

PH022908 DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
JUL 17 1975	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	SEP 9 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

McKee-Vimont Rowhouses

AND/OR COMMON

Althorpe; Old Bank Building; Vimont House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street (U.S. 68)

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Millersburg

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

06

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Bourbon

CODE

017

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 (continued)

NAME

Mrs. Owen M. Adams Estate

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Millersburg

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bourbon County Court Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Bourbon County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Paris

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McKee-Vimont Rowhouses include two buildings of native limestone and a brick house all of early 19th-century construction. They are the outstanding structures in downtown Millersburg and are located at the far south end of Main Street, set right on the street: an urbanistic effect perhaps indicating the builders' aspirations for the town.

The facades of Althorpe and the smaller bank building next to it are of dressed stone (the one side wall still exposed on Althorpe and the back wall are undressed). Althorpe is six bays wide with three windows to the right of the entranceway and two to the left (photo 1). The bank building is two bays in width with the entrance on the south end of the building (photo 2). Particularly striking is Althorpe's elaborate cornice with concave three-sided modillion and gougework dentils beneath, and finely carved doorframe. The door has a semi-circular headlight and an overdoor above it, with a delicately carved pediment and frieze (photo 4).

Inside is more of the same bold woodwork. To the left of the central hall in the front south room, now a dining room, is a mantel and overmantel ornamented with cutouts (photo 9). The man who executed the vase and sprays of stiff foliage for the overmantel, the star and garlands of foliage for the mantel, used chisels and knives, and the difference is the usual one between handwork and machine-made. All of the fireplace wall is paneled, terminating at the street end of the room with an arched cupboard above drawers with neatly dovetailed sides (photo 10).

Behind this room is a room now used as the kitchen, which has a cornice with carving matched to the mantel below. The cornices here and in the adjacent room are only on the fireplace walls and are rare, as are any original cornices in a Kentucky house.

The wall between these two chambers and the stairhall is thinner than the hall wall which divides the passage from the two large rooms on the north end of the house--now parlors but once a shop operated by James McKee. The greater thickness probably was intended as a sound barrier between the shop and the rooms McKee used as a home.

In the back parlor, separated from the front room by triple doors, is a closet thought to have been a throughway at one time to the adjacent bank house. The back wall, to which a porch is presently adjoined, is exposed stone--or what was the original outside wall.

The second floor contains two rooms on either side of the hallway. The front two rooms contain fireplace mantels (photo 12). Chair-rail still survives. A bathroom has been inserted in the front upstairs area with its elaborate fan door, believed to have been an outside door at one time. The original pegged rafters and the wide board flooring can be seen in the attic (photo 13).

(continued)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 c. 1809 ("Althorpe"); c. 1812 (Bank building); before 1830 (Vimont house)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the far north end of Millersburg is a tollgate house, built in the late 19th century, which reveals something about the locale of this small Bourbon County town alongside the old Lexington-Maysville turnpike. However, at the south end of town are older, more important survivors of the communities' past, the McKee-Vimont Rowhouses.

The McKee-Vimont Houses are outstanding architectural examples as well as having important historical associations. The stone work of the south end building ("Althorpe") and what is called the bank house adjacent to it is of a high quality and similar to other Kentucky stone residences nearby ("Fairchild," no longer extant, the home of General James Garrard in Bourbon County; the Green County Courthouse, built by the later governor of Kentucky, Thomas Metcalfe; the Philip Grimes House in Fayette County). The interior and exterior wood trim is also of excellent craftsmanship. Noteworthy too is the fact that the first and second owners of the buildings, the McKees and the Vimonts, were early settlers of Millersburg and important to the commercial development of the town.

