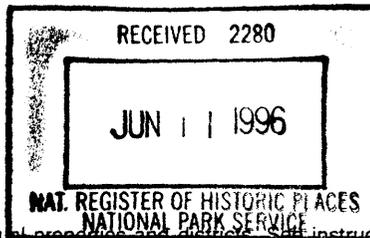


770

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Webster Farm

other names/site number Harlan Farm

2. Location

street & number 3166 Hampshire Pike NZAnot for publication

city or town Cross Bridges XX vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Maury code 119 zip code 38474

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays 6/5/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson R. Beall 7.19.96  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**Entered in the  
National Register.**

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	2	buildings
2	1	sites
3	0	structures
0	0	objects
11	3	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: processing, storage, field, outbuilding

FUNERARY: cemetery

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: processing, storage, field, outbuilding

FUNERARY: cemetery

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof METAL

other GLASS; WOOD

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, and C are checked. Criterion D is not checked.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- Criteria A through G are all unchecked.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, ARCHITECTURE, SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1810-1945

Significant Dates

1810, 1826, 1900, 1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Webster, Jonathan, III

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A. Criteria for preliminary determination, previous listing, landmark designation, and survey recording are all unchecked.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University (checked), Other

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Webster Farm  
Name of Property

Maury Co., TN  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 96.52 Acres

MOUNT PLEASANT 57 SW

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

WILLIAMSPORT 57 NW

1	1,6	48,033,0	3,942,220
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1,6	48,024,0	3,941,400

3	1,6	47,964,0	3,941,450
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1,6	47,976,0	3,942,300

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Eades

organization Center for Historic Preservation date March 7, 1996

street & number MTSU Box 80 telephone (615) 898-2947

city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mike and Jill Webster

street & number 3166 Hampshire Pike telephone (615) 381-7420

city or town Cross Bridges state TN zip code 38474

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

## VII. Description

The Webster Farm is located at 3166 Hampshire Pike, Cross Bridges vicinity, Maury County, Tennessee. The 96.52 acre farm consists of a one-story three pen cottage constructed circa 1810 which is attached to a larger Federal style two-story central hall I-house, constructed circa 1826, and several contributing outbuildings built between 1826 and 1920. In addition to these contributing structures, there is a circa 1825 family cemetery containing many members of the Webster family. The Webster Farm still retains its historic architectural integrity through the combination and function of fields, buildings, and structures.

A gravel driveway, the path of which dates to circa 1810, defines the entrance to the farm off of U.S. Highway 412. The main house (C) actually consists of two separate structures that were incorporated into a single house circa 1826. The first of these structures is a one-story three pen cottage (circa 1810) that has a cut limestone block foundation and a moderately pitched metal roof. This structure contains exterior brick chimneys on the north and south ends.

The west facade of the one-story dwelling is constructed of bricks laid in a common bond pattern. A rounded brick cornice runs just below the roofline of this facade. The west facade features seven bays consisting of five windows and two doorways. Going in a south-to-north direction, the first bay of the west facade consists of an original six-over-nine double hung sash window topped with a brick lintel and resting on a wooden sill. The second bay of the west facade also contains a historic six-over-nine double hung sash window with the same treatments. The third bay consists of a historic wooden six-paneled door that is reached by original limestone steps, the top step of which contains an oval design carved into each end. The door is protected by a metal and glass storm door. The fourth and fifth bays each contain a historic eight-over-eight double hung sash window topped by a brick lintel and resting on a wooden sill. The sixth bay contains a historic six paneled wooden door reached by a series of limestone steps, with the top step containing an oval design carved into each of the two ends. The door is topped with a brick lintel and is protected by a modern storm door of

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

metal and glass construction. The last bay contains a six-over-six double hung sash window topped with a brick lintel and resting on a wooden sill.

The south elevation of the circa 1810 structure is laid in a common bond brickwork pattern. An exterior chimney, which runs vertically in the center of the elevation, has evidence of brick alteration due to a lightning strike. The top of the chimney is covered with a metal chimney cap. A smoke pipe topped with an octagonal air vent, projects out of the center of the chimney. The north bay of the south elevation contains a single six-over-six double hung sash window. The window is topped with a brick lintel and rests on a wooden sill.

The east elevation of the circa 1810 structure is no longer visible because of the addition of an enclosed hallway and a larger circa 1826 two-story Federal style central hall I-house that is now connected to the circa 1810 house.

The north elevation of the one-story circa 1810 structure is laid in common bond brickwork. An exterior chimney is situated in the center of this elevation and has evidence of brick alteration as a result of a lightning strike. The top of the chimney is covered with a metal cap. A smoke pipe, topped with an octagonal air vent, projects out of the center of the chimney. The west bay of the north elevation contains a six-over-six double hung sash window. The east bay of this elevation contains an original small pantry of brick construction topped with a gable roof with slight returns.

The circa 1826 two-story central hall I-house follows more of a classic Federal prototype due to its emphasis on symmetry in both the exterior architectural treatments and the central hall one room deep floor plan. This two-story, one room deep I-house contains a hallway in the western portion of the structure that runs in a north-to-south direction perpendicular to the central hall and connects the circa 1810 structure to the circa 1826 structure. The circa 1826 connector that links the circa 1810 house to the larger Federal house is one-story in height. The circa 1826 house replicates the earlier house through the use of a cut limestone foundation, metal roof, and exterior end chimneys.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

The east facade of the two-story circa 1826 I-house contains several Federal treatments including plain window adornments, an arched doorway, and a devotion to architectural symmetry. The entrance to the house is enhanced by a historic wrought iron gate that opens into a brick walkway, the path of which dates to circa 1826. (C)

Going in a south-to-north direction, the first floor of the east facade contains five bays consisting of four windows and a central door. The brickwork on this facade is strictly of Flemish bond design. The southernmost bay contains a historic nine-over-nine double hung sash window topped with a flat arch and resting on a wooden sill. This window is flanked on either side by a pair of louvered shutters installed circa 1930. Still going in a south-to-north direction, the next bay contains a historic nine-over-nine double hung sash window topped with a flat arch and resting on a wooden sill. It is flanked on either side by single louvered shutters.

