

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001657

Date Listed: 11/7/90

Farrar Homeplace  
Property Name

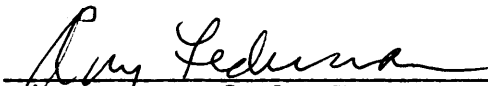
Bedford  
County

TN  
State

N/A

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

11/7/90  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The 1" = 400' scale is acceptable in this case because this is a rural property and this is the best map available.

Discussed and concurred in by the Tennessee SHPO on November 7, 1990.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1657

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECEIVED SEP 28 1990

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).

1. Name of Property

historic name Farrar Homeplace other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 170 Ike Farrar Road city, town Shelbyville state Tennessee code Tn county Bedford code 003 zip code 37160

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 4, Noncontributing 0, Total 4. Name of related multiple property listing: N/A. 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: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission. Date: 9/24/90.

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

Signature of the Keeper: Army Federman Date of Action: 11/7/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: 1-house/Greek Revival Influence

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Brick

Concrete

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Farrar Homeplace, circa 1848 is located in rural southern Bedford County, Tennessee, off Highway 82 South, the Lynchburg Highway, on Ike Farrar Road. The farm includes an antebellum house and several nineteenth century outbuildings; a frame apple house, weatherboard over log smoke house, and a large barn. The property has been owned and farmed by the Farrar family since the 1840s.

The two-story rectangular I-house, facing east, is three bays wide, rests on a cut stone foundation, is sheathed in weatherboard, and has a two story rear ell. The two exterior brick chimneys in the gable ends have corbelled shoulders and carefully cut stone bases. A two story, pedimented portico covers the central bay on the east facade. Tall square columns support the pediment and brackets support the cornice. A second floor balcony of sawn mill-work is situated directly above the double leaf, side-lighted entry door. Four long limestone blocks form the steps onto the wooden porch. The siding within the facade's center is constructed flush. Corner boards are located at all corners. The central bay is flanked on each side by one six-over-six lights, sash window, with identical windows on the second floor. The windows appear from a distance to be shuttered but that is not the case. The original window configuration included three-paned sidelights; there is one in the rear that retains its original form. The windows were modified with the removal of the sidelights sometime around the late nineteenth or early twentieth century and the openings were paneled, creating a shuttered effect. The facade is entirely symmetrical. The house is further enhanced by a dry-laid stone wall which surrounds the grounds. The wall borders a gravel road and has an iron gate centered to the central bay.

The northern elevation includes the rear ell and is a long expanse of wall. A two story projection, constructed circa 1940, for bathrooms is located at the beginning of the ell extension. A third interior chimney is situated at mid-point of the ell extension. Originally the ell extension was one story. The second floor, with its two rooms, was added before 1903, but after 1898 when one of James Franklin Farrar's sons, Tom, married. Five windows on the first floor and five on the second are symmetrically arranged. The northern elevation terminates with a recessed one-story shed roofed addition on the west end with a door into the rear; a modern open carport extends to the north from this one-story addition.

 See continuation sheet

**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  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

Circa 1848  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

Circa 1848  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 Farrar Homeplace built circa 1848 is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance to Bedford County, Tennessee. The large frame house is a fine example of a Middle-Tennessee I-House with Greek Revival detailing.

The Farrar Homeplace was built circa 1848 by James Franklin Farrar, grandfather of the present owner, Isaiah Farrar. James Franklin Farrar, born October 1819 died in March of 1904. Isaiah Farrar was born in 1919, one hundred years after the birth of his grandfather James Franklin. The farm has been held and worked by the Farrar family since it was built.

