United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Baldwin, C.A., Farmstead

other names/site number CH-486

2. Location

street & number 2680 Masonville-Beverly Road | N/A not for publication

city or town Hopkinsville | X vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Christian code 047 zip code 42240

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** _X_ **local**

Signature of certifying official/Title **Craig Potts/SHPO** Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

C.A. Baldwin Farmstead
Name of Property

Christian County, Kentucky
County and State

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

X	private
	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

X	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	3	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other -- **American Small House/FHA House/Minimal Traditional**

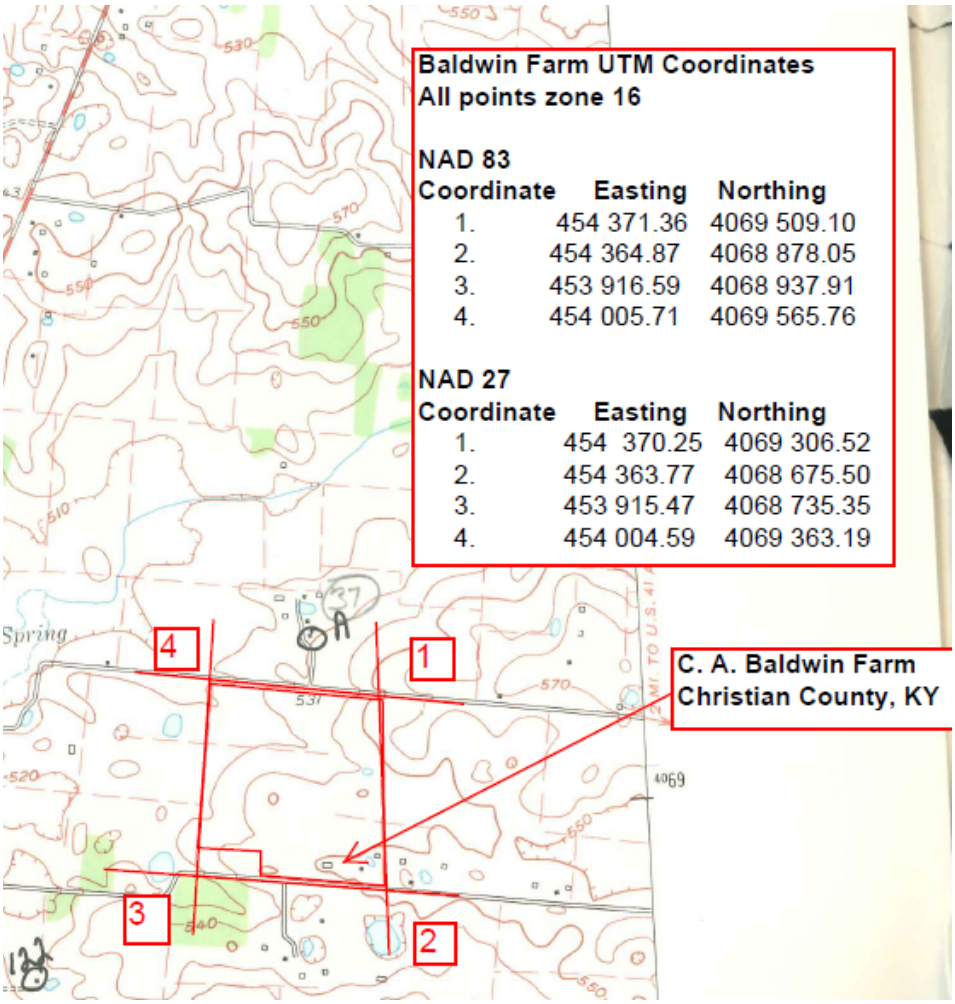
Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Weatherboard
roof: Asphalt, Shingles
other:

7. Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The C.A. Baldwin Farmstead (CH-486), built in 1937 as a part of the Christian-Trigg Farms project in southern Christian County, Kentucky, is an 88.3 acre site incorporated as a resettlement farm in 1937. The farmhouse is a one-story Small House plan home in Resettlement Administration/Farm Security Administration style, with a front-gabled roof and a cross-wing, built of balloon-frame construction with weatherboard siding and an asphalt roof.[i] The Baldwin Farmstead contains a main farm house, three non-contributing agricultural outbuildings, and a contributing chicken house (now used as a tractor shed) built in 1937. The property is located on Masonville-Beverly Road, just off of Lafayette Road/Route 117 in southern Christian County, between the Northwestern trajectory of U.S. 24 and the Northern sweep of the Pennyrile Parkway.



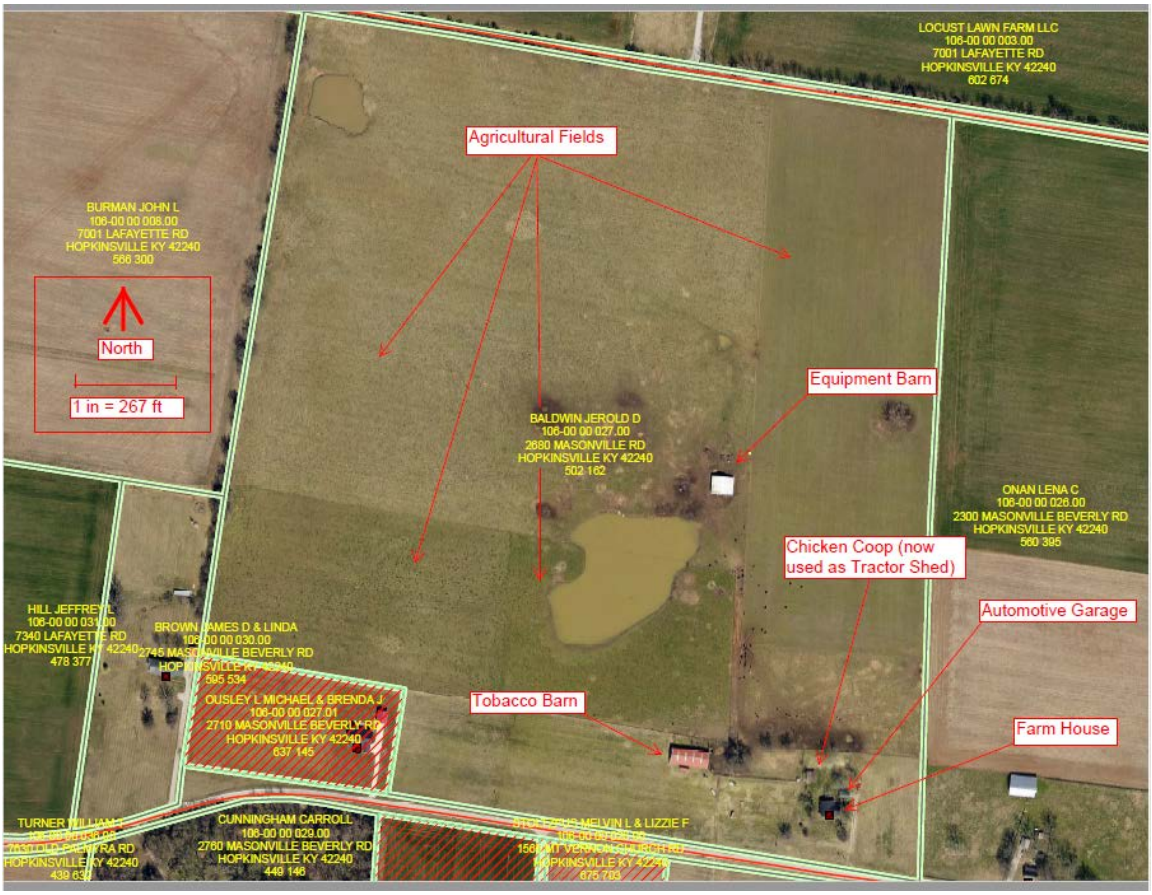
[i] "FSA Small House" is an architectural category used to indicate New Deal resettlement project-designed farmhouses, borrowed from the successful nomination of the Cumberland Homesteads Historic District (NR 1988). See Elizabeth Straw, "Cumberland Homesteads Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, 1988.

Character of the Setting

The Christian-Trigg Farm project was a New Deal-era agricultural resettlement project, one of several such farms located across the southern part of Christian County, Kentucky, in which the government-built farmstead sites were carved from bankrupted farms. The land is gently rolling farm acreage, dotted with tobacco barns.

The C.A. Baldwin farmstead, constructed by the Baldwin Family and the Resettlement Administration in 1937, is one of five similar Christian-Trigg Project resettlement farmstead sites in a core cluster. Today, these homes are private dwellings; most farmsteads remain in agricultural production. Much of the character of the landscape remains as it would have been in the 1930s. The farms grow burley tobacco, wheat, corn, and cover crops, much as they did across the 20th century. However, many of the subsistence farming elements have left the landscape: few of the booming kitchen gardens or orchards that farmers were encouraged to develop, in keeping with Christian-Trigg project requirements, still remain, as many farmers largely purchase their own foods from elsewhere.

Five structures are intact on the Baldwin property. The farm house (1) and chicken house (2) both date from 1937, and are original Resettlement Administration-planned New Deal farm buildings. The three non-contributing farm out-buildings on the site, a small tractor barn (3), rebuilt tobacco barn (4), and automotive garage (5), have been built by the Baldwin family since the first site construction, and reflect the changing agricultural technology and needs of the Baldwin family's ongoing agricultural enterprise in the years after the New Deal. The farmstead also includes many acres of outlying agricultural fields, in continuous production since the inception of the Baldwin Farmstead in 1937, which are also in the area proposed for listing.



List of Features:

1. Farm House (circa 1937) – *contributing building*
2. Chicken House (now tractor shed; 1937) – *contributing structure*
3. Equipment Barn (circa 1990s) – *non-contributing building*
4. Tobacco Barn (circa 1970s) – *non-contributing building*
5. Automotive Garage (circa 1950s) – *non-contributing building*
6. Agricultural Fields (in production since 1937) – *contributing site*

1. Baldwin Farmhouse, c. 1937

Exterior Description

The Baldwin Farmhouse was built in 1937, on a low-interest loan from the Resettlement Administration. Oral history indicates that some Christian-Trigg homes and farm outbuildings were built directly by government teams, while other owners, such as the Baldwins, worked with local contractors – in this case, the Woodruff Construction Company, out of Cadiz, Kentucky.[ii] The Christian-Trigg Farms project families were given a choice between several Resettlement Administration-approved "modern" farm-house plans; the Baldwins selected a one-story "small house" plan under a front-facing gable with a cross-wing.[iii] This design pattern, featured across New Deal resettlement projects, is referred to as an L-Plan.[iv] The Baldwin farmhouse is an L-Plan one-story with shed-roof wing containing the entry door.

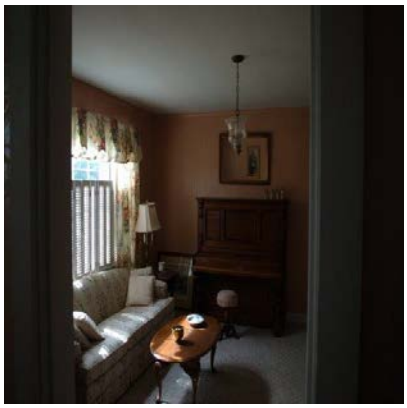
Like many other Resettlement Administration homes on the Christian-Trigg Farms project, the Baldwin home follows trends in mass housing construction in the late 1930s: it is box-frame construction with wooden weatherboard siding and an asphalt roof. The front façade features a prominent gable, under which sit (on the left) a window corresponding to the master bedroom, and (on the right) the picture window of the house's living room. The house's main door is to the right of the front gable, and enters into a small center-passageway. The house's west-facing façade features three windows: the northernmost single-pane window corresponds to the master bedroom; further along the façade towards the southern end of the house we find a double-paned windows, for the second bedroom, and close in proximity to this bedroom window is a terminal single-pane window, in the rear bedroom of the house. The southern façade features one single-pane window on the right of the rear gable, and a double-pane on the left. The house's east-facing façade is staggered: first, we encounter the house's side entrance, on the original eastern façade, with a small eyebrow window on the southern side immediately flanked by a glass entrance door and a double-paned window to the north. This easternmost cross-wing façade features a double-paned window to its south side, and a small single-pane window to the north. The Baldwin home's original chimney came through the middle of the house, in what is now the living room and bathroom; this original chimney was covered up when this portion of the room was converted into a bathroom in the 1950s.

[ii] Ibid.
[iii] See Lile 8.
[iv] This terminology is borrowed from Elizabeth Straw, in her successful nomination of the Cumberland Homesteads Historic District (NR 1988). The Cumberland Homesteads were founded by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads, a predecessor organization to the Resettlement Administration. As such, the housing plans employed at the Cumberland Homesteads community share many features with those employed on the Christian-Trigg Farms project. See Elizabeth Straw, "Cumberland Homesteads Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, 1988.

Exterior views of House

Interior Description

The house's original floor plan included a central passage entrance, a living room, a kitchen with rear breakfast nook, and three bedrooms, one of which was originally used as a dining room.



Living Room **Bedroom** **Kitchen**

The interior of the C.A. Baldwin Farmhouse contains many extant design features from the house's 1937 construction and strongly evokes the design aesthetic and cultural context of government-designed farm life in the 1930s. The original Resettlement Administration design features a living room, kitchen, dining nook, and three bedrooms. All of these features of the housing plan remain in the same use today, except for the third bedroom, which the Baldwins use as a formal dining room. Many of the interior wall treatment (painted wood paneling and wallpaper) and fixtures appear original to the 1937 construction date, including the kitchen cabinetry. The Baldwin Farmhouse also features many original light fixtures built in 1937, in anticipation of the coming of rural electricity.[v] The house's neat, clean and efficient layout is in keeping with 1930s and 1940s dreams of reforming the fabric of rural farm life through elements of architectural and site design. Moreover, many later additions to the Baldwin Farmhouse's interior decoration scheme, including window treatments, furniture, and wall-papering, continue to ring true to 1930s design.

2. Chicken House (now Tractor Shed), 1937

The site's major contributing agricultural outbuilding, a 1937, Resettlement Administration-designed chicken house that is now being used as a tractor shed, maintain the integrity of the Christian-Trigg Project's original farmstead plan. Sometime in the 1950s, the Baldwin family transformed the dilapidated chicken house structure into a working, open-sided tractor shed, which has remained in operation as a storage house for agricultural implements ever since.

[v] See Baldwin 9/25.

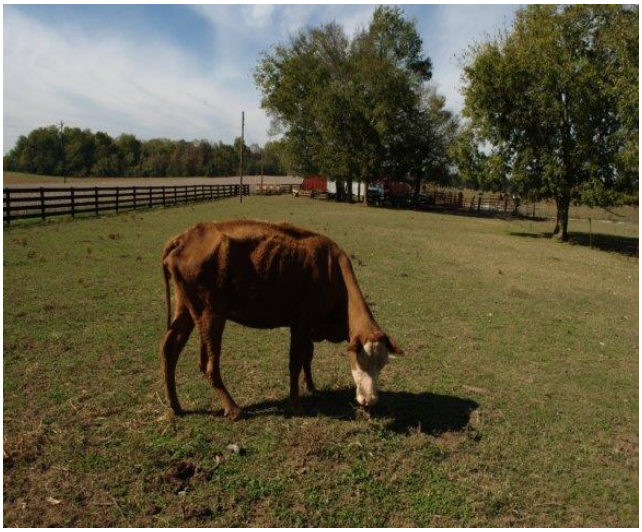
Chicken House

3. Equipment Barn, circa 1990s
The Baldwin Farmstead also features a contemporary equipment barn in its Northernmost fields. This barn was built in the 1990s to house agricultural implements closer to the Baldwins' farm fields.

4. Tobacco Barn, 1970s
The Baldwin Farmstead also houses a 1970s tobacco barn, which sits on the footprint of a pre-Resettlement Administration tobacco barn, which burned in an accidental fire sometime before that. The footprint of this tobacco barn hearkens back to the "big house" and outbuildings of the original farmstead from which the Baldwin Farmstead and the other four sister Christian-Trigg Farms project sites were carved. The current tobacco barn has been rebuilt on the footprint of the original tobacco barn from new materials. The original tobacco barn was the only of the farm buildings on the Baldwins' property at their arrival that was kept and integrated into the Resettlement Administration farm plan.

5. Garage, circa 1950s
In the 1950s, with the widespread use of pickup trucks and other automotive equipment for on-farm and off-farm work, travel, and recreation, the Baldwins built a simple concrete-block automotive garage. The garage features an end-gabled roof with returning pediments, and a partial wood-paneled veneer under the gable. It evokes elements of the minimal-traditional vernacular automotive landscape, while its small size suggests that, in the 1950s, the Baldwins would largely be using one car for off-farm transport. While the structure does not contribute to the history of the Baldwin Farmstead within its period of significance, its presence on the farmstead indicates the progression of the family farmstead through key markers in the mid-20th century. Christian-Trigg Farms families like the Baldwins did not simply maintain the Resettlement Administration-designed farm plan throughout the 20th century; rather, they skillfully adapted the farm plan and outbuildings to meet new technologies and changing demands on the family farm.

Garage



Tobacco Barn (in distance)

Changes to the Building and to the Site over Time, and Future Planned Use

The Baldwins expanded the plan of their original 1937 Resettlement Administration farm home in 1950, by lengthening the plan's shed-roofed wing and building an addition bedroom and den to accommodate their growing family. This cross-wing façade on the house's eastern side also hosts the home's new chimney, which was constructed with the den and bedroom wing addition in the 1950s. Around the same time, the family also built a glassed-in indoor side porch with a side door, which is attached to the kitchen, behind the shed-roofed wing.[vi]

Additions to the house in the 1950s

The family has also modified some of the layout of the farm site, in keeping with changes in farm practice. A fire sometime between 1950 and 1970 took down the original tobacco barn that came with the property, which, like the original "big house," predated Resettlement Administration construction with the Christian-Trigg project. Another pre-Resettlement Administration-era outbuilding – a combined smokehouse and root

[vi] See Baldwin 10/25.

cellar – is no longer on the property. Other outbuildings constructed in the original 1937 site plan – including a garage, and privy – were relocated or demolished by the Baldwin family as they fell into disrepair, or became obsolete due to updates of the farm house (e.g. the installation of indoor plumbing). In many cases, Jerold Baldwin has stated, his parents simply felt that the Resettlement Administration-designed outbuildings were eyesores, so they built their own bespoke outbuildings instead.

The Baldwin Farmstead has remained in more or less constant agricultural use by the Baldwin family since 1937; as such, the current and planned use of the major crop fields is consonant with their use during the era of the Christian-Trigg project. The family also continues to keep livestock. The Baldwins, however, no longer use their land for kitchen gardening, orcharding, or home food production.

