United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Helm, M.A., House

Other names/site number: Old Reed Place

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

2. Location

Street & Number: 149 County Road 657/Ralph Layman Road

City or town: Riceville State: TN County: McMinn

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

[ ] national [ ] statewide [X] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [ ] A [ ] B [X] C [ ] D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Date 10/21/13

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: Date

Title: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Helm, M.A., House
Name of Property

McMinn County, TN
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

for Edson H. Beall 12.18.13
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

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

Private	X
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

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

Building(s)	X
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	3	buildings
1	0	sites
2	2	structures
0	0	objects
8	5	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling	DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC/ Secondary Structure	DOMESTIC/ Secondary Structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ Agricultural Outbuilding	AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
MID-19th CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; GLASS; WOOD

Narrative Description

The M.A. Helm House, located at 149 County Road 657/Ralph Layman Road, is a c.1850, brick Federal and Greek Revival style dwelling that sits on a fifty-acre lot in a rural setting in the Riceville community in the vicinity of Athens (McMinn County), Tennessee. It is a one and-one-half story dwelling covered by an asphalt shingle, side-gable roof with two rear-ell gable roof wings. Two interior brick chimneys rest on the rear slope of the side gable roof and are symmetrically spaced. The house faces southwest, resting on a solid brick foundation and measures fifty-one feet wide by fifty-six and a half feet deep. The home's surrounding structures include an original brick smokehouse, an early twentieth-century barn, a brick potato house, and a stone-lined spring that has been within the property boundary since the 1840s.

The surrounding landscape where the domicile sits is presently typified by timberland interspersed with scattered farms and modern residential development. The home's lot is flat with a gentle downhill sloping towards Oostanaula Creek to the north and east. The dwelling is flanked by mature (50-150 year old) maple trees and boxwood hedges. County Road 657/Ralph Layman Road runs in a generally northwest to southeast direction approximately one-tenth of a mile to the southwest of the house and forms the nominated

property's western boundary. The area between the house and the road is a grassy open space with a sixty-seven-foot herringbone brick walkway, fifteen mature maple trees and over ninety mature (100-year old) boxwood hedges. A wood fence separates the yard from a field that runs down to the road and is bordered by a simple wire fence and mature trees. Similar yards and fields extend on both sides of the house. The backyard has additional mature trees, the remains of the original log cabin from the 1840s, and mature woods that extend all the way to Oostanaula Creek which defines the eastern boundary of the property.

The land surrounding the house was traditionally cleared and consisted of agricultural fields extending out from the home site in all directions. The setting still retains a majority of its historical landscape. The original one and one-half story brick smokehouse sits approximately one hundred feet southeast of the house with the frame potato house sited further out to the southeast. The cut stone springhouse foundation and spring, animal shed, and potato house all sit to the rear of the house approximately fifty to one hundred yards to the south and east of the dwelling. The early twentieth century wood barn is located on the downhill slope next Oostanaula Creek on the southeast edge of the nominated property boundary. Originally located directly behind the house was a three-room detached kitchen which was removed in the 1920s due to its advanced state of deterioration.

Non-contributing structures include the pool and two pool houses located approximately eighty feet from the home's southeast elevation and a pole barn and solar array north of the house near the open field area.

M.A. Helm House (c.1850, Contributing)

The mid-nineteenth century dwelling is constructed of bricks which were handmade on the premises and laid in a seven-course common bond pattern. Each wall is constructed of solid brick being four layers thick and extending all the way to the ground. A full-length, Craftsman style porch covers the entrance and four, six-over-six wood sash windows on the main facade. This porch was modified c.1915 as it represents Craftsman style features with tapered roof wood columns resting on brick piers, arched openings and a paneled cornice. The porch is set on a stone pier foundation with a wood floor.

The entranceway, original to the house, is ten feet wide and eleven- and one-half feet in height and consists of a simple wood entablature with recessed side lights and a four-light transom window surrounding the original, double wood panel doors with original hardware. On each side of the door is a hinged sidelight with four large rectangular panes of glass and a wooden panel at the bottom.

Symmetrically located to the southeast and northwest of the entrance are pairs of original, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows measuring nine feet by four feet and capped by wood lintels. Below each of the windows are original, wood jib doors measuring two feet by three and one-half feet and covered by a single pane glass storm window. The jib doors would have provided additional ventilation to the home during the warm summer months.

Both the southeast and northwest elevations feature original six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows each measuring seven and one-half feet by four feet and capped by wood lintels on the first story. On the second story are pairs of small frame, six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows capped by wood lintels. Spaced out at the base of the house on all elevations, are sixteen original iron grates, which provide ventilation to the crawl space beneath the floors of the house.

The rear (northeast) elevation of the house has two original rear ell gable wings with a c. 1970 central, shed roof addition connecting the two ells. At the time of this addition, a porch and deck were located off the rear of the addition. Originally, a rear porch was wrapped around the inside of the two ells and the rear of the dwelling and left a small open area in the middle. The southeast rear ell includes two, original six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows. The northeast ell contains four original six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows.

The interior floor plan consists of a core of four principal rooms on the first floor separated by a central hallway, and two secondary rooms in the rear-ells. A staircase was added in 1995 to gain access to the then unfinished attic. Two bedrooms, a bath and a landing were then completed in the second floor in a style appropriate to the architecture of the house.

Original architectural features in the home's interior include four-paneled wood doors with functioning, three-light or four-light transoms, four fireplace mantels, wood window/door moldings, four-brick-thick walls covered in horsehair plaster (with a top layer of finished plaster), plaster ceilings, jib doors, heart pine floors, fifteen-inch heart pine baseboards, and wood window frames/muntins. The ceilings in the home are approximately twelve feet high with seven foot doorways in the rooms and nine foot doorways along the southwest elevation leading to the front porch. The light fixtures were all replaced in the 1970s.

The dwelling's primary entrance features a central hallway with a c.1995 staircase and landing along the northwest wall. The primary, double leaf, two panel entrance door with sidelights and transom is located on the southwest wall. Within the central hallway are four, symmetrically placed doorways with two being opposite each other on the northwest and southeast walls. Each of these doorways has a heavy wood four panel door with original hardware and a functioning three-light transom. The central hallway extends northeast towards the rear entrance and hallway of the c.1970 rear addition. The original central rear entrance has a four paneled wood door and a functioning four-light transom. The rear entrance from the c. 1970s central addition to the rear porch and deck has a nine-light glass and wood door with a three-light transom.

The living room, located to the left of the main entrance door on the first floor, features two, six-over-six double-hung sash windows with a three and one-half foot by two foot raised panel jib door beneath, which opens for access to the porch on the southwest wall. These window openings are a total of four feet in width and nine feet in height. Two six-over-six windows on the northwest wall and are each four feet in width and seven and one-half feet in height. Each window in the room is framed by heavy, wide Greek key trim, recessed for a three-dimensional look. Along the northeast wall is a four paneled door that leads to a bedroom and an original brick fireplace with a simple original wood mantel painted black. The mantel frieze has an unique central diamond gem-cut beveled raised panel set within a recessed panel with two flanking rectangular raised panels set within recessed panels. The pilasters of the fireplace have rectangular raised panels similar to the mantel. Along the southeast wall is a four-paneled wood door with a functioning three-light transom and heavy and wide wood trim that leads to the central hall. Throughout the room are fifteen-inch heart pine baseboards and heart pine floors.

