

GREEN PASTURES

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

Historic Name: Hadley, Denny P., House, (Hadleywood) (WM-77)

Common Name: Green Pastures

Classification: Building

Owner: Jesse M. Henley, Green Pasture Farm, Brentwood, Tennessee.

Location: Off Highway 31 (Franklin Road) south of Brentwood.

<u>Contributing:</u>		<u>Non-Contributing:</u>	
Buildings	2	Buildings	0
Structures	0	Structures	3
Sites	0	Sites	0
<u>Total:</u>	2	<u>Total:</u>	3

Description:

The Denny P. Hadley House is a two-story brick central passage plan residence constructed ca. 1840. On the main (north) facade are original frame double doors of four panel design. These doors have four light sidelights with frame lower panels. Dividing the doors and sidelights are Doric motif pilasters and above the door is a four light transom. Windows are original twelve-over-twelve sash with wooden sills and lintels. The house is of Flemish bond brick on the north and west facades with the other facades of seven and eight course common bond construction.

The house has a gable roof of metal standing seam and exterior end brick chimneys. On the west facade are double doors with details to match those on the main facade. At the rear of the house is an original brick kitchen which is now connected to the main house with a ca. 1940 brick enclosure. The kitchen is of seven course common bond brick with added six-over-six sash windows with frame lintels and sills. Doors on the rear facades are original eight panel frame design. On the east facade is a ca. 1920 two-story brick addition with windows, doors and brickwork to match the original section.

The interior of the house retains much of its original woodwork such as eight panel doors with fluted surrounds, an original staircase with round newel post and balusters and chairrails. Most mantles appear to be later replacements. To the south of the house is a ca. 1840 one-story brick smokehouse of common bond brick and an original vertical board door. On the west and south facades are added six-over-six sash windows. Also at the rear of the house is a ca. 1970 swimming pool, pool shed and pavillion which are non-contributing to the site. The house sits on a large expanse of farmland east of the Franklin Road. Most original outbuildings have been removed and the boundary is drawn to include the house and its approaches.

Period of Significance: ca. 1840; ca. 1920

Area of Significance: Architecture

Criterion: C

Architect/Builder: Asa Vaughn-Builder

Statement of Significance:

The Denny Hadley House is a notable example of a brick ante-bellum central passage plan residence. The house was completed ca. 1840 and features excellent craftsmanship in the door and window detailing. The house retains its original floor plan and most of its original interior details. A two-story brick wing was added to the house ca. 1920 which was designed to match the original building.

Denny Porterfield Hadley was born in 1797 and came to Williamson County with his parents in 1808. In 1821, he married Elizabeth Smith and they settled on 200 acres of land given to them by her father, Alexander Smith. By 1830, Hadley owned an estate of 825 acres of some of the richest farmland in the county. Around 1840, the Hadleys completed a two-story brick residence which was originally known as Hadleywood. They employed builder Asa Vaughn to construct the house with most materials being furnished from their farm. No other house in the county is known to have been attributed to Vaughn and information on his business is unknown.

In 1860, Hadley was listed as owning \$19,000 worth of real estate and \$18,000 of personal property. During the Civil War, the house was used several times as a campsite by both armies. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his command occupied the house in 1863 during fighting in the area. Hadley died in 1871 and his property was passed to other members of the family. The residence was later sold to Mason Houghland who lived here for many years.

