Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-14)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATA SHEET

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JUN 271978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

TEENTERED AUG 1 0 1978

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SEE IN	NSTRUCTIONS IN <i>HOW T</i> O TYPE ALL ENTRIES O			S
NAME				
HISTORIC				
Dr. John	n Milton Perkins House			
AND/OR COMMON	Mary and a support			
Thatcher.	House: Richardson House	use		
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				
109 North	Main Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
Somerset		VICINITY OF	05	CODE
STATE Kentucky		CODE 021	county Pulaski	199
CLASSIFICA				
•				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		ENTUSE
DISTRICT _XBUILDING(S)	PUBLIC XPRIVATE	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
STRUCTURE	BOTH	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	—PARK —¥RIVATE RESIDENCI
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE	EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	_OTHER:
Mrs. Eliz	PROPERTY zabeth Thatcher Richard Main Street	dson		
CITY, TOWN	112411 001 000		STATE	
Somerset	· ·	VICINITY OF	Kentucky	
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E	^{tc.} Pulaski County Cou	rthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	2			
	Fountain Square			
CITY, TOWN	Somerset		ŝтате Kentucky	
REPRESEN'	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS	Isolituony	
TITLE				
	Historic Sites in Kentu	okv		
DATE	TITOGLIC DICES III IZEIICU	ONY		
1971		FEDERAL _2	STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Kentucky Heritage (
CITY, TOWN	Frankfort		STATE Kentucky	



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

_XEXCELLENT

_GOOD

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__UNALTERED

 $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{X}}}$ ORIGINAL SITE

__RUINS __UNEXPOSED __MOVED DATE___

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dr. John Milton Perkins House is located at 109 Main Street in Somerset, Kentucky. Despite promimity to the town's commercial district, this house was erected in 1851 as a farm residence with outbuildings that included a smokehouse, barn and stable, and slave quarters—none of which remain (Jack Norton, The Commonwealth-Journal, p.1).

This Greek Revival frame dwelling was constructed by local workmen aided by the original owner's slaves. The two-story main blocks street facade is three bays wide. Its centered entrance is framed by a frontispiece that incorporates a transom and lead-traceried sidelights, and flat pilasters supporting a plain entablature. All major windows are double-hung with six-over-six panes.

Above the central bay of the front is a small gable probably added a decade later. The one-story Neo-Classical porch spanning the front was added in 1901. This porch features slender Ionic columns supporting a heavy entablature with a row of dentils beneath the cornice, and a bowed projection in the center.

The house's foundation is of local limestone and a brick chimney is centered on either gabled end wall. At the rear is an ell served by a porch, a portion of which has been enclosed. Essentially, the exterior of the Perkins House appears much as it did ca. 1900. Numerous panes of glass from 1851 have survived, and all window shutters are original.

When built, the Perkins House contained six major rooms, all with ceilings approximately 14 feet in height; however several of these on the second level have been subdivided. In addition, bathrooms have been installed and the kitchen in the ell has been renovated.

A good amount of interior woodwork is intact. Correlating to the exterior, these fittings are Greek Revival and include chaste mantels with flat pilasters, high shelves, and unornamented friezes, doors with double vertical panels, and pedimented frames around major openings. The opening between the parlor and center hall has been transformed into an arch, and the opening between the parlor and the dining room has been enlarged to accommodate folding doors. The interior fittings are of pine, and excepting the dining room, all original poplar flooring has been retained.

At the front of the property there is a low stone wall of mortarless limestone blocks. Like the house's foundation, which is exceptionally well laid, the wall was executed by slaves. Also, there are several ancient maple trees said to have been planted simultaneously with the erection of the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Ş - Q	8 11 93 15	
		INVENTION		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	<u>X</u> ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

1851

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1851 in Somerset, the county seat of Pulaski in south-central Kentucky, the Dr. John M. Perkins House is a two-story frame dwelling representative of other mid-nineteenth century rural residences in Kentucky. However, the structure is unusual in the fact that it is one of the few 'I' houses remaining in the county and one of only three extant pre-Civil War houses in the city of Somerset. Built for Dr. John Perkins, a local physician and one of the area's leading citizens, it has been continuously occupied by the family of Dr. Perkins since its construction.

The residence was built by local workmen and slaves and, despite its proximity to the heart of the town, was constructed for use as a farmhouse. It had the usual supporting outbuildings -- a smokehouse, a barn and stable, and slave quarters -- none of which remain.

Pulaski County, was the twenty-seventh county to be formed in the Commonwealth and was organized in 1798 from territories taken from Lincoln and Green Counties. 1880 the county had 21,318 inhabitants but it was probably less populous than this in 1851 when Dr. Perkins built his new home in Somerset. The Cincinnati and Southern Railroad did not move into the area until after the Civl War.

Somerset, the county seat is situated near the center of the county approximately eighty miles south of Frankfort, the capital city of Kentucky. By 1880 the city had the usual county buildings, several handsome churches, good schools, a number of flourishing stores and factories on a small scale, and a population of about 1,300.

