



## 7. Description

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

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

The Abner T. Shaw House is a two-story Greek Revival period concrete house located on Brick Church Pike in northern rural Davidson County. Surrounded by rolling hills, woods, fields, and houses of various ages, it sits close to and in a sharp curve of the road nine miles due north of Nashville's central business district. The house, recently rehabilitated, and its outbuildings, a ca. 1850s log smokehouse, ca. 1850s stone springhouse, and ca. 1915 stone barn, remain in good condition with very little alteration.

The Shaw House, facing east-northeast, is constructed of poured-in-place concrete, which consists of a lime mortar poured over an aggregate of fieldstone and rubble. A symmetrical five-bay facade, central two-tiered portico, metal gable roof, and flush gable end stone chimneys mark the house as a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style.

Windows of the house are rectangular and have louvered shutters, 6/6 lights, wood sills, and flat wood lintels with bull's eye corner blocks. On the facade, the central entrances of both stories are double-leaf with side lights and transoms. An early twentieth century platform, comprised of a rough cut stone foundation, concrete slab, and stone pedestals, extends the length of the three central bays and supports the portico. Featured on the portico are paired square posts, a sawn balustrade on the second story, and a pedimented gable with dentils and a masonic emblem. Dentils are repeated on the roof's frieze on all elevations.

A two-story veranda with square posts and a sawn balustrade extends across four of the five bays of the rear (southwest) elevation. The fifth (northernmost) bay is enclosed on both stories and is connected to the one-story, gable-roofed kitchen ell. The ell, also stuccoed concrete and originally detached, has a large stone chimney dividing two rooms. The ell's rectangular windows are like those of the front part of the house but are shorter. A boxed cornice trims the roof eaves. A small, one-story porch attached to the enclosed part of the rear veranda has been enclosed and covered with stucco. It serves as a bathroom and has four small rectangular windows and a balustrade on its flat roof.

The interior of the Shaw House has undergone minor alterations. Its two-room central hall plan, woodwork around doors and windows, baseboards, mantles, built-in cabinets, doors, central staircase, and most of the flooring remain intact and unaltered. All interior detail is typical of the Greek Revival period.

Outbuildings included in the nominated boundaries which are contributing elements to the significance of the Shaw House are an 1850s gable-roofed stone springhouse, an 1850s log smokehouse, and a large ca. 1915 stone barn. The barn has a gambrel-shaped metal roof and a frame facade covered with lap wood siding on the upper story and a series of four double board doors across the first story. Its stonework is similar to and from the same era as that of the house's front porch platform and pedestals and that of the stone retaining wall, which extends across the front yard of the house. The springhouse and barn are situated close to the street at the base of a hill on the opposite side of the road from the house.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1850s-1920 **Builder/Architect** Abner T. Shaw/builder

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Abner T. Shaw House is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance in the local context. Constructed in the 1850s, it represents the earliest known use of concrete construction in Davidson County, and together with its outbuildings represents a largely unaltered example of farm construction in the still-rural Goodlettsville area of the county.

Abner T. Shaw, a life-long resident of Davidson County, was born in 1826 and died in 1884. He purchased the property where the house stands in 1848, and bought additional acreage in 1857. The house was built before the Civil War.

The style of the house is typical of Middle Tennessee vernacular farmhouse construction of the period. Its significance lies in its concrete construction. The house was built using a lime cement binding an aggregate of rocks and rubble. The interior of the house was plastered and the exterior was stuccoed, but the concrete was left raw in the attic gable ends. From the concrete visible in the attic, it appears that forms were made of loose horizontal planks which were filled with aggregate. Cement was then poured in to bind the aggregate. The concrete appears to have been laid in a series of successive courses.

There were two other concrete houses built in the Goodlettsville vicinity in the same period. Unsubstantiated stories hold that Abner Shaw had a hand in building all three. One of these burned down in 1984. The other is similar to the Shaw house in plan and general appearance, but its finishes and decorative treatment are much more simple. The Shaw house is being nominated at the present owner's request.

The nomination includes the house and three outbuildings, a springhouse, a smokehouse, and a barn. This group of buildings stands on substantial acreage in an area of the county that is almost completely rural despite its proximity to town. The integrity of these buildings and their setting creates an excellent sense of the look and feel of a nineteenth century farm. Such groups of buildings and undisturbed settings are becoming increasingly rare as the growth of suburban Nashville engulfs the remaining undeveloped areas of the county.

As an example of early concrete construction and as a virtually intact rural farm complex, the Abner T. Shaw house and its outbuildings constitute a uniquely significant historic resource in Davidson County.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Henderson, Deborah Kelly. It is a Goodly Land. Nashville, TN: The Parthenon Press, 1982.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Approximately three acres

Quadrangle name Whites Creek, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	5	2	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	8	7	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attachment

### 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 Shain Dennison and David Paine

organization Metropolitan Historical Commission

date December 1, 1984

street & number 701 Broadway, Customs House

telephone 615/259-5027

city or town Nashville

state Tennessee 37203

# 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. Hayden

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 2/20/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 3-28-85

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 MAR 28 1985

Continuation sheet Abner T. Shaw House

Item number

4

Page

2

Owner of the house and log outbuildings and the land on which they sit, located on the west side of Brick Church Pike:

; Carl Bailey  
4866 Brick Church Pike  
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

Owner of the springhouse and barn and the land on which they sit, located on the east side of Brick Church Pike:

Charles Southgate  
1300 Old Hickory Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37216

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

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

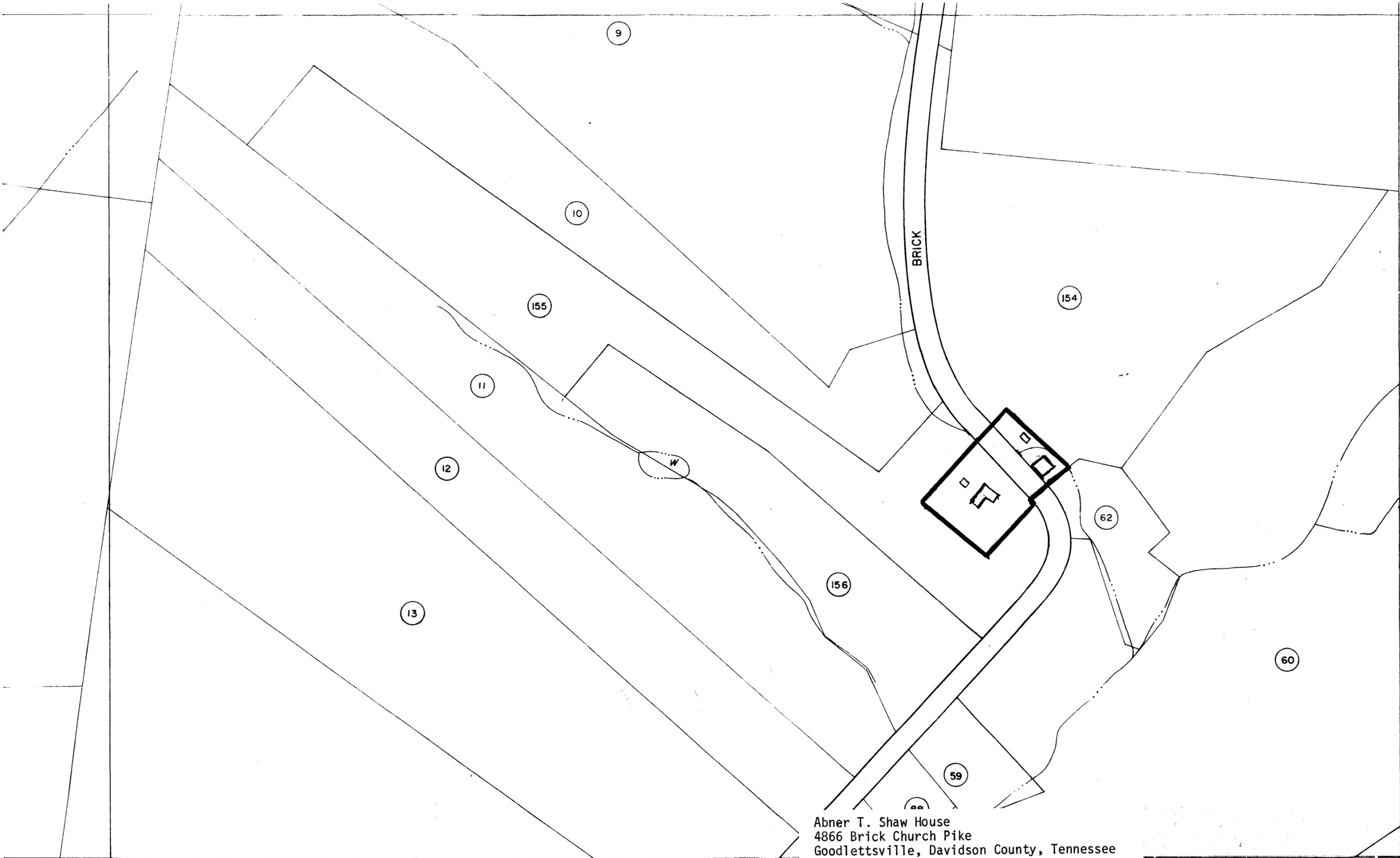
For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Abner T. Shaw House Item number 10 Page 2

The boundaries are outlined in red on the accompanying Davidson County property map sheet P24A which is drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch. The boundaries were selected to include the house, smokehouse, and the fenced area of land on which they sit and the springhouse, barn, and the land on which they sit on the opposite side of the road, which were part of the homestead in the early twentieth century during the Phelan family ownership.



Abner T. Shaw House  
 4866 Brick Church Pike  
 Goodlettsville, Davidson County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 400'

SHEET P24D

ATLAS SERIES 200

MAP ONLY - NOT TO BE USED AS A PROPERTY MAP

DAVIDSON COUNTY TENNESSEE

mpc  
 metropolitan planning commission

**LEGEND**

PROPERTY LINE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY LINE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT LINE \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL PARCEL NUMBER  
 1" = 400 PROPERTY MAP 62

ORIGINAL PARCEL NUMBER  
 1" = 100 PROPERTY MAP 62

**PROPERTY MAP AND TOPOGRAPHIC MAP RELATIONSHIP**

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
A		B	
C		D	

N