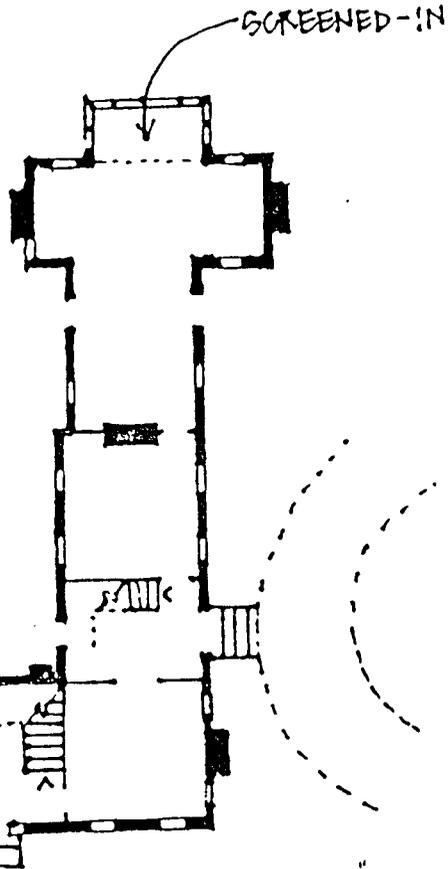
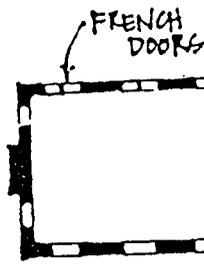
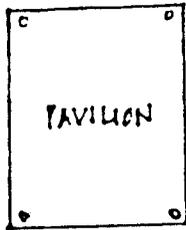
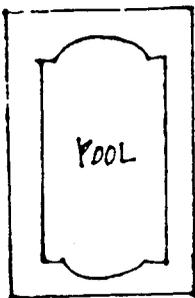
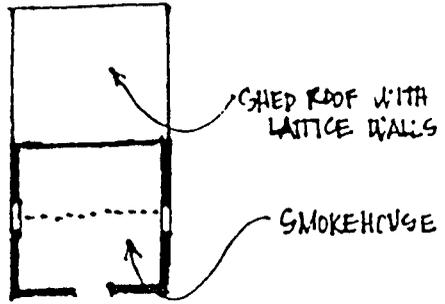
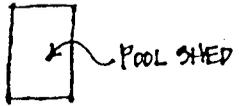
Acreage: 3.7 acres

UTM References: Oak Hill Quad/16/518680/ 3984870

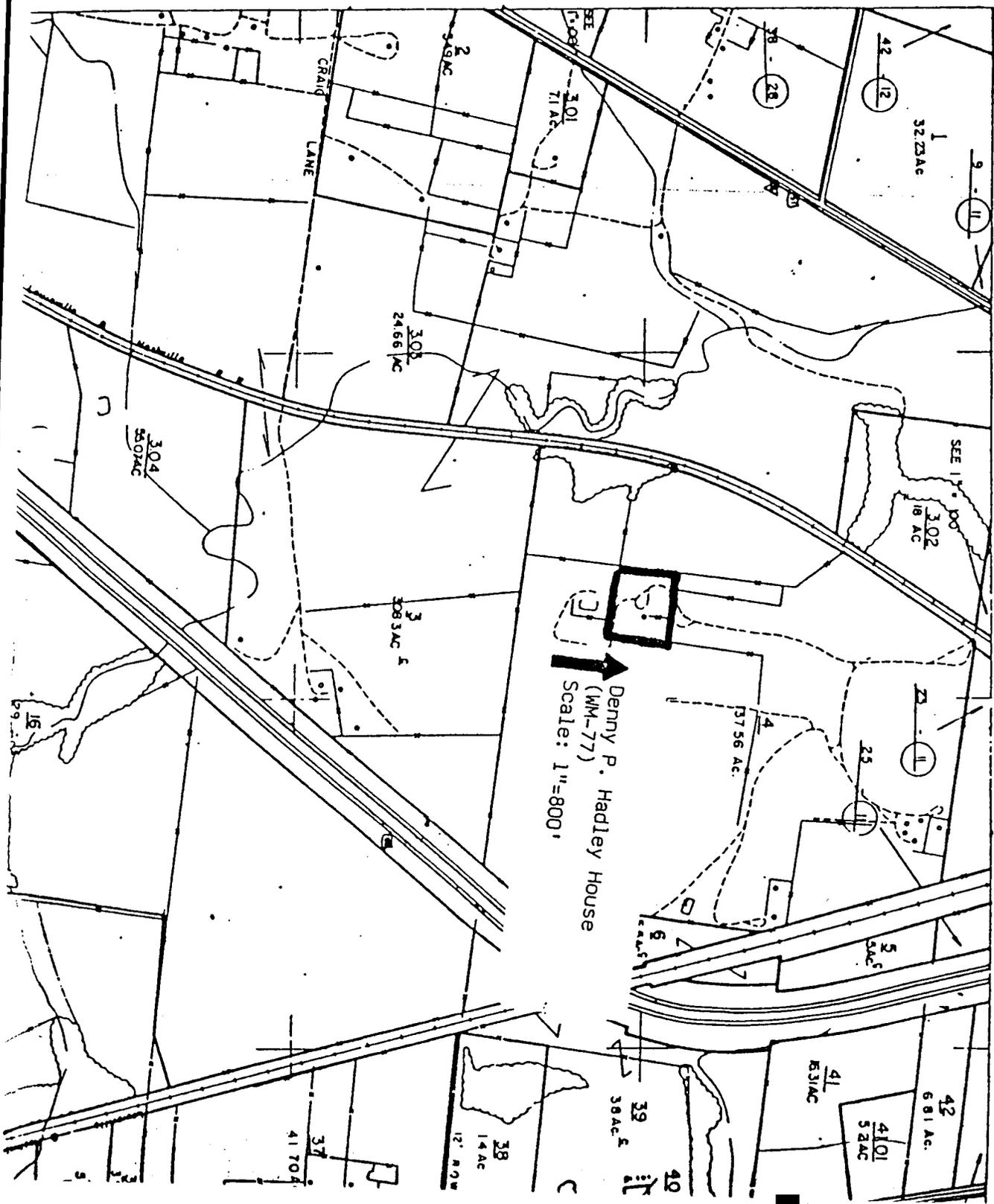
Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary for the Denny Hadley House is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 29, lot 4. The boundary is drawn to include the house and adjacent outbuildings and exclude modern outbuildings to the north and south. The boundary is defined on the west, south and east by fence lines and on the north by a line which runs approximately fifty yards in front of the residence. The boundary includes sufficient property to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: Historic Williamson County, Bowman.

