

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 10 1976
DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

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

1 NAME *Murrell, Samuel (Farm)*
 HISTORIC *(Susannah Henry Madison Log House and Murrell's Stagecoach Stop)*
 AND/OR COMMON
Davenport Farm

2 LOCATION
 STREET & NUMBER
Intersection of U.S. 31W and Ky. 743 (8 miles northeast of Bowling Green)
 CITY, TOWN
Near Bowling Green VICINITY OF
 STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Kentucky 021 Warren 227

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
 NAME
Joseph E. Davenport
 STREET & NUMBER
Louisville Road
 CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Bowling Green Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
County Court Clerk's Office
 STREET & NUMBER
Warren County Court House
 CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Bowling Green 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, 104 Bridge Street
 CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Frankfort Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	(loghouse)	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	(house)	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR		<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Susannah Henry Madison Log House (as it is presumed to be) and Murrell's Inn are set on a slightly raised portion of a rich agricultural plain northeast of Bowling Green, Kentucky. The former stagecoach stop is quite close to the present highway, a broad road with fine old trees at many points, and faces southeast toward it. About ten yards to the north of the rear ell of the main house is the two-room log house in which Susannah Henry Madison may well have spent her last years, although there is no proof of the identification (photos 1 and 2).

The log house, although in deteriorated condition and now used as a farm outbuilding, is a fine example of the "saddlebag" type of log cabin which is apparently found more frequently in South Central and Western Kentucky than elsewhere in the State. Two log pens with V-notch corners are separated by a massive chimney with openings into both rooms. The chimney, which is set back several feet from the front and rear walls, is of impressively laid local stone up to about the level of the eaves. Above that it becomes brick, corbelled back from the front and rear for several courses and then away from the walls on either side for several courses more, so that it is detached on all sides for several feet at the top. Unfortunately the placement of a corrugated metal roof over the entire structure necessitated the removal of the topmost courses of the chimney, so that only the slight rise in the center of the roof-ridge betrays its presence from the outside. Nevertheless, it remains a magnificent example of early masonry.

The only apparent early openings are the utterly plain doorframes centered on the front of each log pen (facing the road). The interior of the right (east) room has turn-of-the-century tongue-in-groove siding on walls and ceiling (a detached plain Greek Revival mantel probably was not original and may come from the main house). The left room, which currently houses livestock, retains only the fireplace opening of stone. An open shed has been placed along the rear of the building for storage.

There are remains of a stone foundation, no doubt a smokehouse, at ground level between the rear ell of the main house and the log house. The remains are approached by a straight stone walk along the east side of the ell of the main house.

The front of the main house, a two-story brick block, has an unusually broad and substantial look emphasized by the low hipped roof (photo 3). As is often the case in 19th-century construction, the front is laid in Flemish bond, with the other sides in common bond. The facade has six full bays instead of the usual five, although on the first story the almost square entrance door with plain sidelights and transom occupies the space of two bays. All the 1841 openings are widely spaced and seem almost square, even with the Victorian single-mullioned sash (the two-story wing at the rear has twelve-over-twelve sash, presumably original). The block is fairly shallow, with bare brick end walls broken only by the slight projection of the central chimneys; a rear ell extends in two stages on the east side (photo 5).

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES log house c. 1818
main house 1841

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This nomination consists of two structures related by proximity, although different in origin, history, and associations. The property once belonged to Susannah Henry Madison, connected through birth and marriage with several of the outstanding figures of American Revolutionary and early Republican history. It is presumed that the surviving two-room log house at the rear of the present main house was inhabited by Mrs. Madison, as it is known that she lived on the property and is buried in a cemetery nearby. The main house, however, was built in 1841 by Samuel Murrell, who was prominent in both State and local politics, and the building became a well-known stagecoach stop on the Louisville to Nashville road, until the L & N Railroad provided overwhelming competition. The property later belonged to Henry J. Cowles, one of the wealthiest landowners of Warren County in the late 19th century.

Both structures have architectural interest, the log house as a deteriorated but still impressive example of the "saddlebag" type of early log house and the Murrell Inn as an impressive and well-preserved representative of both interior and exterior features of a Greek Revival character typical of South Central Kentucky.

Susannah Henry Madison, a native of Virginia, was the daughter of John and Sarah Winston Syme Henry. John Henry, originally from Scotland, settled in Virginia in 1730. He was a justice of the peace, colonel of the militia, and a modest gentleman farmer. Susannah was the youngest sister of the renowned patriot, Patrick Henry (1736-1799), a self-made lawyer who served in the House of Burgesses from 1765 to 1774, when Lord Botetourt, the Governor of Virginia, incensed at the freedom with which the House discussed the differences between England and the colonies, abruptly dissolved the assembly. He was a member of the 1st and 2nd Continental Congresses (1774, 1776). Henry served two terms as Governor of Virginia (1776-1779). While governor, Henry sent George Rogers Clark on an expedition to the Northwest (1778-1779) which resulted in the removal of the British from the territory (see the National Register nomination form for Locust Grove (The William Croghan House) near Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, listed March 11, 1971).