The bedroom, located to the rear of the living room on the first floor, includes a brick fireplace with a simple, wood mantel, plain unadorned frieze and raised pilasters, all painted black and flanked to the southeast by a built-in closet with a two-paneled double door on the southwest wall. A four panel wood door with a functioning three-light transom leads to the central hallway on the southeast wall and a four paneled wood door with heavy, wide wood trim leads to a rear gable roof ell that houses the rear bathroom on the northeast

wall. Two, six-over- six windows are located on the northwest wall and measure four-feet in width and seven and one-half feet in height. Each window in the room is framed by heavy, wide Greek key trim, recessed for a three-dimensional look. Throughout the room are fifteen-inch heart-pine baseboards and heart pine floors.

Located in the gable roof ell on the northeast corner of the house is the first floor bathroom with four six-over-six windows, each measuring four-feet in width and seven and one-half in height. Two windows are located on the northwest wall and two on the northeast wall. A sink sits in between the two windows on the northeast wall. A toilet and a shower are built in along the southeast wall, and a claw-foot tub sits diagonally in the northeast corner of the room. A wood sauna is located in the northwest corner. All of the modern bathroom fixtures were added in 1979. A four panel wood door on the southeast wall opens to the back hallway.

The back hallway is located in the northeast section of the home. The hallway is not original to the house, but was closed-in for extra space in the 1970s. The hallway is an inverted "T" shape running northwest from the first floor bathroom to the southeast to the kitchen and then northeast to southwest as an extension of the main central hallway leading out onto a screened-in porch. Since the hallway was closed-in later, incorporating the area that was original used as a rear porch, the southeast, northwest and northeast walls are all exposed brick that was originally the houses exterior. The southwest wall has a wide doorway that opens to the central hallway with a four-panel wood door and a four-light functioning transom. This door is larger than the other doors in the home measuring forty-three and one-half inches in width and eighty-three and one-half inches in height. Flanking the doorway to the rear porch on the northeast wall are two closets which completes the "T".

Located off of the back hallway in the southeast section of the house is the kitchen. The room includes two, six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows on the southeast wall, each four feet wide by seven and one-half feet tall, with wide wood trim, but relatively simple compared to the window trim in the rest of the house. Along the northwest wall is the doorway that leads to the back hallway with a four panel heavy wood door above which is a three-light functioning transom. The built-in shelving, the kitchen sink, counter and storage are also located along this wall. Along the southwest wall are original built-in kitchen cabinets that reach approximately ten feet in height and have been in the house. To the left of the cabinets is a doorway with a four-panel wood door that leads into the dining room.

The dining room is located in the southeast section of the house and has two six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows on the southeast wall and are each four feet in width and seven and one-half feet in height. Window surrounds are heavy, wide Greek key wood trim that is recessed for a more three-dimensional look. The room also features an original brick fireplace with an original simple wood mantel with an unadorned frieze and raised pilasters, all painted white. A four-panel wood door with wide wood trim leads into the parlor on the southwest wall. A four-panel wood door with a three-light functioning transom and wide wood trim that leads to the central hallway sits on the northwest wall. Throughout the room are fifteen-inch heart-pine baseboards and heart pine floors.

The parlor is located in the southeastern front section of the house and is accessed through two heavy four panel wood doors: one on the northeast wall and one on the northwest wall. Both doors have thick, Greek key style wood trim but only the doorway leading to the central hallway features a three-light functioning transom. The room features an original brick fireplace with an original, black-stained, wood mantel. Similar

to the living room, the mantel frieze has a central diamond gem-cut beveled raised panel within a recessed panel with two flanking rectangular beveled raised panels also recessed. The pilasters, different from the living room, have hand crafted, raised interlocking circles in a vertical line within a recessed panel. Adjacent to the fireplace is a floor-to-ceiling built-in closet with four, raised-panel (similar to the panels in the fireplace) double wood doors. Similar to the living room, the parlor also features two six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows with a three and one-half by two foot raised panel jib door covered by a single pane storm window beneath which opens for access to the porch on the southwest wall. The window openings themselves are a total of four-feet wide by nine-feet tall. Two six-over- six double-hung wood sash windows on the southeast wall are each four-feet wide and seven and one-half feet tall. Each window in the room is framed by heavy, wide Greek key wood trim recessed for a three-dimensional look.

Flooring in the four core rooms and the hallway is original heart pine of varying width. The rear ell rooms have the same ceiling and wall finishes. The floors, however, were replaced in the 1990s with reclaimed heart pine in the kitchen and brick in the bathroom.

In 1995, the stairs in the central hallway and landings were added and the second story was converted from attic space to livable bedrooms by the present owners. The stairs in the central hallway lead up to a landing midway up the wall then turns ninety degrees to the right and proceed up to the landing on the second floor. The landing is used as an entertainment space with built-in bookshelves along the northeast wall. The door on the southeast wall of the landing leads to the first bedroom.

The first bedroom sits in the southeast portion of the second floor. The room features a six-over-six double-hung wood sash window on the exterior southeast wall, a built-in closet on the northeast wall next to the brick chimney, and a door that leads to an ensuite bathroom. The bathroom is located in the east corner of the bedroom. It features a claw foot bathtub underneath a six-over-six double-hung wood sash window on the southeast exterior wall. A sink and mirror sit along the northeast wall and a toilet is placed in the northwest wall of the bathroom.

The second bedroom is in the northwest section of the second floor. The room features a door leading off the landing, two six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows in the center of the northwest exterior wall, and a brick chimney that sits approximately two and one-half feet from the southwest wall. A built-in closest was constructed in the corner of the room and recessed bookshelves were built along the northeast wall.

The M.A. Helm House retains a high degree of its original architectural integrity. Exterior changes have generally been limited to the removal of the three-room detached kitchen off the back of the house in the 1920s, the construction of the Craftsman style porch c.1915 and the c.1970 enclosure of the original back porch. The interior retains its historic plan and materials with the exception of the finished attic and staircase constructed in the mid-1990s, along with the installation of a modern bath and kitchen in the 1970s.

Well House (c.1940s, Contributing)
The well house is eight and one-half feet by five feet five inches and is constructed of brick with an asphalt shingle gable roof.

Herringbone Brick Walkways (c.1850, Contributing)
Several herringbone brick walkways extend out from the house to the ancillary building and areas that surround the house. One such walkway extends from the porch of the main façade and is flanked by mature

boxwood hedges. A second walkway extends from the rear of the house, between the brick smokehouse and Pool House #1 out toward the barn and potato house.

