

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only  
received JUN 4 1984  
date entered JUL 5 1984

## 1. Name

historic JESSAMINE COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number See Individual Inventory Forms & Continuation Sheets not for publication

city, town vicinity of congressional district

state Kentucky code county Jessamine code

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name See Individual Inventory Forms and Continuation Sheets

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jessamine County Courthouse

street & number 101 North Main Street

city, town Nicholasville state Kentucky

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ no

date 1971 and Supplements federal ☒ state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### Survey Methodology

The historic sites survey of Jessamine County was conducted during the summer of 1977 by Dr. Kenneth Gibbs, architectural historian, Nina Head, survey historian, Jayne Henderson, research historian. The survey is part of a ten-year project of the Kentucky Heritage Commission to survey the state's historical and archaeological resources on a county-by-county basis.

National Register criteria were applied to all structures viewed in this county; all of those meeting National Register criteria are included in this nomination and those not meeting National Register criteria are omitted. The survey process involved examining every standing structure in the county by traveling every possible road. To supplement the visual survey of Jessamine County, published histories of the area were consulted, historical research was conducted in local and state depositories, and local historians and owners of properties were interviewed to identify properties possessing local significance. City maps were used for the largest town, Nicholasville, and USGS maps were used elsewhere in the county. Individual structures that met minimum standards of architectural or historical significance were mapped, described, documented, photographed and given a site identification number consisting of the Smithsonian designation for Jessamine County, JS, and a number. Sites in Nicholasville were given the designation JS-N and a number. All of this information was recorded on Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Forms.

Of the 182 sites surveyed in Jessamine County outside of Nicholasville, 53 are nominated individually. Of the 68 sites surveyed in Nicholasville, seven are nominated individually and 47 are included in the Nicholasville Historic District. (This district consists of 51 buildings total.) All of the buildings in this nomination outside the Nicholasville District are being nominated for architectural merit. The styles included are described in #8, and each nominated property is described on the individual survey forms.\*

#### Physical Description of Jessamine County

Situated near the center of Kentucky's Bluegrass region, Jessamine County is one of Kentucky's smallest counties, containing only 177 square miles. It is bounded on the south and east by the Kentucky River and watered by numerous Kentucky River tributaries. Except for the hilly southeast quarter of the county, the land is relatively flat to rolling; the flat sections are intensively cultivated and marked by major transportation routes, while the hilly section is characterized by small farms, large patches of forest and comparative isolation.

\*Form written 1980 by Kenneth Gibbs. Buildings checked, data updated, and new boundary forms drawn 1984 by Carolyn Murray Wooley.

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Individual Nominated Rural Structures

|        |  |  |
|--------|--|--|
| JS-1   | Residence at Sunnyside                     | E.side of US 27 at Fayette Co.line                 |
| JS-2   | Providence Church                          | E.side US 27; 1/3 mile so. of Fayette Co.line      |
| JS-3   | Marshall-Bryan House                       | E.side of US 27; 1 mile so. of county line         |
| JS-7   | A. M. Young House                          | 1/2 mile west of Ash Grove Pike                    |
| JS-8   | Abraham Venable & J.S.<br>Todhunter Houses | Tates Creek Road                                   |
| JS-10  | James G. Martin House                      | West side Tate's Creek Road                        |
| JS-13  | Cedar Grove (David Newman)                 | South side KY 169; 1/2 m. west of Spears           |
| JS-15  | A. Grubb House                             | Spears   |
| JS-23  | Joseph Chrisman House                      | East side of US 27, north of Nicholasville         |
| JS-25  | Rice-Price House                           | East side of US 27, north of Nicholasville         |
| JS-31  | Federal house on Hickman Creek             | South side Old Railroad Line, 1 m. of Logana       |
| JS-33  | John Hunter House                          | Chrisman Mill Road                                 |
| JS-34  | Taylor House                               | Taylor Road, 1 mile east of KY 595                 |
| JS-38  | Muir House                                 | 1/2 mile of KY 1541, 1 mile east of KY 39          |
| JS-42  | John Harvey Scott House                    | 1/2 mile east of KY 27; 1/2 mile no. Roberts Cha.  |
| JS-43  | Roberts Chapel                             | East side of US 27; 4.5 miles south of Nich.       |
| JS-46  | Pink Overstreet House                      | East side of KY 1268; 1/2 mile of Pink             |
| JS-50  | Little Hickman School                      | Pink   |
| JS-55  | Curley's Distillery                        | West side US 27 at KY River                        |
| JS-66  | Curd House                                 | West side KY 29; 1.5 m. north of High Bridge       |
| JS-68  | Bicknell House                             | West side Rt.29, 1/2 m. south of Wilmore           |
| JS-74  | Asbury College Adm. Bldg.                  | KY 29  |
| JS-76  | Morrison-Kenyon Library                    | KY 29  |
| JS-96  | Mathews House                              | West side of Shun Pike; 1 m. north of KY 1268      |
| JS-97  | Robinson House                             | East side of Shun Pike; 1 m. north of Rt.1268      |
| JS-99  | Sandy Bluff                                | East side Shun Pike; 1.5 m. north of KY 1268       |
| JS-102 | Butler's Tavern                            | West side US 27 at Vineyard, over Town Fork        |
| JS-103 | Hoover House                               | Rt.27, south of Nicholasville                      |
| JS-108 | Young House                                | East side KY 29; 1/4 m.south of US 68 intersection |
| JS-111 | George & Betty Bryan House                 | N.side of US 68; 1 m. west of KY 29                |
| JS-126 | Hughes House                               | South side KY 169; 1/2 m. of Woodford County       |
| JS-133 | Mt.Pleasant Baptist Church                 | 1/2 mi. north of Keene on Keene-Troy Road          |
| JS-136 | Keene Springs Hotel                        | Keene  |
| JS-139 | Macedonia Baptist Church                   | Keene  |
| JS-143 | Barkley House                              | East side US 68                                    |
| JS-144 | Nave-Brown House                           | N.side of Nicholasville-Wilmore Road               |
| JS-146 | J.W.Duncan House                           | N. side KY 169                                     |
| JS-148 | Shanklin House/Elm Grove                   | N. side of KY 169                                  |
| JS-149 | Isaac Barkley House                        | South side Rt.169 near X with Rt.68                |
| JS-151 | Grant Knight House                         | South side RT.169 at Rt.68                         |
| JS-152 | Elijah Neal House                          | Intersection US 68 and KY 169                      |
| JS-153 | William C. Lowry House                     | West side Rt.68; 1/2 m. north of Rt. 169           |
| JS-154 | Hearts Ease                                | West side Rt.68                                    |
| JS-155 | George O'Neal House                        | 1/2 m. west Rt.68 at Catnip Hill Road              |

