

(Oct. 1990)

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 Elmwood (boundary increase and additional documentation)
other names/site number Rose Hill, Hord Farm, 73001823

2. Location

street & number 5722 Old Nashville Highway NA not for publication
city or town Murfreesboro vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Rutherford code zip code 37129

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 for 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or 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):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Horizontal lines for signature and date input.

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
13	2	buildings
1		sites
4		structures
		objects
18	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 MPS

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

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

No Style

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE, CONCRETE

walls BRICK, WOOD, LOG

roof ASPHALT SHINGLE, METAL

other STONE, WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations NA**

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture  
 Architecture  
 Military

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**Period of Significance**

1842-1957

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**Significant Dates**

1842; 1862; 1864

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**Architect/Builder**

unknown

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**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):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Elmwood (boundary increase and additional documentation)  
Name of Property

Rutherford County, TN  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 168 acres Walter Hill 315 NW

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>548721</u>	<u>3974522</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>549147</u>	<u>3972871</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>549574</u>	<u>3973313</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>548360</u>	<u>3973740</u>

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.)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Spurgeon King  
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date 1-30-2007  
street & number Box 80, MTSU telephone 615-898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

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### Additional Documentation

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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.)

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### Property Owner

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

name CW Hord, Hord Family LP, Joy Marchbanks Hord, TE Hord, c/o Charles and Joy Hord  
street & number 5722 Old Nashville Highway telephone 615-893-3459  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37129

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**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 listing. 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 20303.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Elmwood (boundary increase and additional documentation),  
Rutherford County, Tennessee

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Note: Elmwood was listed in the National Register on October 15, 1973. The boundary was nine undefined acres and only the main house was considered contributing. Areas of significance were architecture, military, and agriculture. The revised nomination extends the period of significance, increases the boundary to reflect the agricultural history better, and clarifies the areas of significance.

## 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### Overview

The nominated property comprises 168 acres along Overall Creek in Rutherford County, Middle Tennessee. The farm is situated on gently rolling hills with fertile bottomlands between a railroad line to the northeast and the Old Nashville Highway to the southwest. Fences and hedgerows separate the fields and pastures, while access to the farm buildings is provided via two farm roads that intersect below a slight ridge to the rear of the house. One road runs from Old Nashville Highway along the western side of the house and yard to the main barn lot and ridge beyond, and the other road below the ridge runs on a northwest-southeast axis to connect the contiguous fields, pastures, and bottomlands. The Greek Revival brick main house, constructed in 1842, faces southwest and occupies a knoll dotted with mature trees that overlooks the fields. The adjacent brick kitchen was also constructed in 1842 and is now attached to the main house with a modern hyphen built in 1968. The buildings were unattached until that date. Behind the main house and kitchen are a c. 1850 frame smokehouse and cabin. The cabin was moved to its present location during the 1980s from behind the smokehouse. A c. 1850 garage/carriage house is also adjacent to the main house to the northwest. A grouping of farm outbuildings dating from c. 1870-1930 is situated slightly to the northwest behind the main house, and frame tenant dwellings built around the turn of the twentieth century appear beyond the outbuildings to the north. A c. 1950 corncrib is located down the hill from the main house to the southeast. Rail and stone fences separate the fields and pastures.

The principal house, former kitchen/servants quarters, and two log and two wood outbuildings are the only resources noted in the original 1973 nomination. The log and wood outbuildings were not specifically identified, and the corn crib next to the stock barn is the only extant log structure on the property. Since the 1973 nomination, the cabin (see Building List below, #5) was moved from behind the smokehouse to its present location to a site next to the southeast elevation of the smokehouse. Both the smokehouse and cabin were refurbished during the 1980s with new board siding.

### Inventory

1. Elmwood's main house (c. 1842) is a contributing building previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

Exterior: The brick Greek Revival main house is a two-story, three-bay, central hall design with a side gable roof. The roof is sheathed in modern asphalt shingles. The façade faces southwest and features brick in a Flemish bond pattern, while the sides and rear are American Common bond. The foundation is limestone. Paired chimneys are located on each gable end, forming part of an extended wall plane projecting above the roofline. The gable ends face southeast and northwest, respectively. A white wood belt course defines the two floors. The three-bay main façade features a two-story porch under a pediment supported by square white columns. There is a wood deck with balustrade at the second story level. The front entrance is flanked

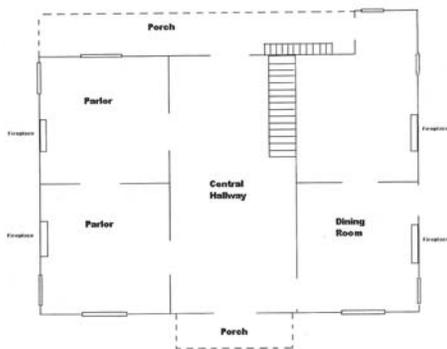
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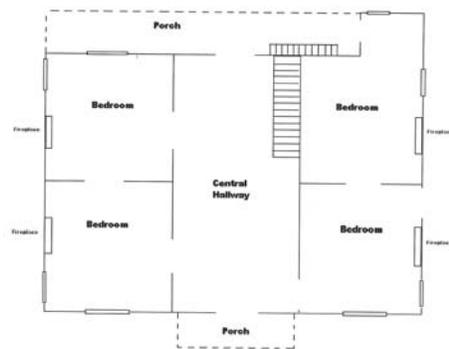
Section number 7 Page 2 Elmwood (boundary increase and additional documentation),  
Rutherford County, Tennessee

by sidelights with surmounting transom, while the double doors appear original and have a raised wood panel design with inverted corners. The present porch floor is wood tongue-and-groove. Front windows are twelve-over-twelve double-hung wood sash flanked by twentieth-century louvered shutters. Side elevation windows are nine-over-nine double-hung sash. The windows feature plain stone sills and lintels; the lintels have square crossettes in each corner. The rear of the house is covered by a two-story wood porch with a slightly pitched shed roof extending from the north rear corner of the house to a “bump out” at the eastern corner. The bump out was added c. 1937 as part of a renovation to accommodate indoor plumbing. Prior to the 1930s, the two-story rear porch was full-width. Interior and exterior walls are thirteen inches thick.

An enclosed hyphen on the southeast façade contains a modern kitchen that connects to the previously detached two-story building facing southeast that historically housed the original kitchen and servant’s quarters. The hyphen was added in 1968 as part of a major renovation of the kitchen/servant’s quarters, which the present owners believe was constructed simultaneously with the main house in 1842. The two buildings were unattached until the 1968 renovation. The kitchen was historically located in the smaller building until it was relocated to the hyphen in 1968. It now contains modern features from that period. During the renovation, materials such as wood flooring, plain trim, simple classical fireplace surrounds, and window elements were retained and reused in the original kitchen/servant’s quarters.



Elmwood, Rutherford County, Tennessee  
Floor #1  
(not to scale)



Elmwood, Rutherford County, Tennessee  
Floor #2  
(not to scale)

Interior: The interior of the main house retains high integrity, featuring two floors with a four-over-four floor plan, central hall, and finished attic. The original interior floor plan remains substantially intact. The front-to-back central hallway divides first floor rooms, and corresponding spaces on the second floor are used as bedrooms. Original trim, wood flooring, stair railings, doors, windows, and chair rails remain throughout the dwelling. Floors throughout the main house are white ash and molded baseboards are walnut.

Access to first floor spaces is provided through the main entrance hall, the rear porch, and the hyphen. The two parlors to the northwest and the dining room to the southeast are accessed from the main hall. The rear bedroom on the southeast is accessed through the dining room and from the rear porch. The kitchen in the hyphen is accessed from the dining room. The main entrance hall contains the original stairway with round wood railing and plain turned newel post. The stairs extend upward along the wall to a landing, and then from the landing to the second floor. Trim features include wide molded baseboards, shouldered architrave around doors, and crown molding. The ceiling light fixture has a plain circular medallion.

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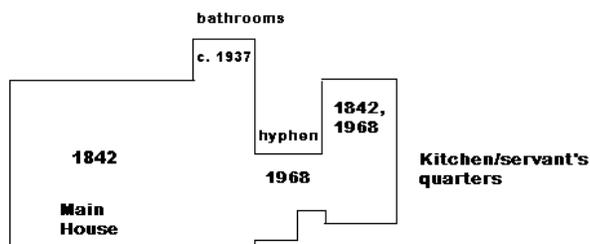
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The front rooms on the first level measure 20'x20' and the rear spaces are 16'x20'. The front parlor on the northwest side of the house features wide molded baseboards and crown molding. The fireplace has a plain classical surround with a blind rectangular panel. The cornice and mantel are plain. The rear parlor on the northwest side of the house mirrors the front parlor with identical trim and fireplace surround. The doorway between the two parlors is articulated with blind panels on either side. Folding doors are hinged on the rear parlor side.

The dining room and bedroom to the southeast contain the same wide, molded baseboards and architrave trim as the parlors on the other side of the central hallway. Fireplace surrounds are also identical to those in the parlors. The dining room features a wide molded chair rail that extends along all four walls. The door into the kitchen has a rectangular transom. The c. 1937 bathroom is accessed from the back bedroom, and a separate door accesses the rear porch.

The second floor mirrors the first floor spaces below. The four rooms on the second floor are used as bedrooms. Each bedroom has a fireplace, wide molded baseboards, and crown molding. Fireplaces and molding are identical to that on the first floor. An enclosed stairway leads up to the one-room attic.

**Construction Evolution:** The main dwelling and kitchen/servant's quarters were constructed in 1842. These two buildings were historically unattached until a hyphen connected them in 1968. The rear porch of the main dwelling was originally full-width until the construction of a bump-out on the east corner of the rear elevation c. 1937. The bump out was constructed to accommodate indoor plumbing. As part of the 1968 renovation, the kitchen was moved from its historic location in the servant's quarters to the hyphen, which is accessed through the dining room of the main dwelling.



**Elmwood, Rutherford County, Tennessee  
Construction Evolution  
(not to scale)**

2. Kitchen/servant's quarters (c. 1842, contributing building). The kitchen/servant's quarters is a two-story, gable roofed brick dwelling situated at a right angle to the main house. The two-bay façade faces southeast.

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The building has a stone foundation, offset front entrance with a single-bay, shed-roofed porch featuring wrought-iron supports, and six-over-six double-hung sash with plain stone sills and lintels. The floor plan is two-over-two with original plain trim throughout. This building was historically unattached to the main dwelling until a hyphen was constructed as part of a 1968 renovation.

