

146-4712

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Kentucky

COUNTY:
Bourbon

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
DEC 31 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bourbon County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Paris

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
6th

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021** COUNTY: **Bourbon** CODE: **017**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify)

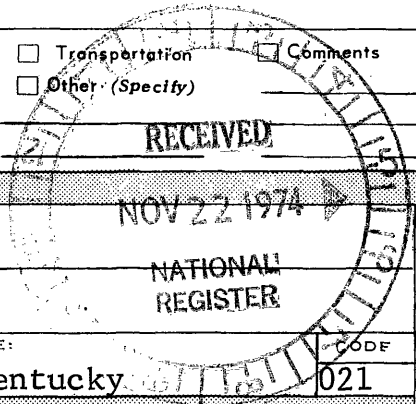
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Bourbon County Fiscal Court

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Paris

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Bourbon County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Paris

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1974** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DEC 31 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bourbon County Courthouse was apparently designed originally by the architect, Frank P. Milburn, as a proposal for a new State Capitol of Kentucky in Frankfort. A fine rendering of almost an identical design appears as the frontispiece of a brochure colorfully entitled, "The Capitol Question-The Need of a New State House, Location Question Settled. Settled Correctly," and published in 1903 in a successful bid to keep Frankfort as the State capital while replacing Gideon Shryock's Old State House with an enlarged, modern building. Milburn resourcefully used the same basic concept for the Bourbon County Courthouse two years later, probably on a reduced scale. (The new State Capitol was erected to the somewhat similar design of Frank Andrews in the same year.)

In adapting his Frankfort proposal Milburn created a monumental effect within the somewhat limiting conditions of a typical, if rather larger than usual, Kentucky courthouse square. He was aided in this by the slight rise on which the structure is situated, which was effectively emphasized by the formidable flight of steps leading up to the main portico (whether Milburn or "Mr. Roe" was actually responsible for its present form).

For his dome, Milburn departed from the usual circular drum based on that of the Federal Capitol in Washington. Instead he provided a striking octagonal drum that allowed him to repeat the Ionic colonnade of his portico and end-pavilions at reduced scale above them. His design achieves the desired illusionistic effect of making the dome seem much higher and farther away and therefore vaster than it actually is, without overwhelming the compact rectangular block below.

The courthouse is a fine example of the Beaux-Arts classical style still popular for grandiose public buildings, but at its peak at the turn of the century, in this country largely because of the popular success of the "White City," the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Milburn's octagonal dome may be partially indebted to that of the Richard Morris Hunt's immense Administration Building at that fair. However, instead of the flimsy stucco of Hunt's ephemeral confection, Milburn exploited the possibilities of the superb limestone from Bedford, Indiana, that was at his disposal for the Paris building. He left the stone rough-surfaced--artfully "natural"--for the bold foundation and the pedestals of the grand staircase in order to tie them in with the ground. In contrast, the walls and square pilasters of

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1902-05**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

In 1780 Kentucky County of Virginia was divided into Fayette, Lincoln and Jefferson. In a year or two the population doubled and tripled and the settled area expanded so that these counties had to be redivided, and in 1785, seven years before Kentucky was to become a state, the northern part of Fayette County which lay north and east of the Kentucky River, became Bourbon County.

The first court in Bourbon County was held May 16, 1786, at the residence of James Garrard, later Governor of Kentucky. Later, in November of that same year the Court ordered "that the place of holding courts for this county be established at the confluence of Stoner and Huston forks of the Licking, and that Alvin Mountjoy, John Grant Gent. and James Matton fix on convenient ground for that purpose, and let out to the lowest bidder the building of a court house which shall be a frame 32 x 26 feet with a shingle roof and furnished in necessary manner. Also a jail 16 feet of hewn logs 12 inches square."

The May 1787 minutes begin "at a court held for Bourbon County at the forks of Stone and Huston the 15th of May. . . ." Two acres had been purchased and the said buildings erected.

Ten years later a new courthouse was ordered built, and was occupied in 1797. The foundation was laid by Thomas Metcalf, the well-known stonemason who later became governor of Kentucky, and the superstructure built by his brother, James Metcalf. "This house was built to rival the great stone temple of justice in Lexington." This courthouse was destroyed by fire and in 1873 "one of beauty and elegance rose Phoenix like to take its place." This third building also burned.

The present courthouse, which cost approximately \$170,000, was built from 1902 to 1905, along the lines of the capitol in Washington. It is an imposing building on a commanding site,

(Continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bourbon County Fiscal Court Order Books I pp. 233, 254, 274, 289, 315, 321; II pp. 20, 21.
 "The Capitol Question-The Need of a New State House, Location Question Settled. Settled Correctly." Frankfort: George A. Lewis Publishing Co., 1903.
 Clark, Thomas D. A History of Kentucky. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1937.
 Garr, Elizabeth Headley. History of Kentucky Courthouses. Louisville: Colonial Dames of America, in Ky., 1972.

