#### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

EXP. 12/31/84

1982

OMB NO. 1024-0018

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# 7. Description

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fair	unexposed	

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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Falconhurst is located in Warren County near the community of Faulkner Springs. The house is placed at the foot of a hill which slopes toward Charles Creek. Surrounded by mature trees, there are open fields to the east and south of the house and Charles Creek runs to the north and west. Falconhurst is a rectangular, two-story brick house with a gable roof, twin brick chimneys at each gable end, and a sandstone foundation. Completed in 1850, the house shows a transition from the Federal to the Greek Revival style. The Federal style influence is evident in the austere five-bay facade, tworoom deep, central hallway floor plan, and interior mantelpieces of the house. The Greek Revival influence is seen in the two-tiered pedimented portico on the facade and in the sidelights and transom of the entrance. The setting and appearance of the house has changed little since its construction. The only major alterations to Falconhurst, which is in good condition, have been the removal of the rear porch and the addition of a frame section in 1925 and the attachment of Asa Faulkner's ca. 1850 brick one-room office to the west elevation of Falconhurst in 1970.

Falconhurst is located in the vicinity of Faulkner Springs, a small community in central Warren County. The house is at the junction of Needmore and Faulkner Springs Roads, near the bottom of a hill which slopes toward Charles Creek. Asa Faulkner, who is buried in the cemetery at the top of this hill, was attracted to this area by Charles Creek, which powered several mills.

Faulkner built his house on a 445 acre tract across the stream from his Tennessee Woolen Mills, which is now in ruins. Falconhurst is surrounded by trees in mature growth, and open fields stretch to the east and south. The south field has grown smaller than when under cultivation as trees have reclaimed the upper portion of the field. The open portion of the south field contains the sites of several slaves houses once occupied by Faulkner's slaves. Charles Creek curves around the north and west sides of the house's lot.

Falconhurst displays a transition between the Federal and Greek Revival styles, and was completed in 1850 by Asa Faulkner, a prominent Warren County industrialist. Falconhurst is a two-story house built of brick laid in stretcher bond on the facade and common bond on all other elevations. The house is rectangular in shape with an ell to the west which connects Asa Faulkner's ca. 1850 one-room brick office to the house. A medium-pitch gable roof of composition asphalt shingles, and featuring a cornice with plain frieze and close verges on gable ends, covers the house, which rests on a sandstone foundation. The date "A.D. 1850" is carved into a cornerstone in the northeast corner of the foundation. Twin brick chimneys are at each gable end of the house, and a gable end chimney is built on the office. The entrance of the house is covered by a two-tier pedimented portico. The house was first altered in 1925 when the rear porch was removed and two frame rooms were added. The wooden first floor of the portico was replaced with concrete ca. 1965. The most recent alteration to the house was in 1970, when Asa Faulkner's office was attached to the west elevation of the house by a brickveneered frame room.

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Falconhurst has a symmetrical five-bay facade (north elevation) laid in stretcher bond. (All other elevations are laid in common bond.) The central entrance of the facade is inset into the 16 inch thick brick wall and has a plain wood surround topped with a plain wood lintel. The wood facing on the entranceway is panelled. Multi-light sidelights and a rectangular multi-light transom frame the double leaf, single panel doors. The panel of each door features a moulded rail and raised panel. The sidelights and transom of the entrance retain most of their original glass. To the right and left of the entrance are two 9/6 light windows with plain wood surrounds, wood slipsills, and flat brick arches. (This window configuration is also used in the four windows of the upper story and all other windows. A plain wood frieze extends across the top of the facade and a cornerstone marked "A.D. 1850" is in the northeast corner of the foundation.

The east side elevation has symmetrically spaced twin gable end brick chimneys. Centered under the peak of the gable is a 4/4 light rectangular attic window that replaced an original 9/6 window in 1980.

