

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received APR 19 1984  
date entered

## 1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common Historic Resources of Moccasin Bend MRA

## 2. Location

5 sites

not for publication  
called me, Hamilton 4/19/84  
N/A not for publication

street & number



city, town Chattanooga

N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee

code 047

county Hamilton

code 065

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resource Area	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant land

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Public Ownership--see continuation sheet

street & number N/A

city, town N/A

N/A vicinity of

state N/A

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Hamilton County Courthouse

street & number Georgia Avenue

city, town Chattanooga

state Tennessee 37402

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Moccasin Bend, Unknown National Treasure of Chattanooga  
has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982-83 (See bibliographic references)  federal  state  county  local

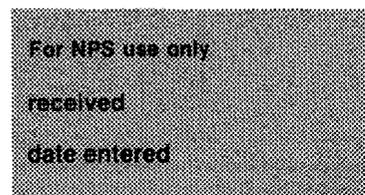
depository for survey records Tennessee Division of Archaeology

city, town Nashville

state Tennessee 37201

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The sites located on Moccasin Bend are owned by three public entities:

Joint ownership by the City of Chattanooga, and Hamilton County and by the State of Tennessee.

City of Chattanooga  
101 Municipal Building  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Hamilton County Government  
Office of the County Executive  
208 Courthouse  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

State of Tennessee  
Department of Finance and Administration  
Division of Real Property Management  
1700 James K. Polk Building  
Nashville, TN 37203

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

## Summary Description

Moccasin Bend Multiple Resource Area is [REDACTED] Moccasin Bend, a major feature on the Tennessee River adjacent to metropolitan Chattanooga, Tennessee. Based on archival research and archaeological field research conducted by the Chattanooga Regional Anthropological Association, the area contains three significant individual sites known as the Vulcan Site, the Mallards Dozen site and the Hampton Place Site. It also contains an archaeological district containing seven burial mounds and a historical district of Civil War earthworks associated with the significant federal victories in the battles of Chattanooga and Chickamauga. Hampton Place (40HA146), the premier archaeological site, has been demonstrated to have intact burned houses containing late prehistoric artifacts and extensive quantities of Spanish artifacts dating from the sixteenth century. Considerable evidence leads to an inference that Moccasin Bend was either visited by the DeSoto and/or Juan Pardo expeditions or the Indians of Hampton Place site had ready access to the Spanish trade items. Historians have contended that the Spanish expeditions came through this general area.

The Vulcan site (40HA140) contains buried archaeological remains of the Archaic and Woodland periods including a Terminal Archaic period house pit dated to 1335 B.C.

The Mallards Dozen site (40HA147) [REDACTED] contains deep stratified Woodland deposits including architectural features dated at A.D. 405 and distinct Archaic period levels.

## Original Physical Appearance

Eastern Tennessee can be divided into three distinct geographical areas based on general landforms. The Blue Ridge Mountain chain, which includes the Great Smoky Mountains, forms the easternmost area. To the west of the Blue Ridge lies the Valley and Ridge area, so named due to a series of parallel valleys and ridges some of which run from northern Georgia to Pennsylvania. To the west of the Valley and Ridge is the Cumberland Plateau which is marked by a relatively continuous bluff or escarpment as much as a 1000 feet higher than the adjacent valley. The Cumberland Escarpment presented a formidable barrier to east-west transportation throughout history and probably prehistory as well. At the point where the Tennessee River, a major tributary of the Ohio River, cuts through the escarpment, it forms Moccasin Bend, a large open agriculturally productive area which has been intermittently occupied for the past 10,000 years.

Geography has played a key role in the historical development of Moccasin Bend. At the time of earliest known human use, the archaeological Archaic Period (10,000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.), the river would sweep south along Stringers Ridge carrying sand and silt, then curve west around the foot of Lookout Mountain and continue northward. The impact with Lookout Mountain and influx of water and silt from Lookout Creek caused the river to slow down and release part of its sand and silt load on the west side of Stringers Ridge leaving

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a wide level bottom. At times of relatively high water flow, the bottomland was dissected to create an island on what is now the westernmost part of the bend.

This part-time island and other areas on the floodplain afforded the Archaic Indians attractive campsites so that during this period of first occupation the bend would have seen a series of camps constructed by bands of nomadic hunters and gatherers. In the later Archaic period, around 2000-1000 B.C., more permanent camps were present as shown by the remains of a dwelling at the Vulcan Site (40HA140).

Still later in time, during the archaeological Woodland Period, (1000 B.C. - A.D. 1000), the bend was occupied by Indians who had invented pottery making and primitive horticulture and had developed a complex social and political system in which extensive exotic material trade networks played a major role. During Woodland times, villages were established on the bend at the Vulcan, (40HA140), Mallards Dozen, (40HA147), and Hampton Place, (40HA146), sites.

In the later part of this period, a person [REDACTED] would have seen various groups of Woodland Indians burying their dead by constructing mounds of earth over the deceased. At least seven of these mounds were constructed at sites 40HA133, 40HA141, 40HA142, 40HA143, 40HA144 and 40HA145.

Later after periodic flood waters had deposited additional layers of sand and silt covering up the remains of previous camps and villages, the bend was occupied by agriculturally oriented Indians.

During this period, known to archaeologists as the Mississippian (A.D. 1000 to first European contact), [REDACTED] would have seen clusters of houses built of vertical posts interwoven with cane and plastered with mud, roofed with native grasses surrounded by a palisade of vertical logs. Fields of corn, squash and beans would lie outside the palisade and there would also be a few individual houses scattered around the area.

Sometime in the middle to late sixteenth century, many or all of the houses in the village areas now known as the Hampton Place site burned, preserving some of their contents and affording a glimpse of the way Indians lived at this critical time of first contact with European explorers.

The river flood waters again covered the village remains and when the first settlers came, Moccasin Bend was attractive farm land. Its next period of historical significance came during the Civil War when U.S. Army troops constructed artillery positions on Stringers Ridge to protect supply routes leading into Chattanooga and to bombard Confederate positions [REDACTED]

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**Resource Components Present in Area**

**Architectural Resources**

There are no historic architectural properties present in the Moccasin Bend Multiple Resource Areas.

**Historical Resources**

The bend achieved historical significance during the battles of Chattanooga and Chickamauga in late 1863. [REDACTED] on Moccasin Bend Historic District contains federal Army earthworks constructed during the Chattanooga campaign and occupation. These positions were used in the bombardment of Confederate batteries [REDACTED] and in the protection of major supply routes to federal forces in Chattanooga.

Included in the district are seven historic sites consisting of earthwork features of artillery batteries, (sites 40HA131, 40HA132, 40HA135, 40HA137, and 40HA138) and bivouac areas (40HA134, 40HA136, and 40HA137). All of the sites lie above the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is presently covered with mixed hardwood forest with no modern architectural intrusions.

**Archaeological Resources**

The significant known archaeological resources in Moccasin Bend are three individual sites, Vulcan, Mallards Dozen, and Hampton Place, and a Woodland Mound District that contains seven mounds.

The three individual sites are [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The Vulcan site (40HA140) is stratified with distinct Terminal Archaic Period and Middle/Late Woodland components. Subsurface testing revealed undisturbed midden deposits, structure hearth features and evidence of a Late/Terminal Archaic pit house structure radiocarbon dated at 1335 B.C. Middle Woodland pottery sherds were recovered from upper levels of the site.

General classes of archaeological data present on this site include subsistence data such as faunal, floral, and midden deposits; architectural data such as structure floors, pit houses, and hearths; culture chronology data such as charcoal in association with features and decorated ceramics.

Mallards Dozen site (40HA147) is a large, deeply and well-stratified site with an Early or Middle Archaic occupation as well as a concentrated Middle Woodland deposit. Testing discovered a distinct Middle Woodland structure radiocarbon dated at A.D. 405.

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Data classes present on this site include subsistence related food refuse, architectural features, floral and faunal remains, radiocarbon samples and ceramic and lithic artifacts. Buried paleosols indicate the geomorphological development of the bend and define surfaces that were stable long enough to form soil horizons.

The most significant site on Moccasin Bend is Hampton Place (40HA146), a proto-historic period Mississippian village apparently occupied in the sixteenth century. Although earlier Archaic and Woodland components are present in buried and separate strata, the primary component consists of two distinct habitation areas. Archaeological testing has shown the site to contain a large number of burned structures. In fact, all of the structures examined to date have been burned thus giving rise to the inference that it may represent two areas of a village frozen in time by conflagration. This would be remarkable in and of itself as an archaeological site with data categories represented as items in contemporaneous use, but this site also appears to have been in trade contact with or visited by sixteenth century Spanish explorers.

Professional archaeological testing carried out in December 1982 recovered European made artifacts in place on a burned house floor. Radiocarbon dates from this house were A.D. 1565 and A.D. 1430. Further archaeological testing in the spring of 1983 demonstrated that the two site areas were each surrounded by a palisade and the general structural arrangement in each area appeared to be characterized by a "big House," a plaza, and smaller semi-subterranean pit houses. This pattern as described in archaeological literature is referable to the Late Mississippian Mouse Creeks phase (McCollough and Bass 1983).

The Hampton Place site contains unparalleled archaeological data on the initial influence European culture had on the indigenous Indian culture. Additional data on the early use of bison east of the Mississippi River can be derived from identified bison bones. (McCollough and Bass 1983 Appendix 1). Extensive occurrence of human burials may also indicate proto-historic diseases as shown in skeletal pathologies.

**Woodland Mound Archaeological District**

[REDACTED] of Moccasin Bend is a complex of seven mounds, which although eroded and partially excavated by a 1915 archaeological expedition (Moore 1915), make up a district of special use sites. These mounds (40HA133, 141, 142, 143, 144, and 145) collectively may yield significant data on the Middle and Late Woodland period (A.D. 300 - A.D. 1000). Based on other regional examples of this type of site, the mounds are expected to contain evidence of stages of construction, a primary "high status" burial and secondary burials in the mound fill. Even those sites which have been altered should contain information on construction techniques and other structural data. One of the mounds (40HA144) is also reported to contain a number of historic coffins, possibly Union Army casualties of the [REDACTED] action.

