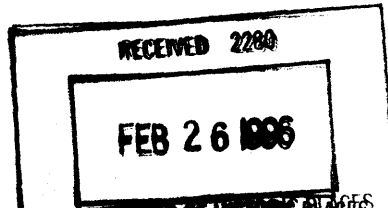


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Renfro-Allen Farm

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Judge Ben Allen Road  not for publication

city or town Elizabethton  vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Carter code 019 zip code 37643

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Huger 2/13/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

3/28/96  
Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

Renfro-Allen Farm  
Name of Property

Wilson Co., TN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	1	buildings
3	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
12	1	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)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling; Secondar structure  
AGRICULTURE: processing; storage; field;  
outbuilding  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling; Secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE: processing; storage; field;  
outbuilding  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Gable-front and wing with Queene Anne  
(or Folk Victorian) influence  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt shingle  
other Glass; metal  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

See Continuation Sheets

Renfro-Allen Farm  
Name of Property

Carter Co., TN  
County and State

**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**

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

Property is: N/A

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1890-1946

**Significant Dates**

1890, 1897

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Renfro-Allen Farm  
Name of Property

Carter Co., TN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property 239.9 acres

Keensburg 207 NW  
Elizabethton 207 SW

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,7	3 9,4 6,2,0	4,0 2,7 0,6,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1,7	3 9,4 4,8,0	4,0 2,5 5,8,0

3	1,7	3 9,3 7,8,0	4,0 2,5 1,0,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1,7	3 9,3 8,1,0	4,0 2,7 0,4,0

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 Carroll Van West and Megan Dobbs

organization MTSII Center for Historic Preservation date October 30, 1995

street & number MTSII Box 80 telephone (615)898-2947

city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

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

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

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name Elizabeth Allen and Robert Renfro Allen

street & number Route 9, Box 2750 telephone (423)-6552

city or town Elizabethton state TN zip code 37643

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 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 20503.

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

VII. Description

The Renfro-Allen Farm is located northeast of the city of Elizabethton, in Carter County, Tennessee. The farm is located near the Watauga River, on Judge Ben Allen Road, a small county road which intersects Tennessee Highway 91 to the east. The farm, which originally contained 166 acres at the time of its founding in 1840, eventually comprised 249.9 acres, owned by the Issac Brown family in the early twentieth century. The total size of the current farm is 239.9 acres, and only 10 acres of the original farmland has been sold. The historic farmhouse stands in the center of the farm, which is surrounded by a domestic complex of a smokehouse, washhouse, woodshed, and garage. Separated from the domestic complex by a short farm road stands the primary productive area of the farm. This farm production complex includes a barn, granary, corncrib, chicken coop, and well. The overall landscape has changed very little over the past 100 years, and the primary function of the farm in the twentieth century, the raising of livestock, has survived.

The farmhouse was built in 1897 for James Renfro and his wife, Emma Brown Renfro, who had been living on the farm since their marriage in 1884. The gable front and wing composition of the house was popular during the period of construction. The farmhouse was designed in the folk-Victorian style, which is a vernacular adaptation of the Queen Anne style that was so prevalent in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and is well suited to smaller, less ornate domestic buildings. The Renfro-Allen farmhouse is characterized by a two-story variation of this plan and no other additions have been made, except for enclosing the rear porch in about 1950. An historic photograph, taken circa 1900, illustrates the integrity of the building, which has been altered only slightly by the enclosure of a rear porch and the addition of an upstairs bathroom.

The gable front and wing house is composed of a projecting two story front gable with a two story side wing with one story porches on the south and east elevations. The frame house has weatherboard siding and brick foundation which remains intact. The cross-gabled roof has projecting eaves,

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Section number 7 Page 2

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

which support rain gutters along the roof line and boxed cornices with returns. The original tin roof was destroyed circa 1950 and replaced with asphalt shingles. There are two original chimneys, both with central interior location on each gable ridge, which are common bond brick with decorative corbeling along the top of the chimney stack. The windows are all two-over-two double hung sash, with simple head and framing, and exterior louvered shutters.

The east elevation of the house includes the front gable with side wing which was the historic facade and front entry to the house. This historic facade originally faced the railroad tracks of the East Tennessee and North Carolina Railroad, which ran along the southeastern boundary of the property. The two story, single bay gable end has two-over-two double hung sash windows on each floor with painted wood shutters. The two story side wing is composed of two bays on each story and a two bay, one story set-in porch. The second story features two-over-two double hung sash windows with wood shutters, located directly above the shed roof of the porch. The lower story contains a four panel wood door with an Eastlake inspired wood frame and screen door, and a single four over four double hung sash window. The porch design exhibits the influence of the Queen Anne style in vernacular architecture, with a decorative scroll-sawn spindlework frieze and balustrade. The original porch floor, which is painted plank flooring, remains intact.

The two-story south elevation, which now serves as the primary facade with the addition of a new drive to the house, has a side gabled roof line and central chimney. The south porch, like the east porch, is characterized by a decorative scroll-sawn spindlework frieze and balustrade, but the original plank flooring was replaced circa 1991. The two-story side gable elevation is composed of two bays, with two two-over-two double hung sash windows on each floor, and has a five panel, Eastlake-style wood door with wood-framed screen door on the west wall of the porch. A one-story ell with half-hip roof is located on the west side of the two-story section and contains one bay with a single two-over-two double hung sash window with shutters.

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

The west elevation is composed of the rear of the gable front and wing section of the east facade and a multi-story massed ell. The one-story, one bay ell section, which is original to the house and visible from the south elevation, has a single two-over-two double hung sash window with shutters and a shed roof. The two story section of the ell has a shed roof and paired two-over-two double hung sash windows with shutters on the upper story and an interior end chimney. This section is connected to the one story section by the enclosed rear porch. The one story porch has a lean-to shed roof and was enclosed, circa 1950, at which time the one-over-one double hung sash windows were added to the front and side of the enclosure. The concrete flooring, which was also added during the renovation, also provides the foundation for the porch. A single panel wood door with a metal and screen door is located between the porch and the one story section of the ell.

The north elevation is characterized by the two story gable end of the front wing section and the side of the two story ell with shed roof line. The gable end section has a boxed cornice with returns and is composed of single two-over-one double hung sash windows on each floor. The ell section is also composed of only one bay with two-over-two double hung sash windows and shutters on each of the two stories. A cellar entry is located at the juncture of the two house sections and is also covered with weatherboard siding and has a sheet metal covering the roof.

The farmhouse interior is a central hall plan with five large rooms on the first story. The second floor has three bedrooms off the central hall and an enlarged bath. The house has many intact historic features found throughout the house, including the original wide plank floors which were hewn from the farm's early timber supply. Triple-beveled wood frames with decorative paterae corner blocks are found on all interior doorways, which frame five-panel solid wood doors with single-pane transoms. The original hardware includes pressed or embossed metal hinge panels and carved door knobs.

The center hall, which retains its original staircase and carved balustrade, has a decorative half-glass entry door

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

with etched glass and Eastlake details. Two parlors are located on either side of the center hall, and both rooms retain their original woodwork, plaster walls, and plaster ceiling. The south parlor has 32" tongue and groove wainscoting with a 4.5" chair rail and an Eastlake inspired side door which now serves as an entrance. A decorative wood mantel with carved pilasters and high mirrored mantel-shelf has a brick surround and is located on the north interior wall. The north parlor has plain plaster walls with a north interior wall fireplace with similar mantel.

Two smaller rooms are located behind the front parlors and are accessible via the central hall. The sitting room is directly behind the south parlor and is accessible through a five panel door with transom. A more restrained mantel with painted woodwork, plain pilasters, and flat mantel shelf shares the chimney with the fireplace in the adjacent parlor. The dining room is located behind the north parlor but has doorways to the hall, sitting room, and kitchen. An enclosed corner staircase with five panel wood door is located in the northeast corner of the dining room, which also contains 32" wainscoting with a 4.5" chair rail. Other details include a built-in china cabinet with rounded pilasters, paneled lower doors, and glass display doors. A corner fireplace with square pilasters and brick surround is located in the southeast corner of the room.

The large kitchen is located in the northwestern corner of the house and across from the enclosed rear porch, which is accessible through five panel wood door. The kitchen also opens to the west side porch and retains its original beaded board walls and ceilings. The modern linoleum and a few modern appliances are the only new additions to the room and do not alter its original configuration.

A staircase with carved balustrade, lathe-turned balusters, and wide handrail leads to the second floor, which has a decorative railing open to the lower floor. The second floor also retains its original woodwork, including triple beveled window and door frames, which contain five panel doors, but no transoms. The original hardwood floors are covered by room-size rugs. Two bedrooms are located in the south section of the house, directly above the north and south



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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

parlors, and contain fireplaces with plain wood mantels, brick hearths, and decorative fireboards on the north interior walls. The third bedroom is located in the northwest corner and has an identical fireplace on the south interior wall.

The bathroom, installed circa 1936, was originally part of a fourth bedroom, located directly above the dining room, and accessible to the first floor via the enclosed corner staircase in the dining room. Since the house had no indoor plumbing, the family decided to keep the first floor fully intact and altered the fourth bedroom, which was sectioned off into a bathroom, two storage closets, and a small hall opening. The door which originally opened to the bedroom is still in place, but opens to a small hall with doors leading to closets on the east and west and the bathroom door on the north wall. The small bath contains circa 1936 fixtures. Despite the circa 1930 historic changes to the fourth bedroom, the original size and shape of the space is intact, with the exception of the interior walls which allowed for distinct rooms.

The interior retains its historical integrity, and the only renovations include the addition of plumbing and electricity in 1936 and a bathroom in that same year. The original woodwork, including grooved window and door frames, floors, 12" baseboards and staircase are all intact, and were hand-crafted from pine found on the farm. The decorative Eastlake-style paneled doors at the front and side entrances, the decorative mirrored mantels in the front parlors, and the carved banister on the staircase were purchased from an unknown source, though most likely local, and installed at the same time the house was built in 1897.

To the west of the dwelling is the domestic complex. Immediately west of the rear door of the dwelling is a frame, weatherboard smokehouse. Built circa 1897, it features a projecting cantilever-like gable, tin roof. This type of smokehouse was identified in the early work of Henry Glassie on Appalachian folk culture as being typical of the Southern Appalachians. The smokehouse is now a storage room, and has a wooden paneled door in its gable end, as

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

well as a 6 over 6 double hung window on its south elevation. (C)

North of the smokehouse is a tin, shed roof wood shed, which was constructed in box fashion, on a stone foundation, circa 1900. (C)

Immediately northwest of the wood shed is another tin, shed roof, box-construction building, which served as the farm's washhouse. This, too, was constructed circa 1900. (C)

Southwest of the dwelling, at the point where the historic (circa 1897) circle drive (C) to the house branches off to the farm road leading to the barns, is a garage, which was built in 1930. This tin gable roof rectangular frame building, was enlarged with additional weatherboard in 1950 to accommodate the larger cars of the time, and a modern garage door was added circa 1980. It rests on a stone foundation. (NC)

A narrow farm road, which dates to at least 1897, connects the domestic complex with the crop production area of the farm. (C)

A large tin gable-roof, with tin shed ventilators, stock barn dominates the work complex. Built before the dwelling, circa 1890, this three-aisled transverse crib barn rests on a stone foundation. (C)

South of the barn is a long rectangular frame corn crib, which has a tin gable roof, supported by four rough-cut wooden poles on its west side, which served as a buggy shed. This building rests on a stone foundation and was built circa 1897. (C)

East of the corn crib is a tin shed roof chicken coop, built of box construction on a stone foundation, in 1920. (C)

In the middle of the work complex is a small square well house, about 30 inches in height and made of limestone. This circa 1920 structure has no roof. (C)

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

East of the stock barn is a tin gable-roof granary, which was built circa 1897. The extended roof on the south side provided a sheltered open-air work space. (C)

The field patterns of the Renfro-Allen Farm retain their configuration from the early twentieth century and are well defined by historic fences and natural barriers, which have been planted over time to divide the farm into productive units. The field patterns also reflect the topography of the farm. Fields to east, north, and south of the domestic complex were largely reserved for crop and hay production. This land lies within the flat bottomland of the Watuaga River Valley. Two-thirds of the farm, however, lies to the west of the domestic complex and is comprised of hilly uplands and stands of timber. This land has been used for pasture for livestock throughout the history of the farm. The pattern of agricultural fields on this property comprises a contributing site. (C)

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

VIII. Significance Statement

The Renfro-Allen Farm, located on Judge Ben Allen Road, near Elizabethton, Carter County, Tennessee, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for under Criterion A for its local significance in the history of agriculture in Carter County from 1897 to 1946 and under Criterion C as a locally significant representative turn of the century farmstead with associated outbuildings.

In 1840, Issac H. Brown, a second-generation German-American was born in 1812 in Washington County, Tennessee, purchased the first parcels of family land that eventually became the Renfro-Allen Farm. A Democrat in Whig-dominated upper East Tennessee, Brown switched parties in 1844 when he became the newly elected Register of Deeds for Carter County, a position which he held until 1850. There is no evidence that Brown began farming the land in 1840, but the land tract extended south to the banks of the Holston River, and he made his home here until 1866, and continued in his political career in nearby Elizabethton. From 1852 to 1856, for instance, he was the Trustee for Carter County.

