

**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 Morgan House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Route 1 SW of Christiana not for publication

city, town Christiana Bell Buckle vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Tennessee code 047 county Rutherford code 149

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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input 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 Mrs. Nora Morgan

street & number Route 1

city, town Bell Buckle vicinity of state Tennessee 37020

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rutherford County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Murfreesboro state Tennessee 37130

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 4721 Trousdale Drive

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37220

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Morgan House is a large, very early nineteenth-century log building, located about fifteen miles south of the Rutherford County seat Murfreesboro, and surrounded by flat, open farmland, scattered woods, and a small stream running in an east-west direction about a hundred feet from the building which faces west. It is a two story, four-room dogtrot building with a medium-pitched gable roof of corrugated metal and has free standing limestone chimneys at each of the gable ends. An original one story log kitchen built independently to the right has been connected to the building by a later frame addition which consists of a single room clad with weatherboard siding. Another single room addition of the same construction and most likely the same period, forms an ell in the rear. Both the end wall of the kitchen and of the rear ell addition have free standing limestone chimneys. The building rests on a limestone foundation and its log portions are constructed of hewn logs with half dove-tailed notching.

The main section of the house is three bays wide, having one room on each side of the dogtrot breezeway which was enclosed ca. 1840 on the facade with wooden, double-leafed doors flanked by sidelights and topped by a transom. Cut in sections, the panes of glass in the sidelights and transom are not divided by mullions, but are placed end to end. Wide, decorated surrounds of wood enclose the whole of the doorway. Constructed at the same time, a simple wooden, pedimental portico supported by four plain, square columns on a wooden floor decorates the first floor central bay. Six-over-six light windows allow light to enter the four rooms of the main section from the facade. The second story windows are proportionately smaller than those of the first story. A window like those of the second story facade is found on the south elevation and is situated on the second story to the right of the chimney, which has partially fallen and is being restacked. Two more narrow, four-over-four light windows are situated on either side of the chimney in the clapboard gable end of the north elevation. Also, below on the first floor to the right is a six-over-six light window which replaced a door that was probably originally used as an entrance from the kitchen.

Up until two years ago, weatherboard siding, which was added around 1870, covered the entire log portions of the complex. Since this time when the owner had the siding removed, all the woodwork of the features described above have been painted a rust color. In addition, modern storm windows have been applied to three windows, which are the left first story window of the facade, the first story window of the north elevation, and west elevation window of the kitchen building.

In the rear of the main log portion of the building complex, the logs are concealed by horizontal flush board siding. A gallery, which is supported by four, square wood columns on a wooden floor with a roof that slopes from underneath the building's eaves, extends from the left corner of the building to the ell addition. It provides shelter for the single six-over-six light window of the left bay and for the double-leafed wooden doors with lighted transom of the entrance to the central hall.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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| DATE ENTERED | OC 27 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The one and a half story ell addition, with its gable facing east, extends from the right bay in the rear of the building. A wooden, single leaf door with screen opens to the gallery from this one-room clapboard addition. One nine-over-six light window is found on the south elevation and one on the north elevation. A small four-over-four light window is located on the east elevation to the left of the chimney.

Although this section appears to be one and half stories, there is a small attic room located in the upper front portion which is directly above the original back porch. The back porch, which is now enclosed by the attic room and ell addition, serves as a hallway to connect the ell addition and dining room addition to the main log portion and log kitchen. A straight staircase leads to the attic room from this hallway.

The one story weatherboard addition that joins the kitchen to the main building was built as a dining room. Its roof ridge extends from the point where the main building and ell addition meet until it connects to the ridge of the kitchen roof. One six-over-six light window on the west or front elevation and one single leaf door with lighted transom, which leads to the rear porch, are this section's only structural openings. Its very functional porch is formed by a raised-seam tin roof supported by plain wood posts and a storage shed of narrow vertical boards. The small log kitchen is square shaped and its structural openings consist of a six-over-six light window on the north side to the left of the chimney, and a board and batten door with wrought iron hook and eye door hinges and a screen in the rear. A small porch resembling the gallery on the main building extends across the rear of the kitchen. Its roof, as well as that of the kitchen, is covered with corrugated metal.

