NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)	RECEIVED
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	MAY 17 1
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and distr National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete of by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being document architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcate entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word p	each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or ed, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, egories from the iristructions. Place additional
1. Name of Property	
historic name Tilson Farm	
other names/site number Guinn Farm; Brown Farm	
2. Location	
street & numberLittle Branch Road	NZAnot for publication
city or townFlag Pond	衽 vicinity
	code <u>171</u> zip code <u>37657</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CF Image: The set is the state of t	be considered significant .) <u>Historical Commi</u> ssion
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: I be continuation sheet. I be continuation and register. I removed from the National Register. I other, (explain:)	Entered in the Date of Action National Register, (7.94

Tileon Farm	Unico	i Co., TN			
Name on Broperty	County an	County and State			
5. Classification	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••		······································		
Ownership of Property (Check many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of F (Do not include)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)			
A private	Contributing	Noncontributing			
Image: State Image: State Image: State	5	1	buildings		
	4		structures		
		<u> </u>	objects		
	9	1	Total		
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register			
N/A	N/A				
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Function (Enter categories from		<u> </u>		
DOMESTIC/single dwelling		DOMESTIC/single dwelling			
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding		AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding			
·					
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	·····			
7. Description Architectural Classification	Matariala				
(Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)				
OTHER: log building	foundation	CONCRETE block			
Bungalow influence	walls	weatherboard; lo	g		
	roof	tin			
	other	WOOD			

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. 1997 - Santa Santa 1998 - Santa Santa

Tilson Farm

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- Property is: N/A
- □ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- □ B removed from its original location.
- \Box C a birthplace or grave.
- \Box **D** a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- □ **F** a commemorative property.
- □ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- □ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- □ designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ______

Unicoi Co., TN County and State

Areas of Significant (Enter categories from in	ICE Instructions)
Settlement	
Agriculture	
Period of Significan	nce
Ca. 1856-1940	
Significant Dates	
N/A	na na sana ang kana a
<u></u>	an a
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B i	is marked above)
N/A	
Cultural Affiliation	
N/A	
Architect/Builder	
N/A	

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- □ Other State agency
- Federal agency
- □ Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

TN Dept. of Transportation

Tilson Farm	Unicoi Co., TN
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 17.5 acres	Flag Pond TN-NC 190 SE
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 <td>3 1 1 1 1 Zone Easting Northing 4 1 1 See continuation sheet</td>	3 1 1 1 1 Zone Easting Northing 4 1 1 See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) Boundary Justification	
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Mary M. McLeod	
organization TN Dept. of Transportation	date3/10/94
street & number James K. Polk Bldg505 Deader	rick-Suite telephone615/741-3653
city or townNashville	state zip code37243-0334
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Chaota	

TN

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Proper	ty Owner	r			
(Comple	te this item	at the request of SHPO or FPO.)			
name _	Leon	and Janice (Guinn) Rhodes			
street	eet & number 1530 Mercer's Fernery Road		telephone	4/738-5824	_
city or	town	DeLand	state	zip code	-

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Tilson Farm Unicoi County, TN

Narrative Description

The Tilson farmstead sits in a secluded cove in the Appalachian Mountains of east Tennessee. The surrounding terrain is marked by steep slopes, ridges and valleys. The area is heavily timbered with scattered clearings devoted to crop or pasture land. The Tilson Farm is located near Lizzie Branch in a wide cove that narrows and ascends to a near by peak of 2800 feet. Even today the farm remains somewhat isolated from its neighbors. The farmstead is defined by its cove settlement and clearings and the enclosing hillsides.

The oldest record of land ownership dates to the late 1700s and Jacob Brown. By 1856 there was a cabin on the site when Thomas Brown, a probable descendent of Jacob, sold the property to James and Elizabeth (Beals) Tilson. The property was inherited by their children: George, Marion, and Catherine Tilson Mashburn. The property was legally split in 1925 with Catherine receiving 44 acres and George and Marion, bachelor brothers, receiving the other two thirds (88 acres by deed, 67 by calculation). Catherine Mashburn's daughter Althea Mashburn Guinn and her husband, Henry, inherited the bachelor's portion. The Guinn's sons Robert and Tom inherited the farm at their parents death. Recently Tom Guinn's daughter and son-in-law, Janice Guinn and Leon Rhodes purchased the property. The farm currently consists of 43.1 acres with 17.5 acres included in this nomination.

