Fentress County, Tennessee

National Register of Historic Places Recommendations and Architectural Survey Report

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October 6, 2005
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FENTRESS COUNTY, TENNESSEE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES RECOMMENDATIONS
AND ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY REPORT

I. Project Background
In March of 2004, Scott Sandman, executive director for the Fentress County Chamber of Commerce, invited the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University to attend a strategy meeting in Jamestown to discuss the heritage needs of Fentress County. After this meeting and a tour of key properties in the county, the Center realized the importance of the county’s resources and the interest of the Chamber in preserving and promoting these properties. Mr. Sandman asked the Center to prepare a proposal for a countywide plan to raise awareness and appreciation for Fentress County’s heritage resources by its own residents and potential visitors to the area. The Center is preparing this survey report at their request to identify the county’s historic resources and to prioritize potential National Register of Historic Places properties.

Between 1982 and 1984, 490 Fentress County properties were surveyed by the Upper Cumberland Humanities and Social Studies Institute of Tennessee Technical University in Cookeville with matching grants from the Tennessee Historical Commission. This survey identified a number of potential National Register properties which were re-surveyed in 1987 by the Tennessee Historical Commission to assess eligibility and to begin a multiple property nomination for the county. The multiple property nomination was completed in 1991 and resulted in the listing of seven properties and districts in the National Register of Historic Places. This survey and multiple property nomination provide the background for the present Fentress County survey conducted by the Center for Historic Preservation. These seven properties and districts listed as a result of this survey, along with four previously listed properties, are the Allardt Historic District, the Allardt Presbyterian Church, the Davidson School, the Forbus Historic District, the Gernert Office, the Bruno Gernert House, the Old Fentress County Jail, the Sergeant York Historic Area, the Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute District, the Alvin Cullom York Farm, and the Youngs Historic District. Listing information for these properties is included in Appendix A of this report.

Since 1984, the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University has served a research and public service institute committed to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and sensitive promotion of our historic environment. The Center is one of sixteen Centers of Excellence based at Tennessee Board of Regents schools and provides services in every county of Tennessee. In 1989, Tennessee became one of four model states in the implementation of the National Heritage Tourism Program when the Center partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. Since that time, the Center has worked across the state on various Heritage Development projects.
II. Project Methodology
Phase I of the proposed plan submitted to the Fentress County Chamber of Commerce calls for a county-wide survey to identify and list, in priority order, key historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to this list, the Center will use this survey to prepare a draft of a driving tour for Fentress County emphasizing key historic, architectural, and natural resources that will include properties beyond the National Register projects. The Center will design and present a draft form of the tour brochure to the Chamber; and while the printing of the brochure will be the responsibility of the local community, the Center can assist in the identification of possible sponsors.

The Fentress County survey was carried out in August of 2005 by the Center’s Dr. Leslie Sharp and historic preservation fellow Elizabeth Moore. In compiling the survey, the majority of the public-access roads in the county were driven and resources were identified based on Sharp’s and Moore’s expertise. However, several roads in the county remain unpaved and difficult to drive. In these cases, the surveyors used their professional judgment to determine the potential for historic resources along these roads. The surveyors also used as a resource a county map dating the 1980s which revealed new roads and subdivisions that contain no historic resources and thus were unnecessary to drive. Another factor affecting the survey is that it is based on what is visible from the public right-of-way. The surveyors did not enter any of the properties, except for cemeteries which are open to the public. Nor did they conduct any additional research on individual properties. Therefore, secure addresses for all properties were not determined. Some properties had their addresses visible on mailboxes or their dwellings, but several addresses were not visible or no longer had a resident or mail service.
III. Fentress County History

The Tennessee General Assembly created Fentress County from parts of Overton and Morgan Counties on November 28, 1823. The county was named in honor of James Fentress, the Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, who had assisted in passing the enabling legislation for the new county. Fentress County is located in northeast Middle Tennessee on the picturesque Cumberland Plateau. The county initially formed the state's border with Kentucky, but when Pickett County was established in 1881, that part of Fentress was included in the new county. The 2000 population of the county was 16,625.

The history of the county is diverse, ranging from farming to mining to German immigration. Established in 1828, Jamestown, the county seat, also was named in honor of James Fentress. The settlement was once called Sand Springs because several fine springs bubbled up from the sandy soil. Today, a city park named Mark Twain Park in honor of the Clemens family, who once carried water from the spring, surrounds the only remaining spring. Jamestown was a small agricultural trade center for most of its history. Important agricultural products included corn, small grains, livestock, tobacco, poultry, and pumpkins. In 1928 the York Institute constructed its modern campus on the outskirts of Jamestown, and during the 1930s the town's population expanded from 857 to over 1,200 residents. During these years industry became more important in the county as six manufacturing firms located in Jamestown by the 1940s. Coal, barite, ore, and natural gas mining already had opened new economic avenues; indeed, the coal mining towns of Davidson and Wilder were the second and third largest communities in the county in 1941. The Fentress Coal and Coke Company and the Davidson Mining Company operated both communities as virtual company towns; they were the scenes of bitter and violent strikes in 1932-33. Unemployed miners later worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority at Norris and for the Civilian Conservation Corps at LaFollette and Cumberland Homesteads.

Allardt is the other incorporated town in Fentress County. In 1881 Bruno Gernt established the town on the behalf of land speculators Cyrus and James N. Clarke of Nebraska. The settlement attracted a steady stream of German immigrants, and by 1886 the town had three general stores, a hotel, a steam mill, a lumber mill, and other tradesmen. Allardt hosts a nationally recognized Pumpkin Festival every October. Other older communities in the county include Clarkrange, Pall Mall, and Armathwaite.

Tourism is becoming a major part of the local economy as a result of the creation of the Big South Fork National Recreation Area. Another attraction is Highland Manor, which is the state's oldest licensed winery.

The Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Area, which includes the York home, mill, and

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gravesite, also attracts a number of visitors. Pall Mall native Alvin Cullom York is known all over the world for his exploits in France, where he became the most decorated enlisted man of World War I. But Fentress Countians admire him most for his dedication to his fellow citizens. Because of his experiences in the war, York realized the importance of education and dedicated his life to improving education in Fentress County. Under his leadership, the York Institute was established in Jamestown. In 1989 the institute received the prestigious National School of Excellence Award. York also was instrumental in getting better roads and other improvements for the county.

Other important residents of Fentress County include Captain David Beaty, John M. Clemens, Kate Bradford Stockton, and local historians A. B. Wright and Albert Ross Hogue. Beaty was born in Fentress County in 1823. Known as "Tinker Dave," he formed a Civil War company that was known as David Beaty's Independent Scouts, an outfit that served under Major General George Thomas and General Ambrose Burnside. Beaty's troops protected the county from Confederate incursions. Beaty was a leader in Fentress County during Reconstruction until his death in 1883. Clemens and his wife, Jane Lampton Clemens, moved to Fentress County in the 1830s. Clemens served as an attorney, circuit court clerk, and county commissioner. He was postmaster at Pall Mall from April 1832 to May 1835 before moving to Missouri, where his son, the famous writer Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), was born later in 1835. The Clemens family owned land in the county for many years, and Samuel Clemens signed several of the land deeds. Stockton was a reform activist in Fentress County. She ran for governor on the Socialist ticket in 1936, becoming the first woman candidate for governor of Tennessee.

