

IDENTIFICATION	Historic name: <u>James Turk Griffith House</u>	STATUS	Open to public: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
	Common name: <u>Shearman House</u>		Visible from road: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Address: <u>11157 Highway 58 North</u>		Occupied: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>Ten Mile, Tennessee</u>		Present use: <u>Private residence</u>
	Owner's name: <u>Mrs. Edna Shearman</u>		Current condition: <u>Good</u>
	Owner's address: <u>Route 1</u>		Alterations: <u>Interior remodelled in 1965.</u>
	<u>Ten Mile, Tennessee 37880</u>		
	Classification: <u>Building-private</u>		Site features: <u>Log smokehouse and crib ca. 1850</u>
Tax map reference: <u>Dist. 4, Map 15, Parcel 34</u>	<u>Pegged frame barn built before 1875.</u>		
Acreage: <u>1.5 acres</u>			
UTM reference: <u>Zone 16 N 3947220</u>			
<u>E 709300</u>			
HISTORY	Date of construction: <u>ca. 1850</u>	SOURCES	Bibliographical data: <u>Interview with Mrs. Edna Shearman, Ten Mile, TN., February 7, 1979.</u>
	Architect/builder: <u>James T. Griffith</u>		<u>Century Farm form.</u>
	Original or previous owners: <u>James T. Griffith, original; James T. Griffith, Jr.; Daughters of James T. Griffith, Jr; Edna Drake Shearman, daughter of one of these women.</u>		<u>Lillard, Stewart. Meigs County, Tennessee.</u>
	Original use: <u>Private residence</u>		Form prepared by: <u>Ann Toplovich</u>
	Theme/s: Primary <u>Architecture</u>		Title: <u>Cultural Resource Surveyor</u>
Secondary <u>Agriculture</u>	Organization: <u>Tennessee Historical Commission</u>		
Other <u>Politics/Government</u>	Date: <u>8/17/81</u>		
DESCRIPTION	<p>The James Turk Griffith House, ca. 1850, is a two story log house built on a stone foundation. Now covered by weatherboards, the house was built as a rectangular dogtrot. Ca. 1880 a one story ell was attached to the rear and the dogtrot enclosed. A metal gable roof covers the house and has 2 brick exterior gable end chimneys (one now missing from the east elevation). There is a central brick chimney on the ell. The house's five bay facade (south elevation) has a central entrance with double leaf door. The windows of the house have 2 over 2 lights. A one story porch with metal hipped roof covers the central bays of the facade, and is supported by four chamfered posts.</p>		
SIGNIFICANCE	<p>A fine example of a log dogtrot house, the James Turk Griffith House (ca. 1850) is one of the few such houses remaining in Meigs County. Although other log houses still stand in Meigs County, many have become the cores of frame houses, or have been seriously altered. Although its logs are now covered by weatherboards, the Griffith House retains its original form. James Turk Griffith (1806-1887) moved to Meigs County in 1836. In 1847 and 1849 land grants provided him 320 acres for the farm the house stands on. Trained as a tanner, Griffith was a staunch Unionist and served as a Justice of the Peace from 1864-1870, and as Chairman of the</p>		

**PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA**

Photographer: Ann Toplovich

Date: 2/7/79

Negatives on file: Tennessee Historical  
Commission

Photographer facing: S&E elevation-facing NW

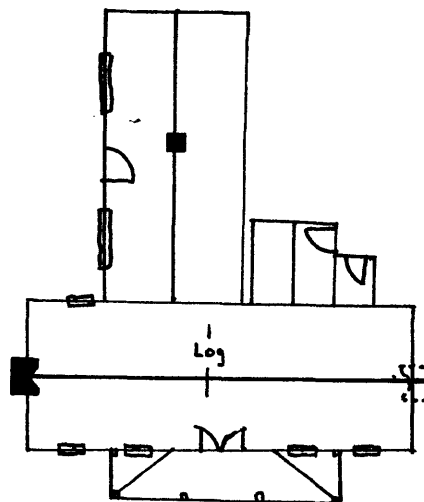
Photograph number 11 of 55 .

**CONTINUATION**

**Significance:**

Meigs County Court in 1864-1865. Griffith served in the Tennessee House of Representatives as representative for Meigs, McMinn, and Polk Counties from 1867-1869. The descendants of Griffith still work the 320 acre farm, using the house, old barn, and outbuildings to this day. The Griffith Farm was recognized as a Century Farm during the U.S. Bicentennial. Only five farms in Meigs County received this recognition for being farmed by the same family for over 100 years. The Griffith Farm is the only Century Farm with properties eligible for the National Register.

**SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow**



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Historic Resources of  
**Continuation sheet** Meigs County, Tennessee      **Item number**      **Identification**      **Page**      2

MEIGS COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION - James Turk Griffith House (#10)

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

10. The boundaries begin at a point on Highway 58 275 feet southwest of the intersection of Center Point Road and Highway 58 continuing in a southwestwardly direction along Highway 58 200 feet, thence west 300 feet, thence north 175 feet to a wire fence line, thence east to the beginning. This boundary takes the form of a trapezoid, and due to the lack of property lines or visual boundaries on the west and south sides imaginary boundary lines were established to include the house and approximately 1.5 acres of land on which it sits.

Historic Resources of Meigs County,  
Tennessee  
(Partial Inventory: Historic and  
Architectural Resources)

JAMES GRIFFITH HOUSE (#10)

