National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

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enter anni anni anni anni anni		
1984	T + T +	received 0
5 1984	NOV	date entered

	—complete applicable	sections		
1. Nam	ie			
historic	PLEASANT VALE	SAMUEL MCDOWELI	L HOUSE)	
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	Lexington Road			not for publication
city, town	Danville Vic.	vicinity of	taanguassisuul-distriot	
state	Kentucky co	de county	Boyle	code 62.
3. Clas	sification			
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership publicX private both Public Acquisitionna_ in processna_ being considered	Status occupiedX unoccupied work in progress AccessibleX yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum mu
4. Own	er of Prope	rty		
name	B. J. Griffin			
street & number	Route #1, Box 485			
city, town	Danville	vicinity of	state	Kentucky
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Descripti	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Boyle County Courth	ouse	
street & number			·	
city, town		Danville	state	Kontucky
6. Repi	resentation	in Existing	Surveys	
title Kentucky	Historic Resources Ir	nventory has this pro	operty been determined eli	igible? yes _ no
date	August 1970		federalX stat	te county local
depository for su	rvey records	Kentucky Heritage (Council	
city, town		Frankfort	state	Kentucky

				,
Condition excellentX good	deteriorated	Check one unaltered X altered	Check oneX original site moved da	ate.
fair	unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

Pleasant Vale, the Samuel McDowell House, is a two-story, five-bay, central passage brick house with gable roof, interior end chimneys, and a full basement of coursed stone. It was probably built ca.1800 or shortly before. While 1784 is the date popularly given the house, this date is early in Kentucky for a house having these refinements: projecting central gabled bay containing fine Palladian window on second floor and circular window in the gable; Flemish bond brickwork with gauged flat arches; boxed cornice decorated with modillions; and reeded interior woodwork. The two-story brick ell was built as a unit with the house. The house is located in the midst of a gently rolling 257 acre farm and is surrounded by the dependencies, barns, and rock fences, of which the fences and the stone slavequarters are the oldest. The farm is located east of Danville on the Lexington Road and once contained 2000 acres.

Additional Information: The house at Pleasant Vale has construction details typical of the Federal period in Kentucky—hewn beams, pit sawn joists, pegged rafters, wide ash flooring, raised panel doors, and chair rail. The U-shaped open stairway has square banisters and a turned newell, flat landing. Upstairs mantels have reeded pilasters. The Palladian window has reeded reveals, fluted facing, and bulls-eye corners. Upstairs doorways have reeded reveals. These and the decorated cornice (Georgian in character) indicate a house of importance in Kentucky.

During the Greek Revival fashion, 1825-65, the first floor was updated by the removal of the chair rail, installation of plain Greek Revival mantels, press doors, and architrave trim. The front doorway was redone, Greek Revival style, with a flat lintel, transom, and sidelights, and has a carefully tooled tripartite stone sill.

The two-story ell, one room each floor, contains an enclosed corner stair having stairs below it to the cellar. The full cellar is constructed of white Tyrone limestone quarried on the farm. The stones are carefully squared and laid in straight courses. The stone walls between the four cellar rooms form the support for the dividing walls of the house. No cellar fireplaces. The door between the western room and the room below the center hall is of beaded boards (but late hardware & nails) and is inscribed in paint "Samuel McDowell."

The one-story kitchen behind the ell may have been connected to the house by a dog trot. This space is now bricked in and includes a once open small porch on the east side and a room with early door and window frame (window without voussiors; frames reused?).

The kitchen had a huge cooking fireplace on the rear wall that is now closed in. Roof framing above the kitchen (steeper than the house) is kicked up to form a shed roof for porch on the west side.

In the 1930s the house had plumbing and heating installed with bathrooms built in an addition at the rear of the main house beside the ell. The house was re-roofed with asbestos shingles replacing the wood, roof rafters reinforced or replaced, new window sash and stone sills installed and a new front porch built which is larger than the one it replaced (probably the Greek Revival porch). Modillions in the cornice of the porch and the house are said by the owner to be copies of the old ones which needed replacing. (Cornice probably rebuilt also). The kitchen windows have been changed. Ell fireplaces closed.

The 1979 tornado removed the top of the chimneys which have been rebuilt.