The south, or rear, elevation of Falconhurst was originally five bays wide with a central doorway and an additional doorway to the west which led from the dining room. The two easternmost bays are 9/6 light windows featuring the same configuration as the windows on the north (facade) elevation. A 9/6 light window is located between the floors of the house and is the landing window of the interior's stairway. Four 9/6 light windows are on the second floor. The three westernmost of the original first floor bays are covered by a small, one-story weatherboarded frame addition with a composition asphalt shingle roof and concrete foundation. This addition replaced a rear porch in 1925. The gable roofed frame addition extends west from the rear elevation to the corner of the Faulkner office. The south elevation of the addition has six bays: two single leaf, partly glazed doors, two 6/6 light windows, and two 3/1 light windows. The east elevation of the addition has two bays, a partly glazed single leaf door and a 3/1 light window. The west elevation of the addition has two bays also: two 6/6 light windows.

The west side elevation of the house has symmetrically spaced twin gable end brick chimneys. A 9/6 light window is located on the first floor between the chimneys and is closer to the south chimney. Approximately ten feet west of the house's original side elevation is the ca. 1850 Faulkner office. The one room, one-story office is built of brick laid in common bond, has a composition asphalt shingle gable roof, and a sandstone foundation. There is one bay on each elevation of the office. The facade (north) elevation originally held a doorway with radiating brick voussoir surround head; the door has been replaced by a 6/6 light window with plain wood surround. Weatherboards cover the gable portion of the facade. The office's west side elevation contains a 6/6 light window with plain wood surround and a radiating brick voussoir surround head, The south (rear) elevation has an exterior brick chimney centered on the gable end. The office was connected to the house's west elevation by a brick veneered frame addition in 1970. The connecting addition has one bay, a 6/6 light window with plain wood surround.

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The interior of Falconhurst retains much of its original appearance and reflects the austerity of the facade in its simple, high ceilinged rooms. The house has a central hallway plan with two rooms to each side. The rooms east of the hall were front and rear parlors and connect by a sliding wood double door. West of the hall is a dining room to the rear of the house and a front sitting room which was also used as a bedroom. Four bedrooms are upstairs. The hallway has a modest oak stairway with a full landing between floors that is brightened by a 9/6 light window. The stairway is painted white except for the varnished treads and rounded handrail. The stairway has plain, slender square spindles, a simple curved newel post, and panelling beneath the stairs. Other original features of the nine fireplaces. The poplar chair rail in the office is intact. The house still contains all of its original doors, with panelled facings in the brick interior walls. Each door has its original hardware and porcelain knob. Entrance doors retain their bar holds for security on the inside.

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Within the nominated boundaries of Falconhurst is a one-story frame buggy house (ca. 1870) with vertical board siding and a metal gable roof. The facade (west elevation) has large double leaf doors with cast iron hinges. The buggy house has been used as a garage and is now used for storage.

## 8. Significance

Period 	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications		law literature military _X music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
Specific dates	1850	Builder/Architect As	a Faulkner, Builder	