The Farrar Homeplace has an interesting oral history. Oral tradition states that James Franklin, born in 1819, was wounded during the Civil War at the Battle of Bull Run. His wife, Sarah Jane (his second wife - Rebecca his first wife died in 1847), took three horses and traveled to Bowling Green to bring him home. While recuperating at home, Union soldiers reportedly came to the house and drank the laudanum intended for James Franklin, thinking it was whiskey. Five of the Federal troops who drank the laudanum died. James Farrar was accused of murdering them and a detail was sent to arrest him. Family tradition tells that to prevent from being captured, Farrar hid away in a space above and behind the rear ell's double fireplace. The story is that he spent several weeks there in hiding before it was safe to come out. There are several other stories that relate the traditional hardships associated with the Civil War: the last of the carefully harvested hay being spread on the ground and burned by the Union troops; Nathan Bedford Forrest's troops used the farm as a place to exchange their horses for fresh ones. As the property is located on a main road, several generals stopped to rest and drink from the "Blowing Springs" a limestone cave above the spring. (The water for the house comes from that spring, originally and today, providing water for three families.) It is said that Nathan Bedford Forrest made the Farrar's house a regular stop. Later oral history states that General Patton, stepped on those long

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Doors to the Past. Bedford County Historical Society, 1969.

Farrar, Isaiah. Interviewed by Lynn Hulan. February 1990.

"The Farrar's Old Homeplace." United Communicator. United Telco. January 1990.

Frost, Wright W. The Frosts and Related Families of Bedford County, Tennessee. Kingsport, Tennessee: Kingsport Press, Inc., 1962.

- 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 two acres

UTM References

A 

1	6	5	6	5	4	0	0	3	9	1	3	0	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Lynchburg West, TN 79SW

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries for the Farrar Homeplace include an area enclosed by a low stone wall, the boundary crosses Ike Farrar Road to include the contributing barn. See accompanying tax map.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is sufficient to protect the architectural and historical integrity of the Farrar Homeplace.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lynn Hulan, Consultant

organization Hulan Johnson, Inc. date September 1990

street & number Box 245 telephone (615) 389-6131

city or town Wartrace state Tennessee zip code 37183

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Property owner:

Isaiah Farrar  
Route 6, Ike Farrar Road  
Shelbyville, Tennessee 37160

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The southern elevation has no windows in the main block of the house, but encompasses the interior of the ell with its open porch, exterior stairs, windows, and doors. The porch roof is supported by seven square wooden columns resting on a concrete base. An open stair leads to the second floor balcony. The rear of the Farrar House faces west. On the first floor of the rear of the house (including both the southern and western portions of the ell) there are three exterior doors and one window, with its original sidelights. On the second floor there are also three exterior doors and one window.

The eight room house is laid out on a central passage plan with two rooms per floor in the main block of the house; there are two rooms per floor in the ell extension. The main entrance opens into a central stairhall which runs the width of the house. The floors in the house are of wide poplar boards, with ash used in the first floor bedroom. The baseboards are simple, about one foot tall. The wide hall, twelve feet by seventeen feet, features horizontal boards forming the wainscotting, a six inch chair rail, and paper above. A stair in the north side wall leads to the second floor. The hall has two large wooden paneled exterior doors with original hardware, including keys; one in the east facade and one in the west, opening to the ell. The entry door is a double door and is flanked by three-paned side lights. To the north is a door leading into a large bedroom and to the south is a door leading into a formal parlor. The parlor is a large room, seventeen feet by seventeen feet, with similar detail as the hall; the wide hardwood boards on the floor and the wide baseboards. Two windows in the east facade and west rear are original six-over-six lights; the window in the west rear features the original two-over-two light sidelights. The main decorative feature in the room is a large oak fireplace and mantel, circa 1890.

The first floor bedroom, on the northeast side, is the same size and the parlor across the entry hall, and is similar in detail. The fireplace on the north wall is an original feature with a simple wooden mantel shelf supported by plain pilasters. The fireplace is flanked by two smaller windows, with two-over-four lights. The window in the east facade is identical to the one on the south side of the entry door; six-over-six light. The door into the entry hall and the door to the rear ell are large wooden paneled doors with the original hardware. Originally there were stairs from this room to the second floor bedroom directly above; the stairs has been closed off at the ceiling although the steps remain. Originally this stair was the only access to that second floor bedroom. In this bedroom is a large tester bed which was made in the room for the owner, James Franklin Farrar. The Farrar children for three generations

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were born in this bed. Thurston Farrar, a son of James Franklin Farrar and the father of the current owner, Isaiah, was born in the bed in 1873 and died in it in 1961.

