

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 1 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 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
** *wh*
The Joseph Holt House and Chapel
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *SW of Addison on*
Highway 144 __ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Addison VICINITY OF 02
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Kentucky 021 Breckinridge 027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 checked="" 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
Mrs. Ida Henery
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE
Addison VICINITY OF Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Breckinridge County Court House
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE
Hardinsburg 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 STATE
Frankfort Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

^{2 1/2 photos}
The Joseph Holt House, a three-story brick structure, is located on State Highway 144 one mile west of Addison, Kentucky. The house is situated in a grove of trees on a plain, with the Ohio River in view to the north. A metal industry has recently purchased the land southwest of the house and chapel, and is planning to build a plant in the near future.

The western two-thirds of the house may well date from 1850, but the east wing and trim seem more characteristic of the 1870s. The house has many features of an Italianate villa. Over the window are cast iron lintels: flat lintels on the first story, pedimented over shallow arches on the second floor. An unusual feature is the Palladian windows in the gables, which have continuous entablatures that curve up into central round arches, and the sills seem clasped into the wall. The Palladian windows are not only more plastic-- that is, sculptural-- than the other openings, but they seem out of scale. They are diminutive but rich, while the windows are long and attenuated with skimpy ornamentation. Another peculiar feature is the way the dormers break the bracketed cornice. They seem to perform a double function as attic windows (often between paired brackets within the cornice itself) and dormers on the roof. Over five bays of the front extends a very finely ornamented cast iron porch with a projecting central bay (see photos 1 and 2).

The walls of the house are 14" thick. The ground floor has three 20' by 22' rooms with 14' ceilings. Another 20' by 22' room used as a kitchen and dining room extends off the back of the house. The second floor has three 20' by 22' rooms with 12' ceilings. The third floor is the same only with 10' ceilings. Between each of the three rooms on each floor there is a 12' hallway with a winding staircase that extends to all three levels. The rear ell has porches on both sides and there is a two-story porch with exterior staircase on the back of the main block (see photo 4).

The slave quarters that were located behind the kitchen have been removed. The house has been vacant for several years and is beginning to deteriorate.

Located on the other side of the road about 200 yards southwest of the house is the Holt Chapel, constructed in 1871. The chapel is a Gothic Revival structure, which has a small vestibule that projects slightly from the nave. Two courses of projecting brick form an arch, framing the front entrance. This arch reflects a much larger arch behind it, formed out of two pilasters. A large wheel window is located in the center of the arch. There are dentils on both sides of the the arch on the diagonal. On the sides of the chapel are four narrow Gothic arched windows with pilasters spaced between them. A belt course runs above the windows. Originally the chapel had the seating capacity of two hundred. It has been vacant for a number of years and is now used as a recreational area for children and as a stripping room for tobacco. Nevertheless, very handsome exposed Gothic timber trusses, resting on corbels, support the roof. (see photos 7, 8, and 9).

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES House-c.1850 Chapel-1871 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Holt house was built in 1850 by Joseph Holt to replace an earlier structure that had been destroyed by fire. Joseph Holt (1807-1894), a prominent lawyer, reached national eminence, having served as Commissioner of Patents (1857), Postmaster-General (1859), Secretary of War (1860) under President Buchanan, and Judge-Advocate General (1862) under President Lincoln.

Joseph Holt was born in January 1807 in Breckinridge County, Kentucky. He was the son of John and Eleanor Stephens Holt. Joseph Holt's grandfather, Richard Stephens, reported to be the youngest Captain in General George Washington's army, received a 10,000-acre land grant in what was to become Breckinridge County, Kentucky. It was on a portion of this property that his daughter, Eleanor, and her husband built a small house (where the present house now stands) where Joseph Holt was born. Stephens took great interest in his grandchildren and left them each a portion of his estate. Holt presumably inherited the house. Joseph Holt Rose, the grand-nephew of Holt, recounted in a letter that the house was considered grand at the time of its construction in 1850 and included was a carriage house and outside kitchen. Exotic trees, collected by Holt on his wide travels, filled the garden. Rose also stated the house was a popular gathering place for friends who would come from Louisville on the train on the weekends. The trains used to stop at a small station that was on the Holt property.