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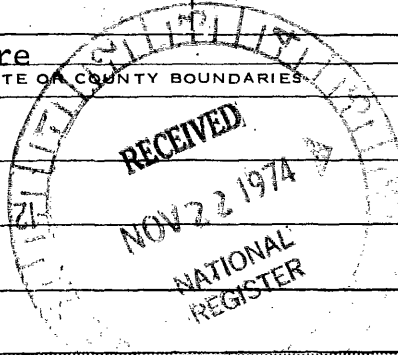
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		38° 12' 47"	84° 14' 59"	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One Acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Mrs. Robert VanMeter, Bourbon County Committee**

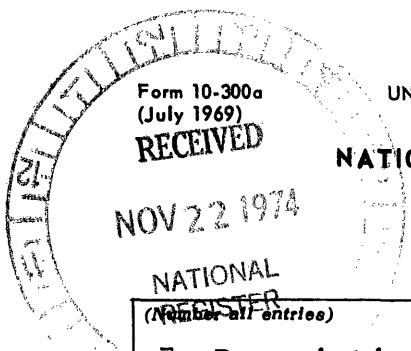
ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **Aug., 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **271 Stoner Avenue** (WEL & GJM)

CITY OR TOWN: **Paris** STATE: **Kentucky 40361** CODE: **021**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Eldred W. Meeter</u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>Nov. 15, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>12-31-74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>12-31-74</u></p>
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Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Kentucky	
COUNTY	Bourbon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		DEC 31 1974

(Number all entries)

Bourbon County Courthouse

7. Description (Continued)

Page Two

the porticos are of smooth-cut stone, out of which the openings seemed to be punched in an abrupt fashion. The well-proportioned unfluted columns of the porticos and drum are also smoothly finished. The many corners are emphasized by horizontal grooves that cast sharp shadows, giving the impression that the building has come straight from the drawing board. On the other hand, Milburn has judiciously placed lavish ornamental features at strategic points, in the exotic ram'shorn Ionic capitals and in the cartouches that link the vertical pilasters at the corners to the simple but elegant entablature that, like the balustrade around the roof, rings the building. The side entrances, probably used ordinarily by the public, have elaborate frames in contrast to the abstract treatment of the walls above, on which the patterns of the windows express the internal circulation of the building. The dome repeats the same elements at smaller and somewhat more intensive scale. The upper drum with its corner niches and the cupola roof with its Baroque clock-faces are probably metal imitations of masonry.

Although Milburn was not able to realize here the lush clusters of statuary that adorn the skyline of his sketch for Frankfort, there is a naive but charming carved cartouche over the main entrance combining the three accomplishments for which the County (and, indeed, the Bluegrass) is noted: Fast horses, beautiful women, and good whiskey, named for the County itself.

The interior of the building is as pretentious yet handsome as the exterior, although the ground floor, like its rough-hewn walls, is utilitarian and used for offices. On the main floor are the County Courtrooms--the Judge's, Attorney's and Sheriff's offices, along with the County and Circuit Clerks'.

There is a divided stone stairway under the dome that leads up to the second floor and the circuit court room. Over the Judge's bench is a half-moon shaped mural with Justice in the center, flanked by two other allegorical figures.

Beneath the dome the four walls are decorated with panels depicting the four seasons. The winter scene shows hemp breaking. The panel spring displays livestock: horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry. Summer is blue-grass stripping, and autumn, tobacco. These murals are interesting but hard to reconcile with the enthusiasm of a contemporary account from the Kentucky.

(Continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kentucky	
COUNTY	
Bourbon	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 31	1974

(Number all entries)

Bourbon County Courthouse

7. Description (Continued)

Page Three

Citizen (February 15, 1905):

The Building Committee of the Bourbon County Court House on yesterday awarded the contract for the interior decoration of the new structure. F. Pedretti & Son of Cincinnati were the successful contestants. There were seven applicants in all. The sum of \$3,000 is to be expended. The walls and ceilings of the various rooms are all to be frescoed in oil, and no water colors are to be permitted. The various designs for decorations and sketches of the pictures to be painted will be at once outlined and presented to the committee for approval.

The ceilings of the two courtrooms and the dome will all be covered with splendid pictures depicting typical Kentucky scenes such as growing tobacco and hemp fields in all their natural beauty. The work will be commenced about March 1 and will occupy about 8 weeks. The Messrs. Pedretti are the same parties who decorated the Paris Christian Church and also just completed a \$10,000 courthouse job at Bloomington, Ills.

