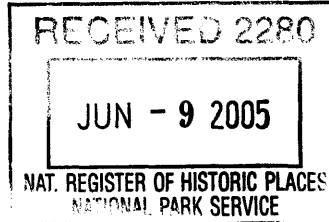


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(Oct. 1990)

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Martin-Miller Farm
other names/site number Martin, Rock House

2. Location

street & number 1597 Old Rock Island Road NA not for publication
city or town Rowland Station vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Warren code 177 zip code 38581

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 for 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Herbert E. Hays 6/8/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Elson H. Beall Date of Action 7/22/05

Martin-Miller Farm
Name of Property

Warren County, Tennessee
County and State

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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
0	0	sites
3	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/animal facilities
agricultural outbuildings
agricultural fields

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/animal facilities
agricultural outbuildings
agricultural fields

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone
walls BRICK; STUCCO; WOOD; GLASS
roof METAL/Steel
other WOOD/ Weatherboard

Narrative Description

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

See Attached Sheets

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.)

- 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 N/A (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C moved from its original location.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1820-1954

Significant Dates

c.1820, c.1870

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Martin-Miller Farm
Name of Property

Warren County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 237 acres Cardwell Mountain, TN 328 NW

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>619330</u>	<u>3955207</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>620822</u>	<u>3956383</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>620742</u>	<u>3955065</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>619483</u>	<u>3956512</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Thomas Gavin and Leslie N. Sharp
organization Tennessee Civil War NHA/Center for Historic Preservation date March 4, 2005
street & number Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Raleigh Miller, Jr.
street & number 1613 Old Rock Island Road telephone (931) 686-3442
city or town Rock Island state TN zip code 38581

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

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

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Martin-Miller Farm
Warren County, Tennessee

Section number 7 Page 1

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Miller-Martin Farm, occupies a 237-acre tract on Old Rock Island Road (old U.S. 70S), about 7 miles east of McMinnville, in Warren County, Tennessee. Rowland Station Road (also known as Hennessey Bridge Road) borders the property on the west. The farmscape consists of an early nineteenth-century dwelling commonly known as the Rock Martin House, and several early twentieth-century resources, including two barns, a garage, a well shelter, well house, and fencing. The land once produced a variety of crops, but it is limited to pasturing and hay production at the present time. The historic fields of the Martin-Miller Farm are well defined by fences and tree lines, and the house occupies its own distinct area clearly set off from the surrounding acreage by wire fencing and tree lines. Adjacent to the highway, a set of c.1930 concrete steps rise from the road level to where the house is sited.

The residence (c.1820) is a two-story, single-pile, rectangular brick structure that rests on a roughly hewn-limestone foundation and is covered with a sheet metal roof. It is built in a simple and restrained style perhaps best described as "Tennessee Federal."¹ The five-bay south façade faces the highway. Two large stuccoed brick steps lead up to the stuccoed brick foundation of a Victorian-era porch, constructed c.1870, and now covered with a four-inch thick concrete slab. All wooden vestiges of this porch completely disappeared in the 1970s, but photographs and oral history provide solid proof of its former existence.² The original window opening above the main entrance door on the south facade was modified c.1870 in order to install the half-glass Eastlake-style paneled door surmounted with a two-light transom that would have given access to the then newly built second-story porch (no longer extant). If one looks carefully, faint traces of an earlier single-story porch remain, but not nearly enough to know definitively what it may have looked like. There is no documentary evidence of when this one-story porch was built.

In a Federal-style house, the treatment of the entryway provides the main emphasis of the façade.³ The Rock Martin House exemplifies this concept with a handsome eight-panel door flanked by fluted pilasters and topped by a fluted transom bar with bull's-eye embellishments. There are half-paneled sidelights and paneled door casing. A delicate Adamesque elliptical fanlight window spans the entire entrance assembly. An oversized arched brick lintel supports the weight of the wall above this opening. The window openings on the facade and the rear elevation have splayed flat-arched lintels. The front wall of the Rock Martin House was laid in Flemish bond, while the remaining three walls were laid in common bond. Circa 1870 repair work, which included repointing the brick, on the west side of the façade also was done in common bond. The large symmetrically placed windows represent another common feature of Federal architecture, although the one-over-one double-hung sashes appear to be later replacements. Most likely they once matched the four-over-four double-hung sash windows located on the rear elevation. A plain one-foot wide frieze board covers the junction of the top of the wall and the soffit. The pairs of decorative brackets mounted on this board at each corner of the cornice appear to be similar to those on the missing c.1870 porch, and probably date from that time.

¹ James Patrick, *Architecture in Tennessee: 1768 – 1897* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981), 81.

² Walter Womack, *McMinnville at a Milestone: 1810-1960* (McMinnville: Standard Publishing Company and Womack Printing Company, 1960), 115; Jimmy Haley, "The Rock." *Warren County Historical Journal* 5 (1982): 8.

