exterior retains its historic form and materials.

5. **Flower House (Root Cellar)**, c. 1905 (contributing building)

The flower house (or root cellar measuring 14' x 15.6') is located on the south side of the house near the kitchen and was constructed in 1905, then in later years expanded or modified by J. Luke Biggs (during the Period of Significance). A single door opens onto a dirt floor where root vegetables were stored. Concrete shelves line either side of the room. Both the door and awning windows are board and batten construction facing south. The flower house windows were opened on sunny days to provide sunlight to plants inside, and closed up during the winter.⁸ The flower house walls are concrete and constructed partially underground at an angle. The original tin metal roof has been replaced with new metal roof material. Besides known as the flower house, the structure was also used as a root cellar. Plants were kept inside during the winter, including canned fruit from the Biggs orchard along with potatoes. Today, the building is used as a water-pump house to pump water from a spring located near Long Creek.

6. **Equipment Shed #1**, c. 1980s (non-contributing building due to age)

South of the house and flower house are two equipment sheds that sit on either side of the chicken coop. The first four-bay shed (18.3' x 40') was constructed by Kenneth Mathis similar to a pole barn using cedar posts, which has an open-air side facing east, with a board and batten exterior cover, and a gable style 5V crimp metal roof. Over the years, Mathis stored tractors and various farm equipment, later making needed repairs with poplar wood.

⁸ Biggs' great-nephew, James R. Settle, interview by Susan Hawkins, September 2017. J. Luke referred to the flower house throughout his diary entries, and Aunt Jennie kept flowers in the flower house during the winter months.

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7. Equipment Shed #2, c. 1990s (non-contributing building due to age)

The second six-bay shed (20.6" x 61') was built in 1990s also by Mr. Mathis that replaced an original shed in the same location. This structure is constructed of poplar wood with cedar posts, has open-air sides which face east, enclosed exterior sides covered with board and batten, and includes one enclosed bay with a hinged door and latch. The shed has a gable style 5V crimp metal roof, and currently houses additional farming equipment such as tractors, a hay mower, hay baler, and lawn mowers.

8. Chicken coop, c. 1905, 1970s (non-contributing building due to alterations)

The chicken coop (11' x 8') is board and batten built with white oak wood with a gable 5V crimp metal roof, although later altered in the 1970s, with only a portion of the structure and its location original to the Biggs farm. The structure looks like a smaller version of the loft-barn, yet has no doors, with the east side open and unobstructed. Currently the structure houses fencing and other smaller farm materials and equipment.

9. Greenhouse, 2014 (non-contributing building due to age)

The greenhouse is a 30' x 40' polyurethane dome shaped hi-tunnel used to grow plants, vegetables and herbs. It is also used to house plants in the winter. It was added to the property in 2014.

10. Corn Crib, c. 1912 (contributing structure)

The corn crib (12' x 21') together with the two-story loft barn are both enclosed within the barn lot/paddock by fencing just as it existed during Mr. Biggs' lifetime. The two-room front-gabled roof style corn crib sits on large limestone rocks, with wood boards made of white oak for siding and a metal roof. Two limestone rocks act as steps into the building. An earthen berm exists to the side of the west wall, beneath a cut-out opening in the wall. This opening allowed farmers to pull a wagon-load or truckload of ear corn on top of the berm to unload corn in the crib. The corn crib was rebuilt in c. 1912 after the original 1904 structure burned.⁹ The corn crib is currently not being used.

11. Loft-barn, c. 1917 (contributing building)

The loft-barn, located near the corn crib, is situated within a fenced-in barn lot/paddock enclosure and is the largest structure/building on the farm built by Biggs. The two-story building is constructed of white oak and has a central hallway on an east-west axis with two heavy wood doors hung from metal tracks (with original metal works) on both ends of the hallway. The exterior of the barn is of board and batten oak wood construction, with a gable style metal 5V crimp metal roof. The foundation of the barn is concrete and the first floor interior has two large animal stalls, each with two wooden doors and wood troughs. At the eastern side of the first floor, there is a large open area and a hay rack. Hay or alfalfa was dropped from the loft above into the racks for the animals. An interior staircase on the north side wall leads into the upper loft. The second story floor is made of white oak, with a trapdoor in the center of the floor. Hay was lifted into the loft from the eastern side, which used a large opening using a pulley mechanism. On the west side of the barn is a smaller opening with small cut-out shapes of a quarter moon and star. Two modern-era hay sheds flank the loft barn, but these do not detract from the original loft barn's historic characteristics nor ability to contribute the property's agricultural significance.

12. Tobacco Barn, c. 1919 (contributing building)

Across Long Creek Road is a vertical board and batten two story wood framed tobacco barn (c. 1919) with exposed rafters and a steep gabled roof, now covered in a 5V crimp metal roof. Two double doors open on the north and south sides of the tobacco barn, which is constructed with tier poles set into dirt floor. A one

⁹ J. Luke Biggs Diary, 1898-1959.

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and half story board and batten stripping shed with exposed rafters and a shed roof is on the east side. Dark-fired tobacco barns, similar to the one constructed by Biggs, are still prevalent in and around Stewart County. The barn interior is open except for a scaffold containing six tiers of removable horizontal poles from which tobacco stalks hung with their leaves suspended above the earthen floor. Shallow trenches around the perimeter of the barn were built to contain the smoldering fire that helps in both the drying and curing of the tobacco. Openings or vents in the roof allow some of the smoke from the firing process to escape. When the firing process was finished and the tobacco ready to leave the barn, doors on the north and south elevations were removed and workers loaded the tobacco directly in the trucks. The original metal tin roof has been replaced with 5V crimp. Dark-fired and burley tobacco was grown on the farm as late as 2004.¹⁰ Today, the owners use the barn for hay and other animal storage needs.

13. Milam Cemetery, c. 1880 (contributing site)

Approximately 250 feet south and east of the tobacco barn is the small, somewhat undefined area situated within the road easement of Long Creek Road, known as Milam Cemetery. Marked with a simple metal sign, the cemetery has nine identified graves, although there might be more located within the property easement, either covered by debris, pavement, and/or unmarked.¹¹ Most of the identified graves are marked simply with stones; four have headstones, and one has lettering, but is very weathered and cannot be read. The Milam family along with other individuals or families are known to have lived as tenant farmers on the property and/or in the area after the Civil War and into the twentieth century during the Period of Significance.¹² Further archaeological or genealogical investigation is needed regarding the Milam Cemetery to fully understand area's tenant farmer history.

14. Larger wood-frame barn, c. 1960s (non-contributing building due to age)

Located further east and up a slight hill beyond the cemetery is a large barn. This transverse vertical board and batten, wood-framed barn was once used as a tobacco barn and has tier poles, a dirt floor, and a metal roof. Board and batten wood sheds flank the center barn, with double doors that can be closed on the east and west sides. Not original to the farm, this barn was relocated from the Land Between the Lakes area in the 1960s and is currently used for hay storage.

15. Smaller Barn, c. 1960s (non-contributing building due to age)

Just east of the larger barn is a smaller barn that is in poor condition. The barn is wood-frame partially covered with a metal roof. Other areas of the structure have no roof. Some sheets of metal remain as siding, but most of the structure has no siding.

16. Modern Residential House, 1995 (non-contributing building due to age)

South of the larger hay barn, a single-family log home sits on one-acre of the original Biggs farm. This land area was deeded to Susan Hawkins, daughter of Kenneth Mathis, in 1994, and the log home was completed the next year. The home has a rectangular footprint with prominent screened-in porch on the western façade.

¹⁰ J. Luke Biggs Diary, 1898-1959.

¹¹ Information regarding those buried in the cemetery include the graves of both African-American and white Individuals. Stewart County Historical Society, *Cemeteries of Stewart County* (Dover, TN: Stewart County Historical Society, 1983), 137-138.

¹² Mr. Charles (Scud) Settle, interview by Susan Hawkins, April 18, 2018. Mr. Settle is a lifelong neighbor in the community and is familiar with Mr. Luke Biggs. Mr. Settle recalls being told by Mr. Luke that "as a young boy, a Black woman lived on the place who [sic] didn't really know the words or sing an entire hymn, yet instead would sing the words to the hymn, "Sweet By and By" over and over."

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The house is constructed with stacked, yellow cypress, with white chinking. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

17. **Detached Garage**, c. 1996 (non-contributing building due to age)

The detached wood garage/storage building was completed in 1996 using poplar harvested from the Biggs farm. It is a simple front-gable structure with vertical board and batten siding and two open stalls on the western elevation.

18. **Landscape Patterns**, c. 1898 (contributing site)

The farm's agricultural landscape includes low lying fields and pastures bounded by hollows and hill tops, outlined by tree-lined forested areas, yet further defined by long fence lines, Long Creek and its namesake, Long Creek Road. Besides Long Creek Road, remnants of an old working road network further defines the farm situated on Long Creek, although once used more frequently in past decades when greater farm activity occurred between fields and barns and prior to public road development. Situated within a wooded area along the Long Creek Road easement is Milam Cemetery, a seemingly hastily created burial plot for tenant workers who once lived and worked in the area. Rising from the easement off Long Creek Road, the land steadily ascends where it crests atop the hill, reaching a high point between Heddy and Moore Hollows that overlooks down toward the valley below. This east side of the farm is where a modern 1995 residential house is now situated on the property. Beyond the house moving further east, remnants of an old charcoal pits still exist imbedded in the scarred landscape and likely connects the farm to the Stewart County area's Iron Industry, which used the once abundant timber stands to fuel nearby furnaces. The entire Biggs-Mathis farm tract is further demarcated by a tree-line that outlines the property from neighboring land owners, and contains adjacent heavily forested areas at its steepest points and along ridge lines. Beyond the hilltop where livestock meander grazing in nearby pastures, the tree-lined areas give way to significant remaining timber stands and forested hollows. Areas along and beyond the farm's tree-line once adjoined a network of dirt roads that led to both the Bear Springs and Dover Iron Furnaces, providing the significant timber resources needed in making charcoal used to fire the nearby iron furnaces.¹³

Integrity

Maple Grove Farm overall retains sufficient integrity to convey its agricultural significance under Criterion A. All contributing buildings are in their original location, thereby having excellent integrity of **location**. The farm has excellent integrity of **setting** as it retains its historic rural, pastoral landscape set within a larger farming community. The farm continues to be a working farm utilizing its historic farmhouse, agricultural buildings, fields, and pastures, allowing it to retain integrity of **association** and **feeling**. These four aspects of integrity are particularly important for significance under Criterion A. As detailed in the registration requirements of the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS, farms must retain an adequate number of historical and architectural characteristics to convey a sense of time and place. The combination of intact acreage; plain, modest farmhouse; and multiple significant agricultural buildings, including the loft barn, tobacco barn, root cellar, and corn crib, all located in their original sites within the intact agricultural setting allow Maple Grove Farm to convey its sense of time and place necessary for agricultural significance under Criterion A.

¹³ State of Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Geology. Map of Stewart County. Walter F. Pond State Geologist. (Nashville, TN: State of Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Geology, 1937). TSLA Map Collection, Map #2099.

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The contributing agricultural outbuildings retain a high degree of integrity of **design, materials, and workmanship**. The farmhouse has had some alterations since the Period of Significance, predominantly enclosure of porches and additions on the rear elevation, reflecting the farm owner's modern needs for indoor plumbing and additional living space. Original, intact interior features include wood floors throughout and the central chimney and mantel located in the living room and adjacent bedroom. Original plaster walls are intact under wood paneling, some of which was installed in the 1950s during the Period of Significance. Though a small house, the layout has always been characterized by a large number of rooms, originally nine and now twelve.

Changes to materials on the exterior, such as the application of vinyl siding over intact clapboard still allow the farmhouse to convey its characteristic unornamented vernacular aesthetic and design. The house's original T-shaped plan is still evident on the façade and is also indicated by the fish-scale tin roof on the original section. Alterations have not affected the house's ability to function as the administrative center of Maple Grove Farm. They do not prevent it from contributing to the farm's agricultural significance under Criterion A or meeting the registration requirements of the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS.

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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.)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1898-1959

Significant Dates

1900; 1905; 1910; 1917; 1919

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Biggs, J. Luke

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- 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.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

N/A

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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Maple Grove Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in agriculture as a middle-class farmstead that evolved into a progressive farmscape during the early to mid-twentieth century. Including 255 acres at the end of Heddy and Moore Hollows, the farm parallels Long Creek and consists of a circa 1904 two-story T-shaped farm house; agricultural outbuildings; farm pastures; wooded areas, and the Milam tenant farmer cemetery. These features are representative of the agricultural history of Stewart County and northwest Middle Tennessee along the Western Highland Rim region, as well as progressive farming techniques. The farm retains its early twentieth century integrity, despite years of both economic and social changes in rural life and agricultural conditions among area family farms. The period of significance begins in 1898 with the establishment of the farm and ends in 1959 with the death of owner J. Luke Biggs. The farm meets the registration requirements of the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960 MPS.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Background: Stewart County and the Biggs Family

Throughout Tennessee, both regional geologic factors and agriculture played a significant role in shaping the state's early agricultural history and settlement patterns. Climate, topography, soil, and access to water greatly influenced the development of and attraction to the area around the Highland Rim in Middle Tennessee, in particular Stewart County. Early westward movement across Tennessee was initially driven by European settlers coming from North Carolina who were recipients of land grants for services rendered during the Revolutionary War. Even in advance of Tennessee's entrance into the Union as a separate state in 1796, some of these first settlers who came to the Stewart County area were interested in acquiring land for farming and settling permanently.

As early pioneers began settling the Stewart County area, rural families survived on subsistence farming of livestock and crops such as corn, wheat, cotton and later tobacco. These settlers also found the area rich in wildlife and plentiful wild game, which attracted Native Americans who remained in the area hunting around the Tennessee River until 1812.¹⁴ Additionally, the Stewart County area abounded with significant stands of timber and woodlands supplying farmers with wood for heating, shelter to house their families and livestock, farm implements and fencing material. These forested areas were gradually cleared to facilitate crop production.¹⁵ Once forested areas were cleared, early agricultural crops such as cotton, corn, sorghum and wheat were grown by early settlers, while tobacco became a significant and profitable cash crop by the later part of the nineteenth century. Like many counties along the Western Highland Rim, Stewart County is well drained by the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, which includes the elevated Tennessee Ridge region encompassing the watershed between the two streams. In addition, prior to Stewart County's organization, the area attracted early iron-making interests due to the substantial iron mineral resources found scattered throughout the area's soil. Because iron deposits existed on both sides of the Cumberland River and

¹⁴ R.M. Gramly. *Prehistoric Lithic Industry at Dover, Tennessee* (New York: Persimmon Press, 1992).

¹⁵ Stewart County Historical Society, *Stewart County Heritage, Dover, Tennessee* (Dover, TN: Stewart County Historical Society, 1980), page 8-10; *The Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham and Houston Counties of Tennessee*. (Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886), Reproduced (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 896-898.

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extended to the Tennessee River on the west, covering fully one-third of Stewart County, the county's earliest enterprise supported the prosperous manufacture of pig-iron from 1797 through the 1930s.¹⁶

Soon after Stewart County's establishment in 1803, Kedar (also Cedar) Biggs arrived from North Carolina and is first recorded as living in Stewart County in 1810. By 1820, Biggs had married Mary (Morgan) Biggs (1796-1864), also another early settler in the area.¹⁷ The earliest existence of the Biggs farm situated along Long Creek began when the Biggs purchased 25 acres in 1831 from Mary's father, Matthew Morgan, a native of Kentucky.¹⁸ In this area around Long Creek, Stewart County's Seventh Civil District,¹⁹ Kedar Biggs established a small farm and also further expanded his growing family, eventually accumulating 400 acres valued at \$500, with an estate valued at \$1000 by 1850.²⁰ Later, Kader's second child, Reuben Biggs (1829-1896), who was born in Stewart County and spent his childhood working alongside his father on his family's farm, also entered into farming as a livelihood. Besides continuing the farming tradition of his father, by 1852 at 23 years Reuben also had begun working as a foreman for Samuel Stacker (1788-1859)²¹ in the construction of the Stacker House (NR Listed 4/11/1988) at Evergreen farm until 1859.²² Following his employment with Samuel Stacker and marriage to Mary (McGee) Biggs (1843-1880) in April 1859, Reuben purchased an initial 100 acre tract on Long Creek from John Kirksey for \$900, and further expanded the Biggs family's presence in the area around Long Creek.²³ From 1859 until 1894, Rueben Biggs

¹⁶ J. B. Killebrew, A. M. Commissioner of Agriculture. Statistics & Mines. *Tennessee: Its Agricultural and Mineral Wealth* (Nashville, TN: 1876), 69-70.

¹⁷ Ancestry.com. 1810 Tennessee, *Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1810-1891* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]; Ancestry.com. *1820 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]; Tengenweb.org. *Goodspeed Stewart County History: Biographies*. "Reuben Biggs." Available [online]: <http://www.tngenweb.org/stewart/gsbio1.htm> [1 June 2018].

¹⁸ Matthew Morgan quit claim deeds to Kedar Biggs 25 acres for \$5.56, and later in Morgan's will and estate inventory dated 1839 gives \$100 to Mary (Morgan) Biggs, his daughter, while his son in-law Kedar receives some cattle, 1 bell, 1 lot, 1 shovel, curtains and bed clothes. Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 9, August 1, 1831, page 244-245, Microfilm Roll 69, TSLA.; Stewart County Wills and Inventory of Account of Sales, Vol. D, page 397-398, 403-406, Roll 52, TSLA.

¹⁹ District Seven encompasses the area around Long and Lick Creeks, including Dover, Tennessee. Iris Hopkins McClain, *A History of Stewart County, Tennessee* (Columbia: Iris Hopkins McClain, 1965), 20.

²⁰ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1850 with Index* (Lebanon: T. E. Partlow, 1996), 2; Jim Long, *Stewart County, Tennessee Tax Lists 1841-1866* (Franklin: Jim Long, 2012), 160.

²¹ Samuel Stacker, a prominent area iron manufacturer and part owner of the Cumberland Iron Works, was born in Radnor Township, Pennsylvania in 1788, although he had originally arrived in Nashville in 1819 to work as a contractor on the first bridge built across the Cumberland River. Both Samuel and his brother John eventually became successful iron masters of Stewart County after purchase of a furnace in Montgomery County by the late 1820s. In 1827, Samuel and John Stacker signed a petition requesting special treatment for iron manufacturers with regard to military service, and several other prominent iron masters in Tennessee also signed this petition. Samuel Stacker lived in Stewart County along Long Creek Road (just north of the Biggs Farm) from 1837 until his death in 1859 and was actively involved in the various furnace operations, unlike other individuals who were just invested in the iron works and lived outside the region. Claudette Stager, "Samuel Stacker House" National Register nomination (NR 02/26/88), Section 8, 1 & 2.

²² From 1852-1859, beginning with Reuben Biggs (23 years), is listed in Samuel Stacker's ledger accounts list as part of the work crew earning wages to construct the house at the Randle House, also later known as the Stacker Place. Samuel Stacker Papers, 1813-1859, Vol. 1, ca. 40, item no. 749, Small Collections, S-37, Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA), Nashville, Tennessee; Tennessee Century Farms. "Evergreen Farm." Available [online]: <http://www.tncenturyfarms.org/stewart-county/> [1 June 2018].

²³ Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 21, page 89, Microfilm Roll 74, TSLA.

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continued to buy and sell various land tracts of which he eventually acquired over 800 acres situated along Long Creek alone.²⁴ Despite his limited education, Reuben took advantage of his farming knowledge and experience as well as the area's abundant natural resources and became a prosperous farmer in his own right and was among the first successive generations of early Stewart County settlers to acquire significant land holdings.

A review of Reuben Biggs' early farm establishment and later development activities provides a glimpse of his agricultural production pursuits during the mid to late nineteenth century. The 1860 Census recorded that Biggs' household consisted of his wife, Mary and their young son, William, living on land valued at \$1,600, a personal estate value of \$1,500, including 4 slaves.²⁵ That same year, Reuben also reported raising 8 sheep producing 100 pounds of wool, 28 hogs, 3 milk cows making 150 pounds of butter, and 2 working oxen, while also growing 6 pounds of Irish potatoes and 750 pounds of Indian corn.²⁶ Shortly after the Civil War in 1870, Reuben and Mary, together with their six children were found living with his wife's parents, Thomas (1803-1888) (age 66) and Rebecca (Anderson) McGee (1807-1872) (age 64), likely to assist his aging in-laws with farm work. That same year, he also reported an estate value of \$2,000 including a personal estate of \$504.²⁷ Then, just a decade later in 1880, Reuben records owning 100 acres of tilled or fallow land, 55 acres of pasture or orchards, including 650 acres of woodland, with a collective farm valued of \$3,000. That same year, his farm consists of 30 sheep, 60 hogs, 19 working oxen and other cattle, 5 milking cows making 200 pounds of butter, 23 acres in wheat, 14 acres in oats, 4 acres in tobacco, including 30 pounds of Irish potatoes and 75 pounds of sweet potatoes. Although Reuben's growing household now consisted of nine persons, his increasing prosperity as a farmer afforded him the ability to hire laborers for 44 weeks, paying them \$210 annually. He also reported farming implements and machinery valued at \$230, \$780 in livestock, and \$828 made from selling farm products.²⁸ In 1887, Goodspeed's history of Stewart County reports R. Biggs operating a saw mill located on Long Creek, an area that remained heavily forested, with timber cutting an increasingly prosperous enterprise, particularly in the production of railroad cross ties.²⁹ At his death in 1896, Reuben Biggs was considered a successful farmer who although started from nothing, later accumulated approximately one thousand acres in and around Stewart County during his lifetime, and is particularly noted for paying considerable taxes in Stewart County alone.³⁰

²⁴ Jim Long. *Stewart County, Tennessee: Deed Book Indexes (1786-1884)* (Franklin, TN: J. Long, between 2000-2011).

²⁵ Ancestry.com. *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

²⁶ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1860* (Lebanon: Thomas E. Partlow, 1994), 85; Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Slave Schedule of 1860* (Lebanon: T. E. Partlow, 1996), 21.; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860 for Agriculture, Stewart County Roll 5, page 1-2, Microfilm 1537, TSLA.

²⁷ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1870 with Index* (Lebanon: T. E. Partlow, 1994), 129; Ancestry.com. *1870 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009.

²⁸ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1880 with Index* (Lebanon: T. E. Partlow, 1993), 147; Ancestry.com. *United States, Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

²⁹ *The Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham, and Houston Counties of Tennessee, 1886-1887*, Available [online]: <http://www.tngenweb.org/stewart/stewhist.htm> [9 May 2018]; Henry J. Milton. *Land Between the Rivers* (s.l.: Taylor Publishing Company, 197-), 72-73.

³⁰ *The Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham and Houston Counties of Tennessee*. (Nashville, TN: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886), Reproduced (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 1292.

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During the Civil War and through Reconstruction, both agricultural and economic devastation forced many Stewart County residents and Middle Tennessee farmers along with their families to combine assets and work closely together to salvage area family farms. The Biggs family, like many who chose to remain in the countryside and in the Stewart County area while under Union occupation, endured “proscribed civilian travel, correspondence, publishing, trade, and industry,” while railroads and bridges were destroyed unless needed by the occupiers.³¹ Though the Biggs family stated no specific loyalties to either to the Confederate or Union cause, they likely remained somewhat divided considering their connections to the Stacker Family and the area’s iron industries which encompassed considerable ties to Northern states. Although this position likely benefited them during and after the Civil War, the Biggs family still likely experienced hardships at the hands of their Union occupiers including roaming rebel bandits and guerilla factions, wandering refugees, and runaway slaves who pillaged the area for food and animals, destroying buildings, which created even greater chaos in the area. Despite the unprecedented physical destruction and economic upheaval, including financial losses of the Civil War, area farmers exhibited impressive resilience.³² Moreover, the Biggs family’s ability to survive and endure the Civil War including the years of Reconstruction likely allowed their farms and landholdings to remain largely intact. More specifically they likely reverted to subsistence farming and livelihoods enabling them to endure the lack of civil society which they understood from early settlement, while other area farmers were faced with economic ruin.³³

Reuben Biggs’ success as a farmer following the Civil War likely required assistance from his family living nearby, as well as employment of additional workers either as slave labor and later tenant farmers, as his landholdings increased and agricultural production expanded. Like many farmers, Rueben was also dependent upon cooperative agricultural labor whereas area farmers involved assistance from their neighbors as well as area family members during specific demanding planting and/or or harvest times. In 1860, Rueben reported having one female adult slave (age 27) and three children ages 8, 5, and 3 years,³⁴ who likely assisted Reuben’s wife with household chores and child rearing.

Although not traditionally known as a large slave holding area, Stewart County predominantly consisted of small farms and relatively small landholdings with only one in seven Stewart County families owning two or three slaves.³⁵ Yet, notable exceptions also existed such as Stewart County’s Iron Manufacturing Industry which had its beginning around the 1820s, later peaking by the mid-1850s, although largely destroyed during the Civil War. Within Stewart County, and throughout the Western Highland Rim, the area’s geology and geography provided for extensive deposits of pure iron ore (both limonite and brown hematite) scattered around the county in one to two acre concentrated pockets or “banks,” which could be easily mined and smelted. Abundant timber stands that covered Stewart County also supplied the wood needed in making the

³¹ Stephen V. Ash. *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed 1860-1870: War and Peace in the Upper South* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988), 87.

³² *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. “Reconstruction,” (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2002-2018), Available [online]: <https://tennesseencyclopedia.net> [17 May 2018].

³³ *Ibid.*; Stephen V. Ash. *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed 1860-1870: War and Peace in the Upper South* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988), 96.

³⁴ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Slave Schedule of 1860*, Lebanon, TN: T. E. Partlow, 1996), 21.

³⁵ Stephen V. Ash. *Tennessee’s Iron Industry Revisited: The Stewart County Story* (Golden Pond, KY: Land Between the Lakes Association, 1986), 30.

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charcoal that fueled the nearby iron furnaces.³⁶ One of Stewart County's largest nineteenth century iron companies, was the Cumberland Iron Works, initially begun in the late 1820s by the Joseph and Robert Woods, Thomas Yeatman, and Samuel Stacker and his brother John Stacker, operating as Woods, Yeatman & Company (formerly Woods, Lewis, & Co.). Together, this partnership operated furnaces under the name of Woods, Yeatman, and Company, encompassing an expansive 60,000 acres in landholdings within Stewart County alone located on both sides of the Cumberland River, west of Dover, Tennessee, and was considered the county's largest slaveholder in with 250 slaves.³⁷

During the mid-1850s, Stewart County's Iron Industry reached its pinnacle with area iron manufacturers considered the area's largest slaveholders. By 1860, approximately 2,575 slaves lived in Stewart County, and comprised one-fourth of the county's population of 9,719.³⁸ *Tennessee's Iron Industry Revisited: The Stewart County Story* further explains that many furnaces during this time period in Stewart County rivaled the largest northern factories in workforce size and scale of operation, although located in rural areas where worker housing was also provided. As the need for additional labor increased, area iron masters were able to hire plenty of slaves from local farmers during times when agricultural work entered into a dormant period.³⁹ Following Samuel Stacker's death in 1859 and by the end of the Civil War, several of the iron furnaces had either closed or were destroyed which left area wood cutters and charcoal burners who formerly worked for the iron companies as an available labor source. Numerous of the former iron workers, actually considered slaves before the Civil War, were able to enter into a tenant farming and/or another shared work relationship with area farmers following the war. With the Iron Industry significantly reduced after the Civil War, only a few iron furnaces still remained in operation into the early decades of the twentieth century in Stewart County. As a result, many freedmen were able to continue working in both the Iron Industry as well as agricultural farm labor until the late 1920s, when the remaining working furnaces and their owners closed down area iron manufacturing operations due to dwindling markets and increasing competition.⁴⁰

³⁶ Stephen V. Ash. *Tennessee's Iron Industry Revisited: The Stewart County Story* (Golden Pond, KY: Land Between the Lakes Association, 1986), 1, 3, 30, & 39.

³⁷ Samuel D. Smith, Charles P. Stripling, and James M. Brannon, *A Cultural Resource Survey of Tennessee's Western Highland Rim Iron Industry, 1790s -1930s* (Nashville: Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Archaeology, Research Series No. 8, 1988), 102; Woods, Yeatman & Company (formerly known as Woods, Lewis & Company) was known to use and later employ black labor almost exclusively. Stephen V. Ash. *Tennessee's Iron Industry Revisited: A Stewart County Story* (Golden Pond, KY: Land Between the Lakes Association), 1988; During the 1820s, Samuel and his brother initially developed individual interests and later business partnerships with several of the area iron furnaces. The Bear Spring (40SW207) and Bellwood (40SW210) furnaces were operated by Cumberland Iron Works, considered one of Stewart County's larger operations, while the Stacker brothers had individual interests in the LaGrange (40SW2 14) (Stewart County) and Lafayette (40MT372) (Montgomery County) furnaces, Claudette Stager, "Samuel Stacker House" National Register nomination (NR 02/26/88), Section 8, 1 & 2.; (Killebrew 1881:100),

³⁸ Stephen V. Ash. *Tennessee's Iron Industry Revisited: The Stewart County Story* (Golden Pond, KY: Land Between the Lakes Association, 1986), 12, 29, & 30.; J. D. B DeBow. *Statistical View of the United States, 1850 Census* (Seventh Census) (Washington: A.O. P. Nicholson, Public Printer, 1854), 308, TSLA.

