



**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	7	buildings
2	1	sites
4	5	structures
0	0	objects
11	13	Total

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

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding
- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- EDUCATION: school
- FUNERARY: cemetery
- INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility, energy facility
- RECREATION: outdoor recreation
- RELIGION: religious facility
- SOCIAL: meeting hall
- TRANSPORTATION: road-related

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding
- COMMERCE: store
- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- FUNERARY: cemetery
- GOVERNMENT: post office
- RECREATION: outdoor recreation, museum
- SOCIAL: meeting hall
- TRANSPORTATION: road-related
- OTHER: tourism

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Classical Revival
- No Style

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE: limestone, BRICK, CONCRETE
- walls WOOD: weather-board, CONCRETE
- roof METAL, ASPHALT
- other BRICK, WOOD, CONCRETE, METAL, GLASS

**Narrative Description**

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

See Continuation Sheet

**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 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 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMERCE
- INDUSTRY
- SETTLEMENT
- ENGINEERING

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1871-1955

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Page, W. H., architect/builder  
McNabb, Ben T., builder

**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:  
TDOT, State Department of Archaeology

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Humphreys County, Tennessee  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 300 acres

Hurricane Mills, TN (31 NE)

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>430190</u>	<u>3980880</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>429060</u>	<u>3979040</u>

3	<u>16</u>	<u>428230</u>	<u>3979400</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>16</u>	<u>429090</u>	<u>3981040</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 Robbie D. Jones

organization Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History date August 1999

street & number MTSU Box 23 telephone 615-898-5805

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 Loretta Lynn, c/o Cissy Lynn and/or Betty Sue Lynn

street & number 44 Hurricane Mills Road telephone 931-296-7700

city or town Hurricane Mills state TN zip code 37078

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

## VII. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District retains many historic buildings, structures, and sites that make up the 185-year old, unincorporated Hurricane Mills community in south central Humphreys County, Tennessee. ("Hurricane" is pronounced *hur ri kuhn*.) The historic resources in the district are representative of vernacular and formal architecture found in a small, rural village that served as a social and commercial center for surrounding farms between the early nineteenth and the mid-twentieth century. Constructed between ca. 1871 and 1955, the contributing resources in the district collectively represent the historic character of the area. Noncontributing resources are small in scale and do not detract from the district.

The compact district is located along both sides of the Hurricane Creek near its confluence with the Duck River. Old State Highway 13 extends through the district in a roughly north-south direction. Connecting the small county seats of Waverly in Humphreys County and Linden in Perry County, the highway crossed over Hurricane Creek with a steel truss bridge located near the center of the district. Around 1942, the State Highway Department relocated State Highway 13 approximately one mile east of Hurricane Mills. (The state named the section of the new state highway that connects Waverly to I-40 the "Loretta Lynn Parkway.") In 1985, the TDOT constructed a new concrete bridge over Hurricane Creek within the district boundaries. Currently Old State Highway 13 and Hurricane Creek Road intersect within the district at the new bridge, but no section of Hurricane Creek Road lies within the district. Approximately 1.5 miles of Old State Highway 13 passes through the district, including a one-mile section that remains unpaved. Rural farmland, mountainous forests, dirt farm roads, numerous creeks, fenced pastures, and pastoral fields are located within and around the district.

The district is centered on the Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse, which was built in stages between ca. 1876 and ca. 1916 on the south side of Hurricane Creek and Old State Highway 13. This imposing "Southern Colonial"-style farmhouse was once the seat of a large progressive farm, known mainly for raising livestock and peanuts. A water-powered roller mill and woolen factory building is located across the highway on the north side of Hurricane Creek. Built in stages between 1897 and ca. 1910, this multi-purpose mill served as the center of a thriving commercial enterprise originally begun in the 1810s as an iron forge and gristmill. A concrete dam constructed in the 1910s provided waterpower for the mill, as well as electricity for the entire community. The historic district also retains many vernacular buildings, including a ca. 1871 Meeting House that housed a Church of Christ on the main floor and a Masonic lodge on the second floor. Also in the district is a ca. 1926 commercial building that once housed a general store/service station and the town's original post office. A community building constructed in 1954-55, which once housed an elementary school, is included within the district. The historic district also retains transportation-related facilities, such as a vehicular, steel truss bridge built in 1911 across Hurricane Creek.

The Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District is a superb example of a small, crossroads community where agricultural, industrial, and commercial businesses thrived between the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

centuries. Since the late 1960s, this historic community has been the home of the legendary country music entertainer Loretta Lynn and her family. Loretta Lynn currently owns the entire historic district, with the exception of the public cemetery. The unincorporated Hurricane Mills community, including most of the resources in this historic district, has been used as a background set in numerous entertainment productions, including country music videos, television commercials and specials, and country music album covers. Hurricane Mills was also featured prominently in the Oscar-winning movie *Coal Miner's Daughter* (1980). Hurricane Mills has been a popular site for outdoor recreation for the local community since its establishment; however, this property, which is now known as the "Loretta Lynn Ranch & Family Campground," has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in Tennessee.

The Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District contains a total of twenty-four (24) individual properties - eleven (11) are contributing and thirteen (13) are noncontributing. Contributing properties include the principal farm residence, a flourmill and hydroelectric dam, a church and lodge, a school and community building, a metal truss bridge, a family cemetery, several agricultural outbuildings, and landscaping elements such as agricultural fields and a livestock pond. Noncontributing properties include an altered commercial building and post office, a modern concrete bridge, several agricultural outbuildings, and modern landscaping elements. Contributing properties (C) are significant to the historical and architectural development of the district, possess compatible design elements, and maintain the scale, use, feel, and setting of the district. Noncontributing properties (NC) have little or no historical or architectural significance, have been altered, or do not fall within the period of significance of the historic district (ca. 1871-1955).

## INVENTORY LIST

1. Hurricane Mill (HS.12; 40HS169). Located on the north side of Hurricane Creek, the Hurricane Mill is an impressive two-story frame building constructed in stages between 1897 and ca. 1910 for James T. Anderson. The water-powered roller mill was located adjacent to the site of an older steam-powered gristmill built in the mid-nineteenth century. Previous owners had operated an iron forge and a water-powered saw & gristmill at this site between the 1810s and the 1850s. Between the 1860s and 1950s, several owners operated a commercial flourmill at this site, which produced wheat flour, corn meal, and other agricultural products such as livestock feed. James T. Anderson also operated a large stave mill for making barrels, a woolen factory, a sawmill for making crossties among other products, and a blacksmith shop at this location. A large shed housing the blacksmith shop and sawmill was attached to the west façade of the building, but is no longer standing. The woolen factory, which manufactured jeans and other clothing items from local wool, was apparently located on the second level of this building. Three water-powered turbines powered a flourmill, a corn mill, and a roller mill; all located in this building. In the early twentieth century, the turbines also powered a direct-current generator that produced electricity for the entire community, as well as many public buildings at Waverly.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

A typical example of a turn-of-century commercial mill, the vernacular, frame building has weatherboard siding and shallow gable roofs covered with metal panels. Built in 1897, the central section, which originally housed the milling equipment, is the oldest section. A two-story wing housing warehouse space is located on the eastside. Rough limestone foundations support this wing, which does not have a basement level. Around 1910, Anderson enlarged the mill with a two-story wing, which originally housed a roller mill and a woolen factory, on the west side. An open basement containing the water-powered turbines and other machinery is located beneath these two sections. Well-finished cast concrete columns and foundations, which are scored to imitate finished stone, support these two sections. The original wagon scale is located on the north side of the west wing.

Alterations to this building are minimal, and limited to the main level of the interior. After the flourmill permanently shut down in the 1950s, the heavy roller mill equipment was removed from the main level of the west wing. However, the subsequent owners retained the original millstones, which were powered by the three hydraulic turbines in the creek-side penstock. The James Leffel & Company of Springfield, Ohio manufactured the turbines. In 1966, Loretta Lynn purchased the vacant building, and in 1972 her husband Mooney Lynn converted the main level of the flourmill into a commercial gift shop and museum. Lynn extended the small one-story porch with a shed roof on the north side of the building. The main pedestrian entrances, which retain original wooden doors, are located on this porch. The building retains a large number of the original six-over-six double hung windows, most of which are covered with wood shutters, but many of the windows on the main level have been replaced for improved security and weatherproofing.

The interior retains much of the original flourmill equipment and machinery, including drop chutes, grain elevators, meal bins, meal stones, scales, flour packers, line shafts and pulleys, grain cleaners, and storage bins. An automatic flour packer made by the Richmond City Mills Work at Richmond, Indiana, is retained, as well as several examples of a "Clipper Grain & Seed Cleaner" made in the 1920s by A. T. Ferrell & Company of Saginaw, Michigan. Scales made by the Rowe Scale Company of Rutland, Vermont, are also retained, as well as a "Monarch Corn Cleaner" made around 1900 by the Sprout Waldron Mill Builders of Muncy, Pennsylvania. Original structural materials, such as chamfered wood columns and support beams, are retained throughout the building. (C)

2. The Hurricane Creek Dam is located adjacent and attached to the Hurricane Mill. Around 1839, local iron forge and gristmill operators constructed a 12-foot tall wood and stone dam at this location—one of the first dams in the county. In the late nineteenth century, subsequent mill operators built a new stone dam at the location of the current dam. A flood damaged the stone dam in 1912, and James T. Anderson hired local builder Ben T. McNabb to repair and renovate the stone dam with a new concrete-faced dam. This concave-shaped dam directed water to the concrete penstock for driving the hydraulic turbines and generator for making electricity. A flood seriously damaged the dam in March 1916, but local builder John Ridings repaired the dam. In 1976-77, Mooney Lynn hired the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

Frank Barrett Construction Company of Paris, Tennessee, to restore the Hurricane Creek Dam and had stone retaining walls constructed along the creek banks. The Hurricane Creek Waterhole, located above and below the dam, has been used for recreation purposes and as a baptism site for members of the nearby Hurricane Mills Church of Christ for over a century. Together, the 103-year old Hurricane Creek Dam and Hurricane Creek Waterhole form a contributing site within the historic district. (C)

3. Hurricane Mills Bridge (HS.13; TDOT, 43-A0340-00.01). In 1911, the county hired the prolific Nashville Bridge Company to construct the Hurricane Mills Bridge, which features a 100-foot long pin-connected Pratt through truss flanked at each end with steel I-beam spans. Located on the south side of the Hurricane Mill, the 158.8-foot long metal truss bridge replaced the original 185-foot long wooden bridge built by the county in 1883, which had been the first vehicular bridge constructed in the county. The steel bridge has a curb-to-curb width of 11.9 feet and an out-to-out width of 15.3 feet. The supporting piers are cast concrete, tubular cylinders encased with steel, and the piers are connected with cross bracing. In 1918, the Nashville Bridge Company repaired and upgraded the bridge by reinforcing the truss and by possibly replacing the approach spans. According to TDOT historian Martha Carver--who prepared the historic highway bridge survey report in 1987--the composition of the bridge is typical. Carver's report stated that the bridge's top chords and end posts are channels with battens, bottom chords are paired rectilinear eye-bars, vertical are small channels with lacing except the hip verticals which are angles with battens, diagonals are paired rectilinear eye-bars, and counters are single cylindrical tie-rods (Carver [1987], n.p.). The bridge retains two metal builder's plaques, which state that the local building committee consisted of E. W. Anderson, J. B. Bell, and J. B. Tanksley.

In the late 1910s, the Hurricane Creek Bridge became part of a new state route, State Highway 13. This highway connected Waverly with adjacent county seats of Erin in Houston County and Linden in Perry County. This state highway also provided vehicular access to larger commercial towns, including Clarksville, Tennessee, and Florence, Alabama. Automobile traffic was relatively heavy through Hurricane Mills until the State Highway Department relocated State Highway 13 one mile east in the early 1940s, creating a bypass around the community. The bridge continued to serve local vehicular traffic until 1985, when the TDOT constructed a new concrete bridge a few hundred feet east. In 1987, Loretta and Mooney Lynn purchased the abandoned bridge from the county and renovated it for use as a pedestrian bridge at the Loretta Lynn Ranch. The original concrete abutments were slightly altered when stone retaining walls were constructed along the creek edge in the 1970s. The scenic bridge was featured prominently in a country music video with Loretta Lynn and Sissy Spacek for *Coal Miner's Daughter* (1980).

In the mid-1980s, TDOT historian Martha Carver surveyed eight remaining metal truss bridges in Humphreys County as part of a statewide historic bridge inventory. Subsequently, in 1987 the TDOT and the TN-SHPO determined that the Hurricane Mills Bridge was eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a representative truss bridge located within the potentially National



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

Register-eligible Hurricane Mills Historic District (Carver [1987], n.p.). Well-preserved and one of only a few metal truss bridges remaining in the county, the 88-year old Hurricane Mills Bridge is a contributing resource within the historic district. (C)

4. The replacement two-lane Hurricane Mills Bridge opened to vehicular traffic around 1985. The TDOT constructed this bridge on new location a few hundred feet upstream to avoid demolishing the aging, single-lane truss bridge. (According to the county historian at that time, the new bridge was possibly constructed on the approximate site of the original iron forge, gristmill and dam built in the early nineteenth century.) A common example of a standardized steel I-beam bridge with concrete railings and concrete piers, the 14-year old Hurricane Mills Bridge does not contribute to the historic district. (NC)
5. Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse (HS.14). Located on a small hill facing north and towards the Hurricane Mill, this two-story, frame farmhouse was built in stages between around 1876 and ca. 1916. George Hillman constructed the original section of the traditional farmhouse around 1876 and added an intricate Queen Anne-style two-story front porch in the 1880s. Subsequent owner James T. Anderson enlarged and renovated the house around 1905, and added the metal porch columns around 1916. With its two-story front porch supported by imposing Ionic columns, the farmhouse is an excellent example of Neoclassical Revival-style architecture, more commonly referred to in Tennessee as "Southern Colonial." With two-story porches and classical columns, this august architectural style was one of the most dominant styles of American architecture around the turn-of-the-twentieth century. The distinctive architectural elements of the well-preserved exterior of the farmhouse have changed little since the 1910s.

While no architects or builders have been positively documented, W. H. Page likely designed and/or built the original section of the farmhouse in 1876. The 1876-77 edition of the *Tennessee State Gazetteer & Business Directory* listed Page as an "architect at Hurricane Mills" (Nashville: R. L. Polk & Co., p.168), which according to local tradition is when the house was originally built. (G. H. Crutchfield, a contractor and builder at Waverly, may have renovated the house in the 1880s, since he advertised in local newspapers in 1882 that he gave "prompt attention...to orders in the country.") According to local tradition, James T. Anderson ordered the ornate metal porch columns from a specialized company in New Orleans and had them shipped on boats to Hurricane Mills via the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and Duck Rivers.

The I-house has a central-hall floor plan and exterior end chimneys, which are made of brick with common bond, and not hand-hewn sandstone like the vast majority of the area farmhouses. A short two-story ell is located on the rear façade, which has a one-story extension and a one-story side porch. An interior-central brick chimney separated the one-story and two-story sections of the rear ell. Around 1905, Anderson remodeled the house and added a two-story side ell with an interior-end brick chimney to the rear of the house. At that time, Anderson enlarged the front porch with one-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

story wrap-around side porches. He also added a secondary entrance into the main hall off the side porch of the rear ell. Foundation piers of limestone and brick support the house.

The house features weatherboard siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The house retains the original fenestration comprised of four-over-four and one-over-one, double-hung windows and paneled wooden doors. The main entrance has single-pane sidelights, two three-pane transoms, and a wooden door with a single-pane window. The second level of the front porch has a wooden balustrade and an entrance with an original wooden door. The interior retains original paneled doors and transoms, molded trim, plaster walls, and two ca. 1876 vernacular Greek Revival-style wooden mantels, as well as a more elaborate ca. 1905 Queen Anne-style wooden mantel with a mirrored overmantel. Perhaps the most refined architectural element of the house is the curved, self-supporting staircase in the central hall. The ca. 1876 open staircase retains the original wooden balustrade, carved scrollwork, and a large, molded, octagonal newel post. A narrow, enclosed staircase is located in the rear ell and accessed from the ca. 1905 ell. An original 18' x 22' basement cellar is located beneath the rear ell and is accessed from the rear side porch.

In the late 1960s, the Lynns renovated the rear ell of the house with a new kitchen and connected the detached, hipped-roof well house at the rear. In 1975, the Lynns slightly enlarged the rear ell by adding a one-story side wing, which houses a kitchen and informal eating area and a bathroom. A small flagstone patio is also located off the rear kitchen. Mooney Lynn extended the one-story side porch along the well house addition. The Lynns also redecorated the interior of the main section of the house, and added central heat and air, as well as new bathrooms. Mooney Lynn retained the original paneled ceiling in a section of the rear ell. This elaborate metal ceiling is made of deeply molded panels, which Anderson most likely installed in the ca. 1905 renovation. Around 1975, flagstone surfaces were applied to the exterior porches, which connect to the pea-gravel sidewalks leading to the carport, outbuildings, and main road (reconstructed on the site of original concrete sidewalks that James T. Anderson installed in the 1910s).

The interior and exterior of the farmhouse were used as sets in the movie *Coal Miner's Daughter* (1980), as well as various television specials, commercials, and country music videos. Mooney and Loretta Lynn moved out of the farmhouse in 1988 and preserved it as a private museum, which is open for commercial tours. While the Lynns have redecorated and altered the interior, the overall exterior of the stately farmhouse retains its historic appearance from the 1910s. Considered the focal point of the Hurricane Mills community, the 123-year old farmhouse retains sufficient architectural and historical integrity from the period of significance and contributes to the historic district. (C)

6. In the 1970s, the Lynns added landscaping elements to the front lawn of the main house, including a stone retaining wall along the edge of the road in front of the main house. Made of local sandstone, the retaining wall is pierced with a set of entrance steps, which are surmounted by an iron entrance gate with "Coal Miner's Daughter" spelled out. The Lynns also added a wooden sign designating

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

the "LL Ranch" over the metal entrance gates to the paved driveway. An iron fence surrounding the front lawn was added this year (which was built in the same location as a ca. 1900 wooden picket fence). Loretta Lynn added concrete sculptures to the yard. These modern landscaping elements were not constructed during the period of significance and do not contribute to the historic district. (NC)

7. A combination of old and new outbuildings—both domestic and agricultural--surrounds the main farmhouse. A two-story frame detached kitchen outbuilding is located to the west of the farmhouse. The former 18' x 16' kitchen retains the original, exterior-end brick chimney. Mooney Lynn renovated the ca. 1885 domestic outbuilding for use as his office in the 1970s, adding vinyl siding, and new windows. The former kitchen retains limestone foundation piers and a metal gable roof. A pea-gravel sidewalk connects Mooney's former office with the front porch of the farmhouse. Due to the extensive alterations, the 114-year old kitchen outbuilding does not retain sufficient historical and architectural integrity and does not contribute to the historic district. (NC)
8. There are two domestic outbuildings attached to the rear ell of the main farmhouse by covered breezeways, which Mooney Lynn added ca. 1970. Located at the southeast corner of the rear ell, the outbuilding closest to the house is a one-story frame building with weatherboard siding, a wood four-panel door, a metal gable roof, and a three-over-one, double-hung window. Constructed ca. 1900, this 20' x 16' outbuilding was used originally as a wash house; it was later used as a tack room and pump room, but is now used for storage. A 10' long breezeway connects this outbuilding to the main house. The historic wash house retains sufficient architectural and historical integrity and contributes to the historic district. (C)
9. Located behind the former wash house and further from the main farmhouse is a one-story, concrete block outbuilding with a gable roof. Around 1980, Mooney Lynn constructed this 20' x 49' utility building, replacing a ca. 1900 18' x 18' frame outbuilding (probably the original smokehouse) located here. The utility building is connected to the rear ell of the main farmhouse with a 23 ½' long covered breezeway, but is considered a detached domestic outbuilding. Since the utility building was not constructed during the period of significance, it does not contribute to the historic district. (NC)
10. A small, concrete block pump house is located behind the storage building. Banked into the hillside, this detached, domestic 9' x 17' outbuilding has a gable roof and an original wood door. The pump house was constructed in the early twentieth century and contributes to the historic district. (C)
11. In the 1970s, Mooney Lynn converted a small (20' x 21') concrete block garage built in the 1940s into a multi-function outbuilding housing a four-car garage and storage shed with an attached carport. This concrete block, gable roof outbuilding is located to the east of the farmhouse. The metal, flat roof carport is now used to display three antique carriages (original to the farm), as well as Loretta Lynn's classic 1976 Cadillac Coupe de Ville and Mooney Lynn's famous 1978 Jeep Golden Eagle

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 8Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

CJ-5, which was used in the movie *Coal Miner's Daughter* (1980). The modern carport/garage outbuilding was not constructed during the period of significance and does not contribute to the historic district. (NC)

12. Around 1970, the Lynns constructed a 30' x 50' recreational room and 20' x 40' in-ground swimming pool behind the main farmhouse. Mooney Lynn reconstructed the frame recreational room in the late 1980s for use as a private guesthouse. The guesthouse is detached from the main farmhouse and features its own carport. Since the modern guesthouse was not constructed during the period of significance, it does not contribute to the historic district. The guesthouse is considered a noncontributing building. The swimming pool is no longer extant. (NC)
13. A modern outbuilding made of metal panels is located east of the main farmhouse. Mooney Lynn constructed this 33' x 50' building for use as a workshop around 1990. It is located near the original site of a ca. 1900 farmhouse that had been demolished in the mid-twentieth century. This detached outbuilding was not constructed during the period of significance and does not contribute to the historic district. (NC)
14. Located near the eastside of the farmhouse is a large, transverse crib, stock barn, which Mooney Lynn constructed in the 1970s. A common barn type in Middle Tennessee, this 112' x 100' livestock barn replaced a very similar livestock barn that James T. Anderson had built ca. 1900 at this location. The two-story, elongated barn has a gable roof and one-story side sheds. This modern livestock barn was not constructed during the period of significance and does not contribute to the historic district. (NC)
15. A livestock pond is located in an agricultural field east of the stock barn. Associated with progressive farming and livestock production, James T. Anderson constructed this pond in the early twentieth century. Because the pond was constructed during the period of significance and because it is associated with the farm's agricultural history as a leading livestock farm, it is a contributing site within the historic district. (C)
16. Agricultural fields flank the east, west, and south sides of the farmhouse. Historic fence lines (originally wooden picket fences, but now chain link fences) separate the east and south fields from dwelling's yard. The west field is separated from the farmhouse by Old State Highway 13. Natural features such as creeks, roads, and forest edges, as well as man-made barbed wire and electric fences easily define the historic perimeter boundaries of the fields. The hilly east and south fields were historically used for grazing livestock, such as horses and cattle, but also sheep. The large, level west field was historically used for growing agricultural cash crops, including tobacco and corn, but most notably peanuts. Humphreys County farmers grew vast amounts of peanuts in the early to mid-twentieth century. Since the late 1960s, the Lynns have maintained the original field patterns and currently use around 300 acres of fields in crop production and around 200 acres of fields as horse pastures. (Some of these fields and pastures are located outside but adjacent to the historic district.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

The three large agricultural fields are significant landscape elements within the district, and because the fields have changed little since the period of significance, they contribute to the historic district. (C).

17. Hurricane Mills General Merchandise Store & Post Office (HS.15). This commercial building is located on the north side of Hurricane Creek directly across the former state highway from the Hurricane Mill. Using rusticated concrete blocks shipped from Waverly, Lucian W. Slayden constructed this building around 1926 to replace the ca. 1895 general store and post office that burned down. A general store has operated at this location since the antebellum period, and the federal government opened the post office here in 1876. Between 1931 and 1958, Thomas R. Meadows served as postmaster and operated the store/service station, which was called "T. R. Meadows Grocery." (A small detached barbershop operated next door in the 1930s, but it is no longer standing.) Gould and Bobby Woods operated the store/service station, which they renamed "Hurricane Mills Store," between 1958 and 1975, when Mooney and Loretta Lynn purchased the building. Around 1976, the Lynns converted the general store into a tourist gift shop called the "Western Store." However, the federal government continues to lease space for the tiny Hurricane Mills Post Office in the southern part of the building.

Since the mid-1970s, the Lynns have substantially altered this building for use as a commercial business catering to tourists. A western-style parapet façade and a rustic front porch were added to the building, as well as a new vertical siding and windows. The Western Store was also enlarged with a shed wing on the north side. In 1980, the Lynns added a large rear addition, which houses a craft shop and additional gift shops. In 1988, Loretta Lynn enlarged the building again with "Coal Mine No.5," a replica of the coal mine at Van Lear, Kentucky where her father had worked. In 1992, the Lynns constructed a new snack bar at Western Town and added a small performance stage called the "Saloon." While the small post office continues to operate in the building, the original equipment was relocated to the gift shop in the Hurricane Mill for display. Due to the extensive physical alterations and additions, this 73-year old commercial building no longer retains its original architectural or historical integrity and does not contribute to the historic district. (NC)

18. Hurricane Mills Church of Christ Meeting House and Masonic Lodge (HS.19). Located a few hundred yards south of the main house on the south side of the old state highway, this two-story frame building was once a focal point of the community. Built around 1871 as a "Union Church," the upper level of the 36' x 60' building houses a Masonic Lodge called the "George Hillman Lodge No.431" of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons. Apparently, local Methodist and Baptist congregations shared the church with the Church of Christ congregation in the 1870s.

The plain, vernacular building is a rare standing example of a dual function meeting house shared by both a church and secret fraternal organization. (While examples of dual function buildings with upper level Masonic lodges have been documented throughout rural areas of Tennessee, most share a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

school or store and not a church.) Facing north and situated at the edge of a field, the building has a gable front metal roof. The exterior originally had board-and-batten siding, but the congregation added weatherboard siding in 1946. Supported by a limestone pier foundation (with concrete block in-fill), the building retains the original six-over-six, double-hung windows, as well as the original paneled wood doors. The interior retains six octagonal-shaped wooden columns with capitals, as well as original wooden pews, a wooden balustrade, and a paneled wooden pulpit. In 1951, the congregation renovated the interior and in 1955, two small rooms at the front were enclosed for Sunday School classrooms. Several minor renovations occurred in the 1960s, and air conditioning was first installed in 1969. The second level Masonic lodge, which is still used, is accessed from an original paneled wood door on the rear wall.

Established in the 1850s, the Hurricane Mills Church of Christ congregation worshipped in this meeting house for over a century, until building a new church on the new State Highway 13 in 1972. (The Hurricane Mills Church of Christ merged with Pruetts Chapel to form the Wildwood Valley Church of Christ in 1971.) In 1978, Loretta and Mooney Lynn purchased the vacant church building from the congregation, and restored the original woodwork and trim. The well-preserved building was used as a set for the marriage scene in the movie *Coal Miner's Daughter* (1980). It is still used for weddings and other ceremonies.

The Freemasons have performed Masonic rituals in the upstairs meeting room since 1871. The Freemasons, a private organization, have a perpetual lease for the meeting room and continue to use the building. In addition to being the oldest remaining Masonic hall, county historian John Hedge Whitfield identified this as one of only two historic Masonic halls remaining in the county. The Hurricane Mills Church of Christ Meeting House and Masonic Lodge is at least 128 years old, and is a contributing resource in the historic district. (C)

19. Hurricane Mills School and Community Center (HS.20). Located adjacent to the church, this one-story, concrete block building housed the Hurricane Mills School between 1955 and 1962. The unassuming stucco building also housed the Hurricane Mills Community Center, which when established in 1944 was the first in the county. The small school building replaced the old one-room, frame school building that burned in 1953 or 1954.

A school has been located at this site since the early 1870s, when a private seminary opened, apparently in the church. In 1883, George Hillman donated land for the construction of a segregated public school for whites, called the Hurricane Mills Academy. The county school board had proposed a replacement concrete block public school to be constructed with WPA funds in 1936; however, that building was apparently never built. The county enlarged the 1883 school building in 1947, when it consolidated the Hurricane Mills School with the community schools at Wills Chapel and Beech Hill. No public records document that a segregated school for African Americans ever operated at Hurricane Mills. However, local tradition states that the white Goodrich family ran a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

private school for local African-American children for a period after the American Civil War (probably from their home, but possibly in a school building).

Completed in 1955, this building features three classrooms, a kitchen, indoor restrooms, and a cafeteria that doubled as an auditorium with a raised, wooden stage. Typical of rural school buildings in the county, it features a gable roof, T-shaped floor plan, metal sash casement windows, and a recessed porch with original wooden doors with four-pane windows. Very few changes have been made to the building since 1955.