Stephens also made provisions in his will for his grandchildren's education. Holt attended St. Joseph College in Bardstown and Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. Upon graduation, Holt "read law" under Robert Wickliffe in Lexington, Kentucky. In 1823, he was admitted into the Hardin County bar and practiced in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, with Benjamin Hardin (Hardin was a member of Congress 1815-1817, 1819-1823, 1833-1837, and Kentucky's Secretary of State under Governor Owsley, 1844). Here Holt received recognition as an eloquent speaker, making frequent appearances on Democratic platforms to expound on the political issues of the day. In 1832 Holt relocated in Louisville where he combined his legal work with being the assistant editor of the Louisville Advisor. From 1835-1836, he served as Commonwealth Attorney. Holt's elocution gained him national recognition in 1836 when he became a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, which nominated Martin Van Buren and Richard Johnson for President and Vice-President. The same year Holt moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he had a successful practice for several years. Due to ill health Holt retired from active practice and returned to Louisville in 1842. While recuperating from tuberculosis, Holt made several trips to Europe and the Near East.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Messenger Inquirer. November 17, 1968.
 "Joseph Holt." Dictionary of American Biography. 1932. Vol. IX.
 Coleman, Winston J. Historic Kentucky. Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1968.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	5,3,7	1,0,0	4,1,9,6	0,4,0	B	1,6	5,3,7	1,6,0	4,1,9,6	0,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C	1,6	5,3,7	2,0,0	4,1,9,5	5,6,0	D	1,6	5,3,7	1,2,0	4,1,9,5	5,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				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

William A. Thompson, Breckinridge County Representative (M.C. / W.E.L.)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Mc Daniels

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.

~~OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE~~ SIGNATURE

Cedric W. Miller

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/25/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/12/76

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-25-76

RBR for WJM 7/8/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 1 1973
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 1973

The Joseph Holt House and Chapel
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Holt married twice; his first wife was Mary Harrison and his second was Margaret Wickliffe, daughter of Governor Charles Wickliffe (1839-1840) of Bardstown. Both of his wives died of tuberculosis.

In 1859, Holt came out of retirement to serve as Commissioner of Patents under President Buchanan. Three years later he was appointed Postmaster-General. Holt succeeded John B. Floyd as Secretary of War in 1861. As a member of Buchanan's Cabinet, Holt urged the President to take a firm stand against secession after the ordinance of secession passed in South Carolina. He was a strong supporter of the Union, and after the election of Lincoln, he concentrated his efforts on convincing Kentucky to change its policy of neutrality to support of the Union. He is held largely responsible for Kentucky's vote in September 1861 to support the Federal Armies.

President Lincoln appointed Holt Judge-Advocate General in September 1862. He was the first to hold this office since it had been created by Congress. As Judge-Advocate General, Holt developed the jurisdiction of the military commission so that persons and offenses not subject to the jurisdiction of courts martial could be tried by a military body, thus enabling military authorities to arrest and keep in prison many persons who would otherwise have been released to civil courts. An opinion of Holt given in 1863 resulted in the strengthening of the Union Armies by large bodies of Negro troops at a time when reinforcements were badly needed. The question of the enlistment of slaves was referred to him for his views as to its legality. He replied in the affirmative. Writing of the Negro soldiers, he later said, "Uncrushed by the shackles of slavery so long worn, they fought with heroic loyalty for the flag of freedom on every battlefield upon which they appeared."

After the assassination of Lincoln, Holt presided over the military commission which tried those who were accused of having conspired with John Wilkes Booth against the life of President Lincoln. This event marked the permanent decline of his career. Mary Surratt, the owner of the boarding house where John Wilkes Booth lived while he planned the assassination was accused of conspiring with Booth. Public sentiment and Holt's prosecution led to the conviction of Surratt. She was hanged July 1865. It was later discovered that Mrs. Surratt had not been involved in the plot and was innocent. The government's witnesses were found guilty of perjury. Holt was charged with suppressing important evidence, mainly Booth's diary, and of withholding the military commission's recommendation of clemency toward Mrs. Surratt, from President Johnson. From this time, his name was linked with the execution of an innocent person.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 1 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 1976

The Joseph Holt House and Chapel

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

In 1866, Holt published a vindication for his actions in the Washington Daily Morning and a pamphlet, Vendication of Judge-Advocate General Holt from the Foul Slanders of Traitors, Confessed Perjurers and Suborners, Acting in the Interest of Jefferson Davis. Even after Holt's retirement in 1875, he spent the remainder of his life justifying his actions. Holt died in Washington D. C. , in August 1894. Holt was buried in the cemetery on the Holt estate in Breckinridge County. Memorial services were held in a chapel located a few hundred yards south of the house. Holt built the chapel in memory of his mother, who died in 1871.

