

DEC 10 1988

3378

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES  
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # MeH-57  
Mercer County

1. Name of Resource: Matheny-Taylor House

2. Original Owner: Felix Matheny

3. Other Names: James Taylor House

4. Prehistoric Site  Building  Object  
Historic Site  Structure  Other

5. Location: Northwest corner of Poplar and College Streets

6. Owner's Name: Kentucky Parks Department [ S ]

7. Owner's Address: Capital Plaza Towers  
Frankfort, KY 40601

8. Evaluation: [ N ]

9. Recognition & Date:  
Nat.Landmark  Local Landmark   
Nat.Register  HABS/HAER   
Highway Marker  KY Inventory 1981, 1970  
KY Landmark Certificate 1970

10. N.R.Status & Date:

11. N.R.Group:  
District Name: [ ]  
Mult.Resource Area: Mercer County [ ]  
Thematic Name: [ ]

12. Historical Theme:  
Primary: Architecture [ 030 ]  
Secondary: Education [ 100 ]  
Other: Other (historic preserva- [ 300 ]  
tion)

13. Statement of Significance: See Attached.

14. History:

See attached.

15. Source of historical information and/or contact person: Harrodsburg Herald Bic. Ed., June 1974, pp. B-4,5  
KHC Inventory forms: 1981, Clay Lancaster; 1970, Frances Keightly Neva Longfellow Williams

16. Date:  
Original Building c. 1810 [ 8 ]  
Addition ca. 1830 [ 7 ]

17. Style:  
Federal [ 21 ]  
Greek Revival [ 31 ]

18. Architect/Builder: Unknown

19. No. of Stories: [ 2.0 ]

20. Original Floor Plan: Hall parlor/central Passage [HP/CP]

21. Single Pile  Double Pile  N.A.

22. Roof Form & Material: Original   
Gable/asbestos Not Original

23. Structural Material: Brick [ B ]

24. Exterior Material: Brick : common bond [ B ]

25. Foundation Material: Stone [ S ]

26. Major Alterations: None   
Moved/Rebuilt  Other   
Additions Sandblasting/rear porch

27. Special Features: enclosed  
None

28. Outbuildings: Doctors' Office to north [ ]


29. Original Function: Single family dwelling [ 01A ]

30. Present Use: Museum [ 08C ]

31. Condition: Good [ G ]

32. Endangered: Yes   
No

33. Attach Photos:  
Roll: Photo Nos: No. of Slides:  
8 0-35

34. Prepared by: H. Powell & F. Keightly

35. Organization: Landmark Association

36. Date: 1986

37. New Survey  Resurvey

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES  
 Individual Inventory Form

Resource # MeH-57

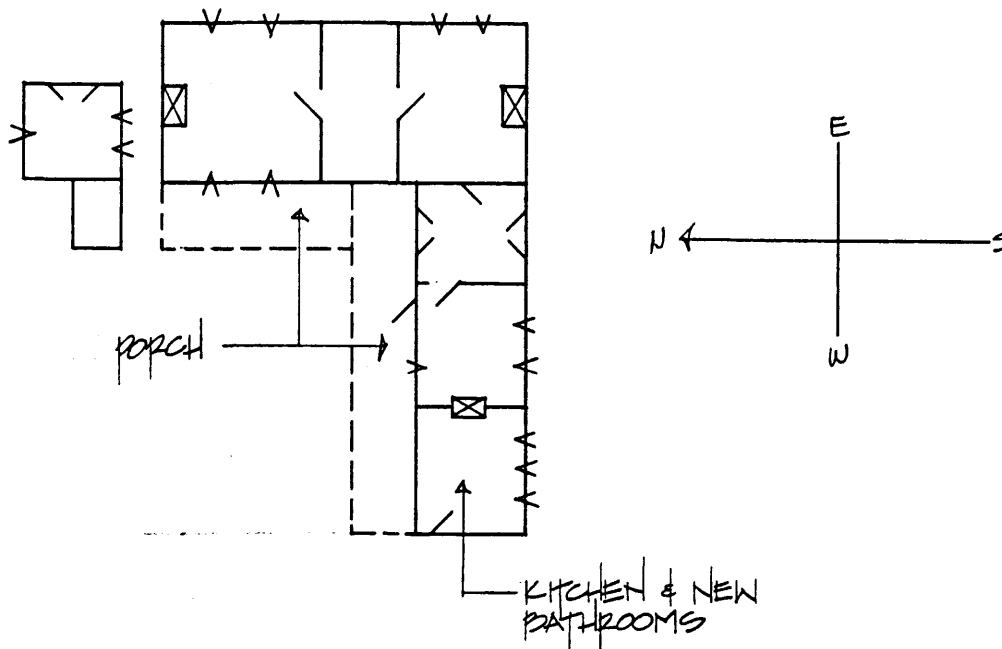
38. UTM Point of Primary Building: Zone Easting Northing 39. G.I.S. Mod. [ ]  
 Quadrant: Harrodsburg 16 689760 4181340 40. Coordi.Accuracy [ ]

41. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):

A. -----	D. -----
B. -----	E. -----
C. -----	F. -----

42. Total Acreage in Present Property: 43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary:

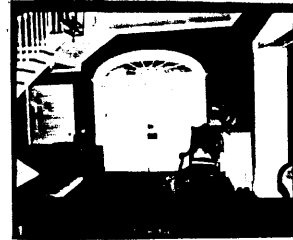
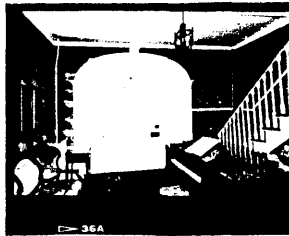
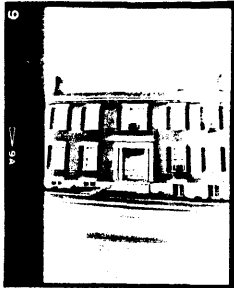
44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):



45. Description and House Plan:

The earlier part of the house is now the ell which faces Poplar Street. It was built by Felix Matheny in the early nineteenth century and consists of a two story, three bay brick block. The floor plan is hall parlor with double-leaf doors. The interior woodwork including eight-panel doors, cabinets, and mantels is complemented on the exterior by fanlights over the doors and nine over six windows. In 1830, James Taylor began work on the two story, five bay addition which faces College Street or US 127. The front facade features a recessed doorway framed by Doric pilasters. In the second story over the central doorway is a tripartite window. Windows are six over six with stone lintels. The floorplan has a central hallway flanked on either side by a single room and an interior end chimney. The rear gallery has been enclosed and the kitchen made into bathrooms. The brick facade was sandblasted as part of the state's renovation.

The outbuilding is a one room, one story brick building. The entrance is on the pedimented gable end on College Street. The doors are double-leaf, eight-paneled with a four light transom. It has a stone foundation.



KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT  
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name Matheny-Taylor House Site # MeH-57

Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title MERCER COUNTY MRA

U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

A. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

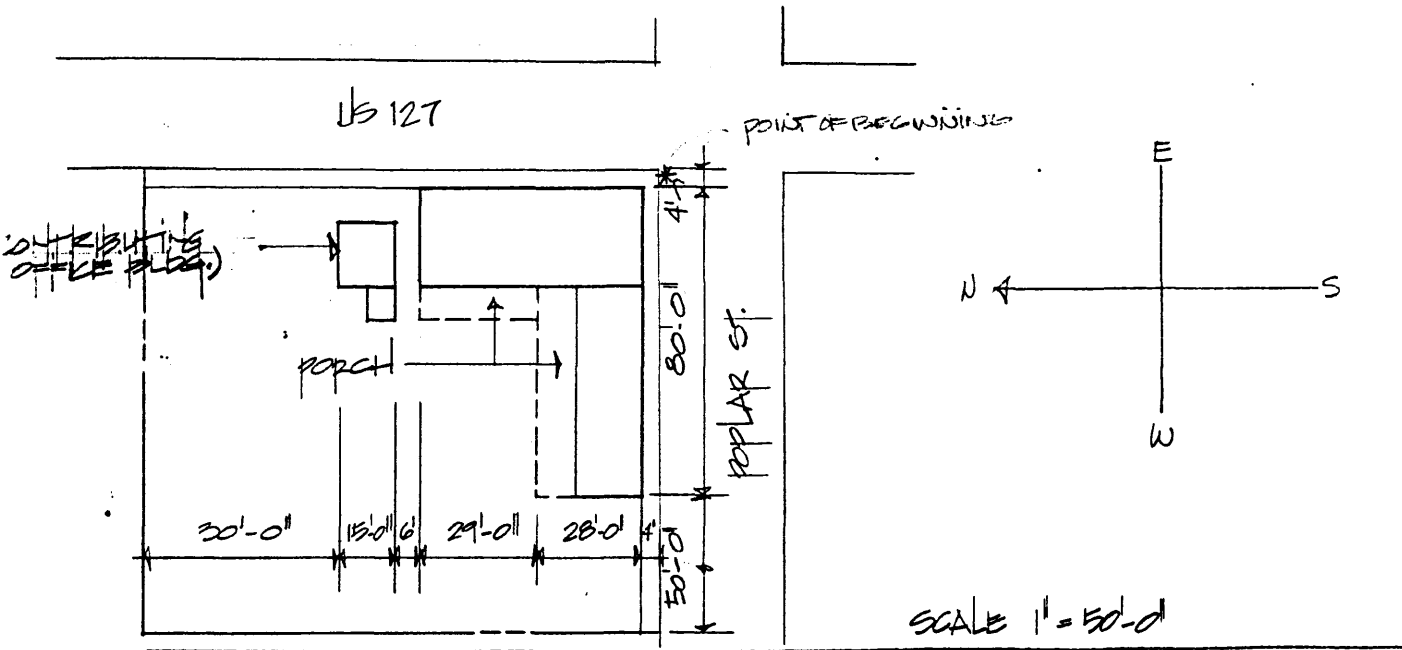
B. \_\_\_\_\_ E. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_ F. \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal Boundary Description \_\_\_\_\_ Acreage .34

From a point of beginning 4 feet east and 4 feet south of the southeast corner of the building; then west 134 feet to a point; then north 112 feet to a point; then east 134 feet to a point; then south 112 feet to the point of beginning.

Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)



Official Courthouse Property Reference:

## 14. History (MeH-57)

The original portion of the house which faces Poplar Street was built by Felix Matheny. Major James Taylor purchased the property November 18, 1830 and noted in his diary that he regarded his bargain "as a bad one considering the general value of property in Harrodsburg, but wanted a permanent home and think that this susceptible to being made into a comfortable residence." In 1836, he wrote in his diary that the brick work in the new portion of the house was finished. The finished house stood flush with the street because of a neighborhood well located to the north of the original house. Taylor's wife, Georgiana Timberlake, did not want to have the well in the front yard of the new house or to deny public access to it so the new house was located so that the well is in the crook of the back porch. Major Taylor was instrumental in the preservation of the pioneer cemetery adjacent to the present reconstruction of the fort.

Major Taylor was the grandson of Captain Samuel Taylor. Samuel Taylor was a Revolutionary War soldier who served as a trustee of Harrodsburg and as a delegate to the Kentucky Constitutional Convention in Danville. James Taylor was trained in law by his great-uncle Creed Taylor, chancellor of the Needham Law School in Cumberland County, Virginia. As an attorney, James Taylor was prominent in the civil affairs of Harrodsburg during the first half of the nineteenth century.

The Taylor House is now used as a museum for the Fort Harrod State Park and contains exhibits and artifacts from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Continuation sheet: Matheny-Taylor House (Me-H-57)

**Statement of Significance**

The Matheny-Taylor House is significant under Criterion C for the period ca. 1830 as an example of the rebuilding of settlement period houses or hall-parlor houses to conform to the central passage plan. The office building dates from the same period as the rebuilding.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The boundary was chosen arbitrarily to provide a setting for the house and to include the contributing domestic elements. The boundary excludes portions of the state park on the west and north.

The nominated area contains two contributing buildings.