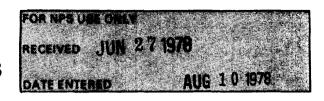
Dr. John Perkins, a native of Lincoln County, moved to Somerset at the age of nineteen, where he chose to reside the remainder of his life. He was a son of Elisha and Sarah (Gooch) Perkins. His father, a native of Lincoln County, was a farmer and merchant.

John Milton Perkins received only a common-school education but at the age of twenty commenced to read medicine under Dr. Thompson, a local physician. He attended lectures at the University of Louisville for a short time and eventually became regarded as a successful physician in Eastern Kentucky.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOG	RAPHICAL REFE	RENCES		
Norton, Jack. ''F March	rom Our Past." The C 29, 1977, pp. 1 and 5.	Commonwealth-J	ournal Somerset, Kentucky	y),
	Battle, J.H., and Kniff ago: FA. Battey and Co		ky: a History of the State,	Sth ed.
10 GEOGRAPHICAL	DATA			
	PERTY <u>Approx. 1/4 acre</u>	<u>)</u>		
A 1 6 7 1 2 7 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	0 4,11,0,7]-8,60 NORTHING	B ZONE EAS	TING NORTHING	<u></u>
VERBAL BOUNDARY DES	CRIPTION			
Nominated area	includes house and lo	t.		
LIST ALL STATES AN	D COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	IES OVERLAPPING S	TATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
Z PODM DDED A DEI	D DV			
11 FORM PREPARE	JBI			Senior
	d, Architectural Histo	rian; Gloria Mill	s, Historian; Calvin Jones,	
ORGANIZATION			February 1978	
STREET & NUMBER	eritage Commission		TELEPHONE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
104 Bridge S	Street		564-3741	
city or town Frankfort			STATE Kentucky	
12 STATE HISTORIC	DDFCFD (/ A TIO!	V OFFICED C	EDTIFIC ATION	
	LUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF		, /	
NATIONAL		E	LOCAL 1	
G .			vation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-66) It it has been evaluated according to	
criteria and procedures set forth		, ,	1	
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION	OFFICER SIGNATURE	drea &	U. nulta	
	reservation Officer		DATE 6/19/28	
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT TH	IS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED.	IN THE NATIONAL DE	GISTER	
The second of th	Why 5	EA _	DATE 8/60)	18
ATTEST:	TEGEOGY AND HIS TOHIC PA		DATE 8-9-72	STEE

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The son of Dr. John Milton Perkins, George Perkins, M.D., was born in Somerset on October 2, 1843, and grew up as a child in the Perkins house on Main Street. He was educated in the Somerset schools, read medicine under his father, and attended three full courses of lectures at Bellvue, New York, graduating in 1865. He took special courses on the eye, ear and surgery under Professor Dr. Frank Hamilton, one of the physicians who unsucessfully attended President James Abram Garfield after he was mortally wounded by Charles Guiteau, a disgruntled office-seeker in 1881.

Dr. George Perkins located at his home in Somerset immediately after his graduation from medical school and practiced in Pulaski County until his death on May 11, 1899. He was a successful physician who held membership in the Kentucky Medical Society, the American Medical Association, and served for a time as Secretary of the Pulaski County Medical Society. He served as surgeon for the Cincinnati and Southern Railroad from the time of its organization, took an active part in organizing the Beaver Creek and Cumberland River Coal Company (serving as a director ever since its organization), served as a director in the National Bank at Somerset for eight years, and was elected as an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention held at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1880, to nominate General Winfield Scott Hancock for the office of President of the United States. General Hancock, as Union veteran, was subsequently defeated by the Republican candidate, another Union veteran, General James Abram Garfield, who has been previously mentioned.

The house built by his father, Dr. John Milton Perkins, is also associated locally with events of the Civil War. It was used as a bivouac area for General John Hunt Morgan's troops when they passed through Somerset during the course of the war. ⁴

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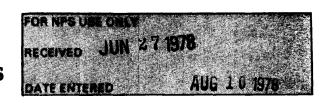
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FOOTNOTES

- l W.H. Perrin, J.H. Battle, and G.C. Kniffin, <u>Kentucky: A History of the State</u>, 8th edition (Louisville and Chicago: F.A. Battey and Co., 1888), pp. 636-637.
- 2 <u>Pulaski County Historical Research</u>, Book II (Somerset, Kentucky: Somerset Community College, no date of publication), pp.145-146.
 - 3 Perrin, et al., op. cit., p. 938.
- 4 Norton, Jack. "From Our Past." The Commonwealth-Journal (Somerset, Kentucky). March 29, 1977, pp. 1 and 5.

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Tibbals, Alma Owens. <u>A History of Pulaski County, Kentucky</u>. Bagdad, Kentucky: Grace Owens Moore, 1952.

VanHook, Joseph O. <u>The Kentucky Story</u>. Norman, Oklahoma: Harlow Publishing Corporation, 1959 and 1964.