

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 27 1978

DATE ENTERED AUG 10 1978

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

Dr. John Milton Perkins House

AND/OR COMMON

Thatcher, House; Richardson House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

109 North Main Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Somerset

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

05

STATE

Kentucky

___ VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY
Pulaski

CODE
199

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Elizabeth Thatcher Richardson

STREET & NUMBER

109 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Somerset

STATE

Kentucky

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pulaski County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Fountain Square

CITY, TOWN

Somerset

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

___ 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

The Dr. John Milton Perkins House is located at 109 Main Street in Somerset, Kentucky. Despite proximity 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 block's 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

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
1851

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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. In 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 Civil 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 BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Norton, Jack. "From Our Past." The Commonwealth-Journal (Somerset, Kentucky),
March 29, 1977, pp. 1 and 5.

Perrin, W.H., Battle, J.H., and Kniffin, G.C. Kentucky: a History of the State, 8th ed.
Louisville, Chicago: FA. Battey and Co., 1888.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	71, 27, 20 ⁸⁶⁰	4, 10, 7, 8, 60 ⁷²⁰	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Nominated area includes house and lot.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian; Gloria Mills, Historian; Calvin Jones, Senior Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

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

Cedra W. Minton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/19/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Cedra W. Minton

DATE

8/16/78

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-9-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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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 unsuccessfully 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, 1899.² 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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FOOTNOTES

- 1 W.H. Perrin, J.H. Battle, and G.C. Kniffin, Kentucky: A History of the State, 8th edition (Louisville and Chicago: F.A. Battey and Co., 1888), pp. 636-637.
- 2 Pulaski County Historical Research, 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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Pulaski County Historical Research, Book II. Somerset, Kentucky: Somerset Community College, n.d.

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

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