The farmstead is composed of five contributing buildings: a pre-1856 log cabin, a c. 1890 log cabin, a 1930s frame farm house, a c. 1930 workshop, c. 1940 barn; one non-contributing building, c. 1955 barn, and four contributing small outbuildings. The contributing buildings are grouped together, the noncontributing c. 1955 barn is visually separated from the others by a tree row, a field, and a slight slope.

The pre-1856 one story log cabin is located southeast of the frame house and the workshop. The single pen log cabin has typical side gables and a shed roof front porch and shed roof rear addition. The large hand hewn logs are joined by half dovetail notching. The cabin has a large fieldstone exterior end chimney on the southeast elevation. In the 1920s two double hung 6:6 windows were cut symmetrically on each side of the front door. Door and window surrounds are plain board moldings with no ornamentation. The front facade is covered in vertical board and the gables are clad in horizontal weatherboards. The northeast elevation, opposite the chimney, was altered in the 1930s by Henry Guinn with the addition of a horizontal row of 6 single sash/six panel windows. The rear shed addition is vertical board with a plank exterior door on the southeast side. The foundation is stone piers. Originally there was another log pen on the northeast elevation (forming a saddlebag cabin) but that pen was removed leaving the current single pen cabin.

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Tilson Farm Unicoi County, TN

East of the pre-1856 cabin is another one story cabin erected c. 1890 that was used as a kitchen according to family tradition. It has half dovetail notching and a stone pier foundation similar to the older cabin. The building has no stoop or porch, access is by a single concrete block step. On the rear is a shed roof addition. The chimney is uncut limestone much like the chimney in the other cabin. Unlike the older cabin the smaller cabin has log gables with log purlins. The vertical plank door is in the west elevation along with a single six paned window. There is a matching window in the north elevation. Both cabins have tin seamed roofs.

Henry Guinn built a frame one story pyramidal hipped roofed house about 1930. The tin roofed rectangular massed plan has minimal bungalow detailing. There are two asymmetrically placed interior brick chimneys - one square, appearing to serve the furnace or stove - the other, rectangular possibly venting a fireplace. The eaves are opened with exposed rafters. There is an exterior door in each facade none of which are centered. The house is sided with weatherboard with plain corner moldings and plain window and door surrounds. The southwest corner of the house is a one bay recessed porch supported by one square corner post. The south facade (front) has a off-set front door and three windows, a single 3:1 double hung sash window on the right of the front door and a paired 3:1 double hung sash window on the left. The recessed porch extends roughly midway down the west elevation and shelters a raised five panel door and a single 3:1 double hung sash window. Access to the porch is provided by two concrete block steps. The western elevation has a second window not protected by the porch. On the rear elevation (north) are two spaced 3:1 windows and a rear door without access steps or stoop. The east facade has only one window (3:1) and a three panel door with a single light. This door is also without steps. All door and window surrounds on the exterior of the house are plain wide board edged with raised narrow moldings. The house has a concrete block foundation.

A woodworking shop/garage was constructed about 1930 south of the frame house. The shop is a front gable single massed plan. The roof is sheet tin with exposed eaves. The building is clad in vertical board siding. There is a narrow metal awning with wood supports over a double centered door in the northwest facade. There are no openings in the southwest elevation. In the southeast elevation is a single centered 6:6 double hung sash window with plain board surround. The northeast elevation has a horizontal 4:4 sliding window. The foundation is rubble fieldstone built into a bank to form a cellar accessed by a single door on the southeast side.

Other buildings include a c. 1940 barn, 2 corncribs, a small shed, a spring/ice house, and a non-contributing c. 1955 barn. The c. 1940 barn is one and a half story with a sheet metal gable roof. The eaves are exposed and the barn is sided with vertical plank typical of other contemporary barns. The barn is divided into individual bays or stalls along each side with a large central passage extending through each end. The two story gable end c. 1955 barn is clad in vertical board siding with a sheet metal roof. The shed and a corncrib were built c. 1934, one has a tin shed roof and the other a wood shingle/tin roof gable combination. The siding on the former is spaced vertical board with a small door and window. The later is more unusual. The building is side gabled with the front half roofed in tin and sided in vertical boards. The rear half is roofed in wood shingle and sided with spaced horizontal boards.