3. Garage/carriage house (c. 1850, contributing building). The garage/carriage house is a single story building with offset entrance and three paired doors with latticed tops. The building features braced frame construction with weatherboard siding, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, and a side gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Slatted vents appear in each gable end, and the roof ridge has a square surmounting cupola, and a one-story shed roofed frame addition extends from the rear elevation.
4. Smokehouse (c. 1850, contributing building). The smokehouse is a two-story, gable front building with wood shingle roof and two-story, simple open porch. The porch features a plain fascia and wood shingle roof with board-and-batten pediment. Entrance doors provide access off each porch level. The building has a limestone foundation, braced frame construction and weatherboard siding. There is a simple boxed cornice and plain rake board.
5. Cabin (c. 1930, non-contributing building). This single story cabin has a side gable, wood shingle roof, weatherboard siding and offset front entrance. There is a simple front porch with plain posts and fascia, and four-over-four double-hung sash. According to oral tradition, the cabin was moved from a saw mill across Old Nashville Highway around 1968 and relocated behind the smokehouse. During the 1980s, it was moved to its present location beside the smokehouse. The cabin has been used mostly for storage.
6. Stock barn with attached shed (1922, c. 1930, contributing building). The stock barn features two-story frame construction, a gambrel roof covered with corrugated sheet metal roofing, triangular hay hood on the south facade, and a limestone foundation. The building has vertical board siding, a truss system with cross bracing, and haylofts on either gable end. There is a c. 1930 one-story shed addition with two vehicle openings on the west side, and plain rectangular windows on the east and west elevations. The date is confirmed by nails embedded in a timber at the south end of the barn that spell out "1922."
7. Log corn crib (c. 1870, contributing structure). This structure is a rectangular saddle-notched log crib. The roof of the corn crib has long since disappeared (there are remnants extant beside the structure).
8. Milking barn with attached sheds (c. 1930, contributing building). The milking barn is a gable roofed, frame pole barn with open equipment stalls on the east elevation. There is a door in the gable end. The building is sheathed with both vertical and horizontal boards. The concrete foundation supports cedar posts, and there is a sheet metal roof. Sheds on the northwest elevation are original.
9. Milk house (c. 1930, contributing building). The milk house is a small frame building with front gable roof, board and batten siding, screened double windows on the south elevation, and offset entrance on the east facade.
10. Shop with attached equipment shed (c. 1925), contributing building). The one-story frame shop has a side gable roof and attached shed on the north side. The building is sheathed in vertical board siding, has a

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sheet metal roof, and is supported by cedar posts on a concrete foundation. The south section has a flat roof.

11. Granary with attached shed (c. 1895-granary, c. 1930-shed, contributing building). The granary is a rectangular one-story, gable roofed frame building with sheet metal roofing, board and batten siding, and attached frame shed for equipment. There is a raised concrete block foundation and metal floor to resist vermin.

12. Equipment shed (c. 1925, contributing building). The shed is a front gable frame building with board and batten siding, sheet metal roof, and concrete block foundation. The building originally had wood doors that were removed c. 1985.

13. Equipment shed (2005, non-contributing building). Modern frame building constructed outside the period of significance.

14. Sharecropper cabin #1 (c. 1900, contributing building). The sharecropper cabin is a one-story frame dwelling with sheet metal, side gable roof, weatherboard siding and concrete block foundation. There is an enclosed porch on the front (north) facade and plainly trimmed porch on the south elevation. The building has a central brick chimney, four-room interior floor plan, lath-and-plaster walls with wainscoting, plain wood trim, and wide plank floors. Windows are six-over-six double-hung sash with wood shutters.

Barn (c. 1900, contributing building). There is a small two-story, gable-roofed frame barn with vertical board siding located northwest of the tenant house.

15. Sharecropper cabin #2 (c. 1895, contributing building). The sharecropper cabin is a one-story frame dwelling with sheet metal, gable roof, shed-roofed rear extension, central brick chimney, asphalt siding, and shed-roofed front porch. Doors and windows are boarded up.

Barn (c. 1900, contributing building). There is a small two-story, gable-roofed frame barn with vertical board siding about 75 yards beyond the tenant house near Overall Creek to the north.

16. Corn crib (c. 1950, contributing structure). The corn crib is a narrow frame single crib with sheet metal roof and concrete block foundation.

17. Well house (c. 1930, contributing structure). The well house is a small concrete block shed located at pond's edge across from the stock barn.

18. Silo (c. 1922, contributing structure). An early concrete silo at the northeast end of the stock barn.

19. Agricultural landscape (1842-1957, contributing site). This includes fields, pastures, tree lines, fences, gates and farm roads throughout the property. These elements of the agricultural landscape in tandem with the built components mentioned above are integral to the operation of a working farm. A dry laid stone wall separates fields at the southeastern edge of the farm, and another stone wall runs southeast down the slope from the former servant's quarters/kitchen of the main house. Other fences are primarily rail and metal

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## **Continuation Sheet**

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mesh with metal gates. The stone walls, fences and dirt farm roads providing access to the fields and pastures on the property are maintained by the current owners.

20. Railroad (c. 1840, c. 1980, non-contributing structure). The CSX railroad track runs near the property's northern boundary on a northwest-southeast axis. The tracks are modern, but follow the historic route of the tracks first laid during the 1840s.

