

Williamson County, Tennessee  
John Henry Carothers House Collection



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## Collection Overview

**Title:** John Henry Carothers House Collection

**Date Range:** 1900s – 2000s

**Creator:** John Henry and Carrie Giles Carothers family

**Extent:** 10 cubic feet, 2 oversize boxes

**Abstract:** The Carothers House Collection contains artifacts and records collected by John Henry and Carrie Giles Carothers and their family. This collection provides insight into the lives of the Carothers family, and provides a broader connection to early 20<sup>th</sup> century African American farmers in Williamson County, Tennessee.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Williamson County Archives, Franklin, TN

**Collection Number:** WCA 0008

## Scope and Content

This collection contains artifacts and records collected from the John Henry Carothers House on the Carothers family farm in Franklin, Tennessee. These items were collected by the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation, as part of a historic preservation project conducted on the farm in collaboration with the property owner, Goldberg Companies, Inc. The items in this collection connect directly to John Henry Carothers, his wife Carrie Giles Carothers, and their family. These items provide a glimpse into the broader African-American community in Williamson County, Tennessee. The family documents in this collection include: religious notes and records, awards and certificates, local funeral programs, photos of the family and community, correspondence between family members and friends, personal notebooks, military records, books, and periodicals. Records in the collection span the early 1900s to the early 2000s. Other family names prevalent within the collection include: Giles, Howse, Kinnard, and Smith.

## Arrangement

The contents of this collection were pulled from the John Henry Carothers House, where they were stored in different locations and in no particular arrangement. The Center for Historic Preservation staff that compiled this collection originally organized it into several series by record type and content. Williamson County Archives generally maintained this series

arrangement, with an emphasis on grouping items by type, content, and the family member to whom they belonged (when that information could be identified). Each series is assigned a box number(s). Some series contain natural sub-series where similar record types are filed together. Folders within each series are filed alphabetically, with the intention of grouping records by family member or organization. The bulk of the collection's contents were foldered at the item level.

## Historical Note

The Carothers House Collection provides a look into the life of an African American family that was able to purchase land and establish a farm in Williamson County, Tennessee despite Jim Crow laws. There are multiple branches of Carothers families in Williamson County. The items within this collection are from the familial line of John Henry Carothers and Carrie Giles Carothers including their son Ezeal Carothers, their granddaughter daughter Ruby Carothers Kinnard, and their grandson John Eddy Carothers. Family and community history may be gleaned from the correspondence, school records, photos, personal papers, financial records, military records, religious records, books, and periodicals collected by these family members.

According to the 1910 census, John Henry Carothers began his career as a wage earning farm laborer. Ten years later, on the 1920 census, he is listed as a self-employed farmer, working on his own account. Research by the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation concludes that John Henry Carothers was still renting land to farm in 1920, but did have at least some control over the crops he grew. This enabled him to generate a better profit, and eventually save enough money to purchase his own property.

John Henry Carothers and Carrie Giles Carothers bought their 26 acre property on April 8, 1933. It was there that they built their family home and established their own farm. The Carothers House was built in 1937 by John Henry Carothers and his son Ezeal Carothers, with some assistance from their neighbor Charles B. Barnes. It was built from limestone that was quarried on the Carothers' property. This was the first of at least three houses built by John Henry Carothers.

Because of the large amounts of limestone on the Carothers' land, only a little more than half of the property was suitable for farming. As a result, the Carothers focused on more complicated crops and small livestock production. John Henry Carothers also rented land across the road owned by Nashville businessman Lester Huffines, in order to raise more crops, grow tobacco, and work cattle. Ezeal Carothers and his son John Eddy Carothers both worked for Lester Huffines as well. According to records within the collection, they did this at least until the 1970s. After John Henry Carothers passed away in 1980, Ezeal Carothers inherited the family property.

Ezeal Carothers and his daughter Ruby Carothers Kinnard saved many newspaper clippings regarding Black property ownership, agriculture, and land development. They recognized the vast development taking place around them was a real threat and could mean losing their property. This was discussed between the two of them in letters throughout the years. This pushed Ruby Carothers Kinnard to write a letter to the Tennessee Historical Commission in

January of 1988. She hoped to have their property placed on the National Register of Historic Places, in order to provide some form of protection for their farm. The Tennessee Historical Commission filed forms with the National Register of Historic Places in August of 1989. On November 27, 1989, the property was entered into the National Register.

The John Henry Carothers House has witnessed many changes to the local area: the construction of I-65 in the early 1960s, the construction of Cool Springs Galleria in 1989, and the construction of Centennial High School in 1996. As the county population grew and more urban development continued to take hold, the roads also changed to suit the evolving needs of an ever-growing area, including the road that the Carothers' property was located on.

In 2013, Kimley, Horn, and Associates, Inc. released the "Integrated Growth Plan for Carothers Parkway and East McEwen Drive" for the City of Franklin. The report listed 16 properties to be considered for development, including the Carothers property. At the time, the site name was listed as "TBD." Goldberg Companies, Inc. acquired the property from the Carothers descendants in 2019.

## Access and Use

**Access to the Collection:** This collection is open to the public for research during normal business hours.

**Use of Materials:** Unrestricted

**Preferred Citation:** Carothers House Collection, Williamson County Archives, Franklin, TN

**Contact Information:** Williamson County Archives  
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## Administrative Information

### About the collection

**Acquisition:** Acquired by Williamson County Archives from the Center for Historic Preservation and Goldberg Companies, Inc.

### About the finding aid

**Author:** Ashleigh Florida

**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Descriptive rules:** Finding aid based on *Describing Archives: a Content Standard* (DACS)

## Search Terms

**Names:** John Henry Carothers  
Carrie Giles Carothers  
Ezeal Carothers  
Ruby Carothers Kinnard

**Subjects:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
African-American  
Agriculture  
Education  
Oklahoma  
Tennessee  
Williamson County

**Locations:** Franklin, TN  
Williamson County, TN

## Related Research Materials

The records, objects, and photograph in the Carothers House Collection represent just one facet of the historical information collected on the John Henry Carothers farm. Researchers will also benefit from the report by the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation titled *The Carothers Farm: Telling the Stories of an African American Landmark*, attached as Appendix 1. As well as the National Register of Historic Places report on the Carothers House, attached as Appendix 2. These documents are available in this finding aid at the end of the container list.

## Container List

<b>Carothers House Collection</b>			
<b>B o x</b>	<b>Series</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Year</b>
1	Books	Black Smiles or the Sunny Side of Sable Life by Franklin Henry Bryant	1909
1	Books	Harbrace College Handbook 4th Edition by John C. Hodges	1956
1	Books	Ford V-8 Cars and Trucks by Victor W. Pagé	1940
1	Books	The Witch's Dream Book and Complete Fortune Teller	Unknown Date
1	Books	New Testament	Unknown Date
1	Books	Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson (Macmillan's Pocket Classics Edition)	1917
1	Books	English Grade 5 by Alexander J. Stoddard, Matilda Bailey and William Dodge Lewis	1944
1	Books	Mystery at Shadow Pond by Mary C. Jane	1958
1	Books	Our Land Our Living by Caldwell Bailey Watkins	1947
1	Books	Essentials of Geography by Brigham and McFarlane Revised Edition	1925
1	Books	Williamson County in Black & White by Williamson County Historical Society	2000
1	Books	Tennessee State University 1995 Alumni Directory	1995
1	Books	The Lion 2005	2005
1	Books	1960 Tennessean	1960
1	Books	1960 Tennessean	1960
1	Books	History of Tennessee from 1663 to 1924 by Gentry R. McGee	1919
1	Books	Modern History by Hayes and Moon	1931
1	Books	The Methodist Hymnal	1939
1	Books	The Modern Hymnal	1926
1	Books	Lessons in English Book One by Fred Newton Scott and Gordon A. Southworth	1906
1	Books	Spanish Grammar by Charles Philip Wagner	1910
1	Books	Halleck's New English Literature by Reuben Post Halleck	1913
1	Books	The 2000 Commonest Words for Spelling compiled by Edward W. Dolch, Ph. D.	1955

2	Churches/Religious	Advanced Bible Studies	1962
2	Churches/Religious	Back to the Bible Broadcast	1958
2	Churches/Religious	Big Harpeth United Primitive Baptist Association	1932
2	Churches/Religious	Brooks Memorial UMC	1970-1991
2	Churches/Religious	Brooks Memorial UMC Treasury	1970s
2	Churches/Religious	Brooks Memorial UMC - Viola Carothers' Homecoming '86 Plaque	1986
2	Churches/Religious	Catholic University of America	1992
2	Churches/Religious	Church Burning Talk Force Flyer	1996
2	Churches/Religious	Church of the Living God	1906
2	Churches/Religious	Churches of Langston Book	1982
2	Churches/Religious	Clayborne Tabernacle M. B. Church	1983 & Unknown Date
2	Churches/Religious	Cumberland Association of Primitive Baptists	1980
2	Churches/Religious	Devotional Pages	1987, 1996
2	Churches/Religious	Edgehill UMC	1976
2	Churches/Religious	Fourth Avenue Church of Christ	1960
2	Churches/Religious	Faith, Hope & Love M. B. Church	Unknown Date
2	Churches/Religious	First Missionary Baptist Church	2007
2	Churches/Religious	Franklin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses	Unknown Date
2	Churches/Religious	Gordon Memorial UMC	1985
2	Churches/Religious	Greater Pleasant View Baptist Church	1992, 1999, 2001
2	Churches/Religious	Hills Tabernacle P. B. Church	1983
2	Churches/Religious	Jerry Falwell Ministries	Unknown Date
2	Churches/Religious	Little Harper P. B. Church	1977
2	Churches/Religious	Little Harpeth P. B. Church	Unknown Date
2	Churches/Religious	Logan County NAACP	1993
2	Churches/Religious	Lynn Creek Association of the Regular Primitive Baptists	1937
2	Churches/Religious	Mt. Carmel Baptist Church	1996, 1998 - 1999
2	Churches/Religious	Mt. Pisgah M. E. Church	1937
2	Churches/Religious	Mt. Zion Baptist Church	1990
2	Churches/Religious	Neighborhood Missionary Baptist Church	1992
2	Churches/Religious	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church	1974 - 1998
2	Churches/Religious	Northeastern District Association	1992 & 1998
2	Churches/Religious	Passion Week Fellowship Services	1999
2	Churches/Religious	Pastor's Bulletin Board	Unknown Date

2	Churches/Religious	Protestant Military Chaplain Service - Fort Polk, LA	1964
2	Churches/Religious	Religious Certificates - Richmond Kinnard	1973-2003
2	Churches/Religious	Religious Notes - Richmond Kinnard (Loose Papers)	1980S-2000S
2	Churches/Religious	Religious Notes - Richmond Kinnard (Red Notebook)	1998-1999
2	Churches/Religious	Religious Songbook	Unknown Date
2	Churches/Religious	Teacher's Prayer	Unknown Date
2	Churches/Religious	Ten Commandments / Lord's Prayer	Unknown Date
2	Churches/Religious	Tithes & Offerings	Unknown Date
2	Churches/Religious	Watchtower Society - Peace Can It Last?	1942
3	Correspondence	To Carothers Family	Unknown Date
3	Correspondence	To Ezeal Carothers	1930 - 1939
3	Correspondence	To Ezeal Carothers	1940 - 1949
3	Correspondence	To Ezeal Carothers	1950 - 1959
3	Correspondence	To Ezeal Carothers	1960 - 1969
3	Correspondence	To Ezeal Carothers	1980 - 1989
3	Correspondence	To Ezeal Carothers	1990 - 1999
3	Correspondence	To Ezeal Carothers	Unknown Date
3	Correspondence	To Mr. & Mrs. Ezeal Carothers	1940 - 1949
3	Correspondence	To Mr. & Mrs. Ezeal Carothers	1950 - 1959
3	Correspondence	To Mr. & Mrs. Ezeal Carothers	1960 - 1969
3	Correspondence	To Mr. & Mrs. Ezeal Carothers	1970 - 1979
3	Correspondence	To Mr. & Mrs. Ezeal Carothers	1980 - 1989
3	Correspondence	To Mr. & Mrs. Ezeal Carothers	1990 - 1999
3	Correspondence	To Mr. & Mrs. Ezeal Carothers	Unknown Date
3	Correspondence	To John Eddy Carothers	1959 - 1960
3	Correspondence	To John Eddy Carothers	1900 - 1909
3	Correspondence	To John Eddy Carothers	1910 - 1919
3	Correspondence	To John Eddy Carothers	1920 - 1929
3	Correspondence	To John Eddy Carothers	1930 - 1939
3	Correspondence	To John Eddy Carothers	1940 - 1949
3	Correspondence	To John Eddy Carothers	1970 - 1979
3	Correspondence	To John Eddy Carothers	1980 - 1989
3	Correspondence	To John Eddy Carothers	Unknown Date
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1940 - 1949
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1950 - 1959
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1960
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1961



3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1962
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1963
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1964
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1965 - 1969
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1970 - 1979
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1980 - 1989
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1990 - 1999
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	2000s
3	Correspondence	To Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	Unknown Date
3	Correspondence	To Susie Carothers	1954
4	Correspondence	To Curtis M. Dilworth III	1961
4	Correspondence	To Giles Family	1917
4	Correspondence	To Carrie Giles (m. Carothers)	1900 - 1909
4	Correspondence	To Carrie Giles (m. Carothers)	1910 - 1919
4	Correspondence	To Carrie Giles (m. Carothers)	1920 - 1929
4	Correspondence	To Carrie Giles (m. Carothers)	1930 - 1939
4	Correspondence	To Carrie Giles (m. Carothers)	1940 - 1949
4	Correspondence	To Carrie Giles (m. Carothers)	Unknown Date
4	Correspondence	To Hargrove Family	1953
4	Correspondence	To Howse Family	Unknown Date
4	Correspondence	To Viola Howse (m. Viola Carothers)	1930 - 1939
4	Correspondence	To Viola Howse (m. Viola Carothers)	1940 - 1949
4	Correspondence	To Viola Howse (m. Viola Carothers)	1950 - 1959
4	Correspondence	To Viola Howse (m. Viola Carothers)	1960 - 1969
4	Correspondence	To Viola Howse (m. Viola Carothers)	1970 - 1979
4	Correspondence	To Viola Howse (m. Viola Carothers)	1980 - 1989
4	Correspondence	To Viola Howse (m. Viola Carothers)	1990 - 1999
4	Correspondence	To Viola Howse (m. Viola Carothers)	Unknown Date
4	Correspondence	To Beulah Hudson & Family	1920s - 1930s
4	Correspondence	To Huffines Family	1947
4	Correspondence	To Mary Johnson	1916
4	Correspondence	To Kinnard Family	1960s - 1980s / Unknown Date
4	Correspondence	To Richmond E. Kinnard	1999 / Unknown Date
4	Correspondence	To Rev. & Mrs. Richmond E. Kinnard	1960s - 2000s
4	Correspondence	To Timothy E. Kinnard	2014
4	Correspondence	To Vivian Kinnard	1974, 1987, 2003
4	Correspondence	To Ethel Sengstacke	1933

4	Correspondence	To Carolyn Smith & Family	Unknown Date
4	Correspondence	To Elizabeth Straw	1989
4	Correspondence	To Henry L. Taylor	Unknown Date
4	Correspondence	To Joseph Willoughby	Unknown Date
4	Correspondence	To Mrs. Bert Wolfe	1914
4	Correspondence	To Unknown Recipient	Unknown Date
5	Education	Willie D. Anderson - Holt School	1934
5	Education	Linda Mae Buford - Glasgow, Kentucky School Documents	1960 - 1961
5	Education	Ezeal Carothers - Autobiography & Autograph Books	1926 - 1928
5	Education	Ezeal Carothers - Composition Book	1926 - 1928
5	Education	Ezeal Carothers - Exam Books	1926 - 1930
5	Education	Ezeal Carothers - Holt School Report Card	1918 - 1919, 1923 - 1924
5	Education	Ezeal Carothers - School Work	Unknown Date
5	Education	Ezeal Carothers - Tennessee A & I State University Catalogues	1927 - 1931
5	Education	Ezeal Carothers - Tennessee A & I State University Grade Report	1930
5	Education	Ezeal Carothers - Tennessee A & I State University Tuition	1926 - 1930
5	Education	John Eddy Carothers - 8th Grade Mid-Term Examination	1955
5	Education	John Eddy Carothers - Franklin Training Elementary - High School Report Cards	1947 - 1959
5	Education	John Eddy Carothers - Franklin Training High School Diploma	1959
5	Education	John Eddy Carothers - Franklin Training Junior Prom Invitation	1958
5	Education	John Eddy Carothers - Tennessee A & I State University Grade Report	1959 - 1960
5	Education	John Eddy Carothers - Tennessee A & I State University ID	1960 - 1961
5	Education	John Eddy Carothers - Tennessee A & I State University Registration	1959
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Autograph Books	1955 - 1958
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Franklin Training Elementary - High School Report Cards	1958
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Franklin Training High School Diploma	1947 - 1958
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Future Business Leaders of America Membership Card	1958
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Kentucky Teaching	1962 - 1964

5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Librarian / Teaching Position Inquiries	1962 - 1964
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Martha M. Brown Memorial Library Card	1960
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Member United Teaching Profession	1961 - 1962
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Shorthand Work	1957 - 1958
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Southern University & A & M College	1962
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Tennessee A & I State University Grade Report	1958 - 1961
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Tennessee A & I State University School Books & Work	1959 - 1961
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Tennessee A & I State University Student Profile Sheet	1961
5	Education	Ruby Carothers - Western Kentucky University	1963 - 1964
5	Education	Claiborne Institute / Franklin Training / Natchez High Reunion	1998
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Brentwood High School	1990
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - East High School	1960
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Franklin High School	1968, 1971
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Franklin Training School	1940, 1957 - 1959, 1961, Unknown Date
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Guthrie High School	1990
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Howard University	2000
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Langston Elementary School	1978
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Langston University	1990
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Natchez High School	1964
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Page High School	1977
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Pearl High School	1966, 1971
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - Tennessee A & I State University	1961 - 1963
5	Education	Graduation Invitation - University of Oklahoma	1984
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - Alpha Kappa Mu Certificate	1955 - 1956
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society Scholarship	1956
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - The American Society of Agronomy Certificate	1955

