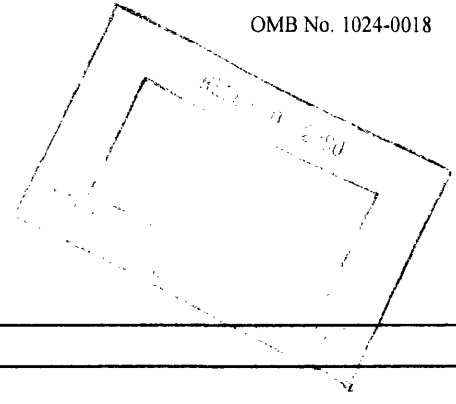


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name METCALFE COUNTY JAIL

other names/site number MCE-14

2. Location

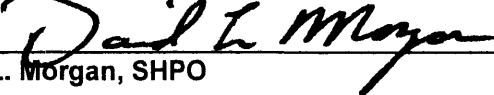
street & number CORNER OF EAST not for publication NA

city or town EDMONTON vicinity NA

state KENTUCKY code KY county METCALFE code 169 zip code 42129

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

	<u>July 28, 2004</u>
David L. Morgan, SHPO	Date
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office	
State or Federal agency and bureau	

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

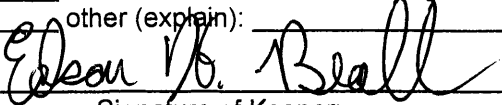
Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

	<u>8/4/04</u>
Signature of Keeper:	Date of Action

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	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/JAIL
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY/EARLY ROMANESQUE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/LIMESTONE

roof METAL/TIN

walls STONE/LIMESTONE

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C 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.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Narrative Statement of Significance (See continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1861-1952

Significant Dates

1861-1869

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

WILSON, JOHN (STONE MASON)

LANDMARK CERTIFICATE

KENTUCKY STRUCTURE SURVEY 2-16-80

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (see 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
METCALFE COUNTY COURT CLERK ORDER BOOK

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2.3 ACRES**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 16 623 600 4093 440 Edmonton Quad
Zone Easting Northing See continuation sheet.**Verbal Boundary Description** (See continuation sheet.)**Boundary Justification** (See continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title KAY HARBISON - PRESIDENTorganization METCALFE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY date _____street & number 4099 RANDOLPH-SUMMER SHADE RD. telephone 270-428-3391city or town SUMMER SHADE state KY zip code 42166

Property Owner

name METCALFE COUNTY FISCAL COURTstreet & number COURTHOUSE SQUARE telephone 270-432-3181city or town EDMONTON state KY zip code 42129

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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METCALFE COUNTY JAIL
METCALFE, KENTUCKY

Narrative Description:

The Metcalfe County Jail (MC-E-14) is in the Early Romanesque Revival style of the mid-19th century ca. 1861. Facing south, it is constructed of limestone blocks, including the foundations and walls. Located on East Street approximately 600 ft. northeast of the courthouse and 230 ft. from the town square, it is bounded by East St. on the south, the Metcalfe County Justice Center on the east and a steep bluff and ravines on the north and west.

The two-story limestone building is constructed of block 24" wide and 20" high, on the first level, and 20" wide blocks with decreasing height, on the second level. On the first story the length of the stones vary from 2' to 7' 6". The building on the outside measures 36' 9" x 24' 4". The front doorway, approximately 8' x 4' 2", has a rounded arch with fine cut stone and key stone with a recessed steel door. Windows on the first story include 2 windows on the west side, one window on the east that was made into a door in 1984, and a small window on the north side. Also on the north side is a 2' x 7' 6" door that has been sealed. Neither that window nor door on the north-side has stone sills and lintels, as do the other windows and door. Instead, each has an iron frame.

On the second story are 2 windows on the south, 1 on the west, 2 on the north (there were 3 windows but one has been walled up with concrete blocks and stone), and 1 on the east. All windows are covered by iron bars and 4 have been closed by concreting the opening. Each window has stone sills and lintels unless noted. A hipped roof is covered with tin and has a boxed cornice.

After entering the front door, a stairway 18' 4" long and 4' 2" wide leads to the second floor. A second metal door (replaced older metal door in 1984) and a 22" thick stonewall separate the stairway and dormitory (largest room). The first floor is divided into 3 rooms. The largest room, called the dormitory, is approximately 14' x 18' and contains 6 metal bunks and 4 metal beds installed in 1984. Leading off the dormitory on the west side are two smaller rooms or cells. The northwest room measures approximately 9' x 12' and the southwest room is 9' x 11' 8". The walls have all been plastered and painted.

