

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 6 1980

DATE ENTERED NOV 25 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

Judge John Boyle House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

N of Danville on

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Bellows Mill Road

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Danville vic.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Harrodsburg

 VICINITY OF

6

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

COUNTY

Boyle

CODE

021

**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

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keller

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 7

CITY, TOWN

Harrodsburg

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Boyle County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Danville

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

November 1970

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Judge John Boyle house is situated approximately three-quarters of a mile off Bellows Mill Road in northern Boyle County, Kentucky within 500 feet of the Mercer-Boyle county line. Facing southward towards Mocks Branch creek and a now obsolete stage road, the house is an equal distance between the towns of Harrodsburg to the north and Danville, the Boyle County seat, to the south. Mercer and Boyle counties lie in the southern portion of the central Bluegrass region of Kentucky.

Constructed ca. 1815-16, the Boyle house is a double-pile, 1½-story, central passage brick residence. Laid in Flemish bond, the three-bay facade is accentuated by slightly recessed, elliptical arch panels. Roughly one quarter of the main facade has been repointed as have larger sections of the east and west elevations. Triple windows with fluted trim and rosettes fill the end bays; the entrance consists of a double door with sidelights surmounted by an elliptical arch fanlight. The gabled porch supported by wooden piers appears to date from the Greek Revival period. Two interior chimneys rise from the east and west gable ends which in turn are pierced by small, rectangular windows.

On the interior, an archway divides the hall at the point between the front and rear rooms. The arch consists of free-standing pairs of fluted colonnettes supported by reeded pedestals and displays a reeded intrados edged with rope molding. Unlike most central-passage plans, the stairs are not located in the hall, but instead are enclosed and reached by means of a door in the west wall at the northern end of the hall. Most of the original woodwork remains intact consisting of delicately reeded door jambs and fluted door and window trim with rosettes at the corners. The two original mantles in the south rooms were removed by the previous owner and replaced with simpler Greek Revival ones; however, those that remain are well-executed Federal mantles displaying sunbursts. Chairrails remain in the two north rooms and in the hall, the latter being highlighted by rope molding. Flanking the mantle in the southeast room are built-in cupboards with panelled doors; these are surmounted by elliptical arch panels enriched by intricate gouge work conforming to the shape of the arch. A one-story kitchen on the north is a late nineteenth century addition.

Consisting of approximately two acres, the nomination comprises the yard area immediately around the house which is distinct from the farm proper. This sense of domestic space is defined by the wire fences that enclose it and which provide the only feasible boundaries.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

ca. 1815-16

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in extreme northern Boyle County is the Judge John Boyle house, the home of one of Kentucky's most distinguished lawyers and politicians and the man for whom Boyle County is named. Boyle served three successive terms in the U. S. House of Representatives before he was appointed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals where he acted as chief justice for sixteen years during one of the most politically active periods in the state's early history. In addition to its association with Judge Boyle, the house merits attention as being a well-articulated expression of the Federal style in the Bluegrass region.

Born in Boutetoute County, Virginia on 28 October 1774, John Boyle moved with his family to Kentucky in 1779 eventually settling in Garrard County. Boyle received his early education from Samuel Finley, a Presbyterian minister, and later read law under Thomas Davis whom he eventually succeeded as representative to Congress from Mercer County. In 1797, Boyle married Elizabeth Tilford and settled in Lancaster, Kentucky.<sup>1</sup>

Boyle began his political career in 1802 when he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives. He was re-elected for two successive terms and rejected a fourth term in favor of returning to Kentucky to practice law. He served briefly as the territorial governor of Illinois between 1808 and 1809. Upon his second return to Kentucky, Boyle was appointed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals and the following year (1810) he was promoted to chief justice, a position he held until 1826. It was in this capacity that Judge Boyle gained renown especially during the 1823-26 conflict between the "old court" and the "new court".

The struggle centered on the issue of financial relief. The Court of Appeals had ruled as unconstitutional certain legislation passed by the state legislature designed for the relief of debtors. Involved was a two-year replevin statute retroactive in its operation on contracts made prior to its enactment. The Court of Appeals' decision created a furor among high state officials, but the legislature was unable to amass the two-thirds majority required by the state constitution to remove the appeals justices from office. Instead, the opposition changed their tactics and repealed the act by which the Court of Appeals had been organized, thus abolishing the "old court" and instituting a "new court". The "old court" denied the constitutionality of this action and continued to sit as a court of appeals. The issue was finally resolved in the 1825 election when members of the "old court" party won a majority of the seats in the state legislature and succeeded in abolishing and nullifying the actions of the "new court".

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, Thomas D. A History of Kentucky. Lexington: John Bradford Press, 1960.

Collins, Lewis and Richard. History of Kentucky. Reprint ed., Berea, Kentucky: Kentucke Imprints, 1976.

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

continued

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Danville Quad

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 | 6914 | 4710 | 4176 | 4000

B | | | | | | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | |

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular area defined by fences forming a boundary 80' from the northernmost foundation of the house, 15' from the east foundation, 50' from the south (continued)

## 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

Charlotte Schneider/Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

March 1980

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 X

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

Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 9-22-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: Ray Luce  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/25/80

ATTEST: Glenn H. McCallister  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11-24-80

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Boyle, Judge John, House  
Boyle County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

As soon as the conflict had been resolved, Judge Boyle resigned his position as chief justice only to be appointed federal district judge for Kentucky, a position he held until his death in 1835. During this time he also served for one year as the sole professor of law at Transylvania University.

After many years of struggle, Boyle County was created in 1842 out of parts of Mercer and Lincoln counties and named in honor of Judge John Boyle. Ironically, in the drawing of the county line, Judge Boyle's farm was divided between Mercer and Boyle counties and his house lies just barely within the limits of the county which was named for him.

The Boyle house was apparently constructed immediately after Judge Boyle acquired the property from his brothers-in-law in 1815. Embodying the traditional features of the Federal style as found in Boyle and surrounding Bluegrass counties, the Boyle house achieves distinction because of the treatment of the recessed panels of the facade, the delicate interior moldings, and its excellent state of preservation.

<sup>1</sup>See National Register nomination for the Boyle-Robertson-Letcher House, listed 14 April 1975.

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foundation, and 30' from the west foundation.

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AND/OR COMMON

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—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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Danville vic.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keller

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 7

CITY, TOWN

Harrodsburg

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Boyle County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Danville

STATE

Kentucky

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DATE

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 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky



# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

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The Judge John Boyle house is situated approximately three-quarters of a mile off Bellows Mill Road in northern Boyle County, Kentucky within 500 feet of the Mercer-Boyle county line. Facing southward towards Mocks Branch creek and a now obsolete stage road, the house is an equal distance between the towns of Harrodsburg to the north and Danville, the Boyle County seat, to the south. Mercer and Boyle counties lie in the southern portion of the central Bluegrass region of Kentucky.

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<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
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BUILDER/ARCHITECT

ca. 1815-16

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**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

continued

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Danville Quad

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 | 6914 | 4710 | 41176 | 4000

B      |      |      |      |     

C      |      |      |      |     

D      |      |      |      |     

E      |      |      |      |     

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     |      |      |      |     

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     |      |      |      |     

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular area defined by fences forming a boundary 80' from the northernmost foundation of the house, 15' from the east foundation, 50' from the south (continued)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charlotte Schneider/Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

March 1980

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 X

LOCAL     

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 9-22-80

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KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/25/80

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CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11-24-80

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