Immediately north of this window is a historic central doorway containing a pair of one light wooden doors encased by single reeded pilasters on either side of the door. Connected to these pilasters is a historic fanlight encased in an arched wooden casement adorned with inset panels and raised ovals. In North Carolina Architecture, Catherine Bishir observes that

by the late Federal period, Adamesque neoclassicism had permeated stylish buildings throughout the state [North Carolina]. Artists had become experts in rendering motifs . . . and planters and merchants delighted in parlors ever more ornately adorned with columns, sunbursts, and reeding (p.96).

This popularity with Federal decorative elements can be found not only in North Carolina, but in many prosperous homes throughout the Upper South, including Middle Tennessee. The elaborate doorway rests upon a limestone sill with carved oval designs on either end of the sill. The historic paneled doors are protected by a pair of glass and metal storm doors. Directly north of the historic doorway is a nine-over-nine double hung sash window topped with a flat arch and resting on a wooden sill. This window is flanked on either side by single louvered shutters.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

The extreme north bay also contains a historic nine-over-nine double hung sash window topped with a flat arch and resting on a wooden sill. This window is flanked on either side by single louvered shutters.

The first floor of the east facade contains a Classical Revival one-story full porch that dates to circa 1907. This porch is supported by six square wooden columns of the Doric order. A dentil course runs directly under the eaves along the cornice of the porch and a historic lantern hangs from the ceiling of the porch, thus illuminating the central door. The porch is topped with a metal roof consistent with the roof of the I-house and the flooring of the porch is of a tongue and groove wood type. It is supported by a brick and concrete foundation added circa 1940.

The second floor of the east facade contains five evenly spaced bays. Each bay contains a single historic six-over-nine window topped with a flat arch and resting on a wooden sill. All of the windows are flanked by single louvered shutters. An unadorned cornice runs the length of the roofline above the windows.

The south elevation of the two-story I-house is laid in a common bond brickwork pattern. The westernmost portion of this elevation contains a one-story section built circa 1826 to connect the circa 1810 three pen cottage to the larger I-house. This one-story portion contains a eight-over-eight double hung sash window (circa 1950) that rests on a brick sill. Immediately east of the window is a historic nine-over-nine double hung sash window topped with a brick lintel and resting on a wooden sill. A central end chimney runs the height of the elevation and extends just above the peak of the roofline. The chimney has evidence of brick alteration in the upper portion that oral tradition attributes to a lightning strike. The chimney is topped with a metal chimney cap out of which projects a cylindrical smoke pipe topped with an octagonal air vent. Due east of the chimney is another historic nine-over-nine double hung sash window topped with a brick lintel and resting on a wooden sill. The east bay of the second story of the south elevation contains a single historic six-over-nine window topped with a brick lintel and resting on a wooden sill. The chimney extends slightly above the roofline and the roof contains slight returns at the edge of the eaves.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

The west elevation of the circa 1826 structure contains five evenly spaced bays in the second story. Each bay contains a single historic six-over-nine double hung sash window topped with a flat arch and resting on a wooden sill. An unadorned cornice runs the length of the roofline above the sills. The first story of the elevation now serves as a hallway that connects the larger I-house to the circa 1810 structure.

The north elevation of the circa 1826 I-house contains a central end chimney that runs the height of the elevation and extends just beyond the roofline. The chimney is topped with a metal chimney cap, out of which projects a smoke pipe. The smoke pipe is covered by an octagonal air vent. The westernmost portion of this elevation contains the one-story shed roof structure that connects the circa 1826 house to the circa 1810 structure.

This shed roof portion contains a pair of historic wooden doors with inset panels in the lower half and glass occupying the upper half. These doors, which lead into the hallway, are topped with a fourteen light fixed transom and are protected by a pair of metal and glass storm doors. Just east of the doors is a historic nine-over-nine double hung sash window topped with a brick lintel and resting on a wooden sill.

The second story of the north elevation contains a historic six-over-nine window topped with a brick lintel and resting on a wooden sill. Above the second story in the loft area is a pair of historic two-over-four double hung sash windows on either side of the chimney. The pitched roof contains slight returns along the edges of the eaves.

The interior of the house exhibits somewhat of a T-plan hall on the first floor with the central hall of the circa 1826 house running in an east-to-west direction connecting with the hallway that was also built circa 1826 and which runs in a north-to-south direction. This latter hallway links the circa 1826 two-story central hall I-house to the circa 1810 three pen cottage. All of the flooring throughout the two connected dwellings is original.

The central hall on the first floor of the circa 1826 dwelling contains two entrances on the south and north sides of the hall and entrance in the western end of the hall. Historic 6"

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

baseboards and 28.5" inset paneled wainscoting topped by a chair rail adorn all the walls of the hallway except along the northern wall. This wall contains a historic stairway with 6" baseboards and historic wood paneling along the face string. Just below the risers, the face string panel has been decoratively carved with half ellipses. An unadorned banister rests atop simple spindles as the stairwell ascends to the second story. The north wall of the stairwell contains inset paneling that rises with the stairwell.

To the north of the central hall is the historic dining room. This room is entered through a historic doorway with a 14.5" inset paneled door surround and a six paneled door with fine examples of woodgraining on the panels. All four walls of this room contain historic 6" baseboards and 28.5" raised and woodgrained paneled wainscoting topped by a chair rail. The south wall of the room contains a small four paneled door that leads to the cellar. The west wall contains a historic six paneled (raised and woodgrained) door that leads to the north-to-south hallway. The north wall of the dining room contains a historic nine-over-nine double hung sash window in the west bay and a historic fireplace in the center bay. This fireplace contains a limestone firebox and tile facing. This is surrounded by a wooden mantelpiece. Centered just below the wooden mantel is a carved half ellipse or shell design popular with Federal architecture. On either side of the shell are single rosettes carved into the mantelpiece. Directly to the east of the fireplace is a historic full height built-in china cabinet with two twelve pane glass doors. Below this are two smaller doors, each with two raised panels. Above the twelve pane glass doors are five raised panels that connect the cabinet to the ceiling. The east wall contains two nine-over-nine double hung sash windows.

