

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 31 1987

date entered NOV -6 1987

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

1. Name

historic Kennedy, James, House

and or common Seven Springs Farm

2. Location

street & number Rogers Ford Road N/A not for publication

city, town Columbia 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. James R. Love

street & number P.O. Box 825

city, town Columbia N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38402-0825

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maury County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Columbia state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Seven Springs Farm, the James Kennedy House on the Rogers Ford Road northwest of Columbia in the central part of Maury County, Tennessee, is an excellent example of vernacular classical revival architecture. The small frame farmhouse, built about 1840, is distinguished by its perfect symmetry in the main block, an unusual interior plan with the stair hall located in the rear ell of the structure, and careful attention to detail in the execution of the interior. All original features remain, intact.

The one-story weatherboarded frame house follows the common central-passage plan, with an original one-and-one-half-story ell section providing additional living space. The house rests on a stone foundation and is topped by tin gable roof.

The main facade faces north. The three-bay front is arranged around a pedimented central portico supported by four square paneled wooden columns with simple molded capitals and neck moldings. The entry below has a three-panel single leaf door flanked by removable 4-light sidelights set over dado panels, and topped by a 4-light transom and corner-lights. Windows to either side are double-hung sash with 6/6 lights and louvered wooden shutters.

The east gable elevation has a central exterior brick chimney with corbeled cap, 6/6-light double-hung sash windows to either side, and two small fixed 4-light 'lookout' windows on the upper floor. The rear ell extends along this side, a one-and-one-half story gabled section. A ca. 1930s side porch along the east side of the ell was later enclosed as a kitchen and service area. Windows are double-hung sash, with 8/8 and 6/6 lights, flanking double-leaf paneled wooden doors, topped by a small pedimented porch roof.

The west elevation is a plain weatherboarded gable end with a central exterior brick chimney with corbeled cap and one 6/6-light sash window. Part of the rear porch, now enclosed with simple glass panels, extends from its rear, continues across the south or rear facade, and terminates at the south side of the rear ell. The house's original 6/6-light windows and paneled wooden doors on the rear walls remain, intact.

The rear ell terminates in a gable end to the south. Another exterior brick chimney centers the wall, and is flanked by narrow 6/9-light sash windows on the first floor and small fixed 6-light lookout windows on the second.

The central hall has poplar floors laid in a north-south orientation, the three-paneled door in the main entry to the north, a 2-paneled wooden door to the south or rear, and 2-panel doors east and west to the drawing room and dining room; all door architraves are accented by wooden moldings. A molded wooden chair rail encircles all walls.

The drawing room to the west has a fireplace centered on the west wall. It has its original brick surround and hearth and an intricate pegged wooden mantelpiece with molded shelf and recessed-panel apron. In this room, the poplar floors are laid east-west. Original 2-panel doors open east and south to the central hall and the rear porch, a 6/6-light sash window is set to the north side of the fireplace, and the same wooden chair rail continues around the four walls.

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Continuation sheet Kennedy, James, House

Item number 7

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Across the hall, the dining room is of identical dimension. The mantelpiece is of simpler design, with a plain molded shelf and frieze supported by plain pilasters, but the original brick surrounds and hearth match the parlor. Again, 2-panel doors open to the entry hall and south to the rear stair hall. This small hall is unique in the area as it removes the stairs to the upper floor from the principal hall and public rooms of the house, thus not disturbing the careful symmetry of the front section. The narrow dog-leg stair rises from a square newel post with molded cap and is supported by plain pilings and other, suspended, newel posts at the landings. Beneath the staircase is a small closet with a 2-panel door, another small closet is located on the landing. Doors open on all points, north to the dining room, south to the rear bedroom, west to the rear porch, and east to the kitchen and service area. The rear parlor bedroom behind has two sash windows with 6/9-lights to the south; 2-panel doors north to the rear hall, east to the service area, and west to the rear porch; and the same chair rail on all wall surfaces.

The converted kitchen is located at the side of the rear ell in an original shed section originally used as a tool room. It has 6/6 sash windows to the north and east, and double-leaf paneled doors east to a side porch. The rear of this section originally was a small shed porch; it was enclosed in 1958 and converted to a service area with a small bath included.

Across the south or rear and along the west side of the rear ell runs a shed porch. This section was glassed-in about 1958, but retains its original plan and all structural elements; the change could be reversed simply by removing the glass.

Upstairs, a small bedroom is located over the ell. It has a small fireplace with poplar mantel, its simple molded shelf and frieze supported by plain pilasters on raised plinths, and brick surrounds and hearth. A one-foot baseboard surrounds the walls on all sides. Closets have been built in to either side of the door to the north to the stair hall, with closet doors matching those in other parts of the house. Another large closet or storeroom at the head of the stairs has been converted to a bath.