Like so many cities in Kentucky, Millersburg was founded in the late 18th century by a group of men attracted by Virginia's offer of free land grants in the West. The town was laid out and incorporated in 1796 and named for the leader of the group, Major John Miller, of Pennsylvania (Peter, pp. 121,123). It was a thriving little town at one time with flour mills, hemp factories, cotton factories, distilleries, and other industries located there. But in the mid-nineteenth century the limited railroad facilities in Millersburg hindered the town's development as manufacturing interests were carried to more eligible localities (Peter, p. 124).

The existing tax records find James McKee present in Millersburg in 1799 and the owner of a retail store by 1802. Apparently the store did well, for by 1809 he was able to buy lots 17 and 54 in the downtown area and erect a stone house on the property (Bourbon County Record Book I, p. 465).

The two large rooms, now parlors, on the north end of the house were thought to have been used as McKee's shop. Sometime later he had a small stone building constructed next to the stone house, to be used as a bank, and a brick house adjacent to it. According to local tradition the stone edifices were built by Thomas Metcalfe or by his older brother John. It is thought that the McKee family occupied or used all three structures because a door, now a closet, in the front room to the brick house led to the bank house and, the

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bourbon County Deed Book 37, p. 16; Deed Book 115, p. 383; Deed Book K Z, pp. 150, 222; Deed Book Y, p. 222.
 Bourbon County Tax Records, 1797 (Kentucky Historical Society).
 Bourbon County Record Book I (1812-14), p. 465.
 Collins, Richard. History of Kentucky, Vol. II, Louisville: John P. Morton & Co., 1874, p. 66. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

Long: 84° 09' 01"
 Lat: 38° 17' 56"

A | 16 | 7419220 | 40112630 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Wade H. Whitley, County Representative

GM

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

2-25-74

STREET & NUMBER

401 Wapping Street

TELEPHONE

502 564-4476

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7-14-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

A. K. Warkentin

DATE

9/9/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

W. M. Melton

DATE

SEP 8 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 2

McKee-Vimont Rowhouses

Mr. Robert Spencer
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mr. and Mrs. James McCormack
Main Street
Millersburg, Kentucky

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ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

McKee-Vimont Rowhouses

The stone work of the bank house is almost identical to that of Althorpe (photo 3). The shutters are pegged and on the ground floor have a heavy iron rod to lock the window as would be expected on a bank house (photo 5). The door frame is somewhat plain with paneled jambs and a three-paned transom above the recessed door.

There is one large room on the ground floor with an archway separating it from a hall area containing the stairway to the upstairs. The room has large exposed beams, a mantel on the south side, and a deep cupboard to the left, which was at one time a door to the bank house.

There are two rooms upstairs with stone walls. In the basement one can view the heavy unhewn support beams. In the attic, as with Althorpe, are pegged rafters and, to the right of the chimney, a crawl space to the adjoining brick house (there is also a crawl space between Althorpe and the bankhouse).

At the south end of the group of buildings is a two-story brick house, four bays wide (photo 2). The entrance door is of cross and open Bible design with heavy reeding in the panels and a transom with a leaded circular design above (photo 6). One enters directly into the front room with a mantel and cupboard on the south wall. The mantel has a simple but attractive design with reeding which matches that on the front door. The millwork is attributed to Allen Trigg, the first minister of Millersburg. To the right of the mantel is a closet, formerly a door leading into the bank building.

The right front room contains an even more impressive and intricately carved mantel with a sunburst-lattice design, attributed to Joel T. Hart. To the rear of the front two rooms is one large room with a stairway at the far left end leading to the four upstairs rooms. More rooms are contained in the modern addition to the rear on the ground floor.

In the attic are large pegged rafters, as in Althorpe, and the common wall--half stone and half brick--shared with the bank building can be seen. There are fine and elaborate gardens behind the rowhouses. "Althorpe" also has a delightful frame coachhouse (now used as a garage) with "Gothic" trim.

The McKee-Vimont row lies across the street from a block of modest but well-kept residences. To the left of the rowhouses is a white frame house; to the right on the other corner is a service station. None of these detract from the sense conveyed by the row of its being a fragment of the early 19th century.

