

Historic name: <u>James Cowan House</u> Common name: <u>Powell House</u> Address: <u>Old Bunker Hill Road</u> <u>Big Spring, Tennessee</u> Owner's name: <u>Hardwick Stove Company</u> Owner's address: <u>240 Edwards, S.E.</u> <u>Cleveland, Tennessee 37311</u> Classification: <u>Building-private</u> Tax map reference: <u>Dist. 2, Map 72, Parcel 9</u> Acreage: <u>.3 acres</u> UTM reference: <u>Zone 16 N3916560</u> <u>E687720</u>	STATUS	Open to public: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Visible from road: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Present use: <u>Private residence</u> Current condition: <u>Good</u> Alterations: <u>Small frame addition (ca. 1960) to north elevation.</u> Site features: <u>Log outbuilding (ca. 1840) with half-dovetail notching; frame privy.</u>
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Date of construction: <u>ca. 1840</u> Architect/builder: <u>James Cowan</u> Original or previous owners: <u>James Cowan, original; R.C. Powell</u> Original use: <u>Private residence</u> Theme/s: Primary <u>Architecture</u> Secondary <u>Exploration/Settlement</u> Other <u>N/A</u>	SOURCES	Bibliographical data: <u>Lillard, Stewart. Meigs County, Tennessee.</u> Form prepared by: <u>Ann Toplovich</u> Title: <u>Cultural Resource Surveyor</u> Organization: <u>Tennessee Historical Commission</u> Date: <u>10/6/81</u>
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The Cowan House is a two story frame and log house with weatherboarded exterior and stone foundation. Rectangular in plan with a one story ell attached to the rear, the house is covered by a composition shingle gable roof. The main section of the house has two brick chimneys, one an exterior gable end chimney and the other an offset interior chimney. The ell, which incorporates a log pen that may have been a kitchen, has a stone exterior gable end chimney. The facade (west elevation) of the house has five unevenly spaced bays. The central single leaf door with sidelights has two 6/6 light windows to each side. A one story hip roofed porch extends across the three central bays of the facade. The porch is supported by groupings of slender columns and has a plain balustrade. The rear elevation of the house has no windows and only two doors, which open onto the ell. The house has cornerboards and a plain frieze.

Built ca. 1840 by James Cowan, the Cowan House is one of the earliest structures still standing along the Hiwassee River. Cowan was among the first settlers in Meigs County (then Rhea), and purchased land in November, 1820. Cowan built his house and a store on the north bank of the Hiwassee River, opposite the Cherokee Ocoee District. His house and store were the center of Cowansville, whose post office was established at the store in 1831. Cowan was one of five commissioners appointed to divide Meigs County into districts and was one of the first white property owners in the Ocoee District (1835). The Cowan House is the only two story "saddlebag" house standing in Meigs County. The house was built originally as a two story log pen; later an

PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

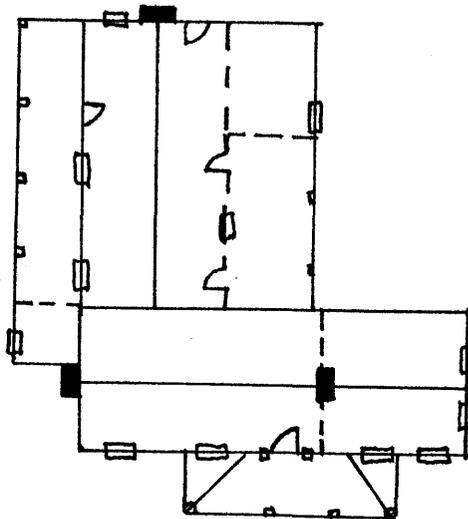
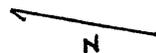
Photographer: Stephen T. Rogers
Date: 3/29/79
Negatives on file: Tennessee Historical
Commission
Photographer facing: N & W elevation - facing
Photograph number 44 of 55 . SE

CONTINUATION

Significance: (continued)

additional frame section was attached to this pen. A one story log pen that was possibly a detached kitchen was later incorporated into the house as part of an ell. The James Cowan House is a well preserved example of the early architecture in Meigs County.

SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow



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

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet Historic Resources of
Meigs County, Tennessee Item number Identification Page 2

MEIGS COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION - James Cowan House (#36)

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

36. The boundaries begin at a point on the north side of Old Bunker Hill Road at a corner of the fence line of the Cowan House, thence east along said road 125 feet, thence north 125 feet, thence west 125 feet to the fence line, thence south 125 feet to the beginning. This boundary takes the form of a rectangle which encompasses the building. Due to the lack of property lines or visual boundaries on the north and east sides, imaginary boundary lines were established to include the house and approximately .3 acres of land on which it sits.

Historic Resources of Meigs County,
Tennessee
(Partial Inventory: Historic and
Architectural Resources)

JAMES COWAN HOUSE (#36)