Reverend A. B. Wright was a Methodist preacher and local historian who left a valuable record of the county's early years in his autobiography that was published in 1876. Another important local historian was Albert Ross Hogue, whose History of Fentress County (1916) has served as an excellent resource for many years.
IV. Overview
Fentress County is an excellent example of a rural Tennessee landscape located in the northeastern section of Middle Tennessee on the Cumberland Plateau. The landscape of the county is largely agricultural and includes many historic farm complexes and scenic vistas. Properties in the county date from the late-nineteenth century to present and many warrant further research and consideration. Major thoroughfares through the county are Highway 127, or the York Highway, that runs north-south and Highway 52 running east-west. These highways intersect in Jamestown, the county seat of Fentress County. Several roads in the county remain unpaved and retain their historic landscapes. The terrain of the county is hilly throughout, and the west and northwest sections of the county are particularly mountainous. The northeast section of the county attracts the largest number of tourists to the Pickett State Park and Forest and the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Of particular note are the numerous farm complexes located throughout the county. Although the original farmhouse is often absent, there are several examples of historic barns and other outbuildings that contribute to their agricultural landscapes. The best examples of historic farm complexes are in the Pall Mall, Wolf River, and Forbus communities in the northwest section of the county. Here, many farmhouses and tenant houses for farm workers are extant and make up a large concentration of intact farm complexes.

In addition to the farmhouses, there are a number of early twentieth century rural residences throughout the county. Many of these are variations of a particular house-type characterized by their side-gable form with a central front-gable dormer. Derivations of this type range in date from the 1910s to the mid-twentieth century with some more recent variations. Many have been covered in vinyl siding but retain much of their original form. These houses are found along the major highways as well as along the smaller roads in the county.

There are several churches and cemeteries dispersed throughout the county that are important parts of their rural communities. The churches are usually front gable, central entrance churches and range in date from c. 1900 through the mid-twentieth century. Although many have been covered in vinyl siding, they appear in various building materials such as weatherboard, cast-concrete block, stone, and brick. Cemeteries are often associated with churches and many contain early markers including some early wood markers.

Notable building materials include stone and concrete block that are dispersed throughout the county. Stonework ranges from load-bearing stone in c. 1900 buildings, to cut stone, to crab orchard stone facing in mid-century buildings. The largest concentration of stone is in Jamestown, but it is seen throughout the county in a number of building types. Concrete block also appears throughout the county as cast-concrete block in earlier buildings and plain-surface concrete block in later
buildings. Many additions to cast-concrete block buildings are constructed with plain-surface concrete blocks to create a continuous building façade.

Particular attention should be given to Jamestown, the county seat, and to the northwest corner of the county that contains the largest concentration of intact agricultural resources. The core of downtown Jamestown contains a concentration of stone buildings significant for their architecture, community planning and development, politics and government, and commerce. Significant buildings date from c. 1900 to c. 1955 and are potentially eligible as a National Register Historic District. The northwest section of the county contains significant historic farm complexes, rural residences, rural stores, churches, and a service station. This area is potentially eligible for the National Register as a rural historic district. These two potential districts, as well as a number of individual properties, are excellent examples of the rural landscape of Fentress County and deserve further attention.
V. National Register of Historic Places Recommendations
The Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University has prepared a prioritized list of ten properties or districts potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. They have been assessed according to their architectural and historical significance to Fentress County. They range in date from c. 1900 to the 1950s and represent a variety of building forms, types, styles, and materials. Each will require additional eligibility assessment and historical research and, depending on the determination of the Tennessee Historical Commission, the Tennessee State Review Board, and the National Park Service, may be eligible for listing on the National Register. These nine properties and districts are listed below in prioritized order. Appendix A includes a list of existing National Register Properties in Fentress County and Appendix B explains the National Register listing process.

In addition to the potential National Register properties identified in this section, this report can be used to expand the Multiple Property Nomination, "Historic Architectural Resources of Fentress County, Tennessee," carried out in 1991. The current period of significance for the submission dates from 1870 to 1940 and thus does not include the important mid-century resources. There are several properties from the 1940s and 1950s that are important county resources and should be given further attention. It is being suggested that the Multiple Property Survey be expanded to include these properties by lengthening the period of significance to 1960. This will take into consideration the fifty-year age requirement for National Register eligibility.
1. Jamestown Historic District
The core of Jamestown contains a collection of buildings dating from c. 1900 to the 1950s that are potentially eligible as a National Register Historic District. The settlement of Jamestown dates to the early nineteenth century when families began building log residences in which to live. In 1828, the town was laid off in blocks and the first county courthouse and jail were built. John M. Clemens, father of Mark Twain, was the first circuit court clerk during this time and it is recorded that he drew the plans for the first county courthouse and jail. From the turn-of-the-century to the mid-twentieth century, Jamestown underwent a significant period of growth. The building of the York Highway in the 1920s, which follows Main Street in Jamestown, through Fentress County contributed significantly to the commercial and residential development of Jamestown. It was during this period that many of the present commercial, social, government, and religious buildings were constructed.

The suggested district stretches along Main Street and includes significant properties such as the c. 1900 Jamestown Jail individually listed on the National Register in 1984, the 1949 Jamestown Methodist Church, the 1955 Jamestown Masonic Lodge, the c. 1920 Jamestown Bank, the c. 1950 True Hardware, the attached commercial buildings, and the Mark Twain Park. An architectural and historical survey of this area is needed to determine specific district boundaries. A number of commercial and government buildings are located in these blocks and are significant representations of the commercial and political histories and community planning of Jamestown. Most of the buildings in the suggested district are composed of stone and show the diffusion of local building materials through the first half of the twentieth century. Earlier buildings, such as the Jail and the Jamestown Bank are constructed with load-bearing stone, while mid-century buildings such as the Masonic Lodge and later commercial buildings are faced with crab orchard stone. This use of stone is common throughout the county on a variety of building types.

The intact concentration of stone buildings makes this district potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion C: Architecture. It is also potentially eligible under Criterion A for its significance in Commerce, Community Planning and Development, and Politics/Government. Further assessment and historical research is necessary to determine the eligibility of the suggested district. The Jamestown Jail is already listed individually on the National Register, and if the area is not listed as a Historic District, it is recommended to pursue individual listing for the Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge, and the Jamestown Bank.
2. Jamestown Depot
The Jamestown Depot is located along West Central Avenue in Jamestown. A c. 1920 building, it was constructed with the coming of the railroad to Fentress County in the 1920s. It is important as an intact representation of the early twentieth-century transportation landscape of the county. The building is divided into a two-story passenger and office section and a one-story freight area. The passenger and office portion is composed of horizontal weatherboard siding, an asphalt-shingle hipped roof, three five-panel entrance doors, and nine-over-one windows. A one-story cantilevered shed roof wraps around the building. The freight area is attached to the side of the office and is covered with vertical weatherboard siding, has one entrance door, and one double freight door, and twelve-light windows on the front façade. The metal hipped-roof extends to cover the porch and loading area.

The Jamestown Depot no longer serves as a railroad depot since the railroad has ceased operation and the tracks have been removed throughout the county. The passenger and office area is now vacant while the freight area is currently operating as a game room. The exterior of the building, however, appears intact from its original form.

The Jamestown Depot appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its significance to the transportation landscape of the county and under Criterion C for its architecture. Although the railroad no longer operates, this building is an important representation of the history of the railroad in Fentress County. Its intact building form clearly displays the activities of the railroad and the division of services between passenger and freight. An interior assessment and further historical research are needed.
3. Pall Mall Rural Historic District
The northwestern corner of Fentress County contains a large concentration of the county’s historic and agricultural resources. The area stretching from Wolf River to Forbus along Highway 127 is potentially eligible as a National Register Historic District. This area is rich in agricultural land and historic farm complexes. A number of extant early twentieth century farmhouses, tenant houses, and outbuildings represent the agricultural history of the area while churches, stores, and residences make up small rural communities in this section of the county.