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|        |                         |   |
|--------|-------------------------|---|
| JS-157 | Pleasant Grove          | West side Keene-Troy Rd.; 1 1/4 m. of Keene |
| JS-162 | Locust Grove Stock Farm | Keene-Troy Road                             |
| JS-165 | Burrier House           | East side Keene-Troy Road                   |
| JS-166 | Woodland                | West side Rt.68 at Catnip Hill Road         |
| JS-171 | Thornwood               | Baker Lane, 1 1/2 m. west of Rt. 27         |
| JS-174 | Bryant House            | Route 27                                    |
| JS-175 | Shady Grove             | 1 mile west of Rt. 27                       |
| JS-178 | Providence              | N.side Brannon Road; 2 m. west of US 27     |
| JS-179 | Samuel Bryan House      | S.side Brannon Road; 3/4 m. from Rt. 27     |

Individually Nominated Structures (Nicholasville)

|         |  |   |
|---------|--|---|
| JS-N-4  | Bethel A.M.E. Church                             | SE Corner York & Walnut Streets         |
| JS-N-12 | Silver Hill/McConnell-Woodson-<br>Phillips House | 303 S.Main St., Nicholasville           |
| JS-N-14 | Rev.John Metcalf House                           | 209 First, SW corner Elm, Nicholasville |
| JS-N-17 | Bethel Academy                                   | 207 S.Third Street, Nicholasville       |
| JS-N-31 | J. S. Bronaugh House                             | SW Corner Walnut & Second Streets       |
| JS-N-32 | Thomas Elliott West House                        | NW Corner Walnut & Second Streets       |
| JS-N-36 | Gen. George Walker House                         | 305 W. Oak Street, Nicholasville        |

Structures Included Within Nicholasville Historic District

|         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| JS-N-7  | JS-N-19 through JS-N-29 |
| JS-N-9  | JS-N-41 through JS-N-68 |
| JS-N-15 | JS-N-70 through JS-N-74 |

Structures Already Entered in the National Register

|        |                      |
|--------|----------------------|
| JS-19  | Isaac Shelby House   |
| JS-167 | Dunn House           |
| JS-169 | Chaumiere du Prairie |
| JS-181 | Brown House/Edgewood |

The following sites are part of the 124 sites National Register Thematic Nomination:  
"Early Stone Buildings of Central Kentucky"

|        |                              |
|--------|------------------------------|
| JS-5   | Stone House on West Hickman  |
| JS-59  | Scott House                  |
| JS-115 | Robert Steele House          |
| JS-124 | Ephraim January House        |
| JS-130 | John Lancaster House         |
| JS-186 | Stone House on Brooklyn Hill |

## 8. Significance

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |  |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education          | <input type="checkbox"/> military                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering        | <input type="checkbox"/> music                          | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention                     |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)    |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### A Summary of the Historical & Architectural Development of Jessamine County