The ceilings and floors are poured concrete, and approximately 9' separates them on the first floor. On both levels the ceiling is made of sections of vaulted corrugated steel as was used in vaulted tombs of the 19th century. This forms a rippled effect in the ceiling. The steel is overlaid with concrete. The floors are poured slabs of concrete approximately 5"-6" thick over 10"-12" gravel, resting on limestone blocks foundation such as are used in the walls. On the first floor, the interior wall between the northwest and southwest cells and the dormitory are 22" wide limestone blocks.

According to Carl Miller (*Edmonton Herald News*, June 30, 1974), during the early history of the jail, the jailer lived in the two rooms upstairs in the jail. Sometime about the turn of the century iron cells were installed upstairs and the jailer began to occupy a two story

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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METCALFE COUNTY JAIL
METCALFE, KENTUCKY

residence on the west side of the jail. That structure was torn down and a new one-story jailer's residence was attached to the jail in the early 1970s. This building was torn down in spring, 2002.

The second floor is accessed by iron steps. The 2 rooms upstairs each contain a "bull pen". The cells measure 7'x10' with 2 iron bunks. The west room is 13' 6"x20' 7" and the east room is 14' 3"x20' 7". The cell in the east room also has a 3'x4' cage for entering/leaving the cell. The mechanism for opening and closing the cell doors is still in place and was manufactured by the Pauley Jail Bld'g & Mfg Co., 2215 DeKalb Street, St. Louis, Missouri, patented 1892.

In the west room 3 bunks were located outside the cells although they have been removed. A brick partition that was plastered separates the two rooms. A chimney and flue on the east side of the building allowed for a coal stove to heat the building on first and second floors.

A metal partition between the steps and the east room cells was added in 1984 when renovation work was done to try to retain its use as a jail. On the east a door was also cut to the outside from the first floor dormitory room. Originally it was a window. Two windows on the west side of the first floor were blocked when a brick house for the jailer was attached to the jail ca. 1970. A small opening in each window was left so the jailer could observe prisoners from his house. The house has since been removed.

The heating of the jail depended on stoves and two flues. A pile of coal on the east side of the front door provided the prisoners with fuel for the stoves. Water was obtained from a pump located on the west side of the front door. In 1974-75, (*Edmonton Herald News*, June 23, 1976), a new roof and central heat were installed. Ductwork for heating and cooling was installed in 1984. In 1976, contracts were let for painting the interior and exterior of the buildings as well as the installation of new restrooms. Although the interior was painted, the exterior painting was never undertaken. Shower facilities for both levels were also installed around 1976.

Although the Metcalfe County Jail ceased to serve as an incarceration facility in the 1980s, an attempt was made to modernize the facility in 1984 so it could be used by the county as a 24-hour holding facility. Again the state refused to allow its use and the jail was closed.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 8

Page 1

**METCALFE COUNTY JAIL
METCALFE, KENTUCKY**

Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Metcalfe County Jail (MC-E-14) meets National Register Criteria A and C. It is significant within the historic contexts "Masonry Architecture in Metcalfe County, Kentucky, 1860-1900" and "Metcalfe County Local Government Activities since 1860." The significance of the building within the contexts are that it served, along with the County Courthouse, as an important part of Metcalfe County's Judicial branch for approximately 120 years. Architecturally, it was the only stone building in the county for approximately 100 years. Its massive stones and solid construction showing the power and resolve of the justice system. The period of significance began in ca. 1861 with when the building was constructed and ended with the close of the historic period 1954. The building continued to function as the county jail until ca. 1985.

The casual visitor to Edmonton often misses the structure that served as the Metcalfe County Jail from ca. 1861 to the mid 1980's. Located about a block off the public square, it is not visible to travelers on the main highways through Edmonton, Hwy. 68-80 and Hwy. 163.

Masonry Architecture In Metcalfe County, 1860-1900

Associated with local government for approximately 120 years, it is the only old stone structure in the county. Built of 2 ft. thick limestone blocks that were quarried in the county, it has a medieval appearance. Evidence such as a structure survey, oral history, photo, and written records give no indication that any other stone building was ever found in Metcalfe County. The Metcalfe County Courthouse (1868-69) has a stone foundation constructed by John Wilson, the builder of the jail.

Historic evidence also indicates that few brick structures were constructed in Metcalfe County in the 19th century. The Metcalfe County Courthouse, a brick two-story structure (MCE-1, added to the National Register in 2000), was built in 1868-69 by Henry Perry and Architect, H.P. Bradshaw.

Two brick dwellings, the Stockton-Ray house (MC-27, placed on the National Register in 1992) and the Race Thompson house (MC-256) remain in good condition and are used as residences. A portion of a third house, the Duff Crenshaw house, also remains, but it is in poor condition. Two brick banks (MCE-2 and MCE-3) were constructed around the turn of the century and are presently used as offices. Other brick buildings from the early-20th century include the Edmonton High School (ca. 1924-MC-18) and the Edmonton Presbyterian Church (ca. 1923-MCE-12).