³⁹ Stephen V. Ash. *Tennessee's Iron Industry Revisited: The Stewart County Story* (Golden Pond, KY: Land Between the Lakes Association, 1986), 30.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 37.; Michael T. Gavin. *Tennessee Iron Furnace Trail: A Guide to Resources on the Western Highland Rim*. Murfreesboro, TN: Center for Historic Preservation, 2006.

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Early Years of J. Luke Biggs

J. Luke Biggs was born on April 3, 1878 to Rueben and Mary (McGee) Biggs. The youngest of nine children, Biggs enjoyed a childhood raised on the Biggs family farm and home place situated along Long Creek near Dover; a portion of which he would later own. In March 1880, at just two years of age, Biggs' mother died suddenly leaving his father to raise him and his seven other siblings still living in the household.⁴¹ Later that same year, Reuben quickly remarried, and from which he later had two more daughters.⁴² In the years following his mother's death, Biggs spent his youth working on the family farm alongside his father where he learned the area's agricultural traditions and the business of farm management, while he also observed his father's participation in Stewart County government as a county magistrate for twenty years.⁴³

Years later in February 1894, Biggs' step-mother died, and his father married a third time in 1895. Reuben Biggs died the following year.⁴⁴ Consequently, because Reuben died without a will, settling of his estate and legal care of the minor children were turned over the Stewart County Chancery Court. By November 1896, Biggs (18 years), along with his two younger step-sisters, Ida (15 years) and Maggie (11 years), all were placed under the guardianship of T.J. and W. M Brandon, local area attorneys.⁴⁵ Stewart County Chancery Court minutes from November 1896 through early 1900 reveal a complicated and lengthy division of Reuben

⁴¹ Ancestry.com. *1880 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]

⁴² Stewart County Historical Society. *A History of Stewart County, Tennessee*, Volume 2. (Humboldt, TN: Rose Publishing Company, 2000), 174. Reuben Biggs' second wife was Jane A. Coleman Biggs (1845-1894), the daughter of Drew Hunter. Their two children were Ida Biggs Howard (1881-1971) and Maggie Biggs (1885-1934).

⁴³ A county magistrate serves as a local official who poses power to collect fines as determined by Stewart County and also serves as Justice of the Peace. *The Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham and Houston Counties of Tennessee*. (Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886), Reproduced (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), page 1292.

⁴⁴ Sarah "Sallie" V. Stanfield Wofford Biggs became Reuben's third wife, whom he married October 29, 1895, and just a year later became his widow, following a year later in October 1896. A minor child is also mentioned which she states they had together, Mattie Cathy (Cathey), and likely is why she only wanted a child portion from Reuben's estate. Later, in J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959) he calls her Aunt Sallie Biggs. Sallie petitioned the court to receive a child's part (one tenth portion) of his estate in lieu of any claims to the deceased homestead, dower, personal effects, years of support, including distributive share in Reuben's real and personal property. Ancestry.com. *Tennessee, Marriage Records, 1780-2002* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]; Stewart County, Tennessee, Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Administrator Bonds and Letters, Vol. 1, October 1896, page 233, March 1897, page 240, Microfilm Roll 18, TSLA.; Findagrave.com. "Sallie Vandiveer Murphey Biggs." Available [online]: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6211965/sallie-vandiveer-biggs#source> [1 June 2018].

⁴⁵ Reuben Biggs died October 17, 1896 leaving no will, so William H. and later Joseph E. Biggs, Reuben's eldest sons, were assigned as Administrator of his estate. Stewart County Settlement and Bonds, Inventory of Account of Sales, Vol. O, October 1896, page 97-99, Microfilm Roll 57, TSLA.; Stewart County Court Clerk's Office, Guardian Bonds and Letters Volume 1, November 1897, page 211 -212; December 1898, page 251, and October 1902, page 313, Microfilm Roll 21, TSLA.

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Biggs' estate among his remaining living heirs, three minor children, and his third wife.⁴⁶ Until the Biggs' family estate was settled, J. Luke Biggs continued to work on his family's farm through December 1896. By early 1897, he entered the nearby Cumberland City Academy, where he likely boarded while completing two years of high school.⁴⁷

In May 1898, Biggs met Jeanette "Jennie" Sarah Sykes (1872-1953), who had grown up near the Biggs family farm in Stewart County's Seventh District and was also previously acquainted through family or friends. He traveled to Dover to court Jennie and they continued to date until getting married on December 11, 1898.⁴⁸ As newlyweds, they initially resided with Jennie's parents while Biggs worked as a farmer laborer for his in-laws until they could purchase land of their own and establish a farm.⁴⁹

Establishment of Maple Grove Farm

While Reuben Biggs' estate was still in dispute in Chancery Court, J. Luke Biggs began establishing his own farm in early 1898 on a portion of his father's land. Biggs recorded his daily activities in a diary (or farm ledger) beginning in March 1898 until his death in September 1959. His diary provides significant insight and details of a farmer coming of age at the turn of the twentieth century, baring witness to significant agricultural, economic, and social changes moving from the Progressive era shifting into the Modern era.

⁴⁶ Stewart County, Tennessee Clerk and Master's Office, Chancery Court Minute Book D, page 252-253, 257, 260-261, 267-269, 273-283, 302-306, 350-351, 354, 391-394, 425-428, 485-486, 489, Microfilm Roll 15, TSLA., Beyond overseeing the equitable division of his father's estate including personal assets, the court's jurisdiction and responsibility also sought to protect the interests of Reuben Biggs' three minor children, their care and concern, including educational opportunities afforded them. During the Court's discovery, a report particularly noted the Biggs children's whereabouts in the year following their father's death, while also arranging for their living arrangements and education opportunities, because the minor Biggs children had no means of providing for themselves; Stewart County, Tennessee Clerk and Master's Office, Chancery Court Minute Books Vol. D, page 392-394, Microfilm Roll 15, TSLA., J. Luke's step-sisters, Ida and Maggie Biggs, were reported as boarders of the J. W. Smith family including other area relatives, and placed under the guardianship of their uncle, W. H. Biggs in December 1898. From 1897 thru 1899, the Biggs girls attend both Dover High School as well as Cumberland City Academy, where they were also noted as boarders. As their court appointed guardian and uncle, W. H. Biggs, was ordered by the court to pay for their attendance at the Cumberland City Academy out of their rightful interests of their father's unsettled estate, similar to the arrangement for their step-brother, J. Luke. Although Maggie Biggs continued to attend Cumberland City Academy until 1902, her older sister, Ida Biggs, remained at school until her marriage to Charles P. Howard in May 1899.

⁴⁷ According to Stewart County's Guardian Bonds and Settlements from 1897 through 1902, J. Luke and both of his step-sisters' tuition and board was secured and paid for to attend the Cumberland City Academy, located in nearby Cumberland City, Tennessee; a preparatory training school for both boys and girls established in 1893. Stewart County Guardian Settlements, Vol. E, 1897, page 70, 72, 85; 1898, page 71, 198, 199, Microfilm Roll 23, TSLA.; Cumberland City Academy, Cumberland City, Tennessee, *A Home School for Both Sexes. Fourteenth Annual Announcement, 1906-1907*, Available [online]: <http://www.tngenweb.org/stewart/Cumberland%20City%20Academy.pdf> [4 April 2018]; Ancestry.com. *1940 United States Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2012. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]

⁴⁸ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

⁴⁹ Thomas E. Partlow. Stewart County, Tennessee, *Census of 1900 with Index*, 1994, page 206.; Ancestry.com. *1900 United State Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]. Jennie's parents were William Pinkney "Pink" (1845-1922) and Elizabeth "Betty" Hart Skyes (1845-1925).

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Biggs first planted corn and other row crops as well as hay, an upper and lower apple orchard, and established a fenced garden in front of his future house. Biggs worked hard to clear and fence his property early, hauling off timber, readying fields, and checking on his livestock herds. In November 1899, Biggs surveyed the land tract he would eventually own and began assembling lumber to build a house. All of the original structures on the farm were likely constructed from hardwood timber stands located on or adjacent to the property, which also included pine lumber acquired from the neighboring Brigham Farm (formerly owned by the Stacker family). Also during this period, he earned extra money by working odd jobs for area farmers who needed help plowing, cutting their crops from the fields, or hauling loads of lumber, as well as working for various cross tie companies. In later years he also threshed wheat and vaccinated hogs.⁵⁰

By early March 1900, immediately following an agreed settlement regarding the division of his late father's estate, Biggs (age 22) purchased more than 200 acres along Long Creek for \$1000 from his brother, Joe Biggs.⁵¹ This land tract was property carved from the larger Biggs family farm situated on Long Creek and originally purchased by his father, Reuben Biggs, from the Stacker Family estate in 1875.⁵² Shortly after he purchased the property, Biggs named it Maple Grove Farm. Throughout his lifetime he added just 50 additional acres in 1938 and sold very little of the land.⁵³ By 1902, Biggs had begun construction of a modest T-shaped farm house; it was finished two years later in 1904. The house was originally situated on Long Creek Road which ran directly in front of the house, prior to road upgrades made in the 1960s; after which the current lane was constructed to connect it to Long Creek Road. Following completion of the house, Biggs fenced the yard, cut and trimmed trees away from the house, added a flower house (root cellar), hen house, and a smoke house in 1905.

He added a large livestock and storage loft-barn in 1917 and a tobacco barn in 1919. After the tobacco barn was constructed, the farm began producing dark-fired tobacco as a cash crop, and in later years also included burley tobacco.⁵⁴ All of these buildings are evidence that J. Luke Biggs and his wife participated fully in the progressive farm movement of the early twentieth century, incorporating more cash crops, while adding modern conveniences such as rural electrification (1919), a waterline to the house (1928), followed by a telephone line (1929).⁵⁵ Situated on his small farm, Biggs continued to work hard engaged in farming and stock-raising, becoming a successful farmer in his own right, which continued until his death in 1959.

⁵⁰ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959), James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

⁵¹ Stewart County Clerk & Master's Office, Chancery Court Minute Books Vol. D, page 485-486, 489, Microfilm Roll 15, TSLA; Stewart County, Tennessee, Deed Book 44, March 2, 1900, page 404-405, Microfilm Roll 80, TSLA.

⁵² This land tract purchased by Biggs' father was once a portion of the larger land holdings which comprised Stacker's interest in the Stewart County Iron Industry; Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 27, March 20, 1875, page 462, Microfilm Roll 76, TSLA.

⁵³ Stewart County Register of Deeds Deed Book 53, page 502, Microfilm Roll 82, TSLA; Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 104, page 311-312, Microfilm Roll 89, TSLA.

⁵⁴ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

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Maple Grove Farm and Agriculture in Stewart County

Middle Tennessee farm families during the late nineteenth century understood that land ownership offered the “surest guarantee of family security.”⁵⁶ Yet, during the first decade of the 1900s, farmers found that “ascending the agricultural ladder became more difficult” as increasing rural population pressures started to slowly impact family farming traditions and household economies within an already crowded agricultural sector.⁵⁷ In 1900, the population of Stewart County was 15,224, and farmers like Biggs witnessed greater competition for land as the price of both acquiring farmland and entering farming as a livelihood, like his parents and grandparents before him, became increasingly challenging.⁵⁸ Farm life, agricultural traditions, rural dwellers, and their communities also witnessed significant transformations as advancements in transportation and greater access to regional and national markets shifted both society and the rural economy increasingly toward commercial or market-oriented farming. Both J. Luke Biggs and his father experienced these early transformations of an agrarian, rural economy in the late nineteenth century, while J. Luke later witnessed the progressive changes in agricultural traditions and farm production.

Luckily for J. Luke Biggs, he was able to continue farming on a portion of land purchased from his late father’s estate, which also had significant timber resources readily available for resource extraction. This unique opportunity afforded him additional economic prospects beyond just farming, specifically supplying various companies with railroad cross ties and selling lumber to area iron furnaces which remained in operation until the late 1920s. Additionally, like many Stewart County farmers situated in the northern portions of the Western Highland Rim, Biggs primarily raised corn and livestock, while dark-fired and burley tobacco was always considered an “extra crop” option.⁵⁹ Although tobacco cultivation began with early white settlement, the unique, dark-fired tobacco variety became a major as well as lucrative cash crop in Stewart County between 1880 and 1920, an era considered the “golden age” of tobacco.⁶⁰ Situated along the Western Highland Rim, this region consisted of the tobacco belt counties of western Kentucky and northern Middle Tennessee, an area known distinctly as the Black Patch of Kentucky and Tennessee. As part of the Black Patch region, Stewart County produced significant amounts of tobacco (1,803,553 pounds) per farm in 1889 and was considered among Middle Tennessee’s five leading tobacco-growing counties which accounted for approximately 86 percent of all tobacco grown in Middle Tennessee.⁶¹ In 1919, Biggs built a tobacco barn, which allowed the farm to begin producing dark-fired tobacco as a cash crop, and in later years also included burley tobacco.

Like many farmers during this era, Biggs practiced “diversified agriculture [farming] based on corn cultivation augmented by wheat, tobacco, hay and livestock,” a type of farming particularly noted for its high levels of household production and landownership.⁶² Biggs’ diary provides further insight into his

⁵⁶ Louis M. Kryiakoudes, *Social Origins of the Urban South: Race, Gender, and Migration in Nashville and Middle Tennessee, 1890-1930* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2003), 45.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 46.

⁵⁸ United States. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*, Volume 1 (Population, part 1) (Washington: United States Census Office, 1901), 374, TSLA.; Kryiakoudes, 40.

⁵⁹ Connie L. Lester. *Up From the Mudsills of Hell* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2006), 24.

⁶⁰ Tonya Blades and D. Lorne McWatters, “Thomas Woodard, Jr. Farm” National Register nomination (NR 02/27/2008).

⁶¹ Kryiakoudes, 44, 178.

⁶² *Ibid.*, 43.

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stewardship of the land through crop rotation, application of soil nutrients and supplements (lime and phosphate), and erosion prevention. These practices exhibited a respect for the physical environment and its variable conditions, along with a comprehension and understanding of local farming traditions passed to him from previous generations of farmers. Together, Biggs' ideals and operating principles further allowed him to become an esteemed and resourceful businessman-farmer, realizing farming success even as twentieth century changes increasingly evolved toward a market-oriented economy.

Additionally, Biggs' diary records firsthand the significant changes in farming as a livelihood during the early twentieth century as well as the labor it took to manage and maintain his farm. His farm activities initially involved fencing off his property, construction of buildings as well as making necessary house and fence repairs, cutting railroad cross ties at the mill, or hauling significant amounts of lumber for himself or others. This was in addition to his general agricultural pursuits of plowing, planting, and harvesting corn, oats and wheat, along with killing hogs and overseeing his growing livestock and cattle herds. Biggs also documented daily weather conditions and the effects of inclement weather on his crops, the rising water levels of Long Creek behind the house, area road conditions, including various life events, milestones, social and political activities, along with visitors to the farm. In addition to his daily entries, Biggs specifically notes his farm activities and mentions various workers who assisted him or if he himself assisted others with their farm work. Biggs produced many of the same agricultural crops as his father, starting with wheat, corn, oats and hay, as well as sorghum for molasses. Early on Biggs created an apple orchard located on the "upper and lower bottom" fields, later also adding peaches, and in later years planted tobacco, alfalfa and soybeans. Biggs also raised considerable amounts of livestock during his lifetime, which included hogs, goats and sheep, yet was particularly known as a cattle dealer. He also harvested substantial amounts of timber in clearing his property to create the present open pastures and fields for planting and sowing crops, and later also operated a one man sawmill on his property. In addition, Biggs sold rough cut lumber to area Iron Industry manufactures, hauling it to nearby furnaces, and later railroad cross ties to various companies for use in railroad construction and repair. Following his father's death in 1896, young Biggs (18 years) turned to his older brother Joe Biggs, who likely took young Biggs under his wing and continued to mentor him on the rural traditions and business of farming. Throughout his life, Biggs remained very close to his older brother, who lived and farmed nearby on the original Biggs family farm, located further south on Long Creek. Biggs specifically recorded assisting his brother Joe in stripping tobacco, while also learning about the crop and its labor intensive complexities beginning in 1912, and continued to help Joe harvest tobacco and various other crops from his farm. Then later in May 1919, as Biggs set his first tobacco crop, he also assisted his surrounding neighbors in setting out their tobacco plants. By August he began construction of his own tobacco barn, which involved him leading a barn raising, and completed the barn just in time to cut tobacco from the fields, followed by hanging and firing his tobacco that same October.⁶³

Biggs' ever expansive and thriving farm likewise required significant amounts of additional labor for such labor-intensive farm activities as plowing, sowing, and harvesting his row crops, clearing and cutting timber, and later planting and harvesting tobacco from the fields. Beyond relying upon himself and/or other family members, an available supply of workers included both furnace laborers and later tenant farmers who already lived and worked in the area. Such workers often existed through a type of shared worker or contract labor relationship, of which many area farmers used to remain economically viable if they could afford it. Given

⁶³ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

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the labor intensive farm activities that occurred on his farm and particularly since the Biggs never had children of their own to help with farm chores, additional workers became a necessity at Maple Grove Farm. Throughout his diary, Biggs provided the names of various share tenancy or contract laborers who assisted him in both farming and/or working on his property. A review of the 1880 and 1900 Census for District Seven in Stewart County reveals black freedmen and their families living in close proximity or even as adjacent neighbors to the Biggs Family farm. Freedmen in the area not only lived adjacent or nearby to the Biggs farm on Long Creek Road, but also on or near other neighboring family farms located in the same area situated along Long Creek in District Seven. Some of these neighboring farms were owned by William Meadows, Robert Self, Charles Phippen (Stacker's Evergreen Farm), Charles and J. W. Scarborough, and it is likely they shared tenant farmers with Biggs.⁶⁴

Biggs frequently referred to his upkeep of a tenant worker graveyard throughout his diary entries. Situated at the bottom of "Graveyard Hill," alongside Long Creek Road, the graveyard is known as the Milam Cemetery. Three headstones are visible in the Milam Cemetery: one for Tobe (Toby) (b. May 20, 1865 – d. March 17, 1916) and Anna Milam (b. March 23, 1870 – d. July 29, 1945) and Lizzie Brown (died c. 1950).⁶⁵ Both Tobe and Anna Milam are listed as tenant farmers (laborers) in the 1900 Census in Stewart County's Sixth District and it is likely they are not the only former slaves or tenant farmers buried in the Milam Cemetery.⁶⁶ Biggs' diary provides added confirmation of tenant worker activity on his property, with tenant farmer Doc Holloway's death recorded on November 3, 1934. Following the settlement of Holloway's estate, which included the sale of property he owned in Carlisle,⁶⁷ Biggs noted his attendance at Doc Holloway's funeral which was held at his own tobacco barn (c. 1919), followed by his burial in the Milam Cemetery on September 1, 1935. Besides Doc Holloway, other tenant workers who are listed as buried in the Milam Cemetery⁶⁸ have been found living nearby and documented in Stewart County's 1900 Census.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1880 with Index*, 1993; Thomas E. Partlow, Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1900 with Index, 1994.

⁶⁵ Stewart County Historical Society. *Cemetery Records of Stewart County, Tennessee*. (Dover, TN: Stewart County Historical Society, 1983), 137-138; J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee

⁶⁶ Many of the persons listed in the Milam Cemetery can be found in the Partlow's 1900 Census for Stewart County which includes: Tobe and Anna Milam (District 6, page 160), Jarred Milam, white; Peter Milam, black (District 7, page 203); Samuel Stacker? (District 9, page 278); Sykes ? white; Miner, Sam, black (District 7, page 203); Holloway, Doc ? black (District 7, page 203). Doc Holloway is likely just one of the men who worked for Reuben Biggs and listed in his diary. J. Luke Biggs is found settling his estate after he dies in 1934. Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1900 with Index*. (Lebanon, TN: T. E. Partlow, 1994), 160, 203 & 278; Stewart County Historical Society. *Cemetery Records of Stewart County, Tennessee*. (Dover, TN: Stewart County Historical Society, 1983), 137-138. The cemetery is on a steep incline and has experienced erosion. Although only a few headstones are visible, there may have been others that have disappeared due to erosion or other changes in the landscape.

⁶⁷ Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 80, October 27, 1920 (November 3, 1920), page 454, Microfilm Roll 87, TSLA; Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 104, November 10, 1934, page 314, Microfilm Roll 89, TSLA.

⁶⁸ Stewart County Historical Society. *Cemeteries of Stewart County* (Dover, TN: Stewart County Historical Society, 1983), 137-138.

⁶⁹ Dock Holloway likely continued to live in the area near the Biggs farm and/or work for the Biggs family, even after the Reuben Biggs' death 1896. J. Luke respected Holloway as a worker, settled his will, and later held his funeral at the 1917 tobacco barn. It is unclear which gravesite denotes Dock Holloway's grave, due to the condition of the cemetery headstones and that most graves only have only rocks, not proper headstones. Reuben Biggs Diary, 1875; J. Luke Biggs, diary, 1930s; Kenneth Mathis, interview with Susan Hawkins, 1980s; Photos of cemetery headstones. Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1880 with Index*, 1993; Thomas E. Partlow, *Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1900 with Index*, 1994.

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Many of the graves were only marked with rocks, and the cemetery's location below the hillside has experienced erosion that may have contributed to markers being lost, so the exact number of people buried in the cemetery is unclear. Nonetheless, this cemetery provides physical evidence of the presence of tenant farmers in the area and helps to convey their contribution to the agricultural history of Maple Grove Farm.

Even as farming as a livelihood underwent significant changes relative to the progressive farm movement, farming remained the most important industry in the state even into the early twentieth century. Changes that began slowly at the turn of the century proceeded more rapidly during the next few decades with unprecedented reforms in political, social and economic realms. This ultimately led to significant changes as the American landscape transformed from primarily a rural agrarian one to one increasingly shaped by and connected to urban and industrialized forces. The progressive impacts of farm mechanization on agricultural labor and expanded industrialization meant farmers had time to take part-time or seasonal jobs and/or participate in activities off the farm. A review of Biggs' diary entries reveal many of his off-farm pursuits such as preaching and attendance at various church activities, officiating funerals and burials, transportation of corpses, and digging graves for the deceased. Although farming remained his livelihood throughout his lifetime, Biggs pursued various political-related activities that included running for several elected public offices in Stewart County and the State of Tennessee. Like many farmers still today, it was not unusual for farmers to hold jobs off the farm helping to supplement their incomes, yet it allowed them to participate in local social and religious happenings, and remain active in area government and politics within their community and surrounding region.⁷⁰

In the spring of 1908, J. Luke worked as part of a road crew on Dover and Bear Springs Roads, and later Long Creek Road in Stewart County's District Seven. For much of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, one of the earliest state labor laws required each man to work a given number of days in order to maintain as well as make necessary area road improvements, specifically assisting in the upkeep of county farm to market roads. A man's involvement in this labor activity provided the main source of workforce for road and bridge construction in Stewart County, as well as the state and much of the United States for many years. Biggs continued to participate in road work in his District Seven, and in January 1911, at the age of 33 years, was elected Commissioner of Public Roads by the Quarterly County Court of Stewart County, and served a one year term.⁷¹ Likewise, Biggs followed his older brother Sam S. Biggs, who also served as Commissioner of Public Roads in 1910, the year before. During his term as Road Commissioner, Biggs traveled all of Stewart County's twelve Road Districts, and ran again for Road Commissioner over the next two years although unsuccessfully.⁷²

Throughout much of his adult life, Biggs ran for various elected public offices in Stewart County as well as State of Tennessee, beginning with his election as Commissioner of Public Roads in 1911. Later, he also ran for Stewart County Trustee during the 1914, 1916 and 1918 election seasons, although he was defeated.

⁷⁰ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

⁷¹ Ancestry.com. *1799- 2008 Tennessee, Wills and Probate Records, 1899- 1966* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

⁷² Biggs was defeated by C. C. Crockwell for Road Commissioner in January 1912, and again in January 1913. Besides his father, J. Luke's older brothers were also very active participants in the Stewart County's local government, and revealed to also have obtained a Magistrate Bond and/or Road Commissioner Bond during their lifetimes.; J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

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Also during this time period, he was required to register for the World War I draft as war consumed Europe beginning in 1914, later involving the United States by 1917, with approximately 500 young men from Stewart County called to serve.⁷³ In September 1918, Biggs dutifully registered for the World War I draft at 40 years of age, although he was not activated nor did he see military action due the war's end just a few months later.⁷⁴ Other public endeavors similarly included Biggs joining various social welfare organizations like the Masons, his individual response to this period of substantial economic, political and social change during the early twentieth century. In May 1919, Biggs became a member of the local Masonic fraternal organization, the Free and Accepted Masons, and joined Carlisle Lodge No. 675, where he quickly rose to Master Mason in August of that same year. As a Mason, he also served in an official capacity as a Chaplin from 1920 until 1937, except for years 1922 and 1925, and again later in 1938 until 1954.⁷⁵ Altogether, he was primarily a member of the following fraternal organizations: the Order of the Eastern Star at Erin, Tennessee; Independent Order of Odd Fellows at the Carlisle Lodge No. 616, and Moriah Grove Lodge, No. 301; and the Royal Arch Chapter 213 at Erin, Tennessee.⁷⁶ Throughout his life, Biggs remained very active in these organizations, attending various meetings as well as community activities held by these organizations as listed in his diary, in particular those located near Dover, and traveled to annual meetings located at the Grand Lodge in Nashville, Tennessee. Years later in September 1924, Biggs also obtained a \$500 Magistrate Bond⁷⁷ becoming a county magistrate, where he handled minor crimes or disputes, and also served as a justice of the peace.

Biggs' life activities further espoused a considerable work ethic as well as farm management practices which helped him obtain success in his professional life as a farmer, which allowed him the time and the opportunity to run for public office. Although the Biggs never had any children of their own, they enjoyed being around children and relished visitors both young and old to the farm throughout their lifetime. Moreover, Biggs' ability to seek public office also depended upon having additional help on the farm who might assist both himself and Jennie during his absences. In 1920, Hattie "Hattie" Eudora (Hamm) Brigham (1906-1983) (13 years), later known as the Biggs' foster-daughter, including Pink and Bettie Sykes (Biggs' in-laws) are listed as boarders who resided with them on the farm for a time.⁷⁸ Both Hattie and Jennie's parents likely assisted Jennie with house work, canning peaches and/or vegetables from the garden, along with chores on the farm when Biggs' was away running for office or due to his many off-farm activities. Throughout Biggs diary, he mentioned names of various day laborers and/or tenant farmers who were in the area and assisted him with work on the farm, and he likely relied on them significantly more as duties and activities took him off the farm. In particular, this occurred when Biggs decided and ran for the upcoming

⁷³ Iris Hopkins McClain. *A History of Stewart County, Tennessee*. (Columbia, Tennessee: Iris Hopkins McClain, 1965), 83.

⁷⁴ Ancestry.com. *U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2005. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

⁷⁵ Walter E. Seifert, Jr. Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Tennessee (Nashville), letter to Tonya Blades, May 10, 2018.

⁷⁶ "J. Luke Biggs Dies; Rites Held Sept. 28." *Stewart Houston Times*, 6 October 1959.

⁷⁷ Ancestry.com. *1920 Tennessee, United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

⁷⁸ After being bitten by a snake in 1917 and following the death of one of her parents, Hattie likely begins residing with J. Luke and Jennie Biggs. Known as the Biggs' foster daughter, she later married Charlie W. Brigham (1897-1982) in December 1928. Another girl was also known to have lived for a few years with Biggs. J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

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Democratic primary election seeking the Tennessee House of Representatives seat in 1928. By mid-June of that year he canvassed around Elk Creek and in District 6 in Stewart County, and continued to canvass for votes through most of July and into August.⁷⁹ On August 31, 1928, Biggs successfully won the Democratic primary, and became the Democratic ticket candidate on the November 1928 ballot.⁸⁰ Following his primary win, the *Stewart County Times* published a list of scheduled public speaking events in which Biggs attended alongside the Honorable Joseph W. Byrns, who ran as the Democratic nominee for the Congressional 6th District of Tennessee. In mid-October 1928, they attended public meetings together at Indian Mound, Bumpus Mills, Big Rock, Tharpe, Model, and Cumberland City in Stewart County.⁸¹ On November 6, 1928, J. Luke Biggs won and was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly House of Representatives seat (see Figure 1), where he served in the State's 66th General Assembly from 1929-1931, representing Stewart County as a democrat.⁸² While in the General Assembly, he participated on the Agriculture, Education, Horticulture, Fish, Forestry and Game, Immigration, Marketing Bureau, Public Printing, and Redistricting Committees.⁸³

During his term as a State Representative, he introduced two bills that eventually became law, House Bill 403 appropriating \$1000 in Treasury funds to purchase the Dover Hotel (or Surrender House) which later became the Fort Donelson War Memorial Museum Building; and House Bill 537 approved the United States' purchase of lands in Stewart County, Tennessee that established Fort Donelson as a National Military Park in Dover.⁸⁴ Both House Bills related to the creation of the museum and the national military park at Fort Donelson and were passed and signed into law by Governor Henry H. Horton in April 1929.⁸⁵ At the end of his two year term, Biggs decided to run for Justice of the Peace in Stewart County, yet was defeated in August 1930. Despite this defeat, he was appointed foreman of the Stewart County Grand Jury by Judge Martin in 1934, and then two years later appointed foreman by Judge Fort in October 1936.⁸⁶ Biggs was a

⁷⁹ *Stewart County Times*, 13 April 1928; *Stewart County Times* 3 August 1928.

⁸⁰ *Stewart County Times* 10 August 1928; *Stewart County Times* 31 August 1928

⁸¹ *The Stewart Houston County Times*, 12 October 1928.

