

Assessment of Historic Structures in the Cane Ridge Community of Antioch, TN

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this project was to locate and research extant sites, and develop a general assessment of the historic cultural and structural features still evident in the Cane Ridge community, a few miles southeast of Nashville proper, and within the suburban township of Antioch. Rather than confining the study to obvious larger homes and examining them in isolation, the scope was broadened in order to present a clearer picture of the layered history of the overall community. Indeed Sally McMurry counsels that looking only at individual buildings is in fact “ahistorical” given the complex integrative nature of rural community life.¹ Thus the evaluation also addresses smaller homes, cemeteries, dependencies, churches, schools, transportation routes, and even ruins of home sites. It was discovered that a surprising number of features dating to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including log buildings, are still present on the land, several of them owned by descendents of early residents. The surviving percentage of the historic cultural landscape fabric is especially significant given the relatively small size of the community and the degree of development that has occurred in the area. Suburban and industrial encroachment continues apace and it has been concluded that some form of intervention is warranted to preserve the historic features that remain.

There are numerous residents and former residents who grew up in Cane Ridge eager to share their knowledge, thus ongoing communication is vital in order to gather up the threads of local history before they are lost. Indeed a more systematized, thorough oral history project could prove invaluable. The Cane Ridge Community Club, a decades-old neighborhood group that meets once a month at the historic Cane Ridge School, includes members who are keen to

¹ Sally McMurry, *From Sugar Camps to Star Barns: Rural Life and Landscape in a Western Pennsylvania Community* (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001), 34.

understand and collect the local history, preserve historic sites, and protect the rural nature of the area. This organization provides one obvious entry point for engaging the community in historic preservation. Another entry could be the new Southeast Park, still in the planning stages, as it continues to evolve. Cane Ridge residents have expressed strong interest in the development of the park, and clear excitement over its proposed intent to interpret local history. A key component of Southeast Park is the former Moore property with its intact early twentieth-century farm landscape and assemblage of buildings (discussed below). The Moore family and their ancestors were associated with Cane Ridge for over a century and a half, and the analysis of their cultural landscape, archival documentation, and material culture by the Center for Historic Preservation has contributed much to an understanding of Cane Ridge history.

The presence of two other Metro Parks' properties in Cane Ridge has already established what seems to be a long-standing positive relationship between the community and Metro Parks administrators, including outgoing director Tommy Lynch, who spoke at the club meeting in November 2016. One Metro Parks site is Cane Ridge Park on Burkitt Road; the other, on Cane Ridge Road, is Cecil Rhea Crawford Park where the meeting site of the Cane Ridge Community Club, Cane Ridge School, is located.

Included also in this report are relevant pieces of information gleaned from primary and secondary sources, and obtained via personal communications with locals. Such "seemingly mundane fragments of social history," as historical archaeologist Mark Groover notes, can prove essential in providing context and "cultural meaning."² In the case of Cane Ridge, the fragments, such as information teased from documents left in the Moore farmhouse, have frequently served as useful breadcrumbs leading to a deeper understanding of the community's history and its

² Mark Groover, *The Archaeology of North American Farmsteads* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2008), 19.

surviving cultural landscape. The value of “rescuing” and preserving such document collections, and their potential contribution to crafting interpretation and encouraging preservation efforts, cannot be overstated. The Moore family archival collection now resides at MTSU’s Albert Gore Research Center, where it will be available for continued research. Equally critical to the process of understanding local history is direct, persistent interaction with community members. Anyone, indeed everyone, associated with a landscape possesses pieces of the puzzle, whether or not they realize it.

HOUSES

A surprising number of houses from early periods are still extant in Cane Ridge and associative locations, dating at least as far back as 1805. Local lore suggests a few buildings could be even older, including the log portions of the Gillespie-Culbertson house and the Daniel Gray Clark house, both purported (by their current owners) to date to the late 1700s, as well as log structures imbedded within or obscured by later board siding, such as the Burkitt and Whitsett houses. Only one home in the immediate area, the Benajah Gray Log House, is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, receiving that designation in 1985.

Extant log houses where the primary structure is visibly of log construction include those attributed to nineteenth-century owners Benajah Gray, Thomas Johnson, Isaac Whitworth (previously Buchanan’s Tavern), B. Barnes, Francis Waller, and Andrew Wolf. All of these buildings are pictured in Paul Clements’s two-volume *A Past Remembered: A Collection of Antebellum Houses in Davidson County*, published in 1987. These structures also seem to be present on the 1871 Wilbur Foster map of Davidson County.

The Benajah Gray house at 6320 Burkitt Road, constructed ca. 1805, is described in *A Past Remembered* as a double-pen with a central hallway, having a single-pen one-story structure on one side (sheathed in board siding) and a single-pen one-and-a-half story structure on the other side, all constructed at the same time of diamond-notched yellow poplar and cedar logs.³ The simultaneous construction of two adjoining pens of different heights and the diamond notching are described in the National Register nomination as atypical for the region.⁴ A later single-story rear shed addition was initially a porch but remodeled into a kitchen. A separate one-story frame building with a central chimney was built by the Grays in the 1870s to serve as a larger detached kitchen and dining space; it was also used for entertaining and dances, according to current owner Vicki Jordan, a Gray descendant.⁵ Other components of the property include the following: a well made of limestone and cinder block, no longer in use and covered, in front of the frame kitchen building; two smaller log structures behind the house, described in the National Register nomination as a kitchen and a smokehouse; a twentieth-century framed pole barn; a family cemetery; and a one-and-a-half-story, double-pen, central-chimney slave house located on the south side of Burkitt Road, now within Cane Ridge Park.⁶ For the region, the latter is unusually substantial as a slave house, with a massive limestone chimney and paired fireplaces, an entrance on each of the four exterior walls, and a single staircase, located in the north pen, to the second story, which is larger than a loft. The structure is not represented on the 1871 Foster map, though several dependencies are indicated near the Gray's primary home. The

³ Paul Clements, *A Past Remembered: A Collection of Antebellum Houses in Davidson County*, vol. II, edited and completed by Linda Mason and Stephen T. Rogers (Nashville: Clearview Press, 1987), 103.

⁴ "National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form" for the Benajah Gray Log House, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1985.

⁵ Vicki Jordan, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, September 20, 2016.

⁶ National Register Nomination Form for Benajah Gray Log House, 2; Clements, *A Past Remembered*, vol. II, 224.

Gray enslaved house represents the only confirmed slave quarters (per the National Register nomination) located thus far in Cane Ridge. An examination of the structure in October 2017 revealed it to be structurally intact, but in need of significant repairs and a more thorough evaluation.

The Johnson house at 4011 Twin Oaks Lane was constructed in 1830 by Thomas Johnson, described by Clements as a “master carpenter,” on land purchased in 1804 by Thomas’s father Isaac, part of a North Carolina land grant given in 1786 to Nashville merchant Lardner Clark.⁷ Benajah Gray was a nephew of Isaac Johnson and the Gray property was also part of the Clark land grant. The Johnson house is described in *A Past Remembered* as a two-story single-pen of half-dovetail log construction, with a central-bay, two-story front porch, and a later one-story log ell addition at the back.⁸ At least part of the addition appears to have been a detached kitchen, with a later frame connector joining it to the main house; family lore supports this use. Family history also indicates that the house also featured in troop interaction during the Civil War.

Passed to several descendants over the next century, by 1937 the Johnson house was in disrepair when descendant Ben Paul purchased it at auction. Ben subsequently sold the house to his daughter Fannie Belle Taylor who restored the building (among other important roles in the community, Fannie Belle Taylor was a postmistress in Antioch during World War II). Current owner Eddie Paul relates that in the 1930s the house was carefully dismantled, repaired, and reassembled.⁹ Today the Paul family still maintains the property, now only a little over an acre, though no one resides in the house full time. A brief look outside and inside the house indicates

⁷ Clements, vol. I, 136.

⁸ Clements, vol. II, 105.

⁹ Clements, vol. I, 138.

that it is in very good condition, more so perhaps than components of the Benajah Gray property. In 2016 the construction of several acres of multi-unit housing was initiated just northeast of the property, which will unfortunately disrupt the rural farmland setting, both visually and auditorily.

Buchanan's Tavern at 4020 Murfreesboro Road, built ca. 1810, is included here even though it is outside the boundaries of Cane Ridge proper for several reasons: it represents a significant early log structure near the Cane Ridge community; the location served important functions as a way station along the road between Murfreesboro and Nashville beginning in the early 1800s, and later as a livery stable for railway passengers; and documents in the Moore collection show dealings between William H. Moore and Isaac Whitworth, the late-nineteenth-century owner of the property. Current homeowners Sed and Evelyn Oldham state that the location was visited by Andrew Jackson (as shown in letters owned by the Davidson County Historical Society), and occupied during the Civil War alternately by Union and Confederate armies.¹⁰ In *A Past Remembered* the structure is described as a one-and-a-half story double-pen with a one-story frame addition in the back, though the presence of a central passage between the pens, enclosed at a later date, suggests categorization as a dogtrot. The left (north) pen has V-notch construction, while the right (south) pen is half-dovetail notched, prompting Clements to conclude that the two pens were probably built at different times.¹¹ At some point the breezeway between the two pens was enclosed and a central front door installed.

The original owner of the land, John Buchanan, had received the property as a land grant of 640 acres; at John's death in 1832 his son Henry inherited the property. At that time a tenant occupied some part of the log structure, which also functioned as a tavern. In 1837 Henry

¹⁰ Sed and Evelyn Oldham, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, September 22, 2016.

¹¹ Clements, vol. II, 107.

Buchanan sold the portion of the property that contained the log building to Isaac Whitworth, whose in-laws the Hartmans lived a few miles away.¹² The Oldhams are enamored with the history of the site. They currently use the central hall as a living space but not an entrance, and the upper floor for storage; the rear addition contains two bedrooms. Behind the house is an outhouse and a small shed rumored to have been a slave cabin or dwelling of a farm laborer (discussed below). The large livery stable burned many years ago, though the landscape still indicates where it stood—a level area near a pond, accessed by a wagon-wide entrance path.

Another extant structure slightly outside the bounds of Cane Ridge, located at 5797 Mt. View Road, undoubtedly held significance for Cane Ridge residents during the nineteenth century, and is the house that gave Mt. View Road and the old Mt. View railroad stop their names. Called Mountain View, this was the home of the Rucker family and a stagecoach stop during the 1830s.¹³ Today the view of the house from the road is obscured by a modern board fence, and the information on the Davidson County property assessor's website does not provide a complete reckoning of its structural components and building history. Even so, available images suggest that the house has morphed considerably over time. On the property assessor's website, the floor plan indicates a confusing arrangement of spaces and walls, and the photograph of the front façade shows a white frame building generally in the Folk Victorian style.¹⁴ Most of the structure appears to be two-storied (a section on the east end is one story), with a front-gabled section adjoined to a side-gabled section, at least two two-story porches with

¹² Clements, vol. I, 140. William H. Moore's daughter by his second wife Leticia Roach, named Nora, was married to James Hartman, and Isaac Whitworth's second wife Sarah Roach was the sister of Leticia.

¹³ Christine Cole Marshall and Joy Marshall, *With Good Will and Affection for Antioch: Reminiscences of Antioch, Tennessee* (Franklin, TN: Hillsboro Press, 2002), 35.

¹⁴ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), 402-403.

decorative millwork, and arched windows and doorways that are more in keeping with an Italianate style. Since there has been a building on the site since the 1830s, it is possible a log structure is present beneath later additions.

A log house at 14016 Old Hickory Blvd. is listed in *A Past Remembered* as the nineteenth-century home of the A. (Andrew) Wolf family, which jibes with the location noted on the 1871 Foster map. Current owners Lewis and Pamela Hall say the building was moved from a short distance away, which could still be consistent with the site of the Wolf home. Another Cane Ridge resident, Teresa King Couch, shares that her mother grew up in the Wolf house and she is unaware that it was ever moved from its original location; Teresa's grandfather, Charles Turner, purchased the house in the early 1900s. A photo belonging to Teresa shows the house clad in board siding in the early twentieth century, which is how she remembers it from childhood. Sometime in the late twentieth century (prior to the publication of Clements's book in 1987) the siding was removed and the logs revealed. Clements describes the log house as a two-story single-pen with half-dovetail notches.¹⁵ There are several later frame additions, including a late-twentieth-century garage, and behind the house is a log structure of indeterminate age and function, obscured by weedy overgrowth.

Two other substantial log homes are extant in Cane Ridge, both on Pettus Road near the Williamson County line, and pictured in *A Past Remembered*. The structure at 6375 Pettus Road seems to have been the home of the Barnes family. "B. Barnes," or possibly "R. Barnes," appears next to the building's location on the 1871 Foster map. There were a number of local residents with the surname Barnes during the nineteenth century, including Rollins, Reddick, and William, per census records. On the 1871 map, another home to the north is designated as the

¹⁵ Clements, vol. II, 223.

home of “R. Barnes.” Clements describes the structure at 6375 Pettus Road as a one-an-a-half-story dogtrot with half-dovetail notched yellow poplar logs and a chestnut log interior. A date of October 1, 1844, was found written on a piece of wood, discovered during repairs made to the chinking after tornado damage in 1974. The tornado also decimated the original stone chimneys, damaged the kitchen addition at the rear, and destroyed the nearby barn. According to Clements, the farm was called Cherokee Orchard in the 1930s and 1940s and was a popular spot for picnicking.¹⁶ Current owner June Hawkins has lived in the house for a number of years, including during the tornado, and has accumulated history relating to the site. A brief examination of the exterior and interior of the house shows it to be in very good condition, with original structural components in tact, the necessary changes made post-tornado notwithstanding.

Numerous residents in the area (including June) recall Cherokee Orchard, which was a very large apple-growing and cider-making operation, estimated to encompass 300 acres or so, initially called Armistead Orchard. The 1880 agricultural census lists Frank Armistead, Elisha Barnes, and Jim W. Barnes in proximity to each other on the census listing, as orchard owners and apple growers. Many residents also recall the regular music gatherings and square dances held in the large barn (lost to the tornado; the foundation is still visible. A number of local musicians, including well-known country music figures, played at the events at Cherokee Orchard. An original song composed by Hank Fort, “Cherokee Orchard,” was published in 1951; the original sheet music includes a photo of Hank Williams on the cover. June Hawkins owns other materials related to the orchard and the music events, including square-dance costumes.

The log building at 6431 Pettus Road, now owned by William Carter, is designated by Clements as the “Frank Walker” house, based on the 1871 Foster map. However, Clements has

¹⁶ Clements, vol. II, 223.

misread the name on the map, which is actually “F. Wallers” and likely refers to Francis Waller whose name appears in nineteenth-century records for the area, such as the 1860 census (though the 1870 census lists him as “Francis Walker” and the 1850 census lists the surname as “Warler”). The Waller name appears on the rolls of the nearby Concord Church, and since the nineteenth century the Waller family has operated a funeral home in Nolensville (used by the Moores when William H. Moore died, as well as for William’s mother Amanda, according to receipts in the Moore document collection). The Wallers were also cabinetmakers, and makers and repairers of carriages. Clements describes the Waller log home as one-and-a-half stories of half-dovetail notched yellow poplar logs, with a 1919 frame addition.¹⁷ The width of the logs and use of yellow poplar does seem to indicate a date prior to 1880, per John Rehder in *Tennessee Log Buildings*.¹⁸ A family cemetery is purported to be on the property. William Carter’s mother was Marie Waller Carter, who, with her husband Claude H. Carter, received property from C.R. Waller (Deed Book 3371, page 580); it has not yet been determined how C.R. and Marie might be related to Francis Waller. In 1975 Marie and Claude gave 7.3 acres of this property, presumably containing the log home, to William Carter and his wife Mary Jane.

The Whitsett house at 6947 Burkitt Road, though for many years sheathed in white board siding, is actually an early two-story double-pen log structure, according to Clements.¹⁹ Also associated with the Hill and Turner families, the home’s early owners (possibly the first owners) were William Whitsett, pastor of the nearby Concord Church beginning in the 1840s, and his wife Malinda Turner Whitsett. The Whitsetts’ graves are marked by a substantial monument in a cemetery on site. Attached to the back of the house is a frame, single-room, cabin-sized

¹⁷ Clements, vol. II, 223.

¹⁸ John B. Rehder, *Tennessee Log Buildings: A Folk Tradition* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2012), 14.

¹⁹ Clements, vol. II, 223.

extension, possibly an early kitchen (and perhaps log underneath the siding). Behind the house are a log smokehouse with a front-facing projecting gable and a side lean-to gear shed with top-hinged wooden “windows,” a small chicken coop, and an outhouse. Visible elsewhere on the property are various sheds and barns, and a silo. William Whitsett died in 1883 and Malinda in 1906, after which, Benjamin Hill and his wife Malinda Turner Hill, relatives of Malinda Whitsett, lived in the house until Malinda Turner Hill passed away in the 1930s. The current owner is Karen Goodwin King, who is a Turner descendant.

Seen from the road the dominant structure of the Gillespie-Culbertson house at 3402 Old Franklin Road is a two-story frame I-house, with a central-bay two-story front porch with milled detailing described by Clements as Italianate, though it might also be considered Folk Victorian, based on information in McAlester’s *A Field Guide to American Houses*.²⁰ At the rear of the frame building, now joined to the main house by a frame connector, is a one-and-a-half-story log structure with a stone chimney. Current owner Theola Holloway purports that the log building was constructed in the late 1700s as the original homestead, and indeed its size and the upstairs loft, now a bedroom, whose supports are visible on the exterior of the building, would seem more indicative of a dwelling than a detached kitchen. However Holloway’s date might be too early. Behind the house is a sandstone dependency that the owner claims is a smokehouse, though a stone smokehouse would be unusual for the area, and an examination of the interior revealed no hooks or scorch marks, which are typical indicators of smokehouse use.²¹ To the southeast of the main house and across the yard from the smokehouse there is also a stone well.

Lillian Brown Johnson in *Historic Cane Ridge and Its Families* writes that the white frame house on this property was built by Andrew Gillespie (1849-1882) and later owned by the

²⁰ Clements, vol. II, 224; McAlester, 402.

²¹ Theola Holloway, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, September 20, 2016.

Culbertsons (at the time of the 1973 publication of Johnson's book, Auville Culbertson apparently owned the property).²² Based on the 1871 Foster map, Clements attributes the house to Bradley Bush, but he has misread the map. The name on the map is actually Bradley Ham, and the Ham house is further to the east and on the opposite side of Old Franklin Road. The Foster map does indicate a structure exactly where the Gillespie-Culbertson house is, though with no name assigned to it. One could speculate that in 1871 the only structure present was the small log house, which Foster deemed significant enough for a dot on the map, but not substantial enough for an owner's name. Other explanations might be that no one was living in the house in 1871, or an African American family was residing there at the time of the map survey.

The 1870 census lists Andrew Gillespie, age 21, working as a railroad conductor and living at the home of his brother-in-law Daniel Clark (who owned an extant two-story brick home on Cane Ridge Road, discussed below), so Andrew did not own the property in 1870. Though it would make sense for him to have acquired property and built a house to accommodate a growing family some time in the late 1870s or early 1880s since he married in 1871 and subsequently had six children before his death in 1882. Further physical investigation of this property as well as archival research is needed for clarification. A tour of the house interior shows it to be in good condition, with many, perhaps most, of its original structural features intact. It is possible that since the log structure was near two homes belonging to members of the Ham family in the 1870s, that it was originally part of the Ham estate. The 1860 slave census lists five members of the Ham family owning a total of eleven slaves and six slave houses (which, compared to other slave owners in Cane Ridge, is a high number of houses per number of slaves), so perhaps the log portion of the Gillespie-Culbertson house was initially

²² Lillian Brown Johnson, *Historic Cane Ridge and Its Families* (Nashville: Blue & Gray Press, 1973), 134.

used as enslaved quarters. A cemetery containing members of the Gillespie family, and others, is reported to be not far to the east, near the intersection of Cane Ridge Road and Old Franklin Road.

