

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 26 1984
date entered AUG 1 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Nathaniel Burrus House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 955 Vanarsdall Road, not for publication

city, town Harrodsburg Vic., vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Mercer County code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Barker

street & number 955 Vanarsdall Road

city, town Harrodsburg vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mercer County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Harrodsburg state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title KY Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nathaniel Burrus House is located in northern Mercer County, west of Salt River, on the north side of the Vanarsdall Road. The Salt River Valley of the central Kentucky Bluegrass region geographically is a transitional area where the farmland changes from gently rolling to severely sloping. This "white oak" area is drained by the many creeks and runs that join to form Salt River.

The 1½-story, American bond brick house has a chimney inside each of the flank walls. There is a pilastered doorway with sidelights centered in a 5-bayed facade; the windows have 12/12-paned sashes.

Inside, a transverse hall is flanked by square rooms. The staircase rises against the west wall to a landing that cuts across the transom of the back door.* The stairs have an open stringer, and the handrail is supported by colonnette newels and square banisters. Doors contain four horizontal panels over a square panel. Trim consists of symmetrical facings with corner blocks. The mantel in the east room is pilastered and flanked by presses. The floor of this room is a step higher than the hall floor by a few inches. A third room is in the ell to the rear of the east room. An enclosed stairway to the chamber above is on the south wall. The floors are of oak. There are three small chambers on the second floor that have survived relatively intact until the end of the 20th century.

The house, which originally included a portico of classical design, had its front facade altered by the addition of a modern porch which incorporated the original square-piered columns. It includes a low brick wall with projecting beams. Three dormer windows on the front elevation are modern. The log half of the rear ell has been covered over with aluminum siding and has a modern lean-to addition.

The mantel is missing from the west room and the fireplace on the north wall has suffered changes. However, none of these changes were of a structural nature which would prevent the house from being returned to its original condition.

The domestic area includes a 2-pen frame tenant dwelling with central chimney and a brick smoke house in deteriorated condition. A child's grave is also located adjacent to the house.

*An upper flight of steps continues forward to the second floor.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates c. 1830 **Builder/Architect** Nathaniel Burrus

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Although it has experienced some minor alterations and small additions in recent years, the Nathaniel Burrus House retains the basic form and most of the architectural details which make it an outstanding example of the transitional Federal Greek Revival farmhouse in Central Kentucky. The complex is an excellent example of a farm complex associated with the landed gentry of 19th century Mercer County.

Nathaniel Burrus built this house in the latter part of his life as an outward manifestation of his economic status in the community. The son of a prominent Mercer family, Nathaniel Burrus was able to amass a considerable fortune through the astute management of his extensive land holdings and the produce trade which he conducted on the nearby Kentucky River.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mercer County Court Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.4 acres

Quadrangle name McBrayer

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 16 685360 4196155
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on the northern side of Vanarsdall Road 750 ft. west of the juncture of Vanarsdall and Cole Roads, thence NNW 400 ft., thence WSW 400 ft., thence SSE 200 ft., thence 50 ft. ENE, thence 200 ft. SSE to Vanarsdall Road, thence 350 ENE to the point of origin. The boundary incorporates the house, a child's grave,

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 Amy A. Shewmaker and Howard K. Gregory

organization Harrodsburg Historical Society date April 1984

street & number 220 South Chiles Street telephone (606) 734-9238

city or town Harrodsburg 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 Mary Emma Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 24, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

for Melvyn Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 8-1-84

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Nathaniel Burrus House

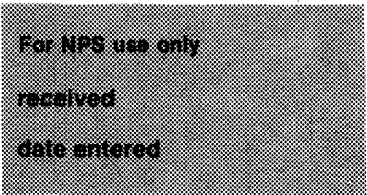
Continuation sheet Mercer County, Kentucky

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and a small garden space within the current domestic space plus a tenant house and smoke-house located approximately 150 ft behind the main house.

