

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 22 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 22 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC *
AND/OR COMMON *
Lincoln County Courthouse
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Corner Main and Lancaster Streets
CITY, TOWN
Stanford
STATE
Kentucky

VICINITY OF
05
CODE
021
COUNTY
Lincoln
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
05
CODE
137

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Lincoln County Fiscal Court
STREET & NUMBER
Corner Main and Lancaster Streets
CITY, TOWN
Stanford
STATE
Kentucky

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Lincoln County Court Records
STREET & NUMBER
Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Stanford
STATE
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
DATE
1971
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN
Frankfort
STATE
Kentucky

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main street of the small old town of Stanford runs midway between the creek along which the town was set and the hills above it. The pleasantly landscaped courthouse square lies to the high side of Main Street on a slope that proved advantageous to the architect who designed the present structure in 1909. The colossal portico on three sides of the rectangular building are set on ample podia whose steps spill down toward the street and reinforce the classical effect.

The architectural firm was Milburn, Heister and Co., listed as of Washington. It is not known how much of a hand Frank Milburn had in the actual design, although it is assumed that it was he whose partnership was listed.

Although associated with South Carolina, where he spent most of his long and prolific career, Milburn's earliest professional experience had been in Kentucky, where he is said to have designed courthouses in Manchester, Clay County (replaced in 1937), and in Stanton, Powell County.

Lawrence Wodehouse has studied Milburn's career in terms of North Carolina records, but was apparently unaware of Milburn's later designs for courthouses in Kentucky. The finest and most outstanding of them is the full-blown Beaux-Arts Bourbon County Courthouse at Paris in the heart of the Bluegrass country (listed on the National Register, December 1974, and probably a reduced realization of an unexpected project for the Kentucky State Capitol of 1909). The Lincoln County Courthouse is one of two known brick courthouses by Milburn in Kentucky, the other is the far more ingenious and sophisticated Flemish-gabled belated Queen Anne Fulton County Courthouse in Fulton, on an extraordinary site overlooking the Mississippi River.

The Lincoln County Courthouse is less lavish and fanciful than either of these, as befits both the more modest and restrained nature of the community and the less spectacular site. Nevertheless it shares its material with Fulton and a modified version of the extravagant Bourbon County cupola-dome and has considerable presence of its own.

The building has two full stories with attic and basement. The foundations, including the projecting pedestals of the stairs, are of finely laid stone. Above the plain watertable, however, all is brick, even the subtly tapered, unfluted columns with their elegant terra-cotta Ionic Capitals and brick entablature. A strong cornice with both dentils and modillions unites the main block, porticoes, and the slightly projecting cross-axis. The courtrooms are marked on the outside by the large round-arched windows of the second story under all the tetrastyle porticoes.

The cupola rises from the center of the hipped roof. It has a square stone pedestal, octagonal drum with inset Ionic columns, octagonal clock-stage, and curved dome.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" 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 1909 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Milburn, Heister & Co.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first court ever held in Kentucky was for Lincoln County, and was organized at Harrodsburg, January 16, 1781.

A commission was produced from the Governor of Virginia appointing the following justices of the peace to hold court for Lincoln County: John Bowman, Benjamin Logan, John Logan, John Cowan, John Kennedy, Hugh McGary, William Craig, Stephen Trigg, Abraham Bowman, Isaac Hite, William McBride, William McAfee and James Estill.

Lincoln County in 1781 embraced an immense territory, extending from Cumberland Gap to the Cumberland River on the west and all that lay south of Kentucky River and all south and west of Green River. Harrodsburg was central enough in territory, but not in population, the bulk of which lay eastward of that town.

At the February term, 1781, Colonel Benjamin Logan came into Court and offered ten acres of land on which to build a courthouse and other public buildings; and also fifty acres, one mile east of the old Buffalo Spring so long as the court of Lincoln County shall remain there. "As it appears to the court to be the most convenient place, it is ordered that the courts be held there for the future."

At the May term, 1783, a committee was appointed to "employ persons to remove the courthouse and prison to such place on the land laid off for that purpose as they shall think most convenient, and to be completed in such manner as they shall direct." The first Lincoln County Courthouse was a simple two-room log structure constructed in 1785. A few years later a larger log courthouse was built. In 1832 a more permanent structure of brick was constructed for use as a courthouse.

Thus, the present Courthouse, built in 1909 was the fourth Courthouse for Lincoln County. F. Krueger and Sons from Mount Vernon, Kentucky, was the contractor for the construction. The architects were Milburn, Heister and Co., Washington, D. C. The Courthouse Annex was built in 1938. It was a WPA project and the cost to Lincoln County was \$20,000.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Garr, Elisabeth Headley. History of Kentucky Courthouses, Frankfort: The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1972.

Lincoln County Court Records.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	7 0, 6 6, 4, 0	4, 1 5, 6 0 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. M. H. Dunn

MC:WEL

ORGANIZATION

Lincoln County Historical Society

DATE

March, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Harvey Helm Library

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Stanford

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

Eldred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7-14-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

Lawrence

DATE

4/22/86

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles

DATE

7-12-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Lincoln County Courthouse

The front room on the west end is the Clerk's office and the adjoining fire-proof vault houses the records, the oldest in the State, some of which are written on parchment.

The east room is the Circuit Court Clerk's office, and the vault for the Circuit Court's records adjoins this office.

The Judge, the County Attorney, Tax Collector, and the Sheriff are housed across the long hall and on the north side of the building.

The Circuit Court room and the jury rooms are on the second floor and may be reached by a stairway in each end of the long east to west hall. The third floor is used mostly for storage, and the basement rooms are used for various offices.

In 1974, almost all the old records were moved to the basement room under the vault, where they can be better taken care of and researchers can work in comfort without interfering with the business of the attorneys.

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Lincoln County Courthouse

Wodehouse, Lawrence. "Frank Pierce Milburn (1868-1926), A Major Southern Architect,"
The North Carolina Historical Review, Vol. L, No. 3, (July, 1973) pp. 289-295.

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Corrections and additions to nomination form for Lincoln County Courthouse, Stanford, Kentucky

Insert at beginning of 8 (Statement of Significance):

The first Lincoln County courthouse in Stanford was begun in 1781, just months after the first court held in what is now the Commonwealth of Kentucky took place in nearby Harrodsburg, then the seat of Lincoln County, Virginia. The present building is the fourth on the site, and continues to house the longest sequence of court records in the State, reflecting and documenting this area so rich in pioneer history. The town of Stanford has remained fairly small, however, in spite of its crucial early role as the site of Fort Logan and its strategic location on early trails. On the edge of the central Kentucky Bluegrass region, its topography includes both the lush agricultural land associated with that area and some of the more hilly and difficult-to-cultivate land of the "Knobs" that surround the Bluegrass.

The focal point of Stanford, as of most county seats, is the courthouse, in this case a particularly handsome example of early 20th-century Beaux-Arts Classicism, designed by the once-prominent and prolific Southern architectural firm of Frank Milburn, Heister & Co., of Columbia, S. C., and Washington, D. C., by architectural historian Lawrence Wodehouse said to have been responsible for more than 250 major structures in the South. Milburn (1868-1926), a native of Kentucky, designed a number of courthouses in the State both early and late in his career. The Lincoln County Courthouse erected in 1909, at the midpoint of his career, combines the "correct" classical details and proportions of the porticoes with a more pretentious dome (suggesting a stripped-down version of Richard Morris Hunt's famous Administration Building for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago), all executed in ruddy brick with matching stone, terra cotta or white-painted trim. The design as a whole combines suitable monumentality with a respect for the scale, materials, and spacing of the surrounding town center, avoiding both the Beaux-Arts grandiosity of Milburn's Bourbon County Courthouse, Paris, Kentucky (listed on the National Register December 31, 1974) and the fanciful Queen Anne effect of his Fulton County Courthouse (approved at the State level on March 25, 1975). Well-preserved and maintained, this courthouse is as dignified yet appealing a repository of historic records and associations, as well as the current functions of an active court, as any in Kentucky.

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- 7, paragraph 1, line 4: colossal porticoes
- 7, paragraph 4, line 5: unexecuted project
- 7, paragraph 4, line 7: Kentucky; the other
- 7, paragraph 5, line 4: extravagant

Photograph 1, taken from the southwest, shows the main (southern) facade of the building.