A structure with a similar history to the Gillespie-Culbertson home is the Burkitt house located at 225 Battle Road, currently owned by descendant Sue Burkitt Clark and her husband Dan. Meetings with Clark were conducted at the home in February and September of 2017, during which a number of documents and photos were examined. Information shared by Clark, some of it documented and some of it family lore, indicates that the property, containing a two-story log structure, was purchased sometime in the late nineteenth century by her ancestor Dr. Andrew Jackson Burkitt. Dr. Burkitt, who graduated from Nashville Medical College in 1879, served as a physician for the Cane Ridge community.²³ Clark is in possession of a number of items owned by Dr. Burkitt, including medicine bottles, medical equipment, saddlebags that he took on house calls, cabinets, and his “shingle” which reads “Doctor A.J. Burkitt.” This sign apparently was attached to the outside of the Burkitt home, and its weathered nature suggests it hung there for an extended period of time. Among the documents found in the Moore home are receipts for medical services rendered to members of the Moore family by Dr. Burkitt in the late 1800s. Dr. Burkitt married Lou Ella Gray (daughter of Benajah Gray the younger) in 1882.²⁴ Lou Ella’s uncle Isaac Gray was also a physician in Cane Ridge and receipts were found in the Moore house for his medical services as well. For many years the Burkitt family also owned a small store near their house, at the corner of Battle Road and Old Hickory Blvd., which Sue Clark says opened in about 1918.²⁵ Photos show the store, torn down in recent decades, to have been a brick

²³ Johnson, 146.

²⁴ Johnson, 146.

²⁵ Sue Burkitt Clark, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, February 9, 2017.

bungalow-style building with two pyramidal stone columns at the front. Given the architectural style, this structure possibly replaced an earlier building. In addition, the Burkitts ran a sawmill and a blacksmith shop near to the store, raised ponies, and had a dairy business that operated into the late twentieth century.

The original log building purchased by Dr. Burkitt served as his home and office until he added a larger frame house to accommodate his family, which eventually included four children (son William “Willie” Gray Burkitt was Sue Clark’s grandfather). Sue Clark dates the later, larger home to 1902.²⁶ The log structure, which appears to be a two-story (or one-and-a-half-story), single-pen, was incorporated into this new home and today the lower floor of the log building houses a modern kitchen. The surfaces, both exterior and interior, have been sheathed in modern materials, so the logs are not readily apparent from either inside the house, at least on the ground floor, or outside. Photos taken of the kitchen interior in the mid-twentieth century (used in a magazine story) show the kitchen walls sheathed in beadboard, which was covered over at a later date by drywall. The original stone fireplace is extant in the kitchen, and a staircase to the upper floor is located in a kitchen closet. The current Burkitt house is a frame, two-story, front-facing L, with a cross-hipped roof and two interior chimneys. The porch is full-façade and two-story, with a second-floor railing of turned balusters. Old photos, taken in the early twentieth century, show a single-story front porch, with two offset sections following the L shape of the house. Sue Clark states that the porch’s second story was added in the 1940s.²⁷ When the porch was reconfigured and made continuous across the front, the roofline was also altered, and brought forward as the upper support of the full-length porch. Over the years other changes and

²⁶ Sue Burkitt Clark, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, February 9, 2017.

²⁷ Sue Burkitt Clark, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, February 9, 2017.

additions were made to the house as well. Also on the Burkitt property, current and former, are various dependencies, including barns and dairy buildings.

Though family lore has persisted that the Burkitt's log home was an enslaved cabin, it was possibly a landowner's home, belonging to John McAbee. The 1871 Foster map indicates the owner of a structure at that location to be "J. Macabee." However, a larger structure might have served as the McAbee home, which later burned or was dismantled, leaving a smaller log building on site, later bought by Dr. Burkitt. The log portion of the Burkitt house is perhaps a bit small to have been the primary structure shown on the 1871 map, which seems to have been a significant building accompanied by several dependencies, though the McAbees do not appear to have owned slaves. The 1870 census lists John "McAlbe" as a thirty-seven-year-old farmer from Georgia whose total real estate value was \$2,100. Also in the household were his wife Mary, who was born in Tennessee, and three young daughters, Mary (born in Georgia), Ellen, and Adrienna. John "McAlbee" also appears in the 1870 agricultural census. Congregational records for Cane Ridge Cumberland Presbyterian Church mention a John McAbee as an elder in 1849, who perhaps was the father of the John McAbee in the 1870 census, who would have been only sixteen in 1849.²⁸ There is some coverage of the McAbee family in *Historic Cane Ridge and Its Families*: Adrienna "Addie" McAbee was the second wife of Ephraim Austin Johnson, married in 1895; her parents are indicated as John H. McAbee (1833-1901) and Mary A. Bean McAbee (1839-1891), both buried in the cemetery of Cane Ridge Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and undoubtedly the owners of the property and log building later purchased by Dr. Burkitt.²⁹ Additional archival research, including deeds, should clarify the timing of property ownership, and perhaps the nature of the property and its original structures.

²⁸ Johnson, 10.

²⁹ Johnson, 198, 44.

The Daniel Gray Clark house at 5704 Cane Ridge Road is the only extant two-story antebellum brick house located thus far in Cane Ridge. The current owner, Diana Tindell, dates the brick building to 1825, and an earlier log building, now clad in board siding, just behind the brick structure to the late 1700s.³⁰ It is unknown if either of those dates is correct; it is possible the log structure dates to the early 1800s, and the brick house to the mid-nineteenth century. Theola Holloway, current owner of the Gillespie-Culbertson house, notes a family connection between her house and the Clark house, and indeed, Andrew Gillespie's sister Elizabeth (1837-1914) married Daniel Gray Clark in 1855. Marriage and death dates, as well as deed information, should shed light on the construction dates of buildings at the Clark site. Daniel G. Clark, Jr., is known for founding the Clark Hardware business in Nashville. There are also several receipts among the Moore family papers documenting transactions, primarily relating to horse breeding, between the Moores and the Clarks.

Clements describes the important structures on the Clark site as an early one-story log home, with a later two-story brick house with a central hallway and Italianate detailing, including arched windows.³¹ Currently the brick house has four two-story columns across the front, the middle two creating a central-bay two-story entrance with a second-story porch. However, this arrangement is a more recent construction, as indicated by the obvious ghost of a full-length first-story porch roof and the presence of a window rather than a doorway letting onto the second-floor porch. The earlier single-story porch configuration is confirmed by a photo of the house taken in the 1980s, featured in *A Past Remembered*.³² Also notable are two star anchor plates visible on the front façade of the house, between the first and second floors. Owner Diana

³⁰ Diana Tindell, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, November 30, 2016.

³¹ Clements, vol. II, 224.

³² Clements, vol. II, 224.

Tindell states that at one time the house was in serious disrepair and even used for a time as a Halloween “haunted house” location. A previous owner apparently conducted significant restoration work, which Tindell has continued. Access inside the house has not yet been obtained, so it is unknown if the restoration work has been done sensitively and how much of the original structure and interior detailing have survived.

No less significant than the larger homes are the smaller houses found in Cane Ridge, dating from the nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. One single-pen one-story log home with saddle-notch construction that is in desperate need of analysis and repair can be found behind a mid-twentieth-century brick house on Cane Ridge Road. It is unknown when the log structure was built, though it appears to be just east of the “W. Moore” (probably William Green Moore) house on the 1871 Foster map. The changes made to the log house, which have obviously occurred over an extended period of time, and the proximity of an unusual, barrel-shaped, hand-cranked apparatus attached to a brick-and concrete base, used for drawing water from the well below, suggest the building could be in its original spot and not moved from somewhere else. A short distance behind the log house is a creek emanating from a spring within a cave; along one side of the creek is a stone retaining wall, possibly protecting the integrity of an early path or roadway leading to the water source.

According to current owner Daniel Smith, the house was most recently occupied in the early twentieth century by two sisters, up until the brick ranch house was constructed at mid-century.³³ Neighbor Paul Wingle states that the property was owned by Sara Ledbetter Lynch who lived in the brick home, and whose widowed sister Mable Ledbetter Bell lived in the log house. Deeds indicate that William Green Moore and wife Amanda sold two tracts of property

³³ Daniel Smith, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, December 30, 2016.

(including the Moore “homestead”) to D.G. Clark, Sr., in 1888, who in 1894 sold one of the tracts (81¾ acres) to W.C. Austin and his wife Barbara Clark Austin (D.G. Clark’s daughter), who subsequently sold to W.C. Ledbetter. When W.C. died in 1918, his property fell to his widow and six children. In a deed dated 1959, daughter Mable sold her 1/6 portion (her mother having died) of 81¾ acres to her sister Sara.

The interior of the log building does indicate use as a living space during the twentieth century, including linoleum flooring, plaster drywall, a dropped ceiling, no fireplace but a round opening for a stovepipe (venting into a chimney made of tool-marked sandstones at the base and cinderblocks for the shaft), and the remains of kitchen cabinets in the lean-to addition at the back of the building, which served as a kitchen. At some point in the latter half of the twentieth century a fire sparked outside the front of the building, which the homeowners rushed to extinguish; the scorch marks are still visible. It is unknown if the house was originally built as a dwelling, and if so whether it was intended for whites or blacks. Slave schedules do not show the Moores as slave owners. Curious structural changes to the log building, especially in relation to windows and doors, should offer clues to the history of the building and its earlier forms and uses. The logs are not large, some are roughly hewn while others were left whole, and a large opening beside the chimney has been awkwardly filled with a crudely installed double window. These components could indicate the structure was constructed in the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century, and even perhaps not originally intended as a dwelling. Though the well apparatus does suggest association with a dwelling. Paul Wingler also reports there are two hand-dug, stone-lined wells, the remains of a barn, and remnants of a sandstone wall on the hill above the cave spring, potentially evidence of the Moore house.

There are a number of early and mid-twentieth-century houses in Cane Ridge; thus far only a handful have been briefly explored or photographed. The early twentieth-century home at 13905 Old Hickory Blvd., dated to 1915 on the Davidson County property assessor's website, is said by locals to have belonged to Davidson County Sheriff Bob Briley, who purportedly commandeered prisoners to build the stone walls at the location.³⁴ The house, which has a center gable and dropped-roof front porch with turned posts, has also been associated with the Hill family. Currently it appears to be undergoing repairs and renovation by owners Mike and Patsy Pence, though there has not yet been an opportunity for closer inspection. Sue Burkitt Clark possesses photos of the Briley house that appear to date to the early 1900s. There are also several outbuildings on the site.

Paula Curtiss, who has been helpful as a Cane Ridge tour guide, lives in a frame one-story ell-shaped house with Victorian millwork trim at 6872 Burkitt Road, at the end of a long drive; a log extension on the east end of the building is modern. Though at the time Curtiss purchased the property the previous owners gave her an old photo of the house, she does not know the date (a car in the photo seems to date to the 1940s), or the names of early owners.