5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - Certificate of Training Seminars in Middle Management Langston University	1971
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - Franklin Training High School Diploma	1953
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - Langston University	1972, 1991, 1997
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - Liberty University	1997 - 1999
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - Merit Award in Christian Education Langston University	1986
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - Permanent Student Record	1964
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - TSU Honors Kinnards	1998
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - TSU Vintagers Certificate	1997
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - TSU Vintagers Certificate	2002
5	Education	Richmond Kinnard - Visiting Professor's Summary Report	1989
5	Education	Timothy Kinnard - Howard University Convocation	2000
5	Education	Pamphlet - The Junior Science Fair	Unknown Date
5	Education	Pamphlet - Stillman College	Unknown Date
5	Education	Program - Bunche	1962
5	Education	Program - Franklin Training School	1954 - 1961
5	Education	Program - Guthrie High School	1984
5	Education	Program - Howard University	2000
5	Education	Program - Liberty University	1998 - 1999
5	Education	Program - Natchez High School	1964
5	Education	Program - Tennessee A & I State University	1930, 1959 - 1962
5	Education	Program - Tennessee State University	1998
5	Education	Program - University of Oklahoma	1994
6	Family/Community History	Address Book	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Address Book - J. H. Carothers	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Bank Statement - L. V. Huffines for Mary V. Evans	1943
6	Family/Community History	Batey Family Information	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Beechville Elementary School - Richmond Kinnard	2000s

6	Family/Community History	Car Title Card - John Eddy Carothers	1955
6	Family/Community History	Car Title Card - Allen Jackson	1955
6	Family/Community History	Carothers House - Easements	2005
6	Family/Community History	Carothers House - Home Expenses	1968, 1983 - 1984
6	Family/Community History	Carothers House - Land Trust for Tennessee	1999-2001
6	Family/Community History	Carothers House - National Register for Information	1988
6	Family/Community History	Carothers House - Rezoning, Renaming, Land Use	1984 - 2003
6	Family/Community History	Carothers House - Tennessee Historical Commission	1998 - 1999
6	Family/Community History	Checks	1925 - 1957
6	Family/Community History	Codes Violations	1991 - 1993
6	Family/Community History	Draft Documents - Carothers Family Legacy	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Estate of Susie Hyde Belcher	1959 - 1960
6	Family/Community History	Estate of Vinie Sanders	1944
6	Family/Community History	Farm Record Book	1958 - 1959
6	Family/Community History	Farming - Burley Tobacco	1960s - 2000s
6	Family/Community History	Farming - Livestock	1960s - 1980s
6	Family/Community History	Farming - Nashville Pure Milk Co.	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Farming - Wheat Marketing Card	1942 - 1943
6	Family/Community History	Flags	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Bill - Katherine Hyde Howse	1961
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Fans	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Memories Book	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Memories Book - Ezeal Carothers	1998

6	Family/Community History	Funeral Memories Book - John Carothers	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Eva Mae Andrews	1997
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Chap Allen	1970
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Henry Columbus Andrews	2001
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Joseph Harold Atkinson Sr.	2002
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Tyler Baugh	1969
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Susie Hyde Belcher	1959
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Z. H. Bostic	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Albert Brooks Jr.	1976
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - George Brooks	1988
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Jewell (Sis) Brothers	2002
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Lula Cole Brown	1997
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Fulton Lee Burns	2004
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Lottie Thelma Sawyers Cantrell	1965
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Ezeal Carothers	1998
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - John H. Carothers	1980
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Rodney E. Carothers	2005
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Ron C. Carter Sr.	2002
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - James Henry Cason	2002
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - William James Cheairs	1970
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - John William Cliffe	1986
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - John William Coleman	2003
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Louise Caroline Stephens Coleman	2002

6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - John L. Copeland	1987
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Lula Hyde Copeland	1958
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Henry A. Cunningham	1983
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - James Harold Davis Sr.	1999
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Frank Dewberry	2008
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Cleveland Dobbins Jr.	2003
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Edna Hendricks Dobson	1977
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Rosa Mae Bradley Evans	2011
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Mary Lenox Frierson	1969
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Reginald Grant Garner	2004
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Clara Mai Gosey	1988
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Mattie Grayson	2003
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Theodis Guy Green	1998
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Georgia Annie Harvey	1975
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Ester Lee Hatcher	1998
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Hattie Louise Reams Henderson	1988
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Stokes Hendricks	1983
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - David Currin Hill	1968
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Katherine Howse	1961
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Reuben C. Howse Sr.	2007
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Willie Beatrice Nunley Howse	1984
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Allene Elizabeth Hunt	1976
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Richard Hyde	1959

6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Walter Jasper Jr.	1991
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Clifton Johnson	1986
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Jessie E. Johnson	1981
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Maggie Hyde Johnson	1973
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Arthur H. Kinnard Sr.	1982
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Bessie L. Kinnard	2002
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Charlie Wilson Kinnard Sr.	1972
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Era Elizabeth Smith Kinnard	1988
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Ouida Clemons Kinnard	2012
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Alma A. Lawrence	1999
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Felix (M. C.) Lawrence Jr.	2003
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Elmer Leroy Mack	2003
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Jimmie Lee McCarroll	2013
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Willie McKissack	1986
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Lorenzo (Ook) Morris	1999
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - William Henry Murry Sr.	2002
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Haywood Robinson Jr.	2004
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Jim Sawyers	1975
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - John Allen Sawyers	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Robert Edward Sawyers	1989
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Vera Burns Sawyers	1975
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Walter (Lil Bub) Sawyers	2012
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Elizabeth Scales	1971



6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Robert Knox Shelton	2003
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs -Amanda E. Sherrod	1976
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Charles Houston Smith	1988
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Minnie Lee Jackson Smith	2012
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Programs - Joseph Clyde White Sr.	2007
6	Family/Community History	Funeral Receipts - John Henry Carothers' Funeral by Ezeal Carothers	1980 - 1981
6	Family/Community History	Good Luck Charm Instructions	Unknown Date
6	Family/Community History	Hendricks/Hendrix Family Reunion	1985
6	Family/Community History	Hunting & Fishing License - John Henry Carothers	1942
6	Family/Community History	Insurance - Susie Hyde Belcher	1957
6	Family/Community History	Insurance - Carrie Carothers	1919 - 1923
7	Family/Community History	Kinnard Family Events/Information	1986-2011
7	Family/Community History	Kinnard Family History Notes	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Richmond Kinnard - \$20 Bill & Description	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Ledger	1895
7	Family/Community History	Ledger	1902
7	Family/Community History	Maps - Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee	1960s
7	Family/Community History	Maps - Interstates in the United States	1969
7	Family/Community History	Maps - Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Maps - Local Plat Lake Park Subdivision & Royal Oaks Subdivision	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Maps - Local Plat Liberty Pike to Jordan Road	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Maps - Local Plat Mineral Rights Tracts Monsanto	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Maps - Oklahoma	1963 & 1974

7	Family/Community History	Maps - Southeast Region of the United States	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Maps - TDOT	1992
7	Family/Community History	Maps - Tennessee	1950 & 1983
7	Family/Community History	Maps - Tennessee - Nashville	1970 & Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Maps - USGS	1988
7	Family/Community History	Maps - Virginia - Richmond	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Memories of the Past - Richmond Kinnard	2004
7	Family/Community History	Military - John Eddy Carothers	1963-1967
7	Family/Community History	Notebook (Pocket, Green)	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Notebook - Richmond Kinnard (Blue)	2001
7	Family/Community History	Notebooks - J. H. Carothers (2) (Black, Green)	1920s, 1944
7	Family/Community History	Operator License - Ezeal Carothers	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Operator License Renewal - John Eddy Carothers	1963
7	Family/Community History	Permanent Registration Certificate - Ruby Carothers	1962
7	Family/Community History	Permanent Registration Certificate - Viola Howse Carothers	1962
7	Family/Community History	Pledge card - Richmond E. Kinnard	1963
7	Family/Community History	Poem - Ruby Jean Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Presentation - "Can We Have It All?" by the Heritage Foundation	2000
7	Family/Community History	Program - African-American Heritage Society	2003
7	Family/Community History	Program - Thelma J. Arterbery	2001
7	Family/Community History	Program - "Bringing It Home" by Thelma Battle	2004
7	Family/Community History	Program - Verlene B. Farmer	1997
7	Family/Community History	Program - Ernest L. Holloway	2005

7	Family/Community History	Property Assessor - Logan County, Oklahoma	2009
7	Family/Community History	Real Estate - Viola Carothers' Nashville Properties	1959-2007
7	Family/Community History	Receipts	1900s
7	Family/Community History	Recipes - Black Notebook	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Recipes - Brown Notebook	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Recipes - Brown Notebook	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Recipes - Loose Recipes	1957 & Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Scrap Notes - General Handwritten Notes	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Scrap Notes - Number Calculations	Unknown Date
7	Family/Community History	Smith Family Information	2000
7	Family/Community History	Tribute - Katherine Hyde Howse	1961
7	Family/Community History	William County Road Warnings	1908-1915
8	Photos	Annie Laurie Coleman Chapel Langston University	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Beechville School Foundation	2005 / Unknown Date
8	Photos	Blue Scrapbook	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Dr. Z. H. Bostick	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Brooks Memorial Church Event	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Brooks Memorial UMC	1983
8	Photos	Carothers Family	1940s
8	Photos	Carothers Family	1959
8	Photos	Carothers Family	1971
8	Photos	Carothers Family	1972
8	Photos	Carothers Family	1973 / Unknown Date
8	Photos	Carothers Family	1974
8	Photos	Carothers Family	1980s
8	Photos	Carothers Family	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Carothers Family	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Carothers Family	Unknown Date

8	Photos	Carothers House (Black & White)	1950s / Unknown Date
8	Photos	Carothers House (Color)	1998
8	Photos	Carothers House (Color)	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Ezeal Carothers & Viola Carothers	1960s / Unknown Date
8	Photos	John Eddy Carothers	1950s - 1960s
8	Photos	Rodney Carothers	1960s - 1980s
8	Photos	Ruby Carothers (m. Ruby Kinnard)	1940s - 2000s
8	Photos	Cason	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Church Event	Unknown Date
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8	Photos	La Amber Craig	1991
8	Photos	Crutcher Family	1956
8	Photos	Bertha Dickson	1962
8	Photos	Franklin Training School Graduating Class	1958
8	Photos	Willie Hargrove & Viola Howse (m. Viola Carothers)	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Willie Hargrove's Trailer	1983
8	Photos	Dorothy Harvey & Bessie J. Green	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Howse Family	1956
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8	Photos	Huffines Farm / Family	1950s - 1970s / Unknown Date
8	Photos	Zack Ed Hyde	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Kinnard Family	1956
8	Photos	Kinnard Family	1970s
8	Photos	Kinnard Family	1970s - 1990s
8	Photos	Kinnard Family	1971
8	Photos	Kinnard Family	1980s - 1990s
8	Photos	Kinnard Family	2000s
8	Photos	Kinnard Family	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Kinnard Family	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Kinnard Family	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Kinnard Family	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Kinnard Family Pastor's Anniversary Event	1992
8	Photos	Kinnard Family Thanksgiving	1998
8	Photos	Arthur & Era Kinnard	1980 - 1981
8	Photos	Richmond E. Kinnard	1990s - 2000s
8	Photos	Richmond E. Kinnard	Unknown Date

8	Photos	Timmi Kinnard	2000s
8	Photos	Timothy Enoch Kinnard	1970s - 2000s
8	Photos	Vivian Kinnard (m. Vivian Smith)	1960s - 2000s
8	Photos	Vivian Kinnard (m. Vivian Smith)	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Lasley House	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Kevin Lee McCormick, Jr.	2001
8	Photos	Leon McKissack	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Ann Moore	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Mary Murry	1962
8	Photos	Nashville Houses	1959
8	Photos	Negatives	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Noel Family	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Parade	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Photocopies	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Postcards (Black & White)	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Postcards (Color)	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Red Photo Album (Vivian & Timothy Kinnard)	1960s - 1980s
8	Photos	Erias Allen Reynolds	2000
8	Photos	Lovell Samson Reynolds	2000
8	Photos	Rivermont Baptist Church	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Frances Smith	1981
8	Photos	Alicia Michelle Snyder	Unknown Date
8	Photos	State of Tennessee 66th General Assembly	1929
8	Photos	Tan Photo Album Photo Galaxy Christmas & Cars	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Tintypes	Unknown Date
8	Photos	TSU Event	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Unknown Family Photo	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Elene [Unknown Last Name]	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Unknown Subject (Black & White)	1950s
8	Photos	Unknown Subject (Black & White)	1960s
8	Photos	Unknown Subject (Black & White)	1970s
8	Photos	Unknown Subject (Black & White)	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Unknown Subject (Color)	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Unknown Subject (Early Photos)	Unknown Date
8	Photos	Various Subjects (Black & White)	1950s
8	Photos	Vick Family	1990s - 2000s
8	Photos	Vietnam	1960s
8	Photos	Ann Waters	1962
9	Print Materials	Booklet - "Are You in the Know?"	1956

9	Print Materials	Booklet - "The Art of Kissing"	1936
9	Print Materials	Booklet - "The Road Ahead"	1956
9	Print Materials	Booklet - "See Your Home in a New Light"	1955
9	Print Materials	Booklet - TV Schedule	1975
9	Print Materials	Catalogues - Farm Equipment Related	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Catalogues - Vernon Barnes Nursery	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Informational Material - The African-American Guide to Nashville	2009
9	Print Materials	Informational Material - Holiday Inn Guide	1968
9	Print Materials	Informational Material - Nashville Railroad	1925, 1927
9	Print Materials	Instruction Manual - Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co. "60" All Crop Harvester	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Instruction Manual - Ford Truck	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Instruction Manual - Gulf Farm Tractor Guide	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Instruction Manual - McCormick - Deering A-21 & C-21 Mowers	1948
9	Print Materials	Instruction Manual - McCormick - Deering Enclosed Gear Grain Binder	1941
9	Print Materials	Instruction Manual - McCormick - Deering Farmall-H Tractor	1940
9	Print Materials	Instruction Manual - McCormick - Deering No. 25-V Universal Tractor Mower	1949
9	Print Materials	Newspaper - "Metro/State" section of "The Tennessean" (February 21, 1993)	1993
9	Print Materials	Newspaper - "The Nashville Record" (December 1, 1959)	1959
9	Print Materials	Newspaper - "The Nashville Record" (December 8, 1959)	1959
9	Print Materials	Newspaper - "The Nashville Record" (December 22, 1959)	1959
9	Print Materials	Newspaper - "The Nashville Record" (December 29, 1959)	1959
9	Print Materials	Newspaper - "The Pittsburgh Courier" (October 12, 1935)	1935
9	Print Materials	Newspaper - "The Pittsburgh Courier" (March 28, 1936)	1936
9	Print Materials	Newspaper - "The Review-Appeal" (February 7, 1963)	1963
9	Print Materials	Newspaper - "Williamson" section of "The Nashville Tennessean" (January 12, 1969)	1969
9	Print Materials	Newspaper - "Williamson A. M." section of "The Tennessean" (October 25, 1999)	1999
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "4 Still in Running for TSU Top Post" (February 28, 1987)	1987

9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Area Land Grabs Hurt Black Property Owners" (February 9, 2001)	2001
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "At What Price Justice for Black Farmers"	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Ax Not What Your Landscape Can Do for You" (April 12, 2000)	2000
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Back to the Land" (February 21, 2000)	2000
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Black Farmers Say They've Been Cheated" (January 5, 1999)	1999
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Black Owned Farms Shrinking in Number..." (October 20, 1982)	1982
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Brentwood Drafts Law Protecting Trees" (May 24, 1999)	1999
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Building More Roads Is a Very Dumb Idea" (Unknown Date)	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Buyout Links Landowner With History" (February 6, 2001)	2001
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Can Growth & Open Space Exist?" (February 23, 2000)	2000
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "City Passes Ban on Developing Hilltops, Steep Slopes"(November 16, 2000)	2000
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "County Studies Program to Save Open Space" (March 27, 2000)	2000
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Crime Feeds Like Flies on the Growth Feast" (December 27, 2001)	2001
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Developers Have All Clout Around Here" (January 22, 1999)	1999
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Developers Have Ruined City's Neighborhoods" (May 21, 2003)	2003
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - Engagement Announcement of Earline Ryan & Jimmy A. Billingsley	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Expert Says Controlling Sprawl Necessary" (November 20, 1998)	1998
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Family's Story Is One of Triumph" (December 3, 2004)	
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Forum Seeks Remedy for Decline in Ranks of Black Landowners" (February 6, 2000)	2000
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Franklin Board Oks Buffers Around Land on Historic Register" (March 13, 1998)	1998

9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Heritage Foundation Enters 'Smart Growth' Debate" (October 5, 1999)	1999
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Historic Supporters Say Zoning Falls Short" (January 9, 1998)	1998
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Historic Zone Expansion on Hold" (December 11, 1997)	1997
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "The History of a People"	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Interstate System Near Halfway Mark"	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Landowner Assails New Historic Ordinance" (February 12, 1998)	1998
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Landowners Scramble To Save Valley" (April 22, 1999)	1999
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Land Trust Offers Chance To Save Beauty" (March 18, 1999)	1999
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Lynching Trail Leads to Stolen Land" (December 10, 2001)	2001
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - Notice to Creditors Lester V. Huffines	1977
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Outrage Blocks Taking of Land for New Schools" (February 7, 2001)	2001
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Property Tax Breaks Set for Elderly, Disabled Vets" (September 28, 1973)	1973
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Protecting Their Land" (February 11, 2002)	2002
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Quirk in Law Strips Blacks of Land" (December 11, 2001)	2001
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Retracing Tears" (March 1, 1997)	1997
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Road Work Bites Into Yards" (September 30, 1999)	1999
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Stand up for State's Trees" (August 26, 1998)	1998
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Stand up or Surrender to Developers" (April 13, 1999)	1999
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "State's Farmland on Endangered List" (March 21, 1997)	1997
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Tax Rebate Procedures Shift Planned"	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "They Stole Our Land" (December 9, 2001)	2001