⁸² "Lawmaker." *Nashville Tennessean*, 18 November 1928.; Illene J. Cornwell and Verla S. Hodges. *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, Volume 3, 1901-1931* (Nashville, TN: The Tennessee Historical Commission, 1988).

⁸³ *House Journal of the Sixty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee*, prepared by Bert C. Dedman, Chief Clerk, and Howard L. Savage, Asst Clerk (Kingsport, TN: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1929), 1634.; State of Tennessee. Tennessee General Assembly. *House Archives 1870 to the Present*. Available [online]: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/house/archives/> [1 June 2018].

⁸⁴ Fort Donelson War Memorial Museum Building 1929, H. B. 403, 66th Tennessee General Assembly, 14 April 1929; Fort Donelson National Military Park Act 1929, H. B. 537, 66th Tennessee General Assembly, 11 April 1929; Full text for both House Bills can be found in: Public Chapter 127, House Bill 403 and 537. Tennessee Public Acts, 1929; *Stewart Houston County Times*, March 23, 1929.

⁸⁵ In Tennessee, this state legislative action followed earlier passage of Congressional legislation at the Federal level on March 26 1928, establishing Fort Donelson National Military Park as a unit of the War Department. Based on a report by the Army War College known as: A Study and Investigation of Battlefields in the United States for Commemorative Purposes, Washington Barracks, D.C., May 28, 1925, in *America's National Park System: The Critical Documents*, the House Committee on Military Affairs recommended and which Congress acted on between 1926 through 1933; Ronald F. Lee. *The Origin and Evolution of the National Military Park Idea* (Washington D. C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Office of Park Historic Preservation, 1973). Available [online]:

https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/history_military/nmpidea6b.htm [1 June 2018].

⁸⁶ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

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respected member of the County Court in Stewart County, which developed from his involvement in public affairs, running for elected office, as well as his reputation as a successful businessman-farmer. On February 12, 1939, Biggs also attended the 77th anniversary commemorating the historic battle at Fort Donelson National Military Park in Dover, Tennessee. Throughout his years of involvement with the Stewart County Court and as an elected official, Biggs attended quarterly County Court meetings regularly, and later also attended Federal Court in Nashville from August 28 through September 1, 1939. From July through September and into October of 1939, Biggs canvassed again for votes in Stewart and Houston Counties, which also included Humphreys and Dickson Counties in his run for election to the seat for State Senator, but was defeated in November. Two years later in 1942, Biggs again canvassed for votes when he ran for the County Judge seat in Stewart County, although he was not elected. In the following election cycle, Biggs once again ran for the State Representative seat he once held where he canvassed for votes in July 1944, and again he was defeated.⁸⁷

On March 30, 1953, Jennie Biggs died (80 years) after suffering from influenza as well as a stroke that occurred earlier in March 1949.⁸⁸ By the following year in June 1954, Biggs (76 years) had remarried.⁸⁹ Following his second marriage, the house underwent substantial changes. Those updates included expanded upgrades to the kitchen, the addition of an indoor bathroom, enclosure of the breezeway between the L-shaped porches, including alterations to the staircase access and upstairs storage room. Six years after Jennie's death, Biggs (81 years) died on September 28, 1959 and was buried next to his first wife at Hart Cemetery, located behind the Long Creek Methodist Church and three miles south of their farm off Long Creek Road.⁹⁰ According to his will, he left the entire farm to his second wife, including his daily diary from March 1898 until September 1959, while he also provided \$100 to the Hart Cemetery for its care and upkeep.⁹¹

Post-1959 Farm History

Two years later following Biggs' death, his second wife, Patricia "Donnie" (Brooks) Reeves Biggs, sold the 255 acre farm to Kenneth Hugh Mathis (1932-2013) who planted tobacco and raised beef cattle on the property. The simple farm house remained unchanged until after Kenneth Mathis married his wife Elizabeth

⁸⁷ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

⁸⁸ Ancestry.com. *Tennessee Death Records, 1908-1958* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2011, Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]; "Mrs. Jennie Biggs Dies after a Long Illness," *Stewart Houston County Times*, 7 April 1953; Married for 54 years, Jennie is buried in Hart Cemetery behind Long Creek Methodist Church where she and J. Luke attended church together and were active members throughout their lives.

⁸⁹ Biggs' second wife was Patricia "Donnie" (Brooks) Reeves Biggs. She died on January 19, 1989 and is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Erin, Houston County, Tennessee, Ancestry.com. *Tennessee Marriage Records, 1780-2002* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2008. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]; Ancestry.com U.S., *Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

⁹⁰ J. Luke Biggs Dies; Rites Held Sept. 28." *Stewart Houston Times*, 6 October 1959.; Ancestry.com U.S., *Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

⁹¹ Following Patricia "Donnie" (Brooks) Reeves Biggs' death in 1989, J. Luke's will further specified that his diary was to go to Mrs. Hattie Brigham, his foster daughter. Stewart County, Tennessee. Wills and Bonds, September 1926-November 1966, Vol F, page 401, Microfilm, TSLA.

Maple Grove Farm
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(Griffin) Mathis (1933-2000) in 1966. They added a carport and a second bathroom, the kitchen was updated and enlarged, and the remaining L-shaped porch was screened in. Mathis purchased an additional 64 acres in 1987, which now comprises the approximate 319-acre farm. The 64 acres bought in 1987 are excluded from the nominated boundaries because they were not historically associated with Maple Grove Farm. Following Kenneth Mathis' sudden death in 2013, the farm passed to his two daughters, Susan (Mathis) Hawkins and her sister, Carol (Mathis) Joiner. Mathis' daughters currently operate their father's farm, holding down full-time jobs like their father, while maintaining his legacy of farming in beef cattle production.

Maple Grove Farm continues to retain an agricultural presence, as the fields and pastures remain open and cattle wander across the property, although the farm no longer produces tobacco. Descendants of the Mathis family continue to maintain the property as a working farm, primarily raising livestock cattle, while also selling surplus herbs and produce from the greenhouse. Both the loft barn and tobacco barn give proof of the agricultural legacy that defines the property, as well as changes in agricultural production in Stewart County progressing into the Modern Era. The fields and pastures, outlined by well-preserved fence and tree lines, reflect an agricultural landscape that has been minimally changed over the years.

The Biggs-Mathis farm is a fine example of a traditional family farm and represents the agricultural tradition of farming as a livelihood, beginning with J. Luke Biggs' establishment of the farm in 1898, followed by his purchase of land from his late father's estate in 1900. On this farm, Biggs constructed a modest residential dwelling along with various agricultural outbuildings during the early twentieth century as rural areas, farmers, and their communities experienced significant changes in the economy, agriculture, and society. Yet, like his father before him, Biggs became a prosperous and resourceful farmer whose farm reflects the common agricultural experience of Stewart County, growing crops for self-use and to participate in the market economy, aided by the labor of tenant farmers and family members. Biggs' various volunteer and professional positions beyond the farm also represent the experience of twentieth century farmers who sought outside employment, both to supplement income and to participate in the broader life of the local community and in the state.

The Biggs-Mathis Farm can be further evaluated under the *Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee Multiple Property Submission* as its agricultural significance relates to the context "Rural Reform and Agriculture, 1900-1945." Both the farm and house demonstrate changes made in the name of progress from the early to mid-twentieth century. The farm's physical features and outbuildings reflect movements of change such as the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) push for domestic reform and progressive farming during the early 1900s. In addition, the farmhouse reflects changes made in 1919 when the house was wired for electricity, and followed later with the development of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the national push for rural electrification which included a water line ran to the house in 1928, and the installation of a telephone line in 1929. Although the architectural style of the simple farmhouse dwelling was decidedly late nineteenth and early twentieth century, other buildings and structures that surround the house and extend across Long Creek Road include a wide array of twentieth century agricultural support buildings constructed between 1905 and 1919. These existing agricultural structures and buildings like the root cellar or flower house, chicken coop, corn crib, tobacco and loft barns were constructed and repaired overtime, while others were simply replaced or rebuilt for continued use and operation or addition to the larger farm complex operation.

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During the first half of the twentieth century, J. Luke Biggs engaged in diversified farming and utilized many of the concepts of progressive farming promoted by state agencies. Traditional crops such as corn, oats, wheat, livestock and sorghum for molasses were initially produced on the Biggs farm, as well as apple and peach orchards and various livestock such as hogs, goats and sheep. Later, farm production was expanded with the addition of livestock cattle breeding, dark-fired tobacco, alfalfa, soybeans and hay that were just a few of the agricultural products of the Biggs farm over the years. Like many farmers, Biggs adopted new technologies which included steam threshers and tractors, and later gas tractors, in addition to other farm machines like a saw mill operation using timber harvested from the farm. He also embraced new agricultural techniques such as erosion control, flood management as well as irrigation use from Long Creek, along with fertilizers and supplements such as lime and phosphate.

Moreover, Biggs' wife, Jennie, also contributed to the farm's production participation through her domestic activities such as canning vegetables and fruits which became an important initiative that agricultural reformers promoted among farm women during the 1920s and 1930s. Drying vegetables, cold storage in the circa 1905 cellar and/or flower house, pickling, and salting were other important food preservation techniques used on the Biggs' farm. Another important artifact of the progressive campaign aimed at farm women included improved food production and farm income with the construction of chicken houses or coops in the 1930s. By raising chickens, eggs provided "extra" funds that could be used to purchase modern household items and appliances. In addition, the Biggs also both participated as well as benefited from the Good Roads Movement which sought to improve farm to market roads as well as many local county road upgrades by local Stewart County Road Commission. This allowed the Biggs as well as many farm families to take surplus agricultural products and livestock to Dover and other community marketplaces for sale, which fostered the development of truck farming as an additional source of farm income. These patterns of progressive era farm production and endeavors on the Biggs farm were well-documented in J. Luke Biggs' diary, which he kept from 1898 until 1959, demonstrating how important farm management was as a business, as well as a way of life.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	<input type="checkbox"/>	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository: Tennessee State Library and Archives	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

Maple Grove Farm
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 255 **USGS Quadrangle** Dover 29-NE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

A. Latitude: 36.447701 Longitude: -87.807512

B. Latitude: 36.449829 Longitude: -87.803084

C. Latitude: 36.452933 Longitude: -87.792440

D. Latitude: 36.452440 Longitude: -87.787484

E. Latitude: 36.446459 Longitude: -87.787244

F. Latitude: 36.442042 Longitude: -87.789652

G. Latitude: 36.444444 Longitude: -87.802507

H. Latitude: 36.443315 Longitude: -87.807938

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundaries for Maple Grove Farm follow the legal boundaries of Stewart County Parcel 096 009.00, excluding a 64-acre portion of land along the southern boundary (see Figure 2 for exact location of excluded land). Also included with the boundaries are a separate legal parcel for the Milam Cemetery (Parcel 8) and a separate legal parcel for the Susan Hawkins property (Parcel 9.02). These parcels are entirely enclosed by Parcel 9. The National Register boundaries are depicted on the attached USGS Topographic Map and the Stewart County Tax Map.

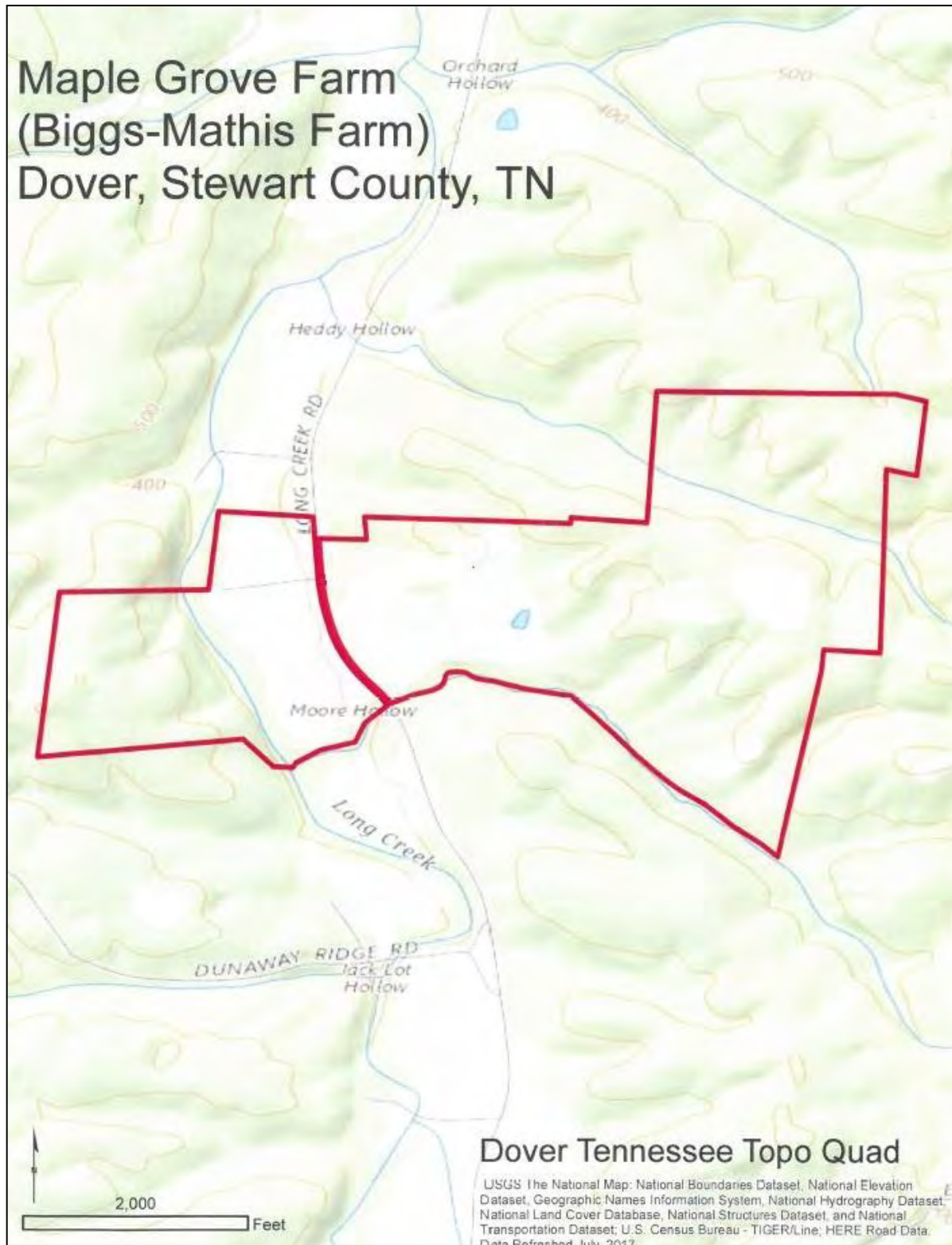
Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain all the significant resources and acreage historically associated with Maple Grove Farm during the Period of Significance.

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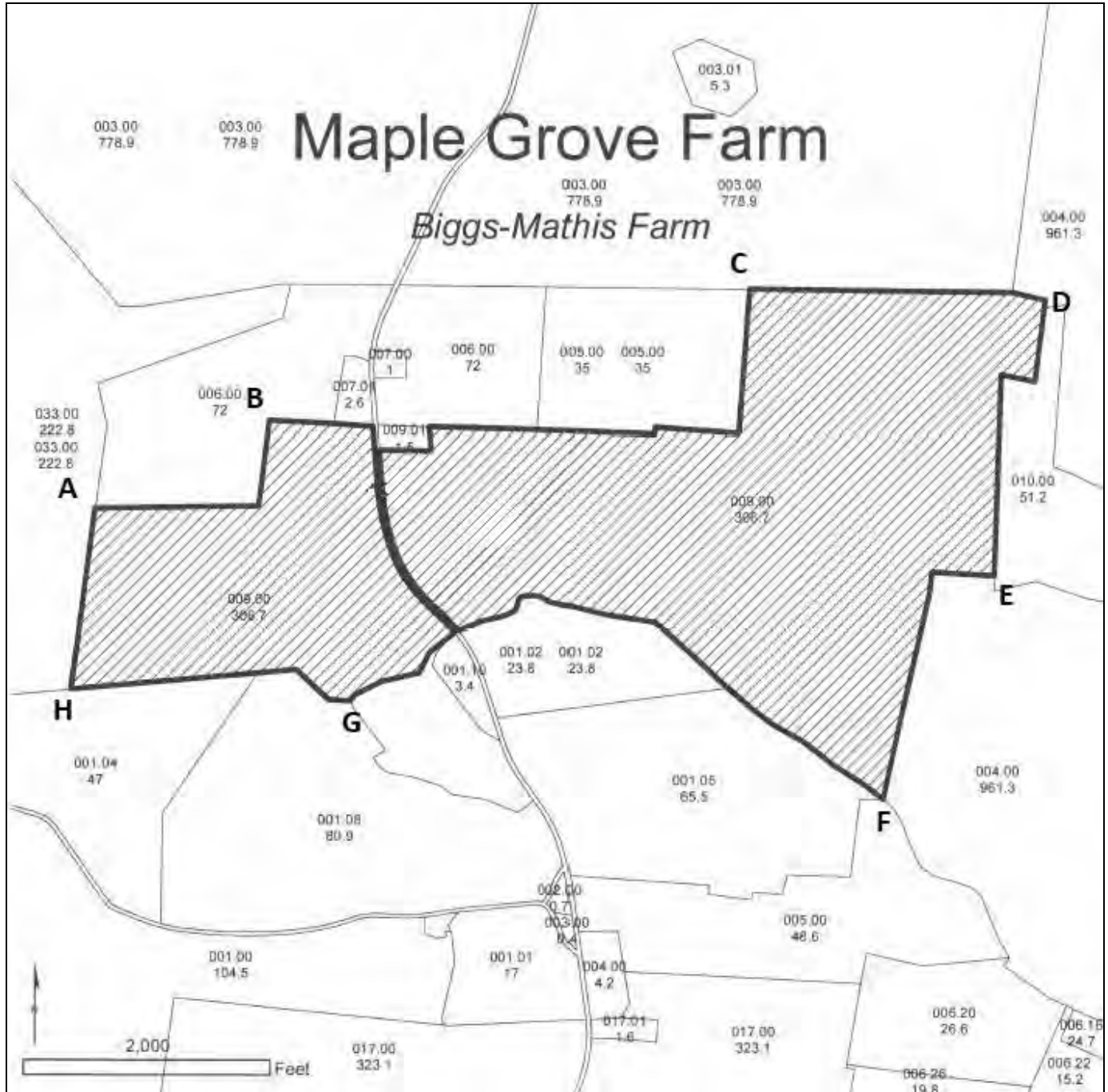
USGS Topographic Map showing Maple Grove Farm (Biggs-Mathis Farm) Boundaries



Maple Grove Farm
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Boundary Map of Maple Grove Farm (Biggs-Mathis Farm) with Latitude/Longitude Points



Maple Grove Farm
Name of Property

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11. Form Prepared By

Name Susan Hawkins and Tonya Blades, GNRC

Organization Greater Nashville Regional Council

Street & Number 543 Long Creek Road Date 7/3/2018

City or Town Dover Telephone 931-305-9926

E-mail Smhawkins0717@gmail.com State TN Zip Code 37058

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Maple Grove Farm

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Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos and Plans Page 42

Photo Log

Name of Property: Maple Grove Farm

City or Vicinity: Dover

County: Stewart

State: Tennessee

Photographer: Susan Hawkins, Tonya Blades

Date Photographed: September 2017, May 2018, July 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 40 Maple Grove Farm and Setting. Photographer facing west.
- 2 of 40 Maple Grove Farm and Setting. Photographer facing west.
- 3 of 40 Maple Grove Farm and Setting. Photographer facing north.
- 4 of 40 Façade of house. Photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 40 Northeast Corner of house Photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 40 West Elevation of house. Photographer facing east.
- 7 of 40 Rear Porch on west elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 40 Flower House/Root Cellar south elevation. Photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 40 Modern Smokehouse. Photographer facing west.
- 10 of 40 Pavilion and Privy. Photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 40 Garden. Photographer facing northeast.
- 12 of 40 View of Equipment Shed #1 and Shed #2 with the chicken coop between. Photographer facing southwest.
- 13 of 40 Equipment Shed #1 east elevation. Photographer facing southwest.
- 14 of 40 Chicken Coop east elevation. Photographer facing west.
- 15 of 40 Equipment Shed #2 east elevation. Photographer facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos and Plans Page 43

- 16 of 40 View of greenhouse, rear of the corn crib, and roofline of loft barn. Photographer facing southeast.
- 17 of 40 Greenhouse, west elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 18 of 40 View of corn crib, loft barn, and paddock. Photographer facing east.
- 19 of 40 Corn Crib, south elevation. Photographer facing north.
- 20 of 40 Loft Barn, west elevation. Photographer facing east.
- 21 of 40 Loft Barn, east elevation. Photographer facing northwest.
- 22 of 40 Milam Cemetery along Long Creek Road. Photographer facing east.
- 23 of 40 Milam Cemetery, hand-carved headstone. Photographer facing east.
- 24 of 40 Pond and Tobacco Barn, south and east elevations. Photographer facing northwest.
- 25 of 40 View of agricultural pasture and barns on east portion of farm. Photographer facing northeast.
- 26 of 40 Large Hay Barn, west elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 27 of 40 Smaller Barn, southwest elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 28 of 40 Modern Residential House, west elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 29 of 40 Garage, west elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 30 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Living room. Photographer facing northeast.
- 31 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Living Room, Main Entrance. Photographer facing southeast.
- 32 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Bedroom at Northwest Corner of Home. Photographer facing east.
- 33 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Original Mantle in Northwest Bedroom. Photographer facing southeast.
- 34 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Den looking towards bathroom rear addition and enclosed stairwell. Photographer facing northwest.
- 35 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Kitchen looking towards rear addition. Photographer facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Maple Grove Farm

Name of Property

Stewart County, Tennessee

County and State

Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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- 36 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Kitchen looking towards dining room within enclosed porch. Photographer facing east.
- 37 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Bedroom at East End of Home. Photographer facing east.
- 38 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Second Level, Northwest Bedroom including an original window on the west wall. Photographer facing northwest.
- 39 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Second Level, Central Bedroom, including an original window on the west wall. Photographer facing northwest.
- 40 of 40 Interior of Farmhouse, Second Level, Central Bedroom, including the enclosed chimney stack.

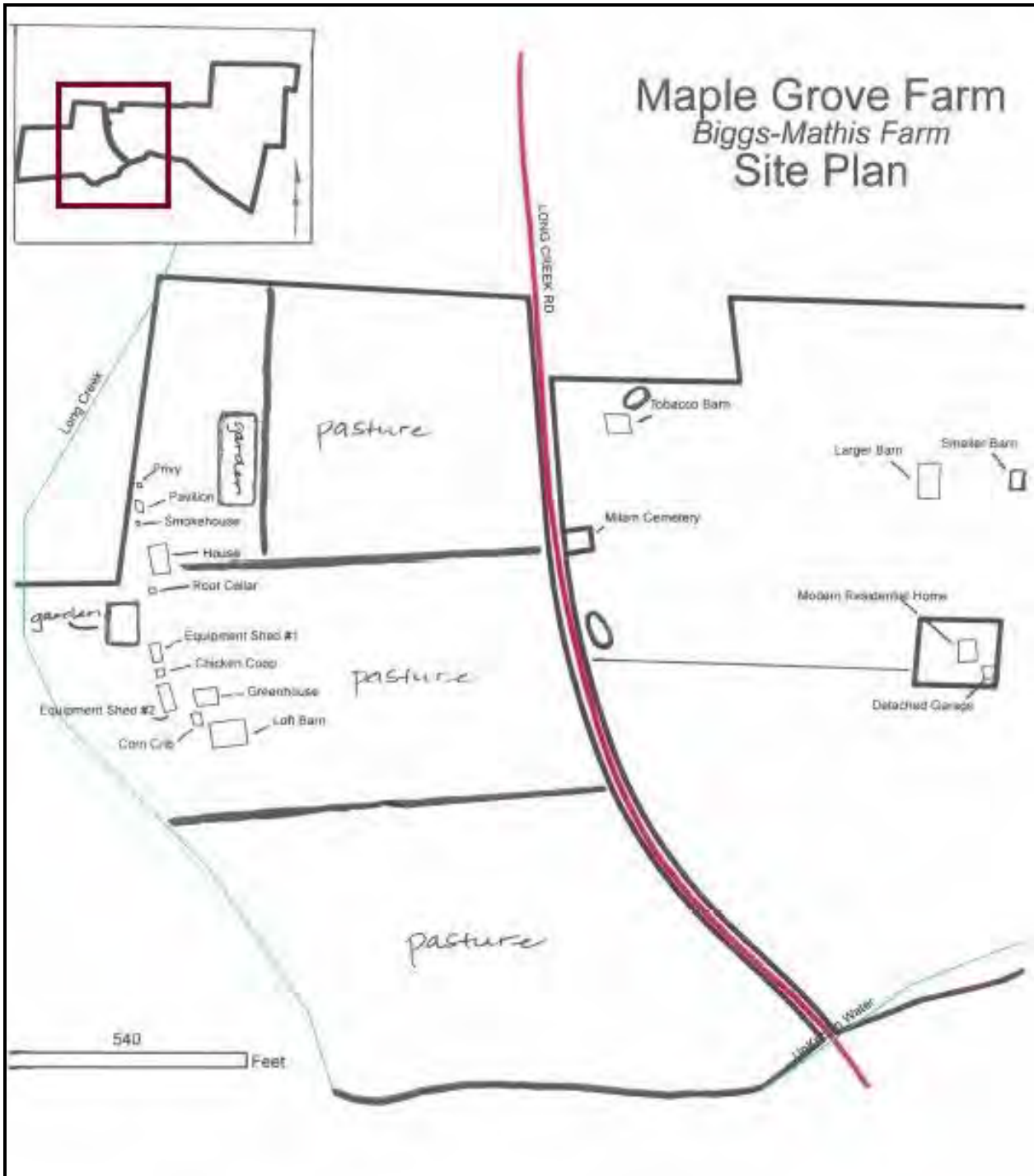
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Site Plan



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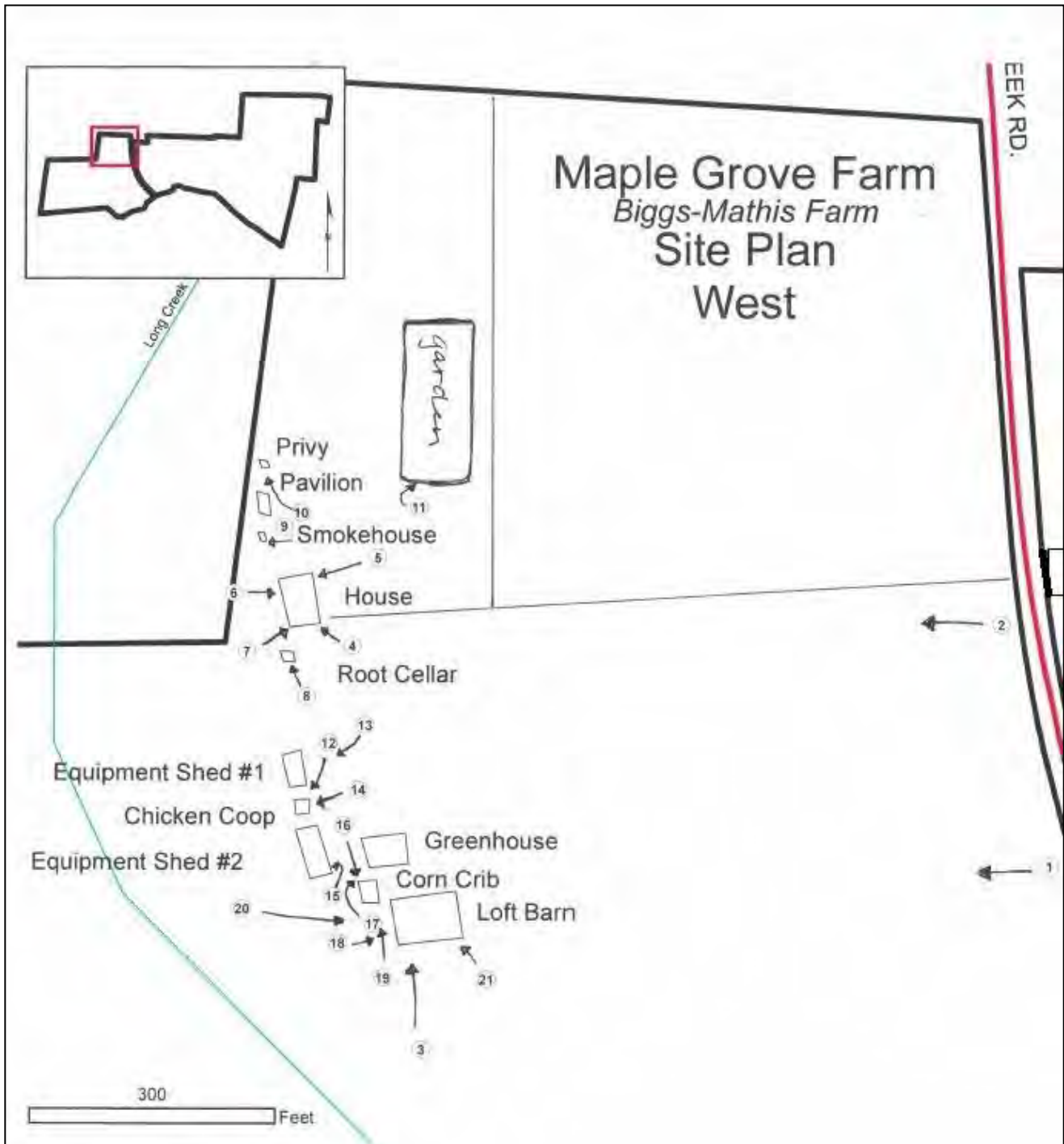
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Site Plan for West Side of Farm with Photos Keyed