Many of the homes, schools, and churches of the county were log. In a 1984 structure survey of the county conducted by the Green County Historical Society, 327 sites were recorded in the rural areas and small villages and 19 sites were listed in Edmonton. Of these sites, 187 were log structures.

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**METCALFE COUNTY JAIL
METCALFE, KENTUCKY**

Metcalfe County Local Government Activities Since 1860

Metcalfe became a county in 1860, being formed from a major part of Barren County and small portions of Adair, Cumberland, Monroe, and Green Counties. Edmonton, determined to be near the geographic center of the county, was named as the county seat. After the county's formation, county offices were assigned in the courthouse. Today offices of the county's elected official, the county judge executive, county court clerk, Property Valuation Administrator, and Sheriff continue to be located in there. The Fiscal Court meets in the courtroom the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Due to lack of space in later years, the Circuit Court Clerk was forced to relocate in the old Farmers and Merchants Bank Building (MCE-2) and the county attorney's office is located opposite the courthouse, on the north side of the town square.

During the mid-19th century, county government assumed the responsibility of the county's school system. During the early years, the county superintendent and school board members were elected, to the oversight of as many as 55 schools, which included one-room elementary schools, 4 multi-graded schools, and 6 high schools. Local trustees collected school taxes, kept school census, and individual school records. In the 1950s, the one-room schools were consolidated into Summer Shade, Edmonton, and North Metcalfe Elementary Schools, and all high schools were combined into Metcalfe County High School. Presently, an independent committee hires the county superintendent and board members are elected.

Since its establishment, Metcalfe County government has been responsible for a wide array of services, including road building and maintenance, county library (1966), and a governmental administration.

During the early years after Metcalfe became a county the Fiscal Court assumed little, if any, care for the health and well being of the citizens. During the 1860s and 1870's, the county did reserve a fund to help blacks that were unable to provide for themselves. Referred to in the Order Books as "the Negro and Mulatto fund", it was used to pay for burials for the mentally challenged and the poor.

Prior to 1936 and shortly afterwards, a "Poor House" was operated in Metcalfe County by citizens who bid for a contract to keep paupers. In 1976, the Metcalfe County government built the Metcalfe County Nursing Home, which is regulated by a management board and operated by a corporation. Opening in March 1977, it has approximately 101 beds. The facility also opened an adult day care for the county residents in October 1990.

In 1994, Metcalfe and Barren County's 911 service went into effect. Emergency messages are relayed to the Edmonton Police Department, Metcalfe County Sheriff's Department, fire departments, and Barren-Metcalfe County Ambulance Service.

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**METCALFE COUNTY JAIL
METCALFE, KENTUCKY**

In 1931, the Metcalfe County Health Department began operation with Dr. William Isom as the first health officer. As part of the duties, county health nurse and doctor went to schools to immunize students and check on their physical well being. For many years, the County Health Office was located in the Education Building on the town square with the Metcalfe County Board of Education. In April 1962, a new facility was built on the Glasgow Road. By 1992, the county had out grown the building and an addition was added.

One of the little known duties of the Fiscal Court after Metcalfe became a county was to issue tavern licenses, and set the standards for conduct and fees at the taverns. In 1869, rates in Metcalfe were set: lodging 50¢, meals 50¢, horse feed 40¢, each drink 15¢, and hay for horse 20¢ (Order Book 1). Licenses could also be suspended if conduct in the tavern was deemed unsuitable.

Metcalfe County Jail Historical Facts

Metcalfe County constructed a stone jail in ca. 1861. The stone structure was used to house prisoners until the early 1980s when the state ruled that the building was not suitable. Renovations to the jail were made, but it was still deemed unsatisfactory. Prisoners are now transported to the Barren County Jail at Glasgow to be incarcerated with Metcalfe County paying for their services.

The stone jail constructed of large limestone blocks was built on the site where Bennett O'Neal ran a grist horse mill and Tommy Reid operated a carding mill. When Metcalfe County was established in 1860, the act stated, "The County of Metcalfe shall have the use of Barren County jail when needed, until the people of Metcalfe County shall have erected and completed a jail of their own". Because the County Courthouse burned twice, first on March 15, 1865, and again on July 27, 1868, the exact date of its construction is unknown.

