

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUN 27 1983  
date entered JUL 28 1983

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

1. Name

historic Marrowbone Historic District

and/or common

2. Location KY 90

street & number KY Route 90 not for publication

city, town Marrowbone vicinity of

state Kentucky code 021 county Cumberland code

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership - See Individual Survey Forms

street & number

city, town vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cumberland County Courthouse

street & number Main and Upper Streets

city, town Burkesville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date September 1982, February 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1898
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			Marrowbone Presbyterian Church

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The small community of Marrowbone is located in the west central portion of Cumberland County, twelve miles west of Burkesville and fifteen miles from the Kentucky-Tennessee border. Situated between the Appalachian Plateau to the east and the Pennyryle to the west, Cumberland County (population 1980: 7,289) is characterized by its steep, wooded hills and picturesque valleys. The most significant topographic feature is the valley of the Cumberland River, which flows through the county in a series of broad, sweeping meanders.

Marrowbone Creek, a tributary of the Cumberland River, is the major drainage and transportation corridor for the west-central section of the county. The town of Marrowbone is situated in a narrow valley along the north side of Marrowbone Creek. A linear stringtown of approximately 200 people, Marrowbone consists of a small commercial node flanked by residential and institutional use buildings. Since there are no side streets in Marrowbone, almost all of the buildings are oriented to the historic and present day alignment of Kentucky Route 90.

The Marrowbone Historic District is located immediately east of the commercial node on the south side of Kentucky Route 90. Contiguous in its arrangement, the District consists of the Presbyterian Church, the Woodmen's Hall, and the Barton House (CU-8, CU-9, CU-10). All three buildings are of frame construction and feature similarities in massing, textures, and design.

### Marrowbone United Presbyterian Church

Anchoring the eastern edge of the group is the Marrowbone United Presbyterian Church, a Gothic Revival style structure built in 1873 and relocated to this site in 1898. The church is distinguished by a corner vestibule entrance and broached steeple, which flank the gable ended front wall. A large Gothic style window with geometric patterned double hung stained glass windows dominates the front elevation. The main entrance consists of two large paneled doors surmounted by a stained glass arched transom. The upper story of the front facade and steeple is accentuated by a variety of fishscale shingle wall surfaces. A small pinwheel vent decorates the wall gable while a louvered Gothic vent permits the peal of the bells to pass through the steeple. Separating the clapboard and shingle wall treatments is a wide entablature panel, which is arched above the front entrance.

The east elevation of the church is enhanced by a small gabled pavilion that accommodates the interior altar. Two stained glass windows and fishscale shingles are employed on this bay. The remainder of the church is finished in clapboard with tall, two-over-two windows. The steeple has a shingle roof while the chapel itself is covered with asbestos shingles. The foundation material on the facade is dressed with crandalled sandstone, whereas the side foundations are constructed of brick.

Unique for its Protestant long wall design, the interior sanctuary retains all of its original fittings. The coffered, unpainted wood ceiling features an eight pointed star set into diagonally arranged tongue and groove panels. The walls above the chairrails are tongue and groove painted white, and below the chairrail they are unpainted and finished in varnish.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**                      1865-1908                      **Builder/Architect**                      \_\_\_\_\_

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

The three buildings that constitute the Marrowbone Historic District are significant as expressions of local vernacular architecture and for their historical context within the development of Marrowbone and Cumberland County. Though stylistically unpretentious, the district represents a traditional form of construction and use of details widely employed in the area during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The William Barton House, built circa 1865, is among the oldest buildings in Marrowbone and is an important example of a mid-century I house. John Wesley Williams, locally significant contractor-builder, is known to have built the Presbyterian Church and probably the Woodmen's Hall as well. The church is significant for its historic association with the founding of Presbyterianism in Cumberland County, while the Woodmen's Hall has been a focal point of community functions since 1908.