³ Stephen Calloway and Elizabeth Cromley, eds. *The Elements of Style: A Practical Encyclopedia of Interior Architectural Details From 1485 to the Present* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1991), 207.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Martin-Miller Farm
Warren County, Tennessee

Both the east and west elevations are identical, with no openings piercing the walls. The gable walls are topped by large unbroken pediments. The center section of each pediment is sided with imbricated wood shingles and flanked by a large decorative bracket on either side. The rest of the space inside the pediments is clad with flat vertical boards. In addition, four sets of paired c.1870 brackets on the frieze board ornament both of these gables. The interior end chimneys at the peak of the roof are the only indications of the fireplaces; each one has been built entirely within its room, leaving both exterior end walls smooth and unbroken. The west elevation has a low brick lean-to cellar entrance covered with modern sheet metal doors (c. 2000) at the south corner.

On the north (rear) elevation, there are three paneled wood doors that open into each of the three rooms on the first floor. There is a first-story one-over-one double-hung sash window to the west of the doors. Originally a window, the far east door once provided access to the missing kitchen wing and would have been out of the weather, which is the reason that it is the only rear door to have interior wooden trim on the exterior wall. The architectural ghosts of the non-extant kitchen wing are still discernible with triangular shape markings on the rear elevation wall. The first story kitchen wing dated to the mid-1800s. This wing was expanded to two stories at the turn of the twentieth century and removed in 1982. Just to the west of the far eastern door on the rear elevation is evidence of a window opening that was filled in to accommodate the addition of the one-story kitchen wing. The windows on the second floor line up with their counterparts on the south façade with the exception of the one in the center; it has been lowered approximately two feet so that it could be opened and closed from the stair landing. All of the rear second story windows are four-over-four double-hung sash. The roof on the east end of the north elevation is pierced by one original small shed roof dormer containing a single four light sash. The front wall of the dormer is set forward so that it is in the same vertical plane as the rear wall of the house. The roof of this dormer is covered in sheet metal and the sides are clad in weatherboard. Half round gutters run the full length of the house, both front and rear, and there is a round downspout at each corner of the building.

Family tradition holds that a fire damaged a large section of the west part of the house. Some physical evidence of this is seen in brick repair work and charred framing. Although exact dates are unknown, the fire probably took place during the Civil War between 1862 and 1865. More than likely, James Wiley Miller, who had bought the house by 1867 and remodeled it c.1870, repaired the damage. It was under Miller's ownership that the c. 1870 porch was added.

A large section on the east end of the north elevation was plastered after the mid-19th-century one-story kitchen was added. The bricks in the area above and to the side of this plastering show the traces of two distinct architectural ghosts that indicate the former presence of additional rooms in this area. The earlier and smaller of the faint patterns delineates an early one-story kitchen addition that replaced the original detached log kitchen building. The other ghost delineates a much larger structure with a fully engaged screened-in side porch that succeeded the earlier kitchen and was added during the Miller's ownership.⁴ This later two-story weatherboard rear addition that contained the dining room, kitchen, and bathroom (without plumbing at first) was constructed in the early twentieth century by William V.D. Miller and removed 1982.

The Rock Martin House features a central hall plan on both floors. On the first floor, the main entrance door leads into this hall, which has a large square room to either side of it. A nicely grained six-paneled door adjacent to the west wall leads to the back yard. This hall contains a well-crafted stairway along its east wall, which, with its delicate and grained woodwork, is the focal point of the interior. A simple curved handrail supported by slender square-post balusters protects the open side of the staircase while a shadow handrail is affixed to the plastered wall opposite. The flight of steps leads to the well-lit landing where a short second flight completes the journey to the second floor. A four-over-four double-hung window, lowered for accessibility, provides the illumination for this space. A well-proportioned turned newel post firmly anchors each corner of the railing. The stair ends are decorated with a carved

⁴ Womack, *McMinnville at a Milestone*, 115

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Martin-Miller Farm
Warren County, Tennessee

scrollwork motif and the wall below is divided into triangular and square panels. A door matching the one in the entry opens to a small closet under the stairway. The ceiling of the hall consists of random width hand planed painted boards with a decorative bead on one edge. The walls were plastered smooth, but after years of wear and tear it is no longer smooth. The flooring is made of white ash planks. The interior woodwork around the entrance includes graining, paneled wood below the sidelights, triangular dentil molding on the round arch surrounding the fanlight, and fluted round engaged columns leading to carved square medallions that abut the round arch. Dark stained-wood baseboard, chair rail, and picture moldings surround the room.

The east room is the more detailed of the two rooms on the first floor. The eight-paneled door leading from the center hall also matches the entry door. A restrained Federal-style paneled mantelpiece surrounds the fireplace. A pair of slender engaged columns supports a frieze with bed molding and a molded mantelshelf. Original built-in shelves are located on both sides of the fireplace and are surrounded by fluted board and medallions. Yellow poplar beaded boards cover the ceiling. The walls are plastered and the floors are white ash boards. Dark stained baseboard and chair rail moldings surround the room, and a four-paneled wood door leads to the rear yard.

