

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

RECEIVED

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

MAR 03 1988

Historic Name: Steele, William, House (WM-332)

Common Name: Steele, William, House

NATIONAL REGISTER

Classification: Building

Owner: W.H. Bond, Route # 2, Thompson Station, TN 37179

Location: On the Bethesda-Arno Road one half mile east of Bethesda.

Contributing:

Buildings 3
Structures 3
Sites 0

Non-Contributing:

Buildings 0
Structures 0
Sites 0

Total: 6

Total: 0

Description:

The William Steele House is a two-story frame, central passage plan residence with Greek Revival detailing constructed ca. 1855. On the main (east) facade is a two-story portico with square Doric motif columns. On the second story is a lattice railing. In the portico gable field are dentils and brackets. The main entrance has the original double doors of four-panel design with flanking single-light sidelights and frame lower panels. The windows are original six-over-six sash. The house has weatherboard siding, a stone foundation, gable metal standing seam roof and exterior brick chimneys. The door on the north facade is of original vertical board design and has a single-light transom. The rear ell has an interior brick chimney. The exterior brick chimneys have been repointed. The house has a ca.1900 shed roof addition on the west facade. The interior retains the original staircase and mantels, however, interior access was denied.

In addition to the main house there are a number of excellent historic outbuildings which are also contributing. These include: a ca.1920 frame garage with metal roof; a ca.1890 frame shed; a ca.1850 log slaves quarters with half dovetail notching and wood slat chinking; a ca.1890 frame smokehouse; and a ca.1920 frame shed roof shed. The house sits on a hill in the rural area east of Bethesda. The house retains its original site and setting and has not been altered.

Period of Significance: ca.1850; ca.1855; ca.1890; ca.1920

Area of Significance: Architecture

Criterion: C

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The William Steele House is a notable example of a central passage plan frame ante-bellum residence with Greek Revival detailing. The house is a good example of this style residence and has not been significantly altered. The property also contains an excellent collection of late 19th and early 20th century outbuildings.

William Alexander Steele was born in 1827 and was the son of William Steele who had settled in the Bethesda area in the early 1800s. Steele married his cousin Mary Elizabeth Steele in 1850 and constructed the main section of this house ca. 1855. In 1860, Steele was listed as owning \$10,000 worth of real estate and \$15,000 worth of personal property. During the Civil War Steele served in the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry and was nearly caught by Union soldiers while visiting his home. After the war Steele constructed the rear two-story ell.

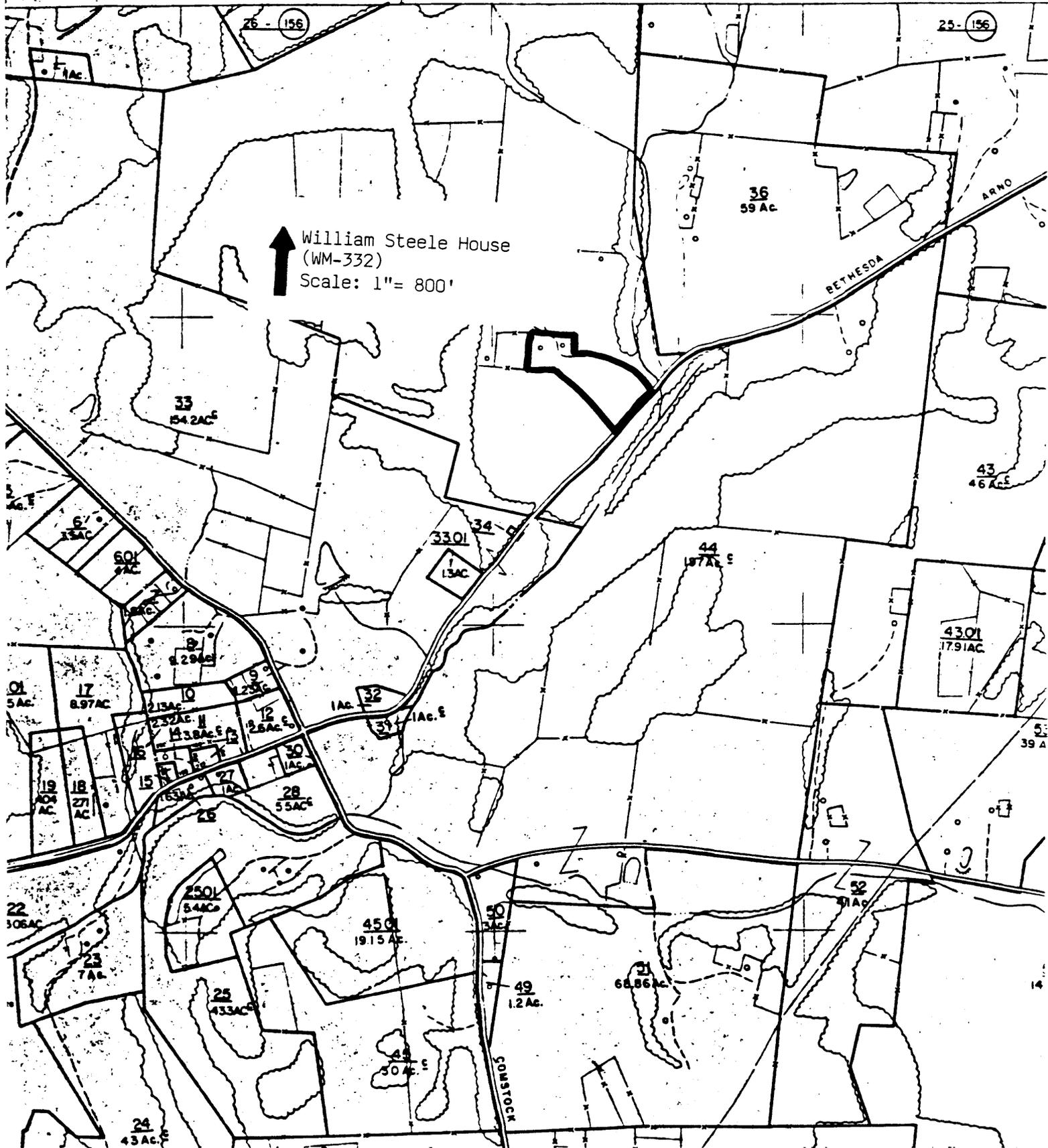
Upon Steele's death in 1874 the house remained in the possession of his widow who lived until 1911. Descendants of the Steele family continue to own and occupy the residence. The Steele House is one of the most prominent ante-bellum residences in the Bethesda area and retains its original design, setting and outbuildings. The outbuildings are good examples of their type and are contributive to the historical setting of the house.

