

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JUN - 5 2015

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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 listed in the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Murphy Springs Farm  
Other names/site number Hugh Murphy House  
Name of related multiple property listing Historical and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 4508 Murphy Rd  
City or town: Knoxville State: Tennessee County: Knox  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  X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  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Claudette Steyer 6/3/15  
Signature of certifying official/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
 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 or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

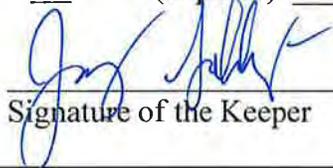
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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: \_\_\_\_\_)

  
 Signature of the Keeper

7-14-2015  
 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	2	buildings
3	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
10	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

DOMETSIC / Single Dwelling  
DOMESTIC / Secondary Structure  
AGRICULTURE / Agricultural Field  
AGRICULTURE / Storage  
AGRICULTURE / Agricultural Outbuilding  
AGRICULTURE / Animal Facility  
SUBSISTENCE / Processing  
RELIGION / Religious Facility  
FUNERARY / Cemetery  
TRANSPORTATION / Railroad  
TRANSPORTATION / Road

**Current Functions**

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling  
DOMESTIC / Secondary Structure  
AGRICULTURE / Agricultural Field  
AGRICULTURE / Storage  
AGRICULTURE / Agricultural outbuilding  
FUNARARY / Cemetery  
   
   
   
   
 

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

MID 19th CENTURY/ Gothic Revival  
   
   
 

**Materials:**

Principal exterior materials of the property:

WOOD: Weatherboard, Log; Metal

**Narrative Description**

**Summary Paragraph**

The Murphy Springs Farm district is a historic family farm that includes approximately 176 acres in northeastern Knox County, Tennessee, just outside the city limits of Knoxville. The core domestic complex of the farm is comprised of one primary contributing dwelling, a c. 1841 Gothic Revival house, a c. 1841 smokehouse, and a collection of outbuildings from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20th century – spring house, dairy house, barn/corncrib, chicken coop, wood shed - supporting buildings associated with a period of rural reform and agriculture. The domestic complex is set back from Murphy Road, and surrounded on all sides by an agricultural landscape of pastures and fields. Mature tree lines separate the pastures and fields, and sections of the farm remain wooded. Also included are a family cemetery and a church cemetery.

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The main house in the domestic complex, referred to as the Hugh Murphy House, is an excellent surviving example of the Early Gothic Revival style and wood-frame construction in east Tennessee. The house was constructed with lumber from the farm and brick fired on-site. A renovation in 1925 resulted in several changes to the house while leaving a majority of the original materials and woodwork intact and retaining a high degree of integrity. A sensitive rehabilitation in 2009 relied on historic photographs to rebuild the front porch to its original design.

The Hugh Murphy House and adjacent domestic and agricultural outbuildings are situated about 500 feet to the east of Murphy Road on a knoll that rises above Murphy Creek to the south. Located in the vicinity of the Hugh Murphy House (resource #1) are a c. 1841 log smokehouse (resource #2), a wood shed (resource #7), a chicken coop (resource #6), spring house (resource #3), dairy house (resource #4), two-bay barn-turned-garage (resource #5), and a non-contributing one-bay garage (resource #8). Most of the supporting agricultural-related resources date from the late 1880s – early 1900s, the rural reform era. Across Murphy Creek to the south is the original Murphy family cemetery (resource #10), where the original settlers Robert and Martha Murphy are buried along with two of their children and spouses. At the northeast corner of the farm sits Murphy Chapel Cemetery (resource #11) with the first burials in the 1890s, and which was associated with a Methodist chapel that was razed in the 1950s.

Access to the farm is along Washington Pike, Murphy Road, and Luttrell Road in northeast Knox County. The agricultural land was used primarily for subsistence crop production in the 19th century, and then transformed into pasture, hay, and corn fields for dairy stock in the early 1900s. By the mid-1940s, dairy operations ceased and the livestock was transitioned into a cow-calf operation, which continues to this day. The agricultural fields from the period of rural reform (1900-1945) are still extant. The landscape of the domestic complex and agricultural fields contribute to the historic character of the property (resource #12). Mature cedar trees have grown and clearly defined the fence lines between the fields and pastures, which in places are also separated by creeks, and roads. A Norfolk Southern railroad spur line, built in the 1880s by Powell Valley Railroad Company, bisects the farm, as does Washington Pike, which was put into service in the early 1800s.

## Inventory

### **1. Hugh Murphy House (c. 1841, 1925, 2009, contributing building)**

The Hugh Murphy House sits on a rolling portion of the farm in Grassy Valley, Knox County, Tennessee. It sits to the north of Murphy Creek, facing Murphy Road to the southwest and Washington Pike to the southeast. The two sides of the house facing the roads are characterized by a gentle, downward sloping site. A gravel driveway descends from Murphy Road down to a small spring-fed branch creek that runs perpendicular to the front of the house. The driveway then ascends up the hill towards the house, curving to the north to meet the garages, and extending past the house to the agricultural complex. A brick walkway connects the driveway to the side lean-to porch. The Norfolk Southern railroad line runs from southwest to northeast between the house and Murphy Creek, paralleling Washington Pike.

Character-defining elements of the Gothic Revival house include the steep pitch lines of the roof, a one-story bay porch with a hipped roof and square posts, a columned porch along the north and east sides of the house, and stained glass sidelights. Most of the windows are six-over-six, single-hung wood sash and original to the house. Interior features include tall (7 1/2 inch height) baseboards, wide window molding, original wood doors and banisters. A second story addition and gable was added to the south side of the house in 1925.

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### BUILDING HISTORY

The house was built c. 1841. The family history by Robert M. Murphy Sr. states that it was built by Hugh Murphy, assisted by James Murphy, his brother-in-law Abraham Stoffle, Abner White and Hugh Crawford. Other accounts in the area indicate it was built by Edward Legg, a local builder. Hand hewn logs used in the foundation were felled on the property, and the bricks used in the chimneys were handmade on site<sup>1</sup>.

Several projects have affected the house. In 1925 improvements and changes characteristic with the rural reform movement were made when Alvin R. Murphy Sr.'s new wife refused to live in a house without plumbing or electricity. A second story gable was added on the southeast side over the dining room, with a dressing room and a bathroom. Changes were made downstairs to remove an entry hall wall and create a larger front parlor for entertaining. The front porch was removed and a full-length shed-roof porch replaced it. A mud room was added to the rear of the kitchen, along with a small breakfast nook, and the wrap-around porch was enlarged slightly and screened in. A kitchen remodel was completed in 1950 with new cabinets, and plastering over of the fireplace and removal of the wood stove. In 1960, a portion of the shed-roofed c. 1925 front porch was enclosed to add a small bathroom for the downstairs bedroom. A sensitive rehabilitation in 2009 stabilized the foundation and cellar, used restoration techniques to stabilize the original windows, woodwork and trim, and restored the front porch to its 1890s appearance.

### EXTERIOR

The two-story, Gothic Revival dwelling uses balloon frame construction with horizontal heart pine wood siding. Hand adzed and sawn timbers are used for the structural framing, with the white oak sills and southern yellow pine corner posts being hand-adzed with mortised joints. Windows are six feet in height, six over six, single hung wood. Window trim throughout the house exhibits dog-ear trim and is hand planed. A band of wood trim extends below the eaves of the house.

The house has a cross gable roof with seven distinct peaks. The foundation was originally brick and stone piers, but the 2009 restoration stabilized and augmented it. Poured concrete foundation walls and retaining walls were introduced into a six foot deep basement. The roof decking is made of wide slices of southern yellow pine with the outer bark layers still present. Evidence of the hand-split white pine wood shakes that were the original roof covering have been found in the attic and pictorial evidence documents the wood shake roof in 1890. A standing seam metal roof replaced an asphalt roof in 2009.

The facade of the house faces southwest and fronts Murphy Road. It is composed of three bays. The front entrance is located in the central bay and has three-light sidelights with one light each of cobalt, ruby, and etched glass. The entrance to the house is emphasized by a one bay front porch with a gable roof and square posts. On the second story, above the front entrance, is a front gable featuring a Gothic Revival style, pedimented wooden two-sash window with original sidelights of cobalt, ruby and etched glass. This second story window (installed in 2010) replaced a deteriorated metal window that was added c. 1925, and was a likely replacement for a door originally placed above the one-bay front porch that can be seen in a 1890 photo. An original round sawn wood attic vent is located above the window. The original front porch was removed in 1925 and replaced with a deeper porch running the full length of the house. By 2009 the foundations of this porch and wood floor had deteriorated, and porch was again replaced with a replica constructed from historic photographs.

<sup>1</sup> Faulkner, Dr. Charles H., email to Kevin Murphy, June 29, 2009

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On the northwest elevation, the western portion has one two-story gable with a window upstairs and another one downstairs. Further east, a one-story porch with wooden Doric columns is shed roofed and wraps around to the northeastern elevation. On the first floor, an original wooden door with stained glass sidelights matching the front entrance is located on the western side of the porch, with two original wooden windows to the east. Two dormers located above the shed-porch on the northwest elevation each have six-light hinged wooden windows with matching trim and vented pediments.

A two-story gable end is located to the right (northeast) of northwest elevation. The northeast gable end features a vented pediment and round, sawn-wood attic vent. The shed porch wraps around the northwest and northeast facades, joining a single story kitchen that continues the roof and dimensions of the porch to the southeastern corner of the house. The porch ceiling contains two different types of board, indicating that the porch depth was increased, most likely during the 1925 renovation. The 1925 renovation included several changes to the kitchen area: the addition of a small mudroom on the northeast elevation, a small refrigerator nook, breakfast nook, and the replacement of the kitchen door from the southeast elevation to the northeast mudroom. These additions were not structurally sound, and in 2009 the changes were rebuilt and reconfigured into a larger kitchen and mudroom, and the exterior door was changed to open northwest onto the wrap-around porch.

The southeast elevation faces the railroad track and Washington Pike. It features two, two-story gable ends, as well as a metal covered double hatch that provides access to the basement. The eastern gable was added in 1925 to provide a dressing room and bathroom upstairs above the dining room; prior to the addition, there was a shed roof that covered the first-floor dining room and kitchen. The current single-story roofline over the kitchen uses the same roofline of this original shed roof. The western gable end is original to the 1841 house, and features an original continuous brick foundation wall.

#### INTERIOR

The interior of the building was originally a central hall plan downstairs. The formal entry to the house, facing southeast to Murphy Road, was originally a central hall flanked by two rooms, each of which contained a fireplace. The original wall between the hallway and north room was removed, along with the fireplace and chimney, and resulted in a larger entertaining parlor. These alterations were probably completed in the 1925 renovation. After the 2009 restoration, this room is now the formal dining room, with the front entrance leading directly into it. This dining room has original six foot windows on the southwest and northwest walls. On the northeast wall, which opens to the side porch, is a four-foot wide, one-over-one, single-hung wood sash window added during the 1925 renovation.

Underneath the house, the southern yellow pine floor joists are flattened on the bearing sides, and notched on the ends to sit on the oak sills. The first floor rooms were modified in 1925 by the addition of four-inch red and white oak tongue and groove floors which use the original boards as a subfloor. The upstairs spaces still contain the original, exposed pine boards. Baseboards are hand planed and vary in height from six inches to one foot. All interior doors are two paneled wood. Where interior plaster exists, it is installed on handsplit lathe.

To the east of the dining room is a downstairs bedroom. The bedroom has two original windows on the southeast and southwest walls. An original brick chimney is on the northwest wall. A small closet is to the southwest of the chimney.

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Opposite the formal front entry is a stair hall. An exterior entrance with original door and sidelights, identical to the front entrance, leads into this hallway from the northwest porch.

On the northeast corner of the house, with access from the stair hall, is the living room. The fireplace and chimney in this room were deconstructed in 2009 brick-by-brick. A concrete foundation was built for the chimney, and a new core was constructed using modern brick, and then veneered with brick from the original chimney, slightly deeper and narrower than the original chimney. On the front of it is a mantel original to the house. The mantel was sized to the original wood burning hearth, with applied square cut pilasters on square cut plinth, supporting a deep square mantel shelf. The built-in bookshelves to the southwest of the fireplace are original, with detailed birds mouth shelf supports. Two single-hung windows on the northwest wall are original; the single window on the northeast wall replaced a door that was originally in that position.

Leading off to the southeast of the living room is an opening to the kitchen. There are two original windows on the southeast wall. A peninsula extends from the wall between the two windows, and has an oak countertop made with lumber from the old barn. On the northwest wall, a cutout in the counter backsplash provides visibility into the original plaster, lathe and vertical pine logs that frame the adjacent living room. On the northern corner of the kitchen is an entrance to a mud room.

The stairs, with original treads and trim, curve to the west as you climb up to the upstairs landing. The original bannister is still in place and has a steep, sharp curve in the hand rail at the top. Upstairs, an L-shaped landing and hallway connects the three bedrooms and hall bathroom. The rooms upstairs are notable due to the steep roofline that begins approximately four feet up each wall; the upstairs rooms all have the appearance of being smaller than they actually are.

One upstairs bedroom is directly above the downstairs bedroom on the southwest side of the house and contains a single six foot window on the southeastern wall facing the railroad tracks.

Another, larger upstairs bedroom is located on the western/northwest side of the house, sitting above the current dining room. The 1890 photograph shows evidence that a door leading to a small walk-out opening above the front porch was originally present, but it was converted into a casement window in the 1925 renovation. Original cobalt and etched glass stained glass sidelights matching the downstairs ones are on each side of the window, while the ruby sidelights were replaced with pink-ish colored sidelights in 1925. A single-hung window with six-light sashes is in the northwest gable-end of the room. Originally this room had a chimney and a fireplace in it; there is evidence of this in the ceiling joists and the exposed subfloor, but the 1925 rehabilitation made it unclear what the original configuration was.

The third bedroom on the northeast side is directly above the downstairs living room. A fireplace is on the southwest wall, and is part of the chimney that was rebuilt in the 2009 restoration. This chimney has another mantel that is original to the house, a simple mantel with wide board legs and mantel shelf, which was sized to a large wood burning hearth. Upon advice from Vic Hood, of Leatherwood Construction, the mantel has been left unpainted to showcase the original wood patterns. The northeast wall has a four foot wide wood single-hung sash window. In the northwest wall, a small dormer contains a single inward-opening casement window.

In the 1925 renovation, a seventh gable was added to the house above the then-dining room on the southeast side, which provided room for a dressing room and adjoining bathroom. In the 2009 restoration, the dressing

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room and bathroom were reconfigured to provide three spaces: a hallway bath, and a small master bath and walk-through closet that service the northeast bedroom.

**2. Smokehouse (c. 1841, 2012, contributing building)**

The smokehouse is log construction and has a front cantilever with gable end and hand-planed dovetail joints. Dendrochronologic dating of the logs was attempted, but unfortunately the results were inconclusive. It seems plausible that the smokehouse and Hugh Murphy House were built at the same time due to the similar lumber used to build each structure. The smokehouse suffered deterioration in the late 1900s, and was restored in 2012 with guidance provided by Vic Hood. The smokehouse was raised up, the lower sill beams replaced with period style reclaimed lumber, and a concrete foundation with limestone veneer was poured to prevent moisture from damaging the logs in the future. The roof, originally pine shake and later metal, was replaced with cedar shake in 2012. Where needed, replacement roof supports were fashioned from pine trees cut down on the farm, likely the exact procedure that was used when the original supports were installed.

**3. Spring House (c. 1920, c. 1970, contributing building)**

A large spring house that supported the dairy operation is north of the Hugh Murphy house, located down a slope where two springs emerge from the ground. It has a concrete foundation, added c. 1970. The building is constructed with vertical wood siding, a gable end roof, and contains four fixed wood windows with 6 lights. The windows are a combination of handmade windows and machine made windows. There are log beams and hand adzed joists present. On the east end of the spring house is an exterior patio of poured concrete, dug into the ground about two feet below surrounding grade. The spring has been piped into an open well in the floor of the exterior patio, and then the water is piped inside the house into another open well. Water then flows under the concrete foundation to an opening on the western side of the spring house.

**4. Dairy House (c. 1920, contributing building)**

The dairy house is just south of the spring house. One of the Murphy's recalls that churned cream was brought from the spring house up to the dairy house, where it was poured into molds. Later the molds were taken back down to the spring house for setting into butter.

The chimney is made of vitrified brick, which was manufactured later than 1890. The mortar is lime-based. Some of the nails were 1920s wire nails.<sup>2</sup> The structure was significantly deteriorated by 2012, and a recommendation was made by Vic Hood of Leatherwood Construction to document and disassemble the building, and reconstruct it using a combination of the original materials and period replacements. Fortunately, a large amount of replacement lumber was in storage above one of the garage bays on the property, and the dairy house was re-assembled, and the chimney mortar was re-pointed. The reconstructed building accurately conveys the historic use and character, is located in the same location as the original building, and has original windows, door, wood, and brick.

