

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received **MAR 5 1984**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Webster, George House

and/or common Babcock House

**2. Location**

street & number Sawdust Road. (~~Cross Bridges Road~~) N/A not for publication

city, town WilliamSPORT  
Cross Bridges vic, X vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Maury code 119

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. J. H. Babcock

street & number Route 1, Cross Bridges

city, town Columbia N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38401

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maury County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maury County Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date August 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Central Tennessee Development District

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located one and one-half miles north of the western Maury County town of Cross Bridges, the George Webster house, built in 1844, is a fine brick home exhibiting characteristics primarily of the late Federal style of architecture. The L-shaped two-story house is five bays wide with a central two-story pedimented portico and rests upon an ashlar cut limestone foundation with a full cellar below. A two-story brick ell addition extends from the southwest corner, and a two-story brick detached kitchen and ballroom building is connected to the house by a frame gallery. Both structures have gabled roofs.

The main front of the house faces east. It is five bays wide; the brick wall is laid in stretcher bond. The central entry is the most ornate feature of the house. A six-paneled door with raised panels is set between engaged Tuscan columns, and framed by six-light sidelights set over dado panels. An eleven-light transom and molded cornice top the door, and the entire doorway is enclosed by a battered surround featuring ball-and-target cornerblocks and wooden beam connecting members. The nine windows in this front all have 9/9 lights, wooden beam lintels, and ball-and-target cornerblocks. A simple cornice with a molded architrave runs the full length of the front. Original iron gutter boxes at each end are decorated with the initials "G.P.W." (for the builder, George Pope Webster) and the date of construction, 1844.

A monumental pedimented portico extends from the center of the building. It is supported by four plain antae columns set on molded bases. The pediment features a raking cornice and a plain weatherboarded tympanum. The porch had a balcony on the second-floor level at one time, but this has been removed. Although early photographs of the house indicate that this portico was present before 1900, a close investigation reveals that it is not an original feature of the house. Without the portico, the George Webster house is a more restrained house typical of the Federal period.

The two ends of the main block have corbeled center brick chimneys and stepped gable parapets, a feature found on some Federal period houses in Tennessee but uncommon in Maury County. On the south end are two 9/9 sash windows with the same ball-and-target trim found on the other windows; on the north end there is only a small attic lookout vent. The rear of the house has the same symmetry as the front, except that there is only one 9/9 window on the upper floor (the ghost of an original center window can still be discerned). A six-paneled door opens into the center hall, and is directly opposite the main front door.

A two-story brick ell addition extends from the southwest corner of the house's rear. On its north side two paneled doors open onto a frame gallery; upstairs is a 9/9 sash window. On the west end is a center corbeled chimney and one 9/9 window. Attached to this end is an early brick one-story addition, with two 6/8 windows and a paneled door. Stone steps beneath this addition provide access to the cellars below the house. The east side of the ell has two 9/9 windows on the upper floor; two doors originally opened onto a stoop porch; today a glassed-in conservatory occupies the site of the porch. The one-story conservatory has a half-hipped roof and an Eastlake frieze matching the trim of the galleries. The ball-and-target trim of all doors and windows matches the decoration of the rest of the house.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Webster, George House

Item number 7

Page 2

Some forty feet behind the main house is a two-story Federal period structure containing a large kitchen downstairs and an upstairs ballroom. The massive brick walls are two feet thick and rest on a limestone foundation. The structure has a box cornice with a molded architrave. On the east end facing the house is a wide brick chimney and a five-paneled door with molded panels. The south end is three-bays deep; a paneled door with a stone stoop stands to the left of two 9/9 sash windows. The north end has one five-paneled door and four 9/9 windows, while the west end is rather plain, with one 9/9 window.

A one-story frame gallery runs across the back of the main house, and along the north side of the ell addition, extending west to connect with the kitchen/ballroom wing. This is apparently a Victorian addition, with turned posts, balusters and an ornate Eastlake frieze.

On the interior of the main house, both floors contain a central hall flanked by single rooms. In the two-story ell, each floor has a stair hall and one room. Interior features include five-panel doors with original hardware and box locks, ash floors, original mantels, door surrounds with fluted connecting members and ball-and-target cornerblocks, and chair rails. The main front staircase is made of cherry; the round handrail is joined with pegs and supported by round spindles.

Several original outbuildings are still on the site, the most significant of which is the large log smokehouse to the northwest. This tall structure has a low door on the south end and is constructed of cedar logs, held together by half-dovetail notching. A small frame house-servant's quarters are to the west of this, and at another corner is an early stone springhouse.

