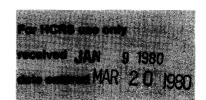
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

<u>1.</u>	Nam	1 e	<u> </u>				
histo	oric	Beers	heba Sprin	gs Histo	ric Distr	ict	
and/d	or common		Sam	e			
2.	Loca	ation	TN	56			
stree	t & number	Multip	le Locatio	ns			not for publication
city,	town Bee	rsheba Spri	ngs	vi	cinity of	congressional district	Fourth
state	Tennes	see	code	047	county	Grundy	code 061
3.	Clas	sificati	ion				
	egory district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acqui in proces being con	ss nsidered	Accessib X yes: re yes: u	cupied in progress le	Present Use agriculture commercial _X educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park _X_ private residence _X_ religious scientific transportation other:
<u>4.</u>	Own	er of P	ropert	y			
name	•	Multiple	Owners (s	ee conti	nuation s	heet)	
stree	t & number						
city, t	town			vi	cinity of	state	
<u>5.</u>	Loca	ation of	ⁱ Lega	Des	criptic	on	
court	thouse, regi	stry of deeds, e	tc. Gru	ndy Coun	ty Courth	ouse, Registrar's O	ffice
street & number Co			Cou	rthouse	Square		
city, 1	town A1	tamont				state	Tennessee 37301
<u>6.</u>	Rep	resenta	ation i	n Exi	sting	Surveys	
title					has this pro	perty been determined ele	gible? ves no
date							county local
-	sitory for e	urvey records					
		arrey records				-1-1	
city, t	town					state	

7. Description

Condition excellent _X good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one _X_ unaltered _x_ altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date	-

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Beersheba Springs Historic District, located in Beersheba Springs, Grundy County, along Tennessee Route 56 on the Cumberland Plateau overlooking the Collins River Valley, consists of some 55 log and frame structures with white columns, balustrades and verandahs. Although there are some permanent residents, the district is primarily a resort area.

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

1. Beersheba Hotel Complex (Armfield Avenue): 1856-58, constructed around tavern (1836), two stories, weatherboard, upper and lower verandahs with balustrades and Greek Doric tiers, dentilled cornice, window shutters, original exterior dinner bell, guest chambers

Cozy Corner Row (hotel addition): Alternate log and westherboard siding, two chimneys, tin roof, paraliel verandahs with tiers and balustrades.

Family Row (hotel addition and adjoining building): Two stories including ball room, dining room, masters chambers, slaves chambers; adjoining building--weatherboard, tin roof, guest chambers, verhandahs

Brick Row: Brick siding, tin roof, guest chambers, parallel verandahs with doric tiers and balustrades

Cross Row: Double log with center passage, tin roof, guest chambers, parellel verandahs with doric tiers and balustrades

Post Office Row: Log, bellcast gable tin roof, guest chambers, parallel verandahs with doric tiers and balustrades

Whiskey Row: Adjoining cabins with asbestos siding, tin roof, tiered porches

Vesper Point: New wooden benches confronting an old stone altar

- 2. Old Northcutt Store (Armfield Avenue): 1856-1860, two stories, weatherboard, and asbestos siding, front verandah and rear upper and lower balconies with doric tiers and balustrades, window shutters
- 3. Harding College (Armfield Avenue): 1856-1858, one and one half stories, brick siding, verandah with corner extension, ornamental balastrade and tiers, wide wooden stairway to verandah
- 4. Armfield Cottage (Armfield Aveneu): 1833-1839, weatherboard, verandah with wooden tiers, bellcast gable roof, twin interior chimneys
- 5. John M. Bass Cottage (Armfield Avenue): 1856-1858, two stories, weatherboard, upper and lower verandahs with corner domed octagonal extensions, wooden tiers, balustrades, and stairway, open bed pediment
- 6. Armfield Cemetery (Armfield Avenue): Stone monuments including monuments above grave of John Armfield surrounded by iron fence

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics	Iandscape architectur Iaw X literature Indicates military Indicates philosophy X politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation X other (specify)
Cresific dates		Puildor/Architect		recreation

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In 1833, Mrs. Beersheba Porter Cain "discovered" a chalybeate spring descending the Cumberland Plateau into the Collins River Valley in Warren County, Tennessee. Six years later, the owners, George R. Smartt and Dr. Alfred Paine, incorporated the Beersheba Springs Company under the laws of Tennessee and a road was constructed across the Plateau. The company built cottages of the "Virginia Style" and invited the people of the South to take advantage of the beautiful scenery and "therapeutic waters".