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		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Unicoi County, TN

The older corncrib is a small saddle notched log building. The logs were left round and not chinked. The ice/spring house is made from split hewn logs with half dovetail notching and a shed roof. The log outbuildings were constructed before the c. 1930 frame house and are associated with the farmstead when all the buildings were log but exact construction dates are unknown. The farmstead buildings, in their original location, retain much of their integrity. All contributing buildings are clustered together and exhibit the continued development of the mountain farm.

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Tilson Farm Unicoi County, TN

Statement of Significance

The Tilson Farm is significant under National Register Criterion A for its contribution to our understanding of settlement patterns of portions of Washington County, Tennessee that subsequently on March 19, 1875 became Unicoi County. It is also significant under Criterion A for its role in the continued development as an agricultural farmstead. In this instance the categories of significance: settlement and agriculture, are closely intermeshed and will be discussed together.

Settlement of eastern Tennessee patterned itself as small isolated islands as opposed to expanding concentric circles. These islands of white settlement were originally lone hunter cabins who through necessity and choice lived great distances from more heavily populated consumption centers of the east. Gradually settlers moved into the region and started agricultural production largely in family groups. Settlement patterns were influenced by cultivation limitations and accessibility. A linkage between the Tilson Farm and settlement during the period of the lone hunters can't be established but ties too the more permanent agricultural settlements are plain.

Broad patterns of events associated with the settlement of the area that is now known as Unicoi County, Tennessee can be traced to the earliest deed reference for land ownership of the Tilson Farm, dating to the late 1700s and Jacob Brown. Construction dates for the property's oldest extant structure can not be determined but deed references do determine that it was on site in 1856 when Thomas Brown, probable descendent of Jacob Brown, sold the farm to James and Elizabeth Tilson.

Deed research performed by Tom Patton in the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Right of Way Office traces land ownership to Jacob Brown who moved in to the area in the late 1700s. At least three Jacob Browns were significant in the exploration and settlement of Washington County, of which Unicoi County was then part. Research, however, is inconclusive as to which Jacob Brown was associated with this area.

The next deed reference is that of Thomas Brown selling the land along with the log cabin to James and Elizabeth (Beals) Tilson in 1856. James was killed in the Battle of Chickamauga during the Civil War. His wife Elizabeth died in 1914 and is buried in the local Tilson Cemetery near Clear Branch Church. The property continued to be used as a farm and in 1925 the three heirs of James and Elizabeth Tilson split the farm into thirds. The property was inherited by George and Marion Tilson and their sister Catherine Tilson Mashburn. George and Marion remained bachelors and upon their death the farm was inherited by Catherine's daughter and son-in-law, Henry and Althea (Mashburn) Guinn. The farm was then inherited by Henry and Althea's sons, Robert and Tom Guinn and passed in turn to Tom's daughter and son-in-law Leon and Janice (Guinn) Rhodes. Since 1856 members of the Tilson-Guinn family have continually owned the land and kept it in agricultural production.

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Tilson Farm Unicoi County, TN

The property is significant under Criteria A (settlement and agriculture) as an evolved farmstead that reflects the spatial orientation and evolution of a farm property. Geographic features often account for the siting of farmsteads. Houses and farm buildings were often sited in valleys or on low foothills providing easier access to the area of farm production. This created a farmstead with domestic and agricultural buildings close together. Steep heavily wooded mountain sides prohibited usual farming methods and so limited farm size to small areas along cleared well watered valley floors. Size constraints and rocky soils led to widely scattered small subsistence farms which became and remained the economic norm for nineteenth and early twentieth century rural East Tennessee.

The Tilson Farm sits in the Unaka Mountain region of Tennessee, an area noted for its beauty as well as its agricultural difficulties. Blanche Henry Clark in her 1942 book The Tennessee Yeoman stresses those difficulties. "It is impossible to bring the land into extensive cultivation because the topography is rugged and the soil is generally poor and thin, with only occasional spots of fertility." The climate and topography did have redeeming features and Clark countered with them. "Timber is plentiful in the area and wild grasses are so abundant that stock raising developed as an important means of livelihood." Agriculture in the region and on the Tilson Farm was geared toward home consumption. Very little was raised as a money crop (tobacco on occasion) and historically the small landholders had very few if any slaves.