9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Time for Williamson to Fight Development" (April 16, 1999)	1999
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - White House Letter (November 18, 1971)	1971
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Williamson County Will Rezone Your Property within the Next Few Months"	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Newspaper Clippings - "Williamson Elderly Get Tax Relief" (July 15, 1996)	1996
9	Print Materials	Obituaries - Dennis Allen & Charles Knight	1980
9	Print Materials	Obituaries - Mary Ella Carothers	1986
9	Print Materials	Obituaries - Jim Chrismon & Julia (Wessie) Miller	1943
9	Print Materials	Obituaries - Annie Lee Giles	1927
9	Print Materials	Obituaries - Katherine Hyde Howse	1961
9	Print Materials	Obituaries - Clester Huffines	1963
9	Print Materials	Obituaries - Rebecca Lee Mixon & Bessie Brittain	1972
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "The Bulletin" (November 1929)	1929
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Capitol City Defender" (June 26, 1963)	1963
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Capper's Farmer" (February 1960)	1960
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Coronet" (September 1957)	1957
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Ebony" (June 1954)	1954
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Ebony" (January 1956)	1956
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Ebony" (April 1965)	1965
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Ebony" (June 1965)	1965
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Ebony" (August 1965)	1965
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Ebony" (September 1965)	1965
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Ebony" (May 1968) *Cover only	1968
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "The Exchange" (March 1958)	1958
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Farm Journal" (October 1961)	1961
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Jet" (February 1965)	1965
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Look" (August 1965)	1965
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "The Meter" (April 1960)	1960
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "The Original Homes"	2003
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Our Times" (October 19, 1960)	1960
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Our Times" (November 2, 1960)	1960
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "Our Times" (November 16, 1960)	1960
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "The Panther"	1954

9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "The Spot Light" (February 1930)	1930
9	Print Materials	Periodicals - "The Wagg Word" (December 28, 1966)	1966
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - AFROTC	1957
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Air Cell Receivers	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Anderson - Wright - Brown Funeral Directors	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - BC Powder	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Brixite Sidings	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Cain-Sloan Company	1962
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Fannie Mai's Beauty Shop	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Iroquois Estates	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Kinnard Springs McArthur Sanders Real Estate	2002 - 2003
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Kinney	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - J. F. McClellan	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Milady Hat Shops	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - National Radio Institute	1932
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - F. J. Page	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Paschall's Store	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Photos by Harry Beaumont	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Publix	Unknown Date
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - ScotTowels	1968
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Joe Stockett	1938
9	Print Materials	Promotional Material - Wrigley's Double Mint Gum	1929
9	Print Materials	Yearbook- Nashville Real Estate Board Yearbook	1946
10	Objects	Hubley Cast Iron Hansom Cab Horse	Early 1900s
10	Objects	VHS Tape -Kinnard Memories of the Past Edgehill Library Nash, TN	2005
10	Objects	VHS Tape - Part I Arthur & Era Kinnard Friday Night	Unknown Date
10	Objects	Cassette Tape - Dr. Alwine Church History John Calvin	1998
10	Objects	Cassette Tape - "Loving Scars" Dr. Bill Sherman	1994
10	Objects	Cassette Tape - Musical New Hope Baptist Church	1985

1		Endowment Policy - Beulah Hudson to Lee	
1	Oversized	Giles	1925
1		Holt Grammar School Diploma - Ezeal	
1	Oversized	Carothers	1926
1		Huffines Shirt Co. Calendar	
1	Oversized		1951
1		Plat Map	
1	Oversized		Unknown Date
1		Tennessee A & I B. S. Degree - Ruby Jean	
1	Oversized	Carothers	1961
1		Tennessee A & I M. S. Degree - Richmond	
1	Oversized	Enoch Kinnard	1963

Appendix 1

# The Carothers Farm: Telling the Stories of an African American Landmark

Franklin, Tennessee



Prepared for Goldberg Companies, Inc.

Summer 2020



**Report prepared by the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University**

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## Executive Summary

Goldberg Companies, Inc. (GCI) contacted the Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in the summer of 2019 to inquire about receiving assistance regarding one of its newly acquired properties, the National Register-listed Carothers House in Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee. After phone discussions between CHP staff and Evan Vlaeminck and Ryan Linker from GCI, CHP staff visited the Carothers property in July for a reconnaissance survey of the extant resources.

After the initial property assessment, the CHP envisioned preparing a report that would include thorough documentation of the property's extant resources, assessment of the home's historic contents, and recommendations for passive interpretation in and around the house. In September 2019, representatives from the CHP and GCI, as well as Dr. Thomas Flagel from Columbia State Community College (CSCC) met to discuss a work plan to complete the report. Out of this discussion came plans for several onsite workdays to assess the contents of the home while GCI contractors cleared it in preparation for the building's eventual rehabilitation. The CHP staff and Dr. Flagel assembled a team of graduate students from the CHP and undergraduate history majors from CSCC to help complete the onsite assessment which occurred in late October 2019.

Over the next six months, CHP staff assessed collections from the property and undertook new research in both the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century history of the property that expanded the significance statement from the original nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Invaluable assistance came from Alma McLeMore, president of the African American Heritage Society of Franklin and Williamson County; Timothy Kinnard, great-grandson of John Henry Carothers; and Noble Carothers, cousin of the Carothers family, who gave insight and information into the people and events associated with the historic farm, ensuring that African American voices were always at the forefront of any recommendations for interpretation and educational programming.

The facts and insights that came out of this remarkable collaboration between developers, scholars, students, and descendants drive the recommendations of this report.

## Why the Carothers Farm Matters

Established by a descendant of people enslaved in Williamson County, the Carothers Farm reflects the truth of African American achievement, accomplishment, and placemaking even in the harsh conditions of segregation in the Jim Crow South. The story of individual initiative and achievement represented in John Henry Carothers, who worked his way up the “agricultural ladder” from renter to landowning farmer, is inspiring enough. That John Henry Carothers and his son Ezeal accomplished that and built their one-and-a-half story, limestone-clad house during the harshest years of the Great Depression of the 1930s is a powerful testament to their commitment to a better future for their family and their community.

Achieving that success and stability was not easy. Hedged in by economic limits on what an African American family could aspire to, much less own, the Carothers’ only could acquire land that most others would dismiss as marginal, and not worth the effort. Large limestone outcroppings rendered a substantial portion of the property unsuitable for row-crop farming, making it less profitable in a region still dominated by mono-agriculture and high yield livestock production. The Carothers family practiced what was then called mixed agriculture—smaller livestock production, a wide variety of labor-intensive crops, dairy products, and other farm products that could sell, like that limestone which the family used for buildings and fencing. John Henry’s off-farm work in stone masonry and homebuilding (at least three houses including his own) brought in cash, as did Ezeal Carothers’ willingness to farm the land of a white neighbor. That outside money helped to help the farm afloat in tough times.

The beauty of the limestone and the family’s masonry skills also allowed the Carothers to build what was then a modest but strikingly beautiful bungalow, covered with hand-crafted limestone paneling. The home’s craftsmanship features a remarkable stone fireplace mantel and a carefully carved water table that crowns the foundation. In a very different way than the grand columns of Franklin’s many manor houses, the Carothers house of stone was also a powerful statement house—you give us the least but we can build a place of substance, stability, and permanence. We are here, and we matter.

The preservation of the Carothers Farm presents an unprecedented opportunity to tell the place-based story of an African American family in middle Tennessee during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Using the platform of public park space to share this history will contribute to ongoing efforts that recognize the immeasurable contributions of African Americans in Williamson County history and commemorate them in an impactful and accessible way.



# A Brief History of Carothers Farm

The following history is a snapshot of people, events, and time. We recognize that any historic farm has many layers of history, and the Carothers family has generations to discuss. We don't attempt to cover everything, but instead choose to look at the middle decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century because those stories are imbedded in the house, its objects, the outbuildings, roads, paths, and fences you encounter today at Carothers Farm.

## 19<sup>th</sup> Century Roots

by Dr. Thomas Flagel, Columbia State Community College

In the 1840s, William and Martha Carothers, a member of a prominent early family of Williamson County, owned much of the area that now comprises the John Henry Carothers Farm. William died in 1850 at age 32, leaving the land to Martha and their only son James, who was 5 years old.

On the eve of the Civil War, Martha evidently did not own slaves, but many of her neighbors did – over 100 human beings in total worked in this area. The young James remained with his mother during the conflict and witnessed this area undergo enormous changes.

Williamson County endured over 200 military engagements, because the armies contested for the area's transportation routes to the Deep South, and for its wealth in food. Williamson County flourished in cattle, hog, corn, potato, and wheat production.<sup>1</sup>

In early 1863, Federal troops occupied the area, building Fort Granger and six smaller forts southwest of here, including a rapidly growing contraband camp. Fifty-two percent of Williamson County was enslaved, and the Union stronghold became a major portal for self-emancipation. Many hundreds, and likely thousands of enslaved, reached the occupation site seeking refuge, food, and work. Many continued onto Nashville, seeking yet more opportunities that were previously unimaginable.

Before the war, slave escapes were rare and usually involved young males looking for family members from whom they had been separated. During the war, the rate of escapes escalated enormously, and most involved entire families - often led by women – searching for freedom. Initially spurned by the US War Department, these families became an integral part of the Union war effort, constructing fortifications, repairing roads and rail lines, and working as cooks, launderers, and nurses. Over 300 African American males from Williamson County alone joined the Union army, some of them runaways from the Carothers households.

After the war, James Carothers married his first cousin, Martha "Pollie" Jordan, who was also from a wealthy family. Her father, Freeman Jordan, once owned 29 people. James and Pollie had three children, two of whom died young. All five are buried one mile north of here, in the Carothers Family Cemetery.

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<sup>1</sup> The definite source for this period in Williamson County history is Thomas R. Flagel, "The Fortress War: Effect of Union Fortifications in the Western Theater of the American Civil War," PhD diss., Middle Tennessee State University, 2016.

After James's death in 1878, Pollie Jordan Carothers expanded her holdings to 280 acres and continued to manage the farm, relying on paid and tenant labor from African Americans who lived nearby. The 1900 Federal Census, for instance, indicates that John Henry Carothers lived with his African American parents in a rented home next door to Pollie, her son William and daughter-in-law India in the 8<sup>th</sup> district on land near the present-day John Henry Carothers Farm.



Figure 1. From an 1878 map of Williamson County, the insert shows James and Martha Carothers's landholdings northeast of town and your approximate location. Courtesy of Williamson County Heritage Foundation.

## From Tenant Farmer to Landowner

Several branches of African American Carothers descended from people who were enslaved by various white Carothers families in Williamson County before the Civil War. The slave schedules of the 1850 and 1860 federal census indicate the slaveholding Carothers were concentrated in the 8<sup>th</sup> district. The 1878 de Beers map (Figure #) indicates landholding white Carothers remained concentrated in the 8<sup>th</sup> district with several individual Carothers owning property. The modern north-south thoroughfare Carothers Parkway

that roughly parallels Interstate-65 was named for the white Carothers families whose former land it traverses. This road currently bounds the John Henry Carothers property on its east side.

The land-labor arrangement that defined much of the South's agricultural landscape in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century saw landowning whites keep their land and continue to profit from it with the labor of formerly enslaved people and their descendants. Though specific terms varied widely, landless farmers were often hired for wage labor, or brought on to farms as sharecroppers or tenants, depending on how much labor and equipment a family could contribute to a successful farm cycle. John Henry Carothers (b:1888, d:1980) was born to Williamson County farmers Alex and Rebecca Jordan Carothers who rented the land they farmed in Civil District 8, possibly from the white Carothers family who lived next to them.<sup>2</sup>



Figure 2. Composite portrait of John Henry (left) and his father Alex (right), who was reportedly 14 years old when his photographed. Photo courtesy of Timothy Kinnard, direct descendant.

Around age 20, Carothers married Carrie Giles (b:1890, d:1946), the daughter of a local laundress and renter-farmer, in 1907.<sup>3</sup> The 1910 *Federal Census* indicates, that like many farmers, John Henry began as a “laborer” on someone else’s farm. A letter from J.T. Patton and Brother Undertakers suggests that by 1917, Carothers was no longer just a farm laborer. The letter to Carothers recalled a debt owed to Patton, who inquired whether or not Carothers could pay him in corn, suggesting he had ascended to a position where he exercised at least some extent of control over the crop he produced. Three years later the census no longer listed Carothers as a “laborer” but a “farmer” who rented the land he cultivated but did so on his own account. Graduating from a farm laborer to a renter enabled John Henry to invest in his farm operations, maintain more control over his profits, and ultimately save enough money to purchase his own land. A small notebook dated 1928 has, in addition to nonfinance-related notes and reminders, shows John Henry tracking his assets in the years leading up to the land transaction.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 1900 United States Census.

<sup>3</sup> Williamson County, Tennessee, marriage record, December 24, 1907; 1900 United States Federal Census. Carrie Giles was the daughter of Jessie Giles and Lee Scales Giles.

<sup>4</sup> 1910 United States Census lists John Henry as a laborer on a general farm; J.T. Patton to J.H. Carothers, October 30, 1917, letter found in the Carothers home; 1920 United States Census lists him as a “farmer” of a general farm who worked on his “own account.”

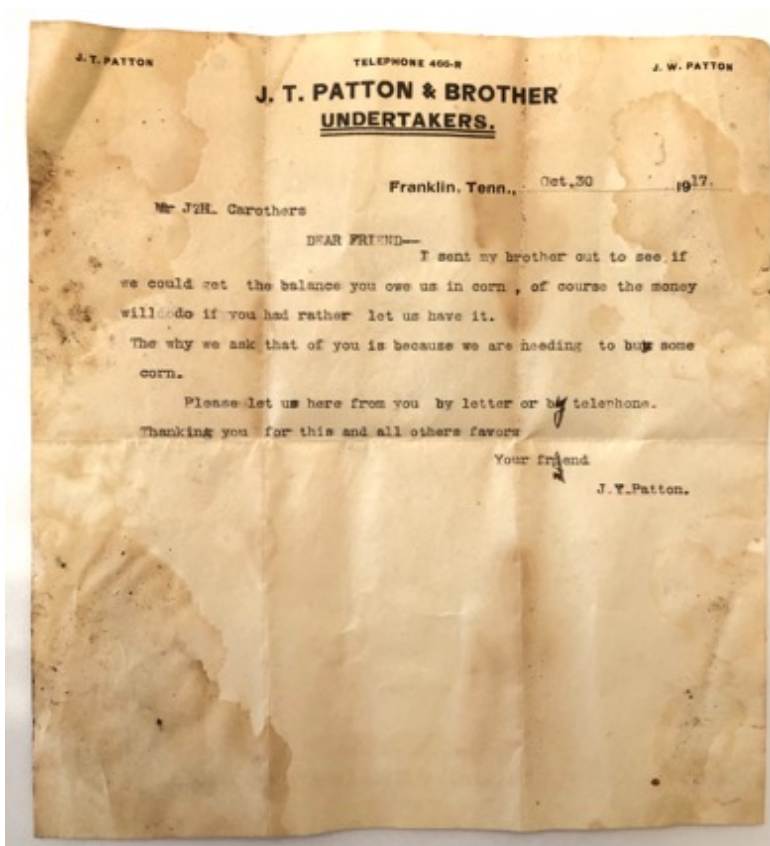


Figure 3. Letter found in the Carothers House October 2019.



Figure 4. Small notebook dated December 22, 1928, found in the Carothers House October 2019. Note the line, "do your best" on the right page.

The Carothers purchased their 26-acre tract on April 8, 1933 for \$675 from white farmers Walter and Sallie Sweeney.<sup>5</sup> John Henry Carothers appears to be the first in his direct line to own a farm. Carrie wrote to the Carothers' Aunt Beulah in Nashville the day before the land transaction, "Listen, we are about to buy us a home about three miles from Franklin now."<sup>6</sup> Carrie wrote to Beulah often but relaying their pending purchase of land underscores the significance and pride of the buying their own home.

Unless inherited from family, acquiring farm land and keeping it was difficult for southern African Americans during in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Though the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported an increase in nonwhite landownership in the South in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it noted "the increased land ownership and prosperity...were not shared by a majority of black farm operators."<sup>7</sup> Several interrelated issues worked together to keep the majority of black farmers from owning the land they worked.

The systems of sharecropping and tenant farming that brought land and labor together after the Civil War continued well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and presented several obstacles to land ownership. Though there are exceptions, the sharecropping and tenant system helped maintain landowning whites' power over rural African Americans. Lack of cash often required landless farmers to operate on credit until the crop was harvested and sold and the fluctuating agricultural market made eventual cash payments inconsistent, resulting in cyclical debt to the landowner or landlord. In addition to these issues, overt racism, dishonest landlords, and widespread illiteracy (among lower classes of both races) helped maintain the economic and social status quo. All of these obstacles were enabled and reinforced by laws that kept the vast majority of African Americans from voting to help protect their interests.

The era in which Carothers purchased his land was a decisive time for all rural Americans as the population shifted from rural areas to urban centers. Fickle agricultural markets, and the jobs and amenities available in cities such as Nashville or elsewhere in the country drew both whites and African Americans from the countryside. While the majority of Tennessee's population remained rural in 1930, the state's urban population grew by 46% between 1920 and 1930, while the rural population slid backward.<sup>8</sup> Rural Williamson County's overall population steadily declined more than 15% from 1890 to 1930. If people did stay in rural areas, some got out of farming for industrial work. The farm family of Walter and Sallie Sweeney, who sold the property to the Carothers, got out of farming in the 1939 for jobs at a saw mill and the stove foundry in Franklin before Walter moved to Detroit for work.<sup>9</sup>

While the floundering agricultural economy forced out many whites, rural blacks in Middle Tennessee were far more likely to migrate due to their increased economic vulnerability. Due to black out-migration from rural areas, the percentage of African Americans in rural Middle Tennessee dropped from 22% to 13% from

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<sup>5</sup> Deed Book 65, page 3. Williamson County Archives and Museum, Franklin, Tennessee. Though the Sweeney's were farmers it is unclear if they ever cultivated the land they sold to the Carothers family. Sources, such as an obituary from a January 28, 1954 edition of the *Nashville Banner* indicated the family farmed in the Forest Home area northwest of Franklin.

<sup>6</sup> Carrie Carothers to Beulah Hudson, April 7, 1933, letter found in the Carothers Home in October 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Rural Business Cooperative Service, United States Department of Agriculture, RBS Research Report 194, "Black Farmers in America, 1865-2002: The Pursuit of Independent Farming and the Role of Cooperatives," October 2002, 4.

