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

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

# 1. Name

historic	Colonel Gi	deon Mor	gan House	2					
and/or common	Same								
2. Loca	ation	•							
street & number	149 Kentuc	ky St <del>ree</del>	<del>et-</del>			N/A_	not for public	not for publication	
city, town	Kingston	1. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11.	N <u>/A</u> vic	inity of	<u> </u>	XHANIXK			
state	Tennessee	code	047	county	Roane		code	145	
3. Clas	sificatio	n							
Category       Ownership         district       public         X       building(s)       X         structure       both         site       Public Acquisiti         object       N/A in process         being consid			<u>    X     yes: restricted</u>		Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military		museum park _X_ private residence religious scientific transportation other:		
4. Own	er of Pro	opert	V						
name	Mr. and Mr			iney					
street & number	149 Kentuc	ky Stree					Τ		
city, town	Kingston	·	N <u>/A</u> vic			state	Tennessee	37763	
5. LOC	ation of	Lega	I Desc	riptio	<b>on</b>				
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Roane	County Re	gister's	Office				
street & number		Roane	County Co	ourthouse					
city, town		Kingst	on			state	Tennessee	37763	
6. Repi	resentat	ion i	n Exis	sting \$	Surveys	;			
title		N/A		has this pro	perty been deter	mined ele	gible? yes	_ <u>X</u> no	
date		N/A		N//	A federal	state	e county	local	
depository for su	urvey records	N/A							
city, town		N/A				state	N/A		

# 7. Description

Condition excellent X good	excellent deteriorated		Check one X original site moved o	e date
fair	unexposed			

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

Constructed between 1810 and 1813, the Colonel Gideon Morgan House is a Federal style building located in Kingston, Tennessee (pop. 4,142). The house is situated at the sidewalk's edge of a busy commercial street across from the 1853 Roane County Courthouse (NR 7-14-71). The building is a one-and-a-half-story brick residence with a raised basement, gable roof, and two-story portico. On its interior, the house contains original or early mantels, wainscoting, and doors. Although the portico has been recently altered, the building still retains the rest of its exterior and interior integrity.

The Morgan House is located in Kingston, the seat of Roane County, which lies in East Tennessee. The building faces east on one of the main commercial roads in the town, Kentucky Street (State Highway 58). Because of the later widening of the street, the house now sits flush with the sidewalk. The Roane County Courthouse is directly across Kentucky Street to the east of the building. The Morgan House property is further bounded by a church, bank, and small commercial structure.

In plan the Flemish-bond brick house consists of a one-and-a-half-story front section and a one-story rear ell at the northwest corner of the building. Both sections have gable roofs covered in flat, clay tiles. The front section has a raised basement and water table. The main facade of the building has a two-story pedimented portico with square piers and a second-story, cantilevered balcony. The original two-tiered portico with similar square piers was altered around 1975 when the current two-story piers and balcony were substituted, leaving only the pediment from the first portico. On the first story the portico entrance has its original door, elliptical fanlight, and sidelights. The balcony entrance is similar to the first-story doorway except that instead of a fanlight there is a semicircular recess above the door. The doorway at the northeast corner, which was to the ordinary, also has an early semicircular fanlight and door. There are nine-over-nine windows with jack arches and louvered shutters.

The north elevation has two-nine-over-nine windows on both the first and second stories and louvered shutters. The gable has a simple wooden cornice and end chimney. The south elevation is identical except for a basement window and two entrances to the basement, one of which has an early wooden porch with a pediment and square piers.

On the first floor of the interior, there is a central hall with two flanking rooms on each side. The two south rooms have original doors, wainscoting, mantels, and corner fireplaces. The two north rooms were at first one large space and formed the ordinary. The quarter-turn stairs in the hall has narrow, carved balusters. It is believed that the second floor was built as one large room and was partitioned into three rooms in the late nineteenth century.

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Attached to the west, or rear, elevation is a gabled, one-story brick ell. The north side of the ell has two nine-over-nine windows with louvered shutters. There are two recently enclosed, wooden porches along the two sides of the inner angle formed by the ell and west elevation. Projecting from the roof of the west elevation is a secondstory, gabled bay which corresponds to a similar second-story element on the front facade, which forms the second-story rear wall of the portico. This second-story bay contains an original Palladian window. The interior of the ell has been remodeled to form a modern kitchen.

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# 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications		<ul> <li>Jandscape architectur</li> <li>Jaw</li> <li>Iterature</li> <li>military</li> </ul>	science     sculpture     social/     humanitarian     theater     transportation
Specific dates	1810-13	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

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

The Morgan House is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its association with the builder of the house, Colonel Gideon Morgan (1751-1830), and later owners, and for its architectural significance as a rare example of the Federal style in Roane County and the county's oldest surviving building. After serving in the Revolutionary War in his home state of Massachusetts and living for a while in Virginia, Morgan moved to Kingston in 1809 to establish a trading post. Sometime between 1810 and 1813 Morgan built the nominated house as his residence and soon opened a well-known ordinary in a section of the building. The fanlights, sidelights, and jack arches identify the house as being in the Tennessee Federal tradition as do the interior mantels and other woodwork.