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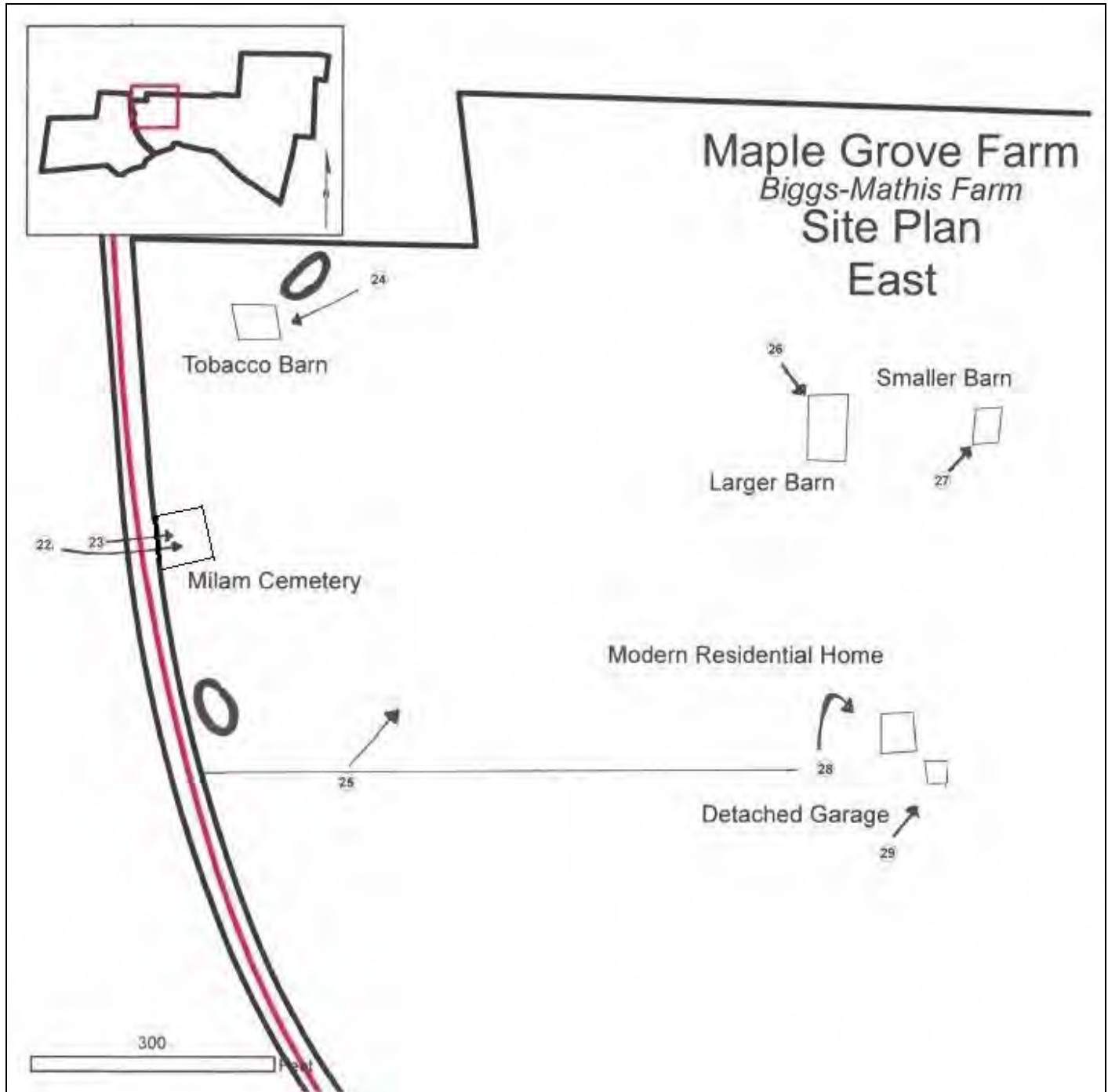
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Site Plan for East Side of Farm with Photos Keyed



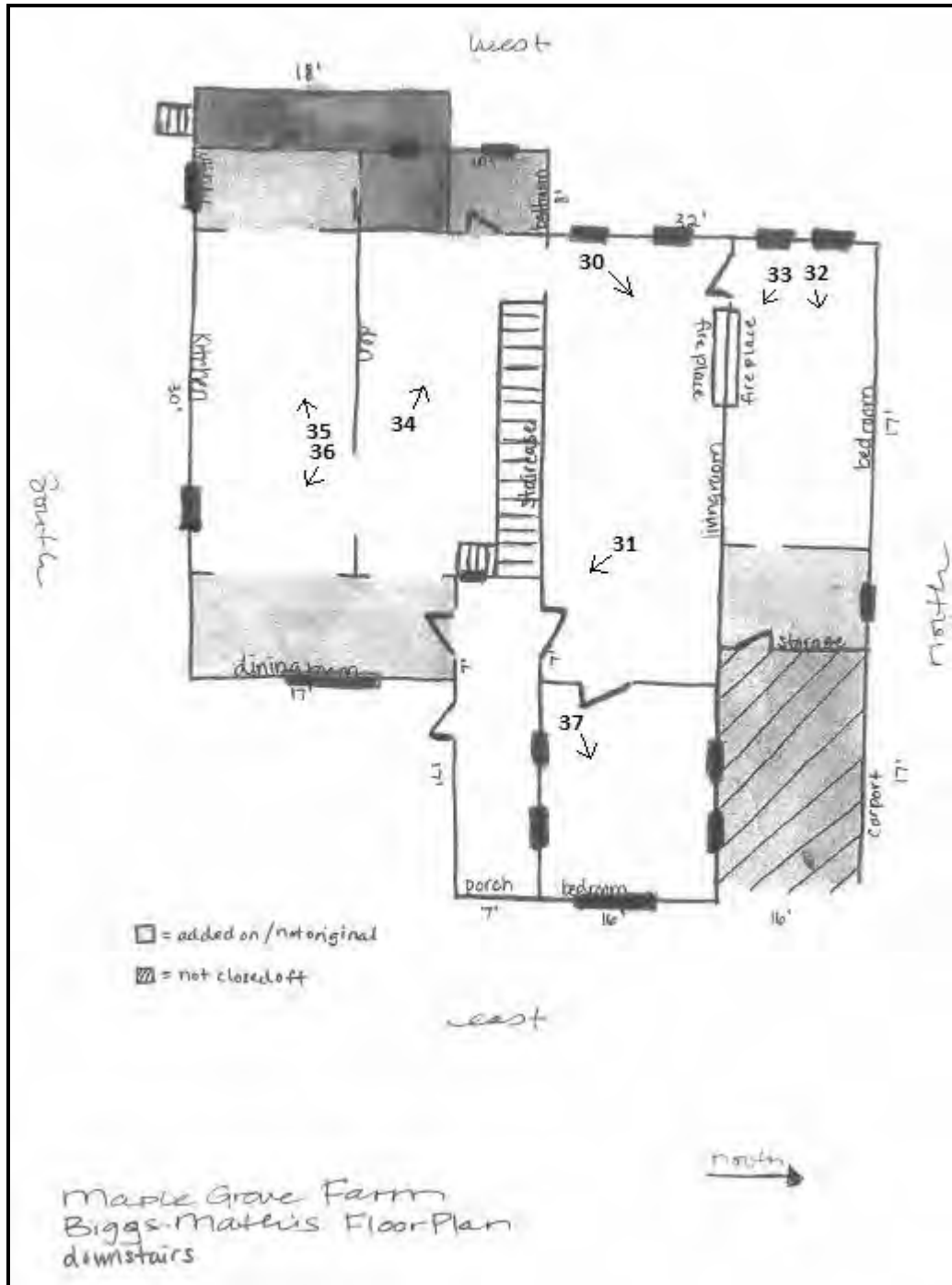
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Farmhouse First Level Floor Plan with Photos Keyed



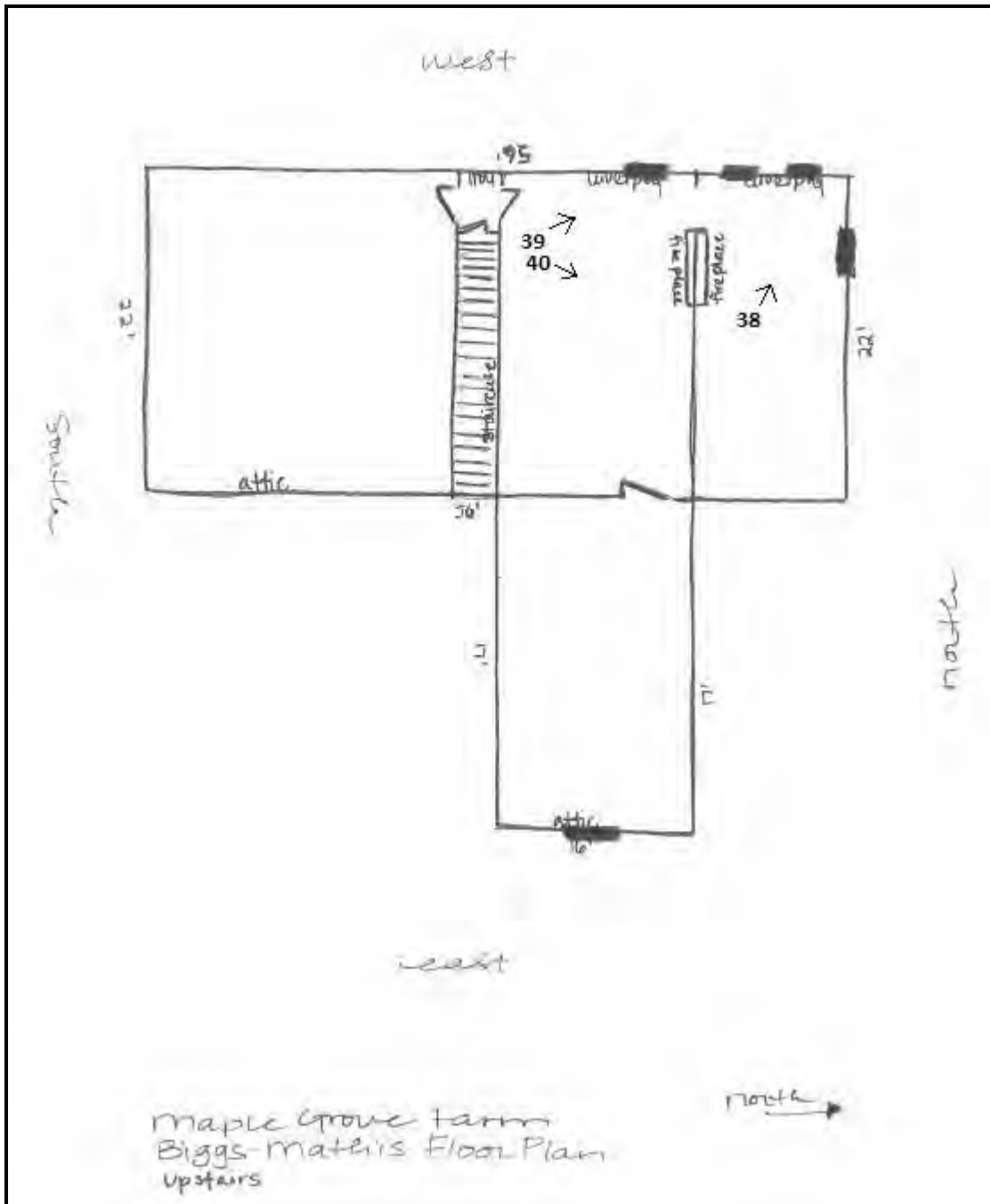
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Farmhouse Second Level Floor Plan with Photos Keyed



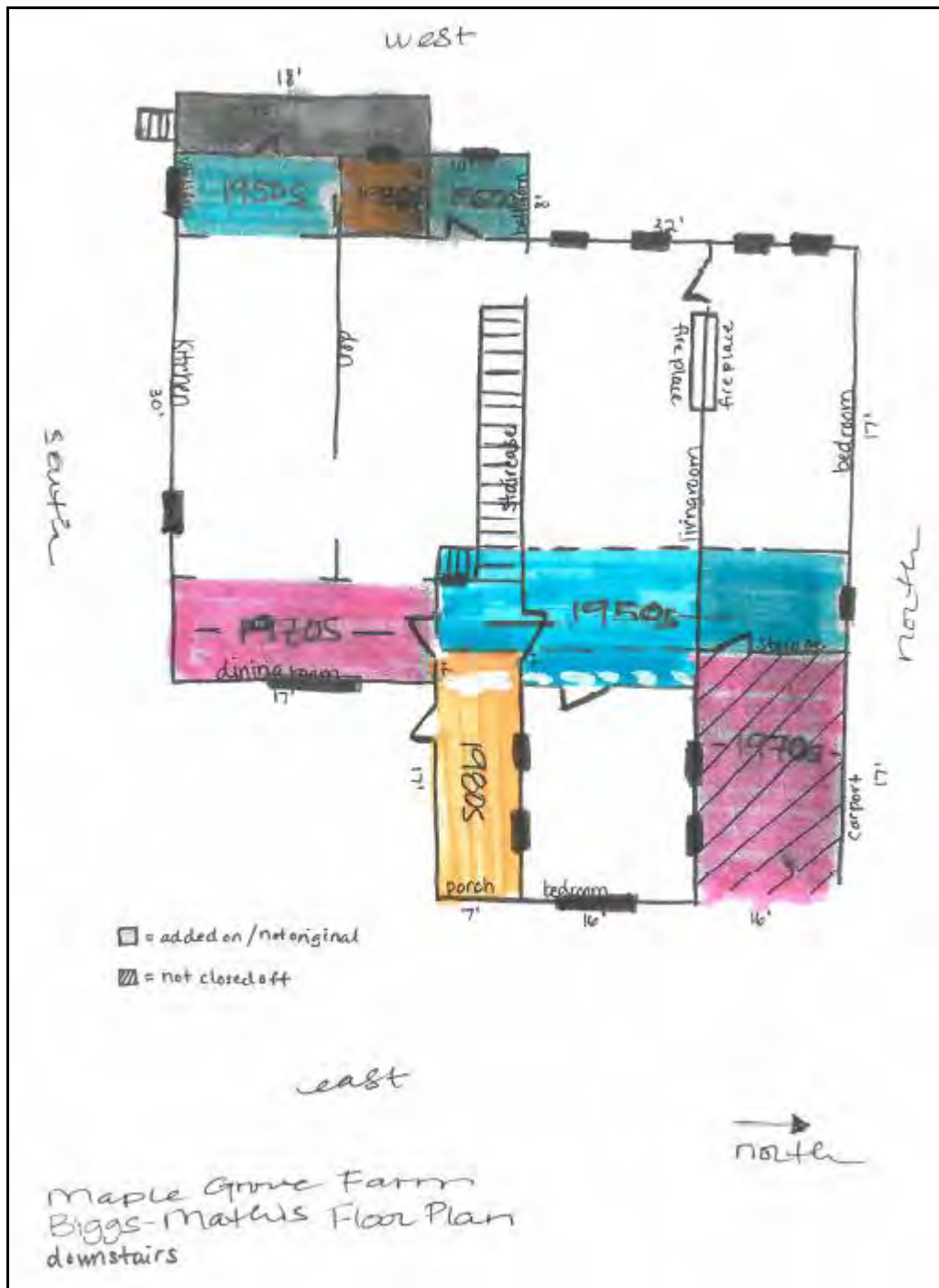
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Farmhouse First Level Floor Plan showing home's development



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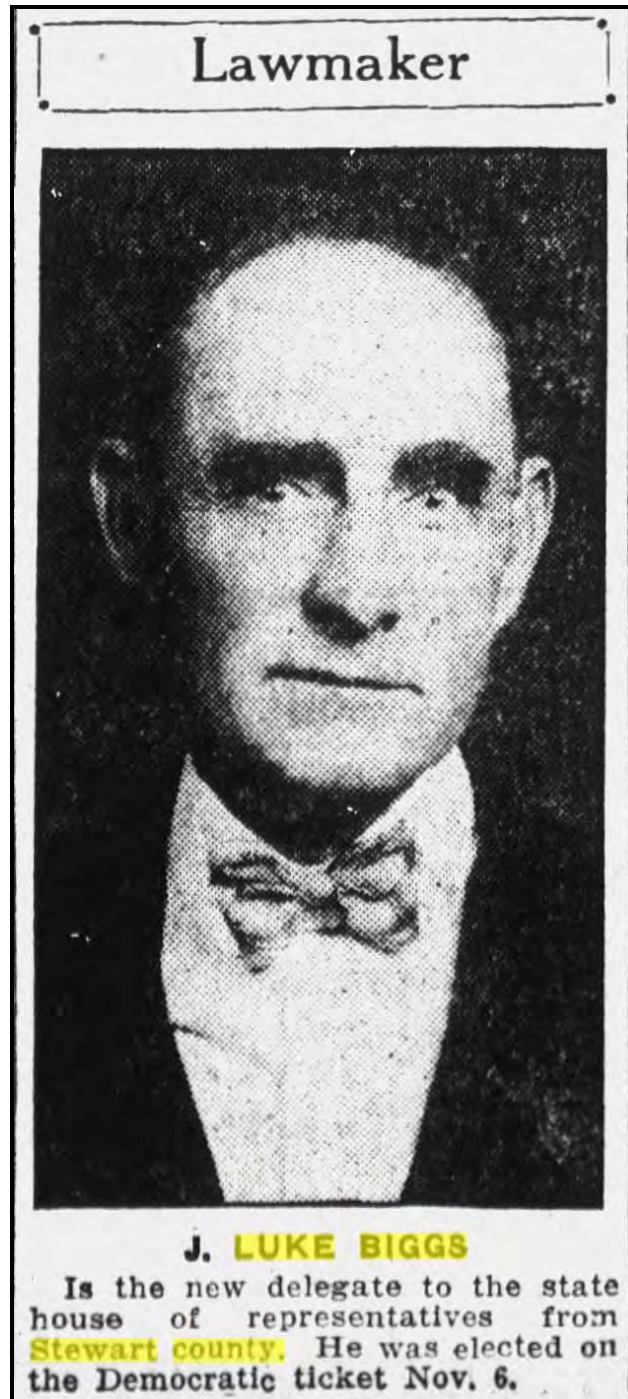


Figure 1: Newspaper clipping with a photo of J. Luke Biggs
From the *Nashville Tennessean*, November 18, 1928

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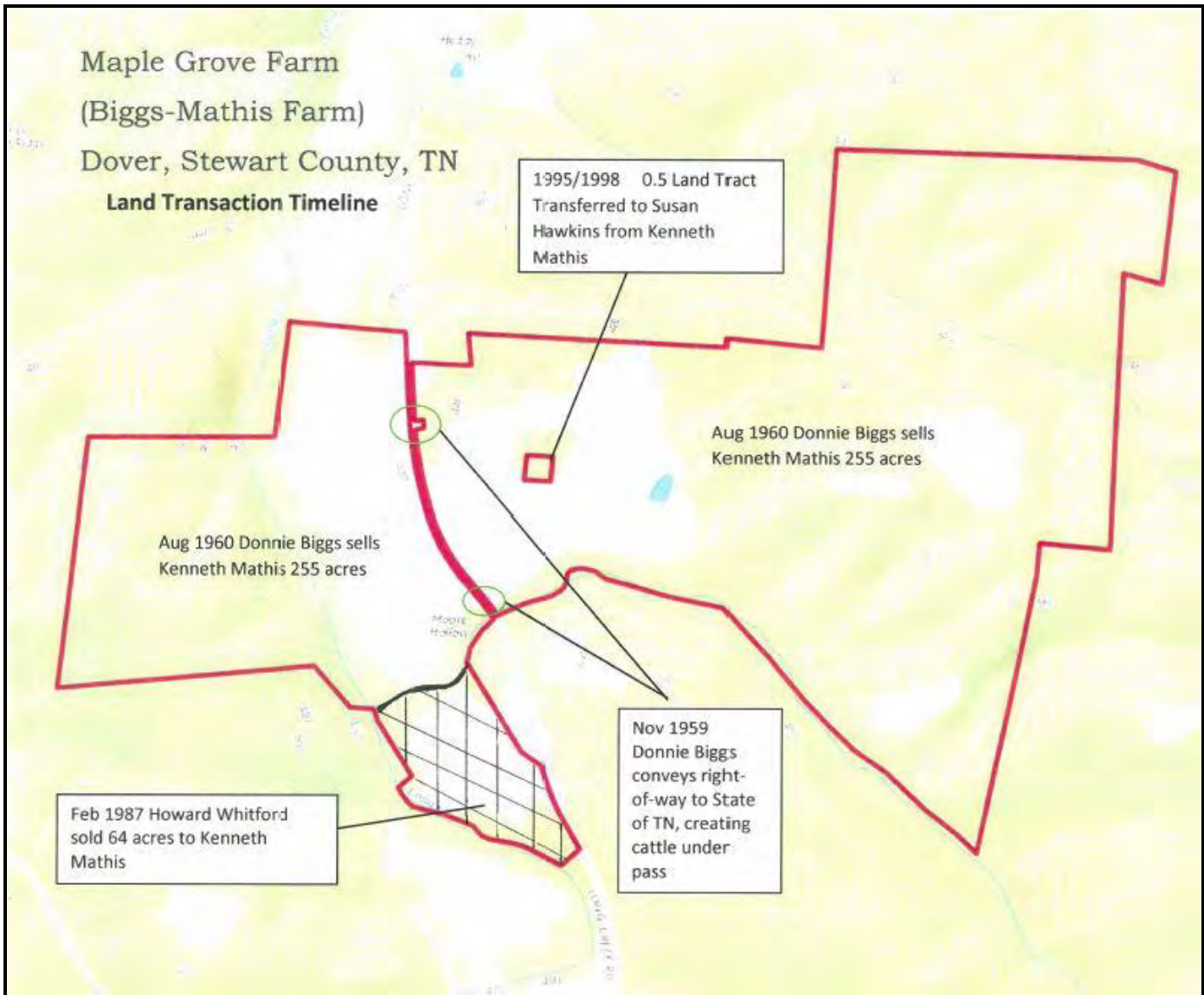


Figure 2: Land Transaction Timeline since 1959 for Maple Grove Farm. Shown in the hash-marked southern portion of the map is the 64-acre portion of land that was purchased in 1987. This tract is excluded from the National Register boundaries because it was not historically associated with Maple Grove Farm.

Property Owner:

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name	K & E Mathis Farms, LLC		
Street & Number	544 Long Creek Road	Telephone	931-305-9926
City or Town	Dover	State/Zip	TN, 37058













































MILAM
CEMETERY

MILAM











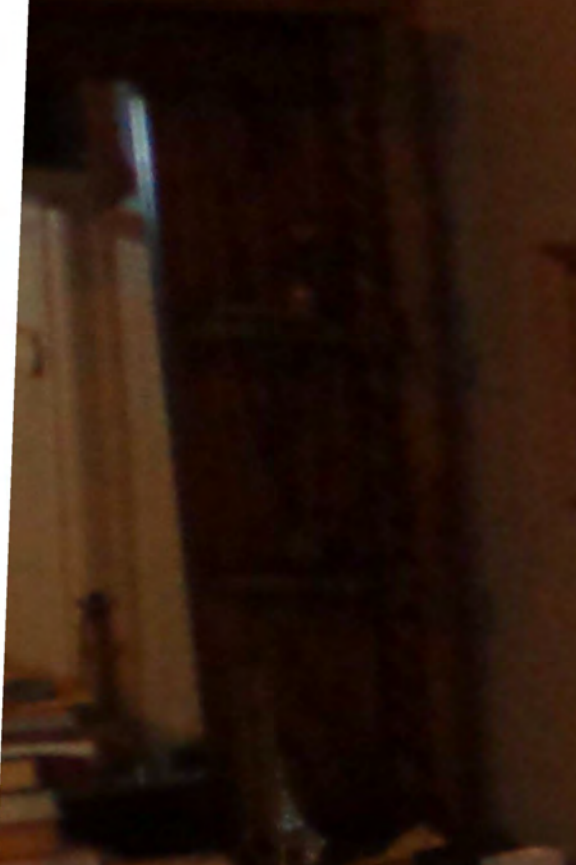


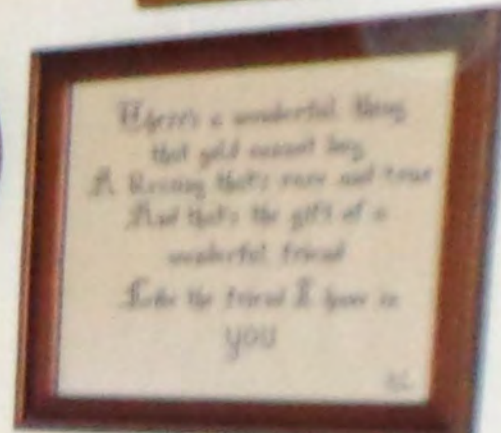
























National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Resubmission

Property Name: Maple Grove Farm

Multiple Name: Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPS

State & County: TENNESSEE, Stewart

Date Received: 12/21/2018 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 2/4/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: RS100003157

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 1/31/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Meets the registration requirements of the MPS. An intact farmstead, with numerous historic outbuildings and field/woodlot patterns evident from the POS. Associated with agricultural development in area.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A

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.



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 770-1089



October 15, 2018

Dr. Julie Ernstein
Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

National Register Nomination

- *Maple Grove Farm, Stewart County, Tennessee*

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct nomination for listing of *Maple Grove Farm* to the National Register of Historic Places. We received no comments.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Rebecca Schmitt at (615) 770-1086 or Rebecca.Schmitt@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:rs

Enclosures(2)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Maple Grove Farm
Other names/site number Biggs-Mathis Farm; Biggs, J. Luke, Farm; Mathis, Kenneth, Farm
Name of related multiple property listing Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960
(Remove "N/A" if property is part of a multiple property listing and add name)

2. Location

Street & Number: 544 Long Creek Road
City or town: Dover State: TN County: Stewart
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A Zip: 37058

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Claudia H. [Signature] 10/15/18
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: Date

Title: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	9	buildings
2	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
8	10	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/Storage; Animal Facility;

Agricultural Outbuildings; Agricultural Fields

FUNERARY/Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/Storage; Animal Facility;

Agricultural Outbuildings; Agricultural Fields;

Horticultural Facility

FUNERARY/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: T-Plan

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:

STONE/Limestone; CONCRETE; WOOD/Weatherboard;
METAL/Aluminum

Returned

Narrative Description

The 308-acre Maple Grove Farm (also known as Biggs-Mathis Farm) is located 5 miles southeast of Dover in rural Stewart County, Tennessee and is situated on the banks of Long Creek, bounded by Heddy and Moore Hollows. Characterized by its low lying pastures and fields, the property envelopes the small farmhouse situated at the end of the lane which rises to meet Long Creek Road. Remnants of an old working road network further define the farm, used more frequently in past decades when greater farm activity occurred between fields and barns, and prior to modern public road improvements to Long Creek Road. Developed during the early to mid-twentieth century, the farm complex consists of a simple farmhouse with additions; an adjacent root cellar; various outbuildings associated with agriculture; wooded and forested areas; fenced pastures; and a tenant farmer cemetery.

The farm may be thought of as two distinct sections on either side of Long Creek Road. The first section, west of Long Creek Road, contains the farm house (c. 1904), root cellar or flower house (c. 1905), a corn crib (c.1910), and the loft barn (c. 1917), as well as two equipment sheds, a chicken coop, and a greenhouse which lie south of the main house. A garden and an adjacent orchard, as well as a privy, pavilion, and smokehouse are situated north of the farmhouse. Low lying pastures outlined by fence rows rise eastward from the house to meet Long Creek Road.

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The second section of the farm is east of Long Creek Road. It contains Milam Cemetery (c. 1880), a burial plot situated within the road easement for tenant workers who lived and worked in the area. Situated west and within site of the tenant farmer cemetery, a tobacco barn (c. 1917) is located at the edge of Heddy Hollow. Beyond Long Creek Road, the land steadily ascends where it crests the hill and reaches a high point between Heddy and Moore Hollows that overlooks down toward the valley and the farmhouse on Long Creek below. Located at the top of the hill, another smaller pole barn currently exists but is unused due to its deteriorated condition. A larger tobacco barn used for hay storage, a modern residential house (1995), and wood garage (c. 1996) are also on the property. Further east beyond the house, remnants of old charcoal pits still exist imbedded in the scarred landscape and likely connect the farm to the Stewart County area's historic Iron Industry. The entire Biggs-Mathis farm tract is also demarcated by a tree-line that outlines the property from neighboring land owners, and contains adjacent heavily forested areas at its steepest points and along ridge lines. Beyond the hilltop where livestock meander grazing in nearby pastures, the tree-lined areas give way to significant remaining timber stands and forested hollows. Areas along and beyond the farm's tree-line once adjoined a network of dirt roads that led to both the Bear Springs and Dover Iron Furnaces,¹ which provided abundant timber stands to fuel nearby furnaces.

The Biggs-Mathis Farm remains an intact working farm and retains its historic integrity exemplifying the rural character and agricultural landscape of a Stewart County farm situated along Tennessee's western Highland Rim. Situated on the banks of Long Creek, the farmhouse is surrounded by farm land which has seen minimal changes since the Biggs family owned it. Originally purchased from iron master Samuel Stacker's estate in 1875, the farm was historically sourced for timber to make charcoal used in the area's early thriving iron industry, specifically the operation of nearby Bear Spring Furnace. Today, the present area surrounding the Biggs-Mathis Farm is predominately agricultural in use which includes beef cattle production, about 100 acres of cropland, and the remainder being forested.

1. Biggs-Mathis Farmhouse, 1904 with modifications (contributing building)

The Biggs-Mathis House is a two-story farmhouse constructed of white oak, with no ornate details, resting on a limestone rock foundation taken from Long Creek. Originally built from 1902 to 1904 in a two-story T-shaped plan, two L-shaped porches existed on the both of the first level corners of the east facing façade and connected by a breezeway, including a small porch originally located on the west (rear) elevation just outside the kitchen. The central interior staircase to the upper story was originally accessible only from the main entry through the L-shaped porch (southeast corner of façade).

Over the years the farmhouse has evolved to accommodate its occupants' needs. During the early 20th century, the house was minimally modified to add modern conveniences (electricity in 1919, a waterline in 1928, and a telephone line in 1929). Towards the end of the Period of Significance, in the 1950s, the form of the house changed with additions including a bathroom set on limestone rock foundation on the rear, west elevation; extension of the kitchen to create a utility area which enclosed a porch at the northwest corner of the south elevation; and a back porch set on either a concrete slab and/or or block foundation. The breezeway was enclosed at the center of the house toward the north elevation and access to the interior central staircase was modified and the main entry to the house was relocated through the central living room.

¹ State of Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Geology. Map of Stewart County. Walter F. Pond State Geologist. (Nashville, TN: State of Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Geology, 1937). TSLA Map Collection, Map #2099.

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During the 1970s, the remaining L-shaped porch (northeast elevation, facing front) was enclosed to create a carport on a concrete slab, the kitchen was updated and enlarged creating the dining room (front southeast L-shaped porch enclosed), and during the 1980s a second bathroom was set on concrete block created from the utility area, including screening the remaining L-shaped porch (southeast front). One large limestone chimney still exists in the center of the house (north elevation), while a smaller chimney once located on the southern elevation for the kitchen stove. Remnants of a limestone chimney also still exist in the attic overlooking the east façade, but it is now closed off. All of the windows were replaced with vinyl windows (the same size as the originals), except for three located on the second story on the rear of the house (rear, west elevation) during the 1990s.² The original farmhouse's gable roof is still covered and maintained in the original fish-scale style tin, while a 5V crimp metal roof now covers the post-1950s additions. The original weatherboard exterior is still extant, although now covered with modern vinyl siding.

Additions and modifications that occurred after the Period of Significance do not significantly detract from the farmhouse's ability to contribute to the agricultural significance of the farm. The new materials used in the additions or maintenance of the house closely align with the appearance of the historic farm house and still convey the unassuming aesthetic of the historic farmhouse.

EXTERIOR

The principal east-facing façade consists of two elevations that converge to convey the farmhouse's historic T-shaped plan. The front entrance is situated at the convergence of the elevations within a one-story screened-in porch. To the south of the front entrance is a one-story enclosed porch, covered by a metal shed roof and featuring paired 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows. This area was enclosed in the 1970s to create a small dining room. The adjacent screened-in porch also has a metal shed roof. It is accessed via a decorative metal screen door. The main entry door into the home is a 6-panel wood door with two top glass insets. Just east of the main entrance are two side-by-side double-hung vinyl windows, and one 1/1 double-hung vinyl window.

Connected to the porch area is the two-story front gable east elevation that overlooks the front yard, containing a double-paned sliding vinyl window on the first floor and a second-story attic space with a 1/1 double-hung vinyl window. The gable roof line has simple boxed cornices, painted white and returned at all gable ends, topped with the original fish-scale style tin roof. A carport addition during the 1970s extended the metal roofline angle over a one-story addition which meets the north elevation, and continues the boxed cornices roofline. Following this alteration, three separate and symmetrical 1/1 large double-hung vinyl windows located on the northern elevation and one small 1/1 vinyl double hung window on the east elevation were restricted from view by the carport.

Flush with the one-story carport addition, the northern elevation moves west toward the rear corner of the house with one large 1/1 double hung vinyl window located in the original L-section, formerly a porch. The porch was enclosed originally during the 1950s and altered with the carport addition in the 1970s. A single 1/1 double hung vinyl bedroom window is also located in the second story gable of the north elevation.

The west elevation, considered the rear of the house and adjacent to Long Creek, is comprised of four windows on the first level and three on the second level. The three upper-level 6/6 double-hung windows are

² All of the original windows for the house have been retained by the owner, interview with Susan Hawkins, June 2018.

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original to the house, while the bottom four 1/1 double hung vinyl windows were installed in the 1990s. The two bathroom additions, initially completed during the 1950s and later in 1980s, also flank the house along the west elevation, including a utility room addition, and an open porch which was repaired in recent years due its deteriorated condition. All of these additions including the porch have a metal shed roof. The south elevation encompasses the utility room addition along with concrete steps that enter the south elevation at the porch. Two separate single 1/1 double hung windows are located in the kitchen area along the south elevation, and another located just before meeting the dining room area, which was created upon enclosure of the original L-shaped porch in the 1970s. A small chimney once existed on the south façade for a cooking stove, but was removed during the 1950s.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Biggs-Mathis House has a T-shaped plan. Although alterations have been made to the farm house throughout the decades to meet the evolving needs of its occupants, many original features are extant. The first and second story of the house retain the original wood plank floors (except the kitchen), while the central chimney and mantel located in the living room and adjacent bedroom are also original to the home. The farmhouse originally had nine rooms, located on both the first and second floors, consisting of four or five bedrooms, a large storage room, kitchen, dining/parlor, an upstairs attic space, including two porches on the east (front) façade) and a small porch located off the kitchen (rear, west elevation). Enclosure of the front and back porch areas, including bathroom additions, created a total of 12 interior rooms. The walls are plaster and original to the house, and have only been painted or covered with wood paneling. The T-shaped plan and design is still visible in the remaining original L-shaped porch (northeast corner).

First floor

The original front entrance from the eastern façade had two doors, one opened into the dining room/den area, and the second door opened directly to a staircase that led to the upper story rooms and attic space. Visitors entered through an L-shaped porch with 2/2, double-hung, wood sashed windows looking out from the parlor (living room) and front bedroom visible from the front porch. The once open L-shaped porch has been enclosed, and visitors now enter through a screened porch directly into the dining area and adjacent den (south facing doorway). Enclosure of the breezeway at the center of the house which connected the two L-shaped porches during the 1950s created additional interior space to the living room area. Today, the main entrance opens directly into a small dining room area located east off the den and kitchen, and contains two side by side double hung vinyl windows along the east wall, including a small table and chairs. The den area is also immediately visible and extends off the current house entrance. A staircase opens directly into the den, and a closet now exists underneath the staircase for storage. The original access to the staircase through the porch was closed off to the exterior porch area in the 1950s. A drop-ceiling was later added in the 1970s, and a kitchen bar cut in the wall dividing the den and the kitchen in the 1980s to provide a more open area and movement between kitchen and den. Located at the west end of the den is a doorway to a bathroom which has one small window, including a bathtub that likely dates to the bathroom addition to the west elevation in the 1950s. Another doorway located off the den (south) extends into the kitchen, while a third doorway leads into the present-day living room area. The walls are plaster and have only been painted or covered with wood paneling.

South of the den and extended from the small dining room is the kitchen. A cooking stove connected to a small chimney, used in this room for cooking and heating purposes, was once located along the south wall.

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During the 1950s, the south wall was covered by cabinets where the current cooking stove now exists.³ In addition, the west walls were further extended to create the present washer/dryer (utility room) and enclosed an original porch. Later, a second bathroom was added in the 1980s, and a different porch was reconstructed and replaced many times.⁴ Double-hung windows located on the south elevation and original to the house were replaced with two smaller 1/1 double hung vinyl windows along with additional cabinets in the kitchen in the 1990s.

From the den (north), a hallway opens along the north wall into the living room. This room was previously used as both a sitting room and/or bedroom by the Biggs and included a large hearth and fireplace.⁵ Today, this room functions as a family living room and the large hearth and fireplace were updated in c. 2003; the chimney portion remains in the same location from original construction. A closet next to the fireplace was added later at an unknown date. Moving north through the living room, a door leads to a bedroom and study located off the living room and is connected by an adjoining wall that includes a fireplace and mantel. Another door from the original entrance off the L-shaped porch is still visible on the south wall, while another door leads east into the front bedroom. During the 1950s, the breezeway between the porches was enclosed and incorporated into this room (see floor plans).⁶ The pine wood paneling was added sometime in the 1950s or 1960s, followed later with a drop-ceiling. The wood floors are original to construction.

Located on the north side of the living room is a bedroom. The fireplace and hearth adjoined the adjacent living room and also opened into this room as well, but it is presently now closed off to this bedroom. The mantel above the fireplace is original to the house. Modifications include three closets built along the north facing wall, wood paneling added later, and carpet now covers the wood floors. Two 1/1 double-hung windows in this room are vinyl replacement windows (west elevation). A doorway leading to a smaller room was once used as a small bedroom, yet now used as study. This small room has two 1/1 double hung windows and was originally was part of the original L-shaped porch, connected by a breeze way that extended the length of the house (See floor plans). The L-shaped porch was enclosed sometime in the 1950s, and a doorway that leads from this room into the carport added later in the 1970s.

The front room facing east is used as a bedroom and is the only room in the house with a larger double sliding window. A total of six windows exist in this room and the original windows were replaced with the similar sized vinyl double-hung windows. Wood paneling and carpet was added in the early 1970s, although the wood floors remain underneath and are original to the home. At one time, a wood-burning stove was located in this the room with a limestone chimney found in the attic and directly above this room. In all likelihood, this room was historically used as a bedroom but remained separated from the rest of the house by the porch breezeway that created the open L-shaped porches.⁷ The large closet was added to the room at an unknown date.

Second Floor

There are four rooms on the second level. The only modifications to the upstairs included the addition of carpet over the original wood floors, along with wood paneling in all of the rooms except for the storage

³ The kitchen has been enlarged at least twice. An interview with previous owner, Kenneth Mathis, confirmed an original stovepipe/chimney existed along the south-facing wall for a cooking stove.

⁴ Kenneth Mathis, interview with previous owner of Biggs farm by Susan Hawkins, 2005.

⁵ James R. Settle, interview by Susan Hawkins, June 2017.

⁶ James R. Settle, Sketch, June 2017.

⁷ James R. Settle, Sketch, June 2017.

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room (attic, south elevation). The staircase landing at the top of the stairs has two doorways. A simple 2/2 paneled doorway leads through the south wall into a large, windowless storage room with brown fiberboard covering the walls, ceiling, and floor added sometime in the 1970s. A second entrance on the north wall leads through a simple 2/2 paneled doorway into two more rooms (northwest corner) which have been used as bedrooms since the 1970s. The first bedroom has only one 6/6 double hung window that is original to the house. A closet was added at an unknown date, and the built-in bookshelves were added in the 1980s. The small wood doorway with a pocket door located on the east wall leads into the unfinished attic. A small 1/1 double hung window on the east wall of the attic looks east toward Long Creek Road and over the front yard. The third door on the north wall of the bedroom has three windows; the small ones are original 6/6 double hung windows (west elevation) and the large one is a replacement 1/1 double hung vinyl window (north elevation). The room has only one closet.

OUTBUILDINGS

The resources located north of the house include a smokehouse, a concrete pavilion, and a privy modified into a playhouse. A garden is also located in front of the pavilion and privy (front yard facing east) and is surrounded by a wood plank fence, similar to the way that it was in the early 20th century.

2. **Smokehouse**, c. 1990s (non-contributing building due to age)

This small (8.4' x 8.8') 1990s smokehouse constructed of prefabricated treated lumber is located on the north side of the house. The front gable structure with a metal shingle roof is set on concrete cinder blocks and has a wooden door on the eastern elevation. This new smokehouse replaced an original smokehouse located directly behind the house.

3. **Concrete Pavilion**, c. 1990s (non-contributing structure due to age)

Constructed in the 1990s on a concrete (13.5' x 20.5') pad, the pavilion has a gable styled metal roof situated on treated lumber posts and supported by angled trusses.

4. **Privy**, c. 1900s (contributing building)

This original privy (4.1' x 5') is a board and batten structure with a metal gable roof and front door facing south. It stands next to the pavilion. The interior was modified by filling in the pot hole and covering it with linoleum for use as a child's playhouse in the 1970s. The exterior retains its historic form and materials.

5. **Flower House (Root Cellar)**, c. 1905 (contributing building)

The flower house (or root cellar measuring 14' x 15.6') is located on the south side of the house near the kitchen and was constructed in 1905, then in later years expanded or modified by Mr. Biggs (during the Period of Significance). A single door opens onto a dirt floor where root vegetables were stored. Concrete shelves line either side of the room. Both the door and awning windows are board and batten construction facing south. The flower house windows were opened on sunny days to provide sunlight to plants inside, and closed up during the winter.⁸ The flower house walls are concrete and constructed partially underground at an angle. The original tin metal roof has been replaced with new metal roof material. Besides known as the flower house, the structure was also used as a root cellar. Plants were kept inside during the winter, including canned fruit from the Biggs orchard along with potatoes. Today, the building is used as a water-pump house to pump water from a spring located near Long Creek.

⁸ Biggs' great-nephew, James R. Settle, interview by Susan Hawkins, September 2017. J. Luke referred to the flower house throughout his diary entries, and Aunt Jennie kept flowers in the flower house during the winter months.

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6. Equipment Shed #1, c. 1980s (non-contributing building due to age)

South of the house and flower house are two equipment sheds that sit on either side of the chicken coop. The first four-bay shed (18.3' x 40') was constructed by Mr. Mathis similar to a pole barn using cedar posts, which has an open-air side facing east, with a board and batten exterior cover, and a gable style 5V crimp metal roof. Over the years, Mr. Mathis stored tractors and various farm equipment, later making needed repairs with poplar wood.

7. Equipment Shed #2, c. 1990s (non-contributing building due to age)

The second six-bay shed (20.6" x 61') was built in 1990s also by Mr. Mathis that replaced an original shed in the same location. This structure is constructed of poplar wood with cedar posts, has open-air sides which face east, enclosed exterior sides covered with board and batten, and includes one enclosed bay with a hinged door and latch. The shed has a gable style 5V crimp metal roof, and currently houses additional farming equipment such as tractors, a hay mower, hay baler, and lawn mowers.

8. Chicken coop, c. 1905, 1970s (non-contributing building due to alterations)

The chicken coop (11' x 8') is board and batten built with white oak wood with a gable 5V crimp metal roof, although later altered in the 1970s, with only a portion of the structure and its location original to the Biggs farm. The structure looks like a smaller version of the loft-barn, yet has no doors, with the east side open and unobstructed. Currently the structure houses fencing and other smaller farm materials and equipment.

9. Greenhouse, 2014 (non-contributing building due to age)

The greenhouse is a 30' x 40' polyurethane dome shaped by tunnel used to grow plants, vegetables and herbs. It is also used to house plants in the winter. It was added to the property in 2014.

10. Corn Crib, c. 1912 (contributing structure)

The corn crib (12' x 21') together with the two-story loft barn are both enclosed within the barn lot/paddock by fencing just as it existed during Mr. Biggs' lifetime. The two-room front-gabled roof style corn crib sits on large limestone rocks, with wood boards made of white oak for siding and a metal roof. Two limestone rocks act as steps into the building. An earthen berm exists to the side of the west wall, beneath a cut-out opening in the wall. This opening allowed farmers to pull a wagon-load or truckload of ear corn on top of the berm to unload corn in the crib. The corn crib was rebuilt in c. 1912 after the original 1904 structure burned.⁹ The corn crib is currently not being used.

11. Loft-barn, c. 1917 (contributing building)

The loft-barn, located near the corn crib, is situated within a fenced-in barn lot/paddock enclosure and is the largest structure/building on the farm built by Biggs. The two-story building is constructed of white oak and has a central hallway on an east-west axis with two heavy wood doors hung from metal tracks (with original metal works) on both ends of the hallway. The exterior of the barn is of board and batten oak wood construction, with a gable style metal 5V crimp metal roof. The foundation of the barn is concrete and the first floor interior has two large animal stalls, each with two wooden doors and wood troughs. At the eastern side of the first floor, there is a large open area and a hay rack. Hay or alfalfa was dropped from the loft above into the racks for the animals. An interior staircase on the north side wall leads into the upper loft. The second story floor is made of white oak, with a trapdoor in the center of the floor. Hay was lifted into the loft from the eastern side, which used a large opening using a pulley mechanism. On the west side of the barn is a smaller opening with small cut-out shapes of a quarter moon and star. Two modern-era hay sheds

⁹ J. Luke Biggs Diary, 1898-1959.

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flank the loft barn, but these do not detract from the original loft barn's historic characteristics nor ability to contribute the property's agricultural significance.

12. Tobacco Barn, c. 1919 (contributing building)

Across Long Creek Road is a vertical board and batten two story wood framed tobacco barn (c. 1919) with exposed rafters and a steep gabled roof, now covered in a 5V crimp metal roof. Two double doors open on the north and south sides of the tobacco barn, which is constructed with tier poles set into dirt floor. A one and half story board and batten stripping shed with exposed rafters and a shed roof is on the east side. Dark-fired tobacco barns, similar to the one constructed by Biggs, are still prevalent in and around Stewart County. The barn interior is open except for a scaffold containing six tiers of removable horizontal poles from which tobacco stalks hung with their leaves suspended above the earthen floor. Shallow trenches around the perimeter of the barn were built to contain the smoldering fire that helps in both the drying and curing of the tobacco. Openings or vents in the roof allow some of the smoke from the firing process to escape. When the firing process was finished and the tobacco ready to leave the barn, doors on the north and south elevations were removed and workers loaded the tobacco directly in the trucks. The original metal tin roof has been replaced with 5V crimp. Dark-fired and burley tobacco was grown on the farm as late as 2004.¹⁰ Today, the owners use the barn for hay and other animal storage needs.

13. Milam Cemetery, c. 1880 (contributing site)

Approximately 250 feet south and east of the tobacco barn is the small, somewhat undefined area situated within the road easement of Long Creek Road, known as Milam Cemetery. Marked with a simple metal sign, the cemetery has nine identified graves, although there might be more located within the property easement, either covered by debris, pavement, and/or unmarked.¹¹ Most of the identified graves are marked simply with stones; four have headstones, and one has lettering, but is very weathered and cannot be read. The Milam family along with other individuals or families are known to have lived as tenant farmers on the property and/or in the area after the Civil War and into the twentieth century during the Period of Significance.¹² Further archaeological or genealogical investigation is needed regarding the Milam Cemetery to fully understand area's tenant farmer history.

14. Larger wood-frame barn, c. 1960s (non-contributing building due to age)

Located further east and up a slight hill beyond the cemetery is a large barn. This transverse vertical board and batten, wood-framed barn was once used as a tobacco barn and has tier poles, a dirt floor, and a metal roof. Board and batten wood sheds flank the center barn, with double doors that can be closed on the east and west sides. Not original to the farm, this barn was relocated from the Land Between the Lakes area in the 1960s and is currently used for hay storage.

¹⁰ J. Luke Biggs Diary, 1898-1959.

¹¹ Information regarding those buried in the cemetery include the graves of both African-American and white Individuals. Stewart County Historical Society, *Cemeteries of Stewart County* (Dover, TN: Stewart County Historical Society, 1983), 137-138.

¹² Mr. Charles (Scud) Settle, interview by Susan Hawkins, April 18, 2018. Mr. Settle is a lifelong neighbor in the community and is familiar with Mr. Luke Biggs. Mr. Settle recalls being told by Mr. Luke that "as a young boy, a Black woman lived on the place who [sic] didn't really know the words or sing an entire hymn, yet instead would sing the words to the hymn, "Sweet By and By" over and over."

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15. **Smaller Barn**, c. 1960s (non-contributing building due to age)

Just east of the larger barn is a smaller barn that is in poor condition. The barn is wood-frame partially covered with a metal roof. Other areas of the structure have no roof. Some sheets of metal remain as siding, but most of the structure has no siding.

16. **Modern Residential House**, 1995 (non-contributing building due to age)

South of the larger hay barn, a single-family log home sits on one-acre of the original Biggs farm. This land area was deeded to Susan Hawkins, daughter of Kenneth Mathis, in 1994, and the log home was completed the next year. The home has a rectangular footprint with prominent screened-in porch on the western façade. The house is constructed with stacked, yellow cypress, with white chinking. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

17. **Detached Garage**, c. 1996 (non-contributing building due to age)

The detached wood garage/storage building was completed later in 1996, from poplar harvested from the Biggs farm. It is a simple front-gable structure with vertical board and batten siding and two open stalls on the western elevation.

18. **Landscape Patterns**, c. 1898 (contributing site)

The farm's agricultural landscape includes low lying fields and pastures bounded by hollows and hill tops, outlined by tree-lined forested areas, yet further defined by long revered fence lines, Long Creek and its namesake, Long Creek Road. Besides Long Creek Road, remnants of an old working road network further defines the farm situated on Long Creek, although once used more frequently in past decades when greater farm activity occurred between fields and barns and prior to public road development. Situated within a wooded area along the Long Creek Road easement is Milam Cemetery, a seemingly hastily created burial plot for tenant workers who once lived and worked in the area. Rising from the easement off Long Creek Road, the land steadily ascends where it crests atop the hill, reaching a high point between Heddy and Moore Hollows that overlooks down toward the valley below. This east side of the farm is where a modern 1995 residential house is now situated on the property. Beyond the house moving further east, remnants of an old charcoal pits still exist imbedded in the scarred landscape and likely connects the farm to the Stewart County area's Iron Industry, which used the once abundant timber stands to fuel nearby furnaces. The entire Biggs-Mathis farm tract is further demarcated by a tree-line that outlines the property from neighboring land owners, and contains adjacent heavily forested areas at its steepest points and along ridge lines. Beyond the hilltop where livestock meander grazing in nearby pastures, the tree-lined areas give way to significant remaining timber stands and forested hollows. Areas along and beyond the farm's tree-line once adjoined a network of dirt roads that led to both the Bear Springs and Dover Iron Furnaces, providing the significant timber resources needed in making charcoal used to fire the nearby iron furnaces.¹³

Integrity

Today, the Biggs-Mathis Farm continues to retain much of its rural, pastoral landscape as it did during J. Luke Biggs' ownership of the farm from the early to the mid-twentieth century. Situated in Stewart County, Tennessee, just outside Dover and along the western Highland Rim, the farm still remains part of a larger farming community in the area and retains considerable historical integrity of location, setting, association,

¹³ State of Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Geology. Map of Stewart County. Walter F. Pond State Geologist. (Nashville, TN: State of Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Geology, 1937). TSLA Map Collection, Map #2099.

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and feeling, as well as a high degree of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The farm's agricultural landscape includes low lying fields and pastures bounded by hollows and hill tops, outlined by tree-lined forested areas, yet further defined by long revered fence lines, Long Creek and its namesake, Long Creek Road. Within this landscape a continuous working farm complex includes an understated farm house, a root cellar, various outbuildings associated with agriculture, fenced pastures, wooded forested areas and a tenant farmer cemetery. Together, these individual components have combined to create a distinct and significant agricultural landscape that has developed over the years, beginning with the farm's establishment by the Biggs family in the late nineteenth century and continuing into the mid-twentieth century era to today.

Returned

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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.)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1898-1959

Significant Dates

1900; 1905; 1910; 1917; 1919

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Biggs, J. Luke

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- 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.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

N/A

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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Statement of Significance

Maple Grove Farm, located five miles southeast of Dover, the county seat of Stewart County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in agriculture as an early middle-class farmstead that evolved into a progressive farmscape during the early to mid-twentieth century. Situated on approximately 308 acres at the end of Heddy and Moore Hollows, the farm parallels Long Creek and consists of a circa 1904 two-story T-shaped farm house; agricultural outbuildings; farm pastures; wooded areas, and the Milam tenant farmer cemetery. These features are representative of the agricultural history of Stewart County and northwest Middle Tennessee along the Western Highland Rim region, as well as progressive farming techniques. The farm retains its early twentieth century integrity, despite years of both economic and social changes in rural life and agricultural conditions among area family farms. The period of significance begins in 1898 with the establishment of the farm and ends in 1959 with the death of owner J. Luke Biggs. The farm meets the registration requirements of the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960 MPS.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Background: Stewart County and the Biggs Family

Throughout Tennessee, both regional geologic factors and agriculture played a significant role in shaping the state's early agricultural history and settlement patterns. Climate, topography, soil, and access to water greatly influenced the development of and attraction to the area around the Highland Rim in Middle Tennessee, in particular Stewart County. Early westward movement across Tennessee was initially driven by European settlers coming from North Carolina who were recipients of land grants for services rendered during the Revolutionary War. Even in advance of Tennessee's entrance into the Union as a separate state in 1796, some of these first settlers who came to the Stewart County area were interested in acquiring land for farming and settling permanently. As early pioneers began settling the Stewart County area, rural families survived on subsistence farming of livestock and crops such as corn, wheat, cotton and later tobacco. These settlers also found the area rich in wildlife and plentiful wild game, which attracted Native Americans who remained in the area hunting around the Tennessee River until 1812.¹⁴ Additionally, the Stewart County area abounded with significant stands of timber and woodlands supplying farmers with wood for heating, shelter to house their families and livestock, farm implements and fencing material. These forested areas were gradually cleared to facilitate crop production.¹⁵ Once forested areas were cleared, early agricultural crops such as cotton, corn, sorghum and wheat were grown by early settlers, while tobacco became a significant and profitable cash crop by the later part of the nineteenth century. Like many counties along the Western Highland Rim, Stewart County is well drained by the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, which includes the elevated Tennessee Ridge region encompassing the watershed between the two streams. In addition, prior to Stewart County's organization, the area attracted early iron-making interests due to the substantial iron mineral resources found scattered throughout the area's soil. Because iron deposits existed on both sides of the Cumberland River and extended to the Tennessee River on the west, covering fully one-third of Stewart

¹⁴ R.M. Gramly. *Prehistoric Lithic Industry at Dover, Tennessee* (New York: Persimmon Press, 1992).

¹⁵ Stewart County Historical Society, *Stewart County Heritage, Dover, Tennessee* (Dover, TN: Stewart County Historical Society, 1980), page 8-10; *The Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham and Houston Counties of Tennessee*. (Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886), Reproduced (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 896-898.

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County, the county's earliest enterprise supported the prosperous manufacture of pig-iron from 1797 through the 1930s.¹⁶

Soon after Stewart County's establishment in 1803, Kedar (also Cedar) Biggs arrived from North Carolina and is first recorded as living in Stewart County in 1810. By 1820, Biggs had married Mary (Morgan) Biggs (1796-1864), also another early settler in the area.¹⁷ The earliest existence of the Biggs farm situated along Long Creek began when the Biggs purchased 25 acres in 1831 from Mary's father, Matthew Morgan, a native of Kentucky.¹⁸ In this area around Long Creek, Stewart County's Seventh Civil District,¹⁹ Kedar Biggs established a small farm and also further expanded his growing family, eventually accumulating 400 acres valued at \$500, with an estate valued at \$1000 by 1850.²⁰ Later, Kader's second child, Reuben Biggs (1829-1896), who was born in Stewart County and spent his childhood working alongside his father on his family's farm, also entered into farming as a livelihood. Besides continuing the farming tradition of his father, by 1852 at 23 years Reuben also had begun working as a foreman for Samuel Stacker (1788-1859)²¹ in the construction of the Stacker House (NR Listed 4/11/1988) at Evergreen farm until 1859.²² Following his employment with Samuel Stacker and marriage to Mary (McGee) Biggs (1843-1880) in April 1859, Reuben purchased an initial 100 acre tract on Long Creek from John Kirksey for \$900, and further expanded the Biggs family's presence in the area around Long Creek.²³ From 1859 until 1894, Rueben Biggs

¹⁶ J. B. Killebrew, A. M. Commissioner of Agriculture, Statistics & Mines. *Tennessee: Its Agricultural and Mineral Wealth* (Nashville, TN: 1876), 69-70.

¹⁷ Ancestry.com. 1810 Tennessee, *Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1810-1891* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]; Ancestry.com. *1820 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]; tngenweb.org. *Goodspeed Stewart County History: Biographies*. "Reuben Biggs." Available [online]: <http://www.tngenweb.org/stewart/gsbio1.htm> [1 June 2018].

¹⁸ Matthew Morgan quit claim deeds to Kedar Biggs 25 acres for \$5.56, and later in Morgan's will and estate inventory dated 1839 gives \$100 to Mary (Morgan) Biggs, his daughter, while his son in-law Kedar receives some cattle, 1 bell, 1 lot, 1 shovel, curtains and bed clothes. Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 9, August 1, 1831, page 244-245, Microfilm Roll 69, TSLA.; Stewart County Wills and Inventory of Account of Sales, Vol. D, page 397-398, 403-406, Roll 52, TSLA.

¹⁹ District Seven encompasses the area around Long and Lick Creeks, including Dover, Tennessee. Iris Hopkins McClain, *A History of Stewart County, Tennessee* (Columbia: Iris Hopkins McClain, 1965), 20.

