

110265100

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 11 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAR 26 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Eight-Mile House
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Louisville*
Shelbyville Road at Whipps Mill Road
CITY, TOWN *Louisville, Ky* VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Jefferson CODE 111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
The Commonwealth of Kentucky
STREET & NUMBER _____
CITY, TOWN Frankfort VICINITY OF _____ STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER _____
CITY, TOWN Louisville 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 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 type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eight-Mile house is located on the north side of U. S. 60 east of Louisville between the intersection of State 1699 (Whipps Mill Road) and Beargrass Creek. U. S. 60 at this point generally follows the old Louisville-Lexington Turnpike and marks the point eight miles from Jefferson County Courthouse. The structure is situated very close to U. S. 60 on a small lot. An automobile dealership is located immediately west of the house and State 1699 immediately to the east.

The Eight-Mile house is described by a noted restoration architect, Walter Macomber as a "one-and-a-half story structure with walls eighteen inches thick. According to the small amount of original woodwork remaining, the house was built during the latter part of the 18th century or early 19th century. It is approximately 18 feet x 30 feet with a modern wing of smaller dimension....

The main house has an entrance front and rear, and a full cellar. There are fireplaces in the cellar and first floor, the cellar fireplace being of such width as to indicate the room was used as a kitchen. The front entrance is a narrow, straight framed door which leads directly into one of two main rooms. An interesting feature of the house is the exposed second floor joists that are beaded on two lower edges indicating that they were exposed intentionally. At present, a stair at the opposite end of the room from the fireplace leads to the second floor. There is some evidence suggesting that the original stair was in another location and possibly a board partition formed two rooms in the original plan."

In fact, newspaper articles in the 1950s when the interior of the building was remodelled, as well as the variations in the floor and ceiling, indicate that there was a staircase dividing the main block into two spaces directly between the front and rear doors.

The deep walls of the main block are cut into with raked openings for the rather long windows. There is evidence that chair-railing was present.

Three modern dormers were added in the front about 1940, and the main (west) fireplace on the first story may have been given a crude stone facing at this time.

Located directly behind the house is the site of an original outbuilding or root cellar which could be a potentially significant archaeological site. An archaeological study of the site would also be helpful in determining the house's early use.

Although the house has been vacant for at least eight years, it remains structurally sound.

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 checked="" 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

Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eight-Mile house is significant as an excellent example of early 19th-century stonework. Although its early history is uncertain it is one of the earliest stone buildings in Jefferson County, Kentucky, that remains structurally sound.

It has been claimed that the structure commonly known as the Eight-Mile House is one of the oldest, if not the earliest stone building surviving in Jefferson County, as having been built by William Christian, the third County Lieutenant of Jefferson County. It has, however, been proved fairly conclusively, by Blaine A. Guthrie, Jr., in his article in The Filson Club History Quarterly (1974) that Christian, who was killed by Indians months after his arrival at Beargrass Creek, was not the builder of the structure. If Christian was the builder, the construction date would probably be between 1785 and 1786. In a letter to his mother dated September 1785, Christian states his plan to build a simple house that could easily be built, similar to his family's home on the Holston. Guthrie points out in his article that "logic makes it doubtful that Christian would attempt to build a house of stone with the knowledge that freezing weather was hardly a month away, since freezing weather would make it impossible to use any mortar in that era."

Guthrie quotes another letter from Christian to his mother that states that his family is living in three cabins, located near the mansion on the Oxmoor Estate. (Oxmoor was built in 1787 by Alexander Scott Bullitt. Bullitt came to Kentucky from Virginia with William Christian and later married Christian's daughter, Priscilla.)

Christian was killed by Indians in May, 1786. In a letter (February 19, 1973) Guthrie quotes William Marshall Bullitt from his journal My Life at Oxmoor (1911), "Colonel Christian was brought back immediately to his home, but died immediately. He was buried in front of his house, on the bank of the Beargrass Creek. This fixed the location of the 'graveyard,' which has remained as the family burying ground to this day" (p. 10). The above established Christian's home as near the cemetery on the Oxmoor estate, making it impossible to be the Eight-Mile house, which is across the old road from Oxmoor.

Guthrie goes on in his Filson Club article to state that "the earliest known owners of the house were Johnson, Swegent, Chiles, and Hanna, operators of one of the largest stage companies in Kentucky, who owned it from 1842 to 1857. Because of the lack of a tavern license and the fact that there was a stage stop and tavern four miles from the Eight-Mile house, it seems that although it was owned by a stage coach line it was not used as a stop!"

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Jefferson & Oldham County. Philadelphia: Beers & Lanagan, 1879.
 Guthrie, Blaine A., Jr. "The Eight-Mile House--A Search for History," The Filson Club Quarterly. Louisville: Vol. 47 (1974).
 Letter from Blaine Guthrie to Charles Parrish, Assistant Directory of the Kentucky Heritage Commission, Frankfort, February 19, 1973.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	62,2	23,0	4,2	3,4	1,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Cronan, Staff Historian and Walter E. Langsam, Assistant Director

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

June 3, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

401 Wapping Street

TELEPHONE

502 564-4476

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.

SIGNATURE

Edred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7-7-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

James P. ...

DATE

7/26/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

DATE

3-25-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
JUL 11 1975
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Eight-Mile House

In the 1879 Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, the structure is listed as 'D. Stitzer Eight-Mile house. The first tavern license for the house was issued to David Stitzer on April 14, 1879. Sometime before Stitzer's death in February 1890 he apparently converted his business into a grocery. Around the turn of the century the house was operated as a Negro saloon. It is not known when the place ceased to be operated as a saloon, but it is known that it served as a private residence for a number of years.

The Eight-Mile house was purchased in December 1967 by the state of Kentucky and Jefferson County. The house has remained unoccupied from this time.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
JUL 11 1975
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Eight-Mile House

Letter from Walter M. Macomber, Architect, Washington, D. C., to Charles D. Wickliffe, Department of Finance, Frankfort, Kentucky. June 13, 1972.

Walter E. Langsam Metropolitan Preservation Plan. Louisville: Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1973.

For comparative purposes see Carolyn Murray Wooley. "Kentucky's Early Stone Houses," The Magazine Antiques, March, 1974.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 3 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAR 26 1976

Eight-Mile House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Photo 4. Note that the staircase shown is not original.

On the section from the 1879 Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Kentucky,
"D. Stitzer/Eight-Mile House." appears in the upper right corner, near "Howesburg."