The County Court of Grundy County organized in 1844 and met in Beersheba Springs for several years. In 1854, John Armfield, financier and former slave trader, purchased the resort. Armfield built the present hotel in 1856-1858, around a tavern which was constructed in 1836. From 1856 to 1860 he built a number of cottages, which he rented to wealthy friends from the Middle and Deep South, including Episcopal Bishops Leonidas Polk and James Otey of Louisiana. Armfield styled his resort with the functional simplicity of the log cabin and the grandeur of full length verandahs and balconies, adorned with white columns and balustrades, representative of the "White Pillar Period" of architecture in the South. The Board of Trustees of the Episcopal University of the South organized at Beersheba Springs in 1858, creating the foundation of the school, under the direction of Bishops Polk and Otey.

Beersheba Springs entertained as many as 400 guests at a time during the height of its popularity, 1856-1860. Guests might dance, bowl, play tennis, sing along, dine on fresh meats, fruits and vegetables, or relax in the spring. However, the practice of gambling and sale of liquor were prohibited. Many guests found refuge in the plateau climate from the fever epidemics of the lowlands. The driver of a stagecoach full of guests announced his approach with a bugle at various points along the road up the mountain.

The Civil War brought about the decline of popularity of the resort. On at least one occasion, July 26, 1863, the resort was looted by bushwhackers. The war was responsible for the death or bankruptcy of the majority of the resort's patrons. After the war, Armfield repossessed the cottages and John Bass bought the hotel. Due to hard times which followed the war, the resort never regained its pre-war popularity. The beautiful scenery inspired many stories by part time resident and full time author Mary Noailles Murfree, pseudonym Charles Egbert Craddock, at the turn of the century. The hotel and cabins have changed hands many times since the Civil War. In 1941, the Tennessee Methodist Conference purchased the hotel and continue to use it as a retreat. The cabins continue to be used extensively, particularly during the summer season. Due to construction, the spring has long since disappeared.

The Beersheba Springs Historic District is one of the most noted surviving representatives of a unique institution—the mountain springs resort of the ante-bellum South.

Beersheba Springs, Tennessee State Lib	rsheba Springs and Chickamauga Trace, Chattanooga
10. Geographical Data	USW NOT ACULIED
Acreage of nominated property220 Quadrangle nameAltamont UMT References	Quadrangle scale 1:24000
A 1 6 6 2 3 0 4 0 3 9 2 5 5 7 0 Northing	B 1 6 2 2 8 0 0 3 9 2 4 6 8 0 Northing
C 116 6 210 71710 319 215 21810 E	D 116 6 21 0 2 0 3 9 2 6 1 4 0 F H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H
on the accompanying map entitled "Grundy	storic District nomination is shown as the red line County, Tennessee-21" and "Grundy County, Tennessee-the inch. The boundary was drawn so as to include ping state or county boundaries
state code	county code
state code	county code
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Britt Casteel, Research A	ssistant
organization Tennessee Historical Commission	
street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive	telephone 615/741-2371
city or town Nashville	state Tennessee 37219
	rvation Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the state national state	te is: local
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the laccording to the criteria and procedures set forth by the I	
State Historic Preservation Officer signature	List L. Stage
title Herbert L. Harper, Executive Director	r date $1/4/80$
For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the Keeper of the National Register	Hetlerini Register dete 3/28/80
August 1/2 / 2 / 7 Of O / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 /	date 3/14/80

9. Major Bibliographical References

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE BEERSHEBA SPRINGS HISTORIC DISTRICT