A replacement brick walk set between original stone curbs extends from the front door to the drive. Original herringbone brick walks are still visible at the sides of the house. The grounds are informally landscaped with both young and mature trees and shrubs. Boxwood bushes border the front brick walk.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

**Specific dates** 1844 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George Webster House, north of Cross Bridges in the western part of Maury County, is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its significance in architecture and for its associations with George Pope Webster, an early leading agriculturalist and merchant in the Cross Bridges area. The nine-room two-story house is one of Maury County's best central-passage plan houses; its restrained decoration is characteristic of the Federal period.

George Pope Webster was the son of Jonathan Webster of Georgia, who sold his holdings at St. Mary's on the Atlantic Coast and moved north with his second wife, Sara Jossey, and three children by his first wife. In 1807 he purchased 2,500 acres of excellent land in the Bigby River valley west of the newly-organized Maury County seat, Columbia. His brick home at Cross Bridges was the first brick structure built west of Bigby River. Jonathan Webster farmed his Maury County lands and other farms in "The Barrens," a wilderness area which is now Lewis County. He also constructed a log dam across Bigby River and established a grist mill. For years, the Cross Bridges settlement was known as "Webster's Mill."

George Pope Webster was born at his father's Cross Bridges' home on October 26, 1809. He assisted his father with the grist mill and later the erection of a flour mill, and eventually took over the entire milling operation. Upon his marriage to Harriet Walker Blair, his father gave him a large tract of land north of the mill community. In 1844 he erected his large two-story L-shaped brick home, considered the finest in the western part of the county. He raised livestock and a variety of crops; cotton was shipped from the property down Bigby River and on to New Orleans. With partners Locke and Fleming, he operated a general store at Cross Bridges (the name of the village had been changed by James Webster, George's older brother).

During the Civil War, George Webster's oldest son, Henry Jossey Webster, the first captain of Maury's famous "Company H" of the First Tennessee Infantry, died on February 3, 1865 in a federal prison camp at Lafayette, Alabama. George Webster had his body returned to the family cemetery at Cross Bridges for burial. He also traveled to the Chickamauga battlefield after the war to retrieve the remains of his nephew. George Webster remained in charge of the Webster mills until his death on August 20, 1875. He is buried at Cross Bridges.

His son, Andrew Blair Webster, recorded this information in response to a state questionnaire of Confederate veterans:

"My father, George Pope Webster, had 800 acres, a water mill, 75 slaves, large 9-room, 2-story house; servants were 2 cooks, 2 laundry women, 2 maids, carriage drivers, and several small boys. He married Harriet Blair, daughter of Andrew Blair and considered an heiress in her day."

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Sowell, Mary Webster. Early Cross Bridges and the Websters. Columbia: 1964.

Sumner, Elizabeth Harris. Through the Centuries with the Websters. Columbia: 1973.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 13.82 acres

Quadrangle name Williamsport, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	4	8	1	3	1	0	3	9	4	3	2	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

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

C 

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

D 

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

E 

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

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Quin, Regional Historic Preservation Planner

organization South Central TN Development District date October 1983

street & number P. O. Box 1346 telephone (615) 381-2040

city or town Columbia state Tennessee

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Huger

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 3/1/84

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
Entered in the  
National Register

date 4/5/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Webster, George House

Item number 8

Page 2

Upon Webster's death the house passed to his daughter, Mary Camp Webster, who married Hinton S. Frierson of the Zion community and made her father's house their home. Upon their deaths the house passed to their adopted daughter, Adelaine Queener. In 1980 Mrs. Jane H. Babcock purchased the house from a local college professor John Dillingham. The house has never been abandoned and is remarkably well maintained.

Architecturally, the house is interesting for its detached kitchen wing with large upstairs ballroom; the stepped parapets at the gable ends, original interior mantels and other millwork, and the Eastlake rear verandahs. The property includes several of the original outbuildings: a log smokehouse, cook's quarters, and an early stone springhouse.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Webster, George House

Item number 10

Page 2

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is bounded on the east by Sawdust Road and on the south, west, and north by adjoining property lines. The 13.82 acres is the remaining original land currently conveyed with the house. The acreage protects the historical and architectural integrity of the nominated buildings, which are located in the approximate center of the property.

5  
177 AC<sup>c</sup>

5.01  
613 AC<sup>c</sup>

20 — (79)

24

(79)