In the west room, the main decorative element is the mantelpiece. It does not appear to be as old as the one in the east room and probably dates to the c.1870 renovations. The supporting engaged columns on each side are fully turned, the medallions on the frieze above are neatly carved, and the woodwork is incised rather than truly paneled. The two doors in this room are built in a four-panel arrangement. The only other woodwork in this room besides the window and door trim are the baseboards. The woodwork in this room is simpler than in the hall or east parlor. The ceiling is composed of dark beaded planks, the walls are plastered, and the floor is made of white ash planks. The spaces on each side of the chimney are empty, and there are no closets in this room. The charred framing wood remaining in the attic above the second floor provides convincing evidence of a 19th-century fire.

The hall on the second floor provides access to the two rooms on either side. In addition, the original window on the south wall has been remodeled into a door that once led to the Victorian-era porch (no longer extant). The woodwork around these three second-floor doorways is composed of simple architrave trim. The ceiling is plastered and the floors consist of white ash planks. There is an early twentieth century section of floral-patterned linoleum on the floor of the upstairs hall.

The walls and ceiling of the upper west room are all plastered and considerable remnants of the earlier paper covering are still affixed to the walls and ceiling. The fireplace projects into the room. The bricks around the fireplace are exposed because the mantelpiece has been removed (it is presently propped up against the east wall). The opening of the fireplace has been plastered over. This mantel is similar to the one in the lower west room, and is leaning against a wall waiting to be put up. The windows are trimmed like the others and a simple dark stained baseboard surrounds the room. Plain chair rail and picture rail molding is mounted on the east wall.

Like its counterpart on the first floor, the upper east room is the more detailed of the two. The walls and ceiling were originally plastered and then papered several times. A heavy molding serves as a chair rail and encircles the entire room. The charming little two-panel fireplace surround consists of a simple cornice and frieze; the fireplace itself is plastered over. The spaces on either side of the fireplace are empty. A dark wood baseboard hides the edges of the white ash floor planks on all four walls.

In addition to the main house (a contributing building), the Martin-Miller Farm consists of seven other contributing and one non-contributing buildings and structures:

Large Stock Barn – Built c.1920, this gable roof building faces south toward the Old Rock Island Road and is immediately adjacent to it. It has three main bays with an attached shed on each side. The walls are clad with vertical wood boards and the roof is covered with sheet metal. (Contributing building)

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Martin-Miller Farm
Warren County, Tennessee

Smaller Stock Barn – This barn was built c.1930 and is similar in construction and appearance to the larger barn. It is a three bay structure with a hay hood on the middle bay but does not have flanking side sheds. It has vertical wood board siding and a sheet metal roof. (Contributing building)

Garage – This c.1930 building is a one story, two bay frame building with vertical wood board siding and a sheet metal shed roof. It is located immediately west of the larger stock barn. (Contributing building)

Well Shelter– A small c.1900 open structure for the hand-dug well. It has vertical wood board siding on the north elevation, weatherboard on the gable ends, and a metal roof supported by wood posts. It is located northwest of the main house. (Contributing structure)

Well House – A small concrete block structure with a sheet metal roof located just to the northeast of the main house. It was built c.1950. (Contributing structure)

Fencing – Dating to various periods in the twentieth century, there is wire-and-post fencing throughout the property and running behind the main house. The current and historic fence lines can be delineated by the tree and shrub lines. The woven wire fencing with a single strand of barbed wire on top runs parallel to the highway for a stretch and was installed in 1991. (Contributing structure)

Mobile home – This 1972 manufactured building sits just to the east of the main house and is used for a residence. It is a single-wide, metal structure with aluminum windows and was moved to the property in 1972 when Tip Miller moved from the main house. (Noncontributing building, due to date)

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Martin-Miller Farm
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Martin-Miller Farm, a historic farmstead on the Old Rock Island Road east of McMinnville, in Warren County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its local significance in agriculture, exploration and settlement, and architecture. Located in rural Warren County, the house and farm evolved over 150 years into its present configuration. The complex was first associated with the Martin family, early settlers of the area, and then with the Miller family who have owned the property since 1867. The main house is an excellent and intact example of late Federal architecture in Tennessee. The hallmark of this style is the treatment of the front entryway, which provides the primary emphasis of the façade. The Rock Martin House exemplifies this concept with a handsome eight-panel door flanked by fluted pilasters and half-paneled sidelights and topped by an Adamesque elliptical fanlight window. The symmetrical central-hall plan common to Tennessee Federal remains intact. The high ceilings, wood floors, wood staircase with decorative scrolling, mantels, graining on the wood panel doors, and molding are historically correct and contribute to the architectural significance of the property. The decorative brackets and shingles on the exterior date to the ownership of the Millers during the post-Civil War period. The farmstead contains a good collection of historic outbuildings that also contribute to the agricultural and architectural significance of the property. The farmstead is a good representative example of settlement and agricultural practices in Middle Tennessee. The Martin-Miller Farm retains a high level of integrity as an evolving and working family farm and is being nominated under the "Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee" Multiple Property Nomination.