²⁰ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1850 with Index* (Lebanon: T. E. Partlow, 1996), 2; Jim Long, *Stewart County, Tennessee Tax Lists 1841-1866* (Franklin: Jim Long, 2012), 160.

²¹ Samuel Stacker, a prominent area iron manufacturer and part owner of the Cumberland Iron Works, was born in Radnor Township, Pennsylvania in 1788, although he had originally arrived in Nashville in 1819 to work as a contractor on the first bridge built across the Cumberland River. Both Samuel and his brother John eventually became successful iron masters of Stewart County after purchase of a furnace in Montgomery County by the late 1820s. In 1827, Samuel and John Stacker signed a petition requesting special treatment for iron manufacturers with regard to military service, and several other prominent iron masters in Tennessee also signed this petition. Samuel Stacker lived in Stewart County along Long Creek Road (just north of the Biggs Farm) from 1837 until his death in 1859 and was actively involved in the various furnace operations, unlike other individuals who were just invested in the iron works and lived outside the region. Claudette Stager, "Samuel Stacker House" National Register nomination (NR 02/26/88), Section 8, 1 & 2.

²² From 1852-1859, beginning with Reuben Biggs (23 years), is listed in Samuel Stacker's ledger accounts list as part of the work crew earning wages to construct the house at the Randle House, also later known as the Stacker Place. Samuel Stacker Papers, 1813-1859, Vol. 1, ca. 40, item no. 749, Small Collections, S-37, Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA), Nashville, Tennessee; Tennessee Century Farms. "Evergreen Farm." Available [online]: <http://www.tncenturyfarms.org/stewart-county/> [1 June 2018].

²³ Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 21, page 89, Microfilm Roll 74, TSLA.

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continued to buy and sell various land tracts of which he eventually acquired over 800 acres situated along Long Creek alone.²⁴ Despite his limited education, Reuben took advantage of his farming knowledge and experience as well as the area's abundant natural resources and became a prosperous farmer in his own right and was among the first successive generations of early Stewart County settlers to acquire significant land holdings.

A review of Reuben Biggs' early farm establishment and later development activities provides a glimpse of his agricultural production pursuits during the mid to late nineteenth century. The 1860 Census recorded that Biggs' household consisted of his wife, Mary and their young son, William, living on land valued at \$1,600, a personal estate value of \$1,500, including 4 slaves.²⁵ That same year, Reuben also reported raising 8 sheep producing 100 pounds of wool, 28 hogs, 3 milk cows making 150 pounds of butter, and 2 working oxen, while also growing 6 pounds of Irish potatoes and 750 pounds of Indian corn.²⁶ Shortly after the Civil War in 1870, Reuben and Mary, together with their six children were found living with his wife's parents, Thomas (1803-1888) (age 66) and Rebecca (Anderson) McGee (1807-1872) (age 64), likely to assist his aging in-laws with farm work. That same year, he also reported an estate value of \$2,000 including a personal estate of \$504.²⁷ Then, just a decade later in 1880, Reuben records owning 100 acres of tilled or fallow land, 55 acres of pasture or orchards, including 650 acres of woodland, with a collective farm valued of \$3,000. That same year, his farm consists of 30 sheep, 60 hogs, 19 working oxen and other cattle, 5 milking cows making 200 pounds of butter, 23 acres in wheat, 14 acres in oats, 4 acres in tobacco, including 30 pounds of Irish potatoes and 75 pounds of sweet potatoes. Although Reuben's growing household now consisted of nine persons, his increasing prosperity as a farmer afforded him the ability to hire laborers for 44 weeks, paying them \$210 annually. He also reported farming implements and machinery valued at \$230, \$780 in livestock, and \$828 made from selling farm products.²⁸ In 1887, Goodspeed's history of Stewart County reports R. Biggs operating a saw mill located on Long Creek, an area that remained heavily forested, with timber cutting an increasingly prosperous enterprise, particularly in the production of railroad cross ties.²⁹ At his death in 1896, Reuben Biggs was considered a successful farmer who although started from nothing, later accumulated approximately one thousand acres in and around Stewart County during his lifetime, and is particularly noted for paying considerable taxes in Stewart County alone.³⁰

²⁴ Jim Long. *Stewart County, Tennessee: Deed Book Indexes (1786-1884)* (Franklin, TN: J. Long, between 2000-2011).

²⁵ Ancestry.com. *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

²⁶ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1860* (Lebanon: Thomas E. Partlow, 1994), 85; Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Slave Schedule of 1860* (Lebanon: T. E. Partlow, 1996), 21.; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860 for Agriculture, Stewart County Roll 5, page 1-2, Microfilm 1537, TSLA.

²⁷ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1870 with Index* (Lebanon: T. E. Partlow, 1994), 129; Ancestry.com. *1870 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009.

²⁸ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1880 with Index* (Lebanon: T. E. Partlow, 1993), 147; Ancestry.com. *United States, Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

²⁹ *The Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham, and Houston Counties of Tennessee, 1886-1887*, Available [online]: <http://www.tngenweb.org/stewart/stewhist.htm> [9 May 2018]; Henry J. Milton. *Land Between the Rivers* (s.l.: Taylor Publishing Company, 197-), 72-73.

³⁰ *The Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham and Houston Counties of Tennessee*. (Nashville, TN: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886), Reproduced (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 1292.

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During the Civil War and through Reconstruction, both agricultural and economic devastation forced many Stewart County residents and Middle Tennessee farmers along with their families to combine assets and work closely together to salvage area family farms. The Biggs family, like many who chose to remain in the countryside and in the Stewart County area while under Union occupation, endured “proscribed civilian travel, correspondence, publishing, trade, and industry,” while railroads and bridges were destroyed unless needed by the occupiers.³¹ Though the Biggs family stated no specific loyalties to either to the Confederate or Union cause, they likely remained somewhat divided considering their connections to the Stacker Family and the area’s iron industries which encompassed considerable ties to Northern states. Although this position likely benefited them during and after the Civil War, the Biggs family still likely experienced hardships at the hands of their Union occupiers including roaming rebel bandits and guerilla factions, wondering refugees, and runaway slaves who pillaged the area for food and animals, destroying buildings, which created even greater chaos in the area. Despite the unprecedented physical destruction and economic upheaval, including financial losses of the Civil War, area farmers exhibited impressive resilience.³² Moreover, the Biggs family’s ability to survive and endure the Civil War including the years of Reconstruction likely allowed their farms and landholdings to remain largely intact. More specifically they likely reverted to subsistence farming and livelihoods enabling them to endure the lack of civil society which they understood from early settlement, while other area farmers were faced with economic ruin.³³

Reuben Biggs’ success as a farmer following the Civil War also likely required assistance from his family living nearby, as well as employment of additional workers either as slave labor and later tenant farmers, as his landholdings increased and agricultural production expanded. Like many farmers, Rueben was also dependent upon cooperative agricultural labor whereas area farmers involved assistance from their neighbors as well as area family members during specific demanding planting and/or or harvest times. In 1860, Rueben reported having one female adult slave (age 27), including three children ages 8, 5, and 3 years,³⁴ who likely assisted Reuben’s wife with household chores and child rearing.

Although not traditionally known as a large slave holding area, Stewart County predominantly consisted of small farms and relatively small landholdings with only one in seven Stewart County families owning two or three slaves.³⁵ Yet, notable exceptions also existed such as Stewart County’s Iron Manufacturing Industry which had its beginning around the 1820s, later peaking by the mid-1850s, although largely destroyed during the Civil War. Within Stewart County, and throughout the Western Highland Rim, the area’s geology and geography provided for extensive deposits of pure iron ore (both limonite and brown hematite) scattered around the county in one to two acre concentrated pockets or “banks,” which could be easily mined and smelted. Abundant timber stands that covered Stewart County also supplied the wood needed in making the

³¹ Stephen V. Ash. *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed 1860-1870: War and Peace in the Upper South* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988), 87.

³² *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. “Reconstruction,” (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2002-2018), Available [online]: <https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net> [17 May 2018].

³³ *Ibid.*; Stephen V. Ash. *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed 1860-1870: War and Peace in the Upper South* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988), 96.

³⁴ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Slave Schedule of 1860*, Lebanon, TN: T. E. Partlow, 1996), 21.

³⁵ Stephen V. Ash. *Tennessee’s Iron Industry Revisited: The Stewart County Story* (Golden Pond, KY: Land Between the Lakes Association, 1986), 30.

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charcoal that fueled the nearby iron furnaces.³⁶ One of Stewart County's largest nineteenth century iron companies, was the Cumberland Iron Works, initially begun in the late 1820s by the Joseph and Robert Woods, Thomas Yeatman, and Samuel Stacker and his brother John Stacker, operating as Woods, Yeatman & Company (formerly Woods, Lewis, & Co.). Together, this partnership operated furnaces under the name of Woods, Yeatman, and Company, encompassing an expansive 60,000 acres in landholdings within Stewart County alone located on both sides of the Cumberland River, west of Dover, Tennessee, and was considered the county's largest slaveholder in with 250 slaves.³⁷

During the mid-1850s, Stewart County's Iron Industry reached its pinnacle with area iron manufacturers considered the area's largest slaveholders. By 1860, approximately 2,575 slaves lived in Stewart County, and comprised one-fourth of the county's population of 9,719.³⁸ *Tennessee's Iron Industry Revisited: The Stewart County Story* further explains that many furnaces during this time period in Stewart County rivaled the largest northern factories in workforce size and scale of operation, although located in rural areas where worker housing was also provided. As the need for additional labor increased, area iron masters were able to hire plenty of slaves from local farmers during times when agricultural work entered into a dormant period.³⁹ Following Samuel Stacker's death in 1859 and by the end of the Civil War, several of the iron furnaces had either closed or were destroyed which left area wood cutters and charcoal burners who formerly worked for the iron companies as an available labor source. Numerous of the former iron workers, actually considered slaves before the Civil War, were able to enter into a tenant farming and/or another shared work relationship with area farmers following the war. With the Iron Industry significantly reduced after the Civil War, only a few iron furnaces still remained in operation into the early decades of the twentieth century in Stewart County. As a result, many freedmen were able to continue working in both the Iron Industry as well as agricultural farm labor until the late 1920s, when the remaining working furnaces and their owners closed down area iron manufacturing operations due to dwindling markets and increasing competition.⁴⁰

³⁶ Stephen V. Ash. *Tennessee's Iron Industry Revisited: The Stewart County Story* (Golden Pond, KY: Land Between the Lakes Association, 1986), 1, 3, 30, & 39.

³⁷ Samuel D. Smith, Charles P. Stripling, and James M. Brannon, *A Cultural Resource Survey of Tennessee's Western Highland Rim Iron Industry, 1790s -1930s* (Nashville: Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Archaeology, Research Series No. 8, 1988), 102; Woods, Yeatman & Company (formerly known as Woods, Lewis & Company) was known to use and later employ black labor almost exclusively. Stephen V. Ash. *Tennessee's Iron Industry Revisited: A Stewart County Story* (Golden Pond, KY: Land Between the Lakes Association), 1988; During the 1820s, Samuel and his brother initially developed individual interests and later business partnerships with several of the area iron furnaces. The Bear Spring (40SW207) and Bellwood (40SW210) furnaces were operated by Cumberland Iron Works, considered one of Stewart County's larger operations, while the Stacker brothers had individual interests in the LaGrange (40SW2 14) (Stewart County) and Lafayette (40MT372) (Montgomery County) furnaces, Claudette Stager, "Samuel Stacker House" National Register nomination (NR 02/26/88), Section 8, 1 & 2.; (Killebrew 1881:100),

³⁸ Stephen V. Ash. *Tennessee's Iron Industry Revisited: The Stewart County Story* (Golden Pond, KY: Land Between the Lakes Association, 1986), 12, 29, & 30.; J. D. B DeBow. *Statistical View of the United States, 1850 Census* (Seventh Census) (Washington: A.O. P. Nicholson, Public Printer, 1854), 308, TSLA.

³⁹ Stephen V. Ash. *Tennessee's Iron Industry Revisited: The Stewart County Story* (Golden Pond, KY: Land Between the Lakes Association, 1986), 30.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 37.; Michael T. Gavin. *Tennessee Iron Furnace Trail: A Guide to Resources on the Western Highland Rim*. Murfreesboro, TN: Center for Historic Preservation, 2006.

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Early Years of J. Luke Biggs

J. Luke Biggs was born on April 3, 1878 to Rueben and Mary (McGee) Biggs. The youngest of nine children, Biggs enjoyed a childhood raised on the Biggs family farm and home place situated along Long Creek near Dover; a portion of which he would later own. In March 1880, at just two years of age, Biggs' mother died suddenly leaving his father to raise him and his seven other siblings still living in the household.⁴¹ Later that same year, Reuben quickly remarried, and from which he later had two more daughters.⁴² In the years following his mother's death, Biggs spent his youth working on the family farm alongside his father where he learned the area's agricultural traditions and the business of farm management, while he also observed his father's participation in Stewart County government as a county magistrate for twenty years.⁴³

Years later in February 1894, Biggs' step-mother died, and his father married a third time in 1895. Reuben Biggs died the following year.⁴⁴ Consequently, because Reuben died without a will, settling of his estate and legal care of the minor children were turned over the Stewart County Chancery Court. By November 1896, Biggs (18 years), along with his two younger step-sisters, Ida (15 years) and Maggie (11 years), all were placed under the guardianship of T.J. and W. M. Brandon, local area attorneys.⁴⁵ Stewart County Chancery Court minutes from November 1896 through early 1900 reveal a complicated and lengthy division of Reuben

⁴¹ Ancestry.com. *1880 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]

⁴² Stewart County Historical Society. *A History of Stewart County, Tennessee*, Volume 2. (Humboldt, TN: Rose Publishing Company, 2000), 174. Reuben Biggs' second wife was Jane A. Coleman Biggs (1845-1894), the daughter of Drew Hunter. Their two children were Ida Biggs Howard (1881-1971) and Maggie Biggs (1885-1934).

⁴³ A county magistrate serves as a local official who poses power to collect fines as determined by Stewart County and also serves as Justice of the Peace. *The Goodspeed Histories of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham and Houston Counties of Tennessee*. (Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886), Reproduced (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), page 1292.

⁴⁴ Sarah "Sallie" V. Stanfield Wofford Biggs became Reuben's third wife, whom he married October 29, 1895, and just a year later became his widow, following a year later in October 1896. A minor child is also mentioned which she states they had together, Mattie Cathy (Cathey), and likely is why she only wanted a child portion from Reuben's estate. Later, in J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959) he calls her Aunt Sallie Biggs. Sallie petitioned the court to receive a child's part (one tenth portion) of his estate in lieu of any claims to the deceased homestead, dower, personal effects, years of support, including distributive share in Reuben's real and personal property. Ancestry.com. *Tennessee, Marriage Records, 1780-2002* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]; Stewart County, Tennessee, Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Administrator Bonds and Letters, Vol. 1, October 1896, page 233, March 1897, page 240, Microfilm Roll 18, TSLA.; Findagrave.com. "Sallie Vandiveer Murphey Biggs." Available [online]: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6211965/sallie-vandiveer-biggs#source> [1 June 2018].

⁴⁵ Reuben Biggs died October 17, 1896 leaving no will, so William H. and later Joseph E. Biggs, Reuben's eldest sons, were assigned as Administrator of his estate. Stewart County Settlement and Bonds, Inventory of Account of Sales, Vol. O, October 1896, page 97-99, Microfilm Roll 57, TSLA.; Stewart County Court Clerk's Office, Guardian Bonds and Letters Volume 1, November 1897, page 211 -212; December 1898, page 251, and October 1902, page 313, Microfilm Roll 21, TSLA.

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Biggs' estate among his remaining living heirs, three minor children, and his third wife.⁴⁶ Until the Biggs' family estate was settled, J. Luke Biggs continued to work on his family's farm through December 1896. By early 1897, he entered the nearby Cumberland City Academy, where he likely boarded while completing two years of high school.⁴⁷

In May 1898, Biggs met Jeanette "Jennie" Sarah Sykes (1872-1953), who had grown up near the Biggs family farm in Stewart County's Seventh District and was also previously acquainted through family or friends. He traveled to Dover to court Jennie and they continued to date until getting married on December 11, 1898.⁴⁸ As newlyweds, they initially resided with Jennie's parents while Biggs worked as a farmer laborer for his in-laws until they could purchase land of their own and establish a farm.⁴⁹

Establishment of Maple Grove Farm

While Reuben Biggs' estate was still in dispute in Chancery Court, Biggs began establishing his own farm in early 1898 on a portion of his father's land. Biggs recorded his daily activities in a diary (basically a farm ledger) beginning in March 1898 until his death in September 1959. His diary provides significant insight and details of a farmer coming of age at the turn of the twentieth century, bearing witness to significant agricultural, economic, and social changes moving from the Progressive era shifting into the Modern era.

⁴⁶ Stewart County, Tennessee Clerk and Master's Office, Chancery Court Minute Book D, page 252-253, 257, 260-261, 267-269, 273-283, 302-306, 350-351, 354, 391-394, 425-428, 485-486, 489. Microfilm Roll 15, TSLA., Beyond overseeing the equitable division of his father's estate including personal assets, the court's jurisdiction and responsibility also sought to protect the interests of Reuben Biggs' three minor children, their care and concern, including educational opportunities afforded them. During the Court's discovery, a report particularly noted the Biggs children's whereabouts in the year following their father's death, while also arranging for their living arrangements and education opportunities, because the minor Biggs children had no means of providing for themselves; Stewart County, Tennessee Clerk and Master's Office, Chancery Court Minute Books Vol. D, page 392-394, Microfilm Roll 15, TSLA., J. Luke's step-sisters, Ida and Maggie Biggs, were reported as boarders of the J. W. Smith family including other area relatives, and placed under the guardianship of their uncle, W. H. Biggs in December 1898. From 1897 thru 1899, the Biggs girls attend both Dover High School as well as Cumberland City Academy, where they were also noted as boarders. As their court appointed guardian and uncle, W. H. Biggs, was ordered by the court to pay for their attendance at the Cumberland City Academy out of their rightful interests of their father's unsettled estate, similar to the arrangement for their step-brother, J. Luke. Although Maggie Biggs continued to attend Cumberland City Academy until 1902, her older sister, Ida Biggs, remained at school until her marriage to Charles P. Howard in May 1899.

⁴⁷ According to Stewart County's Guardian Bonds and Settlements from 1897 through 1902, J. Luke and both of his step-sisters' tuition and board was secured and paid for to attend the Cumberland City Academy, located in nearby Cumberland City, Tennessee; a preparatory training school for both boys and girls established in 1893. Stewart County Guardian Settlements, Vol. E, 1897, page 70, 72, 85; 1898, page 71, 198, 199, Microfilm Roll 23, TSLA.; Cumberland City Academy, Cumberland City, Tennessee, *A Home School for Both Sexes. Fourteenth Annual Announcement, 1906-1907*, Available [online]: <http://www.tngenweb.org/stewart/Cumberland%20City%20Academy.pdf> [4 April 2018]; Ancestry.com. *1940 United States Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2012. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]

⁴⁸ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

⁴⁹ Thomas E. Partlow. Stewart County, Tennessee, *Census of 1900 with Index*, 1994, page 206.; Ancestry.com. *1900 United State Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]. Jennie's parents were William Pinkney "Pink" (1845-1922) and Elizabeth "Betty" Hart Skyes (1845-1925).

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Biggs first planted corn and other row crops as well as hay, an upper and lower apple orchard, and established a fenced garden in front of his future house. Biggs worked hard to clear and fence his property early, hauling off timber, readying fields, and checking on his livestock herds. In November 1899, Biggs surveyed the land tract he would eventually own and began assembling lumber to build a house. All of the original structures on the farm were likely constructed from hardwood timber stands located on or adjacent to the property, which also included pine lumber acquired from the neighboring Brigham Farm (formerly owned by the Stacker family). Also during this period, he earned extra money by working odd jobs for area farmers who needed help plowing, cutting their crops from the fields, or hauling loads of lumber, as well as working for various cross tie companies. In later years he also threshed wheat and vaccinated hogs.⁵⁰

By early March 1900, immediately following an agreed settlement regarding the division of his late father's estate, Biggs (age 22) purchased 205 acres along Long Creek for \$1000 from his brother, Joe Biggs.⁵¹ This land tract was property carved from the larger Biggs family farm situated on Long Creek and originally purchased by his father, Reuben Biggs, from the Stacker Family estate in 1875.⁵² Shortly after he purchased the property, Biggs named it Maple Grove Farm. Throughout his lifetime he added just 50 additional acres in 1938 and sold very little of the land.⁵³ By 1904, Biggs had begun construction of a modest T-shaped farm house; it was finished two years later in 1904. The house was originally situated on Long Creek Road which ran directly in front of the house, prior to road upgrades made in the 1960s; after which the current lane was constructed to connect it to Long Creek Road. Following completion of the house, Biggs fenced the yard, cut and trimmed trees away from the house, added a flower house (root cellar), hen house, and a smoke house in 1905.

In later years, he also added a large livestock and storage loft-barn in 1917, including a tobacco barn to the property in 1919. After the tobacco barn was constructed, the farm began producing dark-fired tobacco as a cash crop, and in later years also included burley tobacco.⁵⁴ All of these buildings are evidence that J. Luke Biggs and his wife participated fully in the progressive farm movement of the early twentieth century, incorporating more cash crops, while adding modern conveniences such as rural electrification (1919), a waterline to the house (1928), followed by a telephone line (1929).⁵⁵ Situated on his small farm, Biggs continued to work hard engaged in farming and stock-raising, becoming a successful farmer in his own right, which continued until his death in 1959.

⁵⁰ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959), James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

⁵¹ Stewart County Clerk & Master's Office, Chancery Court Minute Books Vol. D, page 485-486, 489, Microfilm Roll 15, TSLA; Stewart County, Tennessee, Deed Book 44, March 2, 1900, page 404-405, Microfilm Roll 80, TSLA.

⁵² This land tract purchased by Biggs' father was once a portion of the larger land holdings which comprised Stacker's interest in the Stewart County Iron Industry; Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 27, March 20, 1875, page 462, Microfilm Roll 76, TSLA.

⁵³ Stewart County Register of Deeds Deed Book 53, page 502, Microfilm Roll 82, TSLA; Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 104, page 311-312, Microfilm Roll 89, TSLA.

⁵⁴ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

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Maple Grove Farm and Agriculture in Stewart County

Middle Tennessee farm families during the late nineteenth century understood that land ownership offered the “surest guarantee of family security.”⁵⁶ Yet, during the first decade of the 1900s, farmers found that “ascending the agricultural ladder became more difficult” as increasing rural population pressures started to slowly impact family farming traditions and household economies within an already crowded agricultural sector.⁵⁷ In 1900, the population of Stewart County was 15,224, and farmers like Biggs witnessed greater competition for land as the price of both acquiring farmland and entering farming as a livelihood, like his parents and grandparents before him, became increasingly challenging.⁵⁸ Farm life, agricultural traditions, rural dwellers, and their communities also witnessed significant transformations as advancements in transportation and greater access to regional and national markets shifted both society and the rural economy increasingly toward commercial or market-oriented farming. Both J. Luke Biggs and his father experienced these early transformations of an agrarian, rural economy in the late nineteenth century, while J. Luke later witnessed the progressive changes in agricultural traditions and farm production.

Luckily for J. Luke Biggs, he was able to continue farming on a portion of land purchased from his late father’s estate, which also had significant timber resources readily available for resource extraction. This unique opportunity afforded him additional economic prospects beyond just farming, specifically supplying various companies with railroad cross ties and selling lumber to area iron furnaces which remained in operation until the late 1920s. Additionally, like many Stewart County farmers situated in the northern portions of the Western Highland Rim, Biggs primarily raised corn and livestock, while dark-fired and burley tobacco was always considered an “extra crop” option.⁵⁹ Although tobacco cultivation began with early white settlement, the unique, dark-fired tobacco variety became a major as well as lucrative cash crop in Stewart County between 1880 and 1920, an era considered the “golden age” of tobacco.⁶⁰ Situated along the Western Highland Rim, this region consisted of the tobacco belt counties of western Kentucky and northern Middle Tennessee, an area known distinctly as the Black Patch of Kentucky and Tennessee. As part of the Black Patch region, Stewart County produced significant amounts of tobacco (1,803,553 pounds) per farm in 1889 and was considered among Middle Tennessee’s five leading tobacco-growing counties which accounted for approximately 86 percent of all tobacco grown in Middle Tennessee.⁶¹ In 1919, Biggs built a tobacco barn, which allowed the farm to begin producing dark-fired tobacco as a cash crop, and in later years also included burley tobacco.

Like many farmers during this era, Biggs practiced “diversified agriculture [farming] based on corn cultivation augmented by wheat, tobacco, hay and livestock,” a type of farming particularly noted for its high levels of household production and landownership.⁶² Biggs’ diary provides further insight into his

⁵⁶ Louis M. Kryiakoudes, *Social Origins of the Urban South: Race, Gender, and Migration in Nashville and Middle Tennessee, 1890-1930* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2003), 45.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 46.

⁵⁸ United States. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*, Volume 1 (Population, part 1) (Washington: United States Census Office, 1901), 374, TSLA.; Kryiakoudes, 40.

⁵⁹ Connie L. Lester. *Up From the Mudsills of Hell* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2006), 24.

⁶⁰ Tonya Blades and D. Lorne McWatters, “Thomas Woodard, Jr. Farm” National Register nomination (NR 02/27/2008).

⁶¹ Kryiakoudes, 44, 178.

⁶² *Ibid.*, 43.

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stewardship of the land through crop rotation, application of soil nutrients and supplements (lime and phosphate), including erosion prevention. These practices exhibited a respect for the physical environment and its variable conditions, along with a comprehension and understanding of local farming traditions passed to him from previous generations of farmers. Together, Biggs' ideals and operating principles further allowed him to become an esteemed and resourceful businessman-farmer, realizing farming success even as twentieth century changes increasingly evolved toward a market-oriented economy.

Additionally, Biggs' diary records firsthand the significant changes in farming as a livelihood during the early twentieth century as well as the labor it took to manage and maintain his farm. His farm activities initially involved fencing off his property, construction of buildings as well as making necessary house and fence repairs, cutting railroad cross ties at the mill, or hauling significant amounts of lumber for himself or others. This was in addition to his general agricultural pursuits of plowing, planting, and harvesting corn, oats and wheat, along with killing hogs and overseeing his growing livestock and cattle herds. Biggs also documented daily weather conditions and the effects of inclement weather on his crops, the rising water levels of Long Creek behind the house, area road conditions, including various life events, milestones, social and political activities, along with visitors to the farm. In addition to his daily entries, Biggs specifically notes his farm activities and mentions various workers who assisted him or if he himself assisted others with their farm work. Biggs produced many of the same agricultural crops as his father, starting with wheat, corn, oats and hay, as well as sorghum for molasses. Early on Biggs created an apple orchard located on the "upper and lower bottom" fields, later also adding peaches, and in later years planted tobacco, alfalfa and soybeans. Biggs also raised considerable amounts of livestock during his lifetime, which included hogs, goats and sheep, yet was particularly known as a cattle dealer. He also invested substantial amounts of timber in clearing his property to create the present open pastures and fields for planting and sowing crops, and later also operated a one man sawmill on his property. In addition, Biggs sold rough cut lumber to area Iron Industry manufactures, hauling it to nearby furnaces, and later railroad cross ties to various companies for use in railroad construction and repair. Following his father's death in 1896, young Biggs (18 years) turned to his older brother Joe Biggs, who likely took young Biggs under his wing and continued to mentor him on the rural traditions and business of farming. Throughout his life, Biggs remained very close to his older brother, who lived and farmed nearby on the original Biggs family farm, located further south on Long Creek. Biggs specifically recorded assisting his brother Joe in stripping tobacco, while also learning about the crop and its labor intensive complexities beginning in 1912, and continued to help Joe harvest tobacco and various other crops from his farm. Then later in May 1919, as Biggs set his first tobacco crop, he also assisted his surrounding neighbors in setting out their tobacco plants. By August he began construction of his own tobacco barn, which involved him leading a barn raising, and completed the barn just in time to cut tobacco from the fields, followed by hanging and firing his tobacco that same October.⁶³

Biggs' ever expansive and thriving farm likewise required significant amounts of additional labor for such labor-intensive farm activities as plowing, sowing, and harvesting his row crops, clearing and cutting timber, and later planting and harvesting tobacco from the fields. Beyond relying upon himself and/or other family members, an available supply of workers included both furnace laborers and later tenant farmers who already lived and worked in the area. Such workers often existed through a type of shared worker or contract labor relationship, of which many area farmers used to remain economically viable if they could afford it. Given

⁶³ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

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the labor intensive farm activities that occurred on his farm and particularly since the Biggs never had children of their own to help with farm chores, additional workers became a necessity at Maple Grove Farm. Throughout his diary, Biggs provided the names of various share tenancy or contract laborers who assisted him in both farming and/or working on his property. A review of the 1880 and 1900 Census for District Seven in Stewart County reveals black freedmen and their families living in close proximity or even as adjacent neighbors to the Biggs Family farm. Freedmen in the area not only lived adjacent or nearby to the Biggs farm on Long Creek Road, but also on or near other neighboring family farms located in the same area situated along Long Creek in District Seven. Some of these neighboring farms were owned by William Meadows, Robert Self, Charles Phippen (Stacker's Evergreen Farm), Charles and J. W. Scarborough, and it is likely they shared tenant farmers with Biggs.⁶⁴

Biggs frequently referred to his upkeep of a tenant worker graveyard throughout his diary entries. Situated at the bottom of "Graveyard Hill," alongside Long Creek Road, the graveyard is known as the Milam Cemetery. Three headstones are visible in the Milam Cemetery: one for Tobe (Toby) (b. May 20, 1865 – d. March 17, 1916) and Anna Milam (b. March 23, 1870 – d. July 29, 1945) and Lizzie Brown (died c. 1950).⁶⁵ Both Tobe and Anna Milam are listed as tenant farmers (laborers) in the 1900 Census in Stewart County's Sixth District and it is likely they are not the only former slaves or tenant farmers buried in the Milam Cemetery.⁶⁶ Biggs' diary provides added confirmation of tenant worker activity on his property, with tenant farmer Doc Holloway's death recorded on November 3, 1934. Following the settlement of Holloway's estate, which included the sale of property he owned in Carlisle,⁶⁷ Biggs noted his attendance at Doc Holloway's funeral which was held at his own tobacco barn (c. 1919), followed by his burial in the Milam Cemetery on September 1, 1935. Besides Doc Holloway, other tenant workers who are listed as buried in the Milam Cemetery⁶⁸ have been found living nearby and documented in Stewart County's 1900 Census.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1880 with Index*, 1993; Thomas E. Partlow, Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1900 with Index, 1994.

