

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received FEB 26 1987

date entered MAR 30 1987

1. Name

historic Historic Resources of Grundy County (Partial inventory of historic and architectural properties)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number See individual forms N/A not for publication

city, town See individual forms N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Grundy code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resource Area	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (see individual forms)

street & number See individual forms

city, town See individual forms N/A vicinity of state Tennessee

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grundy County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Altamont state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys See Continuation Sheet

title Grundy County Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date 1985 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in the southeastern portion of Middle Tennessee, Grundy County consists of 240,000 acres, most of which lie in the geologic region known as the Cumberland Plateau. The plateau, which is part of the larger Appalachian Plateau, is generally level, but interspersed with river gorges and coves. The northwest section of the county lies in another geologic region, the Highland Rim. Grundy is part of the southern Tennessee coal field and significant deposits of the mineral are found near Tracy City, Coalmont, and the region northeast of these towns. Streams and rivers within the county drain into the Tennessee River and its tributaries, and into the tributaries of the Cumberland River.

Immediately east and north of Tracy City, the landscape is characterized by hills, ridges, and mountains, while to the south and west of the city are coves and narrow, finger-like ridges. On the average, Grundy County is 1,500 to 2,000 feet above sea level, although Tates Mountain, west of Coalmont, is approximately 2,400 feet above sea level. Nunley Ridge, Fultz Ridge, Stoker Ridge, and Round Mountain are other prominent features in this section of the county. Closer to Tracy City are Clouse Hill, Hobbs Hill, Reid Hill, Ramsey Hill, and Hurricane, John, and Higgin ridges. Much of the mountainous portions of Grundy County are forested (90%), while over the years the coves have been cleared for agricultural uses. The soil cover is thin and underlaid with conglomerate sandstone.

Many streams and creeks traverse Grundy County. The tributaries of the Cumberland River that flow through the western part of the county are the Elk River and its branches. In the north and east, the Collins River flows and in the south, Battle Creek and the Little Sequatchie River (both tributaries of the Tennessee River) flow. Ridges and bluffs that lie between the streams are especially pronounced in the area southeast of Monteagle. Streams generally flow along a low slope until they reach the edge of the plateau, resulting in numerous water falls. A large part of the county is forest land.

European settlement in the county began during the early 1800s in the coves and the Collins River valley and then in Beersheba Springs, located in the northern section of the county. The fertile valley provided excellent land for agriculture. Corn, wheat, clover, cotton, and tobacco were cultivated. Natural features of Beersheba Springs, situated on the plateau, include iron springs and a moderate summer climate. Pelham, located near the southwestern border of the county, was settled in the 1830s. In 1844, Grundy County was established with centrally-located Altamont named the county seat.

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Eight properties in Grundy County have been listed in the National Register. They are:

- Site #18. Beersheba Springs Historic District
Beersheba, NR 3/20/80
- Site #19. DuBose Memorial Church Training School
Monteagle, NR 11/25/80
- Site #20. Monteagle Sunday School Assembly
Monteagle, NR 3/25/82
- Site #21. Northcutt, H. B., House
Altamont, NR 3/23/82
- Site #22. Northcutts Cove Chapel
Altamont, NR 4/18/79
- Site #23. Wrenn's Nest
Monteagle, NR 3/13/86.

Two properties listed in the National Register are no longer extant and have been removed. They are:

Elkhead Stone Arch Bridge
north of Pelham, NR 6/18/75

Grundy County Jail
Altamont, NR 4/19/78.

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In 1850, Grundy County had a population of 2,773. The arrival of the railroad in the late 1850s resulted in the beginning of commercial coal mining in Grundy County. Tracy City, in the heart of the coal fields, would eventually become the largest community in the county. A rapid and efficient transportation system that could move large amounts of coal was essential to the development of the mining industry. Each time a mine was opened, a branch line would be extended into the vicinity and commercial and residential development would occur. Grundy County is a part of the Appalachian coal field which extends 875 miles through western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio and Maryland, West Virginia, eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. In Tennessee, this coal field covers Scott, Morgan, Cumberland, Fentress, Van Buren, Bledsoe, Grundy, Sequatchie, Marion, Claiborne, Campbell, Anderson, Rhea, Roane, Overton, Hamilton, Putnam, White, Franklin, Warren, and Coffee counties. Within twenty years, coal mining and coke manufacturing became the major industries in the county.

Southeast of Altamont, sixty Swiss emigrants had settled in Gruetli by 1874. They cultivated grapes and fruit trees, made cheese, and operated two stores. The colony also operated several saw mills, utilizing some of the poplar, walnut, oak, pine, and chestnut oaks that were the predominant types of trees in the county. During the 1880s, the Mont-eagle Sunday School Assembly was begun in the southern portion of the county. Like Beersheba Springs, its scenic beauty and temperate climate made it a popular summer resort.

The company towns of Coalmont and Palmer were begun in around 1904 and 1917, respectively, and railroad branch lines were laid connecting the towns to the mines. In 1925, only the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad took passengers from Tracy City to Cowan and Chattanooga; the town of Monteagle was also located along a rail line. Thirty miles of track and three highways extended over the county in 1940. State Highway 56, State Highway 108, and U.S. 41 totaled 70.38 miles of gravel and paved roads. Diversified farming, mining, and lumbering (of second-growth timber) were the foremost occupations. Agriculture was beginning to eclipse mining as the major source of employment, although only 29% of the residents of the county were farming for a living vs. 43% in the state. Grundy County farms were becoming more numerous but smaller (50 acres). Thirty-seven elementary schools, one high school, an educational center, and training school were active in the county in 1940. Communities ranged in population from 165 at Pel-

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ham and 200 at Altamont to nearly 2,000 at Tracy City and Palmer (out of a county population of 11,552).