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**Cultural Resource Surveys on Moccasin Bend**

The first reported archaeological investigations on the bend were conducted by Clarence B. Moore, a well known archaeologist who travelled the Tennessee River in 1914-15. Moore tested in various areas including Hampton Place and the burial mounds [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] His work (Moore 1915) is reported in the publication "Aboriginal Sites on Tennessee River,"

The second archaeological project on Moccasin Bend was carried out in 1964 as part [REDACTED] Approximately 400 feet of river bank was removed. The University of Tennessee Department of Anthropology conducted limited salvage excavations of scattered Woodland and Mississippian features in this area. The work is reported in Graham (1964).

The Historical Resources of Moccasin Bend Multiple Resource Area nomination is primarily based on survey efforts of the Chattanooga Regional Anthropological Association (CRAA). This local non-profit group comprised of interested citizens, and professional archaeologists commissioned a historical background report and an archaeological field survey. The historical background report entitled "Background Data Concerning Cultural Resources on Moccasin Bend, Hamilton County, Tennessee" (Evans and Karhu-Welz, 1982) was prepared primarily by Mr. E. Raymond Evans, a Chattanooga ethnohistorian and anthropology graduate student. It summarizes the previous historical and archaeological research.

The archaeological field survey was conducted during December 1982 and the spring of 1983 under the direction of Dr. M.C.R. McCollough, a Chattanooga professional archaeologist who is the Technical Director and Chief Archaeologist of CRAA in an unpaid public service capacity. The survey, subsurface testing, artifact analysis, and publication of results - "Moccasin Bend, The Unknown National Treasure of Chattanooga" (McCollough and Bass 1983) was conducted with funds provided by the CRAA.

**Limitations to the Data Collected in the Area**

The archaeological data synthesized in this nomination is based on professional archaeological investigations and systematic subsurface testing. The sites included in the nomination are those which sufficient information was collected to assess significance. However the work conducted to date should be considered as reconnaissance level investigations and as such there are areas within the study area which may contain undiscovered sites. Future archaeological research may locate sites which also meet National Register criteria.

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**Summary of Alterations to Moccasin Bend Resource Area**

For an area in close proximity to a major city, Moccasin Bend has remained relatively free of modern development. The land of the bend was sold to the United States government by the Cherokee as part of treaties concluded in 1817 and 1819 (Royce 1887: 84-110). A portion of the multiple resource area was reserved by John Brown, a local Cherokee Indian. It was later sold to white settlers and probably cleared for agriculture in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

In the twentieth century the bend continued its agricultural character and no large scale construction occurred until 1960 with public acquisition and the development of Moccasin Bend Mental Health Facilities in the toe of the bend. Other developments include two additions to the mental health facilities, the city owned Moccasin Bend Golf Course, and installation of radio antennae on a 12 acre tract.

In 1963, construction of Interstate 24 on fill across the Tennessee River resulted in the removal of the river bank on the southwest margin of Moccasin Bend (Graham 1964) and the resultant spoil material was deposited on the upper portion of the area near the present radio towers.

Specifically with regard to archaeological sites on the bend, [REDACTED] (Evans and Honerkamp 1981) and illegal digging by relic collectors at Hampton Place between 1974 and 1982 selectively destroyed approximately 700 human burials. No vandalism has occurred at the site since November 1982 when public awareness was raised and surveillance by the CRAA began.

The Hampton Place site (40HA146) has been intruded by two construction projects. [REDACTED]

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1300 B.C. 16th C. **Builder/Architect** N/A

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

**Summary**

The historical resources of Moccasin Bend consist of the remains of Civil War fortifications that played a major role in the U.S. Army campaign and occupation of Chattanooga. These sites which include gun emplacements and bivouac areas are associated with the military events of late 1863 and the subsequent battles of Chattanooga and Chickamauga. The sites make a historic district that retains its setting, integrity, and association with these significant military events and meet National Register criterion 36CFR60.4b.

The archaeological resources of Moccasin Bend are significant for the information they are likely to yield on the prehistoric and proto-historic lifeways of Chattanooga's first inhabitants. Buried archaeological remains found at the Vulcan site and Mallards Dozen site contain significant information on Archaic period (10,000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.) subsistence, architecture, technology and social practices. The Woodland period (1000 B.C. to A.D. 1000) is also represented by both habitation and mortuary sites; these are likely to contain information on subsistence, architecture, technology, exotic materials trade networks, and mortuary practices.

The Mississippian period is represented by an extremely significant site now known as Hampton Place (40HA146). This site is multicomponent but also contains a stratigraphically separate protohistoric village which has a large number of burned houses, palisaded enclosures, and a settlement plan characteristic of the Mouse Creek phase. Adding to these impressive data categories is the presence of large quantities of European/Spanish made artifacts in place on burned house floors and as burial associations. Since the Mouse Creeks component appears to have been frozen in time in the sixteenth century by extensive burning of the village there is an unparalleled opportunity to address research questions pertaining to the initial influence European culture and diseases had on the native people; the route of the DeSoto and Don Pardo Spanish explorations; status and rank differences reflected in each site subarea and overall internal site structure. The presence of palisade fortification may also yield information on large group interactions and warfare. One hypothesis has been presented that palisaded sites occur on boundaries between culture areas. The presence of bison bones in good context will expand the knowledge on the distribution and use of this late appearing faunal resource.

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Current preservation and planning efforts on Moccasin Bend include active community involvement by the Chattanooga Regional Anthropological Association, a local non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of archaeological resources. In 1982 the city and county governments formed the Moccasin Bend Task Force which was charged with the responsibility of recommending the best form of development for the city and county owned property. The task force has considered cultural resources in its deliberations and formally endorsed the nomination of sites to the National Register of Historic Places. The task force has not made any recommendations for future development/preservation of the area.

The Hampton Place site (40HA146) is currently under consideration for nomination as a National Historic Landmark, an action appropriate due to its significance to the understanding of the Spanish exploration of the eastern United States and potential research on protohistoric acculturation.



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Evans, E. Raymond and Jeffrey L. Brown

1977 Report of an Intensive Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Proposed Expansion of the Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant. Institute of Archaeology, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. Submitted to Hensley-Schmidt Inc. Chattanooga. Copy on file Tennessee Division of Archaeology, Nashville.

Evans, E. Raymond and Vickky Karhu-Welz

1982 Background Data Concerning Cultural Resources on Moccasin Bend, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Ms. prepared for the Chattanooga Regional Anthropological Association, on file, Tennessee Division of Archaeology, Nashville.

Evans, E. Raymond and Nicholas Honerkamp

1981 Prehistoric and Historic Cultural Resources in the Chattanooga Area and an Assessment of Four Prospective Sites for the Proposed River Port at Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Submitted to Sverdrup & Parcel and Associates, Inc. Nashville. Copy on file, Tennessee Division of Archaeology, Nashville.

Evans, E. Raymond, Vicky Karhu-Welz, and Victor P. Hood

1982 Archaeological Investigations of the Area to be Affected by the Proposed Moccasin Bend Force Main, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Submitted to Hensley-Schmidt Inc. Chattanooga. Copy on file, Tennessee Division of Archaeology, Nashville.

Govan, Gilbert E. and James W. Livingood

1977 The Chattanooga Country 1540-1976. 3rd ed. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.

Graham, J. B.

1964 The Archaeological Investigation of Moccasin Bend (40HA63), Hamilton County, Tennessee. Report of Investigations No. 1. Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Moore, Clarence B.

1915 Aboriginal Sites on Tennessee River. Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia 2nd series 16(3): 169-428.

Royce, Charles C.

1887 The Cherokee Nation of Indians. Bureau of American Ethnology 5th Annual Report. Washington.

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Moccasin Bend Multiple Resource Area

State Hamilton County, TENNESSEE

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |   |                           |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Vulcan Archeological Site<br>(40HA140)         | <u>Substantive Review</u> | Keeper <u>5/22/84 G.A. Stewart</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 2. Hampton Place Archeological<br>Site (40HA146)  | <u>Substantive Review</u> | Keeper <u>5/22/84 G.A. Stewart</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 3. Mallards Dozen Archeological<br>Site (40HA147) | <u>Substantive Review</u> | Keeper <u>5/22/84 G.A. Stewart</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 4. Stringer Ridge Historic<br>District            | <u>Substantive Review</u> | Keeper <u>5/22/84 G.A. Stewart</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 5. Woodland Mound Archeological<br>District       | <u>Substantive Review</u> | Keeper <u>5/22/84 G.A. Stewart</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 6.  |                           | Keeper _____<br>Attest _____                       |
| 7.  |                           | Keeper _____<br>Attest _____                       |
| 8.  |                           | Keeper _____<br>Attest _____                       |
| 9.  |                           | Keeper _____<br>Attest _____                       |
| 10.   |                           | Keeper _____<br>Attest _____                       |

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

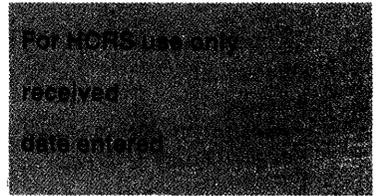
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The criterion used to identify properties for inclusion in the Meigs County survey was based solely on age. Any structure, building, or object built before 1930 was recorded. This fifty years old or older age limit was determined by National Register criterion on age and eligibility. Information for use in assessing the properties was recorded on the individual inventory forms. The form provides historical data (name of builder, date of construction, associated individuals and families, events associated with the property, original and present use, and original location) and architectural data on details of construction, plan, and design. After the county was completely surveyed, each property's individual form and photographs were examined using the National Register criteria for evaluation to determine the most significant standing resources in Meigs County.

Of the 345 properties recorded within the Meigs County multiple resource area, approximately 44 individual properties meet the criteria for listing in the National Register and are included in this nomination.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention			
<b>Specific dates</b>	N/A				
<b>Builder/Architect</b>	N/A				

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Properties are nominated under Criteria A,B, and C,

Meigs County, Tennessee, through its historic and architectural resources, preserves a clear record of the lifestyle of a thinly populated rural county in Tennessee. Since the removal of the Cherokee from the county in 1819 and 1835, the main focus of the area has been agriculture, and little industry has developed to change this atmosphere. Relatively untouched by the Civil War, the county enjoyed a gentle prosperity in the late 1800s which is evidenced by modest farmhouses touched with decorative jigsaw trim and by an increase in commercial activity. Since the early 1900s this prosperity has decreased. The major significance of the historic resources in Meigs County now lies in the virtually complete collection of traditional and folk architecture they represent. Other areas of significance reflect the period of exploration and settlement and the establishment of the county's government and politics; the development of agriculture, industry, commerce, and law; the history of blacks in the county; and the growth of transportation and engineering.

