

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic HENRY HOSS HOUSE

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number Blountville Road, N/A — not for publication

city, town Jonesboro N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Tennessee code 047 county Washington code 179

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Dr. Frank P. Haws

street & number 105 Rands Avenue, S.E.

city, town Huntsville N/A vicinity of state Alabama 35801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number P.O. Box 218

city, town Jonesboro state Tennessee

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Henry Hoss House, constructed ca. 1859-1860, is a late Federal style rectangular-shaped two-story brick house with a step-gabled roof, five bay facade, one-story step-gabled brick ell, and one-story gabled roof brick addition that was built onto the rear ell in 1865. Situated on 7.99 acres of the original Hoss farmland, the house and its ca. 1914 frame barn and nineteenth century log springhouse are located about three-fourths of a mile northeast of the Jonesboro Historic District (listed 12/23/69). The house remains in good condition with little alteration and retains a high degree of architectural integrity, both on the exterior and the interior.

The symmetrical common bond brick facade of the Henry Hoss faces northwest and is five bays wide. A central single-leaf door with multi-light transom, side lights, and bull's eye motif surrounds is flanked at each side by two 2/2 light rectangular windows with flat brick arches. The window and door arrangement of the first story is repeated on the second story, except the windows are shorter and the doorway has plain surrounds. Brick corbeling serves as a frieze across the facade under the pressed metal roof's plain eaves. The central bay one-story porch, in the location of the original whose appearance is unknown, has heavy Doric paneled posts and pilasters, a denticulated frieze and cornice, and a balustraded parapet. This porch is a 1940s scaled down version of an earlier ca. 1912 porch that was wider and had bungalow proportions.

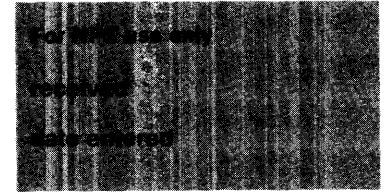
Brick chimneys are flush with the five-step gabled ends of the front rectangular section of the house. The northeast gable end elevation of this two-story section of the house has no structural openings; the opposite, or southwest, gable end elevation has two 2/2 light rectangular windows on the first story and two shorter like windows placed directly above on the second story.

The rear elevation of the front rectangular section of the house has a brick one-story, five-step gabled ell extending from the southernmost two-bay portion of the wall. A first-story central single-leaf door with rectangular transom is found on this elevation and is flanked by two 2/2 light rectangular windows on its northernmost side. On the second story, shorter matching windows are situated above the two first story windows and one is offset-centrally located. Brick corbeling, like that of the facade, extends across this elevation under the roof eaves.

The brick ell is two-rooms deep and has a shed-roofed verandah with slender turned posts on its northeast side. Structural openings on the northeast elevation of the ell consist of a 9/9 light rectangular window at the far left bay and two wide single-leaf doors, one in the central bay with a rectangular transom and one in the far right bay. On the opposite or southwest elevation of the ell a 2/2 light rectangular window is located at the room next to the two-story section of the house. Brick corbeling is used on this elevation. A wing added to the central bay of this side of the ell ca. 1865 conceals the other original structural openings of this elevation. The one-room kitchen wing is one-story in height, of brick construction, and has a flush gable brick chimney. A 2/2 light rectangular window is located on the front, or northwest, side elevation of the wing and brick corbeling is used at the roof eaves. However, the corbeling is not in a denticulated pattern like the corbeling of the original house. A shed-roofed, screened verandah with a lattice-infilled brick pier foundation, simple balustrade, and turned posts is located on the opposite, or southeast, elevation of the wing. The verandah shelters a single-leaf door and 9/9 light rectangular window of this elevation.

Exterior alterations date primarily to before and during the early twentieth century. Originally, the house had a detached kitchen. Shortly after Henry Hoss's purchase of the

NOV 12/31/84

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house in the 1860s, Hoss demolished the kitchen and added the ca. 1865 wing to the original ell of the house to serve as the kitchen. The original facade porch of the house was replaced in the early 1900s and then again in the 1940s. Original windows, with numerous lights, were replaced prior to 1930 (date unknown) and the shutters have been removed. Pressed metal shingles have covered the roof since the 1920s when earlier wood shingles were removed.

The interior of the Henry Hoss House has been altered as little as the exterior. The alterations are limited basically to the cutting of a double-leaf glazed door between the hall and front southwest parlor, the dividing of the first room of the ell to add a bathroom, and the remodeling of the kitchen in the early twentieth century. Original pine flooring, the central hall staircase, molding around windows and doors, and the many mantels remain intact. The mantels are each different in design, although they are all wood and exhibit influence of Federal and Greek Revival decoration.

Outbuildings to the Henry Hoss House are a possibly original log springhouse, a 1914 frame barn and two frame sheds. The springhouse is constructed of V-notched hewn logs over a basement foundation of stones, with short rectangular vents and two wide doorways, and has a raised-seam metal roof with weatherboarded gables. The large gable-roofed frame barn has vertical board siding and has lattice vents under the eaves of the barn's gable end walls. The frame sheds, one gable-roofed and one shed-roofed, date to the mid-twentieth century.

The 7.99 acres of land on which the house and its outbuildings are located are rolling hills with scattered mature trees. Much of the acreage is used for cattle pasture. The house is situated close to the highway it faces, Blountville Road, atop a slight knoll. A low stone wall at the base of the knoll extends across the front yard. Stone steps and a sidewalk lead from the wall to the house's central porch. Large shrubs trim the house foundation and the sidewalk.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1859-1860      **Builder/Architect** unknown

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

The Henry Hoss House, constructed ca. 1859-1860, is nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance to Jonesboro and Washington County as an excellent example of late Federal style architecture in a large rural farmstead house. Characterized by Federal stepped gables, an austere five-bay facade and brick cornice corbeling, the large two-story brick house is the only known example of a country Federal style house in Washington County that has stepped gables.

Jonesboro is an area of Tennessee with more houses (about five) of the Federal style that have stepped gables than any other area of the state. These houses date from the 1830s-1840s period and their use of stepped gables is attributed to influence of the Pennsylvanians who settled in the Jonesboro area of the county. Most of these houses are on Main Street and have town lot settings. The Henry Hoss House is distinctive from these, although only 3/4s of a mile outside of Jonesboro, by its late construction date, its somewhat larger size, and its rural setting. Additionally, the house is constructed with very fine craftsmanship and has been very little altered. It retains a high degree of integrity, both in its architecture and its rural setting.

The Henry Hoss House was built by a Dr. Rhea ca. 1859-1860 who owned the house for only a few years before selling the property during the Civil War to Henry Hoss. Hoss, a county circuit clerk, was married to Anna Maria Sevier and had several grown children when he moved to the house from Jonesboro. One of their children, Dr. Archibald Calvin Hoss, inherited the house from his parents.

Dr. Hoss was a graduate of Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia and practiced medicine in Jonesboro. He married Allie Susong of Greene County, a graduate of Glendale Female College in Cincinnati, Ohio and a Jonesboro school teacher. Dr. Hoss died in 1908 and his wife sold the house and farm in 1918. She bought the house back a year later and lived in it until her death in 1934. The Hosses had three children, and two of them lived in the house after their mother's death until 1980.

One of these two children, Henry Hoss, died in 1980 and the farm was divided and the house was sold to the current owner, Dr. Frank Haws. Haws plans to restore the house and maintain the acreage as a farm.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 7.99

Quadrangle name Jonesboro, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	3	6	8	5	8	0	4	0	1	8	6	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Harvie P. Jones, FAIA, Historical Architect

organization Jones & Herrin, Architects, AIA, P.C. date 23 July 1982

street & number 104 Jefferson Street telephone 205/539-0764

city or town Huntsville state Alabama

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

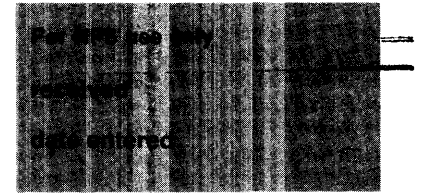
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 11/12/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William Bryan</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>12/16/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Henry Hoss House Item number 9 Page 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Evans, Mitchell, "Hoss Farm History" based on Washington County, TN., Courthouse records, Jonesboro, TN, 1982.

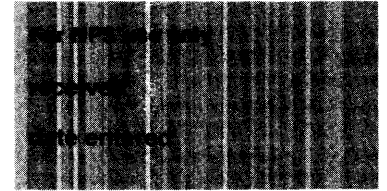
Hoss, Alexandra, undated letter to Mrs. Grace Haws of Jonesboro, TN., Newport, TN., received in 1982.

Hoss, Alexandra, letter to Mrs. Grace Haws of Jonesboro, TN., Newport TN., May 15, 1982.

Hoss, Alexandra, undated letter received 22 July 1982 entitled "A History of the House in Jonesboro".