Grundy County contains several interesting and scenic natural features. Stone Door, in the northern part of the county, is a 150 foot tall natural stone opening on the plateau near Savage Gulf. This area contains rock shelters, caves, waterfalls, creeks, sheer cliffs, and some virgin forest. A state park was established in the late 1930s along the Big Fiery Gizzard Creek, and Grundy Lakes were created in 1938-1939. Some of the park land was donated by the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company and several coke ovens are included in the park. Today, much of these forest and scenic lands are part of the South Cumberland State Recreation Area. Approximately 12,000 acres in Franklin, Grundy, and Marion counties are included in the recreation area. Another interesting natural feature in the county located between Monteagle and Pelham is Wonder Cave. The cave is at least seven miles long with one passage of solid onyx. There are three levels of cave with widths ranging from 30 to 100 feet. A portion of it is being nominated as part of the Wonder Cave Historic District.
(Site #10)

Architectural Resources

Approximately 80-85% of the historic resources surveyed in Grundy County are single family residences. Most of these are frame vernacular buildings that are 1 to 1 1/2 stories in height, sheathed in weatherboard, and surmounted by gable roofs. Stone and brick are rarely used as a building material for residences, although a few 1930s and 1940s residences are constructed of a combination of both. Single and double pen log residences and log residences with frame additions were also surveyed. These include buildings constructed in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century log houses.

The earliest resource surveyed dates from circa 1828 and some residences built in the 1940s were included in the survey. However, the majority of the resources surveyed in Grundy County were constructed in the early part of the twentieth century when the coal and coke industries were at their peak. Properties in the Beersheba Springs Historic District (NR 1980, Site #18) and the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly Historic District (NR 1982, Site #20) were not surveyed. The districts are comprised of primarily residential buildings, most constructed dur-

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ing the late nineteenth century.

Tracy City, the largest city in Grundy County (pop. 1,536) contains the largest collection of surveyed properties. Because of intrusions and alterations to many properties, there is no area of the city that would make an historic district. Much of the commercial center of the city burned in 1935 and new buildings were erected after that. Palmer and Coalmont, both company towns, retain only a few extant historic resources. Begun circa 1904 and 1917, Coalmont and Palmer are comprised primarily of one story frame residences with gable or hip roofs. Grundy is a rural county populated with several small towns. As a result, many of the historic resources are scattered throughout the county.

Of the nine churches and eight schools surveyed, small vernacular frame buildings predominate. Schools are usually one or two rooms and located along major roads in rural areas. Frame chapels located in or near towns were the most prevalent form surveyed. Historic industrial properties are connected to the coal and coke industries. In addition to the resorts in Beersheba Springs and Monteagle, a summer camp for girls was surveyed. Five bridges and a portion of a stagecoach road are the extant historic resources associated with transportation in the county.

The Collins River, Hubbards, Burrow, and Bell Coves were the first areas settled and contain the oldest historic resources in Grundy County. Several log buildings in the coves area are extant. These single- and double-pen buildings often used half-dovetail notching. The circa 1828 double-pen, log house of Harris Gilliam, now sheathed with weather-board, was built as a residence and inn for stagecoach travelers. A much later log residence is J. J. Raulston's house in Burrow Cove (Site #10). Built in 1907 and also used as a visitors' center for the adjacent Wonder Cave, the house is an excellent example of the Craftsman style and one of two Craftsman residences included in the nomination (see the John Patton House, Site #8). The circa 1900 entrance building to the cave is an interesting design of uncoursed stone. The Hamby Store in Burrow Cove was built in around 1915. The 1 1/2 story commercial building, covered with pressed metal, is one of several historic crossroads stores in Grundy County.

Nearby is the town of Pelham, a rural crossroads community located in the valley. A circa 1840 log and frame house and several vernacular

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frame residences, dating from the 1880s to the 1930s, are the prevalent types of architecture found in this area of Grundy County.

Much of Monteagle is comprised of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly (Historic District, NR 1982, Site #20). A stone gatehouse provides entry to the Assembly grounds, 40% of which is park land. Narrow, winding roads lead to residences and public buildings. The 162 buildings in the district are primarily cottage residences with a chapel, library, dining hall, and recreational structures comprising less than 15% of the properties. The residences are usually 1 or 2 story frame structures with porches, and they exhibit Queen Anne and Carpenter Gothic detailing. Located one mile from the Assembly is Wrenn's Nest (NR 1986, Site #23), a vernacular Queen Anne style residence built in 1908 as a summer home. The two story, weatherboarded house rests on a sandstone foundation and is highlighted by an octagonal turret and a one story, wraparound porch. Dubose Memorial Church Training School (NR 1980, Site #19) is also located in Monteagle. Constructed in 1924 and 1930 respectively, Mission Style Claiborne Hall and the Alfred Duane Pell Library exhibit stuccoed walls, clay tile roofs, and iron balconies. Part of Camp Unaka, established in 1921 as a girls' camp, is still extant. A circa 1900 log residence that was later used on the camp and a frame dining hall with wood-screen windows are situated on a bluff in a heavily-wooded area near Monteagle.

Coalmont, begun in around 1904 by the Sewanee Coal, Coke, and Land Company, contains many houses associated with the mining company, but there is not a cohesive historic district extant. Four types of company housing predominate. One story frame residences with side gable roofs are seen most often (10 houses). A second type of residence is similar, but it contains a rear ell. One story hip roof residences with full front porches and pyramidal roof houses with central chimneys and small front porches are the other types of company housing surveyed in Coalmont. Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company (the reorganized Sewanee Coal, Coke, and Land Company) erected a multi-purpose building that housed the bank, post office, and company offices. Originally designed in red brick with various forms of window openings and entries, a tile roof, and brackets, it has undergone several alterations. Company president John Patton's circa 1904 log house is the second residence included in the nomination, in part, because of its Craftsman detailing (Site #8). A battery of coke ovens are also located in Coalmont. Faced with sandstone and lined with brick, it is one of three sets of

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coke ovens being nominated. (Site #7)

A prominent landmark in Altamont, the county seat, is the courthouse. Built in 1885 with a mansard roof and arched windows, a large modern addition is attached to the rear of the building. L. V. Woodlee's circa 1900 residence is a two story weatherboarded building with little decorative detailing. It is typical of much of the building stock in the county during this time. It is included in the nomination because of its historic significance (Site #4). Until it was demolished in 1982, the three story, red brick Grundy County Jail (NR 1978, removed 1982) was one of the most important buildings in the county. Near the courthouse, the H. B. Northcutt House (NR 1982, Site #21) still stands. Built by the prominent Northcutt family, the house is an excellent example of vernacular Italianate style. The two story brick house was constructed in 1885 and is embellished by a two story portico and segmental arch windows with wood shutters. The building believed by many to be the first courthouse, a circa 1840s log building, is also located on the Northcutt property.