Jessamine County has a strong tradition of log construction, a rich group of early stone structures and a collection of unusually well-executed early brick buildings. The periods of greatest building activity in Jessamine County appear to have been about 1800-1820, 1835-1860 and 1875-1900. These periods correspond roughly to settlement, the height of the agricultural economy and post-Civil War commercial expansion. Before the last decade of the nineteenth century, three styles, Federal, Greek Revival and Gothic Revival, dominated the county's stylistic development almost to the exclusion of all others. The sense of self-conscious styling so characteristic of pre-Civil War architecture in the county was largely replaced toward the end of the century by a rather haphazard mix of current styles that is itself a valuable reflection of the county at this time. Plans in domestic architecture were almost limited to central passage and hall-parlor plans until the adoption of free-flowing plans about 1890. The county's building types are predominately rural and domestic. Commercial structures of the middle and late nineteenth century are nonetheless significant in Nicholasville, Keene and Wilmore. Formal town planning played a relatively small role in Jessamine County, and town forms are limited to the crossroad type and the simple grid system.

#### Settlement and Early Growth

The first white settlers in the county were the Hunter brothers, John Jacob and Samuel, who came to the area in 1779. They settled on a 900-acre tract between the Kentucky River and Hickman Creek (JS-33). Although most of the original settlers in the area were Scotch-Irish and English, some of the early settlers were German Protestants from Pennsylvania and Maryland, and a few Poles and French Huguenots also arrived in the area before 1800. Two stations were established in the western section of the county: Todd's Station in 1799 by Levi Todd and Black's Station about 1783. Major Benjamin Netherland, who came to the area about 1780 and was known as an Indian fighter during the years 1781-1784, opened Mingo Tavern about 1793 in Nicholasville on the site of the present county jail (JS-N-9). In 1796 the county was surveyed by Frederick Zimmerman, and Colonel David Meade of Virginia began clearing land for Chaumiere du Prairie (JS-169; listed 25 Sept. 1975), perhaps the most lavishly landscaped estate in early Kentucky. Revolutionary War veterans, the largest group of early landowners by far, received large tracts of land for their wartime services from Virginia. These included General George Walker, who established the second law office in Nicholasville in 1799 (JS-N-36), and John Young, whose descendants included the Reverend Daniel P. Young (JS-N-26 and JS-N-27), the historian Bennett H. Young and Dr. Brown Young (JS-108).

The earliest transportation routes were buffalo traces, Indian trails and creekbeds, but following a 1799-1800 survey of possible roadways, the county court authorized twenty-nine roads surveyed and laid, serving an increasing population that rose from 5,461 in 1800 to 8,377 in 1810. The second ferry in the state operated from 1785 across the Kentucky

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Charlottesville, Virginia, Alderman Library. Webb-Prentis Collection.

Coleman, J. Winston. Slavery Times in Kentucky. Chapel Hill: University of No. Carolina Press, 1940.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

See Continuation Sheet and Individual Inventory Forms

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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 Dr. Kenneth T. Gibbs, Architectural Historian, and Carolyn M. Wooley

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

date March 1984

street & number 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

title

date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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River at the mouth of Hickman Creek. Mills, the first industry in Jessamine County, included a 1782 stone mill on Jessamine Creek, another stone mill at the present town of Keene in 1794 and Union Mills on Hickman Creek, built in 1803 by Robert Crockett, son of Colonel Joseph Crockett.

The congregation of the earliest surviving church, Ebenezer Presbyterian (JS-123), was organized between 1785 and 1790. Methodists were established in Nicholasville in 1799, and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church (JS-133) was established in 1801. Early education in Jessamine County was largely the result of the efforts of the indomitable Reverend John Metcalf (JS-N-14 and JS-N-17); he helped found three academies, in 1792, 1803 and 1820; two of them were in Nicholasville and one was above the Kentucky River near High Bridge (JS-65), and all were named Bethel Academy.

Meeting at the Fisher Rice house (JS-25) on 25 February 1799, the first county court chose Colonel John Price, a Revolutionary War veteran, as the county's first representative and Charles West (JS-99) as the first sheriff. The choice of a county seat was relatively simple. Nicholasville, located roughly in the center of the county at a major crossroads, had four large springs and had been mapped the previous year by Reverend John Metcalf. In 1802 the court accepted a plat of the town, presumably Metcalf's, consisting of a standard grid with a courthouse on one of the corners of the main intersection (JS-N-47). Two other early towns, Keene and Sulfur Wells, were established on the sites of sulfur springs in 1813. Keene especially profited from the cholera epidemics that in 1833 and 1849 caused many Lexington residents to seek the medicinal waters of such rural resorts as the Keene Springs Hotel (JS-136).