Brick Smokehouse (c.1850, Contributing)
The smokehouse is located approximately one hundred feet to the southeast of the house and measures sixteen feet by sixteen feet. This one-and one-half story building constructed of brick in a seven-course common bond pattern has a brick foundation and a pyramid roof with shingles. There are two large steps leading down into the building that are made of sandstone and have some deterioration due to erosion of use and age. This building was constructed in the 1850s to cure meats and is an uncommon design for this region of the country. Charcoal sketches of side-face profiles are located on the interior walls along with initials. It is undetermined who the people are in the sketches or when they were drawn, but may possibly be profiles of the previous owners.

Potato House (c.1850, Contributing)
Located approximately three hundred feet east southeast of the house is a twelve foot by sixteen foot double walled wood potato house with sawdust insulation between the walls and a metal front gable roof. The building is original to the time of construction of the main house. A small brick chimney supported by four wood posts is in the center of the building. A stove would have originally been connected to the chimney.

Spring and Springhouse Foundation (c.1850, Contributing)
The old spring is still located on the property and at some point was enhanced with a cut stone lining. The cut stone foundation of the springhouse remains and is approximately two hundred and fifty feet from the rear elevation of the house. It is unknown when the walls and roof of the springhouse were removed.

Livestock Shed (c.1920, Contributing)
A wood structure, located approximately two hundred feet from the rear of the house, contains the original logs from the log cabin built in the 1840s and has a metal gable roof. The present building reused the c.1840 material and has been used to house animals. The dimensions of the building are ten feet by forty-two feet.

Barn (c.1920, Contributing)
The barn, sitting on the southeastern corner of the nominated property boundary, overlooks Oostanaula Creek. It was built in the 1920s and is in fair condition. The barn measure thirty-eight feet by forty-four feet and is a large, two-story, wood structure with a standing seam metal gable roof, a large horizontal pass-through at the front of the barn, a rear area for equipment storage and five stalls for livestock. The second story of the barn has a loft for the storage of hay and the pulley system that would have attached to a hay fork is set within the protruding roof line and remains extant.

Swimming Pool (c.1970 non-contributing)
The swimming pool is approximately forty-five feet by twenty-five feet and is surrounded by a poured concrete deck that measures forty-two feet by seventy-five feet. A three-foot high wood post fence borders the entire concrete deck.

Pool House #1 (c.1970 non-contributing)
Adjacent to the brick smokehouse and approximately eight-feet from the southeast elevation of the house is the smaller of the two buildings associated with the pool. Constructed c.1970, Pool House #1 is a square,

frame building with a hipped metal roof and weatherboard siding. Windows openings have louvered wood shutters. It houses the pump and mechanical systems for the pool.

Pool House #2 (c.1970 non-contributing)
Pool House #2 is a frame, rectangular building with a side gable metal roof and an exterior of weatherboard siding constructed c.1970. Two-thirds of the pool house is open to the elements with just a partial-height wall of weatherboard siding while the remaining one-third at the rear of the building is totally covered with weatherboard siding.

Pole Barn (c.2007, non-contributing)
The three-bay, two-story pole barn is forty-feet by thirty-six feet and used for vehicle storage. It is constructed of poplar wood and clad with board and batten siding and vertical board. The pole barn is covered with a standing seam metal gable roof and has a small cupola vent with a weathervane at its apex.

TVA Solar Panel Array (c.2007, non-contributing)
Three lines of TVA Solar Panels on fixed racks that hold the panels stationary as the sun moves across the sky. These fixed racks are set on poles above ground and each is approximately one hundred and twelve feet in length and ten feet in height.

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.
- [x] 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 N/A
(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 a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
c. 1850-1930

Significant Dates
c.1850
c.1915
c. 1920

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Cleage and Crutchfield-Designer & Builder

Statement of Significance

The M.A. Helm House, located at 149 County Road 657/Ralph Layman Road in the unincorporated community of Riceville in the vicinity of the city of Athens in McMinn County, Tennessee, is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its Federal and Greek Revival style architectural elements, which reflect the craftsmanship and design of the local and regional building company of Cleage and Crutchfield. The house is also notable for its relationship to the original owner, Merideth Ambrose Helm, who was a prominent citizen of Athens and influential in McMinn County. Helm greatly assisted in business, industry and education development in McMinn County. The dwelling serves as a rare, extant example of Federal and Greek Revival architecture in McMinn County and retains a high degree of its original architectural integrity and its rural setting. Original architectural features of the house include heavy, four-paneled wood doors with functioning, three-light or four-light transoms, four fireplace mantels, two of which are unique in style, wood window/door moldings, four-brick-thick walls covered in horsehair plaster (with a top layer of finished plaster), plaster ceilings, jib doors, heart pine floors, fifteen-inch heart pine baseboards, and wood window frames/muntins.

Merideth Ambrose (M. A.) Helm, born July 14, 1815 in Virginia, moved with his family to the Athens area in McMinn County c.1830. White settlers began arriving in McMinn County after the Cherokee sold land north of the Hiwassee River to the United States under the Calhoun Treaty in 1819. McMinn County was officially organized in November of 1819 at the home of John Walker in Calhoun, TN, located along the north bank of the Hiwassee River. Athens, located in the central part of McMinn County and originally referred to as Pumpkintown, was named as the county seat in 1823.

M.A. Helm grew up in a farming family and the family continued with agriculture in McMinn County. At the age of 33, M.A. and his wife, Francis, purchased a property from William and Joseph Moore with the intent to construct a home on March 29, 1848. At the time of purchase, Joseph Moore was living in a log cabin close to a spring located on the property. Mr. Helm constructed the present house in the early 1850s, and by the 1860 census, it showed the real estate was valued at $14,000 and his personal property at $16,000. The house was described as a palatial home in the 11th District signifying Helm's affluence and prominence as an influential businessman.

Helm hired Samuel Cleage to construct his Federal and Greek Revival style home. The firm of Cleage and Crutchfield was a well-known merchandising and construction business enterprise operated by Samuel Cleage and his son-in-law, Thomas Crutchfield, in the 19th century. Samuel Cleage was involved in the construction of Federal style buildings stretching from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Fincastle, Virginia and south to East Tennessee. Samuel Cleage is credited with the construction of several historic homes and buildings in East Tennessee. Many of Samuel Cleage's Angolan slaves adopted the Cleage name when they gained their freedom. Cleage used many of his slaves to assist with his construction business, particularly with the art of brick making.[1]

The bricks were made on site along the banks of the Oostanaula Creek using clay and sand, which was then used both in making the clay bricks and with the mortar used in laying the bricks. The clay that was extracted was exposed to the weather typically in the fall and winter months in large open pits. It was worked by slaves until it reached a smooth consistency removing impurities during the process. After the clay met the desired consistency, it was placed in molds. The clay molds were stacked and dried for approximately two weeks,

[1] Joe Guy, *The Hidden History of McMinn County*, The History Press, (Charleston: The History Press, 2007), pp. 13-17.

which allowed for the moisture to dry out before the firing in the kilns. The kilns consisted of rows of clay molds stacked to construct tunnels in which wood was placed underneath to create the fire. The molds were heated at a high temperature from approximately two to five days creating quality bricks that are still visible today in many local Cleage and Crutchfield structures.