The rear ell contains a den and kitchen on the first floor. The space that is now the den and kitchen was originally the kitchen and probably family quarters, with a massive fireplace dividing the room. The double fireplace is about six feet deep and is the one that James Franklin Farrar reportedly hid in, or between the wall and the fireplace. The den is a large, rectangular (approximately twenty-two feet by seventeen feet) room with an exterior door on the south side, a modern glass and wooden paneled single leaf door, one-over-one light window in the north elevation, a small wooden door in the north elevation leading into the circa 1940 bath addition, and the fireplace and kitchen in the west side. Beyond the den, the kitchen contains all modern conveniences. Two exterior doors, one in the south elevation and the other in the west rear, lead to the ell and the carport. A modern window is located on the north wall, a paired one-over-one light window. The small bath in the den contains a small, one-over-one light window in the north wall. While these two rooms, the kitchen and the den, are decorated with modern paneling, and floor covering, and the original fireplace has been faced with paneling circa 1960, the rooms are used today in the same manner as their builder's purpose. The size and shape of the rooms has not been altered. The only alteration is from its nineteenth century decorative element to its twentieth century adaptation for comfort, use, and liveability. And a bath was added, circa 1945, by building a small projection in the north wall.

The second floor of the Farrar Homeplace is symmetrically arranged. The second floor contains four bedrooms, a small bath, and the central hall. All the rooms are placed directly above the rooms below. The bedrooms across the facade are identical to the parlor and bedroom below. The two bedrooms in the ell are located above the den and the kitchen. The bedroom in the south side contains one six-over-six light window in the facade and one large wooden paneled door in the west rear, opening onto the ell porch. The fireplace in the south wall is original, but not used due to the unsafe condition of the chimney. The large fireplace is surrounded by a large wooden mantel, painted white, with its mantel shelf supported by plain pilasters.

The wide central hall is the same size and shape as the entry hall below. The double leaf, wooden paneled door leading to the balcony is flanked by three light sidelights mounted on wooden panels.



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The north bedroom is identical to the other two; a large rectangular room, plain baseboards, a fireplace in the north wall flanked by windows, one six-over-six light window in the facade, evidence of the staircase in the southeast corner of the room, and a wooden paneled door leading to the rear ell. The ell contains two large bedrooms; each bedroom contains a single-leaf wooden paneled door in the east side leading to the ell porch and one one-over-one light window in the north side. The rear bedroom also contains paired six-over-six light window in the west elevation. The bath projection built circa 1945, is situated directly above the bath on the first floor and is completely modern. A small one-over-one light window is located in the exterior, north wall, matching the window on the first floor. The Farrar house terminates with a modern, but unobtrusive, addition; a carport and a small storage room with a shed roof.

In the backyard of the Farrar Homestead, to the west of the house, are two outbuildings; a smoke house on the north side and the apple house on the south side. These outbuildings are contemporary (circa 1848) with the Farrar Homestead. The smoke house, a frame structure with a front gable roof, was built to accommodate 200 hams. The apple house, also a simple gable front, frame building, was built to hold the harvest from the orchard and was the first stop on the way to the day's chores, according to the present owner and grandson of the builder.

Across the road from the Homeplace is an exceptionally fine, massive barn, circa 1850, with a large bay and second story loft with windows. This multi-stalled barn with a special stall for the buggy contributes to the integrity of the Homeplace.

