

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 instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item 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 Bailey, Harry, House
other names/site number "Bottle House"

2. Location

street & number 423 Trousdale Ferry Road NA not for publication
city or town Lebanon NA vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Wilson code 189 zip code 37087

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 for 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 C. Jorgensen 1/28/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Elson H. Beall Date of Action 3/15/00

Bailey, Harry, House
Name of Property

Wilson County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing Noncontributing

1	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	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

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: vernacular
Bungalow influence

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone
walls STONE, BRICK, GLASS

roof ASPHALT
other GLASS, WOOD

Narrative Description

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

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 N/A

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1948-1949

Significant Dates

1948-1949

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Hale, Louis (Builder)

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:
Center for Historic Preservation/MTSU

Bailey, Harry, House
Name of Property

Wilson County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 3.2 acres Lebanon 314 NE

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>565750</u>	<u>4007210</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Kara Mills and Carroll Van West
organization Center for Historic Preservation, MTSU date November 1, 1999
street & number Post Office 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 Craig Pitts
street & number 423 Trousdale Ferry Road telephone 615/443-5269
city or town Lebanon state TN zip code 37087

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 listing. 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 20303.

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Bailey, Harry, House
Wilson County, Tennessee

Description

The Harry Bailey house, or the "Bottle House," faces south at 423 Trousdale Ferry Road in the town of Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee. The lot extends from US Highway 70N to the north. The dwelling, constructed 1948-1949, is a one story, bungalow-influence style house with a rectangular plan, gable roof, brick chimney, and front porch. The walls of the house were built with a combination of period glass bottles set between stones and bricks. The dwelling rests on a limestone foundation. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The dwelling retains its primary architectural features, with the exception of the original stoop entrance being converted to a three-quarter front porch, circa 1980. Its most distinctive feature is the composition of the walls, which are made of glass bottles, bricks, and concrete laid in an irregular pattern. The 300-plus bottles are sometimes placed in the wall with the end of the bottle facing out while at other places the bottles are placed length-wise. The bottles came from different sources, including soda pop bottles, beer bottles, and medicine bottles, but appear to generally have a compact chronological span, from about 1930 to 1949. Only three are broken.

The dwelling's south facade is asymmetrical and has an off-center porch that has an asphalt shingle gable roof supported by cast iron posts. The front porch was originally a stoop with a concrete and limestone foundation. However, circa 1980 the front stoop was expanded into a front porch with an extended shed roof set atop a concrete and block foundation complete with iron posts. The wood entrance door has three lights and is fronted by an aluminum screen door, circa 1980. To the west of the door is a picture window flanked by two four-over-four double-hung windows with wooden sashes and paired four-over-four double-hung windows. To the east of the door are two paired six-over-six double-hung windows with wooden sashes.

The east elevation of the house has three sets of windows; all of the windows have wooden sashes. The south window is a six-over-six, double-hung with a storm window. The center window is a fixed two-over-two window. The north window is a six-over-six double-hung window that contains an air-conditioning unit. The gable above the wall is covered with shingles with a vented opening located in the apex of the roof.

The north elevation has five bays: four sets of windows with wooden sashes and a stoop entryway. The far east window is a six-over-six double-hung window. The east middle window is a fixed two-over-two window, while the west middle is a six-over-six double-hung window. A stoop

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Bailey, Harry, House
Wilson County, Tennessee

rear entrance, original to the house, is sheltered by a wooden five-panel door. The far west window is a six-over-six double-hung window.

The west elevation contains two sets of windows with wooden sashes. The north window is comprised of paired six-over-six double-hung sashes. The south window is a four-over-four double-hung window containing an air-conditioning unit. The gable area above the wall is covered with shingles and a vented opening at the apex of the roof.

The interior floor plan is centered on the large living room, which is entered from the front door. The layout of the rooms creates a circular flow throughout the house. Original hardwood floors, paneling, and baseboards exist throughout the house, although the flooring in some areas has been covered.

The living room (Room 1) is a rectangular room accentuated by an off-center original brick fireplace. The den has an eight-foot-high plaster ceiling that covered the original paneled ceiling circa 1990. The original paneled walls are painted white and the original wood baseboards are also painted white. Carpeting covers the original hard wood floors.

The front room on the east side of the house (Room 2) is square-shaped with eight-foot-high acoustical tile ceilings that date to circa 1950. From the center of the ceiling hangs an original electrical light socket and bulb. The original walls are paneled and painted blue, and the baseboards are also original to the house. Carpeting covers the original hardwood floors. The room's wooden door is original as is the wood two-panel closet door.