C.A. Baldwin Farmstead
Name of Property

Christian County, Kentucky
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development
Social History

Period of Significance

1937-1947

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Resettlement Administration/Farm Security Administration (architect)
Woodward Construction – Cadiz, Kentucky (builder)

Period of Significance: The Period of Significance is 1935-1947. The Christian-Trigg Resettlement Farms project sites were first purchased by the government in 1935, and in 1947, the U.S. Federal government, under the aegis of the Farm Security Administration, officially stepped away from the Christian-Trigg Farms project. These dates encompass the movement of resettled American farmers onto farms, the coming of many of the major New Deal public programs to Christian County – including the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Rural Electric Administration (REA) – and the entrance of the U.S. into WWII, which resulted in a period of heightened economic prosperity for many American small farmers. In1947, the United States government dissolved the Farm Security Administration, which had succeeded the Resettlement Administration in 1937, at which point Christian-Trigg Farms families were given the option to make an early buyout on the forty-year government loans with which they'd secured their properties.

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The C.A. Baldwin Farmstead (CH-486) meets the National Register Criterion A and is significant within the historical context of **New Deal Rural and Agricultural Development Programs in Christian County, Kentucky, 1935-1947**. The period of significance, 1935-1947, marks the heyday years of the Christian-Trigg Farms project, a Resettlement Administration (and later, Farm Security Administration) program which operated in South Christian County, Kentucky. The Baldwin Farmstead's efficient Resettlement Administration-designed modern farmhouse and planned outbuildings, surrounded by fields, exemplifies the design-based rural development programming carried out by the federal government as a part of its rural and agricultural resettlement projects. The farmstead evokes a government dream of a streamlined, modernized agricultural life. It depicts the twin aims of the Resettlement and Farm Security Administrations: to conserve and rehabilitate worn-out farmland via sustainable agricultural practices, and to resettle farmers from marginal land on new lands, which they might cultivate more profitably. The Baldwin Farmstead's built environment showcases the remarkable journey of American agricultural families who were involved in New Deal rural resettlement programs during the New Deal years, and indicates the power of the physical farmstead and agricultural practices in the longevity of the family farm. The farmhouse's interior design and spatial use also strongly evokes the social and family lives of the American farmer in the 1930s.The Baldwin Farmstead exemplifies the lasting economic, cultural, and architectural influence of the Christian-Trigg Farms project on the local level in Western Kentucky, and is significant as a representative of the New Deal agricultural and rural development programs as they inflected family farm life.

Historic Context: New Deal Rural and Agricultural Programs in Christian County, Kentucky, 1935-1945

The Farm Crises of the 1930s & New Deal Farm Programs

The 1930s saw important changes in the economy and ecology of agriculture in the United States, and brought the rural development aims of earlier grassroots and state-level programming to a crisis point. The 1900s to 1920s saw the rise of the "Country Life" movement[vii], and widespread attention, on the part of urban reformers, to "modernizing," standardizing and improving the quality of life in the American countryside.[viii] These efforts included the Good Roads movement, campaigns for consolidated rural schools, and, through the Hatch and Smith-Lever Acts, the development of a widespread program of agricultural extension work, designed to, in the words of extension service historian Wayne Rasmussen, "bring the University to the

[vii] See Danbom, David B. *Born in the Country: A History of Rural America*, 2nd. ed. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2006.

[viii] For comprehensive histories of some origins, motivations, debates and constituents of the Country Life movement of the 1890s-1920s, see Danbom, David B. *The Resisted Revolution: Urban America and the Industrialization of Agriculture, 1900-1930.* Ames: The Iowa State University Press, 1979; and Bowers, William L. *The Country Life Movement in America: 1900-1920.* Port Washington, N.Y. and London: Kennikat Press, 1974. Also see Scott J. Peters and Paul A. Morgan's "The Country Life Commission: Reconsidering a Milestone in American Agricultural History" for a look at how Country Life certainly wasn't all fashioned out of urban biases or agendas. Peters and Morgan, instead argue that the Country Life movement was a daring and before-its-time attempt on the part of federal leaders, educators, and community members to imagine a more sustainable vision for rural and agricultural life. See Peters, Scott J. *and* Morgan, Paul A. "The Country Life Commission: Reconsidering a Milestone in American Agricultural History," *Agricultural History*, Vol. 78, No. 3 (Summer, 2004): 289-316. Edith M. Ziegler's work on recovering women's voices, participation in and responses to the Country Life movement and the all-male Country Life Commission is also critical. See Ziegler, Edith M. "The Burdens and the Narrow Life of Farm Women": Women, Gender, and Theodore Roosevelt's Commission On Country Life," *Agricultural History*, Vol. 86, No. 3 (SUMMER 2012): 77-103.

People." Widespread coverage of the ecological ravages of the Dust Bowl in the Great Plains region in the late 1920s led to a government quest to both relieve poor farmers, and to rehabilitate worn-out agricultural land by putting it into conservation holding, as forests or recreational land.[ix]

New Deal agricultural programming and documentary culture emphasized a new central focus: the interconnection of agricultural economy and rural ecology. The ecological crises of the Dust Bowl led many New Deal and existing agricultural extension work agencies to turn to the new task of convincing farming Americans to pay attention to their soil.[x] In spite of the massive gulleys advertised in some 1930s USDA bulletins, most farmers did not take up deliberately unsustainable agricultural practices by choice. Rather, most farmers in the American South in the 1920s still farmed under a sharecropping system, and were forced to try to eke a meager living out of the barren earth, without the luxury of rotating fields or letting a bed lay fallow for a year.

The Resettlement Administration

The New Deal agricultural agencies developed to address the ecological and economic ravages of the Dust Bowl thus brought two goals together: to restore and replenish spent land, and to train a generation of farmers used to scraping by on sub-marginal land to farm sustainably (NR 1988).[xi] These two massive training efforts, were carried out in tandem by a succession of New Deal federal agencies.

The Resettlement Administration was established on April 30, 1935, via Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order no. 7927.[xii] Under the guidance of Rexford Tugwell, the Resettlement Administration set out to fulfill two major goals: to move people off of worn-out land, and to quash the tenant farming system in the South while doing this. The Resettlement Administration oversaw four major programs that promoted these goals: (1) rural rehabilitation programming, to help struggling farmers; (2) rural resettlement programs, to move farmers off of reclaimed sub-marginal land to more suitable agricultural holdings; (3) land utilization, which rehabilitated sub-marginal lands for conservation and recreational use; and (4) suburban resettlement, which was largely in charge of the construction of "garden cities" and other suburban communities for urban industrial workers.[xiii]

By 1936, upwards of one hundred Resettlement Administration projects were planned out across the county, on a number of different models: the more famous planned suburban greenbelt communities; "stranded" communities for industrial farmers, community-plan agricultural communities, and "semi-infiltration" models, like the Christian-Trigg project in Christian County, Kentucky. The New Deal resettlement projects were fraught with political overtones, especially in the American South. The farm tenancy system was recognized by agricultural and government experts as one of the major contributors to the economic and ecological ruin of the Dust Bowl. At the same time, the pervasive system of Jim Crow segregation influenced administrators' and local application boards' decisions about who would qualify for a slot on a new resettlement

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[ix] See Phillips, Sarah T. *This Land, This Nation: Conservation, Rural America and the New Deal.* Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007, and Worster, Donald. *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s.* Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004.

[x] For more on the role of soil science in New Deal and post-War agricultural programming, see Holler, Jess Lamar Reece, "Every Farmer Believes What He Sees: Conservation Agriculture and the Family On the Farm in the 4-H Club and *The Land* Magazine, 1940-1959," Unpublished typescript. 2013.

[xi] For a more detailed contextualization of New Deal-era rural resettlement programming, see Elizabeth Straw, "Cumberland Homesteads Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, 1988.

[xii] Lile, Stephen. "Christian-Trigg Farms: A Part of Kentucky's New Deal Heritage."

[xiii] Ibid Straw.

administration community project.[xiv] While agricultural resettlement projects may have contributed to the decline of the sharecropper system in the American South, some projects also removed a large population of African-American farmers from the land, many of whom were not resettled on agricultural lands in the immediate county.[xv]

The Resettlement Administration was superseded by the Farm Security Administration under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act – Title IV, which ran until 1947[xvi]. The string of New Deal resettlement agencies eventually oversaw one hundreds and fifty two unique resettlement projects during the New Deal, most of which were well on their way to being disbursed into private hands by the close of WWII.[xvii]

The Christian-Trigg Farms Project: Resettlement Farming in Western Kentucky

The Christian-Trigg Farms project in South Christian County, Kentucky is one such example of New Deal-era agricultural and rural resettlement programming during the New Deal. The Christian-Trigg Farms project, like other New Deal-era rural and agricultural resettlement efforts, purchased optioned farmsteads, laid out plans for their development into efficient "modern" farmsteads, and granted these parcels out to be resettled by successful applicants on forty-year, low-interest loans. It is the only major rural farm community built in Kentucky under this model by the New Deal resettlement agencies, although its sister Resettlement Administration site, Sublimity Farms in Laurel County, Kentucky, is a related model – a forest community.[xviii] The Christian-Trigg Farm project represented an economical alternative to the master-planned, cooperatively-driven "stranded" rural community models carried out at sites like the Cumberland Homesteads near Crossville, Tennessee. Instead, due to problems associated with buying up contiguous blocks of land, the Christian-Trigg Farms project was eventually organized as more of a community than as an isolated cooperative experiment. Although many Resettlement farmers shared property boundaries with resettlement neighbors, since the 70-to-100 acre farmstead sites were often carved out of the same original pre-New Deal farmstead, Christian-Trigg project sites were dispersed among privately-owned and developed farmsteads.[xix]