Acreage: 5.5 acres

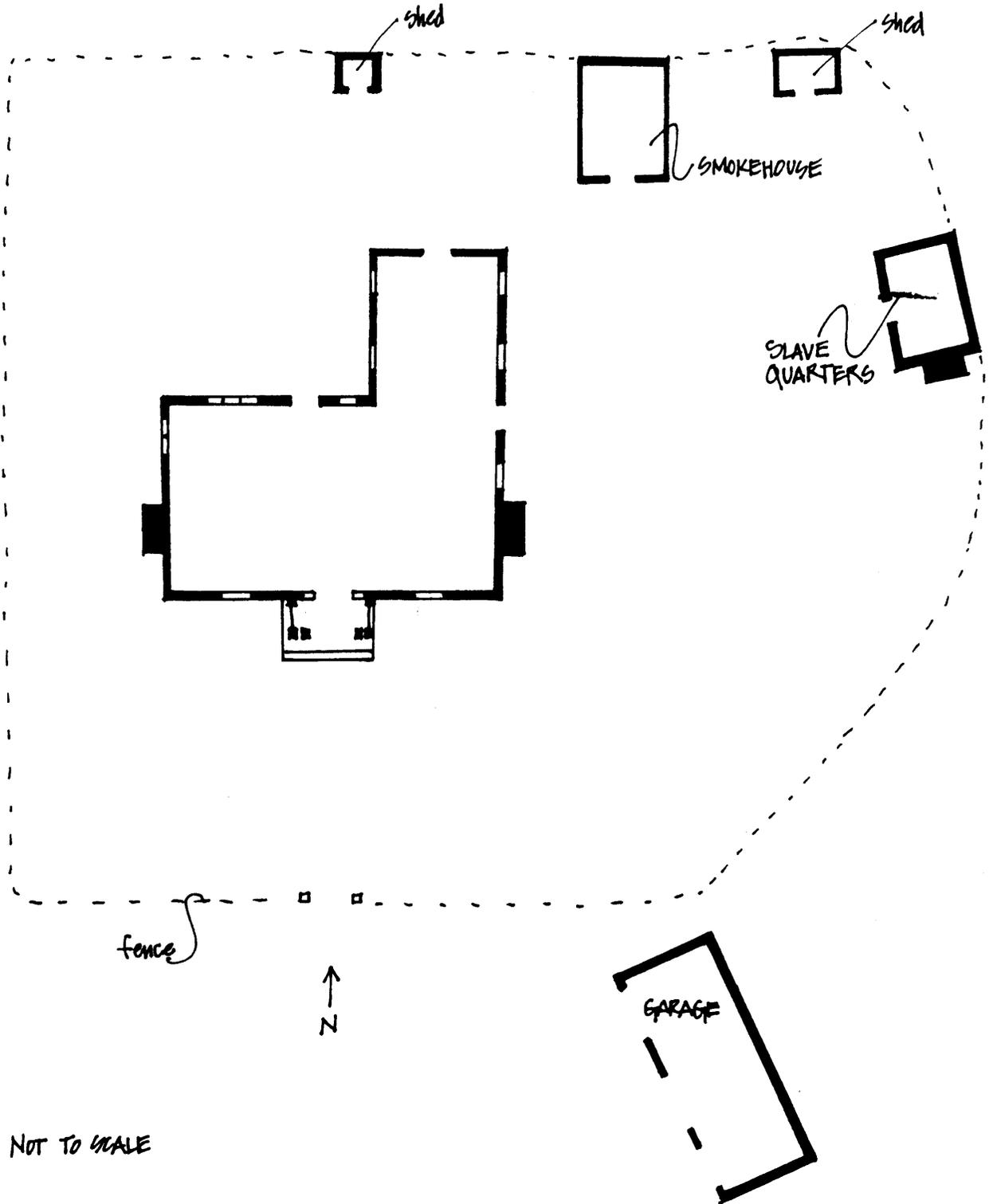
UTM References: Bethesda Quad/16/519200/3958030

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary for the William Steele House is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 164, lot 35. The boundary includes the house, approaches to the house and outbuildings. The boundary is defined on the north by a fence and farm lane, on the west and south by fence lines and on the east by the Bethesda-Arno Road. The boundary includes sufficient property to protect the historical integrity of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: Historic Williamson County, Bowman.



#332 WILLIAM STEELE HOUSE



NOT TO SCALE