By virtue of its location along the Cumberland River, Cumberland County was settled early, having been established by the Kentucky Legislature in 1798.<sup>1</sup> Little is known about the early history of Marrowbone except that initial settlement probably occurred soon after the formation of the county. A post office was officially established in 1829, but development progressed slowly as most of the county's trade and commerce was diverted to Burkesville, the county seat located ten miles to the east on the Cumberland River. Marrowbone's existence was almost totally dependent on traffic along Highway 90, the main turnpike that connected Burkesville and Glasgow, the county seat of Barren County. During the early 1860s William Barton (1837-1900), a native of Metcalfe County, moved to Marrowbone and built his two-story house as a wedding present for his wife Susan. Barton was a dry goods merchant and also served as the village's postmaster from 1878-1898.<sup>2</sup>

The initial settlement of Marrowbone and Casey Fork<sup>3</sup> was closely associated with the establishment of the Presbyterian Church. In 1818 the first Camp Meeting was held to Casey Fork, and by July, 1830, Reverend Caleb Weeden and Joshua Barton had come to Marrowbone from Glasgow to organize a church. The Casey Fork (Marrowbone) meeting was the beginning of the Presbyterian Church in Cumberland County.<sup>4</sup>

The congregation, having outgrown the old log church, enlisted John W. Williams in 1873 to build a new church. Stained glass windows were purchased in Pittsburgh and shipped to Marrowbone via the Ohio and Cumberland Rivers. In the 1890s it became necessary to move the church to Marrowbone village, as the Casey Fork location had become too removed for many of the communicants. A fund of \$300 was raised and on December 30, 1898, the church was relocated in its original appearance on a lot donated by E. S. Pace. In 1908 the Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal organization, built their meeting hall on an adjacent lot to the west of the church property.<sup>5</sup>

In 1932 the old Flat Rock Church was dismantled and used in the erection of the Presbyterian Sunday School Annex. The Annex was dedicated on June 25, 1933. The only significant change to the district since then has been the removal of the manse which

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Alexander, Richard, Jr., Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. September, 1982.

The Cumberland News, 14 November 1907.

(see continuation sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.7 acres

Quadrangle name Dubre, KY

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	6	3	3	5	2	0	4	0	7	6	6	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point on the southeast side of Kentucky Highway 90, proceed southeast 150' along the rear property line of the Marrowbone Presbyterian Church. Then proceed southwest 218' along the rear property line of said church turning northwest 110' until reaching

### 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 Stephen C. Gordon, Senior Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

date February 1983

street & number 9th Fl., Capital Plaza Tower

telephone 502/564-7005

city or town Frankfort

state Kentucky 40601

# 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 Susan Appel*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 17, 1983

For NPS use only

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

**Entered in the National Register**

*J. Delores Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/28/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