77 DENNY P. HADLEY HOUSE



* NOT TO SCALE



Denny P. Hadley House
(WM-77)
Scale: 1"=800'

CRAIG LANE

32.23 AC

302
18 AC

42
6.81 AC

4101
5.2 AC

41
R31 AC

3756 AC

301
24.66 AC

304
20.2 AC

303
20.83 AC

38
14 AC

37
41.70 AC

39
38 AC

40

11

12

28

25

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301
71 AC

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GREEN PASTURES

Green Pastures is located a mile to the east of Highway 31, just before reaching the Little Harpeth River. This estate was a North Carolina grant to the "Lieper heirs" and was 640 acres "in the Little Harpeth valley of Williamson County." The house was built in 1840 by Denny Porterfield Hadley, granddaughter of the original owner, and was then called Hadleywood. It passed through several hands before being bought by Mr. and Mrs. Mason Houghland in 1930 and they gave it the name Green Pastures. With its ivy grown walls and hemlock hedges, it has much the appearance of a fine old English estate. It is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. William D. Hail.

REFERENCES:

Rosalie C. Batson

GREEN PASTURES

Originally called Hadleywood, Green Pastures was built in 1840 by Denny Porterfield and Elizabeth Smith Hadley. The land had been a land grant to her grandfather, James Leeper, one of the original settlers on the Cumberland, who was killed in an Indian attack on that settlement. The house was built in the style of an English manor house with bricks made by slaves on the place. The wrought iron entrance gate came from Kilarney Castle in Ireland and the sun dial in the garden is said to have belonged to Ann Bolyne, ill fated wife of Henry VIII. The woodwork is hand-carved and the floors are white ash. It's ivory covered walls and boxwood hedges give Green Pastures the appearance of an English country estate. The home was restored to it's original state by Mr. and Mrs. Mason Houghland and is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jess Henley.

Brentwood Brochure



Ashlawn, built as home of Richard Christmas

built the beautiful brick home owned today by Mr. and Mrs. Stirton Oman.

Fabulous stories have come down through the years about Richard Christmas and his fine horses, his Mississippi home, fashionable clothes, and charming manners. The son of Thomas and Mary Ann Christmas, he spent money with a lavish hand and is wrapped in an aura of mystery and romance. He must have been some years older than his young bride to have had the good taste and intelligence to oversee the building of such a beautifully appointed house. The walls of handmade brick are thirteen inches thick. Each room is twenty by twenty feet with thirteen foot ceilings. The stones for the front porch, the columns and carved mantels were quarried on the place, with that used in the mantels rubbed as smooth as marble. The doors are pegged with many having the original heavy locks made by Carpenter and Company of London. All woodwork is of yellow poplar except the downstairs hall floor which is ash and the handrail and spindles of the staircase which are cherry.