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#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Falconhurst is nominated to the National Register under Criterion B, for its association with Asa Faulkner and Charles Faulkner Bryan, and under Criterion C, for its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type representing the mid-nineteenth century transition from Federal to Greek Revival architectural styles. Significant in the areas of architecture, commerce and industry, politics/government, and music and education, Falconhurst was built in 1850 by Asa Faulkner, a prominent Warren County industrialist who was also active in politics. The house was built using elements from the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The Federal style is evident in the house's tworoom deep central-hallway plan and austere five-bay facade; the Greek Revival style is seen in the two-tier pedimented portico and in the double leaf door\_entrance with sidelights and transom. No other house recorded in Warren County combines the traits that Falconhurst does. Asa Faulkner lived at Falconhurst from 1850 until his death in 1886. From his office next to the house he ran his extensive textile mill operations and guided his career in Tennessee politics. Faulkner's mills were essential to the industrial and commercial development of Warren County and the mid-south region. Faulkner was also involved in conservative politics throughout his life. He served in the State House and Senate and ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House of Representatives. After Faulkner's death in 1886, Falconhurst remained in the family except for a period from 1914 until 1928, when the house was bought by Asa Faulkner's grand-niece, Allie May Faulkner, and her husband Clarence Justus Bryan. The Bryans had lived in the house earlier, and their son, Charles Faulkner Bryan was born near Falconhurst in Charles Bryan grew up at Falconhurst and always considered it his home. Bryan 1911. has received national recognition for his work as a composer and arranger and for his contributions in the field of education. Many of Bryan's musical compositions were created at Falconhurst and it was in the rural setting of the house that Bryan developed his lifelong interest in folk music. Bryan used his knowledge of folk music in teaching music to young people and has thereby influenced the field of music education in this country. Bryan was also a prominent teacher at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute and a professor at George Peabody College. Falconhurst, unusual in the county because of its architecture, is the only standing building associated with Asa Faulkner, and the building most clearly associated with Charles Faulkner Bryan.

Asa Faulkner, the builder of Falconhurst, was born July 16, 1802 in the Edgefield District of South Carolina. He moved to Warren County in 1808 with his parents, Dr. Archibald and Rebecca Burkhalter Faulkner. The Faulkners were among the earliest settlers of Warren County and settled on Hickory Creek, where Dr. Faulkner constructed the first woolen mill in the county and a cotton gin in 1810 (Goodspeed 1887:815). Around 1812, Asa Faulkner was apprenticed as a machinist at a small cotton factory on Charles Creek built by Henry Bridleman. Faulkner worked at the Bridleman Mill until 1830, apparently after a disagreementwith the owner (Bryan Jr. 1976:6-B).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

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665), I hereby r according to th Deputy	ated State Historic Pro nominate this propert ne criteria and proced Preservation Officer s	y for inclusion in th lures set forth by th / /	ne National Regist	er and certify that i	Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– t has been evaluated
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For NPS us I hereby	se only certify that this prope	Ľ	ne National Regist Intered in the ational Regis		8/26/82
Keeper of t	he National Register				
Attest:				date	
Chief of Re	gistration				

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In 1830, Asa Faulkner constructed his first wool carding factory and grist mill on Hickory Creek. Faulkner became a prominent member of the community and in 1836 served as a Presidential elector for the conservative Whig party. Faulkner's business prospered and in 1841 he bought Henry Bridleman's textile mill and farm on Charles Creek. Faulkner moved to Charles Creek and built a new wool carding machine and cotton gin at the mill. By 1847 Faulkner expanded the mill, adding a dam, carding machine, and factory house with machinery and waterwheel. The new Central Factory had 600 spindles to produce yarn and was the first mill of its kind and size in the region (Bryan Jr. 1976:6-B). The mill's products, "Faulkner Jeans," were sold throughout the state and became household words (Hale 1930:32).

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In 1850, Asa Faulkner constructed a substantial brick house, Falconhurst, and an office for his mill operations next to the house. Faulkner's slaves (4 males and 5 females) lived in houses behind Falconhurst. Faulkner's German origins are reflected in the house's name: a "faulkner" cared for falcons and a "falconhurst" is a falcon's nest. Falconhurst is located across Charles Creek from the site of the Central Factory, later the Tennessee Woolen Mills.

Despite indications of approaching war, Asa Faulkner bought and expanded another mill in 1861. The Woodman Cotton Mill had 2000 spindles and a daily capacity of 2500 yards of cloth when it went into operation in 1862 (Goodspeed 1887:815). The textile mill was the largest of its kind in the entire border state region (Bryan Jr. 1976:6-B). Faulkner was a Unionist and refused to supply the Confederate Army with supplies from his mills when the South seceded in 1861. However, Confederate troops took over Faulkner's mills in 1862. Later, Union troops, thinking Faulkner had collaborated, burned the Woodman Cotton Mill. By 1865, Faulkner's support of the Union was recognized, and he was selected as representative from Warren County to the State House of Representatives in 1865. During 1865 Faulkner unsuccessfully ran as a Conservative nominee for a seat in the United States Congress. Faulkner resigned from the State House in 1866 (McBride and Robison 1979:285).