This area contains several early twentieth century I-houses as part of larger farm complexes. Few original farmhouses remain in other sections of the county, thus these extant houses constitute a significant representation of this house type. A number of small tenant houses remain on the farms along with good examples of outbuildings that include barns, dairies, garages, and sheds. Examples of these farm complexes stretch from Wolf River to Forbus. This area also contains some of the county’s Tennessee Century Farms including the Pile Farm and the Upchurch Farm.

Along Highway 127 are several residences that take the form of a side-gable structure with a central front-gable dormer. Variations of this particular house-type appear throughout the county. A number of churches and cemeteries are also located in this area including the Old Frogge Chapel Methodist Church and Cemetery and the Wolf River United Methodist Church and Cemetery. These houses, churches, and cemeteries are all significant contributions to the Pall Mall, Wolf River, and Forbus communities.

A number of properties in this area are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places including the Sergeant York Historic Area listed in 1973, the York Farm listed in 1976, and the Forbus Historic District listed in 1991. The Sergeant York Historic Area includes the York Home, the York Grist Mill, and the Wolf River Methodist Church. The York Farm includes approximately sixteen areas surrounding and including the York residence. The Forbus Historic District takes in the Forbus General Store and the William Johnson House and outbuildings. The Upchurch Store is also being recommended in this report for listing on the National Register.

This area in northwest Fentress County that includes Pall Mall, Wolf River, and Forbus is potentially eligible as a rural historic district under Criterion A for its significance in agriculture and under Criterion C for its architecture. A complete survey of this area is necessary to determine National Register eligibility and to determine potential district boundaries. The suggested area contains the largest intact concentration of the county’s rural resources and is a significant representation of the agricultural history of the county.
Wolf River Loop I-house (photo 33)

Wolf River Loop garage (photo 34)

Wolf River Loop bridge (photo 36)

Wolf River Loop landscape (photo 37)

Green House Lane house (photo 38)

Forbus Historic District overview (photo 52)

Highway 127 bungalow (photo 58)

Pile Dairy, Rotten Creek Road (photo 59)
4. Pinehaven School/Community Center

The Pinehaven School, now the Pinehaven Community Center is potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its significance in education and under Criterion C for its architecture. The structure is a c. 1950s school building located just north of Jamestown along Highway 154 near its intersection with Highway 127. It is a one-story brick building with a classroom block and an attached gymnasium or auditorium. The classroom block has a flat roof and bands of multi-pane windows, typical of school buildings from this period. The horizontal form allowed for easy circulation and maximized flexibility with later additions while the bands of windows provided maximum light into the classrooms. The gymnasium or auditorium has a pitched roof and bands of multi-pane windows along its sides. The building continues to serve the community as the Pinehaven Community Center.

The Pinehaven School appears to be potentially eligible for its significance in education and architecturally as a representation of a 1950s school building. An interior assessment and additional historical research are needed to determine the eligibility of the building.
5. Upchurch Service Station and Grocery
The Upchurch Service Station and Grocery building is located along Highway 127 in the Forbus community of northwest Fentress County. A c. 1950 building, the Upchurch Service Station and Grocery was an important part of the county’s transportation landscape. Highway 127 was and remains the major north-south thoroughfare through the county and this store served as a roadside stop for travelers and for residents of the surrounding communities.

The building is a single-story structure faced with crab orchard stone like many mid-twentieth century Fentress County buildings. It takes the shape of an oblong box, a commonly identified service station building form. The structure is divided into two sections, a service bay with two garage service doors and a grocery with a single customer entrance flanked by double plate glass windows. An uncovered island with three gasoline tanks sits in front of the store. A sign reading, “Upchurch’s Ser Sta & Grocery” marks the building on the front façade.

The form of the Upchurch Service Station and Grocery represents trends in gasoline station architecture of the mid-twentieth century. Gasoline pumps first began to appear around 1915 as curbside pumps installed along streets that allowed gasoline to be dispensed mechanically rather than in tin cans like earlier gasoline distribution. This form evolved over the next few decades from the curbside pump into the oblong box of the 1940s and 1950s. The intermittent years saw the gasoline shed and variations of the house type with a freestanding pump, a canopy gasoline island, and service bays. Gasoline station forms and plans were widely known through publications such as the National Petroleum News, Petroleum Processing, and Petroleum Week.¹

The form of the oblong box became popular in gasoline station design following the economic depression of the 1930s. Declining gasoline sales during this period prompted companies to expand operations to include automobile service and additional product lines such as tires, batteries, and accessories. This required the inclusion of service bays, large display rooms, and storage spaces. The oblong box answered these needs and allowed for a stripped down, functional design.² The Upchurch Service Station and Grocery is an example of this service station form.

The Upchurch store appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its significance in transportation and commerce and under Criterion C for its architecture. Its form is typical of mid-twentieth century service stations and represents their increased presence on the transportation landscape as automobile tourism and travel became more common. It marks Highway 127 as a major thoroughfare through the county and across the Cumberland Plateau. The automobile service station and grocery store continues to serve both traveling

² Ibid, 145-146.
customers as well as local residents of the surrounding communities. An interior assessment and further historical research are needed.

Upchurch Service Station and Grocery (photo 50)
6. Red Hill Road School
This school building located along Red Hill Road near its intersection with Buck Mountain Road is potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its significance in education and under Criterion C for architecture. It appears to be a c. 1920s one-room, front-gable frame schoolhouse similar in plan and form to the community school plans developed by the Rosenwald Fund in the 1920s. The efforts of the Rosenwald Fund attempted to improve the quality of education in the early twentieth century for African-Americans across the South by providing financial support and building plans for rural school houses and a limited number of urban schools. Plans for these rural school buildings were published repeatedly by the Rosenwald Fund between 1920 and 1931 and were used by independently by school boards and communities to construct school buildings for both blacks and whites regardless of Rosenwald financial support. This school on Red Hill Road would have served children in the Red Hill community, a small agricultural community in the northeast section of Fentress County just southwest of Forbus. The building has a central front entrance on the south side with a wood vent in the gable end. The east façade has two doors and four double-hung windows. The north end contains two sets of double windows and a wood vent in the gable. An interior chimney sits near the center of the western half of the building. The structure is now painted black and appears to no longer be in use, but it remains intact as a good example of a rural school building.

Additional research and an interior assessment are necessary to determine eligibility, but the building appears to be eligible for its architectural and educational significance as a representation of an intact rural school influenced by the community school plans of the Rosenwald Fund.

Red Hill Road School (photos 74-76)
7. Jamestown Water Works
The Jamestown Water Works building is located on Round Mountain Road going east from Jamestown. It is a brick structure built in the 1950s or early 1960s and is modern in style. It has a three-story central block flanked by set-back, two-story sections on either side. It is covered with a flat roof and has vertical strips of windows along the front façade. “Jamestown Water Works” appears in metal letters on the entrance block of the front façade. The minimalist form and style of the building are common trends in modern architecture of the 1950s and 1960s. The majority of buildings in the county are vernacular in form and this stands as one of the few modern buildings in rural Fentress County.

The building is possibly a result of the creation of the Appalachian Regional Commission in response to the poverty and economic hardships of the Appalachian states. The commission was established by President Kennedy in 1963 as the President’s Appalachian Regional Commission and in 1965, with the passage of the Appalachian Redevelopment Act, the Appalachian Regional Commission became a federal agency. It originally provided funding to nine states for programs including the Appalachian Development Highway System; construction of health facilities, vocational education facilities, and sewage treatment plants; timber development; mining area restoration; water resource planning; and land stabilization and conservation control. The Commission’s planning area now includes thirteen states and matches the states’ fifty percent funding for these projects. The Commission has brought about improvements in the region’s economic development, quality of life, and physical infrastructure.³ The Jamestown Water Works building warrants further research to determine its role and significance to this program.