Much of the early growth and agricultural prosperity of Jessamine County was due to the success of a cash crop, hemp. Hemp was a popular crop in central Kentucky from about 1796 because of the lack of a close market for tobacco, the largest cash crop today, and because it produced the greatest return for the use of the land and slave labor--it is estimated that three slaves could cultivate 51 acres in hemp. By 1840 two thirds of the Kentucky hemp crop was produced in the Bluegrass region, and Nicholasville had a number of hemp factories. Although the less hilly sections of Jessamine County operated largely on a cash crop basis, the farms, averaging between 50 and 500 acres, were not as large as the plantations of the Deep South.

Stone Construction

Jessamine County, as well as the Bluegrass region as a whole, is rich in surviving stone structures. Of the sixteen recorded in the county, eleven were apparently built as dwellings, one as a church, one as a distillery and three as industrial or outbuildings of undetermined use. With the exception of Curley's Distillery (JS-55), all were apparently built by about 1815.

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The most common house form was a single, square or rectangular pen of one story with a loft or half-story above. Only two of the eleven houses, the house on W. Hickman (JS-5) and the Ephraim January house (JS-124), consists of more than one story. The most common domestic plan was the hall-parlor plan, adopted for both small and large houses. Richly detailed Whitehall, the Robert Steele house, (JS-115) is the sole example in stone of the central passage plan. Beyond the frequently elaborate stonework, the moldings, plans, exterior features, and overall compositions were simple expressions of traditional domestic architecture.

Although the quality of Jessamine County stonework varies considerably, a curious patterning that resembles contemporary Flemish bond brickwork is found in three structures: the Shanklin house (JS-16) burned, the Scott house (JS-59) and the John Lancaster house (JS-130). This would suggest a common local builder were it not for other houses in the Bluegrass region that exhibit the same device--the Philip Grimes house in Fayette County, Mount Lebanon near Paris in Bourbon County, the Samuel McMillan house in Harrison County, the James McKee house in Bourbon County and the James Lindsay house in Scott County. The name of Thomas "Stonehammer" Metcalfe, tenth governor of Kentucky and well-known builder in the Bluegrass area, is associated with two of the stone houses in Jessamine County--the house on W. Hickman (JS-5) and Cedar Grove (JS-13).

Because of the wide range of forms and details, there is no typical Jessamine County stone house. Noteworthy features found in many of the structures include the following: carefully cut flat arches with or without keystones; slope-shouldered chimneys that are either interior, exterior or partially exterior; water tables; regular and irregular coursed stonework used almost interchangeably; and interior woodwork that blends Georgian and Federal styles. (All of the stone buildings described above with the exception of Curley's Distillery were listed in the National Register as part of the Early Stone Buildings of Central Kentucky.)

Log Construction

One of the most popular methods of construction from the settlement period to about the Civil War, log construction was adopted for a wide variety of building types and uses. The basic forms of log structures found in this area are the single-pen, double-pen, dogtrot and saddlebag forms. In general, the forms of Jessamine County log structures are found throughout Kentucky and seem to be closely related to popular forms in the Piedmont and the Valley of Virginia (JS-34, JS-46, JS-96, JS-155, and JS-N-36).

Log construction does not necessarily indicate poverty or temporary shelter, for many log houses were both large and architecturally pretentious; it appears to have been simply an alternate means of construction familiar to most settlers. The use of log construction cut across artificial boundaries of period and style, but the buildings in Jessamine County may be loosely grouped into two stylistic periods, Federal and Greek Revival, depending on the character of the moldings and the general date of construction, before or after about 1835.



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Federal Style in Brick

In the Bluegrass region the Federal style was employed in log, stone, brick and frame structures, but it was in brick construction that the qualities of the style were most fully realized. Most Bluegrass and Jessamine County Federal style structures in brick are low, one-story houses. Expansive compositions with wings and dependencies were rare in the region, double-pile plans and hall-parlor plans were more common than in the East, and the use of classical orders was far less common than in the eastern seaboard. The majority of Federal structures in Jessamine County and the Bluegrass were built between 1800 and 1840. There appears to have been no pattern of geographic distribution of brick Federal structures in Jessamine County. Houses in this period were more likely to be oriented toward roads than creeks, unlike the first stage in settlement.

Except for a relatively larger number of hall-parlor plans and a more restricted use of classical orders and elaborate patternbook features, Federal brick architecture in Jessamine County is of a piece with the style's development in the Bluegrass region. In the simplest terms, the typical brick Federal house in the county is one and one-half stories high and three bays wide with a central door. In terms of plan and architectural pretensions, however, a division into two broad groups may be observed. The first group consists of houses based on the hall-parlor plan with simple doorways lighted by plain transoms or fanlights and with simple interior moldings. The second group consists of houses based on the central passage plan with a wider variety of opening forms, especially the Palladian window, more elaborate brickwork, reeded exterior moldings with corner blocks and carefully articulated door surrounds.

Although similar in plan, houses in the hall-parlor group vary in external appearance. The James G. Martin house (JS-10), built probably before Martin's death in 1801, consists of two stories and a four-bay facade with a single, off-center door. Like the Martin house, the S. Muir house (JS-31) has a belt course between levels, but its three bays are symmetrically placed about a central door. A number of the houses of this group are one story high and three bays wide.

