

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 9 1980

DATE ENTERED

FEB 27 1980

**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

Ballard County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fourth and Court Streets

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wickliffe

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Ballard

CODE

007

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**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ballard County Fiscal Court/ c/o Judge James Guffey

STREET & NUMBER

Fourth and Court Streets

CITY, TOWN

Wickliffe

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ballard County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Fourth and Court Streets

CITY, TOWN

Wickliffe

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1979

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

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 Ballard County Courthouse is located in Wickliffe, Kentucky, in the western section of the state. Considered part of the Purchase area, Ballard County was formed in 1842.

Constructed between 1900 and 1905, the Ballard County Courthouse is rectangular in form. Each facade of the structure has a pedimented, projecting, central pavilion. Unusual stone "capitals" top the brick pilasters that flank each projection. They are an unacademic variety, probably dating from the earliest period of construction. The entablature has an architrave with egg and dart molding, and a frieze with a denticulated cornice.

One-story Ionic porticos frame the entrances on three sides, and stained glass transoms decorate all four main doors.

This exterior composition is capped by a large, domed, octagonal cupola in the form of a colonnade of eight composite columns. Interstices between the columns are filled with clocks and louvered vents (see photos 1-6).

All the interior woodwork is original in natural finished oak. The open stair has a bannistered rail and a panelled newel post. Wainscoting is found throughout the structure's interior. Most of the original courtroom furniture remains, with pew-like spectators benches, oak railing and a judge's bench. The courtroom's vaulted ceiling is concealed by a dropped ceiling (see photos 7-12).

In 1977 an architectural and historical survey of Ballard County was completed. Every significant structure in the county was documented, and those sites considered eligible for the National Register, such as the courthouse, were identified.

To insure the visaul integrity of the site, the boundaries were drawn to include the building and the square lote on which it sits.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jerome B. Legg

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ballard County Courthouse, the county's symbol of government, had more attention lavished on its design than any other structure in the county. In an area which contains few surviving buildings of outstanding architectural significance, the courthouse is an exceptionally well-planned structure.

A county courthouse is meant to be imposing and its physical presence felt in a community. The Ballard County Courthouse accomplishes this through its large scale, imposing volume, well-executed detail, portico porches and the placement of an octagonal cupola that towers above the entire composition. The apparent architect for the building, Jerome B. Legg, had his office in St. Louis and seems to have been selected because of his design for the Mississippi County, Missouri courthouse, completed in 1900 and located directly across the river.

When Ballard County was officially formed in 1842, the town of Blandville (approximately 12 miles from present-day Wickliffe) became the official seat of government. The first courthouse was completed in 1844 at a cost of \$6,000. On February 2, 1880, either by accident or otherwise, the Blandville courthouse burned. There ensued a rather heated contest which, after four years, two county elections, and a court battle that reached the Kentucky Court of Appeals, resulted in the establishment of the seat of justice in the new town of Wickliffe.

Two factors influenced the 1884 decision to move the remaining county records from Blandville to Wickliffe. First, Wickliffe was a river port and a busy center of local commerce located only six miles from Cairo, Illinois, a major commercial and banking center. Second, by the 1860s and 1870s, Wickliffe was served by two railroads, the Illinois Central and the Mobile and Ohio. The railroads linked Wickliffe to Cairo and points north as well as to major southern centers, such as New Orleans, Mobile and Memphis, thus stimulating Wickliffe's economy.

The county officials held their offices in the Wickliffe city hall until a new courthouse was completed. Begun in 1900, the building was completed in 1905 at a cost of \$25,000.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Kentucky Heritage Commission. Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky, Ballard County. Louisville: Courier-Journal Job Printing Co., 1978. (Please consult for complete bibliography.)

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Wickliffe, Ky. - Mo.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	3 1 4 0 5 10	4 10 9 2 8 4 10
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			
E			
G			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			
F			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

The building occupies a square lot which measures 300 feet by 300 feet.

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

Jayne C. Henderson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August 1979

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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

Eduard W. Hutton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1-2-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce
 ATTEST: *Kristin JO Council*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 2/27/80
 DATE 2/25/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	FEB 22 1980
DATE ENTERED	FEB 27 1980

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

Ballard County Courthouse, Ballard County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

ADDENDUM

Item #10 Verbal Boundary Description

Lot Number 7 (Wickliffe Platt Book A, pp. 2-3).

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CODE

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CODE

007

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DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

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DATE

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