- 1. Beersheba Springs Hotel
 United Methodist Church
 Tennessee Conference
 1907 Acklen Avenue
 Nashville, Tennessee 38112
- 2. William F. Earthman 527 Belle Meade Blvd. Nashville, Tennessee 38105
- 3. Ewing Drumwright 1608 N. Gallatin Road Madison, Tennessee 37115
- 4. Mrs. Albert Phillips 222 Deer Park Drive Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Mrs. W. M. Watkins Jr. 113 Herron Drive Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

Mrs. Charles Cox, Jr. 4436 Alcott Drive Nashville, Tennessee 37215

Mrs. Robert Wasik 46 Myers Ave. Denville, N.J. 07834

Mrs. Harry Williams 3616 Meadowbrook Ave. Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Mrs. Frank Reynolds, Jr. 1801 S. Live Oak Parkway Wilmington, N.C. 28403

Miss Barbara Lauderdale
2321 Golf Club Lane
Nashville, Tennessee 37215

4. Cont.

Mrs. Allen Brown 4505 Wayland Drive Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Mr. Bryant Leak Glasgow 3615 Woodlawn Drive Nashville, Tennessee 37215

Mr. Sam Glasgow 3615 Woodlawn Drive Nashville, Tennessee 37215

Mrs. W. A. Lauderdale 2321 Golf Club Lane Nashville, Tennessee 37215

- 5. Mrs. John E. Fassnacht 209 Rainbow Drive Lookout Mtn., Tennessee 37350 and Rev. Robert W. Turner III 861 W. Tarpon Blvd. Port Charlotte, Florida 33952
- 6. Armfield Cemetery
- 7. Mrs. A. T. Sikes Royal Oaks Apartments Nashville, Tennessee 37205
- 8. Leonard Tate Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305
- 9. Robert C. Taylor 2140 Chickering Lane Nashville, Tennessee 38115
- 10. United Methodist Church
 (See # 1)

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11. Morton B. Howell
401 Court Square Bldg.
Nashville, Tennessee 37201

Samuel H. Howell 1710 Hayes Street Nashville, Tennessee 37203

William W. Howell 1541 Williams Street Denver, Colorado 80218

Alfred H. Bartles 7 Stuttgart 50 Obere Waiblinger Str 158 West Germany

Clopper Almon International Inst. of Applied Systems Analysis A-2361 Laxenburg Austria (till 8-79)

permanent:

7303 Dartmouth Avenue College Park, Maryland 20248

- 12. Robert R. Daniel Route 3 McMinnville, Tennessee 37110
- 13. Ralph Baugh
 137 51 St. N.
 Nashville, Tennessee 37209
 and
 Dr. Gretta Geldreich
 2714 Tucker Road
 Nashville, Tennessee 37218
- 14. G. W. McGee Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305 and Mrs. Lyndon Hillis Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305

15. Mrs. Adam G. (Faith Yow) Adams 333 University # 231 Coral Gables, Florida 33134

> Mrs. Morton B. (Mary Avent) Adams 1515 San Remo, Apartment # 9 Coral Gables, Florida 33147

Mrs. Marion S. (Monnie Blackshire)Adams 301 West Street, Flo Clair Mobile, Alabama 36604

Mrs. Howell E. (Crenshaw Waller)Adams 60 Plaza Square, Apartment # 1003 St. Louis, Missouri 53103

Mrs. David P. (Mildred Goodpasture)Adams 115 Woodmont Boulevard Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Chancellor Alfred T. Adams 3701 Brighton Road Nashville, Tennessee 37205

George Elliott Adams 3256 Riverside AVenue Jacksonville, Florida 32202

- 16. Kitty Adams Chenoweth 101 Hun Road Princeton, New Jersey 08540
- 17. Mr. S. M. Thomas 1841 N. Geyer Road St. Louis, MO 63131

Mrs. E. B. Franklin 2203 Valleybrook Road Nashville, Tennessee 37215

Robert Orr, Trust c/o Robert Orr Franklin 2203 Valleybrook Rd. Nashville, Tennessee 37215