In 1836, Issac H. Brown married Ruth D. Nave and they had six children over the next ten years, with Ruth and their eight year old son, Daniel, dying in 1854 due to an infectious enteritis. Issac H. Brown remarried in 1855 when he met Margaret H. Payne. They had one child in 1856, another in 1865, who died shortly after birth, and another 1866. This brief geneology is important for it may shed light on why Issac Brown established the family farm in 1866. During the Civil War, Issac Brown's older sons from his first marriage left to fight in the 37th Tennessee Regiment of the Confederacy, and despite the strong pro-Union sentiments of most of the area, maintained good relations with the community. His first wife's brother and good friend, Godfrey Nave, however, found the situation in Carter county difficult after his son was pardoned at Appomattox, and moved with his son to Danville, Indiana. Issac Brown purchased Nave's property in 1866, and by 1870, conveyed his nearly 200 acres along the Watauga River to his son C.N. Brown.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

On December 14, 1866, Issac H. Brown bought 166 acres to add to his earlier tract, comprising a farm of 249.9 acres, of which his daughter would later sell 10 acres, leaving the current farm of 239.9 acres. He practiced mixed agriculture, typical of the region and time, raising livestock for his own family's use and for animal power on the farm, corn, wheat, oats, and other small grains. He lived until 1899 and his second wife Margaret lived until 1909.

The historic dwelling and buildings of the Renfro-Allen Farm mostly date to the years when the farm was operated, then owned and operated by Emma C. Brown Renfro and her husband James Wood Renfro. Emma Brown and James Renfro married in 1884 and had four children by 1892. At this time, the Renfro family lived in a small log house next to Issac Brown, and began operating his farm. In 1897, Emma and James Renfro began to extensively update the farm with several important new buildings, including the current farmhouse, smokehouse, granary, and corn crib. Upon Issac Brown's death in 1899, Emma and James Renfro inherited the farm.

The Renfros updated the farm, in part, because of the demands for additional bedrooms and the desire to create a proper Victorian domestic environment. Also, a recent-railroad induced boom in Elizabethton, caused by the arrival of the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad in the late 1880s, had raised land values in the adjacent countryside and created many new opportunities for market-oriented agriculture. The large stock barn was built in 1890 and represents the new investment in the farm that railroad access encouraged. Indeed, the new railroad line passed along the southern border of the property in front of the family property and in March of 1899, Issac Brown gave land for the Renfro Station. The farm was important in the agricultural development of the area, particularly because Emma Brown Renfro planted the first tobacco in Carter County.

James Renfro died in 1914, but Emma Brown Renfro remained on the farm until her death in 1952. She supervised the work of tenants, who continued the farm in agricultural and farm livestock production. After the marriage of their daughter Corinne Renfro to Ben Allen in 1928, Emma continued the active management of the property, which was primarily agricultural.

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

In the 1930s, Ben Allen became a founding member in the Mountain Breeders Co-Op, one of the first such agricultural cooperatives in the Upper South. The farm gradually incorporated cattle production, using some of the fields for grazing. In 1936 Corinne and Ben had new buildings constructed, like the garage, but continued the farm's dual production of crops and livestock. After Emma Renfro's death in 1952 and until Ben Allen's death in 1977, the farm specialized in Hereford cattle production, and the remaining fields of row crops were used for hay and pasture. The farm's turn to specialized cattle breeds marks it as a significant example of the impact of progressive agriculture on the Carter County landscape in the middle decades of the twentieth century. In 1976, the Renfro-Allen Farm was designated a Tennessee Century Farm. It remains the only identified Tennessee Century Farm in Carter County.

Ben Allen, by the mid-1930s, had embarked on what would prove to be a locally successful and significant political and business career. In 1934, he was elected Circuit Court Judge for the First Judicial District. He held this office until 1942, when he resigned to serve as General Manager and Vice President of the two largest employers in Carter County, the Bemberg and North American rayon plants. These German-owned and operated factories had been seized by the United States Government in 1942. Allen was chosen as General Manager because of his reputation for honesty, fairness, and his own success as a progressive farm manager. Allen remained manager of the two factories until 1956, when he began an active retirement as a farmer, board chairman of the Carter County Memorial Hospital and a founding member of the Watauga Historical Association, which eventually created the Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park.

Ben Allen died in 1977 and Corinne Renfro Allen lived at the farm until her death in 1993. Today, their daughter Dr. Elizabeth Allen manages the farm, which produces hay and cattle.

The Renfro-Allen Farm is also significant as a complex of related dwelling and farm buildings that are a significant representative of a turn-of-the-century farmstead in Carter

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

County. In assessing the architectural significance of the farm, the two-story gable-front and wing dwelling, with Victorian styled detailing both on the exterior and interior is the most important element of the farmstead.

Unfortunately, there is little adequate survey information about the rural landscape of Carter County. Previously nominated buildings in the county have either been associated with the early settlement era and the Revolutionary War or are associated with the development of Elizabethton in the early twentieth century. But, judging from what we do know, as well as the farm's designation as the only identified Century Farm in Carter County, it is reasonable to identify the Renfro-Allen Farmhouse as an architecturally significant example of Victorian vernacular architecture, in this case the gable-front and wing house, in Carter County. The house retains its historic integrity, and has been only slightly altered, making it an important contributing element to this historic district.

Certainly, the surrounding buildings of the domestic complex--the 1897 smokehouse and the box construction outbuildings of circa 1900--combine with the high integrity of farm production area--especially the 1890 stockbarn, the 1897 granary, and the 1897 corn crib--to create a farmstead of an exceptional high degree of integrity. The rural setting of the farm has hardly changed in 100 years, except that now Tennessee Highway 91 passes along the eastern boundary of the farm, rather than the earlier tracks of the railroad. As an artifact of turn-of-the-century agriculture and rural architecture, the Renfro-Allen Farm has few known equals in Upper East Tennessee.

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

### IX. Bibliography

Allen, Elizabeth. Interview with Megan Dobbs, August 8, 1995. Elizabethton, TN.

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Goodspeed, Westin, compl. History of Tennessee. Chicago and Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing, 1887.

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



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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

**X. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The tax map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

The nominated property consists of 239.9 acres along the Judge Ben Allen Road near Elizabethton, in Carter County, TN, and is marked as parcel 70 in the attached county tax map for District 9 from the Carter County Tax Assessors office.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant property and acreage associated with the historic Renfro-Allen Farm under single ownership.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 14

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Renfro-Allen Farm  
Carter Co., TN

By: Carroll Van West

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: August 8, 1995

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

Domestic complex, facing east  
1 of 36

Historic photo of farmhouse, facing west, circa 1900  
2 of 36

Farmhouse, east facade, facing west  
3 of 36

Farmhouse, east facade, facing southwest  
4 of 36

Farmhouse, north elevation, facing south  
5 of 36

Farmhouse, north elevation, facing southeast  
6 of 36

Farmhouse, west elevation, facing east  
7 of 36

Farmhouse, south elevation, facing northeast  
8 of 36

Smokehouse, facing west  
9 of 36

Smokehouse and domestic outbuildings, facing northwest  
10 of 36

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

Wood shed, facing north  
11 of 36

Wash house, facing west  
12 of 36

Garage, facing west  
13 of 36

Farm road to work complex, facing southwest  
14 of 36

Stock barn, facing west  
15 of 36

Chicken coop, facing south  
16 of 36

Corn crib, facing east  
17 of 36

Work complex, facing southeast  
18 of 36

Well, facing north  
19 of 36

Granary, facing north  
20 of 36

Fields and timber, facing west  
21 of 36

Fields and timber, facing southwest  
22 of 36

Pasture and fields, facing northeast  
23 of 36

Pasture, south of dwelling, facing south  
24 of 36

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 16

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Renfro-Allen Farm, Carter Co., TN

Pasture, southeast of dwelling, facing southeast  
25 of 36

First floor center hall, facing south  
26 of 36

North parlor, facing southwest  
27 of 36

North parlor, facing northeast  
28 of 36

Dining room, facing northwest  
29 of 36

Dining room, facing northeast  
30 of 36

South parlor, facing northwest  
31 of 36

Sitting room, facing northeast  
32 of 36

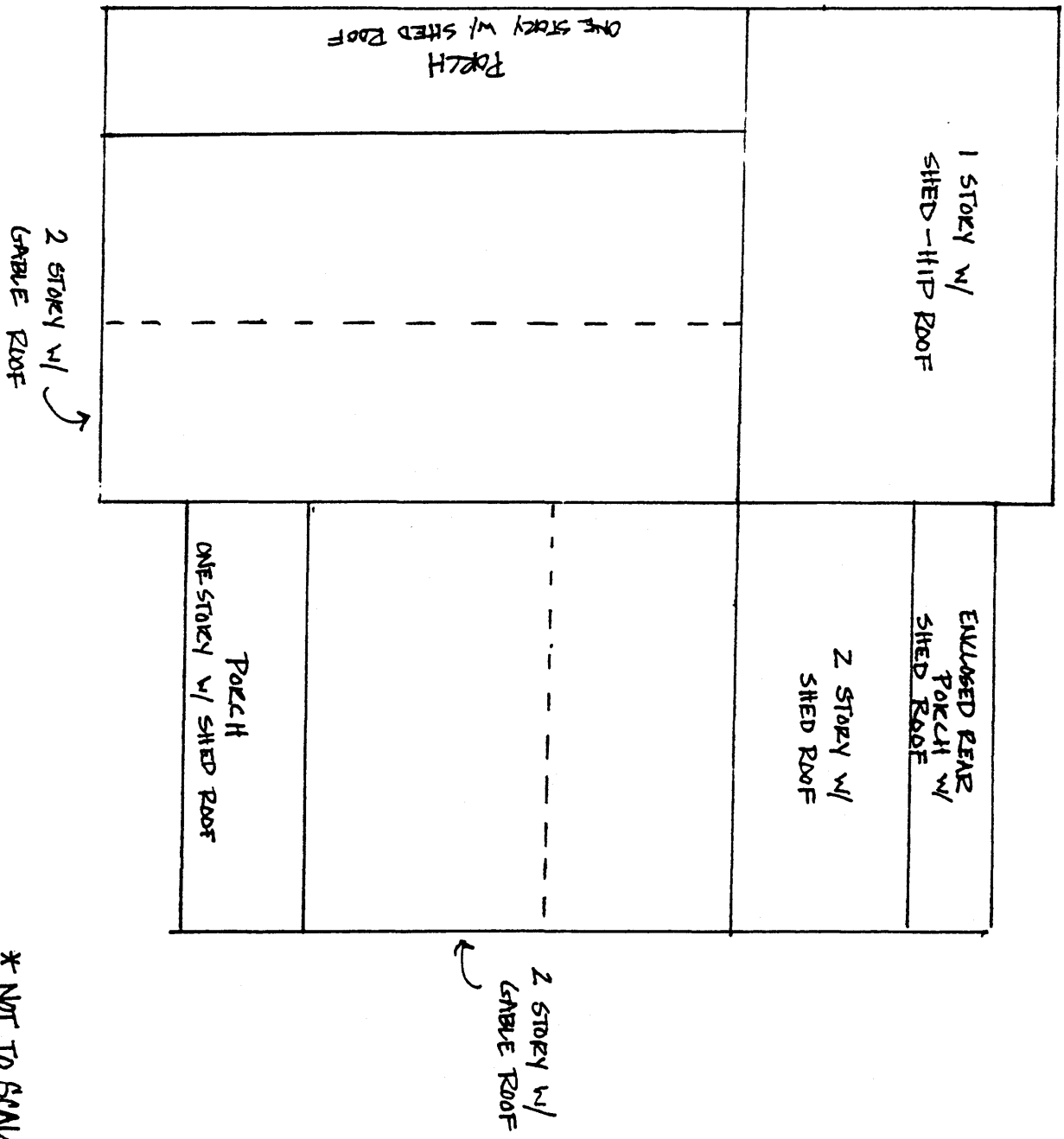