The Christian-Trigg Farms project is notable in many ways. Because project administrators weren't able to purchase up enough contiguous pieces of optioned property in South Christian County, the project became what administrators referred to as a "semi-infiltration" model: it aimed to develop farmers' agricultural patterns through voluntary community programming and suggested collaboration, rather than through the more centralized collectivist/cooperative agenda practiced at some other Resettlement Administration

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[xiv] See Record Group 96, Atlanta Branch of the National Archives; and Baldwin, 24 September 2014.
[xv] Ibid.
[xvi] Ibid Straw. This nomination will largely refer to "resettlement" projects to indicate projects launched and nurtured by this family of successive agencies. When "Resettlement Administration" is used to refer to the duration of the Christian-Trigg project, from planning to completion, readers may assume that both the Resettlement Administration and its successor organization, the Farm Security Administration, are implied.
[xvii] Ibid Lile.
[xviii] Lile 3.
[xix] This information draws from several research trips to the Farmers' Home Administration Record Group at the National Archives and Record Administration in Morrow, Georgia (Atlanta Branch), and in College Park, Maryland. Although I have amply searched the records for all correspondence, print culture, maps and plans related to the Christian-Trigg Farms project, I have not been able to turn up specific maps or plans devoted to the Christian-Trigg Farms Project. As such, I have consulted extant maps, housing plans and records for other similar Resettlement Administration communities built in the Mid-South: the Cumberland Homesteads in Crossville, Tennessee; and the cluster of Resettlement Administration communities surrounding Birmingham, Alabama. Other background and contextual information is draw from the surviving administrative correspondence from the Christian-Trigg Farms project, housed at NARA in Atlanta. All New Deal government records were sampled in the 1950s, and it seems, at this point – after throughout consultation with NARA archivists in Atlanta and College Park -- safe to say that maps and drafts from the Kentucky projects did not survive the cut.

sites.[xx]Resettled farm families would farm semi-cooperatively across a wide community landscape in Christian County; the Christian-Trigg Farms project itself did not operate as a total community like some of the more conspicuous Resettlement Administration projects. Parcels of land were developed into Christian-Trigg resettlement farm homesteads in pockets, spread across South Christian County. Oral history holds that the majority of the Christian-Trigg resettlement farms were found between Newstead and Loop Lane, some by the Howell School.[xxi] Other clusters surrounded the communities of Gracey, and Julien, on the border of Christian and Trigg County. Another sizeable cluster – which this nomination will take up – were carved out of a single three-hundred-odd acre homestead located around what is today's Masonville-Beverly Road.

Christian-Trigg resettlement farmsteads are spread out in pockets across south Christian County. Although each individual farmstead clearly evokes its era of use and the context of rural development projects during the New Deal, recognition of specific sites within the Christian-Trigg Farms project will increase the interpretability of the entire cultural region.

According to late Western Kentucky University Professor of Economics Stephen Lile, who is one of the only published authorities on the subject, southern Christian County may have been selected as the site for a New Deal rural resettlement project because the county was a stronghold of more traditional "Southern"-style agricultural practices.[xxii] The large rolling farms of the county and the strength of the slave system during the Civil War years lead to an especially tight commitment to a sharecropping economy during the Reconstruction Era and first decades of the 20th century. Moreover, Lile writes that much of the land in Christian County, and neighbor counties, had been targeted as sub-marginal land ripe for transformation into forests and public recreation land. This meant that Christian and surrounding counties would soon be host to a large volume of farmers removed from these sub-marginal lands by other branches of Resettlement Administration programming, who would need to be relocated to viable farmsteads elsewhere.[xxiii] Because many of the large farmsteads that had characterized South Christian county had gone bankrupt and been foreclosed upon in the early years of the Great Depression, the regional offices of the Resettlement Administration may have found these sites especially desirable to carve into new resettlement farmsteads.[xxiv]

Lile estimates that the Christian-Trigg Farms Project eventually established around 106 farmsteads on 8,297 acres, entirely in the southwestern section of Christian County, along Kentucky Highway 117. Although the project was originally intended to be much larger – hence the name – administrative correspondence reveals that project directors had difficulty moving forward on purchasing all the available optioned land for the project, so the project was scaled back considerably. Most purchased farmsteads were then carved into resettlement farmsteads ranging from 65 to 100 acres, which were granted to successful applicants on the terms of a low-interest forty-year loan. Oral history and government documentation show that early applicants to the Christian-Trigg Farms project often got to pick their farmstead site. As such, farmsteads with the best lands were parceled out with lower acreage, and sites with more acreage often featured some lower-quality land.[xxv]

Although the Christian-Trigg Farms project was not designed as an isolated "farm community," the project still retained many of the communalist aims of the Resettlement Administration. The project headquarters, situated at what is now Oakland Manor, in South Christian County, functioned as both a central

[xx] See Record Group 96, Atlanta Branch of the National Archives.
[xxi] See Baldwin 24 September 2014.
[xxii] Lile 4.
[xxiii] Also see Record Group 96, Atlanta Branch of the National Archives; and Baldwin, 24 September 2014.
[xxiv] Ibid Lile.
[xxv] Ibid Lile.

administrative office and meeting-place for Christian-Trigg community members.[xxvi] Jerold Baldwin remembers, for example, that resettled farm families had to truck down to the headquarters at least once a season to weigh their crop yields. The Resettlement/Farm Security Administration recorded these figures for project evaluation purposes, but also made the occasion into a festive event, and gave out prizes to farmers with the biggest yields.[xxvii]

Project administrator internal correspondence also shows that the project headquarters was a central symbolic location for the project, which was extremely well-regarded among the New Deal Resettlement Administration rural projects. Each year, the Christian-Trigg Farms project administrators planned a picnic, and extended invitations to figures of local, state and even national significance in New Deal planning and agricultural policy.[xxviii] Members of the community seemed to have been involved in the planning of these events. Other informal community organizations developed around the realities of the new, dispersed resettlement farming community. Jerold Baldwin remembers, for example, that among his middle-school basketball-team, seven of the boys were from "government farm" families.[xxix] Although the Christian-Trigg Farms project did not seem to have the same sharp-cornered identity as its more isolated "stranded" sister projects, the project is remarkable for its degree of integration into the cultural, social and economic landscape of the surrounding community. Although many residents of Christian County speak to being able to point out the visual "look" of a "government place" from the road, oral history indicates that Christian-Trigg project farmers were rarely stigmatized for accepting the opportunity to purchase land and a government-built house on low-interest loans.[xxx]

The Christian-Trigg Farms project gave struggling farmers in Christian and surrounding counties a chance to own a farmstead and develop more sustainable methods of working the land in a family farm economy, free from the pressures of the sharecropping system. As such, the project was a significant early agricultural conservation project in Western Kentucky, alongside its other New Deal-era land rehabilitation efforts. The organization of the project also drastically reorganized the rural cultural landscape of Christian County, which had previously employed a widespread sharecropping practice. As such, the Christian-Trigg Farms project, including the C.A. Baldwin Farmstead, altered the social landscape of Christian County, by giving at least one-hundred farm families the chance to purchase their own farmsteads and to maintain their own independent family farms. The project also significantly altered the built landscape of south Christian County by dividing up larger farmsteads and demolishing an entire generation of "big houses" that had accompanied them, in favor of constructing more streamlined, efficient mass-produced cottage farm homes.[xxxi] Finally, in its introduction of government oversight and federally-sponsored agricultural programs, the Christian-Trigg Project, illustrated by the C.A. Baldwin Farmstead, engineered a specific model of rural community planning and development in keeping with other New Deal-era rural development policies.

The intact C.A. Baldwin Farmstead evokes a government dream of a streamlined, modernized agricultural life, and also showcases the input that small American farmers had in making the dream of family farming their own. The Baldwin family's subsequent refashioning of the property in their almost eighty years of inhabitance on the site reflects the considerable agency of American farmers during this period of massive agricultural transformation. Farmers like the Baldwins did not just passively receive government plans for the "New

[xxvi] Record Group 96, Atlanta Branch of the National Archives and Baldwin, 24 September 2014
[xxvii] Ibid Baldwin, 24 September 2014.
[xxviii] Record Group 96, Atlanta Branch of the National Archives
[xxix] Ibid Baldwin, 24 September 2014.
[xxx] Ibid.
[xxxi] See Lile, 7 and Baldwin, 10/25.

Agriculture" and its attendant farmstead plan. Instead, the Baldwins, like many American small-farm families, actively negotiated government designs, advice and programming to meet family needs.

Design Determinism & New Deal Public Architecture in Rural Communities

Farmstead design was a central part of Resettlement Administration programming. The Christian-Trigg project site was no exception. While oral history and written sources show that some resettled farmers moved onto resettlement farmsteads still maintaining historic farmhouses and agricultural structures, the majority of these older generation of farm structures were demolished by the Resettlement Administration and its successor organizations, to make room for a more streamlined, "efficient" model of farm design. Program administrators believed that a more "modern" farmstead design – including outbuildings like barns, sheds, a chicken-house, privies, a smoke-house, and a root cellar – would cultivate an efficient, tidy, industrial and productive model of farm life that would prove a corrective to the social and economic ills of rural poverty and the sharecropping system.