Several structures built by Samuel Cleage's slaves still stand in McMinn County and include the following: Samuel Cleage House (Athens, NR-listed 5/12/1975, c.1826, Federal), Alexander Keith House (Athens, NR-listed 6/26/1986, c.1850s, Greek Revival), Van Dyke House (Athens, c.1840, Federal and Greek Revival), the Elijah Cate House (Cleveland, NR-listed 3/25/1982, c.1823, Federal), the Hiwassee Railroad Office (1836, Athens), and Mars Hill Presbyterian Church, located on Jackson Street in Athens. The Cleage slaves were skilled builders and constructed some of East Tennessee's most prominent homes and buildings. These historic structures serve as a physical reminder of the slaves that labored to construct these quality structures.[2]

The Samuel Cleage House, located along U.S. Highway 11 in Athens approximately ten miles northwest of the Helm House, is a two-story brick dwelling that was constructed c.1826. It represents one of the best preserved high Federal style structures in East Tennessee. The stepped parapet gable roof dwelling is three bays wide and five bays deep with an original one-and-a half story ell. Its features include the following: Flemish bond brick course on the facade, common bond brick courses on the side elevations, an entrance fanlight, a molded brick cornice, and side elevation interior end brick chimneys.

The Federal and Greek Revival style elements included on the Helm House were familiar to many of the grand homes constructed during the 1830s and 1840s in the East Tennessee region. Twelve-over-twelve, six-over-nine, and six-over-six wood sash windows were typically found on homes of these styles during this period. Also, hand-made brick exterior walls with common bond and course header patterns along with entry doors featuring sidelights and transoms were consistent in the architecture. Interior elements usually included four and six paneled wood doors with functioning three-light transoms and handcrafted mantels.

The Helm House exhibits many of these architectural elements that are typical of the Federal and Greek Revival styles and the construction patterns of Cleage and Crutchfield dwellings. The exterior brick walls show great craftsmanship with a seven course common bond brick pattern built around the six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows and the main entrance, which features hinged sidelights and four-light transom window. Another unique feature is the jib doors located underneath the façade windows which provided extra ventilation during the warm summer months.

Helm proved to be very influential in the growth and development of both Athens, as well as, McMinn County by assisting with the incorporation of the City of Athens in 1866 and serving on the building committee for the McMinn County Courthouse (non-extant) that was constructed in 1873 by Cleage and Crutchfield. He also served as a member of the first Board of Trustees for the East Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens (now Tennessee Wesleyan College) when it was established in 1867 and was one of the twenty founders of the Franklin Associated Bank in 1872, the first bank established in Athens, TN.

In February 1874, M.A. Helm sold the property to A.B. Blankenship, a business owner in both Athens and Riceville, and moved into the City of Athens. M.A. Helm died on October 7, 1879 and is buried in the Cedar Grove Cemetery. Helm was married twice but only had one son, who died at a year old.

[2] *Ibid.*

Mr. Blankenship lost the property and it was sold at auction to U.G. Thompson on November 27, 1900. Mr. Thompson sold the property to C.L. Hall on November 2, 1902 followed by Mr. Hall then selling the property to H.M. Vaughn in October of 1903. Mr. Vaughn sold the property to F.R. Alloway on December 30, 1907. Mr. Alloway sold the property to Sarah and Mart Clayton on October 15, 1912. The Claytons sold the property to Henry Reed on April 29, 1921. Not much is known about the property during these years; however, the Reeds owned the property from 1921 until September 18, 1976. Henry Reed was a farmer, hence the construction of the barn on the property during that time.

Amanda Reed, daughter of Henry Reed, eventually inherited the property from her father and resided in the house for the entire fifty-five years of the Reed family ownership. Ms. Reed stated the front porch had already been built when her family purchased the house, which would support the Craftsman style popular in the early 1900s. Amanda also stated the there were three additional rooms, a three-room detached kitchen, located off the rear southeast corner of the house, but her father removed it due to its deteriorating condition.

The property was purchased on September 18, 1976 by Gary and Mary Brown and they lived in the house until Gary's death in 1990. The Browns were responsible for installing and upgrading the electricity and running water to the house. Mary Brown moved out of the house and auctioned the property in 1994, when Jeffery Eastman and Debbie Cardin purchased the house.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

1860 McMinn County Tennessee Census 11th District, page 299. Family 533.

1865 Tax List, McMinn County, Tennessee, McMinn Courthouse.

1869 Tax List, McMinn County, Tennessee, McMinn Courthouse.

Athens, TN. McMinn. County Register of Deeds. Deed Books M, Q, LL, OO, SS, ZZ, 3G, and 7X.

Guy, Joe. *The Hidden History of McMinn County: Tales from Eastern Tennessee*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2007.

Griffin, Hugh. The Semi Weekly Post 1821-1921

Herndon, Joseph L. "Cleage & Crutchfield-Early Tennessee Builders", Bruceton, TN 1973. Unpublished paper

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

McMinn County Deed Book O, S, Q. Athens, Tennessee.

Westin A, Goodspeed. *A History of Tennessee from the Earliest Times to the Present*. Nashville and Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X	State Historic Preservation Office
	previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency
	previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency
	designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government
	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University
	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		Other
	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 48.30 acres **USGS Quadrangle** Athens – 125 NE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