About 1770 Susannah Henry married Thomas Madison of Botetourt County, Virginia. Thomas Madison was the son of John Madison and Agatha Strother Madison (through whom they were also connected to the prominent family of President Zachary Taylor). Thomas Madison was a member of the Council of the State of Virginia (1789-1790) and a member of the House of Delegates (1793). During the Revolutionary War he became a general of the Virginia militia. Madison's brother George was elected governor of Kentucky in 1816, but served for only a few months before his death. George Madison (1763-1816), a Revolutionary War soldier, wounded

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cole, Jennie B. "The Oakland Country." Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green.
 "Cowles Geneology," from the Burton Historical Collection, Main Public Library, Detroit, Mich.
Daughters, American Lineage, Vol. 89, p. 55.
 Francis, Sally. "Historical Listing Due for Another Area Home?" Daily News (Bowling Green),
 August 5, 1973, p. 40.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,6</u>	<u>5,6,2</u>	<u>5,7,0</u>	<u>4,1,0,1</u>	<u>4,6,0</u>	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
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Ward Sumter, Warren County Representative

June 8, 1973
DATE

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

RR: WEL
TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

1352 Chestnut

CITY OR TOWN

Bowling Green

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 Ward W Miller DATE 1/20/76

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 3/26/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 3-25-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The windows and doorways on the two-story sections have stone lintels that project on either side of the openings far enough for end-blocks of concentric circles, a feature often found in South Central Kentucky. The cornice, which continues around the main block, consists of a single flat board, except for the widely spaced paired brackets. These were probably added about the same time as the somewhat severe but handsome late 19th-century Carpenter's Baroque porch that spans four bays of the facade with a slight projection before the entrance (photo 4). The rearmost wing has tall narrow openings with segmental-arched tops, a small chimney and, like the rest of the house, a standing-seam metal roof (photo 5). The side porches that link all three sections of the foundations of the whole building are of finely-cut gray "Kentucky marble." There are also stone drip basins at the corners.

The interior woodwork is solid walnut and the baseboards about eighteen inches high. The floors are wide poplar plank and the rafters are put together at the top and bottom with wooden pins, except in one room. The interior of the main house is in its original condition with wide front hall and large twenty-four-foot-square rooms on each side upstairs and downstairs, except that an inside staircase has been enclosed to ensure privacy for the upstairs tenant and utilities have been modernized.

The interior woodwork of the main block is a fascinating local variation on the Greek Revival (photo 8). The unusually wide doors have deep vertical panelling with two narrow horizontal slots at the top terminated, like the exterior lintels, by grooved concentric circles. The wide front entrance door has two pairs of such panels at the top. The widely projecting over-door cornice is apparently supported by fluted Ionic pilasters of a primitive but striking kind: the incised capitals are reduced to mere ornamental incidents between the horizontals and verticals of the frame. Similar frames have recently been discovered at the William Henry Edmunds Octagon Cottage near Beckton in adjacent Barren County, Kentucky (see Handy, "Some Historic Architecture of Western Kentucky," p. 583 and photo 1). These interior details represent an especially intriguing combination of provincialism and sophistication.

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at St. Clair's Defeat in 1791, moved to Kentucky about 1795. At this time Governor Shelby appointed him State Auditor of Government Accounts. In 1812 he was one of the few survivors of the Battle of the River Raisin. George Madison was a well-known and popular figure in Kentucky. Thomas Madison's other brother, James, was bishop of William and Mary College. Thomas was also first cousin of President James Madison. (Several of Susannah Henry Madison's sisters married men whose families and careers were interwoven conspicuously in Virginia and early Kentucky history.)

It is believed that, six years after the death of her husband in 1816, Susannah Madison moved to Warren County, Kentucky, to be near her youngest daughter, ~~Margaret~~ Margaret Madison Johnson. Margaret had married Sylvanus Johnson of Fincastle County, Virginia, in 1805 and moved to Kentucky shortly afterwards.

Upon her arrival in Kentucky Mrs. Madison purchased several tracts of land in Warren County. She resided on the tract where the Murrell house was later built until her death. The double-pen log cabin located behind the Murrell house is believed to be where she lived, for she was originally buried on the property. An 1818 deed of the tract of land Mrs. Madison purchased was described as beginning "where Mrs. Madison now lives." In her will dated 1825 Susannah Madison cites herself as being a resident of Warren County.

At her death in 1831, Mrs. Madison left the property to her son Patrick Henry Madison. He in turn sold it to Samuel Murrell in 1837. Four years later Murrell constructed the present brick structure. Samuel Murrell was a native of Barren County (just east of Warren County) and was an esteemed citizen. He had served in the State legislature as well as sheriff of Barren County before moving to Warren County in 1837. Murrell operated the house as a stagecoach stop and tavern. The nearby Louisville and Nashville Railroad was completed in 1859 and the Murrell stagecoach stop was phased out after that date.

Henry Julius Cowles (1831-1920) bought the property in 1883. Probably born in nearby Edmonson County, he is said to have become one of the largest landowners and wealthiest citizens of Warren County, Kentucky. In 1916 Cowles' nephew, Eugene Cowles, had Mrs. Madison's remains removed to the Odd Fellows Cemetery at Smith Grove, Kentucky, a few miles northeast of the house.

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Handy, Riley. "Some Historic Architecture of Western Kentucky." The Magazine Antiques, CV, 3(March 1974), for comparative examples.
Redd, John. "Reminiscences of Western Virginia." The Virginia Historical Magazine, VII, pp. 242-253.