

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ayres House

other names/site number WD 171

2. Location

street & number S.S. US Hwy.421 (Leestown Rd.) <3/10 mi. E. of Duckers Rd not for publication N/A

city or town Midway vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Woodford code 239 zip code 40347

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David C. Meyer SHPO/Ex. Director 11/18/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office/Kentucky Heritage Council
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

for Signature of the Keeper Guynn M. Dapsley Entered in the National Register Date of Action 11/27/93

Ayres House
Name of Property

Woodford, Kentucky
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Historic and Architectural Resources of
North West Woodford County, Kentucky

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**
0

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)

MID 19TH CENTURY

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / limestone

walls BRICK

WOOD / weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1856

Significant Dates

c. 1856

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

Ayres House
Name of Property

Woodford, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)
Frankfort East, Kentucky 7.5 min. Quad. M481

1

16	69	5	00	0	4	2	2	7	4	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing						

3

Zone	Easting				Northing						

4

Zone	Easting				Northing						

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine Amos, Historian
organization Burry & Amos, Inc. date December 1, 1992
street & number 926 Main Street telephone (502) 633-5530
city or town Shelbyville state Kentucky zip code 40065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name James Thomas
street & number Route 1 telephone (606) 846-4598
city or town Midway state Kentucky zip code 40347

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative Description

The nominated property is a two-story, brick residence, built circa 1856. It is the main dwelling of a farm and addresses the south side of Leestown Road with part of the farm in Woodford and part in Franklin County. The farm has recently been divided into five acre tracts along the Duckers Road (the west area) and the acreage east of the residence sold for a horse farm. The house is situated near the center of the original 220 acre tract. The present landscape does not contribute to the understanding or significance of the property and therefore was not included within the boundary of this nomination that contains one contributing building and less than one acre of domestic yard area historically associated with the residence.

1. **Ayres House, contributing building, c.1856.** The building is a two story, common bond, brick masonry, five bay, center passage, late antebellum residence with asphalt shingled hip roof. A slightly projecting central bay defined by a low, gabled pediment features second floor paired sash windows beneath an elliptical transom with rusticated stone arch head. The first floor central-bay entry porch features front and side arches, the front architrave of stone that springs from brick piers. Other details include dentil molding beneath the eave, circular vent in the front pediment, battlemented parapet over the entry porch with molded wood cornice. The remainder of the front facade is very simple with narrow, single light sash windows with rusticated stone lintels in the second floor and flat, brick arch heads in the first. The narrow front entry is topped by a single transom light. The mix of horizontal massing (low, hip roof and cornice return) and narrow vertical (windows and door) present an unusual vernacular interpretation of a traditional center passage, five-bay plan. The usual center passage plan is somewhat modified with the stair not located in the center front hall and approached straight on from the entry, but offset to the side of the center hall. The building has a large, rear ell that appears contemporary to the main block, with both two and one story areas and a modern, enclosed side porch facing east. The ell is also of brick with similar details that include a limestone foundation, deeply molded cornice and single light sash windows.

Interior details include corner bullseye trim with turned moldings, tall baseboards and ceilings at least 10' in height.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Ayres House is significant under criteria C, on a local level, within the context of domestic architecture as described in the Northwest Woodford County Multiple Property Form. The Ayres House is an unusual vernacular example of late antebellum eclectic domestic architectural style in a rural setting that maintains good integrity of design, materials and workmanship. Like the nine other antebellum dwellings identified in the Big Sink/Old Frankfort Pike MPL, the Ayres House is built on the traditional center passage plan. As in all but two examples, the house front elevation is divided into five regular bays. It is in the design details, however, that common similarities to houses such as the Taylor House (The Maples, WD 261) fade. The Ayres House attempts to reach forward to the Italianate, with tall, narrow fenestration. Yet, because the unknown designer/builder kept the massing of the house low, with wide front and hip roof, the vertical dimensions of the windows are in odd contrast to the traditional broad facade. The rusticated stonework of the central bay; at the joined second floor windows, and in the massive arches of the entry vestibule offer bolder, more successful, and contemporary design details not seen in this area of Woodford County. These progressive components, more or less successful, enliven an otherwise mediocre facade and illustrate the ongoing transformation of traditional domestic architecture and the gradual acceptance of popular styles.

The Ayres House was probably built in the mid-to-late 1850s as the home of Edward W. and Susan Scott Ayres. Deed information suggests that in 1856, Walter N. Ayres purchased from Robert and Elizabeth Scott, 200 acres on the south side of Leestown Road for \$80.00 per acre (Woodford County:DBV-484). Walter Ayres' third child, Edward, married Susan Scott and they built this house on that land which Darnell calls the "old Martin place" (Darnell:1974,65-66). Both the 1868 and 1877 county atlases indicate the Ayres at this location. The establishment of this new farm from larger holdings illustrates a common activity during the prosperous antebellum years.. Deed transfers and wills in the region confirm many situations like this, where long established farm families (in this case, the Scotts and the Ayres) help children establish their own farms in the neighborhood.