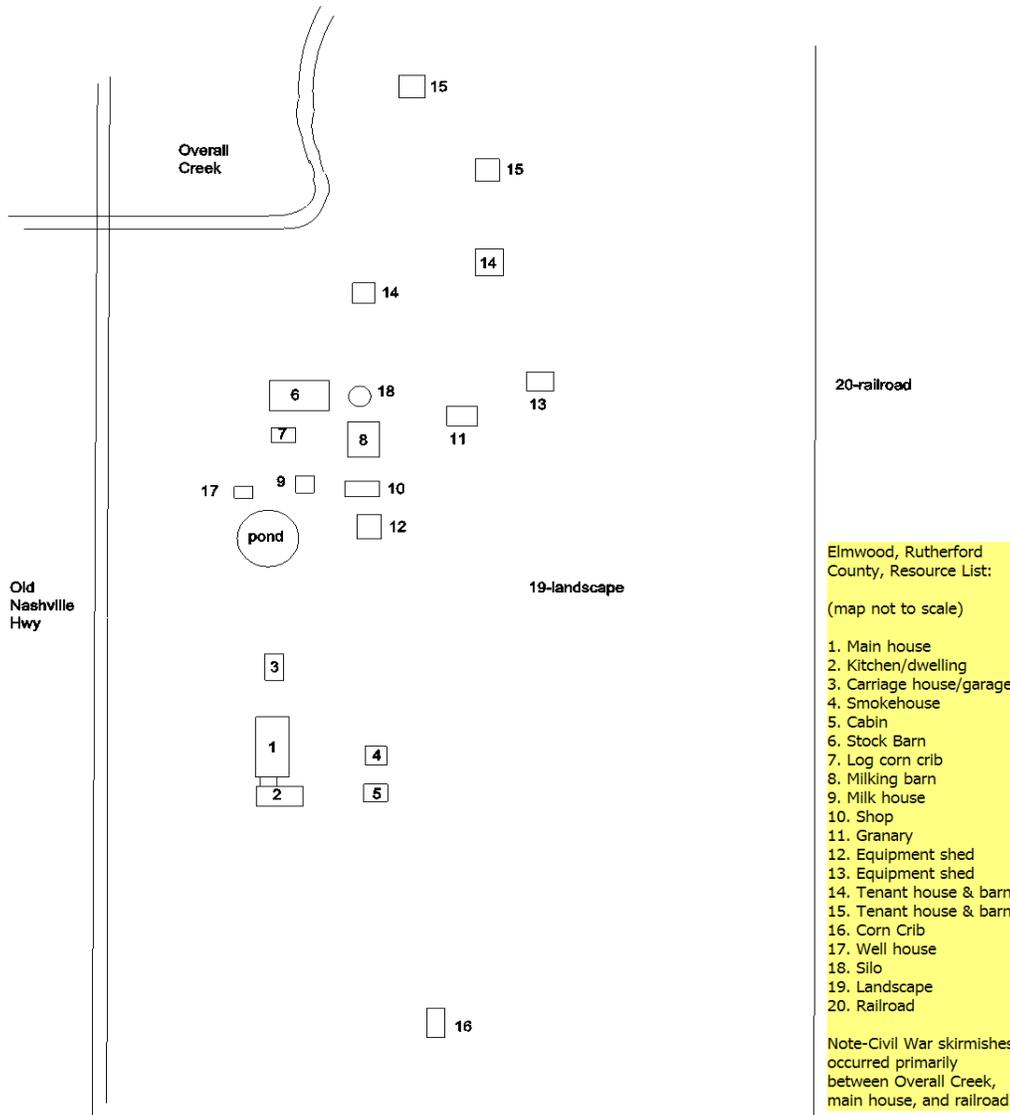
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Elmwood (boundary increase and additional documentation),  
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Site Plan Not to scale N ↑



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## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally listed on the National Register on October 15, 1973, the revised nomination for Elmwood expands the boundaries from nine acres to 168 acres, extends the period of significance to 1957, and strengthens the areas of significance. Under criterion C, the house is eligible as a c. 1842 Greek Revival residence. Built for Thomas Hord, the two-story brick building's character defining features include original windows, two-story front porch, paired chimneys with parapets, and full-width rear porch. Important interior details include the central hallway with original features such as the staircase, shouldered trim, doors, classical mantels, white ash floors, and walnut baseboards. In addition, the collection of farm outbuildings, dating from the 1840s to the 1950s, is a fine example of rural vernacular agricultural construction. The house is eligible in the areas of military history and agriculture. Beginning with Thomas Hord's stewardship of the land beginning in 1842 and continuing with his descendants today, Elmwood represents the evolution of farming and farm labor practices in Middle Tennessee. The farm began as a subsistence operation in the 1840s, but quickly developed surplus crops, chiefly cotton, for the export market. By 1862, the farm produced corn, cotton, wheat, and hay, and had extensive livestock including horses, beef cattle, hogs, and poultry. Labor was performed primarily by slaves. The Civil War destroyed the traditional slave labor system. Two sizable skirmishes occurred within the nominated boundaries (essentially the area between the main house and Overall Creek to the northwest, -one on Dec. 31, 1862 during the Battle of Stone's River, and the other during Forrest's December, 1864 raid on Murfreesboro as part of Hood's Tennessee campaign. During the Stone's River battle, Elmwood was requisitioned by the Union army as a hospital.<sup>1</sup> After a period of retrenchment following the Civil War, the farm resumed cotton exports with sharecropper labor. After 1900, the Hords experimented with dairy cattle, hybrid corn, and various fertilizers as part of a progressive farming program. They continued to raise beef cattle, a consistent trend since the farm began in 1842. During the last half of the twentieth century, the Hords phased out their dairy operation, retaining the beef cattle. They added soybeans as a crop while continuing to grow corn, wheat, and hay. Sharecropping gave way to hired labor during the 1960s. Owners of the farm were traditional civic leaders who also occupied important positions in agricultural organizations after the turn of the twentieth century.