A home at 6036 Culbertson Road, currently owned by Judith King Vulcano, next door to the home of her sister Teresa King Couch, is a combination of log and stone. Teresa recounts that her grandfather, Jesse King, acquired the logs in about 1936 from an old warehouse being torn down in downtown Nashville. The original logs were quite large and Mr. King had them cut lengthwise to a smaller size, using them to build a small house. The property assessor's website lists the build date for the house at 6036 Culbertson Road as 1938. The other half of the house is of crab orchard stone and built in 1951, according to a photograph owned by Judith, which is

³⁴ Paula Curtiss, personal communication, Antioch, TN, September 20, 2016.

dated and shows the crab orchard-stone structure nearing completion.³⁵ Also on the Judith Vulcano site is a log cabin moved from nearby Williamson County. According to Teresa and Judith's father, Jesse King, the cabin had belonged to one of their ancestors, Teresa and Judith's great-great-grandfather John W. King. In the 1960s Lester Scales, a friend of Jesse King, communicated that the cabin, originally on the south side of Clovercroft Road, was about to be torn down. So the two men marked the logs, took the building apart, and reconstructed it beside the Jesse King house. Notations accompanying family photos of the cabin state it was built about 1835 by John King at a location west of Nolensville on Clovercroft Road and moved in 1965. The cabin is one-and-a-half stories, single pen, with half-dovetail notched logs, one end chimney of limestone, and an interior staircase to the upstairs loft. Apparently the limestone rocks for the chimney (and maybe the foundation) accompanied the cabin and tool markings are evident. Inside is a salting trough made from a huge log, which potentially came from the same location as the cabin.

Another middle-income, early twentieth-century house, in a bungalow-farmhouse style, is at 13330 Old Hickory Blvd., currently the home of James and Cheryl Cochran. Though the site has not been examined except from the road, the Davidson County property assessor's website describes it as a one-story, frame residence with five rooms. There are two end chimneys of limestone, and a wide front-gable front porch with four columns, tapered square on the upper two thirds, supported by limestone bases. Deeds indicate the dwelling and surrounding property once belonged to John Alexander Austin and his wife Martha Plez Woodall Austin, sister of Claude Woodall who designed and constructed the Moore family's bungalow. The property

³⁵ A ranch-style home built in the 1950s/1960s on Pettus Road, currently the home of Barbara Wardlaw, constructed by local resident Judge Rash, is also of crab orchard stone. The Wardlaw home is slated for destruction in advance of a residential development that is in the planning stages.

assessor's website states the house was built in 1910. This build date, if correct, would make the home too old for Martha, born in 1901, to have been its first occupant, or for Claude, born in 1908, to have been the designer and builder, unless he contributed later alterations. Martha and John married in 1931; deed research should determine when the couple purchased the property and from whom. The 1871 Foster map suggests that in the late nineteenth century various members of the Austin family had extensive landholdings on the northwest side of Old Hickory Blvd. where the house was later built, so it is possible John Austin inherited the property, including the house. It is difficult to determine from either the 1871 Foster map or the 1907 E.M. Gardner map whether a house existed in the location prior to 1910, though the 1871 map potentially shows a house and dependencies (with no name attached) near the spot, and the 1907 map could show a home belonging to J.H. Battle. In addition to deed research, a conversation with the current homeowners might offer insights. It is possible the main portion of the home is older, even log, with a later addition of the bungalow-style porch.

Along Burkitt Road are three other modest houses that have been photographed from the street but not yet investigated. A stone house at 6891 Burkitt Road could be classified as a middle-class residence, dating to 1946 according to the Davidson County property assessor's website. Two smaller frame houses nearby, at 6853 and 6857 Burkitt Road, which might have initially been occupied by farm workers rather than landowners, are both currently owned by Houston Hill and date to 1940 and 1920 respectively.

A small board-and-batten house, possibly single-pen, one story with a loft, on the property of 13914 Old Hickory Blvd. (a contemporary house sits some distance behind it), could have been the dwelling of early twentieth-century, lower-income farm laborers, probably African American. It has end gables, a stone foundation, a single gable-end stone chimney, a stone

foundation that once supported a back “porch” of some sort, a rear extension with side windows, a loft window, front and rear doors, and an adjacent structure, either an outhouse or well house. On the left side of the house is a pile of stone rubble, possibly with tool marks, which should be examined more closely. Local residents state that an African-American family named Peoples lived in the dwelling. A deed dated 1962 shows Maggie Winstead Donnell, Maidora Peoples, and Curtis Burks, heirs of Ed Winstead (who died in 1939, having purchased the property from Frank Bush prior to 1900), selling 5 acres of property to Roy and Lucille Hill for the price of ten dollars. A surveyor’s map of the property, broken into two parcels and named the “Floyd Subdivision,” notes a “dilapidated house & outbuildings (to be removed),” including the small house with a porch, a well house, and shed (no longer extant), within parcel 2. Per the map, names attached to the property and to adjacent tracts are Pratt and Sanders. Though often overlooked, such laborer and tenant-farmer homes are important structures to locate and include in an assessment of rural cultural landscapes. This is one of very few such dwellings extant in Cane Ridge, and its condition (one section of the tin roof is perpetually folded back or on the ground) and deed notation “to be removed” are worrisome.

A property long held by an African-American family is at 4017 Twin Oaks Lane (previously 13219 Old Hickory Blvd.), currently owned by Raymond Wilson. The 20-plus-acre site contains a dilapidated house, built in 1952 according to the property assessor’s website. A deed dated 1985 shows the site was conveyed in 1931 by George W. Wilson to Mary King, who upon her death in 1941 left the property to her daughter Isabella Wilson, widow of Thomas Otis Wilson. The 1930 census lists George Johnson (white), age 81, owning a home/property valued at \$2,000 on Hobson Road (possibly the log home built in 1830 by Thomas Johnson), with 43-year-old Mary King living in the house as a “servant.” Subsequent to the 1931 conveyance of the

Johnson property to King, the 1940 census lists Otis Wilson owning a home/farm worth \$2,000. In the household that year were wife Isabella, several children, including Raymond, age 3, and Isabella's mother Mary King. At the time, Otis was a house carpenter and Isabella did laundry in people's homes. Given the property-transfer date of 1931 and home-ownership apparent in the 1940 census, there was undoubtedly a home on the site earlier than 1952; it is possible the home was built earlier than 1952, or the 1950s' house replaced an older dwelling. The house site has not yet been examined firsthand. It would also be valuable to have a conversation with Raymond Wilson.

Two modest homes near the Moore bungalow house on Old Hickory Blvd. have their own connections to Cane Ridge, as well as to the landscape that will become Southeast Park. One tract, encompassing over sixty acres and containing one house plus dependencies, is owned by Sue Burkitt Clark. This parcel slices into the middle of the park. Another tract contains a brick house with bungalow components. It is hoped that at a future date agreements can be reached whereby Clark and the other landowner sell the properties to Metro Parks so that the story of that landscape can join the park's historical narrative. Originally both properties were part of the Wright farm. A 1916 map found among the Moore family papers clearly shows that the Wright's land abutted the Holloway (later Moore) property. John M. Wright, born in 1788 in Virginia, appears in census records for the Cane Ridge area as early as 1812. The 1850 census lists John, age 62, wife Sarah, and two children still at home, including son John, a blacksmith. Living next door is the family of William Wright, presumably related. In 1850 John M. Wright owned eleven slaves. By 1860 Sarah is widowed and the 1871 Foster map marks the home of "Mrs. Wright" just down the road from the Holloways, not far from the rail line. The 1860 slave census lists Sarah Wright with three slaves. In 1870 Sarah still resides at the same location, but

accompanying her in the household is a family named Chadwell, which includes Miranda Wright Chadwell, presumably a daughter. Sarah appears to have died in 1879 in La Vergne.

The 1871 map places the Wright home close to Old Hickory Blvd., with several dependencies. A 1952 aerial photo still shows a substantial building at the location; ruins of the structure were located in spring 2016, including a stone foundation and a stone well (these ruins are discussed below). The foundation is all that remains of the early Wright house, which is shown in photos owned by Harry Burkitt (Sue Clark's brother) to have been a substantial two-story log building. Sometime in the mid-twentieth century Harry's father sold the logs of the Wright house and it was dismantled. The Wright-Chadwell cemetery is not far from the old home site; only one headstone is clearly inscribed.

The 1952 aerial photo also shows the brick bungalow house built in the 1940s by merchant and farmer Willie Gray Burkitt (Sue Burkitt Clark's grandfather) for his second wife Bessie.³⁶ Willie's first wife Jennie Battle (Sue Clark's grandmother) died in 1931. Bessie appears in the 1940 census as the wife of Willie Burkitt, living next door to the Cochran's (discussed below), and near the Moores. W.G. Burkitt purchased the former Wright property from the widow of Baylee Peyton Austin in 1938. A 1907 E.M. Gardner map indicates the home site of "B.P. Austin" near the location of the later Burkitt house, as well as a home site for Baylee's brother Jace Austin. Sue and Harry's father later owned the W.G. Burkitt site and they grew up on that landscape. Deed research should further clarify the history of the land transfers. Just behind the Burkitt bungalow is a sizable extant chicken house, also built by Willie Burkitt for Bessie.

³⁶ Sue Burkitt Clark, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, February 9, 2017.

Next door to the Burkitt house, closer to the Moore house, is a white frame bungalow-type dwelling, which Sue Clark states was built in the 1930s.³⁷ A deed owned by Harry Burkitt indicates T.O. (Tom Otis) Cochran purchased the property from Mary Alice Beasley in 1947, though the house could predate this land purchase. Behind the house are two barns and perhaps other structures. This was the farm of Cochran and his wife Adelaide (Battle) Cochran. Adelaide, who was Sue Clark's aunt, was a teacher at Cane Ridge School and Otis was a dairy farmer. Mary Moore remembers Mr. Cochran picking up the milk from the Moore's dairy farm to drive it to Nashville for processing, and Sue Clark and Harry Burkitt recall Bill Moore visiting the Burkitts and Cochrans on a regular, nearly daily, basis.³⁸ School photos in *Historic Cane Ridge and Its Families* show teacher "Adelaide Battle" with the class of 1914-1915, and teacher "Adelaide B. Cochran" with the class of 1927, so sometime between 1915 and 1927 Adelaide married Otis.³⁹ The Burkitt and Cochran homes have not been evaluated up close, so their layouts and conditions are unknown. The brick bungalow currently houses a business and the white bungalow has for a number of years been rental property.