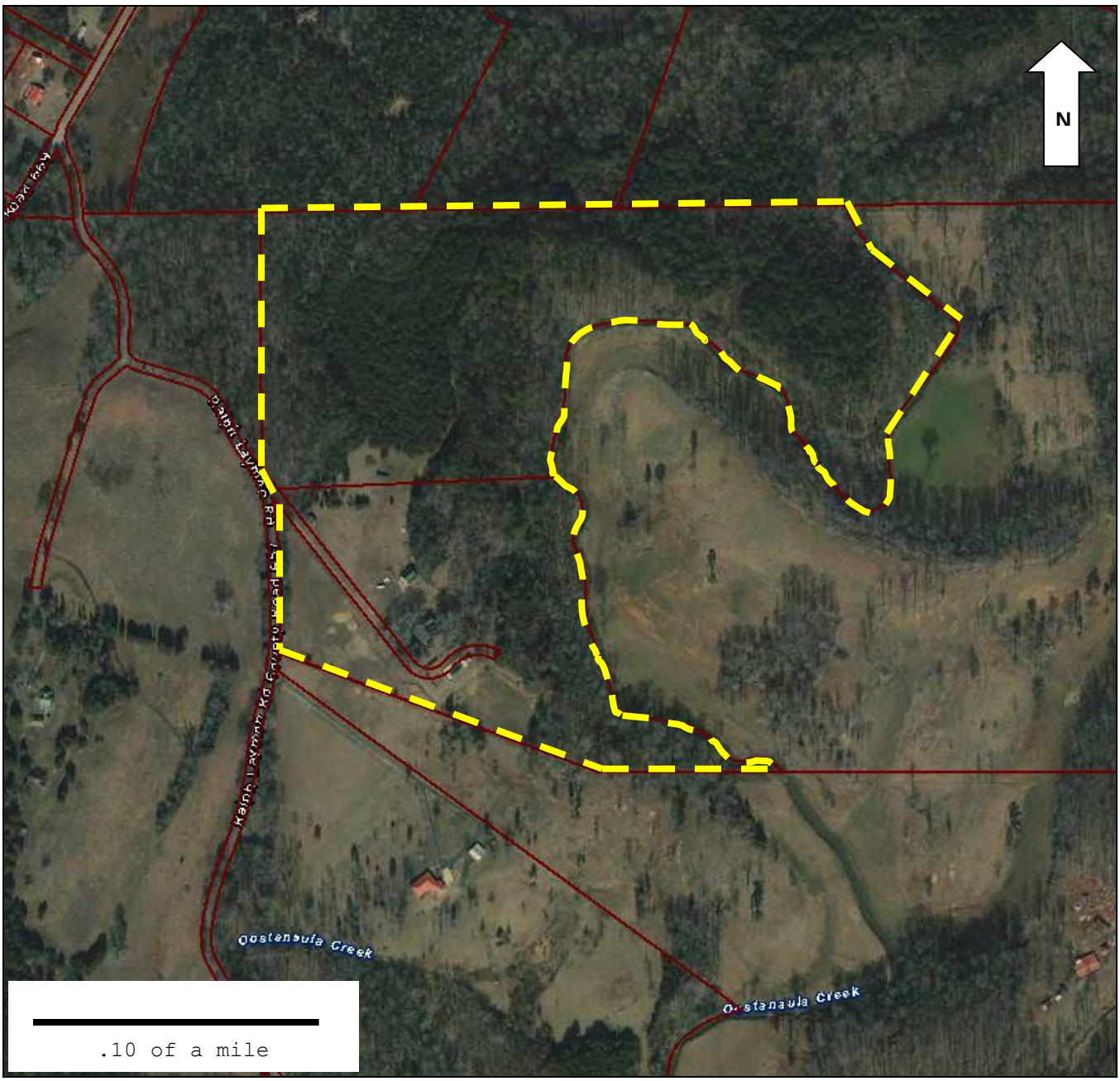
1. Latitude: 35.394367 Longitude: -84.610517 House Location
2. Latitude: 35.397408 Longitude: -84.612336
3. Latitude: 35.397447 Longitude: -84.605108
4. Latitude: 35.394161 Longitude: -84.612133
5. Latitude: 35.393172 Longitude: -84.605128

Verbal Boundary Description

The Helm House sits on a relatively flat, 48.30-acre lot along County Road 657/Ralph Layman Road, which is the property's west boundary. The south boundary is defined by the roadbed/driveway to the Helm House and a wood fence that separates the property from the neighbor's property. The north and east ends of the property's boundary is bounded by the Oostanaula Creek which defines the rear boundary of the property. The property tax parcel numbers for both parcels are 085 025.00 and 075 194.00.

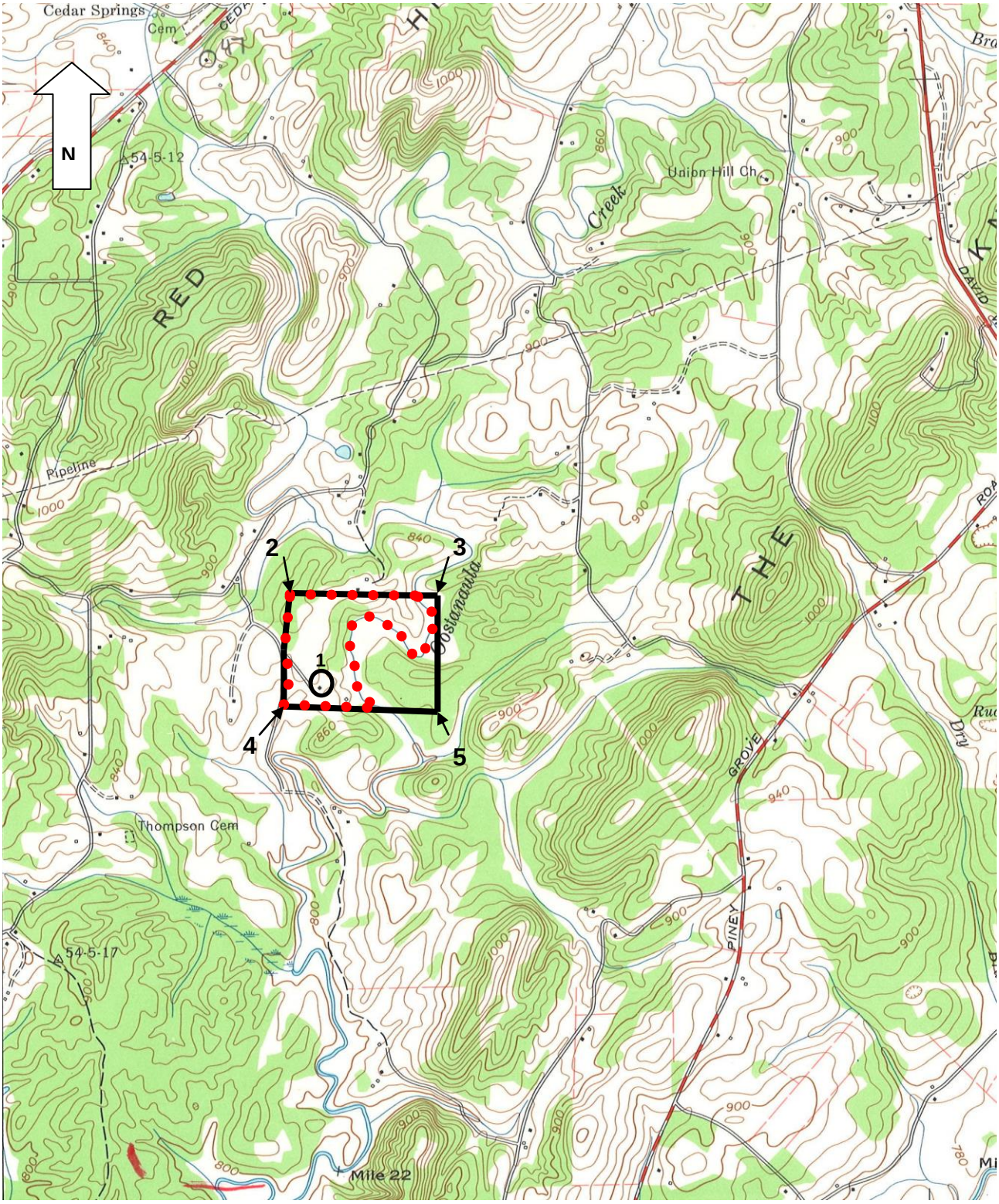
Boundary Justification

The nominated boundary includes the Helm House and all historic resources associated with the parcel of property originally owned by M.A. Helm.