<sup>2</sup> Vic Hood [vhood@leatherwoodinc.com], "notes from Murphy Farm – smoke house and spring houses", Message to Kevin Murphy, Jan 29, 2011. [This message states information about construction of the cook kitchen and spring house]

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The next three buildings do not have known dates of original construction. It is possible they were built before 1900. The earliest photographs of them are from approximately 1930, and by that time they appear to be aged by weather.

**5. Garage with Corn Crib (c. late-1800s to early-1900s, rebuilt 1935, contributing building)**

To the north of the house is a wood-framed two-bay garage with a storage room between the bays. Originally it was a two-bay barn for storing wagons, with a corn crib located between the two bays. It was substantially reconstructed in 1935, with horizontal wood siding replacing the original vertical wood siding. It has a tin gable end roof and concrete block foundation. The trim on the corn crib door features hand adzed supports; this trim and the door match the same elements used throughout the house and were probably left over from the house when the 1925 remodeling work was completed.

**6. Chicken Coop (c. late-1800s to early-1900s, contributing structure)**

East of the garage is a chicken coop. It is wood, has three bays and a shed roof. The floor was removed and the southern face was opened up in the 1980s to create an equipment storage shed, but the original wood board and batten entry door is still present on the west side, as is the small door for the chickens on the east side.

**7. Wood shed c. late-1800s to early-1900s, moved 1935, contributing building)**

Originally the wood shed was located north of the house where the current driveway is, but it was relocated to a location east of the chicken coop in 1935. It is wood frame with vertical wood siding. Round tree trunks are used for the corner posts. The floor is earthen.

**8. Single Car Garage (1935, contributing building)**

The single car garage to the north of the garage with corn crib is a single bay, concrete block building with shiplap siding. It has a metal, gable roof. This garage replaced a single bay barn with an attached shed roof bay that was built at the same time as the garage with corn crib (see Figure #3, #4, #5). It represents updated construction methods used towards the end of the progressive agricultural era.

**9. Pole Barn (c. 1995, non-contributing building)**

A large, two-bay pole barn with metal roof. Non-contributing due to age, but it does represent more modern agricultural building techniques.

**10. Murphy Family Cemetery (1847, contributing site)**

The original family cemetery is located on the farm on the south side of Washington Pike about halfway up the ridgeline to Edmondson Lane. The graves for the original settlers, Robert (died 1850) and Martha Murphy (died 1847), are here, along with the graves for the builder of the house, Hugh Murphy (died 1877), his wife Sarah, and several other Murphys. There are seven markers. Most of the markers are upright marble slabs with arched tops, engraved with the birth and death dates, and place of birth. One marker, for Hugh Murphy and his wife Sarah, is a double marker with a more elaborate cornice and arch at the top which sits on a stone base. There are several depressions where it is believed that a couple of family members were

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originally buried before they were re-interred in Murphy's Chapel Cemetery. The cemetery was used from 1847 through approximately 1880.

**11. Murphy Chapel Cemetery (c. 1847, contributing site)**

On the northeastern boundary of the property, on Luttrell Road, is Murphy Chapel Cemetery, associated with a Methodist chapel that stood nearby for nearly one hundred years. This cemetery has the gravesites of several Murphy family members, including Robert Fillmore Murphy and John Rush Murphy, as well as some Luttrell members from the adjacent farm and other members of local families and their relatives. The cemetery is actively maintained by a cemetery association with active burials occurring in the present day. Markers are a mix of granite and marble, of various styles typical of typical from 1880-through current times.

**12. Agricultural and Rural Historic Landscape (1841-1965, contributing site)**

The agricultural and rural landscape includes fields, pastures, tree lines, fences, gates, ponds and creek crossings throughout the property. Agricultural fields surround the primary domestic complex, and these elements of the agricultural landscape are integral to the operation of a working farm and complement the built components. The cedar trees that line the barbed-wire fence rows serve as wind breaks and clear demarcations of property boundaries between parcels. Some of these boundaries are the exterior boundaries from the original deeds and land grants; other represent subdivision of the family land into parcels in 1851, 1878, and 1926. Photographs from the early 1900s show board fences surrounding the barn for livestock pens. Fences on the farm are now barbed wire, and supplemented by single-strand electric fence on the exterior boundaries of livestock pastures. The configuration of the pastures and fields has not changed much since the early 1900s, with the exception of the livestock pens immediately surrounding the old barn site (location A below). Prior to the 1940s, there were several large livestock pens used to control the flow of dairy cattle through the milking operation. After 1940, some of the fences were removed and the areas combined with existing pastures.

One of the northern pastures, leading from the old barn site (location A) up to the Robert Murphy settler's cabin site (location B), contains several rows of rounded earthen berms as you proceed northward up the hill. These berms were an experiment for erosion control established sometime between 1930 and 1955. The easternmost hay field on Luttrell Road has a small pond to water cattle when they are occasionally grazed in that field, as does the field on the western side of Murphy Road; installation date for these ponds is unknown.

Wooded lots are located on the northern portion of the property, where the ground becomes rocky and is not arable. White's Creek runs underground just north of the farm, and this area has several sinkholes and rock outcroppings. Timber from this area may have been harvested by the first family members for their structures or for fires; few of the trees on the northern portion of the property appear to be old.

Washington Pike was an early settler's road that facilitated transportation and movement in northeastern Knox County. The road still passes on its original course through the farm. Murphy Road, which bisects the western portion of the farm, is evidence of how early farm lanes evolved as the movement patterns in the area changed and created a need to connect Washington Pike and Tazewell Pike to the north. A TVA high voltage transmission line runs north-south through the western field.

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Murphy Creek meanders along the southern portion of the farm. It enters the farm under Washington Pike on the southeastern side, and meanders through the lower pastures and hay fields in a westerly direction, between Washington Pike and the railroad track. Eventually it passes under Murphy Road. The creek then becomes the southern boundary line of the property as it flows southwest. It was the primary water source for livestock historically and to this day.

**Other Locations**

The locations below are mentioned in the narrative to describe the history of the farm and family, but are not resources that are counted in the district as they lie outside the period of significance, are outside of the nominated boundary, or are locations that don't contain enough integrity to be a non-contributing site. On advice from the staff of the Office of the Keeper, they are lettered to differentiate them from counted resources. They are explained and included to provide context for the Historical Narrative below.

**A. Old Barn and Silo Site c. 1920-2008**

A large dairy barn was located on this site from approximately 1930 until it was demolished in 2008. The barn had a milk parlor on the southern side, and several stables on the northern side. There are no ruins left on the site. A round silo was built at the same time as the barn, and demolished after 1945.

**B. Robert Murphy Log Cabin Site c. 1797-1850?**

North of the Hugh Murphy house, about one quarter mile at the top of a hill, is the site of the original settler's cabin that Robert Murphy and his family built when they settled in east Tennessee in 1797. A few foundation stones are left on the site. There is a spring to the east of the cabin, which used to have a reasonable flow, but today is no more than a muddy low spot.

**C. Murphy Chapel Site, 1847-c.1945**

The northeastern corner of the property is the site of the former Murphy Chapel, associated with the Methodist faith from approximately 1847 until demolition in the 1950s. At an undetermined time following the demolition, Luttrell Road was paved and now curves through this site, and the remainder of the site has reverted to a natural, forested state. As there is no visible site and nothing is revealed about the period or use, historical integrity of the site has been lost and it is not a countable resource. No archeological work has been performed on the site, although there may be potential to perform this in the future.

**D. Ritta Community Building site, c. 1950-c. 1975**

Just to the north of the Murphy Chapel Cemetery is a gravel circle drive. On the western side of this driveway was a community building, constructed about 1950 and torn down around 1975. There was a very active Ritta Community Club in the 1950s that held community fairs, constructed floats for the annual Knoxville Santa Claus parade, and performed variety fairs. A structure, of unknown construction, was built on this site to house local club meetings. After the club declined, the structure became an attractive nuisance for vagrants and was demolished. The site's history demonstrates how the farm and family remained an important gathering point for the Ritta community through the 1950s.

**E. Chesney House Site, c. 1930-c. 1990**

The Chesney House was built after Ann Koger and her husband moved back to Knoxville, displacing Tip Chesney and his family from their house. The house was used by the Chesneys until the late 1980s. It was demolished in the early 1990s, and there are no remains left on the site.

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**F. Robert M. Murphy Sr. House, c. 1920**

Colonial Revival, two story wood frame, wood shingled wall covering, end gable roof with asphalt shingle roof. Downstairs windows are double-hung windows nine over nine; upper story six over nine. There is a central entry with small paned sidelights and applied wooden fan pediment over the central entry door. Siding is a manufactured wood shake. Robert M. Murphy Sr. built this house on his parcel of the farm when he returned to Knoxville in the early 1920s, and later became the country's agricultural extension agent.

**G. Robert M. Murphy Sr. Barn, c. 1930**

Wood framed hay barn, with deterioration from significant water damage and growth from the surrounding woods.

**H. Colonel Robert M. Murphy Jr. House, c. 1960**

Split level two story wood frame, brick veneer, asphalt shingle roof. Windows are eight over eight wooden single hung with metal storm windows. Central entry door with a broken arch pediment and four light transoms. Concrete block foundation.

**I. Washington Pike road, c. 1810**

Washington Pike was an early wagon road running from west southwest to east northeast through the farm. It runs south of Murphy Creek on the western side of the farm, and then crosses over Murphy Creek about halfway through the property to run on the northern side of the creek as a driver heads east northeast. Written histories of the community record that neighbors willingly gave access through their property to better connect their settlement farms to nearby Knoxville, as well as settlements farther outfield and eventually to Emory Road, which led to Washington, DC. Today it is a two lane asphalt road.

**J. Norfolk Southern Railroad Middlesboro Spur Line, 1888**

The railroad was originally constructed in 1888 by Powell's Valley Railroad Company, then bought by the Knoxville, Cumberland Gap & Louisville Railroad. The railroad runs generally parallel to Washington Pike, remaining on the north side of Murphy Creek. An at-grade crossing at Murphy Road is present in the western half of the farm, and another at-grade crossing is present on the eastern side of the farm across Luttrell Road. A trestle just east of the Hugh Murphy House allows cattle to cross under the railroad track to water in Murphy Creek.

**K. Chesney Cottage**

Tip Chesney worked on the Murphy Farm in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He built a house for his family near the southwest corner of the farm. Ann Murphy Koger and her husband move back to Knoxville in the 1930s. The house was used by the Kogers until the 1980s, and then as a rental house until the early 2000s. It is in poor condition.

**L. Isaac Anderson School Site**

Located just outside the Murphy family property, the Isaac Anderson School site is a historic site located in the vicinity of the Murphy Springs Farm district, associated with Isaac Anderson's first school, Union Academy. This school later became Maryville College in Blount County. There are no remains of the school on the site, but there is a large stone marker placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**M. Murphy Road**

Murphy Road began as a farm lane running north from Washington Pike to Tazewell Pike and provided access to four or five large family farms. Right-of-way for the road was acquired by the county in 1957. It

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was improved in 1998 and additional right-of-way was acquired to accommodate future expansion. There is a stoplight at the southern terminus of Murphy Road where it intersects with Washington Pike.

**N. Railroad Depot, General Store & Ritta Post Office Site**

In approximately 1885, a general store and post office were built on the eastern side of the farm. Within five years, the railroad was constructed and a small passenger station was built. These survived until the late 1930s.

**O. William Alanzo Murphy House**

This house of unknown date was probably built after the civil war. Green metal roof, white weatherboard siding.

**P. Dixie Murphy Cottage Site**

After her husband Fred's death, Dixie Murphy built a small cottage on this site for herself, but she only lived in it a couple of years before passing from cancer. Alvin R. Murphy Jr. and his wife used the cottage shortly after their marriage until 1948. The cottage was used as a rental property until 2010. Preservation experts evaluated the cottage and determined it was not a contributing structure due to deterioration, and with a high renovation cost, it was demolished to avoid being an attractive nuisance.

**Conclusion of Narrative Description**

The Murphy Springs Farm retains many buildings constructed in the 1800s and early 1900s to support an east Tennessee family farming operation where the family had been established on the land since just after statehood. It is an early example of rural domestic architecture with the Gothic Revival-style Hugh Murphy House, and the additions of domestic and agricultural outbuildings as well as the evolution of the house in the mid-1920s. The farm retains a high degree of integrity in location, setting, materials and association, and portrays the evolution of a self-sustaining family farm as it evolved from settlement through the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The most prominent buildings on the farm convey a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century design aesthetic, enhanced by the craftsmanship of skilled builders and carpenters.

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**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 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**

Agriculture

Architecture

Settlement

**Period of Significance**

1841 to 1965

**Significant Dates**

c. 1841 Hugh Murphy House constructed

c. 1900 additional agricultural outbuildings

1925 renovation to Hugh Murphy House

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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### **Statement of Significance Summary**

Murphy Springs Farm, settled in 1797 and located in northeast Knox County, Tennessee, is nominated to the National Register under Criteria A and C for its local significance in settlement patterns, agriculture history, and local architecture of Knox County. The period of significance begins with the earliest known and extant resources that reflect the settlement and agricultural use of the district – the c. 1841 Hugh Murphy House and smokehouse – and continues until fifty years prior to this nomination - 1965.

Two separate multiple property nominations provide contexts for Murphy Springs Farm: 1) Historic and Architectural Resources of Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee #64500608; and 2) Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, #64500605. While the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee MPN doesn't encompass the geographical area of Knox County in eastern Tennessee, it does provide themes, property types, significance and registration criteria that can be applied to historic family farms in eastern Tennessee, with consideration for differing agricultural practices and architectural styles.

The c. 1841 Hugh Murphy House, an early example of Gothic Revival style architecture, meets the registration requirements for Criterion C of the Historic and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee Multiple Property Nomination for Single Residential Buildings under the Early Settlement and the Frontier, 1785-1860 historical context. The house's balloon frame single cross gable Gothic front, steeply pitched roofs, window hood molding, and fascia boards all strongly identify with the Gothic style. Modernizations were made by the family in 1925 and in 2009, but the house retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship, massing, features, setting, location, feeling and association with the style. It is one of two examples of early Gothic Revival style in Knox County, and the only one that retains enough of its land to acknowledge its historic setting. It also historic outbuildings that retain integrity and illustrate the function of a self-supporting family farm and the evolution of the farm from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Architecturally, the smokehouse and spring house an excellent examples of agricultural outbuildings eastern Tennessee rural family farms and therefore also are eligible under Criterion C.

The Murphy Springs Farm is significant under Criterion A for settlement and agriculture as defined in several periods of the two multiple property nominations, described in detail later in this section. Established in 1797, five years after Knox County was formed and the year after Tennessee became a state, Murphy Springs Farm is the second oldest continuously operating farm in Knox County that is still owned by the same family<sup>3</sup>. Robert Murphy probably planted his first crop that year to establish a productive subsistence agricultural environment. Murphy Springs Farm meets the description of a "historic family farm" with contributing resources in all four categories of buildings and structures: 1) dwellings, 2) outbuildings, 3) fences and fields, and 4) cemeteries<sup>4</sup>. The c. 1841 farmhouse portrays the prominence of the family to the early history of the area and represents the settlement and anti-bellum period of eastern Tennessee. Little is known about farm operations in the second half of the nineteenth century, but transition to dairy, tobacco, and later beef cattle reflect common trends of the early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century agriculture in eastern Tennessee. The diary outbuildings, chicken coop, modernization of the farmhouse and a family member who served for twenty-seven years as a county extension agent also reflect the Agriculture themes in the "Rural Reform and Agriculture" period.

<sup>3</sup> According to Tennessee Century Farms Program, a listing of farms owned by the same family for more than 100 years. <http://www.tncenturyfarms.org/knox-county/>, Accessed 2015 January 28

<sup>4</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee, National Register # 64500605. p. F 41

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### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

#### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The present Murphy Springs Farm originated from land acquired by an immigrant, Robert Murphy, who was born in Londonderry County, Ireland in 1757<sup>5</sup>. Conflicting information exists as to how Robert Murphy came to the United States. One family history states that Robert Murphy and his younger sister were shanghaied by sailors and brought to America in the hold of a ship. Oral history states that Murphy was pressed into service by the Royal Navy, and one night while anchored off the coast of Virginia, he decided to jump ship and swim ashore. Another history states that he was in the British Army and later captured as a prisoner of war<sup>6</sup>. Both histories agree that his name next appears in the records of the Revolutionary War listing of non-commissioned officers and privates of the Virginia Continental Line of Defenses (February-April, 1783), when Robert would have been aged 26.

In 1783 after the cessation of hostilities, Robert married Martha McNeil (1768-1847) in Max Meadows, Virginia<sup>7</sup>. Five of their children were born in Virginia before they journeyed southwest to Tennessee.

