

Alabama Register Property Information

RECEIVED

APR 28 1995



Ala. Historical Commission

Added 6-30-95

1. Name

historic THE GRIFFITH HOME

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1204 COUNTY HIGHWAY 25

city, town GUNTERVILLE XX vicinity of ARAB 8 MILES

state ALABAMA county BLOUNT

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" 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 LOUISE WAID AND JAMES A GRIFFITH

street & number 1204 COUNTY HIGHWAY 25

city, town GUNTERVILLE X vicinity of ARAB state ALABAMA

35976

5. Please use space below to sketch floor plan/site plan.

SEE ATTACHED

6. 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

The Griffith Home is a two story (2 above 2) frame "I" house with a one story wing in back. The home was built in 1851 by the great grandfather of the current owner. The interior woodwork and trim of the house shows rustic Federal and Greek Revival influences. Originally an L-shaped back porch ran across the back of the house and along the ell wing. In 1885, the kitchen (originally separate from the house) was torn down and replaced by a second kitchen, created by enclosing the rear portion of the long back porch.

The most significant feature of the house is the original 19th-century graining and marbelizing found throughout much of the interior. The home's appearance today is close to the original. There was major repair done in 1945 that saw new wood veneer, windows, chimneys and solid rock foundation. In 1957, there was renovation adding upstairs and downstairs bathrooms, and converting the back porch to a dining room. In 1975, the chimney in the master bedroom was replaced with brick.

On the front there are 8 windows (4 up and 4 down) double hung with 9 panes. There is a 8 x 12 foot 2 story porch on the front with wood railing cut in an urn pattern. The double doors both up and downstairs onto the porch are grained to resemble oak. Both have sidelights and transom.

The foundation was originally composed of rock piers with lattice between. Today, there is rock fill between the piers. The original stone chimneys were replaced by brick (following the form of the earlier chimneys) in 1945.

Behind the house is a small 4 room frame house built in 1984 on the site of the original kitchen. To the right is a smoke house built in 1925 replacing the original. To the left (east) of the house is a 1930 barn that has been converted into a 4 room frame house in 1985. Behind the converted barn is a frame garaged and storage building built in 1985.

THE GRIFFITH HOME

Guntersville (Arab vic.)

Blount Co.

Dating from 1851, the Griffith Home is a two-story frame "I" house with a one-story rear wing forming an ell. It is located on 3 acres of property at the outskirts of the Summit community of Blount County. Built by Robert Griffin Griffith (1801-1854), it is the only antebellum home remaining in the community and one of the few left in the county.

The Griffith House is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register under Criterion C, architecture. It depicts a folk style common to this period, with rustic Federal and Greek Revival influences seen in the two-story center porch and the interior detailing. This addition of stylistic detailing to a common house type appeared in homes of the more affluent of the era. The most significant feature of the house is the original 19th century graining and marbelizing found throughout much of the interior.

The house has been maintained very close to its original condition. In 1885, a portion of the L-shaped rear porch, which ran along the ell wing, was enclosed to create a kitchen. Major repairs were undertaken in 1945, when new wood veneer and windows replaced deteriorated ones, rock fill replaced lattice between the rock foundation piers, and the rock chimneys were replaced with brick ones. In 1957, upstairs and downstairs bathrooms were added, and the remaining portion of the back porch was enclosed to create a dining room. The remaining rock chimney in the master bedroom was replaced with brick in 1975.

There are several outbuildings on the property, though none of these dates from the original structure. A four-room frame guest house was built behind the main structure in 1984, on the site of the original kitchen. Adjacent to this is a smokehouse built in 1925 to replace the original. On the east side of the house is a 1930 barn which was converted to a four-room house in 1985. A frame garage and storage building was constructed behind the barn in 1985.

The Griffith Home has been owned and maintained by the descendants of the Griffith family since its construction.

8. Major Bibliographical References

HERITAGE OF BLOUNT COUNTY

LOUISE GRIFFITH WAID (INTERVIEW)

9. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3 ACRES

Quadrangle name BROOKSVILLE

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification County Revenue Commission Office map # 08-01-09

A lot 300'x400' south of right of way of county highway 25

Section 31 Township 9S Range 2E in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$

10. Form Prepared By

name/title C, Warren Weaver County Historian-Archivist

organization Blount County Historical Society

date 4/27/95

street & number 220 2nd Ave E (P O Box 45)

telephone 625-4892 ext 3120

city or town Oneonta

state Alabama 35121

11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form. (enclosed)

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form to:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130-0900

7. 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 type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1851 - 1995

Builder/Architect

ROBERT GRIFFIN GRIFFITH

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1851 the Griffith house is the only antebellum house remaining in the old community known as Summit and one of the few left in the county. The builder, Robert Griffin Griffith's (1801-1854) ancestors were born in Wales England. He no doubt found the beautiful hill and valley country reminiscent of his homeland. The Griffith family have been prominent farmers and merchants owning and occupying the home since it's construction. Current owners are Louise Griffith Waid and James Griffith. Mrs. Waid lives in the house alone and having no heirs she is concerned what will become of the old home after she is gone.

Alabama Historical Commission
P.O. Box 300900
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
July 24, 1995

Contact: Susan Enzweiler
(334)242-3184
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Griffith Home Listed in Alabama Register

The Griffith Home in Blount County, Alabama, has recently been added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

Built by Robert Griffith, it is the only antebellum home remaining in the community and one of the few left in the county. The structure is a two-story, frame "I" house depicting a folk style common to the antebellum period. It has rustic Federal and Greek Revival influences. The Griffith Home has been maintained close to its original condition by descendants of the Griffith family.

The Alabama Register is a prestigious statewide listing of buildings, structures, objects, and districts that possess architectural and historical significance. It is administered by the Alabama Historical Commission, the official state agency responsible for helping Alabamians preserve their historic resources.

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the Southern Democrat
Advertiser-Glean
Sand Mountain Reporter
Arab Tribune
Bham News

Bham Post Herald