⁶⁵ Stewart County Historical Society. *Cemetery Records of Stewart County, Tennessee*. (Dover, TN: Stewart County Historical Society, 1983), 137-138; J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee

⁶⁶ Many of the persons listed in the Milam Cemetery can be found in the Partlow's 1900 Census for Stewart County which includes: Tobe and Anna Milam (District 6, page 160), Jarred Milam, white; Peter Milam, black (District 7, page 203); Samuel Stacker? (District 9, page 278); Sykes ? white; Miner, Sam, black (District 7, page 203); Holloway, Doc ? black (District 7, page 203). Doc Holloway is likely just one of the men who worked for Reuben Biggs and listed in his diary. J. Luke Biggs is found settling his estate after he dies in 1934. Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee Census of 1900 with Index*. (Lebanon, TN: T. E. Partlow, 1994), 160, 203 & 278; Stewart County Historical Society. *Cemetery Records of Stewart County, Tennessee*. (Dover, TN: Stewart County Historical Society, 1983), 137-138. The cemetery is on a steep incline and has experienced erosion. Although only a few headstones are visible, there may have been others that have disappeared due to erosion or other changes in the landscape.

⁶⁷ Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 80, October 27, 1920 (November 3, 1920), page 454, Microfilm Roll 87, TSLA; Stewart County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 104, November 10, 1934, page 314, Microfilm Roll 89, TSLA.

⁶⁸ Stewart County Historical Society. *Cemeteries of Stewart County* (Dover, TN: Stewart County Historical Society, 1983), 137-138.

⁶⁹ Dock Holloway likely continued to live in the area near the Biggs farm and/or work for the Biggs family, even after the Reuben Biggs' death 1896. J. Luke respected Holloway as a worker, settled his will, and later held his funeral at the 1917 tobacco barn. It is unclear which gravesite denotes Dock Holloway's grave, due to the condition of the cemetery headstones and that most graves only have only rocks, not proper headstones. Reuben Biggs Diary, 1875; J. Luke Biggs, diary, 1930s; Kenneth Mathis, interview with Susan Hawkins, 1980s; Photos of cemetery headstones. Thomas E. Partlow. *Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1880 with Index*, 1993; Thomas E. Partlow, *Stewart County, Tennessee, Census of 1900 with Index*, 1994.

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Many of the graves were only marked with rocks, and the cemetery's location below the hillside has experienced erosion that may have contributed to markers being lost, so the exact number of people buried in the cemetery is unclear. Nonetheless, this cemetery provides physical evidence of the presence of tenant farmers in the area and helps to convey their contribution to the agricultural history of Maple Grove Farm.

Even as farming as a livelihood underwent significant changes relative to the progressive farm movement, farming remained the most important industry in the state even into the early twentieth century. Changes that began slowly at the turn of the century proceeded more rapidly during the next few decades with unprecedented reforms in political, social and economic realms. This ultimately led to significant changes as the American landscape transformed from primarily a rural agrarian one to one increasingly shaped by and connected to urban and industrialized forces. The progressive impacts of farm mechanization on agricultural labor and expanded industrialization meant farmers had time to take part-time or seasonal jobs and/or participate in activities off the farm. A review of Biggs' diary entries reveal many of his off-farm pursuits such as preaching and attendance at various church activities, officiating funerals and burials, transportation of corpses, and digging graves for the deceased. Although farming remained his livelihood throughout his lifetime, Biggs pursued various political-related activities that included running for several elected public offices in Stewart County and the State of Tennessee. Like many farmers still today, it was not unusual for farmers to hold jobs off the farm helping to supplement their incomes, yet it allowed them to participate in local social and religious happenings, and remain active in area government and politics within their community and surrounding region.⁷⁰

In the spring of 1908, J. Luke worked as part of a road crew on Dover and Bear Springs Roads, and later Long Creek Road in Stewart County's District Seven. For much of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, one of the earliest state labor laws required each man to work a given number of days in order to maintain as well as make necessary area road improvements, specifically assisting in the upkeep of county farm to market roads. A man's involvement in this labor activity provided the main source of workforce for road and bridge construction in Stewart County, as well as the state and much of the United States for many years. Biggs continued to participate in road work in his District Seven, and in January 1911, at the age of 33 years, was elected Commissioner of Public Roads by the Quarterly County Court of Stewart County, and served a one year term.⁷¹ Likewise, Biggs followed his older brother Sam S. Biggs, who also served as Commissioner of Public Roads in 1910, the year before. During his term as Road Commissioner, Biggs traveled all of Stewart County's twelve Road Districts, and ran again for Road Commissioner over the next two years although unsuccessfully.⁷²

Throughout much of his adult life, Biggs ran for various elected public offices in Stewart County as well as State of Tennessee, beginning with his election as Commissioner of Public Roads in 1911. Later, he also ran for Stewart County Trustee during the 1914, 1916 and 1918 election seasons, although he was defeated.

⁷⁰ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

⁷¹ Ancestry.com. *1799- 2008 Tennessee, Wills and Probate Records, 1899- 1966* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

⁷² Biggs was defeated by C. C. Crockwell for Road Commissioner in January 1912, and again in January 1913. Besides his father, J. Luke's older brothers were also very active participants in the Stewart County's local government, and revealed to also have obtained a Magistrate Bond and/or Road Commissioner Bond during their lifetimes.; J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

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Also during this time period, he was required to register for the World War I draft as war consumed Europe beginning in 1914, later involving the United States by 1917, with approximately 500 young men from Stewart County called to serve.⁷³ In September 1918, Biggs dutifully registered for the World War I draft at 40 years of age, although he was not activated nor did he see military action due the war's end just a few months later.⁷⁴ Other public endeavors similarly included Biggs joining various social welfare organizations like the Masons, his individual response to this period of substantial economic, political and social change during the early twentieth century. In May 1919, Biggs became a member of the local Masonic fraternal organization, the Free and Accepted Masons, and joined Carlisle Lodge No. 675, where he quickly rose to Master Mason in August of that same year. As a Mason, he also served in an official capacity as a Chaplin from 1920 until 1937, except for years 1922 and 1925, and again later in 1938 until 1954.⁷⁵ Altogether, he was primarily a member of the following fraternal organizations: the Order of the Eastern Star at Erin, Tennessee; Independent Order of Odd Fellows at the Carlisle Lodge No. 616, and Moriah Grove Lodge, No. 301; and the Royal Arch Chapter 213 at Erin, Tennessee.⁷⁶ Throughout his life, Biggs remained very active in these organizations, attending various meetings as well as community activities held by these organizations as listed in his diary, in particular those located near Dover, and traveled to annual meetings located at the Grand Lodge in Nashville, Tennessee. Years later in September 1924, Biggs also obtained a \$500 Magistrate Bond⁷⁷ becoming a county magistrate, where he handled minor crimes or disputes, and also served as a justice of the peace.

Biggs' life activities further espoused a considerable work ethic as well as farm management practices which helped him obtain success in his professional life as a farmer, which allowed him the time and the opportunity to run for public office. Although the Biggs never had any children of their own, they enjoyed being around children and relished visitors both young and old to the farm throughout their lifetime. Moreover, Biggs' ability to seek public office also depended upon having additional help on the farm who might assist both himself and Jennie during his absences. In 1920, Hattie "Hattie" Eudora (Hamm) Brigham (1906-1983) (13 years), later known as the Biggs' foster-daughter, including Pink and Bettie Sykes (Biggs' in-laws) are listed as boarders who resided with them on the farm for a time.⁷⁸ Both Hattie and Jennie's parents likely assisted Jennie with house work, canning peaches and/or vegetables from the garden, along with chores on the farm when Biggs' was away running for office or due to his many off-farm activities. Throughout Biggs diary, he mentioned names of various day laborers and/or tenant farmers who were in the area and assisted him with work on the farm, and he likely relied on them significantly more as duties and activities took him off the farm. In particular, this occurred when Biggs decided and ran for the upcoming

⁷³ Iris Hopkins McClain. *A History of Stewart County, Tennessee*. (Columbia, Tennessee: Iris Hopkins McClain, 1965), 83.

⁷⁴ Ancestry.com. *U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2005. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

⁷⁵ Walter E. Seifert, Jr. Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Tennessee (Nashville), letter to Tonya Blades, May 10, 2018.

⁷⁶ "J. Luke Biggs Dies; Rites Held Sept. 28." *Stewart Houston Times*, 6 October 1959.

⁷⁷ Ancestry.com. *1920 Tennessee, United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

⁷⁸ After being bitten by a snake in 1917 and following the death of one of her parents, Hattie likely begins residing with J. Luke and Jennie Biggs. Known as the Biggs' foster daughter, she later married Charlie W. Brigham (1897-1982) in December 1928. Another girl was also known to have lived for a few years with Biggs. J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

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Democratic primary election seeking the Tennessee House of Representatives seat in 1928. By mid-June of that year he canvassed around Elk Creek and in District 6 in Stewart County, and continued to canvass for votes through most of July and into August.⁷⁹ On August 31, 1928, Biggs successfully won the Democratic primary, and became the Democratic ticket candidate on the November 1928 ballot.⁸⁰ Following his primary win, the *Stewart County Times* published a list of scheduled public speaking events in which Biggs attended alongside the Honorable Joseph W. Byrns, who ran as the Democratic nominee for the Congressional 6th District of Tennessee. In mid-October 1928, they attended public meetings together at Indian Mound, Bumpus Mills, Big Rock, Tharpe, Model, and Cumberland City in Stewart County.⁸¹ On November 6, 1928, J. Luke Biggs won and was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly House of Representatives seat (see Figure 1), where he served in the State's 66th General Assembly from 1929-1931, representing Stewart County as a democrat.⁸² While in the General Assembly, he participated on the Agriculture, Education, Horticulture, Fish, Forestry and Game, Immigration, Marketing Bureau, Public Printing, and Redistricting Committees.⁸³

During his term as a State Representative, he introduced two bills that eventually became law, House Bill 403 appropriating \$1000 in Treasury funds to purchase the Dover Hotel (or Surrender House) which later became the Fort Donelson War Memorial Museum Building; and House Bill 537 approved the United States' purchase of lands in Stewart County, Tennessee that established Fort Donelson as a National Military Park in Dover.⁸⁴ Both House Bills related to the creation of the museum and the national military park at Fort Donelson and were passed and signed into law by Governor Henry H. Horton in April 1929.⁸⁵ At the end of his two year term, Biggs decided to run for Justice of the Peace in Stewart County, yet was defeated in August 1930. Despite this defeat, he was appointed foreman of the Stewart County Grand Jury by Judge Martin in 1934, and then two years later appointed foreman by Judge Fort in October 1936.⁸⁶ Biggs was a

⁷⁹ *Stewart County Times*, 13 April 1928; *Stewart County Times* 3 August 1928.

⁸⁰ *Stewart County Times* 10 August 1928; *Stewart County Times* 31 August 1928

⁸¹ *The Stewart Houston County Times*, 12 October 1928.

⁸² "Lawmaker." *Nashville Tennessean*, 18 November 1928.; Illene J. Cornwell and Verla S. Hodges. *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, Volume 3, 1901-1931* (Nashville, TN: The Tennessee Historical Commission, 1988).

⁸³ *House Journal of the Sixty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee*, prepared by Bert C. Dedman, Chief Clerk, and Howard L. Savage, Asst Clerk (Kingsport, TN: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1929), 1634.; State of Tennessee. Tennessee General Assembly. *House Archives 1870 to the Present*. Available [online]: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/house/archives/> [1 June 2018].

⁸⁴ Fort Donelson War Memorial Museum Building 1929, H. B. 403, 66th Tennessee General Assembly, 14 April 1929; Fort Donelson National Military Park Act 1929, H. B. 537, 66th Tennessee General Assembly, 11 April 1929; Full text for both House Bills can be found in: Public Chapter 127, House Bill 403 and 537. Tennessee Public Acts, 1929; *Stewart Houston County Times*, March 23, 1929.

⁸⁵ In Tennessee, this state legislative action followed earlier passage of Congressional legislation at the Federal level on March 26 1928, establishing Fort Donelson National Military Park as a unit of the War Department. Based on a report by the Army War College known as: A Study and Investigation of Battlefields in the United States for Commemorative Purposes, Washington Barracks, D.C., May 28, 1925, in *America's National Park System: The Critical Documents*, the House Committee on Military Affairs recommended and which Congress acted on between 1926 through 1933; Ronald F. Lee. *The Origin and Evolution of the National Military Park Idea* (Washington D. C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Office of Park Historic Preservation, 1973). Available [online]:

https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/history_military/nmpidea6b.htm [1 June 2018].

⁸⁶ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

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respected member of the County Court in Stewart County, which developed from his involvement in public affairs, running for elected office, as well as his reputation as a successful businessman-farmer. On February 12, 1939, Biggs also attended the 77th anniversary commemorating the historic battle at Fort Donelson National Military Park in Dover, Tennessee. Throughout his years of involvement with the Stewart County Court and as an elected official, Biggs attended quarterly County Court meetings regularly, and later also attended Federal Court in Nashville from August 28 through September 1, 1939. From July through September and into October of 1939, Biggs canvassed again for votes in Stewart and Houston Counties, which also included Humphreys and Dickson Counties in his run for election to the seat for State Senator, but was defeated in November. Two years later in 1942, Biggs again canvassed for votes when he ran for the County Judge seat in Stewart County, although he was not elected. In the following election cycle, Biggs once again ran for the State Representative seat he once held where he canvassed for votes in July 1944, and again he was defeated.⁸⁷

On March 30, 1953, Jennie Biggs died (80 years) after suffering from influenza as well as a stroke that occurred earlier in March 1949.⁸⁸ By the following year in June 1954, Biggs (76 years) had remarried.⁸⁹ Following his second marriage, the house underwent substantial changes. Those updates included expanded upgrades to the kitchen, the addition of an indoor bathroom, enclosure of the breezeway between the L-shaped porches, including alterations to the staircase access and upstairs storage room. Six years after Jennie's death, Biggs (81 years) died on September 28, 1959 and was buried next to his first wife at Hart Cemetery, located behind the Long Creek Methodist Church and three miles south of their farm off Long Creek Road.⁹⁰ According to his will, he left the entire farm to his second wife, including his daily diary from March 1898 until September 1959, while he also provided \$100 to the Hart Cemetery for its care and upkeep.⁹¹

Post-1959 Farm History

Two years later following Biggs' death, his second wife, Patricia "Donnie" (Brooks) Reeves Biggs, sold the 255 acre farm to Kenneth Hugh Mathis (1932-2013) who planted tobacco and raised beef cattle on the property. The simple farm house remained unchanged until after Kenneth Mathis married his wife Elizabeth

⁸⁷ J. Luke Biggs Diary (1898-1959). James C. Brigham Collection, Dover, Tennessee.

⁸⁸ Ancestry.com. *Tennessee Death Records, 1908-1958* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2011, Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]; "Mrs. Jennie Biggs Dies after a Long Illness," *Stewart Houston County Times*, 7 April 1953; Married for 54 years, Jennie is buried in Hart Cemetery behind Long Creek Methodist Church where she and J. Luke attended church together and were active members throughout their lives.

⁸⁹ Biggs' second wife was Patricia "Donnie" (Brooks) Reeves Biggs. She died on January 19, 1989 and is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Erin, Houston County, Tennessee, Ancestry.com. *Tennessee Marriage Records, 1780-2002* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2008. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018]; Ancestry.com U.S., *Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

⁹⁰ J. Luke Biggs Dies; Rites Held Sept. 28." *Stewart Houston Times*, 6 October 1959.; Ancestry.com U.S., *Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Available [online]: <http://www.search.ancestryinstitution.com> [1 June 2018].

⁹¹ Following Patricia "Donnie" (Brooks) Reeves Biggs' death in 1989, J. Luke's will further specified that his diary was to go to Mrs. Hattie Brigham, his foster daughter. Stewart County, Tennessee. Wills and Bonds, September 1926-November 1966, Vol F, page 401, Microfilm, TSLA.

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(Griffin) Mathis (1933-2000) in 1966. They added a carport and a second bathroom, the kitchen was updated and enlarged, and the remaining L-shaped porch was screened in. Mathis later purchased an additional 50 acres during his lifetime, which now comprises the approximate 308-acre farm. Following Kenneth Mathis' sudden death in 2013, the farm passed to his two daughters, Susan (Mathis) Hawkins and her sister, Carol (Mathis) Joiner. Mathis' daughters currently operate their father's farm, holding down full-time jobs like their father, while maintaining his legacy of farming in beef cattle production.

Maple Grove Farm continues to retain an agricultural presence, as the fields and pastures remain open and cattle wander across the property, although the farm no longer produces tobacco. Descendants of the Mathis family continue to maintain the property as a working farm, primarily raising livestock cattle on the nearly 308 acre farm, while also selling surplus herbs and produce from the greenhouse. Maple Grove is an excellent example of a small farm house set within an agricultural setting. Both the loft barn and tobacco barn give proof of the agricultural legacy that defines the property, as well as changes in agricultural production in Stewart County progressing into the Modern Era. The fields and pastures, outlined by well-preserved fence lines, including an intact tree-line that surrounds the property, reflect an agricultural landscape that has been minimally changed over the years.

The Biggs-Mathis farm is a fine example of a traditional family farm and represents the agricultural tradition of farming as a livelihood, beginning with J. Luke Biggs' establishment of the farm in 1898, followed by his purchase of a 205 acre land tract from his late father's estate in 1900. On this farm, Biggs constructed a modest residential dwelling along with various agricultural outbuildings during the early twentieth century as rural areas, farmers, and their communities experienced significant changes in the economy, agriculture, and society. Yet, like his father before him, Biggs became a prosperous and resourceful farmer whose farm reflects the common agricultural experience of Stewart County, growing crops for self-use and to participate in the market economy, aided by the labor of tenant farmers and family members. Biggs' various volunteer and professional positions beyond the farm also represent the experience of twentieth century farmers who sought outside employment, both to supplement income and to participate in the broader life of the local community and in the state.

The Biggs-Mathis Farm can be further evaluated under the *Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee Multiple Property Submission* as its agricultural significance relates to the context "Rural Reform and Agriculture, 1900-1945." Both the farm and house demonstrate changes made in the name of progress from the early to mid-twentieth century. The farm's physical features and outbuildings reflect movements of change such as the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) push for domestic reform and progressive farming during the early 1900s. In addition, the farmhouse reflects changes made in 1919 when the house was wired for electricity, and followed later with the development of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the national push for rural electrification which included a water line ran to the house in 1928, and the installation of a telephone line in 1929. Although the architectural style of the simple gable front and wing farmhouse dwelling was decidedly late nineteenth and early twentieth century, other buildings and structures that surround the house and extend across Long Creek Road include a wide array of twentieth century agricultural support buildings constructed between 1905 and 1919. These existing agricultural structures and buildings like the cellar or flower house, chicken coop, corn crib, tobacco and loft

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barns were constructed and repaired overtime, while others were simply replaced or rebuilt for continued use and operation or addition to the larger farm complex operation.

During the first half of the twentieth century, J. Luke Biggs engaged in diversified farming and utilized many of the concepts of progressive farming promoted by state agencies. Traditional crops such as corn, oats, wheat, livestock and sorghum for molasses were initially produced on the Biggs farm, including apple and peach orchards and various livestock such as hogs, goats and sheep. Later, farm production was expanded with the addition of livestock cattle breeding, dark-fired tobacco, alfalfa, soybeans and hay that were just a few of the agricultural products of the Biggs farm over the years. Like many farmers, Biggs adopted new technologies which included steam threshers and tractors, and later gas tractors, in addition to other farm machines like a saw mill operation using timber harvested from the farm. He also embraced new agricultural techniques such as erosion control, flood management as well as irrigation use from Long Creek, along with fertilizers and supplements such as lime and phosphate.

Moreover, Biggs' wife, Jennie, also contributed to the farm's production participation through her domestic activities such as canning vegetables and fruits, which became an important initiative that agricultural reformers promoted among farm women during the 1920s and 1930s. Drying vegetables, cold storage in the circa 1905 cellar and/or flower house, pickling, and salting were other important food preservation techniques used on the Biggs' farm. Another important artifact of the progressive campaign aimed at farm women included improved food production and farm income with the construction of chicken houses or coops in the 1930s. By raising chickens, eggs provided "extra" funds that could be used to purchase modern household items and appliances. In addition, the Biggs also both participated as well as benefited from the Good Roads Movement which sought to improve farm to market roads as well as many local county road upgrades by local Stewart County Road Commission. This allowed the Biggs as well as many farm families to take surplus agricultural products and livestock to Dover and other community marketplaces for sale, which fostered the development of truck farming as an additional source of farm income. These patterns of progressive era farm production and endeavors on the Biggs farm were well-documented in J. Luke Biggs' diary, which he kept from 1898 until 1959, demonstrating how important farm management was as a business, as well as a way of life.

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Maple Grove Farm
 Name of Property

Stewart County, Tennessee
 County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	<input type="checkbox"/>	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository: Tennessee State Library and Archives	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

Returned

Maple Grove Farm
Name of Property

Stewart County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 308 **USGS Quadrangle** Dover 29-NE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Latitude: 36.447701 | Longitude: -87.807512 |
| B. Latitude: 36.449829 | Longitude: -87.803084 |
| C. Latitude: 36.452933 | Longitude: -87.792440 |
| D. Latitude: 36.452440 | Longitude: -87.787484 |
| E. Latitude: 36.446459 | Longitude: -87.787244 |
| F. Latitude: 36.442042 | Longitude: -87.789652 |
| G. Latitude: 36.445519 | Longitude: -87.791464 |
| H. Latitude: 36.441640 | Longitude: -87.791324 |
| I. Latitude: 36.443315 | Longitude: -87.807938 |

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property contains 308 acres, which is marked on the computer-generated attached Stewart County Tax Map 096, Parcel 9. Also included within the nominated boundary is a separate legal parcel for the Milan Cemetery (Parcel 8), and a separate legal parcel for the Susan Hawkins property (Parcel 9.02). These parcels are completely enclosed within the legal boundaries of Parcel 9. The boundary lines follow fence lines and markers that were installed in the 1960s and again in the 2000's.

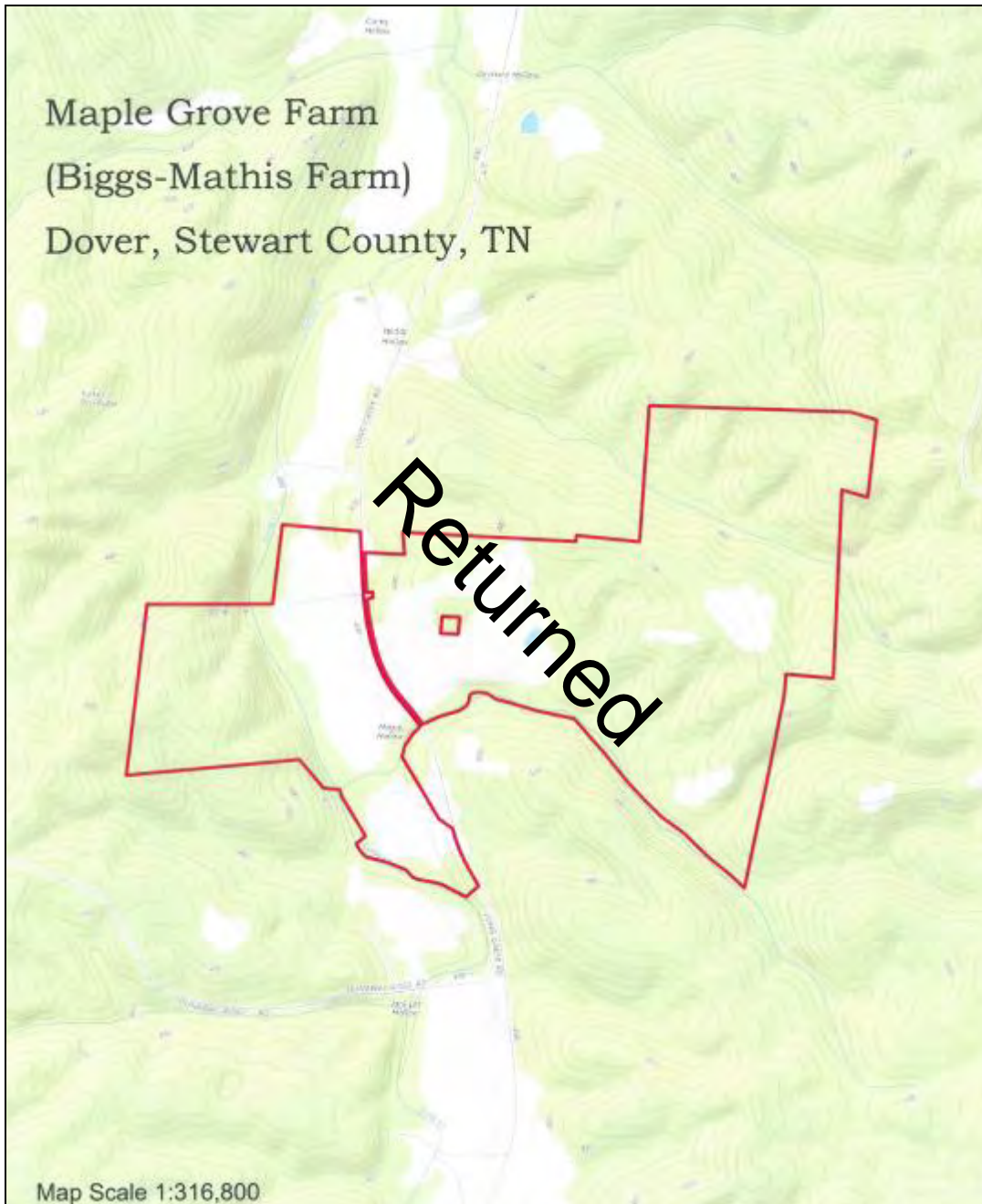
Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain all the significant resources of the Maple Grove Farm, and purchases made since 1959 when the farm's original owner died. Mr. Mathis purchased the farm in 1960, and added 103 acres before his death in 2013. The nominated resources remain in the care of the Mathis family.