#### **Early Settlement and the Frontier, 1797-1860 (Historic and Architectural Resources of Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee Multiple Property Nomination)**

##### **Settlement and Subsistence Farming, 1780-1850 (Historic Middle Farms of Tennessee)**

By 1797, Robert Murphy and his family had arrived in an area known as Grassy Valley, Tennessee. They were traveling in a covered wagon and camped near a spring overnight. The next morning they were approached by William Anderson, who was the original settler of the Beverly community and had purchased land from another neighbor, John Crawford. Anderson thought it might be agreeable to have some other neighbors in the area, and took Murphy to visit Crawford.<sup>8</sup>

The first deed to the Murphy Springs Farm was acquired on May 24, 1797 from John Crawford for 115 acres along White's Creek<sup>9</sup> (now named Murphy Creek). Another 50 acres was acquired on July 1, 1797 from John Edmonson<sup>10</sup>. Grants from the State of Tennessee were acquired on March 12, 1819 for 15 acres and March 10, 1826 for 12.5 acres. Robert's son Hugh Murphy (1804-1877) acquired a 32 acre grant in 1825<sup>11</sup> and a 21 acre grant in 1836<sup>12</sup>. The total land area of these deeds and grants represents approximately two hundred thirty-three acres, represented in Figure #8.

<sup>5</sup> Murphy Family Cemetery (Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee), Robert Murphy headstone, personally photographed, 19 May 2007

<sup>6</sup> Luttrell, Elston. A Genealogy and Biography of the Family of Luttrell 1066-1893, 1893

<sup>7</sup> Marriage Bond Between Robert Murphy and Hugh McNeil, 10 October 1783

<sup>8</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 3-4

<sup>9</sup> Deed of Sale from John Crawford to Robert Murphy, 24 May 1797 (filed September 12, 1797), Knox County, Tennessee, Deed Book B21, page 204. Knox County Archives, Knoxville, Tennessee

<sup>10</sup> Deed of Sale from John Edmondson to Robert Murphy, 1 July 1797 (filed September 19, 1797), Knox County, Tennessee, Deed Book B21, page 204-205. Knox County Archives, Knoxville, Tennessee

<sup>11</sup> Grant to Hugh Murphy, Grant # 10643, 1825, Book 10 page 174. Tennessee State Archives

<sup>12</sup> Grant to Hugh Murphy, Grant #20579, 1836, Book 20 page 343

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Robert Murphy, his wife and their (eventually) eleven children built their first residence, a settler's log cabin, on a level prominence near and above one of the springs, a site which is located on what is now on the highest point of the northern edge of the farm (location B). The original log cabin no longer exists; it is unclear when it was originally constructed, and when it was eventually taken down.<sup>13</sup> Reminiscences by a family member contain a description that this home was a one and a half story dog trot log home, with sleeping quarters on the second floor.

A variety of crops and products were made on the early farm. Records from Robert Murphy's farm book, beginning in 1801, reveal that corn was the product marketable in the largest volume, which was also the dominant early crop of Middle Tennessee Century Farms<sup>14</sup>. Other items produced were potatoes, hay, flax seed, flour, butter, honey, and chickens, in additions to yards of cloth (woolen, cotton and linen). A written family history by Robert M. Murphy Sr. indicates that Robert Murphy had been apprenticed to a weaver and had learned the weaving trade, and brought into the valley a loom, spinning wheel, cords and hackle.<sup>15</sup>

The early Grassy Valley community had ties to several individuals with local significance. John Crawford was a Knox County delegate to the Tennessee constitutional convention that met in Knoxville in 1796<sup>16</sup>. William Anderson's son, Isaac, established a school, Union Academy, in 1802 just a few hundred yards north of the Murphy Farm on the Anderson property. Isaac Anderson was a well-known Presbyterian preacher who was the first pastor of Washington Presbyterian Church, which is still an active congregation located several miles northeast of the Murphy farm on Washington Pike. In 1812 he moved the school and his ministry to New Providence Presbyterian Church in Maryville, Blount County, where the school later became the present-day Maryville College.<sup>17</sup> Union Academy is no longer standing, but its location is marked by a historic marker placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution (location L on the site map).

There is evidence that other schools existed in the area. The Murphy account book lists entries to neighbor Samuel Crawford for schooling in 1806 for \$35.00; in 1816 it lists nine pounds for two years tuition for the Murphy children.<sup>18</sup> The Murphy's youngest son, Hugh, entered into a contract with thirteen community parents in 1836 for teaching five months of school at Fancy Hill School (no longer standing) on what is present-day McCampbell Drive<sup>19</sup>.

At some point after Washington Presbyterian Church was established (1802), an early road was constructed to connect the church to the nearby settlement of Knoxville. The route of the road generally followed

<sup>13</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 10

<sup>14</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee, National Register # 64500605. p E 8

<sup>15</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 8-9

<sup>16</sup> Rule, William (ed.) The Standard History of Knoxville, Tennessee;

<sup>17</sup> As an interesting footnote, after moving the school to Blount County, Anderson provided some education for the future governor of Tennessee and later Texas, Sam Houston. Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", written family history, c. 1950, page 24; Tumblin, John C., "Crawford-Harrill House", accessed July 13, 2013, <http://www.fountaincityhistory.info/Places33-CrawfordHarrillHouse.htm>; James, Marquis, *The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston*. University of Texas Press, 1988, page 29

<sup>18</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 10

<sup>19</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 10

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White's Creek (now Murphy Creek), and it passed through the center of the Murphy Farm. No right-of-way or easements were recorded for the road, which is now known as Washington Pike (location I).

Several of Robert and Martha Murphy's children achieved prominence in the early Grassy Valley community. Daughter Elizabeth married Dutch immigrant Abraham Stoffell, who acquired a large farm adjacent to the Murphy farm on the eastern side. The Stoffell's great grandson, John M. Stoffell, founded Stoffell's Dairy in 1929, which grew into a large operation that distributed dairy products from Johnson City to Athens, Tennessee.

Early church affiliations for the Robert Murphy family are not clear, but it seems likely that the family may have attended camp meetings held at nearby Fountain Head Springs, now known as Fountain City Lake, which was a Methodist site used for camp meetings. Early settler families were visited by Methodist circuit riders, who helped the families with their needs and often converted pockets of families into new congregations<sup>20</sup>. It is documented that in 1847 Robert Murphy gave a square plot of land off the northeast corner of the farm for a church building site (location C), adjacent to the Crawford and Luttrell farms<sup>21</sup>. A small Methodist church, named Murphy's Chapel, was constructed, accepted by the Methodist Conference, and served by circuit riders.<sup>22</sup> The chapel's location is confirmed in the Figure 10 map excerpt of Knox County in 1895. The creation of Methodist chapels by local families, and tending by circuit riders was a common religious theme in early Tennessee, and the establishment of Murphy's Chapel and later the adjoining Murphy's Chapel Cemetery (resource #11) reflect the prevailing patterns of the period. The chapel was an active member of the Knoxville Circuit for about eighty-five years.<sup>23</sup> When the chapel was abandoned in the 1940s, the property reverted back to the Murphy descendants. The chapel cemetery still remains on the northeast corner of the nominated property on Luttrell Road, with a few Murphy family members interred there. The cemetery serves as a reminder of the evolution of religion in the community.

Around 1841, Hugh Murphy built a Gothic Revival style house (resource #1) approximately one-fourth mile from his father's home, in the direction of Knoxville and in a line with the original log cabin. The date of construction is not clearly documented, but observations by local preservation officials and archeologists scatter around the period of 1820-1850, with c. 1841 being considered likely. Hugh Murphy married his first wife, Sarah White, in 1841, and the family history records that Robert Murphy and his wife were living in the Hugh Murphy house by the time of their deaths in 1850 and 1847.

The log smokehouse behind the house was likely built at the same time as the house. A smokehouse allowed the family to preserve meat and augment their grain and vegetable diets, and were common in early settlement areas of Knox County.

<sup>20</sup> Jordon Jr., N. Fred. "Into the wilderness: Circuit riders take religion to the people." *Tar Heel Junior Historian* (37, no. 2). Retrieved from <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newnation/4451> 2014 Oct 13.

<sup>21</sup> Deed of Conveyance from Robert Murphy to John Murphy and others, trustees, January 26 1847, Knox County, Tennessee, Deed Book O-2, Page 45-46, Knox County Archives, Knoxville, TN

<sup>22</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 27

<sup>23</sup> Knox County Methodist Bodies, accessed July 13, 2013, [http://knoxcotn.org/old\\_site/churches/wpa/methodist1.htm](http://knoxcotn.org/old_site/churches/wpa/methodist1.htm)

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The first Murphy to pass away in Tennessee was Robert Murphy's wife, Martha, in 1847. The family picked out a site for the family graveyard, on a level elevation across Murphy Creek from the Hugh Murphy House (resource #10). Robert Murphy, Hugh Murphy and his first wife Sarah White, and two of their young children are also buried in this cemetery. Robert Murphy's daughter Polly, and her husband Abraham Stoffell, are interred here as well. The cemetery is located in a discontinuous area south of the rest of the district. Established just six years after the Hugh Murphy House was built, the Murphy Family Cemetery is the third oldest resource in the district and represents the typical small, family burial plots which contributes to the significance of a farmstead. The location, on high, well-drained land, is also indicative of many family burial plots in the American South<sup>24</sup>. The cemetery is also significant in that it contains the grave of the original settlers and the builder of the district's most significant and oldest building, and that all graves date prior to 1880.

When Robert Murphy died in 1850, his will divided his holdings equally between Hugh Murphy and one of Hugh's brothers, William Murphy<sup>25</sup> who also resided on a portion of the farm. In 1851, William Murphy sold his half to Hugh for five hundred dollars<sup>26</sup>, giving Hugh Murphy sole possession of the Murphy farm.

A description of Hugh Murphy by his great-nephew James Luttrell Murphy provides insight into Hugh Murphy's prominence in the community, as evidenced by the large Gothic Revival house he built:

And then there was the broad, blushing face of brusque and bashful Old Uncle Hugh, the finest looking and the most typical Irish-American I ever saw – who had the ready faculty of getting the “solid coins of the realm”, and the rare ability of holding on to them. He seemed to have an affinity for their metallic luster, and they a magnetic attraction for him. He never asked for anything but his own, and he never failed to give other his dues. While the ring of dollars was music to his pocket, the principals of honor were songs to honor and were songs to his soul. Honest to a penny, he was scrupulous to a cent, and did not believe in holding and hiding money where it could do him and nobody else any good, but in putting it out where it would be worth something to him and a greater benefit to his fellows. And so his friends and neighbors would come and get his money and call for and cover his paper with their signed manuel, and then go away sighing because there was no more room for them to sign. His word was as good his “John Hancock” and his bond was as current as a bank note. Many a poor farmer and laborer he has saved from bankruptcy and ruin, and many a humble house and home had he rescued to deserving wives and innocent. The good that such men do their lives after them, as the grand Old Roman said, and so will the generous deeds and helpful needs of Old Hugh Murphy, continue to live after him and rise up to bless him, and erect in the grateful heart of his beneficiaries a monument to his helping hand and loosening purse-strings. No better man lived in all that territory than broad, blunt old Uncle Hugh. All men are entitled to respect for getting money honestly, and deserving of honor for allowing others to have the use of it liberally. And so was Uncle Hugh. His friends and neighbors were always welcome, the “latch-string” of his house was ever hung out to the needy and deserving. I loved Uncle Hugh because he was such a splendid representative of my race and family and because he gave to the name and blood such strength and solidity.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Potter, Elisabeth Walton and Boland, Beth M. “National Register of Historic Places: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places Bulletin”. 1992. Part 5 – Burial Customs and Cemeteries in American History

<sup>25</sup> Last Will and Testament, Robert Murphy, dated Dec 27, 1842

<sup>26</sup> Deed of Sale from William Murphy to Hugh M. Murphy, August 29, 1851, Knox County, Tennessee, Deed Book T, Page 796. Knox County Archives, Knoxville, Tennessee

<sup>27</sup> James Luttrell Murphy to James Madison Murphy, October 16, 1895. Letter. From “The Robert Murphy Family” family history

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Hugh Murphy's first wife, Sarah, died in 1858 leaving him with five children. That year appears to have been particularly hard on the Murphy family; two of the other young children – Joseph and Harriet – also died that year, and were interred in the family cemetery across the creek from the house.<sup>28</sup>

The original founding of the farm, construction of the house, and death of the founder falls within the Early Settlement and Frontier Period of the Historic and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County Multiple Property Nomination. The farm exhibits settlement significance identified in the Knox County MPN where “widely scattered houses and barns still remain from the frontier period of history. In a few instances, some of these structures are clustered enough to form small groups of resources, with the earliest structures intermingled with buildings from a later historical eras. The remaining pre-1860s structures portray an important historical era; recording their history captures the settlement history of Knox County and Knoxville.”<sup>29</sup> Additionally, the farm represents how settlement patterns for the county, outside of Knoxville, didn't change much through 1860 – Murphy Springs Farm reflects the pattern that second and third generation descendants of the first settlers often took possession of a portion of the original landholding and constructed new houses there.<sup>30</sup>

The farm is also associated with early patterns of both settlement and agriculture described within the “Settlement and Subsistence Farming” period of the Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee Nomination and reflect settlement themes in Knox County. Established in 1797, five years after Knox County was formed and the year after Tennessee became a state, Murphy Springs Farm is the second oldest continuously operating farm in Knox County that is still owned by the same family<sup>31</sup>. The first deed to the farm was acquired from John Crawford, an original land-grant holder and settler of Grassy Valley who was a delegate to the 1796 Tennessee constitutional convention. Without evidence of large outbuildings from this period, it appears the farm's production was oriented toward subsistence agriculture and less towards market-based agriculture; this is supported by the information from Robert Murphy's farm book about the crops produced on the farm. The Murphy family never held slaves, which reflects agricultural practices in eastern Tennessee, and differs from practices in middle and western Tennessee. The establishment of Washington Pike, with a portion running through the farm represents development in transportation for early settlers and communities. While no extent resources remain of community buildings, Murphy's Chapel church was the first Methodist church in the area and it's founding in 1847 typified early settler's activities of building their community.

### **Expansion and the Market Economy, 1850-1900, Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee**

The Murphy's were Union sympathizers during the Civil War. Very little is directly known about the farm's use and involvement in the Civil War. The family history reports that the Murphy farm was stripped of everything that was movable, although it is not known if it was Union or Confederate forces that did this.

<sup>28</sup> Murphy Family Cemetery (Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee), Joseph C. B. Murphy and Harriet Murphy headstones, personally photographed, Oct 25, 2009

<sup>29</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Historical and Architectural Resources of Knoxville and Knox County, TN, National Register #64500608. Page E 16

<sup>30</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Historical and Architectural Resources of Knoxville and Knox County, TN, National Register #64500608. Page E 16

<sup>31</sup> According to Tennessee Century Farms Program, a listing of farms owned by the same family for more than 100 years in Knox County. <http://www.tncenturyfarms.org/knox-county/>, Accessed 2015 January 28

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This account may very well be correct, since today there are no family antiques or heirlooms remaining in the Murphy house, except for Hugh Murphy's Bible and some books and hymnals. It is not known what other troop activity occurred in this area.<sup>32</sup>

Hugh Murphy's oldest son, Leon, was sent to Kentucky to avoid conscription and capture, and entered the Union service as a civilian. His detachment was responsible for getting food and other supplies across the mountains to Knoxville. On one trip, Leon Murphy and his good friend Edward J. Kinzel drove some hogs from Kentucky to Knoxville, and then Leon brought Kinzel to the Murphy home in Grassy Valley. Kinzel met and later married Leon's sister, Martha J. Murphy.<sup>33</sup> Martha passed away before Kinzel founded a mountain retreat in 1894 near Townsend, Tennessee known as "Kinzel Springs".<sup>34</sup>

The only other incident recounted in the family history relating to the Civil War recalls a time when Union soldiers marched through the Murphy farm, and two of the young Murphy boys slipped away and visited the soldier's camp. One of the soldiers called them over to the wagon and filled one of their felt hats with brown sugar.<sup>35</sup>

After the war, in 1866, sixty-one year old Hugh remarried to thirty year old Dicey Malinda LaRue.<sup>36</sup> Hugh began taking things easier with an energetic young wife to look after his remaining children, and he kept busy primarily tending to mortgage loans at the rate of ten percent.<sup>37</sup> Several deeds in the Knox County Archives confirm this, as does the almost \$4,500 of outstanding notes owed to Hugh at the time of his death.<sup>38</sup>

After the war, tensions remained in the neighborhood church, and in 1874 the congregation of Murphy's Chapel was split when the Union sympathizers withdrew and decided to build a new church about two miles away. Corinth Methodist Episcopal North was established on (Old) Tazewell Pike on two acres of land from S. K. Harris, and the Murphy family shifted their support to this new church. Early trustees included substantial citizens living near the church: Hugh M. Murphy, nephew James Madison Murphy, Hugh's brother-in-law S. V. R. Stoffell (husband of Elizabeth Murphy), S. N. Bell, J. J. Crawford, B. F. Kenner, and S. K. Harris. The new church was served by monthly Methodist circuit riders. After some of the initial tensions that created the split subsided, family members began attending services at both Corinth Church and Murphy's Chapel, often going to one on Sunday morning and the other on the same afternoon. While the Corinth Church enjoyed membership and support of many area families, Murphy's Chapel was supported primarily by the neighboring Lewis Luttrell family and their descendants.