According to local sources, the stonemason, John Wilson constructed the building after arriving in Edmonton from Glasgow, Scotland. According to a great, great granddaughter, Iris Eileen Reynolds Leftwich, after John married Jeanette Hunter of Ireland, they moved to Glasgow, Scotland where Elizabeth Barr Wilson was born on July 13, 185? (tombstones) or 1857 (death certificate, family history). It took John 6 months to make the voyage to America. According to family oral history, it took 6 months for a letter to reach Scotland and another 6 months for the family to make the return voyage. When his family arrived he was at work on the jail. "He saw them coming and threw down his tools and hollered, "There comes my family". They were in a covered wagon. They also state that Elizabeth was 4 years old when she made the voyage to America. She would place their arrival ca. 1861-62. The younger daughter Annie F. was listed on the 1870 census as being from in Kentucky ca. 1863 making the time of the jail construction probably beginning in 1861 or 62. John Wilson is not listed on the 1860 Metcalfe County Census, but he and his entire family are listed in 1870 and in 1871 he gave permission for his daughter Elizabeth to marry.

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**METCALFE COUNTY JAIL
METCALFE, KENTUCKY**

On March 15, 1865 (Order Book 1), approximately 60-70 guerrillas under the command of Capt. Jacob Coffman Bennett of the 10th Kentucky Calvary CSA with John Hunt Morgan burned the Metcalfe County Courthouse and all records were lost. In a diary written by Elizabeth Beauchamp when she was 15 years old, she stated that the guerrillas sent John Will Compton to "set fire to the jail." If he refused, he would be shot. However he was able to escape by running down a hill when they were not looking. They did release one of their numbers who was in jail with the measles. Two of the guerrillas had only recently been released from the jail. Although the present doors are iron, the original door according to Carl Miller in a reprint of an earlier article in the *Edmonton Herald News* (June 30, 1974), the original jail doors were wooden with "a mass of square-headed nails". This was possibly the aim of the jail fire.

No mention of the jail is made in court order book until October 23, 1868 when John W. Allen a local carpenter was paid \$25.50 (Order Book 1, p.28) for lumber and the construction of jail steps (presumably to the 2nd floor) and January 12, 1869 (p.51) when S.S. Murray, the jailer, was paid \$206.00 in wages.

By February 15, 1869, (Order Book 1 pg. 71) John Wilson had probably completed the work on the jail, since he is hired for 11 days as superintendent of stonework on the courthouse foundation, for which he was paid \$33.00.

The stone, a dense grade of limestone, was quarried in the county. According to an interview with Mr. Robert Holland, who was reared in the Wisdom community of Metcalfe, the stones for the jail were hauled by Pleasant Anderson Holland of the Foundation community after he received the contract. His regular occupation was to haul supplies to and from Louisville.

Although it does not occupy a prominent position in the logistics of the town, its unique architecture, bringing to mind a medieval castle or Roman fortress, makes it an unforgettable part of the county. Along with the courthouse, the jail is a structure readily recognized by county residents. It has appeared on Christmas ornaments, afghans, and covers of books. The jail stands as an unusual part of our heritage, linking past and present. However, it also serves to link the old world and the new through the craftsmanship of the stonemason from Scotland who built it.

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METCALFE,

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Section 10
JAIL

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METCALFE COUNTY

METCALFE,

KENTUCKY

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

Beginning at the Edmonton Town Square the Metcalfe County Jail is located 230 feet north of the southeast side of the public square (Stockton & East Streets) at a sharp curve where East St. turns west. It is 500 feet east of North Main St. along East St. The west property line is 100 feet from the jail and is a steep bank that drops to a slopping wooded ravine. To the north 100 feet from the jail, a steep river bluff and ravine drops to a river bottom along the south fork of the Little Barren River. The east property line adjoins the Metcalfe County Justice Center currently under construction. This proceeds to the point of origin on East St.

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

The area known as the Metcalfe County Jail consists of the stone building known as the jail and no other structures. This area bounded as aforementioned has been identified with the functioning of Metcalfe County government since ca. 1861.



Ca. 1907-08 METCALFE CO. JAIL AND JAILER'S HOUSE.

The man on left in front of jail is probably the jailer, Henry Hoover, (grandfather of Mary Hoover McMurtrey and Gladys Hoover Fields.) The small house to the left of the jail was painted red.

The house of Mrs. Albert Van Zant now stands on the site of the little red house.

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Section Photos

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METCALFE COUNTY JAIL
METCALFE, KENTUCKY

Photographic Identification Sheet

Same information for all photos:

Name: Metcalfe County Jail

Location: Metcalfe County, KY

Photographer: Kay Harbison

Date: 2004

Location of Negatives: Kentucky Heritage Council, 300 Washington Street, Frankfort, KY
40601

Photograph-specific information:

Photo #	Photo Direction and Content:
Photo 1:	to north: front façade of building
Photo 2:	to southwest: East and North facades
Photo 3:	to southeast: North and West facades
Photo 4:	to north northeast: detail of stonework on front door
Photo 5:	to north northeast: detail of front door