The farm is now worked by both fourth and fifth generation members of the Hord family. Thomas Hord, who built the farm in 1842, had two wives and a total of eleven children. His first wife, Mary, died in 1851 after bearing nine children. Amelia (or Mildred as she was also called) was Thomas Hord's second wife. Thomas and Amelia married in 1859 and had two children, one of which was Thomas Epps Hord, who was born in 1863. Thomas Epps Hord, the second full owner of the farm, married Louise Sykes of Rutherford County, and the couple had three children, one of which was Thomas Epps Hord, Jr., who assumed ownership of the farm when his father died in 1944. Charles Wheeler Hord, Jr., and his brother, Thomas Epps Hord, III, took control of the farm upon Thomas, Jr.'s death in 1971. Charles Wheeler currently farms the nominated acreage with his son Epps who represents the fifth generation of Hords who have worked the farm.

Elmwood also exemplifies themes developed in the "Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee" multiple property submission such as Expansion and the Market Economy (C. 1850-1900), and Rural Reform and

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<sup>1</sup> Petition of Thomas Hord to the United States Government (March, 1863), with affidavits from Union surgeons and others, original in possession of Charles Wheeler Hord (Hord Collection).

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Agriculture (C. 1900-1955).<sup>2</sup> The property meets the registration requirements of the multiple property submission.

## EXPANSION AND THE MARKET ECONOMY (1850-1900)

Elmwood is located on part of the original 840 acres purchased by Thomas Hord, a Hawkins County lawyer, from William Bowman in 1842. Originally known as "Rose Hill," the extant farmhouse and detached kitchen took two years to build, and an antebellum frame smokehouse and carriage house remain near the main dwelling. Although the grouping of outbuildings around the main dwelling is typical of pre-1850 settlement period subsistence farms, Thomas Hord appears to have expanded his farm operation at a rapid rate to produce surplus goods. Fortunately for posterity, he wrote a detailed claim for Civil War losses that sheds significant light on his extensive property and equipment.<sup>3</sup> During the Civil War, the farm produced corn, cotton, wheat, and hay, and had orchards that were destroyed by troops. Thomas Hord also claimed livestock losses including horses, beef cattle, hogs, and poultry. His material losses included two large barns, one large frame dwelling house, three smaller houses for slave laborers, one house for holding grain, one wood working shop, six log stables, two corn cribs, one smokehouse, one small corn house, one house for "holding" gear, and two poultry houses. This list not only illustrates the destructiveness of war but also offers a snapshot of the farming operation in the mid-1860s. Thomas Hord passed away in September of 1865 prior to consideration of his claim by the United States government (a small partial claim was paid in 1911). His estate was divided equally between his wife and eight surviving children.

## Civil War

The Civil War significance of Elmwood cannot be overstated, particularly because it is so well documented. Much Civil War strategy involved the protection of railroads to ensure logistical support for large armies in the field. The Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad traversed the Hord property as did the Nashville Pike. Union occupation of Nashville in 1862 and the movement of Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army to Murfreesboro meant that Elmwood lay directly in the path of converging northern and southern armies. In late 1862, Union general William S. Rosecrans decided to confront Bragg and began moving his army down the Nashville Pike towards Murfreesboro. Bragg stayed put in Murfreesboro, and the armies clashed between December 31, 1862 and January 3, 1863 in one of the major battles of the war. On December 29, the Union army passed by the Hord farm and left the family with only 300 lbs. of bacon. During the Confederate assault on Rosecrans's lines the morning of December 31, 1862, Union doctors commandeered the Hord farm as one of several divisional hospitals in the area.<sup>4</sup> The Hord family was consigned to one room in the main house while grisly operations were carried out in the back parlor. Thomas Hord stated in his postwar claim for damages that over 6,000 casualties passed through his farm. There may be some validity to that figure since most Union casualties would have passed back up the Nashville Pike through the Hord farmlands. Union doctors and many of their patients stayed at the Hord farm until March, 1863.

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<sup>2</sup> Carroll Van West, "Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Nomination, 1995.

<sup>3</sup> Petition of Thomas Hord.

<sup>4</sup> Petition of Thomas Hord, surgeon affidavits.

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On Dec. 31, 1862, a cavalry skirmish occurred on the grounds of the main house during the Stone's River battle. A confederate cavalry brigade commanded by Brig. General John A. Wharton rode around the Federal right and proceeded north up Asbury Road to Elmwood in the Federal rear. Wharton discovered a Federal ammunition supply train below the Hord farm guarded by elements of the Second Ohio Cavalry Brigade, which he charged and scattered. His troopers chased many of the Federal cavalymen across the Hord farm to Overall Creek where the Union troops reformed. Confederate cavalry briefly occupied the Hord house until attacked and dislodged by elements of the Third Ohio Cavalry regiment. A surgeon at the house recounted how he could hear verbal cavalry commands as bullets hit the walls of the slave quarters (non extant) where he had sought refuge. The Confederate raid lost momentum when Union forces attacked its exposed right flank, and the southern cavalry brigade retired from the field back down to Murfreesboro. Events at the Hord farm were part of a series of actions occurring on Dec. 31 when the Union right flank temporarily collapsed.<sup>5</sup>