<sup>32</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 36

<sup>33</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 36

<sup>34</sup> Kinzel Springs – A Little History. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.kinzelsprings.com/history.htm>

<sup>35</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 36

<sup>36</sup> Ancestry.com. *Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.

<sup>37</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 32

<sup>38</sup> Deed of Sale from James M. Murphy to Hugh M. Murphy, dated April 8, 1875, Knox County, Tennessee, Deed Book N3, Page 411-412. Knox County Archives, Knoxville, Tennessee; Deed of Sale from Robert A. Sterling to Hugh M. Murphy, dated January 4, 1843, Deed Book G-2, Page 315-317. Knox County Archives, Knoxville, Tennessee; Probate Record of Hugh M. Murphy, Knox County, Tennessee, Will Book 19 p. 161-163. Knox County Archives, Knoxville, Tennessee

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In 1877, Hugh Murphy passed away and left his holdings to his surviving children and widow. Several transactions were conducted amongst the family members, and some members were bought out. In 1878, 213 acres of the Murphy Springs Farm were consolidated amongst Hugh's three sons (Robert Fillmore, William Alonzo, and John Rush) and his widow Dicey.<sup>39</sup> On March 6, 1880, deeds were filed dividing the farm into three 46 acre tracts for Dicey, Robert and John Rush, with William Alonzo receiving a separate 70 acre tract<sup>40</sup>. William Alonzo "Lonsdale" Murphy built a house for his family on Washington Pike near the eastern edge of the farm (location O). The house, still located at 6015 Washington Pike, is on a parcel that was sold out of the family and is not included in the district's boundary.

Robert Fillmore Murphy continued to reside in the Hugh Murphy House, along with his brother John Rush and his step-mother, Dicey. Robert Fillmore married Sarah Ann French in 1884, and subsequently they had three children – Alvin R. Murphy (Sr.), Robert M. Murphy (Sr.), and Mary Ann Murphy (later Koger).

Powell's Valley Railroad Company acquired right-of-way easements across the Murphy farm to operate a railroad in 1887<sup>41</sup>, marking the second transportation right-of-way to impact the farm (the first was the establishment of Washington Pike). The railroad (location J) ran from Knoxville to Middlesboro, Kentucky, connecting a new industrial town and its coal mines to a growing city. Powell's Valley Railroad was acquired in 1888 by the Knoxville, Cumberland Gap, and Louisville Railroad Company. The first train was a special excursion train with a number of prominent Knoxvilleans, which wrecked on August 22, 1889 at a trestle crossing at Flat Rock Creek about 15 miles past Murphy Farm, killing five and wounding several others<sup>42</sup>. Later the line was bought by Southern Railroad, which later became Norfolk Southern, which presently operates the line.<sup>43</sup> The length of the railroad through the farm is not sufficient to be evaluated as a resource for the purposes of this nomination, but it is located and the impact explained below.

Around time of the railroad construction, this section of the Grassy Valley community received a new name – Ritta. According to local historian David Babelay's history of the area, William Alonzo Murphy (also known as "Lonzo") operated a general merchandise store and small post office (location N) near their house on the eastern side of the Murphy Springs farm, at the intersection of Luttrell Road and the railroad line. The railroad put a station in for passengers to catch the train their and receive their mail. Lonzo's wife, Zula, named the community "Rita", but the railroad added another "t" when they posted the sign there, and the community adopted the name and identity "Ritta".<sup>44</sup> Interestingly, maps of that time label the area "Rita" without the extra "t", and a 1971 historical map depicting all of the post offices has a footnote that the Rita Post Office was established in 1885, with Lonzo Murphy as the first post master<sup>45</sup>. An 1895 map of Knox

<sup>39</sup> Deed of Sale from L. D. Murphy, E. J. Kinzel and M. J. Kinzel to R. F. Murphy, W. A. Murphy, J. R. Murphy, Mrs. Dicey M. Murphy, dated July 15, 1878, Knox County, Tennessee, Deed Book R3, Pages 313-314. Knox County Archives, Knoxville, Tennessee.

<sup>40</sup> Quit Claim Deeds (four deeds), Knox County, Tennessee, Deed Book U3, Pages 1-3, dated March 6, 1880, recorded June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1880. Knox County Archives, Knox County, Tennessee.

<sup>41</sup> Right-of-Way recording from R. F. Murphy and J. R. Murphy to Powell's Valley R.R. Co., dated May 23, 1887, Knox County, Tennessee, Deed Book J4, Pages 595-596. Recorded Oct 18, 1887, Knox County Archives, Knoxville, Tennessee.

<sup>42</sup> Rule, William. Standard History of Knoxville, Tennessee. p. 294

<sup>43</sup> Knox County TnGenWeb, "History of Knoxville: Chapter 14: Transportation", <http://knoxcotn.org/about-knox-county/31-history/18-history-of-knoxville-chapter-14-transportation> (accessed April 11, 2014)

<sup>44</sup> Babelay, David, "Knox County, TN Communities", page 74

<sup>45</sup> *Historical Map of Knox County, Tennessee 1748-1971*. Map. Louis T. Ketron. 1971. Copy archived in the Calvin M. McClung Collection, Knox County Public Library, Knox County, Tennessee.

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County (figure #10) confirms the locations of Fancy Hill School, Murphy's Chapel, The Rita Post Office and train station, Corinth Church, and depicts the location of "French Murphy" (Robert F. Murphy's widow) and "Lonsdale Murphy" (William Alanzo Murphy)<sup>46</sup>.

The three children of Robert F. Murphy attended the still-functioning Fancy Hill School on McCampbell Drive. Their first grade teacher was Miss Annie Anders, granddaughter of the pioneer settler William Anderson and niece of Dr. Isaac Anderson, founder of Maryville College<sup>47</sup>. In 1890, it seems likely that a photographer came through the area offering to take pictures of families in front of their houses, as well as classes in front of their schools. Pictures of Fancy Hill School<sup>48</sup>, the Murphy House<sup>49</sup> (figure #2), and the Stoffell house<sup>50</sup> to the east of the Murphy farm were all taken at the same time. A date range for the Murphy house photo can be established: Robert F. Murphy, who died in July 1890, and his daughter Betty Ann, born in Feb 1889, can both be seen in the photograph. Robert F. Murphy died of typhoid fever, and his brother John Rush helped raise the three children, along with his widow Sarah French and his step-mother Dicey. Dicey arranged for lifelong care when she gave John Rush her 46 acres in 1899 in consideration for "maintain and support (Dicey) during the balance of her natural life in the same manner that she is now doing"<sup>51</sup>. Robert F. Murphy, along with his wife Sarah, step-mother Dicey, and brother John Rush, are interred in the cemetery on the northeast corner of the nominated property (resource #14) that was associated with Murphy's Chapel (resource #13).

No information is known about agricultural practices for Murphy Springs farm during this period. Precise configuration of the fields and pastures from this period is unknown; no limestone or other immovable objects define fence lines on the farm. The size of the fields and types of crops produced undoubtedly changed between the 1850s and today; otherwise the farm would have become economically unviable and would not remain as a farm today. The 1890 photo (figure #1) and a c. 1905 photo (figure #2) depict a white picket fence surrounding the house, with board fences four boards high used to create livestock pens in front of the house as well as behind the house. Based on the c. 1905 photo, a barn was built behind the house at an unknown date, and a family member remembers being told that it burned down sometime prior to 1925<sup>52</sup>. Other outbuildings were built during this time too, including the garage with corn crib (resource #5) and wood shed (resource #7).

The addition of a railroad for transportation, depot, post office, and general store on the farm reflect the pattern of slow but steady improvements to rural areas of Knox County. The identity of the Ritta community was centered on the eastern area of the farm, and the community maintained its own identity through the 1980s until it was slowly absorbed by surrounding new development.

<sup>46</sup> *Map of Knox Co. Tennessee*. Map. Vance, Coffee and Pill, 1895. *Lib of Cong*. Web. Accessed October 12, 2014. <

<http://www.loc.gov/item/2004629227/>>

<sup>47</sup> Murphy, Robert M. Sr., "The Robert Murphy Family", page 41

<sup>48</sup> Photograph of Fancy Hill School, ca. 1890, McCampbell Drive, Knox County,

<http://cmdc.knoxlib.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p265301coll005/id/917/rec/17>

<sup>49</sup> Photograph of front of Murphy House, ca. 1890-1891, Washington Pike, Knox County. Copy in possession of Kevin Murphy, Knoxville, TN

<sup>50</sup> Photograph of S. R. Stoffell house, ca. 1890, Washington Pike, Knox County,

<http://cmdc.knoxlib.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p265301coll005/id/788/rec/4>

<sup>51</sup> Deed of Sale from D. M. Murphy to J. R. Murphy, dated May 27, 1899, Deed Book 211, Page 99. Knox County Archives, Knoxville, Tennessee

<sup>52</sup> Alvin Murphy Jr, Oral interview, 12 August 2013, by Kevin Murphy via phone

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### **Rural Reform and Agriculture (1900-1945)**

For the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Historical and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee Multiple Property Listing focuses on urban and industrialization trends of Knoxville, with little reference to farming and agricultural practices in rural areas. However, the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee Multiple Property Nomination covers agricultural themes that are relevant on a statewide level and can be applied to the nominated property.

The Murphy farm shifted from crop production to dairy production, which was a significant progressive agricultural trend identified in the Multiple Property Nomination. Several additional outbuildings were built around the 1900-1920 period, including a spring house (resource #3) and an adjacent one-room dairy house (resource #4) with a fireplace for boiling water to sterilize the dairy equipment<sup>53</sup>. A larger barn and associated silo (location A) were built around 1920; the barn stood until substantial water damage and structural deterioration forced demolition in 2008. This barn had a large hay loft and hay trolley above the main entry, several stables on the northern side, and a milking parlor on the lower (southern) tier. The date of the silo's demolition is not clear; it was demolished sometime after the World War II.

Alvin Murphy, Jr, recalls that his great-uncle, John Rush Murphy, had a weekly dairy run into town each Saturday where he would deliver milk and eggs to customers. The dairy cows were pastured behind (to the east) of the barn and in pastures just north and northwest of the barn. Alvin Murphy Jr.'s uncle and cousins would call the cows from the pasture north of the barn down a cedar-lined lane to the barn for milking. Fields south of the railroad track, and on the south side of Washington Pike, were used for hay. Some corn was grown north of the cow pasture, in the area of the Robert Murphy log cabin site (location B) and to the west of it. This corn was harvested and blown up into the silo using a power take-off attached to a tractor to produce ensilage for the dairy cattle. Field and pastures were separated by barbed wire fences and were in a similar configuration as they are today. The Robert Murphy barn was used primarily for additional hay storage. William Alanzo Murphy (died 1916) and his son Fred, who owned the eastern side of the farm, grew corn and hay to sell to nearby dairy farms, including their cousins to the west.

A small amount of tobacco was also grown on the farm during this time in a small field north of the chicken coop, and dried under a small barn located north of the current wood shed. Evidence exists of later tobacco cultivation on another area of the farm; the Robert Murphy barn (location G) still has pine poles that tobacco was hung from in later years.

The chicken coop (resource #6) was also built in the early 1900s and reflects reform movements that encouraged side production on farms such as canning, chickens and eggs, fruit, and nuts<sup>54</sup>. Each house on the farm had a large garden, and the families harvested blackberries each summer.

<sup>53</sup> Vic Hood [vhood@leatherwoodinc.com], "notes from Murphy Farm – smoke house and spring houses", Message to Kevin Murphy, Jan 29, 2011. [This message states information about construction of the cook kitchen and spring house]

<sup>54</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee, National Register # 64500605. p E30 and F51

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Domesticated pigs were raised in a pen near the spring house for a number of years. Meat was cured and smoked in the smokehouse. Around 1938, the family located a source of green hams from Lay's Market in Knoxville that could be cured and smoked without having to keep pigs on the farm, and raising pigs was no longer required. The pig lot reverted to hay fields and pasture.

While the Murphy family never held slaves, at some point around 1900, they took on their first full-time hired hand, Tip Chesney. Tip, born in 1876, was the grandson of Pharaoh Chesney, a former slave who was probably born in the 1780s and lived a very long life<sup>55</sup>. Tip was mentioned to be working in the fields gathering hay in approximately 1905 when one of the Murphy's went off to the University of Tennessee, and several members of the next generation remember Tip, who passed away in 1943. A house, of unknown date, was constructed on the southwest corner of the farm on McCampbell Drive for the Chesneys (location K on the site map). When Ann (Murphy) Koger and her husband moved back to Knoxville around 1930, they settled in the Chesney's house, and Tip built a new house on Murphy Road (location E).

William Alanzo's son Fred became the first Murphy to attend a university, enrolling at the University of Tennessee. Leaving the school a year before he would have earned his degree, Fred Murphy worked as an engineer for several railroads, and then designed coaling stations for the U.S. Navy prior to World War I. After the war, he worked for several engineering firms designing power plants. He returned to Knoxville and lived in his father's house on the farm (location O) with his wife Dixie, who was originally from England. He became the City Service Director for Knoxville in 1939, but passed away in 1940 from a heart attack<sup>56</sup>. His widow sold the larger house and built a one-bedroom cottage on the eastern edge of the farm near the site of the former rail depot and general store (location P). Used as a rental property for years after her death, the physical condition of the cottage deteriorated and it was demolished in 2012 after it was determined that it was a non-contributing structure to the farm and served as an attractive nuisance.

Fred's cousin, Robert M. Murphy Sr., was an important figure in agriculture in Knox County and Tennessee. He graduated from the University of Tennessee agricultural college in 1910, and then received a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1912, majoring in animal husbandry and dairying. Soon after he became head of the dairying department at the University of Georgia, and spent a year there before returning to Tennessee and taking charge of the livestock car that was part of an agricultural train touring the state to advertise the university's agricultural college. When the University of Tennessee's agricultural extension service was started in 1914, Robert was placed in charge of the livestock service.

In the early-1920s, Robert M. Murphy returned to the Murphy farm and built a house for his family on the southern side of Washington Pike (location F on the map), along with an adjacent hay barn (location G). He served as the extension agent for nearby Jefferson County for two years until the country voted to not have an extension agent<sup>57</sup>. In 1930 he became the agent for Knox County, where he served for 27 years. During his time as the county extension agent, he was involved in starting a number of initiatives that impacted

<sup>55</sup> J. C. Webster, "Last of the Pioneers: Being the Life and Reminiscences of Pharaoh Jackson Chesney (Aged 120 Years)". S. B. Newman & Co., Printers & Bookbinders, 1902. Electronic Edition: <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/webster/webster.html>

<sup>56</sup> Fred E. Murphy. Obituary. 1940, September 15. Knoxville News-Sentinel.

<sup>57</sup> Robert M. Murphy Sr. obituary, page A-1. 1969, December 14. Knoxville News-Sentinel. McClung Collection Vertical File on Murphy, page 2, Knoxville, Tennessee

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agriculture in Knox County, such as the Knoxville Milk Producers Association, Knox Farmer's Co-operative, Knox County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Knox County Soil Conservation District, and East Tennessee Community Improvement Program which later grew into the Southeastern Community Development Association<sup>58</sup>. He was a pioneer of using mass media to reach out to farmers across the region, walking from his office in the Old Knox County Courthouse to the radio stations on Gay Street and hosting agricultural programs on them several times a week.<sup>59</sup>

The extension agent program was an important development for Tennessee agriculture, and the prominent position of a Murphy family member creates a strong link to this Agricultural-theme. Robert M. Murphy's term as county extension agent spanned the Great Depression, and it is likely that several New Deal initiatives were administered by his office. He used his own farm as a demonstration site for techniques publicized by his office. Evidence of contour plowing to control soil erosion still exists in the pasture north of the old barn site.

Robert's brother, Alvin R. Murphy Sr., completed his undergraduate education in engineering, and then continued to Columbia University for a master's program. He began work as one of the first employees for Wallace and Tiernan, who invented the chlorinator for municipal water treatment. During World War I, he served in Europe as an officer and set up water treatment stations to provide potable water for the troops near the battlefield. He was able to return to Knoxville after the war as an employee of Wallace and Tiernan, and remained with them as a vice president until retirement in 1950.