<sup>8</sup> Statistics from the 1930 Agricultural Census for Tennessee. The census counted a total population of 2,616,556 in 1930 with 1,720,018, or 65.7% of it being rural.

<sup>9</sup> 1930 and 1940 United States Census.



1890 to 1930.<sup>10</sup> Many relocated to nearby southern cities such as Nashville, while others left in a movement known as the Great Migration that saw millions of African Americans leave the South entirely for other parts of the country. This out-migration to urban areas is seen with several of John Henry and Carrie Carothers relatives who moved to Nashville, Louisville, and Indianapolis.<sup>11</sup>

African American farmers who stayed in rural areas during the 1920s and 1930s faced an increasingly difficult economic landscape, as black tenancy rates reached 77% in Tennessee near the Great Depression.<sup>12</sup> The USDA counted 3,005 farms in Williamson County in 1930. Of these, 394 or 13% were managed by African Americans. Of these 394 farmers, about 37% (146) were full owners and another 13% (51) were “part owners” meaning they owned only a portion of the land they farmed. The other 50% of black farm operators in Williamson County were working under some form of tenancy on land they did not own. This is compared to 63% of white farm operators who owned at least a portion of the land they farmed.<sup>13</sup> These numbers do not include the hundreds of African Americans and whites classified as “farm laborers” who worked on farms for wages but were not responsible for the overall operation.

The census evidence indicates that though the Carothers family lived in an area of the state where black land ownership was slightly more common, the purchase of the farm in 1933 indicates the family’s ability to resist layered methods of oppression aimed at black farmers, while also navigating the indiscriminate challenges of agriculture. Owning land offered African Americans farmers like the Carothers real economic advantage and symbolized a level of autonomy and control denied to the vast majority of black farmers in Tennessee. Landownership offered an unparalleled level of stability. Many landless farmers moved around, whether from region to region or farm to farm within the same county, in search of better terms or to escape a dishonest or difficult landlord. And there was always a chance that a landlord would sell the land, resulting in an uncertain future for tenants. Ownership helped eliminate such worries and allowed a farmer to build on the improvements made on his land year after year. Further and perhaps most importantly, farmers who owned the land they worked had control over their labor and that of their family members. And, though the market certainly influences what is grown, Carothers could choose what to cultivate on his land and how to use the land’s resources to his family’s advantage.

Of the 26 acres John Henry and Carrie Carothers purchased, a little more than half of it was farmable. Limestone outcroppings riddle the thin soil of the other half which is mostly cedar forest and reaches a knob at the northcentral section of the property. Typically, the African American farmer would only be able to purchase the least quality land in an area, often with undesirable components.<sup>14</sup> In an area such as Williamson County, where agriculture was still a large part of the economy, a limestone cedar forest where little could be grown was much less valuable. To make ends meet the Carothers also farmed land located across the road owned by white Nashville businessman Lester Huffines (the namesake for the road the

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<sup>10</sup> Louis M. Kyriakouides, “Country comes to town: Rural Migration to Nashville, Tennessee, 1890-1930,” PhD diss., Vanderbilt University, 1997, 133-134.

<sup>11</sup> Letters found in the home in October 2019 indicate John Henry and Carrie were in contact with relatives in these cities.

<sup>12</sup> Lester Lamon, *Blacks in Tennessee, 1791-1970* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981), 88.

<sup>13</sup> Statistics from the 1930 Agricultural Census, Williamson County, Tennessee.

<sup>14</sup> Victor Perlo, *The Negro in Southern Agriculture* (New York: International Publishers, 1953), 27-30. Marshall Harris from the US Department of Agriculture at the time noted the statistics are “an indication that many colored farmers who have climbed the ladder to ownership have done so at the expense of locating on poor land in out-of-the-way places.” Perlo concludes with his general conclusion: “the best land, owned by the white plantation landlords; medium quality, by the white ‘independent’ farmers; and the worst, marginal land, by the Negro farmers.”

Carothers property is located on, Huffines Ridge Drive).<sup>15</sup> Because the Carothers farmed rented property in addition to the land they owned, they were categorized by the USDA as “part owners.” Despite not owning all of the land they farmed, their acreage enabled the family to raise much of their own food, grow tobacco, own the place they lived, and the limestone resources on the property provided material for their home.<sup>16</sup>

### John Henry and Ezeal Carothers as Homebuilders-Craftsmen

John Henry and his son Ezeal Carothers quarried limestone from their land to build the Carothers House, fences, foundations and two other local homes.<sup>17</sup> When the Carothers first purchased the property, they farmed the land and built a livestock barn while living in a frame house located nearby, possibly on Split Log Road.<sup>18</sup>

In 1937, John Henry and his son Ezeal constructed the home based on a house plan John Henry purchased. Assisting the Carothers was Charles B. Barnes, a white farmer and carpenter who lived two doors down from the Carothers family on Split Log Road. The particular plans on which the house was based have not been located but in a small notebook, John Henry sketched a floorplan that resembles the layout of the Carothers House.<sup>19</sup>

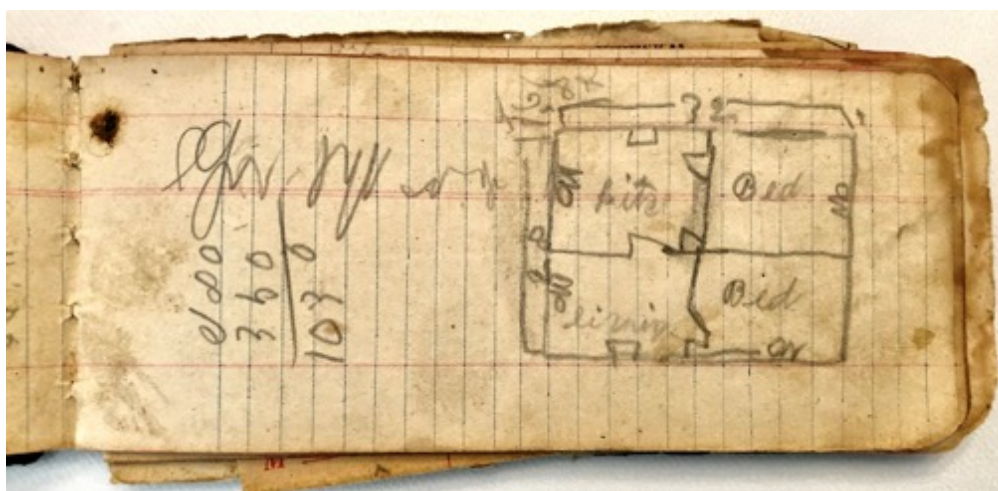


Figure 5. While John Henry's sketch does not exactly match the floorplan of the Carothers House, the arrangement of four similarly-sized rooms adjacent to one another resembles the home's interior arrangement. This sketch could also be in reference to one of the two other homes John Henry built in Franklin. Same small notebook pictured previously dated December 22, 1928, found in Carothers House October 2019.

<sup>15</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination form, John Henry Carothers House, Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee, listed 1989.

<sup>16</sup> 1930 Agricultural Census, Williamson County, Tennessee.

<sup>17</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination form, John Henry Carothers House.

<sup>18</sup> The 1930 United States Census found John Henry, Carrie, and their son Ezeal living on Split Log Road along with John's father Alex and a nephew.

<sup>19</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination form, John Henry Carothers House; United States Census records from 1900, 1910, and 1920 lists Barnes as a farmer. The 1920 census also showed the Barnes family living very close to the Carothers on Split Log Road. The 1930 census is the only one that lists Barnes as a carpenter. The 1940 census lists him as “superintendent overseer” at the “home for the aged and paupers” on Boyd Mill Road.

The ashlar cut stone foundation is crowned by a stone watertable. A hallmark of African American buildings, though less common on houses, a foundation stone has the "1937" construction date engraved on it. The exterior walls above the watertable are made of irregularly-laid smooth cut stone. A large stone in the foundation has "1937" engraved on it. Each window has a stone sill. The front door is located under the front porch that nearly covers the entire width of the façade. The door frame has a bullseye at each top corner with a turned horizontal piece in the middle. The porch ceiling is beadboard and the roof is held up with four simple, square wood posts.



*Figure 6. Foundation stone on south elevation*



*Figure 7. Door trim above entrance door*

The back door is located in the home's east elevation and leads from the kitchen to the back porch. The Carothers added the porch in 1947. It originally covered much of the width of the east elevation. The southern half of it was taken up by a 1984 shed roof bathroom and utility room addition to southeast corner of the house.

Each of the windows has a stone sill. There is a chimney made of stone located in the middle of the roof's west field with shed-style dormer windows on either side that light the half story loft. Located near the northeast corner of the roof is a brick chimney that originally served a kitchen stove.



A one-and-a-half story home, the bottom floor originally had four rooms, as suggested in the Carother's notebook sketch. The wall dividing the front two rooms has a double fireplace, with a stone mantle and tile hearth on one side and a simply-carved wooden mantle on the other. The stone mantle and tile hearth are significant interior features that are original to the home and convey a high level of craftsmanship. While the wooden mantle may have been added during the house's construction in 1937, it appears to have been built for a different fireplace and was likely moved from elsewhere into the Carothers house.



Figures 8 and 9. Limestone mantle with brackets and tile hearth (left), wooden mantle (right)

The original wood floors remain and the ceiling and walls are clad in original beadboard. In some spaces, wallpaper covers the beadboard. In other spaces such as the kitchen, the beadboard is painted. In the northern half of the loft, the beadboard walls and ceilings are bare. There is a trap door in the corner of the original southeastern room that leads to a small shallow, unfinished cellar area below the house. When the Carothers first built the house in the 1930s, this space was likely used for food storage but appears to have since been used to store discarded items.



Figure 10. The trap door covered in linoleum and found under a refrigerator during the onsite workdays in October 2019



Figure 11. The trap door led to a space likely first used as a cellar, then an area for discarded items

A boxed staircase leads from the kitchen to the half story loft, which is itself divided into two spaces and clad with beadboard. As many historic buildings do, the Carothers house changed over time to accommodate the evolving needs of the family. More information about these changes is located in the conditions assessment and outbuilding inventory of this report.

A series of dry-stack limestone walls is also located on the property. The National Register nomination indicates one of these rock walls forms the property's northern boundary that predates the Carothers Home by "several years."<sup>20</sup> It is unclear how many of the other rock walls located in and around the property were built by the Carothers but it is likely they erected the ones closest to the house and their cultivated fields. For example, there are rock wall ruins that begin roughly where the driveway begins on Huffines Ridge Drive and runs east, dividing the house tract from the cultivated portion of the property located to the south.



Figure 12. Rock wall bordering the cultivated land located to the left (south). Tobacco barn is visible near the left of the frame. Photograph taken December 2019.

<sup>20</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination form, John Henry Carothers House.

The National Register of Historic Places in 1989 recognized the Carothers home as an important vernacular house but it stops short of considering the significance of John Henry and Ezeal as farmers who were also homebuilders-craftsmen. Though there is no evidence that either man considered stone work and homebuilding a primary occupation, placing the Carothers house within the long tradition of African American stonemasonry lends it an additional layer of significance as it helps illuminate the often-disregarded array of talent present within historic African American communities.

Academics and museums often document the prevalence of free and enslaved African American craftspeople and builders, including stone masons, in the pre-Civil War South. They realize that an enslaved person with these skills sometimes gained increased autonomy, the potential to make one's own money, and even buy one's freedom. For a free black person, these skills offered income and a degree of control over one's work. These studies are important but much of the focus remains on those individuals from the pre-Civil War period.<sup>21</sup> The preservation of the Carothers house within a public park presents a rare opportunity to showcase an African American family's 20<sup>th</sup> century execution of stone masonry and how, similar to their forebears, they used these skills to navigate the particular challenges of the Jim Crow era with dignity and some extent of control over their lives.

Neither John Henry nor Ezeal were of the nine African American house carpenters and eight stone masons counted in Williamson County for the 1930 *Federal Census*, nor were they listed as such in the 1940 *Census*.<sup>22</sup> They were farmers first, but their skills as builders meant that John Henry and Ezeal constructed a well-crafted, middle-class stone bungalow that suggested permanence and spoke to the family's upward mobility. Research into local records, census information, and family documents as well as conversations with family members did not indicate where John Henry and Ezeal learned or acquired an interest in stone quarrying and homebuilding.<sup>23</sup> Ezeal even occasionally found work in homebuilding to supplement farming while his father built two other stone homes in Franklin.<sup>24</sup> During a time in which the majority of black families rented their homes, and thus were dependent on predominantly white landlords, building a house conveyed the extent to which John Henry could provide for his family and serve his community, independent of white control, with much of his own material and labor. Their skills as homebuilders-craftsmen allowed them to take the farm's limestone outcroppings and create even more economic opportunity.

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<sup>21</sup> Perhaps two of the most iconic products of early African American stone masonry labor in Tennessee are the State Capitol building and Fort Negley. Susan Knowles, "Of Structure and Society: Tennessee Marble in Civic Architecture," Middle Tennessee State University, PhD diss., 2011; Lovett, Bobby L. "Nashville's Fort Negley: A Symbol of Blacks' Involvement with the Union Army." *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 41, no. 1 (1982): 3–22;

<sup>22</sup> These numbers result from a district-by-district study of the 1930 *Federal Census* of Williamson County, Tennessee. African American carpenters listed include Tom Sowell, John Davis, Jack McEwen, Frank Robison, Tyler Jordan, Wesley Partee, Dock Thomas, Forrest Scruggs, Jr., and John Jobe. African Americans identified as stone masons include Clarence Hodge, Arthur Hodge, Courtney Hodge, Bub Scruggs, Jim Moore, Sam Boyd, Frank North, and Robert Hunt.

<sup>23</sup> Available *Census* records (1940 and older), information available at the Williamson County archives, and papers found in the house do not shed light on whether the Carothers had any prior training working with stone before the construction of the house. Noble Carothers (cousin of Carothers family) of Franklin, Tennessee, and Timothy Kinnard (great-grandson of John Henry) of Oklahoma were not aware of any prior stone quarrying or masonry work. Kinnard remembered hearing his grandfather Ezeal was strong and could move large rocks around well.

<sup>24</sup> Timothy Kinnard, personal communication, April 22, 2020, to Savannah Grandey. Kinnard mentioned Ezeal "used to do a bit of work" with realtor John Noel.

## The Carothers Farm

The John Henry Carothers House is one of a handful of historic Tennessee African American farms listed in the National Register of Historic Places. As is true for many historic farmhouses, multiple generations lived on the Carothers Farm. At some point after the passing of John Henry's wife Carrie in 1948, their son Ezeal and his wife Viola (Howse) and children moved in with John Henry. In addition to helping his father on the Carothers farm, Ezeal farmed land across the road from the Carothers Farm. With John Henry's passing in 1980, Ezeal inherited the property at age 72.

Agriculture-related records found in the house suggest when farming operations ceased on the property. Soil test paperwork indicate Ezeal continued to improve his pasture into the mid-1980s. Other records imply he began leasing his allotted burley tobacco quota around the same time and breeding receipts show he maintained a cattle herd until at least the early 1990s. Ezeal and Viola continued to live on the property until Ezeal's death in 1998 and were the last Carothers to farm the land. Ezeal and Viola's daughter Ruby and husband Richmond Kinnard lived in the house until at least the mid-2010s.

The Carothers Farm, its buildings, and artifacts tell the story of a 20<sup>th</sup> century farm that evolved from an animal-powered operation in the midst of the Great Depression into the mechanized and electrified modern era. This shift contributed to and coincided with record numbers of people leaving agriculture during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Due to the agriculture programs of the New Deal which overwhelmingly favored white farmers, the decreased need for labor, and the continued discrimination against blacks by the USDA, black farmers quit or were pushed out at a higher rate than whites. The 1960s saw the number of black farms in the South decline by 88%, compared to a 58% decline in white farms. Not only were John Henry and Carrie able to start their own farm during the Great Depression, it was within this environment of a decline in the number of farms generally, and the precipitous decrease of black farms specifically, that they improved their operation with investments in technology and infrastructure.<sup>25</sup>

Like the vast majority of farm families in the 1930s, the Carothers still relied on animals to provide the power for work and transportation when they first began farming. The need to shelter draft animals and cattle was likely the reason a stock barn was the only building the Carothers erected on the property the year they purchased it. This early, pre-mechanized phase of the Carothers Farm is further evidenced by the walking plow, carriage, and numerous shoes for horses and mules found during site investigations. Though it is unclear what crops the Carothers first grew on their 14 acres of farmable land, corn and hay were staple crops that would have provided sustenance for their animals.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> RBCS, "Black Farmers in America," 8; Pete Daniel, *Dispossession: Discrimination Against African American Farmers in the Age of the Civil Rights* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013), xi.

<sup>26</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination form, John Henry Carothers House.





*Figure 13. Walking plow found at Carothers House October 2019*

When the Carothers moved into their new home in 1937, they added several smaller buildings to outfit their farm. As indoor plumbing was not yet common in rural areas, they built a privy a short distance north of the home. The same year, the Carothers erected a tool shed, the north wall of which is supported by a large limestone outcropping. Behind the shed, the Carothers moved a c.1930 board-and-batten smokehouse from an unknown location and built a shed roof addition onto it to house their carriage. Used most often to cure pork, smokehouses were common on farms as they contributed to a family's ability to process a commonly consumed meat. A photograph from 1959 shows the smokehouse-shed building, and near it a wood frame with a hoist mechanism often used to bleed and dress hogs.<sup>27</sup>



*Figure 14. 1959 image of the smokehouse and attached shed. Notice the hoist frame for hog skinning near the building. Photograph found in the Carothers House October 2019.*

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<sup>27</sup> Ibid. Dates of buildings are taken from the NRHP documentation.

It is not known for how long or to what extent the Carothers used the smokehouse to cure meat. Like many smokehouses still standing on farms today, the building eventually became additional storage and is a relic of the common foodway tradition of smoking meat on the farm. The building's relocation and modification exemplify the resourcefulness of the Carothers family as they were making their home on the property in 1937. The chicken house, another common sight on early 20<sup>th</sup> century farms, was also built in 1937 behind the smokehouse-shed where it was close enough to the Carothers' home for Carrie, and later Viola (Ezeal's wife) to have convenient access for the collection of eggs. The Carothers also put in a large kitchen garden which was tended to by the Carothers women who canned many of the vegetables grown there.

