

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received **MAR 6 1985**

date entered **APR 4 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic Nomack House

and/or common My Grandfather's House (Preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number Highway 70, South N/A not for publication

city, town McMinnville  vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Warren code 177

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Campen

street & number Route 10, Box 300

city, town McMinnville  vicinity of state Tennessee 37110

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Warren County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town McMinnville state Tennessee 37110

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Warren County Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 701 Broadway

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 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 type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>1927</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

For over a century, Old Hightop, built by Abner Womack in 1817, was a familiar sight to residents and those who travelled through the Warren County community of Green's Cross Roads. Since 1927, when the two-story log house was moved to its present site, some twelve miles west of its original location, it has become a well-known landmark representing one hundred and sixty-six years of Warren County heritage and the family that built and continues to maintain and appreciate the property. It is surrounded by large oak trees which provide an appropriate setting.

My Grandfather's House is a rectangular, two story, four pen log house with central brick chimney, with arched chimney hood, supporting fireplaces in each pen. A later two-story log ell is attached to the west pens and a one-room addition with enclosed second floor porch extends from the east pens. The house, now situated on a brick foundation, is built of yellow poplar logs with irregular half dovetail notching. Chinking is a mixture of sand, masonry cement, lime, and portland cement. The roof is a medium pitched gable now covered with asbestos shingles.

The facade has six bays including entrances in each of the first floor pens. Two windows, six over six double hung sash, are placed at either side of the entrances. Smaller windows, two four over four double hung sash, are above the east front entrance and two one over one double hung sash are situated above the west front entrance. The facade is ten logs high with log averaging 12-14 inches in width. The two west pens measure 18' x 24.5' and those on the east measure 18' x 22'. The east pen was originally the family kitchen and now serves as the dining room.

The west side of the house has four windows, two six over six double hung sash on each floor. Above the eleven logs on this side, weatherboarding extends to the gabled roof line and a rectangular slatted vent is situated beneath the apex of the overhanging roof.

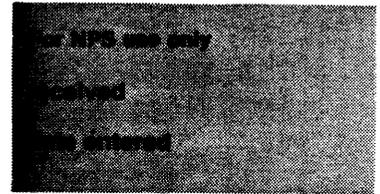
The east side of My Grandfather's House has an entrance on the first floor and two windows on the second floor, one over one double hung sash with wooden shutters. Above the logs, weatherboarding extends to the apex and a rectangular vent is placed centrally to correspond with the construction of the west end. A one-story porch with gabled roof of cedar shake shingles covers a brick terrace which extends to the rear of the house and which also joins a brick walk which continues the full length of the facade.

When the house was moved in 1927, the owner used as many of the original materials as possible including support timbers, rafters, ash flooring, the staircase in the west pen, and logs. Existing doors, mantels, and hardware were also used in the interior. The original beaded beams in the west pen are indicative of the nineteenth century craftsmanship which has been preserved. All logs and other usable materials were carefully numbered and labeled as dismantled to insure that the house would be reassembled as closely to the original as possible.

A two-story log ell attached to the west pens now houses a bath, hallway with staircase, and kitchen with screened porch and enclosed cistern. The first floor of the ell was an addition on the original house and was moved with it in 1927. The second floor was added in 1929. This two-story ell, also of yellow poplar logs, has an off-set interior brick

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet My Grandfather's House

Item number 7

Page 2

chimney and a flue. On the west side, two six over six double hung sash windows are set asymmetrically with the top window having a wooden shutter. Smaller casement windows (added in 1929) of four panes are set one on each floor. Two four-paned casement windows provide light and access to the basement as does a cellar door to the rear just below the back porch. The rear second story of the ell has two six over six double hung sash windows. Above these windows, weatherboarding extends to the roof with a rectangular vent corresponding to the gable treatment of both the west and east ends of the house. A screened lean-to porch extends from the rear of the first floor of the ell with brick steps and a wrought iron railing leading to the ground.

The east rear addition, also of log, features two pairs of nine over nine double hung sash windows. An entrance placed between the pairs of windows leads to the brick terrace. The porch above this log addition is weatherboarded and screened. This addition is dated 1929.

Though additions have been made to the original house, they have been done so by design, materials, and construction which is similar to the early dwelling, thereby allowing the house to maintain much of its integrity while conveying the feeling of a nineteenth century property.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1927 **Builder/Architect** Daisy Cleopatra Womack

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

My Grandfather's House is being nominated under National Register criterion C. Originally built by Abner Womack in 1817, it was moved in 1927 by his great-granddaughter, Daisy Cleopatra Womack for use as her home and antique shop. Reconstructed carefully using as much of the original material as possible, the building remains as one of the few existing two-story, four pen, log houses whose appearance dates originally from the early nineteenth century in Warren County, Tennessee.

Abner Womack was born February 10, 1769, in Virginia and died in Warren County, Tennessee, in 1856. He was married first to Martha Byers, born December 31, 1774, a daughter of Drucilla and Nathan Byers, a Revolutionary War soldier. Abner and Martha moved from Rutherford County, North Carolina, to Warren County, Tennessee, in 1810 and settled near the community known as Green's Cross Roads. In 1817, he erected a two-story log house which was known for more than a century as Old Hightop.

The house has remained in the Womack family since 1817 except for an interval from about 1908 until 1927 when the property on which the house sat was owned by Dr. M. M. Tubb. In 1927, Miss Daisy Womack (1885-1973), great-granddaughter of Abner Womack, purchased the house from the Tubb family with the intention of moving it to preserve it from destruction through neglect, return it to Womack ownership, and make it her home and place of business.

The lot Miss Daisy Womack chose was about twelve miles from the original site. Miss Daisy supervised the dismantling of the log house, making certain that each was numbered and that each piece of lumber and hardware that could be used was labeled and saved. The logs were then loaded on horse drawn wagons which carried them to the site just west of McMinnville.

As the home and antique shop of Miss Daisy Womack, My Grandfather's House became and remains a well-known landmark in Warren County. Miss Daisy enjoyed trading and collecting antiques. From the 1930s until her death, she maintained a thriving trade in antiques from the building. Miss Daisy and her sister, Mrs. Beulah Campen, maintained My Grandfather's House as their home and business until the late 1960s. Mr. Marvin Campen, nephew of Miss Daisy and son of Mrs. Campen, and his wife Jeannie now own the property.

Architecturally, it represents one of the few extant two story, four pen log buildings in Tennessee from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. In this century, the house is identified with Miss Daisy Womack who was well-known and is still fondly remembered by residents and those who visited My Grandfather's House.

Through relocation on an appropriate site and careful reconstruction, this house maintains its appearance as an early nineteenth century log building. It is an excellent example of a determined and well-executed effort to preserve a significant property from almost certain destruction through neglect and/or demolition.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name McMinnville, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	6	0	8	2	3	0	3	9	5	0	3	6	0
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

Because the structure was moved, the nominated property consists of only the land upon which the building sits.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caneta S. Hankins

organization Tennessee Community Heritage Project date December 15, 1983

street & number Box 168, MTSU telephone 615/898-2003

city or town Murfreesboro state Tennessee 37130

# 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 National Park Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Harper

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/22/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Sharon Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 4-4-85

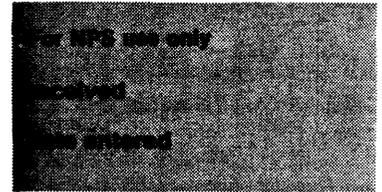
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet My Grandfather's House

Item number 9

Page 2

Campen, Marvin. Personal Interview. 18 February 1983, 28 November 1983.

"Nonconformist." Nashville Tennessean, 4 November 1945, Magazine section, p. 16-17.