Houses in the central passage group also vary in external appearance despite similarities in plan and certain exterior features. Cedar Grove (JS-13) is notable for the Palladian window on the main facade, the reeded exterior moldings with corner blocks, and the high quality of the stone and brickwork, especially in the arches over the Palladian windows. The J. W. Baker house illustrates the manner in which the door surrounds of houses in this group form tight, rectilinear compositions of reeded stanchions, cross bars and corner blocks. A variation on this theme is found in the S. Robinson house (JS-97) in which the sidelights are unusually broad. For their richness of detail and special features, two houses belong in this group despite the one being constructed of stone and the other being based on the H plan. Whitehall (JS-115) is a stone building, its central passage plan, elaborate door surrounds and fine interior woodwork place it in this group of brick Federal houses, as does a most unusual planning feature, a cupola-roof walk that served to ventilate the window-less chambers beneath the large hip roof. The Mason Singleton house (JS-166) is based on an H plan, but the reeded exterior moldings with corner blocks, the triple windows set in recessed, elliptical-headed panels and the elaborate door surrounds give it a kinship with the central passage houses in this group.

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These two significant groups of brick Federal houses do not encompass the full range of Federal brick houses. Another group of approximately half the number in each of the first two groups has traits of both. That is, the houses in this category are relatively simple in design and execution, but they are based on the central passage plan. Notable examples are the A.M. Young house (JS-7) and Sandy Bluff (JS-99). In a category by themselves are three houses in Nicholasville based on the side passage plan, relatively rare in Jessamine County before the mid-nineteenth century. The J. Burdine house (JS-7), Silver Hill (JS-12) and the Walker Hotel (JS-15) are two stories high and three bays wide.

Height of the Agricultural Economy

Hemp production and livestock raising continued to provide a strong basis for the Jessamine County economy through the Civil War and were largely responsible for one of the county's greatest building periods, between about 1835 and 1860, the same period in which Greek Revival architecture came to dominate the rural landscape. Due to the agricultural base of the economy, progress in transportation and commerce outstripped that of industry. The Kentucky River lock system was constructed during the prewar decades, and in 1834 the state began the construction of the Lexington/Harrodsburg turnpike, which passed through Jessamine County. When the state abandoned the project, a Jessamine resident, John LaFon, assumed the presidency of the turnpike company. By 1847 the road was completed through Perryville, thus linking Fayette, Jessamine, Mercer and Boyle Counties. The railroad largely benefitted the postwar economy of the county, for the trunk line from Cincinnati to Chattanooga, seventeen miles of which were in Jessamine County, did not open until 1857. The Civil War brought a lull in building activity, and between the war and about 1875 the local economy was essentially dormant. In general, the decades prior to the Civil War were marked by local political stability, cash crop prosperity, the solidification of the county's largest farms, the height of slavery in the county, and a greater importing of outside luxury goods and services.

Greek Revival

Greek Revival in the Bluegrass region differed from that in the East primarily in the dominant use of brick construction and two-story forms and the relatively few instances of porticoes that extend across the entire main facade. Porticoes extending across the central three bays were popular but perhaps the most common was the single-bay portico in front of a central entrance. Side passage plans were not unusual, although they were not as popular as in other eastern and northern states. The most common plan type was the central passage plan. It was in this period that the I-house--two stories with central passage--came into its own. One of the most notable developments for rural domestic architecture in this period was the growth of the ell to a point where it rivaled the principal front in size. Greek Revival architecture remained popular in the Bluegrass region from about 1835 to about 1875.

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Jessamine County Greek Revival architecture has much in common with Greek buildings in the Bluegrass region as a whole, but there are several important distinctions. In Jessamine County, brickwork continued to be in Flemish bond with jack arches over the openings, while in other counties brickbonding other than Flemish was also used and stone or wood lintels frequently replaced jack arches. It seems that either Jessamine County brick masons were bound by old techniques or that builders and owners were unmoved by new treatments of wall surface and openings. Wall pilasters are not found in Greek Revival structures in Jessamine County, except where the portico abuts the facade, nor do interiors in the county rival the elaborate interior ornamentation found in other areas of the Bluegrass. Porticoes of columns rather than piers are less common than wood or brick piers, and a particular type of pier--the brick pier of rectangular section--seems to have been far more popular in Jessamine County than in neighboring areas. Recessed entry porticoes are common in certain section of the Bluegrass, but not in Jessamine County, where solid rectangular forms outnumber the two instances of recessed entries. There is a small group of single-story houses, a few houses with low wings, and a few based on the side-passage plan, but in general the typical Greek Revival residence in the county is an I-house in brick or frame with a full-height portico in front of the entry and a large, galleried ell behind.