Colonel Gideon Morgan was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1751 and served with the Continental Army from that state. He was one of the earliest settlers in Roane County when it was still on the Tennessee-Cherokee Frontier. The U. S. military fort, Southwest Point (NR 7-31-72), was located somewhat south of the current site of Kingston from 1792 to 1807 on the strategic high ground above the forks of the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers. The immediate vicinity was also important as a major ferrying point on the Clinch River. These factors made Kingston a good choice for Morgan's trading post and his later house and ordinary. The construction of Morgan's house between 1810 and 1813 coincides with the original platting of Kingston in 1811 by John Purris. Located on Lot 29 of that plan, the building became well known in the early nineteenth-century frontier as an ordinary, or tavern.

Morgan was the founder of a long line of prominent military and civic leaders. Among his notable descendants was his son, Colonel Gideon Morgan, Jr., who commanded the Cherokee Regiment in the Creek War. Gideon Morgan, Sr.'s grandson, John Tyler Morgan, was a Brigadier General in the Confederacy and was for many years a United States Senator from Alabama. Another grandson, Samuel D. Morgan, of Nashville served as president of the committee for erecting the current capitol of Tennessee (NHL 11-11-71). The elder Morgan's great-grandson was the Confederate General John Hunt Morgan of Civil War fame.

In addition to Colonel Morgan, the building has had several other locally important owners. Morgan's widow sold the house in 1842 to Dr. Lewis W. Jordan, a prominent physician and a surgeon with the Fourteenth Infantry Regiment during the Mexican War. Jordan in turn sold the property to Major Thomas A. Brown, who had raised a regiment during the Creek War and had gone to the assistance of General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Brown later had an unsuccessful campaign for the United States Senate, losing by one vote. Later owners of the house included Dr. James McNutt, a highly respected physician who cared for both Union and Confederate soldiers when the courthouse served as a Civil War hospital, and Mary Lee Byrd, a prominent Union sympathizer during the Civil War.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Brandau, Roberta Seawell, ed. <u>History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee</u>. Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1936. Goodspeed, Weston Arthur. <u>History of Tennessee</u>. Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887.

# **10. Geographical Data**

Chief of Registration

1.1.1

Acreage of nomi	nated property <u>Le</u> e Bacon Gap, T	ss than one	acre	0.	adrangle scale <u>1:24000</u>	
UMT References	e <u></u>	<u>em</u> icașec		QU	ladrangle scale	;
		7 <sub>1</sub> 2 4 <sub>1</sub> 4 <sub>1</sub> 0 ing	·B	Zone Easting		
			D F H			
of Kentucky	and Cumberland	Streets.	It is rect	angular in shap	at the southwest corner be, measuring 100 by 165 inal quarter-block lot	5
List all states a	and counties for <sub>l</sub>	properties ov	erlapping sta	te or county boun	daries	
state	N/A	code N/	A county	<u>,</u> N/A	code N/A	
state	Ņ/A	code N/	A county	N/A	còde N/A	•/
11. For	m Prepa	red By			<b>A</b> ' 6	
name/title	Lloyd Ostby, Mrs. Robert I	Delaney, ow	ner	Services		
organization	Tennessee Hi N/A 701 Broadway	storical Co	mmission	date	October 1982 615/742-6723	
street & number	149 Kentucky Nashville			telephone	615/376-5238 Tennessee 37203	
city or town	Kingston			state	, Tennessee 37763	
12. Sta	te Histor	ric Pres	servati	on:Office	er Certification	
The evaluated sig	Inificance of this pro	operty within th	ie state is: X_ local			
665), I hereby non	ninate this property	for inclusion in	n the National F		tion Act of 1966 (Public Law 89- hat it has been evaluated creation Service.	-
	servation Officer si	gnature M	upert L.	Hayer.		
Ritie Executive	e Director, Ter	nnessee His	torical Com	mission	date 12/22/82	
For HCRS use o	-					
I hereby cer	tify that this proper	ty is included i	n the National I Entered 1 National	n the	date 1/27/83	
Keeper of the N	ational Register		y	Meenster Nam		
Attest:					date	

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The Morgan House is believed by local historians to be the oldest building in Roane County as well as the only remaining example of the Federal style. The fanlights, sidelights, and jack arches identify the house as being in the Tennessee Federal tradition as do the interior mantels and other woodwork. Despite the alteration of the portico, the remainder of the exterior and interior still has significant architectural integrity. The excellent Flemish-bond brickwork is in good condition and has not been sandblasted or inappropriately repointed. All of the windows are either original or early, as are the exterior doors. The interior is equally noteworthy for its original or early wainscoting, doors, mantels, and staircase. NPS Form 10-900-a (7-81)

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Pulliam, Walter T. <u>Harriman, the Town that Temperance Built</u>. n.p.: Brazos Press, 1978.

Roberts, Snyder E. <u>Roots of Roane County, 1792</u>. n.p.: Roane County Publishing Co., 1981.

Wells, Emma Middleton. <u>History of Roane County, Tennessee 1801-1870</u>. Vol. I. Chattanooga: Lookout Publishing Co., 1927.