These buildings and features corroborate the National Register documentation that categorize the Carothers Farm as a largely subsistence operation with chickens, cows, kitchen garden, and hay. It was likely the subsistence nature of the farm that led John Henry to become involved in non-farm work, such as the homebuilding mentioned previously, for additional income.<sup>28</sup> Despite the relatively small size of the farm, agricultural technology developed to enable even small farmers to mechanize their operations. Soon after John Henry and Carrie moved to the farm, they grew wheat for the market with some of the most modern equipment available to them.

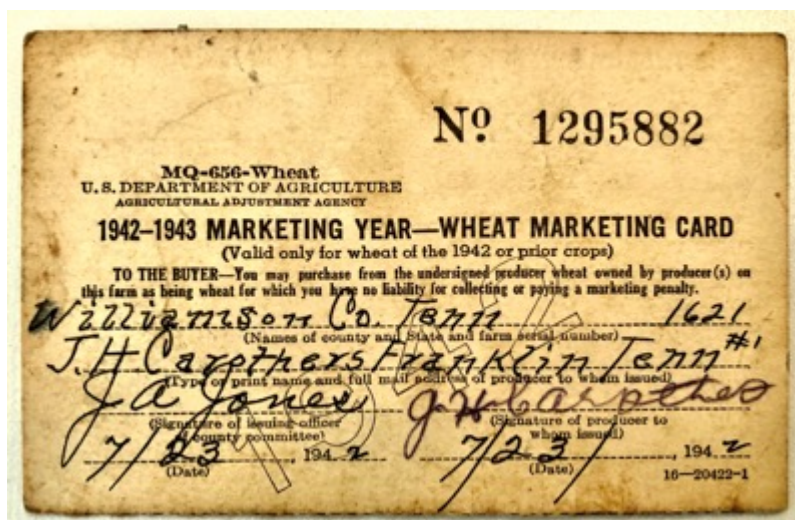


Figure 15. John Henry's wheat marketing card from 1942-1943. Found in the Carothers House October 2019.

Evidence found in the house suggest the Carothers purchased a 1940 McCormick-Deering tractor and a 1941 grain binder from the same company. A manual for an Allis-Chalmers "60" All Crop Harvester was also found in the Carothers House. Manufactured from the 1940s to the 1960s, these particular Allis-Chalmers tow-behind combines were specially-designed for small farm operations such as the Carothers' because they could be pulled by a small tractor, were easy to operate, and provided flexibility as they could harvest a variety of small grains including wheat and soil improvement crops such as legumes.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>28</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination form, John Henry Carothers House.

<sup>29</sup> Jonathan Whitlam, *The Combine Harvester* (Gloucestershire, UK: Amberley Publishing, 2018); Allis-Chalmers Tractor Division, "It Pays to Own an All-Crop Harvester: New and Improved Model '60,'" n.d. found in Carothers House.



Figures 16 and 17. Manuals found in the Carothers House October 2019

At some point around the passing of Carrie Carothers in 1948, Ezeal, his wife Viola, and children Ruby and John moved in with John Henry to help him run the farm. Shortly after, the family shifted to growing burley tobacco and in 1950 they completed a barn to air cure it. Until the 1920s, burley was mostly limited to farms in East Tennessee until demand and agricultural diversification urged by extension agents pushed it into Middle Tennessee. Agricultural census records show a steady increase in the number of acres Williamson County farmers planted in tobacco, with the Carothers being part of that trend.<sup>30</sup> Though the Carothers produced wheat and then tobacco for the market and dealt to some extent in livestock, like many African American landowners, the size and overall quality of their farm prohibited the family from large scale, commercial farming, making outside employment necessary.



Figure 18. Bound tobacco leaves found in the Carothers House October 2019

<sup>30</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination form, John Henry Carothers House; Murray Miles, "Tobacco," Tennessee Encyclopedia online, accessed February 22, 2020; 1930 Agricultural Census; 1940 Agricultural Census; 1950 Agricultural Census. Statistics from Williamson County show an increase from 2,041 acres planted in tobacco in 1930 to nearly 3,000 in 1950. The 1950 records are the first to categorize tobacco by type and indicate all but 3 of the 2,833 acres planted in tobacco in Williamson county were burley.



Though it is unclear exactly when he began, by the time of his mother's death Ezeal worked for Nashville businessman Lester Huffines on land located just across the road from the Carothers Farm. John Henry also worked for Huffines, though to a lesser extent, as did John Eddie, Ezeal's son. The Carothers men worked for Huffines until at least the 1970s. Farming others' land, despite owning their own, as well as using their masonry and homebuilding skills as an occasional supplement, provided necessary cash income to the family.<sup>31</sup> Maintaining such outside employment enabled many small black farms to survive. Ezeal and his daughter said as much when they petitioned the Tennessee Historical Commission to consider its significance, explaining, "Blacks owned small family farms [and] hired their labor to whites."<sup>32</sup>



Figure 19. Undated image of the Huffines farm where Ezeal worked. Photograph found in the Carothers House October 2019.

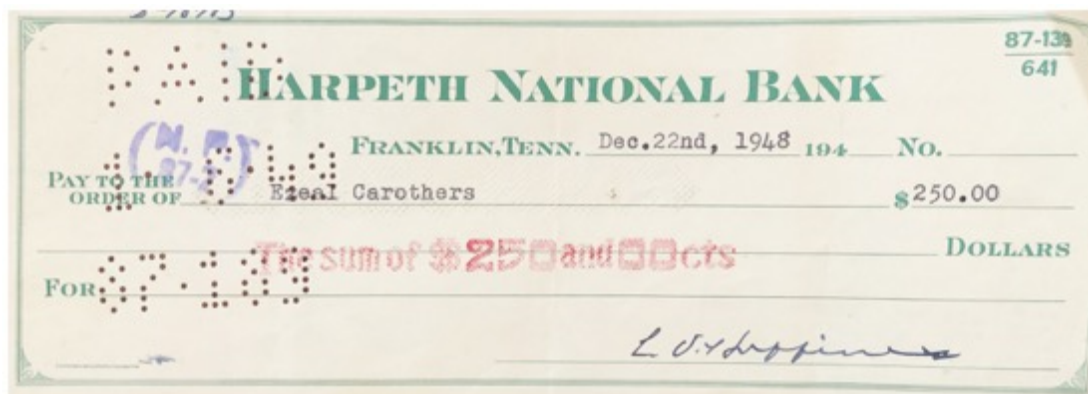


Figure 20. Payment from Lester Huffines to Ezeal for work on Huffines's farm. Found in the Carothers House October 2019.

<sup>31</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination form, John Henry Carothers House.

<sup>32</sup> National Register Information Form, compiled by Ruby Kinnard and Ezeal Carothers, 1988.



In 1953, soon after the family started growing tobacco, they added electricity to the house, making the family's wood stove (found in the loft) and ice chest (found in one of the outbuildings) obsolete. The last auxiliary building added to the farm was a single car garage constructed c.1958 behind the chicken house. After John Henry passed in 1980, his son Ezeal inherited the property. Records from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service suggest Ezeal began leasing the family's tobacco production quota to other local farmers shortly after.



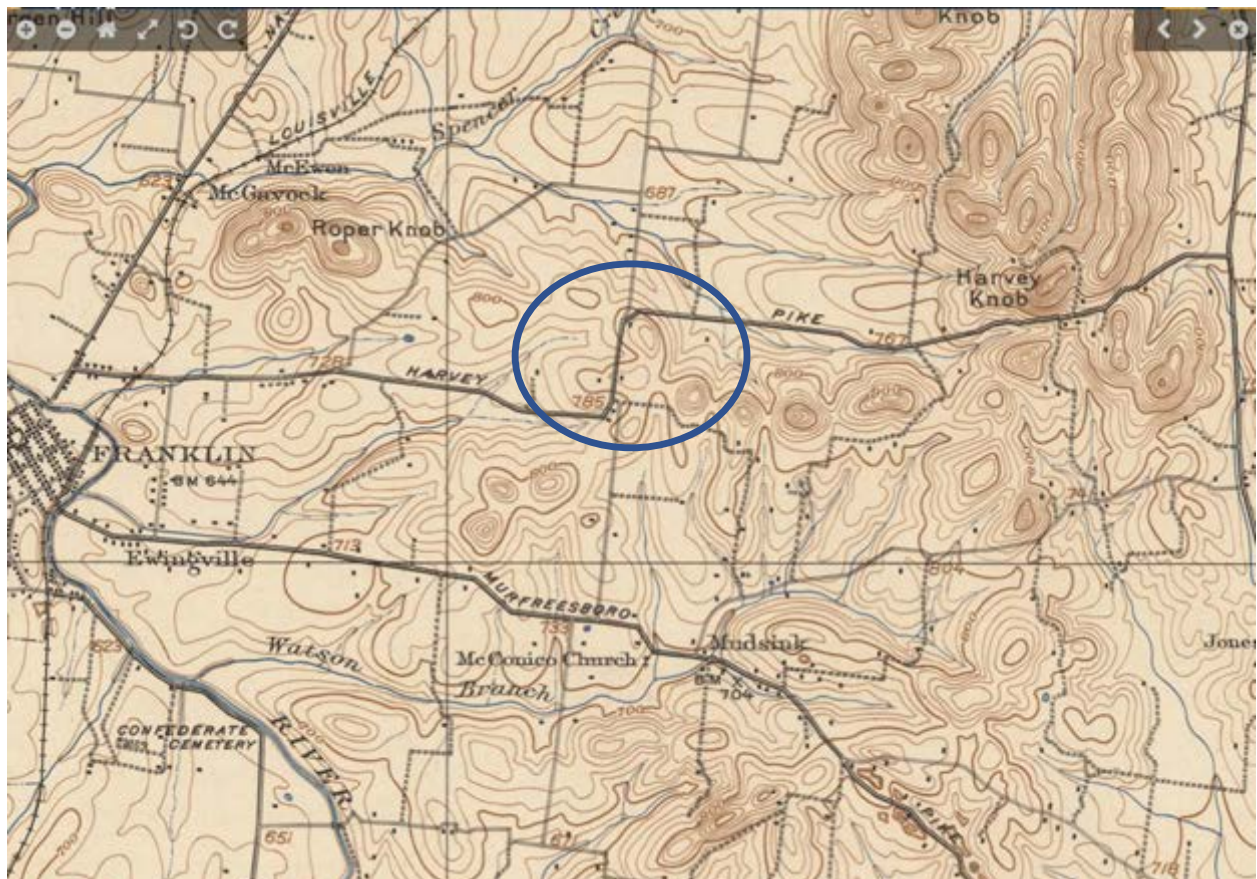
*Figure 21. Ice chest found in the house October 2019*

The last major change to the property came in 1984 with the addition of indoor plumbing to the house by enclosing approximately half of the back porch. The Carothers family, like others whose lives spanned much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, saw substantial change in their lives on the farm. The juxtaposition of the c.1958 car garage and the carriage shelter attached to the smokehouse illustrate such change, just as the walking plow and tractor found in the barn represent mechanization of farm operations. While change was occurring within the farm, the land and built environment around the farm evolved to accommodate a larger regional population, the amenities that accompany such growth, and more sophisticated transportation infrastructure.

## A Witness to Change: Development near the Carothers Farm in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century

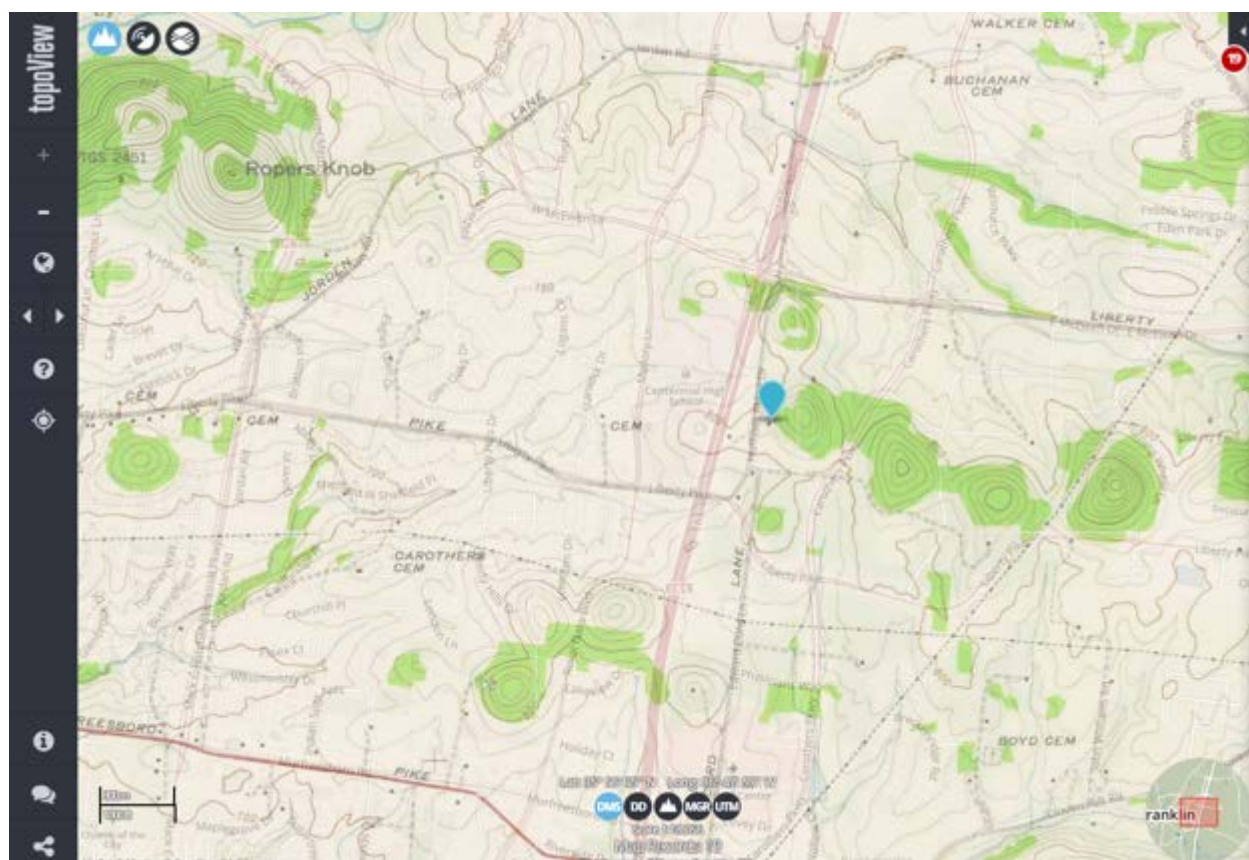
As an 85-year old farm just 20 miles south of the Nashville Metropolitan Area, the Carothers Farm witnessed the type of growth and development that has transformed Middle Tennessee throughout the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The growth of Franklin, and later Cool Springs, drastically reshaped the landscape around the farm, altering the viewsheds from the property. The Carothers were certainly well aware of these changes and the potential effects to their property, evidenced by numerous newspaper clippings the family saved regarding development of rural areas generally and Franklin specifically. It was this concern, paired with a keen awareness of the place's historical significance, that moved Ezeal to pursue federal recognition of the property in the National Register of Historic Places in the late 1980s.

Tracing the changes of the farm's address from the time the Carothers purchased the land in 1933 reveals modifications to the road systems and traffic patterns surrounding the property. Through the 1950s, the address for the farm was Rural Route 1. This road, now the dead-end Huffines Ridge Drive, connected the old Liberty Pike. In 1966, the farm's address changed to Route 1 Liberty Pike, reflecting this connection. The address changed three more times, from Route 5 to Route 9 to Route 10, in the 1970s. The maps below indicate the location of the farm's road and its relationship to the system around it in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

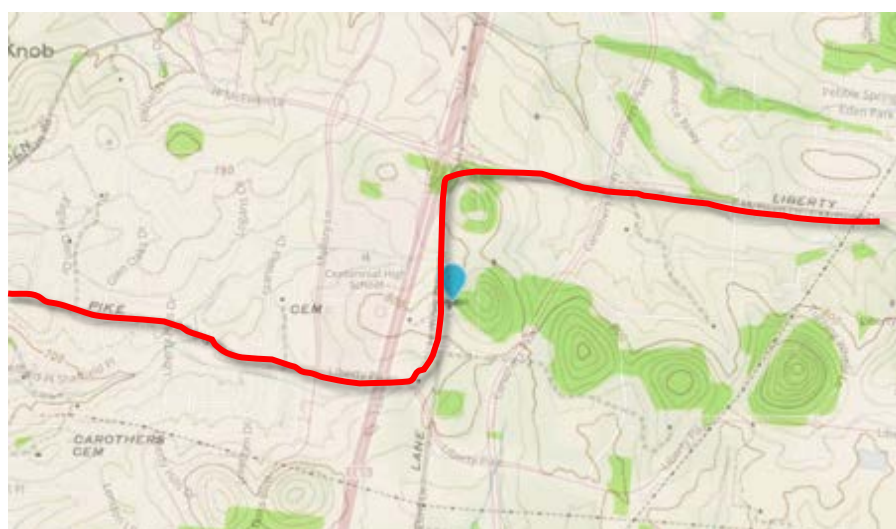


Map 1. 1944 USGS Topographic Map





Map 2. 1949 USGS Topographic Map overlaid with Google Maps



Detail of Map 2. Liberty Pike highlighted in red.

One of the biggest changes to the built environment surrounding the Carothers property occurred with the introduction of the interstate highway system. Throughout the 1960s, Tennessee worked on the construction of over one thousand miles of interstates. In January 1961, the state announced plans for interstate construction at the Williamson and Maury Counties.<sup>33</sup> By 1964, the stretch of Interstate 65 that passed the Carothers Farm just a half mile to its west was completed. Tracing the progress of the superhighway, the Carothers family clipped a 1966 *Tennessean* newspaper article titled, "Interstate System Nears Halfway Mark."

