

1597

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

AUG 28 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Arrowhead
other names/site number James Major House; Tom Jett Place; FR-234

2. Location

street & number West side, U.S. 60, 1/2 mile south of Hanley Lane
city, town Frankfort
state Kentucky code KY county Franklin code 073 zip code 40601

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: district (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 5, Noncontributing 0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects, Total 5

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer
Kentucky Heritage Council
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register. (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: tavern

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Vertical frame, board-and-batten
siding -- outbuildings

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The 1821 James Major House, traditionally known as "Arrowhead," occupies a low rise $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of the Versailles Road (U.S. Highway 60) in the area known as Jett -- $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of Frankfort, Kentucky (1980 pop., 25,973). Hanley Lane -- $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the north -- marks the corporate limits of Frankfort, which serves as the seat of Franklin County and as the capital of Kentucky.

There are no other buildings, except for Arrowhead's own farm structures, in the immediate vicinity (the Versailles Road originally ran north-south 150 feet from Arrowhead's front); a substantial apartment complex is to the north (on the other side of Hanley Lane); commercial buildings line the east side of U.S. 60; and Interstate Highway 64 is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the south.

The surrounding land features the undulation that is characteristic of the Bluegrass region, and the setting retains its farm-like setting -- despite residential and commercial encroachment.

1
C: Arrowhead faces north, and the main facade of this two-story house contains five bays: two centered doors flanked by two 9-over-6-pane sash windows, whose configuration is repeated in the four evenly-placed windows above. The fifth bay is the entrance to a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story wing on the east. The lower part of the wing is original to Arrowhead; its upper portion was added around 1900 -- which is also when the 1-story, 6-bay Neo-Classical verandah across the front was added.

The main and rear facades' brickwork is laid in Flemish bond. There is a centered brick chimney at both ends of the main block; the two roof sections are gabled and are of moderate pitch.

The east end of the wing contains one 6-over-6-pane sash window in the original (lower) portion, while a similar window serves the later addition above. The west end of the main block is unfenestrated.

Arrowhead's rear facade contains five bays: one 6-over-6-pane sash window centered on the lower wing; one off-centered entrance with -- like the paired entrances on the main facade -- a two-pane transom overhead; and three 9-over-6-pane sash windows (one presently boarded over). The rear facade's second story contains four evenly-placed windows like those below. A later-added service ell, whose lines are still discernible, has been removed.

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G na

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

1821-1900

1821

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
na

Architect/Builder

Harrison Blanton (attributed to)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Arrowhead -- a well-preserved 1821 residence that also may have served for a while as a tavern -- is significant under National Register Eligibility Criterion C. Architecturally, Arrowhead is important as a fine local adaptation of the Federal style. Its intact floorplan is unique in Franklin County's architecture, and, thus, is important for displaying the configurations of a typical house during the county's settlement period. It is also among the best preserved examples of farmstead architecture in Franklin County, Kentucky.

Arrowhead, erected in 1821 -- as testified to by a cornerstone at the northwest -- was built for Col. James Major (1761-1861), a veteran of the American Continental Army -- as was his father, John Major, Sr. (1740-1808). Arriving in America from their native England in the 17th century, this branch of the Major family lived in Virginia for four generations before moving to Kentucky -- believed by some to claim Revolutionary War land grants.

"Some of the early Major families went to Kentucky with Daniel Boone and settled at Boonsboro . . . Later, a large number of his (John Major, Sr.) generation moved westward to Missouri, settling in Pettis and Lafayette counties" (F.R.B. Major).

The land that Arrowhead occupies "was originally owned by Lewis Craig and was sold to James Major in 1797. James' father had settled in nearby Major's Station in 1785 and (this family was) no doubt the most prominent family at that time in this part of Franklin County" (William Scott).

Upon his relocation to Missouri in 1835, James Major sold Arrowhead to Thomas Jett; for years, this property was known as the Tom Jett Place (Darnell). Jett (1787-1858), for whom the locale also came to be known, "was the son of Willa Jett and Rachel Cole, whose parents ran the famous Black Horse Tavern in Woodford County" (Scott). Upon Jett's death, his son inherited Arrowhead, and after the turn of the century it was owned successively by H.P. Mason and Edmond Power" (Ibid.). The present owner plans for a sympathetic renovation/restoration of the house for private residential use, with perhaps rehabilitation of the nearby farm structures for rental housing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Darnell, Ermina Jett. Happy Days at Jett. Typewritten manuscript in the collection of the Kentucky Historical Society Library, Frankfort. Published in 1932.

Jillson, Willard Rouse. Early Frankfort and Franklin County, Kentucky: A Chronology of Historical Sketches Covering the Century 1750-1850. Louisville: Standard Press, 1936.

Kentucky Historic Resources Individual Inventory Form. Resource # 234, Franklin County. William B. Scott, Jr. Frankfort: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1986.

Kramer, Carl E. A Two-Hundred-Year History of Frankfort and Franklin County. Historic Frankfort, Inc., 1986.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): na

- 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

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council
Frankfort, KY 40601

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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Frankfort East Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

A rectangular area measuring 330 X 310 feet. See map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area is designed to encompass the 1821 house and the four turn-of-the-century outbuildings that remain. No historic resources or special characteristics lie outside the nominated area.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian
organization Private Consultant date March, 1989
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city or town Harrodsburg state Kentucky zip code 40330

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Arrowhead, Franklin County, KY

Section number 7 Page 2

In terms that distinguish the vernacular character of Arrowhead, the structure is labeled a "two-room brick house" (Riesenweber). Chambers in the main block (see floor plan) are equal-sized: there is a main staircase along the east side of the central interior wall, and an auxiliary staircase is at the northeast of the wing.

Arrowhead's interior has essentially been unaltered during its 168-year history. The ceilings retain their original height. Also, fenestral openings, door frames, and chair-rails are intact and are treated with notable gouge-work. The interior's especially fine Federal mantels are all currently in storage elsewhere due to Arrowhead's present state of vacancy, along with its low visibility and somewhat remote location.

Arrowhead's main block measures 22 X 40 feet; the wing, 17 X 17 feet.

2

C: Located approximately 50 feet behind the residence is a frame crib measuring 20 X 13 feet and having vertical board-and-batten siding. The main part is covered by a gabled roof that has an extended bonnet in the gable peak; there is a shed-roof extension to the side. This outbuilding is in a deteriorated condition.

3

C: Then, approximately 50 feet behind the crib is a workers cottage. Measuring 28 X 13 feet, this structure has a foundation of stone slabs and is covered with vertical board-and-batten siding. There is a gabled roof with a centered interior brick chimney. Its front contains a pair of entrances; each side wall has one rectangular window; and the rear -- across which stretches a recent concrete deck -- contains one door and one window.

4

C: Next, approximately 50 feet west of the workers cottage is a chicken coop measuring 10 X 10 feet. This outbuilding is also covered with vertical board-and-batten frame siding. The roof is gabled, and the structure is in a deteriorated state.

5

C: Last, located approximately 200 feet southeast of Arrowhead is a frame barn measuring 60 X 77 feet -- and sheathed with vertical frame siding. A 10-foot, shed-roofed extension is across the front, and there is a partial stone foundation. The main part of the barn is a gabled center portion -- which is flanked on either side by a pent-roofed section. Vertical vents for tobacco curing are on the west wall. This structure -- which, like all the other outbuildings, appears to date from ca. 1900 -- is in good condition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Arrowhead, Franklin County, KY

Section number 8 Page 2

A Jett descendant has provided the following physical information in regard to Arrowhead:

There is a tradition that the beautiful carving on the woodwork was done by Elijah Fogg, but he was a brick mason, and was only eighteen years of age at that time, so it seems hardly probable. Another story is that it was one of the Vaughans, who is said to have done all the carving in the Vaughan, Blanton (see The Beeches, Franklin Co., NRHP), and Deering houses (Darnell).

No name of a builder for Arrowhead has surfaced; however, stylistic and local historical factors make Harrison Blanton (owner-builder of the previously-mentioned property known as "The Beeches) a logical surmise.

In the November, 1986, issue of the Old-House Journal, Julie Riesenweber wrote the following:

The two-room brick house, built between 1790-1840 in Central Kentucky's Bluegrass region, is a vernacular dwelling type that combines plan features from the double-pen log house with the status and durability of brick construction. Like the double-pen form, the two-room-plan brick house typically has a four-bay principal facade with two doors entering into equal-sized rooms, as well as exterior gable-end chimneys. Unlike the double-pen log, the two-room-plan brick house is invariably two storeys high and has stylish interior fittings. The region also has similar houses of stone.

Like many vernacular house types, two-room brick houses were seen by their owners as basic units of construction, and many received additions. Early additions took the form of lateral wings, while those built later were generally strung out behind the original house to form service ells.

Riesenweber further points out that the plan and placement of its type of stairs are characteristics which make Arrowhead an especially clear example of the vernacular design process as it operated during the early 19th century in central Kentucky:

- 1) Contemporary masonry houses of similar size contain both hall/parlor and central-passage plans, whereas Arrowhead's plan -- containing two rooms of equal size, but without passage -- mediate between the other two plans;
- 2) Similarly, early Kentucky houses, that is hall/parlor, usually evidence enclosed corner winder stairs. Central-passage houses have straight-run stairs that are open. Significantly, the stairs at Arrowhead mediate the two common varieties by being a straight run -- but enclosed.*

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Arrowhead, Franklin County, KY

Section number 8 Page 3

Arrowhead compares favorably with other local historic resources of its type. In 1976, the Kentucky Heritage Council carried out a cultural resources survey of Franklin County. Outside Frankfort, ten brick Federal-style residences, including Arrowhead, of 1½-2 stories and built during the first quarter of the 19th century, were found. Their states of preservation varied greatly, and the majority had received easily-distinguishable later additions. At least one had been "up-dated" during the Greek Revival period, and one's NRHP nomination (the Paxton House, FR-45) has been rejected due to its combined deteriorated state/lack of owner's commitment to preservation. Comparing very favorable with Arrowhead is Wheatland, ca. 1825, located ¾ mile west of the nominated property. The latter is also a 1½-story residence of brick construction with a stone foundation.

Adjacent to Franklin County on the east is Woodford County, whose boundary is about one mile south of Arrowhead. Woodford County possesses a somewhat similar social history and development to that found in Franklin County. The southern half of Woodford was surveyed by the KHC in 1978, and this effort's findings repeat Arrowhead's status in the Franklin County survey: southern Woodford County retains eight residences of Arrowhead's type, and this historic resource rates exceptionally in terms of integrity and architectural significance.

Arrowhead is the sole remnant of the community of Jett, which once boasted of a post office and railroad station, a half-dozen businesses, and several schools and churches. The area is now within the corporate limits of Frankfort: "As time went on, it became customary for the young people of Jett to go to college where they formed new interests and new friends. Some of the old families moved from the neighborhood and others moved in; and so, little by little, the individuality of Jett was merged with that of the outside world" (Darnell).

In addition to its being the only remaining part of a one-time community, Arrowhead is distinguished through its associations with the Major and Jett families and -- as pointed out by Reisenweber -- its being the only example in Franklin County of an historic house-type found intermittently throughout the Bluegrass. (Old-House Journal).

* Personal interview with Julie Reisenweber, Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky, March, 1989.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Arrowhead, Franklin County, KY

Section number 9 Page 2

Major, Florence Ruby Bennett. "The Major Family." Published in "Our Boone Family" by Sarah Rockenfield, 1987. Place of publication unknown. Paper in the collection of the Kentucky Historical Society's Library, Frankfort.

Riesenweber, Julie. "Kentucky Two-Room Brick Houses." Old-House Journal. Vol. XIV, No. 9 (Nov., 1986), Back Cover.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos **Page** 1 Arrowhead, Franklin County, KY

For All Photos:

Arrowhead, Franklin County, Kentucky

Photographer: Daniel Kidd

Date: July, 1988

Location of Negatives: Nominaation Preparer

Photo 1: Main house, view to southeast

PHoto 2: Main house, view to northwest

Photo 3: view to northeast of (from left) coop, main house, crib, workers' cottage

Photo 4: view to southeast of (from left) workers' cottage and crib

measured 9/86 JR

Arrowhead, Franklin County, KY