The oldest remaining dependency is a double cell, central chimney stone quarters, built also of quarried-on-the-farm Tyrone limestone. The roof of the quarters was blown off in the tornado. There were once five similar quarters built in a "square"; this one was kept as a "souvenir." The present garage is built on the stone foundation of one of the quarters.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy X politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	ca.1800 - ca.1840	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Pleasant Vale was built on land granted to Samuel McDowell for his services in the French and Indian War. McDowell's long and outstanding career as a distinguished and renowned public servant for the Colonies, for Virginia, and for Kentucky, includes service as an officer in Dunmore's Indian War and the Battle of Point Pleasant, as a colonel in the Revolutionary War, as a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, commissioner of Kentucky Land Claims, judge of the first Kentucky District Court, and president of all nine of Kentucky Constitutional Conventions. Pleasant Vale is significant as the home of a prominent statesman and for its architectural importance as a Kentucky farmhouse of high quality.

Additional Information: Samuel McDowell was born in Pennsylvania in 1737, a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian, son of John McDowell and grandson of Ephraim McDowell who emigrated from Scotland to North Ireland and was a defender of Londonderry in 1688. Samuel married Mary McClung in 1754 in Augusta County, Virginia; they had Il children.

At age 20 Samuel McDowell fought in the French and Indian Wars under General Washington. He was a captain in 1774 in Dunmore's Indian War, and an aide-de-camp to General Isaac Shelby at the Battle of Point Pleasant (Governor Shelby's daughter married McDowell's son Ephraim). McDowell was a colonel in the Revoluntionary War in the campaign against Cornwallis.

He represented Augusta County in the 1776 Colonial Convention at Williamsburg which instructed the Continental Congress to declare the Colonies' independence. He was appointed by the Virginia Assembly in 1782 as Land Claims Commissioner in the district of Kentucky. He moved with his family to Kentucky in 1783. He was one of the judges of the first district court in Kentucky. He was president of nine early Kentucky Conventions including the one that framed the Constitution. During his presidency, Kentucky became a state.

He lived at Pleasant Vale until 1798 at which time he deeded it to his son Joseph, and moved to the home of his son Caleb. After Caleb's death in 1810, he returned to Pleasant Vale, where he resided until his death in 1817.

Samuel McDowell's son, Dr. Ephraim McDowell, achieved widespread recognition for performing the first ovariotomy in 1809.

In 1845 Col. Joseph McDowell sold the plantation to James F. Mason who sold it to Nelson T. Lee. It was owned by the Lee Family until 1924 when purchased by the family of the present owner.

There are 14 other houses of this period in Boyle County which are in the National Register, including the home of his son, Ephraim, which is a National Historic Landmark.

9. Majo	r Bibliographical R	eferences	
Fackler, Calvin	History of Kentucky. Maysville, K m. M. Historic Homes of Boyle Coun- gust, M.D., Ephraim McDowell, Fat	ty Kentucky. Danville	e Historical Society, 1959.
10. Ged	ographical Data		
Acreage of nomin Quadrangle name UMT References	ated property45 Bryantsville & Danville	Qu	adrangle scale 1:24000
A 1 6 6 9 Eastin	8 4 1 0 4 1 7 1 8 8 0 Northing	B 1 6 9 8 6 Zone Easting	1 2 0 4 1 7 1 4 1 5 1 0 Northing
	8 4, 2, 0 4,1 7,1 3,4,0 8 2, 9, 0 4,1 7,1 3,3,0	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	
Verbal boundar	y description and justification		
A-B is a rock to include hous	fence on the farm boundary; B-C e, quarters, horse barn, rock fences	and D-E and F-A are around farm yard and	e rock fences. Boundary draw d spring.
List all states a	and counties for properties overlapping	g state or county boun	daries
state	code co	ounty	code
state	code co	ounty	code
11. For	m Prepared By		
name/title	Carolyn Murray Wooley, Architec	tural Historian	
organization	Kentucky Heritage Council	date	September 1984
street & number	l2th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower	telephone	502/564-7005
city or town	Frankfort	state	Kentucky 40601
12. Sta	te Historic Preserv	ation Office	er Certification
The evaluated sig	nificance of this property within the state is	3:	
	national state lo	cal	
665), I hereby nom	I State Historic Preservation Officer for the ninate this property for inclusion in the Nateriteria and procedures set forth by the Nat	ional Register and certify t	
State Historic Pres	servation Officer signature	[Mayar	·
For NPS use of thereby cert	tify that this property is included in the Nat Ent Lover Fyer Nat		date October 4,1984
Keeper of the	National Régister		date

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Pleasant Vale/Samuel McDowell House
Continuation sheet Danville, Boyle Co., Kentucky Item number