South of the central hall is the historic parlor. The doorway to the parlor contains a 14.5" historic door surround with inset panels. A historic six paneled woodgrained door leads into the parlor. All four walls of the parlor contain historic 6" baseboards and 28.5" paneled wainscoting complete with marbling and topped with a chair rail. Just below the chair rail is carved vertical gaugework. The north wall of the historic parlor contains the doorway that leads to the central hall. The west

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

wall is unadorned except for the marbled wainscoting. The south wall contains a central fireplace flanked by single nine-over-nine double hung sash windows on either side. The historic fireplace contains a stone firebox, tile facing, and a wooden overmantel. The overmantel contains single fluted pilasters on either side of the tile facing. Just below the mantel is an entablature containing a series of carved triglyphs. Below the triglyphs is a centered half ellipse or fan, flanked by single rosettes on either side.

The circa 1826 historic hallway contains 5" floorboards, 6.5" baseboards, and 28.5" woodgrained paneled wainscoting topped with a chair rail running along all four walls of this long hallway. The east wall of the hallway has a closet space (circa 1950) in the southeast corner. This closet consists of three paneled doors that open into a small storage area. Directly north of the closet is a pair of historic doors, each with six woodgrained panels. These doors connect the north-to-south hallway to the central hall of the I-house, thus forming somewhat of a T-shape floor plan. These historic doors are attached to a 14.5" paneled doorway. Due north of these doors is a historic woodgrained and paneled door that leads to the dining room. The north wall of the hallway contains a pair of historic doors, each with two inset panels in the lower half and one light in the upper half of each door. The west wall of the north-to-south hallway contains a historic six paneled door in the northwest corner leading to the kitchen. Due south of this door is another historic six paneled door leading to a central bedroom. Following this, there is a another historic six paneled door leading to a bedroom in the southern corner of the circa 1810 dwelling.

The south wall of the north-to-south hallway contains a six paneled door that leads to a bathroom added in circa 1950. This bathroom contains an eight-over-eight double hung sash window in the south wall, a sink and counter attached to the west wall, a shower in the east wall, and a doorway leading to the hallway in the north wall.

Directly west of the bathroom is a historic bedroom (circa 1810) that is entered through an original six paneled door. The south bedroom contains 5" floorboards, 6.5" baseboards, and 28.5" wainscoting topped with a chair rail running along all four walls

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

of the room. The south wall contains a central historic fireplace with an original diagonally routed wooden strip just below the overmantel, as well as brick facing and a brick firebox. To the east of the fireplace is a historic six-over-six double hung sash window. To the west of the fireplace is a historic six paneled door. The west wall contains a historic six-over-nine double hung sash window in the southwest corner.

The north wall has a historic six paneled door that leads into a central bedroom while the east wall contains a historic six paneled door leading into the hallway.

The central bedroom (circa 1810) contains 5" floorboards, 6.5" baseboards, and 28.5" paneled wainscoting topped with a chair rail running along all four walls of the historic bedroom. The south wall contains a historic six paneled door leading to the previous bedroom. The west wall has two historic six-over-nine double hung sash windows and a historic six paneled door while the east wall contains a historic six paneled door leading into the hall. There are no windows or doors on the north wall.

Directly north of the central bedroom is the kitchen (circa 1810). The west, north, and east walls of the kitchen contain 6.5" baseboards and 28.5" wainscoting topped with a chair rail. The south wall of the kitchen contains numerous modern paneled cabinets, a sink, and other assorted kitchen-related objects. The west wall of the kitchen has a historic six paneled door flanked on either side by single historic six-over-nine double hung sash windows. The north wall contains a historic six-over-six double hung sash window in the northwestern corner. Just east of this window is a historic fireplace with a carved wooden mantelpiece, brick facing, and a brick firebox. Due east of the fireplace is a historic two paneled door leading to a small pantry. The east wall contains a historic six paneled door.

The second floor of the circa 1826 I-house contains two bedrooms, a storage area, and a small landing that connects these three rooms. The stairwell that ascends to the second floor contains inset panels, 6" baseboards, and 28.5" wainscoting topped with a chair rail. Centered on the western portion of the landing is a historic six-over-nine double hung sash window. The eastern wall of the landing contains 5.5" baseboards and 25.5" wainscoting

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

with inset woodgrained panels. It is unknown why the panels in the hall are woodgrained while in the first floor parlor they are marbleized. Yet, both decorative treatments seem to have been executed at the same time. Centered on this wall is a historic six paneled door leading to a storage room.

The storage room contains exposed brickwork along all four walls and a historic six-over-nine double hung sash window centered along the east wall.

North of the storage room is a historic bedroom that is entered from the second floor landing. An original six paneled door leads to this north bedroom. Historic 5.5" baseboards and 25.5" paneled wainscoting, topped with a chair rail, occupy all four walls of this room. The west wall contains two historic six-over-nine double hung sash windows. The west bay of the north wall has a historic full height built-in closet with a single panel in the upper portion, a pair of four paneled doors, and a pair of doors below this, each with two panels. The center bay of the north wall contains a historic fireplace with a carved wooden mantelpiece, a brick firebox, and brick facing. A single panel runs along the entablature just below the mantel. The east bay of the north wall contains a historic six-over-nine double hung sash window. The east wall of this bedroom has two historic six-over-nine double hung sash windows. Centered on the south wall of this bedroom is a historic six paneled door that leads into the bedroom.