When Alvin married in 1925, his new wife, Jane Rule, insisted on modernization of the Murphy house, which is consistent with the theme of Rural Reform described in the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee Multiple Property Listing<sup>60</sup>. Rural electrification efforts brought electricity to the farm house and outbuildings. Indoor plumbing was installed. A seventh gable end to provide space for a bathroom was added upstairs. The kitchen was enlarged with a breakfast nook, a small porch and an alcove for a new electric refrigerator. The front entry hallway was removed, along with the associated fireplace for the northwest room on the first level, to provide a larger entertaining parlor for Mrs. Murphy. A boiler was installed in the basement, along with radiator heat for the downstairs. Initially the boiler was wood-fired, and later modified for coal and finally for fuel oil. These improvements to the Hugh Murphy House are examples of how "Better Homes" meant "Better Farms" and support the Criterion A - Agriculture theme significance of the district<sup>61</sup>.

In June 1926 the parcels owned by John Rush Murphy and his brother Robert Fillmore Murphy were divided into three sections for Robert F. Murphy's children – 65 acres on the western side for Ann (Murphy) Koger, 50 acres in the center for A. R. Murphy Sr. including the Hugh Murphy House, and 65 acres to the east for R.M. Sr, which included property on the southern side<sup>62</sup>. The eastern portion of the farm, approximately 50

<sup>58</sup> Clonts, Homer. "String of Farm Improvements Marks Pat Murphy's Career." Knoxville News Sentinel, 23 Dec 1956: Sunday Magazine section. Print.

<sup>59</sup> Denton, Neal. Letter to Tennessee Historical Commission. 15 September 2014. TS

<sup>60</sup> Mary S. Hoffschwell, "Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community: Reformers, Schools and Homes in Tennessee, 1914-1929", PhD dissertation, Vanderbilt University, Chapter 5

<sup>61</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Historic Family Farms of Middle Tennessee, National Register # 64500605. p E 31

<sup>62</sup> Deeds of Sales (three deeds), dated June 22, 1926, Deed Book 430, pages 412-417, Knox County Archives, Knox County, Tennessee

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acres, was owned by other members of the Murphy family. Several parcels of this property along Washington Pike were sold off, and the remaining parcels were eventually acquired by A. R. Murphy Sr, including the site of Murphy’s Chapel.

During the 1930s, the Tennessee Valley Authority acquired a 200 foot wide north/south right-of-way across the western portion of the farm, and installed a high voltage transmission line. The New Deal, particularly the TVA, strongly impacted agriculture in east Tennessee. While the line crossing Murphy Springs Farm isn’t impactful enough to be a contributing resource, it serves as an example and reminder of the New Deal impact to the area.

The year 1935 saw several changes to the domestic complex around the Hugh Murphy House. The original single bay barn with shed roof was torn down and the present new concrete-block garage was built in its place (resource #8). The garage with corncrib (resource #5) was re-sided, the bay doors were removed, and shake roof replaced with a metal roof. The wood shed (resource #7) was relocated from a position in front of the garages to its current location.

With the passing of John Rush Murphy in 1937, agricultural responsibility on the western portion of the farm were handed to the Chesneys for A. R. Murphy; Robert Murphy continued to farm his parcels. The Chesneys maintained dairy operations for a few years, but the dairy operations probably ceased when Tip Chesney passed away in 1943. Production shifted to beef cattle at some point during World War II. There may have been a transition of cattle and equipment to the nearby Stoffell’s Dairy, located just east of the Murphy farm. Robert Murphy Sr. grew corn and raised cattle on his parcels on the north side of Washington Pike, until his full-time job as an extension agent consumed most of his time; he then leased a majority of the farm out to renters.

**Post-War Transformations (1945-1965)**

Cessation of the dairy operations and transition to beef cattle was the dominant trend in Tennessee agriculture; the use (and dis-use) of the structures and fields of Murphy Springs Farm from 1900 until today reflect this trend and continue to support the significance of Murphy Springs Farm through the post-war era. The spring house and wash house were no longer used for dairy operations. The milking parlor of the barn was no longer needed, nor was ensilage from the silo. These structures gradually began to deteriorate as they were not used.

As Robert M. Murphy’s spare time was limited and the South had a shortage of timber, he turned his property south of Washington Pike into a tree farm. Robert M. Murphy continued to use mass media to reach farmers, and hosted a weekly television series “RDD 6” in the 1950s<sup>63</sup>. He retired in 1956 from the county extension office. When he passed away in 1969, his portion of the farm was rented out to local farmers who continued to run cattle on the northern property.

In the early 1920s, the Murphy cousins (Fred, Robert and Alvin) shifted their worship home from Corinth Methodist Church to Church Street Methodist in downtown Knoxville. The membership of Murphy’s Chapel

<sup>63</sup> Denton, Neal. Letter to Tennessee Historical Commission. 15 September 2014. TS

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declined as well, and eventually the chapel was stricken from the Methodist membership rolls in the 1930s. An account from the establishment of Highland Baptist Church recounts that, during the forming of that Baptist church, the members began using Murphy's Chapel for worship services in 1942, but were later evicted by the Methodist bishop<sup>64</sup>. At an unknown date afterwards, likely in the 1950s, Murphy's Chapel was razed and the property reverted back to the Murphy family. A cemetery association was established to own and maintain the adjacent Murphy's Chapel cemetery (resource #11), which is the remaining extant resource of this early community asset.

During the 1940s, the remaining land holdings of the William A. Murphy descendants were acquired by the Robert F. Murphy descendants. Several house-lot sized parcels, including the William Alanzo Murphy house (location O) were sold off; these parcels are not included in the nominated property.

In 1957, Knox County acquired a 20 foot right-of-way for the private road running from Washington Pike to Tazewell Pike, which was later named Murphy Road.<sup>65</sup>

### **The Farm Today (1965-2015)**

The past fifty years have seen the passing of the last generations that grew up on the farm, a stabilization of land holdings in the family, and pressures of suburban expansion on the property.

Two additional houses were added to the family's land outside of the nominated boundary. One is a brick house on the south side of Washington Pike (location H) near the Murphy cemetery, built by Col. Robert M. Murphy Jr. in 1960 after his retirement from the Air Force. Colonel Murphy spent a number of years as the Knox County purchasing agent after his father retired as the Knox County extension agent. Another house was built by Mary Workman on the southeastern portion of the farm in the 1980s (location X marks the spot!).

Robert M. Murphy Sr. passed away in 1969; A. R. Murphy Sr. passed away in 1965, and their holdings were distributed to several of their children. Ann Koger Murphy died in 1985 and left her property to Col. Robert Murphy Jr. A number of land transactions between children and grandchildren have shifted ownership around, but by 2013 it was consolidated to four primary owners with smaller parcels owned by a few other Murphy family members. Two of Robert Murphy Sr.'s grandchildren still reside on the farm, along with one of Alvin Murphy Sr.'s great-grandchildren; however none of these family members grew up on the farm.

Paul "Henry" Chesney worked the Murphy farm until he passed away in the mid-1980s. After Paul's death, the house (location E) was demolished.

Agricultural operations continue on the farm. The land on the southern side of Washington Pike, which was converted to a tree farm in the 1940s, has lain fallow and been visually altered from the historic field patterns. It no longer contributes to the integrity and association of the historic district, and is not included in

<sup>64</sup> Highland Baptist Church in the Beginning, <http://www.hbcknox.org/History.html>, accessed August 15, 2013

<sup>65</sup> Deed of Sale from A. R. Murphy to Knox County, dated Oct 29, 1947, Deed book ??, Pages 549-550, Knox County Archives, Knox County, Tennessee

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the boundary (with the exception of the Murphy Family Cemetery). When Paul Chesney passed away in 1987, management of that portion of the farm was taken over by Joe Mitchell, who had been farming the Robert Murphy Sr. parcels with his step-father for several years. Mr. Mitchell continues to run a cow-calf operation on the farm, using portions of the farm for pasture and other portions for hay fields. Timber is occasionally harvested from the wood lots on the northern portion of the farm; the northeast corner adjacent to Luttrell Road was last harvested for pine in the mid-1990s. The farm is still associated with the UT Extension Service, which held their celebration of 100 Years of Extension Service at the farm in 2010.

The family received proposals from developers to sell off the farm in the early years of the 2000s. As the family began discussing the possibility of selling most of the farm, they consulted with local preservationists and learned about the history of the farm, the uniqueness of the house and smokehouse, and the rarity of intact family-owned farms in the area. In 2009 one family member committed to financing the restoration of the Hugh Murphy house, and the smokehouse and dairy house were restored in 2012. Although suburban expansion has come to the area, the Murphy Farm continues to retain its agricultural setting and purposes that were established over 200 years ago: producing cattle and hay. The family members are exploring options to sustain the farm for another 218 years.

### Architecture

Murphy Springs Farm contains a collection of buildings representing styles from the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as well as several early-20<sup>th</sup> century buildings. The c. 1841 Hugh Murphy House is architecturally significant as an example of Gothic Revival domestic architecture. It has interior and exterior details typical of the style, including sawn wood trim, the staircase that accesses the second story, steeped pitched roof and dormers with sawn wood trim, dog-eared interior window surrounds and other details.

It is also an excellent, and rare, example of early Gothic Revival influence in Knox County; in fact, there is only one other remaining example of a Gothic Revival house in the county – the Bowman-McBee-Hodges House. The Hugh Murphy House is a Center Gable design with a single cross gable Gothic front. The steep roof pitch is quite distinctive, running approximately 4 vertical units for every 3 horizontal units.

Unlike the typical early Tennessee floor plans, the chimneys for the Murphy House are located on the interior, instead of on each gable end. The choice of the central hall plan reflects the values of Hugh Murphy as his increased stature in the local community as a teacher and a source of financial loans. Clifton Cox Ellis points out:

In general, the central passage house is associated with newfound wealth based on a growing antebellum economy and a desire on the owner's part to present a facade to the world that announced his success and place in society.<sup>66</sup>

The ell wing on the rear of the house, slightly offset from center, seems like it would have been added at a later date, but the materials and construction clearly show that it is a single structure built at the same time as

<sup>66</sup> Clifton Coxe Ellis, "Early Vernacular House Plans," in Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, University of Tennessee Press, 2002-2012. Article updated January 1, 2010, accessed July 16, 2014, <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=659>

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the front of the house. The integrated kitchen is indicative of the family not owning slaves; a slave holding home would typically have a detached structure for the kitchen that was separate from the living area of the master.

Construction of the house and outbuildings represents material found in the local area: wood, stone, and clay. Wood was the most plentiful material on Murphy Springs Farm, and was the natural material to use for framing the house. Bricks used in the chimneys were handmade on site<sup>67</sup>.

The adaptations to the Hugh Murphy House in the 1920s are also significant, and are consistent with the themes of rural reform described in the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee Multiple Property Nomination.

In addition to the main house, the outbuildings surrounding the house represent a self-sufficient farm. The 1840s smokehouse, built of pine logs and retaining almost all of its original material, represents an early subsistence farm settlement structure with a high degree of integrity relating to farming and subsistence practices of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Other agricultural outbuildings, including the late 1800s chicken coop, wood shed, spring house, two-bay barn, and dairy house represent the farm's later economic role as a small dairy farm. All of these outbuildings were built using wood, which would have been readily available on the family's land. The dairy house also includes a brick chimney made of manufactured brick, which would have been available by the early 1900s when it was built. A spring house and dairy house were extremely common in the rural landscape of eastern Tennessee and Knox County in the early 1900s, but few remain today and they are rare examples of this important period of Tennessee's history.<sup>68</sup>

With its intact c. 1841 Gothic Revival style house, Murphy Springs Farm retains a high degree of integrity as it relates to the farm as it coalesced in the late 1850s. The house remains intact and includes additions that contributed to the modernization of the domestic sphere. The field patterns and wood lots reflect a 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century farm that has changed as the owners shifted focus to dairy cattle, and then beef cattle and supporting crops during the rural reform era and later progressive agricultural era. The landscape retains several contributing features in both the domestic complex and agricultural landscape that include the mature trees from the early settlement period, transportation features such as roads and railroads, tree lines and fences, gates, and fields and pastures from the ongoing development through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Together these contributing features and landscape elements represent early settlement architecture as well as agricultural practices in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is all in spite of growing development pressures in the area. The construction of Interstate 640 places the farm less than two miles from an interstate exit. The first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen even more development pressure in northeast Knox County in the vicinity of the farm as suburban Knoxville has expanded. The city limits now reach the intersection of Washington Pike and Murphy Road. Amidst all this pressure, the farm remains whole, and the owners have made efforts to maintain the historic character and integrity of the district. It continues to be actively farmed and, as a result, its agricultural setting makes Murphy Springs Farm an excellent intact example of an eastern Tennessee rural landscape.

<sup>67</sup> Faulkner, Dr. Charles H., email, "mud" to Kevin Murphy, June 29, 2009

<sup>68</sup> Denton, Neal. Letter to Tennessee Historical Commission. 15 September 2014. TS

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Webster, J. C. "*Last of the Pioneers: Being the Life and Reminiscences of Pharaoh Jackson Chesney (Aged 120 Years)*". S. B. Newman & Co., Printers & Bookbinders, 1902. Electronic Edition:  
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Wills and Probate Records located in the Knox County Archives, Tennessee.

Tumblin, Dr. John C. "Crawford-Harrill House". <http://www.fountaincitytnhistory.info/Places33-CrawfordHarrillHouse.htm>. Accessed July 13, 2013.

### Archival Records

Deeds, land grants, and historical maps located in the Knox County Archives and McClung Collection of the Knox County Library System

"Knox County Two Centuries Photograph Project." Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library.

Murphy Springs Farm, Knox County." Tennessee Century Farms application and file, on file at MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.

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MTSU Center for Historic Preservation. Tennessee Century Farms website. Accessed August, 2013.  
<http://www.tncenturyfarms.org>

Interviews

Hood, Vic. Email correspondence with Kevin Murphy, Jan 29, 2011.

Faulkner, Dr. Charles H. Email correspondence with Kevin Murphy, June 29, 2011

Murphy, Alvin R. Jr. Interviewed by Kevin Murphy, Aug 12 2013

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)			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 #		X	Other
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #		Name of repository: MTSU Center for Historic Preservation	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): KN-2586			

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 176.34 **USGS Quadrangle** John Sevier, Fountain City

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.05102 | Longitude: -83.880794 |
| 2. Latitude: 36.06319 | Longitude: -83.880471 |
| 3. Latitude: 36.06295 | Longitude: -83.86686  |
| 4. Latitude: 36.05078 | Longitude: -83.86719  |

### Verbal Boundary Description

The Murphy Springs Farm district is comprised of portions of six parcels, roads, and railroad totaling 176.34 acres in Knox County as identified on aerial map below. The property is bounded on the north by the Shannon Valley Farms subdivision, on the east by Luttrell Rd, on the south by Washington Pike and Murphy Creek, and on the west by adjacent agricultural property, residential property, Murphy Road, and a private school.

The parcels included within the contiguous boundary are:

049 083  
049 080, which includes the land under the railroad  
Murphy Rd between parcels 049 083 and 049 080  
049 077 north of Washington Pike  
049 071 except the northeast portion across Murphy Rd  
050 001 and the railroad right of way splitting the parcel

Additionally, an approximately 50' x 50' section of 049 078 where the Murphy Family Cemetery is located is included within the district but is not contiguous to the above parcels.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated boundary for Murphy Springs Farm contains the extent acreage associated with Murphy Springs Farm that reflect its use during a period of significance beginning c. 1841 and ending in 1965 and represent an important agricultural property<sup>69</sup>. The historic property boundary is depicted in Figure 8, and the nominated boundary is a subset of that property that has significance and retains integrity. The property on the south side of Washington Pike, along with the property northeast of Luttrell Road, has visually been altered by tree cover and no longer has integrity for the farm, except for the Murphy Family Cemetery. The cemetery is a contributing resource, and on advice from staff at the Keeper's office, a

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<sup>69</sup> Gabbert, James. Murphy Springs Farm Return Sheet. 16 December 2014.

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discontiguous boundary around the cemetery is proposed<sup>70</sup>. All of the nominated property was acquired by Robert Murphy and his son Hugh. The nominated 176.34 acres is managed and farmed as a single unit, wholly owned by descendants of Robert and Hugh Murphy. The makeup and ownership of the parcels of the farm have changed over the years, but Murphy Springs Farm is still being used for historical purposes and retains integrity of location, design of agricultural and pastoral areas, and historical buildings and sites.

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<sup>70</sup> Gabbert, James. Email to Kevin Murphy

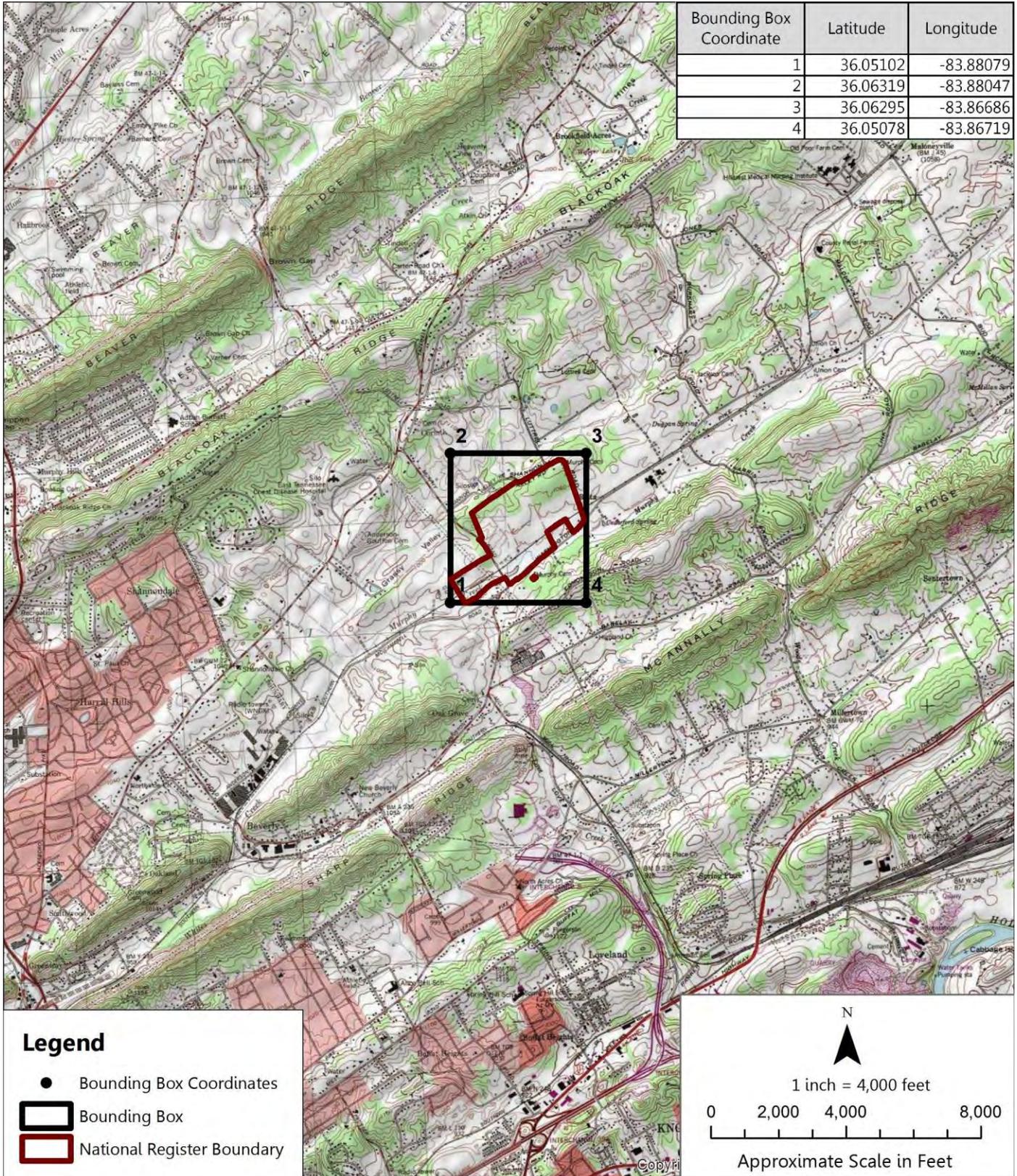
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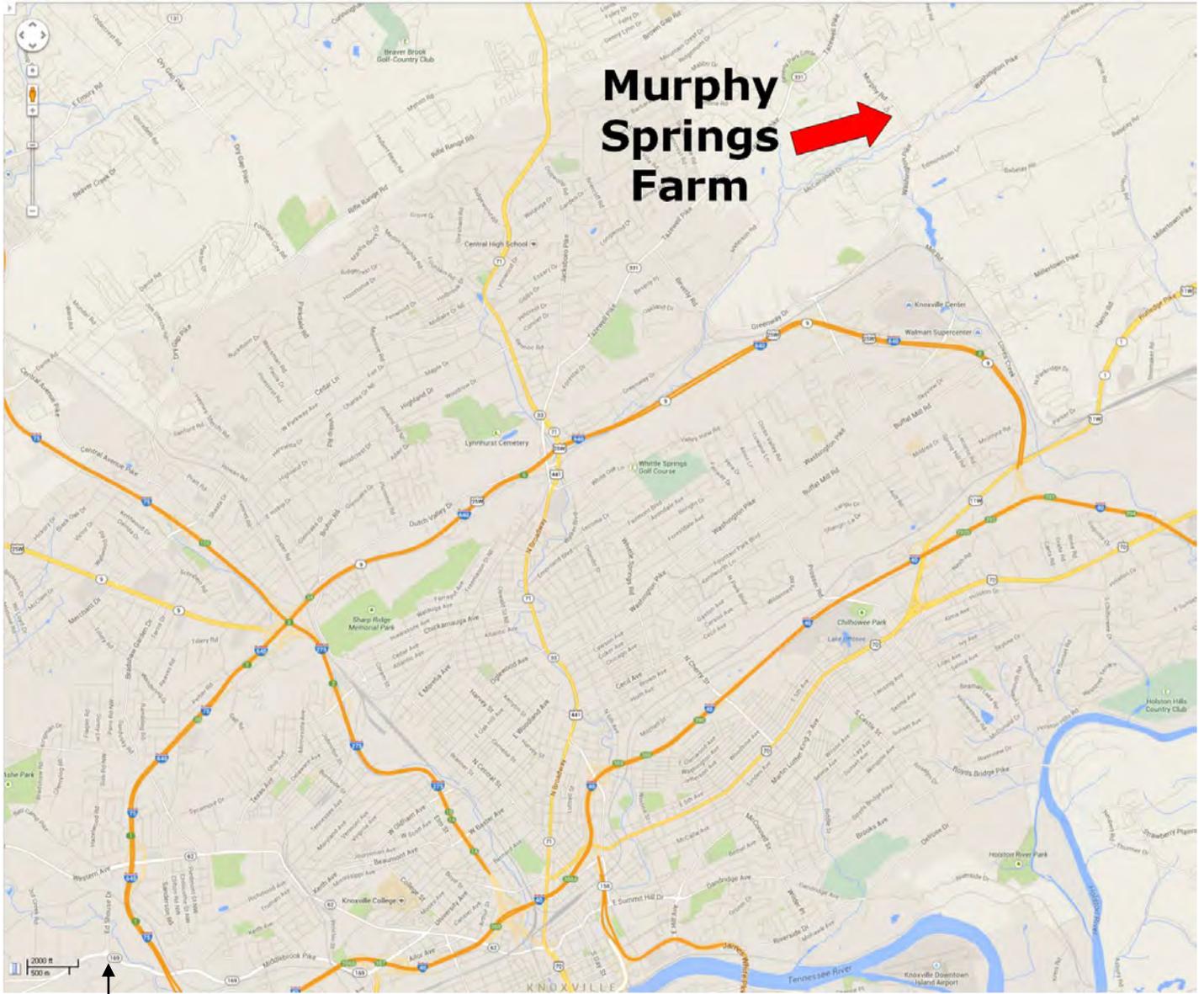
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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name Kevin Murphy, Property Owner; Ann Bennett, Preservation Specialist

Organization Murphy Springs Farm

Street & Number 4508 Murphy Rd Date 2015 February 2

City or Town Knoxville Telephone 865-523-8008

E-mail murphysprings@gmail.com State TN Zip Code 37918

**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)

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Murphy Springs Farm  
City or Vicinity: Ritta (Knoxville)  
County: Knox County  
State: TN  
Photographer: Kevin Murphy  
Date Photographed: Various (2012, 2013, and 2014)

Photo #1

Front field view of Murphy Springs Farm primary complex. Hugh Murphy House (Resource #1), southwest façade (right); garage with corn crib (Resource # 5, left), camera facing northeast. Oct 2012

Photo #2

Hugh Murphy House (Resource #1), southwest façade (right), northeast elevation (center), camera facing east; mule team with East Tennessee Draft Horse and Mule Owners Association plowing the front field. Oct 2013

Photo #3

Hugh Murphy House (Resource #1), southwest façade, camera facing northeast. July 2012

Photo #4

Hugh Murphy House (Resource #1), southwest façade (left), southeast elevation (right), smokehouse (Resources #2, right). This photograph is similar to the c1890 photograph in Figure #1. June 2013

Photo #5

Hugh Murphy House (Resource #1), southeast elevation (left), north east elevation for kitchen (right). Sep 2013

Photo #6

Hugh Murphy House (Resource #1), northeast elevation. Sep 2013

Photo #7

Hugh Murphy House (Resource #1), northwest elevation. Jan 2014

Photo #8

Hugh Murphy House (#1), dining room. Photographer facing southwest. Nov 2013

Photo #9

Hugh Murphy House (#1), dining room. Photographer facing west. Nov 2013

Photo #10

Hugh Murphy House (#1), dining room. Photographer facing northeast. Nov 2013

Photo #11

Hugh Murphy House (#1), dining room. Photographer facing east. Nov 2013

Photo #12

Hugh Murphy House (#1), 1st floor bedroom. Photographer facing southwest. Nov 2013

Photo #13

Hugh Murphy House (#1), 1st floor bathroom. Photographer facing northeast. Nov 2013

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Photo #14

Hugh Murphy House (#1), living room, 1st floor. Photographer facing west. Nov 2013

Photo #15

Hugh Murphy House (#1), living room, 1st floor. Photographer facing southwest. Nov 2013

Photo #16

Hugh Murphy House (#1), living room, 1st floor. Photographer facing east. Nov 2013

Photo #17

Hugh Murphy House (#1), detail of original bookshelves, living room, 1st floor.. Nov 2013

Photo #18

Hugh Murphy House (#1), kitchen, 1st floor. Photograph facing northwest. Nov 2013

Photo #19

Hugh Murphy House (#1), kitchen, 1st floor. Photograph facing southeast. Nov 2013

Photo #20

Hugh Murphy House (#1), hallway from kitchen to living room, cellar entrance on right. Photographer facing southwest.. Nov 2013

Photo #21

Hugh Murphy House (#1), hallway from kitchen to living room. Photographer facing southeast. Nov 2013

Photo #22

Hugh Murphy House (#1), staircase. Photographer facing east.. Nov 2013

Photo #23

Hugh Murphy House (#1), staircase and northwest entrance door detail. Photographer facing northwest. Nov 2013

Photo #24

Hugh Murphy House (#1), staircase railing detail. Photographer facing south. Nov 2013

Photo #25

Hugh Murphy House (#1), 2nd floor landing, hallway, and banister detail. Photographer facing northwest. Nov 2013

Photo #26

Hugh Murphy House (#1), southwest bedroom, 2nd floor. Photographer facing south. Nov 2013

Photo #27

Hugh Murphy House (#1), northwest bedroom, 2nd floor. Photographer facing south. April 2014

Photo #28

Hugh Murphy House (#1), northwest bedroom, 2nd floor. Photographer facing northwest. April 2014

Photo #29

Hugh Murphy House (#1), hall bathroom, 2nd floor. Photographer facing east/southeast. Nov 2013

Photo #30

Hugh Murphy House (#1), hall bathroom, 2nd floor, detail of vanity. Photographer facing northeast. Nov 2013

Photo #31

Hugh Murphy House (#1), hall bathroom, 2nd floor. Photographer facing north. Nov 2013

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Photo #32

Hugh Murphy House (#1), northeast master bedroom, 2nd floor. Photographer facing north. Nov 2013

Photo #33

Hugh Murphy House (#1), northeast master bedroom, 2nd floor. Photographer facing southwest. Nov 2013

Photo #34

Hugh Murphy House (#1), northeast master bathroom, 2nd floor. Photographer facing southeast. Nov 2013

Photo #35

Smokehouse (#2). Photographer facing north. Sept 2013

Photo #36

Smokehouse (#2). Photographer facing east. Oct 2013

Photo #37

Two bay garage with corn crib (#5). Photographer facing northeast. Oct 2013

Photo #38

Single car garage (#8). Photographer facing east. Oct 2013

Photo #39

Dairy house (#4). Photographer facing north/northeast. Dec 2013

Photo #40

Spring House (#3) and Dairy House (#4). Photographer facing west.. Dec 2013

Photo #41

Chicken coop (#6). Photographer facing northeast. Dec 2013

Photo #42

Chicken coop (#6), detail of chicken entrance. Photographer facing north. Dec 2013

Photo #43

Wood shed (#7). Photographer facing north. Dec 2013

Photo #44

Old barn and silo site (location A). Photographer facing northeast. Dec 2013

Photo #45

Pole barn (#9). Photographer facing north. Dec 2013

Photo #

Colonel Robert M. Murphy Jr. House (location H), Photographer facing south. Dec 2013

Photo #46

Murphy Family Cemetery (#10), markers of Robert Murphy (1757-1850), wife Martha Murphy (1768-1847), son Hugh Murphy (1801-1877), their daughter-in-law Sarah White Murphy. Photographer facing north/northeast. Dec 2013

Photo #47

Murphy Chapel Cemetery (#11). Photographer facing west. Dec 2013

Photo #48

Landscape view of front fields and fields across Murphy Rd (#12) from Hugh Murphy House (#1). April 2014

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Photo #49

Landscape view of pasture and agricultural fields (#12). Photographer facing north. Dec 2013

Photo #50

Landscape view of fields (#12) and hilltop of Robert Murphy log cabin site (location B). Photographer facing northwest. Dec 2013

Photo #51

Robert Murphy log cabin site (location B) and remaining mound of buried stone for chimney foundation. Photographer facing southeast.. Dec 2013

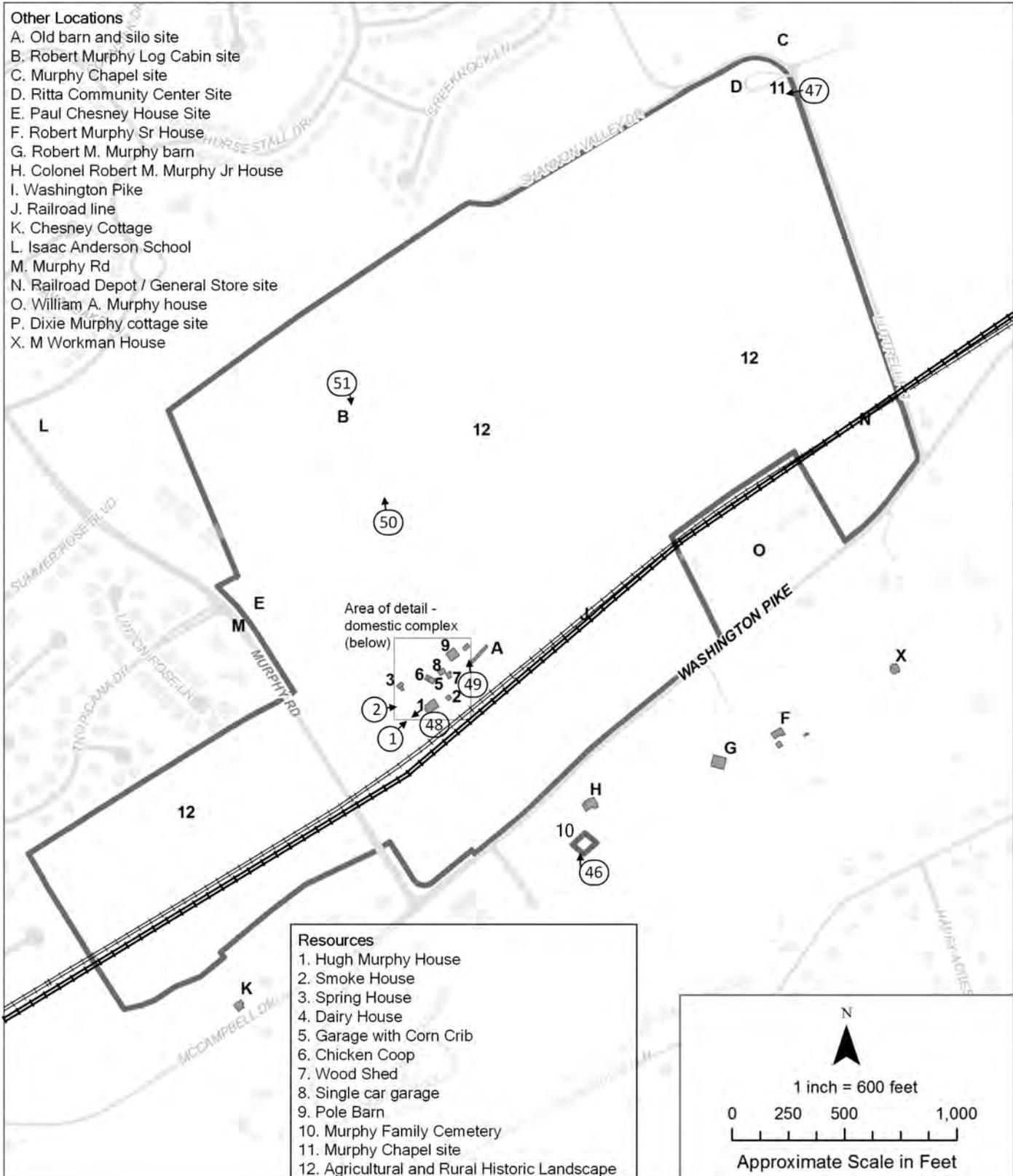
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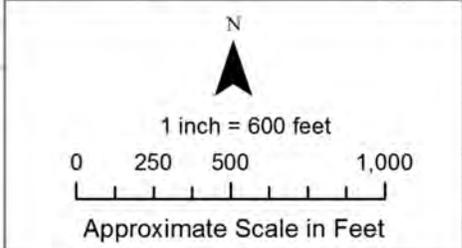
**Site Plan**

**Other Locations**

- A. Old barn and silo site
- B. Robert Murphy Log Cabin site
- C. Murphy Chapel site
- D. Ritta Community Center Site
- E. Paul Chesney House Site
- F. Robert Murphy Sr House
- G. Robert M. Murphy barn
- H. Colonel Robert M. Murphy Jr House
- I. Washington Pike
- J. Railroad line
- K. Chesney Cottage
- L. Isaac Anderson School
- M. Murphy Rd
- N. Railroad Depot / General Store site
- O. William A. Murphy house
- P. Dixie Murphy cottage site
- X. M Workman House



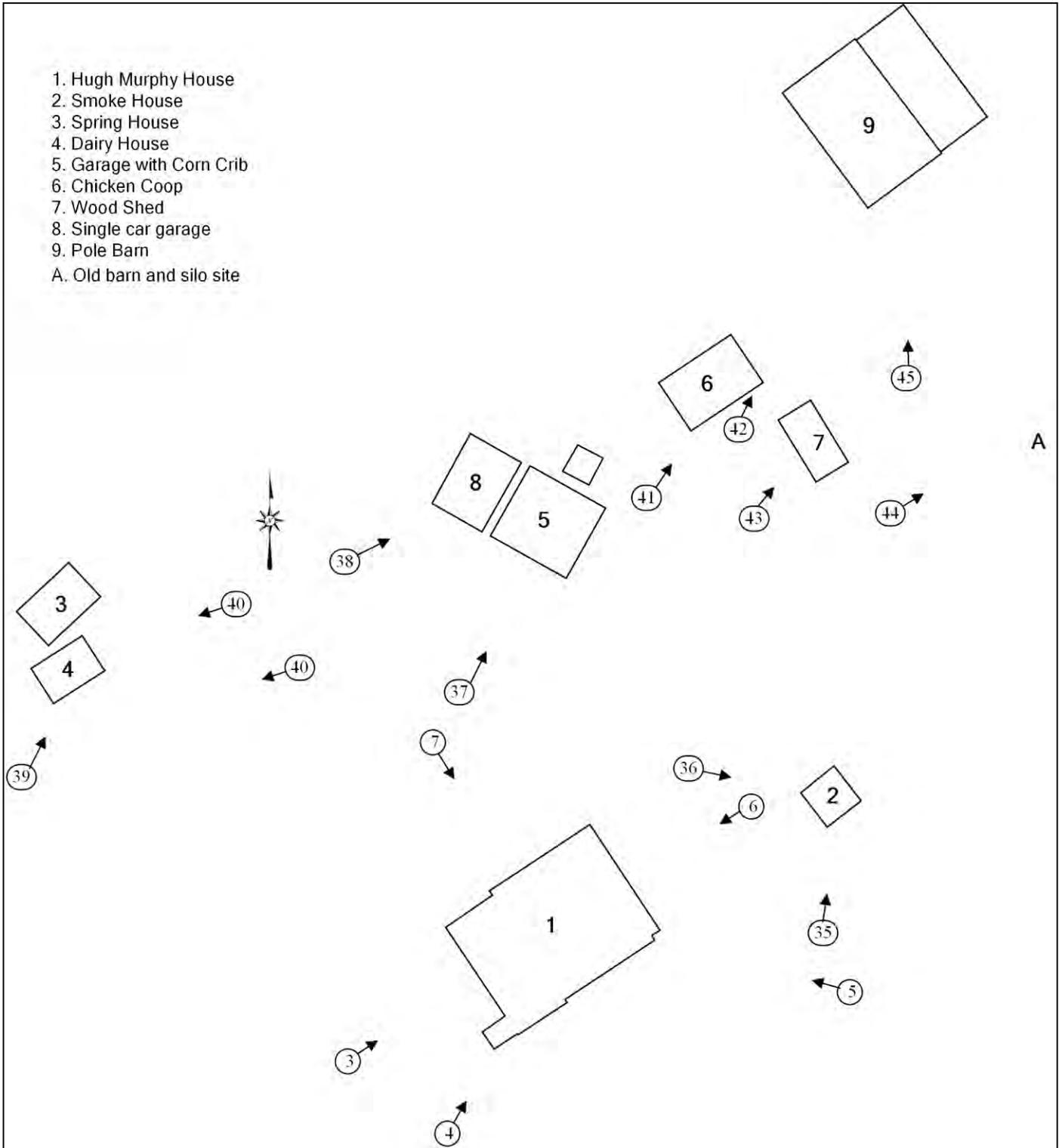
- Resources**
- 1. Hugh Murphy House
  - 2. Smoke House
  - 3. Spring House
  - 4. Dairy House
  - 5. Garage with Corn Crib
  - 6. Chicken Coop
  - 7. Wood Shed
  - 8. Single car garage
  - 9. Pole Barn
  - 10. Murphy Family Cemetery
  - 11. Murphy Chapel site
  - 12. Agricultural and Rural Historic Landscape



Murphy Springs Farm Photo Key – Site Plan Level

Murphy Springs Farm  
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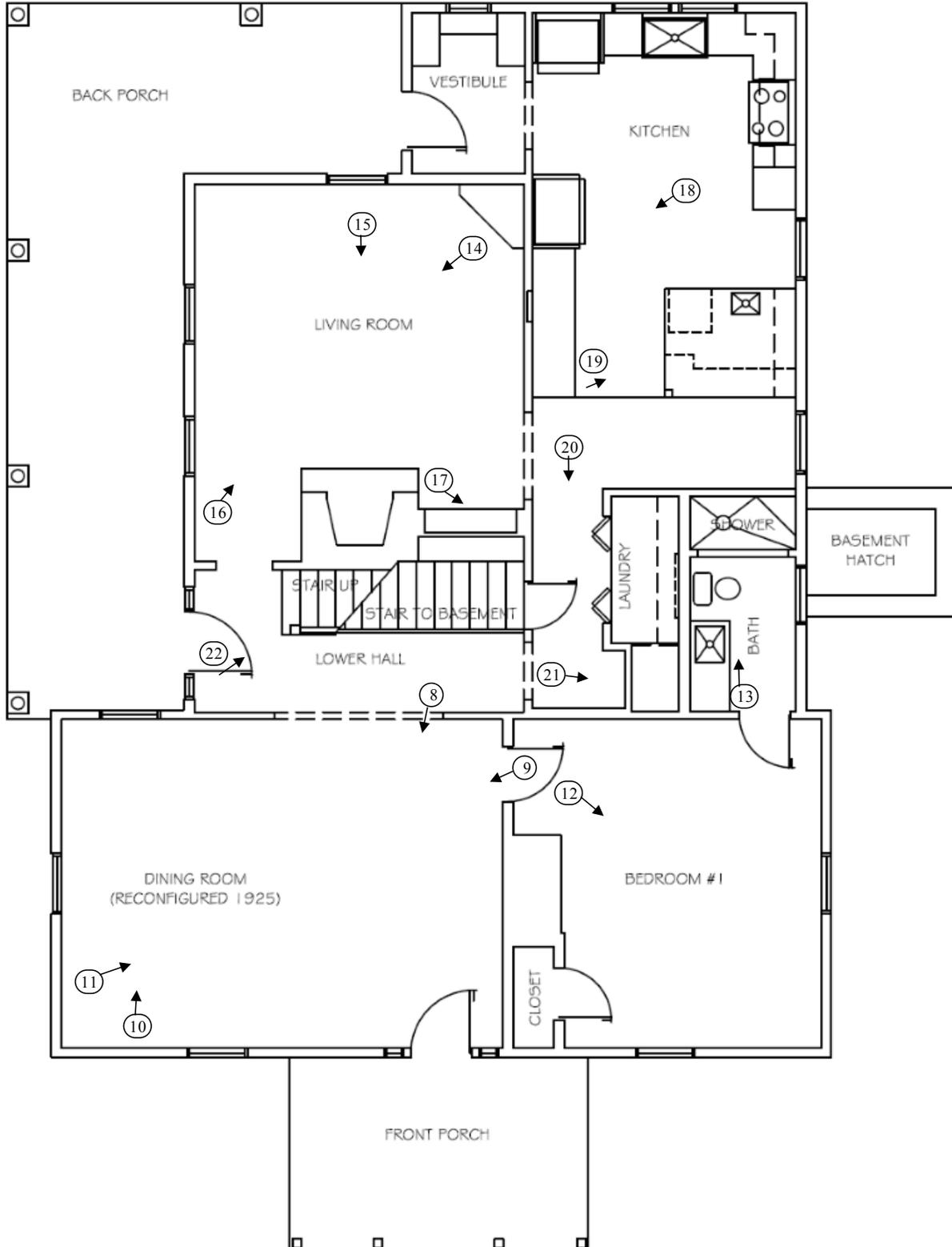
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Murphy Springs Farm - Detailed Photo Key surrounding primary domestic complex

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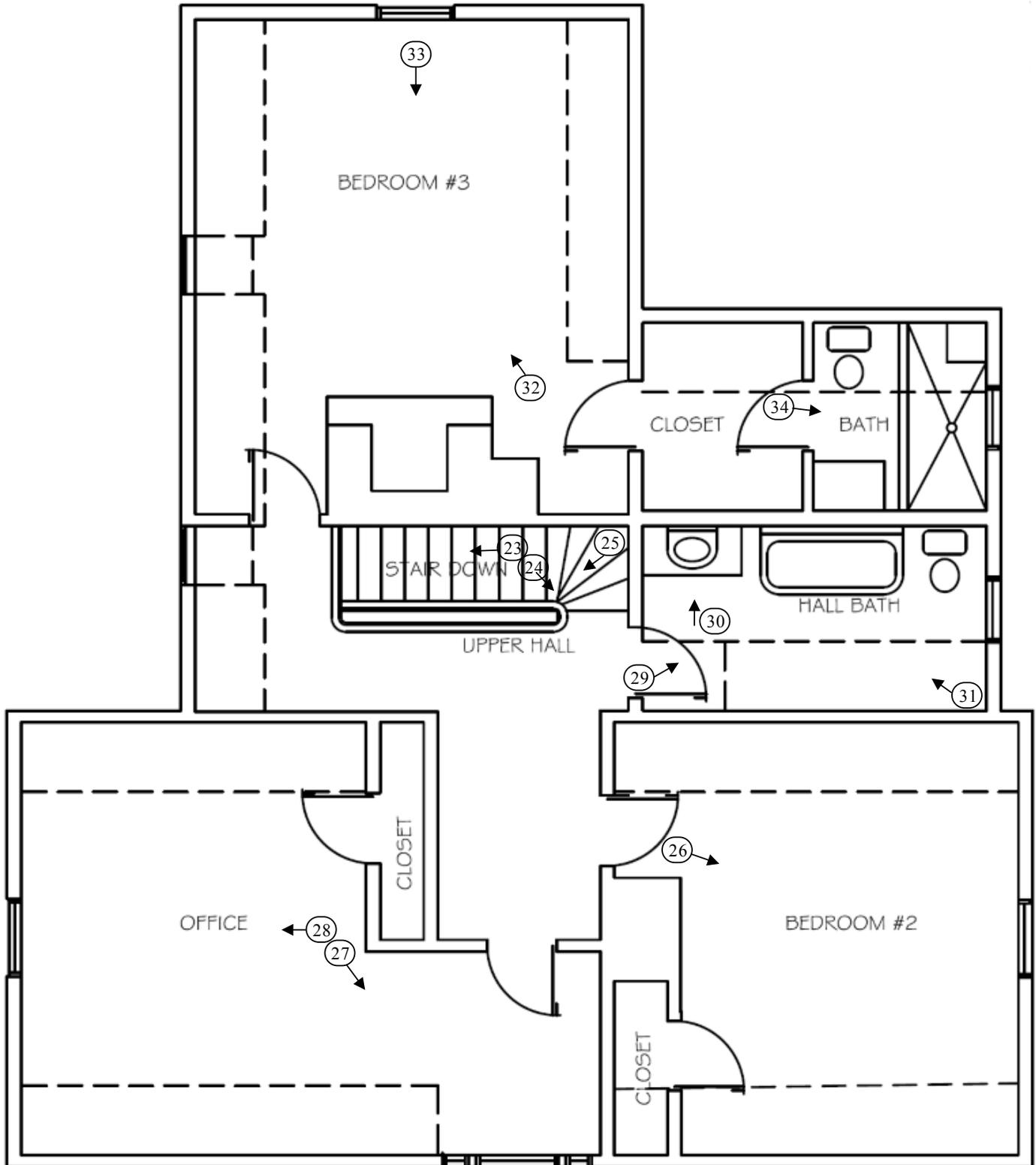
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Hugh Murphy House – Detailed Photo Key – First Floor

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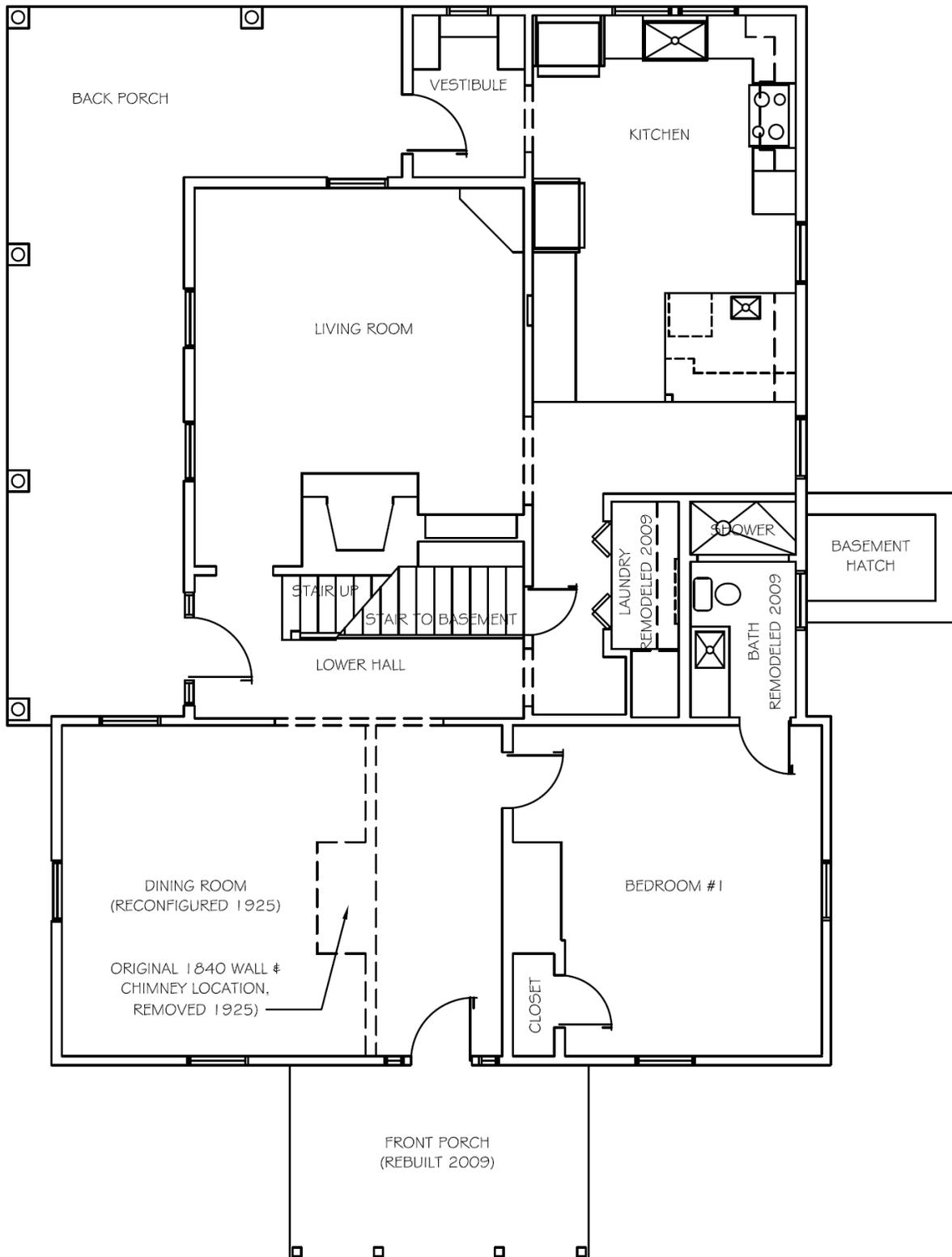


Hugh Murphy House – Photo Key – Second Floor

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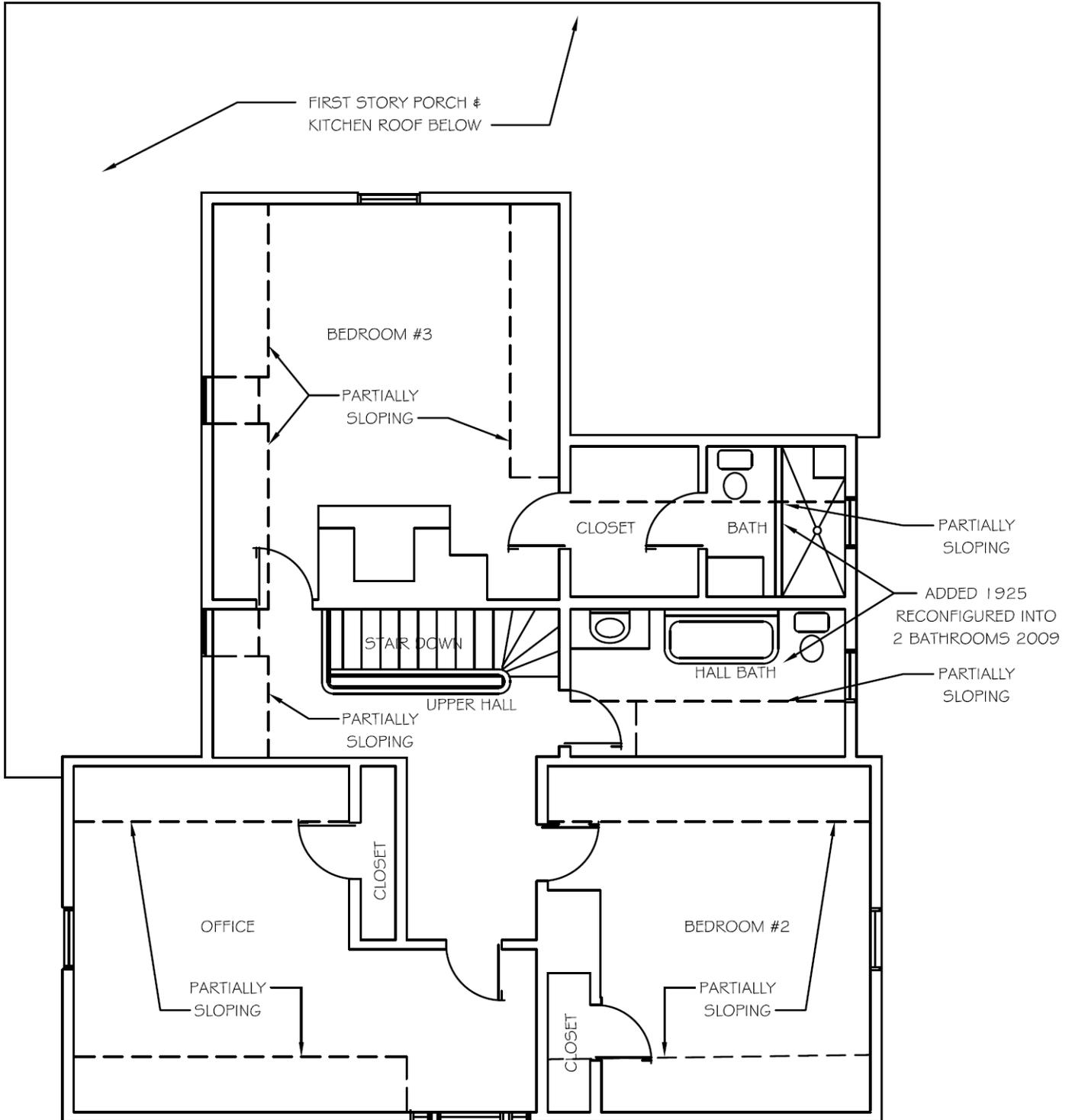
**Floor Plan – Hugh Murphy House**



**Hugh Murphy House – Floor Plan – First Floor**

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**Hugh Murphy House – Floor Plan – Second Floor**

## Index of Figures

Name of Property:	Murphy Springs Farm
City or Vicinity:	Ritta (Knoxville)
County:	Knox County
State:	TN

### Figure #1

Hugh Murphy House, southwest façade and southeast elevation, camera facing north, c 1890.

### Figure #2

Southeast yard of Hugh Murphy House showing smokehouse, edge of Hugh Murphy House, and a barn that reportedly burned, camera facing north, c. 1905

### Figure #3

Positioned in current driveway on north side of Hugh Murphy House, camera facing northeast, c 1930, depicting two-bay barn, single bay barn, and wood shed in its original location.

### Figure #4

Depicting two bay barn and single bay barn (no longer standing), camera facing northeast, positioned in current driveway, c 1930

### Figure #5

Hugh Murphy House backyard, camera facing north, c. 1936

### Figure #6

South yard of Hugh Murphy House, camera looking south across railroad, Murphy Creek and Washington Pike.

### Figure #7

Hugh Murphy House, southwest façade and southeast elevation, c 1950. Camera facing north

### Figure #8

Map of Murphy Springs Farm with current and historical boundaries

### Figure #9

Hugh Murphy House, original floor plan – first floor - prior to 1925 renovation

### Figure #10

Detailed section from *Map of Knox Co. Tennessee* published by Vance, Coffee and Pill in 1895 that depicts the area around Murphy Springs Farm

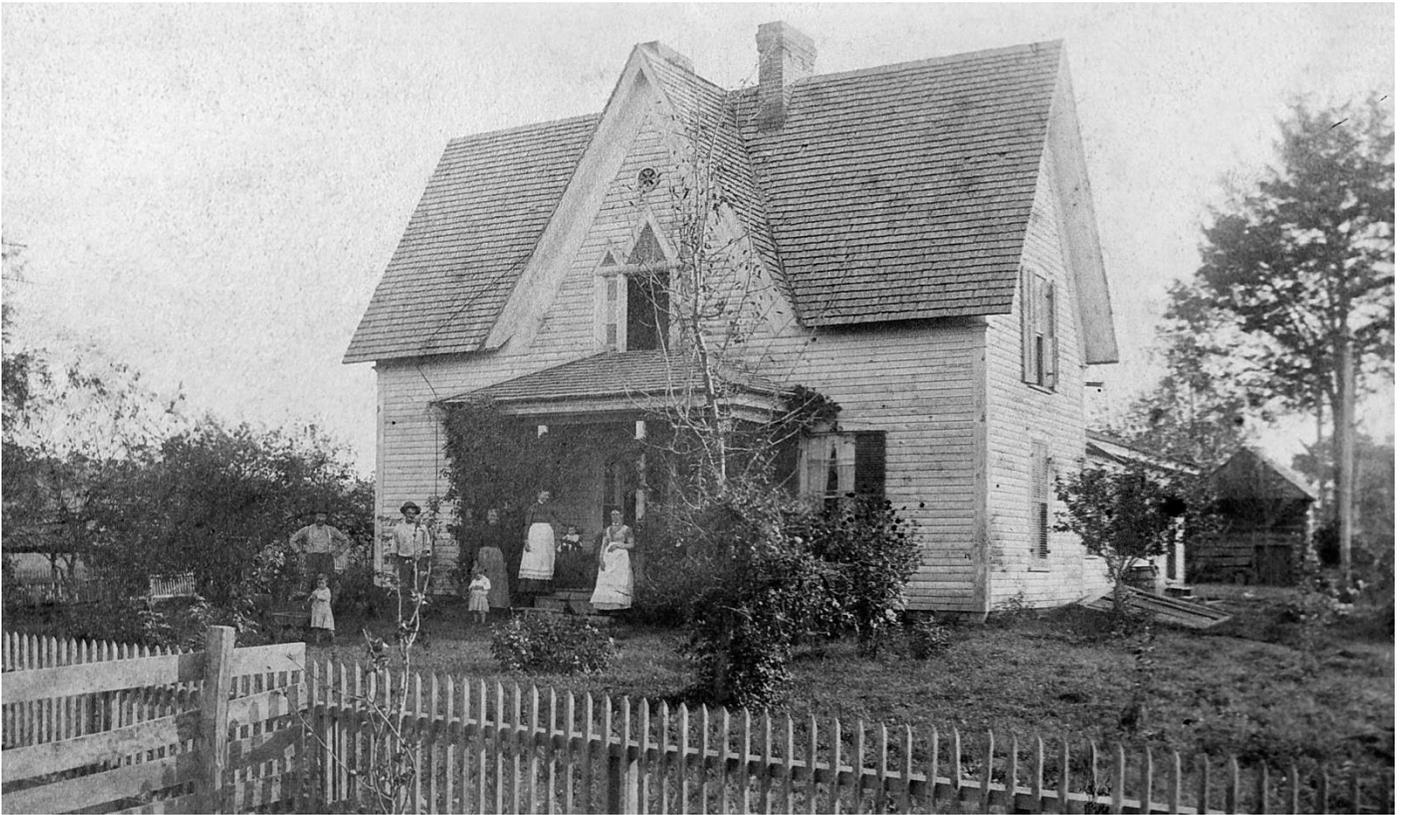


Figure 1. Hugh Murphy House, southwest façade and southeast elevation, camera facing north, c 1890. Children are (l-r) Alvin R. Murphy Sr, Robert M. Murphy, Ann Murphy. The smokehouse is visible on the right side of the photograph. Photographer unknown; it seems likely that a photographer passed through the area; pictures from the same time period of neighboring Fancy Hill Elementary and the Stoffel Family are in the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, part of the Knox County Library System.



Figure 2. Southeast yard of Hugh Murphy House showing smokehouse, edge of Hugh Murphy House, and a barn that burned before 1925, camera facing north, c. 1905-1910

The smoke house is visible in the top of the photograph. Towards the upper left, it appears that the outline of the kitchen area of the house is visible. A large barn is on the upper right area of the photograph, which according to family history burned down in the 1920s or early 30s. The photographer was probably standing on the railroad track or very close to it, between the Hugh Murphy House and Murphy Creek.

Three Murphy siblings, l-r Robert M. Murphy Sr, Ann Murphy, Alvin R. Murphy Sr.



Figure 3. Positioned in current driveway on north side of Hugh Murphy House, camera facing northeast, c 1930, depicting two-bay barn, single bay barn, and wood shed in its original location.

Several Murphy cousins on a buggy in the driveway. The wood shed is in its original location in the middle of the current driveway. The original two-bay barn, which is now a garage, is present with original door. A single bay barn on the left was torn down and replaced with the current concrete block structure in the 1940s. The chicken coop is barely visible on the right side of this photograph.



Figure 4. Depicting two bay barn and single bay barn (no longer standing), camera facing northeast, positioned in current driveway, c 1930

The two bay barn and single bay barn/garage are clearly seen in this picture, along with electrical wires providing power to the spring house building. The door between the two barn bays leads to a corn crib.



Figure 5. Hugh Murphy House backyard, camera facing north, c. 1936

This picture, c. 1934, shows the building that is now the 2-bay garage with a wood shake roof, and a second 1 bay barn/structure just past it. Two wires running power to the outbuildings show the early electrification efforts in rural areas. A model airplane is gliding through the foreground. The porch had been slightly enlarged and screened in during the 1925 renovation. The spring house can just be seen through the screen on the left side of the picture.



Figure 6. South yard of Hugh Murphy House, camera looking south across railroad, Murphy Creek and Washington Pike.

This photograph, c 1934, is taken from the southwestern corner of the Hugh Murphy House, looking southeast across Murphy Creek and Washington Pike. The Robert M. Murphy barn can be seen in the background, just to the right of the bench. A utility pole with numerous insulators is discernable on the left side of the photo. Notable is the inability to see the railroad track, which would have been running in parallel with the electrical lines. It is likely that the railroad bed originally was several feet lower, and was later raised up. Not clearly visible in the photograph is the Murphy Cemetery, which would be on the top right of the picture. Jane (Rule) Murphy, wife of Alvin R. Murphy Sr., is pictured with her son's model airplanes.



Figure 7 Hugh Murphy House, southwest façade and southeast elevation, c 1950. Camera facing north  
Alvin R. Murphy Sr, holding a golf club



Figure 8. Map of Murphy Springs Farm, with additional shaded areas showing property previously owned by Hugh Murphy and later sold off by his descendants.

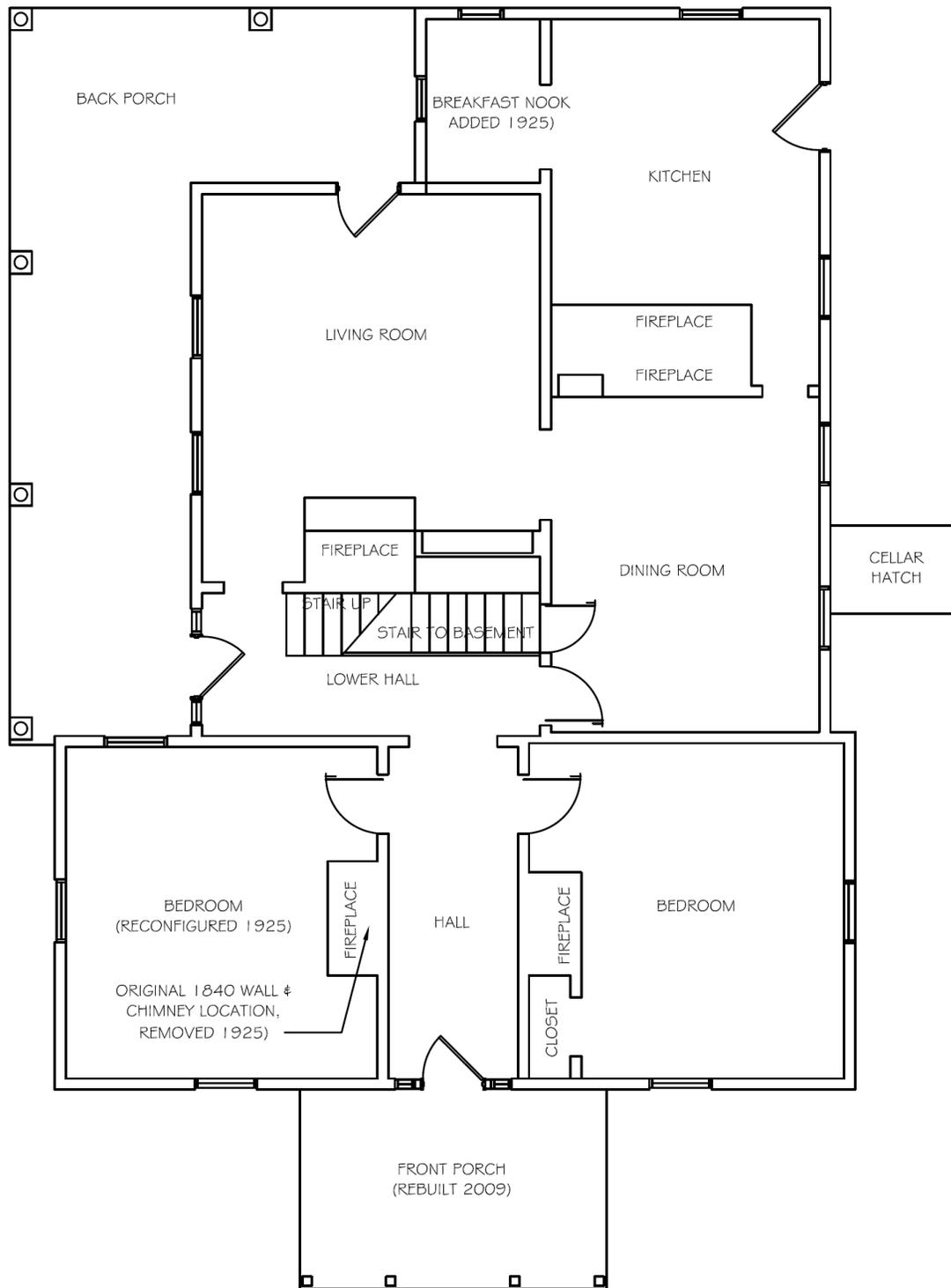


Figure #9 First Floor Plan of Hugh Murphy House prior to the 1925 renovation, showing the center hallway





































THE  
BIBLE  
COMPANION  
ILLUSTRATED

BIBLE





Frigidaire





















































MARTHA  
WIFE OF  
ROBERT MURPHY  
BORN  
IN VA. 1768.  
DIED  
JUNE 15, 1847.

JOHN MURPHY  
BORN  
DIED  
JULY 21, 1801  
DIED  
OCT 10, 1851

ROBERT MURPHY  
BORN  
In Ireland 1757.  
DIED  
MAY 13, 1850.



MURPHY

MARGARET E. LUTTRELL  
BORN  
MAR 2 1861  
DIED  
AUG 27 1938

AMOS GLUTTRELL  
BORN  
MAR 2 1855  
DIED  
MAY 18 1928