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Page 2

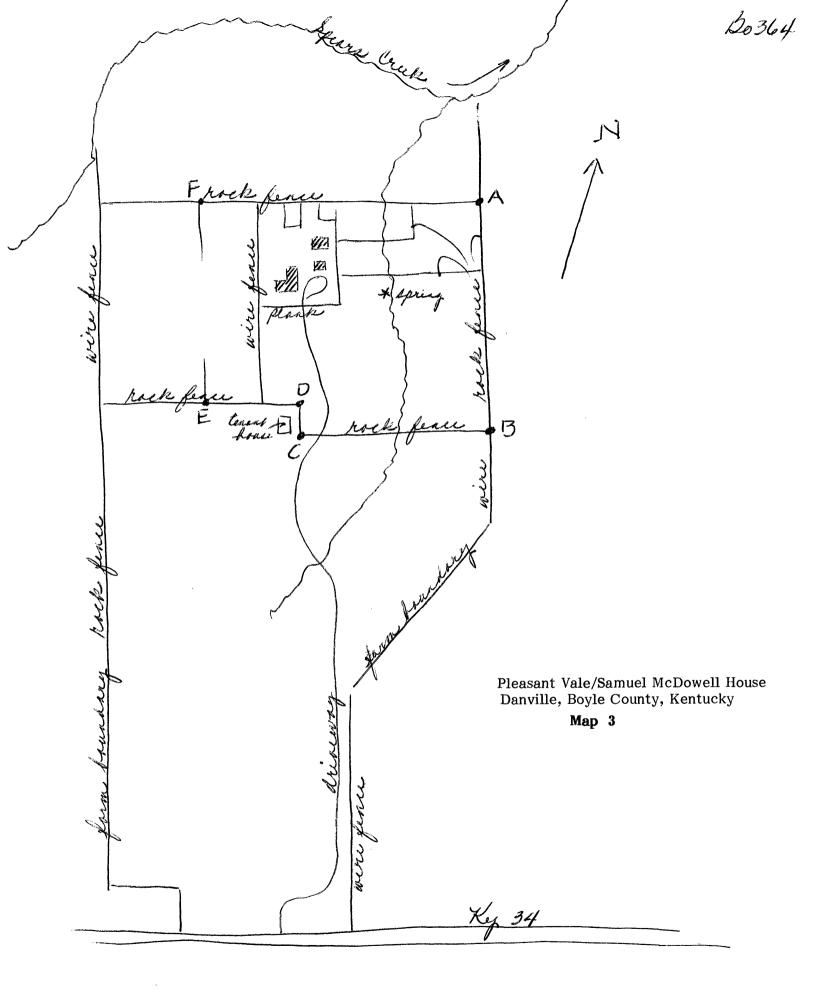
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The next oldest remaining farm building is the drive-through horse barn, built 1898. The stone foundation dairy barn was built on the site of a log bank barn which had a second floor thrashing floor. The dairy and the tobacco barns are 20th century.

The board and batten "cook's house" in the house yard is 75 years old.

Early rock fences surround various barn lots and fields. The spring by which the house site was chosen is east of the house in the valley which is a branch of Spears Creek.

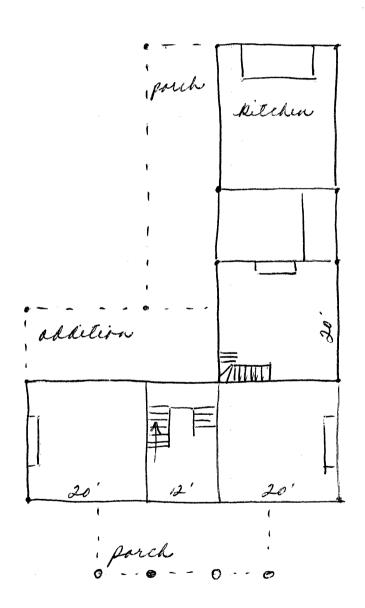
The old Lexington Road ran between the house and the present road.



Farm plan

120364 gambrel koop dairy barn Stone foundation Metal Corn storage drive through Altre rach Lence around barn lets_ rock pence Pleasant Vale/Samuel McDowell House Farmijard plans map by Dob Palsgrove Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky MAP 4 Bo 364