The Farrar Homeplace is an excellent example of an nineteenth century agricultural complex. The two story frame house with its central portico is a good example of middle Tennessee nineteenth century Greek Revival influenced I-house, with few alterations. A small projection on the north elevation, an addition for two modern bathrooms, ca. 1945, the rear open carport and small shed storage room are the only exterior alterations to the homeplace. In addition, the builder, instructed by owner James Franklin Farrar, added interesting details of personal preference to the structure in its bracketed cornice and the unusual side-lighted window treatment. (Although the sidelights have been converted to blind sidelights, the form is still very apparent.)

The Homeplace retains its historic integrity in its association with the Farrar family since 1848; Isaiah Farrar and his family own and operate the farm his grandfather built. The Homeplace retains its rural appearance and

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setting and continues to contribute to the economic development of the county with its milk barn and large Holstein herd. The materials and workmanship of the house, barn, smoke house, and apple house have endured over time, in excellent condition, due to its owner's care. The house is its original color, yellow. The house is referred to in early records as the pretty yellow house in Flat Creek and is thought to be the first yellow house in the county. The property conveys all the qualities of a successful farm operation tended by a dedicated family.

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limestone steps to the porch during the troop training before being sent to Europe during World War II.

The Farrar House is an excellent example of an antebellum agricultural complex. As is traditional to the folk farming patterns, the two-story frame house is adjacent to and parallel to the road, which was the main road from Shelbyville to Lynchburg. The house is still on the main route from Shelbyville to Lynchburg, but the new road is approximately 300 yards to the east. Directly across the gravel road from the house are two barns. The barn to the northeast is an exceptionally fine example of functional, rural architecture.

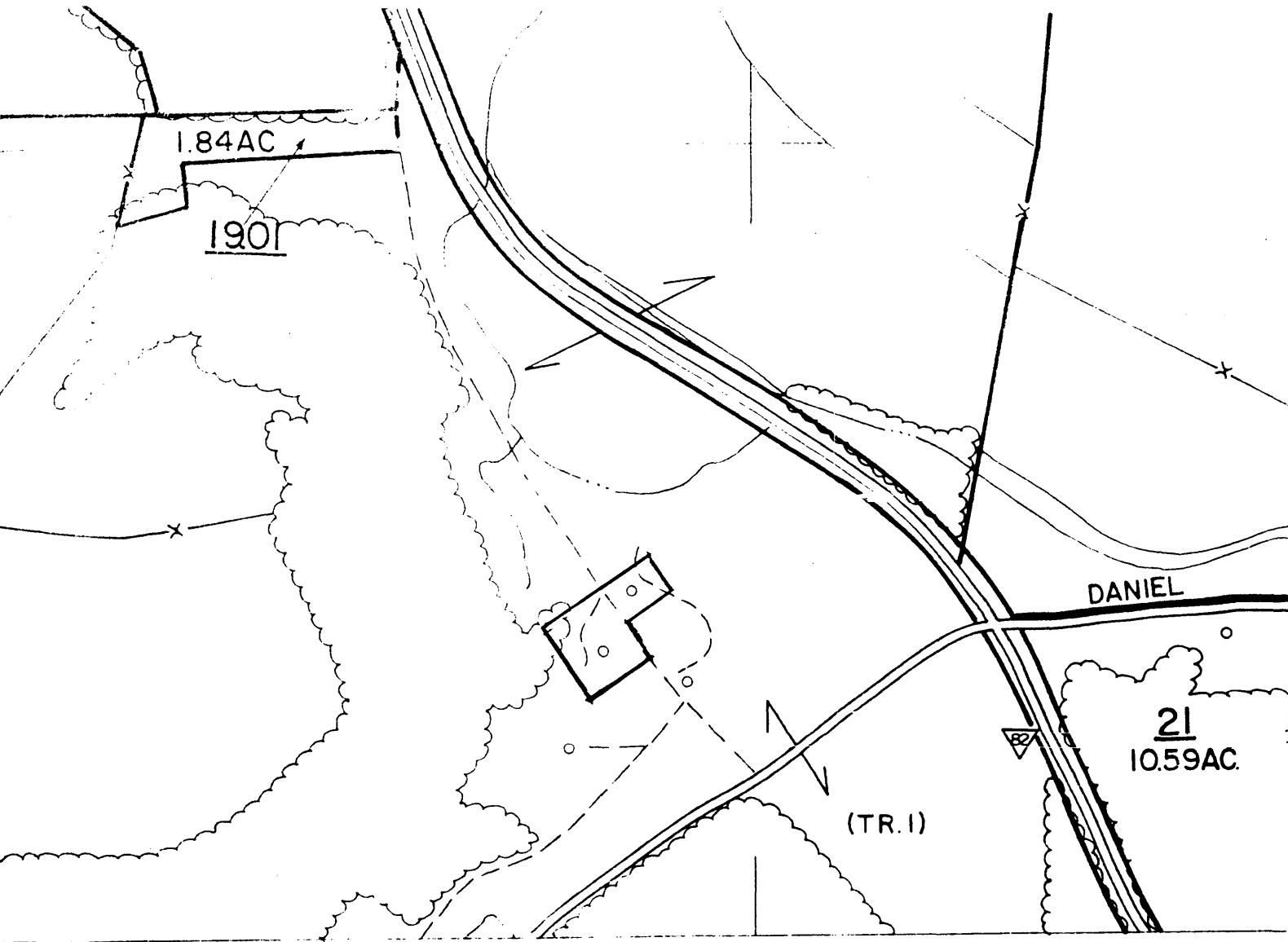
The Homeplace is an excellent, relatively unaltered, example of a locally, simply articulated Greek Revival-influenced I-house. The original architectural elements: side-lighted entrance and second floor balcony, the central portico supported by tall square, wooden columns, the two-story main block with its symmetrical facade, three bays, two rooms wide and one room deep, are intact and contribute to its significance. Other examples of the period in Bedford County include Absalom Lowe Landis House (NR 06/25/87), Valley Home (NR 11/13/1989), and the Frierson-Coble House, (NR 4/12/1982). These three frame houses, Greek Revival inspired, contrast to the Farrar Homeplace in a variety of ways. Of the three, only Absalom Lowe Landis House features a rear ell. The Frierson-Coble House and Valley Home were both built circa 1830-35; the Frierson-Coble House is located in an urban setting and Valley Home has interior chimneys and a low hipped roof.