The Beersheba Springs Historic District (NR 1980, Site #18) contains all of the significant historic resources in the community. Primarily comprised of summer cottages, the district contains fifty-five log and frame buildings dating from the mid-1800s up to the present. Most buildings are one-story vernacular styles with porches, although the hotel complex is comprised of one and two story buildings with Classical columns and balustraded porches.

Gruetli was established in 1869 by a group of Swiss emigrants. Primarily a farming community, no public structures remain. The extant houses are usually two story frame buildings with little or no embellishments. This is reflected in both the Stagecoach Inn and the Stoker-Stampfli House. On the interior, both buildings are embellished with wide board and batten siding that has a natural, oiled finish. While not architecturally important, they are significant for their historic associations (Sites #5 and #6).

The company town of Palmer was started in 1917 by the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company. A closed town, where all the company's employees had to live in company-built housing, most residences have small porches, gable roofs, and a central chimney. Two circa 1920s churches still are used by residents of the town. The Palmer Methodist Church

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is a frame building that is distinguished by a bell tower and arched entries, while the brick Palmer Church of Christ still retains a bell tower with finial and lancet windows. Most of the historic resources of the town have been lost.

Tracy City, like most of Grundy County, contains primarily frame residences with minimal ornamentation. Some houses in the city exhibit Queen Anne or Eastlake details. Over 100 houses were surveyed in Tracy City, but because of the number of new buildings and the loss of architectural integrity of many old buildings, no historic district was identified. Typical of the type of housing found in the city is the E. L. Hampton House, a circa 1896, two story frame residence with a gable roof, bay windows, and a stone foundation and porch. While not architecturally significant, the house is included in the nomination because of its association with E. L. Hampton, a mining company executive (Site #16). Two 1890s residences are significant for their architecture. The Frank White House is an eclectic mix of styles not seen elsewhere in the county, although the porch is like the porch on the Colonel A. M. Shook House. Possibly used as a school, the brick White House has a hip roof bell tower, ornamental wood porches on two stories, corbeled chimneys, and a sidelighted entrance (Site #14). The Second Empire style Colonel A. M. Shook House is significant because of its design and association with Shook, a mining company executive. Although the house is now covered with metal siding, it retains the original wrought iron balconies, slate mansard roof, and three story tower (Site #15). The commercial area of Tracy City suffered a devastating fire in 1935 and few historic buildings remain. One building, the Marugg Company on Depot Street, is a plain, one story, concrete structure built in around 1904. It is not architecturally important, but is included in the nomination because of its historic significance (Site #17). Two frame commercial buildings and Miners' Hall, a combination union hall and storefront, are representative of Tracy City's historic downtown. Built in 1902, Miners' Hall is a two story building with a parapet roofline and double hung windows. Like the Marugg Company, it is important for its historic associations (Site #14). Tracy City still has two groups of late nineteenth century coke ovens. Similar to the Coal-mont Coke Ovens, they are built in batteries of stone and brick, although little stone facing is extant. Both are a part of the nomination (Tracy City Coke Ovens, Site #13 and Grundy Lakes Historic District, Site #11).

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Four properties in Grundy County are important in the areas of engineering or transportation. Three stone arch bridges built by R. M. Crick are excellent examples of this type of bridge construction. The two span bridges over Hickory Creek and Scott Creek and the single span stone bridge over Firescald Creek have barrel vault openings with voussoirs (Sites #1, #9, and #2). Grundy County has six stone arch bridges, but less than two dozen bridges of this design are scattered throughout the state. The three bridges included in the nomination are the best examples in Grundy County of a bridge type that is not often seen in Tennessee. The Stagecoach Road from Chattanooga to McMinnville is part of an important transportation route. It is a winding passage over the mountain that was built using large slabs of stone (Site #3).

Methodology

In January of 1985, an historical and architectural survey was begun in Grundy County, Tennessee. The survey was completed in September of 1985 with a total of 405 sites inventoried during this period. The survey was performed under the guidelines of the Tennessee Historical Commission as part of the on-going statewide survey of architecturally and historically significant properties. Funding for the survey was provided by a matching grant from the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Grundy County Conservation Board.

The survey was conducted in accordance with established procedures set forth by the survey officer of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Each road that was passable in the county was driven and properties examined to ascertain age and appearance. All properties and sites which appeared over fifty years of age and not significantly altered were photographed and a state inventory form completed. Photographs generally consisted of three black and white 3X5 photos and a color slide for each property. Sites were also marked on USGS quad maps to pinpoint their location.

Prior to undertaking the survey, an examination was made of sites which had been surveyed or listed on the National Register in previous years. Within the county were two existing historic districts; the Monteagle Assembly Historic District (NR 1982) in Monteagle and the Beersheba Springs Historic District (NR 1980) in Beersheba Springs. In addition to these districts, a total of thirteen individual sites had

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been previously inventoried by the state ("Grundy County, Tennessee, Architectural and Historical Survey," Thomason and Associates, Nashville, Tennessee.). A survey report containing an overview of the architectural resources and history of the county was prepared. A multiple resource area nomination was written using this data as a base.

