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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chadwell, Robert, House
other names/site number Idlewild

2. Location

street & number 712 Neeleys Bend Road na not for publication
city, town Madison na vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Davidson code 037 zip code 37115

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	3	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0 objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	3	1 Total

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 Herbert T. Hager Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date 10/9/89
Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 11/13/89
Registered in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwellingDomestic: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwellingDomestic: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italian Villa

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestonewalls WOOD: weatherboard

roof Asphalt shinglesother Wood wraparound porch,weatherboard central pavillion

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Robert Chadwell House, or Idlewild, as it is commonly known, located on Neeleys Bend Road in Davidson County, Tennessee, is an excellent example of an Italian Villa farmhouse. Built ca. 1874, the two-story, frame house sits atop a gentle rise alongside a curving, predominantly rural road in Madison, a suburban community in northeastern Nashville.

The house and its outbuildings are located on a 1.95-acre tract that was part of a 210-acre farm. Although much of the original farm land is under separate ownership, it has been sparsely developed. Due to the lack of development and because the land around the house slopes downward, the new development does not visually intrude upon the Chadwell house's rural setting. Also, the two-acre lot sufficiently provides integrity of setting.

The Italian Villa-styled house, two stories, weatherboarded, and gable-roofed, is irregularly shaped, has a stone foundation, and features a central gabled pavilion flanked by a wrap around corner porch on one side and a bay window on the other.

Facade openings, five bays wide on the front section, consists of a large round-arched entranceway with pointed-arch surround in the pavilion, a recessed four-panel, single-leaf door and round-arched transom, and tall round-arched, 4/4 light windows. The windows have decorative pointed-arch surrounds with flared drip sills, except for the paired windows of the pavilion's upper story which have round-arched hoods that are joined by a pointed-arch decorative panel, and the three windows of the one-story bay window which have decorative wood panels above each.

A sixth bay on the facade, recessed from the main elevation and created through an 1890s two-story addition to the rear, is located at the end of the wraparound porch. The porch, originally two bays wide and ending flush with the corner of the house, was expanded to wrap around the northeastern corner and provide entrance into the 1890s addition. The original porch design was duplicated for the expansion, as were the new door and second-story window designs.

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Chadwell, Robert, House

The porch, three bays wide on the front and three bays deep from the corner, has square chamfered posts, visually joined by decorative molded, arched brackets. Porch roof brackets are arranged singly across a deep porch frieze band, below built-in gutters.

Wide corner boards, a round vent in the pavilion gable, and wide roof eaves and trim band further ornament the house. The medium-pitched gable roof is broken by a low hip section over the northwest side of the house, above the facade's bay window, and by three interior and one rear, gable-end brick chimneys.

The east side elevation of the house is in two sections. The front section, one room deep and part of the original house, has no structural openings. The rear section, from the 1890s expansion and gable-roofed, is also one-room deep. It has cut-off corners with two rectangular 4/4 light windows on each story.

This section's rear elevation, or south wall, is three bays wide and has a plain one-story L-shaped veranda with slender square posts and a rail balustrade. Half-glazed, double-leaf doors enter the house's central hall and a single-leaf door with rectangular transom leads to the first floor room of the addition. Tall rectangular 4/4 light windows are located one in the center bay of the first story and one each at the left and right bays of the second story.

Also seen from the rear is the rear wall of the house's original two-story ell. Its first story is concealed by an early twentieth century shed-roofed kitchen addition. An original 4/4 light rectangular window and a non-original small rectangular 6/6 light window flank the gable-end chimney above.

On the house's west side elevation the ell is flush with the side of the front section of the house. Two rectangular 4/4 light windows are located on each story of the ell, and like windows are found, one on each story and offset from the center, on the front section.

The interior of the house has a central hall plan with front parlors and an ell. There are eleven rooms with two central halls, one on each story. An open well staircase is located in the rear of the central hall between the 1890s addition and the ell. Its plain design features a square newel post and three square balusters per tread.

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The interior finishes of the ca. 1874 section of the house are original. These include heavy, wide molding around windows and doors and on two large segmental-arched openings from the hall to the parlors; heavy, tall baseboards; four-panel doors with divided-light transoms; pine flooring; and mantels, except for the early twentieth century mantel in the south parlor. In the 1890s section of the house the woodwork, less heavy and wide, and the mantels appear original to that period.

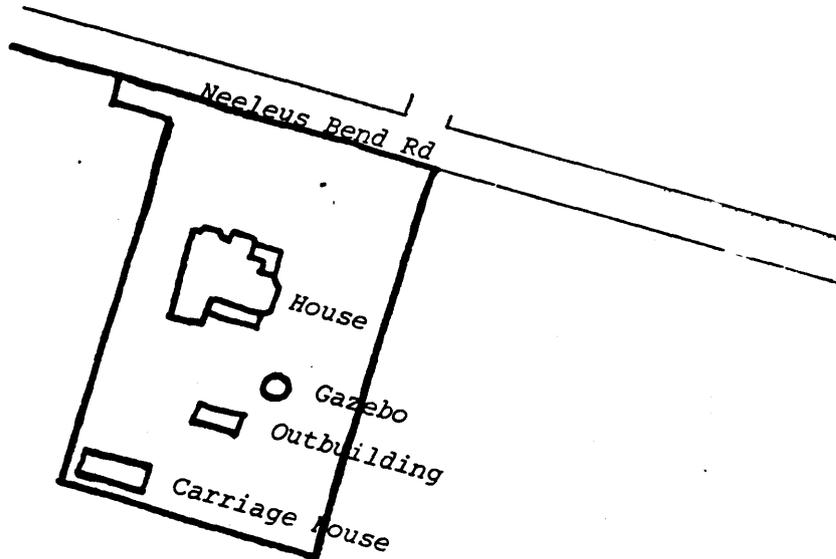
Alterations to the interior primarily consist of the addition in 1934 of a bathroom under the staircase and a bathroom carved out of an upstairs bedroom; and in 1980, conversion of that bedroom into a bath and installation of built-in closets with six-panel doors to flank bedroom chimneys. These alterations, done in a sensitive manner, do not greatly detract from the house's architectural integrity.

Outbuildings include a contributing ca. 1870s two-room, board and batten building with a central stone chimney, stone foundation, metal roof, 4/4 light rectangular windows, and two single-leaf doors on its west elevation; a contributing four-stall, shed-roofed, board and batten carriage house from the latter part of the nineteenth century; and a 1980s noncontributing, although compatibly-designed, gazebo.

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Section number 7 Page 4 Chadwell, Robert, House



Robert Chadwell House
Madison, Davidson County, Tennessee

Not to Scale

1
N

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

ca. 1874

Significant Dates

ca. 1874

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 Robert Chadwell House, on Neeley's Bend Road in Madison, a suburb of Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, is nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance to Davidson County. The Robert Chadwell House, built ca. 1874, is an excellent example of Italianate period architecture. While there are many examples in Nashville of urban residential architecture from the Italianate period, there are only a few rural examples. Unlike its rural contemporaries, which are more vernacular interpretations of Italianate influence, the Chadwell house formally embodies the distinctive earmarks of an Italian Villa. The house has architectural integrity, although it received a rear two-story addition and porch enlargement during a ca. 1890, sensitively-designed expansion.

The Chadwell house was built ca. 1874 on land Robert Chadwell received from B.F. Foster. Chadwell bought 100 acres of a 210-acre tract in 1873 and was deeded the remaining land in 1874. The original tract, located on a stretch of land between Neeley's Bend Road and the Cumberland River, was one of several farms on the northeastern outskirts of Nashville. Foster had purchased the land in 1836 from John Trimble who, after selling the farm to Foster, became involved in politics as a state representative and U.S. senator.

By 1880 Chadwell had a large farm operation, cultivating over half the land in corn and wheat and raising about 150-180 poultry, 40 sheep, 40 hogs, and several cows with the help of a few farm laborers. Prior to farming, Chadwell was a Davidson County Revenue Collector.