Map 5



Hause plan

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street & number			·	
city, town		Danville	state	Kontucky
6. Repi	resentation	in Existing	Surveys	
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Acreage of nomin Quadrangle name UMT References	ated property45 Bryantsville & Danville	Qu	adrangle scale 1:24000
A 1 6 6 9 Eastin	8 4 1 0 4 1 7 1 8 8 0 Northing	B 1 6 9 8 6 Zone Easting	1 2 0 4 1 7 1 4 1 5 1 0 Northing
	8 4, 2, 0 4,1 7,1 3,4,0 8 2, 9, 0 4,1 7,1 3,3,0	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	
Verbal boundar	y description and justification		
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List all states a	and counties for properties overlapping	g state or county boun	daries
state	code co	ounty	code
state	code co	ounty	code
11. For	m Prepared By		
name/title	Carolyn Murray Wooley, Architec	tural Historian	
organization	Kentucky Heritage Council	date	September 1984
street & number	l2th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower	telephone	502/564-7005
city or town	Frankfort	state	Kentucky 40601
12. Sta	te Historic Preserv	ation Office	er Certification
The evaluated sig	nificance of this property within the state is	3:	
	national state lo	cal	
665), I hereby nom	I State Historic Preservation Officer for the ninate this property for inclusion in the Nateriteria and procedures set forth by the Nat	ional Register and certify t	
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For NPS use of thereby cert	tify that this property is included in the Nat Ent Lover Fyer Nat		date October 4,1984
Keeper of the	National Régister		date

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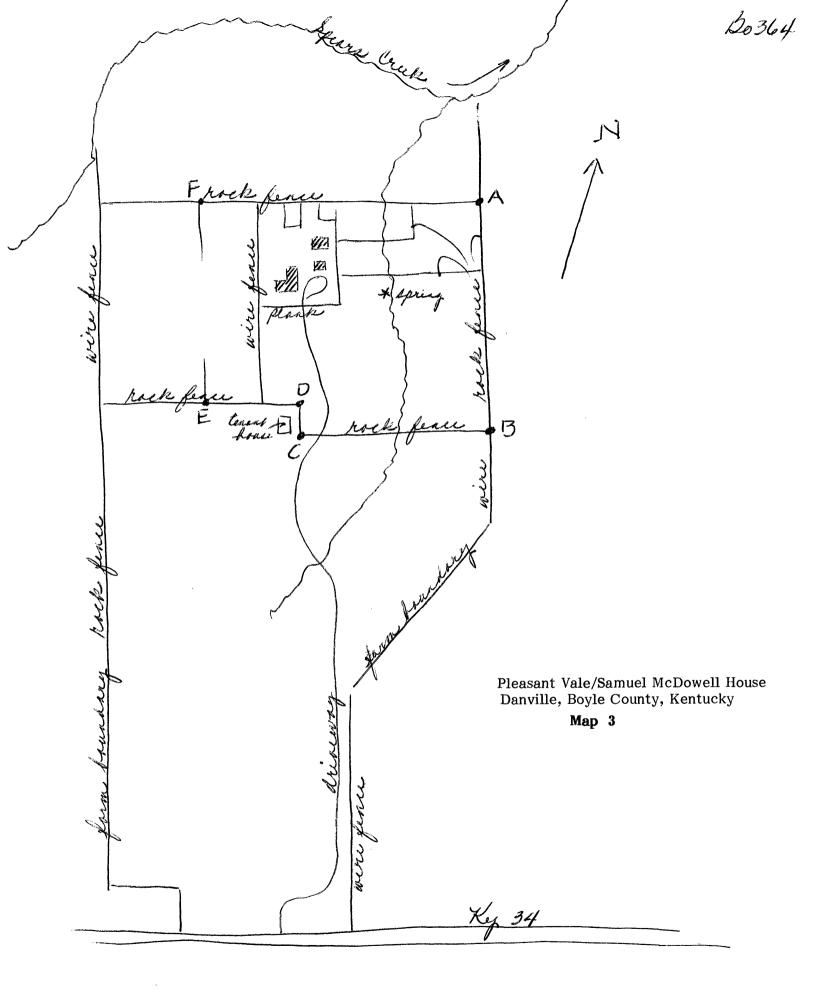
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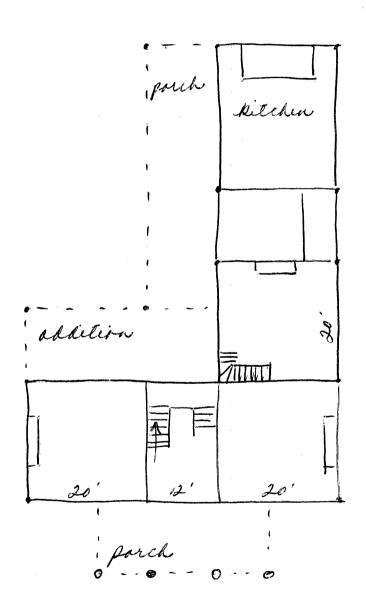
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Farm plan

120364 gambrel koop dairy barn Stone foundation Metal Corn storage drive through Altre rach Lence around barn lets_ rock pence Pleasant Vale/Samuel McDowell House Farmijard plans map by Dob Palsgrove Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky MAP 4 Bo 364

Map 5



Hause plan