

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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APR 1 1980

DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Samuel May House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

690 Northlake Drive

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Prestonsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Kentucky

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Floyd

CODE

071

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

\_\_\_ DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
\_\_\_ STRUCTURE  
\_\_\_ SITE  
\_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

\_\_\_ PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
\_\_\_ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
\_\_\_ IN PROCESS  
\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED  
\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED  
\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
\_\_\_ NO

**PRESENT USE**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

E. B. May, Jr.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

696 Northlake Drive

CITY, TOWN

Prestonsburg

STATE

Kentucky

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Floyd County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prestonsburg

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

Spring 1979\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort,

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in Kentucky's eastern extreme, Floyd County was formed in 1799 and presently encompasses a total of 399 square miles. The Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River flows through Prestonsburg, the county seat.

The Samuel May House is a two-story, five-bay, brick structure, located on the northern edge of Prestonsburg. Constructed in 1817, opposite the mouth of Abbott Creek, it is the only Federal brick house in the county.

The main block of the house is a single-pile, central passage plan, with partially exterior end chimneys. The off-center, one-story ell is original and has a central chimney. Flemish bond brickwork, with jack arches over the openings, was employed throughout. The windows have six-over-nine panes. A second story central door suggests the original porch was one-story, possibly one-bay wide. The main door surround is simple with segmented transom and side-lights (see photos 1-5).

As there are no natural or man-made boundaries, an imaginary boundary was drawn to preserve the visual integrity of the site.

<sup>1</sup>The site was identified by Kentucky Heritage Commission survey staff Ken Gibbs and Lee Walker during their comprehensive survey of the county completed in 1979.

# B 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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                          | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY                     | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1817

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Samuel May

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Samuel May House, located near Prestonsburg, is significant as being the residence of one of Floyd County's most prominent politicians. Constructed in 1817, it is the earliest brick house in Floyd County, and one of few brick houses in the Big Sandy Valley dating to the early 19th century.

Samuel May (1783-1851) was born in Virginia, the second child of John and Sarah Phillips May. He emigrated to Floyd County and married Cathrine Evans in 1808. Between 1817 and 1821, May acquired a total of 350 acres of land along the east and west bank of the Levisa Fork. He also operated a mill at the mouth of Abbott Creek, and was a well-known contractor in the area. Using bricks kilned on the farm, Samuel May built this house in 1817 and lived here until 1842.

Samuel May was a well-known political figure in eastern Kentucky, serving as state representative from Floyd County from 1832 to 1834. He was also elected state senator from Floyd in 1835 and held that office for four years.

Because of his inability to pay off the mortgage, Samuel May sold his house to his brother Thomas May in 1842. Several years later he went to the California goldfields to try to recoup his fortunes. He died in Placerville in 1851.

The Samuel May House is the single remaining example in Floyd County of the Federal style in a brick structure. Key stylistic elements include the Flemish bond brickwork with jack arches over the openings, the simple main entrance with transom and sidelights, and the emphasis on the simplicity of the overall form.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Francis, Tress May. "May Genealogy (Southern Branch with Biographical Sketches) 1776-1956." Unpublished manuscript, Kentucky Historical Society.

National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Survey of Buildings before 1825. Historic Activities Committee.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Prestonsburg, Ky.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 6 | 3, 4, 3, 2, 0, 0 | 4, 1, 7, 1, 9, 4, 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B    |    |     
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C    |    |   

D    |    |   

E    |    |   

F    |    |   

G    |    |   

H    |    |   

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary lines form a square with each side approximately 300' in length, and the house in the center. The southeastern side is formed by the road.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jayne C. Henderson, Historian

August 1979

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky 40601

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Edward W. Miller*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1-10-80

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. Roy Luce*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/1/80

ATTEST: *Kristin J. O'Connell*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/18/80