The historic south bedroom is reached by a six paneled door centered on the north wall of the bedroom. All four walls contain 5.5" baseboards and 25.5" paneled wainscoting topped with a chair rail. The west wall of this bedroom has two historic six-over-nine double hung sash windows. The south wall contains a full-height historic built-in closet with a paneled door in the west bay. The central bay of the south wall has a historic fireplace with a carved wooden mantelpiece, brick firebox, and brick facing. Due east of the fireplace is a historic six-over-nine double hung sash window. The east wall of this bedroom contains two historic six-over-nine double hung sash windows.

Due east of the house are the historic entry gates that date to circa 1826. (C)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

Located southwest of the main house is the historic Webster cemetery. The oldest grave marks the final resting place of John Green Webster, one of Jonathan Webster's sons, and dates to 1825. Both Jonathan and his wife are buried here, along with numerous descendants. The southwest corner of the cemetery contains a marker devoted to the memory of the many slaves that served the Webster family in Maury County from 1810 to 1865. In addition, the cemetery contains several good examples of nineteenth century statuary and grave boxes. Rowena Webster, a daughter of Jonathan, erected the limestone and iron fence that surrounds the family cemetery in 1904. (C)

Immediately behind the west elevation of the house is a well house, constructed of weatherboard and topped with an asphalt shingle roof. The structure rests on a brick foundation and dates to circa 1920. (C)

West of the well house is a metal storage shed that sits on a stone foundation. Its construction date is circa 1980. (NC, due to date of construction)

Southwest of the metal shed is a wooden chicken coop of box construction, topped with a metal shed roof and resting on a stone foundation. This structure dates to circa 1920. (C)

Northwest of the house is a slave dwelling of log construction. The circa 1826 structure has a metal roof and rests partially on a stone foundation. Its roof and part of a wall have collapsed. (NC, due to deterioration)

East of the slave dwelling is another slave dwelling of full dovetail log construction. The building contains a metal roof and the south elevation has a buggy shed (circa 1900) added to it with a metal shed roof. The building rests on a stone foundation and dates to circa 1826. (C)

Due east of these log structures is a metal shed supported with metal poles and containing no walls. This shed, used for the protection of farm equipment and vehicles, dates to circa 1970. (NC, due to date of construction)

A gravel driveway, the path of which dates to at least 1826,

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

connects the domestic complex to the crop production area of the farm. (C)

Northeast of the house and across the driveway is a large concrete silo used for grain storage. This silo dates to circa 1920. (C)

Due north of the silo is a shed of wooden construction resting on a stone foundation and topped with a metal roof. It dates to circa 1920. (C)

Northeast of the silo across the gravel driveway is a large frame transverse stock barn with two passageways and a metal roof. The structure rests on a stone foundation and dates to circa 1920. (C)

Northwest of the house in an adjoining field across the Harlan Branch of the Big Bigby Creek lies a prehistoric Indian mound of Woodland or Mississippian origin which has been recorded by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology as state site number 40MU551 under the Smithsonian Institution Trinomial System (SITS). Staff at the Tennessee Department of Archaeology made a field examination of the site in February 1996. (See addendum to nomination. Site is neither C nor NC at this time).

The field patterns of the Webster Farm retain their early-twentieth century configuration through well-defined natural barriers, which divide the farm into effective units. Fields to the north and east of the domestic complex are reserved for corn, hay, orchard grass, and clover production. This land lies within the bottomland of the Big Bigby Creek. The historic agricultural fields on the Webster Farm comprise a contributing site. (C)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

## VIII. Significance

The Webster Farm, presently a 96.52 acre tract located at 3166 Hampshire Pike in Cross Bridges vicinity, Maury County, Tennessee is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in early settlement and agriculture, Criterion B for its significance to a famous person and Criterion C as a significant group of farm buildings and structures dating from the early- to mid-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. The house itself is significant under Criterion C as an early example of the Federal architectural influence on Middle Tennessee's landscape. The Webster Farm is nominated under the registration requirements for Historic Family Farms set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee.

The evolution of the Webster Farm can be traced to the year 1807, the same year of the formation of Maury County, when Jonathan Webster III (1767-1843), a Revolutionary War veteran and retired merchant, moved from Washington, Georgia to Maury County, Tennessee. Upon arrival in Maury County, Webster bought a 500 acre tract for \$1,000 along Big Bigby Creek. This tract was part of a 5,000 acre Revolutionary War grant belonging to Joseph Long, who subdivided his large holdings and sold it to incoming gentry. Webster's purchase contained an extensive cane break that had been cleared by Native Americans who constructed a mound on the property during the Woodland or Mississippian periods.

Upon arrival to this new land, Webster engaged himself in business by building a grist mill on Big Bigby Creek, thus supplying necessary flour to early inhabitants of the area. The ruins of the grist mill are not contained in the nominated acreage. Owning close to fifty slaves, Webster was definitely considered an elite member of the planter class. He set them on the task of constructing a three pen cottage (circa 1810) out of brick that had been shaped and fired on a kiln on the estate. Though small by today's standards, the one-story red brick structure was truly quite impressive as brick dwellings were rare in that part of Tennessee in the early-nineteenth century. A large two-story Federal I-house was added on to the existing structure circa 1826. According to Summers in "Through the

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

Centuries with the Websters", the extensive house was "soon surrounded by all the facilities necessary for running a household and tilling virgin farmland" (p. 5). Thus, the built environment of the farm quickly grew to accommodate the agricultural endeavors of the farm.

The circa 1810 one-story dwelling is significant to Tennessee architecture because it represents an early-nineteenth century vernacular adaptation of an eighteenth century architectural style prominent in rural cottages found in Britain and subsequently in Virginia. This particular three pen cottage currently consists of a kitchen and two bedrooms.

The circa 1826 Federal style one-room deep, two-story I-house also reflects the British influence on American architecture that became prominent in the American colonies and frontier. According to Hankins in Hearthstones, the I-house,

evolved over time in respect to lifestyle, materials, and available construction skills. The typical I-house in the southeast reflects the influence of traditional rural folk houses of Ireland and Great Britain that Irish, Scottish, and English immigrants brought to the mid-Atlantic states. . . . As settlers moved across the Appalachian mountains they brought with them this familiar and practical house type (p. 14).

