UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Frankfort

FOR NP:		

DATE ENTERED

JAN

RECEIVED

9 1980 FEB 2 0 1980

NAME				
HISTORIC				
	7 House			
AND/OR COMMON Same				
	-			
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER		、		
	Frederica Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN Owensh	oro		CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	СТ
STATE				CODE
Kentuc	cky	021	Daviess	059
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
-				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
_XBUILDING(S)		UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X_PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME	PROPERTY R. Wathen Medley			
STREET & NUMBER	nation nearby			
1220 1	Frederica Street			
CITY, TOWN	and an an all the construction of the second se		STATE	
Owenst	ooro	VICINITY OF	Kentucky	
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCH	RIPTION		
COURTHOUSE,		-		
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. Daviess County C	ourthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	Davies of arey of			
			STATE	
CITY, TOWN	Orron al arra	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
	Owensboro		Kentucky	
REPRESEN	Owensboro TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST			
REPRESEN TITLE Survey of Hist				
REPRESEN TÎTLE Survey of Hist DATE	TATION IN EXIST	ky	Kentucky	
REPRESEN TÎTLE Survey of Hist DATE 1977 Supplemen	TATION IN EXIST	ky		
REPRESEN TÎTLE Survey of Hist DATE	TATION IN EXIST	kyFEDERAL X	Kentucky	
REPRESEN TÎTLE Survey of Hist DATE 1977 Supplemen DEPOSITORY FOR	TATION IN EXIST	kyFEDERAL X	Kentucky	

7' DESCRIPTION

CON	IDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD	RUINS		MOVED DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Medley House is situated in the central portion of Owensboro, Kentucky, the seat of government for Daviess County. This Ohio River town, with a population of 79,486 (1970 census), is one of the two major metropolitan centers in western Kentucky, the other being Paducah. Located at 1220 Frederica Street, the Medley House lies at the southern terminus of a short, three-block stretch of late-nineteenth century residences. Frederica Street is Owensboro's major north-south axis, and on both the north and south of this residential enclave are strip developments. Thus, the Medley House serves as a buffer against the incompatible new construction immediately to the south.

The 2 1/2-story frame structure embodies a T-plan (see photo 1) with the major architectural elements being the Gothic and Italianate influenced detailing. Intricate wrought iron, the product of the Springfield Architectural Iron Works, forms a shallow balustrade along the porch roof, above the oriel window on the east facade (see photo 2), and atop the monitor of the hipped roof. Equally elaborate and detailed is the Gothic-style tracery adorning the chamfered porch posts and comprising the bargeboard (see photo 3). Round windows with scrolled frame moldings pierce the south and east gables, and the narrow, single-pane sash windows have bracketed cornice heads and molded casings (see photo 4). A panelled frieze board with brackets encircles the building. The porch and oriel window are heavily bracketed as well. Three panelled brick chimneys rise from the roof.

The tree-shaded yard sits approximately four feet above the sidewalk and is enclosed by a handsome wrought iron fence. The entire property under single ownership is included in the nomination in order to preserve the structure within its setting.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
—_PREHISTORIC —_1400-1499 —_1500-1599	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE
1600-1699 1700-1799 X1800-1899 1900-	∑ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT X-INDUSTRY INVENTION	MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1883 BUILDER/ARCHITECT				

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Medley House embodies distinctive design features which make it one of Owensboro's more notable residential structures.1 Most of the city's historic domestic architecture dates from the last third of the nineteenth century, and of this collection, the Medley house is the best interpretation of the Italianate influence on Owensboro's residential architecture. Specifically, the abundance of elaborate sawn millwork in the Italianate and Gothic design and the intricate wrought iron detailing produce a rich visual composition. Furthermore, the location serves an important function as an anchor against encroaching strip development further south on Frederica Street. The house is also of note because of its long associations with the Medley family, who for many years held one of the most outstanding reputations in the distilling of bourbon whiskey. Although practically all of their distilling interests were sold to larger distillery concerns by 1970, for the greater part of half a century they were probably the best known firm in the western Kentucky area. By 1910, the family business had developed a product which compared favorably with such well-known brands as Barton and Heaven Hill and at that time produced an output which was half that of Glenmore, then the largest producer in the entire state.

