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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 2 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 10 1975

**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 "Seclusaval" (Hamlin House)
AND/OR COMMON Pinkney McCuiston House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER ^{KY} State Route 614, 8 miles east of Murray ^{on} NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Murray ~~Concord~~ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 01
 VICINITY OF CODE 021 COUNTY Calloway CODE 035
STATE Kentucky

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. William Burris
STREET & NUMBER 1661 College Terrace
CITY, TOWN Murray VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Calloway County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Murray STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
DATE 1971 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Seclusaval," the Hamlin house, is set at the end of a considerable eminence overlooking the Blood River Branch of the Tennessee River, which has now been dammed and forms Kentucky Lake. The house faces west toward the road that meanders eastward along the ridge from the county seat Murray. The land slopes steeply down under the rear of the house, leaving the foundations of the main block and ell exposed. The setting to the rear of the house remains unspoiled, a richly wooded hillside, but there are plans to subdivide the area along the road.

The house is a five-bay rectangular block with a considerably wider central unit. Its most striking feature is the use of darker brick for every sixth row on the front (no headers are used except as closers). This unusual polychrome treatment naturally emphasizes the horizontal, which is also reinforced by the relatively square windows--12-by-8-pane sash above and 12-by-12 below--and the wide spacing of the bays, particularly the central entrance bay. There is also a cornice stopped before the ends. All the openings, outside and inside downstairs, have frames with what is roughly called reeding and concentric circles on the corner blocks. The front entrance has a long transom and sidelights with interesting and purportedly original primitive geometric wooden tracery of crossed diagonals and centered circles. The vertically-panelled double entrance doors and implied pilasters that frame them suggest incipient Greek Revival influence.

A single almost square room on each side flanks the central hall on both stories. The stair with its fine rail of local apple wood rises to a landing over the back entrance and returns in a short flight. The moldings upstairs are plainer, but the mantels there too are grooved. Closets flanking several of the fireplaces were apparently added later. The ceilings have recently been slightly lowered, but in general the restoration has been sympathetic.

The rear ell is several steps above the main block. It appears to have been used as a winter kitchen, with quarters for house slaves above. The room below is said to have been used as a "salt-cellar"; the floor above is supported by barked logs.

The end walls have central chimneys that project only slightly from the surface. Regularly-spaced recessed bricks were perhaps left over from the scaffolding during construction. The foundations are of brick, now covered partially with stucco.

Family tradition that the original plan called for a front porch that was never built because the wood being dried in a kiln caught fire and was destroyed, is perhaps corroborated by the presence of a few pie-shaped bricks on the site, probably intended as bases for the columns.

8 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 type="checkbox"/> _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> _INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1838-39

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Peter S. Hamlin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Seclusaval," the Peter Stainback Hamlin House in Calloway County overlooking the Blood River Branch of the now-flooded Tennessee River (Kentucky Lake), is one of the most unusual as well as one of the oldest surviving houses in the Jackson Purchase area of western Kentucky. Its plain ell-shaped layout and Federal details are given a distinctive character by the horizontally striped brick courses and a geometric doorway. These features may reflect the builder's Virginia ancestry, itself of considerable distinction, and that of his wife, Virginia Ann Michaux, descendant of Huguenots. The house is also a rare survival of the slave economy of western Kentucky which never really took hold, although in many respects the area's culture was a continuation of the southern plantation economy of western Tennessee.

Peter Stainback Hamlin (1808-1891) moved to Calloway County about 1838 with his wife Virginia Ann Michaux (1812-89) whom he had married in 1832. His ancestry included Stephen Hamlin, who came to Virginia in 1634, patented land in Charles City County, and was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1654; Stephen Hamlin II, also a member of the House of Burgesses in 1663; Captain John Hamlin, an officer in the Colonial Militia in Charles City County and a Burgess 1712-14; Charles Hamlin, who was a Justice of Prince George County in 1741, as was later Charles Hamlin II, also a large landowner and Revolutionary War patriot. Thomas, Peter Stainback Hamlin's father, who moved to Rockingham County, North Carolina, at an early age, married Mary Ligon Stainback.

Virginia Ann Michaux, Peter's wife, was descended from Captain Joseph Michaux, a captain in the Continental Line for three years, who received a large land grant for his services. According to Battle, Mrs. Hamlin was "a descendant of Abraham Michaux, a Huguenot, whose wife when a child was shipped out of France as merchandise, in a hogshead, during the period of persecution of Protestants in that country. The Captain of the vessel, being friendly to the Huguenots, released her from confinement, and landed her safely in Holland, where she met and married Abraham Michaux who had preceded her as a refugee." Mrs. Hamlin's line has also been traced back to Abraham Wood, soldier, explorer, landowner--an interesting and important figure in early Colonial Virginia.

Peter Hamlin, plantation, mill, and slave owner, is said to have been a "49er" who went to California during the Gold Rush with some success, as there are family memories

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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"Seclusaval" (Hamlin House)

of a drawer full of gold nuggets and jewelry.

The son of Peter and Virginia Ann Michaux Hamlin, Richard F. Hamlin, was born in North Carolina in 1835 and brought to Kentucky when he was four years old. He was the subject of a biography in Battle's History of Kentucky: "Richard F. Hamlin worked on the farm and around his father's mill, and attended subscription schools until 19 years of age, when upon the proceeds of a small legacy derived from his grandfather, he attended school at Rockingham Court House (Wentworth, North Carolina). Then, by the financial aid of his aunt he was enabled to attend Chapel Hill University in North Carolina, and graduated in 1859. During the fore part of the Civil War he was Union in sentiment, but was influenced by relations and friends to enter the Confederate service. He joined Company H, Third Kentucky Infantry, participating in the Battle of Shiloh and numerous other engagements of the Southwest."

It is thought that the Hamlins first built a log cabin to the left of where the main house was to be located and lived in it while the latter was being erected. The bricks were molded on the farm by slaves using clay and sand and were also burned in a kiln there. The log cabin was later used as the summer kitchen; a brick replacement was never built. There were also at one time slave quarters on the place.

The house in its later years was associated with Pinkney McCuiston, known locally as "Uncle Pink." It has been rehabilitated by recent owners and restored to fine condition.

According to family tradition many features of the house relate to this Virginia heritage. The fine dark cherry used for the woodwork in part of the interior is said to have been brought by wagon from Virginia. Mrs. Hamlin is also believed to have brought flowers and shrubs from her old home in Virginia. A number of pieces of fine furniture used in the house have remained in the family; these include a secretary-desk made in Cincinnati and dated 1839. There were also a square rosewood Fisher piano and other musical instruments for a musical daughter, tokens of the elegant way of life of a few early families in the Purchase area.