MOORE AND SANFORD HOUSES

In 1919 John and Audrey Moore purchased property on Old Hickory Blvd. that contained an antebellum home previously belonging to James Holloway. John and Audrey's daughter Mary Moore, who was born in 1924, recalls that the Holloway house looked much like the Sam Davis home in Smyrna, which is a two-story frame building in the Greek Revival style, with a central-

³⁷ Sue Burkitt Clark, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, February 9, 2017.

³⁸ Mary Moore and Aileen Moore Williamson, personal communication with author, La Vergne, TN, June 30, 2016; Sue Burkitt Clark, personal communication with author, Antioch, TN, February 9, 2017.

³⁹ Johnson, 328-329, 322-323.

bay two-story front entry with second-story porch. Mary and her sister Aileen have fond memories of playing on the upstairs porch, but do not clearly remember much about the other spaces in the house (except there was only one closet).⁴⁰ No known photos showing the entire Holloway house have come to light, but a handful of images of the Moore daughters, Evelyn, Aileen, and Mary, show the girls on the front porch of the Holloway house.

In 1931 John and Audrey engaged the contracting firm of Woodall and Stewart to tear down the Holloway house, repurpose appropriate materials, and construct a new home on the site. A contract found among the Moore papers shows the signature of C.A. Woodall representing the contracting firm. Claude Allen Woodall (1905-1960) appears in Nashville city directories as a draftsman for prominent architect George D. Waller during the 1930s, in the 1940 federal census as an architect who does “Home Remodeling,” and in the 1959 city directory as president of Woodall Construction Company. Woodall’s sister Martha Plez Woodall (discussed above) was married to John Alexander Austin and lived in the Cane Ridge community, so perhaps the Moores were acquainted with Claude. Interestingly, since Nashville city directories typically include addresses, the personal residences of Claude Woodall can be located, most of which are still standing; several of them appear to be in the bungalow style. Who “Stewart” was in the firm of Woodall and Stewart is still a mystery.

The new “modern” Moore home designed and constructed by Woodall (and Stewart) is a classic bungalow, one-and-a-half stories, primarily brick, with a projecting front gable over the porch with Tudor half-timber decoration at the gable end, and supported by paired pyramidal columns of stone (purportedly repurposed from the large chimney of the Holloway house); side gables with Tudor half-timbering details below the eaves; three chimneys, one exterior and two

⁴⁰ Mary Moore and Aileen Moore Williamson, personal communication with author, La Vergne, TN, June 30, 2016.

interior; and a basement, created by John Moore to serve as a laundry space, according to Mary Moore.⁴¹ The basement also houses a large furnace apparatus. Tool marks on the house's foundation stones suggest they too might have been repurposed from the Holloway house, but since the basement itself is of twentieth-century construction, it is unclear if the Moore house preserved the footprint, and actual foundation, of the Holloway home.

At ground floor the bungalow has eight rooms, including a bathroom, a central hallway, and an enclosed back porch; upstairs are two bedroom spaces, and a wedge-shaped attic that extends across the front of the house. While the Moore house is missing some common Craftsman elements, like built-in box seats, overall it fits the basic plan for an early twentieth-century year-round bungalow, such as a front porch/veranda with a door into the living room, a living-room fireplace flanked by two windows, a wide entry into the dining room, and a swing door to the kitchen, as described by Anthony King in *The Bungalow*.⁴² A draft assessment of the Moore-Sanford Farm prepared in May 2016 by the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation includes detailed floor plans of the house.

Across Old Hickory Blvd. from the bungalow, also on Moore farm property, is the one-story brick ranch-style house, representative of the post-bungalow phase of modern house design, which once belonged to Evelyn Moore Sanford and her husband Joe Burns Sanford, built in 1950, a few years after their marriage in 1945. The journal of Audrey Williams Moore, kept for several years during the 1950s, notes in 1950 that an older house was taken down and the new home built for Evelyn and Joe; at one stage of construction, Audrey remarks that the new foundation was covered during inclement weather. The house is a time capsule, complete with its

⁴¹ Mary Moore, personal communication with author, La Vergne, TN, June 30, 2016.

⁴² Anthony D. King, *The Bungalow: The Production of a Global Culture*, 2nd edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), 146.

original kitchen cabinetry and knotty-pine paneling in the den. It replaced the antebellum house of the W.H.B. Gambill family, which appears in that exact spot on the 1871 Foster map. Though no photos have surfaced of the Gambill home, Mary Moore remembers it as a two-story log house sheathed in board siding that for a number of years was the home of her aunt Nora Moore Hartman (1871-1938) and her husband James Hartman.⁴³ Tool marks on the limestone foundation stones of the Sanford house suggest they might have been repurposed from the earlier Gambill structure, and in the spring, rows of heirloom daffodils seem to demarcate the old drive to the front of the Gambill home. Tool-marked sandstones associated with the Moore-Sanford barn could also date to an earlier structure.

ENSLAVED HOUSES

Only one structure in Cane Ridge has been officially designated as slave quarters: the enslaved house associated with the Benajah Gray house (discussed above), which is a component of the property's National Register listing. *A Past Remembered* includes a photo of this structure, describing it as a one-and-a-half-story, double-pen log cabin with half-dovetail notching.⁴⁴ The image, photographed in the 1980s, shows the structure to have been in good condition at that time. Vicki Jordan, current owner of the Benajah Gray house, has indicated she has not visited the site in recent years, so presumably has not been maintaining it. The cabin, though still tied to the Gray house, is now within a Metro Parks property called Cane Ridge Park. An examination in October 2017 reveals the dwelling to still be standing but in need of repairs.

⁴³ Mary Moore, personal communication with author, La Vergne, TN, June 30, 2016 and October 5, 2017.

⁴⁴ Clements, vol. II, 224.

Other structures in Cane Ridge and nearby areas are potentially associated with enslavement, and locals have shared memories of seeing such buildings over the years, and offered to help find their locations, or their ruins. Given the number of enslaved people on the landscape indicated in census records prior to and including 1860, and the population of African-American community residents listed in post-Emancipation federal census records, there is at least some potential for structural evidence of their dwellings to still exist. Stephen Ash states that in the 1860s four out of every ten people in Middle Tennessee were slaves.⁴⁵ One small example, a wood-frame shack with a side extension, gable-end door, and small windows, sits just behind Buchanan's Tavern on Murfreesboro Road, beside an outhouse. The current property owners, Sed and Evelyn Oldham, have been told this was a slave cabin, though it is probably of later construction and used by a farm laborer, or perhaps was originally used for another purpose entirely, given the absence of a chimney.

RUINS

The ruins of several structures have been discovered in and near Southeast Park and elsewhere in Cane Ridge, but undoubtedly there are many others still waiting to be found. Within Southeast Park a collection of stones indicative of foundation or chimney materials lies on a hillock near the Austin Cemetery. It is likely this is debris left behind when the Johnston-Austin home was relocated, potentially when the path of the power-line right-of-way was blazed through the property. At another location within the park one handmade brick was found, which encourages a more intensive search. As discussed above, on land owned by Sue Burkitt Clark, are the ruins of the Wright house, with a substantial limestone foundation, a well-crafted stone-lined well, and

⁴⁵ Stephen V. Ash, *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed, 1860-1870: War and Peace in the Upper South* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988), 10.

a stone-lined drive; the Wrights appear in area census records beginning in the early 1800s, so the structures could date to that period.

All three of these sites were discerned by scanning the landscape for daffodils in the spring, which could be a useful strategy in the hunt for additional home sites. An heirloom daffodil variety called ‘Van Scion’ has been found at several old homes, ruins of homesteads, and cemeteries. Some distance to the south of the Sanford home, on the rise of a hill, a significant grouping of another old variety of daffodil, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, (also found at several other locations, including the W.H.B. Gambill home site) distinctly outlines the footprint of a non-extant structure. Found among the Moore papers, a 1935 surveyor’s map of a 65.32-acre tract of land owned by J.H. Moore, “Being a part of the W.H.B. Gamble Land,” shows an unidentified building at that location, though a 1952 aerial photo shows no structure, or even the ruins of one, on that site. It is unknown what that structure might have been. According to family lore, it was enslaved quarters, presumably associated with the Gambill family. The 1860 slave census does list W.H.B. Gambill with thirteen slaves and two slave cabins. This location might be a candidate for archaeological investigation.

The ruins of an early Moore family farm site are apparent near the Moore family cemetery, at the end of an old stretch of macadamized road lying just to the west of Interstate 24. This property belonged to William Henry and Allie (Owens) Moore. Moore descendent Jim Moon recalls the house being a frame one-and-a-half-story structure with a gable front and wing layout, a dropped-roof front porch, millwork trim, and rear extension, typical of modest Victorian houses from the late 1800s and early 1900s. In 2007 Moon drew an illustration of the house from memory, a copy of which hangs in the 1931 Moore bungalow house. Images in McAlester’s field guide, illustrating the Folk Victorian style, are nearly identical to Moon’s

drawing.⁴⁶ Further north in the woods are ruins of additional homes and other structures such as a stone springhouse, likely belonging to neighbors of the Moores. Ruins of a twentieth-century home site are located along the same road to the south, accompanied by an intact barn. Trailing beside the road are early electric lines still attached to telephone poles, some standing and some collapsed.

Other ruins scouted within Cane Ridge include a cinderblock “basement house” on Cane Ridge Road, said to have belonged to the Ledbetter family. Here, metal-frame casement windows, operated by cranks, and the type of electrical wiring, with brown, screw-in porcelain insulators, suggest it was built in the 1940s or 1950s. A 30-acre parcel north of Old Hickory Blvd. and east of Pettus Road contains an even more intriguing ruin—the sandstone house foundation and half-standing chimney (with clear tool markings) of the John Jackson house, identified using the 1871 Foster map. Elsewhere on this landscape are a limestone “slave wall,” the remains of old farm roads, huge trees, and scores of native wildflowers. The site is potentially one of the most undisturbed landscapes in Cane Ridge.