According to oral history and available government records, the Resettlement Administration constructed somewhere upwards of four available house plans on the Christian-Trigg Farms project.[xxxii] The majority of the houses are either "long" L-Plan small houses featuring a combination of a front-facing gable segment and a shed-roofed addition, or are one-and-a-half-story cottage models. Most feature studded wooden wall construction with poured concrete block foundations and asphalt-shingled roofs, with exterior weatherboarding. Although most of the government plans for farmhouses on the Christian-Trigg Farms project offered houses with between four and six rooms, resettled farmers often modified these house plans to suit their own spatial use patterns. Although government-drawn plans for Christian-Trigg Farms houses included indoor plumbing, central heat, and fireplaces, the reality often did not include these amenities. Budget cuts, limiting the Farm Security Administration to only $1,500 per house by 1937, meant that most Christian-Trigg farmsteads did not include central heating or indoor plumbing.[xxxiii] Nonetheless, many farmers refurbished their government-built homes in later years to make these modifications.[xxxiv]

The built environment and interior construction of Christian-Trigg farmstead sites also heralded the coming of rural electricity, a key feature of New Deal-Era rural and agricultural development programs. In the 1930s, many government administrators and policy directors dreamed of rural electricity as a solution for so many of the countryside's ailments. The coming of electric light would, literally and figuratively, lift rural Americans out of the darkness. The gendered dynamics of these expectations were especially striking. Many reformers emphasized that rural electricity would make the heavy burdens of the farm wife lighter, and would allow her to finally have access to a standardized, "modernized," convenient kitchen, with all of the modern appliances, just like her sisters in urban centers had.[xxxv] As architectural historian Sarah K. Rovang has noted, the dream of the electrified farmstead even made it to the world's fair. Lighting and access to electricity was one of the foremost venues through which discussions of the future of agricultural life were negotiated. Although Christian-Trigg farmhouses were not constructed with indoor plumbing, builders prioritized wiring the houses for electricity – even before rural electric arrived to South Christian County.[xxxvi]

History of the Baldwin Farm

[xxxii] See Lile, 8; Baldwin, 24 September 2014 and 25 October 2014.
[xxxiii] Ibid Straw.
[xxxiv] See Baldwin, 24 September 2014.
[xxxv] For more on this phenomenon, see Jellison, Katherine. *Entitled to Power: Farm Women and Technology, 1913-1963*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993.
[xxxvi] Baldwin, 25 September 2014.

Until the 1930s, much of the Masonville-Beverly Road area in southern Christian County, Kentucky was a single farmstead. According to oral history, two brothers owned much of the original tract, and lost their property during the Great Depression. According to the explanation given to the resettlement farmers who moved to the site in 1937, the land was then purchased by an insurance company, which sold it, in turn, to the newly-formed Hopkinsville branch of the Resettlement Administration, to develop into one outpost of the Christian-Trigg Farms resettlement project. The new farmsteads carved from this original farmstead were then opened to resettlement by interest applicants who had successfully interviewed with a local selection committee.[xxxvii]

Upon its purchase by the federal government in the 1930s, the original farmstead was divided into five parcels of varying sizes. The Baldwin family parcel is just over 88 acres. Resettlement farmers were given choices between lower-quality land and more acreage, or smaller parcels with higher quality land.[xxxviii] C.A. Baldwin and his family were the first Christian-Trigg Farms project member family to select a parcel of land from this particular farmstead. They chose the section of the farm which included the original "big house" and a smaller tobacco barn a few fields over from the house site; other swathes of land carved out from the farmstead included original tobacco barns and other outbuildings. The original loan granted to the Baldwins, as per Resettlement Administration programming, provided money for both the land, and for the eventual construction of a "modern" farm-house and outbuildings to allow for successful commercial farming. The Baldwin family first moved into the "big house," while their Resettlement Administration house and the accompanying outbuildings were being constructed. Although the Baldwin family have torn down delinquent New Deal-era outbuildings and repurposed others to meet the needs of son Jerrold Baldwin's contemporary agricultural operation, the farmstead has remained in possession of the Baldwin family since they signed their loan with the Resettlement Administration.[xxxix]

The C.A. Baldwin family were among the earlier families to successfully apply for and be granted a farmstead with the Christian-Trigg Farms project. According to oral histories given by Jerold Baldwin, who moved with his father, mother and siblings to the Baldwin Farmstead in 1937, at age seven, the Baldwin family moved from Crittenden County, Kentucky, between the communities of Marion and Shady Grove, where C.A. had been working as a subsistence farmer on various rented plots. According to family lore, the elder Baldwin went to a local farmers' relief agency office to inquire about securing funds to purchase a mule, since the family's old mule had just died, and was given information about the application process for the then in-development Christian-Trigg Farms project in southern Christian County. Baldwin notes that the application process targeted a specific sort of farmer – successful applicants had to be working as individual farmers, and couldn't have too much land or capital at their disposal. C.A. Baldwin had been working on his own as a farmer, but was not a landowner, so he was eligible to apply to join the Christian-Trigg Farms project. After being accepted by the program's selection committee, the family then relocated to Christian County via several buggies rented from a neighbor, during the flood of January 1937. Due to the high floodwaters, the Baldwin's move was especially treacherous. They brought with them one mule, two cows, and all of their household belongings, and moved from Crittenden to Christian County in one day.[xl]

Western Kentucky agricultural resettlement projects, according to Christian-Trigg project internal memos, targeted a particular sort of farmer from particular places – counties surrounding Christian County that were

[xxxvii] See Baldwin, Jerold. Oral History Interview with Jess Lamar Reece Holler. Hopkinsville, Kentucky, 24 October 2014.
[xxxviii] Ibid Baldwin; also see Lile, Stephen, "Christian-Trigg Farms: A Part of Kentucky's New Deal Heritage," 7.
[xxxix] See Baldwin, Jerold. Oral History Interview with William Turner and Jess Lamar Reece Holler. Hopkinsville, Kentucky, 25 September 2014.
[xl] Ibid Baldwin.

the site of other Resettlement Administration land rehabilitation programs, for example, were especially targeted by Christian-Trigg project recruiting.[xli] Successful project applicants often got to choose their plot from among available homestead sites. Jerold Baldwin and his family moved into one of the earliest of the Christian-Trigg project sites. Their case seems to be significant, because they moved before the project had contracted to construct modern farmhouses. The Baldwins thus moved into the old "big house" for the original farmstead, that just so happened to sit on the lot the family had selected. They lived in this house until government plans were completed to build their current farm complex, which originally included a house, garage, chicken house, and several other outbuildings.[xlii]

The Baldwins selected one of five Resettlement Administration farmstead sites that had been carved out of a single optioned-off farmstead, along what is now Masonville-Beverly Road. The Baldwin property was the largest of the farmsteads. The lot that the Baldwin family selected comprised 88.3 acres, and included an old (pre-Resettlement Administration) tobacco barn, an extant smokehouse/root cellar combination building, and the property's original "big house" and which the family lived in until their Resettlement Administration-designed farmhouse and outbuildings could be built. Jerold Baldwin recalls that his mother particularly liked the "big house," but that government administrators declared it too big and drafty, and required that the Baldwins use the construction part of their loan money to contract for a government-designed house.[xliii] The loans that the Baldwin family received under the Resettlement Administration was for roughly $8,800, or $100 an acre; Jerold Baldwin remembers that half of that amount, or $4,400, was to be allotted to buildings. The loan program was set up on a forty-year cycle, with no down payments; the program initially stipulated that the final payment could not be made until the fortieth year. The Baldwin family was expected to pay around $400 a year, and had difficulty making these initial payments. However, after the coming of World War Two generated increased demand for agricultural products, the Baldwins and other Christian-Trigg Farm families met with more prosperity.[xliv]

As new farmers on the Christian-Trigg Farms project, the Baldwins carried out a system of small-scale commercial farming. Each family was granted three acres designated for burley tobacco. The Baldwin family also grew hay, raised livestock, and kept a dairy cow. They sold their milk to Borden's. The Baldwins also rented an extant log barn from a neighbor, the Hancock family, to cure extra burley tobacco. The Baldwin family also raised a substantial kitchen garden, where all of the family members were expected to work. Helen also oversaw the nurturing of a family fruit tree orchard. The Baldwins were able to supply most of their food from the farm, but Jerold remembers purchasing bananas, graham crackers, and sugar from the local stores; the Christian-Trigg Farms project also had a local community wheat thrasher owned by a community resident, which the Baldwins used to grind some of their wheat into flour for home use. The family traded in some of their wheat to this community mill, in exchange for flour; Jerold Baldwin also remembers that resettlement farmers would trade other goods – mules for molasses, etc. Common meals on the Baldwin Farmstead in the Christian-Trigg days included biscuits and milk gravy, and banana "graham" pudding for dessert.[xlv]

Jerold Baldwin remembers the cooperative intentions of the Christian-Trigg Farm project. He remembers his family trading labor and goods with the farm families who bought the other four Resettlement Administration farmsteads divided from the original three-hundred-odd-acre farmstead. The Baldwins, in particular,

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[xli] See Record Group 96, Atlanta Branch of the National Archives.
[xlii] Ibid Baldwin.
[xliii] See Baldwin, 25 September 2014.
[xliv] Ibid.
[xlv] See Baldwin, 25 September 2014.