The Jamestown Water Works appears to be eligible under Criterion A for its significance in engineering and politics/government and under Criterion C for its modern design. The building contributes to the engineering history of Jamestown and Fentress County as a public works building that provided water to the city and surrounding area. An interior assessment of the building is needed as well as additional historical research.

8. Jordan Motel
The Jordan Motel is located south of Jamestown along Highway 127. It was built c. 1955 and its location along a major thoroughfare made it an important part of the transportation landscape of the mid-twentieth century. Although much of the building is hidden from view along the highway, the original “Jordan Motel” sign clearly marks the location for passing travelers. The base of the sign is composed of crab orchard stone like that of the mid-century Jamestown buildings such as the Masonic Lodge and attached commercial buildings. The original buildings of the motel are single-story structures composed of the same crab orchard stone.

The main building of the Jordan Motel is U-shaped and contains ten units opening to the front and the main office. The office is at the center of the building and slightly projects from the façade. A gable roof covers the arms of the U and the projecting office. A covered porch runs along the interior of the U. A second building is slightly set back to the south side of the main building and contains a row of rooms along the front and rear. Newer buildings within the complex contain one- and two-bedroom apartments.

The forms of the buildings are typical of motor courts of the 1940s and 1950s. Motor courts are usually one-story structures with rooms integrated into a single structure. They evolved from earlier roadside establishments such as the auto camp, cabin camp, and cottage court. These lodgings served as alternatives to urban hotels in the early part of the twentieth century as auto tourism gained momentum. Roadside camps and courts were less expensive and more accessible than urban hotels in the core of larger cities. The motel typology evolved from auto camps with roped off areas for travelers to pitch tents, to cabin camps ranging from primitive cabins to cabins with electricity and stoves, to cottage courts that eventually integrated kitchens and sometimes bathrooms and carports into the cabins. Each of these earlier cabin forms were detached from one another and often included some community facilities such as restrooms, picnic tables, gasoline stations, and lunch counters.⁴

The motor court appeared shortly before World War II and popularly became known as a motel following the war. These motels took the idea of the cottage courts and integrated all the room units under a single roofline. Several had coffee shops, swimming pools, restaurants, and gas stations as part of a single complex. The 1950s and 1960s marked a period of substantial growth of these motels and the Jordan Motel stands as a good representation of a c. 1955 motel.⁵ It continues to operate in much the same way with a central office, parking spaces outside room doors, a swimming pool, and roadside accessibility. A restaurant was once associated with the motel in the building adjacent to the main office.

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⁵ Ibid, 43-47.
The Jordan Motel appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its significance in transportation and under Criterion C for its architecture. Its placement along Highway 127 and its continued operation as an intact motel clearly represents the transportation landscape of the mid-twentieth century. An interior assessment and further historical research is needed.
9. Jamestown First Baptist Church
The Jamestown First Baptist Church is located along East Central Avenue, or Highway 52, in Jamestown. The property contains two buildings, the c. 1945 church building and the c. 1955 fellowship hall. Both buildings are faced with stone, the church building like that of the Jamestown Methodist Church and the fellowship hall of crab orchard stone like the Masonic Lodge and the Jordan Motel. This stone treatment shows the use of local building materials and trends common throughout the county.

The c. 1945 church is a front-gable structure with a central entrance door. A single window lies on each side of the door and three windows are set just above the door on the front façade. The sides of the building contain six bays of windows. A steeple tops the church at the front of the gable. It appears that the church building is divided on the interior into an entrance vestibule and a sanctuary. The c. 1955 fellowship hall is a two-story structure with a central entrance and a flat roof. Bands of windows stretch across the front façade at both floor levels. These horizontal bands of windows are common in modern architecture of the mid-twentieth century.

The Jamestown First Baptist Church appears to be eligible under Criterion A for religion and under Criterion C for its significance in architecture. The building has continuously served as a church building since its construction and remains intact from its earliest form. The addition of a fellowship hall to the property shows the need for classroom and fellowship space. The use of stone in both buildings exemplifies the widespread diffusion of stone throughout Fentress County, particularly in Jamestown. Although it is located outside of the potential boundaries for a Jamestown Historic District, the Jamestown First Baptist Church represents the cohesion of materials across town. An interior assessment and further historical research are necessary.

Jamestown First Baptist Church (photo 87)
10. Fentress County House Type
Fentress County residences appear in a variety of styles and forms, but the most common house type seen throughout the county takes the form of a side-gable structure with a central-front dormer. There are several derivations of this type found in a variety of sizes and building materials. They range in date from c. 1920 to the mid-twentieth century with a few more recent examples. This house type is significant as common building trend in Fentress County and for its persistence as a residential form throughout the twentieth century. An intact example of this type is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A and Criterion C for its local significance in architecture and as a representation of the diffusion of this residential form throughout Fentress County. Additional survey is needed to identify the most representative of these structures. Further historical research could reveal a local builder responsible for the widespread appearance of this form in the county. Some examples are included below:

Clarkrange (photo 1)

Forbus (photo 48)

Allardt (photo 106)

Helena (photo 84)
VI. County Survey
Properties Surveyed August, 2005

The following architectural survey includes properties that represent the various building forms, types, styles, and materials found throughout the county. Although they are not included in this report as National Register eligible properties, they were thought to warrant photography and were considered important resources to the history of the county. These properties can contribute to the driving tour of Fentress County.

**Clarkrange**
Clarkrange is located in the south central section of the county at the intersection of Highway 127 and Highway 62, two major thoroughfares through the county. The majority of the structures date to the 1950s and later, including several ranch houses, but Clarkrange contains some early to mid-twentieth century resources that make up a small rural community.

1.) Highway 62 at Highway 127
This residence is a typical house form found throughout Fentress County. Several variations of this side-gable form with central-front dormer were identified throughout the survey area. This side-gable residence likely dates to the 1920s and is composed of concrete block, a gabled dormer, concrete block porch piers supporting wood posts, three-over-one windows, and a metal roof.

![survey photo 114](image)

2.) 201 State Highway 62
This cast-concrete bungalow is a good example of a 1920s Fentress County house type. Cast-concrete is a common building material throughout the county on early twentieth century buildings. This particular example has undergone changes, such as the replacement of windows and doors and the addition of vinyl siding in the gable ends, but the form, cast-concrete wall materials, and battered porch piers remain intact.

![photo 1](image)
3.) Clarkrange Cemetery and Clarkrange United Methodist Church
State Highway 62 and West Rock Quarry Road
The Clarkrange Cemetery and the Clarkrange United Methodist Church appear to be affiliated with one another across West Rock Quarry Road. The cemetery contains mostly mid-twentieth century and later monuments, including some Art Deco stones. The church is a mid-twentieth century gable-front structure with a side wing and a central bell tower. The stone facing of the building is typical of several structures in Fentress County, particularly buildings in downtown Jamestown.

(photos 2 and 3)

4.) Clarkrange Elementary School
1026 West Rock Quarry Road
Clarkrange Elementary School is a typical 1940s-1950s school building. It is a one-story brick horizontal structure with windows stretching across the façade. "Clarkrange Elementary School" appears in metal letters on the east end of the façade.

(photo 4)
Roslin to Banner Springs
The southeast corner of the county is dominated by agricultural land and farms. Several intact outbuildings remain from the original farm complexes, but few original farmhouses remain. The Roslin and Banner Springs communities contain several residences, many of them mid- to late-twentieth century houses. Some 1930s to 1950s structures remain intact, including the Banner-Roslin Community Center and the Spring Chapel Methodist Church.

5.) Banner Roslin Community Center
Roslin Road and Ernest Norris Road
This c. 1950s brick school building is now used as a community center. At the front of the school is a small one-story classroom block with the entrance to one side. Small bands of windows sit just below the roof line. Behind the classroom block is a two-story gymnasium or auditorium. From the exterior, the building remains largely intact.

6.) Spring Chapel Methodist Church
Roslin Road and Spring Chapel Lane
This 1930 brick, front-gable church has a gabled entrance portico with recessed doors. The church is topped by a small cupola surmounted by a wooden cross. The date appears in the stone above the entrance. Nine-over-one windows line the sides of the building. To the side of the church are a modern structure used as a fellowship hall and a cemetery. This church is an intact example of a 1930s rural community church.
Grimsley
Grimsley is located along Highway 127 just north of the intersection with Highway 85. It is an old farm community with several older, but altered, residences and a number of original outbuildings. More recent resources include a 1960s community park and playground at Burks Loop and Sweat Road and the post-modern South Fentress Elementary School on Highway 85.

7.) Highway 127 at Highway 85
This house is a side-gable structure with a double entrance door and a full-front porch. The building has been altered and is covered in siding, but it appears to have a historic structure, possibly a log building, underneath.

(photos 13)

8.) James Beaty General Merchandise Store
5004 Highway 127 (South York Highway)
This 1924 store has a brick front with original windows and doors. A parapet wall tops the façade with a cantilevered shed roof covering the porch. The double entrance door is surmounted with a three-light transom and is flanked by double windows. A service door on the south end of the façade leads into an attached storage space. This 1924 store is located at a major historic corridor of the county and would have serviced customers from the community as well as those traveling through Fentress County.

(photos 7)
Wilder-Davidson
Going west from Grimsley, Highway 85 leads to the Davidson-Wilder community. This area contains the remnants of the mining community once located in western Fentress and eastern Overton counties. This coal mining operation once encompassed five communities, Davidson, Wilder, Highland, Twinton, and Crawford. The area developed around 1900 and by the late 1920s had become the economic and cultural center of the region. A mine strike in 1932-33 disrupted the growth of these communities and, by the 1940s, all the mines had closed. The western Fentress County area is now known as Davidson-Wilder and retains little from the mining town of the early twentieth-century. Davidson school and a few small houses represent this once-thriving community. A small US Post Office is located on Vines Ridge Road just south of Highway 85. Behind this post office is an early twentieth-century, two-story building that was either a substantial residence or an old general store. Aside from these resources, the area is sparsely populated with a number of trailers and significantly altered homes.

9.) Davidson School
State Highway 85
Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1993, this school was built c. 1910 for the children of the Highland Coal and Lumber Company workers. It is H-shaped in plan and is entered from a shed-roof porch set between the two legs of the front façade. This one-story building is of frame construction covered in weatherboard. The school was likely constructed by the Highland Coal and Lumber Company for the county. It is an important community resource as one of only a few buildings to remain from the mining town.

Highway 127 between Grimsley and Jamestown
Between Grimsley and Jamestown along Highway 127 are a number of early twentieth-century residences. These are mainly variations of the side-gable, central-front dormer form found throughout Fentress County. Some remain unaltered while many are now covered with vinyl siding. Farms are visible on either side of the highway. The Jamestown Airport and the Tennessee National Guard Armory are located along this well-traveled route. Also on Highway 127 is the Jordan Motel, significant for its architecture and for transportation. The Jordan Motel is discussed at the beginning of the survey as a potential National Register property.
Tinchtown Road/Gatewood Ford Road leads from Highway 127 to the eastern Fentress County line. A number of agricultural, natural, and cultural resources are located along this scenic road.

10.) Tinchtown United Baptist Church
Tinchtown Road
This front-gable, cast-concrete block church is a good example of a c. 1920s rural church. A gable-front portico covers the entrance, and the gable end of the building is covered in asphalt shingles. A plain-surfaced concrete block addition sits at the rear of the building. The church property contains a picnic pavilion, typical of Fentress County churches.

11.) Old Barger Freewill Baptist Church, picnic shelter and cemetery
Gatewood Ford Road
Picnic shelters and cemeteries are typical of church properties in Fentress County. The picnic shelters are open pavilions, sometimes cantilevered, that cover a long picnic table. The table tops are also sometime cantilevered. This is an example of a typical Fentress County picnic pavilion. This cemetery contains some older late-nineteenth to early twentieth century markers.

12.) Gatewood Ford Road
This feeding shelter is a typical component of Fentress County farms. It consists of a feeding trough covered by a pavilion. This farm also contains a number of original outbuildings, including the silo connected to the feeding shelter.
13) Scenery
Old Turnpike Road
The county contains a number of scenic views, with roads and turnoffs cut into the rock. This is one example along the eastern edge of the county. The western half of the county is more mountainous and contains a number of these scenic views.

![Photo 108](image)

Allardt
The town of Allardt is located along Highway 52 in the west-central portion of Fentress County. Taylor Place Road leads from Highway 127 into Allardt. Along this road in the vicinity of Allardt are a historic fire tower, an old processing plant, a number of residences, and the Cumberland Grove Wesleyan Community.

14) Cumberland Grove Wesleyan Community
Taylor Place Road
Although this complex is set back and hardly visible from the road, there appears to be a number of buildings centered on a prominent tabernacle that serves as a retreat space for the religious community.

![Photo 112](image)
In the town of Allardt, two National Register Historic Districts, the Allardt Historic District and the Youngs Historic District, encompass much of the downtown area. Three individual National Register properties are also located in Allardt, the Allardt Presbyterian Church, the Gernt Office, and the Bruno Gernt House. Allardt was founded in 1881 by Bruno Gernt, a German immigrant who built a residence and a business office for himself. Several houses and commercial establishments were built between the 1880s and the 1920s. These are mainly vernacular in design and many are decorated with intricate woodwork. Later houses include variations of the side-gable, front-central dormer house type throughout the county.

15.) Michigan Avenue, Allardt
This residence is another example of the predominate side-gable, front-central dormer house in Fentress County. It is located just east of the commercial section of Allardt.

![Photo 106](image)

16.) Centered on Base Line Road and Highway 52, the Allardt Historic District lies just east of the commercial section of town and contains eleven residences, including the Bruno Gernt House. Eight of these are contributing properties and show excellent craftsmanship and woodwork. The three noncontributing properties are good examples of post-1950 ranch houses. One built circa 1950 could potentially now be considered a contributing property.

![Photo 104](image)  ![Photo 105](image)

The Youngs Historic District in the south section of downtown consists of three residences and two commercial structures. The buildings were owned and operated by Joseph Youngs, who was involved in the real estate and lumber business. This district stands as an intact example of commercial and residential buildings in a small rural town.
**Armathwaite/Shirley**
The communities of Armathwaite and Shirley are located along Highway 52 east of Jamestown. Stockton Road leading from Jamestown into Armathwaite and Highway 52 are both rich in agricultural resources. A number of farms, residences, churches, and small stores make up these communities.

17.) Shirley Store  
Highway 52 at Shirley Road  
This c. 1930s store is a one-story structure with a brick façade and a brick parapet wall. A porch covers one-half of the façade and is supported by battered wood posts set on brick piers. The store is located along a major route through the eastern half of the county and serviced both residents and travelers.

