

FROST PLACE

WOODARD H. FROST

9304 OLD SMYRNA ROAD  
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

MAILING ADDRESS  
113 GLENGARY DRIVE  
NASHVILLE, TN 37217

OR

1234 CURREY ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TN 37217

(615) 373-5815

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

#90

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

Historic Name: Frost, John, House (WM-90)

Common Name: Cottonport

Classification: Building

send to: Woodard Frost 1234 Currey Rd Nashville 37217  
Owner: M.G. Frost, Old Smyrna Road, Brentwood, TN 37027

Location: On Old Smyrna Road one and one half miles east of Wilson Pike.

Contributing:

Buildings 1  
Structures 1  
Sites 0

Non-Contributing:

Buildings 0  
Structures 0  
Sites 0

Total: 2

Total: 0

Description:

The John Frost House is a two-story brick central passage plan residence constructed ca. 1810. On the main (south) facade is a two-story frame portico with square posts and balustrade added ca. 1980. The main entrance has a six paneled door added ca. 1980 and over the door is an original four light transom. Windows are modern replacement six-over-six and nine-over-nine sash and retain their original stone sills and single course jack arching.

The house rests on a limestone foundation, has exterior end brick chimneys and a gable roof of metal standing seam. The house is of five course common bond construction. At the rear is a ca. 1980 one-story frame addition with four-over-four sash windows and metal siding. The interior of the house was inaccessible. To the east of the house is a contributing ca. 1830 single pen log outbuilding with half-dovetail notching and a gable metal roof. The house sits on a small rural lot facing Old Smyrna Road.

Period of Significance: ca. 1810 - ca. 1900

Area of Significance: Settlement/Exploration

Criterion: A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The John Frost House is the only remaining historic structure from the 19th century community of Cottonport. The residence was the center of a small crossroads settlement which included both residential and commercial buildings. The Frost House served as the post office for the community during the 19th century and it is one of only three buildings identified in the county as being rural post offices from the period. Despite alterations the basic form and plan of the house remains evident.

Captain John Frost came to Williamson County from South Carolina around 1810. He purchased land in the northeast section of the county on the site of the earlier Mayfield Station, a log pioneer fort. Frost and his wife, Rhoda Miles Frost constructed this home soon after settling on the property. Frost earned his title of Captain when he became a company commander during the War of 1812. The Frost House became the focal point for a community which became known as Cottonport. The house was the post office for the community and it contained a gristmill, store and several other residences. In 1860, Frost was listed as owning \$10,000 worth of real estate and \$9,200 worth of personal property. After the death of John Frost the house was owned by his son, Dr. S.B. Frost during the late 19th century. The house continues to remain in the possession of the Frost family.

The John Frost House is notable as a center of county community life for many years. The home was the focal point for the Cottonport settlement during the 19th century and it served not only as the Frost residence but also as the area's post office. Adjacent to the house were stores, a blacksmith shops and cotton gins, none of which remain. The Frost House is the only extant structure from this settlement. Despite the porch alterations and additions, the basic form and plan of the residence is retained.

Acreage: 3.4 acres

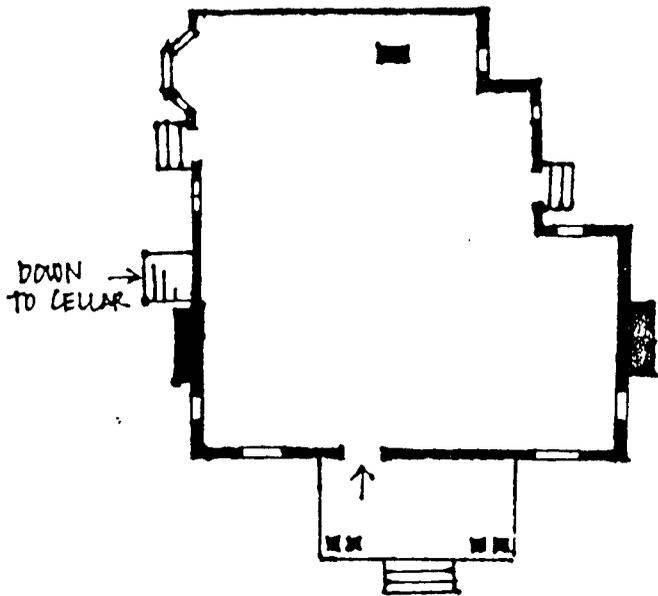
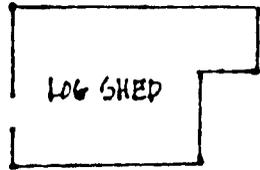
UTM References: Oak Hill Quad/16/521860/3985800

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary for the John Frost House is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 10, lot 1.01. The boundary is drawn to include the legal boundary of the property and encompasses the main residence and outbuilding. The boundary includes sufficient property to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: Historic Brentwood, Little.

# 90

JOHN FROST HOUSE



TO OLD SMYRNA ROAD



\* NOT TO SCALE

REVISIONS -

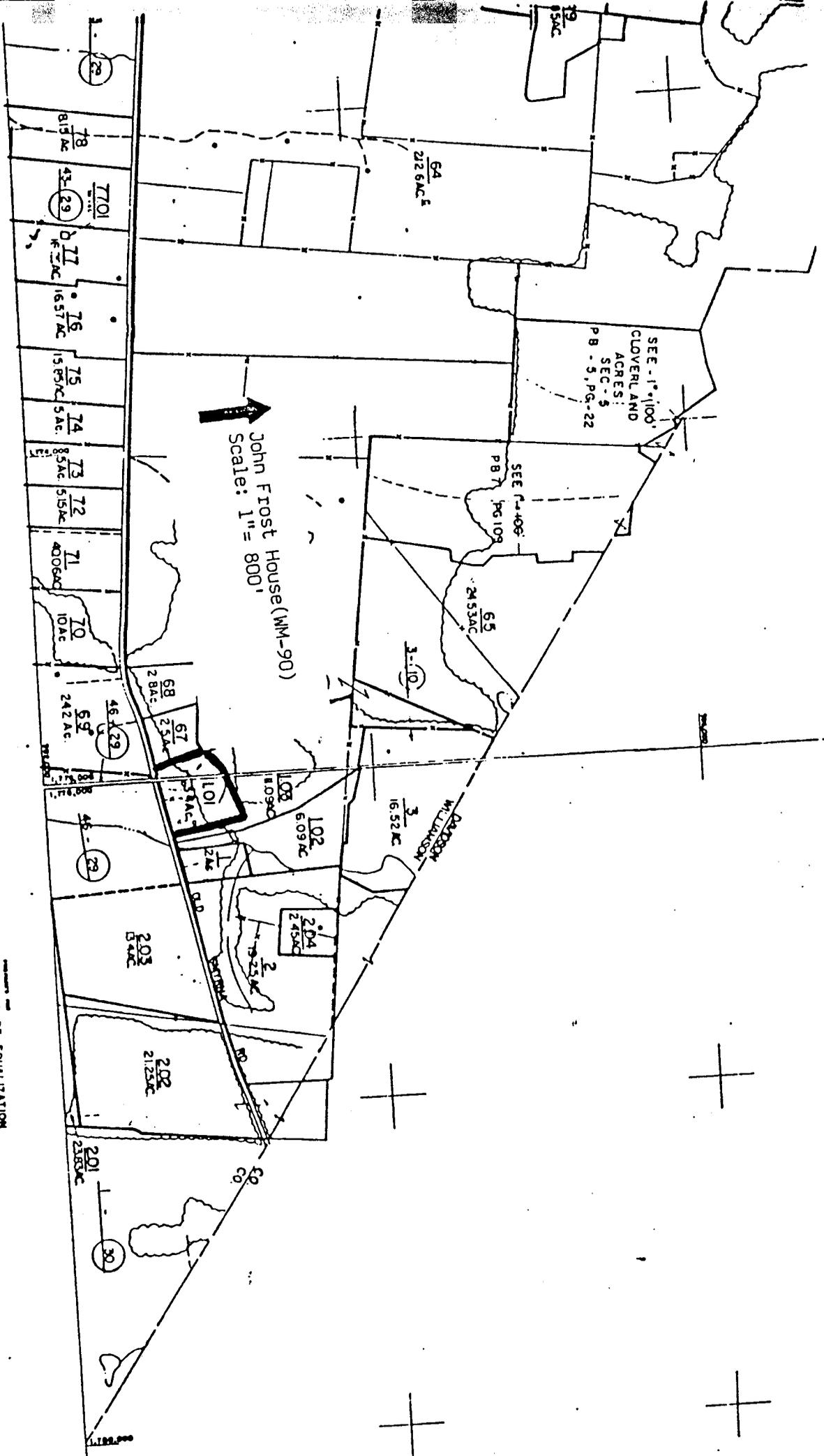
1-79	N 2/87		
2-81			
3-83			
5-85			
6-86			

MIDDLE GRAND DIVISION

SCALE: 1"=800'	DISTRICT	MAP NO.
DATE OF ISSUE: MAR 1988		11
DATE COMPLETED: MAR 1988		

WILLIAMSON CO TENN

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
 TENNESSEE MAPPING AND ENGINEERING SERVICE INC.  
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## FROST HOME

The Frost Home is in excellent repair and still owned by the original family. It is the tall, strong home on Old Smyrna Road between Wilson and Edmondson Pikes. It was built in 1811, by John and Rhoda Miles Frost, who came from Newberry, South Carolina and who bought the land from the Mayfield family. It is constructed of home-made brick with walls 18 inches thick. The floor plan shows two, large rooms with a wide hall between them. This is repeated in the basement, first and second stories, and the three quarters attic above. A cedar porch ran across the then front of the house, but in later years, with the changing of the roadway, this was torn away and the original side of the house is now the front. The old rock spring house is there; part of the log barn is surrounded by a later building. The original smokehouse is still there, with it's salt box, hand hewn from one log, so large as to stagger the imagination at the size of the tree from which it was made. John Frost, who was commissioned a Captain in the war of 1812, operated a store, cotton gin and grist mill. It was he who gave the land on which Old Smyrna Church was built, and his son, Sterling Brown Frost, was one of the founders of the Brentwood Church.

Apparently this land was an Indian camping ground, as the family has found numerous relics and skeletons. I have seen mention of a fort "near the Frost place" that was used during the Indian wars of 1808-09, but was unable to find out anything more about it or where it might have stood.

Miles Frost, Sr., son of Sterling Brown and Rebecca Goodlet Rains Frost, and his wife, Bess Cotton Frost, make their home in the house his grandfather built. Their 8 children; Miles Jr., James, Pollard, George, John Sterling, Kenneth, Woodward, and Annie Ruth (Mrs. Cecil Loyd, Jr.) are all gone from home now, although Pollard lives close by and farms the place.

## REFERENCES:

Rosalie C. Batson

### **COTTON PORT**

Cotton Port is one of the oldest brick houses in the Brentwood area. It was built shortly after the Frost family came here in 1811. The builder was Captain John Frost. He and his wife, Rhoda Miles Frost, came to TN from Newberry, South Carolina. The house is handmade of brick with walls 18 inches thick. The traditional floor plan of two rooms with hall between is repeated in the basement, the second floor and the attic above. The original smokehouse is still on the site. The Frost place was known in early times as Cotton Port. In the early 1800's the post office was located here as well as the general store, cotton gin and grist mill. John Frost was a captain in the War of 1812.

### **Brentwood Brochure**