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Tennessee 37305

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET		ITEM NUMBER	4 PAGE 4
17.	Mrs. T. S. Weaver 3424 Hampton Avenue Nashville, Tennessee 37215	27.	Nelson Andrews 4421 Warner Place Nashville, Tennessee 37205
18.	Mrs. Flossie Argo Tate Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 373	28. 305	Mrs. Barney Hobbs 1224 S. Seminole Drive Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412
19.	Thompson P. Crowe Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 373	305	and Bennie M. Tate 273 N. Peachtree St.
20.	Mrs. Ruth Miller 2101 Prytania St.		Norcross, Georgia 30071
	New Orleans, LA 70130	29.	Elsie S. Tate Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305
21.	Mrs. Frank Davenport 103 Ross Avenue McMinnville, Tennessee 37110	30.	Douglas Brown 307 Lind Street McMinnville, Tennessee 37110
22.	Carl Willis Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 373	31.	Rev. Willie B. Nunley Grace Chapel Methodist Church
23.	Ted Summitt Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 373	305	Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305
24.	Miles Thomas Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 373	32. 305	Eugene H. Bohr Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305
25.	Roger W. Noone 607 East Brow Road	33.	Parsonage United Methodist Church See # 1
26.	Lookout Mountain, Tennessee 3735 Beersheba Springs Library Board Members Bobby Thompson	34.	T. W. Mayhew Route 12, Box 216 Clarksville, Tennessee 37040
	Francis Holt Elsie Rogers	35 thro	
	Homer Knight William Stewart		Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305
	Mike Walker Bud Whitman Johnny Gross	38 a 39.	nd Lyndon Hillis Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305
	Bobby Thompson Francis Holt Elsie Rogers Stanton Bess Homer Knight William Stewart Mike Walker Bud Whitman	thro: 37. 38 a:	ugh G. W. McGee Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37309 nd Lyndon Hillis

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- 41. United Methodist Church See # 1
- 42. K. T. McConnico, Jr. Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305
- 43. Dr. Herschel Gower 1006 Estes Avenue Nashville, Tennessee 37215
- 44. Mrs. Floyd Coppinger
 Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305
- 45. Victoria Morrison
 Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305
- 46. Fay Hill Beersheba Springs, Tennessee 37305
- 47. See # 44 above
- 48. Charles Trabue, Jr. 654 Timberlane Nashville, Tennessee 37215
- 49. See # 45 above
- 50. Bob Myers
 Westview Avenue
 Nashville, Tennessee 37205
- 51. Dr. Ben Caldwell 4321 Chickering Lane Nashville, Tennessee 38115

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- 7. Indian Rock Cottage (Armfield Avenue): 1912, two stories, facade-log and shingled, other elevations--weatherboard and shingle, open bed pediment.
- 8. Leonard Tate Cottage (Armfield Avenue): 1927, weatherboard, corner porch.
- 9. Dr. John Waters Cottage (Dahlgren Avenue): 1856-1858, log bungalow, rear verandah with wooden columns and balustrades, partially burned and reconstructed in 1949.
- 10. Alex Nelson Cottage (Dahlgren Avenue): 1887-1895, weatherboard, verandah with wooden tiers, twin interior chimneys.
- 11. Nanhaven (Dahlgren Avenue): 1856-1858, weatherboard, perimetric verandah with wooden tiers, bracketed cornice, twin exterior chimneys, rock pier foundations.
- 12. Hege Cottage (Dahlgren Avenue): 1883, weatherboard, covered porch, rock pier foundation.
- 13. Middle Hege Cottage (Dahlgren Avenue): 1883, log front, other elevations are weatherboard, weatherboard door trim, verandah with ornamental tiers.
- 14. Cockrill Cottage (Dahlgren Avenue): 1856-1858, weatherboard, tiered verandah, tin roof.
- 15. White House (Dahlgren Avenue): 1856-58, weatherboard, tiered verandah, tin roof.
- 16. T'other House (Dahlgren Avenue): 1856-58, log front, other elevations are weatherboard, weatherboard door trim, parallel verandahs with open-box frieze.
- 17. Bishop Polk Cottage (Tennessee 56): 1856-58, log front, other elevations are weatherboard, tiered verandah, twin exterior stone chimneys.
- 18. Bishop Otey Cottage (Tennessee 56): 1856-58, log front, other elevations are weatherboard, weatherboard door trim, verandah with diagonal screened extension.
- 19. Hemlock Hall (Grassy Ridge Road): 1856-58, weatherboard, tin roof with ginger-bread wooden gables, verandah with ornamental iron columns.
- 20. Dr. Paul Eve Cottage (Grassy Ridge Road): 1856-58, log front, other elevations are weatherboard, front door weatherboard trim, tiered verandah, opposite exterior chimneys.