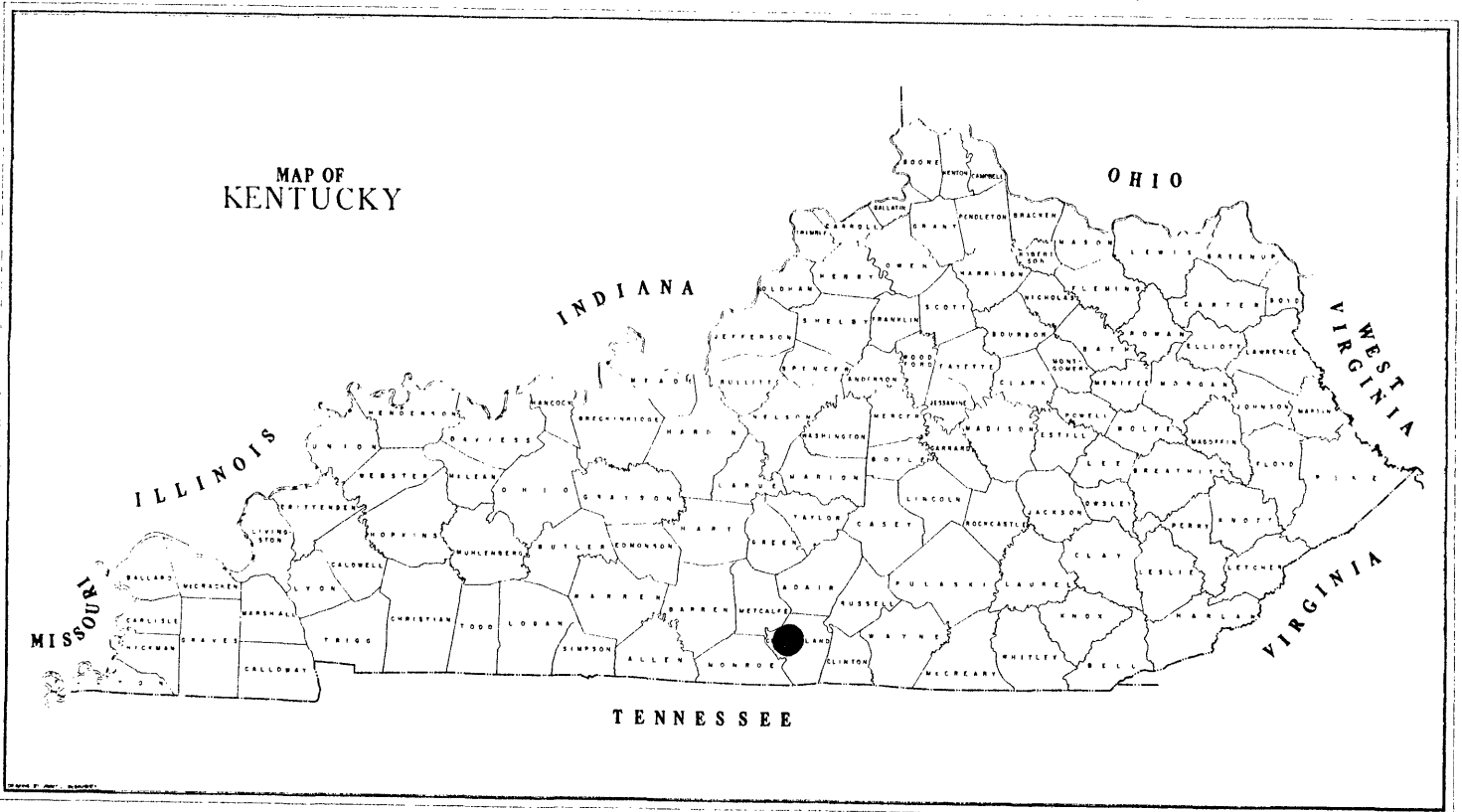
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Continuation sheet MARROWBONE HISTORIC DISTRICT Item number 7

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GENERAL LOCATION MAP

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The Eastlake type pulpit is centrally located along the east wall in front of the apse flanking the choir and Amen corner. The pews are single board yellow poplar with mahogany stain.

In 1932 the Flat Rock Church (C.1850) was dismantled and the materials were used in constructing the Sunday School annex on the rear of the church (Photo # 6 ).

Modern Woodmen of America Hall

Northwest of the church on Kentucky Route 90 is the Woodmen of America Hall, a rectangular balloon frame structure constructed on sandstone blocks. Built in 1908, this two story vernacular building features a gable ended facade with three bays and center entrance. The major stylistic features on the facade are the fishscale shingle wall treatments and decorative attic vent. Delineating the vent and carved in raised letters on a rectangular panel is "MWA 1908." The base of the gable, much like the Presbyterian Church, is defined by a wide entablature board that separates the shingle and clapboard wall treatments.

The side and rear elevations are less stylistic, having three bays on each side and one on the rear. With the exception of one door on the northeast wall, the first floor walls are blind. All of the windows on the building are two-over-two double hung.