Archaeological Surveys

The archaeological resources of Grundy county have not been comprehensively surveyed and, therefore, no archaeological resources are included in the multiple resource area nomination.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) *

Specific dates See individual forms **Builder/Architect** Multiple - See individual forms

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

* Other:

-ethnic heritage, European (Swiss)

-labor unions

-recreation/entertainment

The Historic Resources of Grundy County Multiple Resource Area are being nominated under National Register criteria A, B, and C. The seventeen resources included in the nomination aid in the understanding of the historic and architectural development of the county from the 1830s through the early twentieth century. Early settlement in the area occurred along the river valleys and focused on agriculture. By the 1850s, after Grundy County was formally established, a resort had been started on the Cumberland Plateau. Between the 1870s and the 1920s, the coal and coke industries were the principal form of employment in the region. The coal and coke industries brought additional settlers into the county, resulting in much commercial and residential building during this era. Lumber companies and summer resorts were established, but with the onset of the Depression, mechanization of mining, and lessened demand for coke, new economic growth in Grundy County slowed down. The resources in the nomination include a portion of a stage-coach road, three bridges, three groups of coke ovens (one is part of a district), an inn, a building associated with the miners' union, a commercial/industrial building, a district associated with recreation, lakes built by the CCC, and six individual residences important for their historic and architectural associations. Nominated properties include those important in the areas of architecture, engineering, commerce, exploration/settlement (associated with an ethnic group), industry, politics/government, transportation, and labor unions. All nominated properties have undergone few alterations and retain their integrity.

The part of Tennessee that would become Grundy County in 1844 was first settled by persons hoping to exploit the rich farmlands along the valleys of the Collins and Elk Rivers and in the vicinity of Savage Gulf. Although the area was sparsely populated for many years, because the Nashville stage road ran through the valley, permanent settlement did occur. By 1832, the first post office had been opened in Pelham, then in Franklin County. Another major transportation route was the winding, mountainous road from McMinnville to Chattanooga, part of the

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property See individual forms

Quadrangle name See individual forms

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References See individual forms

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

All nominated properties are contained within the limits of Grundy County as they existed when the survey was completed. See continuation sheets and individual forms for specific boundary descriptions and justifications.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudette Stager, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Tennessee Historical Commission

date October 1986

street & number 701 Broadway

telephone 615-742-6723

city or town Nashville

state Tennessee 37219-5237

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Huger

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 2/18/87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Amy Schlager

date March 30, 1987

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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route from Nashville to Chattanooga. The mail coach was then the principal type of transportation and source of information for inland residents of the state. Constructed in the mid-1830s, a portion of the road is included in the nomination. (Site #3)

Additional settlement occurred in the 1830s along the Collins River Valley, then in Warren County. According to tradition, Beersheba Porter Cain "discovered" a chalybeate (iron water) spring while visiting the valley in 1833. The Cains purchased land and built a residence. In 1839, the same year that Beersheba Springs was incorporated, George Smartt opened a tavern and the community slowly began to develop a reputation as a resort and health spa. Beersheba Springs Historic District was listed in the National Register in 1980 (Site #18).

Enough settlement and development had occurred in this section of the Cumberland Plateau that residents petitioned for the formation of a new county. Grundy County, the seventy-eighth county in the state, was formed from parts of Coffee and Warren counties in 1844. The newly-established county was named in honor of Felix Grundy, a politician and major landowner in the region. Five commissioners were appointed and Beersheba Springs, the only incorporated community in the county, was selected as the county seat.

Altamont, situated along the route from McMinnville to Jasper, was the most central point of the county. Through the efforts of General Adrian Northcutt, one of the first county commissioners, the county seat was moved to Altamont in around 1848. Court was held in a log building that originally was Adrian Northcutt's house. The log building thought to have been used as the first courthouse is included as part of the National Register nomination for the H. B. Northcutt House (NR 1980, Site #21).

Settlement had occurred in and around Tracy City by the 1840s. One early resident, Benjamin Wooten, found coal deposits and began some small-scale mining. The mine would become known as Wooten No. 1. Wooten's extraction of coal marked the beginning of a major industry in Grundy County. Lack of a good transportation system meant that the first coal mined in the county would be used only locally for blacksmithing and home use. Statewide, only 558 tons were mined in 1840, but in 1917, a peak production year, almost seven million tons would be produced. During its most productive years during World War I, Grundy County mines yielded between 500,000-600,000 tons annually.

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Land from Marion County was annexed to Grundy County in the 1850s, thus extending the county's boundaries south. Altamont, incorporated in 1854, was no longer the central point of the county, but it remained the county seat. The stage line was still a major form of transportation, but the idea of linking it to railroad lines traveling south was being initiated. Around this time, substantial development was occurring in both the north and south portions of the county.

Northern development centered on the resort of Beersheba Springs. A road was built from Altamont to Beersheba Springs and John Armfield, a financier and slave trader, purchased the tavern and several other buildings in the resort town. He built a hotel around the tavern and erected several cottages. Between 1858 and 1860, Beersheba Springs enjoyed its most prosperous years as a summer resort. It was considered as the site of the University of the South, but financial inducements and free land in Franklin County resulted in the University's being located at Sewanee. However, in 1859, Beersheba Springs was the meeting place of the southern bishops who were drawing up the University's charter. Armfield sold his property for \$44,000 to the Beersheba Springs Company in 1860. The company had fourteen investors and was organized to promote and develop the resort.

In the southern part of Grundy County, the mining industry was beginning to develop in earnest. Between 1851 and 1854, the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad had expanded its lines south toward Chattanooga, making rail transportation of coal a possibility. In 1850, William Bilbo, a Nashville attorney, purchased coal fields (including Wooten's) in and around Grundy County. He then traveled to New York City where he succeeded in persuading investors to help finance a coal mining company in Grundy County. In 1852, Samuel Tracy, J. Bridges, John Daw, Nicholas Fesedder, and William Warner, all from New York, along with several Tennessee investors, chartered the Sewanee Mining Company. The intent of the new company was to supply coal to southern cities so that they would no longer be dependent on expensive northern coal from Pennsylvania. In 1856, Sewanee Mining Company ran its first railroad branch line from Cowan to its fields in Franklin County. However, the amount and quality of coal able to be extracted from this mine was not sufficient for industrial use, so the railroad line was extended ten miles further until it reached Wooten's land. By 1858, the line was completed and the first coal from these mines was shipped. This was the first effort to organize major commercial coal mining in Tennessee.