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PAGE 2

McKee-Vimont Rowhouses

two buildings at certain points share a common wall. A brick walkway has been uncovered which runs from the side of the stone house, where once a door was located to the back of the bank building--all indications of the close association of the structures.

McKee sold the brick house in 1830 to Lewis Vimont, retaining the stone house for his own residence. Two years later he sold the bank building to Vimont. In 1833 or 1834 McKee died and his remaining property, consisting of the large stone house and surrounding acreage, was also bought by Vimont (County Deed Book Z, p. 150, 222; Deed Book 37, p. 16).

Lewis Vimont (anglicized from Louis), a very prominent member of the Millersburg community, was born in Corsica in 1776, and brought to America by his father in 1790. Orphaned three years later, he then came under the guardianship of John Savary, a family friend, who brought him to Millersburg in 1795. Savary was Millersburg's first postmaster with Vimont serving as his deputy. After Savary's death in 1813, Vimont succeeded to his friend's post and served in that office until 1834 (Kentucky Citizen, p. 2). Vimont was also a leading merchant in the town and a heavy shipper of produce to the South. In addition he was active in the early 1800s in the construction of the famous Maysville-Lexington turnpike, the first macadamized road in the state. According to historian Robert Peter he not only fulfilled his own contract but completed other sections in different places where contractors had failed, "using a considerable amount of his own funds in doing so, as the company's exchequer was empty" (Kentucky-Citizen, p. 2; Peter, p. 123).

The Vimont family also included Lewis' sister, Filiberte Felicite, brought over from France in 1810. In 1812 she married M. Giron of Lexington, owner of the well-known confectionery and ballroom located on Mill Street (placed on the National Register December 27, 1974) (Kentucky-Citizen, p. 2).

Neither of the McKee Houses was purchased by Vimont for his own personal use. His place of residence was a brick house, no longer standing, which he had constructed in 1818. The stone house was occupied by Lewis Vimont's second son Jefferson T. (1801 - ?), who assisted his father in the mercantile business until his marriage in 1823. His wife Babet Mentelle was the sister of Mary Mentelle who was married to Thomas Clay, son of Henry Clay. After his marriage Jefferson Vimont built a flouring mill and engaged in merchandizing in Millersburg. Two of his daughters, Charlotte

(continued)

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McKee-Vimont Rowhouses

and Elizabeth, lived in the stone house until their deaths. Mrs. Charles F. Norton bought the residence in 1930 and named it "Althorpe" for an estate she saw in England.

The rowhouses located at the far south limit of the town are an architectural landmark for passersby. The finely dressed stone of two of the fronts, the very elaborate detailing of the cornice on Althorpe, the intricately carved doorframe--one of only two exterior arched wooden doorframes found in Kentucky on stone houses--the semi-circular fan headlight over the door are but a few of the more outstanding features of the exterior. The interior woodwork, particularly the mantels in Althorpe and in the brick house, is equally impressive. The architecture of these three buildings, therefore, combined with their association with two of Millersburg's prominent early families make the rowhouses among the most significant structures in the Millersburg area.

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Craig, Ruth Moore. The Courier-Journal. (Louisville), February 26, 1956.

Hyatt, Harry Middleton. The Millers of Millersburg, Kentucky. Vienna: Adolf Holzhausen's Successors, 1929.

Mastin, Bettye Lee. "One By One, the Stone Houses Go Down." Sunday Herald-Leader, August 6, 1972, p. 84.

Newcomb, Rexford. Architecture in Old Kentucky. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1953, p. 87.

Summers, Mrs. Hollis and Layson, Mrs. Jefferson Vimont. "Early Bourbon Families." The Kentucky-Citizen (Paris), September 21, 1943.