![Shirley Store](photo 103)

18.) Center Bell Separate Baptist Church  
Highway 52 and Willie Crabtree Road  
This front-gable, cast-concrete block church has a small front entrance portico and is surmounted by a small steeple at the front of the gable. The original cast-concrete portion probably dates to the 1920s and is an example of the use of cast-concrete block throughout the county. The plain-suraced concrete block rear addition likely dates to the mid-twentieth century and shows the continued use of concrete as a building material.

![Center Bell Separate Baptist Church](photo 97)
19.) Store
Highway 52
This is another example of a rural store located along Highway 52. It is also constructed of cast-concrete block commonly found throughout the county.

(photograph 95)

20.) Fellowship United Baptist Church and Cemetery
Highway 52
This two-story church building likely dates originally to the early twentieth century. The second story portion might be a later addition to create classroom space for the church. The church is covered in vinyl siding and contains a single-story gabled vestibule at the front of the structure. A small portico covers the entrance and narrow two-over-two windows line the sides.

(photograph 96)

21.) Shirley United Baptist Church
Shirley Road
This front-gable church dates to 1947 and is faced in brick with a concrete block foundation. An addition stretches across the rear of the building, extending to both sides. Concrete lintels top the windows of the structure. A large picnic pavilion sits adjacent to the church.

(photograph 98)
22.) 1844 Shirley Road
This weatherboard structure now serves as a house, but is similar in form to rural school buildings of the 1910s-1920s. The gable end of the structure contains an entrance flanked by aluminum-and-glass windows. The side of the structure contains an entrance portico and four windows, the rear two being two-over-one wood windows. The exterior weatherboard remains intact.

23.) 1860 Shirley Road, house and store
This one-and-one-half story house appears to be an old farmhouse and has several outbuildings associated with it. The house is now covered in vinyl siding but retains its side-gable, front-central dormer form. A store lies along the road in front of the house. It is a board-and-batten structure with six-light windows on the front, three-over-one windows on the sides, double doors, and a shed addition. The house and store were likely owned and operated by the same family.

24.) Shirley Road
This side-gable bungalow and feeding trough are located at the eastern end of Shirley Road. The house is similar to a saddlebag or hall-and-parlor plan, but it appears to have three or four rooms on the interior. A full-front, shed-roof porch covers the façade of the building. The house and feeding trough likely date to the 1920s and represent an example of a rural farm complex.
Mt. Helen
Mt. Helen is a small rural community at the eastern edge of the county just south of Big South Fork National Park. It contains a number of farms and agricultural landscapes.

25.) 4071(?) Mt. Helen Road
This early twentieth century house is covered in asbestos shingles, has two entrances on the front façade, and has two end chimneys. A full-front shed roof covers the porch. In form, the building looks similar to a log structure.

26.) Mt. Helen Cemetery
Mt. Helen Road at Anderson Road
This cemetery looks like an urban cemetery in a rural setting. A road circling the cemetery is entered through a prominent arch. Older stone markers lie at the top section of the cemetery and date to the 1920s or earlier.

27.) Mt. Helen United Baptist Church
Mt. Helen Road
This church building is a recently renovated one-story, front-gable structure. It has been covered with vinyl siding, has a brick foundation, newly applied decoration, six-over-six windows, and a steeple at the front of the gable end. A gable-roof portico covers the double-door entrance.
Jamestown and Vicinity
The city of Jamestown is located along Highway 127 in the central section of Fentress County. Now, the Highway 127 Bypass serves as the main corridor into town, but Old Highway 127 exemplifies the historic entrance into Jamestown. This road is a typical early twentieth century corridor with a number of houses, stores, and auto-oriented businesses. Many of these are faced with local stone, a building material seen throughout the county and particularly in Jamestown. Downtown Jamestown contains a number of significant buildings including the Masonic Lodge, Methodist Church, Jail, Bank, and First Baptist Church. These are all constructed of stone and date from c. 1900 through the 1950s. Several blocks of the downtown area are being recommended as a potential National Register Historic District for its significance in architecture, commerce, and planning. The First Baptist Church and the Jamestown Depot both lie outside of the potential district boundaries, but individual National Register listing is being suggested for each. On the outskirts of Jamestown two c. 1950s buildings, the Pinehaven School, now the Pinehaven Community Center, and the Jamestown Waterworks are being recommended for individual listing. Two properties in Jamestown are already listed on the National Register, the Old Fentress County Jail and the Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute Historic District. Outside the city limits of Jamestown are several farms, houses, and rural stores that make up the agricultural landscape of the area.

28.) West Cove Road
This area along West Cove Road west of Jamestown looks like a historic crossroads community with a number of farmhouses and barns scattered around. This two-story, side-gable house has two front dormers and three-over-one windows. It has the proportions of an American four-square house. This barn is a good representation of a typical Fentress County barn.
29.) John Beaty Road Store
This store, in the 4200 block of John Beaty Road east of Jamestown, is a one-story, weatherboard, front-gable building topped with a parapet wall. It has a central entrance door flanked by double windows. A loading dock lies along the west wall at the rear of the structure. The store was likely operated by the owners of the adjacent house. This store would have served people of the community as well as travelers leaving Jamestown along Highway 52.

 Helena
Helena is a small agricultural community west of Jamestown along Highway 52. There are a number of outbuildings and barns, a few bungalows and c. 1920s houses, a few tenant houses, and some ranch houses in this area. The agricultural landscape is typical of Fentress County.

30.) Cove Creek United Baptist Church
Highway 52
This is a small, one-story, front-gable church with a shed lean-to addition on the side. It has a newer concrete block foundation and recent vertical board siding, but the form is that of an older rural church. Two outhouses, one for men and one for women, are located across Highway 52 from the church. It is surrounded by an agricultural landscape.
31.) Eugene Hensley Home
Conaster Hollow Road
This is a good example of the common Fentress County house form consisting of a side-gable building with a central-front dormer. Several variations of this house form appear along Conaster Hollow Road and this particular example is the most intact in the area.

(photograph 84)

32.) Little Crab Road Store
This store is located just off Highway 52 at the intersection of Little Crab Road and Old Copley Road. It is a front-gable building with weatherboard siding and a shed-roof porch.

(photograph 82)
33.) New Hope Baptist Church  
New Hope Church Road  
This double-entrance church building has undergone significant changes, but retains the form of a historic rural church. Its double-entrance towers comprise a recognizable rural church form. A cemetery and outhouses are located behind the church building.

(photo 83)

34.) West Fentress Elementary School  
Highway 52  
This 1950s school building now houses the West Fentress Community Center. It appears to be a typical 1950s school with its one-story, horizontal form and bands of windows. The main entrance to the building is set into the western half of the front façade. A gymnasium is located behind this entrance.

(photo 9)
Little Crab/Cooper
The communities of Little Crab and Cooper are small, early twentieth century, rural communities surrounded by the mountains of west Fentress County. There are several farm complexes with outbuildings, barns, and some older farmhouses. Riverton Road and the northern part of Manson Road contain a few noteworthy resources.

35.) King Mountain Road and Manson Road
This double-entrance I-house appears at the corner of King Mountain and Manson roads. It has a second-story porch supported by wood posts, stone end chimneys, and three-over-one windows.

36.) Riverton Road
This is another example of the common Fentress County house type. It is a side-gable structure with a central-front gabled dormer that projects over the entrance porch.
**Sharp Place/Leatherwood Ford**
This area in the northeastern section of Fentress County sits at the edge of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and the Pickett State Park and Forest along Highway 154. A number of horse farms and enterprises are located here, some projecting a faux-western appearance. There are several older outbuildings associated with the farm complexes and a few older houses. Akers Chapel Loop, in particular, has a few good architectural resources.

37.) Akers Chapel Loop
This front-gable house is covered in weatherboard siding, has a central entrance door flanked by double windows, a shed-roof porch, and a lean-to addition to the side. A small shed is located at the back of the house.

![Photo 26](image)

38.) Akers Chapel Church
Akers Chapel Loop
This is a concrete block, front-gable church building with a gabled entrance. It is surmounted by a small bell tower at the front of the gable end. A new, vinyl sided building sits at the side of the property and serves as a fellowship hall. Like several other Fentress County churches, a picnic shelter lies adjacent to the church.

![Photo 27](image)
39.) Sharp Cemetery  
Akers Chapel Loop  
Set across Akers Chapel Road from the Akers Chapel Church, this cemetery contains a number of late-nineteenth to early twentieth century markers. There are some wooden grave markers and wooden crosses as well as some uninscribed stone markers. William Sharp appears to be the only Civil War veteran buried here. Sharp and Choate are two family names that appear in the cemetery. A large marker lists Civil War, World War I, and World War II veterans.

40.) Alticrest New Zion United Baptist Church  
Leatherwood Ford Road  
This church in the 3000 block of Leatherwood Ford Road is a front-gable, weatherboard building with a small vent in the gable end. A small outbuilding and a picnic shelter are located adjacent to the church building.
41.) True West
Leatherwood Ford Road
This block of commercial buildings is an example of the faux-western appeal of this area of Fentress County. It is meant to give the appearance of an early western town.

![Photo 30](image)

42.) Alictsrest Cemetery
Leatherwood Ford Road
This cemetery sits at the corner of Leatherwood Ford and Taft Story roads. It has several turn-of-the-century stones as well as several recent stones.

![Photo 29](image)
Red Hill/Fairview
The communities of Red Hill and Fairview are located in the northwestern corner of the county. Like most of Fentress County, it is an agricultural area and contains some good examples of early twentieth century houses and farm complexes. This area, along with Pall Mall, has some of the larger farmhouses in the county. One of the most significant structures found in this area that is being recommended for individual listing in the National Register is a one-room school building on the west side of Red Hill Road at the intersection of Buck Mountain Road.

43.) Buck Mountain at Double Top Road
This structure appears similar in form to an early twentieth century church. It is a front-gable structure composed of stone, like many structures throughout Fentress County. It now has a double entrance, but looks to have once had a large central entrance that has since been filled in with stone.

44.) 2160 Stokley West Road
This house sits on the north side of Stokley West Road. It is a side-gable structure with triple-front ripple gables, a stone end chimney, and a full-front porch. The building has a rear addition that blends well with the main block of the house.
45.) Red Hill Road
This c. 1910s front-gable house on the east side of Red Hill Road has a double entrance, a stone foundation, a metal roof, and several outbuildings. It is covered in weatherboard and has two-over-two windows. A side addition is located on the eastern side of the house.

46.) Red Hill Road
South of the intersection with Buck Mountain Road, Red Hill Road contains several early twentieth century houses, particularly in the 8300-block. These three are plantation-plane houses consisting of an I-house with a one-story rear shed addition. This concentration of intact farmhouses makes this area a good historic resource for Fentress County.
47.) Cemetery
Red Hill Road
This cemetery along Red Hill Road contains some late-nineteenth to early twentieth century grave markers. Some of these are good hand-written markers. It also has a number of more recent stones.

(photo 80)

Wolf River/Pall Mall/Forbus
The area stretching from Wolf River to Forbus in the northwest corner of the county contains a large concentration of the county’s historic resources. Several intact nineteenth and twentieth century farms remain in this area to represent Fentress County’s historic rural landscape. The area already contains several National Register properties. The Forbus Historic District includes the Forbus General Store and the William Johnson House and outbuildings. The Sergeant York Historic Area contains fourteen properties in Pall Mall associated with Sergeant York, including the Sergeant York Home, the York Grist Mill, and the Wolf River Methodist Church. The Alvin Cullom York Farm includes approximately sixteen acres around and including the York residence on the north side of Highway 127. In addition to these properties, there are several historic and architectural resources in this area that are significant resources to the county. The Center for Historic Preservation is recommending additional survey work in this area for possible designation as a Rural Historic District. Survey photos 33-71 represent the suggested area. A greater discussion of the National Register eligibility of these resources is included in Section IV of this report.
VII. Summary
Fentress County contains a number of noteworthy historic resources. These resources are found throughout the county in agricultural areas as well as within Jamestown and other small communities. This report identified ten properties and districts potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Jamestown contains the largest concentration of significant structures within a rural town and should be considered for listing as a National Register Historic District. Many of the county’s resources contribute to the agricultural landscape and history of the county, particularly in the northwest corner of the county from Wolf River to Forbus. This area deserves additional attention and further survey to determine the eligibility and boundaries of a potential Rural Historic District.

In addition to these potential districts, there are a number of structures recommended for individual listing on the National Register. These include the Jamestown Depot, the Upchurch Store, and the Jordan Motel, all significant for their contribution to the transportation landscape of Fentress County. The Pinehaven School/Community Center and the Red Hill Road School are representations of various phases of education in the county. The Jamestown Water Works is significant both for its modern design and for its role in the engineering history of Jamestown. Also located in Jamestown, the Jamestown First Baptist Church shows the cohesive use of stone throughout town. A final property type potentially eligible for the National Register is the house type commonly found throughout the county that takes the form of a side-gable structure with a central-front dormer. Additional survey is needed to identify the most representative of this form, but this type is a significant representation of local building trends. These ten properties or districts are all important aspects of Fentress County’s history and warrant further research and survey in consideration of their National Register eligibility.

This report identified a number of additional resources throughout the county that help to depict its history. Although these were not considered individually eligible for the National Register, they are important resources and can contribute to a driving tour or historical narrative of the county. These include agricultural resources, rural residences, cemeteries, churches, and rural stores. Each will be considered in the preparation of the driving tour that will emphasize key historic, architectural, and natural resources of Fentress County.

This report also recommends that the 1991 Multiple Property Nomination, “Historic Architectural Resources of Fentress County, Tennessee,” be expanded to include significant mid-century resources. The current period of significance dates from 1870 to 1940. This period should be lengthened to 1960 in order to include properties from the 1940s and 1950s in consideration of the fifty-year National Register eligibility requirement.
VIII. Appendices

Appendix A: Existing National Register of Historic Places Properties

1.) Allardt Historic District
Junction of Highway 52 and Base Line Road, Allardt
Listed October 29, 1991

2.) Allardt Presbyterian Church
Highway 52, Allardt
Listed July 3, 1991

3.) Davidson School
Highway 85, Davidson
Listed January 7, 1993

4.) Forbus Historic District
Highway 127, Forbus
Listed July 3, 1991

5.) Gernt Office
Highway 52, Allardt
Listed July, 3 1991

6.) Bruno Gernt House
Base Line Road, Allardt
Listed March 6, 1987

7.) Old Fentress County Jail
N. Smith Street and Highway 52, Jamestown
Listed May 24, 1984

8.) Sergeant York Historic Area
Off Alvin York Highway, Pall Mall
Listed April 11, 1973

9.) Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute Historic District
Highway 127 off junction with Highway 154, Jamestown
Listed September 20, 1991

10.) Alvin Cullom York Farm
Highway 127, Pall Mall
Listed May 11, 1976

11.) Youngs Historic District
Junction of Indiana and Portland Avenues, Allardt
Listed October 16, 1991

—National Register Nominations are on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission in Nashville, TN.
Appendix B: National Register of Historic Places Fact Sheet

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a property must meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. These criteria require that a property be old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old) and that it still look much the way it was in the past. In addition, the property must:

- be associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past;
- be associated with the lives of people who were important in the past; or
- be significant in the areas of architectural history, landscape history, or engineering; or
- have the potential to yield information through archaeological investigation that would answer questions about our past.