cooperated with the Isem family, who moved into the neighborhood in 1941; the Isem family had access to tractors and other farm equipment, and the Baldwin family traded the use of these farm implements for field labor. Jerold Baldwin remembers that the family set up their farm in three 28-acre fields, in rotations of corn, wheat and lespedeza (for hay). The family cut hay – once after the wheat, and in the second year, for seed. Baldwin recalls that neighboring resettlement farm families on the Christian-Trigg Farms project also took up this farm program; this particular crop rotation was new to some resettled families, but was encouraged as a part of the Christian-Trigg farm programming. Jerold grew up learning how to farm, and put his Christian-Trigg-learned agricultural skills to use in the wider community. Two of the Baldwin brothers, Alan and Jerold, worked together in a hay-baling business, and they eventually saved to buy an Alice Chalmers pull-type combine, and launched a custom combine business for sacking wheat after they graduated from high school. The family sold their wheat to the local Hopkinsville Mill, and sold tobacco on the Hopkinsville market. The family sold some of their corn, and kept the remaining corn to feed livestock; but corn was not a substantial portion of their income. After several years on the new resettlement farm, the Baldwin family got up to milking ten cows a day – the Baldwin children would all milk cows each morning before breakfast. The family also raised calves up to two-hundred pounds, and then sold them for veal. The family borrowed a bull from a neighboring farm for no charge.[xlvi]

Jerold Baldwin remembers that the family was given a choice between several housing plans, and selected an L-plan small house, with a kitchen, dining room, living room, and three bedrooms. The Baldwin Farmstead's house plan is unusual among the one-and-a-half-story cottages that dominate much of the rest of the built landscape of the Christian-Trigg farmsteads. The house was originally built with a privy out back, but came equipped with light fixtures and wiring for electricity, in anticipation of the Pennyroyal Electric Cooperative that was developing in the region. Interestingly, Baldwin notes that the house did come with *space* for a bathroom, although the plumbing was not installed. Although the Baldwin family would have preferred to stay in the "big house" that was extant on the property, project regulations required the Baldwins to build a new house. In 1937, the Christian-Trigg project had contracted the building out to Woodruff Construction in Cadiz, Kentucky. The original Baldwin Farmstead house plan featured three bedrooms along a long side – one had been originally used as a bedroom, one as a spare bedroom, and one as a dining room – an original living room, and a kitchen and dining room. The family later added a den, extra set of bedrooms, and glassed-in back porch, along the shed wing of the house. The Christian-Trigg farmsteads were not wired for telephones until the 1950s.[xlvii]

Oral history shows that, although the Christian-Trigg Farms project theoretically entailed a high level of government oversight and input into resettled farmers' agricultural practices, farmers seemed to adopt government-suggested land use practices because they made sense – a system of crop rotation, for example, conserved the soil, and ensured for higher crop yields down the line. Signing up for a "government farm" did entail some degree of supervision. Jerry Baldwin remembers that his family would often have to record chickens and count egg yields and deliver these data up to project administrators who were stationed at Oakland Manor, then called the Herbert King house, which served as the project's headquarters. Often, these methods of government surveillance were yoked together with community festival: oral history recalls yield days at the Christian-Trigg project headquarters as being a riotous affair, with prizes for the farmers with the biggest yield. Events like these also encouraged discussion about best agricultural practices between neighboring farmers – Baldwin recalls one year that a neighbor beat out the Baldwin family in the tobacco

[xlvi] Ibid.
[xlvii] Ibid.

yield contest, and noted that leaving the tobacco in the field a few more days helped to add poundage to the harvest.[xlviii]

Nevertheless, Jerold Baldwin never remembers Resettlement Administration or Farm Security Administration bureaucrats and farm educators coming onto the farm to instruct or observe. However, Baldwin recalls that some of the programs carried out on the farmstead during the New Deal, such as cover cropping, crop rotation, a heavy home canning effort, and vegetable gardening and orchardry, were influenced by government programming and advice. Helen Baldwin, who established the Baldwin Farmstead with her husband C.A. Baldwin, for example, grew up in town, and had not previously canned or put up food. But, under the outreach and impetus efforts of the Christian-Trigg Farms project, she became an avid home canner.[xlix]

With five children on the farm, the Baldwins did not need to hire outside help. Jerold Baldwin notes that the Baldwin sons helped on the farm regularly, as did one of the Baldwin daughters; another daughter devoted her time to studying, and the family gave her leave from many farm chores. The Baldwin children attended the local Howell school, and also participated in other community-based agricultural development programs, including 4-H and the Future Farmers of America. Jerold Baldwin recalls participating in both an FFA corn project and a hog project, which also encouraged New Agricultural techniques to improve on-farm efficiency, record-keeping, and yields. As a part of one of Jerold Baldwin's prizes for the hog project, he won a gilt Duroc hog; and then took up raising the hogs, and provided prize hogs to other FFA project winners in subsequent years.[l] It is important to note that the Christian-Trigg Farms project itself was not the only cooperative agricultural program at work in the Christian County community; voluntary rural youth programs like 4-H and FFA, and county-wide agricultural extension work, also provided farming information, oversight, and on-field demonstration education to farm families. Nevertheless, and despite the success of the Baldwin Farmstead, Jerold Baldwin remembers his mother Helen Baldwin discouraging her children from going into agriculture, feeling that it was too hard of a life. Nonetheless, after a middle adulthood spent off the farm, Jerold returned to his family's homeplace in the 1990s, and has continued farming there ever since.

The Baldwin Farmstead After the New Deal

The Farm Security Administration, which superseded the Resettlement Administration in 1937, shut its doors in 1947. Many resettled farmers and industrial workers living on FSA-operated projects and operating with original Resettlement Administration forty-year loans were given the option to buy their property then, or were required to pay up in a five-year period. In 1947, with the shutting down of the Farm Security Administration, program rules changed and Christian-Trigg farm families were given the option to purchase their farms before the end of the forty-year lease period. The Baldwin family paid for their farm outright.[li]

Although the federal government invested heavily in the idea that farmstead design would influence a new model of agricultural and rural family life, resettlement farmers nonetheless made government-planned farmsteads their own in innovative ways. The Baldwin family, for example, added a new wing to their 1937 Resettlement Administration home; and, sometime around the 1950s, demolished a Resettlement Administration garage and shed because, as Jerry Baldwin notes, "they didn't look good."[lii] The Baldwins continued to adapt and renegotiate the spatial use of other farmstead outbuildings. The family tractor-shed,

[xlviii] Ibid.
[xlix] See Baldwin, 24 October 2014.
[l] See Baldwin, 25 September 2014.
[li] See Baldwin, 25 September 2014.
[lii] Baldwin, 24 October 2014.

located behind the Baldwin house, was carefully crafted out of a Resettlement Administration-designed chicken house.

While C.A. Baldwin continued to practice agriculture as the country exited the Second World War, C.A.'s wife Helen encouraged the Baldwin children to find other, easier careers. Jerold Baldwin, who currently owns and resides in the Baldwin homestead, moved to town, and began a career working for an electric company. C.A. Baldwin continued farming until the 1970s; and, in the early 1990s, with Helen Baldwin's passing, Jerold Baldwin and wife Mattie Lou Baldwin moved back to the Baldwin homeplace, and began farming again. Jerold Baldwin follows many of the same crop rotation and pasturing techniques that his parents practiced during the span of the Christian-Trigg Farms project. Although the orchard and vegetable garden are gone now, Jerold continues to farm the rest of the Baldwin farmstead property.[liii]

Evaluation of the significance of the Baldwin Farmstead within the historic context New Deal Rural and Agricultural Programs in Christian County, Kentucky, 1935-1945

The 1920s-1950s saw an unprecedented large-scale movement of Americans off the land. Though controversial in Congress and in their home communities, New Deal agricultural development programs like the Christian-Trigg Farms project provided farmers with low-interest loans to allow them to secure their own modern homesteads and acreage, and combined this planned community-building with the supervisory instructive model of the New Agriculture. The Christian-Trigg Farm project site made a lasting mark on the built and cultural landscape of South Christian County, which continues to be evidenced in the Baldwin farmstead. Because it strongly and unmistakably evoke the national context of New Deal-Era rural and agricultural development programs, which helped to usher in a new generation of conservation-minded family farming in rural America, the Baldwin Farmstead is a vital site in preserving and interpreting American agricultural history and the intersection of government programming and family farm practice in the 1930s and 1940s.

The C.A. Baldwin Farmstead signals the large-scale federal re-envisioning of the rural landscape during the New Deal. The Baldwin house's design – scaled for efficient use and heating, and wired for rural electricity, and decorated in the style of 1930s "rural modern" interiors – showcases a New Deal-era government dream of a connected countryside that would afford American farm families the same conveniences available to city-dwellers. This dream was a culmination of many of the urban-driven Country Life reform movements of the Progressive Era, but it was made especially urgent by the ecological and economic devastation caused by the Dust Bowl and other farm crises of the 1930s.

The Baldwin Farmstead showcases the ability of New Deal-era rural and agricultural development programs to change the built environment and cultural landscape of Western Kentucky. The Christian-Trigg Farms project, of which the Baldwin farmstead was a part, moved many hundreds of tenant farmers off-of bankrupted, worn-out or auctioned farmsteads, and turned these lands into farmsteads carefully crafted to allow for successful family farming and a subsistence level. The Baldwin farmstead retains the memory of many more ephemeral features of life on a Christian-Trigg Farm "government place" – such as keeping a kitchen garden, canning home produce, and keeping a record of crop, poultry and livestock yields – which were required cultural components of the resettlement program.