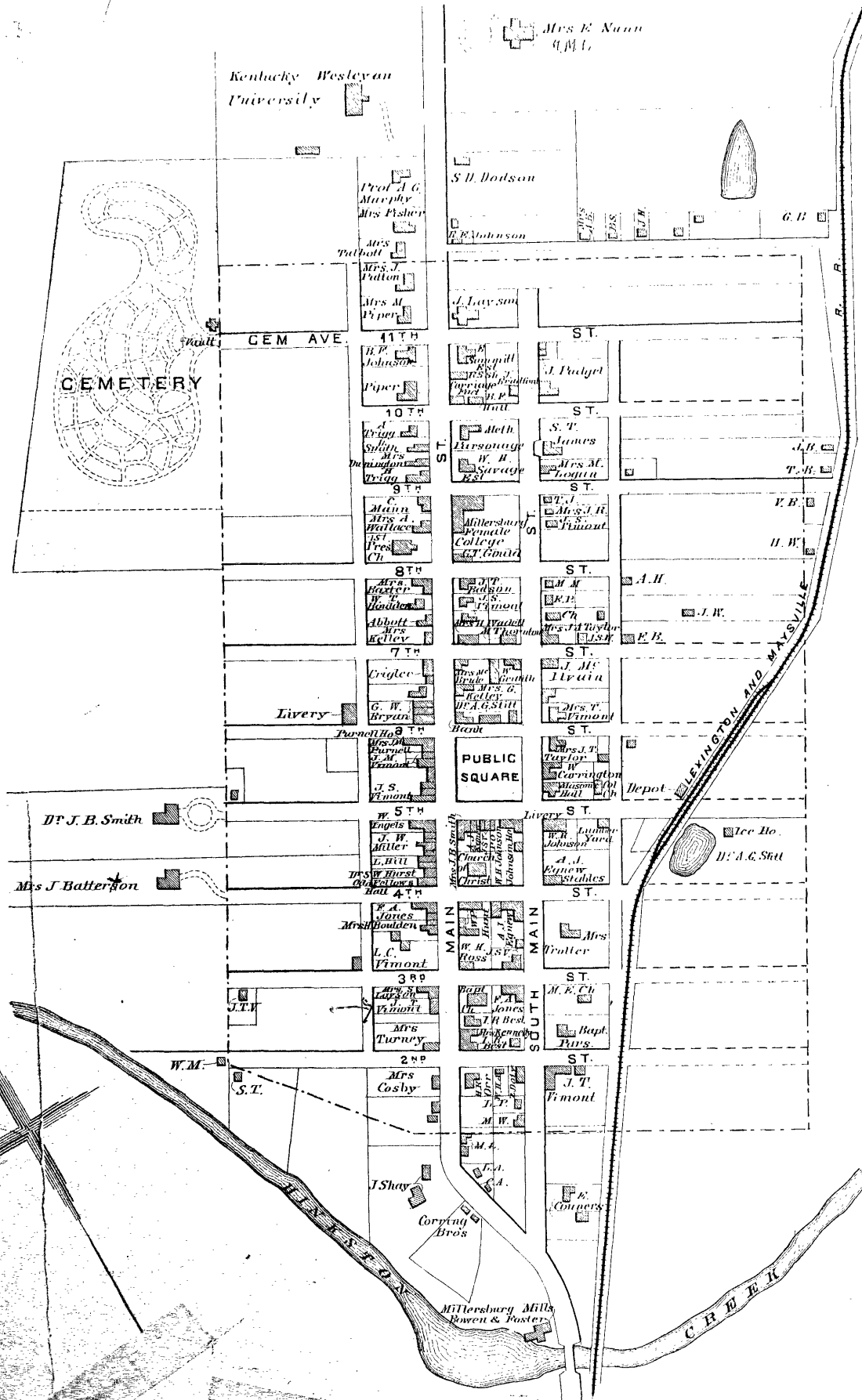
Peter, Robert. History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky. Edited by William Henry Perrin. Louisville: F. A. Battey, 1882, pp. 36, 37, 121-124.

