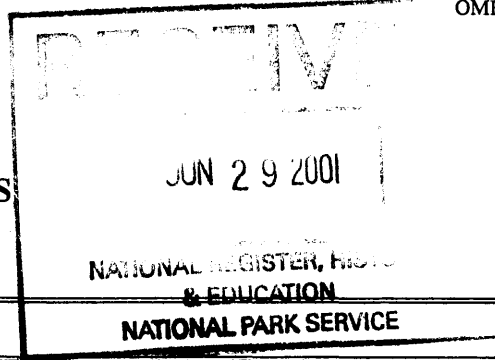


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Proffitt, George W., Jr., House

other names/site number MR-139

2. Location

street & number 1945 County House Road (County Road 1266)

not for publication N/A

city or town Tompkinsville

vicinity X

state Kentucky

code KY

county Monroe

code 171

zip code 42167

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO
Signature of certifying official

Date

6-22-01

Kentucky Heritage Council, State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

Ben

Proffitt, George W., Jr., House
Name of Property

Monroe County, Kentucky
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions).

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1885 _____

Significant Dates

1885 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Builder - Fox, J.W. _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: Kentucky Heritage Council _____

Proffitt, George W., Jr., House
Name of Property

Monroe County, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property _Less than one acre_

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Tompkinsville, KY USGS Quad Map

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 16 6123250 4061365 3 _ _ _

2 _ _ _ 4 _ _ _

_ 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 _Philip Thomason_

organization _Thomason and Associates_ date _March 29, 2001_

street & number _P.O. Box 121225_ telephone _(615) 385-4960_

city or town _Nashville_ state _TN_ zip code _37212_

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _Mark Ford_

street & number _3435 Mudlick-Flippen Road_ telephone _270-457-4607_

city or town _Tompkinsville_ state _KY_ zip code _42167_

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Proffitt, George W.,
Jr., House
Location: Monroe County, Kentucky
Related Multiple Property Listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of
Monroe County, Kentucky

Description

The George W. Proffitt Jr. House (MR-139) is located on the west side of County Road 1266, approximately four miles southwest of the Monroe County seat of Tompkinsville. The dwelling is located in a rural area characterized by rolling hills and cultivated farmland. The dwelling faces County House Road (County Road 1266), and the dwelling and its adjacent outbuildings are bounded on the remaining three sides by a wire fence. The house is presently vacant but remains in good condition.

The George W. Proffitt Jr. House is a double-pen, dogtrot log dwelling built in 1885. The house has a stone pier foundation, gable roof of crimped metal, and each pen has an exterior wall stone chimney. The hewn logs have half-dovetail notching and concrete chinking. On the main (E) facade is a full width shed roof porch with original chamfered wood columns. The porch retains an original wood floor. On the main facade the north pen has an original vertical board wood door in the main entrance. The south pen also has an original vertical board door at its main entrance. Windows in the log pens are original four-over-four rectangular wood sash.

Both the north and south pens have entrances which open into the central breezeway. Both of these doors are original vertical board design. Within the breezeway is a wood floor, weatherboard siding in the gables, and exposed rafters at the ceiling. On the rear facade of the dwelling is a shed roof porch with ca. 1940 square wood posts. In the gable field of the north pen are two original, four-light wood casement windows. The south wall of the south pen has no fenestration. Inscribed in the stone chimney on the south pen is "J.W. Fox, 1885." Family tradition states that Mr. Fox was the mason for the stone chimneys.

At the rear of the north pen is a ca. 1900, one-story frame kitchen wing with weatherboard siding, and a stone pier foundation. On the north facade of this wing is a shed roof porch with ca. 1940 wood posts. The entrance into the kitchen wing is on the north facade, and it has an original vertical board door. The kitchen wing contains original six-over-six and four-over-four wood sash windows.