With its five bay facade, exterior end chimneys, and door/window treatments, the Webster house represents a classic vernacular interpretation of the Federal architectural style in Middle Tennessee. In addition, the interior of the I-house contains several distinct Federal traits including paneled wainscoting and decoratively carved mantels emblazoned with ovals and shell designs.

As Webster's farm continued to prosper, he continued to raise cotton, but he also experimented in raising assorted livestock, such as sheep, horses, hogs, cattle, and mules. Eventually, he turned the management of the farm over to various foremen and some of his eleven children.

Webster was both an original settler as well as a wealthy

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

landowner in Maury County. In this capacity, he was well-respected by his fellow citizens and it was natural for him to enter the world of Tennessee politics. During the years 1813-1817, Webster was a representative in the 10th and 11th General Assemblies. From 1817-1819, he served as a senator in the 12th General Assembly. Following this, he served in the 15th (1823-1825), 18th (1829-1831), and 21st (1835-1837) General Assemblies as a senator. In the 21st General Assembly, Webster served as the Speaker of the Senate.

In the early part of his political career, Webster allied himself with the Jacksonian Democrats and was a close friend of James K. Polk, supporting him in many of his political campaigns. The mid-1830s, however, witnessed a change in Webster's political attitudes and he began to possess Whig sympathies. These sympathies surfaced in 1835 when Webster supported the Whig Presidential candidate, Hugh Lawson White, over Jackson's hand-picked successor, Martin Van Buren. Polk never forgave this treason to the principles of Jacksonian Democracy and his disappointment with Webster over this issue is evident in The Correspondence of James K. Polk. Before 1835, Webster and Polk (both Maury County residents) exchanged numerous letters whose content included political issues as well as family matters. After 1835, however, correspondence between Polk and Webster became very limited and business-oriented.

Embracing the ideals of the Whig party, Webster began to pursue many internal improvements, the most notable being his effort to establish a line of mail stages from McMinnville through Bedford and Coffee counties and westward to the Mississippi River. In 1839, Webster ran an unsuccessful campaign to serve as Whig senator of Tennessee.

In addition to his political exploits, Jonathan Webster also proved to be an enterprising agriculturist. Upon arrival to Maury County, Webster built and operated a successful grist mill along the banks of Big Bigby Creek (the ruins of which are out of the boundaries of the nominated acreage). This mill provided flour to many early settlers in the vicinity. Webster was one of the first planters to introduce mules into Maury County because he realized that they were more productive in the cotton fields than oxen. Webster was also a great lover of horses and of their

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

racings ability. He built a large race track to the east of his house and often invited prominent men to come to the track to bet on the races. There are no visible signs of the race track in the fields to the east of the main house. Webster became a prominent horse trader in Maury County and in the year of his death (1843), he owned forty head of horses and mules. His grandson, William J. Webster, also proved to be a talented agriculturist who engaged in the raising of Jersey cattle, a breed from England's Channel Islands that enjoyed increased popularity among Southern farmers in the decades immediately preceding and following the Civil War. William Webster served as half owner and president of the Columbia Jersey Cattle Company in the mid-nineteenth century.

On April 2, 1847, the Columbia Beacon advertised the sale of the Webster Farm with the following description: "executors of the last will of Jonathan Webster, deceased, will sell farm on which Webster resided, lying upon the waters of Big Bigby . . . 770 acres, large brick family residence, brick kitchen and other outhouses including a gin house." The property came into the hands of a Mr. Harlan from Sumner County, Tennessee, who continued to raise livestock and produce cotton and hemp on the farm.

In the early 1900s, the Harlans added a Classical Revival front porch to the existing farmhouse, thus modernizing the historic dwelling's facade. This modernization increased during the early 1920s with the rise of the progressive era which permeated the political, domestic, and agricultural spheres of Southern life in the early-twentieth century. Progressive legislation, in the form of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, funded the Agricultural Extension Service, an organization charged with denouncing traditional Southern adherence to one-crop agriculture and promoting the production of various types of commodities. These progressive farming techniques were designed to make Southern farmers increasingly self-sufficient and less reliant on the fluctuating prices of the cotton and tobacco markets.

The closest extension agents to the Harlans were located in Columbia at the Middle Tennessee Experiment Station. From this headquarters, extension agents travelled to farms throughout Middle Tennessee and urged farmers to plant orchards, raise

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

chickens, and strive to make their farm a diversified enterprise. The built environment of the Webster Farm reflects the degree with which the Harlans embraced progressive farming ideals. During the 1920s, a chicken coop, well house, concrete silo, and stock barn were built to improve the farm's overall agricultural production. In addition to these structural improvements, the Harlans also altered field production by sowing cattle pastures with orchard grass, clover, and hay, while replacing other pastures altogether with corn fields.

Extension agents also sought to improve domestic life on rural farms. Home demonstration agents went into farmhouses and taught the women how to care for chickens, pickle fruits and vegetables, cook various foods, and keep the domestic sphere clean and sanitary. These agents often stressed the need to paint kitchens and living areas white so as to present a sanitary aspect throughout the house. The painted wainscoting in all the bedrooms and the kitchen of the Webster farmhouse may reflect this devotion and cooperation with the extension agents.