Kitchen, facing east  
33 of 36

Second floor center hall, facing south  
34 of 36

East bedroom, facing northeast  
35 of 36

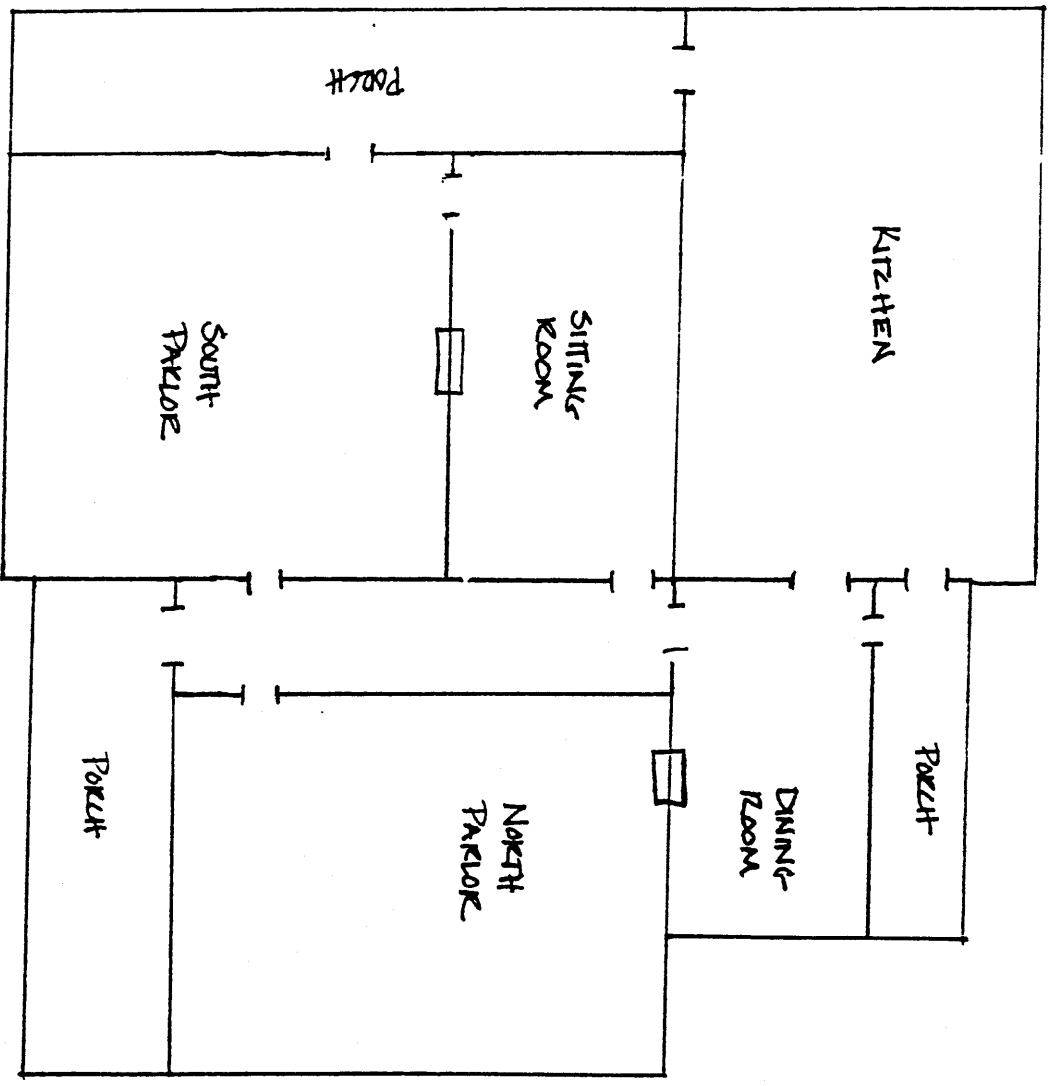
Northwest bedroom, facing southeast  
36 of 36

RENFRO - ALLEN FARM  
CANTER CO. TN  
N  
→  
(PLAN)



\* NOT TO SCALE

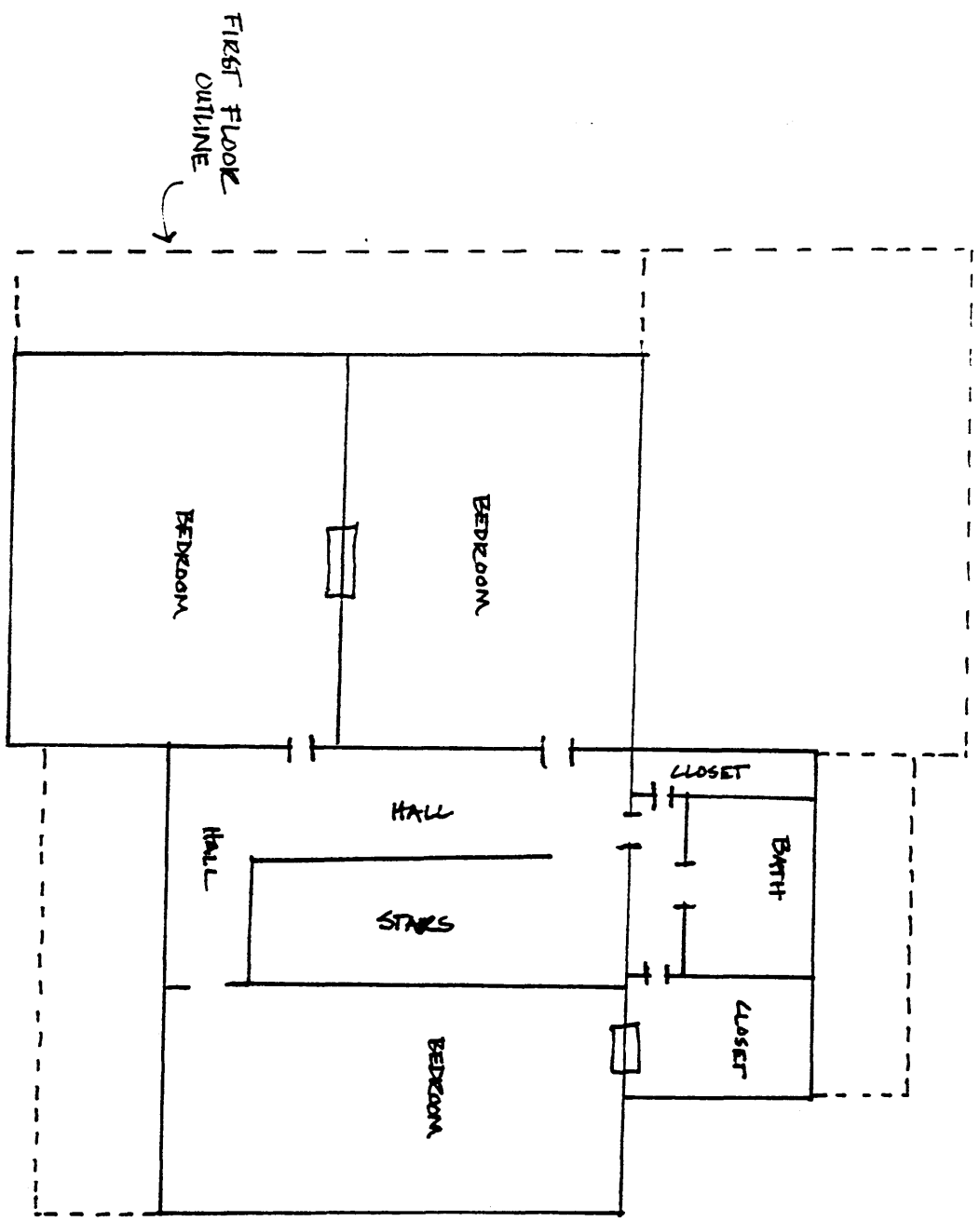
KENFORD ALLEN FARM: CARTER CO., TN  
1st FLOOR