The interior of the house consists of open floor space in each pen with exposed log walls, paneled wood ceilings, and original floors. In both pens are original wood mantels. In the north pen is an enclosed corner staircase which leads to the loft area. Within the ca. 1900 kitchen wing is a stove and stove flue, and tongue and groove walls. The house has no indoor running water or bathroom. The ruins of a privy are located to the northwest of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Name of Property: Proffitt, George W.,
Jr., House
Location: Monroe County, Kentucky
Related Multiple Property Listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of
Monroe County, Kentucky

Adjacent to the house is a log smokehouse built in 1885 with half-dovetail notching, a gable roof of corrugated metal, and a stone pier foundation. The building displays weatherboard siding in the gable, and it has an original vertical board door. This building was constructed with design characteristics and detailing similar to the dwelling. The smokehouse was constructed at the same time as the dwelling, and is included as contributing to the property's period of significance. To the northeast of the house is a ca. 1930 frame shed with vertical board siding, a corrugated metal roof, and a vertical board door. This building is outside the period of significance and is included as non-contributing.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Name of Property: Proffitt, George W.,
Jr., House
Location: Monroe County, Kentucky
Related Multiple Property Listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of
Monroe County, Kentucky

Summary

The George W. Proffitt Jr. House (MR-139) meets National Register criterion C, and is significant for its architectural design. The dwelling is an unusually intact example of a double-pen, log dwelling with an open breezeway. Unlike dwellings with a similar plan in Monroe County, this property has not been altered through the enclosure of the central breezeway or the application of weatherboard siding. With the exception of the replacement of rear porch columns, the dwelling has not been altered since the early 20th century. An architectural survey in 1983 identified the George W. Proffitt Jr. House as an intact example of a double-pen, log dwelling inventoried in Monroe County. Associated with the house is an original log smokehouse and early 20th century shed.

Overview

The George W. Proffitt Jr. House is associated with the prominent Proffitt family of Monroe County. George W. Proffitt Sr. came to Monroe County in 1838 from Washington County, Tennessee, and settled near East Fork Creek in the Ebenezer community. He and his wife Margaret had nine children, one of whom was George W. Proffitt Jr. George W. Proffitt Jr. was born May 1, 1848, and married Amanda Jane Guinn of Putnam County, Tennessee.¹ In 1885, this family purchased 101 acres for \$500 north of Ebenezer Church from V.M. Fowler.² The couple had a one-story, double-pen log dwelling built later that year. The mason or carpenter named J.W. Fox carved the date and his initials into the stone chimney in the south pen. No reference to a J.W. Fox has been identified in the published histories of the county.

The Proffitts were farmers and raised cattle, corn and wheat on their farm. The Proffitts had three children, Andrew J., Montville, and Donna (Donnie). On March 15, 1891, George W. Proffitt Jr. died at the age of forty-two. His wife continued to reside in the house until her death, and the property was later passed to their son, Andrew J. Proffitt. In 1922, the property was acquired by Andrew J. Proffitt's sister, Donnie Ford, and

¹ Dayton Birdwell, comp. *The History of Monroe County, 1820-1988* (Tompkinsville, Kentucky, Monroe County Press, 1992), p. 158.

² Monroe County Deed Book M, Page 625.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Name of Property: Proffitt, George W.,
Jr., House
Location: Monroe County, Kentucky
Related Multiple Property Listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of
Monroe County, Kentucky

her children Virgie, Charley, and Mitchell occupied the dwelling into the late 20th century.³ Virgie Ford lived here until the early 1990s, and did not desire running water or an indoor bathroom. As a result, the dwelling has not been remodeled since the addition of the kitchen wing ca. 1900.⁴ The current owners are Mark and James Thomas Ford of Monroe County. The dwelling is presently vacant and used for storage.

Dogtrot plan dwellings were widely built throughout Kentucky during the 19th century. This house form provided two separate rooms and loft areas, and a central breezeway or "dogtrot" to allow for covered outdoor space and ventilation. The origin of this house form continues to be studied, but German settlers utilized this building form in the 19th century.⁵ One pen was generally used as the kitchen-dining room, while the other was utilized as the living room and bedroom. The loft area provided sleeping quarters for other family members. Double-pen houses were often built in stages with a second pen added when a property owner could afford it. When a double-pen dogtrot dwelling was built all at one time, the pens were usually the same size, had the same notching, and similar characteristics.⁶ This is the case with the George W. Proffitt Jr. House, which has both pens sharing similar size and detailing. Around 1900, this dwelling was expanded through the addition of a frame kitchen wing at the rear of the north pen. This wing has an interior brick flue, entrance in the north facade, and weatherboard siding. Since the addition of this wing there have been only minor changes to the dwelling, primarily the replacement of rear porch posts.