In the 1950s, the Webster Farm passed into the hands of the Osborn family who fortunately respected both the house and the land. They made very few alterations to the built environment of the farm and took great care of the house. Finally, in 1994, the Webster family regained possession of their ancestral home. Today, Mike Webster, who is Jonathan's great-great-grandson, his wife Jill, and their four children, live on the historic farm and take great pride in both the farm's history and evolution from the period of early settlement up through its survival as an income-producing farm in the late-twentieth century. Under the ownership and management of Mike and Jill Webster, the farm produces corn, hay, orchard grass, and clover. It is significant because of its association with Jonathan Webster, an early settler, politician, and agriculturist of Middle Tennessee. Furthermore, the farm is significant because it possesses excellent examples of early-nineteenth century architecture (circa 1810-1826 farmhouse, circa 1825 cemetery) and early-twentieth century outbuildings that relate to the influence of progressive farming techniques on the built environment of Middle Tennessee.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 17

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

## IX. Bibliography

- Ash, Stephen. Middle Tennessee Society Transformed, 1860-1870. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988.
- Bishir, Catherine. North Carolina Architecture. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990.
- Daniel, Pete. Standing at the Crossroads: Southern Life in the Twentieth Century. New York: Hill and Wang, 1986.
- Federal Writers' Project. The WPA Guide to Tennessee. New York: Viking Press, 1939.
- Garrett, Jill. Maury County, Tennessee Historical Sketches. Unpublished document, 1967.
- Glassie, Henry. Folk Housing in Middle Virginia. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Passing the Time in Ballymenone: Culture and History of an Ulster Community. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1982.
- Goodspeed, Westin, ed. History of Tennessee. Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1886.
- Hankins, Caneta. Hearthstones: The Story of Rutherford County Homes. Murfreesboro: The Oaklands Association, Inc., 1993.
- Kirby, Jack Temple. Rural Worlds Lost: The American South, 1920-1960. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987.
- McBride, Robert and Dan Robison, eds. Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly. Vol. I, 1796-1861. Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1975.
- Patrick, James. Architecture in Tennessee, 1768-1897. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981.
- Quin, Richard H. "Webster Family Record and Kinship Book." Unpublished document, 1988.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 18

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

Summers, Elizabeth. "Through the Centuries with the Websters, 1703-1970." Unpublished document, 1970.

Tennessee Extension Review. April 1927.

Weaver, Herbert, Paul Bergeron, Kermit Hall, Wayne Cutler, Earl Smith, and Carese Parker, eds. Correspondence of James K. Polk. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1969.

Webster, Mike and Jill. Interview by Brian Eades, October 12, 1995. Cross Bridges, TN.

West, Carroll Van. Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective. Nashville: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 1986.

Winters, Donald. "Farm Size and Production Choices: Tennessee, 1850-1860." Tennessee Historical Quarterly 52 (Winter 1993): 213-24.

\_\_\_\_\_. Tennessee Farming, Tennessee Farmers: Antebellum Agriculture in the Upper South. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1994.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 19

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

### X. Boundary Description

#### Verbal boundary description

The Tax Map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

The nominated boundaries are those marked as parcel number 21, 96.52 acres, on the attached Maury County Tax Maps 85 and 86.

#### Boundary justification

The nominated property contains original family farm acreage that is associated with Jonathan Webster and that recently returned into family ownership.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 20

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

PHOTOGRAPHS  
Webster Farm  
Maury Co., TN

By: Carroll Van West  
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation  
Date: October 12, 1995  
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37243

Historic photo of farmhouse, east facade, facing west, circa 1929  
1 of 42

Doorway, east facade, facing west  
2 of 42

Farmhouse, east facade, facing west  
3 of 42

Farmhouse, east facade, facing northwest  
4 of 42

Farmhouse, south elevation, facing north  
5 of 42

Farmhouse, west elevation, facing northeast  
6 of 42

Farmhouse, north elevation, facing south  
7 of 42

Farmhouse, north elevation, facing southwest  
8 of 42

Central hall, first floor, facing west  
9 of 42

Parlor, first floor, facing south  
10 of 42

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 21

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

Parlor, first floor, facing northwest  
11 of 42

Parlor, first floor, detail of wainscoting, facing southeast  
12 of 42

Dining room, first floor, facing north  
13 of 42

Dining room, first floor, detail of doorway, facing south  
14 of 42

South bedroom, first floor, facing southwest  
15 of 42

Central bedroom, first floor, looking into south bedroom, facing southwest  
16 of 42