During 1866 Faulkner and his son William rebuilt and enlarged the Woodman Cotton Mill, renaming it the Annis Cotton Mill after Faulkner's first wife. (Faulkner had three wives and sixteen children; six of his sons ran textile mills.) Faulkner also expanded a woolen mill, later the Mountain City Woolen Mill, located on Charles Creek near Falconhurst. In 1869 Faulkner was elected state Senator from Warren, Cannon, Coffee, Grundy, and Van Buren counties. He served until 1871. In 1876 Faulkner tried for another term in the State Senate ("Announcements" 1876:3). Faulkner remained active in county and state politics until his death in 1886. In addition to supporting county improvements, Faulkner made a series of speeches at Granges across the state, advocating water-powered industry as an employer of women and orphans (Faulkner 1881). Faulkner was also concerned with conserving the state's resources, especially the soil, minerals, and timber, and recommended water as the only renewable energy source (Faulkner 1881:4).

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In 1881 Asa Faulkner undertook his last, and greatest industrial project. That year he formed the Great Falls Manufacturing Company to build a large mill to harness the power of the Great Falls on the Caney Fork River. Faulkner installed a wheelpit and built a saw and gristmill (Womack 1960:302). By 1883, Faulkner had purchased land on both sides of the river. Before the project was completed, Faulkner died in 1886. The Great Falls Cotton Mill was completed in 1892.

Asa Faulkner died July 29, 1886 at the age of 84 and was buried in the cemetery on the hill above Falconhurst and the Central Factory. Faulkner's eulogy in the <u>Southern</u> <u>Standard</u> stated:

Asa Faulkner was known personally or by reputation to nearly every inhabitant of Warren and adjoining counties, and was universally recognized as a public benefactor. He was the nestor of all of Warren County's manufacturing interests, and spent all his long life in founding, nourishing, and sustaining them. The name of no man who has ever lived in Warren County will be longer or more affectionately cherished than Mr. Faulkner. His public and private life was pure and unblemished; he was ever a friend to the poor, and during his life did more to assist this class than any other man who ever lived in this country ("Death of Hon. Asa Faulkner" 1886:1).

After Asa Faulkner's death, Falconhurst remained in family hands until 1914. Among Faulkner's descendants who grew up there was Allie May Faulkner, his grand-niece. Allie Faulkner and her husband Clarence Justus Bryan lived at Falconhurst periodically until they purchased the house in 1928. Their second child, Charles Faulkner Bryan, was born at or near Falconhurst on July 26, 1911.

Charles Faulkner Bryan, nationally recognized musician and educator, grew up at Falconhurst and attended high school at nearby McMinnville, where he was National Debating Champion in 1929. After his high school graduation in 1930, Bryan's aptitude for music led him to the Nashville Conservatory of Music. Bryan graduated from the Conservatory certified as a teacher of piano and voice in 1932. In 1934, he studied at the Chicago Music College where he received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1935. That fall, Bryan became head of the music department at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (now Tennessee Technological University). While at TPI, Bryan was at first the only member of the music department, but by the time he resigned in 1939 he had greatly increased the curriculum (King 1965:40). While at TPI, Bryan wrote his first stage production, "The Rebel Academy," and began his collection of folk music from Appalachia, including many white spirituals.

In 1939, Bryan graduated from TPI with a Bachelor of Science degree, and resigned his teaching position to pursue his studies of music and music education at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville. Bryan received a masters degree from Peabody in 1940. His thesis was the composition "White Spiritual Symphony" and it was the first instance of a composition submitted as a thesis at Peabody.