Wooley, Carolyn Murray. "Kentucky's Early Stone Houses." The Magazine Antiques, March 1974, p. 598.

MILLERSBURG

BOURBON CO

Scale 20 Rods to the Inch



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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
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		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1809 ("Althorpe"); c. 1812 (Bank building); before 1830 (Vimont house)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the far north end of Millersburg is a tollgate house, built in the late 19th century, which reveals something about the locale of this small Bourbon County town alongside the old Lexington-Maysville turnpike. However, at the south end of town are older, more important survivors of the communities' past, the McKee-Vimont Rowhouses.

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Like so many cities in Kentucky, Millersburg was founded in the late 18th century by a group of men attracted by Virginia's offer of free land grants in the West. The town was laid out and incorporated in 1796 and named for the leader of the group, Major John Miller, of Pennsylvania (Peter, pp. 121,123). It was a thriving little town at one time with flour mills, hemp factories, cotton factories, distilleries, and other industries located there. But in the mid-nineteenth century the limited railroad facilities in Millersburg hindered the town's development as manufacturing interests were carried to more eligible localities (Peter, p. 124).

The existing tax records find James McKee present in Millersburg in 1799 and the owner of a retail store by 1802. Apparently the store did well, for by 1809 he was able to buy lots 17 and 54 in the downtown area and erect a stone house on the property (Bourbon County Record Book I, p. 465).

The two large rooms, now parlors, on the north end of the house were thought to have been used as McKee's shop. Sometime later he had a small stone building constructed next to the stone house, to be used as a bank, and a brick house adjacent to it. According to local tradition the stone edifices were built by Thomas Metcalfe or by his older brother John. It is thought that the McKee family occupied or used all three structures because a door, now a closet, in the front room to the brick house led to the bank house and, the

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bourbon County Deed Book 37, p. 16; Deed Book 115, p. 383; Deed Book K Z, pp. 150, 222; Deed Book Y, p. 222.
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 Collins, Richard. History of Kentucky, Vol. II, Louisville: John P. Morton & Co., 1874, p. 66. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

Long: 84° 09' 01"
 Lat: 38° 17' 56"

A

16	749220	4012630
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

 C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

 D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Wade H. Whitley, County Representative

GM

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

2-25-74

STREET & NUMBER

401 Wapping Street

TELEPHONE

502 564-4476

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7-14-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

A. K. Warkentin

DATE

9/9/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

W. Melton

DATE

SEP 8 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 2

McKee-Vimont Rowhouses

Mr. Robert Spencer
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mr. and Mrs. James McCormack
Main Street
Millersburg, Kentucky

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DATE ENTERED	SEP 9 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

McKee-Vimont Rowhouses

The stone work of the bank house is almost identical to that of Althorpe (photo 3). The shutters are pegged and on the ground floor have a heavy iron rod to lock the window as would be expected on a bank house (photo 5). The door frame is somewhat plain with paneled jambs and a three-paned transom above the recessed door.

There is one large room on the ground floor with an archway separating it from a hall area containing the stairway to the upstairs. The room has large exposed beams, a mantel on the south side, and a deep cupboard to the left, which was at one time a door to the bank house.

There are two rooms upstairs with stone walls. In the basement one can view the heavy unhewn support beams. In the attic, as with Althorpe, are pegged rafters and, to the right of the chimney, a crawl space to the adjoining brick house (there is also a crawl space between Althorpe and the bankhouse).

At the south end of the group of buildings is a two-story brick house, four bays wide (photo 2). The entrance door is of cross and open Bible design with heavy reeding in the panels and a transom with a leaded circular design above (photo 6). One enters directly into the front room with a mantel and cupboard on the south wall. The mantel has a simple but attractive design with reeding which matches that on the front door. The millwork is attributed to Allen Trigg, the first minister of Millersburg. To the right of the mantel is a closet, formerly a door leading into the bank building.