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name NATHANIEL BURRUS HOUSE Site # _____

Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title INDIVIDUAL NOMINATION

U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

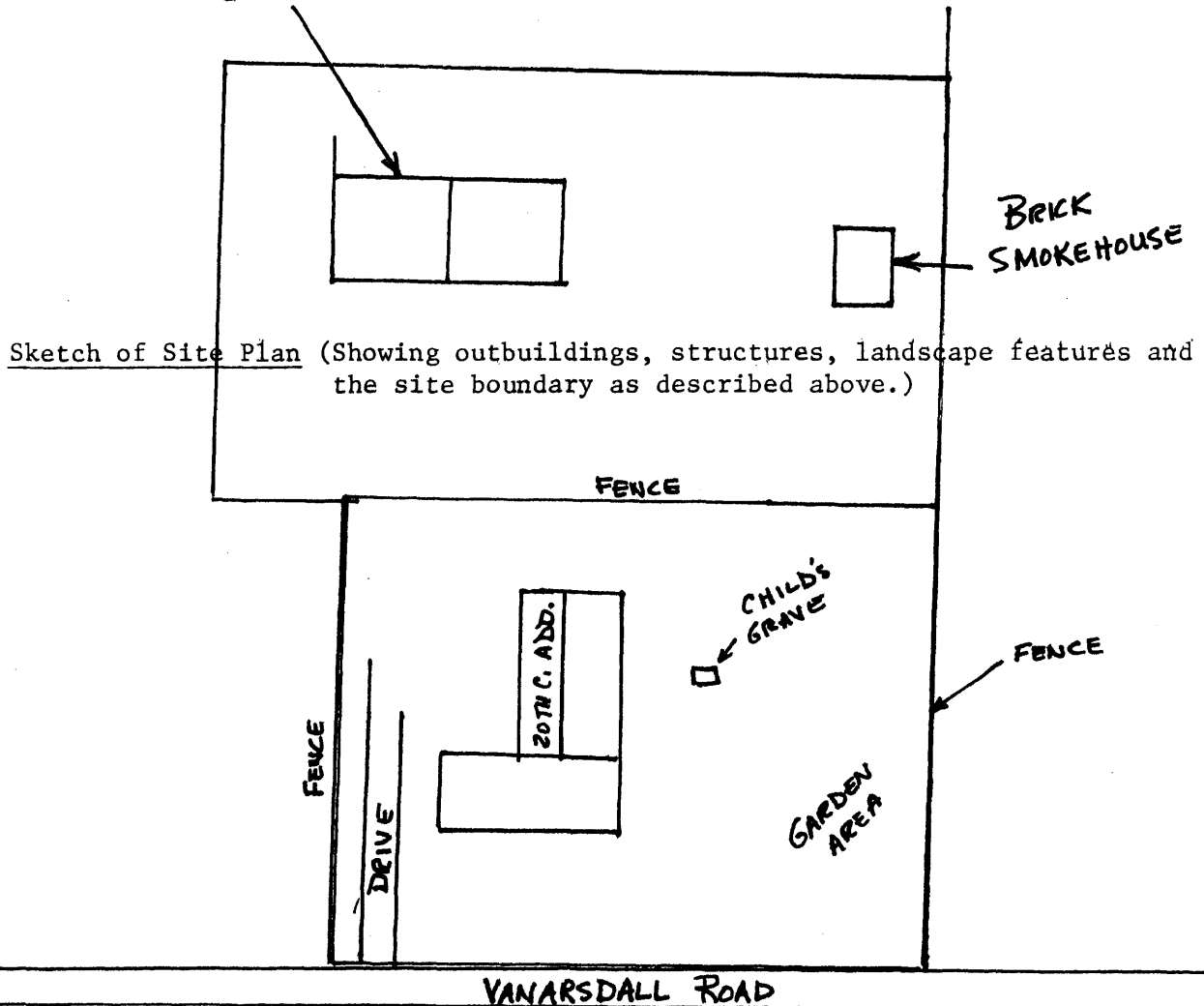
A. _____ D. _____

B. _____ E. _____

C. _____ F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description _____ Acreage _____

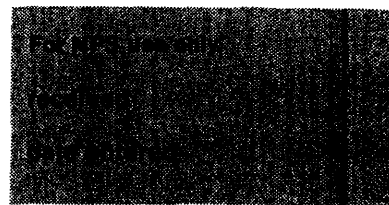
C. 1880 TENANT HOUSE



Official Courthouse Property Reference:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Archaeological Site 15MF355 Menifee County, Kentucky

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Taken together, environmental factors tend to reject the possibility of an historic origin for the Spratt Site. It therefore remains to be demonstrated, through comparative data sets, the prehistoric time period(s) within which the Spratt Site stoneworks could have been constructed, and their possible cultural affiliations.