McMinn County Tax Map 085 025.00 and 075 194.00.

Helm, M.A., House — McMinn County, TN
Name of Property — County and State



Athens USGS Quadrangle. Boundary outlined in a dotted red line. Scale: 1:24 000

11. Form Prepared By

Name: Paul Archambault and Debbie Cardin

Organization: Southeast Tennessee Development District

Street & Number: 1000 Riverfront Parkway

Date: June 14, 2013

City or Town: Chattanooga

Telephone: 423-424-4266

E-mail: parchamb@sedev.org; soapster1964@yahoo.com

State: TN

Zip Code: 37402

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs (**refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints**)**
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Photo Log

Name of Property: M.A. Helm House
City or Vicinity: Athens
County: McMinn State: Tennessee
Photographer: Peggy Nickell, Tennessee Historical Commission
Date Photographed: March, 2013

1 of 47. House exterior-Southwest Façade (Main). Photographer facing to the northeast.

2 of 47. House exterior-Northwest Elevation. Photographer facing to the east.

3 of 47. House exterior-Northeast Elevation (Rear). Photographer facing to the south.

4 of 47. House exterior-Northeast Elevation (Rear). Photographer facing to the southwest.

5 of 47. House exterior-Southeast Elevation. Photographer facing to the northwest.

6 of 47. House exterior- Herringbone Brick Sidewalk and mature Historic Boxwoods lining the path. Photographer facing to the northeast.

7 of 47. House exterior-southwest façade Porch detailing. Photographer facing to the north.

8 of 47. House exterior-Window details on the southwest façade. Panels can be opened. Photographer facing to the southeast.

9 of 47. House exterior-Window details on the northwest elevation. Photographer facing to the southeast.

10 of 47. House exterior-Main Entrance details. Photographer facing to the north.

11 of 47. House interior-Main Entrance. Photographer facing to the southwest.

12 of 47. House interior-Main Entrance door detail. Photographer facing to the southwest.

13 of 47. House interior-Main entrance showing that the sidelights are hinged and can be opened. Photographer facing to the west.

14 of 47. House interior-Central Hallway. Photographer facing to the northeast.

15 of 47. House interior-1st floor Central Hallway front section. Photographer facing to the southwest.

16 of 47. House interior-1st floor Central Hallway rear section to the northeast of the stairwell. Photographer facing to the northeast.

17 of 47. House interior-1st floor Bedroom #1 showing the original wood doors and floor. Photographer facing to the northwest.

18 of 47. House interior-1st floor Bedroom #1 showing the wood floor, door surrounds and wall molding. Photographer facing to the northeast.

19 of 47. House interior-1st floor Bedroom #1. Photographer facing to the north.

20 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Bedroom #2. Photographer facing to the east.

21 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Bedroom #2 fireplace detail. Photographer facing to the southwest.

21 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Bathroom. Photographer facing to the northeast.

23 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Rear Hallway-Entrance to the Central Hallway. Photographer facing to the southwest.

24 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Rear Hallway-Rear door exiting to the rear porch. Photographer facing to the northeast.

25 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Kitchen. Photographer facing to the north-northwest.

26 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Dining Room. Photographer facing to the southeast.

27 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Dining Room-Fireplace placement. Photographer facing to the west.

28 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Dining Room Fireplace detail. Photographer facing to the west.

29 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Dining Room showing the brick fireplace hearth, wall molding and wood floor. Photographer facing to the southwest.

30 of 47. House interior-1st floor-Parlor. Photographer facing to the northeast.

31 of 47. House interior-Main Hall staircase. Photographer facing to the southwest.

32 of 47. House interior-2nd floor Landing. Photographer facing to the northeast.

33 of 47. House interior-2nd floor Bedroom #1. Photographer facing to the northwest.

34 of 47. House interior-2nd floor Bedroom #2. Photographer facing to the northwest.

35 of 47. House interior-2nd floor Bathroom. Photographer facing to the west.

36 of 47. Brick Well House. Photographer facing to the west.

37 of 47. Brick Smokehouse. Photographer facing to the southeast.

38 of 47. Brick Smoke house interior showing roof rafters and interior walls. Photographer facing to the northwest.

39 of 47. Brick Smokehouse interior showing wall drawings. Photographer facing to the southeast.

40 of 47. Herringbone brick walkway between brick smokehouse and Pool House #1. Photographer facing to the southeast.

41 of 47. Potato House. Photographer facing to the northeast.

42 of 47. Potato House interior. Photographer facing to the east.

43 of 47. Livestock Shed. Photographer facing to the north.

44 of 47. Barn. Photographer facing to the east.

45 of 47. Pool House #1. Photographer facing to the southeast.

46 of 47. Pool House #2 and Swimming Pool surrounded by white picket fence. Photographer facing to the west.

47 of 47. Garage/Pole Barn. Photographer facing to the north.