Robert Chadwell, from North Carolina, married Mary Ann Burge, of Tennessee, in 1845. They had four children, Thomas, John, Love, and Henry. The farm was eventually divided equally among the children. Thomas, the eldest, willed his quarter interest in the property to his youngest brother, Henry, upon his death in 1906.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

1870 Census, 18th District, Davidson County, TN
1880 Census, 19th District, Davidson County, TN
1880 Agricultural Census, 19th District, Davidson County, TN
1873 Tax Records, 19th District, Davidson County, TN
1881 Tax Records, 19th District, Davidson County, TN
Davidson County Marriage Book II, 1845 Marriage Record

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 1.95 acres

UTM References

A

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

C

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Robert Chadwell House are shown on the accompanying Davidson County tax map. The boundaries begin at a point on Neeleys Bend Road, extending east 286'; south 330'; west 241'; north approximately 325'; west 45'; and north to the beginning point, approximately 15'. The scale of the map is 1" = 400'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Robert Chadwell House are drawn to include the residence, its outbuildings, and the 1.95 acres on which they sit. The nearly two-acre lot is sufficient to provide integrity of setting.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shain Dennison and Bess Haynes

organization Metropolitan Historical Commission date April, 1989

street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615/259-5027

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37203

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In the same year Henry bought the other half of the property from his other brother and sister. He farmed the land until 1913 when he and his wife gave 150 of the 210 acres and the house, three barns, and a dairy to a trust company in payment of a debt.

The trust company divided the land into 37 tracts of which 11 tracts, about 47 acres, were bought by G.A. and Mamie Maxwell in 1914. In 1928 Magie Chapman Pickett bought 33 of the 47 acres, including the house. Her daughter, Alice Pickett, sold the house and property in 1973 to the Nashville's Boys Club, who sold it to the Metro Baptist Church of Nashville in 1978. One year later Don and Betty Nixon bought the house and 1.95 acres on which it sits.

The other rural examples of Italianate period architecture in Davidson County differ from the Chadwell house primarily in their forms and degree and interpretation of Italianate detailing. From the early years of the Italianate period, ca. 1850s, are the Currey House, a small, one-story cottage with a three-bay rectangular front section, small recessed corner porch, gable roof and rear ell, and Two Rivers (NR 1972) and Clover Bottom (NR 1975), highly ornate brick mansions.

The Ezell and Washington-Draughn houses each are L-shaped, two-story brick structures with modest ornamentation and more heavy appearance. A frame L-shaped example is a house on Old Harding Road with plainer, later, and more vernacular detailing.

There remain several evolved houses which feature Italianate detailing in combination with earlier architectural elements. Grassmere (NR 1984) is a two-story brick Federal style house with an Italianate front porch. On Old Harding Road is a one-story frame house with both Greek Revival and Italianate detailing. Combining those two periods in a more unusual manner is the one-and-a-half-story frame house on Morton Hill Road, featuring an elaborate facade-length classical portico, paired gable-end chimneys, and round-arched Italianate windows and entranceway on the facade. Farview, although two stories and frame, is asymmetrically arranged, incorporating an earlier house, and featuring two two-story gabled porticoes.

In contrast, the Chadwell house features a central pavilion, a corner porch with typical Italianate arched brackets and chamfered posts; and formally executed round-arched windows with decorative surrounds, a one-story bay window, and bracket and panel decoration. It represents a more "high style" farmhouse. And it does not resemble its urban counterparts, which range from modest to massive and plain to ornate.