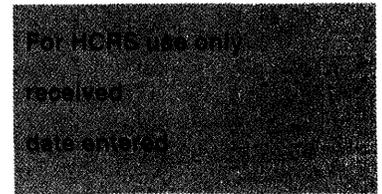
The comprehensive architectural survey used to identify all pre-1930 buildings in Meigs County did not consider the prehistoric resources within the county (archaeological resources are excluded from nomination). Information on file at the Tennessee Division of Archaeology, Nashville, showed that 46 prehistoric sites are recorded in Meigs County. Distribution of the majority of these sites center around the inundated Tennessee and Hiwassee River valleys. Surveys conducted in the mid 1930s showed a variety of prehistoric sites ranging from the Archaic to the late Mississippi/Historic periods.

The most significant archaeological site known in this area is located at the confluence of the Hiwassee and Tennessee Rivers. Hiwassee Island is a large island, roughly triangular in shape, and the site of a major excavation effort by the University of Tennessee in the late 1930s. Under the direction of Dr. Thomas Lewis and Madeline Kneberg, archaeological excavations were carried out from 1937-1939. Excavations revealed Hiwassee Island as a multi-component site with occupations representing the late Archaic Period, the Hamilton Phase of the late Woodland Period, the Hiwassee Island Phase of the early Mississippian Period, and the Dallas Phase of the late Mississippian period (Lewis and Kneberg, 1946).

Occupation of Hiwassee Island extended into the Historic Period when the island was the location of the Cherokee town of Cayoka. Settled about 1780 after the withdrawal of the Chickamauga band from the Overhill Cherokee towns, Cayoka thrived until about 1818. During that time Hiwassee Island was known as Jolly's Island, named after Chief John Jolly. (An important and influential man among the Cherokee, Jolly befriended Sam Houston who lived with Jolly in 1809. In 1818, Jolly moved to Arkansas and became the principal chief of the Western Cherokee in 1820 after the death of his elder brother, Tahlonteskee [Lewis and Kneberg, 1946:19].) Currently about one-third of Hiwassee Island is inundated by the waters of Chickamauga Lake.

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The presence of the Cherokee was an important chapter in Meigs County history. A recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology has sought to locate and record all sites regarding the activities of the Cherokee in Tennessee. Two such sites, the above mentioned town of Cayoka on Hiwassee Island and the farmstead and ferry of William Blythe (#35) were identified in Meigs County (Evans 1979).

The area of land that comprises Meigs County was known as the Hiwassee District and not officially opened to settlement until the signing of the Hiwassee Treaty in February 1819. However, long before that, President Thomas Jefferson recognized the need for an Indian agency and military garrison in Tennessee to act as a buffer between the over-zealous settlers and the Cherokee. In 1801, Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs, a Revolutionary War soldier from New England, was sent to represent the interests of the United States in dealing with the Cherokee Nation (Lillard, 1975:17). Meigs became a trusted friend of the Cherokee and established an agency on the west bank of the Tennessee River opposite the mouth of the Hiwassee River (Rhea County) known as the Hiwassee Garrison. Meigs stayed in this location until about 1817 when he moved the agency to the north bank of the Hiwassee River on what is known as Agency Creek. The exact site of the Indian agency is unknown.

With the signing of the Hiwassee Treaty in 1819, all lands north of the Hiwassee River were opened to settlement by whites, but the lands south of the Hiwassee River, known as the Ocoee District, were still reserved for the Cherokee. Meigs continued to maintain the operation of the Indian Agency until his death in 1823. In December 1835, the Treaty of New Echota was signed and the Ocoee District was ceded to the United States in exchange for lands in the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River. Plans for the removal of the Cherokee were formulated and final removal was completed by 1838. Shortly thereafter Meigs County, named for Colonel Meigs, was organized.

The section of old Rhea County, now comprising Meigs County, east of the Tennessee River and north of the Hiwassee River was opened to white settlement after the Hiwassee Treaty was signed in 1819. The initial settlement pattern was along the Tennessee River and in the fertile valleys of the area's two major tributary streams, Sewee and Goodfield Creeks. The first settlements were in the Ten Mile area, where a post office was established in 1831; in the vicinity of the future town of Decatur; at Stewart's Landing (now Eaves Ferry) on the Tennessee River; and in the Goodfield Valley, where the county's first church was organized (Lillard, 1975). Later settlements were made on the county's ridges, but these areas have never prospered like those on more productive valley soils.

The settlement of the county south of the Hiwassee River, the Ocoee District, began immediately after the signing of the Treaty of New Echota in 1835. One of the earliest areas of settlement was near Hiwassee Island, where William Blythe, a Cherokee, operated a ferry (#35) at the confluence of the Hiwassee and the Tennessee.

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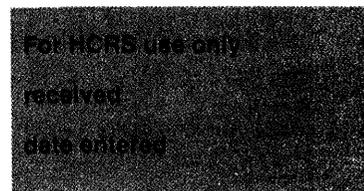
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With the influx of new settlers into the area south of the Hiwassee, enough interest and support was generated among the citizens of Rhea County east of the Tennessee River to persuade the Tennessee state legislature to create a new county, Meigs. In May, 1836 a meeting of the first county court was held at the home of John Stewart (#20). The county was divided into eight civil districts, numbered from south to north; District One comprised all areas south of the Hiwassee. (Today there are only four districts in Meigs County, but District One still retains its 1836 boundaries.) A meeting place for elections, usually a house, was selected for each district. One of these still stands, the Elisha Sharp House (#12), in old District Seven in the Ten Mile area.

Another responsibility of the May meeting was the determination of a location for the seat of government. Three locations were considered: at John Stewart's to the north, McDaniel's to the south, and James Lillard's tavern in between. The site of the county seat was finally decided by measuring the county from north to south and taking the location nearest the center. Named for the War of 1812 hero Stephen Decatur (b. 1779-d. 1820), the town of Decatur was laid off into lots and streets on fifty-one acres of land donated by James Lillard and Leonard Brooks. On June 28, 1836 the lots, 82 in number, were sold at auction for a total of \$4023.25. The revenue from the sale was used to erect county buildings (Goodspeed, 1887: 817).

Contracts for the construction of a courthouse and jail were awarded in 1837. The jail was built for \$2000, and the courthouse, costing \$2400, was occupied by December of that year. The courthouse was a two story brick structure and was replaced by a second courthouse in 1882, which burned on the night of April 2, 1902. The third and present courthouse (#26) was built on the old foundations and was completed in 1904. A near duplicate of the 1882 courthouse, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 3, 1978.

Because Meigs County was settled later than neighboring counties to the north, east, and west, access was available by roads that by 1819 had already reached into the former Indian territory. Although some roads existed at the beginning of the area's settlement, one of the actions of the county court's first meeting in 1836 was to approve the clearing of new roads from the center of the county to the Hiwassee River, presumably near Cowansville; toward Washington, county seat of Rhea County; to Sewee Creek "at the dam"; and to Kelly's Ferry (now Cottonport), to Braddy's Ferry, and to Hornsby's Ferry (Lillard, 1975: 51). It may be assumed that the Old Kingston-Ten Mile Road, now Highway 58, already existed. Roads in the county tended to follow the valleys that run north-south in the area. As a result, the Ten Mile, Goodfield, and No Pone valleys had the earliest roads, while the River Road developed along the bank of the Tennessee River.

The Tennessee and Hiwassee Rivers were important to the settlement of Meigs County, especially for the transportation of goods to market. By the 1850s, steamboats such as the Jefferson were picking up produce in Meigs County and carrying the shipments to market in Chattanooga. Many landings and communities, such as Cottonport, Stewarts Landing, Euchee, and Peakland were settled in response to this activity.

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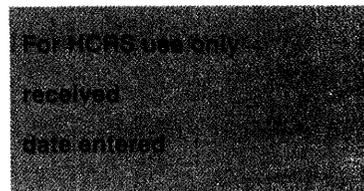
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Ferries were quickly established to allow travel between Meigs and its parent county Rhea across the Tennessee River. Two of the earliest ferries opened before 1810 and were the Hastings-Locke, or Washington Ferry (#30) and the Blythe Ferry (#35). These two ferries are still in operation, and are two of only five remaining on the Tennessee River in Tennessee. At the peak, there were at least eight ferries in operation on the Tennessee from Meigs County alone. From north to south these were the Hornsby (Old Pinhook) Ferry; Stewarts Landing Ferry (part of John Stewart's plantation (#20)); Hastings-Locke Ferry; Kelly's Ferry (at Cottonport); the Old Free Ferry; Armstrong's Ferry; the Blythe Ferry (at the confluence of the Hiwassee); and Braddy's Ferry, whose location is unknown.

Three ferries operated on the Hiwassee to join Meigs County north and south of the river. These were the Bunker Hill Ferry, Russell Ferry, and Kincannon Ferry. No ferries operate now on the Hiwassee.

Originally almost totally dependent upon river transportation, Meigs County tried to shift to overland transportation by attracting a railroad. In the early 1850s, an extension of the Chattanooga, Harrison, and Cleveland Railroad Company was sought for southern Meigs County. In 1887, the Tellico and Athens Railroad was approached. Then, in 1904, the incorporation of the East Tennessee Valley Railroad held hope for a line through Big Spring and Decatur. These attempts to get a railroad through the county failed, and Meigs County's dependence on river transportation continued until the early 1920s. "And, of course, Meigs remained an agrarian region with no industry and a limited amount of commerce" (Lillard, 1975: 144).

Near the end of the nineteenth century, a commitment was made by the county government to improve Meigs County's overland road system. The Meigs County Court Minutes of the period reveal many references to dangerous bridges and frequent orders for repairs and replacements of the county's wooden bridges (Meigs County Court Minutes, Volumes 7-14). Between 1885 and 1917, at least five metal truss bridges were constructed in the county by the Champion Bridge Company of Ohio. These metal trusses, with increased load-bearing capacity and longer life, were essential to the shift in the county toward motorized overland transport, and the eventual construction of Highways 58, 68, 30 and 60.

The initial settlement of Meigs County scattered the inhabitants throughout the region without respect to the future needs for towns and trade centers. However, these first settlers were not self-sufficient, and village stores quickly developed near the riverboat wharfs and along roads. Enterprising farmers also constructed taverns or fenced-off enclosures for animals being driven to distant markets (Lillard, 1975: 145).