By the late 19th century, log construction in Monroe County was declining, as sawn lumber became more widely available. The availability and affordability of sawn lumber led to many log dwellings in the county to be reclad in wood siding, and the framing in of the central breezeway or dogtrot. Unlike all other surveyed double-pen log dwellings in Monroe County, the George W. Proffitt Jr. House was left in its original condition, and is an example of the design and craftsmanship of this log house form.

³ Monroe County Deed Book 7, Page 262.

⁴ Pam Ford, Telephone Interview, 11 September, 2000.

⁵ Mary Mix Foley, The American House, (New York, Harper and Row, 1980), p. 53-55; Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), p. 82.

⁶ John Morgan, The Log House in East Tennessee, (Knoxville, The University of Tennessee Press, 1990), p. 33.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

**Name of Property: Proffitt, George W.,
Jr., House
Location: Monroe County, Kentucky
Related Multiple Property Listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of
Monroe County, Kentucky**

Additional information is located in the accompanying multiple property documentation form, "The Historic and Architectural Resources of Monroe County, Kentucky."

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 6

Name of Property: Proffitt, George W.,
Jr., House
Location: Monroe County, Kentucky
Related Multiple Property Listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of
Monroe County, Kentucky

Major Bibliographical Sources

Birdwell, Dayton, comp. The History of Monroe County, Kentucky, 1820-1988. Tompkinsville, Kentucky:
Monroe County Press, 1992.

Ford, Pam. Telephone Interview, 11 September, 2000.

Monroe County Deed Books, ca. 1863 - 2000, Monroe County Courthouse, Tompkinsville, Kentucky.

Montell, William Lynwood, comp. Monroe County History, 1820-1970, 2d ed. Tompkinsville, KY:
Tompkinsville Lions Club, 1970.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 7

**Name of Property: Proffitt, George W.,
Jr., House
Location: Monroe County, Kentucky
Related Multiple Property Listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of
Monroe County, Kentucky**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the George W. Proffitt Jr. House is shown as the rectangular lot on the accompanying Monroe County tax map 40. This lot is part of parcel 16, and includes the dwelling, and two associated outbuildings. The property is bounded on the east by the right-of-way of County House Road (County Route 1266), and on the north, west, and south by wire fences which delineate the dwelling and its outbuildings from adjacent fields. This boundary includes all of the remaining buildings associated with the original George W. Proffitt Jr. property. All of the other buildings associated with this property have been razed with the exception of the dwelling and its two associated outbuildings. The boundary is drawn to include the house, smokehouse, shed, and adjacent front yard.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary for the George W. Proffitt Jr. House includes the house and its two pre-1950 adjacent outbuildings. The original 101 acre farm has been subdivided several times, and the dwelling is now sited on a 53 acre tract. This subdivision has resulted in the construction of nearby post-1950 dwellings and farm buildings. The property associated with the dwelling is no longer used for traditional crop cultivation, and the land is now either in pasture or is reverting to woodlands. The property does not possess sufficient integrity or resources to justify eligibility due to historical significance in agriculture, and the proposed boundary is drawn to encompass the remaining adjacent buildings associated with the George W. Proffitt Jr. House.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page 8

**Name of Property: Proffitt, George W.,
Jr., House
Location: Monroe County, Kentucky
Related Multiple Property Listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of
Monroe County, Kentucky**

George W. Proffitt Jr. House
County House Road (County Route 1266), Monroe County, Kentucky
Photographs by: Thomason and Associates, Nashville, Tennessee
Location of Negatives: Kentucky Heritage Council
Date: August 29, 2000

Photo No. 1: East facade, view towards northwest.

Photo No. 2: West and south facades, view towards northeast.

Photo No. 3: East and north facades, view towards the southwest.

Photo No. 4: West facade, view towards the east.

Photo No. 5: Original door on the main (east) facade, in the north pen.

Photo No. 6: View of the interior of the breezeway and the south pen.

Photo No. 7: Smokehouse, view towards the northwest.

Photo No. 8: Shed, view towards the east.