

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 3 1975

DATE ENTERED AUG 19 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Knight-Stout House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1 mile north of Finchville on Kentucky Route 55

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Finchville

VICINITY OF

6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Shelby

CODE

211

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
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Eades

STREET & NUMBER

Route 55

CITY, TOWN

Finchville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Shelby County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

401 Wapping Street

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Knight-Stout house is located one mile north of Finchville, a tiny unspoiled crossroads town amid the rich and rolling agricultural terrain of Shelby County, on Route 55, which was originally the Bardstown Turnpike. The house is situated on a hilltop near Bullsken Creek, named for a creek in Berkeley County, Virginia, where Dr. Knight's wife was born. The Cumberland and Ohio Railroad ran on the east side of the house, known as the "Bloomfield Special," running from Shelbyville to Bloomfield.

The original structure consisted of four log rooms, two up and two down with two central halls. The logs were hand-hewn cherry. The rooms are 18 by 18 feet with 8-foot ceilings. The halls are 13 by 18 feet. The stairway is plain and functional with wide planks used around the stairwell upstairs. The woodwork downstairs retains its natural finish, while upstairs it is painted. The original glass and hardware are still found in the west rooms and on the back door. In the original rooms the log walls are covered with wattle-and-daub. Originally, the chimneys were at the ends of the house, but they were later moved to the south wall in the west rooms. Upstairs, the mantel is very wide and simple, while downstairs, there is only a flue opening for a stove. All the floors are ash with 8-inch-wide boards except the upstairs west room which has poplar boards put in at a later date. Under the downstairs stairwell, there is a small door with the original hardware that leads to a full basement. The stone-walled basement's original outside entrance was on the east side. A spring, just outside or inside the wall at this end, flowed through the basement until 1961 when it was diverted by tiling and earth fills to stop dampness from damaging the logs. The outside entrance was then changed to the north side. The back portion of the log house is covered with wide weatherboards. It is thought that the original house faced northwest, as Kentucky Highway 55 did not exist at that time. The sills are log with bark still remaining on them, although a few need to be replaced.

A one-story addition was made on the east front, circa 1800. It consisted of a wooden (not log) room 18 by 18 feet with chimney. It was built about 10 feet from the original log house with an open 'dogtrot' between. The floor level of the addition is much lower than that in the main house. This room was used as a dining room. About 8 feet away, on the north side, another room used as the kitchen was constructed of board-and-batten outside, sealed inside, without any upright timbers even in the corners. This room had a chimney for a stove only, and was separated from the dining room by another dogtrot. About 25 feet east of the kitchen, underground is a large, rock chimney foundation of a log cookhouse, where the food was prepared and brought into the main kitchen before being taken into the main dining room. This room burned.

More additions were made circa 1880. The dining room and kitchen floors were raised to the level of the original log rooms. Halls were built to connect the kitchen and dining room with the original structure and a room was added over the dining room. During

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 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

circa 1785; 1800; 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Dr. Knight and others

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of

t he house is primarily historical, although the present structure incorporates one of the oldest surviving log buildings in the area and is in many respects typical of the gradual enlargement and modernization of long-standing farmhouses: a local vernacular version of the Greek Revival portico, for instance, was added and later removed. The original portion of the house was built circa 1785 by Dr. John Knight, one of Shelby County's first settlers. He served in the Revolutionary War and later in the State Legislature. But his most important contribution was in the field of medicine and surgery.

Born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1748, Dr. Knight, son of a physician, was graduated from the medical school at the University of Edinburgh before coming to America in 1773. According to tradition he ran away from home to come to America to join in the American Revolution. He worked his way over on a ship which landed in Philadelphia. Here he met Colonel William Crawford, who paid Knight's remaining passage. This was the beginning of a close friendship.

