

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

For NPS use only

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

received Oct 11 1985
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Lincoln County Poor House Farm

and or common Lincoln County Poor Farm

2. Location

street & number Yukon Road N/A not for publication

city, town Coldwater vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Lincoln code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name William R. Carter

street & number 606 Mulberry Avenue

city, town Fayetteville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Fayetteville state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lincoln County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978-1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated along Dry Creek, a tributary of Coldwater Creek in southern Lincoln County, Tennessee, the Lincoln County Poor House Farm is a rare surviving example of a county farm home for the poor in south central Tennessee. The farm complex consists of a large frame superintendent's house, a large dormitory for white residents, a smaller house for black residents, and a number of small farm outbuildings. While some of the buildings in the complex have been altered, overall, the Lincoln County Poor House Farm has retained much of its architectural integrity.

The farm is located in Poorhouse Hollow, along the southeast side of Dry Creek, one mile southwest of the village of Yukon and five miles southeast of Coldwater, Tennessee. The farm is centered amid rolling, well-maintained fields between four large hills, the land among the best in Lincoln County. The three surviving main buildings are located in the center of the property along Yukon Road (Poor House Road).

The largest of the buildings is the superintendent's house, a two-story T-shaped frame house. The weatherboarded frame house is laid out on the central passage plan, rests on a native stone foundation, and is topped by a gabled roof of standing seam tin. The main facade faces northwest towards Yukon Road. The facade is three bays wide and is arranged around a central entry composed of a six panel door topped by a three light transom. A one story shed porch with standing seam tin roof extends across most of the front. Windows are double hung sash with 4/4 lights. The north and south gable ends are plain except for a single 4/4 light sash window on each story. The rear extension is also two stories high, but features one story shed galleries, partially enclosed, on both sides. The ell contains a kitchen and dining room on the first level and two bedrooms on the second. The interior of the house retains its original mantels with molded shelves, a fine dog-leg staircase with turned newel posts and balusters in the central hall and original flooring and four panel doors.

Just behind the superintendent's house is a small root cellar and storehouse. The gabled roof frame structure is a 1930s reconstruction of an earlier shed which stood on the site. It was built on the original stone walled root cellar, cut into the bank of the hill. The stone foundation of the root cellar continues as a sort of retaining wall across the bank of the hill.

Forty yards southeast of the superintendent's house is the large dormitory for the poor farm's white residents. Probably dating from the 1880s, the one story rectangular wood building is topped by a gabled roof with small hipped roof extensions on the north (front) and south facades. The dormitory, three bays wide by six bays deep, is laid out on a central passage plan, with small dorm rooms on either side of a large open hall which was later divided by a partition. The twelve rooms feature tongue and groove wooden walls and floors and open latticework at the top of the walls to provide for natural ventilation. Two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps penetrate the tin roof at the ridgeline. Small half-hipped porches supported by wooden posts are located at the north and south ends; a larger shed porch across the west side was added more recently and renovation plans call for its removal. The dormitory is in a stable though somewhat deteriorated condition.

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Poor House Farm

A short distance uphill from the white residents' dormitory is the smaller black residents' house, probably built in the early twentieth century. The small frame structure features a gabled roof with a front shed roof porch, weatherboarded walls, and 4/4 light double hung sash windows. The interior originally consisted of four large rooms. The north or main front wall of the building has collapsed and has been removed, and the remainder of the building is in poor condition.

Just below the white residents' dormitory is a mid-twentieth century bath house of cinder block construction. The small gabled roof building is in poor condition, and plans have been made for its removal.

A small springhouse of rough-sawn vertical board topped by a gabled roof is located just behind the superintendent's house. The modern structure replaced an earlier springhouse which stood on the same site.

These buildings are the main surviving buildings from the Lincoln County Poor House Farm complex. Across the road are two twentieth century barns and the site of an old octagonal jail for confined residents which burned in the 1950s. At the ridge in the distance is the old Poor Farm graveyard, with approximately fifty graves. These properties are on the north side of the road and have been excluded from the nominated area.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1874–1935 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lincoln County Poor House Farm near Coldwater, Tennessee, is being nominated under National Register criterion A for its significance to Lincoln County, Tennessee, in local history. The Poor Farm, established in 1874, was the only farm of its nature in Lincoln County. Until 1960 it was the home of the county's indigent and incompetent, a self-sufficient farm where the poor could work and be maintained. The farm complex, consisting of a superintendent's house, two dormitories, and numerous farm outbuildings, is a relatively intact example of an old county farm, few of which have survived in southern Middle Tennessee. It has retained much of its historical integrity.

One of the first acts of the Lincoln County Court was to provide for the poor and needy. In 1815 a special tax was approved and assessed on landowners to provide funds for those in need. About 1826 the sum had grown sufficiently to permit the purchase of a farm and the erection of a log house. The supervision of the institution was delegated to three commissioners appointed by the County Court. The commissioners in turn appointed a full-time superintendent. The first superintendent was Alexander P. Hayes.

The Lincoln County Court, under Judge Nelson Carter, purchased two hundred ninety-three acres of land just south of the Yukon community from W.B. Robinson on November 17, 1874. The land was bought for a farm home for the poor of the county and was to be called the Lincoln County Poor House Place. At the time the land was located in the 102nd District of Lincoln County. The farm buildings were erected soon after. A cemetery was also located on the farm grounds. The builder or important persons with close significant historical associations to the buildings have not been discovered.

From 1874 until 1960 it served as a home for the poor, aged, mentally incompetent, orphans, and indigent of Lincoln County. The residents of the farm raised and grew food for themselves. Gardens furnished vegetables for summer months and the produce was canned, dried, and stored to use during the winter. Wheat and corn were grown to make bread. The Lincoln County Magistrates were the governing body for the farm. A superintendent was elected and lived on the farm, directing the farming and attending to the well-being of the residents.

In 1959 the Lincoln County Court passed a resolution to borrow funds to construct an Old Folks Home in Fayetteville, the county seat. Upon completion, the County Poor House Farm was to be sold to pay off the indebtedness. In 1960 the farm was leased to T.C. Honea, a former superintendent, and in 1961 the property passed into private ownership.

At present only the superintendent's house is in use. Renovated and redecorated in 1984, it is presently used as a private residence. The Lincoln County Poor House Farm is a good example of an institution that at one time had an important humanitarian role in Lincoln County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Carter, William R. "Information on Lincoln County Farm and Cemetery." MSS, 1985.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately eight acres

Quadrangle name Taft, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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5	2	9	2	2	0
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3	8	8	0	2	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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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 William R. Carter, Property Owner, et.al.
Richard Quin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization South Central Tennessee Development Dist. date March 1985

street & number 606 Mulberry telephone 615-433-2572
P.O. Box 1346

city or town Fayetteville state Tennessee

Columbia state Tennessee

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 National Park Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hoyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/21/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 7-11-85

Keeper of the National Register

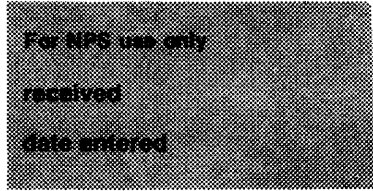
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Lincoln County
Continuation sheet Poor House Farm

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is approximately eight acres in size and rectangular in shape. It is bounded on the northwest by Yukon Road (Dry Creek Road) and on the northeast and southeast by fence lines. The southwest boundary is an imaginary line approximately twenty feet southwest of the larger dormitory. This line extends from the fence line on the southeast to Yukon Road on the northwest. The boundary includes enough land to protect the historical setting and architectural integrity of the Lincoln County Poor House Farm.