Behind the house is the original smokehouse, a tall rectangular common-bond brick structure, topped by a front-gable tin roof. At the center of the north side is a plain vertical batten door in cased frame topped by a plain wooden beam lintel; the other wall surfaces are unadorned.

The house is located in a rural setting, with rolling hills hiding any indication of the busy county seat of Columbia only a mile to the southwest. Most of the surrounding land is in pasture, with isolated clumps of native hardwoods and occasional cedars. The house lot itself is informally landscaped and surrounded by farm fences.

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 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 c. 1840 **Builder/Architect** Kennedy, James, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The James Kennedy House near Columbia in Maury County, Tennessee is nominated under National Register criterion C for significance to Maury County in architecture. The small Greek Revival farmhouse is of unusual high quality, with the main block carefully laid out on a symmetrical plan, the stair hall cleverly removed to the rear ell, which contains a bedroom on each floor, the stair hall, and service areas. The interior millwork is of very high quality and includes paneled mantelpieces, recessed-panel doors, molded door and window architraves, and ornamental baseboards. All original features of the house remain intact. The house is one of the only Greek Revival residences of such scale to feature such attention to detail.

The house was probably built by James Kennedy (1796-1876) about 1840. Kennedy was one of eighteen children of John Kennedy, born in North Carolina in 1774 and died in Maury County in 1854. Census records indicate that James was born in Kentucky. Kennedy, a Kentucky native, and his wife, Elizabeth (Bennett) Kennedy, appear on the 1850 Census as residents of that district of Maury County. She evidently died soon afterwards, as he married again on October 24, 1854, this time to Martha W. Rutledge Thomas, widow of former state representative Isaac J. Thomas. James Kennedy was active in the Maury County area as early as 1827, as he recorded a deed for 28 acres at the courthouse that year. In 1830 he recorded a bill of slave for a negro slave named Charlotte. On October 17, 1831, he and his wife Elizabeth added to the real estate holdings, purchasing 137 acres for \$1000 in March of that year from Evander Kennedy and his wife, Polly, who in turn had earlier purchased the property from Andrew Goff on February 8, 1831. The house is apparently located on this tract. He auctioned the property in 1870, and died six years later, childless.

Flavius J. Ewing (1831-1912) purchased the property at a public auction on May 28, 1870. County Court minutes indicate he paid \$3,371.40 for the property, including the house and 138 acres. He was the great-grandfather of the owner, Mrs. Jean Ewing Love. He purchased an additional 118 acres to the east side of his property from M.C. Akin on April 11, 1877 for \$2,360.

Ewing and his wife, Mary, sold the expanded 248-acre tract to S.S. Moseley on January 1, 1883 for \$6,961.50. Moseley held the property until the fall of 1921, when he sold the 248 acres in two transactions totalling \$12,500 to R.C. Ewing. He deeded the property to his wife, Frances C. Ewing, in 1928. Their son, S. Cecil Ewing, inherited the property in 1958, and it remains in the Ewing family's possession. The house was let to tenants for a long period, but has been the permanent home of Mrs. Jean Ewing Love, daughter of S. Cecil Ewing and her husband James R. Love since 1969.

Seven Springs, as the house is now known, is one of the best surviving small scale classical revival houses in a county better known for its many numerous high-style examples of the style. The house differs from others of its scale in the area in that the symmetry of the three-bay main front section is not interrupted by a stairway in the obligatory central passage; this gives the house a somewhat more formal bearing than most. While other examples of small Greek Revival style houses do occur in other

9. Major Bibliographical References

McKennon, Sara Tom and Deane Kennedy Hendrix, The John Kennedy Descendents of Maury County, Tennessee. Privately published, 1979.

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Love. Research notes on Seven Springs Farm.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.75 acres

Quadrangle name Carters Creek, Tennessee 64NW

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

7	6	5	0	0	3	8	0	3	9	4	5	7	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated area for the James Kennedy House is rectangular in shape and contains 1.75 acres, bounded on the north and east by a driveway and on the south and west by farm fences approx. 120' from the house as shown on the accompanying tax map. This is sufficient area to protect the house's integrity.