The Farrar Homeplace represents a style no longer common on the county's landscape, especially one that is remaining in the hands of the original owner's family. The Homeplace retains its original form and function, and is a good example of a Middle Tennessee I-House with Greek Revival Influence. It is one of the few houses of this style that still retains its open back porch with exterior doors.

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Farrar Homeplace  
Shelbyville vicinity, Bedford Co., TN  
Scale 1" = 400'

128	129	130
131	134	133
141	143	144

— REVISIONS —

1	2-78	61-90	11
2	5-82	7	12
3	11-84	8	13
4	7-86	9	14
5		10	15



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FARRAR HOMEPLACE

Shelbyville, Bedford County, Tennessee

Photo by: Lynn Hulan

Date: January 1990

Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

Facing west, east facade  
#1 of 16

Facing south, north elevation  
#2 of 16

Facing north, south elevation  
#3 of 16

Facing south, north elevation  
#4 of 16

Facing east, west elevation  
#5 of 16

Detail of central portico/entry  
#6 of 16

Parlor fireplace, first floor, south side  
#7 of 16

Entry doors, original lock and keys, east facade  
#8 of 16

First floor bedroom, north side, stair  
#9 of 16

First floor bedroom, north side, fireplace  
#10 of 16

Detail, original hardware  
#11 of 16

Detail, original hardware  
#12 of 16

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Detail, door to ell porch, second floor bedroom south side  
#13 of 16

Barn, ca. 1850  
#14 of 16

Smoke House  
#15 of 16

Apple House  
#16 of 16