The right front room contains an even more impressive and intricately carved mantel with a sunburst-lattice design, attributed to Joel T. Hart. To the rear of the front two rooms is one large room with a stairway at the far left end leading to the four upstairs rooms. More rooms are contained in the modern addition to the rear on the ground floor.

In the attic are large pegged rafters, as in Althorpe, and the common wall--half stone and half brick--shared with the bank building can be seen. There are fine and elaborate gardens behind the rowhouses. "Althorpe" also has a delightful frame coachhouse (now used as a garage) with "Gothic" trim.

The McKee-Vimont row lies across the street from a block of modest but well-kept residences. To the left of the rowhouses is a white frame house; to the right on the other corner is a service station. None of these detract from the sense conveyed by the row of its being a fragment of the early 19th century.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

McKee-Vimont Rowhouses

two buildings at certain points share a common wall. A brick walkway has been uncovered which runs from the side of the stone house, where once a door was located to the back of the bank building--all indications of the close association of the structures.

McKee sold the brick house in 1830 to Lewis Vimont, retaining the stone house for his own residence. Two years later he sold the bank building to Vimont. In 1833 or 1834 McKee died and his remaining property, consisting of the large stone house and surrounding acreage, was also bought by Vimont (County Deed Book Z, p. 150, 222; Deed Book 37, p. 16).

Lewis Vimont (anglicized from Louis), a very prominent member of the Millersburg community, was born in Corsica in 1776, and brought to America by his father in 1790. Orphaned three years later, he then came under the guardianship of John Savary, a family friend, who brought him to Millersburg in 1795. Savary was Millersburg's first postmaster with Vimont serving as his deputy. After Savary's death in 1813, Vimont succeeded to his friend's post and served in that office until 1834 (Kentucky Citizen, p. 2). Vimont was also a leading merchant in the town and a heavy shipper of produce to the South. In addition he was active in the early 1800s in the construction of the famous Maysville-Lexington turnpike, the first macadamized road in the state. According to historian Robert Peter he not only fulfilled his own contract but completed other sections in different places where contractors had failed, "using a considerable amount of his own funds in doing so, as the company's exchequer was empty" (Kentucky-Citizen, p. 2; Peter, p. 123).

The Vimont family also included Lewis' sister, Filiberte Felicite, brought over from France in 1810. In 1812 she married M. Giron of Lexington, owner of the well-known confectionery and ballroom located on Mill Street (placed on the National Register December 27, 1974) (Kentucky-Citizen, p. 2).

Neither of the McKee Houses was purchased by Vimont for his own personal use. His place of residence was a brick house, no longer standing, which he had constructed in 1818. The stone house was occupied by Lewis Vimont's second son Jefferson T. (1801 - ?), who assisted his father in the mercantile business until his marriage in 1823. His wife Babet Mentelle was the sister of Mary Mentelle who was married to Thomas Clay, son of Henry Clay. After his marriage Jefferson Vimont built a flouring mill and engaged in merchandizing in Millersburg. Two of his daughters, Charlotte

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	SEP 9 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

McKee-Vimont Rowhouses

and Elizabeth, lived in the stone house until their deaths. Mrs. Charles F. Norton bought the residence in 1930 and named it "Althorpe" for an estate she saw in England.

The rowhouses located at the far south limit of the town are an architectural landmark for passersby. The finely dressed stone of two of the fronts, the very elaborate detailing of the cornice on Althorpe, the intricately carved doorframe--one of only two exterior arched wooden doorframes found in Kentucky on stone houses--the semi-circular fan headlight over the door are but a few of the more outstanding features of the exterior. The interior woodwork, particularly the mantels in Althorpe and in the brick house, is equally impressive. The architecture of these three buildings, therefore, combined with their association with two of Millersburg's prominent early families make the rowhouses among the most significant structures in the Millersburg area.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

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MILLERSBURG

BOURBON CO

Scale 20 Rods to the Inch