The entrance hall is singularly beautiful with its curving walls and graceful staircase winding up to the third story. Tradition says the builder sketched the design on the floor, then lying on his back, worked for a year fitting the spiraling steps into the wall. The staircase curves out of sight with no visible support. Much of the interior corresponds closely to that of the Hermitage. Although Andrew Jackson's house is older than Ashlawn, this house was being built near the time his was being remodeled after the fire in 1834 and the same workmen could have done both.

Abruptly in 1839 Richard Christmas sold the place and with his heavy-hearted wife left the beloved walls. Court records show him dead by 1841. In 1842, at the age of twenty-seven, Mrs. Christmas was killed in a steamboat accident on the Mississippi. The Christmases had a son, Richard, Jr., to die as a baby in 1837. Another son, William Hardeman, evidently met with foul play while on a trip; having left home with his saddlebags full of money and accompanied by a guide he was never heard from again. The once large and historic Smith-Christmas-Hadley Cemetery on Concord Road was destroyed and the valuable inscriptions lost. Two little markers—one to Richard Christmas, Jr., and another to a little son of Henry Christmas—escaped the bulldozer's blade and are the only remnants to mark the place.

The Christmas home passed through a number of hands until 1850 when it was owned briefly by the ironmaster, Montgomery Bell, who was old at the time and took little care of the house. His servants burned the floors while cooking on open fires, and foundry workmen quartered here added to the abuse. In 1854, it was bought by James Owen who made it his home for seventeen years. In 1871, it was bought by Henry and Martha Jane Hughes Zellner of Maury County. Of their seven children three died young; the other four married into prominent Tennessee families. Margaret Ophelia married David Lipscomb, noted Nashville educator; Mary Jane married William Callender of Brentwood; Martha Henrie became the bride of Horace Lipscomb here at Ashlawn; and the only son, William James, after his service in the Confederate army married Sarah Rebecca Alexander. Mr. Zellner was a prominent farmer, bridge builder, and the inventor of a cotton baler, clover huller, and a hemp brake, a device used when hemp was grown in this section.

After Mr. Zellner's death in 1899, James Zellner bought out his sisters and lived here until he died in 1905. The place was then bought by Andrew and Lucy Merrill Mizell. Mr. Mizell, prominent in the wholesale grocery business in Nashville, and his family retained ownership for thirty-seven years.

In 1945 Ashlawn was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Stirton Oman who extensively remodeled the house. The one-story columns which had formed the front portico were moved to the north side with two-story pillars being erected at the front and across the back. The hallway has a graceful arch with a finely carved dentil; while the remodeling was underway. Mr. Oman had molding carved to match it. The old kitchen and office were incorporated in the main house while other major changes were made both inside and out.

The house has been a beloved landmark for one hundred and thirty-five years. It lost none of its dignity while it was being passed from hand to hand, and when love and care returned they only added complete serenity to the charm that has always enfolded it.

Green Pastures

Although situated between two busy highways, US 31 and I-65 just south of Brentwood, Green Pastures maintains a tranquil, rural atmosphere most pleasing and restful in our turbulent society. This beautiful Georgian home and its broad acres have played a colorful and valuable part in Williamson County history.

Its builders, Denny Porterfield and Elizabeth Smith Hadley, were products of families prominent long before they came to this section when Tennessee was nothing but a trackless wilderness. Thomas Hadley was born in England in 1728, emigrated to America and settled on Cross Creek in Cumberland County, North Carolina with his wife Mary Thompson (1730-1780). He was soon an outstanding man in this county, representing it at the Provincial Congress which met at Halifax in 1776 to form a Constitution for government of the states. As Captain of a Troop of Light Horse, he was killed while defending his home near Fayetteville, N. C. in September of 1781.

Thomas Hadley's son Joshua (1753-1830) was also in

the Revolution receiving his captaincy at the age of twenty-two in the First North Carolina Infantry. He was at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Cave Creek, and was at King's Mountain where he was badly wounded. He married first a Miss Livingston and secondly, in 1786, Hannah Holmes (1768-1837) the daughter of Archibald and Margaret McCulloch Holmes of North Carolina.