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While the coal companies were continuing the development and expansion of the mining industry, the land near the mines was beginning to be settled. Tracy City developed as a result of the need for houses and retail stores to serve the miners. In the early twentieth century, some mining companies would build entire towns for their employees.

Sewanee Mining Company operated only until 1860. At that time, the financially unsound company was purchased by Tennessee investors. Arthur St. Clair Colyar became president of the reorganized company, now called the Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company. As new rail lines were built, providing quick and efficient transportation for coal, the mining industry continued to expand until the onset of the Civil War. During the War, the mines and railroad were taken over by U. S. Army troops. Production by the company resumed soon after the war and because railroad cars were hard to obtain, the company began to manufacture them. A blacksmith shop, machine shop, sawmill, and foundry were operated by the company. The first large-scale mining operations in Grundy County were about to begin.

At this time, labor for the mines was supplied by local men who were paid \$.75 - \$1.00 per day for a sixteen-hour day. A few individuals contracted with the mining company to supply coal for a per ton price. In 1867 the use of convict labor, at a cost of \$.40 per day, was initiated. Guards were hired by the state, but paid by the mining company. Convict labor was also used to build and operate coke ovens, an enterprise begun in 1868. Coke was first produced from crude pits in the ground; 5,377 bushels were processed during the first year. The coke was used by the mining company itself, the railroads, and in the iron industry. In 1873, the first coke blast furnace and several batteries of coke ovens were constructed in Tracy City. Some of these early ovens still exist and are included in the nomination (Site #13). Coke production reached 16,160 tons in 1875 and would be quadrupled within five years. Three hundred free laborers and 150 convicts worked the mines and ovens in Grundy and Marion counties. (This does not include contract labor.) Approximately 250 of these men worked in the mines. By the mid-1870s, Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company was purchasing more coal lands to add to the 10,000 acres they already owned. New mines were opened and railroad branch lines were built. Almost fifty cars of coal were shipped each day, a tremendous increase from the four cars per day that were shipped in 1866 and twelve cars per day that were shipped in 1869. The company now owned 120 coke ovens, miles of railroad track, locomotives, and cars. Tracy City had grown into a

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thriving community of almost 1,000 residents and had its own stores, schools, and churches.

Although in the 1840s a group of Swiss organized the "Tennessee Colonization Gesellschaft" to try and establish colonies on the Cumberland Plateau and actually began four of them, it was not until 1869 with the establishment of Gruetli that a permanent Swiss colony in Grundy County was begun. Under the encouragement of John Armfield, Captain Eugen Plumacher, the Commissioner of Emigration to the United States; John Hitz, the Consul General for the Switzerland; and Peter Staub, a Swiss emigrant living in Knoxville, purchased 15,000 acres of land south of Beersheba Springs. Poor economic and social conditions in Europe caused many of the German-speaking Swiss to emigrate to the United States and start a new life. Gruetli, named after a Swiss city, was divided into 100-acre farm lots and land was left for a school and church to be built. Nearly 100 Swiss families had arrived in the county by the late 1870s. Emigrants included farmers, artisans, tradesmen, and professionals. Many of the emigrants were disappointed with their new country, having been deceived by promotional broadsides published in Europe. Those who stayed drew up a constitution and elected officers. Anton Stoker, whose circa 1869 house is included in the nomination, was elected the first treasurer (Site #6). Farming of grain, dairying, and cheese-making were the principal occupations of the early Swiss colonists. In the 1870s, Christian Marugg, who had returned to Switzerland to encourage others to emigrate, was the community's postmaster and storekeeper. Christian established the Marugg Company in 1873; later his son Martin managed the business. The firm imported and manufactured farm implements, primarily scythes. Established in Gruetli, Marugg Company later moved to Tracy City. The circa 1904 Marugg Company building in Tracy City is included in the nomination (Site #17).

Agriculture was such a significant factor in the colony's life that an agricultural association or farmers' union (the Gruetli Agricultural Society or Landwirtschaftsverein) was begun and met regularly until circa 1917. Covering topics as diverse as farming, education, and fairs, the association's minutes were written in German. School lessons (until circa 1900) and church services were conducted in German. The house of Anton Stoker was used as a meeting place for the Society and for other colony gatherings. Christian Marugg was the treasurer of the association in 1872. Both a community pasture and a community store were established in the 1870s.

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By 1880, 227 Swiss were residing in Grundy County, the greatest number of Swiss in any one county in Tennessee. (However, by 1890, the Swiss population in Grundy County had dropped.) Because Gruetli was located on the stage road to Chattanooga, the Stagecoach Inn, begun in the 1870s and completed circa 1884, was built by Christian Marugg. The two story frame building was used as a hotel, dance hall, and town meeting place. Now used as a residence, it is included in the nomination (Site #5).

In the southwest part of Grundy County, along a narrow section of the Cumberland Plateau that overlooks the Elk River Valley, John Moffat had purchased 1,146 acres of forest land in 1870. Soon a post office was opened at Moffat's Station, located on a branch line of the Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company. In 1876 the "Moffat Collegiate and Normal Institute" was incorporated to train teachers. The school never developed, but in 1882 a proposal to establish a Chautauqua in Tennessee finally brought a school to "Mont Eagle." Donations of 100 acres of land for the center of the Assembly, 1,000 acres of forest land nearby (since sold), and \$5,000.00 each from John Moffat and John H. Inman, the president of the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company (TCI), were incentives that made it possible for the educational complex to be built in Grundy County. The first meeting of the Assembly was held in July 1883 with 1,000 visitors camping in tents or staying at the original Monteagle Hotel. The trustees of the Assembly eventually purchased the hotel and additional land and cities started to erect cottages to house their teachers during the summer sessions. Later private individuals would construct their own cottages. The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly Historic District, comprising the original Assembly grounds, was listed in the National Register in 1982 (Site #20).