A larger skirmish occurred on December 4, 1864 during Hood's advance on Nashville when Confederate forces under William Bate of Nathan Bedford Forrest's command attacked Federal Blockhouse #7 protecting the railroad bridge over Overall Creek (the nominated property borders Overall Creek and is immediately adjacent to the blockhouse site). Bate had already captured several blockhouses north of #7. On Dec. 4, the 13<sup>th</sup> Indiana Cavalry sent out from the Federal stronghold at Murfreesboro set up a skirmish line on the south bank of Overall Creek to watch the Confederates and impede their advance, if possible. The commander of the 13<sup>th</sup> Indiana, Colonel G.M.L. Johnson, sent for reinforcements from Murfreesboro. The commander at Fortress Rosecrans in Murfreesboro, General Rousseau, quickly dispatched Major General R. H. Milroy and two regiments of infantry to bolster Johnson's cavalry at Overall Creek. Milroy arrived to give battle in the late afternoon, posting the 8<sup>th</sup> Minnesota east of the Hord house and the 174<sup>th</sup> Ohio brigade to the west facing the creek. Skirmishing occurred all along the front between the Hord house and creek. When Milroy sent Johnson to attack the Confederate left, southern artillery opened up to disperse the cavalymen with severe loss. The 174<sup>th</sup> Ohio then attacked and collapsed the Confederate right, which barely stabilized with the arrival of fresh troops. Milroy finally realized that he faced a strong infantry force, and retired back to Fortress Rosecrans in Murfreesboro. Blockhouse #7 held out for two weeks and was never captured by Confederate forces.<sup>6</sup>

General Forrest subsequently passed down the Nashville Pike to raid Murfreesboro on Dec. 7. General Milroy, at the head of another flying column from Fortress Rosecrans, broke the rebel line and forced Forrest to retire from the field. On Dec. 15, Hood retreated from Nashville to end his Tennessee campaign.

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<sup>5</sup> *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880). Series 1, Vol. 20, Serial # 29, "The Stone's River or Murfreesborough, Tenn., Campaign," Reports 177-80, 186, and 305.

<sup>6</sup> *Official Records*, Series 1, Vol. 45, Serial # 93, "Campaign in North Alabama and Tennessee," Reports 209, 222.

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## Reconstruction and Recovery

The Civil War devastated the Hord Farm materially and destroyed the traditional system of slave labor. Thomas Hord died in late 1865, and his payment claims for losses suffered during the war went unheeded at that time. His wife, Amelia, continued to run the farm, and sold land in Louisiana and Arkansas to keep it financially afloat. Major Benjamin Hord, Thomas's son from a previous marriage, returned to Elmwood after the war to look after his interests, which included some nearby inherited farm acreage. The Hords planted subsistence crops and continued their livestock operations, gradually increasing their export cotton crop. Thomas Hord's widow oversaw many of her younger children's shares of the estate, and during the early 1880s, helped her son, Thomas Epps Hord (known as "Epps"), to buy out the rest of the siblings to become master of the farm. For the next twenty years, Epps continued to expand the farm's traditional crop and livestock staples with sharecropper labor. He strove to put the farm on a solid financial footing so that he could devote time to politics and public service, which he began to seriously pursue during the early 1900s.

## **RURAL REFORM AND AGRICULTURE (1900-1955)**

Thomas Epps Hord, born in 1863, had ambitions that extended well outside the confines of agricultural pursuits. Epps Hord served as a county judge for thirty years and was elected a Tennessee state senator in 1908. His civic activities aside, Epps continued to produce corn, cotton, and wheat. He also was a principal in a Murfreesboro blanket manufacturing company that produced double felt blankets for WWI troops. This provided a ready market for wool sheared at Elmwood. As markets changed during the early twentieth century, he and his son, T.E. Hord, Jr. (known as "Tom"), introduced progressive agriculture and tried different crops and farming methods. They experimented with fertilizers from the Marietta Fertilizer Company in Atlanta, Georgia, hybrid corn, and different types of hay.<sup>7</sup> They introduced specially bred dairy cows and beef cattle to the farm, and outbuildings such as mule and milk barns, a milk house, granaries, and cribs reflected an emphasis on staple crops and livestock. The efficient milking operation reflected the connection of Tom with the development of the creamery business in Murfreesboro advantageously located beside a railroad crossing. The Hords milked their cows in the milking barn, separated the milk and cream in the milk house, trundled the milk containers down to the railroad crossing in nearby Florence, TN, and within an hour the product was unloaded at the Murfreesboro creamery.<sup>8</sup>

The two extant tenant cabins indicate the introduction of sharecropping during the late nineteenth century as an alternative to labor shortages of the time. The later c. 1900 cabin with four rooms and wainscoting is much more sturdily built than the c. 1895 two-room cabin down the hill to the north. Each sharecropper also had a small adjacent two-story barn for livestock and storage. Elmwood also benefited from its proximity to the Dixie Highway (now Highway 41, or the Old Nashville Turnpike), which runs through the historic farm acreage and along the SW boundary of the nominated property. The main house overlooks the old Dixie Highway, which almost didn't make it through Rutherford County. County leaders in 1915 took private subscriptions for three different routes-the Nashville Turnpike, Shelbyville Pike, and Woodbury Pike. Epps Hord and other members of the family subscribed over \$1100.00 to help the Nashville Pike committee win

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<sup>7</sup>Miscellaneous farm records, Hord Collection

<sup>8</sup> Interview with Charles Wheeler Hord and Joy Hord, December 6, 2006.