Among these early commercial ventures was the store (#36) James Cowan operated by the early 1830s on the Hiwassee River. The small town of Cottonport was established on the banks of the Tennessee by land speculator James Roddy and had a post office, Kelly's Ferry, by 1831. John Stewart's plantation (#20) was so close to the Tennessee River that he built a platform and storehouse on the river called Stewart's Landing. (Later, S. S. Eaves had a store and warehouse there, and built a house (#21) whose Steamboat Gothic style reflected the steamboats that landed there.) The community of Pinhook

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Landing, later called Peakland, was developed by a speculator near the Hornsby Ferry. At Ten Mile Stand, which had a post office by 1831, was an animal shelter for drovers driving stock to market.

Perhaps the first trade establishment in Decatur, James Lillard's house was converted into a tavern after the 1838 incorporation of Decatur as the courthouse community (Lillard, 1975: 145). Trade in Decatur had modest beginnings. There were five stores, an hotel, a blacksmith shop, and a tannery. The professional trades were represented by one doctor and four attorneys. It was not until 1880 that a newspaper, the Meigs County Free Press, was founded. The newspaper survived four years, and then was moved to Dayton in Rhea County.

Stores opened for trade in other places in the county and often served as post offices as they became the center of small villages. By the 1850s such stores had opened at Goodfield, the Mouth of Hiwassee (the location of Blythe Ferry, #35), Pine Land, and Sewee, where a tannery and mill (#18) were also built. In the 1890s there were twenty post offices, most in community stores in Meigs County. Among these places of trade were Big Spring (#34), Cute, Euchee (#2 and #3), Hester Mills, and Surprise (#7 and #8).

Agriculture has always been the most important source of income for the citizens of Meigs County. By 1850, 598 farms had been established and over 38,000 of the county's total acreage of 122,048 had been improved through cultivation and the construction of buildings. Stock was important, and 20,000 swine were raised at a value of \$30,000. In the farmhouses, goods worth \$23,000 were produced. (Lillard, 1975:14).

In the 1870s there were still approximately 600 farms, few of which were rented or leased. A considerable amount of land in the county was already exhausted and abandoned, and one-half of all farmland was for sale. First class bottom lands sold for \$100 an acre; medium bottom lands for \$75; and inferior bottom lands for \$25. Number one uplands sold for \$50 an acre and common uplands for \$1 to \$20. The share-cropping rent for land averaged one-third to one-half the crop. (Killebrew, 1874).

The leading crops in order of acres planted were corn, wheat, oats, Irish and sweet potatoes, apples, and peaches. There were also several thousand acres of meadow and clover fields, and 100 acres of sorghum. Livestock included 800 horses; 800 mares; 400 mules; 1500 milch cows; 160 work oxen; 2400 cattle over two years old of which 250 beef cattle were slaughtered annually; and 5000 hogs of which 700 were slaughtered annually. (Killebrew, 1874).

About 400 laborers, divided almost equally between whites and blacks, worked on the farms. Harvest hands were paid as much as \$1.25 a day, transient hands as little as 50 cents. Hands who worked for a share received one-third of the produce they harvested. (Killebrew, 1874).

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By 1900, Meigs County had a population of 7401 and there were 983 farms. The average acreage per farm was 127 - 41% greater than the Tennessee average of 90 acres. Seventeen of the county's farms were larger than 500 acres. However, only 48.8% of the farmers owned their own land and 46% were share or cash tenants. Blacks or Indians represented only 7.4% of the county farmers. Absentee ownership was quickly developing in the county. (Lillard, 1975.).

Also developing was an increasing dependence upon the tobacco industry. In 1880, 4159 pounds of tobacco were raised as a cash crop. This amount grew to 15,500 pounds in 1900, and, by 1940, 136,791 pounds would go to market. Besides tobacco, corn was still the major crop in 1900, with 487,000 bushels harvested. Next in production was wheat, then oats, peas, and potatoes. Beans and sorghum were also raised, as well as 4300 tons of forage and \$15,000 worth of vegetables. In addition, dairy products, poultry, and eggs valued at \$53,204 provided income. (Lillard, 1975: 147, 148).

In 1920, the number of operating farms dropped to 935. In the previous decade, an attempt at marketing strawberries was made, but lack of a railroad hurt the enterprise. In 1930 there were only 757 farms worked, but this number increased to 784 farms in 1940. Unfortunately, many were marginal farms plowed into hillsides unfit for cultivation. Today farming is still the most prevalent occupation in Meigs County.

Industry was slow to develop in Meigs County. The 1850 Manufacturers' Census recorded no industries that produced more than \$500 in finished products. Of the occupations represented in the census, 639 citizens were farmers. Industrial occupations included 28 blacksmiths, 8 carpenters, 4 saddlers, 4 millwrights and 2 millers, 3 brickmasons, 3 wagonmakers, 1 cooper and 2 coopersmiths, 2 shoemakers, 2 tanners, 1 distiller, 1 manufacturer, and 1 wheelwright.

The greatest potential for early industry lay for some time in "a vein of iron ore that extends nearly the entire length of the county," and preparations were made for "the opening of extensive mines" (Goodspeed, 1887: 815). Few, if any, of the mines were actually opened. There was an early iron works, the Sewee Iron Works, on Sewee Creek (see 1834 Matthew Rhea Map of the State of Tennessee, Map #4). Little is known about the operation of the small and rather short-lived iron works. It was out of operation by 1850, and the site was later used as the location of King's Mill (#19). Twenty years later another attempt was made to develop Meigs County's mineral resources. In 1870 the Roane Iron Company was established (Folmsbee, et.al., 1972: 386). It is unclear if this company actually opened mines in Meigs County, but an old mine company commissary building was recorded in the survey.

Generally, the lack of a railroad hampered the development of the iron industry in the county. A final, unsuccessful attempt at mining was the Cute Manufacturing and Mining and Building Company, incorporated in December, 1893. The purpose of the company was to sink shafts and bore for valuable liquids or minerals in the earth, and to manufacture from raw materials of wood and iron, lumber furniture and farming utensils (Lillard, 1975: 150, 151). This enterprise soon failed.

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Other industries in Meigs County had slowly advanced by 1870. According to Killebrew (1874) there were numerous sawmills, all water-powered, a number of corn and grist mills, several carding machines, and a few tanneries. Marble was known to be abundant in the county, but was not developed as an industry. Manufacturing firms employed only 27 people and produced \$46,000 in manufactured goods.

In 1880, seven saw-and-gristmills, six gristmills, and ten blacksmith shops were recorded in the census. Of these businesses only the Gettys Mill (#18) and Wood Blacksmith Shop (#39) remain. Other industries listed included a tannery, shoemaker shop, furniture shop and slaughter and meatpacking firm. The timber and logging industry had also grown. By 1900, much pine and poplar had been logged, but the hardwoods had hardly been used. Lumber in 1900 averaged \$100 an acre when bought on the stump.

Few businesses or industries were ever incorporated for Meigs County. The Meigs County Telephone Company (#24) was incorporated in 1897 and constructed a telephone line from Athens in McMinn County to Decatur and from Decatur to other parts of the county. The company continued until the 1950s when bought by Southern Bell. The Tennessee River Telephone Company was incorporated in 1901 with the purpose of constructing a telephone line from Hamilton County to Decatur and also to connect Decatur and Cottonport with Dayton in Rhea County. This telephone company was unsuccessful. The Meigs County Bank (#25) was incorporated in 1907 and is still in operation. The Decatur Hosiery Mills, incorporated in 1936, was less fortunate. The only industry listed by the WPA Federal Writers Project for Meigs County in 1933, the establishment failed in the 1940s.

In 1972 there were nine industries listed for Meigs County. Products manufactured included clothing, lumber, chairs, riding equipment, stone, explosives, and plastic yarn. These companies, the largest of which employed 300, had a total employment of 432.

Because industry has always been underdeveloped in Meigs County, immigration has never played a significant role in the area's development after the settlement period, when the majority of new citizens were of English, Irish, or Scots-Irish background. Slavery produced the immigration, albeit forced, of blacks to the county. In 1840 there were 395 slaves and 4 free blacks and in 1860 there were 638 slaves and 7 free blacks. After the Civil War, the 1870 census listed 436 blacks living in the county. In 1880 there was the greatest black population recorded, 814. This population dropped to 466 in 1910, 391 in 1930, and 340 in 1940. The lack of employment opportunities in industry or in agriculture led to the emigration of many Meigs County blacks to more prosperous areas of the state and the nation.

The historical development of Meigs County is marked by three major periods of significance. The period of settlement and development from 1820 to 1860 encompassed the first settlements and political organization of the county, the removal of the Cherokee in 1835, and the early development of agriculture, commerce, and industry. Following the Civil War, the period from 1870 to 1910 was one of modest prosperity as farm production increased and trade and industry grew. The early 1900s brought

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a gradual decline as farms were exhausted and residents left for jobs in more industrial areas. However, conditions improved with the start of the third major period around 1940. This period is dominated by the Tennessee Valley Authority, whose construction of Watts Bar Dam and Lock between 1939 and 1944 provided work while it also took away farmland through inundation. Today, TVA is still providing work with the construction of the Watts Bar and Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plants, both begun in 1973.

The majority of the historic resources chosen for inclusion in this nomination represent the first two of the three major periods of significance in Meigs County. The period of settlement and development, 1820-1860, includes nominations of two ferries (#30 and #35) that were operating before Meigs County was opened to white settlement in 1819. (See Item 7, page 4a.) Also included are houses built by early settlers, such as the Alexander Patterson House (#9); barns representative of the agricultural buildings of the era; and the only surviving water-powered mill (#18) in the county. The house (#20) where the first county court was held in 1836 is yet another historic resource from this period.

The decades from 1870 to 1910 were a period of agricultural and commercial prosperity. Resources from this period include commercial buildings and the residences of successful businessmen, such as the S. S. Eaves House (#21). Farmhouses with decorative details added to their simple lines reflect the prosperity of agriculture, as does the elegant R. H. Johnson Stable (#5). A new courthouse (#26) and the houses of Meigs Countians who represented their state district in the legislature also bear witness for the prosperity of this period.

The TVA era, 1940-1980, is a period of significance too recent to allow for representative historic resources. The pre-1930 building date for properties used by the survey precluded the inclusion of any resources from this period in this nomination.