The county population had reached 4,592 by 1880, nearly double its 1850 population. To meet the civic needs of a growing county, the county commissioners decided to erect a substantial brick courthouse in 1885. Over the years, Grundy County continued to add onto this courthouse in Altamont as more space was needed. Also in 1885, Harris B. Northcutt had his two story brick residence built near the courthouse. Harris, son of General Adrian Northcutt, took over his family's store in Altamont. The store was a focal point for many activities in the small town. The Northcutt family continued to be influential in the develop-

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ment of Grundy County for many years. The H. B. Northcutt House was listed in the National Register in 1982 (Site #21).

In 1882 John H. Inman acquired Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company and reorganized it as the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company (TCI). Alfred Shook, who had moved to Tracy City after the Civil War, was made general manager of the company and Einar Nathurst was made superintendent. Shook became a prominent citizen of Tracy City, managing the coal company and providing the community with a school. His circa 1890 residence in Tracy City is included in the nomination (Site #15). The newly-reorganized TCI soon acquired Southern States Coal, Iron, and Land Company and the Pratt Coal and Iron Company of Alabama.

Because of their lower wage scale, convict laborers were given more work in the mines, thus eliminating many jobs for free laborers. Partially as a result of this, a local chapter of the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor was organized in Tracy City in 1884. All free miners were encouraged to enroll and 400-500 miners did. TCI never recognized the national organization, but did informally acknowledge the local union. In fact, TCI came to dominate the local to such an extent that after four years the Knights of Labor asked the Tracy City union to surrender its charter.

By 1890, Tracy City had grown to over 1,200 people and Grundy County had a population of 6,345. Much of this growth was due to the expansion of the coal and coke industries. TCI had built 130 more coke ovens at Lone Rock in 1883 and was now utilizing more convict labor than free labor. In 1892 the free miners revolted, released the convicts, and put them on trains going out of the county. The convicts were soon returned to the mines and it was not until January 1896 that the use of convict labor ceased. Soon after this, both the first mines opened and the 1873 coke ovens ceased operating. The ovens constructed in 1883 are included in the nomination as part of the Grundy Lakes Historic District (Site #11).

After the Knights of Labor local disbanded in the 1880s, no other similar labor organization existed in Grundy County until 1898 when a local chapter of the United Mine Workers of America was established in Tracy City. This time the coal company refused to recognize the local. The national ordered a strike that lasted 47 days and resulted in a contract between the local and TCI. The contract provided for an advance of wages and recognition of a closed shop.

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The turn of the century was a time of much development in Tracy City and Grundy County. Between 1890 and 1910, Tracy City had acquired a new school, a telephone system, electricity, a hospital, a cannery, a saw and planing mill, and a bottling works. Grundy County had grown to 8,322 residents in 1910. Samuel Werner began a saw and planing mill in Tracy City in 1890. Werner Lumber Company was, for many years, a principal source of employment in the county. The Marugg Company moved from Gruetli to Tracy City in 1891 (Site #17). In Altamont, L. V. Woodlee, a state representative and prominent lawyer, completed his residence near the courthouse and a new county jail was completed. Woodlee's circa 1900 house is included in the nomination (Site #4). Greeter Lumber was an important industry in this part of the county. The mines were continuing to expand production and soon the company towns of Palmer and Coalmont would be built.

In 1902, Local #510 of the United Mine Workers of America constructed a union building, Miners' Hall, in Tracy City. The building is included in the nomination (Site #12). Union meetings were held in the second story rooms and the first story was occupied by retail stores.

The miners wanted to renegotiate their contract in 1904, but in 1905, when yearly coal production had reached 364,452 tons, TCI closed their Tracy City ovens and mines in Tennessee and moved their operations to Birmingham Alabama. E. L. Hampton, a railroad agent who owned and operated other mines, leased the TCI mines and organized the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company (chartered in Alabama). The new company refused to recognize the closed shop policy of the union and would not hire union members. In August 1905, labor problems resulted in two miners being slain and the National Guard were sent to Tracy City to restore peace. Governor John I. Cox also came to Miners' Hall to speak to the miners and company officials. Not until 1906 was a new contract signed. Shortly after these incidents, the local disbanded and it was not until World War I that labor succeeded in reorganizing miners in Grundy County. Hampton's circa 1896 residence is part of the nomination (Site #16).

E. L. Hampton, F. B. Martin, and C. Hidenburg had organized the Sewanee Coal and Coke Company in 1900. By 1903 the company (now called Sewanee Coal, Coke, and Land Company) had opened mines near present-day Coalmont. Coke ovens, included in the nomination, and a washing plant were constructed circa 1904 (Site #7). The company was reorganized in 1908

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and was then called Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company (of Coalmont). John E. Patton, whose circa 1904 house is included in the nomination, was the president of the company, a director of the Coalmont Bank, and the first postmaster of the town (Site #8). Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company built and owned residences, businesses, and community buildings in the new town of Coalmont. However, Coalmont was not a closed company town and miners could build their own residences. New rail lines, vital to the success of any mining or coking industry, were constructed between the mines and the town.

In 1908, E. L. Hampton was also president of Nunley Ridge Coal Company, which formally merged with Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company in 1912. The advent of World War I caused an increase in the demand for coal and coke, and by 1918 Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company had purchased or leased 23,000 acres of coal land. The closed company town of Palmer was begun in around 1917. It was comprised of approximately 300 houses, a commissary, a theater, a post office, two churches, and an elementary school. Additional railroad lines were laid connecting Palmer to the mines and to Coalmont.

While the mines were the dominant industry in the county, the tourism and resort industries in Beersheba Springs and Monteagle continued to be active. Highway 41, a major transportation route through the county, allowed for easy access to one popular attraction, Wonder Cave. First opened to the public in 1898 by R. M. Payne, in 1900, an entrance building to the scenic cave was constructed. J. J. Raulston was the owner and proprietor of the cave in the early twentieth century. In 1907 he erected his own residence, which was also used as a visitor center, adjacent to the cave. The buildings are included in the nomination as the Wonder Cave Historic District (Site #10).