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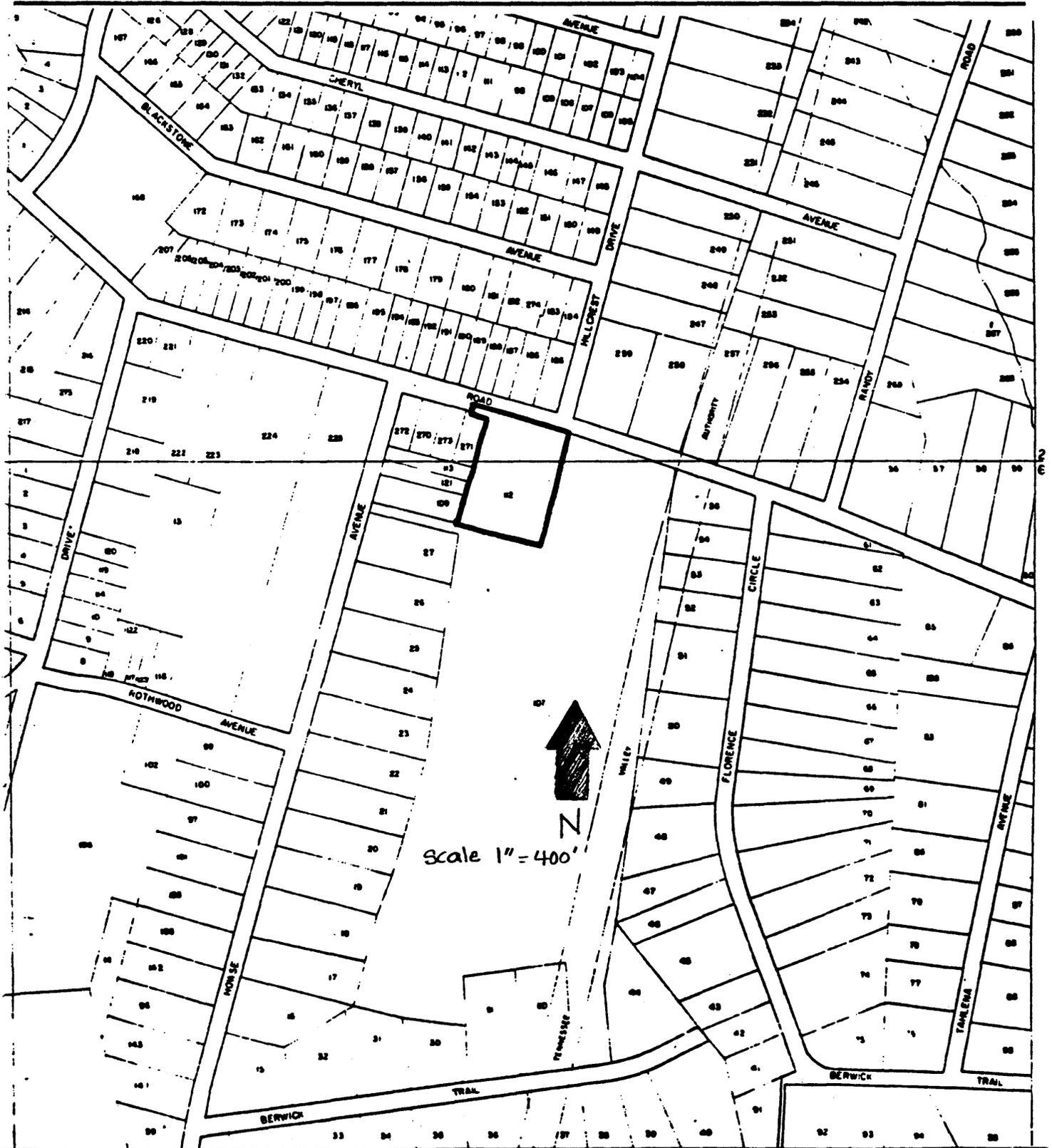
More architecturally kin to the Chadwell house are the house on Humphreys Street, a formal, two-story Italian Villa in brick, and the restrained one-story Italian Villa brick Baltz House. However, these houses have not retained rural settings; development from the early twentieth century engulfs both.

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Section number Photos Page 1

Chadwell, Robert, House

Chadwell, Robert, House
712 Neeleys Bend Road
Madison, Davidson County, Tennessee
Photo by: Shain Dennison
Date: April, 1989
Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, TN

Facing south southwest, north facade
#1 of 11

Facing southwest, north facade and east elevation
#2 of 11

Facing west, east elevation
#3 of 11

Facing northwest, east and south elevation
#4 of 11

Facing northeast, south and west elevation
#5 of 11

Facing southeast, north facade and west elevation
#6 of 11

Facing south southwest, central hall
#7 of 11

Facing north northeast, central hall front entrance
#8 of 11

Facing southwest, front west parlor
#9 of 11

Facing northwest, outbuildings and gazebo
#10 of 11

Facing south, carriage house
#11 of 11