The major historical figures and events related to Meigs County are primarily of local and state significance. However, two events of national importance have affected the development of the county, the Cherokee Removal of 1835 and the Civil War, 1861-1865.

Before the enactment of the Hiwassee Treaty of 1819, the area now encompassed by Meigs County was inhabited by the Cherokee. Among the few whites who lived in the Indian territory, the most prominent was Return Jonathan Meigs, a Revolutionary War veteran appointed as Indian agent to the Cherokee in 1801. Meigs established his first agency, the Hiwassee Garrison, on the Rhea County (west) side of the Tennessee River. In 1817 he moved his agency to Agency Creek near the Hiwassee River, east of the Tennessee in an area that would become part of Meigs County. Although archaeological remains of this agency may exist, no standing structures associated with Meigs and his agency survive in Meigs County. When Meigs died in 1823, he was buried near the Hiwassee Garrison in Rhea County.

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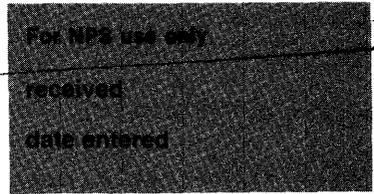
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Conley Hastings was another white settler active in Meigs County before 1819. Hastings established a ferry (#30) between Rhea County, organized in 1807, and the east side of the Tennessee River (Meigs County) around 1807. The ferry provided access to Washington, the first county seat of Rhea County. Later the Locke family would operate this enterprise.

Among the Cherokee inhabitants there were also men who figured in the history of Meigs County. William Blythe was granted authorization to operate a ferry (#35) in 1809. Located at the confluence of the Hiwassee and Tennessee Rivers, the ferry connected the east side of the Tennessee with the Hiwassee Garrison and the roads to Washington and Dayton in Rhea County. After the signing of the Hiwassee Treaty in 1819, Blythe renounced his allegiance to the Cherokee and received a 640 acre reservation which included his homestead and ferry landing (#35).

Other Cherokee who received reservations in Meigs County were Lewis Ross and Richard Taylor. In the 1830s, Taylor sold his property to John Roddy, a land speculator who attempted to develop the town of Cottonport on the Tennessee. Although 33 of 41 lots were sold and a post office, Kellys Ferry, was established in the town by 1834, the town is now gone. No properties remain that are associated with Ross, Taylor, or the original town of Cottonport.

The first event of major significance to the historical development of Meigs County was the Hiwassee Treaty of 1819. With the purchase of Cherokee territory, the treaty opened to white settlement the Hiwassee District, an area east of the Tennessee River and north of the Hiwassee that would become part of Meigs County. At the time of settlement, however, the area was part of Rhea County.

Among the first settlers of the portion of the Hiwassee District that would become Meigs County were several men who would play important roles in the Cherokee Removal of 1836 and the formation of Meigs County that same year. The Hastings Ferry (#30) had been established ca. 1807, and Robert Locke took over the operation of the ferry around the time of the Hiwassee Treaty in 1819. Robert Locke's first purchase of land in the Hiwassee District was recorded on November 18, 1820, as was that of John Locke, who had been born in England. John Locke was a surveyor and was commissioned in 1820 to survey the boundary between Rhea County (later Meigs) and McMinn County to the east. Locke became the county surveyor for Meigs County and surveyed the town lots for the new county seat, Decatur, in 1837. Locke later bought the ferry equipment included in the estate of Robert Locke in 1839 and operated the Hastings-Locke Ferry (#30).

James Cowan, whose first purchase of land in the county was also recorded November 18, 1820, settled in the southern portion of the Hiwassee District. Cowan built a store and house (#36) on the north bank of the Hiwassee River opposite the Ocoee District, still occupied at the time by the Cherokee. In 1831 Cowan's store also became the post office for the community of Cowansville. Later, after the Cherokee Removal, Cowan purchased property south of the Hiwassee in the Ocoee District. In 1836, James Cowan was one of five commissioners appointed by the Tennessee legislature to lay off Meigs County into districts for elections of constables and justices of the peace.

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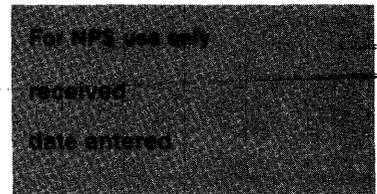
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One of the earliest settlers of northern Meigs County was Elisha Sharp (b. 1792), who moved from Greene County, Tennessee ca. 1820 and established a large farm in the Ten Mile area. At one time Sharp owned over fifty slaves and was one of the most prosperous early farmers, as his brick house (#12) attests. In 1836 Sharp was one of five commissioners assigned to locate a county seat for the newly formed Meigs County. Another of Sharp's governmental functions was the use of his house as a meeting place for elections in the county's Seventh District. Sharp served as a second lieutenant during the Cherokee Removal of 1836. After years as a leading citizen in Meigs County, in 1863 Sharp was murdered at the age of 71, perhaps as a result of his secessionist sympathies.

James Lillard was another prominent member of the first wave of settlers to Meigs County. Originally from Culpepper County, Virginia, Lillard came to the Hiwassee District by way of Missouri and Cocke County, Tennessee. Lillard settled in the area that would become Decatur, and gave a large portion of the 51 acres that Decatur was founded upon in 1837. After the town's incorporation that year, Lillard opened a tavern in his house on the courthouse square. No properties remain that are associated with this settler.

A short time after the initial settlement of the Hiwassee District, two men important to the history of Meigs County recorded their purchases of land, John Stewart and Miles Vernon. While a boy, John Stewart (1792-1874) ran away from Prince George County, Maryland to Knoxville, Tennessee where he was apprenticed to an overland coach operator. Stewart drove the first stage to make the trip from Knoxville to Nashville. Shortly after his marriage ca. 1820, Stewart moved to the Hiwassee District. His first purchase of land was recorded September 7, 1825. Stewart's house (#20) was the meeting place for the first, organizational meeting of the county court of Meigs County in 1836. Stewart's plantation extended to the Tennessee River where he constructed a landing and warehouse called Stewart's Landing, site of a skirmish during the Civil War.

Captain Miles Vernon (1786-1866) was the man most responsible for the establishment of Meigs as a separate county from Rhea. Born in Charlotte County, Virginia, Vernon came to Tennessee at an early age. Commanding his own company in the War of 1812, Vernon also served in the Second Seminole War. Later, Vernon pursued a more peaceful career as teacher and principal of Washington Academy in Rhea County. Vernon's first purchase of property in the Hiwassee District was recorded August 23, 1825. From 1829 to 1833, Vernon represented Rhea and Hamilton Counties in the House of the state legislature. From 1833 to 1837 he represented Rhea, Bledsoe, Hamilton, Marion, Morgan, and Roane Counties in the state Senate. As senator, Vernon petitioned the legislature for the formation of Meigs County, and succeeded in this effort in 1836. (The first name suggested for the county was Vernon.) Vernon served as captain of a company in the Cherokee Removal (1836-1838), and immigrated to Missouri after 1839. There he was elected to the state senate and was honored by a county named after him. Vernon died in 1866 after duty with the Confederate Army under General Sterling Price. Today no properties remain in Meigs County that are associated with Miles Vernon. However, a street in Decatur does bear his name.

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Within the short span of three years, 1835 to 1838, three events occurred that shaped the development of Meigs County. The first was the Treaty of New Echota in 1835; the second was the organization of the new county of Meigs in 1836; and the third was the Cherokee Removal of 1836-1838.

When the Treaty of New Echota was signed in Georgia on December 29, 1835, the area south of the Hiwassee River and east of the Tennessee River known as the Ocoee District was opened for white settlement. With the influx of settlers into the new district, impetus was provided for the establishment of a new county, east of the Tennessee River, taken from the old boundaries of Rhea County. Meigs County was formed in 1836, and an organizational meeting of the county court met May 2 and 3 at John Stewart's house (#20). Civil districts for the county were determined, and one district meeting place for elections, the Elisha Sharp House (#12), still stands.

The forced removal of the Cherokee from the Ocoee District also began in 1836, and two men instrumental to the formation of Meigs County aided the removal effort. Captain Miles Vernon formed a company, the First Regiment, Second Brigade of the Tennessee Mounted Volunteers, in June, 1836 for twelve months service. Elisha Sharp was second lieutenant of the company. Seventy-one men from Meigs County were listed on the muster roll of the company taken August 31, 1836 at New Echota, Georgia. When this company's term of enlistment ended, Vernon formed a new company in July, 1837. Although Elisha Sharp did not re-enlist, most of the old company continued their service until July, 1838 (Lillard, 1975: 175-178).

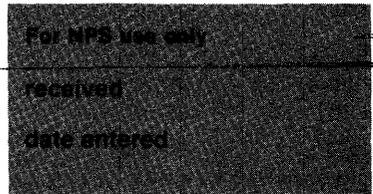
The only remaining Meigs County property directly involved with Cherokee Removal activities is the Blythe Ferry (#35), used to transport the Cherokee across the Tennessee River. In a letter to John Ross, director of Removal, dated October 15, 1838 Dr. John Powell complained that the owner of the ferry displayed slowness and an uncooperative attitude in transporting Indians and wagons across the river (Powell, 1838). The owner was William Blythe, a Cherokee.

While the Removal was taking place south of the Hiwassee River, Meigs County was taking shape north of the river. After being surveyed by John Locke, the town lots for Decatur were auctioned in June, 1836. The town, complete with new courthouse and jail, was incorporated in January, 1838.

The period from 1840 to 1860 marked a time of modest growth for Meigs County. Samuel Hutsell is an example of the many citizens who prospered during this development. Born in 1818 in Wythe County, Virginia, Hutsell was educated in Wytheville, served two years as a fife player in the War of 1812, and also learned the brick-layer's and plasterer's trades. In 1839, Hutsell eloped with Mary Gibbony and moved to McMinn County, Tennessee. In 1840, Hutsell, worth \$1500, moved to Meigs County. Through farming and the practice of his trades, Hutsell amassed \$25,000 by 1887, a figure that does not include the \$25,000 he divided among his seven children (Goodspeed, 1887: 1041). Two houses included in this nomination are evidence of Hutsell's skill, the Samuel Hutsell House (#14) and the James R. Gettys House (#17).

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Meigs County's early economic development was interrupted by one of the major historical events of the century, the Civil War (1861-1865). In 1859 a total of 271 slaves were owned among 91 slaveowners in Meigs County. Although slaveowners represented only 15% of the county's voters, Meigs County voted in favor of secession 481 to 267 on June 8, 1861.