Central bedroom, first floor, facing north  
17 of 42

Staircase, facing northeast  
18 of 42

Staircase, second floor, facing northwest  
19 of 42

Hallway, second floor, facing north  
20 of 42

South bedroom, second floor, facing northeast  
21 of 42

South bedroom, second floor, facing south  
22 of 42

Well house, facing north  
23 of 42

Storage shed and chicken coop, facing southwest  
24 of 42

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 22

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

Chicken coop, facing west  
25 of 42

First slave dwelling, facing northwest  
26 of 42

Second slave dwelling, facing northwest  
27 of 42

Metal shed, facing northeast  
28 of 42

Silo, facing west  
29 of 42

Stock barn, facing east  
30 of 42

Fields northeast of farm complex, facing northeast  
31 of 42

Fields east of farm complex, facing south  
32 of 42

Cemetery gate, facing north  
33 of 42

Cemetery, facing northwest  
34 of 42

Cemetery, facing northeast  
35 of 42

Cemetery, facing southwest  
36 of 42

Cemetery, facing west  
37 of 42

Cemetery, detail of statuary, facing west  
38 of 42

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 23

---

Webster Farm, Maury Co., TN

Cemetery, detail of gravestone, facing west  
39 of 42

Mound, facing north  
40 of 42

Mound, facing east  
41 of 42

Mound, facing southeast  
42 of 42

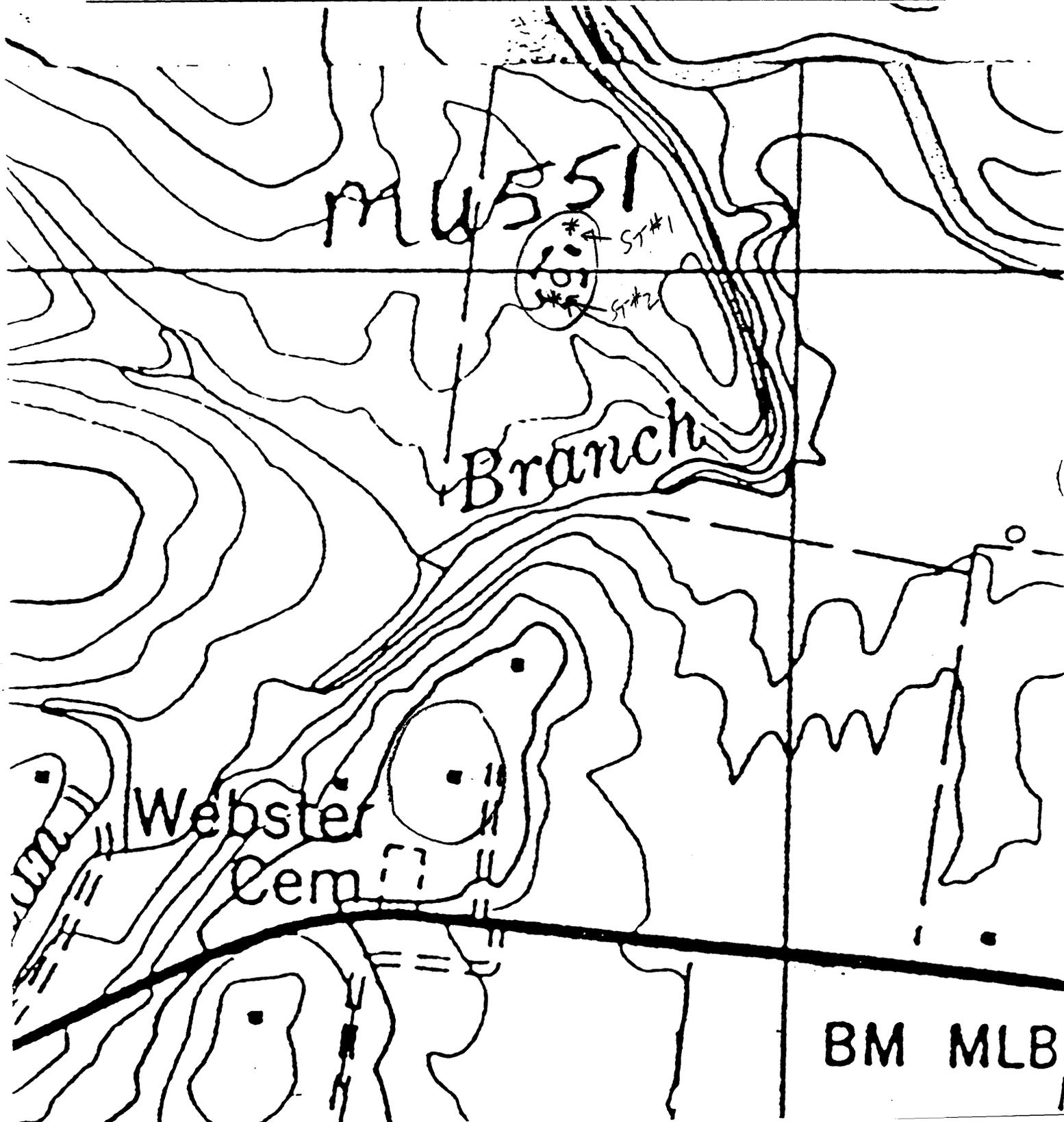




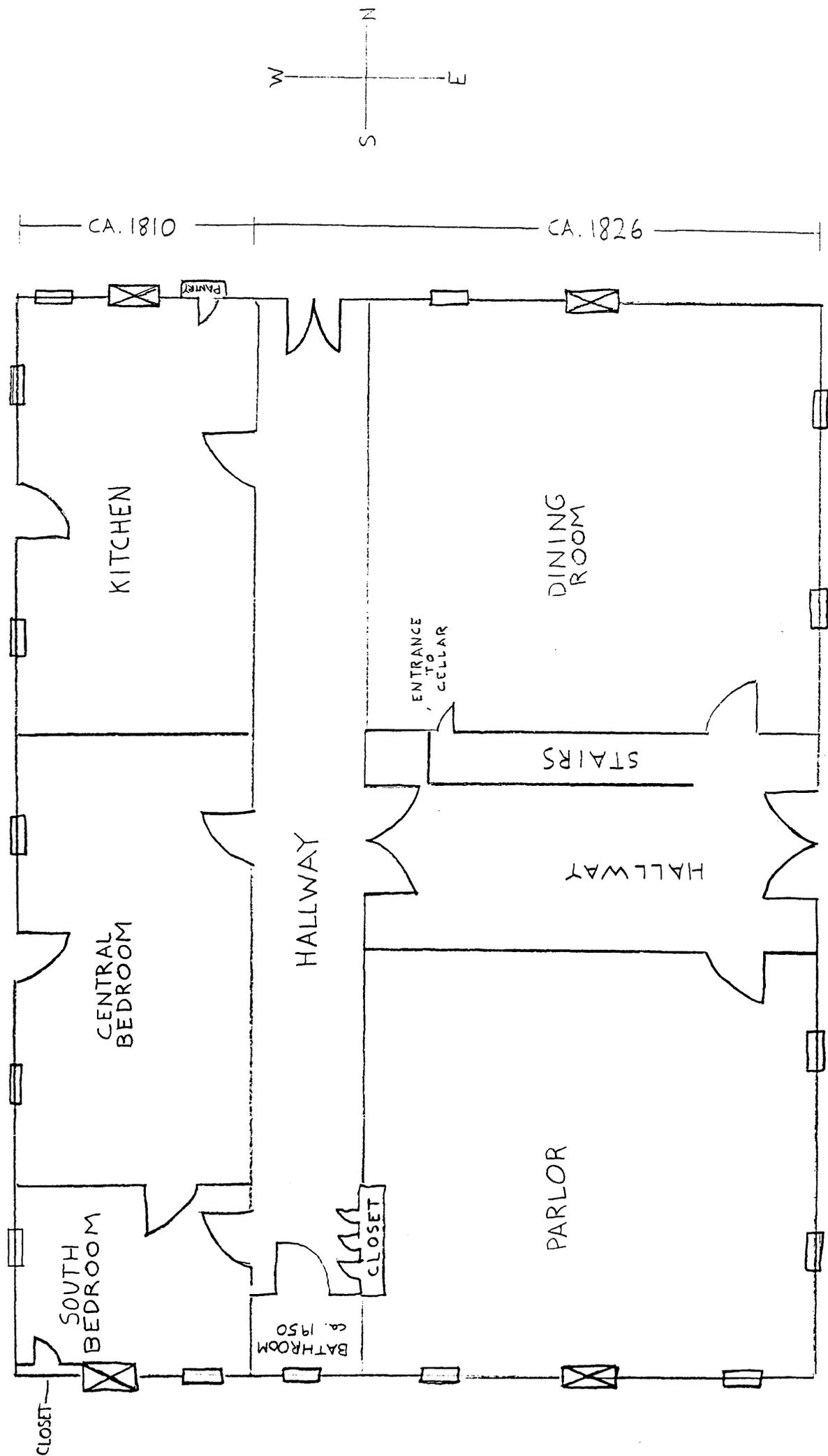
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number n/a Page 26 Webster Farm  
Maury County, TN