Certain kinds of properties, such as moved or reconstructed buildings, are generally not eligible for National Register listing; exceptions are made if these properties meet special criteria.

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register is our country's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. The Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation assists communities, property owners, and organizations in nominating eligible properties to the National Register so they can receive preservation benefits and incentives. Currently, there are approximately 2,000 listings in Tennessee that are listed in the National Register. The National Register is maintained nationally by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Tennessee Historical Commission within the Department of Environment and Conservation administers the National Register program for Tennessee.

Being listed in the National Register helps preserve historic properties. It provides formal recognition of a property's historical, architectural, or archaeological significance based on national standards used in every state. National Register designation identifies significant historic properties that can be taken into account in a broad range of preservation and development activities. It also insures that these properties will be considered in the planning of state or federally assisted projects.

Properties listed in the National Register may qualify for specific preservation benefits and incentives, including:

- state and federal preservation grants for planning and rehabilitation
- federal investment tax credits
- preservation easements to nonprofit organizations
- and more depending on local and state programs and laws

National Register listing does not place obligations on private property owners, nor does it place restrictions on the use, treatment, transfer, or disposition of private property. National Register listing does not lead to public acquisition of property nor does it require public access to property.

In Tennessee, properties are nominated to the National Register by the Tennessee Historical Commission. The THC invites nomination proposals from property owners, historical societies, preservation organizations, civic and business associations, governmental agencies, and other individuals or groups who are interested in using the National Register to preserve historic properties. Individuals, organizations, and agencies requesting National Register nominations carry out research and provide supporting documentation meeting state and federal standards with guidance and assistance from the THC. Proposed nominations are reviewed by the THC and the Tennessee National Register Review Board. Approved nominations are submitted by the THC to the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. for final review and listing in the National Register. For more information about the THC, see their website at www.state.tn.us/environment/hist/index.html or call 615-532-1550.

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### The National Register Does . . .
- Identify significant buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts according to the National Register Criteria.
- Encourage the preservation of historic properties by documenting their significance.
- Provide information about historic resources for planning purposes.
- Facilitate the review of federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects to determine their effects on historic properties.
- Assist state government agencies in determining whether their projects will affect historic properties.
- Make owners of historic properties eligible to apply for federal grants for historic preservation projects.
- Provide federal benefits to owners of taxable historic properties if they rehabilitate their properties according to preservation standards.
- List properties only if they meet the National Register criteria for evaluation.

### The National Register Does Not . . .
- Provide a marker or plaque for registered properties (property owners may obtain markers or plaques at their own expense).
- Restrict the rights of private property owners or require that properties be maintained, repaired or restored.
- Automatically invoke local historic district zoning or local landmark designation.
- Stop federally assisted government projects.
- Stop state assisted development projects.
- Guarantee that grant funds will be available for all properties or projects.
- Require property owners to follow preservation standards when working on their properties, unless they wish to qualify for tax benefits.
- List individual properties if the owner objects, or districts if the majority of property owners object.

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**How can the Center for Historic Preservation assist you?**

The Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University has been assisting communities and individuals in placing properties in the National Register since 1985. Although we work with all types of historic districts, buildings, sites, and objects throughout the region, we pay particular attention to historic family farms, rural schools, and rural churches in the state because such places defined Tennessee for most of its history. In this era of change, however, these once numerous places are disappearing quite quickly and may be soon forgotten unless we take steps to preserve them for the future. We carry out this assistance at Middle Tennessee University as part of our public service and research mission on Tennessee history and culture to the state and its citizens.

We carry out these projects as part of the university's service to the state and as training for our graduate students. Thus, we do not charge for any staff time or office expenses. However, all National Register nominations require considerable out-of-pocket expenses for the record photography of the building, mapping, and our travel. We ask property owners to consider helping us defray those costs through a donation to our account at the MTSU Foundation once the project is completed and the nomination approved. For more information on how the Center can help you with the National Register process call or e-mail Dr. Leslie Sharp at 615-494-8783 or LSHARP@mtsu.edu.

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http://histpres.mtsu.edu/histpres/
Appendix C: Fentress County Century Farms

The Tennessee Century Farms Program identifies, documents, and recognizes farms owned by the same family for at least 100 years. To date, nearly 900 farms representing every county have been certified. The Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University maintains the Century Farm database of information and photographs, most of which is based on applications supplied by the farm families. *Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective* was published by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Center in 1986. The book-length study includes descriptions of each farm and both color and black and white photographs. The newest publication, *Holding On to the Homestead: A Guide to Programs, Services, and Options for Tennessee’s Farmers* is available on-line at http://histpres.mtsu.edu/histpres/INITIATIVES/holdingontothehomestead.htm.

Fentress County’s Century Farms are listed below:

1) Big Dry Farm
2) Clayton Upchurch Farm
3) Jerry Green Farm
4) Kenthrease Farm
5) Otto Pile Farm
6) Reed Farm
7) Williams and Pile Farm
8) W.R. Reed Farm
IX. Bibliography
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Center for Historic Preservation
Middle Tennessee State University
Workshop Sponsors

- Fentress County Chamber of Commerce
- Fentress County Historical Society
- Progressive Savings Bank
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Center for Historic Preservation
- Middle Tennessee State University
Project Background

- Identify and Enhance Key Historic Resources
  - Survey and Assessment
  - Driving Tour

- Develop Heritage Partners
  - Workshop
  - Workshop Report

- Telling the Story of Fentress County
  - Heritage Education Unit Alvin C. York
  - Jail Museum Interpretative Plan
Key Historic Resources in Fentress County
Known Resources

- National Register of Historic Places
- Century Farms
- Museums and Historic Sites
- Parks
- Natural and Scenic Areas
Survey and Assessment

- Windshield Survey of County
  - Survey and Assessment of Resources
  - Identify Areas of Significance

- Identify Resources Potentially Eligible for the National Register
  - Prioritize based on Significance and Type of Resource
  - Make Recommendations for Future National Register Work

- Compile Survey Report of Key Historic Resources

- Compile Driving Tour
Areas of Significance

- Development of Jamestown
- Agriculture
- Industry
- Transportation and Engineering
- Education
- Architecture
- Alvin C. York
Development of Jamestown

Jamestown Bank

Mark Twain Park

Old Fentress County Jail

Masonic Lodge
Industry

- Mining
- Timbering
- Stone Quarrying
- Agribusiness
- Festivals and Special Events
- Tourism
Transportation and Engineering

Upchurch Service Station and Grocery

Jordan Motel

Jamestown Water Works

Jamestown Depot
Architecture

Bruno Gernt House

McGinnis House

Jamestown First Baptist Church

McGinnis House
Driving Tour

Tour 1: Jamestown
Tour 2: The York Highway North (Jamestown to Forbus)
Tour 3: West Fentress County
Tour 4: East Fentress County
Tour 5: Park and Recreation Areas
Tour 6: The York Highway South (Jamestown to Clarkrange)
Partnering and Heritage Needs
Visioning: Goals, Strategies, Steps, and Desired Outcomes
Thank you for your participation.

Center for Historic Preservation
Middle Tennessee State University