The community used the school building for local agricultural fairs, as a voting place, and other social events such as picnics, dinners, and for showing movies. The Home Demonstration Club, which was comprised of a group of local farm wives, also regularly used the building. The Hurricane Mills Church of Christ congregation purchased the building from the county board of education in 1973, and the community was still using the building in 1978, when Loretta and Mooney Lynn purchased it from the church. The Lynns used the building as a public auction house for a short period, and Loretta Lynn used the auditorium as a recording studio in the 1980s. The 45-year old school is considered an important remnant of the local community, and contributes to the historic district. (C)

20. Anderson Family Cemetery. Located west of the main farmhouse on the eastern edge of the former state highway, this small cemetery contains the graves of many members of the Anderson family, as well as other local families. A historic iron fence resting on a low concrete wall surrounds three sides of the cemetery, which creates a rectangular-shaped graveyard, and an iron entrance gate is located on the eastern edge. An elaborate iron sign with the letters spelling "Anderson" surmounts the gate. A retaining wall and a set of entrance steps—both made of cast concrete—lines the eastern edge along the highway. The oldest graves date to the first decade of the twentieth century. The fashionable granite obelisks are examples of standardized pre-cut tombstones most likely ordered from a commercial monument firm at Waverly. Several of the tombstones of children are capped with carved lambs or doves, which is symbolic of grieving parents. All of the graves face east-west, which is customary in rural areas of the South. Still in use and well preserved, the 95-year old Anderson Family Cemetery contributes to the historic district. (C)
21. Silos. Located along the old highway approximately ¼ mile south of the church is a cluster of metal silos, used for storing livestock feed. These modern circular silos were shipped to the farm in the 1970s. Since the silos were not constructed during the period of significance, they do not contribute to the historic district. (4 NC)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

## VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for its local historical significance and under Criterion C for its local architectural significance. Located in rural south central Humphreys County, Tennessee, the district retains many historic buildings, structures, and sites that combine to form an excellent representation of the historic character of the Hurricane Mills community up through the mid-1950s. Between the early nineteenth and mid twentieth centuries, Hurricane Mills was the site of thriving commercial and industrial businesses--including a flourmill, woolen mill, and general merchandise store--as well as one of the county's leading progressive farms known for its livestock and peanut crops. Located along Hurricane Creek and a former state highway, transportation has played an important role in the development of the community, and the district retains a historic metal truss bridge. Since its founding, local residents have enjoyed the scenic beauty and outdoor recreation of Hurricane Creek. Typical of rural communities, Hurricane Mills included public facilities such as a church, a community school, a Masonic hall, and a federal post office. The resources in the district are historically significant and, overall, the district retains a high degree of integrity.

In the early nineteenth century, settlers established agricultural, industrial and commercial facilities, centered on an iron forge and steam-powered gristmill, along Hurricane Creek. Called "Hurricane Forge," this settlement was located in an agriculturally rich bottomland and it grew into a small village during the antebellum era. Soon after the end of the American Civil War, the Hurricane Forge community grew into a thriving village centered on a new water-powered mill operated by George Hillman. The federal government opened a post office here in 1876, and the community became officially known as "Hurricane Mills." By the turn-of-the-twentieth century, subsequent owner, James T. Anderson, had introduced progressive farming techniques and expanded industries to the village, which continued to prosper. In the early twentieth century, a state highway opened through the village and greater business opportunities soon followed. While the Great Depression of the 1930s led to the temporary closure of the mill, it reopened on a seasonal basis and the community remained stable through the mid-1950s, when the county constructed a larger school and community center.

A flourmill complex, a dual-function meeting house, a dual-function school, a vehicular truss bridge, a dual-function commercial building, and a farmhouse with associated outbuildings and field patterns combine to form the Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District. Architecturally, the district is important as an example of vernacular and formal architecture built between ca. 1871 and 1955. The ca. 1871 Church of Christ Meeting House and Masonic Lodge and the flourmill, built between 1897 and ca. 1910, are superb examples of vernacular frame buildings. Few documented examples of either building type remain in rural Middle Tennessee. The main farmhouse, built between ca. 1876 and ca. 1916, is an excellent example of a Neoclassical Revival-style dwelling, which is rarely found in Humphreys County. The concrete block schoolhouse and community building, built between 1954 and 1955, is a good example of a rural educational building. The 1911 Hurricane Mills Bridge is a good local example of a steel truss bridge and one of the few remaining in the county. The Anderson Family Cemetery is a representative example of a rural cemetery and



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

has many examples of funerary artwork of the early twentieth century. Overall, the buildings and structures of the Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District are well preserved and combine to make a district that retains historic and architectural integrity.

The Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District is located in the fertile valley of Hurricane Creek near its confluence with the Duck River. The unincorporated Hurricane Mills community is located in the south central region of Humphreys County, Tennessee (1998 population estimated at 17,059). Geographically, Humphreys County sits on Tennessee's Western Highland Rim, which encircles the Central Basin of Middle Tennessee. The Western Highland Rim is a plateau region sloping from east to west, characterized by rolling terrain with river valleys and many streams. Topographic elevations range between 400 and 1,000 feet above sea level, and the Tennessee River, as well as the TVA's Kentucky Lake, binds the plateau along its western edge. The Hurricane Mills community is located at approximately 400 feet above sea level, with surrounding hills reaching approximately 600 feet above sea level.

### *The Hurricane Forge Era, 1814-1853*

Royal Ferguson purchased over 500 acres here in 1814, just five years after the creation of Humphreys County in 1809 (from Stewart County) and only three years after the establishment of the first county seat at Reynoldsburg in 1811. (When the county was divided in 1835, Waverly became the new county seat.) He purchased a few additional acres here in 1815. Also known as "Royal" Ferguson, he constructed an iron forge with an attached saw and gristmill at the farm by 1819. On February 5, 1819, Ferguson advertised his industrial plantation, located two miles above the mouth of Hurricane Creek, for sale in the *Clarion & Tennessee State Gazette*. In 1822, James V. Turner purchased the 550-acre tract, as well as a small tract containing an ore bank; however, Turner soon lost the property.

Silas N. Allen, of Providence, Rhode Island, acquired the property from Turner in a court order, and his heirs had control of the farm by 1830. A few years later, his sons, Stephen Monroe Allen (1816-1886) and Isaac Allen, migrated to Humphreys County, Tennessee, from Providence, Rhode Island. Their friend Caleb Bissell (1800-1854) and his wife Mary Langely (b.1804), originally from New York, migrated from Rhode Island to Humphreys County with the Allen brothers. Caleb Bissell was a millwright and probably came to work at the iron forge.

According to historic research published in *A Cultural Resource Survey of Tennessee's Western Highland Rim Iron Industry, 1790s-1930s* (1988), a dependable stream of water was necessary for the location of early furnace operations in Middle Tennessee. This document also states that:

A dam was constructed [along the stream] and a water wheel used to power the air blast machinery. Very early furnaces used a simple bellows, comparable to an oversized fireplace bellows, but by the end of the eighteenth century these had been largely replaced by the double cylinder "blowing tub" . . . One of the more obvious technological changes that

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

affected the pre-Civil War furnaces in the Western Highland Rim was the use of steam engines to power the blast equipment. This probably began in the early 1840s, and by the mid 1850s water-powered blasts had virtually ceased to exist (p.10).

In the Western Highland Rim, all early iron ore mining seems to have been carried out in shallow, open mines. The standard mining tools were picks and shovels, with some use of horse-drawn plows and scrapers. By the mid-nineteenth century, roasting of iron ores was considered a necessary first step in preparing them for use. This was carried out in open piles or rows or in ovens somewhat similar in appearance to small blast furnaces. The roasted ores were usually cleaned by dry screening. Later it became common to clear ore by washing it, using devices as perforated rockers, troughs, and revolving drums (p.13).

A major product of the early iron industry was malleable wrought iron bars, needed by blacksmiths and others to work into finished wrought iron tools and utensils. Wrought iron could be produced directly from iron ore or from pig iron. [Frederick] Overman discusses [in an 1850 publication] several devices for producing wrought iron, including the oriental (or Persian) forge, the Catalan (or bloomery) forge, the German (or refinery) forge, the finery (or run-out) fire, and the puddling (or reverberatory) furnace. Only one of these, the refinery forge, was widely used in the Western Highland Rim. There were also a few early bloomery forges in the region [such as the Hurricane Forge]. . . The bloomery forge was used to produce wrought iron directly from iron ore. The purer the ore, the more readily iron could be extracted by this method. . . In Tennessee, magnetite [ore] occurs primarily in the upper east portion of the state. . . In contrast, the absence of this purer grade of iron ore in the Western Highland Rim probably explains why few bloomery forges existed here (p.17, 22)

In 1834, Eastin Morris mentioned in an industrial report that the "iron works [on the Hurricane Creek]. . . were in successful operation some years since by a Mr. Ferguson," which implies that the iron works had already shut down by that time. However, by 1840, the Allen brothers had constructed a new bloomery forge at the former Ferguson site, which they apparently renamed "Hurricane Forge." Stephen Allen was an accomplished carpenter and experienced house-builder, who built many fine farmhouses in the area. In 1839, he constructed a new 12-foot high dam at the "old seat called the Rogal Fergusons seat," most likely in conjunction with the new forge. The brothers also operated a steam-powered sawmill and gristmill on Hurricane Creek. In 1841, the brothers owned 718 acres, and by 1843, they owned 818 acres. There is no documentation that the brothers ever owned any slaves, or that the forge used slave labor. In 1847, the brothers sold the iron forge tract to iron maker Epps Jackson. Stephen was listed as a millwright in the 1850 census; however, no gristmills were reported in operation in the county that year. Stephen Allen continued to reside at his log farmhouse at Hurricane Forge, where he and his first wife Elizabeth (b.1820), also a native of Rhode Island, were the parents of four children.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

After Elizabeth died in the early 1850s, Stephen moved to McEwen, a small Irish-Catholic community in eastern Humphreys County, where in 1856 he married his second wife, 17-year old Nancy Paralee Godwin (1839-1929). They raised a dozen children at their McEwen farm. (Several of his sons also became accomplished carpenters, including Daniel Gould Allen who worked on the Nashville Union Station and Train Shed [NHL 1976] before moving to Malvern, Arkansas.) A Master Mason with advanced Freemasonry degrees acquired at Boston, Massachusetts, Stephen Allen established the first fraternal organization at Hurricane Forge, which evolved into the Masonic Lodge that still meets there today.

The relationship between Stephen Allen and Epps Jackson is not clear, but Jackson apparently owned and operated the Hurricane Forge for a short duration in the late 1840s, temporarily renaming it the "Jackson Forge." A well-known iron maker from Dickson County, Tennessee, Epps Jackson (1795-1850) was a business-partner of Stephen Eleazer (1800-1835), another prominent Tennessee iron maker. Jackson was associated with the Laurel Furnace (NR 1988) in Dickson County and the Phoenix Furnace in Montgomery County, as well as several furnaces in Cheatham County, including the Turnbill Forge (NR 1988), the Jackson Furnace, and the Piney Furnace. (Epps Jackson is buried near the Laurel Furnace, with an intricate tombstone featuring a relief carving of an iron furnace, bridge-house, and casting shed.) In 1850, Christopher C. Hudson purchased the much-enlarged 6,888-acre tract from the Jackson heirs, and operated the forge until at least 1854. James Safford documented the forge in 1856, and suggested that it had operated with four fires and produced about 100 tons of blooms, a small mass of metal, that year. Apparently, the steam-powered gristmill closed down before 1850.

### *The George W. Hillman Era: Hurricane Forge, 1853-1866*

Between 1853 and 1857, George W. Hillman (1814-1889), a native of New Jersey, purchased the 6,888-acre tract from Hudson. Although the Hillman family had widespread interests in the iron industry, there is no evidence that George Hillman ever reopened the Hurricane Forge. In 1859, J. P. Lesley stated in an industrial report that the Hurricane Forge was "owned by George Hillman of the Empire Iron Works in Lyon County Kentucky [and that it] made [wrought iron] bars until it was abandoned, some time before 1854." George Hillman was the son of Daniel Hillman, Sr., also a native of New Jersey, who was one of the foremost iron makers in the state. In the 1830s, Daniel Hillman, Sr. had assisted in the establishment of the Fair Chance Iron Furnace (NR 1988) at Halls Creek in northern Humphreys County. Prior to his death in 1833, Daniel Hillman, Sr. had operated iron works and furnaces in New Jersey, Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama, and Tennessee. Before the American Civil War, George W. Hillman manufactured refined iron with his brothers--Daniel Hillman, Jr. (1807-1885) and Charles E. Hillman--in a company called Hillman Brothers. These brothers were associated with iron operations throughout the Western Highland Rim and employed hundreds of workers in both Tennessee and Kentucky. The brothers maintained business interests in Nashville, and the 1860 Nashville City & Business Directory carried their advertisement, which stated:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

Daniel Hillman, Geo. W. Hillman, Chas. E. Hillman.  
HILLMAN BROTHERS

Manufacturers of the Celebrated  
TENNESSEE CHARCOAL REFINED IRON  
And Dealers In

Corn Shellers, Straw Cutters, Nails, Castings, Wagon Boxes, Axels, Manilla Rope, Chains, Anvils, Vices, Plows, Bellows, Steel Springs, Axes, &c., &c., also a large and complete stock of PITTSBURGH IRON.

Ware-Rooms . . . No. 44 College and 41 & 43 Market Sts., Nashville.

During the American Civil War, a Federal Stockade operated on Hurricane Creek, and several skirmishes occurred at this stockade. General William S. Rosecrans stationed Union troops at the Hurricane Creek Stockade in January 1863. According to local tradition, this stockade was located at Hurricane Forge; however, county historian John Hedge Whitfield believes that the stockade was actually located several miles away. Therefore, the historical involvement of the property at Hurricane Forge during the American Civil War is unclear at this time. Apparently the former gristmill and iron forge operation were badly damaged in a flood during this period.

George Hillman had begun acquiring property along Hurricane Creek in 1853, along with his business-partner and nephew Leven S. Goodrich (b.1829). Apparently, Hillman and Goodrich purchased the property as an investment, since neither lived here until after the end of the American Civil War. Between 1854 and 1868, the Goodrich brothers were associated with their uncle George Hillman in the large iron ore operation at the Aetna Furnace (NR 1988) in Hickman County, Tennessee. Between 1866 and 1868, Leven S. Goodrich, along with his brothers George W. Goodrich (b.1831) and Daniel Hillman Goodrich (1837-1926), relocated to Hurricane Forge.

### *The Goodrich Brothers Era, 1866-1875*

Around 1867, the Goodrich brothers constructed a new gristmill, wool-carding factory, and general store with iron equipment purchased from the Aetna Furnace. The Aetna Furnace ledger shows that they made extensive purchases in March 1867, including dozens of kettles, skillets and lids, biscuit ovens, stew pots, bakers and ovens. The ledger also states that brothers purchased six roller mills, which implies that the new gristmill used roller mill technology. (Roller mills employed rollers, which replaced millstones and increased production.) The Goodrich brothers controlled the operation at that time, which they named "Hurricane Mills," while George Hillman remained at his home in Triggs County, Kentucky. The Goodrich brothers raised sheep on the farm to supply wool for the carding factory.