The dwelling's most unique room is its east rear room (Room 3), which has five corners, due to the builder's decision to install a closet/storage area that would be accessible from the hallway. The original ceilings are eight-foot high with paneling painted white. A circa 1990 ceiling fan and light fixture hang from the center of the room. The walls are paneled and painted white and the baseboards are also original to the house. Carpeting covers the original hardwood floors. The wood door is original to the house.

Connecting the bedrooms to the rest of the interior is a rear hallway. It has eight-foot-high paneled ceilings painted white. A pull-down ladder leads to an unfinished attic that contains built-in shelving. The hallway's paneled walls and baseboards are original, but carpeting covers the

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Bailey, Harry, House
Wilson County, Tennessee

original hardwood floors. A small indented storage space, adjacent to Room 3, is being used as open-faced closet space.

The bathroom (Room 4) is also accessed from the hallway. An original electrical light socket and light hang from the ceiling. The hardwood floors are intact, but were covered with vinyl flooring circa 1990. A wood door contains modern bathroom utilities.

The utility room (Room 5) has circa 1950 acoustical tile ceiling. From the center of the ceiling hangs an electrical light socket and bulb. The walls are paneled and are painted white. The vinyl covering, installed circa 1990, obscures the original hardwood floors. The baseboards and the two wood four panel doors, one that leads outside and the other that leads into the kitchen, are original to the house.

The combination kitchen and dining room (Room 6) is one of the larger areas in the house. A circa 1990 finish covers the paneled ceiling, but two older light fixtures are present. The original north fixture hangs down over the appliances and another fixture, circa 1990 chandelier, hangs over the dining area. Wallpaper covers the paneled walls and vinyl covers the hardwood floors. The six windows in the kitchen/dining room are original to the house. French doors, circa 1950, lead from the kitchen to the den. Appliances have been modernized and cabinet space has been added, with both remodeling projects taking place circa 1960

There have been very few changes to the house. The character defining feature of the house, the creative use of glass bottles in the exterior, remains and, therefore, the Bailey house retains a high degree of integrity.

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Bailey, Harry, House
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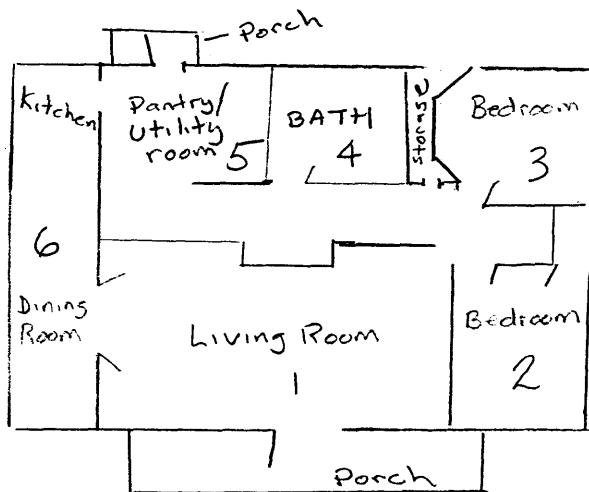
Not to Scale



U.S. Highway 70N

← Right-of-Way to Highway

⊗ Location of "The Jungle"



Trousdale Ferry Road (Tennessee 141)

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Bailey, Harry, House
Wilson County, Tennessee

Statement of Significance

The Harry Bailey House or "Bottle House," at 423 Trousdale Ferry Road in the town of Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C for its significance in the area of folk architecture. The circa 1948-1949 residence is uniquely embellished with a variety of bottles placed in the exterior walls. The house has had minimal changes and the important feature of it -- the creative use of glass bottles in the walls -- remains intact. Although there has not been a comprehensive survey of folk architecture such as this, the Harry Bailey House is believed to be the only one of its type in the state. No other house like this is listed in the National Register in Tennessee.

Harry Bailey was an active member in Lebanon's African-American community working a variety of jobs throughout his life. Bailey worked as an orderly at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in nearby Murfreesboro for twenty years; he also worked as an airplane mechanic. However, Bailey was also an entrepreneur, who operated businesses located on his property. Bailey was a peddler and he operated a pawnshop. In the attic, he constructed shelves to store items. Behind his home, Bailey ran a club/tavern for the African-American community named "The Jungle." Many of the bottles used on the exterior of the house came from "The Jungle."

