

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

MAR 22 1976

DATE ENTERED

APR 21 1976

**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

* * The Reverend James McGready House (Logan County Poorhouse)

AND/OR COMMON

Old Poorhouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West of town, south of Route 68 off Emerson By-Pass

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Russellville

VICINITY OF

01

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Logan

CODE

141

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: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. R. M. Walker

STREET & NUMBER

Route #1

CITY, TOWN

Russellville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Logan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Russellville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE

1976

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 McGready House is located southwest of Russellville south of the Emerson By-Pass. A paved road leads south past modern factories almost to the front of the house then turns east. Although the approach is dominated by the industrial plants, on the south and west sides of the building are open fields. The old east-west railroad passes several hundred yards south of the house. On the other side of it is a low, wooded ridge (see background of photo 10). The Davis family cemetery (included on the property nominated) lies west of the house in a grove of trees.

The house faces north. The main block has a story and a half above a high basement (now masked on the front and partially on the east side by a turn-of-the-20th-century porch). A one-story stone ell integral with the main portion of the house extends south with a continuous east wall (photos 1, 2, 3).

About 1870 a one-story frame wing was added extending west from the southwest corner of the main block of the house. The front porch and two prominent front gables appear to have been added since 1900, along with eaves on the end gables and perhaps a cornice throughout. Modern kitchen and bathroom facilities were added later between the rear ell and poorhouse wing.

The facade of the stone house is asymmetrical, although the four openings are regularly spaced. The door and right window open into the large "hall"; the slightly smaller "parlor" at the left has two front windows. The ell has a single large room. The two front rooms are divided by a thin partition, against which a closed stair leads up from beside the rear door in the hall. Upstairs there are two rooms in front under the almost 45-degree gables. There was a slightly lower space over the ell. Two square lookout windows flank the chimney, inset into all three end-gables. The front basement is reached by an outside entrance (now with a frame shed; see photo 10) in the west wall. The ell has a separate entrance on the south wall, protected by a strange but sturdy stone hood with a segmental-shaped top that may or may not be original (photo 3). The front basement does not connect with that of the ell.

The house is constructed of superb golden sandstone. The front wall has perfectly regular courses, diminishing in height gradually upward (photos 1, 2, 7). The side walls are slightly less regular except at the razor-sharp corners; there is an effect of "queen closers" around the window on the east side of the ell, for instance (photos 1, 2, 3, 8). The rear (south) wall of the ell is still less regular, almost like fieldstones, although still flat-surfaced (photo 3). Most of the stones bear multiple small chisel marks, following the same general direction on each stone. The tall chimneys are laid perfectly regularly with a thin projecting course near the top.

(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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 stone house before 1800; BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____
poorhouse ca. 1870

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McGready house, a superb golden stone structure of fine craftsmanship, and one of the oldest standing houses in the county, has several important historical associations. It was early lived in and probably built by one of the most significant figures in the religious life of the early Kentucky frontier, the Reverend James McGready (1760-1837). It is he who is credited with igniting the fires of the Great Revival of 1800 in Kentucky, a popular revivalist religious movement that originated in Logan County and quickly spread to Tennessee, Virginia, North and South Carolinas, and into Georgia. The house was subsequently owned by another notable Logan County pioneer, James Wilson, a trustee of the town of Russellville in 1801 and a member of the state legislature in 1825. About 1870 the house became the matrix of a now-obsolete Victorian social institution, the county poorhouse, and a frame wing was added to house the inmates. Although now on the verge of ruin and located near several factories, the building still has potential for restoration and adaptive use.

The McGready House consisted of a story-and-a-half main block with an integral rear ell over a high basement. The degree of regularity of the stone courses of the exterior walls progresses from the random-laid rear to the facade, and there are magnificent, illusively-arched lintels on both the main story and the basement openings. Although little remains of the interior woodwork there is evidence of fine Georgian-Federal mantels, six-panel doors, chair-railing, and panelled door and window frames. The regular but not symmetrical four-bay facade expresses the hall and parlor layout of the main block, with a closed stair attached to the single partition. All these features support the pre-1800 date of this house, although the quality of craftsmanship and illusory lintels are exceptional for early Kentucky stone houses.

Tradition has it that masons and other craftsmen en route from Tennessee to Ohio along the old Nashville-Limestone (Maysville)-Zanesville Pike stopped in the area long enough to erect several such masterworks (two similar houses survived in Logan County within living memory).

