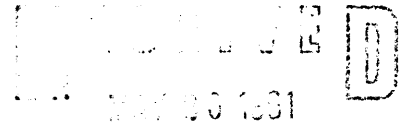


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Forbus Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number State Route 28
city, town Forbus
state Tennessee code TN county Fentress code 049 zip code N/A

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/district/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic & Historic Resources of Fentress County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Robert L. Byrum
Date: 5/17/91
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Melvyn Byrum
Date of Action: 7/3/91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/department store

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/department store

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: T-plan house

OTHER: frame commercial building

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE, CONCRETE

walls WEATHERBOARD, WOOD

roof TIN, ASPHALT

other WOOD, STONE

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Forbus is a farm community situated in the northern part of Fentress County. The land is characterized by rolling hills and fields. The Forbus Historic District is located along State Route 28 and is comprised of a country store, the store owner's residence, and support buildings.

- (1) William Johnson House. Constructed in 1896, the William Johnson House is a three bay, two story, frame residence covered with weatherboards. It has an asphalt shingle gable roof and rests on a stone foundation. Exterior end chimneys flank the gable ends. The house has a T-plan with one story additions on each side of the rear ell. A central gable at the facade is embellished with an ornamental vent. Fenestration is composed of 6/6 double-hung sashes capped by simple crown moldings. A three-quarter, one story screened porch covers the facade. The interior was altered prior to 1935. (C)

Outbuildings

Garage. Circa 1930. Concrete, lined with stone, built in side of hill, adjacent to State Route 28. (C)

Chicken House. Circa 1910. Frame, one story, novelty board siding, gable roof, square plan. (C)

Barn. Pre-1930. Frame, one-and-one-half stories, weatherboard and vertical board siding, transverse crib plan, overhanging gable. (C)

Shed. Pre-1930. Frame, one story, shed roof, vertical board siding. (May have been two sheds built adjacent to each other. (C)

Shed. Circa 1989. Frame, one story, shed roof. (NC)

- (2) Forbus General Store. The Forbus General Store is a frame building with a false front and was constructed in 1892. It is one-and-one-half stories in height and is covered with weatherboard. The store has a standing seam tin gable roof and rests on a concrete foundation (not original). In the 1930s, one story concrete lean-to

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Forbus Historic District

additions were erected at the sides of the rectangular plan building. The facade has two double-leaf entrances capped by denticulated frieze and transom and large four-light fixed windows. A circa 1930s shed roof porch has unhewn wood supports and a concrete block foundation. The interior of the store has its original floors, counters, and shelving. (C)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1892-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Forbus Historic district is significant under National Register criteria A and C. The small group of buildings is a good representation of a rural commercial center, which the multiple property documentation form states was an important factor in the history of Fentress County. While other country stores still exist in the county, this is the most intact group of store, house, and support buildings. Architecturally, the store is a fine example of a general store that has remained unaltered both on the interior and the exterior. The house is a good example of a common form of residence in the county. The frame building, with minimal porch ornamentation and use of stone, is a pleasant example of the residential property type. The buildings in the district meet the requirements for registration and significance that were stated in the multiple property documentation form.

Forbus stands in the community center of land once owned by John M. Clemens, the first postmaster on the Wolf River. At first, the post office was named Pall Mall, and the building was said to be near the present store site.

Early settlers in the area included the Travis, Upchurch, Crouch, Barton, Evans, Greer, Moody, Pyle, Smith, Davidson, Frogge, and Riley families. It is known that there was an academy, Van Buren Academy, on a hill near the Forbus store which was well known in the 1850s. In 1892, W. M. Johnson built a new business in the valley along the Caney Creek at the intersection of present-day State Route 28 and Caney Creek Road. The 1880 Fentress county census lists a William Johnson, age 17 years, who may be the man who opened the Forbus Store in 1892. (However, William Johnson was actually born in 1861, according to family members.) The Johnsons came to Fentress County around 1830, and by the 1880s, there were four Johnson households.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Slater, Margaret - "Architectural/Historical Assessment for the project to replace the bridge on State Route 28 over Caney Creek at Forbus." 1988.

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 4.5 acres

UTM References

A

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

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Moodyville, Tennessee-Kentucky 333SE

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Slater/Edited by Claudette Stager/Historic Preservation Specialist

organization TDOT/THC date Jan. 1988 & December 1990

street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615/742-6723

city or town Nashville state Tennessee zip code 37243

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According to A View of the Valley - The Three Forks of the Wolf, the store "housed everything the community needed: groceries, coffins, hardware, clothing, medicine, harnesses, home furnishings, jewelry, feed, and, when the time came, gasoline." The second floor of the building provided meeting facilities for the Oddfellows Lodge and, on the side of the store, was a mill for grinding feed. Across the road, Johnson built a blacksmith shop, a granary, weigh scales, and a tool shed. The granary, tool shed, and weigh scales are now gone. These facilities made Forbus the commercial hub of the surrounding rural area.