Availability of water (creeks and springs) and proximity to transportation routes also influenced farmstead location. Farms tended to be distanced from their neighbors, secluded among the coves, valleys, and hollows of mountainous eastern Tennessee. The Tilson farm is no exception, the original cabin was constructed with easy access to a major transportation route but still secluded in a mountain cove with a small spring. According to William Helton in <u>Around Home in Unicoi</u> <u>County</u>, a trail named after Jacob Brown, the founder of the Nolichucky Settlement, ran in the vicinity of the Tilson farm. "There was no road down Spivey Creek or South Indian Creek during the Civil War. Brown Trail was the main road. It crossed the state line on Bald Mountain, came down Coffee Ridge, crossed below Willis' Store, then to the top of the ridge. There is still visible evidence of the old trail. It intersects Ridge Road at Steep Pitch."

The Tilson Farm is nestled in the low rolling foothills beneath steeply wooded mountains near a small spring. The oldest building on site is a single pen log cabin. The pre-1856 cabin is a good example of log construction with half dovetail notching and a gable end roof. As typical, the cabin is one room with a large rough stone fireplace at one end. Originally the roof was shingle, currently it is metal with horizontal plank gables. The foundation is stone piers. The changes that were made to the cabin were consistent with its continued use over time. A rear shed roof addition was constructed and a single pen saddlebag was added opposite the chimney.

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Tilson Farm Unicoi County, TN

About 1890 a small log cabin was built and reportedly used as a kitchen as well as sleeping quarters. This cabin is similar to the other in terms of configuration, foundation, materials, and construction technique. There are however, differences in size and gable configuration. The smaller cabin has no front porch. The c. 1890 cabin is unique because of its log gables. Most log cabins were constructed with planed board gables applied horizontally, vertically, or lapped. This cabin however, has gables constructed of logs like a continuation of the walls. The roof is supported by exposed round log purlins.

Outbuildings were constructed over time to serve various farm needs. The first small outbuildings are log. The January/February 1990 edition of <u>Old House Journal</u> describes similar outbuildings. "On farms of all types, outbuildings were log: barns, stables, cribs, springhouses, smokehouses, dairies equipment shed, and summer kitchens. Although some outbuildings were hewn logs, most were logs left round and constructed with relatively simple notches. Chinking and daubing was usually not needed, and in fact not wanted in some cases: open spaces between logs provided needed ventilation in tobacco barns and corncribs."

The small corncrib is one such round log example with simple v notching and no chinking. The ice/spring house is more unusual with split hewn logs joined by half dovetail notching. These are thought to be the oldest outbuildings predating the c. 1930 house though construction dates are unknown.

As the farmstead developed and changed with the times, buildings were modified, added, or removed. By the early 1930s the log cabins were no longer sufficient for the family's domestic needs and a small hipped roofed frame house was built. The house was built on a small knoll contiguous with the rest of the farmstead buildings. The old log cabin living quarters were used for other purposes like storage and work space. The saddlebag pen of the larger cabin was removed and, according to family history, windows were added to the cabin to admit light for woodworking. This was the second space designated for this use after the c. 1929 construction of the workshop/garage sited near the frame house. A shed and additional corncrib were constructed during the 1930s and in 1940 a new story and a half barn was built. The barn was designed with four bays for farm implements and livestock, and a loft for tobacco drying.

The farmstead grew up along the dirt drive in a modified linear plan (the buildings follow the road as it curves along geographic contours). The arrangement provided easy access between buildings and the main road while allowing for land contours and access to grazing and farm land. Currently the development patterns and the farm arrangement are all in pristine condition. The log structures, cabins and outbuildings, are significant because of their continuity, integrity of setting and materials, and lack of obtrusive encroachments.

Agricultural production on the Tilson farm has progressed along with the physical buildings of the farmstead. Fields were cleared in the cove widening toward a small valley and gentler slopes to the north and northwest. The farm was fed by Lizzie Branch flowing from higher elevations. Typical crops were corn, beans, pumpkins, melons, and livestock all raised in general proportion to home consumption. Eventually tobacco was introduced and continues to be grown on land leased out by the Guinn family. Other regional farms grew cotton and often flax, hemp, and wheat. Timber and hay are also substantial crops.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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			9-		Unicoi	County,	TŃ

Unlike larger farms and plantations of the same period, domestic and agricultural spheres are not separate or specialized. Subsistence farming requires different spatial use than does market cash crop production. Buildings and areas served multiple uses. However, the springhouse is clustered with the kitchen and the kitchen/bedroom cabin is group with the primary residence cabin through to the front of the cabin instead of the more common rear association.

