

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW						
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION			
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE			
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE			
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN			
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER			
X1800-1899	XCOMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	$\mathbf X$ transportation			
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)			
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1847 and earlier	BUILDER/ARC	HITECT Unknown				

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Munday's Landing, a log house probably given its present Greek Revival form circa 1847 by Jeremiah Vardeman Munday, was a well-known tavern & hotel which served river travelers and travelers on the Lexington-Harrodsburg turnpike. A ferry crossed the Kentucky River in front of the house. It was also one of the busiest landings on the Kentucky River. Steam packets put in to Munday's Landing for passengers, freight and wood supply. It also served as the southern terminus for several packet lines out of Cincinnati.

Munday's Landing was the home of Thomas Munday, who settled here sometime before 1800. Munday built a large log house on the hill overlooking the river. He operated a boatyard and in 1817, he purchased the ferry below his house. Munday operated a prosperous business. Munday's Landing was ideally located at the beginning of navigation on the Kentucky River. Upstream a sandbar formed by the Shawnee Run Stream blocked further navigation by steamboat. Therefore if anyone wanted to ship anything from the Bluegrass section of the State it almost had to be done from Munday's Landing. The river was the most economical route for cash crops. In the 1840s and 1850s Kentucky steamboats carried on a large trade with the deep South. They would carry hempen bagging, bale rope, wheat flour, corn, grain and meats from the Bluegrass region to the South.

Thomas Munday and his wife died in 1833 during the cholera epidemic which swept the State. At this time his son, Jeremiah Vard, took over the business. In 1847, he built the present river hotel and tavern. Business thrived since it was on the main road between Lexington and Harrodsburg. It was also here that steamboats stopped to load and unload passengers, freight, and fuel. Coleman includes in his pamphlet, <u>Steamboats on the Kentucky River</u> (1960), the follwing ad by the firm Irwin and Foster, advertising in the 1840s a well-known river packet:

Cincinnati & Frankfort Steam Packet Line.

For Munday's Landing, Harrodsburg, Danville, Nicholasville, Lancaster, Versailles and all landings on the Kentucky River. The new steamer, Isaac Shelby, J. Wesley Brown, master will leave Munday's Landing for Cincinnati every Wednesday morning at ll o'clock a.m., as above-returning, leave Munday's Landing every Friday at 8 o'clock a.m., for Cincinnati. For further information apply to the Captain on board, or to Irwin and Foster, Agt's.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coleman, J. Winston, Jr. <u>Steamboats on the Kentucky Rover</u>. Lexington: Winburn Press, 1960. (Pamphlet).

Sunday Herald-Leader. August 2, 1970.

Lancaster, Clay. Architectural Follies in America. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle and Co., 1960.

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### **10**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	

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STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
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NAME / TITLE				
Roy W. Reynolds			M. C. / W	E. La
ORGANIZATION			DATE	
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE	
University of Kentucky	/		STATE	
Lexington			Kentucky	
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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY				
RECEIVED				
DATE ENTERED	SEP	5	1975	

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Munday's Landing				
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	8	PAGE	2

The Munday's business continued to grow until it included a large river wharf house, a ferry, a general store, a coal yard, a post office, a tavern, a boat-yard, lumber yard, saw mill, grist mill, and ice house.

During the Civil War, navigation on the Kentucky River was uncertain and dangerous. Both armies commandeered boats for shipment of troops and supplies. At different times during the war both the Union and Confederate soldiers used Munday's Landing as a resting place and forded the river at Shawnee Run.

Jeremiah Munday's son, Robert Lowry, inherited the house and the business and continued to operate it until his death in 1883. Robert Munday was apparently murdered by an overdose of morphine. His son-in-law, Dr. Thomas Walker Davis, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Although not prosecuted, Munday's wife was also implicated in the crime.

As the result of financial difficulties brought on by the scandal of the murder, the Mundays moved to Texas. William Faircloth purchased the house and continued to run the hotel, tavern and ferry.

In 1901, the property was sold to Colonel Jack Chinn, the owner of Chinn Mineral Company, located one-half mile up the river on the Mercer County, Kentucky side. Here calcite and fluorspar, minerals used in making high-grade glass, were mined up until World War II. Munday's Landing served as the Chinns' residence until 1935 when they sold it to Charles Hayden. It remains in this family at the present time.

Clay Lancaster mentions the river portico at Munday's Landing and the development of Steamboat Gothic Architecture in his Architectural Follies in America (1960):

"Technological advances achieved by man in the nineteenth century played an important role in determining the trend taken by civilization along the Mississippi. This was something that had never happened--in fact something that had never had the opportunity to happen--before. Existence was geared largely to transportation facilities invested in steamboats, and this was reflected nowhere better than in house design, where not only interiors but the overall exterior shape of the house as well was affected by steamers. The vogue began with the utilitarian adjunct of open galleries, such as those added to the residence at Munday's Landing on the Kentucky River probably during the 1840s. (See photo 3). The square piers and flat entabulatures were concessions to the then-popular Greek Revival mode of dryland architecture, their bulkiness not at all boat-like." (p. 113.)



Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES** INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

# \*\* DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE ENTERED

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RECEIVED JUL 1 5 1925

SEP 5 1975

SEE	TYPE ALL ENTRIES (			)
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CLASSIFIC	ATION			
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	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME Mrs. Ralph STREET & NUMBER	F PROPERTY Johnson			
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Versailles		VICINITY OF	Kentucky	
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COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. Woodford County C	ourthouse		
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CITY, TOWN			STATE	·····
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SURVEY RECORDS	Kentucky Heritage Com	nission		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Frankfort			Kentucky	

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sited on a bluff above the Kentucky River is Munday's Landing, a two-story classic Greek Revival structure. Devoid of surface embellishment, this massive, austere white clapboard house reveals the elementary craftsmanship of a provincial builder. Basically rectilinear, the gable-roofed structure breaks form with the inclusion of a giant front portico and a double-level porch overlooking the river to the west (see photo 1).

The entrance portico has four massive stuccoed masonry columns <u>in antis</u>, capped only by an abacus supporting the oversize entablature of the roof pediment. The river portico seems to be perched precariously on the bluff while at the same time achieving a monumental quality; even though a "false front," the galleries were of course highly functional, providing the only access to some of the guest rooms, also as a "lounge" and place to view the river traffic. The portico is partitioned into six bays by two-stage square wooden columns, above which is a dentillated parapet partially concealing an attic (see photo 3). The interior rooms have handsome random-width ash floors and openings framed with woodwork of hand-carved Greek Key design.