

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **MAY 27 1975**DATE ENTERED **JUL 7 1975**

**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

Griffith-Franklin House (Crittenden Headquarters)

AND/OR COMMON

"History House"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

207 West Second Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Calhoun

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01

STATE

Kentucky

— VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY

McLean

CODE

069

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. and Mrs. M. T. Richey

STREET & NUMBER

204 West Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Calhoun

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

McLean County Courthouse (Deeds after 1854)

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Calhoun

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Places in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE

January 16, 1975

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Griffith-Franklin House, located a block from the Green River at a crucial bend, sits high with strategic views up and down the valley and across to the town of Rumsey. Two blocks from the Courthouse, it is on a pleasant wooded street lined with several of the relatively few older residences remaining in Calhoun. As it appears today, the house remains much the same as when built. A sensitive recent renovation replaced deteriorating features with close facsimiles. The white-painted clapboard on the west side, for instance, repeats exactly the scale of the original on the three other sides. It is a frame, two-story structure, three bays in width, with the entrance on the southwestern end of the facade. There is a one-story portico across the front with three supporting columns, replacing an earlier smaller porch over the entrance. A concrete porch floor also replaces the older wooden one. (The present porch dates from before 1900, it is believed.)

From the front entrance one enters into a hallway, to the right of which is the 17'-square living room. Behind the living room through double doors is the dining room. To the rear is a one-story, ten-foot-wide addition running the length of the house and containing the kitchen and bath. The floors in the downstairs were laid at the turn of the century atop the old floors. They are of oak, ash, and pine with mitered corners and mitered patterns. There is a variety of doors in the downstairs--heavy hand-made doors of two longitudinal panels, Colonial doors, Colonial Frame doors, and doors with six horizontal panels. The stairway with its original treads leads to two upstairs rooms. The floors are original--wide poplar planks put down with square nails. The upstairs doors are batten made with square nails.

Other details of the interior include an original plain mantel in the living room flanked by built-in book cases of colonial architectural design.

The window facings in the house are all original. Exact reproductions of some of the window frames replace the old. A few of the tinted hand-blown panes remain.

A particular concern is that the street on which the Griffith-Franklin House is located, is threatened with incompatible development. It is hopeful that National Register designation will provide recognition and will support efforts to preserve its residential character.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" 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 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the early days of the Civil War, the small western Kentucky town of Calhoun, with its population of approximately 500 people in a county of only a little over 6,000, rose suddenly to prominence with the influx of 10,000 troops in late 1861. An unpretentious frame house on the corner of Second and Poplar Streets, the Griffith-Franklin House, was chosen as headquarters for the commander, Brigadier General Thomas L. Crittenden. It is from this association the building, known locally as "History House," derives its importance.

The town had been in existence only a few years (established in 1852) when war broke out. The State Legislature declared Kentucky neutral in the conflict, but it proved impossible to keep the war from its borders. Western Kentucky was particularly important in that both sides were concerned with the control of the Mississippi-Ohio Rivers. In September 1861 Confederate troops occupied Hickman and Columbus on the Mississippi River and Bowling Green in south central Kentucky. Federal forces hesitated no longer. Generals Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman engaged Leonidas Polk at Columbus and moved on to Paducah. Louisville, in the meantime, was made a Union headquarters town.

It is with this setting that the Seventeenth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry marched to Calhoun on the north bank of the Green River in November 1861 and there joined several other units under the command of Brigadier General Thomas Leonidas Crittenden (1819-1893), son of the Honorable John J. Crittenden, former U.S. Senator, Governor of Kentucky, and Attorney General under President Millard Fillmore. T. L. Crittenden had been engaged in organizing and training of troops in the Owensboro and Henderson area and moved to Calhoun to complete the organization of two Brigades (13th and 14th) composed of regiments from Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. Including his division staff Crittenden was to have more than 10,000 men encamped in the Calhoun vicinity.