The c. 1930 house was sited on a gentle rise more secluded from the agricultural buildings than the previous dwelling, the pre 1856 cabin. The post-WWII house constructed on an opposite hill outside the National Register boundaries exemplifies improved accessibility (transportation improvements) and changing orientation from proximity to farm to the appreciation of residential separation and viewsheds.

The Tilson farmstead development reflects other similar farmsteads in the area. Its seclusion has helped maintain its integrity. Special relations, diversification of farm production, and specialization of farmstead buildings exemplify the progression of agricultural production on an eastern Tennessee farm.

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Tilson Farm Unicoi County, TN

Bibliography -

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Tilson Farm Unicoi County, TN

Boundary Description -

The proposed National Register boundaries for the Guinn farm follow the right-of-way for US 23-19 on the west. The existing tree line and property gate are the boundary on the northwest. The remaining boundary is the elevtion of 2525 feet above sea level mapped as contour lines on USGS topographical maps. This boundary includes 17.5 acres and all contributing historic structures associated with the Guinn farm.

Boundary Justification -

The proposed National Register boundaries for the historic Tilson Farm were chosen to encompass all relevant elements pertaining to the historic property. The boundaries are determined primarily by landscape features, natural and man-made. The boundaries define the farmstead and its significant siting in the secluded hollow surrounded by steeply wooded mountains. Physical features delineating the boundary are a modern roadway on the west, an existing tree line and farm gate on the northwest, and the elevation line of 2525 feet above sea level. The boundaries were chosen for their simplicity and inclusiveness. The boundaries include all the historic structures associated the farm and 17.5 acres of surrounding farmland, pasture, and woodlands. The acreage provides a stable setting that protects the integrity of the site. Since the boundaries are based on permanent physical features they are not subject to interpretation or change.

A portion of the original farm, located in another hollow, is excluded from the boundaries because of its lack of historic buildings and separation from the historic farmstead buildings which are located across a county road. A post World War II residence is located on the excluded section of the original farm and does not contribute to the farmstead's significance.

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Tilson Farm Unicoi County, TN

Tilson Farm Unicoi County, Tennessee Photos by TDOT 9-13/14/88 Negatives: Tennessee Dept. of Transportation Environmental Planning James K. Polk Bldg., 9th Floor Nashville, TN 37243 c. 1940 barn (foreground) and c. 1955 barn (background) Looking Southeast # 1 of 21 Outbuildings Looking South # 2 of 21 Log corncrib and barn Facing Northwest facades # 3 of 21 Shed, corncrib, and pre-1856 log cabin Looking south # 4of 21 Log kitchen and log cabin Facing Northwest elevations # 5 of 21 c. 1940 barn Facing Southwest elevation # 6 of 21 c. 1940 barn Interior # 7 of 21 c. 1934 shed Facing West facade # 8 of 21 c. 1934 corncrib Facing West facade # 9 of 21 c. 1890 log kitchen Facing West facade # 10 of 21 c. 1890 log kitchen

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Tilson Farm Unicoi County, TN

Tilson Farm Unicoi County, Tennessee Photos by TDOT 9-13/14/88 Negatives: Tennessee Dept. of Transportation Environmental Planning Office James K. Polk Bldg., 9th Floor Nashville, TN 37243

> Springhouse Facing Northwest corner # 12 of 21

Pre-1856 log cabin Facing East corner # 13 of 21

Pre-1856 log cabin Facing Northwest elevation # 14 of 21

Workshop/garage Facing Southeast corner # 15 of 21

Workshop & frame house Looking northwest # 16 of 21

c. 1930 frame house
Facing Southwest corner
17 of 21

c. 1930 frame house and pump house
Facing South facade
18 of 21

c. 1930 frame house
Facing East elevation
19 of 21

c. 1930 frame house
Facing North elevation
20 of 21

Outhouse(northwest of frame house) Facing South facade # 21 of 21

Tilson Farm

c. 1955 Barn



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