Before the vote to secede took place, two companies of men from Meigs County had already volunteered for service with the Confederate Army. Company I, Third Tennessee Regiment had organized May 2 with N. J. Lillard as captain. On June 1, Company A, 26th Tennessee Regiment had organized with A. F. Boggess as captain. Dr. John M. Lillard of Decatur was commissioned as colonel of the regiment (Allen, 1908).

Other companies formed in Meigs County included Company C, Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, which organized July 24, 1861 with George W. McKenzie as captain. (This company would take part in the only combat in Meigs County, at Stewart's Landing in 1864.) On November 1, 1861 Company D, 43rd Tennessee Regiment mustered with Dr. A. W. Hodge as captain. A company of the Third Tennessee, or possibly Alabama, Cavalry formed in June, 1862 with G. C. Sanduskey as captain. A final group, Company I, Fifth Tennessee Cavalry organized with W. W. Lillard as captain on July 19, 1862 (Allen, 1908).

Many Meigs County men enlisted in the Union Army, and fourteen achieved officer rank. Nathaniel Witt, a settler from the Ocoee District, received the highest Union rank of any Meigs Countian. Entering service in Company E, Fifth Regiment of the Tennessee Volunteer Infantry on March 10, 1862, Witt was promoted to lieutenant colonel of the regiment by December, 1864. An owner of four slaves until the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, Witt fought for the Union in battles at Big Creek Gap and Cumberland Gap in Kentucky; the Battles of Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, and Missionary Ridge; the Battle of Knoxville, at Resaca, Kennesaw and Marietta in Georgia; and at the Battle of Franklin and last Battle of Nashville (Lillard, 1975: 185-188). No properties remain in Meigs County that are associated with Nathaniel Witt.

Little military activity actually took place in Meigs County during the Civil War, perhaps because no railroad that could transport troops and supplies ran through the county. However, Blythe Ferry (#35) served as the station for a company of the Fifth Tennessee Infantry Regiment (USA), who guarded the mouth of the Hiwassee River for over a year. Union forces occupied upper East Tennessee by December, 1863, and on June 6, 1864, a new Union county court was organized in Meigs County with James T. Griffith (#10) as chairman of the county court. With the Union occupation of East Tennessee, local opinion began to shift from secessionism to repairing the Union. Yet sympathies still were such that Meigs County's only organized conflict took place in the early autumn of 1864.

After performing raids in Middle and East Tennessee, Gen. Joe Wheeler's Fifth Tennessee Cavalry (CSA) moved toward Knoxville in order to cross the flooded Tennessee River. Violating orders, Col. G. W. McKenzie's Company C took the opportunity to visit family and friends in Meigs County. The AWOL group rendezvoused at McKenzie's house south of Decatur, and several soldiers were sent to scout Stewart's Landing and report the presence of any Union troops or labor squads. At the landing, the soldiers

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encountered a Union squad composed predominately of black laborers, with a detachment of Union soldiers. By the end of the day, eighteen Confederates had been captured by the Union troops and were confined, under the guard of black soldiers, in a crib at Stewart's Landing. While the Union cavalry searched for more Confederates, the remnants of Company C regrouped and planned an attack for the next day. The following morning Col. McKenzie and eighty men attacked the Union work camp. Surprised while at their breakfasts, the Union soldiers and workers scattered. Many drowned while trying to escape by swimming the Tennessee River; others were killed in combat. Company C won the skirmish and the captured Confederates escaped during the action. Afterwards, the company rejoined the Fifth Tennessee Cavalry above Maryville (Lillard, 1975: 119-121).

By the end of the Civil War in 1865 many areas of Tennessee had been devastated. Meigs County, however, had suffered little destruction during the War, and was not treated harshly during the following period of Reconstruction. In fact, an era of modest commercial and agricultural growth marked the period from 1865 to 1910. Meigs County increased in political significance as well. Between 1829 and 1860 only seven residents of Meigs County served in the state legislature, one senator and six representatives to the House. Twice that number of officials were elected from Meigs County between 1865 and 1910—three senators and eleven members of the House.

Among the politicians after the War was James Turk Griffith (1807-1887). Born in Blount County, Griffith was a tanner's apprentice in McMinn County before moving to Meigs County in 1836. After purchasing land around 1850, Griffith became a prosperous farmer known for his Union sympathies. These political views were rewarded when Griffith was appointed Justice of the Peace (1864-1870) and chairman of the county court (1864-1865) when the county government was reorganized during the Union occupation of 1864. Griffith's political career culminated with his election as representative from Meigs, McMinn, and Polk Counties to the state House from 1867 to 1869.

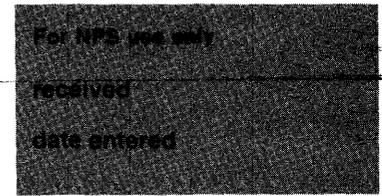
Another Meigs County politician was Elijah F. Sharp (1842-1899). The son of the prominent early settler of Meigs County, Elisha Sharp, Elijah F. Sharp enlisted in 1862 as a private in Company A, 26th Tennessee Infantry (CSA) and was promoted to second lieutenant in January, 1864. However, only one year later Sharp deserted his unit and took the oath of allegiance to the United States. After the War, Sharp farmed the estate (#12) he inherited from his father in the Seventh District. The political climate had changed sufficiently by the 1880s for Sharp to serve as a Democratic representative to the state House from Meigs, Rhea, and James Counties, 1883 to 1885.

Other Meigs Countians combined politics with successful careers in commerce. Samuel S. Eaves moved to Breedenton, formerly Stewart's Landing, in 1880. By the turn of the century, Eaves had built a large general merchandise store and operated a ferry and steamboat landing. Breedenton became known as Eaves Ferry, and Eave's impressive house (#21) still stands there. Eaves performed his civic duty as chairman of the county court from 1907 to 1910 and again in 1915.

Jasper Worth Lillard (1866-1947) was another important figure in Meigs County's history. Born in Ashe County, North Carolina, Lillard was the son of Captain N. J. Lillard, a

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Confederate veteran from Meigs County. After attending Decatur Academy and receiving a degree in law in 1890 from Cumberland University, one of the most respected law schools of its time, Lillard practiced law in Decatur. He served as postmaster for Decatur from 1893 to 1897, and was elected representative from Meigs and Rhea Counties to the state House from 1905 to 1907. Lillard was one of Meigs County's most successful businessmen and was president of the Meigs County Bank (#25) and the Volunteer Electric Cooperative. During the 1930s, Jasper Worth Lillard wrote a manuscript on the history of the county (Lillard, 1975: 3). Lillard's house and tenant house (#22 and #23) are included in this nomination.

The early twentieth century was an uneventful time for Meigs County. Many residents moved to more industrialized areas for better jobs and the growth experienced in the late 1800s tapered off. It was not until the era of the Tennessee Valley Authority that new development began in the county. The construction of Watts Bar Dam and Lock (1939-1944) and, a generation later, the construction of the Watts Bar and Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plants (1973 to present) have brought a promising new prosperity to Meigs County.

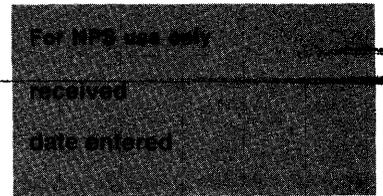
As the preceding discussion of the historical development of Meigs County illustrates, the properties nominated from the county represent ten areas of significance. These include agriculture; architecture; commerce; engineering; exploration/settlement; industry; law; politics/government; transportation; and black history.

Occupied by the Cherokee at the time of Anglo-European contact, Meigs County was opened to settlement in 1820. Several properties remain that are associated with the period of exploration and settlement from 1820 to 1860. One of the earliest areas of settlement was the Ten Mile Valley, where settlement-period houses include the Alexander Patterson House (#9) and the Elisha Sharp House (#12). Early buildings in the Decatur area are represented by the James T. Griffith House (#10) and the John Stewart House (#20). Another early area of settlement was on the Hiwassee River near the Indian Agency of Return Jonathan Meigs. There James Cowan built his house (#36) on the banks of the river. Two other properties associated with the settlement of Meigs County are the Hastings-Locke (#30) and Blythe (#35) ferries, which provided access to the county by 1810, and were used by settlers moving from west of the Tennessee River to the newly opened Hiwassee and Ocoee Districts.

An integral part of the settlement of Meigs County was the organization of the county's government and politics. Elections for representatives to the county court were first held in 1836 at district meeting places. One of these meeting places is the Elisha Sharp House (#12) in the old Seventh District. In May, 1836 the county court first met and organized county government at John Stewart's house (#20). Decatur was chosen as the site of the county seat, and the first courthouse was built on the square in 1837. This courthouse was replaced in 1882 by a second courthouse that burned in 1902. A third courthouse (#26) was built on the same site in 1903 and still serves as seat of government. The Meigs County Courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Other buildings associated with the political history of Meigs County are the James T. Griffith House (#10), home of a Meigs County Unionist, and the Jasper Worth Lillard House (#22), home of a prominent businessman and representative to the

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Tennessee legislature.

Transportation was essential to the early settlement of Meigs County, and during the first decades of the county's history the Tennessee River was of vital importance. Almost all supplies and travellers to and from the county were transported by the river. As a result, steamboat landings and ferries were essential to the economic development of the county. Historically, scores of ferries transported people and goods across the Tennessee River, and Meigs County alone had at least eight ferries in operation within forty river miles. Two ferries survive from these early days, the Hastings-Locke (#30) and Blythe (#35) ferries. Today these ferries are two of only five ferries still operating on the Tennessee River in Tennessee.

Later, transportation shifted to an emphasis on overland routes, Meigs County attempted to attract a railroad in the 1850s, 1889, and 1904, but the county failed to get a line. Around the turn of the century as transportation became motorized, a commitment was made by the county to improve the roads in the area. Between 1885 and 1916, several steel truss bridges were built in Meigs County by the Champion Bridge Company of Wilmington, Ohio. Four of these bridges are included in this nomination: the Surprise Truss Bridge (#7), the Ten Mile Road Bridge (#15), the Big Sewee Creek Bridge (#16), and the Kings Mill Bridge (#19).

These four bridges, along with a fifth bridge in poor and altered condition, and the McKenzie Windmill (#37) are the only engineering structures in the survey of Meigs County. The only windmill in Meigs County, the windmill is increasingly significant to Tennessee's engineering record as increasing fuel shortages lead to searches for alternative energy sources such as the wind.