The interior of the Morgan House has survived with few changes. All of the rooms are finished with planed poplar boards except for the right hand room on the upper floor which has never been finished. The wide cedar flooring, wood ten inch moulded baseboards and three inch moulded trim of the doorways, several mantles, and the straight staircase of the dogtrot remain intact.

Four farm-related outbuildings remain to the rear of the Morgan House, of which one is particularly noteworthy. It is evidently an original log smokehouse with dove-tail notching and a corrugated tin roof. It has one small opening to its single tall room and a later lean-to shed addition to one side. Beyond the smokehouse are a weather-board covered frame privy, a small frame implement shed, and a small, twentieth-century barn.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Morgan House, built around 1820 according to the present owner, is an outstanding example of an early log residence in Tennessee. The original three building complex includes the main house, the kitchen building and the smokehouse. These structures, virtually unchanged since their construction, provide an excellent model of early Tennessee life as seen through their architecture.

The main house is a fine example of the basic four-room, dogtrot style often used in frontier dwellings. The building techniques which were used in this, as well as other log buildings of the area, are visible in the upstairs room which has never been completed. This room is a potential study area where these techniques can be examined.

The interior woodwork of the building suggests some sophisticated skills on the part of the builder and is worthy of note. The ten-inch moulded baseboards, three-inch moulded doorframes, and carved mantels all give the home a finished quality not always found in log structures of its type. The yellow poplar paneling also reflects this skill.

The half-dove-tailed notching on all three of the buildings shows fine skill and craftsmanship equal to the interior. The buildings are constructed of the same type and style of work and were apparently built within a few years of each other by the same builder.

The complex of buildings represents the evolution of a way of life and is therefore important. Further desire for more room brought the addition of the rear ell. Practicality forced the addition of a room to attach the kitchen and main house. In this way the building is a fine example of the four-room dogtrot, while showing the development of the house through family growth. It also provides an opportunity for understanding the building techniques used in a house of its type, for the methods of construction, use of available materials, and period architectural influences are seen in each subsequent addition.

The construction methods and materials of the log portions indicate that they were built in the early 1800s; these provide evidence of the types of dwellings built by Tennessee frontier families who utilized the natural resources of the land and available tools to build their homesteads in a simple manner for durability and security. The enclosure of the dogtrot with a portico and double-leafed front doors with sidelights and a transom represent the Greek Revival influence of the 1840s and 1850s and serve as the only decoration of the functional four-room log dogtrot. Later frame additions necessary to adjust to the occupants' needs and growth reflect construction methods used during the Victorian era in their longer, more narrow windows, the use of single-lighted transoms over doorways, and the higher ceilings. The building remains practically unaltered having survived only slight modernizations and is therefore of value in demonstrating the evolution of both building techniques and architectural tastes.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with owner

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 3.672

Quadrangle name Fosterville, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References See attached sheet

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| B | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

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| C | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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| D | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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| E | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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| F | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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| G | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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| H | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is a square tract which measures 400 feet on each side and contains 3.672 acres; the boundary is shown as the red line on the accompanying Tennessee State Board of Equalization map, Rutherford Co. No. 184, which is drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch.

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-------|-----------------|
| name/title | Shain Terrell, Historic Preservation Specialist | | |
| | Nancy Alexander, Intern | | |
| organization | Mid-Cumberland Council of Governments and Development District | | date |
| | | | July 11, 1979 |
| street & number | Suite 600, 501 Union Building | | telephone |
| | | | (615) 244-1212 |
| city or town | Nashville | state | Tennessee 37219 |

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hayer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 9/27/79

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| For HCERS use only | |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | |
| <u>Sally G. Olden</u> | date <u>12/27/79</u> |
| Keeper of the National Register | |
| Attest: <u>Beth Groves</u> | date <u>12/10/79</u> |
| Chief of Registration | |

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Latitude

Longitude

35⁰ 39' 22" N. Lat.

86⁰ 27' 27" W. Long.

No UTM grid ticks on map