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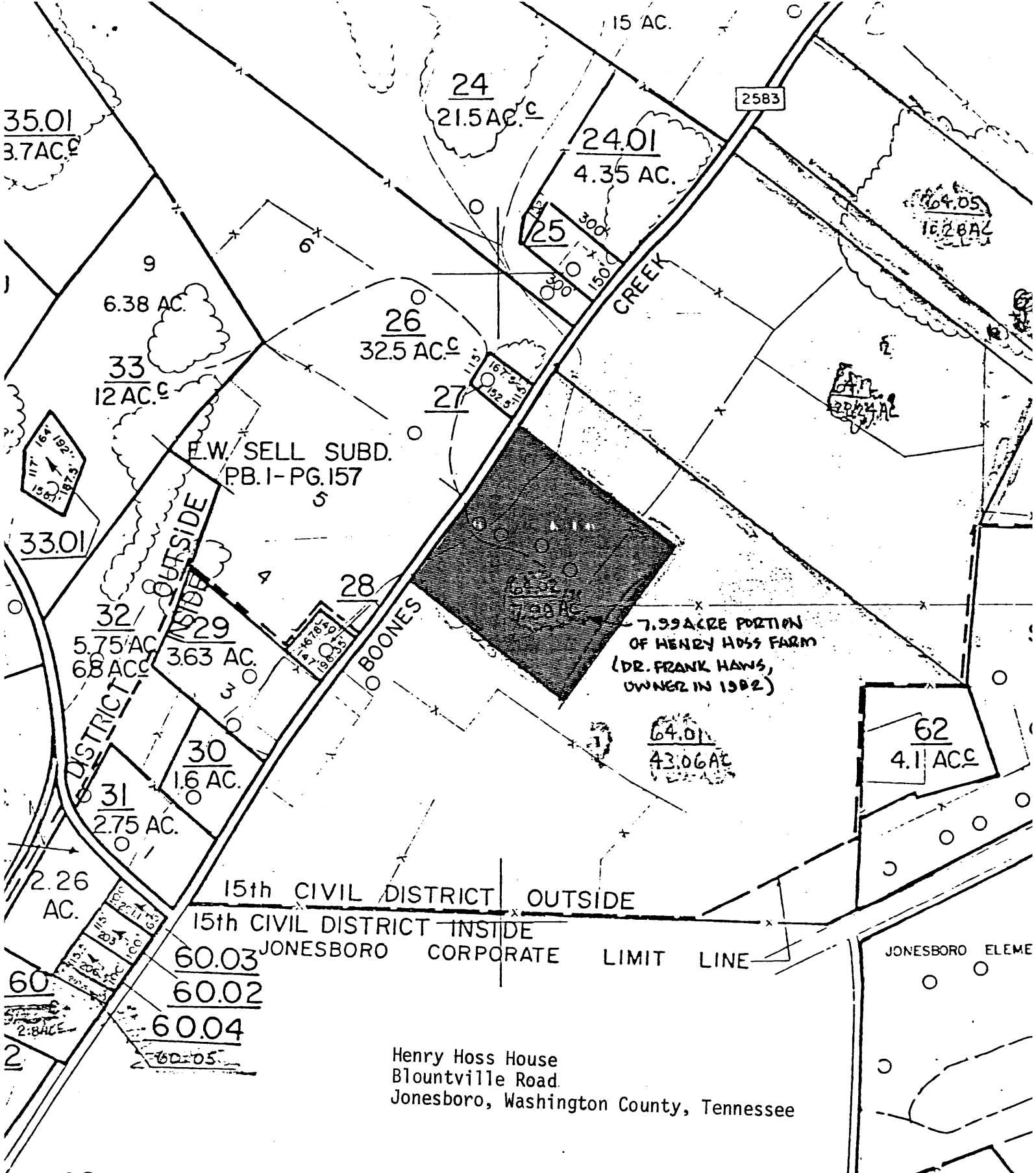
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Verbal boundary description and justification:

SITE BOUNDARY - The boundary includes 7.99 acres of farmland (see map) which presently is in pasture for cattle. On this eight acres are the ca. 1850s late-Federal style house, the 19th century log springhouse, and the ca. 1914 barn, together with two non-contributing makeshift and unused mid-20th century wood sheds in bad repair. The 7.99 acres of active farmland and the three oldest buildings constitute a small-scale working farm, in existence and farmed by the Hoss family for about 120 years.



Henry Hoss House  
 Blountville Road  
 Jonesboro, Washington County, Tennessee

JONESBORO

Washington County  
 Property Assessor's Office  
 Tax Map No. 52  
 Scale 1" = 400'

SEE 1" = 100' MAPPING