\*NOT TO SCALE

RENFRO-ALLEN FARM CARLIER CO. J.T.N

2ND FLOOR



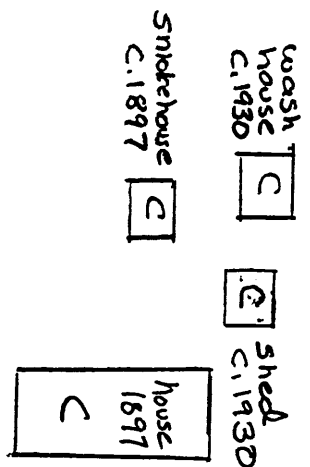
\* NOT TO SCALE

Distribution of Buildings  
Renfield-Allen Farm, 1995  
Carter Co. TN

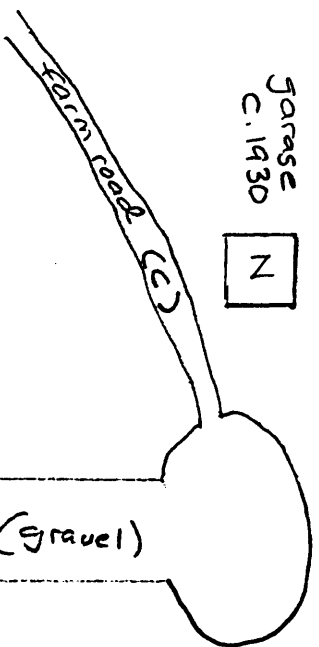
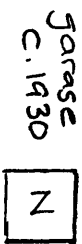
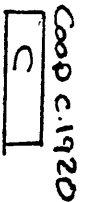
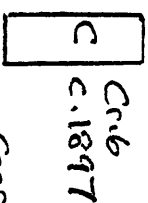
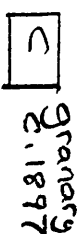
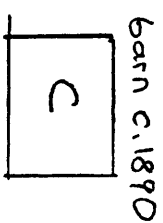
field

Ⓝ↑

fields/  
timber



field (c)



field

JUDGE BEN ALLEN ROAD

NTS



902  
13.72AC.

9  
13.72AC.

RENFRO-ALLEN FARM  
CARTER CO. TN  
1" = 400'



903  
37AC.

8  
50.5 AC.

904

1.5AC  
1.7AC<sup>c</sup>

71 - (35)

SEE 1" = 100'

70 - (35)

76 - (35)

73 - (35)

7-28  
8-28

1708<sup>2</sup> 1702  
3.18 AC

1703  
4.16 AC

17  
4.95 AC

70  
239.9 AC.

71  
41.3 AC.

76.01  
11.1 AC<sup>c</sup>

RIVER VALLEY  
SUBD.  
SEE 1" = 100'  
INSERT  
35-B

● MAIN HOUSE

22

23

24

25

OLD FARM LN.  
CO. V FARM LN.

69  
95 AC.<sup>c</sup>

76  
15 AC<sup>c</sup>

7702  
3.21 AC.

78  
4.7 AC

77

7501

31  
6.49 AC.

26  
1.45 AC.

42

7  
1

10  
6