The unincorporated community of Rock Island, located near the confluence of the Caney Fork and Rocky River, was the first settlement in what is now Warren County. Before Warren County was established, Rock Island served as the seat of White County for three years, 1806-1809. It was quite a flourishing frontier village at that time, and several sessions of the county court were held there until the permanent county seats for the two counties were established at McMinnville and Sparta, respectively. William (1771-1866) and Virginia (Jennie) Martin (1785-1866) had come to this area from North Carolina in 1802 and set up their farm on the banks of Mud Creek, on land now known as the Martin-Miller Farm.⁵ In 1813, the Martins purchased the Rock Island ferry and lands from John Armstrong for \$1,500, and they operated the ferry from the small log house built by Rock Island's first settler, Joseph Terry on the Caney Fork River where it intersects with the mouth of the Rocky River, north of the current Martin-Miller Farm.⁶ By 1815 both Martins had acquired the nickname of "Rock" from their close association with the island and ferry. They also ran a distillery and kept an inn for overnight travelers on their farm.⁷ The inn and distillery were located on land that is no longer associated with the Martin-Miller Farm.

The profits from their successful businesses soon induced the Martins to erect a fashionable brick house (with a detached log kitchen to the rear, no longer extant) facing the Rock Island road near their original log homestead.⁸ The new house was built with the help of the family slaves, who molded and dried the bricks by the nearby creek. The interior woodwork is reputedly the labor of a craftsman by the name of John Duncan, whose name can be found on the

⁵ Jimmy Haley, "The Rock," *Warren County Historical Journal* 5 (1982): 8; Jacqueline H. Haley, "William C. Martin, 1991." TMs [photocopy]: 1; Walter Hancock, "Martin: The Story of 'Rock,'" *Warren County Historical Journal* 2 (1976): 28.

⁶ Haley, "The Rock," 9; Haley, "The Rock Martin House," 1.

⁷ Haley, "The Rock," 8; Haley, "The Rock Martin House," 2.

⁸ Haley, "The Rock," 10; Haley, "The Rock Martin House," 2.

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Martin-Miller Farm
Warren County, Tennessee

Section number 8 Page 6

1820 and succeeding Warren County censuses.⁹ The Martins hired Duncan to complete the staircase, mantelpieces, and the rest of the wooden trim in their new house. During that time, the master carpenter fell in love with the Martin's older daughter, Mary Ann (born 1805), and asked for her hand in marriage. The couple acquiesced, and gave the newlyweds some land close by as a dowry. According to the family genealogical records, Duncan was 29 years old at the time and Mary Martin, 15. Census records confirm the age ranges of the Duncans and their children, indicating their marriage probably occurred in the early 1820s at the latest.¹⁰

In 1820 much of Middle Tennessee was still a frontier landscape, with few amenities of any kind. The construction of a stylish brick dwelling such as the Rock Martin House would have been a milestone at that early date. At the same time, both physical and cultural distances between the "wilderness" and "civilization" placed distinct limits on artistic expression. Though far removed from the fashionable architectural currents of the east coast, southern builders frequently borrowed details from the newer styles and grafted them onto the traditional eighteenth-century precedents that they were familiar with. From the beginning, the "Tennessee Federal" style was complicated by the persistence of these eighteenth century details and images.¹¹ Consequently, many older Tennessee homes do not represent any one particular academic style because when they were built they encompassed a wide range of focus and technical competency while simultaneously interpreting a variety of classical themes.¹² This building contains an interesting combination of vernacular features and minimal Federal detail that argue for the relatively early date. The traditional I-House form of the Martin-Miller house remains unchanged, and throughout the years has served as a base for a steady progression of stylish ornamentation.

When discussing an individual house, it is important to begin with the plan, because it is the most tenacious element of regional building traditions and directly influences other structural features.¹³ Federal architecture is usually characterized by a balanced and symmetrical arrangement of space, a feeling of lightness and elegance, and competent craftsmanship.¹⁴ The fully developed Federal-style house had distinct Georgian roots, often manifested by a multistoried, four-room, double-pile plan. Georgian architecture generally displays a strong central element around which the other supporting attributes were symmetrically placed.¹⁵ When the time to build came for the Martins, they chose the up-to-date central-hall plan and the two-story height for their home, but kept the one-room depth of an I-House that was commonly found in rural settings. This scaled-down version of the fashionable ideal was well suited to the humid southern climate. The regularly spaced opposing windows provided a marked improvement in ventilation compared to larger or more random arrangements.

⁹ 1820 U.S. Census for Warren County. NARA Microfilm M33, Roll 122.

¹⁰ Haley, "The Rock," 9; Haley, "William C. Martin," 2; 1830 U.S. Census for Warren County. NARA Microfilm M19, Roll 181; 1840 U.S. Census for Warren County. NARA Microfilm RG704, Roll 357.

¹¹ Patrick, *Architecture in Tennessee*, 81

¹² Patrick, *Architecture in Tennessee*, 83.