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After graduation from Peabody, Bryan was hired as director of the music division of Tennessee's Work Progress Administration project. By 1941 he administered the WPA program over the entire nine state southern region (King 1965: 58-59). When the United States entered World War II in 1941, Bryan left the WPA, and after he was declared IV-F by the Army he entered the Civilian Defense. Bryan first worked in Atlanta, became a regional consultant for CD in 1942, and was named administrative head of the Tennessee State Defense Council in 1944. Bryan's work in the Civilian Defense allowed him little time for music, and when he was offered a position to oversee the nationwide CD program in 1945, he declined. Instead Bryan chose to pursue his career as composer and educator and applied for a prestigious Guggenheim Award.

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Despite Bryan's lack of musical background compared to other applicants, he received a Guggenheim Award in 1946 that would allow him an undisturbed year for composition. Bryan postponed the award to study composition under visiting German composer Paul Hindemith at Yale University. Hindemith selected Bryan as a student primarily on the basis of Bryan's composition and arrangement of a choral work based on Edna St. Vincent Millay's "Ballad of the Harp Weaver" (King 1965:69). Later in 1946, Bryan used his award to compose at Falconhurst. The major composition that resulted, the "Bell Witch Cantata," premiered at Carnegie Hall on April 14, 1947, with Robert Shaw as director.

In the fall of 1947, Bryan returned to Peabody College as an assistant professor of voice and theory. While at Peabody, Bryan created two major compositions. "Strangers In This World" was completed in 1952 with the collaboration of Brainerd Chaney, a Nashville journalist and speechwriter for Governor Frank Clement. Bryan also collaborated in 1952 with Donald Davidson, one of the Fugitive Writers then at Vanderbilt. Bryan and Davidson produced the opera "Singin<sup>+</sup> Billy," based on the old Singing Schools in Tennessee. Both of these operas premiered at Vanderbilt University. In the early 1950s, Bryan also began to record many of the Appalachian folk songs he had collected (Puckett 1980).

In 1952, Bryan resigned from Peabody College because of ill health and became Music Master at Indian Springs School for Boys in Helena, Alabama. Bryan arranged many choral pieces for children and high school students while in Alabama. The major compositions he produced were "Florida A-Flame," a work on the Seminole War that used Native American music and Seminole vocalizations, and the "Birmingham Suite," a piece written for the Birmingham Symphony that includes an unusual plaintive modal type of music typical of white spirituals (King 1981:5).

Throughout his life, Bryan returned every summer and holiday to his family home at Falconhurst. Most of his composing was done at the house, where he appeared to draw inspiration from the rural atmosphere (Puckett 1980). It was while returning to Indian Springs after a visit to Falconhurst that Charles Faulkner Bryan died on July 7, 1955. He was buried in McMinnville.

Over the past twenty years there has been increasing national recognition of Bryan's contributions to music and our folk heritage. Bryan's contributions to music include his research into the field of folk music and his collection of folk music, his unique ability to use folk music as the basis for original compositions, and his discovery of

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the Appalachian mountain dulcimer and his research into the dulcimer's history and origin.

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Through his use of the folk song, Bryan gave to America, and especially to Tennessee and its mountain regions, an appreciation for its own heritage and values (King 1965:159). Bryan insisted that Tennesseans should be proud of their music, and through education he tried to instill such pride (Puckett 1980). Bryan contributed to music education through research in the field of folk music, and demonstrations, concerts, and compositions. He was able to convey the enjoyment of folk music to educator and public alike. Bryan's collection of original folk songs, like "Froggie Went A' Courtin'," was augmented by original compositions for children in the folk song style, arranged folk song settings for elementary and secondary schools, and large choral and instrumental works based on folk songs.