Logan County was early settled and became one of the first seven counties organized immediately after the admission of Kentucky into the Union as a state in the same year, 1792 (Collins, p. 479). Russellville, the county seat, is located on the head

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

Latitude $36^{\circ} 50' 14''$

UTM REFERENCES

Longitude $86^{\circ} 54' 52''$

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

Colonel Byrne A. Evans

WEL/GM

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

West 6th Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 726-2094

CITY OR TOWN

Russellville

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Mellon

TITLE

DATE 3/16/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE 4/21/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

DATE 4.18.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The James McGready House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The most striking feature of the masonry is the lintels. Partially hidden by the modern porch floor (the porch itself has extravagant, if rough, stone walls under the board floor) are the long, smooth stone lintels of the three front basement openings (see photos 1, 2, 7; it is not clear whether there was a similar opening under the front entrance). Although each appears to consist of thirteen fitted stones splayed within the overall rectangle, the divisions are actually just scored on the surface of a single stone. Similarly, the lintels of the first-story openings, slanted upward at the ends and with a projecting "keystone," are formed of single artfully-cut blocks (see photo 8).

The sills are part of the plain recessed wood frames. The doors have square transoms. The doors and windows seem to have been altered or replaced, but there is a fine early six-panel door at the bottom of the stairs. The deeply-recessed inside frames of the openings have almost flat panels on the sides and several slender moldings framing the interior surface (see photo 6).

It would appear that the first-floor woodwork was "modernized," perhaps in the mid-19th century. There are high plain baseboards. Evidence of chair-railing exists only in the ell room where fallen plaster reveals wood blocks spaced about a foot apart at the level where chair-railing would be placed if the original baseboards were lower. There are also thin wood beams set into the wall at the level of the window tops, to which may have been attached picture-rail or even pegboards (later used by the Shakers at nearby South Union, in Logan County, for instance. See the National Register form approved April 3, 1975).

In the burned-out second story, however, plain wide chair-railing remains all around the two front rooms except in the two added front gables; it also extends into the two rear dormers which must therefore have been original, although the windows were replaced (photos 4 and 5).

In the right front (west) downstairs hall only a single board remains of the presumably original mantel. In outline appears the profile of a shelf supported on richly curved moldings. Below it was the separate fireplace opening framed by three rows of slender moldings, very much like that of the slightly smaller mantel that survives upstairs (although detached; photo 4).

In the basement, there is a very low fireplace opening with a wood lintel in the ell and a larger, stone-arched opening in the east front room (photo 8). The rafters and joists are all of carefully hand-hewn poplar, pegged and with square-cut rails. A characteristic detail is the mortised and pegged board that supports one side of a stone hearth (photo 9).

(continued)

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The James McGready House
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The walls, floors, and intact woodwork of the stone house appear in structurally sound condition in spite of deterioration due to exposure and destruction of much of the roof and upstairs interior in the recent fire. The added gables, porches, and frame rear service rooms are in poorer condition.

The frame poorhouse wing added about 1870 was flimsily constructed to begin with and has deteriorated accordingly. A series of a half-dozen rooms with their own doors open onto narrow galleries with low leanto roofs along the north and south sides. Two slender brick chimneys service these rooms. The long narrow openings, tongue-in-groove wainscoting, and other features are typical of the period. Like the stone house, this wing has a standing-seam metal roof, relatively intact. It is problematic whether the poorhouse wing should be restored along with the stone portion, although it provides an interesting example of "humanitarian" functional construction a century ago.

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The James McGready House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

waters of the Muddy River, and is in the center of the county (see map 2). During the period from 1790 to 1800, the life of the town was that of a typical frontier settlement. Wrote Peter Cartwright, who lived in Logan County until 1802:

Logan County, when my father moved to it, was called Rogue's Harbor. Here many refugees, from almost all parts of the Union, fled to escape justice or punishment; for although there was a law, yet it could not be executed, and it was a desperate state of society. Murderers, horse thieves, highway robbers, and counterfeiters fled here until they combined and actually formed a majority. . . . The honest part of the citizens seemed to be driven to the necessity of uniting and combining together, and taking the law into their own hands, under the name of Regulators. This was a very desperate state of things (Coffman, Story of Russellville, p. 33).