He fought in the Revolutionary War including the battles of Germantown, Monmouth, and Brandywine. In 1777 Knight was appointed paymaster of Colonel William Irvine's (prominent in later Kentucky History) Pennsylvania Regiment and was also paymaster of the Seventh Virginia Regiment. In May 1782 Knight was appointed surgeon in the army that was assembled to attack the Indian settlement at Sandusky, Ohio. Dr. Knight and Colonel William Crawford, who was both the commander of the force and Knight's best friend, were captured by the Indians. Colonel Crawford suffered a brutal death, being burned at the stake, while Dr. Knight was forced to watch. Dr. Knight was moved to another town to be burned, but escaped while traveling there. Dr. Knight spent four days in the wilderness, living on wild berries and plants while he was making his way to civilization. When he arrived at a fort he was weak and scarcely able to speak. Three weeks passed before he could give a coherent account of his ordeal.

In October 14, 1784, Dr. Knight married Mary Stephenson, a niece of Colonel Crawford. Soon afterward they came down the Ohio River on a flat boat to the Falls of the Ohio and settled in Shelby County (at that time part of Jefferson County) next to the farm of his brother-in-law, Joseph Winlock, near Finchville. He at once took an active part in all public affairs and was prominently associated with those who served in the early formation of the State in 1792, and in the shaping of its laws, and also served eminently in the legislature in the year 1796.

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The Knight-Stout House
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

this period the house was fronted to the southeast and a small porch with two-story white columns was built.

A few years later a front wing on the west side was added. It consisted of a large reception hall (13 by 21 feet) and a parlor (18 by 21 feet). Upstairs a sitting room was above the hall and a bedroom over the parlor. A 10-foot-wide concrete one-story front porch with 10 white columns extended the entire length of the house and a back porch with Victorian trim was put on the north side.

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Dr. Knight's ability as a doctor and surgeon was demonstrated by the number and condition of people who came to him for aid. For instance, Mathias Hester, a Louisvillian engaged in teaming, was shot, tomahawed, and scalped while moving two families to Shelbyville. A rescue party arrived and finding Hester badly wounded they took him to the home of Dr. Knight. There he stayed for fifteen months, receiving all the care and attention needed. Because of Dr. Knight's skill Hester made a full recovery and lived for thirty more years.

In 1787, Knight was called to remove an arrow from the thigh of Richard Chenoweth's son. The Chenoweth family was later involved in an Indian Massacre in July, 1789, during which several members of the family were killed or wounded.

Dr. Knight with the assistance of his son, performed one of the first successful operations for breast cancer, on Mrs. John Meek who rode to Dr. Knight's on horseback from Wayne County, Indiana, for the operation. After she regained sufficient strength, she returned on horseback with her husband to her home.

Dr. Knight died in 1838 and was buried in the nearby Winlock family cemetery which overlooks Bull Skin Creek.

In 1849 Claggett Turnham Stout and his wife Mary A. Utterback Stout moved from Scott County to Shelby County. He bought the Knight farm. His family originally came from Culpepper, Virginia. Stout died in 1879 and left the farm to his son Elijah L. Elijah Stout married Nancy Vannatta in 1869 and lived on the farm for 78 years. Both Claggett and his son were successful farmers and respected citizens of the community. They were also great admirers and breeders of fine horses.



VINCENNES BUSINESS REFERENCES.

C. MITCHELL, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Crockery and Glassware, Books, Stationery, Toys, Clothing, Trunks, Mattresses, Bedsteads, Beds, Washstands, etc. 111½ West Street for Profits. Also, P. M. Station and Express Agency.

T. MILLER, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Crockery, Medicines, Toys, Stationery, Books, Stationery, Trunks, Mattresses, Beds, Washstands, Beds, etc. 111½ West Street, of best quality. Also at Vincennes, P. O. address, Vincennes, Kentucky. Also at Louisville, Kentucky. Also at Louisville, Kentucky.

EDDY, M. D., Physician and Surgeon, Vincennes, Kentucky.