6  
53.5 AC<sup>c</sup>

4.02  
10.01 AC

ROAD

4.01  
13.82 AC

6.01  
23.58 AC

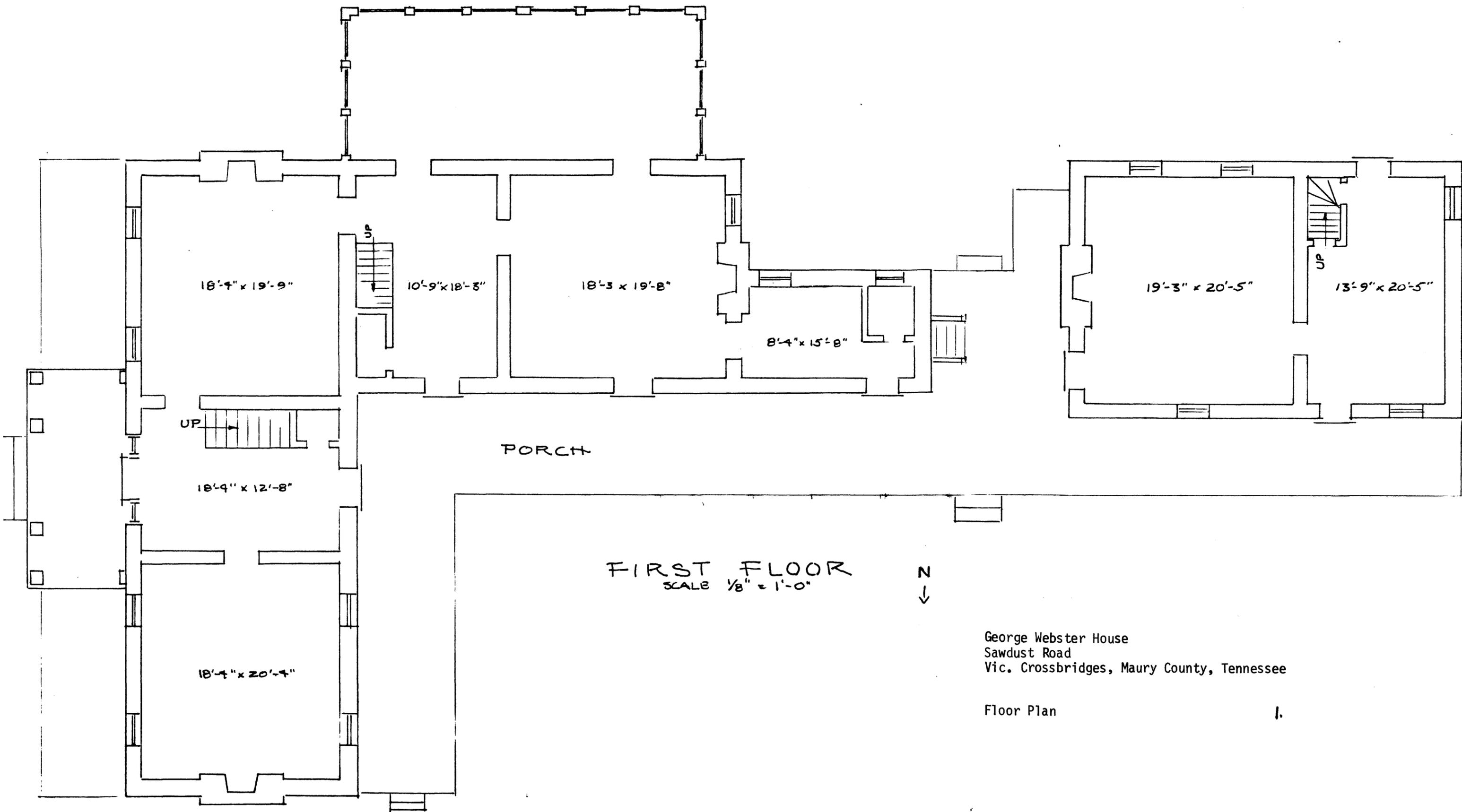
4  
25.87 AC

George Webster House  
Sawdust Road  
Vic. Crossbridges, Maury County, Tennessee

Tax Map

1" = 400'