9. Bibliography

Darnell, Ermina Jett. Forks of Elkhorn Church. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.), 1980.

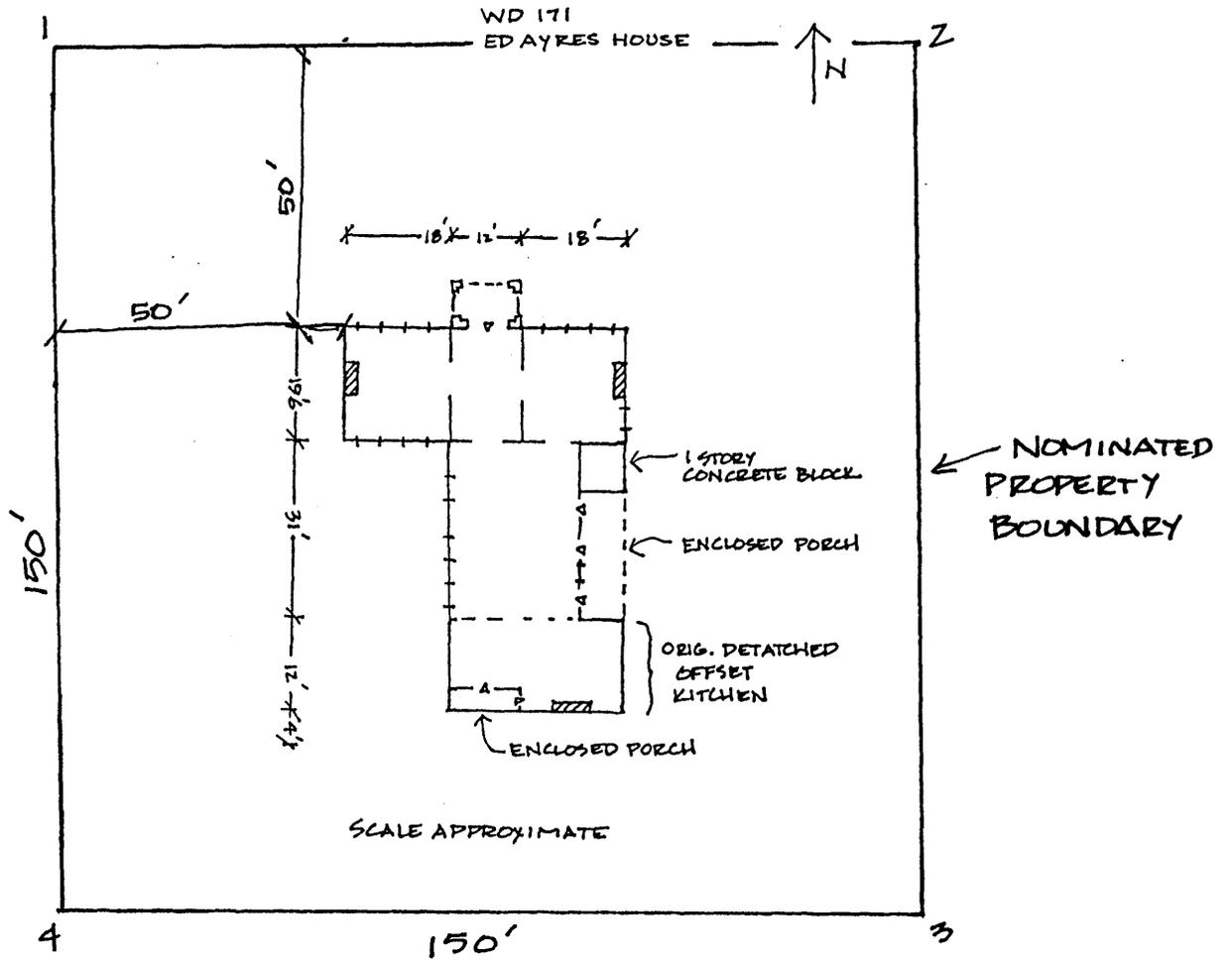
Railey, William E. History of Woodford County. (Versailles, Ky., Woodford Improvement League), 1968.

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are indicated on the accompanying base map. It is a square parcel measuring 150' by 150', whose north line is 50' north of the northwest corner of the house and whose west line is 50' west of the northwest corner of the house. The house appears on Woodford County Property Valuation Assessor map 15 as parcel #6.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes only the domestic yard area surrounding the architecturally significant residence.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number Photo Log Page 1

Ayres House
(WD 171)
Woodford County, Ky.

PHOTO LOG: Ayres House

Property location: Woodford County, Kentucky.

Photographer: Christine Amos

Date of photograph: 1992

Location of original negative: Kentucky Heritage Council,
Frankfort, Kentucky

1. Looking S-SE to front with details of central entry bay with stonework and dentils at eave and pediment.
2. Looking south to main, front elevation of house.