The 1870 population census stated that Leven Goodrich was superintendent of the mill, George W. Goodrich was a farmer, and Daniel H. Goodrich was a merchant. By 1870, the Goodrich brothers employed a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

carpenter, a wagon-maker, a wool-carder, a wool-spinner, an African-American blacksmith, several weavers, and two African-American servants. Several weavers, some of whom were natives of England, moved to Hurricane Mills to work at the wool-carding factory. The 1873 *Tennessee State Directory* listed two businesses at Hurricane Mills: the “William Goodrich & Co. General Store” and the “Goodrich & Bro. Flour mill.” An early 1870s map of the region shows “Goodrich & Bro. Flourmill & Factory” located here.

In 1872, George Hillman and the Goodrich brothers conveyed the upper story of the new Hurricane Mills Church of Christ Meeting House for use as a Masonic hall. At that time, William M. O’Donneley was the Worshipful Master of the “George Hillman Lodge No. 431” of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons, which had begun meeting in December 1871. Local tradition states that the Goodrich family opened a small segregated school for African Americans at Hurricane Mills at this time; however, its location is unknown.

In 1875, George Hillman ended the business partnership with his nephews. After nearly a decade at Hurricane Mills, Daniel H. Goodrich moved to Waverly and opened a general mercantile store and produce business with James Nicholas Nolan (1840-1897), a native of Ireland who had immigrated to America in 1849. A Civil veteran, Nolan also operated a railroad hotel at Waverly (his own house at Waverly is NR-listed, 1986). Called “Nolan & Goodrich,” their prosperous business added a marble-yard in 1878. (Daniel Goodrich later became the Waverly Postmaster and a county court clerk.) George Hillman’s nephews George W. Goodrich and Leven Goodrich moved out of Humphreys County.

### *The George W. Hillman Era: Hurricane Mills, 1875-1894*

George W. Hillman moved to Hurricane Mills and reopened his operation with new business-partner Captain William G. Ewin, who was also his son-in-law and a Confederate veteran of the Civil War. Called “Hillman & Ewin,” this commercial and industrial operation grew under their leadership. The federal government opened the “Hurricane Mills Post Office” in 1876, reflecting the new status of the community as a commercial center. George Hillman served as the first postmaster. In 1876, the *Tennessee State Gazetteer & Business Directory* listed Hillman & Ewin as operating “Woolen & Carding Mills,” a “General Store,” and “Flouring, Grist & Corn Mills.” This publication described Hurricane Mills as:

A village of 100 people in Humphreys County, 10 miles south of Waverly, the county seat, and 70 miles west of Nashville. It contains a woolen and flouring mill, a Union Church and a seminary. Exports, woolen goods, flour, peanuts, corn, etc. Ship to Waverly via N. C. & St. L RR. Mail tri-weekly (p.168).

The publication also stated that the population of Hurricane Mills contained a postmaster, a Methodist and a Baptist minister, two physicians, a female principal for the seminary, and an “architect.” (The architect was W. H. Page, who was later listed as a wagon maker.) It also listed two hotel proprietors, one of whom was William G. Ewin. (Historic documentation for this hotel is unavailable; it apparently operated for only a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

short time.) The architect may have been working on George Hillman's new home, which he began construction on around 1876.



A historic photograph of the George Hillman House at Hurricane Mills.

The *Waverly Journal* reported on March 15, 1877 that:

Having decided to do an exclusive cash and Barter business, from this time on we will offer our stock of clothing which is large and well assorted, At Cost, and other Goods at reduced prices for Wool, Peanuts, and produce generally.

On July 20, 1877, the *Waverly Journal* listed the following advertisement for Hillman & Ewin:

HURRICANE MILLS: Our stock of spring goods is now complete and will be sold low for cash, or produce. We will pay Nashville prices for Bacon, Lard, Ginseng, and produce generally. And more for clean tub-washed wool than can be had elsewhere. The price of our best jeans has been reduced again. Will sell other goods at cash prices in exchange for wool.

The *Waverly Journal* reported on November 16, 1877 that Captain William G. Ewin had visited Waverly that week to "report a very decided improvement in the business outlook" at Hurricane Mills. In 1877, George Hillman's third wife, Elizabeth Barnard, died (so had his first two wives in 1843 and 1862). By 1880, around thirty mills were operating in the county, but Hurricane Mills—with seven employees—was probably one of the largest milling operations. According to the 1880 Agricultural Census, the gristmill produced 1,400 barrels of wheat flour; 697,000 pounds of corn mill; 127,000 pounds of feed; and 5,000 pounds of hominy, with a total value of \$18,000 in 1879. In the 1881 *Tennessee State Gazetteer & Business Directory*, Hurricane Mills was described as:

...the location of a complete woolen factory, that manufacturers jeans, blankets and linsey in sufficient quantity to supply the entire farming community of that section, consuming about 3,500 pounds of tub washed wool annually. The village contains 75 inhabitants, a Christian church and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

two public schools, and is 10 miles south of Waverly...Hurricane Creek furnishes permanent water power for several mills and machines. Live stock and barter are marketed. Tri-weekly mail by horse.

That publication stated that Hurricane Mills had two physicians, a wagon maker, two magistrates, a blacksmith, and three live stock farmers. It also listed Hillman & Ewin as operating a "general store, dyers, woolen mill, etc." In 1883, the county constructed a 185-foot long wooden bridge across the Hurricane Creek at Hurricane Mills, which was apparently the county's first vehicular bridge (the county built the Trace Creek Bridge at Johnsonville in 1884). The \$700 bridge increased the transportation accessibility to Hurricane Mills tremendously. By October 1884, Captain William Ewin was no longer in business with George Hillman, who began advertising as the sole proprietor of "Hurricane Mills" in the *Humphrey County News*, including this advertisement on January 2, 1885:

## HURRICANE MILLS

I have repaired the Dam and Foreboy and have Mills and Factory  
IN COMPLETE RUNNING ORDER

Am able to save all the water and to utilize it through the wheels. Therefore can do

**ALL THE CUSTOM GRINDGIN [sic]**

I HAVE A LARGE AND SELECTED STOCK OF  
DRY-GOODS, HARDWARE, QUEENSWARE,  
and glassware, large stock of Boots and Shoes, Ladies and Gentle-  
mens Hats, Mens and Boys Clothing. A general stock of Drugs  
Notions, Nails, South Bend Plows, and Plow Furniture. [A]nd every  
thing that is usually kept in Country Dry-Goods Stores. Including

**A FULL LINE OF GROCERIES**

All of which I will sell as low as any store in the country

**FOR CASH OR PRODUCE**

Wheat, Corn, Peanuts, Hides, Feathers, Rags, Beeswax, Tallow,  
Eggs, Dried Apples and Peaches, to all at the same price regardless of Color or Age.

**PRICE OF ALL GOODS MARKED IN FIGURES.**

Owing to a large stock of Wool on hand and small stock of Jeans  
(Wool being so low) after the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. will make a difference of 5c.  
in exchanging Wool for Jeans. Say 30c for Spring Wool, 35c per  
yard for Jeans. Will pay 30c per lb. for Spring Wool in any article  
we have for sale at cash prices. Am agent for Fish Brothers celebrated

**Wagon, also for the Diamond Sewing Machines.**

Also am prepared to do all kinds of Wagon and Blacksmith work  
--have the best WORKMAN in the county. Thankful for past  
favors and insuring you great bargains. respectfully ask you to give  
us a call and examine our stock and prices before purchasing.

G. W. HILLMAN

Hurrican [sic] Mills, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. 1884.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

P.S.—All those indebted to the late firms of Hillsman [sic], Goodrich & Co., and Hillsman [sic] & Ewin by note of book account are requested to come forward and settle up. How much longer indulgence do you want? Read the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ezekiel and see what chance you will have if you fail to settle this pledge.

Beginning on May 7, 1885, Hillman ran a similar advertisement in the *Humphreys County News*, which stated that he had his mills in “complete running order.” Hillman stated that he had installed new clothing custom cards, which would enable the production of superior rolls. Hillman also boasted that he had just received a “large and selected stock of spring and summer goods” in the “latest style.” He sold the same items in the aforementioned advertisement, but also mentioned that had “good family flour at \$3.00.” The following advertisement ran in the July 9, 1886 issue of the *Humphreys County News*:

**WOOL! - WOOL! - WOOL!**

**HURRICANE MILLS, TENN.**

**MAY 1, 1886**

Thanking the public for past favors will again exchange one yard of Hurricane Mill Jeans for one pound of tub washed Spring wool clear of burs and trash. Five cent less for Fall wool.

My Custom cards are in fine order, charge one fifth toll or ten cents per pound for carding. Exchanging and

**Carding done promptly and without unnecessary delay**

Wool received at Waverly, and Rolls etc. returned free of charge.

**G. W. HILLMAN.**

After his son-in-law and former business-partner Capt. Ewin died in 1886, Hillman continued to run the business enterprise at Hurricane Mills. The 1887 *Tennessee State Gazetteer & Business Directory* listed George Hillman as the proprietor of the Hurricane Mills and General Store (p.303). The publication stated that Hurricane Mills contained a postmaster, miller, teacher, blacksmith, wool-carder, and a watchmaker.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 21Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

George Hillman's son, William Barnard Hillman (1870-1947), operated the store at Hurricane Mills in the 1880s (he later opened a grocery business at Waverly). In the 1880s, George Hillman renovated his home with the construction of a two-story, full-width front porch that had intricate Queen Anne-style woodwork. Hillman continued to work until his death on February 21, 1889. George Hillman is buried in the Hillman Cemetery at Clarksville, Tennessee. George Hillman owned the property at Hurricane Mills for around thirty-six years, and he resided there for at least fourteen years.

*The James T. Anderson Era, 1894-1920:*

George Hillman left his property at Hurricane Mills to his daughter Martha Ewin, and his sons William Barnard Hillman and Robert M. Hillman. Martha Ewin had moved to Waverly and became a business partner with her half-brother William Barnard Hillman. Their business, which was called the W. B. Hillman Company, became heavily in debt during the economic depression of 1893, and they were forced to sell their 2/3 ownership of the Hurricane Mills property. On May 21, 1894, James T. Anderson purchased their part. Anderson purchased the remaining 1/3 ownership from Robert M. Hillman on September 14, 1896. By 1897, Anderson owned the entire 4,200-acre farm, including all the businesses. Within a few years, Anderson owned over 6,000 acres, which extended all the way to the Duck River.

James Thomas Anderson (1858-1924) was an enterprising livestock farmer originally from Hickman County, Tennessee. In 1876, he married Mary Ann Tidwell (1860-1941) in Hickman County. They moved to Humphreys County in 1884, and settled on Blue Creek approximately five miles south of McEwen. Anderson reopened the businesses at Hurricane Mills, including the gristmill and wool carding factory, a stave mill, a blacksmith shop, and a general merchandise store that contained a post office. The store featured several shops, including one for the sale of coffins and other funeral items. In March 1895, Anderson requested that the federal government change the name of the "Hurricane Mills" Post Office to simply "Hurricane" Post Office. However, in 1906, Anderson requested that the name be changed back to the "Hurricane Mills" Post Office. Anderson served as the Postmaster here for twenty-six years.

In 1897, Anderson replaced the former gristmill and wool carding factory, built in the 1860s, on Hurricane Creek with a new mill building. The *Bakerville Review*, a small weekly newspaper that was published from the nearby community of Bakerville, listed the following announcement on May 27, 1897:

NEW MILLS—We are proud to note the fact that Mr. James T. Anderson of Hurricane [Mills], is repairing and rebuilding his mill at that place...Mr. Anderson has employed Mr. Walker Duncan, who had had much experience in the milling business, having been foreman at Pinewood Mills and also at Hickman Mills, Centerville [Hickman County], Tennessee.

The August 12, 1897 issue of the *Bakerville Review* stated that "Reports from Hurricane [Mills] give the people assurance that they can get their wheat ground into fine flour in a very short time [because] Mr. J. T. Anderson will soon have his roller process mill in full operation, and it is now near completion." The

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 22

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

following spring, Anderson opened the new, turbine-powered roller mill, which had a solid rock dam, and traveled around the county to let everyone know.

The *Bakerville Review* reported on June 30, 1898 that he “passed through this neighborhood last Wednesday crying ‘boys have your wheat thrashed dry.’”

On April 17, 1902, the *Waverly Sentinel* published a special edition of its newspaper called “Waverly and Humphreys County in the Twentieth Century.” This special edition included a section on businesses, including a section devoted entirely to “Jas. T. Anderson & Sons General Merchandise, Farm Implements and Undertakers Goods” at Hurricane, Tennessee. Operated by James T. Anderson and his sons Ernest R. and John Wright Anderson, the article included three photographs of the general store and described this commercial enterprise as:

One of as large and perhaps best known mercantile establishments in Humphreys County is the general country store of Jas. T. Anderson & Sons, located between two hills in a beautiful valley on Hurricane Creek. This is indeed a mammoth establishment, and does a large business and carries a large stock. For convenience in trading there is not an equal perhaps in the State. At this store you can get your mail, buy anything in the grocery, hardware, dry goods, undertaking or any other line, have your horse shod, wagon repaired, get your wool carded into rolls, get your milling done, or sell anything you have to sell, from a dozen eggs to a mule or horse. With this establishment the people of that section are certainly blessed with convenience. This firm pays the highest market price for all kinds of country produce and sells goods as cheap as they can be bought anywhere. One beauty of their business is, they do business on a

### **Strictly Cash Basis.**

They carry no accounts, have no bookkeeper, but give his salary to their cash customers free. The accommodations offered and the low prices made on a cash basis give this firm a decided advantage over many others.

A write-up of this firm would be incomplete without special mention of the arrangement of this firm’s new and elegant storehouse and some of its special features. The building...is 100 feet long, with [an] elegant store room in which is displayed a nice new stock of goods. The postoffice and private business office adorn the back end of this room. A large shed room is cut off on the side, in which, enclosed in nice closets and cases, is the bolt department. Lard, molasses, plow points, country produce, and many other items too numerous to mention are kept here. In front of this room is cut off the casket room of their undertaker’s department...The design and arrangement of this room come direct from New York, and we doubt if there is one like it in the State. Closed closets are arranged on one side in which the caskets are kept, and upon opening the door it comes down and forms a table upon which the casket rests and is displayed. Upon the shelving in the corner on opposite side is their elegant line of burial goods, such as robes, shoes, slippers, etc. It is worth any man’s time to go through and look at the convenient arrangement of their entire store.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

This firm is composed of Jas. T. Anderson and his two sons, E. R. and J. W. All are enterprising, good citizens and a credit to the community. This business, however, is the outgrowth of the incessant toil, business acumen and good common sense of the head of the firm, Jas. T. Anderson. For a man who began life at the very foot of the ladder he has accomplished wonders and is every day doing more and better for himself and the community in which he has cast his lot.

The article stated that the Anderson's were "Agents for Studebaker Wagons, Superior Disc Drills, and Disc Harrows on wheels, Genuine Brown Cultivator, Corn Drills and all Kinds of Farm Implements." They were also the "Manufacturer of High-Grade Roller Flour, Water-Ground Meal, and Tight Barrel Staves," as well as "Rough and Dressed Lumber." The article also devoted an entire page to the buildings of Hurricane Mills with five photographs and stated the following:

**FLOURING MILL.** This is one of the best equipped water mills perhaps in this section of country. "Richmond Sifter" is their high patent brand of flour, and "St. Elmo" high grade straight flour brand, and Choice Family, medium brand. A good grade of water Meal is also one of the specialties. A solid rock dam, built under the supervision of Mr. Anderson himself, is an interesting feature of this mill. There are tons of rock and a carload of Portland Cement in this dam. The mill is new and well equipped with new, up-to-date machinery. The old mill which stood above this present site was torn down. Wool rolls are also manufactured by Mr. Anderson. In this he is also well equipped. Both are run by water power.

**STAVE MILL.** This plant is a well equipped one, and when running at full capacity requires about fifty hands, and turns out about 12,000 staves per day. The tight barrel staves they cut are first class. Mr. Anderson also manufactures extensively rough and dressed lumber, having a saw and planing mill in connection with his flouring mill. When all these are running, Hurricane Mills presents a busy scene.

**RESIDENCE.** Above will be seen a picture of the lovely country home of Mr. Anderson. It is well located, handsomely furnished throughout, and was built with an eye to comfort and convenience. Presided over by his estimable wife, and surrounded by an interesting family of children, it is no wonder that Mr. Anderson is happy and contented.

**FARM.** The farm of Mr. Anderson contains 4,200 acres, of which 600 are in cultivation. He has 200 acres in wheat this year. The soil is rich and produces abundantly all crops suited to this climate. It is well watered and is especially adapted to stock raising. Mules, horses, cattle and hogs are raised by Mr. Anderson, and besides he buys and sells a good deal of livestock.

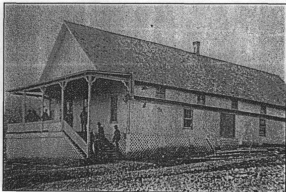
**BARN.** This barn is perhaps one of the largest in the country and is complete in every detail, and has every advantage that could be desired for the proper care of stock and the storage and handling of crops.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 24Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

**BLACKSMITH SHOP.** In connection with his other interests Mr. Anderson has conducted a general blacksmith and wood work shop. Here all kinds of repair work is done, and horseshoeing made a specialty. The shop is well equipped and none but experienced men are employed.

Mr. Anderson is figuring on putting in a dynamo to light his storeroom and residence. He has the power and would be at no expense after his purchase of the machinery. It would certainly add to the attractiveness of his beautiful surroundings.

Of the above mentioned properties, all but the Stave Mill, Blacksmith Shop, and Barn still stand.



A ca. 1902 photograph of the James T. Anderson & Sons Store, which burned around 1926.

Around 1905, Anderson renovated and enlarged the former George Hillman House in order to accommodate his growing family of ten children. He added a two-story addition to the rear ell, one-story porches flanking the front porch, and new interior elements such as a tin ceiling and an ornate staircase. He replaced the original hipped-roof well house, located in the front yard, with a new and larger hipped-roof well house behind the rear ell.

In 1911, the county hired the Nashville Bridge Company to construct a new steel truss bridge across the Hurricane Creek. The 100-foot long truss is an example of a pin-connected Pratt-through truss, which is flanked by two steel I-beam approach spans. According to documentation by Martha Carver for the TDOT's statewide historic bridge survey (1987), the Nashville Bridge Company was the most prolific producer of steel truss bridges in Tennessee. Carver describes the firm as the "most productive and important bridge

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

firm in Tennessee” (West [1998], 673). Around 1904, Arthur Dyer established the Nashville Bridge Company at Nashville, Tennessee. A native of Chattanooga, Dyer graduated from Vanderbilt University’s Engineering School in 1891. He worked as an engineer for companies in Pennsylvania, Washington and New York before returning to Nashville in 1893 (Carver [1987], n.p.). Dyer worked for the Nashville Bridge & Construction Company, a forerunner of his own company, in 1902 when the firm was hired to construct the steel framework of the Nashville Arcade (NR 1973).

The Nashville Bridge Company specialized in the construction of steel truss bridges, which it constructed throughout Tennessee and the South, but it also built a few concrete arch bridges. The firm even maintained a Latin-American branch office in Colombia, and built bridges in many Central and South American countries. The Nashville Bridge Company also specialized in the construction of movable bridges, mainly in the Gulf Coast region of Florida. After 1915, the firm branched into the marine field and began building ships, towboats, and barges. During World War I, the firm built ships for the US Navy at its factory on the banks of the Cumberland River. The firm expanded with a new plant at Bessemer, Alabama in 1922, and gradually began to emphasize its Nashville-headquartered Marine Department. During World War II, the firm grew into Nashville’s second largest defense contractor, and its nearly 900 employees built barges, and dozens of antisubmarine “subchasers” for the US Navy (Spinney, 22). Since World War II, the firm has gained a worldwide reputation for its towboats and barges, and by the 1980s, it had become the world’s largest builder of inland barges (West [1998], 674). Between 1903 and 1941, the Nashville Bridge Company constructed at least 400 metal truss and concrete arch bridges in Tennessee; 78 of which were still standing in 1987 (Carver [1987], n.p.).

Besides running the commercial enterprise at Hurricane Mills, James T. Anderson operated an enormous farm and practiced progressive agricultural techniques. Anderson had more than 600 acres in cultivation and grew many crops, such as corn and wheat, but he was best known for his peanut crop. Local farmers had grown peanuts since the mid-nineteenth century, and George Hillman had grown peanuts on this particular farm since the 1870s. Peanuts were a major cash crop for farmers on the Western Highland Rim, including Perry, Stewart and Humphreys counties. The peanut industry had the greatest impact on the county’s economic development between the 1880s and the early twentieth century. In the 1910s, Humphreys County farmers planted over 6,100 acres of the legume and produced one-third of the state’s peanuts. Large peanut processing centers and warehouses were constructed at Waverly and Johnsonville, and small commercial places like Sycamore Landing and Hurricane Mills also served as processing centers (West [1998], 450-51, 536, 729).

James T. Anderson hired tenant farmers to tend his vast peanut fields. Many of his tenant farmers had followed him from Hickman County in the 1890s, including Robert Lee Vaughn (1869-1950) and his wife Mira Vaughn (1871-1932), and John Swan McCord (1867-1914) and his wife Lucy McCord (1869-1914). Anderson owned several small tenant houses throughout the farm, including several near the general store and several scattered along the roads. (Almost all of these tenant houses were abandoned by the mid-twentieth century and all but one remote log tenant house have been demolished.) Anderson operated his

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 26

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

Hurricane Mills enterprise like a company town and paid his workers with scrip that was used to buy food and supplies at the James T. Anderson & Sons General Merchandise Store. These decorative metal coins were produced in several sizes and denominations, including 5¢, 10¢, 50¢, and \$1. (Several examples of Anderson's scrip are on display at the Loretta Lynn Museum.) Besides growing peanuts, Anderson was also a livestock farmer and raised cattle, horses, mules and hogs. He built a livestock pond and one of the county's largest livestock barns around 1900. Anderson's workers would undergo all-day cattle drives along the wagon road to Waverly, where his livestock could be sold and loaded on railroad boxcars for delivery to distant markets.

The 1910s were a decade of great change for Hurricane Mills and for James T. Anderson. In the winter of 1912, a powerful flood caused extensive damage to Hurricane Mills, and most of Anderson's property, including the flourmill and dam. Anderson hired local builder Ben T. McNabb to rebuild the damaged stone dam with a new dam made entirely of concrete. Anderson was eager to implement this new building product all over his farm, and ordered the construction of new concrete foundations on the flourmill (which are scored to resemble finished stone), concrete culverts, and a concrete retaining wall surrounding the Anderson Family Cemetery. He also built several concrete sidewalks, which extended from the front porch of the main farmhouse, and connected to the summer kitchen and the farmyards at each side. Anderson also built an impressive stepped, 300-foot long sidewalk that extended down the middle of the front yard to the main road.

Between 1902 and 1912, Anderson had enlarged the flourmill with a two-story addition, and he had installed a turbine-powered electric generator, which powered all of the buildings at the farm, as well as many throughout the community. Anderson strung electric lights along poles located around his farm, and he strung electric lights across the front of his farmhouse. According to local tradition, visitors and tourists would travel from across the county to see Anderson's farmhouse lit up, especially at night. With the first electricity produced in Humphreys County, Anderson's electric generator even powered the public buildings at Waverly until the city obtained its own electric generator in 1919.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 27

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee



A ca. 1914 photograph of the James T. Anderson farmhouse after the ca. 1905 renovation.

Beginning in 1915, the county built an improved road connecting Waverly with the community of Pegram, which crossed Hurricane Creek at the new Hurricane Mills Bridge. Not much later, the State Highway Department upgraded this road into State Highway 13, which connected Clarksville, Tennessee, with Florence, Alabama. With the introduction of increased automobile traffic, the Hurricane Mills community became an important stopping point for travelers in Humphreys County. The improved roads also brought increased business for Anderson's commercial enterprise, and his family soon expanded into other areas of the county.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 28Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

Around 1916, Anderson remodeled the main farmhouse, perhaps because the new highway brought additional traffic through Hurricane Mills and he wanted to flaunt his prosperity. Anderson replaced the intricate Queen Anne-style porch elements with massive Ionic columns, which he ordered from a specialized manufacturer, and added a new concrete foundation to the wrap-around porch. Always eager to experiment with modern technological advances, Anderson ordered hollow columns that are made of a thin layer of steel and ornate metal capitals. This renovation gave the house the look of an older "Southern Colonial" plantation dwelling, instead of the fancy but dated Victorian image it had had since the 1880s. This type of remodeling of rural farmhouses into Neoclassical Revival-style dwellings was popular throughout the country in the early twentieth century, especially in the South where colonnaded facades evoked romantic images of rural antebellum mansions.



A ca. 1918 photograph of Anderson farmhouse soon after the metal columns were added.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 29

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

In October 1916, Anderson's sons, George Thomas Anderson (1882-1924) and John Wright Anderson (1878-1972), left the family business at Hurricane Mills and purchased at public auction the Sycamore Landing General Merchandise Store & Post Office (NR 1979). Located on the eastern bank of the Tennessee River in Humphreys County, Sycamore Landing is located near Bakerville and about twelve miles west of Hurricane Mills. James T. Anderson shipped his agricultural projects, mainly peanuts, from Hurricane Mills to his sons' store at Sycamore Landing for several years. John W. Anderson and his wife operated the general store and post office, as well as a large livestock farm. Like his father, John W. Anderson became a respected member of the community. He was a schoolteacher, a member of the county board of education, and president of the board of trustees at Freed-Hardeman College, a private Church of Christ-supported school at Henderson, Tennessee. He also served as the first president of the Humphreys County Farm Bureau, and was elected a state representative and senator between 1935 and 1945 where he sat on many committees. His home at Sycamore Landing burned in 1955, but he continued to run the store & post office there until 1968. He died in 1972 and is buried in the Anderson Family Cemetery. John Wright Anderson grew up in the James T. Anderson House at Hurricane Mills, living there between 1895 and 1916.

In 1920, the 62-year old Anderson decided to retire. On December 20 of that year, he sold his 1,328-acre farm and all of its operations for \$48,500 to William Alvin Sanders. Soon thereafter, Anderson began construction of a new retirement house located atop a scenic hillside about two miles west, towards the Duck River. Built of rusticated concrete block shipped from Waverly, this two-story farmhouse is a good example of an American Foursquare-style farmhouse. In 1924, James T. Anderson died at 66 years of age from tetanus shortly after moving into his new retirement home (his wife continued to live in their new home until her death in 1941). James T. Anderson and his family lived at the Hurricane Mills farmhouse for twenty-five years. He is buried at the Anderson Family Cemetery.

James T. Anderson's family was "distinguished by prominent farmers and political leaders" (West [1998], 19-20). As mentioned previously, his son John Wright Anderson became a popular state politician and educational leader. Another example was his grandson William Robert Anderson (b.1921) who became a world-renowned US Navy Captain and later a US Congressman. The native of Sycamore Landing is best known as the commander of the nuclear submarine *USS Nautilus* when it made man's first underwater crossing of the North Pole in 1958 during the height of the Cold War. In 1959, he published a book called *Nautilus 90 North*, in which he described his military adventures and his childhood spent along the banks of the Tennessee River in Humphreys County (Anderson [1959], 23-28).

### *Period of Transition, 1920-1955:*

Between 1920 and 1955, the former James T. Anderson farm and commercial operations at Hurricane Mills underwent a period of transition. Two insurance companies officially owned the property for much of this period, however, local families continued to occupy the farmhouse. The insurance companies hired local trustees to operate the farm with tenants and sharecroppers. While the flourmill shut down large-scale commercial operations in the late 1920s, it continued to function on a small-scale through the mid-1950s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 30

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

The general store/post office continued to operate through this period, and added a Gulf-brand service station and automobile garage. A small barbershop even opened next door. However, the relocation of State Highway 13 in the 1940s created a vehicular bypass around Hurricane Mills, and by the mid-1950s the community had entered a period of economic decline.

William Alvin Sanders and his wife Lela Bell purchased James T. Anderson's farm and all its commercial operations in December 1920. Like James T. Anderson, William A. Sanders served as the postmaster at Hurricane Mills between 1921 and 1927. However, unlike Anderson, Sanders had difficulty making a profit, and in July 1923, he was forced to convey the property for \$40,000 to the Central Trust Company of Franklin, Tennessee. The trust company apparently allowed Sanders and his family to remain at the farm for a short while, and they hired Minnie Clemmons to work as a live-in maid. However, around 1924 the trustees turned the operations of the farm over to Lucien White Slayden (1877-1958), a successful businessman and farmer from Waverly. In 1924, Slayden introduced tobacco as a new cash crop, although peanuts remained the farm's most important agricultural commodity. According to local tradition, this was the first tobacco crop grown in Humphreys County and special tobacco growers were brought in from the nearby Cumberland Furnace (NR 1988) community in Dickson County.

Around 1926, the general merchandise store and post office burned down. Slayden soon hired local builders to construct a new store and post office of rusticated concrete block, which had been purchased from his brother's building supply company, Slayden & McNabb, at Waverly. (In the 1910s, Slayden's brother John Alvin Slayden had established a successful construction business with builder Ben T. McNabb.) In the late 1920s a small barbershop also opened at Hurricane Mills next to the grocery store, which expanded to include a Gulf-brand service station and automobile garage for automobile travelers passing along State Highway 13. Lucien W. Slayden and his family resided in the former Anderson farmhouse for a few years, until he moved to Nashville in the late 1920s.

The Central Trust Company of Franklin, Tennessee, went bankrupt soon before the stock market crash of 1929. On August 17, 1929, the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, located at New York, purchased the Hurricane Mills property for \$30,000 at a public auction held on steps of the Humphreys County Courthouse. Like the former corporate owners, the northern loan company hired a local trustee to operate the farm and its commercial businesses. The loan company continued to hire tenant farmers and sharecroppers to raise peanuts, tobacco, corn and livestock at the farm. While the flourmill shut down large-scale commercial operations in the late 1920s, the loan company continued to operate it on a small scale throughout the Great Depression.

Oscar Goad and his family rented the main farmhouse between ca. 1932 and ca. 1936. A peanut farmer, Goad's daughter, Sue Goad-Moore, recalled participating in the annual peanut shelling parties at the flourmill. Ollie Sawyer and his family rented the farmhouse for a short time in the late 1930s. Between 1936 and 1946, Neal Chessor was a peanut sharecropper living on the farm. Chessor's son Billy worked in the flourmill, and recalled that it produced hog and cattle feed, as well as corn meal.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 31

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

The federal New Deal programs had a minimal impact to Hurricane Mills in the mid-1930s. In March 1935, the WPA constructed two toilets and a small addition to the Hurricane Mills Elementary School, which was a one-room, frame school built in the 1880s. In the summer of 1936, the county board of education voted to build several WPA-funded elementary schools throughout the county for both white and African-American students. However, most of these schools were not constructed, including one proposed for white students at Hurricane Mills. In the late 1930s, a storm destroyed an old factory building near the flourmill. Workers (probably WPA) salvaged the material for use in the construction of several new outhouses around the farm. The WPA may have also assisted in the construction of the new State Highway 13, which the State Highway Department constructed in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Relocated one mile east of Hurricane Mills, the new highway opened around 1942 and bypassed the rural community.

On July 22, 1942, Edwin O. Denslow and his wife Ruby M. Denslow purchased the 1,142-acre farm for \$27,500 from the Equitable Life Assurance Company. (The TVA had inundated Denslow's farm near Johnsonville for the construction of the Kentucky Lake.) A progressive farmer and local politician, Denslow continued to grow peanuts and corn at Hurricane Mills, and he raised livestock, mainly cattle. Denslow resided in the former Anderson farmhouse, and continued employing tenant farmers to raise crops. Denslow continued to operate the flourmill on a small-scale, producing livestock feed and corn meal for local farmers. Billy Chessnor recalls that during World War II, a handful of businessmen and political leaders from Waverly held an annual "Victory Garden Day" at Hurricane Mills. The businessmen gave their employees a day off from work and brought them and their families out to the country, where they fished, swam in the watering hole, and had catfish cookouts. According to Billy Chessnor, the businessmen invited the families of both African-American and white city workers to the Victory Garden Day celebrations, which were rare examples of an interracial public commemoration during the era of strict segregation.

Between ca. 1936 and 1963, Thomas R. Meadows served as postmaster and operated the store/service station, which he called "T. R. Meadows Grocery." The Hurricane Mills Community Club began meeting at the schoolhouse in 1944, the first such rural club organized in the county. Soon a Home Demonstration Club, made up of rural farmwives, began meeting at the schoolhouse as well. The Hurricane Mills School was used as a community building and hosted agricultural fairs, picnics and other seasonal festivals. It was also the site of local entertainment when a local Native American began showing home movies there in the 1930s.

In the summer of 1947, the county board of education consolidated the Hurricane Mills School with the Wills Chapel School and the Beech Hill School. The county proposed to build a new concrete block school at Hurricane Mills; however, it enlarged the old schoolhouse instead. In 1954, this 75-year old schoolhouse burned down. The county board of education funded the construction of a \$10,000 replacement school that summer with Edwin O. Denslow serving on the building committee. The much larger concrete block schoolhouse featured three classrooms, a modern kitchen, and indoor bathrooms. It also had a large cafeteria that doubled as an auditorium, and a small, wooden stage was constructed for hosting community plays.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 32

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

## *Period of Decline, 1955-1966*

Although the community had a new schoolhouse and community center, the commercial businesses began to decline in the 1950s. The Hurricane Mills Flourmill had operated on a small-scale seasonal basis through the 1940s, but it closed permanently in the mid-1950s. In June 1959, Allen Brown Clayborne and his wife Sara Clayborne purchased the farm for \$85,000 from Edwin Denslow. Apparently, the Clayborne family lived in the main farmhouse for only a few years. Most of the former tenant houses were abandoned in the 1950s and '60s as better employment opportunities became available at new industrial plants in nearby towns, such as TVA's massive New Johnsonville Steam Plant that opened in 1950.

In 1962, the seven-year old Hurricane Mills Elementary School shut down, and the students were bussed to schools at Waverly. In 1963, Gould M. Woods purchased the T. R. Meadows Store and renamed it the "Hurricane Mills General Store." Woods also operated an Amoco-brand service station in conjunction with the general store and was postmaster at the tiny post office. However, business at the country store and service station decreased tremendously when the new state highway bypassed the community. By the mid-1960s, the Hurricane Mills community was no longer one of the county's most vibrant commercial centers.

## *The Loretta Lynn Era, 1966-Present*

On April 22, 1966, country music entertainer Loretta Lynn (b.1935) and her husband Oliver Veaneter Lynn, Jr. (1926-1996)—commonly known as "Mooney" Lynn—purchased the farm and empty farmhouse for \$215,000 from Allen Brown and Sara Clayborne. As part of the sale, the Lynns received 200 cattle, farm machinery, seed, fertilizer, and hay. A native of eastern Kentucky, Loretta Lynn had moved from Custer, Washington, to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1960 to perform on the Grand Ole Opry. Although the Lynns had purchased a forty-five acre ranch in rural Davidson County in 1963, Mooney Lynn longed for a much larger ranch out in the country. Loretta Lynn also wished to live on a farm in the country, far from the big city of Nashville where she had become one of the country music industry's most famed celebrities. In 1976, Loretta Lynn explained why she and Mooney, whom she called "Doo" (short for "Doolittle"), decided to buy the old Hurricane Mills farmhouse in her autobiography *Coal Miner's Daughter*. Describing her dream house, she wrote that:

One day we were riding down in Humphreys County, about sixty-five miles southwest of Nashville. We were looking at another place but we got lost on this little back road. All of a sudden, I saw this huge old house built on a hill overlooking a tiny town. It had these huge white columns in front, and to me it looked like the house "Tara" in the movie *Gone with the Wind*. I never pictured myself as Scarlett O'Hara, not hardly, but I could picture myself in that house...Doo found out that nobody had been living in it for the past twenty years. It [had] belonged to the Anderson family, who owned the red mill across the creek, but the house was falling apart since the Andersons had moved away. They actually owned the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 33

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

whole town—Hurricane Mills—a company town, where the workers got paid in scrip, just like the old coal towns. Anyway, the new owners were looking to sell it—the whole package of 1,450 acres, some cattle and equipment, and the house—for \$220,000.

...I took a tour of the place. It had three floors with winding staircases, front and back, and all kinds of extra buildings around it. There were high ceilings and a huge kitchen area and, of course, the old red mill, the post office, and the general store with a filling station across the creek belonged to us. I started making plans to decorate the house, and I went back on the road again, not knowing anything about the condition of the house. That I left up to Doo.

He never told me until years later, but the house was in a terrible state...Doo once told a friend of ours..."I had a book of matches in my hand and I thought, 'Boy, the best thing I could do would be to set this old house on fire and build a new one.' But then I thought how much it meant to Loretta, how hard she worked on the road. So I thought, 'I'll just fix this son-of-a-gun up, even if it takes me ten years and busts every bone in my body.' I put many a long day in that house"(p.163-164).

In the spring of 1967, Mooney and Loretta Lynn and their children moved into the farmhouse. Mooney spent another \$150,000 improving the farm. He repaired fences, fertilized the fields, planted crops of corn, and purchased 300 head of cattle. Mooney called their new farm the "Double L Dude Ranch," referencing his wife's initials. In 1972, Mooney Lynn converted the abandoned flourmill into a gift shop and museum for the tourists and fans, who had begun to come visit Loretta Lynn's country home. The Hurricane Mills Church of Christ relocated to a new building on State Highway 13 in 1972. The congregation had merged with Pruetts Chapel to form the Wildwood Valley Church of Christ in 1971. Mooney and Loretta Lynn purchased the abandoned church for \$6,000 in 1978. However, the Freemasons hold a perpetual lease for the upper level and continue to use the building as a Masonic Lodge.

In 1974, Mooney Lynn converted the former Hurricane Mills General Store and Service Station into a gift shop called "Western Town," but the tiny Hurricane Mills Post Office remained open, serving the local community of around 250 residents. Around 1975, Mooney Lynn opened "Loretta Lynn's Campground" approximately one mile east of the historic district. Located along State Highway 13, Mooney established the campground as a place for traveling fans to park their RVs. The Lynns have continued to expand the Loretta Lynn Campground since the 1970s, and added a 4,000-seat open-air concert pavilion, a community swimming pool, and dozens of rental cabins. In 1973, Mooney Lynn constructed a stable for their horses and built miles of trails for horseback riding (now called the "Mooney Lynn Memorial Trail Rides"). The Lynns also constructed trails for ATVs and mountain bikes. Around 1981, the Lynns established a small dirt track for motorcycle racing, which has grown into an ESPN-televised motocross national-championship event that attracts over 10,000 spectators. The Campground rents canoes for riding down Hurricane Creek, and other recreational equipment. None of these recreational and outdoor activities takes place within the historic district.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 34

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

In 1987, the Lynns purchased the old Hurricane Mills Bridge, which had been replaced by a new bridge constructed by the TDOT in 1985, from the county highway department. In 1988, Loretta Lynn had a replica of her childhood home in eastern Kentucky constructed at Hurricane Mills. Reassembled from the *Coal Miner's Daughter* movie set, this replica dwelling lies outside the historic district. She also had a replica of a Van Lear, Kentucky, coal mine where her father worked constructed at Western Town, which was expanded to include several gift shops and a small entertainment stage. The Lynns moved out of the main farmhouse in the spring of 1988 and opened it as a private museum for tourists. Today, the Loretta Lynn Ranch and Campground is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Tennessee. Loretta Lynn continues to perform concerts to sold-out crowds of over 4,000 at the Ranch. Other country music entertainers also perform at the Ranch, including her children--Betty Sue, Cissie, Patsy, Peggy and Ernie—and legendary celebrities such as her sister Crystal Gayle, George Jones, and Tammy Wynette (1942-1998).

The Hurricane Mills community has also been memorialized on film. The main farmhouse was used as a set for many televised celebrity specials, including the Dean Martin Show. The Ranch has also been the set for several television commercials, including the famous Crisco commercials with her daughters and grandchildren in the early 1980s. Several country music videos have been filmed at Hurricane Mills, including the video for *Coal Miner's Daughter* with Loretta Lynn and Sissy Spacek in 1980. Finally, the entire Hurricane Mills community was used as a set in the movie version of Loretta Lynn's 1976 autobiography *Coal Miner's Daughter*, which featured actors Tommy Lee Jones, Beverly D'Angelo, and Sissy Spacek. Filmed in 1980, many of the historic buildings at the Ranch were used as sets in the Oscar-winning movie, including the main farmhouse and surrounding farm, the bridge, and the church.

The Lynn family has modernized many of the buildings at Hurricane Mills in order to accommodate a growing family, as well as Loretta Lynn's legion of fans and tourists. However, they also have worked hard to preserve the rural setting and historic character of the older buildings and structures. The commercial activity of the Loretta Lynn Campground is located over one mile from the tranquil setting of the Hurricane Mills community. The Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District retains its historic charm and scenic beauty as a small, crossroads commercial and industrial village, recognizable and familiar to the people of the community with its impressive architecture. As such, the historic district represents a significant and distinguishable local landmark, which conveys a sense of time and place. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in architecture, as well as for its contributions to the county's agricultural, industrial and commercial history.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 35

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

## IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Anderson, Commander William R and Clay Blair, Jr. *Nautilus 90 North*. (Cleveland & New York: The World Publishing Company, 1959).
- Biographical Directory, Tennessee General Assembly: 1796-1971*. (Nashville: Tennessee State Library & Archives, 1973).
- Carver, Martha. "Survey Report for Historic Highway Bridges: Tennessee's Masonry Arch, Timber Truss, Metal Truss, Concrete Arch, Metal Arch and Suspension Bridges." (unpublished manuscript prepared by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, 1987).
- Chessor, Billy O'Neal. Interview with Robbie D. Jones at Hurricane Mills, August 14, 1999.
- Dalton, Robert. "Survey Site Records (HS.12-HS.20)." (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1976).
- Fisher, Marjorie Hood, ed. *Bakerville Review Abstracts: 1896-1899*. (private publication, 1978).
- Garrett, Jill Knight. *A History of Humphreys County, Tennessee*. (Columbia, Tennessee, private publisher, 1963).
- General Highway & Transportation Map: Humphreys County, Tennessee*. (Nashville: Tennessee State Highway Department, 1938, 1951, 1958).
- Goad, Alice. Telephone interview with Robbie D. Jones from Madison, Tennessee, July 19, 1999.
- History of Tennessee: Humphreys County*. (Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886).
- Hoffschwelle, Mary S. *Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community: Reformers, Schools, and Homes in Tennessee, 1900-1930*. (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1998).
- Humphreys County Board of Education Minutes, 1934-1955.
- Humphreys County Deed Books (Z, p.154; 40, p.95-97; 45, p.549; 56, p.577-579; 62, p.431; 78, p.580-583; 95, p.57-65; 117, p.4; 119, p.110; 126, p.84; 130, p.954).
- Humphreys County Historical Society. *Humphreys County Heritage*. (Waverly, Tennessee, 1979).
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Humphreys County Heritage, Volume II*. (Waverly, Tennessee, 1983).
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Humphreys County, Tennessee: A Pictorial History*. (Paducah, Kentucky: Turner Publishing Company, 1995).
- Humphreys County Population Census, 1820-1880.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 36

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

---

Humphreys County Tax Assessor's Records, Courthouse Annex, Waverly.

James, R. H. "Loretta Lynn's Mill." (*Old Mill Newsletter*, Winter 1978, p.11).

Laysely, J. P. *The Iron Manufacturer's Guide to the Furnaces, Forges, and Rolling Mills of the United States*. (New York: John Wiley, 1859).

Little, M. Ruth. *Sticks & Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers*. (Chapel Hill & London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1998).

Lovett, John. Interview and site visit with Robbie D. Jones at Hurricane Mills, June 11, 1999.

Lynn, Betty Sue. Multiple interviews with Robbie D. Jones at Hurricane Mills, May-August 1999.

Lynn, Cissie. Multiple interviews with Robbie D. Jones at Hurricane Mills, May-August 1999.

Lynn, Loretta. Multiple interviews with Robbie D. Jones at Hurricane Mills, May-August 1999.

Lynn, Loretta with George Vecsey. *Loretta Lynn: Coal Miner's Daughter*. (NY: Warner Books, 1976).

Moore, Sue (Goad). Telephone interview with Robbie D. Jones from Brentwood, Tennessee, July 19, 1999.

Moore, Wayne C. "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley, Humphreys County, Tennessee, 1785-1980." (unpublished dissertation, University of Rochester, 1990).

Moore, William D. "The Masonic Lodge Room, 1870-1930: A Sacred Space of Masculine Spiritual Hierarchy" in *Gender, Class, and Shelter: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, V*. Cromley, Elizabeth Collins and Carter L. Hudgins, eds. (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1995).

Safford, James N. *A Geological Reconnaissance of the State of Tennessee*. (Nashville: G. C. Torbett & Company, 1856).

\_\_\_\_\_. "Map Showing Location of the Iron Property of the Aetna Iron Manufacturing, Mining & Oil Company." (Louisville, Kentucky: German & Brother Lithography, ca. 1870s).

Smith, Samuel D., 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).

Spinney, Robert G. *World War II in Nashville: Transformation of the Homefront*. (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1998).

Stripling, Charles P. and Samuel D. Smith. "Site Survey Record (40HS169)." (Nashville: Tennessee



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 37

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

---

Division of Archaeology, 1985).

West, Carroll Van. *Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective*. (Nashville: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 1986).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Tennessee's Historic Landscapes: A Traveler's Guide*. (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1995).

West, Carroll Van, editor-in-chief. *The Encyclopedia of Tennessee History & Culture*. (Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1998).

Whitfield, John Hedge. "Hurricane Mills." (series of newspaper columns published in 1988).

\_\_\_\_\_. Interview with Robbie D. Jones at Waverly, Tennessee, July 19, 1999.

Whitfield, Margaret. Interview with Robbie D. Jones at Waverly, Tennessee, July 19, 1999.

Wilson, Charles Reagan & William Ferris, editors. *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. (Chapel Hill & London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1989).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 38

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

## X. GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

### Verbal Boundary Description

The Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District, an irregular-shaped district of approximately 300 acres, is located near the center of a 1,087.4-acre parcel. The historic district is generally situated along the north/south axis of Old State Highway 13 and the east/west axis of the Hurricane Creek Road, which intersect within the historic district. Beginning at the new Hurricane Creek Bridge and going in a counterclockwise direction, the district boundary follows the southern edge of the Hurricane Creek Road (excluding the county right-of-way) for approximately ¼ mile. The boundary then follows the parcel property line due south until reaching the north side of Hurricane Creek. The boundary then follows the north side of Hurricane Creek for approximately ½ mile and then follows the parcel property line due south until reaching Ray May Lane. The boundary then follows the northern edge of Ray May Lane for approximately ¼ mile until intersecting with Old State Highway 13. Continuing in a counterclockwise direction, the boundary then follows the western edge of the county right-of-way along Old State Highway 13 for approximately one-mile until reaching the entrance to the former church and school. The boundary then follows a former parcel property line around the southern edge of the former Hurricane Mills School & Community Center and around the eastern edge of the former Hurricane Mills Church of Christ Meeting House & Masonic Lodge. The boundary then follows the 420'-ASL contour line along the southern edge of pasture until reaching the right-of-way along the southern edge of Hurricane Creek Road. The boundary then follows the southern edge of Hurricane Creek Road for approximately ¼ mile until reaching the intersection with Old State Highway 13 at the new Hurricane Mills Bridge. The boundary then turns north and crosses Hurricane Creek along the eastern edge of the Hurricane Mills Bridge before ending at the intersection with Hurricane Creek Road. The district includes all extant properties associated with the historic development of Hurricane Mills. Refer to Humphreys County Tax Maps 117 and 128 and figure 12.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the nominated property includes all of the approximately 300 acres currently associated with the historic development of Hurricane Mills, excluding rights-of-way owned by the Humphreys County Highway Department. The boundaries include a 20'x30' lot containing the Anderson Family Cemetery, which is public-owned property.

The tax maps for this property have a scale of 1"=400.' This is the only scale available for rural areas in Tennessee.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number    Photos    Page    39

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District  
Humphreys County, Tennessee

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos by:    Robbie D. Jones

Negatives:    Tennessee Historical Commission  
Clover Bottom Mansion  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37243

#	Subject	Date	View
1 of 30	Hurricane Mill & dam	August 1999	North
2 of 30	Hurricane Mill	August 1999	Southeast
3 of 30	Hurricane Mill (flour chute and bagging machine)	June 1999	Interior
4 of 30	Hurricane Mill (old post office material)	June 1999	Interior
5 of 30	(former) Hurricane Mills Bridge	June 1999	Northeast
6 of 30	(former) Hurricane Mills Bridge	August 1999	South
7 of 30	(new) Hurricane Mills Bridge	August 1999	Northeast
8 of 30	(former) Hurricane Mills General Store & Post Office	June 1999	Southwest
9 of 30	(former) Hurricane Mills Post Office	August 1999	Southwest
10 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse	June 1999	South
11 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse	June 1999	South
12 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse	June 1999	Southwest
13 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse (staircase)	June 1999	Interior
14 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse (parlor mantel)	June 1999	Interior
15 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse (dining room mantel)	June 1999	Interior
16 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse	June 1999	Northeast
17 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse—kitchen outbuilding	June 1999	Southeast
18 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse—rear outbuildings	June 1999	Northwest
19 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse—garage outbuilding	August 1999	Southeast
20 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse—guesthouse	August 1999	Southwest
21 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse—shop outbuilding	August 1999	Northeast
22 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse—livestock barn	August 1999	Southeast
23 of 30	Hurricane Mills Meeting House/Lodge & School	June 1999	South
24 of 30	Hurricane Mills Meeting House/Lodge	August 1999	Southwest
25 of 30	Hurricane Mills Meeting House/Lodge	August 1999	Northeast
26 of 30	Hurricane Mills School	August 1999	Southwest
27 of 30	Anderson Family Cemetery	June 1999	Southeast
28 of 30	Anderson Family Cemetery	August 1999	Southeast
29 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse—agricultural fields/silos	June 1999	Southwest
30 of 30	Hillman - Anderson Farmhouse—agricultural fields	June 1999	West



Figure 1. This ca.1912 photograph shows Hurricane Mills soon after the flood. Note the damaged pedestrian bridge atop the dam and the concrete sidewalk.



Figure 2. A ca.1912 photograph of the main farmhouse and Anderson's horses.



Figure 3. A ca.1912 photograph of the main farmhouse, its outbuildings, and Anderson's cattle. Note the swing, concrete sidewalks, and electrical power-lines.

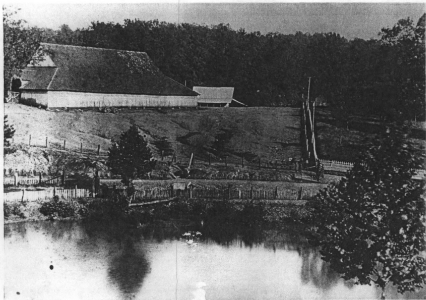


Figure 4. A photograph of the livestock barn, probably taken the summer of 1912.

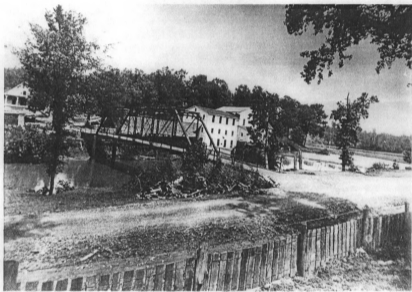


Figure 5. A ca.1912 photograph of the flourmill, new truss bridge, and general merchandise store. Note the blacksmith shop attached to the flourmill.



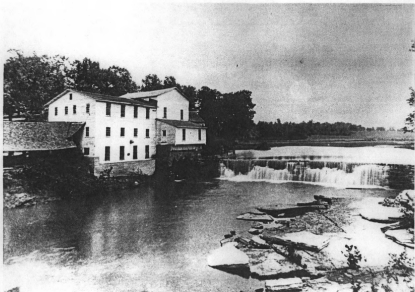


Figure 6. A ca.1912 photograph of the flourmill, watering hole, and old stone dam before Anderson hired local builder Ben T. McNabb to construct a new concrete dam.

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District, Humphreys County, Tennessee

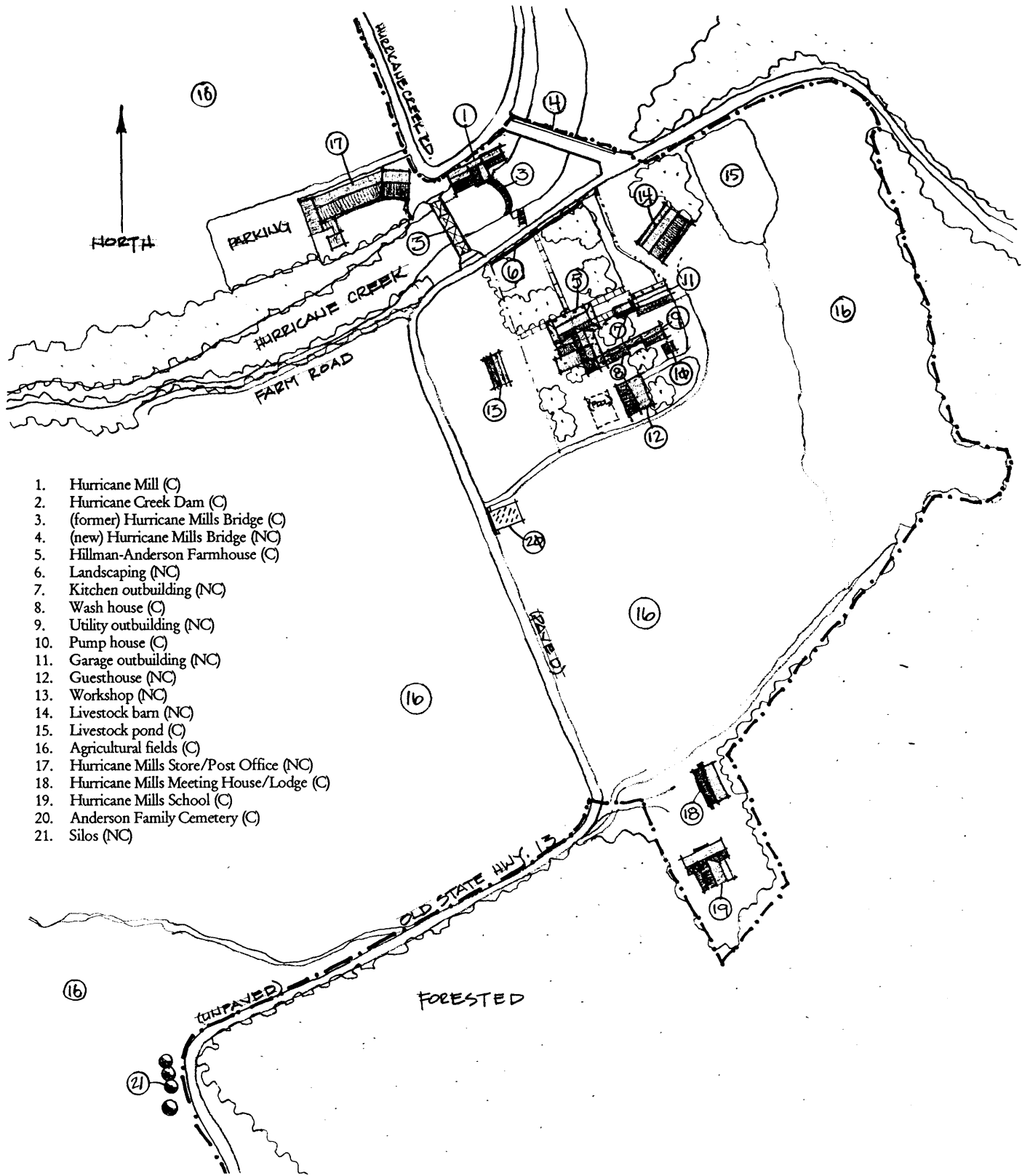


Figure 7. A site plan of the Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District, showing contributing (C) and noncontributing (NC) properties.

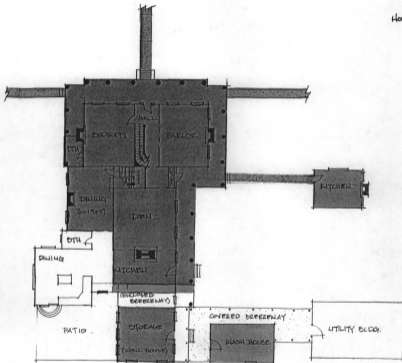


Figure 8. The main floor plan of the historic Hillman-Anderson Farmhouse (HS.14); sections built between ca.1876 and ca.1916 are shaded (not to scale).