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Quin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization South Central TN Development District

date 15 January 1987

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. Boyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 10/27/87

For NPS use only

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

Herbert L. Boyer
Keeper of the National Register

date 11-6-87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

8/21/87

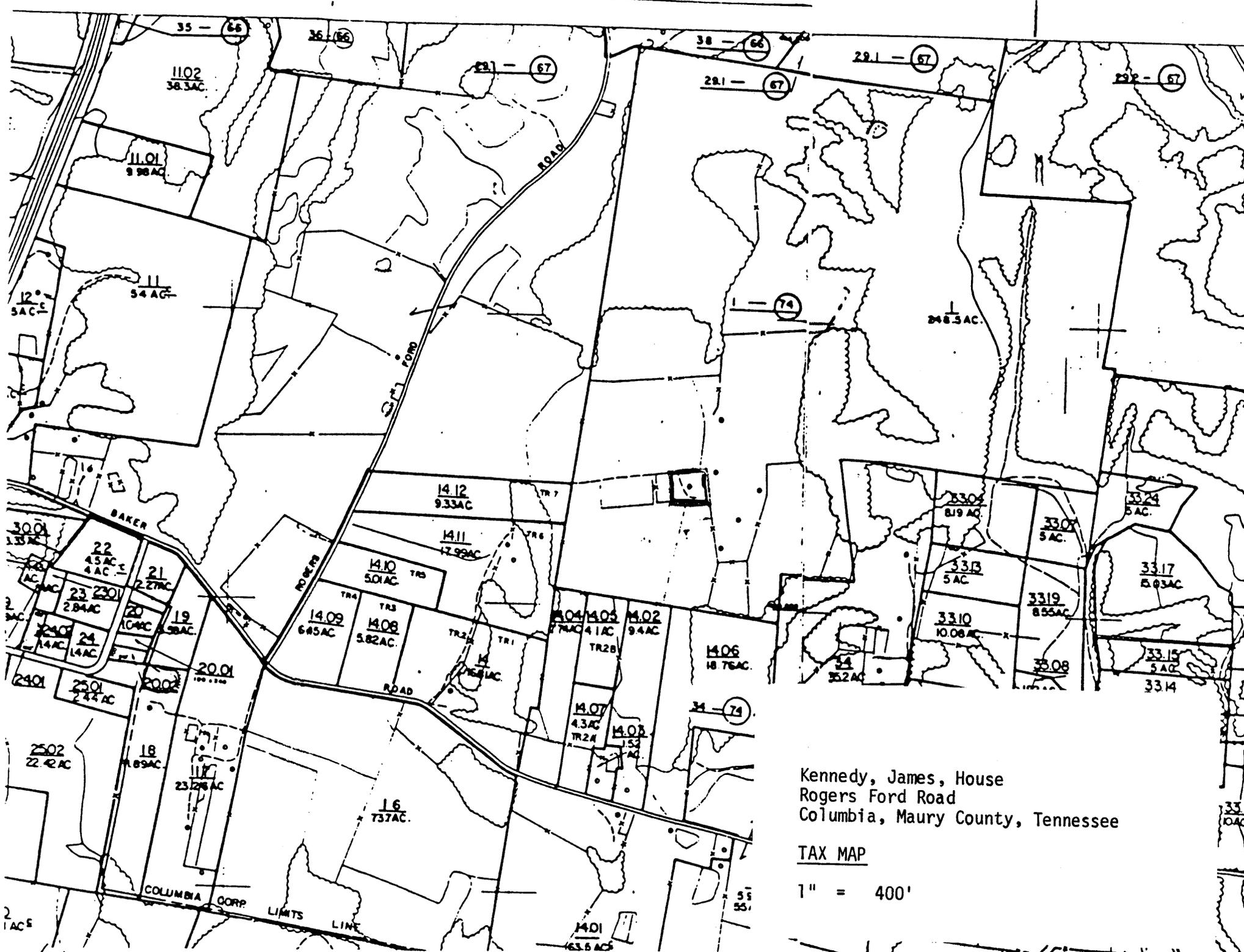
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Kennedy, James, House

parts of the large county, no others of this form are found in the area northwest of Columbia. The nearest house of similar style, Montview, four miles away on Rutherford Creek, dates from about the same period but has been substantially altered in recent years. Other three-bay houses found in the Rally Hill Community five miles east and in Culleoka eleven miles south, do feature the same four-columned center pedimented portico, but are of the more common central passage plan with central stair hall. The interior features of the houses is comparatively plain to the Kennedy House which has a unique interior plan. The majority of Greek Revival style houses in Maury County are of much greater scale, frequently executed in brick. The James Kennedy House featuring perfect symmetry in its front main section, the unusual rear stair hall, and the uncommon two-story rear ell, original doors, mantelpieces, and other trim of high quality, is the best surviving house of this scale and period in Maury County.



Kennedy, James, House
 Rogers Ford Road
 Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee

TAX MAP

1" = 400'

8/31/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

2/22/90

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Kennedy, James, House Maury County, TENNESSEE

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

for Keeper Delores Byers 3/7/90

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National Park Service

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CORRECTION:

The first sentence in Section 7 of the James Kennedy House, Maury County, should read:

"Seven Springs Farm, the James Kennedy House on Rogers Ford Road northeast of Columbia. . ."

Herbert L. Harper
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

2/15/90
Date