¹³ F.H.A. Aalen, *Man and the Landscape in Ireland* (London: Academic Press, 1978) 248.

¹⁴ Calloway and Cromley, *The Elements of Style*, 204-205; Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to American Architecture* (New York: Bonanza, 1980), 29-30.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

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Martin-Miller Farm
Warren County, Tennessee

Another concession to the climate would have been to build exterior chimneys on the ends of the house, but instead, both stacks were constructed completely inside their respective rooms, both upstairs and down. The embedded chimney had been a long-established feature of traditional houses that had begun to die out in Tennessee about 1800.¹⁶ Virginia and Carolina builders had begun to break their chimneys outside the walls by the mid-eighteenth century, so the Martins may have been familiar with this change in taste. Nevertheless, they retained the old-fashioned interior fireplaces, each of which dominates its particular room, upstairs and down.

Profits from the Martins' financial enterprises allowed them to acquire additional land and slaves. Eventually they owned more than 1000 acres in the immediate area. The 1850 Census shows the Martins with 15 slaves and the 1860 Census enumerates 30, totals that would place the Martins in the top quarter of Middle Tennessee farmers holding slaves.¹⁷ These enslaved persons lived in quarters separate from the main dwelling, on land across the highway in front of the house.¹⁸ The exact site is unknown at the present time. The relatively large number of slaves held by the Martins would seem to indicate that they were raising a crop for the market, probably cotton, in addition to the usual corn, hogs, and chickens for their subsistence.¹⁹

As the Martins grew older they divided their property among their offspring. Although the Martins had grown wealthy, their lives were regularly interrupted by tragedy. They survived four of their seven children, and buried several of their children's spouses as well as a number of their grandchildren in the family plot nearby. The Martins deeded their private burial ground to the Presbyterian Ministry and it became part of the Shiloh Church cemetery, which is located across Rowland Station Road from the nominated property.²⁰

When the Civil War came to Middle Tennessee, the Martins suffered great hardships along with almost everyone else. Several grandsons enlisted in the Confederate army, their business income fell considerably, slaves ran away to freedom, and Nathan B. Forrest's troops encamped upon their farm near Mud Creek. William Martin died shortly after the war, in June 1866. Left in the company of a few recently freed African-American servants, Jennie passed on four months later.²¹

By early 1867 James Wiley Miller (1825-1893) and his second wife, the former Ellen Bray (1838-1900), had purchased the brick house and 396 acres. They were responsible for a major remodeling effort on the house that included repairing the damage from the fire (date unknown, but local legend ties it to the years of the Civil War) and replacing the moldings and mantel in the west rooms. The two-story front porch and decorative trim of the cornice were also added during this time. They grew a variety of crops that probably included corn, wheat, rye, and oats and raised cows, oxen, hogs, and chickens. The vegetable garden was located behind the house and the agricultural and

¹⁶ Patrick, *Architecture in Tennessee*, 69-71.

¹⁷ Carroll Van West, "Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee," *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form*. (7 November 1994).

¹⁸ Haley, "William C. Martin," 2; Eugene D. Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made* (New York: Vintage Books, 1976), 524-535.

¹⁹ West, "Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee."

²⁰ Haley, "The Rock," 10.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 11.

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grazing fields were further out from the house. After Miller died, his widow remained there until the last months of 1897 when she moved in with her daughter. When the estate was settled after Ellen Miller passed away, William (Will) Van Dorn Miller (1862-1932) and his wife, Emma Mary Dunlap (b.1867-1949) acquired the house and the surrounding 420 acres of land from the James Wiley Miller heirs after a rather spirited auction in 1901.²² Will was a second cousin to James Wiley Miller and the grandfather of the current owner Raleigh Miller, Jr. He served as sheriff from 1898 to 1902 and as the Justice of the Peace (Magistrate) from 1918 to 1932.

Will and Emma had four children named Euclid Dennis Miller, Eugene Clingman Miller, Everett Quitman Miller, and the father of the current owner Raleigh Bryan Miller, Sr. After buying the property, the Millers soon constructed a large frame, weatherboard, rear addition that contained a dining room, kitchen, bathroom (but no plumbing initially), and a side porch (no longer extant). The sheltered hand-dug well (extant) in the yard provided the family's water (later c. 1950 the Miller Family built a new well house over the earlier dug well). The Millers raised beef cattle, oxen, horses, and mules, along with the crops necessary to feed them, such as corn, alfalfa, and other grasses. In order to house their livestock, Will built the c.1920 stock barn. Two dependable water sources, Mud Creek and a large spring-fed pond, aided them in these endeavors by providing water for both the crops and the livestock. Today the creek remains on the property, but the pond is now owned by the nursery who bought part of the farm in the 1990s. Emma sold surplus eggs, chickens, and cream to "rolling stores" operated by Gilbert Kell and Leonard Hitchcock in exchange for her own purchases, such as sugar, coffee, matches, etc.²³ This source of additional income was typical on Middle Tennessee farms during that period. She also oversaw the vegetable garden that had been behind the house. Will Miller's health failed in the late 1920s and his son Everett Quitman (Tip) Miller (1892-1990) took over the management of the farm around 1928. Will Miller died in 1932 and his wife passed on in 1949. Tip Miller, who never married, continued to run the farm after his parents died. Following his father's footsteps, he served as Justice of the Peace (Magistrate) from 1944 to 1968.

Tip kept up with the changes in agricultural practices. He improved his stock by gradually converting the mixed herd of beef cattle into one of registered polled Herefords. He built the 1930s barn to accommodate his growing herd's need. Tip also raised feed crops such as corn as well as alfalfa and other grasses. A progressive farmer, he had electricity installed at the house and barn in the 1940s. By 1972, Tip felt that the operation had gotten too big for him, so he sold his herd and farm equipment and allowed others to rent the land for agricultural purposes. He then moved a house trailer to the property and lived in it until his death in September 1990. Two months later, on Thanksgiving Day, the present owner, Raleigh Miller, Jr. (b. 1932), Will V.D. Miller's grandson, purchased the house, farm buildings, and 237 acres north of the Old Rock Island Road at auction. The rest of the farmstead was divided and sold to others.²⁴ John Collier's Pleasant Cove Nursery bought 98 acres between Old Rock Island Road and Hwy 70S; a developer bought 65 acres south of Hwy 70S; and the remaining 20 acres from Will Miller's 420 acres had been bought for use as the right-of-way for the construction of a four-lane highway in the 1980s.

Raleigh Jr. is the son of Emma and Will's youngest son, Raleigh, Sr. (1896-1987) and his wife Gertrude Edith Brown (Brownie) Miller (1901-1966). The senior Raleigh was the first person from his Congressional District to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1919. He also served as the commanding officer of the USS Ranier, an ammunition

²² According to the history of the property written by Jacqueline Haley, only 396 acres were purchased at this auction; however, in 1990 a professionally done survey of the Miller holdings put the number right at 400 acres. This 400 acres plus the 20 acres taken by the highway in the 1980s would have made the 1867 and 1901 purchases closer to 420 acres.

²³ Raleigh Miller, Jr. "Miller Farm History." TMs, 2004 [photocopy]: 1.

²⁴ Haley, "The Rock Martin House," 3.

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ship. During World War II, Raleigh Sr. was the commanding officer of the USS Karnes, an attack transport that was stationed in the Pacific. He was also instrumental in establishing the Ben Lomond Rural Telephone Cooperative in 1952 that brought telephone service to Warren County and the surrounding area. Raleigh and Edith had two sons Raleigh Jr. and William Howard (1933-1972), who both graduated from the Naval Academy and served their country with distinction, like their father.

Today, Raleigh, Jr. is retired from the Navy and lives in the trailer adjacent to the historic house, which is vacant. He, with assistance from his neighbor Ronnie Reynolds, grows clover and hay to feed his herd of mixed breed cattle. Raleigh has established seven wildlife clearings, ranging from one-to-two acres that had been in the wooded part of the property and did not change the overall historic use of the land. Within these clearings are plantings that include gobbler saw tooth oak, persimmon, indigo bush, crab apple, orchard grass, and clover. Raleigh has planted crown vetch, a soil-building legume, as a ground cover between the perimeter fence and Old Rock Island Road.²⁵ The long agricultural tradition of this productive farmstead continues to the present day.

No formal archaeological assessment has been performed on the Martin-Miller Farm. Although the exact location of the slave housing is not known and according to the family tradition was probably on the other side of the highway on land no longer owned by the Millers, the former presence of slaves on the property indicates the potential for historic subsurface remains in the areas where the slaves lived. There is additional potential for subsurface remains in the area of the farm upon which Nathan B. Forrest's troops camped. Subsurface remains may contain useful information for the general interpretation of these sites in particular and the farm in general.

²⁵ Miller, "Miller Farm History," 1, 4.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Martin-Miller Farm include the 237 acres that Raleigh Miller, Jr. owns on the north side of Old Rock Island Road, just east of Rowland Station Road (also known as Hennessey Bridge Road). The nominated property boundaries are marked on the attached Warren County Map, Parcel 42. The scale is 1" = 800'. This is the best available map for the property.

Boundary Justification:

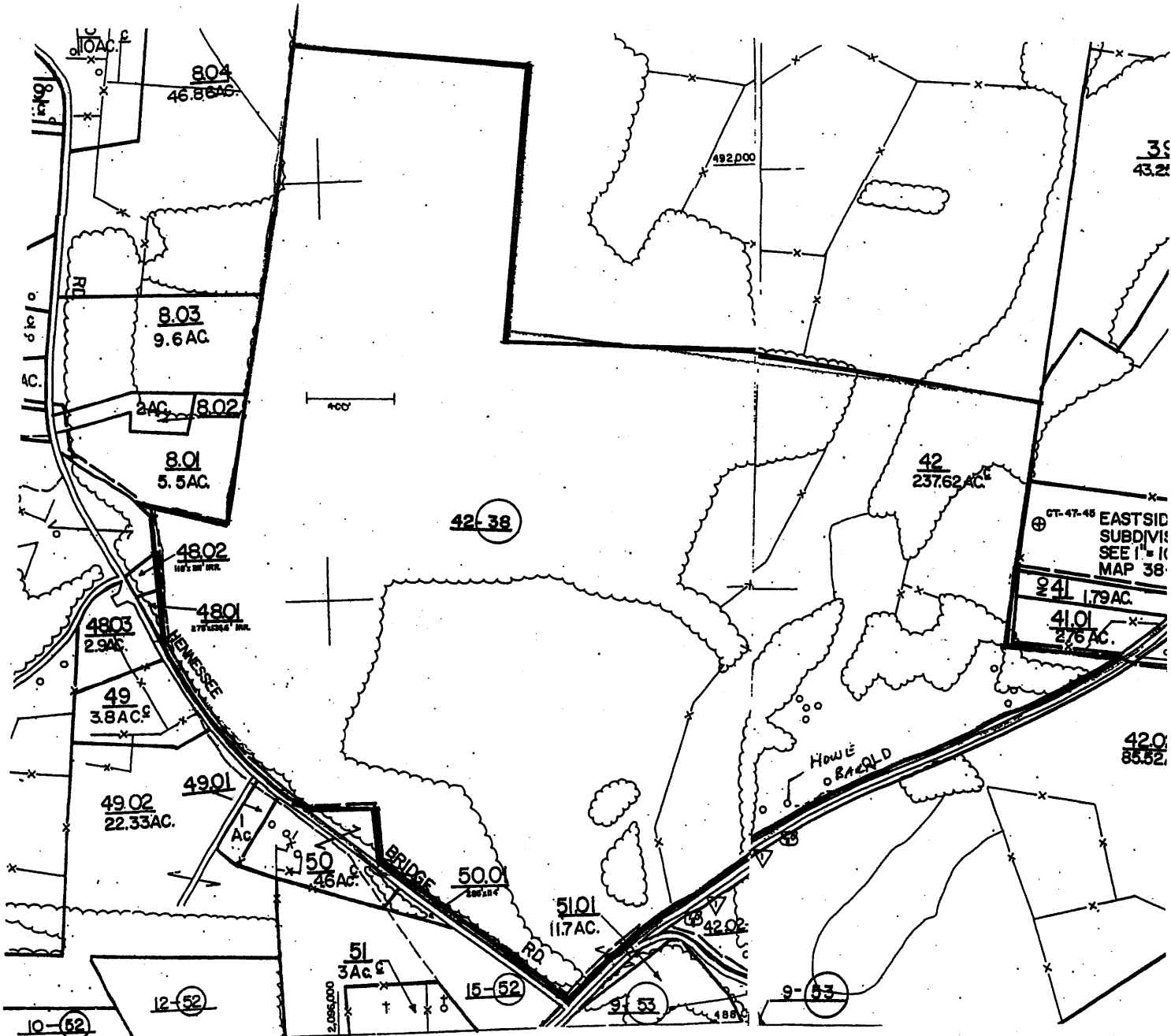
The boundaries of the nominated property, as indicated on the enclosed map, represent the current and legal boundaries associated with the Martin-Miller Farm.

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SCALE: 1" = 800'

WARREN CO. TENN.

PORTIONS OF MAPS 38 & 39

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Martin-Miller Farm
Warren County, Tennessee
Photographer: Carroll Van West, Center for Historic Preservation
Date Photographed: August 2004
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

- 1 of 29: Martin-Miller Farmhouse, garage, large stock barn, and Old Rock Island Road; Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 29: Martin-Miller House and Old Rock Island Road; Photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 29: Southeast corner of house; Photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 29: East elevation of house, showing brick chimney, fishscale shingles in gable and brackets; Photographer facing west.
- 5 of 29: Northeast corner of house, showing architectural ghosts; Photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 29: North (rear) elevation of house, well house and agricultural field; Photographer facing southwest.
- 7 of 29: West elevation, showing brick chimney, fishscale shingles in gable, brackets and open cellar doors; Photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 29: South façade of the house; Photographer facing east-northeast.
- 9 of 29: Front entrance of house; Photographer facing north.
- 10 of 29: Interior detail of front entrance door, wood graining, sidelights, and semi-circular transom taken from entrance hall; Photographer facing south.
- 11 of 29: Rear exit door taken from entrance hall, showing wood graining on paneled doors and molding; Photographer facing north.
- 12 of 29: East parlor fireplace and wood mantel; Photographer facing southeast.
- 13 of 29: East parlor with fireplace, mantel and built-in shelving; Photographer facing east.
- 14 of 29: Looking into entrance hall and out front door from east parlor; Photographer facing west-southwest.
- 15 of 29: West parlor, showing fireplace and mantel; Photographer facing west.
- 16 of 29: West parlor looking into entrance hallway, showing rear door, wood graining and main staircase; Photographer facing northeast.