For many years three products which have been closely associated with Kentucky are race horses, tobacco, and bourbon whiskey. Of these three, the latter is most distinctive as being uniquely Kentuckian because bourbon whiskey was first made there, received its particular name from the county in which it was first made (Bourbon County, Kentucky), and is still primarily distilled in this area alone. Many distillers claim that one of the chief reasons for this is the excellent limestone water available in Kentucky which helps to give it a distinctive flavor.

The Medley House was built ca. 1883 by George N. Thomson, a tobacconist, and later occupied by Marc Stuart and his father-in-law, the former mayor of Owensboro, Dr. J. H. Hickman. George E. Medley, the first of the Medleys to operate in Owensboro, bought it in 1910. It has remained in the possession and occupancy of this family since that time.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

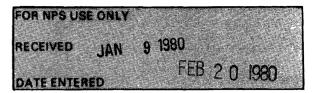
Kroll, Harry Harrison. <u>Bluegrass, Belles, and Bourbon: A Pictorial History</u> of Whiskey in Kentucky. New York: A.S. Barnes and Co., 1967.

Medley, R. Wathen. "History of Medley Property at 1220 Frederica Street from 1883 to 1973." Unpublished manuscript, 1973.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DA'		AGE NOT VEI	RIFIED	
QUADRANGLE NAME OWENSDOT		- .	QUADRANGLE SCAL	= 1:24000
UTM REFERENCES	1 7 9 0,5 0	B ZONE EA		
	11111	FL		l I L I I
GLI LILL		нЦЦ		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIO Rectangular lot measurin LIST ALL STATES AND COU	g 171' x 230'	IES OVERLAPPING	STATE OR COUNTY B	OUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
Charlotte Schneider, Arc ORGANIZATION Kentucky Heritage Commis STREET & NUMBER 104 Bridge Street CITY OR TOWN		orian; Calvin	DATE December TELEPHONE 564-3741 STATE	
	ED SIGNIFICANCE OF	THIS PROPERTY W	ITHIN THE STATE IS:	ON
NATIONAL As the designated State Historic Preser hereby nominate this property for inclu criteria and procedures set forth by the STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER	usion in the National R National Park Servige.	ational Historic Pres	hat it has been evalua	
TITLE State Historic Pres	servation Office	er	DATE /	2-19-79
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PRO	PERTY IS INCLUDED	IN THE NATIONAL I	REGISTER	1 12
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REP ATTEST: VDANET ACTIONAL	GISTER A		DATE 2	120/80
MILLOW CHOULD				11 04

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Medley House,	Daviess	County,	Kentucky		
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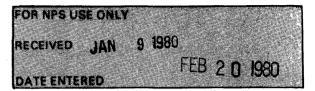
The Medley family has produced several generations of skilled craftsmen and entrepreneurs who have distilled bourbon whiskey in Kentucky. The first was John Medley (1767-1814) who moved to Kentucky in 1800 from St. Mary's County, Maryland. After his death his operations in central Kentucky were continued by his sons Thomas Medley and John Philip Medley. Thomas Medley's youngest child, William Medley, joined them in operating their distilling interests in 1832. William's son, George E. Medley, had a heritage of distilling on both sides of his family. After gaining twenty-three years of experience in distilling bourbon whiskey in Nelson County, in 1904 he decided to relocate to Daviess County. Although his firm commenced operations there at that time, George Medley did not move his entire family until 1910 when the house at 1220 Frederica Street was purchased from Dr. James H. Hickman. George Medley's son, Thomas A. Medley, became very successful in Owensboro and by his death in 1940 had continued the development of this operation as one of the most outstanding firms in the state. He left six sons, all of whom were trained as distillers.

Several generations of the Medley Family have lived in the house on Frederica Street in Owensboro and it is still owned today by the wife of the eldest son of Thomas A. Medley, Mrs. R. Wathen Medley.

The house was identified during the course of the comprehensive survey of Daviess County County conducted by the Kentucky Heritage Commission staff in 1977.

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Potter, Hugh O. <u>A History of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky</u>. Owensboro, Kentucky: Daviess County Historical Society, 1974.