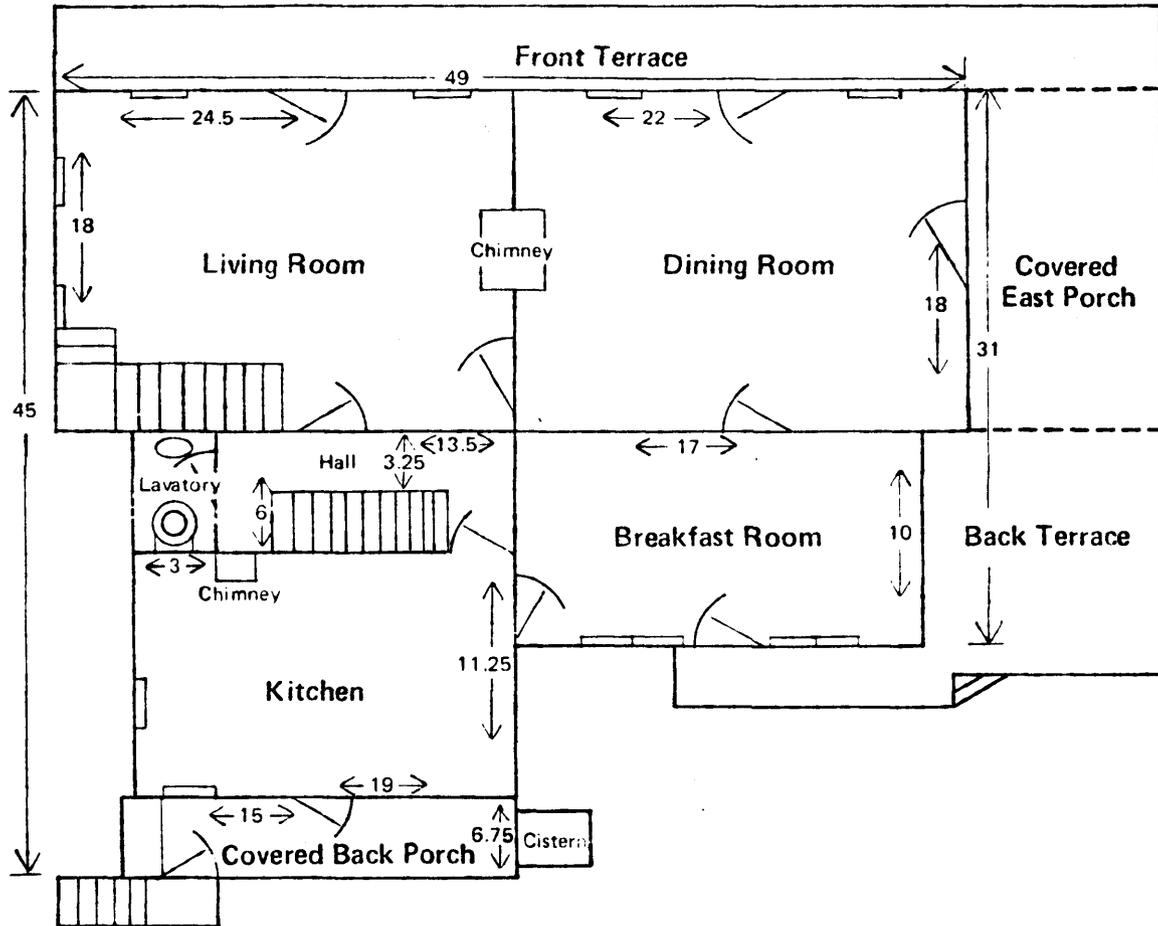
"Past is Reclaimed in Foster Location." McMinnville (Tennessee) Southern Standard,  
28 September 1967.

Womack, Frank. Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Personal Interview. 3 November 1983.

Womack, Oscar B. Descendants of Thomas and Louvisa Rice Womack. McMinnville,  
Tennessee: The Ben Lomond Press, 1975.

↑  
NORTH

Driveway



My Grandfather's House  
(first floor)

(not to scale)

SEE MAP 59

OLD

NASHVILLE

RD.

POST

E"-59-0

15.5 AC ±

2  
1.6 AC ±

3  
1 AC ±

5  
1 AC

25 AC

11  
1.2 AC ±

501

6

My Grandfather's House  
Highway 70, South  
McMinville vicinity, Warren County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1"=100'



"B"

CORP.

LIMITS

RD.

7