

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 1 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

Merrifield, Samuel B., House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N of Bloomfield on KY 55

State Highway 55

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Bloomfield

VICINITY OF

2

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Nelson

CODE

179

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Jerry Vaughn

STREET & NUMBER

Route #2

CITY, TOWN

Bloomfield

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Nelson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bardstown

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1978

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Situated on the north side of Bloomfield, in northeast Nelson County, is the Samuel B. Merrifield House.

The Merrifield House is an imposing two-story, Greek Revival structure. The facade is five bays in width with Flemish bond brickwork and pilasters. Greek fretwork designs are incorporated in the wooden hood molds, pilaster capitals and cornice brackets (see photo 1).

The main portico is two stories in height with square fluted columns. An elaborately carved cornice design includes carved brackets, dentils and lotus-style capitals. A second floor balcony with Victorian railing completes the portico element (see photo 2).

The south elevation is four bays wide with common bond brickwork and jack arches. The entrance element and the door above have hood molds similar to the main facade. Although not original, the one-story portico is sympathetic, with square piers and cast-iron railing (see photo 3).

A one-story kitchen pen, originally detached, has been connected to the main house with a recent brick hypen. Another twentieth century addition was built on to the northeast corner of the main block (see photo 4).

The interior (central-hall floor plan) has retained the original woodwork. The mantle-pieces are simple with plain friezes and rectangular openings. Fluted pilasters adorn the parlor mantle (see photos 5-6).

The interior door trim is varied and unusual. The designs range from a very simple Greek design to the more elaborate trim with egg and dart molding, dentillated cornice and panelled pilasters. Another frame contains a wave motif and Greek key design (see photos 7-10).

The only extant outbuilding is a brick smokehouse located to the north of the main building. The main features include: common bond brickwork, pyramidal roof and high plastered foundation (probably stone) (see photo 11).

The nomination includes the main house, smokehouse, a 20th century frame barn and land immediately surrounding the complex sufficient to interpret visually the agricultural nature of the property.

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 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	1820s	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Batcheldor & Allen, architects
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Samuel B. Merrifield House is an exceptional Greek Revival structure built ca. 1820, and contains some of the most elaborate and unusual woodwork in Nelson County. A combination of Greek and Egyptian styles merge to form an exceptional house of varied designs.

Born in 1788, Samuel Boone Merrifield studied medicine under Dr. John Bemis, the founder of the town of Bloomfield. Bemis came from Rochester, New York around 1800 and platted the town in 1818. Merrifield built this house around 1820 and resided here until his death. The Merrifield family was active in the affairs of Bloomfield, and erected one of the important commercial buildings in town. Their name was associated with the grocery business for many years.

Designed by architects Batcheldor and Allen, the residence was constructed on a grand scale making it one of the more impressive structures in the area. However, the most outstanding feature of the Merrifield House is the unusual woodwork. The main portico has a hand carved cornice with designs which border on an Egyptian motif. The columns have lotus-style capitals which echo this design.

The interior woodwork is abstract and varied. Several door surrounds contain wave motifs and Greek key designs. Again, the blending of Greek and Egyptian styles is evident, and the combination produces an exceptional design, unparalleled in the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Samuel Merrifield House." Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky. 1978.

Smith, Sarah. Historic Nelson County. Louisville: Gateway Press, 1971.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2.5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Bloomfield, Kentucky

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 647600 4198420
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION A rectangular lot, with main house at center, 150' x 75'. Bounded on the east by a plank fence, and on the south by a stone fence. The western boundary consists of a stone fence which ends, and an imaginary line continues from that point to close the rectangle at the northern boundary, a wire fence.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jayne C. Henderson/Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

November 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. Milton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-10-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

4/1/80

ATTEST:

W. Ray Luce
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/15/80

Kristen J. O'Connell
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION