

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **JUN 23 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Rowan County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Main Street not for publication

city, town Morehead vicinity of

state Kentucky code _____ county Rowan code _____

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"/> na in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> na being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Rowan County Fiscal Court

street & number Main Street

city, town Morehead vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rowan County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Morehead state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rowan County Courthouse is located in the center of the commercial district of the small northeastern town of Morehead (1980 pop. 7,789). The building is situated on a small square bounded by streets on all sides. Set back from the street with an expanse of land in front and to the sides, the courthouse is the prominent site of the commercial district.

Constructed in 1899, the courthouse is a substantial two-story building of brick construction resting on a rusticated limestone foundation. The asymmetrical facade faces Main Street, and the main entrance is enhanced by a semi-circular limestone arch. Above the main entrance is a triple window placement of two-over-two pane with rough-faced limestone lintels and sills. Complementing the asymmetrical placement of bays, the south corner of the facade is accented by rusticated limestone quoins.

Brickwork is executed in common bond with a row of headers every seven rows. Windows are two-over-two pane with rough-faced limestone lintels and sills. Each gable end has triple-window placement.

The arrangement of rooms and chamber of the courthouse follows a functional order. A wide central hall accentuated with wainscoting bisects the building with stairways at each end. Doors on the first floor have two-pane transoms. Ornate stairways lead to the courtroom on the second floor. The large courtroom and judge's chambers occupy the second floor. The courtroom is in an excellent state of preservation retaining the original jury and spectator seats. Presently, the Rowan County Courthouse is in a good state of repair.

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/
<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 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 1899 **Builder/Architect** —

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rowan County Courthouse is one of the more architecturally significant buildings in Morehead. Situated on a small square bounded by streets on all sides, the courthouse is the most substantial building in the commercial district.

Rowan County was created in 1856 as the one-hundred and fourth county from parts of Fleming and Morgan Counties by an act of the Kentucky Legislature. The county was named in honor of John Rowan, a distinguished jurist and statesman of Kentucky. Morehead, named in honor of Governor James T. Morehead, was established as the county seat under provisions of the legislative act which created the county in 1856. The town was laid out the same year, but was not incorporated until 1869.

The present courthouse was constructed in 1899 at a cost of several thousand dollars, and replaced a smaller two-story frame structure.

The courthouse is certainly one of the most outstanding buildings architecturally in Morehead and the county. The brick and stone masonry are well executed and the massing of the building is clearly composed. A rational floorplan allows for an easy flow of traffic. The nature of the structure is straightforward and is successful in its function.

In the Spring of 1981, the courthouse was vacated following the completion of a new courthouse. Following the closing of the old courthouse, the Rowan County Judge/Executive appointed ten members to the Old Courthouse Committee to make recommendations on the future of the courthouse. In October, 1982, a public meeting was held to solicit comments on the courthouse, which resulted in tremendous public support for the preservation of the structure.

As a result of public support for the preservation of the old courthouse, the Rowan County Fiscal Court in December 1982, officially sanctioned the efforts undertaken by citizens in the county to preserve and restore the local landmark. On January 27, 1983, the Rowan County Courthouse Preservation Committee, Incorporated, was officially incorporated for the express purpose of preserving and restoring the courthouse, and to raise funds to accomplish this goal.

The Rowan County Courthouse Preservation Committee supported by several thousand citizens who signed petitions to preserve the structure would like to use the old courthouse as an Appalachian Cultural Center. The center would house a regional museum, craft shops, archival collections and tourist information center. Morehead is the gateway to the Eastern Appalachian Area of Kentucky and the project is certainly a worthwhile endeavor.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clark, Thomas D., A History of Kentucky. Lexington, Ky.: The John Bradford Press, 1960.
 Collins, Lewis, A History of Kentucky, Vol. II, Maysville, Ky.: by the author, 1874.
 Johnson, E. Polk, A History of Kentucky & Kentuckians, Vol. II. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 Acre

Quadrangle name Morehead

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7
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2	8	6	8	8	0
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4	2	2	8	8	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the intersection of Main Street and Norma Avenue proceed 200 feet in a southwestward direction to the corner of Main and Court Streets; thence 200 feet in a northwestward direction; thence 200 feet in a northeastward direction; thence 200 feet in a southeastern direction to the point of origin.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Gus Johnson, Senior Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date June, 1983

street & number 9th Fl., Capital Plaza Tower telephone 564-7005

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Susan Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 15, 1983

For NPS use only

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

**Entered in the
National Register**

Melous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/21/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Rowan County Courthouse
Morehead, Kentucky

Item number

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Page

2

Johnson, L. F., Famous Kentucky Tragedies and Trials. Louisville: The Baldwin Law Book Company, 1916.

Kentucky Economic Statistics. Frankfort: Kentucky Commerce Cabinet, 1982.

Lipscomb, Alexander B., The Commercial History of the Southern States. Louisville: John P. Morton and Company, 1903.

KENTUCKY COUNTIES

Appalachian Area Shaded.









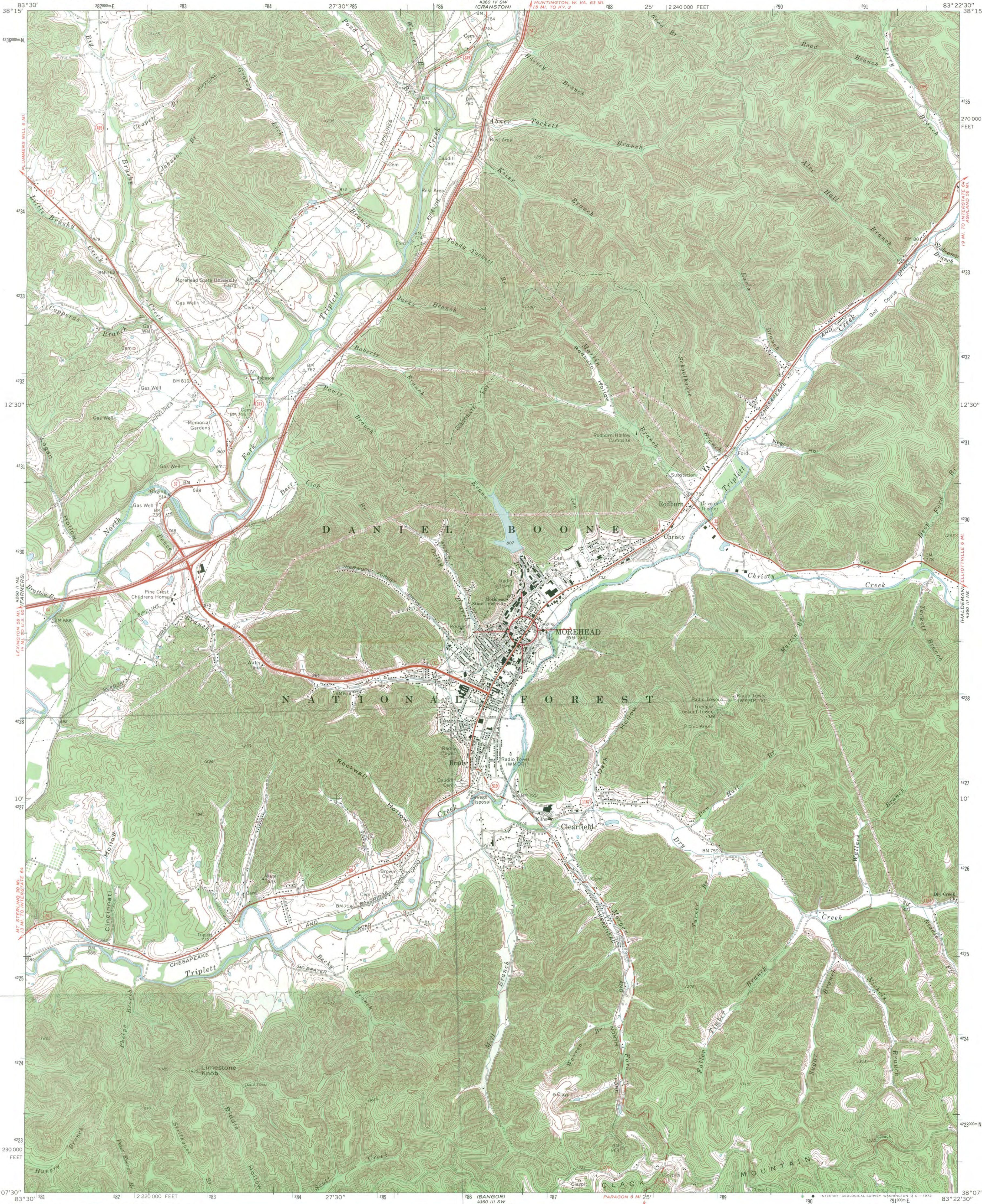










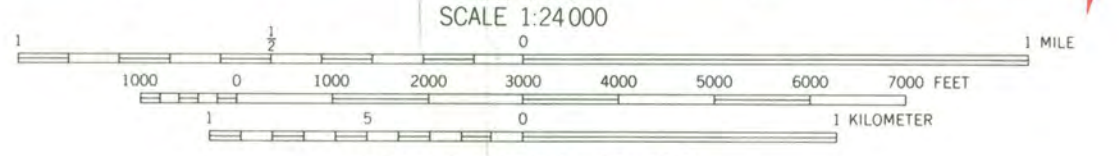
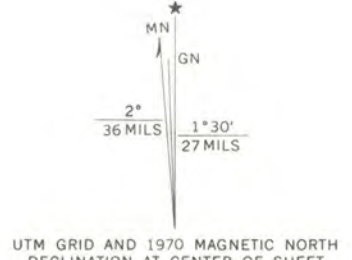


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1950. Field checked 1953. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Kentucky coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242,
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

MOREHEAD, KY.
NW/4 MOREHEAD 15' QUADRANGLE
N3807.5—W8322.5/7.5

1970

AMS 4360 III NW—SERIES V853

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2017

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Additional Documentation

Property Name: Rowan County Courthouse

Multiple Name:

State & County: KENTUCKY, Rowan

Date Received: 1/27/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 3/13/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: AD83002862

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 3/13/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary See BI for courthouse (100000743)
Comments:

Recommendation/ Accept Additional Documentation
Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275

Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Rowan County Courthouse
Rowan County
KENTUCKY

Working No. JUN 23 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2 7 84
Date Due: 7/21/83 - 8/7/83
Action: ACCEPT 7/21/83
 RETURN
National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



HERITAGE

June 16, 1983

Mr. Jerry Rogers, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The following nominations to the National Register of Historic Places were approved at the state level by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board on June 14, 1983. As State Historic Preservation Officer, I recommend they be entered in the National Register.

Name & Location of Site

Fayette County, Featherston, Edmonson & Clark Houses

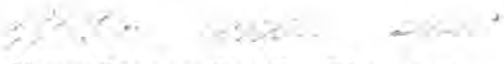
Harlan County, Benham Historic District

Hopkins County, Munn's School

Rowan County, Rowan County Courthouse

Your early consideration of these nominations will be appreciated.

Sincerely,


Mary Cronan Opper, Director
Kentucky Heritage Council and
State Historic Preservation Officer

MCO:bsc

Enclosures