Harry Bailey contracted with Louis Hale, a local architect/builder from the Bellwood community, to build the house in 1948-1949. Hale built a fairly typical bungalow influence house with one major exception. Over three hundred whole bottles were placed in the exterior walls to complete this architecturally simple but unique house. According to John B. Jackson, *vernacular* represents among other things, "a local form of art and decoration." (1) Historian John Michael Vlach says of African-American architecture, "The material achievements of blacks are generally assumed to have been negligible, if not nonexistent. Yet now and again diligent scholarship brings to light an Afro-American tradition in basketry, ironwork, pottery, and other crafts." (2) This "bottle house" is representative of the tradition of craftsmanship, in this instance African-American craftsmanship, in the realm of mid-twentieth century domestic architecture. Some of the bottles used to decorate the exterior of the house include: Coke bottles, Milk of Magnesia bottles, Karo syrup bottles, 7-up bottles, medicine bottles, cleanser bottles, liquor bottles, blue bottles, green bottles and brown bottles. According to owner Craig Pitts (nephew of Harry Bailey), "Money was very hard to come by then, (Bailey) thought the bottles would provide insulation." (3)

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Bailey, Harry, House
Wilson County, Tennessee

Constructing houses with bottles appears to be rare for both whites and African Americans. In his study of African-American yards and gardens, Richard Westmacott found several examples of bottles, or parts of bottles, being used to highlight gardens and yards. (4) But listings for "bottle houses" on the World Wide Web focus largely on Watts Tower (1979) in Los Angeles, three dwellings constructed on Prince Edward Island, Canada, in 1980, and extant bottle houses constructed in Rhyolite, a Nevada "ghost town," in the early twentieth century. The most recent survey of this type of construction, Gwyn Headley's *Architectural Follies in America* (1996), emphasizes that "bottle houses appear to be a peculiarly American phenomenon; most of them seem to have been built out of necessity rather than whim." (5) Most of Headley's documented examples date to the late twentieth century, circa 1960 to 1980, and the builder placed the bottles typically with the base of the bottle facing out, not length-wise as found at the Bailey House. Headley did not include any Tennessee examples in the book, and historic southern examples were rare. He did not designate any of the dwellings as being constructed by African Americans. In fact, there seems to be no particular ethnic group associated with bottle houses, although a Finnish immigrant constructed one property in Michigan, the Markinen House, in 1941. The most comparable property in the south, which is still different than the Bailey House, is the Hope House of Hillsville, Virginia, a dwelling constructed circa 1940. This bottle house has the base of the bottles imbedded into the concrete walls so that the stems, on various lengths, face out. "Bottle houses are uniquely North American architectural manifestations," concludes Headley, "and more care should be taken to preserve them." (6)

Notes

1. John Brinckerhoff Jackson, *Discovering the Vernacular Landscape* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1984), 148.
2. John Michael Vlach. "The Shotgun House: An African American Architectural Legacy," in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, eds. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens: The University of Georgia, 1986), 59.
3. Tanya N. Ballard, "Couple Living in 'Glass' House," *Tennessean*, 28 June 1998.
4. Richard Noble Westmacott, *African-American Gardens and Yards in the Rural South* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee, 1992), 45.
5. Gwyn Headley, *Architectural Follies in America* (New York: Preservation Press, 1996), 99.
6. *Ibid.*, 105.

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Bailey, Harry, House
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Bibliography

- Acohido, Byron. "They Do Not Throw Stones." *Waste News*, August 17, 1998.
- Ballard, Tanya N. "Couple Living in 'Glass' House. *Tennessean*, June 28, 1998.
- Headley, Gwyn. *Architectural Follies in America*. New York: Preservation Press, 1996.
- Jackson, John B. *Discovering the Vernacular Landscape*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1984.
- Pitts, Craig. Interview with Kara Mills and Carroll Van West. Lebanon, Tennessee, October 5, 1998.
- Vlach, John Michael. *By the Work of Their Hands: Studies in Afro-American Folklife*. Ann Arbor, MI: UMI Research Press, 1991.
- Westmacott, Richard Noble. *African-American Gardens and Yards in the Rural South*. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1992.