The first and predominate activity in Meigs County from the period of settlement to the present has been agriculture. The primary means of subsistence in this small, rural county dissected by fertile valleys and poor ridges, most settlers established modest farms on which their descendants continue to live. There are several landholdings in the county that have been farmed by the same family for over one hundred years. Five of these farms are officially recognized as Century Farms, and two residences on these farms are nominated, the James T. Griffith House (#10) and the John Stewart House (#20). Outbuildings essential to agriculture for storage of livestock, produce, and equipment are numerous in Meigs County. There are representatives of typical architectural patterns as well as unique designs. The Fezell Barn (#11) is an excellent example of the log parallel crib-exterior door barn common to early farms in the area. Another

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early style of barn that is now rare is the log-constructed, cantilever barn. Three examples of this type are nominated from Meigs County: the H. C. Shiflett (#41), Marion Shiflett (#42), and G. W. Shiflett (#43) Barns. Two agricultural properties are unusual in their design. The R. H. Johnson Stable (#5) has become a landmark in southeast Tennessee as a result of its elegant Victorian style, complete with belvedere. The Bradford Rymer Barn (#44) is the only stone barn in a county dominated by log and frame farm buildings.

Industry developed slowly in Meigs County. Early attempts at iron mining and forging were short-lived; most industry was made up of gristmills, sawmills, tanneries, and blacksmith shops. The James R. Gettys Mill (#18) is the only remaining example of a water-powered mill in the county. Although there were once many blacksmith operations, the sole surviving smithy is the Willie Wood Blacksmith Shop (#40). As technology changed, new industries appeared in the county, and businesses such as blacksmith shops were replaced by automobile repair shops. The Scott Hooper Garage (#38) is the oldest automobile-related enterprise in the county, and originally the business also included a grist mill and smithy.

Industrial activity now centers around Decatur, as does commercial activity. As the only town in the county, Decatur has always been the focus of commerce. Most of the buildings associated with pre-1930 commercial ventures such as merchandise stores, taverns, hotels, and warehouses have disappeared. Banking services were provided by the Meigs County Bank (#25), which remains. Rural communities usually had general stores that served as their commercial centers. Representative of these businesses in the county is the Jacob L. Grubb Store (#34).

The law is an important area of commerce that interacts with government activities. Meigs County has never had a great amount of litigation, but lawyers have practiced in the county since its settlement (Goodspeed, 1887: 816). Two sites significant to the history of law in Meigs County still stand, the law office of Robert H. Smith (#24) and the site of the county's legal battles, the Meigs County Courthouse (#26).

Although there has never been a large population of blacks in Meigs County, they have been much involved in the history of Meigs County. The 1850 census listed 395 slaves, most of whom worked on farms. Others were employed in industries. However, the black population in the county has steadily decreased, and only 1.8% of the current Meigs County population are black. (This percentage represents 138 black residents out of a total of 7431 residents in the county, according to the 1980 U.S. Census.) Five pre-1930 properties in the survey were built by blacks; two houses, two churches, and one business. Two of these are nominated, the Andy Wood House (#39) and the Willie Wood Blacksmith Shop (#40). The Andy Wood House is a single pen, log house that illustrates the use by a black farmer of the same traditional building plans as his white neighbors. The Willie Wood Blacksmith Shop is the only remaining smithy in the county, and the only black-operated enterprise.

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Significant to the history of architecture, the buildings in Meigs County illustrate the evolution of traditional and vernacular styles from the time of settlement until the Great Depression. Because of lower economic production and growth than found in more prosperous counties, most buildings in the survey follow the simple, traditional, and less expensive patterns of folk culture. Little new construction in the last four decades has led to the maintenance of many buildings. As a result, in Meigs County one can see the original utility of the single- and double-pen houses built by settlers and early farmers in properties such as the Black Cabin (#8), Griffith House (#10), and Cowan House (#36). Recorded also are the variations of detail used on traditional central hallway, or I-houses, over a century of construction. [See houses such as the Holloway House (#1), MacPherson House (#6), Locke House (#31), Godsey House (#32), and Rice-Marler House (#33)]. Vernacular adaptations of formal architectural styles are seen in residences, churches, and agricultural and commercial buildings. Represented styles are the Federal (e.g. the Sharp House, #12); Greek Revival (e.g. the Hutsell House, #14); Queen Anne (e.g. the Culvahouse House, #2); Gothic Revival (e.g. the Oak Grove Methodist Church, #4, and the Buchanan House, #27); "Steamboat" Gothic (the S. S. Eaves House, #21); and Neo-Classical Revival (the Meigs County Bank, #25). The versatility of the basic rectangular building plan is seen in many Meigs County properties, ranging from the Meigs County High School Gymnasium (#29), built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, to the Mt. Zion Church (#13), typical of the traditional country meeting-house. Other areas of architectural significance include unusual methods of construction, such as the cantilever barn (for example, the H. C. Shiflett Barn, #41) and the work of master craftsman Samuel Hutsell as seen in the Hutsell House (#14) and the James R. Gettys House (#17).

Although the architectural and historical properties in Meigs County have been examined in detail, the comprehensive architectural survey of the county did not consider the prehistoric and historic archaeological resources within the nomination area. Since no archaeological survey or testing has been undertaken, no archaeological sites are included in this nomination.

The architectural and historical resources of Meigs County have been preserved primarily through the general maintenance property owners have given their older buildings. With relatively little new construction since the 1940s, owners have sought to maintain and repair their properties in order to allow continued use. Several properties encountered during the survey had been moved from their original location and rehabilitated at their new location.

In general, there is no organized preservation effort within Meigs County; however, there is individual interest. Two restoration projects by private citizens are noteworthy. The restoration of the Rice-Marler House (#22) has been done in a very conscientious attempt to reveal and preserve the original details of the house. Another preservation effort was the restoration of one of the oldest houses in the county, the James Lillard House. While saving the house from an advanced stage of neglect, extensive alterations during the restoration unfortunately excluded the house from nomination.

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Local interest in Meigs County history and preservation has increased as a result of the survey of the county and the preparation of this nomination. Several county residents have expressed the hope that a county historical society would be established. Planning agencies have also taken an interest in the resources of Meigs County. As stated in the Southeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development Project Plan (1974), "Meigs County has a number of historical landmarks dating back to the early days of settlement. Restoration of these would provide additional tourist attraction and preserve the heritage of the county."

The 1979 Tennessee Historical Commission survey of Meigs County was comprehensive in nature, recording all pre-1930 structures and objects. The pre-1930 date was the only criterion used, and was based on the National Register of Historic Places 50 years old or older age criterion for properties. By recording the structures of Meigs County on the sole qualification of age, the surveyors included all types of buildings and structures. After this comprehensive survey was completed, the recorded properties were then examined and judgements made on which properties were eligible for the National Register.

Meigs County properties were selected for inclusion in this nomination on the basis of historical and architectural significance. Properties were assessed according to their association with events that were significant to local or state history. A number of surveyed properties qualified for eligibility under this criterion. For example, the John Stewart House (#20) is important to the history of the county for its use as the first meeting place of the county court, and the Blythe Ferry (#35) is significant for its ties to the Cherokee occupation of the county and the Cherokee Removal.

Also considered was architectural significance, and whether properties met the criteria of embodying distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; representing the work of a master; possessing high artistic values; or representing a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Meigs County has only a few structures that represent the high architectural forms popular during different periods of Meigs County's history. Although none of the buildings in Meigs County are textbook examples of formal architectural styles, the influence of Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, "Steamboat" Gothic, and Neo-Classical Revival styles are seen. The buildings in the county that show the influence of these styles are important, within the context of the county, because of their rarity.

By far, the greatest percentage of Meigs County's buildings exemplify traditional or folk architectural forms. Some of Meigs County's resources represent traditional forms that were once common but are now scarce. The reason for this increasing rarity is that some buildings and structures have become obsolete in their form and/or function and therefore removed from the landscape. Mills, blacksmith shops, one lane truss bridges, country stores, and gymnasiums heated by pot-belly stoves are considered to have outlived their usefulness, and are replaced with more modern structures. Other properties in the nomination represent folk forms that have always been comparatively rare, such as the cantilever barns (#41, #42, #43) in the southern portion of the county.

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Meigs County also contains tradition/folk forms of architecture that have been representative of the majority of the county's population for generations. These forms of residences, agricultural buildings, and churches were commonly built from the time of Meigs County's settlement until the 1940s. Many of these buildings survive, and representative properties of these common forms were selected for nomination because they exemplify the architectural styles most associated with the people of Meigs County. In order to select these structures, folk architecture was researched and standard criteria established to define and categorize traditional buildings in the county. Also considered for each property was the extent of alteration through time and the availability of historic documentation.

Churches in rural Meigs County all follow a rectangular building plan and are of frame construction. Mt. Zion Church (#13) was selected from among the recorded churches in the county because it is the best preserved, least altered of the basic rural meeting-house-church forms in the county. Also included in the nomination are two churches (#4 and #28) that display the influence of formal architectural styles.

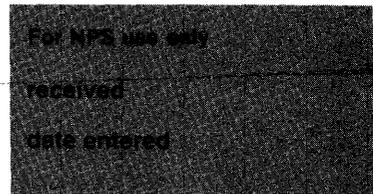
Agricultural buildings recorded in the survey were predominately barns. Traditional types recorded include single crib, opposing double crib, transverse crib, and cantilever barns. Parallel crib-exterior door barns make up the most common and well-preserved barn type, and the Fezell Barn (#11) is the best and most representative example of this type. As mentioned earlier, the cantilever barns are significant because of their rarity.

One hundred and sixty-seven of the residences recorded in the survey were assessed as traditional or folk forms. These houses make up 48% of the total survey. In order to establish the architectural types represented by these buildings, a form was designed to examine each residence according to various architectural characteristics. Henry Glassie (1975) defines "type" as "a consistent aggregate of formal components." The standard list of components employed in most folk architectural typologies includes such primary characteristics as floor plan, chimney placement, and number of stories (Riedl, et. al., 1976). The Tennessee Historical Commission form was developed to first determine fundamental types on the basis of the shape, number, and arrangement of pens—the primary, one-room unit of construction. These basic types included the single pen (one room) house, double-pen (two room) house, and pen-passageway-pen house (a structure with central passage-or hall-way flanked by a room to each side). A second level of characteristics was used to assign varieties of these types. Secondary characteristics examined included height, or number of stories; depth; chimney location; construction method-log, frame, brick, etc.; fenestration; roof type; and the building's original porch morphology.