Prehistoric stone mounds are exceedingly common in eastern North America, especially within the southern Appalachians. These and other stoneworks tend to occur on upland ridge tops and bluff edges. References to stone mounds are common in the ethnohistoric literature, where they are usually described as memorials commemorating notable individuals, usually warriors (Swanton 1928:391; Lederer 1912:142-143; Lawson 1860:78).

Early archaeological investigations of stone mounds often produced negative results, much to the chagrin of their excavators (e.g. Moorehead 1897:214). Kelley (1979) has also noted the general paucity of diagnostic artifacts in stone mounds and stone effigy constructions.

One of the first systematic stone mound excavations was conducted by Kellar (1960) at the C.L. Lewis Stone Mound in Shelby County, Indiana. This mound contained a large number of burials and artifacts reflective of the Early Woodland Adena complex. Kellar included an in-depth discussion of stone mounds in his report on the C.L. Lewis Site, and concluded that most date to Middle and Late Woodland times (1960:450), an assessment implicitly echoed by Kelley (1979).

Among the prehistoric stone mounds investigated in Kentucky, most tend to date to Woodland times. The Chilton Site in Henry County (Funkhouser and Webb 1937) contains the remains of a number of low stone mounds apparently related to the Late Woodland Newtown Focus. Another Newtown locality, the Rodgers Site in Boone County, contained an earth mound with stone lined graves (Crawford 1959). Schock and Foster (1976) have reported a number of stone mounds on the bluffs [REDACTED] in Boyd County, Kentucky, one of which yielded a radiocarbon date of 360 ± 65 B.C. This date indicates a possible Early Woodland affiliation for this mound, although the complete lack of artifacts renders such an assessment speculative.

Investigations at two stone mounds in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky, 15BB21 and 15BB38, date to terminal Woodland/Fort Ancient times (Clay 1976, 1984). These sites contained stone cist graves, a mortuary style exemplified by the Page Site mound complex in Logan County, Kentucky (Webb and Funkhouser 1930 ; Allen 1977).

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Effigy mounds, both stone and earthen, are generally attributed to Adena-Hopewell cultures, although few diagnostic artifacts have been recovered from these sites (Kelley 1979). Stone effigies occur in various forms, including serpent effigies in Boyd County, Kentucky (Brisbin 1976) and Tennessee (Wilkins 1981), and bird effigies in Georgia (Kelley 1979). Woodland ceramics have been recovered from the famous earthen Serpent Mound in southern Ohio, which has been attributed to the Adena culture (Webb and Snow 1945:222, 341).

Other stoneworks in the greater Ohio Valley include enclosures constructed from stone and earth such as Fort Hill in Ohio (Fowke 1902:245), Old Stone Fort in Tennessee (Faulkner 1968), and Indian Fort Mountain in Madison County, Kentucky (Moore 1982). These sites have yielded evidence indicating a Middle Woodland Hopewellian origin for their construction.

Although the Spratt Site is somewhat unique in terms of its topographical location and configuration, comparative evidence from other aboriginal stoneworks strongly suggest a Woodland affiliation. The marked elaboration of mound building and earthwork construction during the Middle Woodland period further indicates a potential Hopewellian affiliation for the site.

Disruption of Resources and Data Limitations

The Spratt Site is in an excellent state of preservation. The primary disruption of the site has been derived [REDACTED] which have disturbed only small portions of the stone walls in Component A. Other minor disturbances include trees growing through a few mounds, and a fallen tree which has partially disturbed a small mound in Component B. There is no evidence of looting or vandalism at the site, and soil profiles indicate that the site has probably never been plowed.