By 1983, the "Route" portion of the address dropped completely, leaving Liberty Pike as the road name. It was during this decade that Williamson County began several changes to land use policy and street interchanges. Anticipating the potential effects on their family's property, Ezeal Carothers and his daughter Ruby Kinnard approached the Tennessee Historical Commission about placing the property on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In January 1988, Ruby sent her father a letter to let him know she had sent in the forms for consideration.<sup>34</sup> On the form, the family explained that their property held significance in Williamson County because "it is the last remaining acreage of its kind in an area where Blacks owned small family farms [and] hired their labor to whites. The property was purchased fifty-five years ago in 1933, and has remained in the same family."<sup>35</sup>

Their initiative to preserve the property was quick and well-informed. The general age rule for consideration as a significant historic place by the federal government is 50 years. The informative documents about the National Register found in the house indicate Ezeal and his family were aware of this rule and waited not long after the farm surpassed this milestone to pursue recognition. Although the NRHP is largely honorific and provides only a layer of protection from federal interference, the Carothers' foresight, along with Goldberg Companies, Inc.'s desire to help preserve a federally-recognized historic building some 30 years later, will ultimately result in the preservation and adaptive reuse of their family home.

A year later, in August 1989, the Franklin Planning Department circulated a notice to property owners along Liberty Pike, east of Hatcher Parkway. The Carothers House no longer had the address Route 10, Liberty Pike. Their new address became 1343 Liberty Pike. At the time of the address change in 1989, over thirty properties were along this section of the old Liberty Pike.<sup>36</sup> The multiple changes of address correlate with road construction in the surrounding area throughout the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1989 a major new development broke ground in Franklin. The Cool Springs Galleria was announced as a 1.4 million square foot mall on the west side of Interstate 65, approximately four miles northwest of the Carothers Houses. *The Tennessean* noted access to the new mall would "rely on a revamped Moores Lane interchange."<sup>37</sup> With the mall came even more development along Moores Lane, Cool Springs Boulevard, Carothers Parkway, and McEwen Drive. While the 1980s development was north of the Carothers property, the sprawling mall and accompanying restaurant and businesses slowly moved south along Carothers Parkway toward the property.

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<sup>33</sup> "Super Highway Here Reviewed," *The Tennessean*, January 26, 1961, 16.

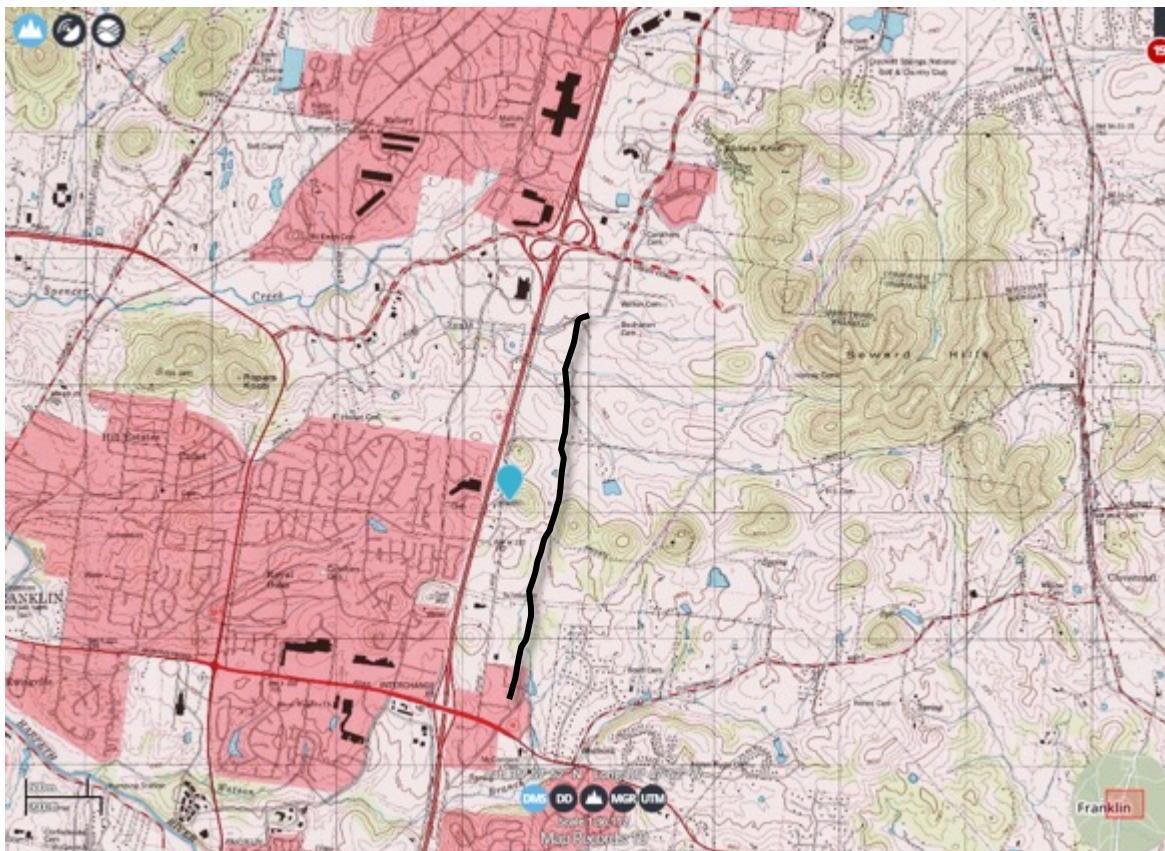
<sup>34</sup> Letter to Ezeal Carothers from Ruby Kinnard, January 9, 1988.

<sup>35</sup> National Register Information Form, compiled by Ruby Kinnard and Ezeal Carothers, 1988.

<sup>36</sup> Franklin Planning Department, Notice of Addresses Assigned by Franklin Planning Department on Liberty Pike (East of Hatcher Parkway)," August 7, 1989.

<sup>37</sup> Jim East, "Mall Development, Interchange Work Separate Projects," *The Tennessean*, April 9, 1989, 7-H.

Yet another change occurred in 1996. The City of Franklin began the public hearing process of the North Carothers Parkway Project, which would see Carothers Parkway extended to State Highway 96. A notice was sent to the Carothers family to attend the public hearing on November 21, 1996.<sup>38</sup> In 1996, Centennial High School was constructed across Interstate 65 from the Carothers House.<sup>39</sup> Centennial High School was built in the same decade as Franklin's largest population boom. Between 1990 and 2000, the city's population increased at a rate of 8.42% per year.<sup>40</sup> This growth is also reflected in the increase in development across the city during the decade. The view from the front of the house changed to reflect the rapid development in this part of Franklin. Both the interstate and now a new school campus could be seen from the Carothers' mailbox in front of their home.



Map 3: 1997 USGS Topographic Map, line denoting the connection of Carothers Parkway (black) in relation to the Carothers House (blue).

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Carothers property received the Huffines Ridge address and became 1343 Huffines Ridge Drive due to further improvements to Liberty Pike. Sullivan Engineering Company, Inc. (SEI) received the contract for the roadway improvement project and sent a letter and questionnaire to residents within 650 feet of the proposed intersection of Liberty Pike and Carothers Parkway, within which the Carothers House falls. SEI requested information such as property owner contacts, number of wells, septic

<sup>38</sup> Letter to J.H. Carothers from City of Franklin, November 8, 1996.

<sup>39</sup> Catherine Trevison, "Centennial Aims at 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education," *The Tennessean*, January 10, 1996 T3F.

<sup>40</sup> U.S. Census, "Places: 1990 and 1999 Populations, with numeric and percent population change," <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/cities/totals/1990s/tables/SU-99-05.txt>.



tanks, graves, and high water marks. This work on Liberty Pike transformed the corridor and cut off the road the Carothers Farm is on, making it a dead-end road.<sup>41</sup>

In 2002, a section of the old Liberty Pike was renamed McEwen Drive. The City of Franklin wanted a new interchange off Interstate 65 to extend Liberty to Centennial High School, which stood in the view shed of the Carothers' property since 1996.<sup>42</sup> The stretch of the old Liberty Pike which connected the two segments, and on which the Carothers Farm stood had to be renamed. John Henry's granddaughter Ruby Kinnard, who was living at the house at the time, protested the name change. She stated that her family had lived on Liberty for generations and did not understand why they had to give up their street name.

Ruby jotted notes about why she opposed the change on a notice circulated by the City of Franklin regarding a public meeting. She wrote, "Most of the residents of Liberty Pike are elderly people above the age of 50 and the older you are the harder it is to adjust to change. Why should we have to change our street name? Why is [it that] the new road cannot receive the new name? I received correspondence from many states. How did you come up with the name McEwen?"<sup>43</sup> Similarly, Richmond, Ruby's husband, also took notes to express his opposition to the road name change. He listed five reasons: it would disrupt the orderly flow of mail, it would require everyone living along the road to contact everyone they correspond with, loss of mail, difficult in finding new address, and the 911 system would need revision.<sup>44</sup> McEwen Drive became a new interchange off of Interstate 65 in November 2002 and the road on which the Carothers Farm is on was renamed Huffines Ridge Drive after the Huffines Hereford Farm on which Ezeal worked for decades.<sup>45</sup>

The property's viewshed continued to evolve. In the late 2000s work moved ahead on the construction of an eleven-story luxury hotel, Drury Plaza, as part of the nearly fourteen-acre Spring Creek Centre development behind Centennial High School. In addition, the development was set to include 50,000 square feet of office and retail space.<sup>46</sup> Construction of the hotel began in September 2010.<sup>47</sup> The hotel opened in August 2012 and brought with it surrounding retail and offices.<sup>48</sup> The eleven-story hotel stands tall against Interstate 65 and Centennial's athletic facilities. From the viewshed of Huffines Ridge Drive, the hotel is an obvious landmark.

One year after Drury Plaza opened, Kimley, Horn, and Associates, Inc. released the "Integrated Growth Plan for Carothers Parkway and East McEwen Drive" for the City of Franklin. In the report, they identified sixteen parcels for study and development. The Carothers property was included within those parcels with a site name as "TBD."<sup>49</sup> The City had already identified the Carothers property as part of the urban growth boundary, ready for development if the family would sell. Goldberg Companies, Inc. acquired the property from Carothers descendants in 2019.

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<sup>41</sup> Carly Harrington, "New Liberty Pike Will Connect to Large McKay's Mill Subdivision," *The Tennessean*, February 7, 2000, 1W.

<sup>42</sup> Carly Harrington, "Liberty Pike to Push East this Fall," *The Tennessean*, May 26, 2000, 1W.

<sup>43</sup> Notes by Ruby Kinnard on Letter to Resident at 1343 Liberty Pike from the City of Franklin, March 20, 2002.

<sup>44</sup> Notes by Richmond Kinnard, found in envelope dated March 20, 2002.

<sup>45</sup> "Liberty: Officials Will Rename Doubled-Up Block," *The Tennessean*, August 28, 2002, 5W.

<sup>46</sup> Kevin Walters, "Franklin is a Healthy Market," *The Tennessean*, March 6, 2009, 10W.

<sup>47</sup> "Work Begins on Hotel," *The Tennessean*, September 12, 2010, B3.

<sup>48</sup> Kevin Walters, "Drury Hopes to Make a Splash in Franklin," *The Tennessean*, August 23, 2012, W1.

<sup>49</sup> Kimley, Horn, and Associates, Inc., "Integrated Growth Plan for Carothers Parkway and East McEwen Drive," City of Franklin, 4.

From the introduction of the interstate system to the area through the construction of Interstate 65 to the various roadway improvements along Liberty Pike and Carothers Parkway, the road systems around the Carothers Farm changed drastically from John Henry's initial purchase of the property in 1933. Similarly, development, starting with the Cool Springs Galleria in 1989 to the northwest of the Carothers House and continuing today with GCI's planned development radically changing the once-rural view shed from the farm and the built environment surrounding it.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Kerri Bartlett, "History and Green Space Meet Mixed-Use in Huffines Ridge Propsoal," *Williamson Herald*, December 28, 2018.

## Documentation of Buildings and Structures

Documenting the buildings and structures on the Carothers Farm creates a fuller historical record and helps us understand how farm families like the Carothers built, used, and modified these buildings over time. The documentation preserves that valuable information before park development proceeds. Goldberg Companies, Inc. and its partners have produced extensive mapping of the property that conveys its terrain, marks the locations of each extant building within that terrain, and indicates the locations of the most extensive sections of rock walls.

The following is a photographic inventory and reconnaissance conditions assessment of each building as they were in late 2019 and early 2020. Also in this section is a brief discussion of the spaces around the outbuildings and how the Carothers family used these somewhat amorphous areas for different farm-related tasks. Combining the data collected from the outbuildings with historic photographs found in the house illuminates these otherwise inconspicuous areas such as poultry yards, and work areas for hog dressing and splitting wood.

### Resource #1: 1937 Carothers House

Changes since original construction:

- 1947 porch addition on stacked stone piers
- 1953 electricity added
- 1984 bathroom/utility room added onto back porch, foundation filled in with concrete blocks



Figure 22. Façade/West Elevation. Porch has settled, walls tagged with graffiti, deterioration of roof, chimney is cracked. Photo taken July 2019.





Figure 23. South Elevation. Cracks in exterior walls, wall tagged with graffiti, deteriorated fascia, and deteriorated synthetic gable siding. Photo taken July 2019.



Figure 24. Rear of the house/East Elevation. Back porch has settled, deterioration of synthetic siding, and brick chimney causing a safety hazard. Photo taken July 2019.



Figure 25. North Elevation. Deteriorated and missing synthetic siding and damage from ivy growth. Photo taken July 2019.



Figure 26. 1959 image of the south elevation showing the back porch before the bathroom addition



**Resource #2: c.1937 Tool Shed**

- This building is located closest to the house near its northeast corner
- It is a wooden building topped with a shed roof. The building's north wall is built on a large piece of limestone jutting from the ground.
- Much of the wood walls are deteriorated from moisture rising from the ground and vegetation that grows on the roof and walls during the spring and summer



*Figure 27. Southwest corner of tool shed. Photo taken July 2019.*



*Figure 28. North wall of tool shed's interior built on limestone outcropping. Photo taken February 2020.*

**Resource #3: c.1930 Smokehouse with c.1937 addition**

- This building is located just east of the tool shed.
- The smokehouse portion of the building is board and batten with a gable roof.
- The smokehouse was reportedly moved to this location in c.1937. It is unclear from where. The c.1937 shed roof addition was added to store a carriage.
- A 1959 photograph found in the house shows a hoisting frame for hog skinning once stood near the building.
- The building is deteriorated from vegetation overgrowth and is leaning, posing a safety hazard.



*Figure 29. West elevation of smokehouse shed. Photo taken July 2019.*



#### Resource #4: c.1937 Chicken House

- The chicken house is located just east of the smokehouse shed
- It is a wood building topped with a shed roof
- According to information found in the house, the space between the smokehouse and chicken house was at one point used as a yard for the chickens
- The building is in the best shape of all outbuildings as it is relatively sturdy and has only a moderate amount of wood rot, though rising damp and overgrown vegetation has caused damage



Figures 30 and 31. Southwest corner of chicken house (left), hen nesting boxes hung on south wall of interior (right). Photos taken February 2020.



Figure 32. Smokehouse and chicken house visible in background. The hog hoist frame is visible behind the car and the space adjacent to the chicken house appears to be used for chopping wood. Undated image. The model of the car indicates it was taken at some point after the mid-1960s.

**Resource #5: c.1958 garage**

- This building is located just east of the chicken house and is the last of the four outbuildings located near the home.
- The one-car garage is a wood building with a shed roof.
- Despite the building being some 20 years newer than the other outbuildings, it is in dilapidated condition with many wood pieces rotted or missing.



*Figure 33. Southwest corner of garage. Photo taken July 2019.*



*Figure 34. Undated image of the garage's west elevation*

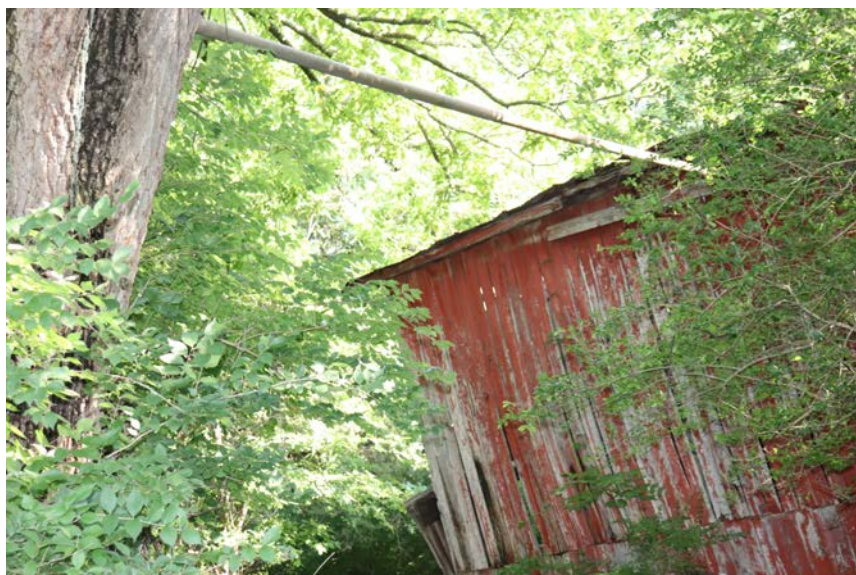


**Resource #6: c.1933 stock barn**

- The Carothers allegedly built the barn shortly after they purchased the property
- The barn is located east and away from the collection of outbuildings near the house
- It is a large, gable-roof building with a projecting hay hood that once sheltered a pulley for lifting hay bales into the loft
- The interior is divided by a wider dirt floor hall that runs from end to end with animal stalls on either side. Storage and hay lofts are above the stalls on either side. A separate shed roof storage area makes up the south portion of the building.
- The barn is severely dilapidated and has been propped with a metal pole attached to a nearby tree since at least 2009



*Figure 35. Façade/West elevation of stock barn. Photo taken July 2019.*



*Figure 36. Metal pole attached to tree to stabilize barn. Photo taken July 2019.*

**Resource #7: c.1950 tobacco barn**

- The tobacco barn is located east and beyond the stock barn. The barn sits just south of the rock wall that lines the northern border of the cultivated field south of the house.
- It is a simple structure with wood plank walls that have been patch with sheet metal
- The building is badly dilapidated and heavy overgrowth of vegetation prevented extensive photography



*Figure 37. West elevation of tobacco barn. Photo taken December 2019.*



#### Resource #7: Dry stack stone well

- A water well with a dry stack stone shaft was located southwest of the home near several mature trees.
- It is unknown if the Carothers dug this well or if it had been in use previously. It is likely the Carothers used the well until plumbing was connected to the house in 1984.
- Coordinates: 35.928033, -86.368633



*Figures 38 and 39. Pump (left) and dry stack stone shaft (right). Photos taken in December 2019.*

#### Resource #8: Dry stack stone walls

- The National Register nomination form for the Carothers House mentions that the northern border of the property is marked by a stone fence that predates the house and was likely built by a previous owner of this or an adjacent property.
- An extensive rock wall begins roughly near the beginning of the driveway at Huffines Ridge Drive and runs east, nearly reaching the eastern border of the property. This wall is the northern border of the once-cultivated 14-acre field that creates the southern portion of the property, and clearly separates the farmable land from the unfarmable.
- Smaller areas of rock walls such as an area northwest of the house was likely used outline flower beds
- Many of sections of the rock walls are unsteady and have fallen, while other areas remain relatively intact.
- A tree line and vegetation has grown up along much of the wall that borders the agricultural field



Figure 40. Intact portion of the rock wall that borders the agricultural field. Photo taken in December 2019.