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- 21. Nathan Cottage (Grassy Ridge Road): 1856-71, weatherboard, tiered porch, window shutters, opposite exterior chimneys.
- 22. Hunerwald Cottage (Tennessee 56): 1911, 1½ stories, weatherboard, enclosed front patio, rear entrance foyer, twin open bed pediments with returns.
- 23. Lovers Leap Cottage (Grassy Ridge Road): 1909, log front, other elevations are weatherboard, perimetric verandah, open bed pediment, front door weatherboard trim.
- 24. Ferriss Cottage (Grassy Ridge Road): 1856-58, weatherboard, center gable roof, main entrance with surrounding lights, corner porch.
- 25. Roger W. Noone House (Tennessee 56): 1896, weatherboard, bell cast (tin) gable roof, verandah with bowling pin balusters, stone foundation.
- 26. Beersheba Springs Library (Tennessee 56): 1923, log, verandah with unfinished log columns, rock pier foundation, hipped roof.
- 27. Nelson Andrews Cottage(Armfield Avenue): c1925, weatherboard, 2 stories, upper and lower screened verandahs, brick chimney, side porch supported by brick piers.
- 28. Bunk House (Tennessee 56): 1890, moved 1930, log, verandah with ornamental iron tiers, weatherboard entrance trim.
- 29. Elsie Tate Cottage (Tennessee 56): c1900, weatherboard, verandah with wooden tiers, exposed rafter ends, main entrance with transom and side lights.
- 30. Douglas Brown Cottage (Tennessee 56): c1900, log, bellcast gable roof, verandah with wooden tiers, main entrance weatherboard trim.
- 31. Grace Chapel Methodist Church (Tennessee 56): 1897, weatherboard, gable roof, pedimented portico, shingle trim, radiating symbols at pedimental corners, side addition.
- 32. Dan (Tennessee 56): 1891, 1½ stories, weatherboard, verandah with wooden tiers and balustrade, bay window, two pedimented dormers, stone foundation, two stone chimneys, built by a leader of the nearby Swiss community of Gruetli, Colonel H. Plumacher.

OTHER BUILDINGS

33. Methodist Parsonage (Hege Avenue): weatherboard, shingled roof, carport.

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- 34. T. W. Mayhew House (Hege Avenue): weatherboard, tin roof, porch.
- 35. G. W. McGee House (Tennessee 56): weatherboard, shingled roof, porch.
- 36. General Store (Tennessee 56): weatherboard, wrought iron columns, porch.
- 37. Beersheba LaundryMat (Tennessee 56): concrete block walls, shingled roof.
- 38. Lyndon Hillis Log House (Hege Avenue): log, tin roof, rear weatherboard addition.
- 39. Lyndon Hillis House (Hege Avenue): weatherboard, shingled roof, twin column placements.
- 40. Methodist Garage (Hege Avenue): c1930s, weatherboard, 2 stories, shingled roof.
- 41. United Methodist Church (Armfield Avenue): weatherboard, columned portico, square turrett.
- 42. K. T. McKonnico House (Grassy Ridge Road): weatherboard, shingle roof.
- 43. Herschel Gower House (Grassy Ridge Road): weatherboard, shingle roof, garage.
- 44. Ole Brown Museum (Tennessee 56): weatherboard, tin roof, stone foundation.
- 45. Phillips 66 Service Station, United States Post Office (Tennessee 56): coursed, stone surfaced walls, verandah, single panel windows.
- 46. Fay Hill House Trailer (Armfield Avenue)
- 47. Mrs. Floyd Coppinger House (Tennessee 56): weatherboard, shingle roof.
- 48. Charles Trabue Jr. House (Armfield Avenue): weatherboard, shingle roof.
- 49. Victoria Morrison House Trailer (Armfield Avenue).
- 50. Robert Meyer House (Armfield Avenue): reconstructed log house.
- 51. Dr. Ben Caldwell House (Armfield Avenue): reconstructed log house.