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- 17 of 29: Detail of staircase in entrance hall; Photographer facing northeast.
- 18 of 29: Detail of staircase going upstairs; Photographer facing north-northwest.
- 19 of 29: Upstairs center hall, showing second story door; Photographer facing south-southeast.
- 20 of 29: East upstairs bedroom, looking from room through hall to west bedroom, showing graining on door; Photographer facing west-northwest.
- 21 of 29: West upstairs bedroom, showing fireplace; Photographer facing west.
- 22 of 29: West upstairs bedroom, showing missing mantel, moldings and graining on door looking across hall into east upstairs bedroom; Photographer facing northeast.
- 23 of 29: Large stock barn and garage; Photographer facing north.
- 24 of 29: Front of garage and large stock barn; Photographer facing northeast.
- 25 of 29: Fencing, garage and large stock barn; Photographer facing east.
- 26 of 29: Agricultural fields, fencing and smaller stock barn; Photographer facing east.
- 27 of 29: Well shelter; Photographer facing northwest.
- 28 of 29: Well house and mobile home; Photographer facing southeast.
- 29 of 29: Mobile home and well house; Photographer facing northwest.

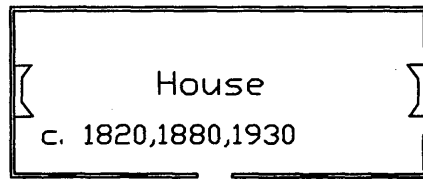
Well
Shelter
c. 1900



Well
house
c. 1950



Trailer
nc.1972



House
c. 1820,1880,1930

Concrete porch c.1930

Garage
c. 1930

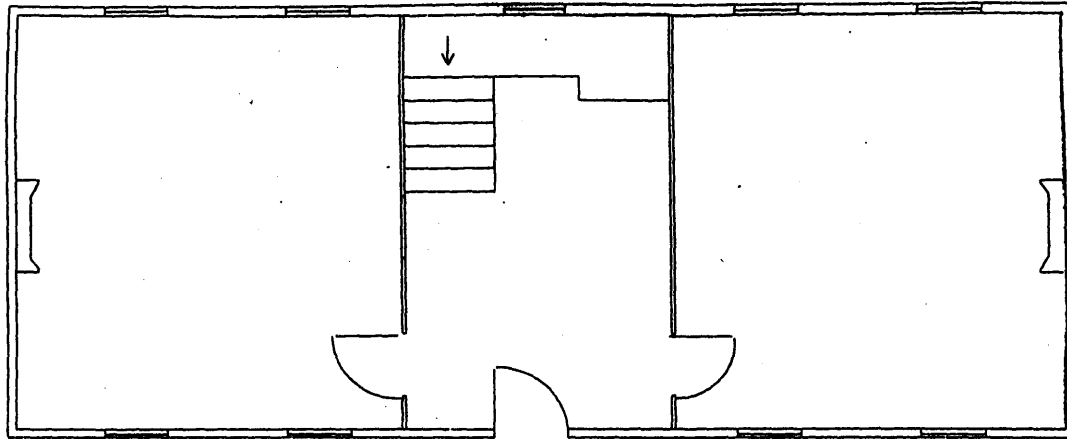
Large
Stock
barn
c. 1920

Stock
barn
c. 1930

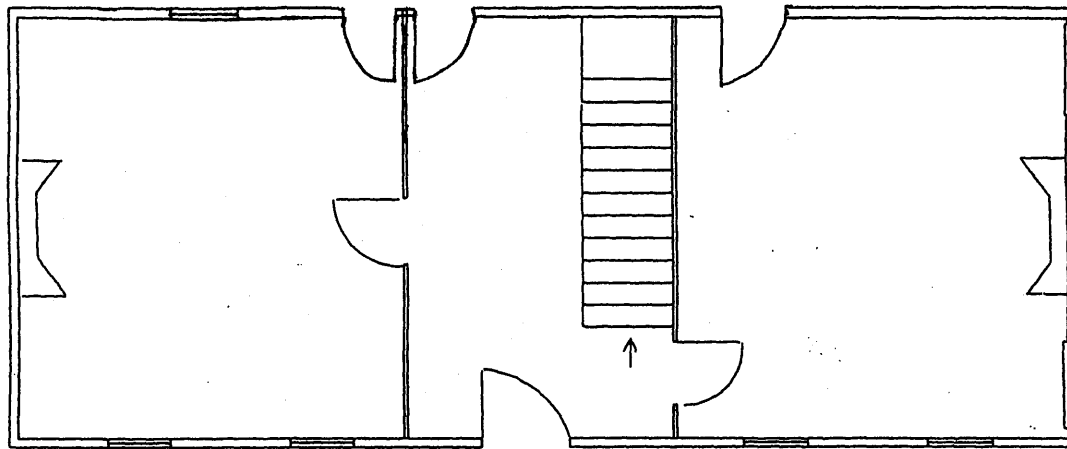


Old US 70 S

Martin-Miller Farm, Warren Co, TN



Second Floor



First Floor

Martin-Miller Farm, Warren Co, TN