The Woodmen's Hall interior is unaltered and retains most of its original elements. Dominating the rear (southeast) end of the hall is a small stage with proscenium arch. The hall interior is distinguished by a spindled balcony that forms a U around the upper story. All of the floor and wall surfaces, including the ceiling, are finished in varnished, unpainted wood. A singularly important feature is the diagonal arrangement of the wall treatment on the upper story.

William Barton House

Situated at the western edge of the group, the William Barton House is a two-story frame I house with one-story frame ell and later additions. Built circa 1861-1865, the Barton House consists of a single pile front block with center passage and period staircase. The interior end chimneys and foundation are constructed of cut sandstone blocks.

The five bay front facade, while having a center doorway, is slightly asymmetrical in its spacing. The most distinctive feature employed on the Barton House are the arched two-over-two window lights, set in rectangular architraves. Cornice returns and small square garret bays with decorative vents accentuate the gable ends. Among the most decorative elements on this house is the bracketed wooden cornice exhibited on the front facade.

The single story frame ell has been considerably enlarged over the years. Evidence suggests that one of the interior compartments may predate the front block. On the east side of the ell and beneath the hallway is a set of stone stairs that leads to a cistern and fruit cellar. At the rear of the historic ell is a small room with vernacular wooden mantel and chimney stack. The sunroom, porch, and kitchen were added by James Gray circa 1915. It is likely that the front porch was added about this time. Behind the kitchen is a one-story weatherboarded smokehouse.

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stood between the Woodmen's Hall and the Church. Recently a gravel access drive for Oshkosh Industries was unobtrusively constructed immediately west of the Woodmen's Hall. Today the Woodmen's Hall is used for such functions as plays, parties, and wedding showers.

<sup>1</sup>Richard Collins, History of Kentucky, p. 150.

<sup>2</sup>J. W. Wells, History of Cumberland County, p. 136; 1870 Census of Cumberland County, Abstract and Index, p. 90.

<sup>3</sup>Casey Fork Creek empties into Marrowbone Creek approximately 1/2 mile downstream from Marrowbone.

<sup>4</sup>Wells, Cumberland County, p. 72; Albert N. Wolff, comp., "History of the Marrowbone Presbyterian Church," p. 6.

<sup>5</sup>Richard Alexander, Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Form, September 1982.

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Smith, R.N., and Butler, Laura Lee, comp. 1870 Census of Cumberland County, Kentucky, Abstract and Index. 1975.

Wells, J. W., History of Cumberland County. Louisville: Standard Printing Company, 1947.

Wolff, Albert N., History of Marrowbone Presbyterian Church, Marrowbone, Kentucky. May, 1955.

Information provided by Jewell Thomas, Burkesville, Kentucky, February, 1983; Lena Gray Wilson, Glasgow, Kentucky, February, 1983.



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the rear property line of the Woodsmen Hall. Then proceed southwest 85', crossing the Oshkosh Industries driveway. Then proceed southeast 120' to the rear property line of the William Burton House, then turn southwest 125' to the southwest corner of the Barton property line. Then proceed northwest 150' to the rear side of the Marrowbone Store, then turning northeast for 24', then 70' to the southeast side of Kentucky Highway 90. Then proceed northeast 452' along Kentucky Highway 90 to the point of origin. The area nominated includes the three structures and immediate grounds. A manse indicated on the U.S.G.S. map no longer stands. Structures adjacent to the district were not included because they do not possess integrity of design or were built after 1933.

SCALE: 1 : 30

N

218'

Marrowbone  
Presbyterian  
Church

169'

85'

26'

Butler Hollow Road

85'

48'

Woodman  
Hall

25'

Oskosh Entrance

220'

124'

150'

24'

STORE

70'

Barton  
House

118'

46.5'

96'

98'

10'

252'

Sidewalk 6' width

Kentucky Highway 90

149'