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Howell, Isabel, <u>John Armfield of Beersheba Springs</u>, Nashville: 1940, Tennessee State Library and Archives

<u>Grundy County</u>, Federal Writer's Project, 1940, Tennessee State Library and Archives

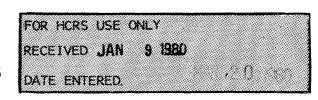
French, L. Virginia (Smith), <u>Diary 1825-1881</u>, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Smith, G. Frazier, White Pillars: Architecture of the South, New York; Bramhall House, 1941

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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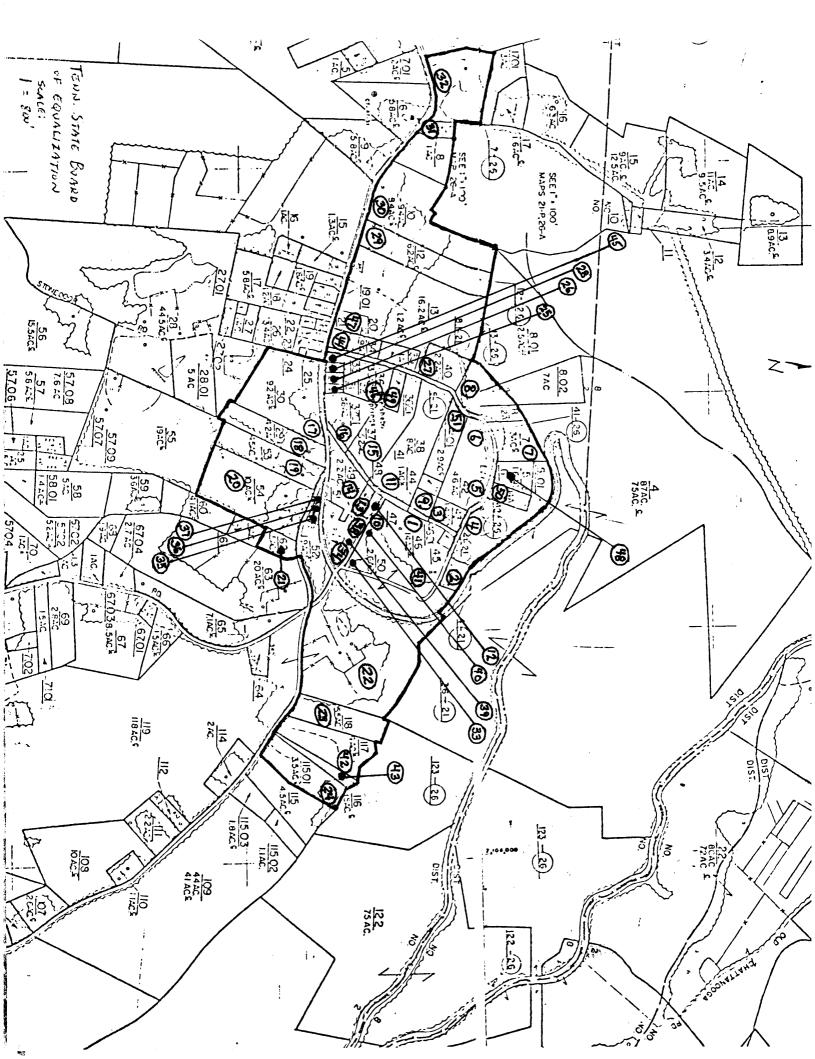
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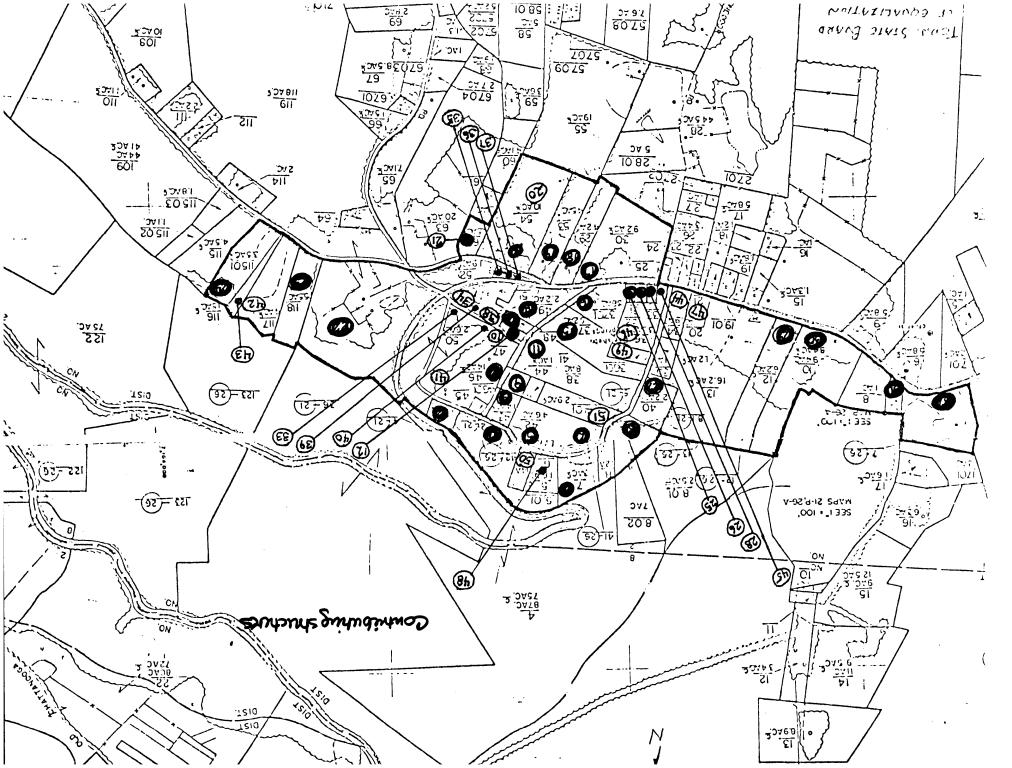
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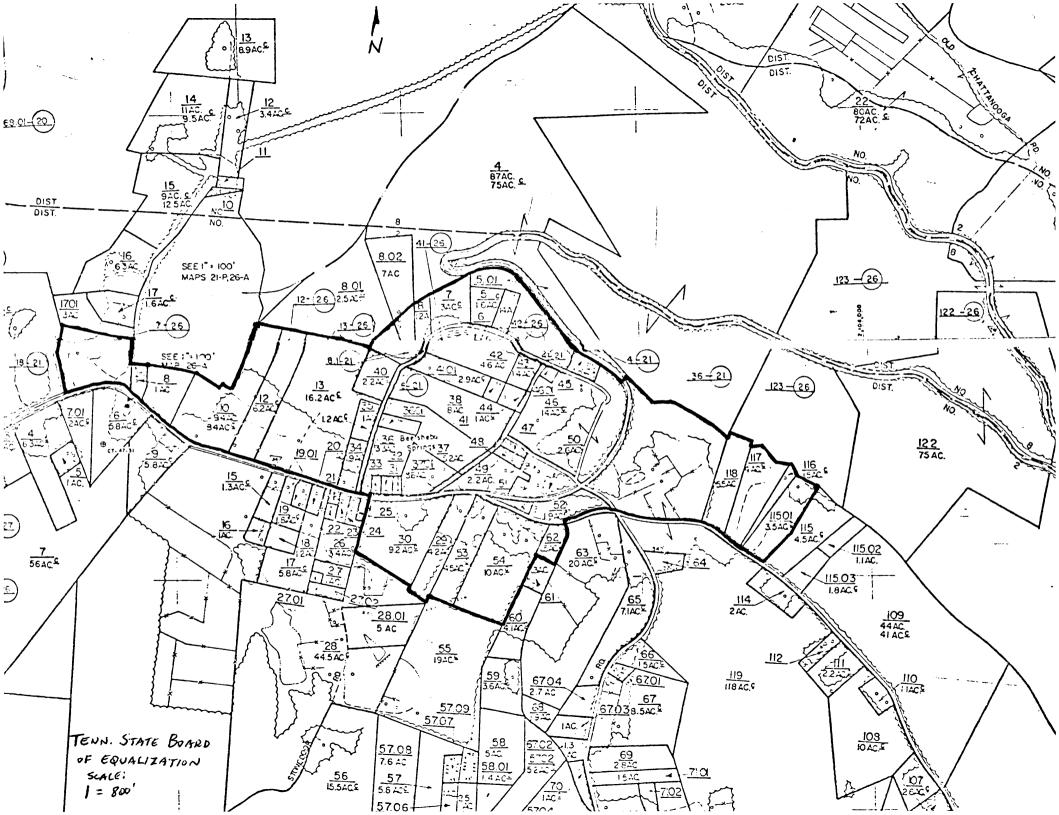
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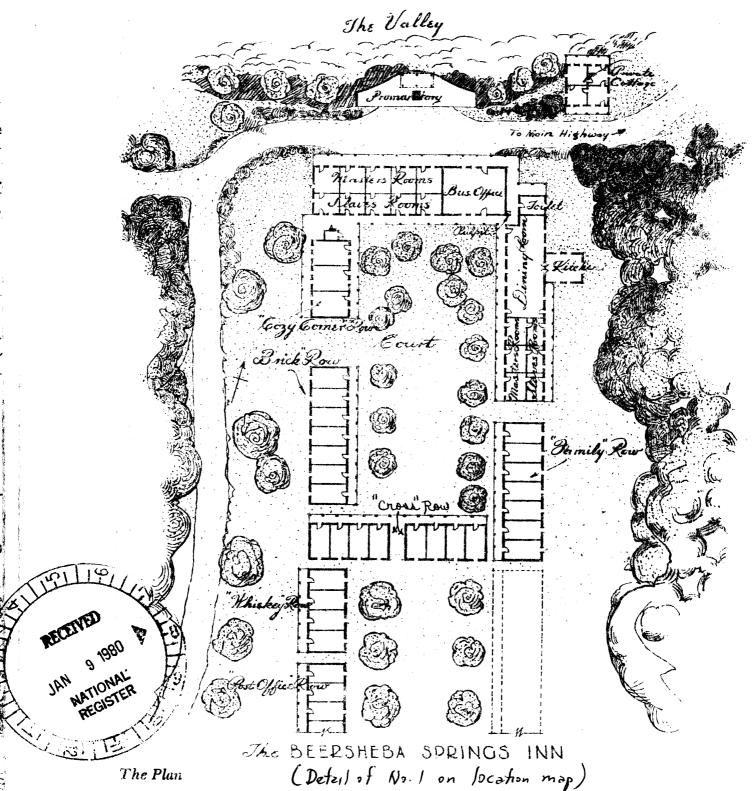
2

all buildings which contributed to the historical significance of the Beersheba Springs Historic District prior to 1930.









An open plan—a quadrangle of row houses, one room deep, with porches opening onto a common court, all covered with shade from enormous forest trees. Here one could relax in a combination of maximum privacy and comfort, scarcely noticing the difference between in and out of doors.

From the publication book "White Pillars" - There is an interesting attical and other drawings.