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the day, and the Dixie Highway subsequently ran by Elmwood's front gate.<sup>9</sup> The c. 1925 shop with attached equipment shed illustrates the transition to kerosene-powered farm machinery, although during WWII gasoline rationing the Hords hitched up their mule teams for work in the fields.

Thomas Epps Hord, Jr., took over Elmwood due to Epps's ill health in 1927. He continued the mechanization of the farm, added central heat and indoor plumbing to the main house in 1937, and was active in various farm organizations. In an autobiography written when he was eighteen years old, Thomas Hord, Jr., spoke of his desire to be a farmer and related that from an early age he had driven a hay wagon in the fields and grown corn and cotton on his own.<sup>10</sup> In 1912, he had joined the boys' corn club and won first prize for having a better yield per acre than anyone else in the club (this was his first involvement in organized agricultural club activity). Thomas, Jr., was subsequently president of the Murfreesboro Production Credit Association from 1934 until his retirement in 1970, served as a member of the district Farm Credit Board of Louisville for 18 years, and was a board member of the Federal Land Bank for over twenty-five years. He was a director of the Rutherford County Cooperative Creamery from the early 1930s until 1970, and served at various times as a director of the Mid-West Creamery Board and the Farm Bureau.<sup>11</sup> During World War II, Charles Wheeler Hord, the present owner of Elmwood, remembers that because of gasoline rationing, his father reverted to mule power and hitched up the teams for plowing. During the 1950s, the Hords began to concentrate on beef cattle rather than the dairy operation, and continued to grow traditional crops such as corn, hay, and cotton.

In 1968, Thomas, Jr. and his wife, Mary Young Wheeler Hord, remodeled the detached kitchen into a two-bedroom apartment. The contract is an excellent example of sensitive historic restoration techniques for the time.<sup>11</sup> The exterior was left relatively untouched, and the kitchen was moved into the attached open breezeway, or hyphen, a common feature utilized to connect buildings today. Addition of the modern kitchen in 1968 enclosed the breezeway, fully attaching the old kitchen/servant's quarters to the main house. According to the contract, every effort was made "to match craftsmanship of the old Hord home and that era," and all reusable features such as "old floors, beams, doors, and windows" were to be "put back into use and reasonable diligent search made for like materials."<sup>12</sup> The project was a very successful example of

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<sup>9</sup> Miscellaneous printed chart of Nashville Turnpike contributors, Hord Collection.

<sup>10</sup> "Autobiography of Tom Hord," handwritten paper (unpublished), Hord Collection.

<sup>11</sup> Murfreesboro Production Credit Association, untitled newsletter (November, 1970), Hord Collection.

<sup>12</sup> Typed contract between Thomas Hord and A.F. Johns and Sons dated November 14, 1968, Hord Collection.

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adaptive use techniques. Thomas, Jr., willed the farm to his sons Thomas (Tommy) Epps Hord, III, and Charles (Bubba) Wheeler Hord on his death in 1971. Charles Wheeler Hord and his family occupy the main house today and tend the nominated acreage, which they also own.

## SUMMARY

Today, Elmwood reflects changes in Rutherford County's agricultural history since 1842. This was no average farm, but a material record of prosperous owners actively engaged in agricultural and civic leadership roles. The farm embodies agricultural practice of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, witnessing the rapid progression to surplus production interrupted by the Civil War, recovery following the war, and the shift to sharecropping and progressive farming practices of the twentieth century. The Hord family adapted easily to new techniques that made farming more efficient and farm life more comfortable. The present owner of the nominated property, Charles Hord, and his wife, Joy, represent the fourth generation to have lived on the land, and their sons, Charles, Jr. and Epps, who help manage the farm, are the fifth generation. The explosive growth of the City of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County threatens to destroy the rich agricultural heritage of the farm, since it lies directly in the path of future development. The county is rapidly losing its family farms, and the exceptional integrity of Elmwood provides an important record of the area's farming tradition.

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### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the nominated property are shown on the accompanying Rutherford County, Tennessee, tax map as parcels 00300, 00301, 00400, and 04403. Overall Creek comprises the northwestern boundary of the property; the southeastern boundary is the legal lot line of tax map 70, parcel #0300.

#### Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes four tracts of land within the current legal boundaries of Elmwood. These 168 acres comprise the acreage of the original farm homestead owned by Charles and Joy Hord. Over the years, the amount of acreage controlled by the Hord family has grown to about 1600 acres. Charles and Joy Hord, their son T. E. Hord, and Hord Family LP (controlled by Charles and Joy Hord) are the sole owners of the nominated property. Other family members own the remaining accrued acreage, which is not part of the current designation.

#### Verbal Easement Description

CSX Railroad controls an easement for the railroad bed on the eastern side of the property. Notification information is as follows:

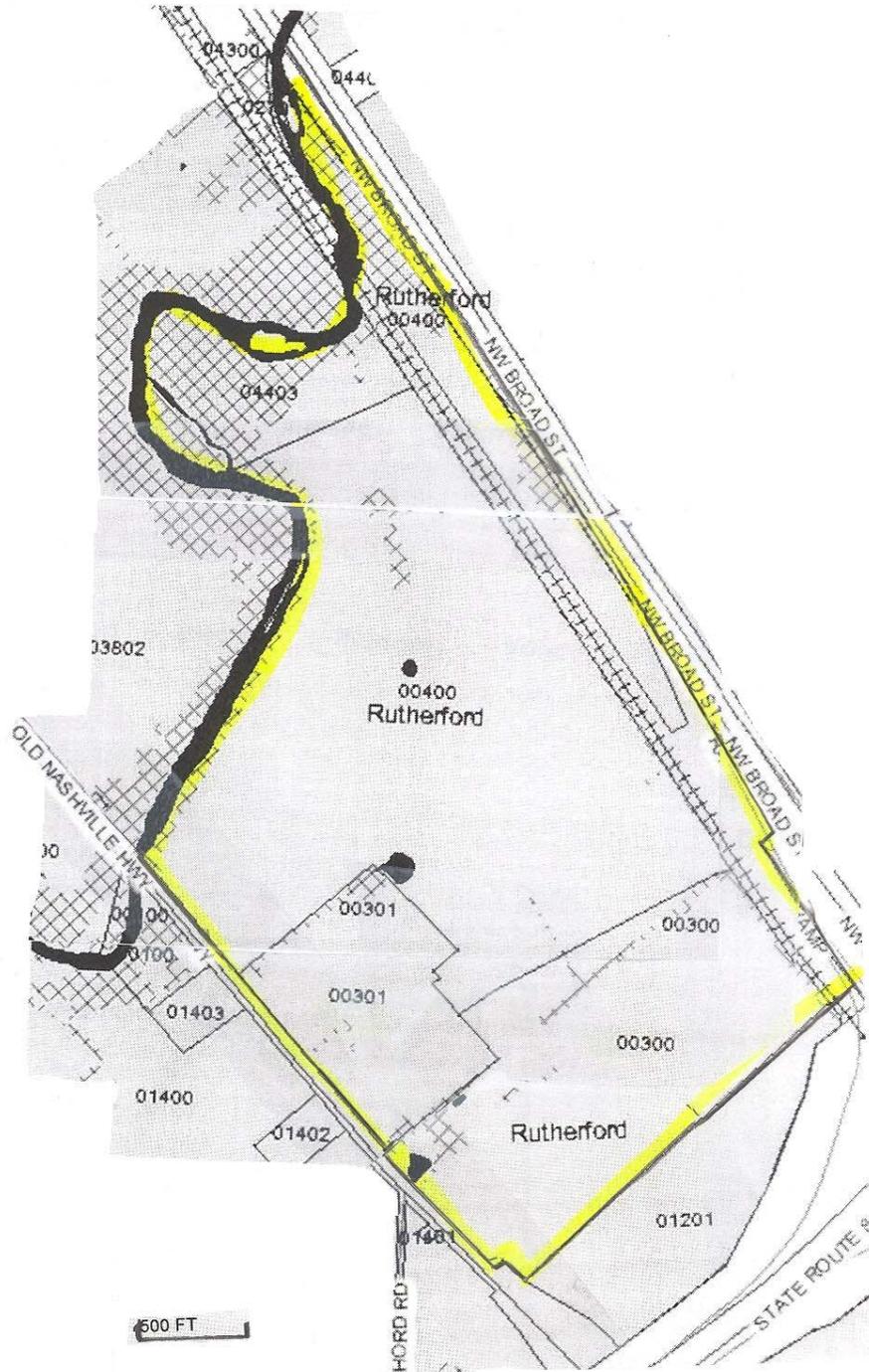
Ms. Jane Covington  
CSX Public Affairs  
5200 Maryland Way  
Suite 340  
Brentwood, TN 37027

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

Elmwood, Rutherford County, Tennessee

Photographs by: Spurgeon King  
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 80  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Date: January 2007

Negatives/digital images: Tennessee Historical Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Elmwood main house, SW façade, photographer facing NE.  
1 of 31

Elmwood main house, SW façade, photographer facing NE.  
2 of 31

Elmwood main house, SW façade, photographer facing N.  
3 of 31

Elmwood main house and kitchen/servant's quarters, SW façade, photographer facing N.  
4 of 31

Elmwood main house, NE elevation, photographer facing SW.  
5 of 31

Elmwood servant's quarters and stone fence, photographer facing NW.  
6 of 31

Elmwood main house, dining room, photographer facing NE.  
7 of 31

Elmwood main house, staircase, photographer facing NE.  
8 of 31

Elmwood main house, parlor, photographer facing NW.  
9 of 31

Elmwood main house, parlor, photographer facing NW.  
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Elmwood main house, brick walkway, photographer facing NW.  
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Elmwood carriage house, photographer facing N.  
12 of 31

Elmwood smokehouse, photographer facing E.  
13 of 31

Elmwood cabin, photographer facing N.  
14 of 31

Elmwood stock barn, photographer facing NE.  
15 of 31

Elmwood log corn crib, photographer facing NW.  
16 of 31

Elmwood stock barn, log corn crib, photographer facing NW.  
17 of 31

Elmwood milk house, photographer facing NW.  
18 of 31

Elmwood milking barn, photographer facing N.  
19 of 31

Elmwood shop and equipment shed, photographer facing SE.  
20 of 31

Elmwood granary, photographer facing N.  
21 of 31

Elmwood equipment shed, photographer facing NE.  
22 of 31

Elmwood equipment shed, photographer facing NW.  
23 of 31

Elmwood corn crib, photographer facing S.  
24 of 31

Elmwood stone fence and hedgerow, photographer facing NE.  
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Elmwood well house, photographer facing SW.  
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Elmwood stock pens, photographer facing NE.  
27 of 31

Elmwood tenant house, photographer facing W.  
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Elmwood tenant house, photographer facing NW.  
29 of 31

Elmwood truck lift, photographer facing NW.  
30 of 31

Elmwood tenant barn, photographer facing NW.  
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