The Hadleys were in Williamson County by 1808 taking up grants of land and buying additional acreages. Their large log home stood some ten miles south of Franklin off the Lewisburg Pike just west of where the gravestones of their old cemetery rear up in a grove of trees.

Joshua Hadley was living in Sumner County when he died, but it is thought his body was brought back to this cemetery for burial. No stone remains but a sink in the ground beside his wife's burial place indicates a grave. Old timers in that section used to say that Andrew Jackson was in the large crowd attending the funeral service.

Joshua Hadley had the distinction of being one of the original members of the Society of the Cincinnati and was a man of considerable wealth and prominence. Solomon Oden bought his homeplace about 1840. Mr. Hadley also had extensive holdings near Brentwood where members of his family later lived.

There were at least six Hadley children among whom was a son Denny Porterfield (1797-1871) who, in 1821, married Elizabeth C. Smith (1800-1876), the daughter of Alexander and Sarah Jane Leiper Smith. They built this elegant home upon 200 acres given them in her father's will. It was part of the grant received by the heirs of Captain James Leiper after his death at the Battle of the Bluff in 1781.



Green Pastures, originally known as Hadleywood

The house, originally called Hadleywood, rises from slavemade brick at the end of a long gentle rise and has one of the most beautiful approaches in this section. With blooded horses grazing upon the rolling pastures that have never known a plough, it presents a rare scene of plantation south at its best.

Under the few primeval trees still standing Forrest's cavalry camped during the war days. After the battle of Nashville the house was used as a hospital, and Federal troops occupying the residence and surrounding woodlands

often wrought havoc until ranking officers called a halt to their disgraceful behaviour. One soldier was ordered shot for his insolent and abusive language toward Mrs. Hadley. There were several Hadley sons in Confederate service which did little to improve Yankee dispositions.

When the house was constructed around 1840, Asa Vaughn, a local master builder, was employed as contractor. The woodwork is handcarved; the floors are of white ash. There were extensive orchards, including rare fruit trees in which Mr. Hadley took great pride. His wife's fragrant and spacious gardens ran back of the house and were outstanding in a day when every lady prided herself on flower and kitchen plots, often quite intricately and artistically arranged.

Denny and Elizabeth Hadley were buried in the large family cemetery on Concord Road. Their tombstones were among those destroyed by developers a few years back. The property went out of the family long ago and was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mason Houghland for many years. Perfectly preserved, Green Pastures is owned today by Mr. and Mrs. William Hail.

Midway

Situated halfway between Nashville and Franklin beautiful Midway, a McGavock stronghold for one hundred and twenty-five years, is one of the show places in the Brentwood area.

However, long before the McGavock family settled here, it was the home of aboriginal tribes whose identity perished with them over a thousand years ago. Archaeologists have found the McGavock land to be one of the richest sources for scientific research of this primitive people. Attracted by the abundant springs and fertile river bottoms which were ideal for their agricultural pursuits, they settled here in considerable numbers judging from the graves and campsites uncovered over the years. Their relationship to the American Indian, if any, is unknown since the savages questioned by Nashville's earliest settlers disclaimed any knowledge of the ancient people.

These Stonegrave Indians left an abundance of artifacts which have found their way into collections ranging in size from that in the Smithsonian Institute to small accumulations in private home. Hundreds of arrowheads, vessels, and objects of pottery, wood, stone, shell, bone, and copper have been removed from the scene of their temples and townsites. They have provided an invaluable insight into the lives of these prehistoric Tennesseans who, through some tragic disaster, met with destruction bringing about what General Gates Thurston, in his study of Indian life, referred to as "the infinite pathos of human life."

The original McGavock home was built here by Lysander McGavock (1800-1855) around 1829. He was the son of David (1763-1838) and Elizabeth McDowell McGavock. In 1786, David and Randal McGavock had come from Virginia to the new settlement at Fort Nashville and, in the name of their father, had taken up over 2,000 acres of the best land available around the main village as well as several hundred acres near Free-land's Station. David McGavock and his family remained in Nashville when his brother came to Franklin and built

Green Pastures is a part of Nashville history

FROM PAGE 1G

Forrest's troops, who camped on the estate's rolling lawns, then was commandeered, after the South's crushing defeat at the Battle of Nashville, as a hospital for Union troops.

Union troops were, by Confederate reports, a crude and wild lot, but they finally got their comeuppance from ranking officers. It was during this time that an unnamed and unfortunate Union soldier insulted Mrs. Hadley — and was executed before his own firing squad for his disgraceful behavior.

The property eventually passed out of the Hadley family, but was owned for many years by one of Nashville's wealthiest men, Mason Houghland. Mason and Sarah Houghland loved horses, and turned Green Pastures into a center of equine activity.

Nashville's premier horse-racing event, the Iroquois Steeplechase, traces its roots to Green Pastures, where the Houghlands sponsored the earliest races. Iroquois weekend was — and still is — one of Nashville's high-society events, and Green Pastures played a major role in the festivities, hosting assorted

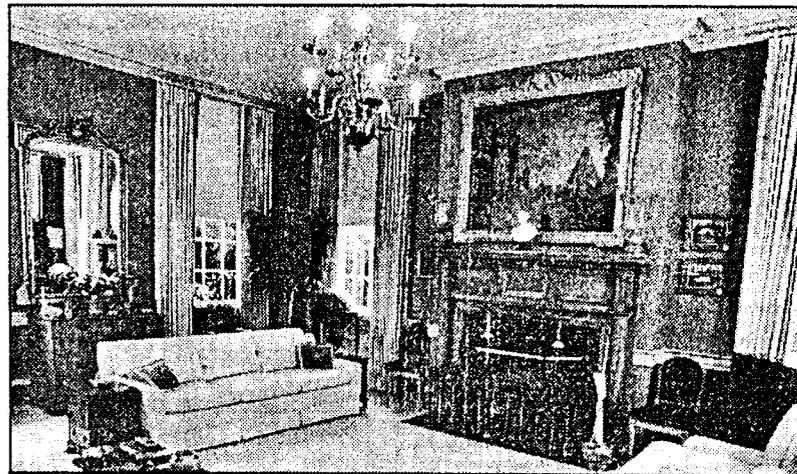


Dobson and Johnson selling agents Sharon Cummings, left, and Catherine Johnson hope to find an owner who will keep the property intact.

parties and the annual post-Iroquois gala brunch.

Margaret Currey Henley, daughter of successful Nashville businessman Brownlee Currey, owned Green Pastures for 33 years. She carried on many of the home's traditions — as well as creating some of her own.

Laura Grimes, who lived and worked at Green Pastures for 17 years, remembers how Henley and her husband Jesse arranged for a horse van to be outfitted as a sort of grand lounge for Iroquois weekend, replete with chandeliers, oriental rugs and expensive lounge chairs. Naturally the van



Freeman Ramsey ● Staff

The Marble Room, named for its white marble floors and built as part of a 1920s addition, now serves as a family room but could be used as a fourth bedroom.

made quite a stir as Green Pastures' guests were chauffeured around town, arriving at all the Iroquois parties in high style.

For after-hours fun back at the farm, there were mule races, with mules dressed in Iroquois racing colors and guests playing jockey.

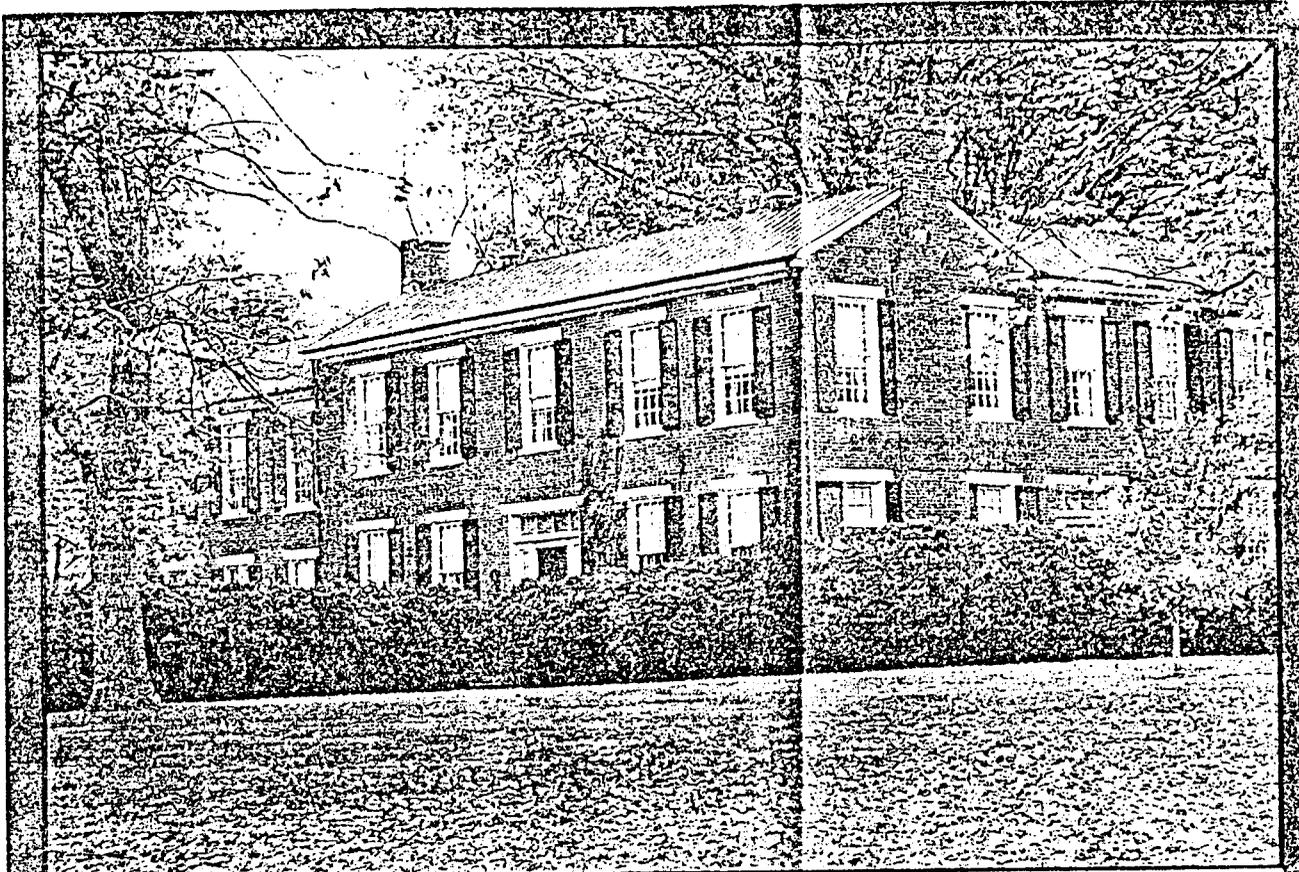
"It was like Disneyland for grownups," Grimes says with a grin.

What lies ahead for Green Pastures? The agents selling the

home say they're marketing it as a residential property, hoping to find an owner who plans to keep the property intact. But the estate is zoned for one-acre lots and could be divided and sold to developers.

"We hope that doesn't happen," says Catherine Johnson, one of the selling agents. "But you never know." ■

Diane Bartley is a Nashville-based freelance writer.



A HOUSEFUL OF HISTORY

GREEN PASTURES PLAYED A ROLE IN NASHVILLE'S PAST

BY DIANE BARTLEY

Oh, the stories this house could tell.

Who was Sallie Sims, and why did she and Mr. McGavock etch their names in the hand-blown glass of a parlor window? And what really happened that long-ago day when a Yankee soldier faced his own firing squad for insulting the Confederate mistress of the house? What about the pony races and the mule races and the steeplechases? And the parties, the magnificently outrageous parties that became synonymous with the name Green Pastures?

With 150 years of history under its bricks, the Williamson County estate known as Green Pastures can't help but be surrounded by colorful legends and lore.

But now this 163-acre property, including its 1840s home and extensive horse farm, is ready for a new chapter, entering the Multiple Listing Service as one of the Nashville area's most expensive residential properties. Its appraised value: \$2.4 million.

Just take a look at what that kind of money will buy: a handsome antebellum home, crated of handmade brick and featuring handcarved poplar woodwork, white ash floors, 12-foot ceilings and nine fireplaces — one for almost every room including an open brick hearth in the laundry room for ironing by firelight.



One of three upstairs bedrooms, this elegantly furnished room, 20 ft. x 20 ft., features a fireplace — one of nine in the home — and adjoining bath.

house, a \$100,000 trap and skeet shooting clubhouse, tennis court and pool, and four small rental houses — perfect for cooks, housekeepers, gardeners or au pairs — tucked into private corners of the estate.

A one-acre pond is fully stocked and ready for fishing. For the dog breeder, there are stone kennels; for the horse set, Green Pastures provides a fully operational horse farm complete with paddocks, training areas, offices and a dirt track.

All this, yet located off Franklin Road in the heart of Brentwood, with easy access to I-65 and one of the most

have lived in the Brentwood area for years and never even realized this is here," says Al Johnson II, listing agent for the property. "It's that secluded."

But what is most striking about Green Pastures is not its stately Georgian-style facade or its pastoral setting in the midst of subdivisions. What impresses is the fact that it survives, not as a tidily preserved museum, but as a real home, circa 1992, where Margaret Curry Henley lived until her death earlier this year. There is a satellite dish behind the smokehouse, TV in the marble-floored parlor and computer in the sitting room.

Green Pastures, originally called Hadleywood, stands on part of a 200-acre land grant inherited by Elizabeth

Smith Hadley, granddaughter of Capt. James Leiper, a bold and colorful character in early Nashville history. Capt. Leiper made it into history books as Nashville's first bridegroom, but was killed in 1781, shortly after his marriage, as he rushed to defend Fort Nashville from Indian attack. He left behind his widow and an unborn daughter.

His heirs, Elizabeth and Denny Porterfield Hadley, had the home built around 1840, with one of Middle Tennessee's master craftsmen, Asa Vaughn, overseeing construction. During the Civil War, Hadleywood

What kind of person is interested in a \$2.4 million home in Williamson County?

A rich one, obviously. But not necessarily a rich Tennessean.

Dobson and Johnson Realtors Sharon Cummings and Catherine Johnson, selling agents for Green

Pastures, say they've been surprised at how many out-of-state and foreign buyers have come to see the estate.

"We've had two from England, one from Venezuela, a couple from California and New York, one from horse country in Middleburg, Va., one from Canada — and the property has been on the market for less than a month," says Johnson.

"Horse people" are naturally drawn to the farm for its stables, barns and training facilities, reportedly comparable to those in the well-known horse farms of Lexington, Ky. Others are interested in the historical significance of the house, while a few have headed straight to the sporting facilities, like the skeet shooting clubhouse, stocked pond and dove-hunting fields.

Most of the serious prospects already had been considering a move to Middle Tennessee, some because they had lived here before, others because they had known friends here or had a child attending Vanderbilt.

The serious lookers do have one thing in common, besides their wealth.

They're not octogenarians. "This

HADLEYWOOD

The Hadley-Houghland Home

THE wedding of James Lieper, one of the signers of the Cumberland Compact, and a passenger on the boat *Adventure*, and Susan Drake, daughter of Benjamin Drake, at Nashboro, was the first to take place in the stockade at the settlement. He was killed by the Indians the following year, 1791, in the attack on Fort Nashboro—known as the Battle of the Bluffs. It was "at a critical juncture in this fight that Mrs. James Robertson turned the dogs out of the stockade. By diverting the attention of the Indians, the dogs enabled the whites to get back to the fort from which they had been cut off by Indian strategy."

Twelve years after his death, North Carolina had granted the Lieper heirs 640 acres of land in the little Harpeth Valley in Williamson County, and on part of

Hadleywood was built in 1840.



PHOTO BY DURY'S.

Hunting scene in front pasture, Hadleywood.

this Lieper's granddaughter and her husband, Denny Porterfield Hadley, grandson and son of Revolutionary officers, built their home in 1840. They named it Hadleywood.

Building of the house required a year, and was constructed of bricks made by the slaves, and fired in a kiln located near the building. The interior shows the carved woodwork and white ash floors which retain their early beauty.

Fine trees surrounded the house, and east of the yard was a garden containing flower beds, bordered with boxwood, lilacs, and crepe myrtles, flanked by a peach and apple orchard on the south side.

Some years ago the Hadleywood estate was sold for division, and Mrs. W. B. Armistead and her daughter, Mrs. J. Washington Moore, lineal descendants of the original builder, still own a part of the property. The home place is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Mason Houghland.

PHOTO BY E. S. PATTERSON