In addition to his commercial enterprises, Johnson owned and operated a large farm. In 1896, he built a house on his farm just up the hill from his store. He operated the store until 1941, and his heirs retain ownership of the store, although they no longer operate it.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A, the boundary moves northwest 500 feet along the right-of-way on the northeast side of the road (State Route 28) to a point at the northwest side of the garage on State Route 28. At that point, the boundary turns northeast and runs for 300 feet to a point where it turns to the southeast and runs along an imaginary line 400 feet to the bank of Caney Creek. It then turns to the southwest and follows the creek bank to the beginning point.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries for the Forbus Historic District include all contributing buildings in the vicinity and sufficient surrounding land to protect the historic and architectural integrity of the district.

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Forbus Historic District
State Route 28
Forbus, Fentress County, Tennessee
Photo by: Claudette Stager
Date: February 1991
Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

William Johnson House, facing northeast
#1 of 8

William Johnson House, facing north
#2 of 8

William Johnson House, garage, and shed, facing northeast
#3 of 8

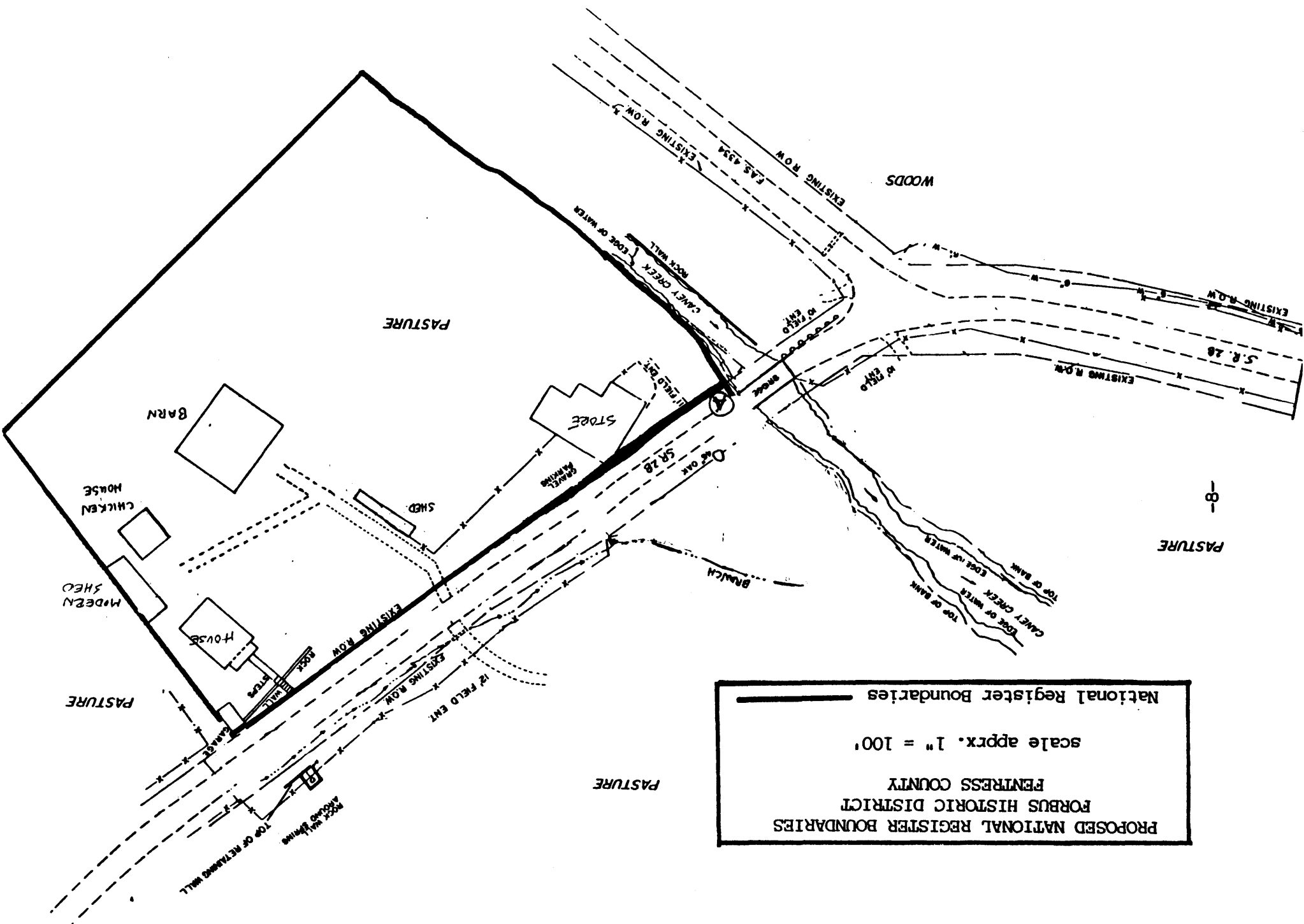
William Johnson House and outbuildings
#4 of 8

William Johnson House barn, facing northeast
#5 of 8

View from Forbus General Store to William Johnson House, facing north
#6 of 8

Forbus General Store, facing northeast
#7 of 8

Interior of Forbus General Store
#8 of 8



PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARIES
 FORBUS HISTORIC DISTRICT
 FENNESSY COUNTY
 scale appr. 1" = 100'
 National Register Boundaries

NORTH