

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **JL** 20 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stone House on Buffalo Creek

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ~~Old Stone House Road~~ **My 5 R 1330** not for publication

city, town Bardstown vic.  vicinity of 1 mi. W of Hwy 1330, S side Stone House Road

state Kentucky code 40004 county Nelson code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> na in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> na being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. F. Ryley Hiss

street & number Old Stone House Road

city, town Bardstown vicinity of state Kentucky 40004

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Nelson County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Bardstown state Kentucky 40004

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Sept 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council, Capital Plaza Tower

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

Nelson County is located in northcentral Kentucky at an elevation of 500 to a few isolated peaks of 1100 feet. Major watercourses are the Salt, Beech Fork, Rolling Fork and Chaplin Rivers; countless rock bottom creeks and streams are tributary to them. The county has fertile agricultural land producing tobacco, grains, and livestock. Cotton, hemp and millet were grown in the 19th century. The county produces 60% of the world's Bourbon Whiskey.

The stone house on Buffalo Creek is located 4 direct miles NW of Bardstown court house on the S side of Stone House Road, and on the W side of a branch of Buffalo Creek, a branch of the Beech Fork of the Rolling Fork River. The house faces south and is situated on gently rolling pasture and crop land above a spring and descent to the creek east of the house. The "Knobs", timbered hill lands, to the N and W were once part of the plantation.

The house is a two story, four bay, three room plan house of dry stone construction. The rough-coursed stone walls are built of large yellow limestone blocks. The thick 10-14" seams of this type limestone are peculiar to Nelson County and are found a few feet below the surface, or are exposed in outcroppings and creek banks. A ledge of limestone slabs lies 300 feet NE of the house, indicating the likely source for the building material.

The stones were tooled with hammer and chisel into nearly squared shapes on the exposed surface, with the most careful work at the corners. The dry-laid walls are double wall construction, hollow on the inside, and filled with a mixture of clay, straw, and stones. Mortar was used to fill the exterior seams, and is not a bonding agent; seams are steeple pointed. There is a water table on the front and rear facades. Voussoirs (11-14 in number) with keystones, are unusually tall and are flanked with buttress stones. Vertically barred cellar windows are atypically without voussoirs. Small 4-pane attic windows flank the chimney on the end walls. The steps, front and rear, have square corners and vertically tooled edges; curved indentions look as if the steps had worn and have been turned over. Interior chimneys are in each gable end. The house measures 31' x 44.6' in size. The exterior entrance to the full cellar is on the E end of the house.

The window sash are 12/12 on the first floor and 12/8 on the second. The frames are pegged and beaded, and finished with ogee molding; sills are nosed on the front edge with a square cut on the ends. Exterior doors have 8 panels and have full strap hinges; transoms above; they are situated on the outside face of the walls. The punch work cornice is locally called "candle & flame."

The gable roof has a pitch of about 30 degrees. Roof rafters are pegged together at the ridge without a ridge board, and rest on a wooden plate on top of the stone walls. Braced posts support the purlins midway up the rafters. Attic floor joists are mortised into a summer beam running the length of the house. All joints are marked by Roman numerals. The roof originally had wooden shingles with round cuts on the bottom edges. These were affixed to the spaced sheathing with narrow wooden pegs which remain in the sheathing although the shingles have been replaced with a metal roof.

# 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 checked="" 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** 1800-1825      **Builder/Architect** undetermined

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The stone house on Buffalo Creek is one of only 3 surviving early stone houses in Nelson County. It is typical of the style and period of structures described in "Early Stone Buildings of Central Kentucky" (see National Register nomination March 1, 1983). The house is a visual reminder of the difficult settlement period of central Kentucky and illustrates the distinctive and careful construction techniques and cultural values of the first land owners. It is characteristic of a building type distinctive to Kentucky.

While Nelson County is known for its viable and early settlement by French and Irish Catholics from Maryland and German Lutherans from Pennsylvania, the first and most numerous settlers were the Scotch, Irish and English from the western parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania. They came in land companies with military or settlement claims; surveyed, marked and "improved" their chosen locations.

Deed research on Buffalo Creek land is clouded with confusion, but indicates three possible first claimants: Isaac Cox, George Harrison, and William Bard, in the late 18th century. The style and details of the house are typically of the early 19th century under whose ownership it would have been constructed by Charles Campbell, George Harrison, or Sebastian Sheehan. All of these were early and prominent settlers of Nelson County. Isaac Cox was a member of the Virginia Legislature, before Kentucky became a state, and was a member of the Kentucky Constitutional Convention. He was from the Monongahela River region in Pennsylvania. George Harrison had a 1000 acre land grant, and was a trustee of the Old Lutheran Church; his brother, Cuthbert Harrison, was a U.S. Representative. William Bard was of the family upon whose land the county seat, Bardstown, is located; he also had a 1000 acre land grant on Buffalo Creek. Charles Campbell was from Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

In the mid 19th century the Buffalo Creek lands were owned by brothers-in-law, George M. Hays and Greenberry Simmons. They acquired huge tracts of land and ran large plantations with slave labor. Hays operated a mill on Buffalo Creek which had been built by George Harrison. Both Hays and Simmons died at the time of the War Between the States.

Deed research is attached.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Deeds, Wills, Census, Tax lists of Nelson County, Kentucky

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9.90 acres

Quadrangle name Cravens

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

16	630250	4189030
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached Kentucky Historic Resource Inventory Supplement - Boundary and Location Information

### 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 Carolyn Murray Wooley, architectural historian

organization The Wooley Comapny, Inc. date May, 1983

street & number 3533 Winding Drive telephone 606-272-4807

city or town Lexington state Kentucky 40502

# 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 Mary Deanna Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 13, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Melrose Byers Keoper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 8/18/83

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet Stone house on Buffalo Item number 7

Page 2

Both the front and rear doorways open directly into the hall, the W half of the floor plan. An open stringer U-shaped stair with scroll-carved step ends arises from the SW corner of the hall; it has turned banisters and newells, dropped at the corners. The E half of the house is divided into 2 rooms; corner fireplaces in each room share the E end chimney. An exterior door in the E end of the SE (dining) room is the only opening in the end walls other than the attic windows. An enclosed corner stair arises from the NW corner of the NE chamber to the E half of the second floor. Dividing walls are studs, lathe and plaster. Architraves are double faced. First floor reveals are paneled, second floor reveals are plain boards.

There was originally no access between the 2 halves of the upstairs (as at Wd-119, Fa-42, and Ma-168). The second floor is divided into 4 rooms; only the two N rooms have fireplaces. An enclosed corner stair to the attic arises from the SW corner of the SW room, above the hall stair. The NE chamber retains its original mantel; others in the house were purchased from a house of the same period in Bourbon County. The owners found no evidence of chair railing on the second floor. The floors are poplar and blue ash.

The exterior ogee molding, the vertically tooled square edge steps, the interior stud walls, the "heaviness" of the original mantel, and the absence of upstairs chair railing usually indicate a date slightly later than the 1800 date attributed to the house. Clues in the house, however, may point to the correctness of C. 1800: Written on the back of the 4th riser in the stair is "G Young took \_\_\_?\_\_\_ newel away 14th Mar 1808," and on the 3rd riser, it says "J B took \_\_\_\_\_ away 14th March 1808."

East of the house, and at one time connected to it by an enclosed hyphen, is a 2-room log kitchen/quarters with a central chimney. A frame dependency is situated N of the quarters. The remainder of the stone spring house is in a bank 300 feet NE of the house; its spring branch descends into Buffalo Creek.