The majority of notable Greek Revival structures in Jessamine County show a strong influence from architectural pattern books. Sunnyside (JS-1) is one of many houses revealing pattern book influence in the door treatment. Except for the elongated Greek key in the pilasters, it is the single most popular door design in the county's Greek Revival structures. The John S. Todhunter house (JS-8) illustrates the popular vertical arrangement of doors. As was common, the door surround at the upper level of this house is reduced to a crossette architrave while fluted Doric columns are found on both floors. The highly decorative anthemion frieze was used in the door surround of the Issac Barkley house (JS-149) in conjunction with the Ionic order rather than the more common Doric.

Taken as a whole, the Greek Revival in Jessamine County is a varied mix composed predominately of undistinguished I-houses, plain log structures with Greek interior trim, two-story houses with single-bay porticoes, and one-story Greek Revival cottages. A group of seven notable single-story houses illustrates the manner in which Greek forms and decoration graced houses that were Federal in form and plan. They are all five bays wide with central passge plans and entry porticoes, and they are built of either log, brick or frame. The Issac Barkley house (JS-149) typifies the way the entry porticoes were incorporated into the overall composition of these small but elegant cottages. A variation of the pedimented entry portico is found in the G.M. Barkley house (JS-143) in which a flat-roofed portico was placed in front of a central pediment.

Gothic Revival

In the Bluegrass region the Gothic Revival was more closely linked with the Greek Revival than in many regions of the eastern seaboard. The most common domestic form of Bluegrass Gothic was the triple-gable format composed of a symmetrical three-bay facade, central passage plan and an upper half-story lighted by three steep gables on the facade. Common features included decorative bargeboards at the eaves, grouped chimney stacks toward the

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center rather than at the ends, semioctagonal projecting bays, lancet windows with projecting labelmolds, and low wooden porches trimmed with arches and tracery. Interior decoration included arched mantels, cupboards and closets, vertical framing members of octagonal section and castellated pieces atop windows and doors, although Greek Revival interiors were as common as Gothic.

Except for a relatively larger number of brick structures, the Gothic Revival in Jessamine County reflected developments in the Bluegrass as a whole. Most of the architecturally significant Gothic structures were built prior to the end of the Civil War, but traces of the style lingered until about 1875 in some areas.

There are six Gothic Revival houses in Jessamine County and two others that are Greek with Gothic interiors. Of the six with Gothic exteriors, half are of brick, two are weatherboarded frame structures and one is frame covered with board and batten. Three in the county follow the triple-gable format so popular in the Bluegrass. The Grant Knight house (JS-151) represents the fully developed Gothic house as it is most frequently found in the Bluegrass. The central chimneys consist of paired stacks, a semioctagonal bay projects from one end, lancet windows with hoodmolds were used in the upper story, and the central bay of the three was emphasized by bringing it forward slightly from the plane of the wall, making it wider than the other two bays and placing a triple rather than single lancet in the gable. The decorative bargeboards and entry porch have survived, as have the interior castellated door and window surrounds. The D. Hoover house (JS-N-20) and Edgewood (JS-181; listed 2 December 1977) are similar in major respects to the Grant Knight house, although at Edgewood all three bays project from the wall surface and brick labelmolds appear over windows of both floors.

One house in the county warrants special notice because it does not fit the Bluegrass mold of symmetrical Gothic Revival houses. Many of the details of Elm Cove (JS-148) are similar to those of several other Gothic houses in the county, but the plan and massing of the house are decidedly asymmetrical. The bargeboards and entry porches of Elm Cove have been removed, but the interior and exterior moldings and the breaking forward of the bays recall both Edgewood and the Grant Knight house. The house was built in two stages, roughly ten years apart, and instead of following the customary procedure of adding a second block to the end or rear of the first, the large second block with its own ell was added to one corner so that both facades are parallel but in different planes.

The single board-and-batten Gothic house in the county is a subsidiary dwelling adjacent to Silver Hill (JS-N-12). The two Green Revival houses with Gothic interiors are Pleasant Grove (JS-157) and the Jacob Burrier house (JS-165). Despite having been built about fifteen years apart, both seem to have been designed by the Young brothers, documented designers of Pleasant Grove. Both have double porticoes rather than the more common monumental portico, and both have nearly identical Gothic Revival interior moldings.

Post-Civil War Commercial Expansion

Although Jessamine County suffered little physical destruction from the Civil War, it was subject to the same economic slowdown that affected much of the state in the decades following the war. Major causes were the shift from a slave to a paid labor force and

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the disruption of markets. Much of the rail system was intact, however, and between 1875 and the early 1880s an upturn restored the economy to the level of about 1860. In the early 1880s Jessamine County had a larger per-acre yield of hemp than any other county in this hemp-producing region.