## Assessment of House Contents

After weeks of careful planning, representatives from Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) at MTSU and Columbia State Community College (CSCC), and Goldberg Companies (GCI) and its local contractors, spent several days at the Carothers Farm in Franklin, Tennessee, during the week of October 28, 2019. The goal of the onsite workdays was to carefully sift through the contents of the Carothers house and preserve significant items and documents that help tell the story of the Carothers family, their farm, and its place in Franklin and Williamson County history, while “clearing out” the house in preparation for its rehabilitation into a functioning community center and meeting space.

Prior to the workdays, students and staff at the CHP and Dr. Flagel of CCSC and his students researched various aspects of the Carothers family history and history of the farm to better understand the historic context of the objects and documents in the house and enhance their ability to assess the significance of those items. Due to the fairly recent occupation of the house, many of the items therein included modern clothing, appliances, and common personal items that were disposed. There were also several documents with private and potentially vulnerable personal information, such as late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century medical and financial records. Since this type of recent, personal information is not historically significant, the documents were gathered and securely destroyed by shredding at the Albert Gore Research Center on MTSU’s campus in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

In addition to the plethora of modern items, the house contained several historic objects and documents that help shed light on the John Henry and Carrie Carothers family. Large and small objects were preserved due to their historic significance, and/or significance to the Carothers family. Physical condition of each item was also a factor in determining what objects were preserved, as the home had been open to the elements, animals, and vandals for several years. In some cases, objects were kept due to their potential as exhibit artifacts that could help enliven future historical interpretation in and around the house once it is rehabilitated. Such items include a Universal brand sewing machine, a chicken feeder, and a harpoon-style hay fork. Other items, such as tables, were saved and, if restored, could be used in the Carothers House or elsewhere in the development.



Figures 41 and 42. Harpoon-style hay fork (left), sewing machine (right). Found in Carothers House October 2019.

In other cases, smaller items, such as a letterman jacket from Franklin Training School were saved and would be best kept in a secure, environment-controlled place such as a local archive. Items such as the letterman jacket not only help us understand the nuance of the Carothers' family history; they are important artifacts related to significant events and trends in local history. With the exception of the letterman jacket, which CHP staff took to its offices at MTSU for better climate-controlled storage and further study, these items remain in the temporary storage pod onsite at the Carothers House.



*Figure 43. Letterman jacket, likely belonged to John Eddie Carothers, John Henry's grandson. Found at Carothers House October 2019.*

The following tables document the items (not documents and photographs) that were preserved during the onsite workdays in October 2019 and stored onsite in a temporary storage pod. The tables also include notes on each item's physical condition to provide an idea on the level of intervention needed. The potential use category provides an idea on how GCI can use the items as part of the interior exhibit, for practical use inside the house, or as décor elsewhere in the company's development.

Which items are used inside the house for exhibit purposes largely depends on which interpretive themes are implemented, the recommendations for which are located in the next section of this report. Artifact selection should also take into account the intended use of the space as a rentable venue and the flexibility necessary for that use. Small items, such as the curling iron, may be put into a small exhibit case inside the

house, while larger items such as the hay fork could be securely hung on the wall as part of the exhibit. Large items, such as the ice chest, can be used for practical purposes inside the house, such as storage. These decisions should be made in conjunction with Franklin's parks department, as they are ultimately the institution who will be maintaining the space and exhibit inside the Carothers House. Some items, such as the letterman jacket from Franklin Training School would be best transferred to the Williamson County Archives and Museum to provide better environmental control and security. The Williamson County Archives and Museum's reception of items is dependent on its collection policies and capacity. Staff from the CHP and CSCC can help facilitate this process.

Please note: *Objects that were placed in the storage unit during subsequent visits to the property by representatives of GCI or its contractors may not be included below.*

#### Furniture and other Large Items

Item	Condition	Potential Use
Chifferobe (matches headboard and footboard)	Good/moderate cosmetic damage	Elsewhere in development for decor
Headboard and footboard (matches chifferobe)	Good/moderate cosmetic damage	Elsewhere in development for décor
Universal sewing machine	Good	Interpretation inside house
Blanket chest with wrought iron hardware	Good	Practical use/Interpretation inside house
Ladder back chair with herringbone pattern splint seat	Good/Woven seat needs to be recanted	Interpretation inside house/transfer to museum
Cutter mattock	Fair	Interpretation inside house
Chicago Flexible Shaft Co. ball bearing box	Good	Use inside house/ elsewhere in development for decor
Hanging, galvanized metal chicken feeder	Good	Interpretation inside house
Ice chest	Fair	Practical use inside house/elsewhere in development for decor
Iron plant stand	Good/no intervention needed	Practical use inside house
Iron footboard and headboard	Needs to be checked for rust	Elsewhere in development for décor
Vanity/mirror top to larger piece	Good	Elsewhere in development for decor
Walking plow	Fair/deterioration of wood handles	Elsewhere in development for décor/transfer for museum
Harpoon-style single hay fork	Good	Interpretation inside house
Child's pull wagon	Poor/needs to be cleaned and restored/missing a handle	Interpretation inside house
Wood slat table	Fair/Legs need to be adjusted/stabilized	Practical use inside house
Mailbox	Good	Interpretation inside or outside house

### Medium and Small Objects

Item	Condition	Potential Use
Hat with John Henry's initials	Moderate deterioration	Interpretation inside house
Covered doorstep (a brick covered in velour)	Fair	Interpretation inside house
Langston University item	Good	Transfer to museum
TSU Honor Student medal	Good	Interpretation inside house
FDR Presidential campaign pin	Moderate deterioration	Transfer to museum
1914 Saturday Evening Post	Moisture damage	Transfer to museum
Curling iron	Good	Interpretation inside house
Iron kettle	Good	Interpretation inside house
2 skeleton keys	Moderate deterioration	Interpretation inside house
Straight back knife with JHC initials carved into wooden handle	Fair	Interpretation inside house/transfer to museum
Possible spey blade with JHC initials carved into wooden handle	Fair	Interpretation inside house/transfer to museum
Modern land grant institutions pin	Light rust on pin	Transfer to museum
Franklin County Training School letterman jacket	Good	Transfer to museum
Milk glass egg plate	Good/Needs to be cleaned	Interpretation inside house
MLK fan	Fair/some moisture damage and several cracks in front image	Transfer to museum
Pocket mirror with flower motif	Good	Interpretation inside house
2 railroad lanterns	Fair/some rust and breakage	Elsewhere in development for décor
Skirt portion of horse saddle with "JH" initials	Last initial "C" is likely missing, needs to be cleaned and restored	Interpretation inside house
Seed bag from Ernest Hardison's Seed in Nashville	Good/Some deterioration along bottom seam	Interpretation inside house/transfer to museum
Shears	Fair/moderate rust	Interpretation inside house
Embroidered "Tennessee" handkerchief with flowers	Good/Needs to be cleaned	Interpretation inside house
Dried tobacco leaf	Fragile	Interpretation inside house
2 recipe books	Poor/fragile condition	Transfer to museum
Small animal traps	Fair/some rust	Interpretation inside house

### Books

There were several books of varying ages in the house. Many of them were disposed of due to the level of deterioration as the result of moisture, black mold growth, and damage from rodents and insects. Books that were saved include hymnals and annuals from Tennessee State University. *We recommend these items be donated to the Williamson County Archives and Museum, along with the collection of documents.*

## Historic Documents and other Flat Items

Several boxes of historic documents, photographs, portraits, and other paper-based items were found in the house and preserved. These include materials regarding the Carothers Farm operations, family correspondence, several funeral programs of loved ones, and school materials. In addition to providing insight into the Carothers family, there are documents pertaining to local African American institutions such as Holt School, Franklin Training School, and several church congregations. African American businesses are also represented such as Patton Brothers Funeral Home in Franklin and Fannie Mai's Beauty Shop in Nashville.



Figure 44. Business card for Nashville beauty shop, Found in Carothers House October 2019.



Figure 45. A 1906 announcement for a cornerstone laying. Found in the Carothers House October 2019.



Due to the multigenerational occupation of the home and intermarriage between the Carothers and other local African American families, the collection of these documents involves, to various extents, those extended families. The vast majority of the documents regard the John Henry Carothers family and the Richmond E. Kinnard family. Those represented to a lesser extent include the Batey, Buford, Hyde, and Howse families. While few, there are also documents and photos pertaining to the white Huffines family and the Huffines Hereford Farm, after whom the road on which the Carothers Farm is located was named. All historic documents found in the house during the onsite workdays in October 2019 were taken to CHP offices on MTSU's campus for further study.

Perhaps the most intriguing of the items preserved were the historic photographs and portraits of African Americans. The earliest images range from charcoal portraits to tintypes and postcard images. Some of the individuals in the historic photographs were identified with the help of John Henry's great-grandson Timothy Kinnard and cousin Noble Carothers. Others remain unidentified.

More recent photos include mid-twentieth century black and white images of the Carothers house and farm. These midcentury images of the farm are valuable in that they convey the evolution of the buildings and landscape overtime. Modern photos include images of African American families and individuals, presumably of the extended Carothers and Kinnard families.

These portraits and photographs were also taken to CHP offices at the CHP for temporary storage and scanning. Scanned images can be potentially used for the exhibit panels inside and the kiosks outside. Digital copies of the historic images will be provided to descendant Timothy Kinnard.



*Figure 46. Damaged composite portrait of John Henry (right) and possibly Carrie (left). Found in the Carothers House October 2019.*





Figure 47. Late 19<sup>th</sup> c. charcoal composite portrait of unidentified couple. Likely ancestors of John Henry, Carrie Giles Carothers, or Viola Howse Carothers. Found in the Carothers House October 2019.



Figure 48. Composite portrait Alford and Elvira Hyde. Found in Carothers House October 2019.

This framed image above is the only portrait labeled with names of the individuals, Alford (b:1841, d:1919) and Elvira Perkins Hyde (b: 1840s, d:1939). The image appears to be one created by combining separate photographs of the individuals, taken at different times, into one portrait. A piece of written family history found in the Carothers home indicates the Hydies “were married by jumping the broom” while enslaved.<sup>51</sup> After the Civil War, the couple became farmers in the Nolensville area and had several children, including Viola Carothers’ mother Katherine.

<sup>51</sup> Brief handwritten history of the Hyde and Batey family members (Viola House Carothers’ mother was a Hyde).

The 1930 Census shows Elvira widowed and running her home and farm on Kidd Road. Living with Elvira was her daughter Katherine Hyde House and granddaughter Viola House who married Ezeal Carothers.<sup>52</sup> The history written in the note also referred to “a cemetery on the Hyde’s old home place,” though the author could not recall the family members buried there. This photo of the Hydes and the handwritten note found in the Carothers home is an excellent example of the way certain items in the house work together to provide information about Carothers’ relatives and local African American history that might otherwise be lost.

*We recommend all documents, including photographs and portraits, be transferred to the Williamson County Archives and Museum.*

### Large Agricultural Implements

Throughout the Carothers property are several large agricultural implements and tractor attachments as well as a 1960s International Farmall tractor in the stock barn. Some of these large items may be restored for display elsewhere in GCI’s planned development as major decorative pieces, or could potentially be donated as-is to cultural institutions whose collections policies and preservation capacity allow such artifact donations.



Figure 49. Tractor found in stock barn. Photo taken July 2019.

Brief discussions regarding the placement of some of the large agricultural items within the greenspace surrounding the Carothers House have occurred, though further discussions about the practicality of implementing this idea should involve representatives from Franklin’s Parks Department as they will eventually be the caretakers of the Carothers House and Park. Implements displayed in a clearly-defined area, perhaps roped off for safety, could have small, non-intrusive signage nearby explaining the historic items’ farming purposes.

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<sup>52</sup> 1930 Federal Census.

## Interpretation Recommendations for the Carothers House and Park

The adaptive reuse of the Carothers House and the maintenance of the surrounding greenspace as a park provides an excellent opportunity to share the historically significant story of the John Henry Carothers family. We recommend a two-fold interpretive approach: exterior interpretive kiosks located near the projected walking trail; and a passive interpretive exhibit located in a designated space inside the house. The following interpretation recommendations are divided in this way.

### *Interior Exhibit Themes*

Given the projected use of the house as an income-generating space available to be rented by the public, we recommend passive interpretation in a designated space inside the house. This entails simple exhibit panels, free-standing or attached to the wall, and may also include an exhibit case to display relevant items. Other items, such as tools, may be securely displayed on the walls.

Exhibit panels designed to be adhered flatly to walls are low maintenance and, if designed appropriately, will not distract from the interior of the building in which they are placed. These panels come in a variety of materials, including foam core material and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). While foam core materials are lighter and require less adhesion to walls, panels made of PVC, or “expanded PVC”, are more durable and damage resistant. Panels can be attached to the walls in a variety of ways, from using hardware that penetrates the panel, to using adhesives.



Figure 50. Exhibit panels made of PVC and mounted on wall with bolts





Figure 51. Free-standing, cloth panels can be moved around and stored easily



Figure 52. Free-standing exhibit panels in the historic McLemore House, Franklin, Tennessee

Each proposed theme below would be elaborated upon on a separate panel, for a total of four interpretive exhibit panels in the Carothers House. Digital scans of photos and documents found in the house can be included on relevant panels. After themes are agreed upon and when GCI is ready, CHP staff can work to write the text and select images for each panel as well as provide assistance in the design and production of the panels.

### Theme 1: The Carothers Family

This theme focuses on the first two generations of the Carothers Family that lived in the house and what their lives were like on and off the farm. Historic photos such as the one below, as well as items such as the mailbox (pictured), chicken feeder, curling iron, and farm tools such as the hay fork, can be displayed as part of this theme.



Figure 53 and 54. Mailbox (left), and c.1959 photograph of Ezeal's daughter Ruby near the south elevation of the house

### Theme 2: The Carothers House

The United States Department of the Interior has deemed the Carothers House a significant, vernacular building constructed with native limestone. This theme elaborates on this established historic significance by delving into the construction of the Carothers House by John Henry, Ezeal, and friend Charles Barnes. The concept of John Henry deriving value, i.e. building his house and at least two others, out of land deemed undesirable due to its limestone will also be conveyed. The home's features, especially, the stone mantle and tile hearth, can be highlighted as interior evidence of the building's craftsmanship. Scanned images of historic photos of the house, as well as an image of John Henry's floorplan sketch can be included on the panel to help illustrate this theme.

### **Theme 3: Forgotten Legacies: Black Farm Ownership**

Despite the challenges for African American farmers living in the Jim Crow South, John Henry and Carrie Carothers went from renter-farmers to buying their own property in Williamson County during the Great Depression. The Carothers's was a typical case of black farmers ending up with the least valuable land which prevented a large, commercial farm operation. Though the Carothers grew wheat for the market, and later tobacco, maintaining outside employment enabled the families like the Carothers to run their small, subsistence farms while bringing in cash income. Scanned images of John Henry's land deed, his wheat marketing card, and pocket notebook where he kept up with farm operations and cash holdings, can be included in the panel as part of this theme.

### **Theme 4: Preservation Success**

This theme focuses on the preservation of the Carothers House from its listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 at the urging of the family, to its eventual preservation and adaptive reuse by GCI and its contractors as a rentable space in a public park. Highlighting the collaboration between all parties and the willingness of GCI to preserve a local landmark will emphasize the types of work and partnerships that make such preservation possible. This theme will also frame the Carothers House and Park as an example of the co-existence of preservation and development.

## Exterior Interpretive Themes

The John Henry Carothers House is a witness property to the many changes that occurred in Franklin and William County throughout the 20th century. The following interpretation recommendations are preliminary and subject to change as needed on the property as it transitions into a public space. Grading, trail placement, and themes chosen will affect the overall exterior interpretation.

As the interior exhibit will only be accessible to groups who are renting the building, or perhaps for specially arranged tours, providing historic context outside of the house will ensure park-goers have the opportunity to learn about the Carothers House and Farm, the technological and landscape changes to which the property has been witness, and how the building came to be preserved.

Similar to recommendations for the interior exhibit, we recommend simple, low maintenance signage to convey this content to visitors.



Figure 55. Example of exterior interpretive signage at Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston, Tennessee





Figure 56. Series of upright interpretive signs along trail at the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston, Tennessee



Figure 57. Alternative style of exterior signage in Sumner County, Tennessee

Similar to the interior interpretation recommendations, each of the following proposed themes can be conveyed on separate panels throughout the greenspace surrounding the house. Digital scans of historic photos of the property, among other appropriate images, would be of excellent use on exterior signage.

### **Exterior Theme 1: The Carothers House**

The home's construction by the Carothers family and friend with native limestone extracted from the property. If placed near the home, this panel could also point out exterior design features such as the watertable and the "1937" foundation stone.

### **Exterior Theme 2: A Local Historic Landmark**

The home's listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989, initiated by the Carothers family which recognizes the significance of the house's vernacular architecture, as well as the local trend of historic black landownership the property represents. This theme can frame the NRHP listing as the beginning of the building's preservation story that ultimately resulted in the preservation and adaptive reuse of the building by GCI.