Maple Grove Farm
Name of Property

Stewart County, Tennessee
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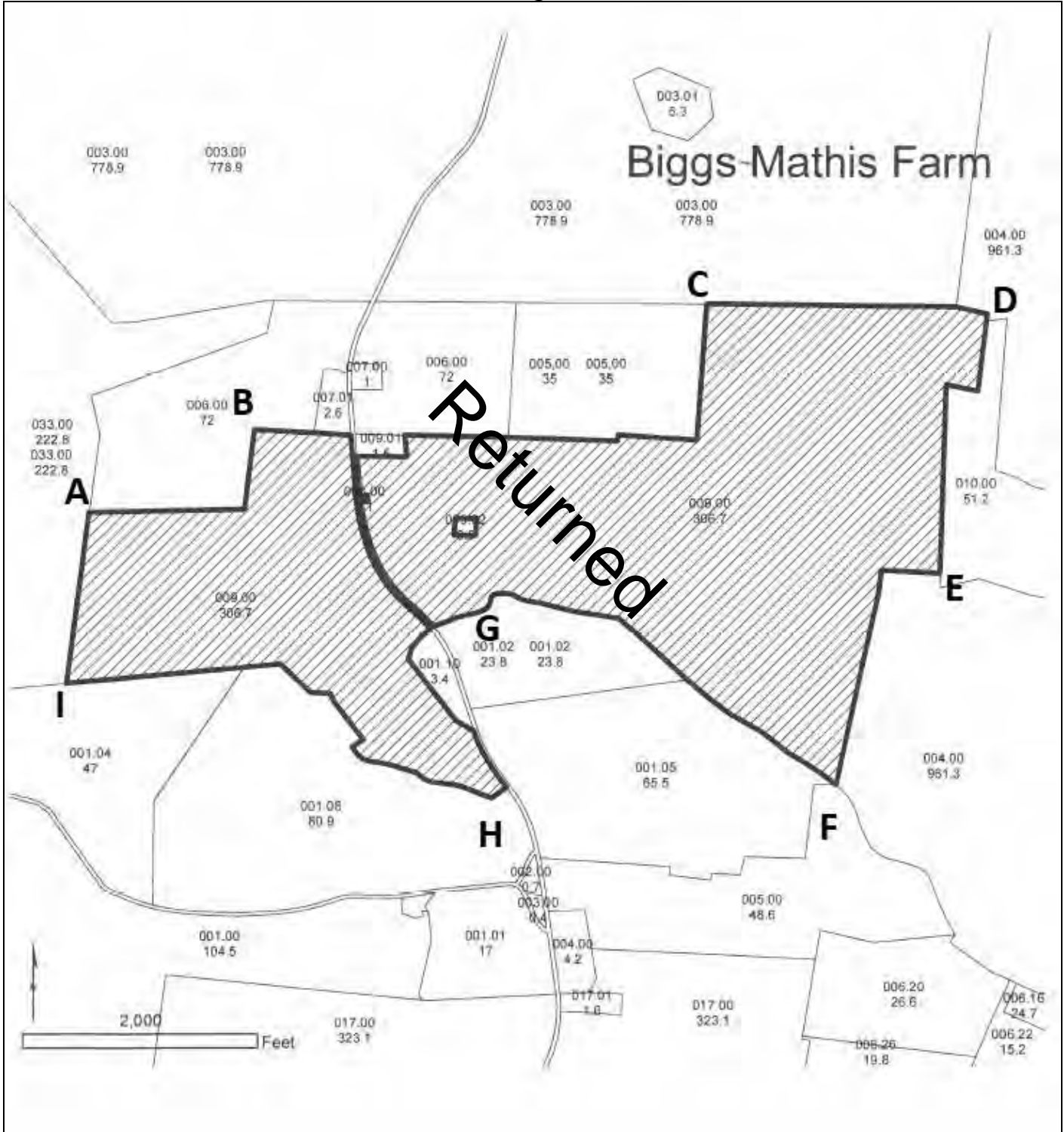
USGS Topographic Map showing Maple Grove Farm (Biggs-Mathis Farm) Boundaries



Maple Grove Farm
Name of Property

Stewart County, Tennessee
County and State

Property Tax Map showing Maple Grove Farm (Biggs-Mathis Farm) Boundaries with Latitude/Longitude Points



Maple Grove Farm
Name of Property

Stewart County, Tennessee
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name Susan Hawkins and Tonya Blades, GNRC
Organization Greater Nashville Regional Council
Street & Number 543 Long Creek Road Date 7/3/2018
City or Town Dover Telephone 931-305-9926
E-mail Smhawkins0717@gmail.com State TN Zip Code 37058

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Maple Grove Farm
----- Name of Property
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Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos and Plans Page 42

Photo Log

Name of Property: Maple Grove Farm

City or Vicinity: Dover

County: Stewart

State: Tennessee

Photographer: Susan Hawkins, Tonya Blades

Date Photographed: September 2017, May 2018, July 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 29 Maple Grove Farm and Setting. Photographer facing west.
- 2 of 29 Maple Grove Farm and Setting. Photographer facing west.
- 3 of 29 Maple Grove Farm and Setting. Photographer facing north.
- 4 of 29 Façade of house. Photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 29 Northeast Corner of house Photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 29 West Elevation of house. Photographer facing east.
- 7 of 29 Rear Porch on west elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 29 Flower House/Root Cellar south elevation. Photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 29 Modern Smokehouse. Photographer facing west.
- 10 of 29 Pavilion and Privy. Photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 29 Garden. Photographer facing northeast.
- 12 of 29 View of Equipment Shed #1 and Shed #2 with the chicken coop between. Photographer facing southwest.
- 13 of 29 Equipment Shed #1 east elevation. Photographer facing southwest.
- 14 of 29 Chicken Coop east elevation. Photographer facing west.
- 15 of 29 Equipment Shed #2 east elevation. Photographer facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Maple Grove Farm
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Section number Photos and Plans Page 43

- 16 of 29 View of greenhouse, rear of the corn crib, and roofline of loft barn. Photographer facing southeast.
- 17 of 29 Greenhouse, west elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 18 of 29 View of corn crib, loft barn, and paddock. Photographer facing east.
- 19 of 29 Corn Crib, south elevation. Photographer facing north.
- 20 of 29 Loft Barn, west elevation. Photographer facing east.
- 21 of 29 Loft Barn, east elevation. Photographer facing northwest.
- 22 of 29 Milam Cemetery along Long Creek Road. Photographer facing east.
- 23 of 29 Milam Cemetery, hand-carved headstone. Photographer facing east.
- 24 of 29 Pond and Tobacco Barn, south and east elevations. Photographer facing northwest.
- 25 of 29 View of agricultural pasture and barns on east portion of farm. Photographer facing northeast.
- 26 of 29 Large Hay Barn, west elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 27 of 29 Smaller Barn, southwest elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 28 of 29 Modern Residential House, west elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 29 of 29 Garage, west elevation. Photographer facing northeast.

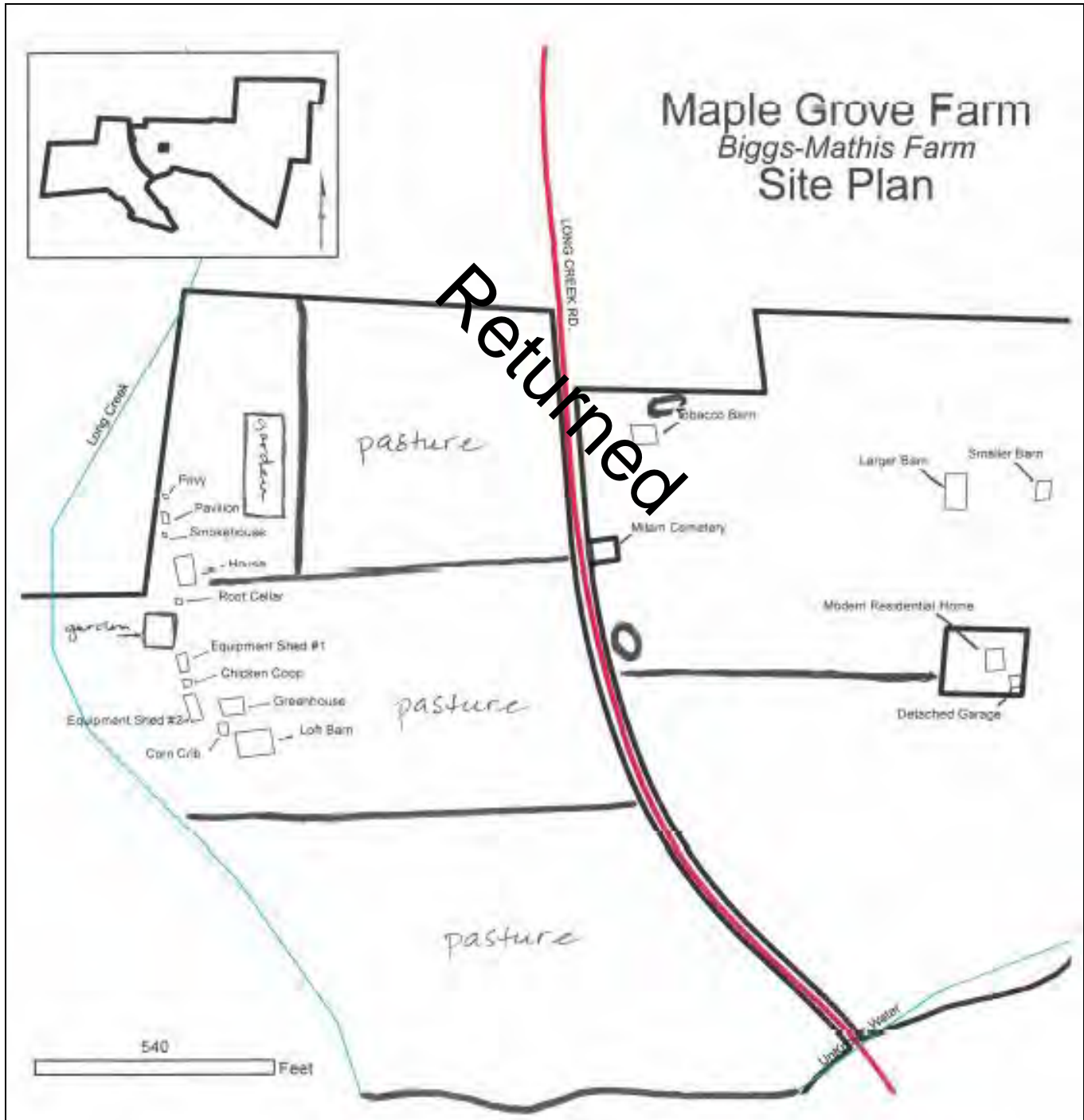
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Maple Grove Farm
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Site Plan



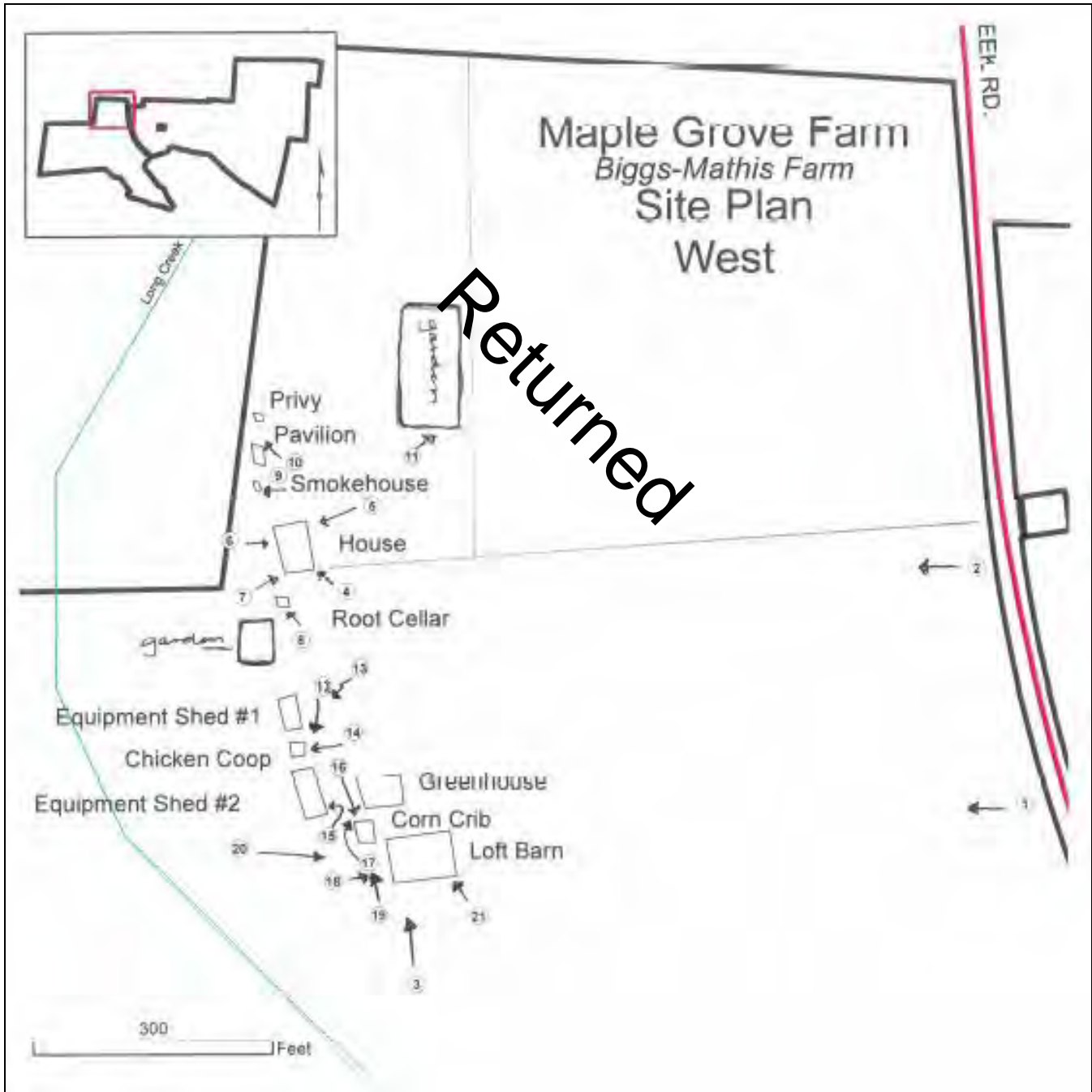
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Maple Grove Farm
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Site Plan for West Side of Farm with Photos Keyed



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Maple Grove Farm

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Section number Photos and Plans Page 46

Site Plan for East Side of Farm with Photos Keyed



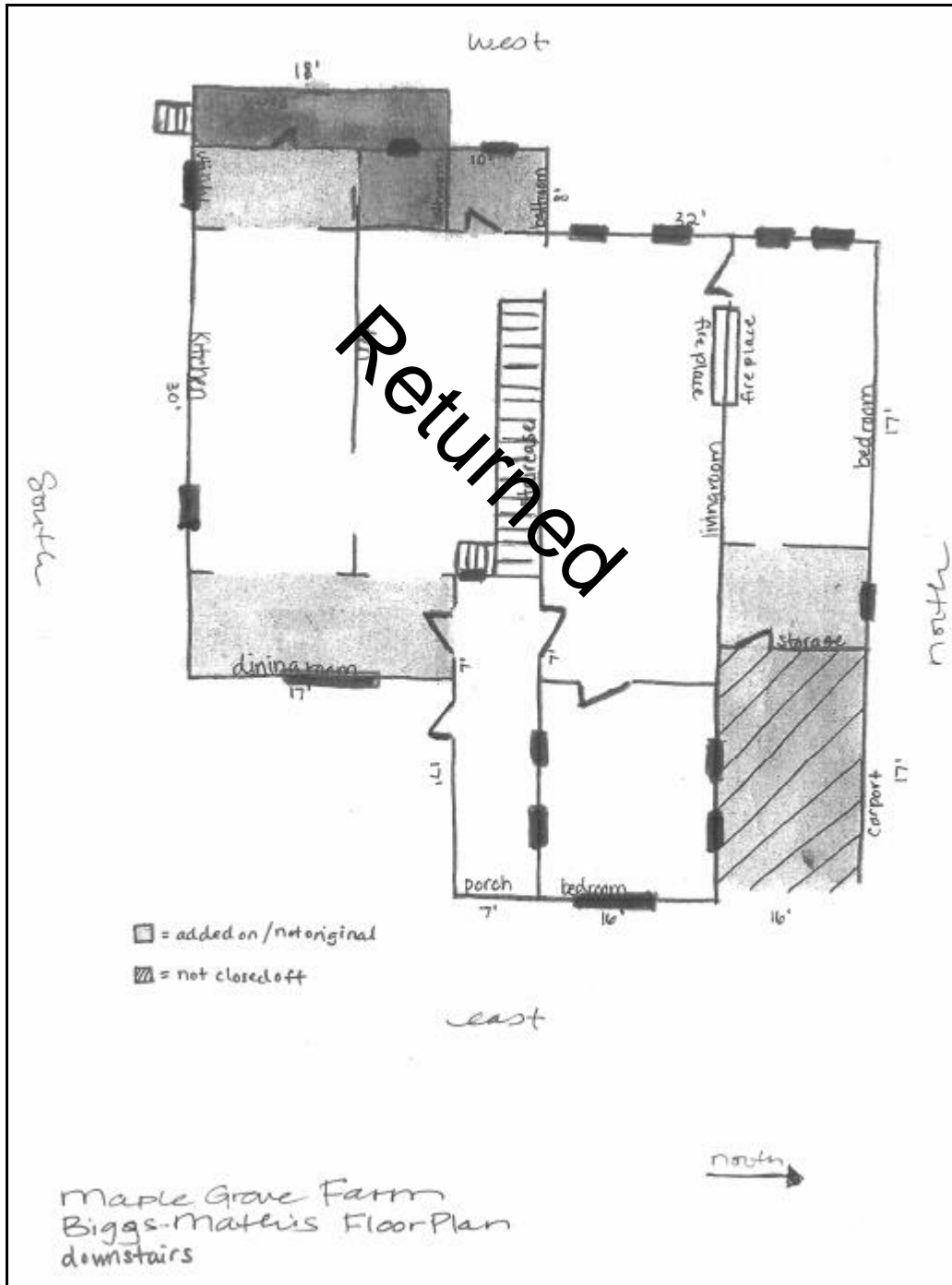
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Maple Grove Farm
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Farmhouse First Level Floor Plan



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Maple Grove Farm

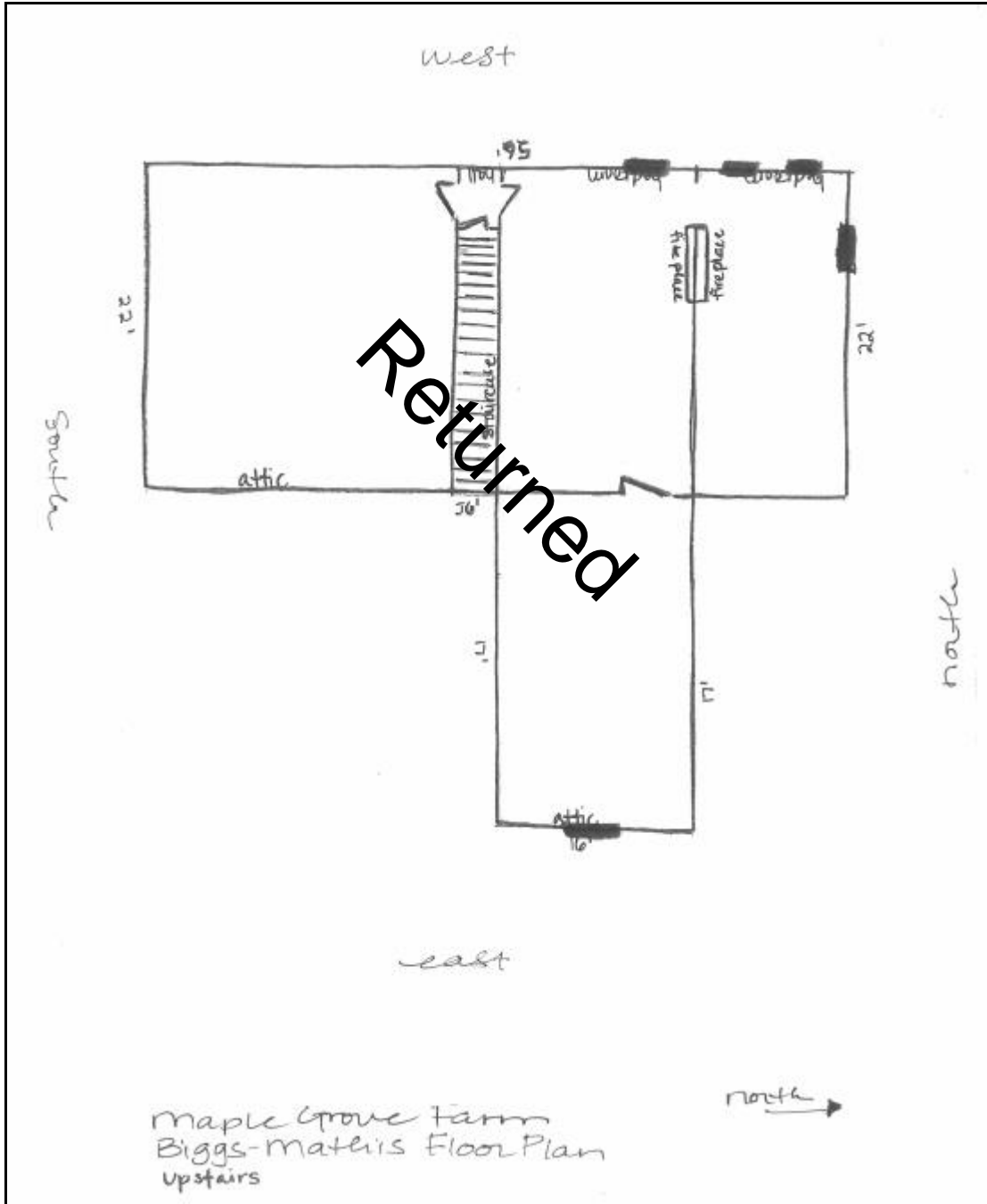
Name of Property
Stewart County, Tennessee

County and State
Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos and Plans Page 48

Farmhouse Second Level Floor Plan



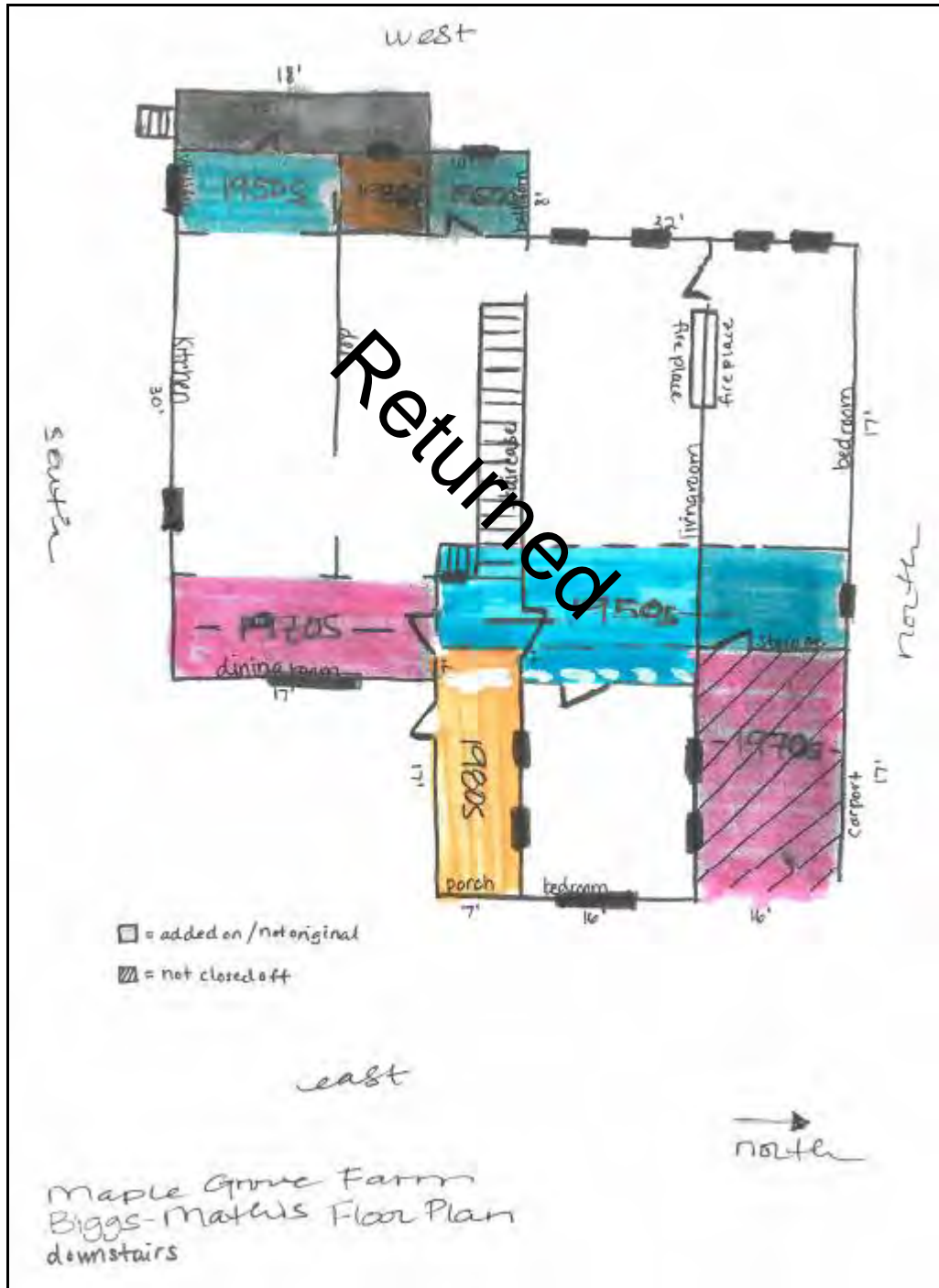
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Farmhouse First Level Floor Plan showing home's development



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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Maple Grove Farm
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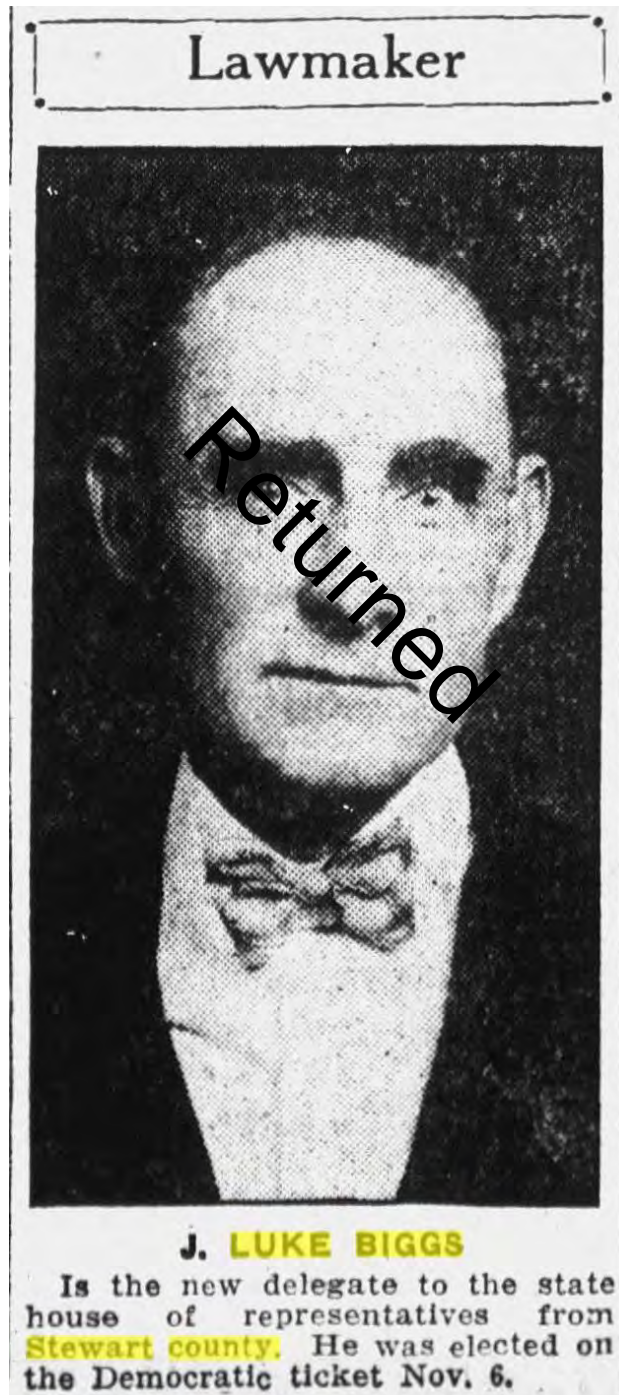


Figure 1: Newspaper clipping with a photo of J. Luke Biggs
From the *Nashville Tennessean*, November 18, 1928













































HUGHES
1857-1924

HUGHES















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/17/2018 Date of Pending List: 11/5/2018 Date of 16th Day: 11/20/2018 Date of 45th Day: 12/3/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

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.



United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation Sheet

Property Name: Maple Grove Farm (Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee MPS), Stewart County, TN

Reference Number: 100003157

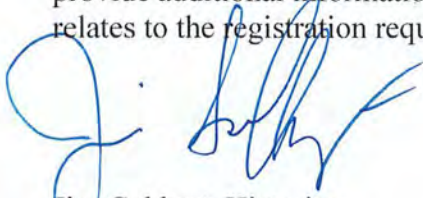
Comment

The Maple Grove Farm was submitted under the Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee Multipole Property Submission with significance under Criterion A. The nominated property consists of 308 acres and includes the farmhouse, numerous outbuildings (both historic and non-historic) and substantial acreage of pasture, fields, and woodlands. There are two primary issues then need to be addressed: the acreage of the property and the registration requirements of the MPS.

The nomination notes that the 308 acres nominated is more than the acreage of the property when owned and operated by Luke Biggs. Section 8 notes that 50 acres were added to the farm after 1961, bringing the total acreage to the present 308 while Section 9 indicates that 103 acres were added after 1960 to bring it to the present total. Please clarify what the extent of the historic farm that represents the area and period of significance of the property. The accompanying maps include the 1 acre parcel that includes the modern log house and explains that it is contained within the nominated property (and that it is noncontributing). Including it on the boundary map, though, is confusing. It makes it appear that there is a "donut" in the nominated property. Please erase it (and the cemetery) from the final boundary map.

The Multiple Property cover document for Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee, in Section F-IV, Registration Requirements, notes that "In assessing integrity, careful attention should be directed at the exterior and interior integrity of the farmhouse, since it was the administrative center of the farm..." The farmhouse in this property has seen extensive change after the stated period of significance, and the effect of these changes is not really discussed in the nomination, beyond a cursory "they don't impact" statement. There are no interior photographs, and very little discussion of the interior. Please

provide additional information that supports the contributing status of the farmhouse as it relates to the registration requirements of the MPS.



Jim Gabbert, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
11/26/2018



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 770-1089



December 18, 2018

Dr. Julie Ernstein
Deputy Keeper and Acting Chief,
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

National Register Nomination

- *Maple Grove Farm, Stewart County, Tennessee*

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

The enclosed disks contain the resubmittal of the true and correct nomination for listing of *Maple Grove Farm* to the National Register of Historic Places. This resubmittal corrects a boundary error and provides clarification regarding the Maple Grove Farmhouse in regards to the registration requirements of the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, 1780-1960 MPS.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Rebecca Schmitt at (615) 770-1086 or Rebecca.Schmitt@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:rs

Enclosures(2)