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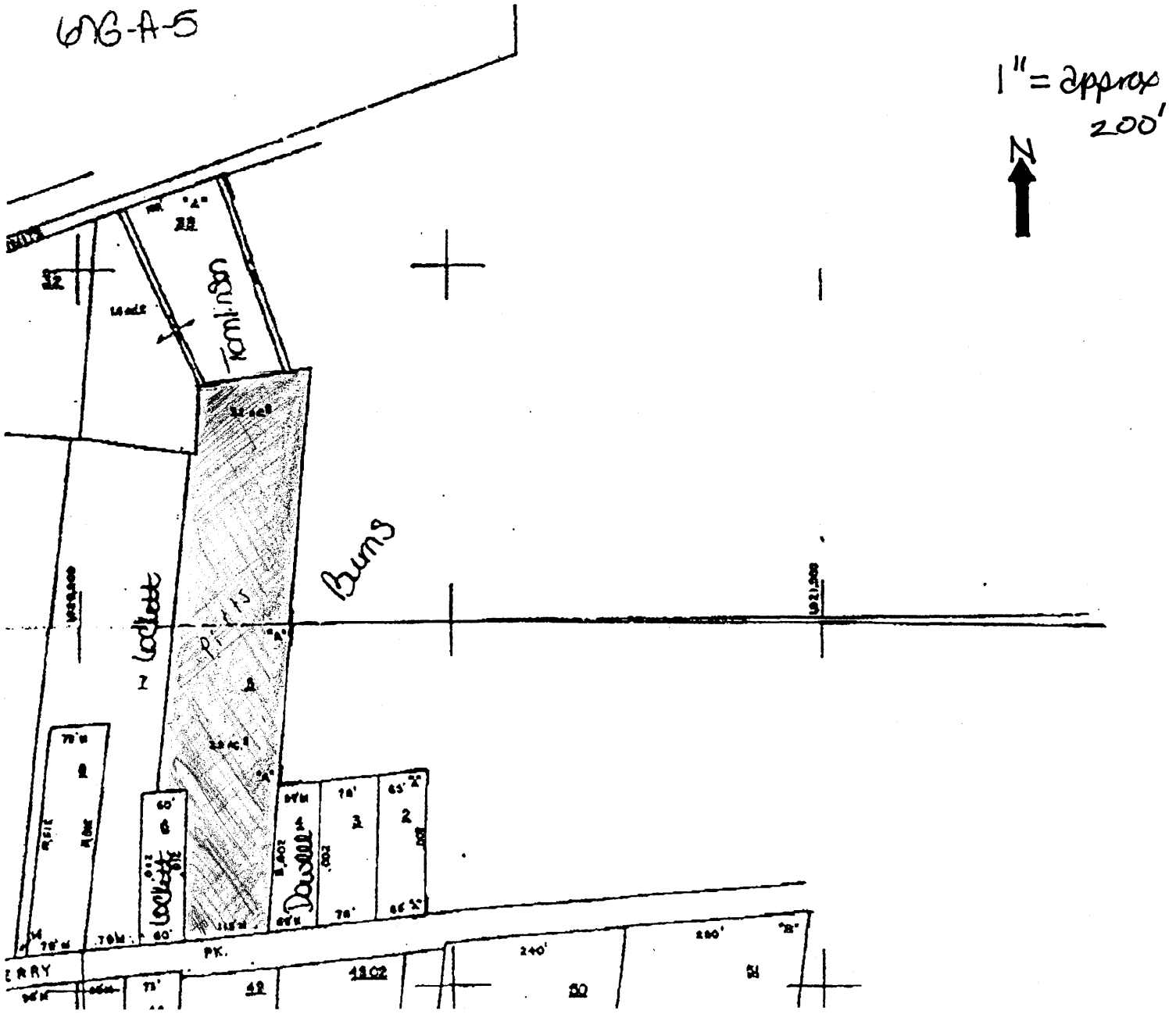
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Bailey, Harry, House
Wilson County, Tennessee

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The Harry Bailey House is located at 423 Trousdale Place in Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee. The property is designated as parcel 5 on Wilson County Tax Map 67 G-A-5.

The nominated property contains all the land associated with the Harry Bailey House.



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Bailey, Harry, House
Wilson County, Tennessee

Photographs

Photos by: Carroll Van West

Date: October 1998

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

South facade, facing north

#1 of 17

South facade and east elevation, facing northwest

#2 of 17

East elevation, facing west

#3 of 17

North elevation, facing south

#4 of 17

North elevation, facing southeast

#5 of 17

West elevation, facing northeast

#6 of 17

West elevation and south facade, facing northeast

#7 of 17

Detail, bottle construction, east elevation, facing west

#8 of 17

Detail, bottle construction, north elevation, facing south

#9 of 17

Detail, bottle construction, east elevation, facing west

#10 of 17

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Bailey, Harry, House
Wilson County, Tennessee

French doors, Room 1, facing southwest
#11 of 17

Closet door, Room 2, facing north
#12 of 17

Wall and ceiling molding, Room 3, facing south
#13 of 17

Closet frame, all, Room 3, facing west
#14 of 17

Ceiling molding and door frame, hallway, facing southeast
#15 of 17

Kitchen and dining room, Room 6, facing south
#16 of 17

Attic storage shelves, facing west
#17 of 17