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District, Humphreys County, Tennessee

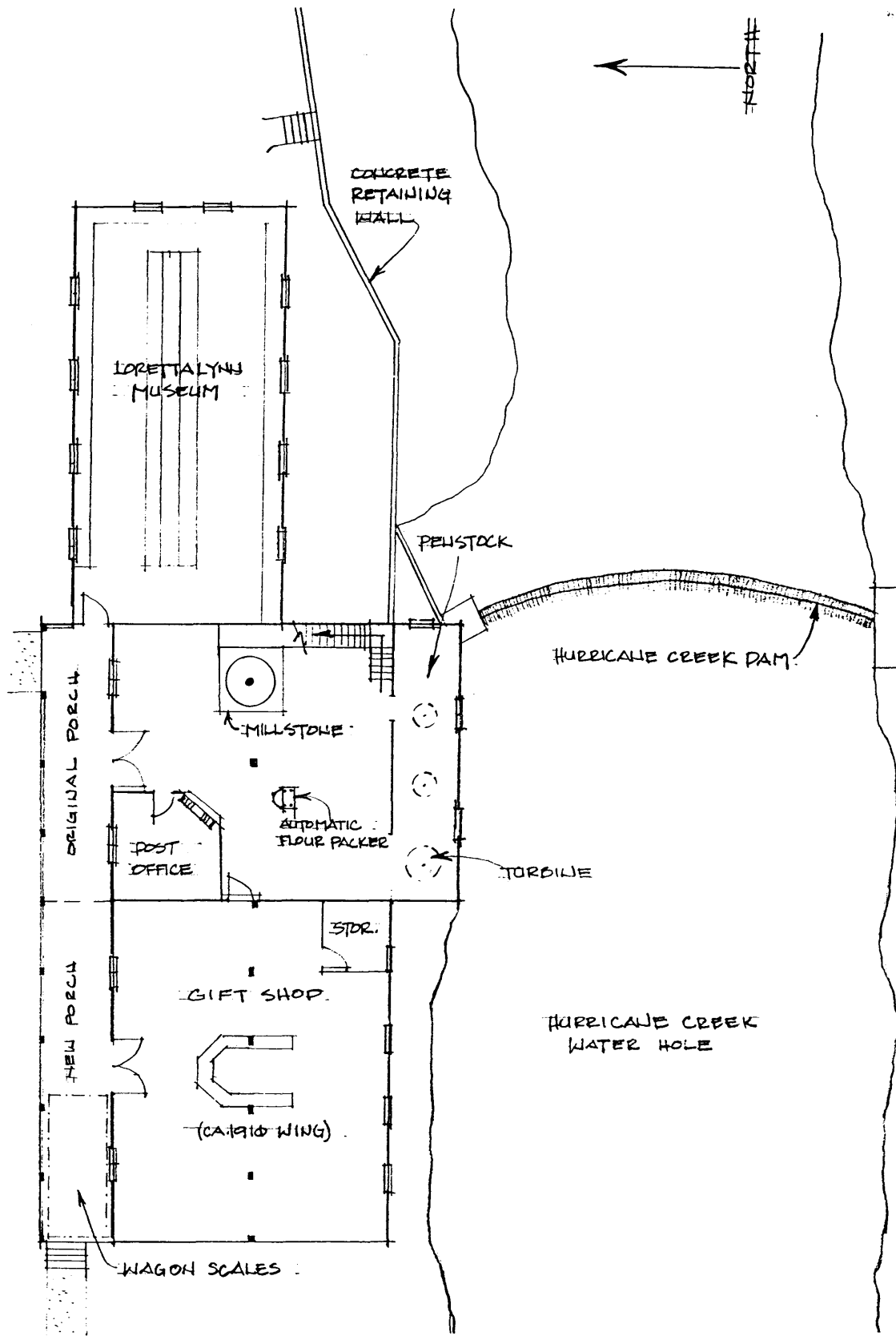


Figure 9. The main floor plan of the Hurricane Mill (HS.12) showing the location of the water level penstock with turbines, as well as the Hurricane Creek Dam (not to scale).

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District, Humphreys County, Tennessee

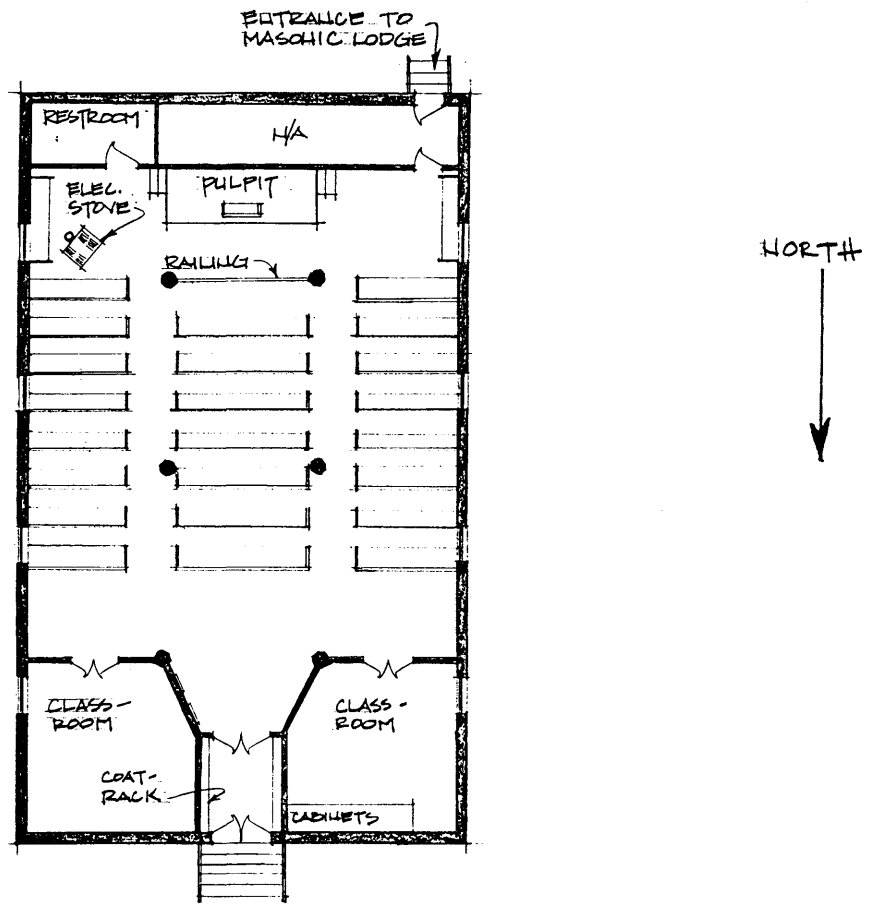


Figure 10. The main floor plan of the Hurricane Mills Meeting House (not to scale).

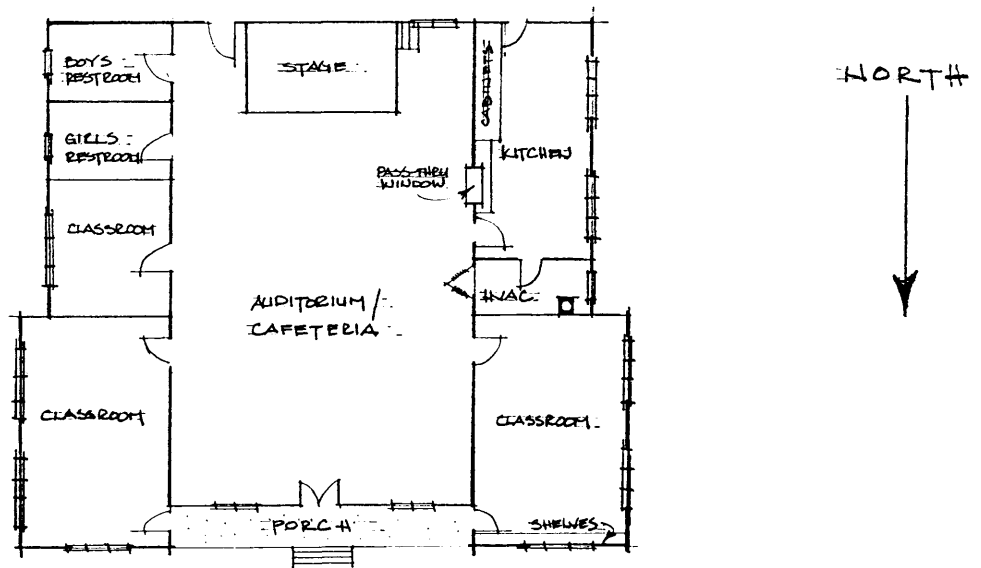


Figure 11. The floor plan of the historic Hurricane Mills School (not to scale).

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District, Humphreys County, Tennessee

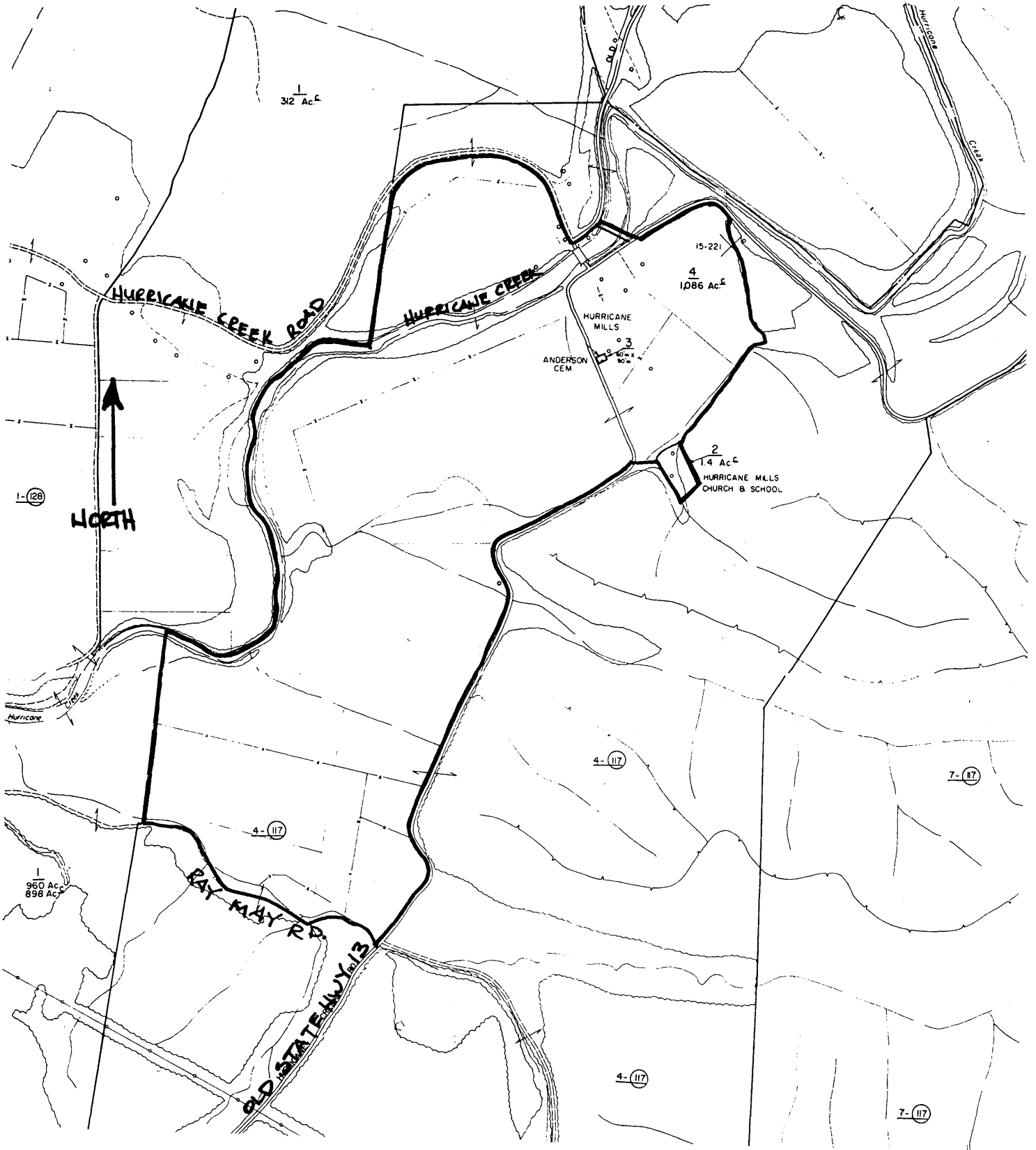


Figure 12. Humphreys County Tax Map with historic district boundaries shown.  
(Not to scale.)

Hurricane Mills Rural Historic District, Humphreys County, Tennessee

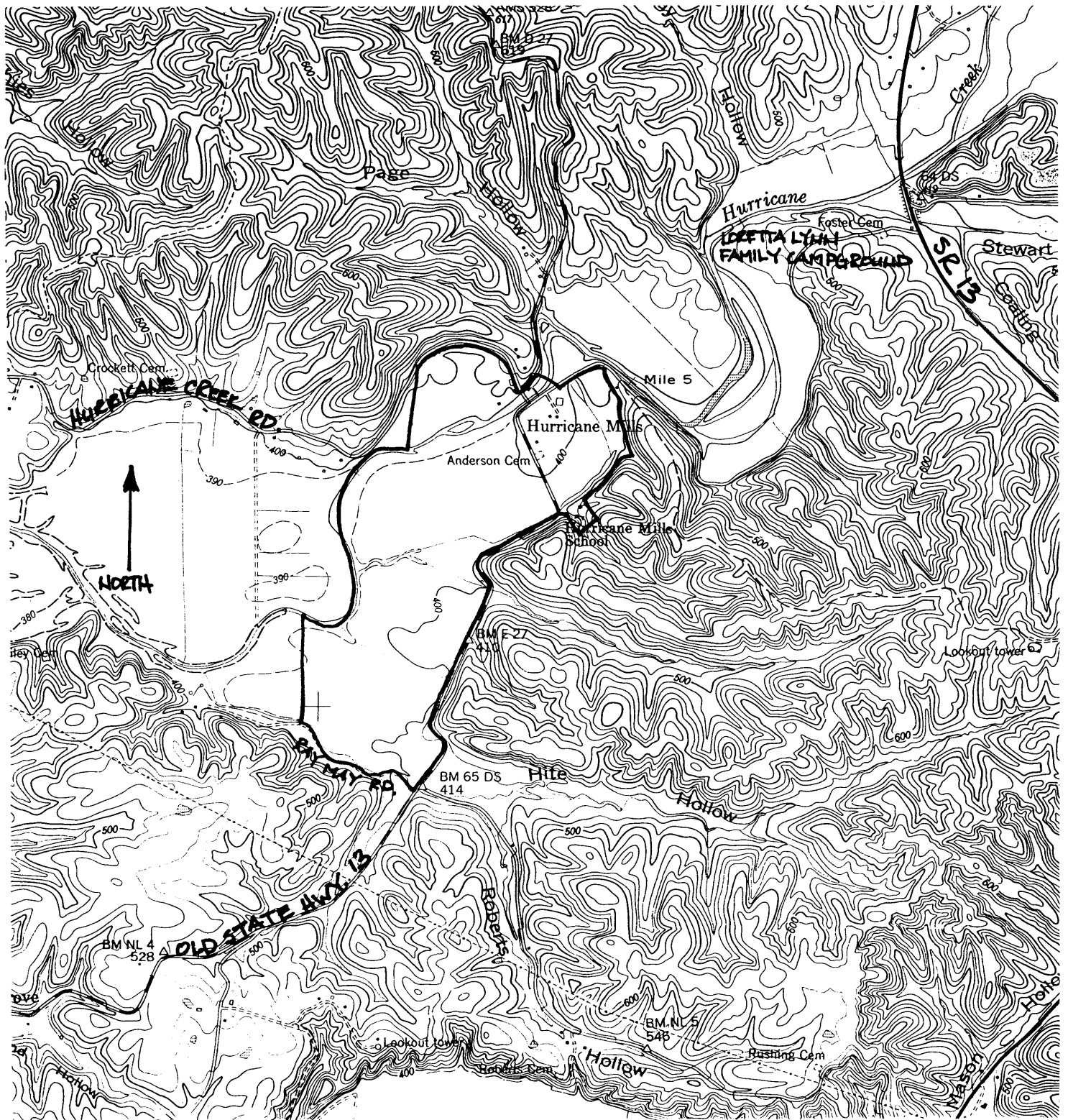


Figure 13. USGS Map, Hurricane Mills, Tennessee (31 NE), 1950, 1969. (Scale 1:24,000)