In 1796 the Reverend James McGready, then a young minister of 36, made his way into this rather wild and primitive area. McGready was born in Pennsylvania, of Scotch-Irish descent and grew up in North Carolina. He returned to Pennsylvania to college, and obtained his license to preach as a minister in the Presbyterian church in 1788. En route home McGready spent some time at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia where he was impressed with the religious revival then in progress. He developed a strong evangelistic spirit himself which he carried back to Orange County, North Carolina, where he began preaching. According to one source, however, he soon made himself unpopular by his "unsparing invectives" against horse racing, gambling, and other common practices of the day (Thompson, p. 131). He so enraged certain members of the community that "they united at one of his meetings and forming a mob tore down and burnt up Mr. McGready's pulpit and warned him that if he did not quit preaching that doctrine or leave the country that he might expect his church to be destroyed and himself roughly used, and might be thankful if he escaped with his life" (Finley, Book 2, p. 6). When McGready found that he could not preach in the country without producing riot, injury to property, and perhaps loss of life, he left North Carolina and, passing over the mountains, came to East Tennessee, where he lived for several months. He arrived the latter part of 1796 in Logan County, settling near the Red River Meeting House and Cemetery where he became the minister. He made his home nearby in the Red River community where many of his friends from North Carolina now lived. In the spring of 1797 he organized a church on the Gasper River and the fall on 1797, organized a church on the Muddy River. Now the pastor

(continued)

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The James McGready House
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

of three small but flourishing churches, McGready's message remained the same, that of a revival doctrine calling for the personal witness of the Spirit (Finley, Book 2, p. 6).

In 1799, the first revival meeting was held at Red River (see National Register form for Red River Meeting House and Cemetery, Logan County, approved at the State level October 21, 1975), which was marked by intense emotionalism. Other meetings followed in quick succession. The large number of people who attended the meeting and the fact they were generally held over a three-day period made it imperative to provide in some way for their lodging. Thus the camp meetings came to be a regular feature of the revival, with provisions and bedding brought from home.

The religious zeal exuded by McGready and his followers in Logan County quickly spread to other denominations and to other regions. It continued with unabated zeal until about 1803 and lessened considerably after 1805 (Cleveland, p. 86). Its major effects were two-fold. On the whole, the revival stimulated religious and social life on the frontier, with the Baptists and Methodists adding sizeable numbers to their church rolls. On the other hand, the doctrine as preached by McGready caused dissension among Presbyterians and resulted in schisms that split the church, forcing the exodus of certain groups, one of which formed the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and another that formed a completely new denomination, the Christian Church, or the Disciples of Christ (Cleveland, p. 139).

In 1798, according to Logan County historian Alexander Finley, before McGready had altogether been swept up in the tide of the Great Revival, he "bought from Reed and moved to where the poor house now is" in order to be more centrally located to his churches (Finley, Book 2, p. 8). No record exists of a deed from Reed to McGready, but it was common in those days for a tract of land to be sold without a deed having been recorded. In 1799 McGready bought 100 acres of land in the area of the house from Thomas Davidson and in 1801 claimed and was given 150 acres "south and west of where McGready now lives" (Logan County Order Book 1, p. 74; Deed Book A-1, p. 201). Although it cannot be verified that McGready built the house, Finley writing in 1878--apparently with the memory of a Mrs. Walker as his source-- stated the house was standing in 1800. A survey performed in 1807 refers to it as McGready's former residence. The house was standing in 1807, therefore, and perhaps before 1800 (Evans, p. 2).

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 4

Pioneer James Wilson, a later owner of the stone house, is shown on the first Logan County Assessor's list on 1792. He was named a trustee of the town of Russellville in 1801 and held other political positions of lesser significance in the county until his death in 1847 at the age of 77. He is buried in the graveyard approximately 600 feet west of the old home. Wilson left the house and much of his land to his son, James W. Wilson, and left the land to the west and north to his daughter, Caroline Reeves. A codicil to his will provided that his heirs must fence the graveyard with a stone wall $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, 18 inches thick, and with a four-foot gate (Will Book G., p. 56 ; Evans, p. 2; apparently the heirs skimped in executing the will, as none of the dimensions of the wall fulfills these requirements).

James W. Wilson died shortly after the death of his father and the administrator of his estate, George T. Edwards, then sold the property to John M. Sharp, reserving the graveyard and route of access thereto. The property changed hands several times until 1872 when the house and a portion of the land was bought by the County Court for the purpose of establishing a county poor farm where the indigent no longer able to care for themselves could be sent. McGready's old residence was used as the poorhouse with a frame extension to the west and south constructed to allow for more dormitory accommodations. No plumbing facilities were included. There "the pathetic residents, old and infirm, dressed in overalls and shapeless long cotton dresses, without shoes in summers and sometimes in winters" made their home (Evans, p.2).

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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The James McGready House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

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JUL 14 1976