DEPENDENCIES

There are a plethora of various types of outbuildings scattered across the Cane Ridge landscape, some functioning and others derelict, some associated with dwellings and others standing alone in a field or forest. The categories include: barns, milk buildings, corncribs, smokehouses, equipment sheds, garages, outhouses, chicken coops, detached kitchens, well houses, and silos. The Moore farm alone contains two barns, a milk house, well house, outhouse, smokehouse, garage, chicken house, and equipment shed, plus evidence of previous structures, including a

⁴⁶ McAlester, 396, 400.

third barn and a silo. Elsewhere in Southeast Park, near the Austin Cemetery, are a barn with eave shed extensions and twin side passages rather than a central runway (though the structure seems to have been altered over the years), and a log corncrib constructed of cedar posts and some square-headed nails. The Burkitt farm on Battle Road includes a number of barns and other outbuildings, some associated with their dairy operation.

Log smokehouses are evident at the Whitsett and Gray properties. The Gillespie-Culbertson property contains a sandstone outbuilding. Twana Chick, president of the Cane Ridge Community Club, has a structure on her property on Cane Ridge Road that she was told was a smokehouse moved there from another location years ago, but that is unconfirmed. A look inside the building was not immediately clarifying.

At most locations where the kitchen was originally a detached building, a connector was later constructed to join the kitchen to the main house, such as at the Johnson, D.G. Clark, and Whitsett houses. At the Gray house two kitchen/dining buildings are still separate. A look behind some homes might uncover other detached log dependencies, or ones previously separate but later incorporated. For example, at the rear of the Wolf house, obscured by weedy shrubs, is an intriguing log structure of undetermined function.

Barns can be found on multiple properties, including the Whitsett farm, the Sheriff Bob Briley farm on Old Hickory Blvd., and across Old Hickory Blvd. from the Wolf house. All three locations contain silos as well. On Carothers Road, three enormous, twentieth-century silos stand like sentinels near the entrance to a new suburban development named Carothers Farms; the structures were once part of a large dairy-farming operation belonging to the Carothers family. A dilapidated horse-stable building was found across a field from the Moore cemetery; the name of the original owner is not yet known, though the structure is visible on old aerial photos. Other

outbuildings found include a chicken coop (Whitsett), outhouses (Whitsett, Buchanan, Clark, and the log cabin on Old Hickory Blvd.), log corncrib (Gray), and equipment sheds and garages (Whitsett, Briley, Burkitt). Twana Chick was told that her house is a converted milk house. Many other structures have been spotted from the car window, so further boots-on-the-ground investigations are warranted.

CEMETERIES

A number of cemeteries are associated with the Cane Ridge community and nearby locations. The majority are small family cemeteries typically near home sites, though the original house structures are not always extant. The markers in these graveyards vary greatly in form and decoration, from obelisk monuments to simple engraved headstones to stone vaults to unmarked fieldstones. A total of thirty-five cemeteries have thus far been located, two of them associated with churches—the African-American cemetery at Olive Branch Church and the graveyard at Cane Ridge Cumberland Presbyterian Church. A cemetery is also connected to the Benajah Gray house as part of its National Register listing. One graveyard, of the McFarlin family, lies just over the line in Rutherford County (Carrie Moore, sister of John Henry Moore, was married to Noble Ellis McFarlin). Another graveyard, associated with the Sanders family, lying near Concord Church and just over the Williamson County line, is interesting in that two headstones incorporate the Mason's symbol.

The Thompson-Collinsworth-Davis Cemetery behind Max Mobility on Crossings Blvd./Mt. View Parkway (which joins Mt. View Road) contains the grave of Edward Collinsworth (1759-1816), who fought with George Washington in the Revolutionary War and Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812, and several family members. Only two family graves are

marked with inscribed stones—Effie Davis, who died as a child, and Sarah Whittmore—the remainder are marked with fieldstones. But the cemetery also has a history connected to the Civil War. In December 1864 when Confederate troops sabotaged the railroad in a cut near the current location of Hickory Hollow Mall, a train carrying Union troops wrecked, killing 24 soldiers. Local resident Pamela Collinsworth Davis, though not a Union sympathizer, offered her family’s cemetery as a burial ground.⁴⁷ While a rumor exists that the soldiers were later moved to the Federal Cemetery in Murfreesboro, the number of unidentified adult graves in the Thompson-Collinsworth-Davis Cemetery, marked with fieldstones, could suggest that some of all of the soldiers still rest in the Antioch location. The cemetery was surveyed in 2000 and again in 2005, locating 25 graves, which is more than can be accounted for by listing likely family members buried there.⁴⁸ A brief look at the site in October 2017 suggests there could be additional, unmarked graves beyond the fenced boundary; a closer examination during the winter when foliage does not obscure the landscape would be useful. The 2017 visit also identified a surprising number of native shrubs on the parcel, which could indicate the site retains other aspects of its early character. Part of this parcel contains a posted for-sale sign; development of this small piece of property could endanger the integrity of the cemetery, destroy unidentified graves, and obliterate a small extant piece of native woodland. Given the presence of the graveyard and the potential collection of native species, this could be a prime location for purchase by Metro Parks for a pocket park.

⁴⁷ A promissory note between Pamela (Permelia) A. Davis and William Henry Moore and William Green Moore, dated February 1871, was found among the Moore family documents.

⁴⁸ The Thompson-Collinsworth-Davis Cemetery was surveyed in 2000 during the Davidson County Cemetery Survey project. In 2005 another survey was conducted at the request of descendant Roy S. Newsom after his research indicated there might be Union soldiers buried in the location. Newsom, other descendants, representatives of the Davidson County Cemetery Survey, MTSU archaeologist Dan Allen, and Dr. Carroll Van West of MTSU’s Center for Historic Preservation inspected the site, resulting in a report and a map of the cemetery.

The family cemeteries in the Cane Ridge area of Davidson County that have been located are associated with the following surnames:

Austin
Barnes
Battle-Gooch
Battle-Watson
Bess
Briley
Byrd
Carper
Culbertson
Driver
Fly
Foster-Owens
Gambill
Gambill-Forester
Gray
Guthrie
Holloway
McFarlin
Moore
Nance-Bush
Proctor
Richards
Roach
Roller-Carrigan
Sanders-Gillespie
Thompson-Collinsworth-Davis
Turner
Wair
Whitsett
Wright-Chadwell

Cemeteries associated with the families of Waller, Ledbetter, Kimbro, Whittemore, Morton, and Wolf are also reportedly in Cane Ridge, according to websites for Roadside Thoughts, Find a Grave, the Davidson County Cemetery Survey, and the Davidson County property assessor, as well as topographical maps and Google aerial images. The sites of additional cemeteries might come to light as research continues.

The future site of Southeast Park includes four known cemeteries, belonging to the Austin, Holloway, Gambill, and Wright-Chadwell families. According to the Davidson County Cemetery Survey, the Austin graveyard contains at least five inscribed headstones, though based on a cursory firsthand look there seem to be more; there are also five vaults, four of them made of stacked stones. The Austin cemetery is particularly significant because it contains a number of fieldstones, reportedly marking the gravesites of enslaved persons. The Holloway and Gambill cemeteries, which contain the graves of early residents James Holloway and his wife Martha Gray Holloway, and W.H.B. Gambill and his wife Mary Gray Gambill, among other family members, are on the former Moore farm property. Depressions in the ground, daffodils, and local lore suggest there are enslaved graves near the Holloway and Gambill cemeteries, and the Wright-Chadwell cemetery contains several graves marked by fieldstones, some of which could belong to slaves. The Holloway, Gambill, and Wright-Chadwell cemeteries should be examined more closely in the winter, when fieldstone markers and depressions in the ground would be more visible, and in the spring, when daffodils might point the way to graves.

During a field exploration of Southeast Park property conducted on February 3, 2017, what appears to be a collection of graves was found near the edge of a service road to the east of Interstate 24. At this time that property is not slated to be part of Southeast Park. The grave markers include a handful of upright sandstone fieldstones, and a number of horizontal sandstone slabs. It is unclear what family or property these graves might be associated with, or if they might even be Native American gravesites. Further investigation conducted by individuals with appropriate expertise is needed.

A number of relatives of the Moore family are buried at Mapleview Cemetery in Smyrna, but several others can be found in a Moore graveyard at the end of a stretch of road once known

as Hobson Drive, near the site of an early Moore home. There are six tombstones with inscriptions, including for William Henry Moore, his parents William Green Moore and Amanda Johnston Moore, and two of William Henry's children, Bertha and Benjamin Franklin. The Davidson County Cemetery Survey website suggests there are at least twelve burials in the Moore cemetery, but it is not yet known to whom the unmarked graves might belong. The grave locations of several Moore family members are indeed "missing," such as Letitia Roach Moore, William Henry's second wife. Prior to ownership by William Henry Moore and Allie Moore, the Roach family owned the property. Although there is a Roach graveyard located on the east side of I-24, beside a Mexican diner, there are a number of Roach family members whose gravesites have not been located, including early landowners Jesse and Ellen Roach, Leticia's parents. So there is a chance that near the Moore cemetery there are Roach family graves.

The Foster-Owens Graveyard is also of particular interest, containing over twenty graves, including the burial sites of Moore ancestors Andrew Jackson Owens and his wife Emeline Foster Owens, parents of Allie Owens Moore who was the third wife of William Henry Moore. Also buried in this cemetery is Allie's brother Benjamin F. Owens, who was a railroad engineer killed in a train accident. Several of the tombstones are substantial and decorative, and the cemetery is surrounded by a stone wall with a wooden gate. Though the cemetery is located in an awkward place, encircled by an on-ramp/off-ramp of Interstate 24, this has likely contributed to its protection. The safety of the cemetery should be monitored as the nearby Century Farms complex and large Ikea store are constructed, and a concomitant new I-24 interchange.