The house and chapel remained in the Holt family until 1907, when it was sold. They passed through several hands over the years and now the house and chapel stand vacant.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 1 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 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
** *wh*
The Joseph Holt House and Chapel
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *SW of Addison on*
Highway 144 __ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Addison CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Addison VICINITY OF 02
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Breckinridge CODE 027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 checked="" 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 Mrs. Ida Henery
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Addison STATE
Addison VICINITY OF Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Breckinridge County Court House
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Hardinsburg STATE
Hardinsburg VICINITY OF 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
Frankfort VICINITY OF Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

^{2 1/2 photos}
The Joseph Holt House, a three-story brick structure, is located on State Highway 144 one mile west of Addison, Kentucky. The house is situated in a grove of trees on a plain, with the Ohio River in view to the north. A metal industry has recently purchased the land southwest of the house and chapel, and is planning to build a plant in the near future.

The western two-thirds of the house may well date from 1850, but the east wing and trim seem more characteristic of the 1870s. The house has many features of an Italianate villa. Over the window are cast iron lintels: flat lintels on the first story, pedimented over shallow arches on the second floor. An unusual feature is the Palladian windows in the gables, which have continuous entablatures that curve up into central round arches, and the sills seem clasped into the wall. The Palladian windows are not only more plastic-- that is, sculptural-- than the other openings, but they seem out of scale. They are diminutive but rich, while the windows are long and attenuated with skimpy ornamentation. Another peculiar feature is the way the dormers break the bracketed cornice. They seem to perform a double function as attic windows (often between paired brackets within the cornice itself) and dormers on the roof. Over five bays of the front extends a very finely ornamented cast iron porch with a projecting central bay (see photos 1 and 2).

The walls of the house are 14" thick. The ground floor has three 20' by 22' rooms with 14' ceilings. Another 20' by 22' room used as a kitchen and dining room extends off the back of the house. The second floor has three 20' by 22' rooms with 12' ceilings. The third floor is the same only with 10' ceilings. Between each of the three rooms on each floor there is a 12' hallway with a winding staircase that extends to all three levels. The rear ell has porches on both sides and there is a two-story porch with exterior staircase on the back of the main block (see photo 4).

The slave quarters that were located behind the kitchen have been removed. The house has been vacant for several years and is beginning to deteriorate.

Located on the other side of the road about 200 yards southwest of the house is the Holt Chapel, constructed in 1871. The chapel is a Gothic Revival structure, which has a small vestibule that projects slightly from the nave. Two courses of projecting brick form an arch, framing the front entrance. This arch reflects a much larger arch behind it, formed out of two pilasters. A large wheel window is located in the center of the arch. There are dentils on both sides of the the arch on the diagonal. On the sides of the chapel are four narrow Gothic arched windows with pilasters spaced between them. A belt course runs above the windows. Originally the chapel had the seating capacity of two hundred. It has been vacant for a number of years and is now used as a recreational area for children and as a stripping room for tobacco. Nevertheless, very handsome exposed Gothic timber trusses, resting on corbels, support the roof. (see photos 7, 8, and 9).

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES House-c.1850 Chapel-1871 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Holt house was built in 1850 by Joseph Holt to replace an earlier structure that had been destroyed by fire. Joseph Holt (1807-1894), a prominent lawyer, reached national eminence, having served as Commissioner of Patents (1857), Postmaster-General (1859), Secretary of War (1860) under President Buchanan, and Judge-Advocate General (1862) under President Lincoln.

Joseph Holt was born in January 1807 in Breckinridge County, Kentucky. He was the son of John and Eleanor Stephens Holt. Joseph Holt's grandfather, Richard Stephens, reported to be the youngest Captain in General George Washington's army, received a 10,000-acre land grant in what was to become Breckinridge County, Kentucky. It was on a portion of this property that his daughter, Eleanor, and her husband built a small house (where the present house now stands) where Joseph Holt was born. Stephens took great interest in his grandchildren and left them each a portion of his estate. Holt presumably inherited the house. Joseph Holt Rose, the grand-nephew of Holt, recounted in a letter that the house was considered grand at the time of its construction in 1850 and included was a carriage house and outside kitchen. Exotic trees, collected by Holt on his wide travels, filled the garden. Rose also stated the house was a popular gathering place for friends who would come from Louisville on the train on the weekends. The trains used to stop at a small station that was on the Holt property.

Stephens also made provisions in his will for his grandchildren's education. Holt attended St. Joseph College in Bardstown and Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. Upon graduation, Holt "read law" under Robert Wickliffe in Lexington, Kentucky. In 1823, he was admitted into the Hardin County bar and practiced in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, with Benjamin Hardin (Hardin was a member of Congress 1815-1817, 1819-1823, 1833-1837, and Kentucky's Secretary of State under Governor Owsley, 1844). Here Holt received recognition as an eloquent speaker, making frequent appearances on Democratic platforms to expound on the political issues of the day. In 1832 Holt relocated in Louisville where he combined his legal work with being the assistant editor of the Louisville Advisor. From 1835-1836, he served as Commonwealth Attorney. Holt's elocution gained him national recognition in 1836 when he became a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, which nominated Martin Van Buren and Richard Johnson for President and Vice-President. The same year Holt moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he had a successful practice for several years. Due to ill health Holt retired from active practice and returned to Louisville in 1842. While recuperating from tuberculosis, Holt made several trips to Europe and the Near East.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Messenger Inquirer. November 17, 1968.
 "Joseph Holt." Dictionary of American Biography. 1932. Vol. IX.
 Coleman, Winston J. Historic Kentucky. Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1968.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	5,3,7	1,0,0	4,1,9,6	0,4,0	B	1,6	5,3,7	1,6,0	4,1,9,6	0,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C	1,6	5,3,7	2,0,0	4,1,9,5	5,6,0	D	1,6	5,3,7	1,2,0	4,1,9,5	5,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				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

William A. Thompson, Breckinridge County Representative (M.C. / W.E.L.)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Mc Daniels

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.

~~OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE~~ SIGNATURE

Cedric W. Miller

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/25/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/12/76

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-25-76

RBR for WJM 7/8/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 1 1973
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 1973

The Joseph Holt House and Chapel
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Holt married twice; his first wife was Mary Harrison and his second was Margaret Wickliffe, daughter of Governor Charles Wickliffe (1839-1840) of Bardstown. Both of his wives died of tuberculosis.

In 1859, Holt came out of retirement to serve as Commissioner of Patents under President Buchanan. Three years later he was appointed Postmaster-General. Holt succeeded John B. Floyd as Secretary of War in 1861. As a member of Buchanan's Cabinet, Holt urged the President to take a firm stand against secession after the ordinance of secession passed in South Carolina. He was a strong supporter of the Union, and after the election of Lincoln, he concentrated his efforts on convincing Kentucky to change its policy of neutrality to support of the Union. He is held largely responsible for Kentucky's vote in September 1861 to support the Federal Armies.

President Lincoln appointed Holt Judge-Advocate General in September 1862. He was the first to hold this office since it had been created by Congress. As Judge-Advocate General, Holt developed the jurisdiction of the military commission so that persons and offenses not subject to the jurisdiction of courts martial could be tried by a military body, thus enabling military authorities to arrest and keep in prison many persons who would otherwise have been released to civil courts. An opinion of Holt given in 1863 resulted in the strengthening of the Union Armies by large bodies of Negro troops at a time when reinforcements were badly needed. The question of the enlistment of slaves was referred to him for his views as to its legality. He replied in the affirmative. Writing of the Negro soldiers, he later said, "Uncrushed by the shackles of slavery so long worn, they fought with heroic loyalty for the flag of freedom on every battlefield upon which they appeared."

After the assassination of Lincoln, Holt presided over the military commission which tried those who were accused of having conspired with John Wilkes Booth against the life of President Lincoln. This event marked the permanent decline of his career. Mary Surratt, the owner of the boarding house where John Wilkes Booth lived while he planned the assassination was accused of conspiring with Booth. Public sentiment and Holt's prosecution led to the conviction of Surratt. She was hanged July 1865. It was later discovered that Mrs. Surratt had not been involved in the plot and was innocent. The government's witnesses were found guilty of perjury. Holt was charged with suppressing important evidence, mainly Booth's diary, and of withholding the military commission's recommendation of clemency toward Mrs. Surratt, from President Johnson. From this time, his name was linked with the execution of an innocent person.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 1 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 1976

The Joseph Holt House and Chapel

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

In 1866, Holt published a vindication for his actions in the Washington Daily Morning and a pamphlet, Vendication of Judge-Advocate General Holt from the Foul Slanders of Traitors, Confessed Perjurers and Suborners, Acting in the Interest of Jefferson Davis. Even after Holt's retirement in 1875, he spent the remainder of his life justifying his actions. Holt died in Washington D. C. , in August 1894. Holt was buried in the cemetery on the Holt estate in Breckinridge County. Memorial services were held in a chapel located a few hundred yards south of the house. Holt built the chapel in memory of his mother, who died in 1871.

The house and chapel remained in the Holt family until 1907, when it was sold. They passed through several hands over the years and now the house and chapel stand vacant.