Charles Faulkner Bryan has been honored in Tennessee by the dedication in 1981 of the Charles Faulkner Bryan Fine Arts Building at Tennessee Technological University. The university presents the Charles Faulkner Bryan Memorial Award each year to the most outstanding music student ("Bryan" 1981:4). The Charles Faulkner Bryan Memorial Collection of Bryan's papers and manuscripts are housed at TTU and are being organized under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Falconhurst has been recorded by the U.S. Library of Congress for its associations with Bryan and as the location of Bryan's priceless collection of folk instruments.

Falconhurst is significant for its associations with its builder, Asa Faulkner; Faulkner's great-grand nephew, Charles Faulkner Bryan; and for the architecture of the house.

Falconhurst is architecturally significant as an unusual representative in Warren County of the transitional adaptations between the Federal and Greek Revival styles. It is the only house recorded in the county built on a two room deep floor plan with twin chimneys.

Falconhurst is significant to commerce, industry, and politics through its association with Asa Faulkner. Faulkner was an early settler of Warren County, and was a pioneer industrialist. Through the textile mills and cotton gins Faulkner built, he guided and increased Warren County's industrial growth and encouraged industry in other areas of the south. Faulkner's mills provided employment for many people and served as the focus of mill settlements where these employees lived. Faulkner, from his office at Falconhurst (which also served as the Leeds post office), thereby promoted the commerce of the region. Faulkner was also important for his involvement in politics. He served in both the state House and Senate and was an influential force in conservative politics in Tennessee.

Charles Faulkner Bryan grew up at Falconhurst and always considered it his home. Although his career was cut short at the age of 43, Bryan's contributions to music have brought him international acclaim ("Bryan" 1981:3). Bryan's numerous choral works, both original compositions and folk song arrangements, and his approach to education have had a lasting impact on thousands of students and musicians throughout the country ("Folk Element" 1981:1). Falconhurst is significant as the house most associated with Charles Faulkner Bryan.

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Falconhurst remains in good condition and retains its architectural integrity and integrity of setting. Mrs. Charles Faulkner Bryan still lives at the house, which will be left to the Bryan's two children upon her death. The house therefore will remain in the hands of Asa Faulkner's descendants. Mrs. Bryan shows the house by appointment to individuals interested in Asa Faulkner or his great-grand nephew, Charles Faulkner Bryan.

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Bryan, Jr., Cl 1976	harles F. "Asa Faulkner," <u>Southern St</u>	<u>andard</u> , March	10: 6-B	and 8-B, McMinnville.
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Hale, William 1930	T. Early History of Warren Cou	<u>nty</u> . J. M. Wor	nack, Jr	., McMinnville.
King, Carl D. 1981	"Charles Faulkner Bryan: A	merica's Koda'l	y." <u>Kod</u>	a'ly Envoy 8(2): 2-8.
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"Announcement: 1876	s: State Senate" <u>New Era</u> , July 6:3, McMinnvi	lle.		
"Bryan Fine A 1981	rts Building Dedication Draw <u>The Alumnus</u> , Vol. 28 (8): Cookeville.	s Hundreds" 4-5, Tennessee	Technol	ogical University,
"Death of Hon 1886	. Asa Faulkner" <u>Southern Standard</u> , July 31:	l, McMinnville	е,	
"The Folk Elen 1981	ment in Classical Music" Program for November 22 con DuPage, Missouri	cert by College	e of DuP	age Concert Choir.

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Other Unpublished Sources

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King, Carl Darlington.

1965 <u>Charles Faulkner Bryan: Tennessee Educator and Musician</u>. Unpublished M.S. thesis, School of Music, University of Tennessee.

Puckett, Sharon. 1980 "C

"Charles Faulkner Bryan: His Life and Work." Special Projects, Edit Tape 78. Film at WSMV Nashville.

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approximately 450 feet along curve of Needmore Road to the beginning, consisting of less than 1 acre. See Board of Equalization Map 50, Warren County, Parcel No. 58- Scale 1" = 400'. These boundaries include Falconhurst, the buggy house, and the original lawn of the house.