Few of the known cemeteries are associated with African Americans. The Austin cemetery, mentioned above, does contain slave graves, and the Olive Branch Church cemetery (discussed below) seems to contain fieldstone markers as well as inscribed headstones. Locals

have shared memories of additional slave graves located in the Cane Ridge area, including one on Old Hickory Blvd. near property currently owned by Marty Luffman, but these have not yet been verified. Several nineteenth-century residents did own slaves, some of them a significant number, so it is certain that there are enslaved gravesites somewhere in Cane Ridge, and perhaps in undiscovered places in Southeast Park. Since enslaved gravesites are generally designated by unmarked fieldstones, it is foreseeable that development could destroy (probably has already destroyed) such sites without prior knowledge of their existence. Which makes it imperative to conduct a more thorough search.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

Churches and schools are here covered in tandem since communities often utilized the same or adjacent structures for the two purposes, or a singular location was the site of both types of institutions at different times. Over the course of a century and a half, from the early 1800s until the mid-twentieth century, several churches and schools have been located in Cane Ridge or nearby, and played important roles in the community. Two antebellum church structures still survive today, the Concord Church and the Cane Ridge Cumberland Presbyterian Church; the latter, still in use for church services, is one of only two buildings currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The first Concord Church was a log structure built on Mill Creek northeast of the town of Nolensville in about 1804. Later, in 1844, a new brick church, which is extant, was constructed across the creek. Typical of nineteenth-century rural Tennessee churches, the building has a simple rectangular footprint and is relatively unadorned. Terry Jordan-Bychkov notes this simplicity stems from the “dissenter Protestant’s view” of the primary function of a church

building as “a place of assembly, not an abode of God or the scene of ritual miracle.”⁴⁹ Which is also why church buildings were multi-purpose and utilized as schools and polling places. In the 1940s Concord Church expanded with the addition of brick wings utilized as school classrooms and fellowship meeting spaces. MTSU’s digital “Rutherford County Schools Collection” notes that a “Concord School” operated from about 1871 to about 1910, though it is not known if this was associated with Concord Church.⁵⁰ In the 1960s a foyer/narthex with a single entrance was added to the front of the 1844 double-entry sanctuary. The church’s blog indicates members of the Moore family belonged to the church as early as the 1830s (the actual records have not yet been examined in order to know first names). According to an obituary found among the Moore family documents, William Henry Moore joined Concord Church when he was twenty-one years old in 1866, later moving his membership to Mt. View Baptist Church on Old Hickory Blvd. when it was established in the 1890s.

As a Baptist church, proximity to a creek was critically important to provide a place for full-immersion baptism rituals, and it might be possible, with the assistance of former church members, to find the original pathway down the bank of Mill Creek to the Concord Church baptismal location. In the creek just to the north of the church are two stone pillars, purportedly the supports of an antebellum bridge. Locals claim that Concord Road once ran behind the church and the lay of the land makes this feasible, especially with the presence of a bridge; the 1871 Foster map seems to support this roadway route as well. The church site was also the location of a Union Army encampment during the Civil War. In 2005 the property, then called the Grandview-Concord Baptist Church, was purchased by the El Shaddai Christian Church,

⁴⁹ Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov, *The Upland South: The Making of an American Folk Region and Landscape* (Harrisonburg, VA: Center for American Places, 2003), 73.

⁵⁰ “Rutherford County Schools Collection,” Middle Tennessee State University Digital Collections, cdm15838.contentdm.oclc.org.

which still owns it today. Unfortunately the devastating Davidson County flood of 2010 damaged portions of the church structure, forcing El Shaddai to find other locations for services. The current pastor and his wife, Germán and Margaret Castro, have since pursued restoration efforts to meet eligibility as a National Historic Site, with plans to eventually use the location for historic interpretation, special events, walking trails, and a public garden.

Concord Church was one of several Baptist churches in Davidson County created as part of missionary outreach by the parent church of Mill Creek Baptist Church, established in 1795, with a log structure built in 1797 and a first brick meeting house in 1810, located on Old Glenrose Avenue in Nashville. A cemetery housing the remains of both white and African-American members stills exists on the former site of this church, which was razed in the mid-twentieth century. Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, Inc. was organized in 1992 to restore and maintain the cemetery. The 1844 Concord Church building is purportedly a twin to the 1833 Mill Creek Baptist Church.⁵¹ An early pastor of the Mill Creek church was James Whitsett, and his grandson, William Whitsett, was ordained to preach at Concord Church at about the time the brick version of Concord was built in 1844; the graves of William Whitsett and his wife Malinda can be found near their former home on Burkitt Road, described above.

Cane Ridge Cumberland Presbyterian Church has a sanctuary building similar to the 1844 Concord Church, with a rectangular footprint, front and rear gables, two front doors, and three windows on each of the long sides. Established on property donated by Edwin Austin and Thomas Boaz for the purposes of a Baptist meeting house and cemetery, according to an 1826 deed, the first structure was log, and used by the Baptists until acquired by the Cumberland

⁵¹ Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard, Inc., “2012 May 19th Presentation,” sites.google.com/site/fomcbcg.

Presbyterian Church in 1837.⁵² The earlier building burned and was replaced in 1859 by the extant brick building, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Associated with the church is a cemetery where a number of Cane Ridge residents, some of them veterans of the Revolutionary War, are buried.

The site of the Olive Branch Church on Cane Ridge Road has a long history of use by African Americans. In an 1871 deed, James Thompson sold one acre of land to “J.G. Briley, B. Gray, J.H. Austin, Common School Commissioners” for a “colored” school.⁵³ The 1871 Wilbur Foster map indicates the location of James Thompson’s house, which would have been just northeast of the school site. For decades this school was a primary source of education for Cane Ridge’s African-American residents, for grades one through seven, according to Palmer. To continue their education, black students in the area attended such schools as Providence, associated with the Providence Church, on Nolensville Road.

The Olive Branch Church was founded at the same location in 1875, and possibly used the school building for services. Aerial photos from 1951 show two structures on the property, presumably the church and school; a 1975 aerial photo shows a singular building. More recently, perhaps in the 1980s or 1990s the church was altered again, at least on the exterior. In January 2017 a phone interview with Anissa Palmer, a descendent of African-American residents of the Cane Ridge community, many of them members of Olive Branch Church, cited an article published in the *Nashville Banner* in 1983, celebrating the church’s one-hundred-eighth anniversary. The article states that the original church building was destroyed in 1968 as a result of arson during Civil Rights unrest. White community members responded by offering the use of

⁵² Johnson, 8.

⁵³ The full names of the Common School Commissioners are undoubtedly John G. Briley, Benajah Gray, and Jason H. Austin, who were white. Thompson, Briley, Gray, and Austin were all former slave owners, according to slave census records for 1850 and 1860.

nearby Cane Ridge School for Olive Branch services until a new church could be built, which was completed in 1971. The original Olive Branch School building eventually fell into disrepair and was torn down in the 1980s. Research is ongoing to learn more about the appearance of the early buildings; Palmer has seen photos of both the school and church and describes them as simple, one-room frame buildings, which would be in keeping with other early schools and churches in the area.⁵⁴ However, the 1952 aerial photo seems to indicate the school building was L-shaped, based on the clearly visible configuration of the roof peak. In 2016 the congregation of Olive Branch Church moved to larger quarters in Nashville and the property was sold to St. Kyrillos Coptic Orthodox Church.

Behind the former Olive Branch Church is an African-American cemetery where there are few headstones present, despite a list on the Find a Grave website of thirty-one individuals buried there. Two people not listed, though their death certificates states their burial locations were Olive Branch in Antioch, are Janie Battle Gooch her husband Ike, who periodically worked for John and Audrey Moore and lived near the Moore farm. Two of Ike and Janie's children, Theodore Roosevelt Gooch and George E. Gooch, also should be buried at Olive Branch as indicated by their death certificates, though they also are not listed on Find a Grave. Three extant tombstones contain the surname Guthrie. Names of descendents of both the Guthrie and Gooch families, purportedly with relatives buried in the Olive Branch cemetery, have been located, but interviews have just begun in order to acquire additional information on the church, school, and graveyard. Palmer has indicated that church records do exist, but they have not yet been located.

The sites of two other African-American school sites have been located in or near Cane Ridge; both of which seem to appear on the 1898 E.M. Gardner map, the locations marked with a

⁵⁴ Anissa Palmer, personal communication with author, January 7, 2017.

star and a “C” indicating a “colored” or “Negro” school according to the map key. Both locations also seem to appear on the 1923 E.M. Gardner map as well.

In a deed dated March 1959, Elizabeth Briley, widow of Sheriff Bob Briley, sold 2.2 acres on the north side of Hobson Road (the name of that section of Old Hickory Blvd. at the time) to Roy Hill. The property is described as “the Old Rockvale School (colored) property,” surveyed by Hickerson-Miller, Surveyors, on March 23, 1959. The Briley home at 13905 Old Hickory Blvd. is extant, nearby and on the south side of the road. A 1974 deed between Marbut Glenn Gaston, Jr., and Gene and Patricia Smith concerning 40 acres at a bend in Old Hickory Blvd. near Pettus Road, a parcel containing the nineteenth-century Andrew Wolf house, reprints a previous description of the location, citing the eastern boundary as the “old Colored School lot,” owned at the time of the older description by Robert (Bob) Briley. Owners of other boundary properties included Glenn Winstead and Albert Sanders, whose parcels are also associated with the land containing the small shack on Old Hickory Blvd. discussed earlier. A school site does appear at the location described in the deeds on the 1926 McQuiddy map of Davidson County, though the name is difficult to read due to the poor scan of the map on the TSLA website. An examination of the original map should clarify the name. On a Nashville History website, a listing of historical African-American schools in Davidson County, compiled by Debie Cox, lists Rockvale School on Hobson Road.⁵⁵

Another black school on Old Hickory Blvd., near the intersection with Bell Road, at the edge of Cane Ridge and perhaps a bit beyond the boundaries of the community, was Rough Rock School. Metro Parks is in possession of a photo of the school, which was a small frame building, front and rear gabled, with at least one exterior chimney, on the south side, and another chimney

⁵⁵ See nashvillehistory.blogspot.com. Providence School on Nolensville Road is also listed, though Olive Branch School is not.

that appears to be interior, and a stone foundation. There were two wood paneled front doors, each with three-pane transoms and steps, and two windows along the south side; there were undoubtedly two windows along the north side as well, and possibly one rear door. The roof trim at the front gable end (probably the rear gable end as well), and possibly along the sides, has a decorative scallop pattern. The interior was likely one room, though the presence of at least two chimneys could suggest that the space was or could be divided into multiple teaching spaces. Having two front doors was a standard arrangement for local rural churches, but perhaps for schools as well since Cane Ridge School also has two front doors. The decorative quality of the front entrances and roof trim, and the presence of multiple chimneys suggest this was an important institution for the African-American community, and a building that local residents took pride in. Though the Rough Rock School building is no longer extant, the site can still be seen as a cleared, flat space in a landscape of cedar trees and limestone outcroppings. Adjacent to this site is the extant and still operating African-American White's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church. It is unclear exactly when the church was founded, but the current cinder-block buildings were constructed in 1969 by Benevolent Order #92, according to a plaque on one corner of the sanctuary building. Also listed on the plaque are the names of Mother Sadie Hill, clerk, and Elder D.T. Carothers, pastor. Further investigation of the site should determine when the two institutions were founded, and how the school and church might be connected.

