

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 22 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 10 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

Solomon Neill Brooks House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

NE of Shepherdsville at

STREET & NUMBER

Northwest corner Hebron Lane and KY 61

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Shepherdsville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Bullitt

CODE

029

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

Mrs. S. Neill Brooks, Sr.

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 319

CITY, TOWN

Shepherdsville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bullitt County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Shepherdsville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1979 (Supplement)

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

104 Bridge Street, Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 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

Facing eastward, the Solomon Neill Brooks House is located in northern Bullitt County near the intersection of KY 61 (Preston Highway) and Hebron Lane, just east of I-65. The house is situated two miles south of the Bullitt-Jefferson County line. Brooks Run, a branch of Floyds Fork, runs in a north-south direction to the west of the house, and the small community of Brooks lies just to the northwest on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad line.

Constructed in 1847, the Brooks House is a two-story, five-bay brick Greek Revival residence embodying a central passage plan. Six-over-six pane windows capped by jack arches pierce the east and west facades. Simple architrave molding frames the door which is surmounted by a four-pane rectangular transom and flanked by slender, three-pane sidelights. A recent one-story porch shelters the entrance. Interior chimneys are located on the north and south gable ends, and a corbelled cornice and tin hipped roof complete the building. The two-story ell is original to the main block; alterations have been made to the gallery on the ell. Shouldered architrave trim remains on the interior of the house.

Three outbuildings contemporary with the house remain. Immediately southwest of the house is a pyramidal-roofed brick smokehouse displaying an abstract Greek entablature. Adjacent to the smokehouse is a single-room, gable-roofed brick slave house. Further southwest of the main house is a brick granary/springhouse.

The nominated property comprises approximately two acres designed to encompass the main house and the three outbuildings.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1847

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Among the few remaining historic structures in Bullitt County, the Solomon Neill Brooks House is one of the oldest and most architecturally distinctive. Of the structures which meet the National Register criteria, the Brooks House is one of the county's two surviving brick houses. As such, the building embodies Bullitt County's finest example of Greek Revival architecture.¹ Adding to the importance of this house is the fact that the county has limited architectural resources, a result of its never having developed its own cultural identity. Instead, throughout its history Bullitt County's cultural and structural development has been heavily determined by the influence of adjacent counties, notably Jefferson. The majority of the historic structures have been destroyed; the remaining buildings and the ones that formerly existed convey a state of flux and a sense of economic immediacy that have been traditional elements in the county's history.

Bullitt County was created in 1796, and the early pioneer activity centered on the salt and iron industries. These were promoted and sustained for the most part by Louisville entrepreneurs who saw the opportunity to exploit Bullitt County's natural resources to the advantage of the business and commercial needs of the Louisville area. In 1779, the first commercial saltworks in Kentucky was established at Bullitt's Lick, and this saltworks became a major source of salt for several years, making the area the hub of the salt trade in pioneer times.²

In 1785, a second saltworks was established at Long Lick, and shortly thereafter Joseph Brooks,³ an early Bullitt County settler and an ancestor of Solomon Neill Brooks, developed the region's third saltworks at Mann's Lick. Thus from the county's initial settlement, the Brooks family has been continuously involved in the area's history, and the Solomon Neill Brooks House exemplifies the family's prominence in the county.

Displaying the traditional Greek Revival plan and retaining a noteworthy collection of contemporary outbuildings, the complex survives as an architectural landmark in Bullitt County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McDowell, Robert E. "Bullitt's Lick: The Related Saltworks and Settlements." The Filson Club Quarterly, Vol. 30, No. 3 (July 1956), pp. 241-261.

Bullitt County Historical Commission. A History of Bullitt County. Shepherdsville, Kentucky: Publishers Printing Company, 1974.

Kentucky Heritage Commission. Bullitt County Overview. Frankfort, Kentucky, 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Brooks Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 6,1,5,8,2,0 4,2,1,2,2,7,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular area approximately 200'x400' bounded by the driveway on the north.

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

December 1979

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

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 Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-4-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/10/80

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4/10/80

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Solomon Neill Brooks House, Bullitt County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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FOOTNOTES

¹Other buildings of note identified in the 1978 comprehensive survey of Bullitt County are the General Crist House, an early nineteenth century stone house, and a ca. 1830 brick dwelling.

²Robert E. McDowell, "Bullitt's Lick: The Related Saltworks and Settlements," The Filson Club Quarterly, Vol. 30, No. 3 (July 1956), p. 242.

³Brooks, a native Pennsylvanian, settled at Bullitt's Lick in February of 1781 and was involved in the saltworks until 1784 when he purchased property and built a house along the road between Louisville and Bullitt's Lick. The site became known as Brooks Spring, and it was on this land that his descendant, Solomon Neill Brooks, erected his house in 1847. The Brooks name continues to be associated with this area; the present community of Brooks originates from Brooks Station, established near the Solomon Neill Brooks House in 1858 when the Louisville & Nashville Railroad was extended through Bullitt County.

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Brooks, Solomon Neill, House

Bullitt County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

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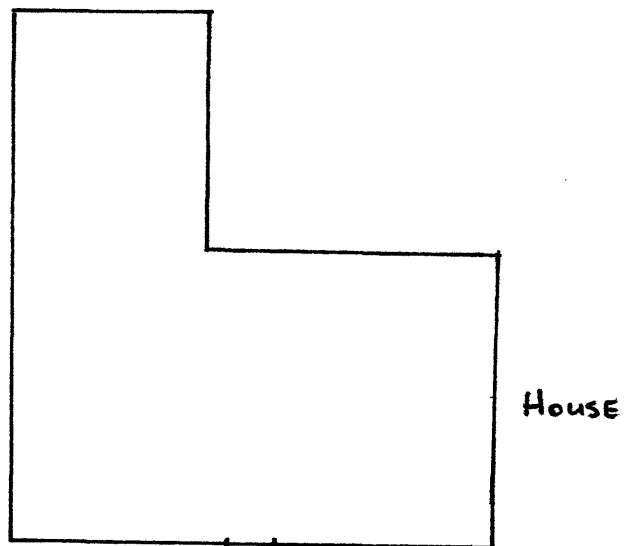
Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point 20' from the northeast corner of the house, extending 200' northwest in a line parallel to and 20' from the foundation of the house, southwest 400', southeast 200', and northeast for 400' returning to the point of origin.

□ GRANARY/
SPRINGHOUSE

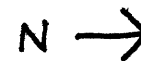
□ SLAVE
HOUSE

□ SMOKEHOUSE



SOLOMON NEILL BROOKS HOUSE
BULLITT COUNTY
KENTUCKY

SITE LOCATION MAP
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



Solomon Neill Brooks House
Shepherdsville
Bullitt County
Kentucky

Map 2.

APR 10 1979

Charlotte Schneider
Kentucky Heritage Commission
1979
Site Location Map