Despite the recovery of agriculture, the greatest gains were in manufacturing, transportation, commerce and the growth of towns. Additions to the lists of manufacturing and commercial firms in the State Gazeteer between 1878 and 1884 attests to what is visually apparent in the towns of the county today: the businesses of the last decades of the century provided the county with a solid foundation of commercial enterprises and a majority of the commercial structures in use today. Nicholasville at this time had a marble works, carriage and brick manufacturers and dealers in coal, wood, sand and cement. By 1896 a vintner was added to the town's list of businesses. Entire blockfaces in opulently decorated commercial styles, using stone, metal, brick and glass, emerged in the 1880s in Wilmore and Nicholasville.

By 1898 Jessamine County owned 175 miles of toll-free turnpikes. Railroad track mileage in the county increased in this period, and one town, Wilmore, owed its existence to an 1876 branch of the Cincinnati-Southern railroad that crossed the Kentucky River by way of High Bridge (JS-65), a major engineering feat completed in 1878.

#### Late-Century Architectural Choices

After the Civil War, no single style was as popular as the Greek Revival had been before the war. In many parts of the country revival styles were built in either pure form or in mixes of two or more. In Jessamine County, however, outside architectural influences were limited, and no fully developed or textbook examples of these styles remain. Architecturally pretentious houses built in the county in this period tended rather to adopt various features from a number of different styles and apply them to traditional forms.

Several aspects of late-century Jessamine County architecture seem particularly significant: a common urge for richly modeled ornamentation and asymmetrical massing, a new desire for free-flowing plans with highly specialized room uses, and a widespread fondness for mixing various materials in both exteriors and interiors. Also, this period is marked by a dramatic increase in the use and manufacture of new sorts of machined building materials.

Although no pure examples of the Italianate style exist in Jessamine County domestic architecture, some buildings have one or more of its traits. Three brick houses in Italianate style are found in Nicholasville; the most fully developed is the J.S. Bronaugh house (JS-N-31) while similar features can be found in the E. R. Sparks house and Bethel Academy (JS-N-17).

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There is little evidence that the Romanesque Revival influenced Jessamine County architecture. The two clearest illustrations of the style are in Nicholasville--the Dr. Wagner house (JS-N-22) and the Mrs. J.W. Wilmore house (JS-N-23). Both are of brick construction with stone trim, both are asymmetrically massed, the similar plans are relatively free-flowing, and both exteriors used prominently displayed round-arch openings in stone.

The remainder of late-century domestic structures may be loosely divided into two groups: eclectic houses (those with mixed references to several styles) and cross-plan houses \*those with scarcely any identifiable stylistic traits but with a common planning device, a projecting central bay on one or both sides. Of the larger group of eclectic structures, the most significant is perhaps Woodland (JS-166) designed by a Cincinnati architect. Other notable examples include the Dr. S. B. Rowell house (JS-N-25), JS-N-28, JS-N-29 and the charmingly devised A. Grubb house (JS-15). One of the cross-plan structures is the M.C. Smith house (JS-N-21).

The late nineteenth century was the single greatest period of building activity in commercial architecture. Although certain crossroads communities in the county possess commercial architecture from this period, the greatest activity occurred in two railroad towns, Wilmore and Nicholasville. These were the only towns in which late-century economic growth continued into the twentieth century. Both Wilmore and Nicholasville served as shipping centers because of their rail connections, but in addition, Wilmore possessed Asbury College and Nicholasville was the seat of the county government--institutions which ensured their dominance over other towns in the county. Commercial architecture in Wilmore and Nicholasville in the last quarter of the century was fairly uniform. The most common form was the two-or three-story loft building, accommodating stores on the street level and storage or office above. Brick was the typical material, and the repertoire of decorative features was largely limited to hoodmolds and corbel tables. Exceptional structures include the E. R. Sparks Building (JS-N-45), the Bronaugh Building (JS-N-48), JS-N-50, JS-n-64, the Central Hotel (JS-N-66), and the H. H. Lowry Building (JS-N-67).

Population growth and town expansion in Jessamine County was fairly modest in the first half of the 20th century. Asbury Theological Seminary was established in Wilmore (JS-74 and JS-76). Not until swelling Lexington and Fayette County overflowed in mid-century were modern subdivisions built in Nicholasville and several industrial plants located on the outskirts of town. In recent years, many subdivisions have developed in northern Jessamine County, and five acre "baby farms" now line the rural roads as Jessamine County becomes a part of the Greater Lexington Metropolitan area. U.S. 27, a prominent highway through the county, is soon to be widened and made to by-pass Nicholasville.