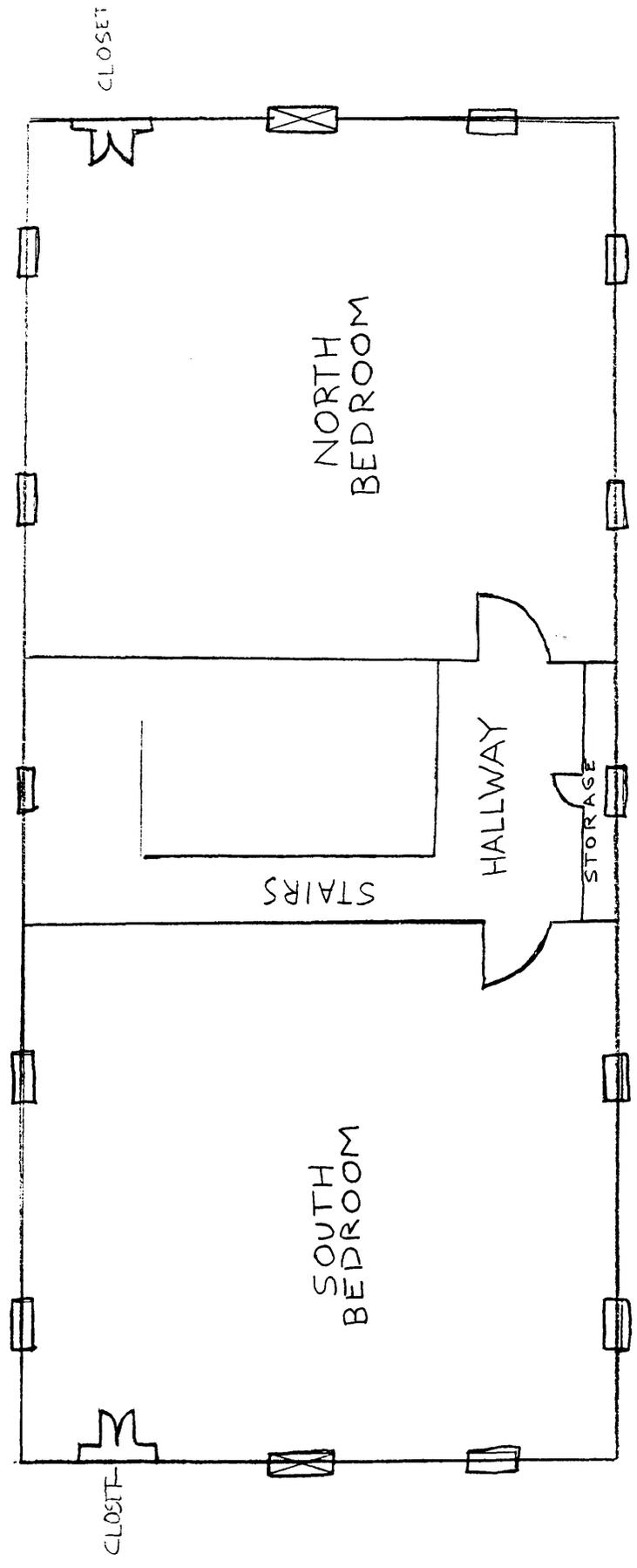
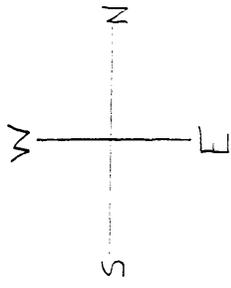


NEWELL MANITOWOC  
MAURY CO., TN  
FIRST FLOOR



NOT TO SCALE

WEBSTER FURNITURE  
MAURY CO., TN  
SECOND FLOOR

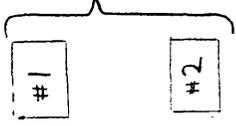


\*NOT TO SCALE

WEBSTER FARM  
N →

FIELD  
CONTAINING  
INDIAN  
MOUND

LOG  
SLAVE  
DWELLINGS  
CA. 1826



C E M E T E R Y

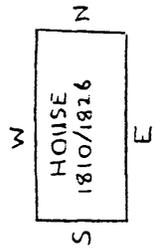
CHICKEN  
COOP, 1920



METAL  
SHED  
STONE FOUNDATION, 1980



WELL HOUSE  
BRICK FOUNDATION  
1920

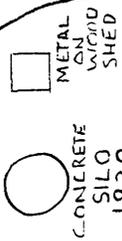


H O U S E  
1810/1826

METAL  
SHED  
CA. 1970



D R I V E W A Y



C O N C R E T E  
S I L O  
1920

METAL  
ON  
WOOD  
SHED

S T O C K  
B A R N  
1920

F I E L D S / P A S T U R E  
(C)

C O R N  
F I E L D

U.S.  
412

WEBSTER FARM  
MAURY CO. TN  
1" = 400' N