### **Exterior Theme 3: Layout of Original Farm**

This panel can explain and illustrate the arrangement of the farm's original layout, while conveying the importance of such outbuildings to small, family farm operations. This is a publicly accessible way of documenting what was once there, and engages people with the evolution of the landscape in which they are standing.

### **Exterior Theme 4: Changes on the Farm**

Established in the midst of the Great Depression when animals and humans provided the power for farming, the Carothers House and Farm modernized throughout the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, paralleling the advent of technological advancements more broadly. This theme can trace the mechanization of the farm (from walking plow and mules to tractor) as well as the Carothers home and lifestyle (addition of electricity, carriage to automobile, indoor plumbing).

### **Exterior Theme 5: A Witness to History**

This theme can act as counterpart to the previous concept. As changes were occurring on the farm, the area around the farm was changing as well, reflecting the growth and development that has transformed Middle Tennessee in the last several centuries. This concept will inherently highlight the important decision to save the house and preserve the greenspace immediately surrounding it.

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1900 United States Census

1910 United States Census

1920 United States Census

1930 Agricultural Census for Tennessee

1930 United States Census

1940 Agricultural Census for Tennessee

1940 United States Census

1950 Agricultural Census for Tennessee

Land deed, W.A. Sweeney to J.H. Carothers and heirs, April 8, 1933, deed book 65, page 3. Williamson County Archives and Museum, Franklin, Tennessee.

Marriage record, John Henry Carothers and Carrie Giles, December 24, 1907. Williamson County, Tennessee.

Obituary, Walter Sweeney, *Nashville Banner*, January 28, 1954.

### Personal Communications

Noble Carothers to Savannah Grandey, Fall 2019

Timothy Kinnard, D.D.S., M.P.H., R.D.H. to Savannah Grandey, Winter/Spring 2020. Dr. Kinnard provided the composite portrait of Alex and John Henry Carothers in Figure 2, page 8.

### Carothers Collection

Allis-Chalmers Tractor Division. "It Pays to Own an All-Crop Harvester: New and Improved Model '60'," n.d.

Letter, Carrie Carothers to Beulah Hudson, April 7, 1933

Letter, J.T. Patton to J.H. Carothers, October 19, 1917

### Secondary Sources

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2028  
OCT 24 1989United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Carothers, John Henry, Houseother names/site number Carothers, Ezeal, House

## 2. Location

street & number Liberty Pike N/A ☐ not for publication  
city, town Franklin ☒ vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Williamson code 187 zip code 37064

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☒
- private
- 
- ☐
- public-local
- 
- ☐
- public-State
- 
- ☐
- public-Federal

## Category of Property

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

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>6</u>	<u>2</u> objects
	<u>2</u> Total

## Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Resources of Williamson County MRANumber of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Robert L. Byrum  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Tennessee Historical CommissionDate 10/18/89

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒
- entered in the National Register.
- 
- ☐
- See continuation sheet.
- 
- ☐
- determined eligible for the National
- 
- Register.
- ☐
- See continuation sheet.
- 
- ☐
- determined not eligible for the
- 
- National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_Entered in the  
National Register11/27/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: rectangular plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls limestone

roof tin

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John Henry Carothers House is located on Liberty Pike in Williamson County east of the town of Franklin, Tennessee. The small stone farmhouse was constructed in 1937 by John Henry Carothers with the assistance of his son, Ezeal Carothers. The small one-and-one-half story rectangular plan house was constructed following stock plans purchased by John Henry Carothers. The limestone used to build the house was all quarried by the Carothers family from the farm property.

The front or west facade of the house contains only two openings, a single leaf door on the south end and a simple one over one window on the north end. The front facade of the house is covered by a three-fourths length shed roof front porch. The floor and steps of the porch are of quarried stone and concrete. Three simple square posts support the shed roof.

The south facade of the house contains two one over one windows on the first floor and a single one over one window on the second floor. The north facade differs slightly from the south facade with three one over one windows on the first floor, two of which are located side by side on the east end.

The rear or east elevation of the house contains a bathroom/utility room addition constructed in 1984. The addition was constructed in the location of a back porch that was originally added to the house in 1947. The addition is set back from the south wall of the house and runs two-thirds of the length of the house. The other one-third of the rear of the house is covered by an open shed roof porch with a wood floor. The original quarried stone foundation and piers are extant under the rear addition. New square cut stone is used as infill between the piers.

The foundation of the house is constructed with rough hewn, random ashlar cut stone. On a large square foundation stone, located on the south side of the house, the year 1937 is carved. A slightly projecting stone watertable separates the foundation from the smooth cut rubble stone walls. The gable fields of the house are covered with wide wood boards, as are the shed roof dormers on the front facade. The original gable fields were covered with weatherboard. A stone chimney is located between the two front dormers. A smaller brick chimney is located on the rear of the house. The roof is covered with standing seam tin.

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Carothers, John Henry, House

The interior of the house is composed of four rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second. The first floor consists of a living room, dining room, kitchen, and bedroom. The living room, or south room, contains a large stone fireplace and stone mantle piece with large stone brackets. The bedroom on the north side of the house has a smaller fireplace with a wood mantle and is located directly behind the living room fireplace. The kitchen and dining room, located at the rear of the house, are simple rectangular rooms with little trim. A boxed staircase is located between the kitchen and dining room and leads to the two upper rooms. The head of the stairs enters a large open room now used for storage. A second room is located on the south side of the house and serves as a bedroom. The ceilings throughout the house are narrow tongue and groove panels. The narrow tongue and groove boards are also located on the kitchen walls, as well as on a portion of the upstairs walls. Walls and ceilings downstairs are either painted or papered, while the wood walls and ceilings in the upstairs rooms are stained and varnished.

The twenty-six acre farm retains several of its small frame outbuildings. The small frame outbuildings are clustered directly behind (east) the house and include five contributing outbuildings and two non-contributing outbuildings. The outbuildings include a frame, gable roof smoke house constructed circa 1930 with an attached shed roof carriage shed added circa 1937. The smoke house was moved to its current location around 1937. Also located near the house is a small frame shed roof tool shed built circa 1937, a circa 1937 frame chicken house, and a 1958 shed roof garage. Located a short distance away from the small outbuildings is a frame privy built circa 1937. To the east of the house and outbuildings is a circa 1933 frame stock barn and beyond the stock barn is a 1950 tobacco barn. The northern boundary of the property is marked by a dry-laid stone fence that pre-dates the house by several years.



## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937

Significant Dates

1937

Cultural Affiliation

Black

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Carothers, John Henry, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The John Henry Carothers House, built in 1937, is eligible under National Register criterion A for its significance in Ethnic Heritage (Black) as it relates to agriculture in Williamson County. The small stone Carothers House represents an important aspect of farm ownership by Blacks in the rural south. The Carothers House is also eligible under criterion C for Architecture as an example of a local building style.

John Henry Carothers purchased twenty-six acres of farmland in Williamson County in 1933 for twenty-five dollars an acre. From 1933 to 1937, the family farmed fourteen acres (the other twelve acres were unsuitable) of the twenty-six acres while living in a small frame house nearby. In 1937, John Henry Carothers purchased stock architectural plans for a small house and began construction of the one-and-one-half story house with the assistance of his son, Ezeal Carothers. The house was constructed of limestone quarried by Ezeal Carothers from a site located on the farm. The small, rectangular plan house was built with solid stone walls by the Carothers with the windows and doors cut out by C. B. Barnes. Barnes also provided technical assistance on the construction of the house.

After the Civil War, emancipated slaves were often left without a means of livelihood and southern landowners were left without someone to work their plantations and farms. Landowners attempted to hire former slaves for wages, but the majority did not have ready cash to pay wages at regular intervals, which black farm workers wanted. Landowners also believed that the wage<sup>1</sup> system did not give them sufficient control over the black workers. As a result, tenant and sharecropping systems were established to provide the unemployed and "homeless" Blacks with a job and a place to reside, and to provide the landowners with the needed labor. Tenant farming consisted of the farmer's renting the land and supplying with mules and farm equipment to farm the property. The tenant kept two-thirds of the

<sup>1</sup> Fite, p. 3.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 26 acres

### UTM References

A 

1	6
---	---

5	1	6	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	7	5	9	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	6
---	---

5	1	6	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	7	5	6	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B 

1	6
---	---

5	1	6	7	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	7	5	8	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

D 

1	6
---	---

5	1	6	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	7	5	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

☐ See continuation sheet

Franklin 63NE

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the John Henry Carothers House include the original 26 acres as shown on the accompanying tax map.

☒ See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries include all land historically associated with the John Henry Carothers House and provide sufficient land to protect the historic integrity of the farm.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth A. Straw, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date August 1989

street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615-742-6722

city or town Nashville state Tennessee zip code 37243-0442

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Carothers, John Henry, House

crop and the landlord received one-third. Sharecropping was a system in which an entire family was provided land, house, tools, seeds, and a mule. The crop was divided equally, but due to a lack of money, landowners often provided cash advancements that were settled up at crop sales. Sale of crops was often less than the cash advance and left the sharecropper in perpetual debt.<sup>2</sup> "Lacking the capital to buy property at first, Blacks entered wage and sharecropping contracts as expedient methods of gaining the necessary resources to achieve independence."<sup>3</sup> The sharecropper/tenant farm system also provided an easy means to control what many Whites perceived as a race problem.

Black sharecropper/tenant farmers were seldom able to escape the debt owed to the white landowners and to acquire their own farms. Blacks who acquired land often did so because small amounts were given to favorite slaves by landowners or, if they were able to purchase land, due to discrimination, the purchase was often backed by white supporters.<sup>4</sup> By 1900, black farmers in the south owned approximately 13.5 million acres (23% of all farm owners) compared to over 100 million acres owned by Whites. By 1910, black ownership of farmland was at its peak with 195,432 farmers owning 15.7 million acres. The average cropland for black farmers was 29 acres versus over 50 acres for white farmers.<sup>5</sup> In Tennessee, three-fourths of all Blacks lived in rural areas and were primarily farmers.<sup>6</sup> Housing for rural black farmers consisted mainly of small cabins constructed loosely of logs or slab boards. Windows rarely had glass or screens and were usually covered with wooden shutters. Houses usually had only a single fireplace or secondhand wood stove, used for both heating and cooking. Houses were very small and contained one or two crowded bedrooms and a living room/kitchen.

Between 1914 and 1915, depressed conditions in the south coincided with industrial growth in the north. Northern industries often sent labor recruiters into the south, which lead to a large migration of black workers to the north in search of better economic conditions, schools, and an

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid., pp. 3-4.

<sup>3</sup> Lamon, Blacks in Tennessee, 1900-1930, p. 37.

<sup>4</sup> Fite, p. 20.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 21.

<sup>6</sup> Lamon, Blacks in Tennessee, 1900-1930, p. 64 and 38,300 black farmers - Fite, p. 238.

<sup>7</sup> Lamon, Blacks in Tennessee, 1900-1930, p. 64.

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attempt to escape racial discrimination.<sup>8</sup> The advent of World War I also added to a substantial loss of land by black farmers.

By the 1920s, the number of black farmers began to decrease and only 22% of 881,964 black southern farmers were landowners.<sup>9</sup> By the 1930s, Blacks moved out of southern agriculture at a more rapid pace than any other group, and by 1930, there were only 840,088 black farmers and 35,123 black farmers in Tennessee (less than 25% of black Tennessean farmers were landowners).<sup>10</sup> Between 1900-1930, bankruptcy, abandonment, and voluntary sale reduced the number of black farm owners by 25%, and the total rural population fell by 15%.<sup>11</sup> In 1929, over 35% of black Tennesseans still earned their living on the farm, with most black farmers living in the cotton country of West Tennessee. Over 77% of black farmers in Tennessee were in some form of tenancy by 1930, due to low prices and poor agricultural practices.<sup>12</sup> Over half of the rural black population in Tennessee was in need of some form of relief by the end of 1930, and continued to live in substandard housing.<sup>13</sup>

The John Henry Carothers House is an excellent example of a small farmhouse built by a black Tennessee farmer. The Carothers family, although by no means a wealthy family, prospered much more than many of their rural counterparts in Tennessee during the Depression. The Carothers family was able to purchase land, build a house, and place fourteen of their twenty-six acres into agricultural use, growing hay, wheat, tobacco, and a large kitchen garden. The family also raised six cows and several chickens. While the Carothers were able to build a house and use about half of their land for subsistence agriculture, they were still dependent upon outside farm work for additional income. Ezeal Carothers farmed 355 acres, located across the road, that was owned by a Nashville businessman.

The Carothers House is also a good example of a local adaptation of stock building plans using native materials. The Carothers House was the first stone house to be constructed by John Henry Carothers who later built two other stone houses from stock architectural plans. One house is now demolished and the other, located on Jordan Road and built circa 1941, is

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<sup>8</sup> Fite, p. 98.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., p. 99.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 238 and Lamon, Blacks in Tennessee, 1900-1930, p. 64.

<sup>11</sup> Lamon, Blacks in Tennessee, 1900-1930, p. 79.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 88.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p.89 and Fite p. 161.

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slated for demolition. All three houses were constructed from limestone quarried from the Carothers farm by Ezeal Carothers.



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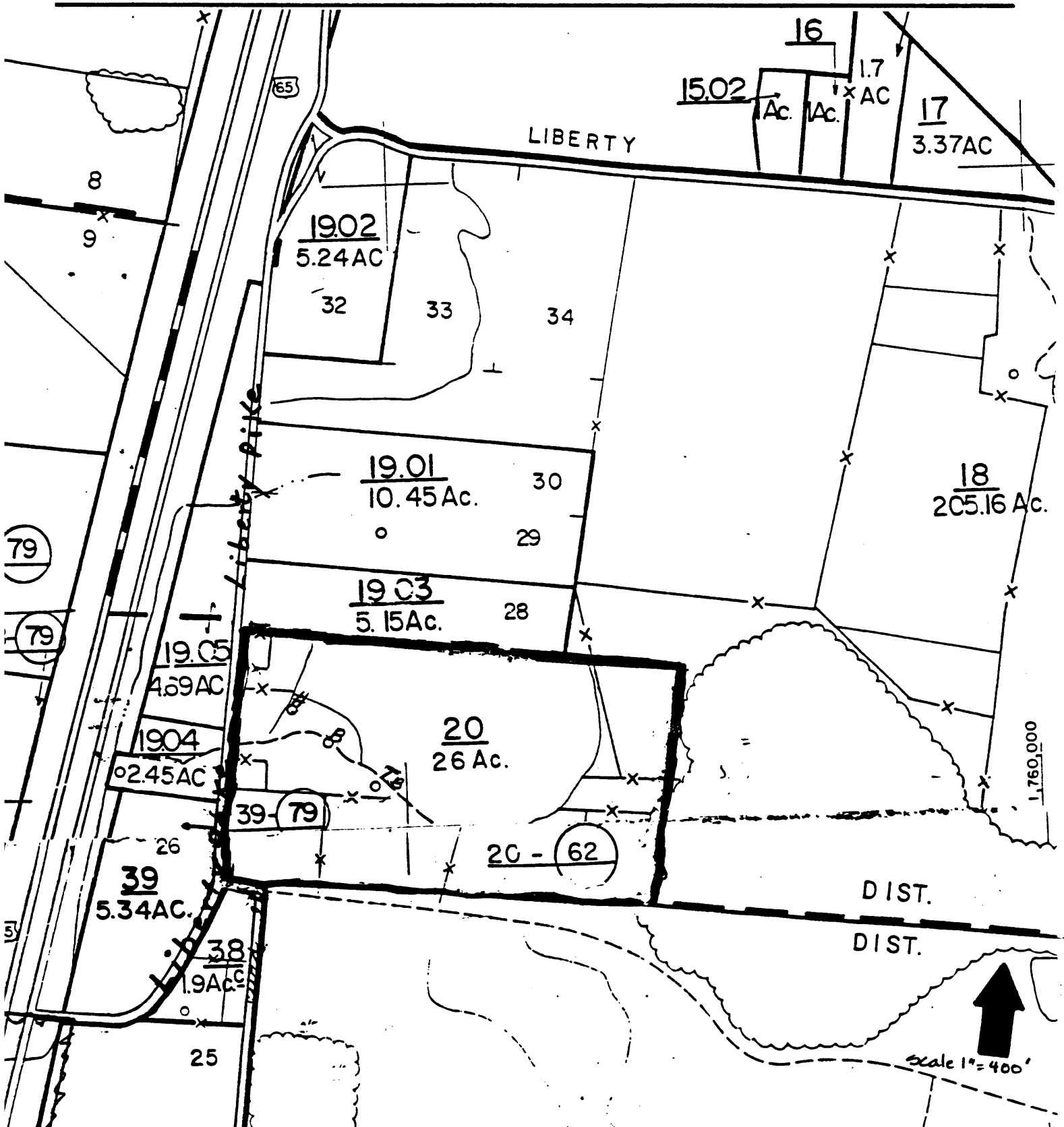
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Carothers, John Henry, House

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Carothers, John Henry, House  
Liberty Pike  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson County, Tennessee  
Photo By: Claudette Stager  
Date: March 1989  
Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

North and west facades, looking southeast  
#1 of 14

North elevation, looking south  
#2 of 14

South elevation, looking north  
#3 of 14

East elevation, looking west  
#4 of 14

Detail of date stone, south elevation  
#5 of 14

Fireplace, living room  
#6 of 14

Fireplace, bedroom  
#7 of 14

Kitchen  
#8 of 14

Upstairs Bedroom  
#9 of 14

Looking west towards Liberty Pike  
#10 of 14

Outbuildings, looking southeast  
#11 of 14

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Carothers, John Henry, House

Outbuildings, looking northeast  
#12 of 14

Garage and Tobacco Barn, looking east  
#13 of 14

Privy, looking north  
#14 of 14



Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

# 1 of 14





Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson County, TN

#2 of 14



Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

#3 of 14



Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

# 4 of 14



Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

#5 of 14

Corethers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

# 6 of 14



Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN



#7 of 14



Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

# 8 of 14





Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

# 9 of 14



Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

# 10 of 14



Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

#11 of 14



Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

#12 of 14



Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co., TN

#13 of 14





Carothers, John Henry, House  
Franklin vicinity, Williamson Co. TN

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