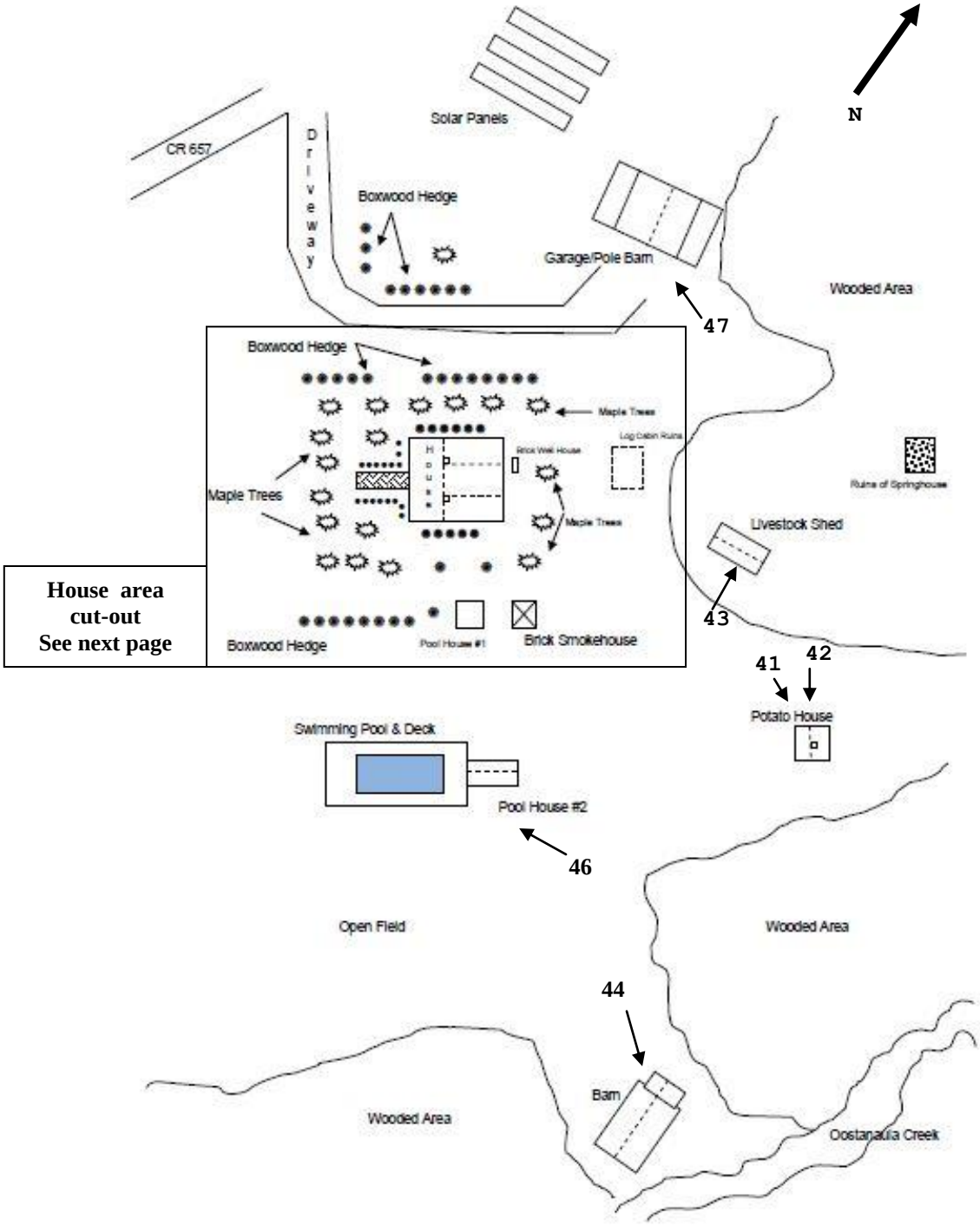
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____ Page 22

Helms, M.A., House
Name of Property
McMinn County
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Overall Site Plan (not to scale)



Site Plan and Photo Key-House area (not to scale)

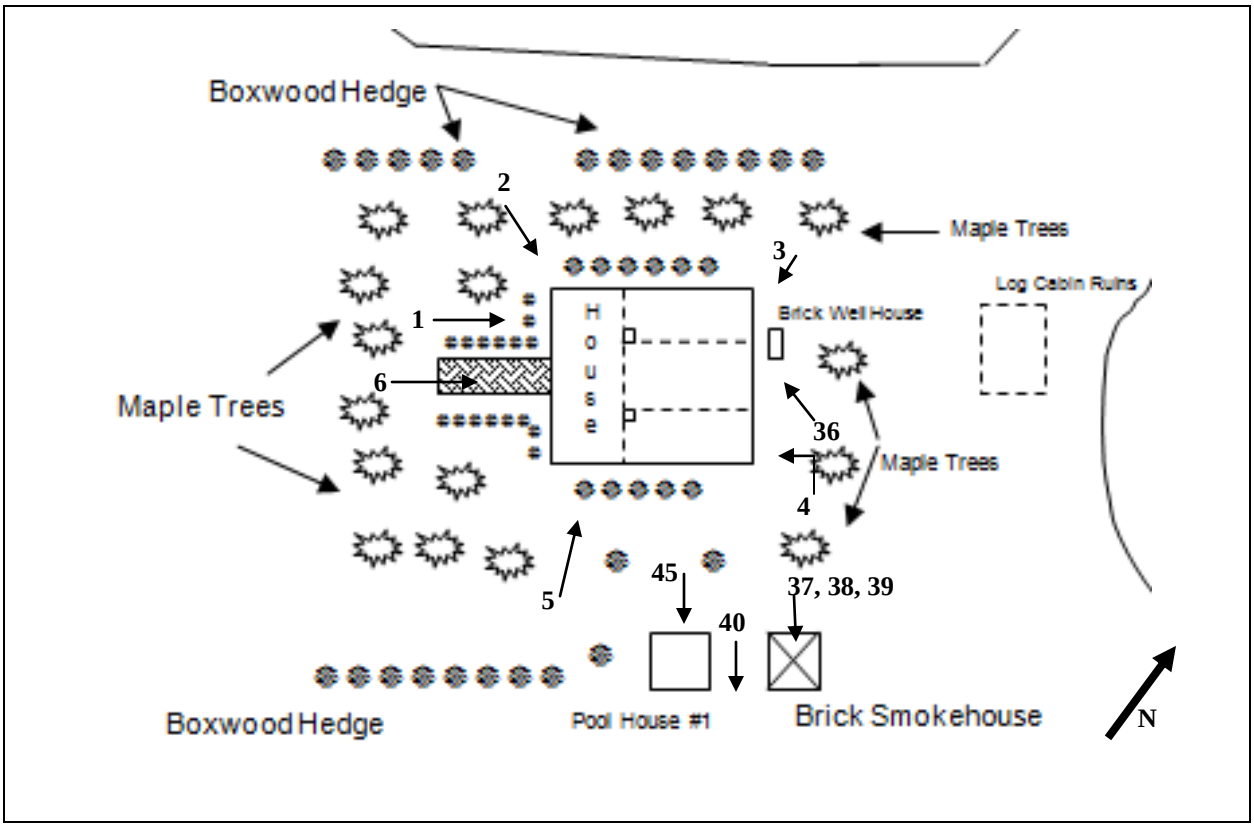


Photo Key and Floor Plan-First Floor (not to scale)