Even before Crittenden moved into Calhoun, the particular importance of the Calhoun/Rumsey area was recognized, primarily for the fact that Lock No. 2 was situated at Rumsey, a small town across the Green River from Calhoun.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Blackburn, John. A Hundred Miles A Hundred Heartbreaks.
Reed Printing Co., 1972, pp. 27-29.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 47,6 | 9,8,0 | 4,115,420,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

*UTM OK
N/E*

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. M. T. Richey

ORGANIZATION

DATE

September 14, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

204 West Second Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Calhoun

STATE

Kentucky

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.

SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer 5/21/75

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7/7/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7.7.75

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Griffith-Franklin House

The Franklin home selected for General Crittenden in Calhoun was spacious and the upper story, with its vantage point of view of the river's bend, was perfect for observations. Visible, no doubt, was the turmoil and chaos that the war had brought to the quiet river town, now a "city of tents," as well as hangings from the old two-story jail that stood just back of the old brick courthouse on a hill across from History House.

The house was constructed about 1854 by heirs of property owned by John Calhoun (1797-1842), Kentucky district lawyer, judge and congressman for whom the city was named. The house was soon after purchased by heirs of Remus Griffith. Remus' widow Sally and her son Henry sold it in 1857 to Sally's great-niece Adeline E. Hust. Two years later it was purchased by Mrs. Hust's father, Mr. W. W. Franklin, owner during the Civil War.

The reason for Crittenden's presence in Calhoun and the assembling of the various units was, along with defense and protection, to build the regiments to regulation strength. Defense proved no great problem but the building of the regiments was most difficult. Weather and disease took their toll. Wrote historian John Blackburn:

"Tents and other much needed supplies were never acquired in sufficient amounts and the crude shelters available were little protection against the wintry blasts. It was reported that the temperature reached, in January, an unbelievable ninety-three degrees, but it also reached a typical eighteen degrees. Perhaps this wide range in the temperature was partly responsible but there were other reasons also for the many instances of colds, pneumonia and influenza that took such a toll in the ranks.

"At Calhoun there was an almost complete lack of proper sanitation measures enforced. Because of this a large number of the young soldiers died of digestive disease and infections. It is a sad fact indeed that more Civil War soldiers died of dysentery and diarrhea than were killed by enemy guns. In the years after the war groups of veterans gathered for discussions about the 'old days of the war,' and in these gatherings there was often heard loud laughter when some bearded veteran mentioned his trying experiences with the 'quickstep.' During the war though it was no laughing matter as it brought to an abrupt end many a young life."
(pp. 28-29)

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Griffith-Franklin House

General Crittenden was, however, able to accomplish his mission of organizing what was afterwards known as the Fifth Division. On January 17, 1862 he and his men were ordered to South Carrollton but on January 29 they were ordered back to Calhoun. On February 9, Crittenden was again ordered to break camp, this time told to move south to join other Federal forces which were driving Albert Sidney Johnston out of Bowling Green. A few months later, in April, Crittenden's troops were to participate in the engagement at Shiloh during which the Confederate hold on southern Kentucky and Tennessee was broken.

With the departure of Crittenden's division, from Calhoun, a replacement force was sent in to defend the city. But the days of the big units in Calhoun were definitely over.

Other owners or residents of History House included W. T. Owen, lawyer; George Prentiss, lawyer; James Madison Nichols; John Porter Hines, river boat captain and brother of Duncan Hines; E. B. McEwin, merchant; Henry McCein, lawyer and county attorney; J. L. Moore, pharmacist. In 1969 Dr. and Mrs. M. T. Richey bought the house from the heirs of J. L. Moore and began restoring it.

The Griffith-Franklin House, as headquarters for the commander of the Fifth Division, was a very real participant in the Civil War in Kentucky. According to local tradition, the building also served as an infirmary during the later stages of the War; a cemetery behind it is said to have served this hospital. As the oldest remaining residence on its original site in the city of Calhoun (the first house in the town was erected in 1849), the structure has also been a witness to other scenes from its vantage point along the Green River--flat boats going down the river with early settlers, huge rafts of logs floating to saw mills, baptizings, ice making or cutting, ice skating, show boats, coal barges. This house has seen it all.

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