Mt. View Baptist Church on Old Hickory Blvd. was founded on its present site in 1896 and since then has undergone a number of architectural changes. The original building is no longer standing, but photos show it to have been a rectangular white frame structure with front and rear gables, a single front entrance, a series of narrow windows on the long sides, and a small elliptical front-gable window above the door. Shortly after the church was initiated,

William Henry Moore moved his membership from Concord Church to the Mt. View congregation, and church records indicate that on his deathbed William Henry left money to the church to pay off its debt. The 1871 Foster map shows a “Mount View Church” not far to the northeast on Murfreesboro Road, near where Mt. View Elementary School is today. Documents now held at Mt. View Baptist Church narrate that the church was initiated in the 1880s at the Murfreesboro Road location, but when the building became too deteriorated to be safe, a new frame church was built on Old Hickory Blvd. on land donated by Mary Ellen Hibbett, though the old site continued in use as a location for tent revivals. A house belonging to the Hibbett family is shown on the 1871 map close to the current church site. In 1953 an auditorium was built, in 1959 a basement was dug beneath the auditorium, and in 1963 a two-story education building was constructed and a brick veneer was added. In 1966 the original frame church was demolished to make room for a parking lot. Remodeling and renovation of the remaining structures were completed in 1978, and in 1988 another addition, the Elsie Hall Pavilion, was constructed. So today the church is a hodgepodge of additions and remodeling efforts that occurred from the 1950s through the 1980s. Based on documents found among the Moore documents, there was also a Mt. View School in the early twentieth century. It is unknown at this point if this school was located on Murfreesboro Road, near the modern-day school, or was part of Mt. View Church.

The site of the current Gilroy Church of Christ on Old Hickory Blvd., just off Interstate 24 to the west, has had a number of functions over the years. Records found thus far are scant, but in addition to the church, there have apparently also been a school and a store located there, with the store, operated by Charles Boyd Johnson, serving briefly as the “Gilroy” post office as well. A handwritten page found among the Moore family documents, a 1909 school assignment

by then fifth-grader Ray Moore, brother of John Henry Moore, lists his school location as “Gilroy School.” The website of Gilroy Church of Christ, adapting text written by church member Fannie Belle Paul Taylor (who at one point lived in the Johnson log house described above) states that George Johnson sold the property to the “Davidson County School Board” in the early 1900s. A 1904 deed shows G.W. Johnson selling one acre “for building a schoolhouse for the white children” to W.H. Moore, G.W. Preston, and R.H. Cochran, “School Directors of the Sixth District of Davidson County.” A decade later, according to the church website, the county returned the property to George Johnson, and a group of Cane Ridge community members, including Johnsons and Pauls, began in 1914 to utilize the building as a Church of Christ, finally purchasing the property in 1915. Over subsequent years various additions were made to the old building, but by the 1970s the congregation decided to demolish the structure and build a new church, which was dedicated in 1972.⁵⁶ This brick building is the one that stands on the site today. One photo of the early school structure was found online, showing a simple white frame building with front and rear gables and a single front door.⁵⁷ Another photo was found in a notebook recording the activities of the Cane Ridge Home Demonstration Club in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, belonging to former Cane Ridge resident Harry Burkitt.

An important school that serviced the community was the Cane Ridge School, the building for which is still standing on the corner of Old Hickory Blvd. and Cane Ridge Road, within Metro Park’s Cecil Rhea Crawford Park. Constructed in 1908, this one-story, T-plan building with a cross-hipped roof and neoclassical façade was the main education site for numerous Cane Ridge residents, including two generations of the Moore family. It closed in

⁵⁶ “A Brief History of the Gilroy Congregation,” adapted from Fannie Belle Paul Taylor, “A History of Gilroy Church of Christ,” gilroychurch.org.

⁵⁷ mgarveyice.wordpress.com.

1956 as Davidson County schools were consolidated.⁵⁸ The school building is remarkably intact, including its interior, and it is still in use for community meetings. For upper grades, beginning in 1933, Cane Ridge students, including the Moores, attended Antioch High School on Blue Hole Road, the building for which is no longer extant, on the current site of Antioch Middle School.

On Culbertson Road, a small white frame building displays the sign “Old School House” above its porch. According to local residents and maps, including the 1926 McQuiddy map of Davidson County, this was the Harwood School. Teresa King Couch, who lives next door, shares that her grandmother, Nellie Barnes King, attended this school and taught there in the early 1900s. Teresa owns a photo of a school class, including her then teenaged grandmother, standing next to the Harwood School. Nellie King also taught at Cane Ridge School and a photo of her standing next to that school was found among the Moore photos. It has not yet been discovered when the Harwood School opened and closed, who else attended, and the names of other teachers, nor has there been an opportunity to examine the interior of the building to see if it retains any of its school-era components.

Two other schools are marked on the 1871 Foster map, one across the street from Cane Ridge Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Old Hickory Blvd. and a second to the east of a house belonging to C. Johnson. The first structure, which burned, was presumably also called Cane Ridge School, in operation from 1826 to about 1893, according to MTSU’s digital “Rutherford County Schools Collection,” which notes that this school included students from

⁵⁸ Dates for Cane Ridge School found in “Rutherford County Schools Collection,” Middle Tennessee State University Digital Collections, cdm15838.contentdm.oclc.org.

both Davidson and Rutherford counties.⁵⁹ Little information has been found concerning the second school, though it was still extant in 1900 since it appears on the W.W. Southgate & Son map of Davidson County. Comparing old and modern-day maps and aerial photos, this second school site seems to have been near the current Carothers Road. Thus far, no Cane Ridge residents or former residents who remember this school have been located. Another school in Cane Ridge, at the corner of Cane Ridge Road and Old Franklin Road, was named Shady Grove; today a contemporary house stands on the site. Given the ubiquity of the one-room schoolhouse in rural communities during the nineteenth century, and even into the twentieth, as presented by Jonathan Zimmerman in *Small Wonder*, it is likely the non-extant Cane Ridge-area schools were single-room structures, either log or frame, with an entry at the gable end, and windows along the sides.⁶⁰

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

Since the initial settlement of Middle Tennessee, transportation routes have provided critical connective components. For the Cane Ridge community these pathways allowed residents to interface with each other, and facilitated access to the urban center of Nashville as well as the nearby towns of La Vergne, Smyrna, Nolensville, Lebanon, Franklin, and Murfreesboro. It is still possible to see roadways from the 1871 Foster map reflected in portions of current streets, and also to note where defunct sections of roads might still be locatable on the landscape. Aerial photos from 1951 and 1975 are helpful resources as well.

⁵⁹ “Rutherford County Schools Collection,” Middle Tennessee State University Digital Collections, cdm15838.contentdm.oclc.org.

⁶⁰ Jonathan Zimmerman, *Small Wonder: The Little Red Schoolhouse in History and Memory* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), 20-21, 23.

A few sections of early paved roads have been found thus far, one an asphalt portion of the original route of Old Hickory Blvd. near the Moore's 1931 bungalow, another a stretch of macadamized road, known as Hobson Drive, that ends near the ruins of an older Moore farmstead, lying just to the west of Interstate 24. A section of macadamized road near Old Hickory Blvd. just south of Bell Road also leads to several properties atop a hill, including the sites of the Wair and Battle-Watson cemeteries. An earlier route of Old Hickory Blvd., which led to the Kimbro train depot and across the train tracks, is also extant. Several sections of long-abandoned routes, now just flattened, wagon-wide pathways through the woods, often with ruts from wagon wheels and tires still evident, have been located in Cane Ridge Road. But the hunt for roadways and road remnants in the area, both paved and unpaved, is in its early stages.

A major thoroughfare for local residents since at least the early nineteenth century has been Murfreesboro Road, sometimes called Murfreesboro Pike or Old Nashville Highway. Along this route in the 1830s Cherokee tribes people walked the Trail of Tears, and in the 1860s Union and Confederate troops used the roadway in the tug of war over Nashville and Middle Tennessee. The importance of the early iteration of this roadway prompted the building of Buchanan's Tavern in the early 1800s, near the juncture with Old Hickory Blvd. (discussed above). The proximity of Murfreesboro Road to the railroad later made the tavern, subsequently a house, an ideal spot for a livery stable. Current owners of the property the Oldhams point along a path above a pond and through the trees to a flat area of ground where the large stables (which burned many years ago) once stood. And they relate how travelers would drop off their buggies, wagons, horses, and mules at the stables and walk or be transported to the nearby Kimbro Station to catch the train.

The construction of the railway, completed in 1851 between Nashville and Murfreesboro, significantly changed transportation in the area. Remaining unaltered in its basic route through southeastern Davidson County over the past century and a half, the rail line serves as a helpful reference point, greatly facilitating the location of sites shown on old, post-1851 maps. Within the property of Southeast Park, near the rail line, are piles of boulders, which are the debris left from the railroad's construction. Other "mass transit" routes still to be researched are a stagecoach route that included some portion of Mt. View Road (the Rucker home known as Mountain View is reported to have been a stagecoach stop), and a short-lived trolley line that ran between Nashville and Nolensville.

CONCLUSION

The wealth of evidence uncovered thus far in Cane Ridge warrants action to preserve what is left of the cultural landscape of this community, which could significantly contribute to the historical narrative not only for this specific local area but the wider region as well. As part of this undertaking, a more thorough examination and assessment should be conducted of the properties included in this report. Further, conversations with locals should continue, as should fieldwork to locate other sites, as well as research in primary and secondary sources, all of which will surely uncover valuable additional information. Participating in dialogues via the Cane Ridge Community Club and pursuing an interpretive plan for Southeast Park that incorporates historical context, represent at least two entry points to facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration. The community is far more mixed than has been previously assumed; one-third or more of the attendees at the December 2016 meeting of the Cane Ridge Community Club were African American. This bodes well for gathering contributions to assemble into a multi-layered

historical narrative, as well as engaging a diversity of community members in preservation efforts.

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