Approximately half of the traditional residences recorded were double pen in type. The most common characteristics of the Meigs County double pen house are one story in height, one room deep, frame construction, a single central chimney, symmetrical three bay facade, gable roof, and shed-roofed porch. Although this is the most common house form in Meigs County, only one of these double pen houses completely retains its integrity of materials, form, and setting, the Jasper Worth Lillard Tenant House (#23). This house merits nomination on the basis of its representation of type.

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The second most common house form in Meigs County is the two story, pen-passageway-pen arrangement known as the I-house. The typical I-house in the county is two stories in height, one room deep, built of frame, has a gable roof, and symmetrical three bay facade. The majority of the houses have interior paired chimneys; next in frequency are houses with exterior chimneys on each gable end. One story shed roofs or two story porticoes are the common porch form. Although a traditional architectural form, the I-houses of Meigs County reflect changes in more formal architectural styles through porch details, window surrounds, or eaves ornamentation. Several I-houses have been selected for nomination on the basis of how well they illustrate changing tastes through adaptations on a traditional form that has been constructed in the county over a hundred year span, and on the house's historical documentation.

Single pen houses are relatively rare in Meigs County, making up only 14% of the traditional residences. Consisting of only one original room, with an occasional rear shed addition, the single pen house is one or one and a half stories in height, has a single gable end chimney, a one or two bay facade, gable roof, and is usually built of logs. One single pen house has been selected to represent this type, and is virtually unaltered, with the exception of weatherboards that now cover its logs. This is the Andy Wood House (#39).

All properties selected for nomination to the National Register from Meigs County were chosen on the basis of individual significance. As a rural county with only one incorporated town, most structures in the area are too scattered to be considered as historic districts. Decatur, the county seat, has several buildings represented in this nomination; however, these are separated by so many non-contributing structures that a historic district in Decatur is an unrealistic approach to nomination. Therefore all properties presented for nomination from Meigs County were chosen for their individual importance to the area's history and architecture.

Four properties nominated from Meigs County would generally be exempted from listing in the National Register. Three of these are owned by religious institutions, the Oak Grove Methodist Church (#4), Mt. Zion Church (#13), and the Decatur Methodist Church (#28). These churches qualify for nomination under Exception A under "Criteria For Evaluation" as religious properties "deriving primary significance from architectural distinction." The fourth property, the Robert H. Smith Law Office (#24) would generally be exempted from listing as a moved property. However, the building, built ca. 1880, was moved prior to 1900, and has a long association with its current location. The law office qualifies for inclusion to the National Register under Exception B under "Criteria For Evaluation," as a building "removed from its original location but which is significant for architectural value."

The survey and inventory process for Meigs County was conducted by the Tennessee Historical Commission, and the information yielded by the survey has been integrated into the review and planning process of that state agency. Future development plans for the area by other state and local agencies should use the results of the Meigs County Multiple Resource Nomination to insure the preservation of the cultural resources of Meigs County.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property See Individual Survey Forms

Quadrangle name See Individual Survey Forms

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References See Individual Survey Forms

A Zone Easting Northing

B Zone Easting Northing

C Zone Easting Northing

D Zone Easting Northing

E Zone Easting Northing

F Zone Easting Northing

G Zone Easting Northing

H Zone Easting Northing

## Verbal boundary description and justification

See Individual Survey Forms

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Toplovich, Cultural Resource Surveyor  
Stephen Rogers, Cultural Resource Surveyor

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date June 1981

street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

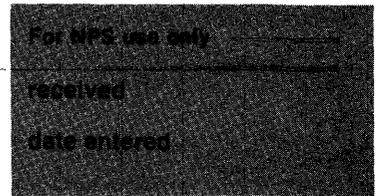
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Boyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/14/82

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
See continuation sheet for history date 7/6/82  
Keeper of the National Register  
Attest: Chief of Registration date

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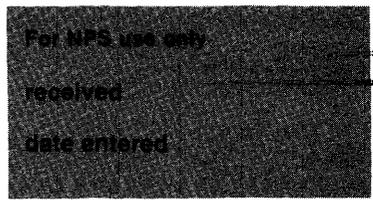
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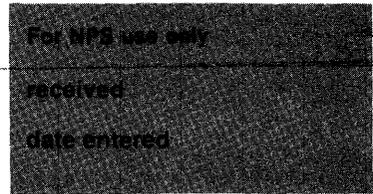
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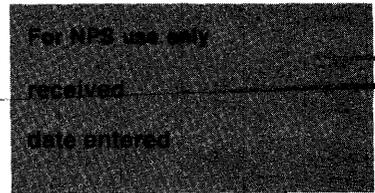
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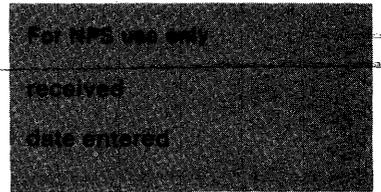
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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name MEIGS COUNTY, TENNESSEE MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA  
State Tennessee

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |   |                                     |                   |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1. Cowan, James, House                          | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper        | <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u>                                |
|   |                                     | Attest            | _____  |
| 2. Big Sewee Creek Bridge                       | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper            | <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u>                                |
|   |                                     | Attest            | _____  |
| 3. Buchanan House                               | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper            | <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u>                                |
|   |                                     | Attest            | _____  |
| 4. Decatur Methodist Church                     | <b>Substantive Review</b>           | Keeper            | _____  |
|   |                                     | <del>KEEPER</del> | <u>W.H. Brubaker 7.6.82</u>                                |
|   |                                     | <del>ATTEST</del> | <u>Delores 7/6/82</u>                                      |
| 5. Eaves, S. S., House                          | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper        | <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u>                                |
|   |                                     | Attest            | _____  |
| 6. Godsey, Jim, House                           | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper            | <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u>                                |
|   |                                     | Attest            | _____  |
| 7. Grubb, Jacob L., Store                       | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper        | <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u>                                |
|   |                                     | Attest            | _____  |
| 8. Kings Mill Bridge                            | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper        | <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u>                                |
|   |                                     | Attest            | _____  |
| 9. Lillard, Jasper Worth, Tenant House          | <b>DOE/OWNER OBJECTION</b>          | Keeper            | <del>_____</del>   |
|   | <b>Substantive Review</b>           | Attest            | _____  |
| 10. Lillard, Jasper Worth, House + Tenant House | <b>DOE/OWNER OBJECTION</b>          | Keeper            | <u>Determined eligible<br/>William H. Brubaker 8.30.82</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest            | <u>Delores 8/30/82</u>                                     |

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date entered

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Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name MEIGS COUNTY, TENNESSEE MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA  
State Tennessee

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
11. Locke House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u> Attest _____
12. Meigs County Bank Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u> Attest _____
13. Meigs County High School Gymnasium Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u> Attest _____
14. Mount Zion Church Substantive Review	Keeper <u>W.H. Brantley 7.6.82</u> Attest <u>Duhie 7/6/82</u>
15. Rice-Marler House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u> Attest _____
16. Smith, Robert H., Law Office Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u> Attest _____
17. Stewart, John, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u> Attest _____
18. Hooper, Scott, Garage Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u> Attest _____
19. McKenzie Windmill Substantive Review	Keeper <u>W.H. Brantley 7.6.82</u> Attest <u>Duhie 7/6/82</u>
20. Rymer, Bradford, Barn Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers 7/6/82</u> Attest _____

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Thematic Group

Name MEIGS COUNTY, TENNESSEE MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA  
State Tennessee

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Shiflett, G. W. Barn

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/6/82

Attest

22. Shiflett, H. C., Barn

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/6/82

Attest

23. Shiflett, Marion, Barn

**DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**

Keeper

Determined eligible  
W. Brauman 7.6.82

Attest

DVBIE 7/6/82

24. Wood, Andy, Log House and  
Wood, Willie, Blacksmith  
Shop

Substantive Review

Keeper

W. Brauman 7.6.82

Attest

DVBIE 7/6/82

25. Black, John M., Cabin

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/6/82

Attest

26. Culvahouse House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/6/82

Attest

27. Ewing House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/6/82

Attest

28. Feezell Barn

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/6/82

Attest

29. Gettys, James R., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

W. Brauman 7.6.82

~~Attest~~

30. Gettys, James R., Mill

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

DVBIE 7/6/82

~~Attest~~

Delores Byers 7/6/82

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received  
date entered

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name MEIGS COUNTY, TENNESSEE MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA  
State Tennessee

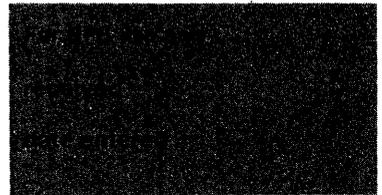
Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 31. Griffith, James Turk, House Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Attest  
Delous Byers 7/6/82
- 32. Holloway, Dr. D. W., House Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Attest  
Delous Byers 7/6/82
- 33. Hutsell, Sam, House Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Attest  
Delous Byers 7/6/82
- 34. Hutsell Truss Bridge Substantive Review Keeper Attest  
W. B. Brannan 7.6.82  
Dr. B. L. G. 7/6/82
- 35. Johnson, R. H., Stable Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Attest  
Delous Byers 7/6/82
- 36. MacPherson House Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Attest  
Delous Byers 7/6/82
- 37. Oak Grove Methodist Church Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Attest  
Delous Byers 7/6/82
- 38. Patterson, Alexander, House Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Attest  
Delous Byers 7/6/82
- 39. Sharp, Elisha, House Entered in the  
National Register Substantive Review Keeper Attest  
W. B. Brannan 7.6.82  
Dr. B. L. G. 7/6/82
- 40. Surprise Truss Bridge Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Attest  
Delous Byers 7/6/82

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name MEIGS COUNTY, TENNESSEE MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA  
State Tennessee

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Meigs County Courthouse  
(Previously listed)

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

42. Hastings-Locke Ferry

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

*Melvin Byers* 1/5/83

43. Blythe Ferry

Substantive Review

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

*Vanda McClelland* 1/5/82

*Patrick Andrews* 1/4/83

44.

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

45.

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

46.

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

47.

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

48.

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

49.

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

50.

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_