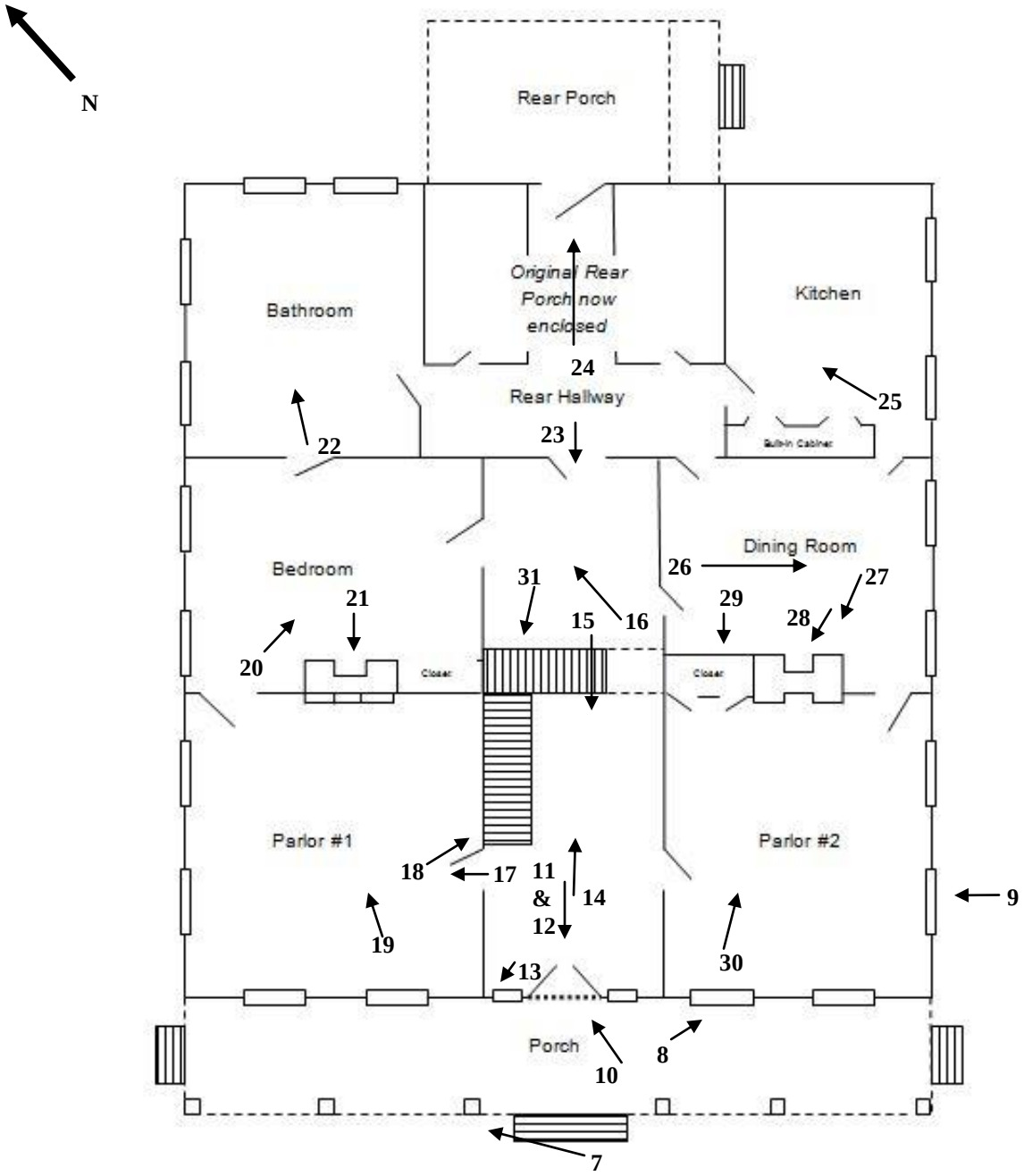
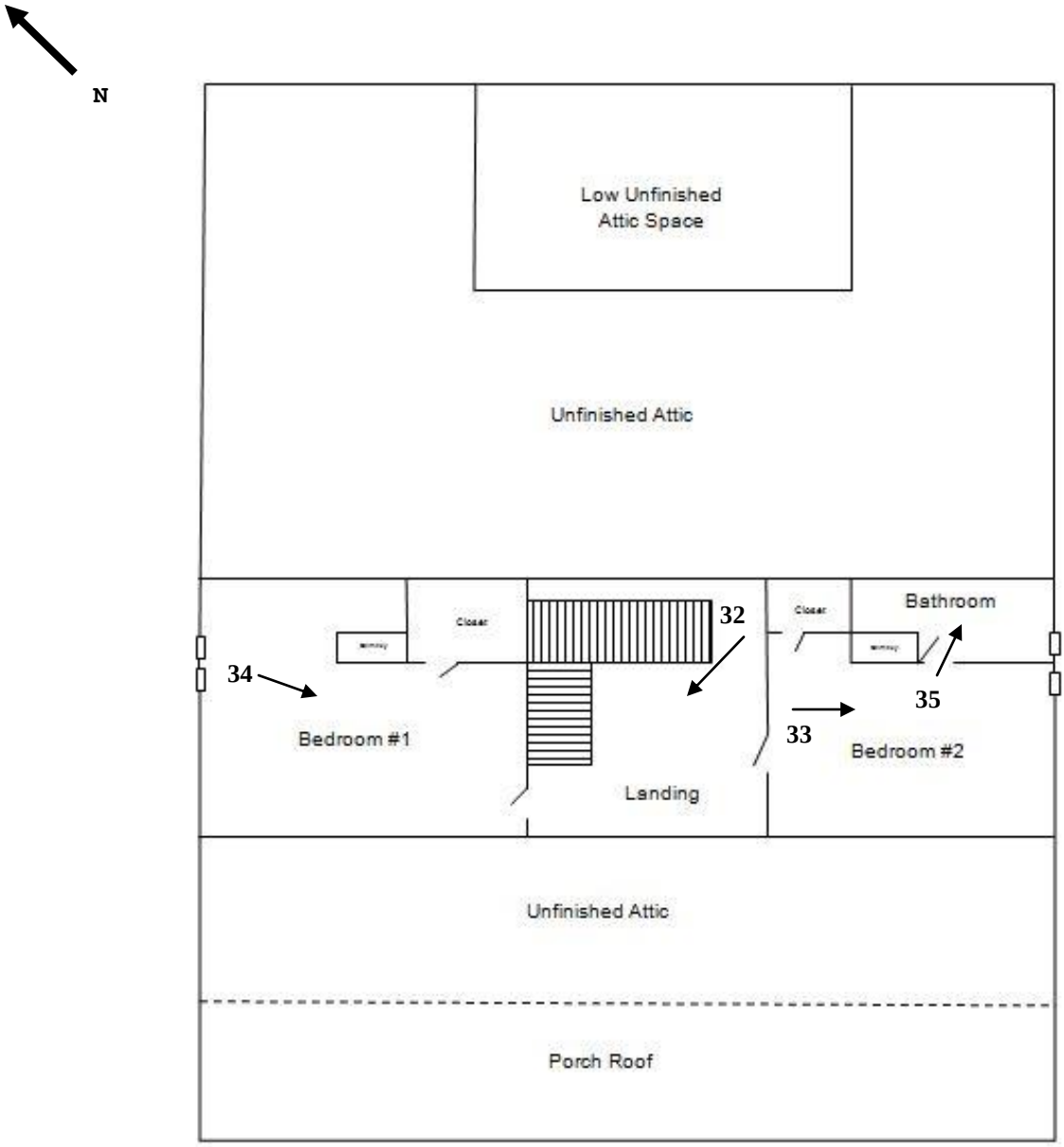


Photo Key and Floor Plan –Second Floor (not to scale)



Historic Photographs

Figure 1: Main entrance walkway showing boxwoods and herringbone brick walkway and porch c.1940.

Figure 2. C.1940 main façade of the house showing trees and boxwood hedge of the front lawn with the view to east.

Figure 3. Northwest elevation of the house with a view to the southeast showing the façade porch posts and windows and landscaping c.1940.

Figure 4. View of the façade porch and the original windows and jib doors c.1940.

Figure 5. Main façade entrance c.1940.

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