An interesting development occurred in the county in 1909-1910 when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints located in northeastern Grundy County at Northcutt Cove. Their small frame chapel is the oldest Mormon church in Tennessee and one of the oldest in the southeastern United States. For many years, it was the headquarters of the Eastern Tennessee conference of the Church. The chapel was listed in the National Register in 1980 (Site #22).

For many years the residents of Grundy County had argued over whether the county seat should be moved to Tracy City, the largest city in the county or remain in Altamont. In 1913, a branch of the county court

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was established at Tracy City. It included the sheriff, circuit court clerk, trustee, a small jail area, and, eventually, the county garage. The county court clerk, registrar of deeds, superintendent of education, and jail were located in Altamont. (This arrangement lasted until 1958 when all offices were moved to Altamont.) Tracy City was incorporated in 1915 and Laager, originally called Henley's Switch, was incorporated in around 1920; it would later become part of Gruetli-Laager. Palmer had grown to over 1,000 residents. In Monteagle, the Reverend Drs. W. S. Claiborne and Mercer P. Logan had organized the DuBose Memorial Church Training School in 1921. The school was the first Episcopal institution in the United States to train older men for the ministry. A new building combining administrative, educational, religious, and lodging facilities was built in 1924. The school was listed in the National Register in 1980 (Site #19).

The first strip mining in Tennessee occurred in Grundy County some time after World War I, although it was not done on a large scale. Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company was still expanding and opening new mines in the 1920s. The United Mine Workers had again organized a local chapter of the union. This time the local lasted until 1924 when a twenty-seven month strike over wages resulted in the breakup of the Union. After the National Recovery Act was implemented in the 1930s, giving workers the right to collective bargaining, a new local of the United Mine Workers was organized at Palmer. In 1932 a training school for labor leaders was begun in Grundy County. Located between Tracy City and Monteagle, Highlander Folk School became nationally known and was an active institution into the 1960s.

The Depression hit Grundy County hard. It was one of eleven counties in the United States that was studied because of its extremely high relief rate. From December 1933 until February 1935, 72% of the work force in Grundy County was on relief. County government had almost ceased to function during this era. Until the 1930s, mining, agriculture, and lumbering were the principal sources of employment in the county, but by 1935 only the mines at Palmer were open (on a part-time basis). Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company was the only company still manufacturing coke. A few truck miners still were working, but less than 600 men were employed in mining, down from a high of nearly 2,000 men in 1904. Some individuals found work at a stone quarry (near Tracy City) that was operating. Most of the county's unemployed were miners and many of these individuals began (or returned to) farming. The new farms were generally small truck farms. Gruetli was the most produc-

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tive farming area in the county, primarily because of the small size of the farms and the intensive farming methods practiced by the Swiss. Although 90% of the county land area was comprised of timber, much of this was second growth and not suitable for industry. Still, four mills were operating in Grundy County in 1936. Werner's, once a major employer, would close before the end of the decade. The resort industry was no longer profitable and the hotel at Beersheba Springs closed. The county population decreased from 9,743 in 1920 to 9,717 in 1930.

On the positive side, by the 1930s a branch of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad and over 70 miles of roads traversed the county, including main state highways. One high school and thirty-six elementary schools were in use, although over half of them were two room schools. Much of the county land was being promoted for recreational use. Waterfalls, fishing, lake swimming, and picnicking facilities were accessible and inexpensive. Grundy State Forest occupied some of the county land. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps were located near Tracy City and Palmer. They built Grundy Lakes, fire towers, forest roads, and trails. Grundy Lakes, adjacent to several batteries of coke ovens, is a part of the nomination (Site #11).

In the late 1940s, State Highway 150 was completed from Tracy City to Jasper. For a short period of time, the Tennessee Valley Authority's use of coal to generate hydroelectric power resulted in an increased demand for coal. The demand for coal and coke eventually decreased and many of the mines closed. The few that remained open became mechanized, requiring less labor. Strip mining began near Coalmont in the 1950s. I-24 opened in 1962, causing many potential tourists, on their way to distant vacation spots south of Grundy County, to by-pass the area where they had once stopped overnight. As mining waned, new small industries arrived in the county. Recreational tourism in the county gradually increased and, in the early 1970s, the South Cumberland Recreation Area was formed. Today, much of the county land is used for outdoor recreation. The resorts at Beersheba and Monteagle are active and new hotels have been built to accommodate travelers. After declining for thirty years, the county population (1980 figures) has grown to 13,559.

PLANNING, PRESERVATION, AND RESTORATION ACTIVITY

The Grundy County MRA was written as a result of the comprehensive survey of the county that was completed in 1985. Eligible properties

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were determined from the survey report and visits to the county. Grundy is comprised of small towns and farms that are surrounded by forests. Although the possibility for an historic district in Palmer or Coalmont was explored, no area surveyed retained sufficient integrity to be considered as a residential historic district. Both the Wonder Cave Historic District and Grundy Lakes Historic District are small, thematically related areas (Sites #10 and #11). Survey information and information in the nomination can be utilized into the review and planning process of the Tennessee Historical Commission and other state and/or federal agencies.

SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

Four residences, one a part of a complex, are nominated under criterion C for their architectural importance. The Colonel A. M. Shook House in Tracy City is an excellent example of Second Empire design as seen in its slate mansard roof and tower, arched dormers and windows, and wrought iron trim. Built in the 1890s, the house is also significant in the area of industry (Site #15, see below). Also located in Tracy City is the Frank White House (Site #14). This late nineteenth century residence is an eclectic mix of styles. Corbeled brick chimneys, stone window lintels and sills, a sidelighted entrance, and an elaborate, turned wood porch are a few of the interesting architectural details on this house. Both the circa 1904 John Patton House in Coalmont and the circa 1907 J. J. Raulston House (part of the Wonder Cave District) are significant as examples of early twentieth century Craftsmen style residences constructed of log (Sites #8 and #10). They are characterized by steeply-pitched roofs, front porches, and tall chimneys. In addition, both houses are historically significant (see below).

SIGNIFICANCE: ENGINEERING

Three stone bridges are being nominated under criterion C. Located over small creeks, all three were built by R. M. Crick between the 1890s and 1912. The stone barrel vault bridges are similar in style and size and are excellent examples of this simple bridge type (Sites #1, #2, and #9).

SIGNIFICANCE: INDUSTRY

Three sets of coke ovens, two in or near Tracy City and one in Coalmont, are being nominated under criterion A. Coal mining and coke pro-

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duction began in the 1850s and grew to become an important industry in the county. The companies employed many people, developed railroads, and built towns. One set of Tracy City coke ovens are the first known to be constructed in the county (Site #13). The ovens in the Grundy Lake Historic District were built in the 1880s and those in Coalmont in the 1900s (Sites #11 and #7). The Colonel A. M. Shook House, the John Patton House, and the E. L. Hampton House are significant under criterion B because of their association with individuals who developed the coal and coke industries (Sites #15, #8, and #16). Shook was one of the original officers of the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company and John Patton headed the Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company of Coalmont; Hampton operated several mining companies.

In addition, the Marugg Company in Tracy City is nominated, in part, because of its importance in the area of industry (Site #17). The company manufactured handles for scythes, which were widely distributed through a mail order business. Marugg Company is also significant under the theme of commerce (see below).

SIGNIFICANCE: RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Wonder Cave Entrance Building, Cave, and J. J. Raulston House form a district that is significant under criterion A as an example of an early twentieth century tourist or recreation facility (Site #10). First opened in the 1890s, an entrance building was constructed in 1900 and the house, which also served as a visitors' center, was built seven years later. Until the interstate by-passed the cave in the 1960s, it was a popular tourist attraction for vacationers staying in Grundy or those travelling south.

SIGNIFICANCE: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

The L. V. Woodlee House in Altamont was built in around 1900 and is being nominated under criterion B (Site #4). Levi Vernon Woodlee was a locally-prominent lawyer and politician who served in the General Assembly and on the county board of education.

SIGNIFICANCE: EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT AND OTHER: ASSOCIATED WITH AN ETHNIC HERITAGE

The Stoker-Stampfli House, built circa 1869, is nominated under criterion A because of its association with the Swiss Colony at Gruetli

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(Site #6). Gruetli was a successful attempt by Swiss emigrants to establish a community in Tennessee. The Stoker-Stampfli House served as a meeting place for the local agricultural society which played an interesting role in the development of the colony. Descendants of the early Swiss emigrants continue to reside in the house.

The Stagecoach Inn also played a significant role in the development of the Swiss settlement (Criterion A) (Site #5). Built circa 1875, the building was used as a hotel, dance hall, and community center for area residents. The inn is also important in the area of commerce (see below).

SIGNIFICANCE: TRANSPORTATION

A portion of the Stagecoach Road is nominated under Criterion A as a good representation of an important transportation corridor over the mountain (Site #3). The nominated portion is the most intact section of the road.

SIGNIFICANCE: SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

During the Depression Grundy County suffered extremely high levels of unemployment. One of the programs created by the federal government to help alleviate unemployment resulted in the creation of Grundy Lakes. Built by personnel of the CCC, the lakes are nominated under criterion A as an example of an important relief program in the county (Site #11). While not yet fifty years old, the lakes, as part of the Grundy Lakes Historic District, have exceptional significance as the best representation of the federal governments' attempt to alleviate unemployment and provide recreational facilities in Grundy County.

SIGNIFICANCE: COMMERCE

Two properties are being nominated under criteria A because of their commercial importance in Grundy County. The Stagecoach Inn in Gruetli was used as a hotel, dance hall, and town meeting place (Site #5). It is a good example of a late nineteenth century commercial enterprise located on a major travel route. The Marugg Company was founded in Gruetli by Christian Marugg (Site #17). By 1904 the company had moved into their new building in Tracy City. It was an early mail order firm that supplied and manufactured farm implements to Grundy County farmers.

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SIGNIFICANCE: OTHER: LABOR UNIONS

Miners' Hall in Tracy City is being nominated under criterion A because of its association with the local chapter of the United Mine Workers of America (UMW) (Site #12). The 1902 commercial building was used as the headquarters of the union and as a retail store. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, unions attempted to organize the miners and negotiate or strike for better pay and improved working conditions. In 1898 the UMW succeeded in establishing a local in Grundy County and soon after built this building, the only known extant historic building associated with the union in the county.

See the individual survey forms on these properties for additional information. Several properties have already been listed on the National Register for their significance in the areas of architecture, recreation, education, religion, community planning, politics, and commerce. See item number 6 on the National Register form (Sites #s 18-23).

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Grundy County MRA
State TENNESSEE

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Coalmont Coke Ovens

Determined Eligible

Keeper

Date/Signature

A. Schley 3/30/87
A. Schley 4/1/87

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION Attest

2. Firescald Creek Stone
Arch Bridge

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

A. Schley 4/1/87

3. Grundy Lakes Historic
District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

A. Schley 4/1/87

4. Hampton, E.L., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

A. Schley 4/1/87

5. Hickory Creek Stone
Arch Bridge

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

A. Schley 4/1/87

6. Marugg Company

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

A. Schley 4/1/87

7. Miner's Hall

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

A. Schley 4/1/87

8. Patton, John E., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

A. Schley 4/1/87

9. Scott Creek Stone
Arch Bridge

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

A. Schley 4/1/87

10. Shook, Col. A.M., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

A. Schley 4/1/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

2/24/87

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Grundy County MRA
State TENNESSEE

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Stagecoach Inn

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 4/2/87

Attest

12. Stagecoach Road

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 4/1/87

Attest

13. Stoker-Stempfli
Farm

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 4/2/87

Attest

14. Tracy City Coke
Ovens

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Ann Schlager 4/2/87

Attest

15. White, Frank, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 4/1/87

Attest

16. Wonder Cave Historic
District

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 4/1/87

Attest

17. Woodlee, L.V., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum 4/2/87

Attest

18. Coalmont Bank Building

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byrum

Attest

3/14/91

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest