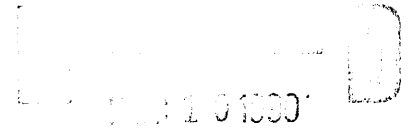


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Frontier Nursing Service
other names/site number Frontier Nursing Service Complex

2. Location

street & number Hospital Hill not for publication N/A
city, town Hyden vicinity N/A
state Kentucky code KY county Leslie code 131 zip code 41749

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u> </u> objects
		<u>13</u>	<u>3</u> Total

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 Date 11/30/90
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. **entered in the National Register**

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Alan Byers Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 1/11/91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care-Hospital
Education-School
Domestic-Institutional Housing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education-School
Domestic-Institutional Housing
Health Care

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

"No Style"

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone
walls Sandstone; weatherboard; log

roof Gable-asbestos shingle
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Health-Medicine
Education

Period of Significance

1928-1940
1928-1940

Significant Dates

1928
1928

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Breckinridge, Mary

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Breckinridge, Mary. Wide Neighborhoods: The Story of the Frontier Nursing Service. New York: Harper & Row, 1952.

Clark, Thomas D. A History of Kentucky. Lexington, Kentucky: The John Bradford Press, 1954.

Collins, Richard. Historical Sketches of Kentucky. Maysville, Kentucky: by the author, 1974.

Frontier Nursing Service Bulletins. Hyden, KY: 1960, 1973, 1980 & 1981.

Kentucky: A Guide to the Blue Grass State. Federal Writers Project, WPA, New York, New York: Harcourt Brace, 1939.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

KY Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.3

UTM References

A 17 288760 4115670
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

Hyden West Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at Point A, approximately 160 feet from the southeast corner of St. Christopher's Chapel, proceed 450 feet in a northeastward direction; thence 260 feet in a northward direction; thence 470 feet in a southwestward direction; thence 250 feet to the point of origin, Point A.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries have been determined so as to encompass all of the Frontier Nursing Service Complex which comprise a historic entity and an architectural unity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Gripshover, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization Leslie Co. Tourism and Convention Commitee date October 6, 1990
street & number Harris Hall, Marshall University telephone (304) 696-2502
city or town Huntington state WV zip code 25755-2664

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Frontier Nursing Service
Hyden, Leslie County, Ky.

Situated atop of Hospital Hill overlooking Hyden, the largest town and seat of government of Leslie County in eastern Kentucky, the Frontier Nursing Service Complex comprises five buildings, one site, and ten structures. The buildings are: the former Hyden Hospital, now used as the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing; St. Christopher's Chapel; Haggin Nurse's Quarters; Aunt Hattie's Barn, which now serves as Nurse's Quarter's; and Mardi Cottage, now Family Health. The only site consists of the ruins of a building. Of the ten structures, two are wells, one is a spring house, one is a storage area for refuse, five are rock walls, and the last structure is a series of stone steps that lead down into the town of Hyden.

Leslie County is characterized by a rugged terrain of steep mountains and narrow valleys. The County encompasses 410 square miles, much of it within the Daniel Boone National Forest. The economy of the County is based on coal, lumber and small family farms. With a population of over 600, communities include Helton, Yeaddiss, Smilax and Wooton.

Of the five buildings in the complex, four were constructed ca. 1928-1930, while the Chapel was built in 1960. Three of the buildings are of sandstone construction, one of frame construction, and one of log and frame construction. The buildings can be characterized as simple in form and expression and utilitarian in function.

- *D Hyden Hospital was built in 1928. This two-story sandstone structure has a rectangular plan and was the first building in Leslie County to have electricity. Facade fenestration consists of seven bays. All bays are enhanced by flat sandstone arches. A gable roof of asbestos shingle covers the structure. In keeping with the neo-Federalist Revival styling which was popular in domestic architecture of the 1920s, the windows are six-over-one and nine-over-one, double-hung sashes. In a good state of repair, the building served as a hospital until the construction of the forty-bed Mary Breckinridge Hospital in Hyden in 1975. The building now houses the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing. Alteration to the structure include enclosed porches on the North, West and East sides and second story additions. The porches are enclosed with plywood sheathing. A one-story storage addition extends eastward from the main addition. Some windows have been replaced. All alterations date ca. 1960. Contributing building.

- C St. Christopher's Chapel--This small single-story rectangular building of sandstone construction was built in 1960. The sides are pierced by three round-arched windows of stained glass. a gable roof of asbestos shingle completes the structure. Non-contributing building.

*Letters in margin correspond to feature labels on site map

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Continuation SheetFrontier Nursing Service
Hyden, Leslie County, Ky.Section number 7 Page 3

- E Haggin Nurse's Quarters--Situated directly behind the former hospital, this three-story sandstone building was constructed ca. 1928-1930. Utilitarian in design, this rectangular structure is covered by a gable roof of asbestos shingle. The sash types are similar to that found on the Hyden Hospital building. A historic-screened porch with squared columns is on the second floor of the north-east facade. Alterations consist of replacement windows; ca. 1960. Contributing building.
- I Aunt Hattie's Barn--Originally constructed ca. 1930 as a barn to house the horses used by the Frontier Nursing Service midwives, this two-story log and frame structure was renovated for nurse's living quarters. A gambrel roof of standing seam tin covers the structure. Other additions include a metal-railed porch on the southwest side. Some windows have been replaced; all alterations to structure occurred ca. 1960. Contributing Building.
- H Mardi Cottage--This two-story rectangular building of frame construction was erected ca. 1928-1930. Utilitarian in form as the other buildings of the Frontier Nursing Service Complex, this structure is distinguished by one-story porches at each gable end and an exterior native stone chimney. The windows are six-over-six, double hung sashes. Modern alterations include an east side porch addition with metal railings, and a second-story balcony addition with metal railings on the north side. Plywood sheathing covers the north side of the building, but has been painted to match the original exterior. Alterations ca. 1960. Contributing Building
- G Situated northeast of Mardi Cottage is the ruins of a building. Among the ruins is a native stone chimney which is still standing. Site ca. 1930. Non-contributing Site.
- B Northwest of St. Christopher's Chapel is a native stone wall. This wall stretches north-south approximately 150 feet. Constructed ca. 1930. Contributing Structure.
- A Northwest of St. Christopher's Chapel is a small spring house. The spring house is situated atop a native stone wall. Constructed ca. 1930. Contributing Structure.
- F Northeast of Haggin Nurse's Quarters is a native stone wall. This wall extends approximately 35 feet east-west. Constructed ca. 1930. Contributing Structure.
- M South of Mardi Cottage is a native stone wall. This wall extends east-west approximately 100 feet and is partially obscured with vegetation. Constructed ca. 1930. Contributing Structure.
- N Northeast of Aunt Hattie's Barn is a native stone well. This well is completely obscured with vegetation. Constructed ca. 1930. Contributing Structure.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4Frontier Nursing Service
Hyden, Leslie County, Ky.

- J Northwest of Aunt Hattie's Barn is a native stone well. This well is partially obscured with vegetation. Constructed ca. 1930. Contributing Structure.
- K West of Aunt Hattie's Barn is a storage area for refuse. Wooden lattice completely encloses this area. It is partially obscured with vegetation. Non-Contributing Structure.
- O Southwest of Aunt Hattie's Barn is a native stone wall. This wall stretches approximately 75 feet east-west, and is completely obscured with vegetation. Constructed ca. 1930. Contributing Structure.
- P Directly south of Hyden Hospital is a native stone wall. This wall extends east-west approximately 150 feet, and is completely obscured with vegetation. Constructed ca. 1930. Contributing Structure.
- L West of Aunt Hattie's Barn is a series of native stone steps. These steps follow a north-south direction, through a wooded area. The steps end at Hickory Street. The steps are approximately 200 feet in length. Constructed ca. 1930. Contributing Structure.

The basis for the nomination of the Frontier Nursing Service Complex is historical significance, therefore the integrity standard is historical integrity.

All resources in the Frontier Nursing Service Complex share a common history of providing health care service to rural eastern Kentucky. All resources share similar materials, color, texture, form and function. All alterations to the buildings have been achieved without compromising the historical integrity of the resources. In particular, alterations to Mardi Cottage have not been extensive enough so as to camouflage the important elements of the resource. The second-story porch addition faces north, away from the road, and is not readily visible.

If Mary Breckinridge was to visit the complex in 1990, she would have no difficulty in recognizing the resources based on their current condition.

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Frontier Nursing Service
Hyden, Leslie County, Ky.

The Frontier Nursing Service is significant for its historical association with Mary Breckinridge, who was instrumental in the introduction and development of health and medical care to Leslie County. Ms. Breckinridge eventually extended the influence of Frontier Nursing Service from Leslie County, in the mountainous region of eastern Kentucky, to parts of the adjoining counties of Clay, Harlan, and Perry. The applicable historic context for this nomination has not been developed by or for the State Historic Preservation Office, but could be "Health Care in Eastern Kentucky, 1925-1940."

The Frontier Nursing Service was founded in 1925 by Mary Breckinridge, a member of a prominent central Kentucky family. Her grandfather, John C. Breckinridge, served as vice-president of the United States from 1857-1861, and was the Secretary of War of the Confederate States of America. Her father, Clifton R. Breckinridge, served as Minister to Russia during the administration of Grover Cleveland.

Following the death of her first husband, Miss Breckinridge enrolled at St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in New York. After graduation, she remarried and gave birth to two children, who subsequently died. In response to the death of her children, she decided to devote her life to providing health care for children in remote areas. She then divorced her husband, reclaimed her maiden name, and volunteered for service with the American Committee for Devastated France. While working in war-torn France, Miss Breckinridge came to believe that the nurse-midwife was ideally qualified for work in remote rural areas.

After her work in France, she enrolled at the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies in London where she received training as a midwife. She then spent several months observing the work of the Highland Island Medical and Nursing Service in Scotland. This organization provided decentralized health and medical care, and provided Miss Breckinridge with a model for the Frontier Nursing Service.

Miss Breckinridge returned to Kentucky determined to establish an organization to provide health and medical care for people in remote rural areas. On May 25, 1923, she founded the Kentucky Committee for Mothers and Babies. The same year she organized the Frontier Nursing Service in Leslie County and a portion of Clay County. In 1925, Leslie County had not one physician, no publicly provided electricity, and no highways within sixty miles in any direction.

A few months later, she opened the first health clinic in Hyden, the largest town and seat of government in Leslie County. In 1928, the twelve bed Frontier Nursing Service Hospital was constructed in Hyden, and was the first building to have electricity in the County. The Haggin Nurse's Quarters building, Mardi Cottage, and Aunt Hattie's Barn were built ca. 1928-1930.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Frontier Nursing Service
Hyden, Leslie County, Ky.

To staff the Frontier Nursing Service, Miss Breckinridge hired trained nurse-midwives from England. American students, too, were sent to Great Britain for training. The nurses not only worked at the Hyden Hospital and Health Center, but also at its residential nursing centers built in Leslie County and the Red Bird section of Clay County.

With the advent of World War II in Europe in 1939, many of the British nurse midwives returned to England. In addition, the hostilities made it impossible to send American students to Great Britain for training in midwifery. To alleviate this situation, Miss Breckinridge founded the Frontier School of Midwifery, and the first class was admitted in November 1939.

The Frontier Nursing Service continues today to provide medical and health care to the citizens of Leslie County and surrounding counties. In 1969, the eight county-area served by the Frontier Nursing Service had fifty physicians. This amounts to one physician per 2,380 as compared to the national ratio of one physician per 655 patients. To alleviate this problem, the Frontier Nursing Service expanded its educational program to include family nursing.

In 1975, the modern, forty-bed Mary Breckinridge Hospital was constructed in Hyden. The old Hyden Hospital now houses the Frontier Nursing School facilities at Hyden; the Frontier Nursing Service operates district nursing centers at Beech Fork, Big Creek, Wooton, Pine Mountain, and affiliated clinics at Buckhorn and Cutshin.

In summary, the Frontier Nursing Service introduced professional health and medical care to Leslie County and adjoining counties where no facilities existed before. In addition, the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing provided and continues to provide trained professionals to alleviate the chronic shortage of medical staff in the region.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Frontier Nursing Service
Hyden, Leslie County, Ky.

Section number 9 Page 2

Lipscomb, Alexander B. The Commercial History of the Southern States.
John P. Morton & Company Press, 1903. P. 82.

Rennick, Robert M. Kentucky Place Names. Lexington, KY: University
of Kentucky Press, 1984.

The Courier-Journal & Times. Louisville, KY: 29 Sept. 1974, Section
G, p. 10.

The Courier-Journal & Times. Louisville, KY: 18 May 1975, Section
A, pp. 1 & 18, Section G, p. 107.

The Courier-Journal & Times. Louisville, KY: 6 Sept. 1980.

FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE COMPLEX HYDEN, KENTUCKY

LEGEND

WELL 

ROCK WALL 

TRAIL 

STRUCTURE 

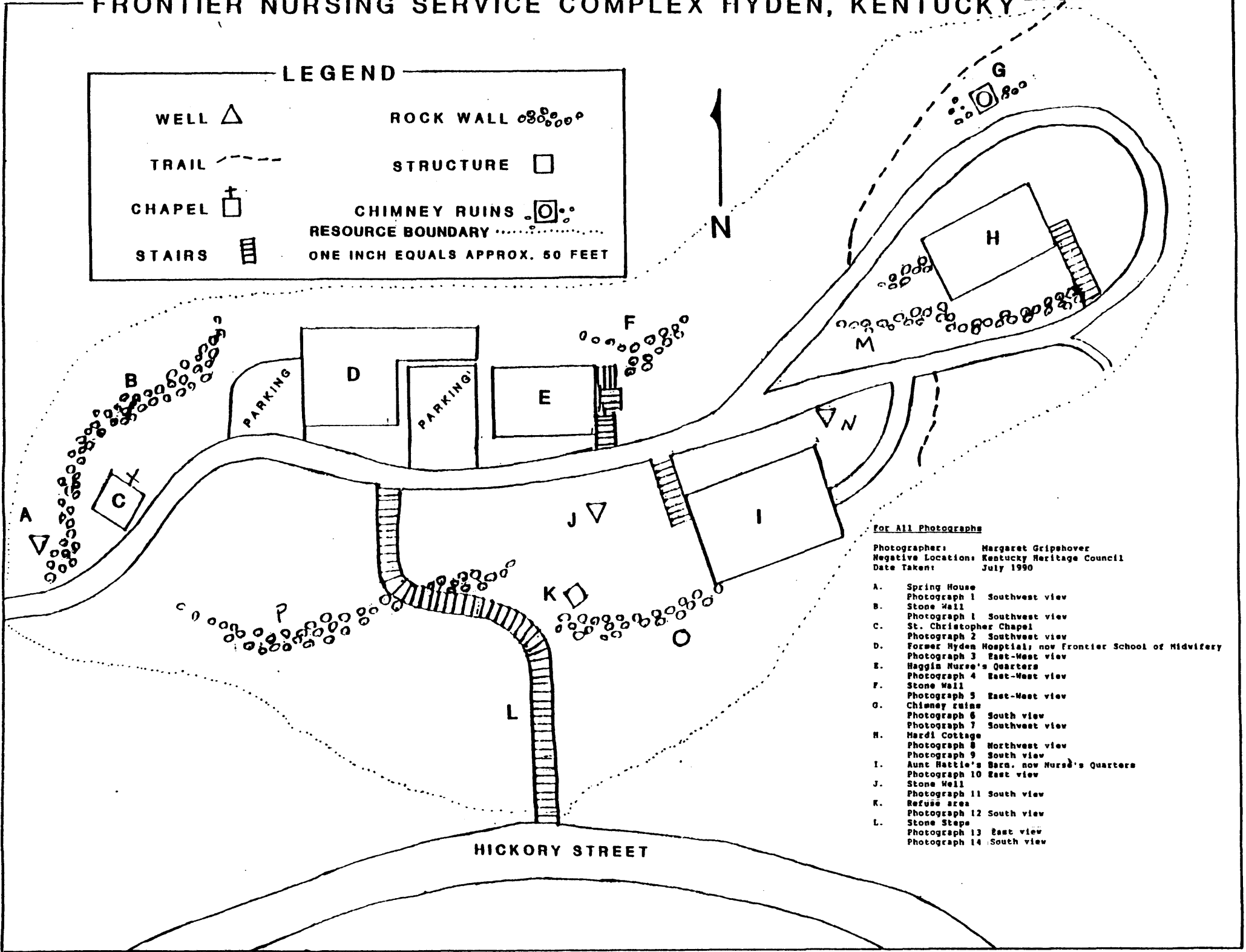
CHAPEL 

CHIMNEY RUINS 
RESOURCE BOUNDARY 

STAIRS 

ONE INCH EQUALS APPROX. 50 FEET

N



For All Photographs

Photographer: Margaret Gripshover
Negative Location: Kentucky Heritage Council
Date Taken: July 1990

- A. Spring House
Photograph 1 Southwest view
- B. Stone Wall
Photograph 1 Southwest view
- C. St. Christopher Chapel
Photograph 2 Southwest view
- D. Former Hyden Hospital; now Frontier School of Midwifery
Photograph 3 East-West view
- E. Haggin Nurse's Quarters
Photograph 4 East-West view
- F. Stone Wall
Photograph 5 East-West view
- G. Chimney ruins
Photograph 6 South view
Photograph 7 Southwest view
- H. Nardl Cottage
Photograph 8 Northwest view
Photograph 9 South view
- I. Aunt Rattie's Barn, now Nurse's Quarters
Photograph 10 East view
- J. Stone Well
Photograph 11 South view
- K. Refuse area
Photograph 12 South view
- L. Stone Steps
Photograph 13 East view
Photograph 14 South view

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1

Frontier Nursing Service
Hyden, Leslie County, Ky.

For All Photographs

Nomination: Frontier Nursing Service
Photographer: Margaret Gripshover
Negative Location: Kentucky Heritage Council
Date Taken: July 1990

Photo No.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | A. Spring House and B. Stone Wall
Southwest View |
| 2 | C. St. Christopher's Chapel
Southwest View |
| 3 | D. Former Hyden Hospital; now Frontier School of Midwifery
East-West View |
| 4 | E. Haggin Nurse's Quarters
East-West View |
| 5 | F. Stone Wall
East-West View |
| 6 | G. Chimney Ruins
South View |
| 7 | G. Chimney Ruins
Southwest View |
| 8 | H. Mardi Cottage; now Family Health
Northwest View |
| 9 | H. Mardi Cottage; now Family Health
South View |
| 10 | I. Aunt Hattie's Barn; now Nurse's Quarters
East View |
| 11 | J. Stone Well
South View |
| 12 | K. Refuse Area
South View |
| 13 | L. Stone Steps
East View |
| 14 | L. Stone Steps
South View |