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Com 7/5/85

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Nicholasville Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Carol D. Shull 7-19-85

Attest

2. Asbury College Administration Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Carol D. Shull 7-6-85

Attest

3. Ashurst, Craig, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

A. Schlager 7/2/85  
L. M. Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

4. Barkley House

Substantive Review

Keeper

L. M. Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

5. Barkley, Isaac, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

L. M. Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

6. Bethel A.M.E. Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

7/1/83

Attest

7. Bethel Academy

Substantive Review

Keeper

7/1/83

Attest

8. Bicknell House

Substantive Review

Keeper

L. M. Duhie 7/5/1984

Attest

9. Brick House on Shun Pike

Substantive Review

Keeper

L. M. Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

10. Bronaugh, J.S., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

L. M. Duhie 7/5/84

Attest



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Date/Signature

11. Bryan, George and Betty,  
House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Carl Duhio 7/5/84

✓ 12. Bryant House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Carol D. Shuler 7/6/85

✓ 13. Bryan, Samuel, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

ASchlagel 7/2/85  
Return 20 7/13

14. Burrier House

Keeper

Attest

Carl Duhio 7/13/84

15. Butler's Tavern

Keeper

Attest

Carl Duhio 7/5/84

16. Chrisman, Joseph, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Carl Duhio 7/5/84

17. Curd House

Keeper

Attest

Carl Duhio 7/13/84

✓ 18. Curley's Distillery

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Return 7/19

19. Duncan, J.W., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Carl Duhio 7/5/84

20. Federal House on Hickman  
Creek

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Carol D. Shuler 7-6-85  
ASchlagel 7/2/85

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Date/Signature

21. Grubb, A., House Substantive Review

Keeper

Lynn Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

22. Hoover House Substantive Review

Keeper

Lynn Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

23. Hughes House Substantive Review

Keeper

Lynn Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

24. Hunter, John, House Substantive Review

Keeper

Carol O'Shea 7/6/85  
A Schlager 7/2/85

Attest

25. Keene Springs Hotel Substantive Review

Keeper

Lynn Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

26. Knight, Grant, House Substantive Review

Keeper

Lynn Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

27. Little Hickman School Substantive Review

Keeper

retire CB

Attest

28. Locust Grove Stock Farm Substantive Review

Keeper

Lynn Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

29. Log House on Shun Pike Substantive Review

Keeper

Lynn Duhie 7/5/84

Attest

30. Lowry, William C. House Substantive Review

Keeper

Lynn Duhie 7/5/84

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Date/Signature

31. Macedonia Baptist Church

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

32. Marshall-Bryan House

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

33. Martin, James G., House

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

34. McConnell-Woodson-Phillips  
House

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

35. Metcalf, Rev. John, House

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

36. Morrison-Kenyon Library

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

37. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

✓ 38. Muir House

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

39. Nave-Brown House

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

✓ 40. Neal, Elijah, House

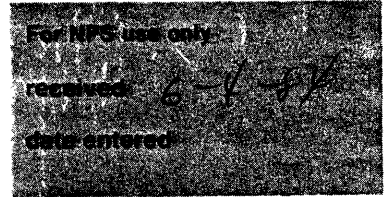
~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

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41. Newman, David, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

LWM Duhin 7-13-84

Attest

✓ 42. O'Neal, George, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Care D Shuel 7-6-85

Attest

✓ 43. O'Neal, James, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

ASchlagel 7/2/85  
Care D Shuel 7-6-85

Attest

✓ 44. Overstreet, Pink, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

ASchlagel 7/2/85  
RETURN - CD - 7/16

Attest

45. Pleasant Grove

Substantive Review

Keeper

LWM Duhin 7-5-84

Attest

46. Providence Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

LWM Duhin 7-5-84

Attest

47. Rice-Price House

Substantive Review

Keeper

RETURN CD 7/17

Attest

48. Roberts Chapel

Substantive Review

Keeper

LWM Duhin 7-5-84

Attest

49. Sandy Bluff

Substantive Review

Keeper

LWM Duhin 7-13-84

Attest

50. Scott, John Harvey, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

LWM Duhin 7-13-84

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✓ 51. Shady Grove

Substantive Review

Keeper

Carol O. Shull 7-6-85

Attest

A. Schlegel 7/2/85

✓ 52. Shanklin House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Carol O. Shull 7-6-85

Attest

A. Schlegel 7/2/85

53. Sunnyside Farm House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Wm. D. Miller 7-5-84

Attest

✓ 54. Ridge Farm  
Taylor House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Carol O. Shull 7-6-85

Attest

A. Schlegel 7/2/85

55. Thornwood

Substantive Review

Keeper

Wm. D. Miller 7-13-84

Attest

56. Venable-Todhunter Houses

Substantive Review

Keeper

Wm. D. Miller 7-5-84

Attest

✓ 57. Walker, Gen. George, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

RETURN TO CD

Attest

✓ 58. West, Thomas Elliott, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

RETURN TO CD 7-5

Attest

59. Woodland

Substantive Review

Keeper

Wm. D. Miller 7-5-84

Attest

✓ 60. Young, A.M., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Carol O. Shull 7-6-85

Attest

A. Schlegel 7/2/85

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61. Young House

Date/Signature

Keeper

Ann D. M. 7/13/84

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

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Keeper

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Keeper

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