

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED
JUN 24 1991
NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name CARSON, JOHN, HOUSE
other names/site number BT-M-12

2. Location

street & number 205 South Main na not for publication
city, town Morgantown na vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Butler code 031 zip code 42261

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N.A.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan Date 6-18-91
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. 7/26/91

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Metal/Tinother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John Carson House is a two-story, frame, asymmetrical plan, Queen Anne style house located in Morgantown, the seat of Butler County. Butler County is located on the eastern edge of the western coalfields section of the Pennyryle Region of Kentucky. Morgantown is located approximately 22 miles northwest of Bowling Green and 44 miles southeast of Owensboro on a ridge adjacent to the Green River. Of the 318 historic properties surveyed in Butler County, two are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: the Superintendent's House at the Woodbury Lock and Dam and the Stone Ice House on Muddy Creek. In Morgantown, no properties are currently listed (the Butler County Jail was listed in 1984 and subsequently demolished).

The John Carson House which faces east is essentially a tri-gabled el house in form with three rooms on each floor, each connected to a small stairhall. An original one-story, shed-roofed, frame addition extends across the rear of the main block. The house is entered from an elaborately decorated one-story, front porch which fills the space at the intersection of the el and continues half way across the first story. The main parlor located in the section of the house projecting toward the street is enhanced by a one-story, shed-roofed bay featuring a wide one-over-one window. A similar one-story, shed-roofed space is extended from the dining room on the south elevation.

The exterior of the house features numerous decorative features which set it apart from houses of this period in Butler County. Wooden fishscale shingles are used to cover the three projecting gables and the gabled porch. Fishscale shingles are also used to articulate a four-foot band horizontal space between the first and second-story windows. The entry porch is the most elaborate feature of the house. Turned posts support scrollwork brackets which utilize bulls eye motifs and with the gable a stylized palladian window in front of the fishscale wall.

The roof of the Carson House is comprised of square tin shingles, painted red. Tin is also used to cover the ceilings on the first floor. The foundation of the house is of cut sandstone which was also used to construct a low stone wall on South Main and Porter Street sides of the property.

To the rear of the main house are two outbuildings. One of these is a one-story frame, two-room building originally used as servants quarters and now used as a rental residential unit. Built at the same time as the main house, it is covered with weatherboarding and has a metal roof. Adjacent to it is a later one-story concrete block garage/storage building which is non-contributing due to age.

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Carson, John, House
Morgantown, Butler County, Kentucky

The Carson House retains a remarkably high degree of integrity. Very few changes have been made to the house over the years. Nyla Hammons Morgan, the current owner, and her parents who purchased the house in 1934 have retained the historic character of the house and have restored some original interior features.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance

1890
1890 - 1933

Significant Dates

1890

Cultural Affiliation

N.A.

Significant Person

Carson, John, M.

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The John Carson House is significant at the local level under Criteria B and C in the areas of commerce and architecture. Under Criterion C, the John Carson House is significant as the outstanding Queen Anne style house in Morgantown and Butler County. Under Criterion B, the house is significant for its association with John Carson, the founder and first president of the John M. Carson Bank of Morgantown, the leading financial institution in Morgantown at the turn of the twentieth century.

Morgantown became Butler County's county seat when the county was formed in 1810. The community was less important than the river ports of Rochester and Woodbury throughout the nineteenth century. In the 1890s, Morgantown began a period of slow growth that resulted in it becoming the most important community in the county. Butler County as a whole continued to experience population growth in the 1890s reaching an all time high of 15,896 by 1900. For the most part, the people continued to live in rural areas and were involved in agriculture. The domestic buildings they built during this time reflected traditional values with very few incorporating national stylistic concepts.

John Carson's decision to locate in Morgantown away from his family's agricultural holdings in the Big Bend Region of northern Butler County was a critical step in the growth of Morgantown. Carson and the Carson Bank played a leading role in the local economy until the bank collapsed during the Great Depression in 1933.

Carson built his stylish house on South Main Street in 1890 incorporating many of the features found in the large houses being built in Bowling Green and Nashville, two nearby urban areas. More than any house in Morgantown and Butler County, Carson's House reflected popular national styles of the time. The size and decorative flourish of the house suggest the attainment that its first owner enjoyed for over forty years.

In Morgantown, a small city of approximately 1,400 people, twenty-six properties were surveyed during the 1986 comprehensive survey. Of the four commercial properties, two churches, and twenty domestic buildings surveyed, the John Carson House is the most reflective of national styles. Although Morgantown experienced growth during the turn of the century, most of the new buildings were built along traditional lines. Among the 292 buildings documented in the county outside of Morgantown, none were found to have comparable detailing and form to the John Carson House.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bratcher, Bennett, History of Butler County, Butler County Sesquicentennial, Inc., 1960.

Kentucky Heritage Council, Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory: Butler County Survey Forms prepared by Dr. Albert Petersen, Department of Geography, Western Kentucky University.

Lipscomb, Alexander B., The Commercial History of the Southern States, John P. Morton & Co., 1903.

Martin, Charles, The Pennyriple Cultural Landscape Planning Study, Kentucky Heritage Council, 1988.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 1 6 5 2 7 9 4 0 4 1 1 9 6 0 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

Morgantown Quad

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area of the John M. Carson House includes the current city lot # 65, measuring 130 feet on South Main and 126½ feet along Carson Street. This rectangular parcel includes the John M. Carson House and the two outbuildings discussed in the description.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the area that has been historically associated with the building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Polsgrove, Historic Sites Program Manager

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date March, 1991

street & number 677 Comanche Trail telephone 502/564-7005

city or town Frankfort state Kentucky zip code 40601

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number PHOTOS Page _____

Carson, John, House
Morgantown, Butler County, Kentucky

For All Photos:

Name: Carson, John, House
Photographer: Roger Givens
Negative Location: Kentucky Heritage Council
677 Comanche Trail, Frankfort, Ky.
Date Taken: April, 1991

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>View or Elevation</u>
1	Main Street & Porter Street sides, looking southwest
2	Main Street and south elevation, looking northwest
3	Rear, showing outbuildings, looking east