Jerold Baldwin's return to his childhood homeplace in the 1990s, after an adult life working mostly for electrical companies, also shows the resounding cultural pull of the family farmstead and homeplace in

[liii] See Baldwin, 24 October 2014.

contemporary cultural memory. While the first half of the 20th century is marked by historians as the era when most American families moved off the farm, the Baldwin Farmstead showcases how experimental government efforts like the Christian-Trigg Farms project in Christian County, Kentucky ensured a way for a select group of Americans to stay tied to the land – even when it forced others off of the land. The New Deal agricultural and rural policies of the 1930s and 1940s make up a vital piece in the story of the complicated relationship between federal planning efforts and the lived life of small-scale American family farmers. The Baldwin Farmstead, as a surviving New Deal-era Christian-Trigg farmstead that is still in agricultural production by its original owners, amply illustrates this context, and is a crucial component of interpreting the cultural and social history of the South Christian County Christian-Trigg Farms project site. The C.A. Baldwin Farmstead showcases, in particular, the importance of built environment and design components for planned rural development in the 1930s, and the way that resettled American farm families made these planned farmsteads their own in the years after program administration ended.

The C.A. Baldwin home, as an intact example of a homestead on the Christian-Trigg Farms project, evokes the cultural and architectural landscape of the "semi-infiltration" style of planned resettlement farm community built during the New Deal. The movements of C.A. Baldwin and his family, and their application to and successful negotiation of New Deal-era agricultural and rural resettlement projects tells a vital story of small-scale family farmers in the 1930s and 1940s. Because the Baldwin family not only purchased their farmstead from the federal government, but continued to inhabit the farmhouse and work the farmlands throughout the 20th century, the farmstead site is also is one example of the lasting influence of New Deal rural development farm projects on several generations of farming families.

Evaluation of the integrity between the C.A. Baldwin Farmstead's significance and its current physical condition

The Christian-Trigg Farms site meets National Register Criterion A, and has been interpreted within the historic context "New Deal Rural & Agricultural Development Programs in Christian County, Kentucky, 1935-1947." The emphasis within this context is the federal government's insistence that new models of farm architecture, layout and amenities would enact and inspire a progressive, rational, businesslike model of industrial farming that would bring the average American farmer into prosperity, and into touch with the boons of the city and the modern world. The Christian-Trigg farm sites clearly evoke their relationship to this historical context in the viewer by possessing integrity of location, design, materials, feeling, and association. The farmhouse's interior integrity of design, materials and feeling, in particular, are incredibly and unusually evocative of rural farmstead life on a New Deal project in the 1930s. Moreover, as a single-family-owned farmstead in continuous operation since its era of significance, the Baldwin Farmstead is remembered in a series of oral history accounts that shed vital light on the cultural and social context and social uses of the farmstead during its period of significance. According to the National Register of Historic Places, if a site can be said to possess "compelling integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship and feeling, it can be said to thus possess integrity of association," which helps to mark it as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.[liv] Despite some transformations in the site design and use, the C.A. Baldwin Homestead possesses considerable integrity, and clearly evokes the history of Western Kentucky agriculture during the period of New Deal rural and agricultural programming.

Location: The C.A. Baldwin farmstead can be said to possess complete integrity of **location.** The site – including the 1937 farmhouse, and original Resettlement Administration-designed chicken house – maintains the layout set out in the site plan of 1937, when the Baldwins first moved onto their Resettlement

Administration land with the Christian-Trigg Farms project. Its location, in close proximity to four other extant Christian-Trigg resettlement farms, which were carved from the same pre-1930s farmstead, helps preserve the context of the "semi-infiltration" model of New Deal agricultural resettlement work, and evokes the close and often collaborative relationship between neighbors that was encouraged by Resettlement and Farm Security Administration programming.

Setting: The Baldwin farmstead also retains integrity of **setting**. The farmstead is situated on the site that the Baldwins chose as a part of their loan with the Resettlement Administration. The farmhouse and chicken-house remain in the same locations where they were constructed in 1937. Although other outbuildings have been removed or reconstructed, the setting of the Baldwin farmstead remains one of a working agricultural enterprise. The Baldwin farmstead also evokes two other larger integrities of setting: it maintains its integrity within the context of the other four Resettlement Administration-era farms from the Christian-Trigg project that are its neighbors; and it evokes an integrity of setting within the landscape of South Christian County, where the Christian-Trigg project was situated. The open, agricultural rural landscape of South Christian County today, and the fact that the Baldwin farmsteads' fields and barn remain in active agricultural use, provide a continuity between the setting of the farmstead in 1937 and its use and setting today.

Materials & Design: The Baldwin Farmstead maintains a considerable integrity of **materials** and **design**. Although the Baldwin family added two rooms to their Resettlement Administration-designed Small House between 1945 and 1955, and added a central bathroom to the house, the floor-plan still closely resembles that of the original 1937 design. Moreover, the family's interior use of the home – with a front living room, side bedrooms, and rear kitchen and dining room, maintain the spatial use indicated in the original design. Many other interior features – including the house's wood trim, and original 1937 wood cupboards, invoke the interior design trends consonant with "modern farmhouse" style as it was conceived of by the Resettlement Administration in 1937. The house also features many original 1937 light fixtures which were built just prior to the coming of rural electricity to South Christian County. Christian-Trigg Farms houses built before the coming of the Pennyroyal Electric Cooperative were built with these fixtures so that electricity could be brought to the region – rural electric would only be extended if a certain number of houses in an area were already wired up to receive it. These internal light fixtures are especially significant in the property's integrity of materials and design. The property's exterior materials – including wooden weatherboarding, asphalt-shingle roof and window glass – all point to the mass-produced housing trends popular in the late-1930s to post-WWII era of construction. The integrity of these materials continues to reflect New Deal agriculture programs' insistence on building a "modernized," clean, convenient and efficient farmstead through elements of interior and exterior design.

Feeling: A property is said to possess integrity of **feeling** if the property itself can be said to express an "aesthetic or historic sense of the particular period of time." In its site layout, design, and use, the C.A. Baldwin Farmstead clearly evokes both the aesthetics and the feeling of New Deal-Era agricultural planning efforts. The farmstead especially illustrates the way that the Resettlement and Farm Security Administrations' underlined their emphasis on training farms in a rational, efficient and industrial model of farming through design of "modern" farmhouse plans. Despite the removal of some Resettlement Administration-constructed outbuildings and the addition of others for the sake of convenience and on-farm use, the Baldwin Farmstead continues to give visitors the same impression it would have delivered during the years of the Christian-Trigg Farms project. The interior of the Baldwin House beautifully gives the feeling of farmhouse life on a New Deal resettlement farm project in the 1930s. Its curtains, wall-paneling, cupboards, many sinks and interior use plan strongly invoke the atmosphere of the 1930s. Moreover, the house's original light fixtures, built in 1937

in anticipation of the coming of rural electricity, continue to perform the felt sensations and aesthetic sensibilities of 1930s New Deal-sponsored architectural and design modernism for rural communities.

Association: The synthesis of the integrity factors outlined above provide a sharp and compelling integrity of **association** between New Deal-Era agricultural and rural programming, the rural cultural landscape of South Christian County as it was shaped by the Christian-Trigg Farms project, and the extant C.A. Baldwin Farmstead. The Baldwin Farmstead has remained in the hands of one small-farming family since the Christian-Trigg Project's inception in the 1930s, and its site plan, use and interior design are remarkably well-preserved and maintained in the style of the late 1930s. Although Jerold Baldwin, the property's current owner and resident, did not live in his family's farmstead for all of his life, his dwelling on the farmstead from 1937 to the early 1950s, and again after his parents' deaths in the early 1990s, creates a remarkable continuity of cultural experience and emplaced memory that provide the property with an organic integrity of association. The Baldwin Farmstead is a well-preserved and continuously operated exemplar of the sort of New Deal-era subsistence farmstead that programs like the Resettlement and Farm Security Administration helped dream into being in Western Kentucky in the mid-1930s. The property is a testament to the continuation of this model of farmstead, and the deep influence of programs like the Christian-Trigg Farms project, long after the federal government shut down the official program. The Baldwin House remains as an embodied testament to this important and often-unsung piece of American family farm history in an era of great economic and ecological turmoil. Its preservation and recognition as a site of historical significance will allow for the interpretation of the larger cultural, social and economic history of the Christian-Trigg Project in Western Kentucky, and can shed a vital vernacular light on everyday farm families' architectural negotiations of New Deal attempts to "modernize" the countryside through efficient farm-house plans and neat, prim design. As an exemplary and evocative 1930s New Deal farm site, the C.A. Baldwin Farmstead is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Articles

Lile, Stephen E. "Christian-Trigg Farms: A Part of Kentucky's New Deal Heritage." *Undated manuscript copy, retrieved from the files of the Christian County Historical Society, courtesy of Mr. William Turner, County Historian.*

Lile, Stephen E. "The Resettlement Farm Project in Kentucky: Preliminary Findings," in *Essays in Economics and Business History* XII (1994): 250-257.

Interviews

Baldwin, Jerold. Interviewed by William Turner and Jess Lamar Reece Holler on 25 September 2014. Hopkinsville, Kentucky. 2014.

Baldwin, Jerold and Baldwin, Mattie Lou. Interviewed by Jess Lamar Reece Holler on 24 October 2014. Hopkinsville, Kentucky. 2014.

Nat'l Register of Historic Place Nominations

Elizabeth Straw, "**Cumberland Homesteads** Historic District," **National Register of Historic Places** Nomination, Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, 1988.

Other Archival Sources Consulted:

Records of the Farmers' Home Administration. Record Group 96. Atlanta Branch of the National Archives.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CH-486

C.A. Baldwin Farmstead
Name of Property

Christian County, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 88.3 acres

UTM References
Church Hill quad
Coordinates calculated by ArcGIS
Coordinates expressed according to NAD 1983:

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	454371.36	4069509.10	3	16	453916.59	4068937.91
2	16	454364.87	4068878.05	4	16	454005.71	4069565.76

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jess Lamar Reece Holler
organization Western Kentucky University date February 3, 2015
street & number 728 East 11th Avenue telephone 614-273-5907
city or town Bowling Green state KY zip code 42101
e-mail oldelectricity@gmail.com

PHOTO 10: Name of Property: C.A. Baldwin Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Hopkinsville

County: Christian State: Kentucky

Photographer: Jess Lamar Reece Holler

Date Photographed: 25 October 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: View of the surrounding agricultural lands from the Baldwin Farmstead's front yard, gazing across Masonville-Beverly Road. Camera faces due South.

10 of 18.

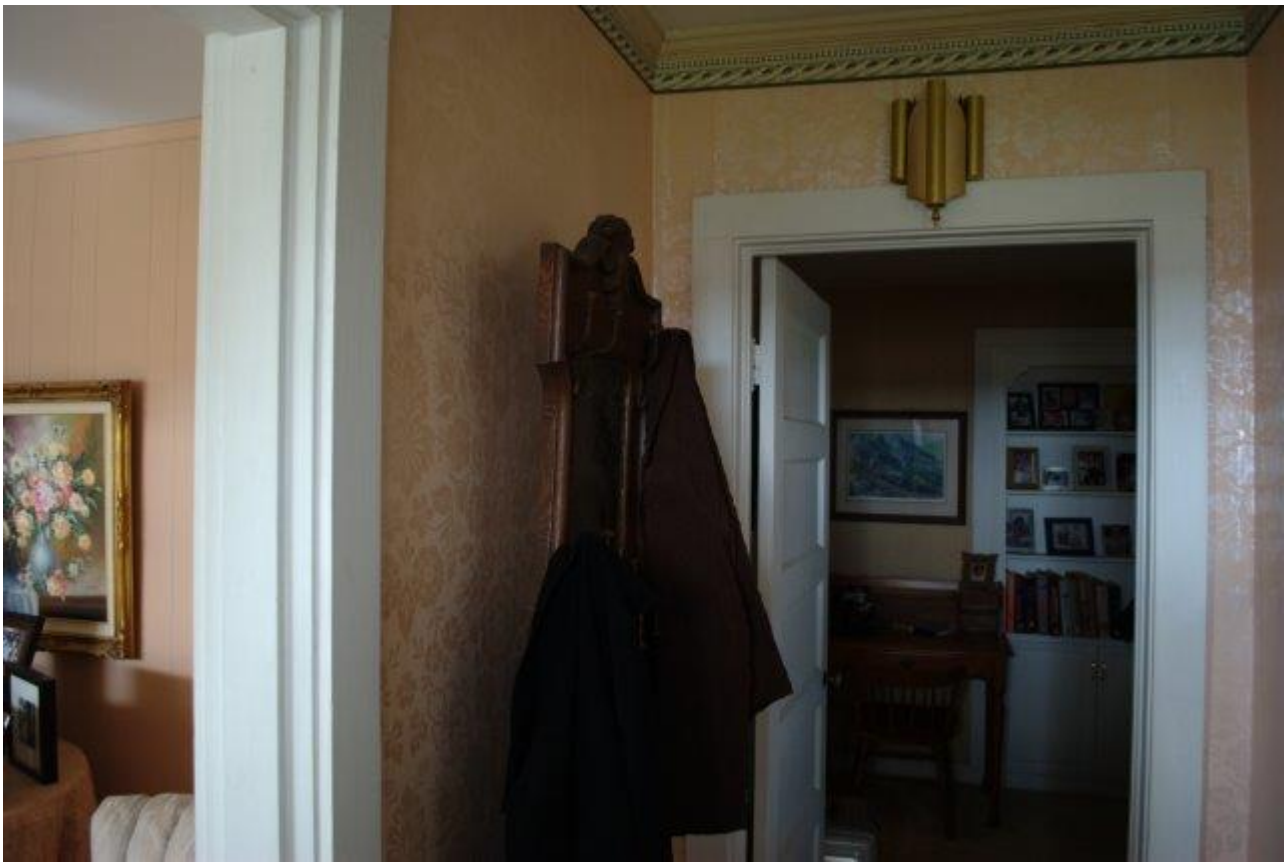

PHOTO 11: Name of Property: C.A. Baldwin Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Hopkinsville

County: Christian State: Kentucky

Photographer: Jess Lamar Reece Holler

Date Photographed: 25 October 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: View of the Baldwin farm house's entryway – left is the family's original 1937 living room, and ahead and right is the bedroom and den built by the Baldwin family in the 1950s. . Camera faces Northwest.

11 of 18.

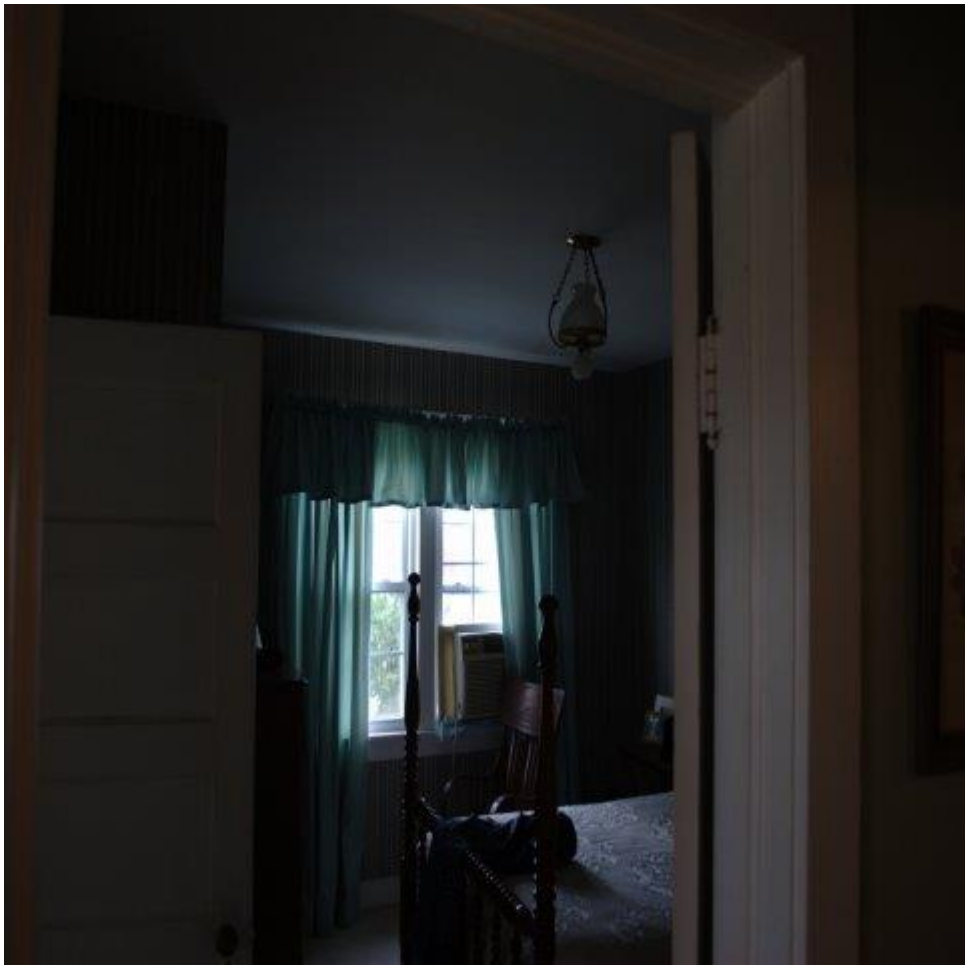

Photo 14: Name of Property: C.A. Baldwin Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Hopkinsville

County: Christian State: Kentucky

Photographer: Jess Lamar Reece Holler

Date Photographed: 25 October 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: View of Baldwin "spare bedroom," including an original 1937 light fixture, built in anticipation of the coming of rural electricity. Camera faces due West.

14 of 18.

PHOTO 16: Name of Property: C.A. Baldwin Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Hopkinsville

County: Christian State: Kentucky

Photographer: Jess Lamar Reece Holler

Date Photographed: 25 October 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: View of the Baldwin "dining nook," accessible through the kitchen. Camera faces due North. Corner-cupboards were built by Helen Baldwin, mother of Jerold Baldwin and wife of C.A. Baldwin, in the late 1930s.

16 of 18.

PHOTO 17: Name of Property: C.A. Baldwin Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Hopkinsville

County: Christian State: Kentucky

Photographer: Jess Lamar Reece Holler

Date Photographed: 25 October 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Jerold (L) and Mattie Lou (R) Baldwin in the Baldwin Farmstead farmhouse. Jerold moved to the site in 1937, when his family was approved to purchase a Resettlement Farm as a part of the Christian-Trigg Farms project in South Christian County, Kentucky. Jerold lived with his family on the farmstead until 1951. Jerold and Mattie moved back to the homeplace in the 1990s, and reside there now. Camera facing West.

17 of 18.

PHOTO 18: Name of Property: C.A. Baldwin Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Hopkinsville

County: Christian State: Kentucky

Photographer: Jess Lamar Reece Holler

Date Photographed: 25 October 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Jerold "Jerry" Baldwin, in his family farmhouse, built in 1937. Jerry moved to the property on Masonville-Beverly Road with his parents in 1937 as a part of the newly-launched Christian-Trigg Farms project. Camera faces West.

18 of 18.

C.A. Baldwin Farmstead
Name of Property

Christian County, Kentucky
County and State

Property Owner:

name **JEROLD AND MATTIE LOU BALDWIN**

street & number 4680 Masonville-Beverly Road telephone (270) 886.7796

city or town Hopkinsville state Kentucky