↑  
N



FIRST FLOOR  
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



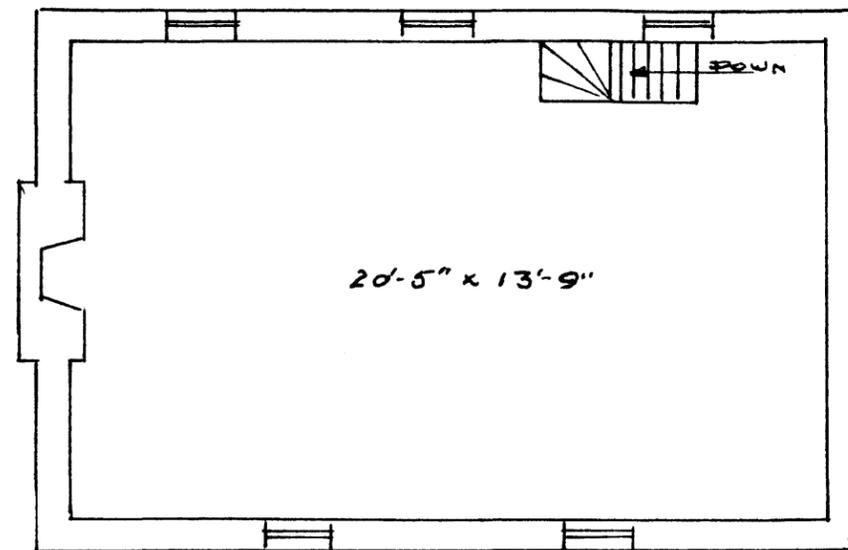
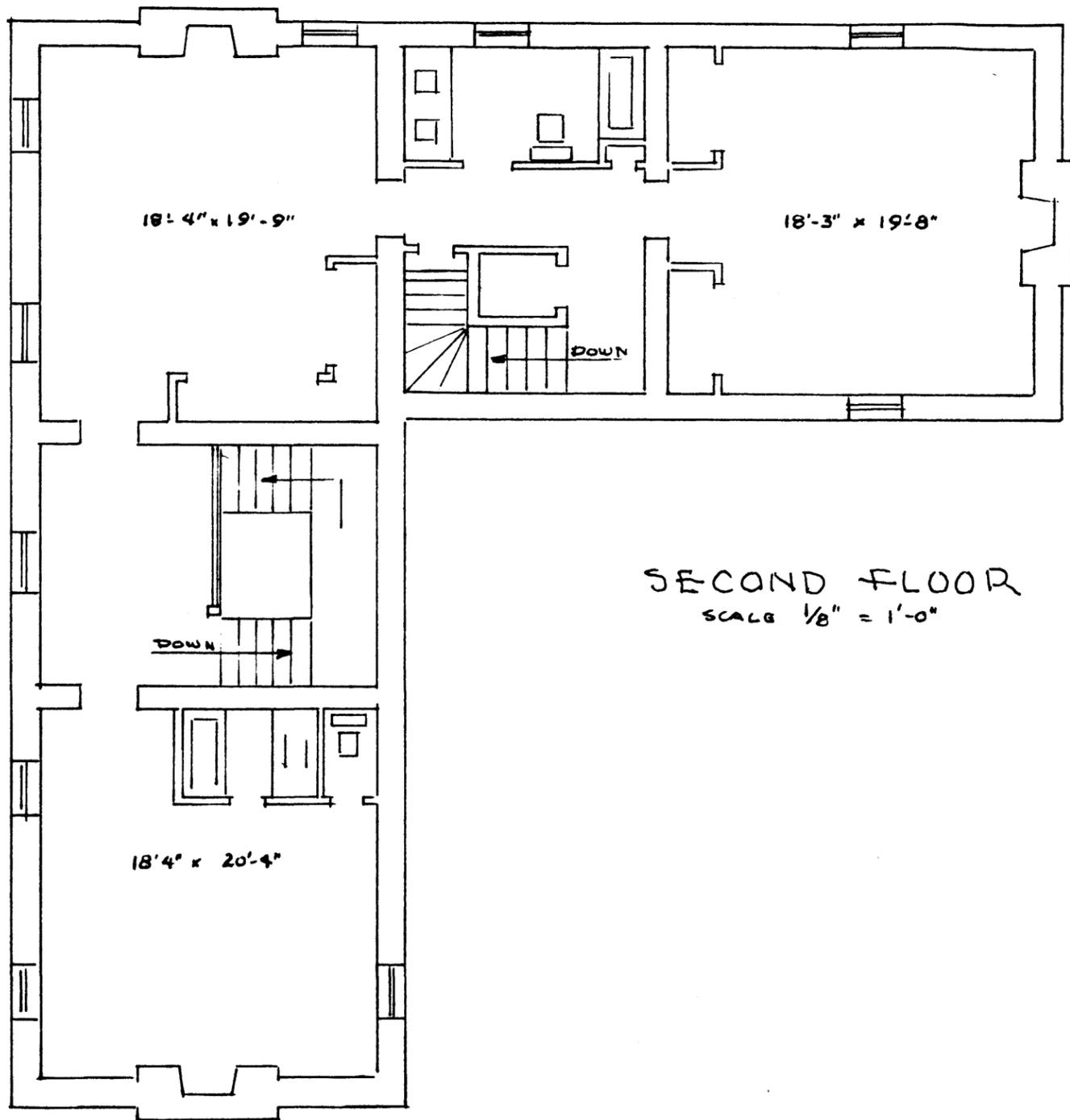
George Webster House  
 Sawdust Road  
 Vic. Crossbridges, Maury County, Tennessee

Floor Plan

1.

LIBERTY HALL

JANE H. SAIBCOCK  
 1983



George Webster House  
Sawdust Road  
Vic. Crossbridges, Maury County, Tennessee

Floor Plan

2.

LIBERTY HALL

JANE H. BAISCOCK  
1985