This most impressive of Kentucky's courthouses is also a fine application of the architect's Beaux-Arts training and manner to a realized commission. Although changes in taste during the last half-century may have made it seem florid and insincere, the tide of taste is turning again, and the splendor and competence of the architect's and his craftsmen's achievement can again be appreciated.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Kentucky	
COUNTY	Bourbon	
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(Number all entries)

Bourbon County Courthouse

8. Significance (Continued)

Page Two

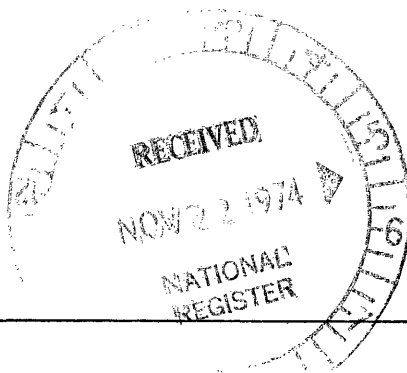
a credit to those magistrates who selected the location nearly 200 years ago. It is roughly 100' by 125' on a spacious square, and after seventy years is still adequate for the county's business. The courthouse square is and will hopefully continue to be the center of downtown Paris.

The architect of the courthouse was Frank Milburn of Charleston, South Carolina, and Lexington, Kentucky. He had submitted unsuccessfully a proposal for the statehouse in Frankfort in 1903 and the plan for the Bourbon County Courthouse appears to follow that plan with minor deletions and possibly on a smaller scale.

When the building was finished there was great dissatisfaction with the front steps. In one letter to the editor the writer complained "These steps, too steep and high, without break or relief, mar the otherwise splendid effect of the building. . . a serious architectural error, as they stand like a nose on the human face." They asked that the steps be changed to "give to Bourbon County the most imposing public building in Kentucky." Accordingly, the steps were reconstructed. Mr. Milburn's plans for changing the steps were rejected by the building committee in favor of plans submitted by an architect Roe of Fayette County.

The courthouse yard was also widened by 20' on the Broadway and Bank Row sides.

The Bourbon County records in the courthouse go back to 1786. They survived intact although the second and third courthouses burned, and provide one of the best surviving sources on early Kentucky history. They include bonds, deeds and depositions of Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton. On the back of one is the endorsement "Too dangerous to go where Kenton is" (out among the Indians).



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Bourbon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 31 1974

(Number all entries)

Bourbon County Courthouse

9. Bibliographical References (Continued)

Page Two

Perrin, William, ed. History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and
Nicholas Counties. Chicago: O. L. Baskin & Co., 1882.

Kentucky Citizen.



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COUNTY:
Bourbon

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ENTRY DATE
DEC 31 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bourbon County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Paris

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
6th

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021 COUNTY: Bourbon CODE: 017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

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021

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DATE OF SURVEY: 1974 Federal State County Local

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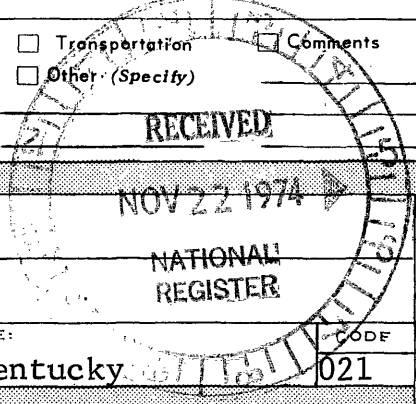
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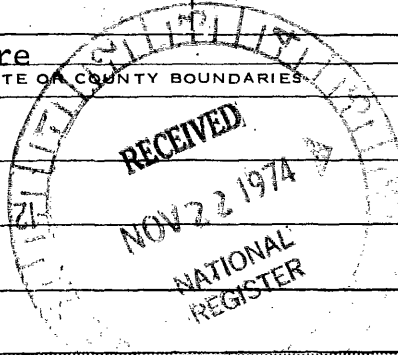
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

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CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		38° 12' 47"	84° 14' 59"	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One Acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Mrs. Robert VanMeter, Bourbon County Committee**

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **Aug., 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **271 Stoner Avenue** (WEL & GJM)

CITY OR TOWN: **Paris** STATE: **Kentucky 40361** CODE: **021**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Eldred W. Meeter

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: Nov. 15, 1974

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

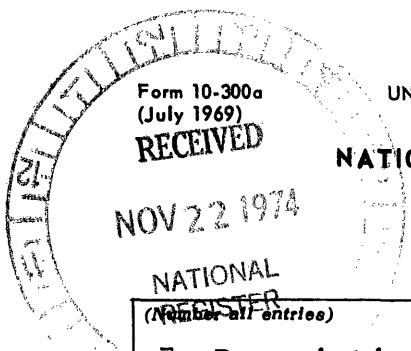
[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12-31-74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12-31-74



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Kentucky	
COUNTY	Bourbon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
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Bourbon County Courthouse

7. Description (Continued)

Page Two

the porticos are of smooth-cut stone, out of which the openings seemed to be punched in an abrupt fashion. The well-proportioned unfluted columns of the porticos and drum are also smoothly finished. The many corners are emphasized by horizontal grooves that cast sharp shadows, giving the impression that the building has come straight from the drawing board. On the other hand, Milburn has judiciously placed lavish ornamental features at strategic points, in the exotic ram'shorn Ionic capitals and in the cartouches that link the vertical pilasters at the corners to the simple but elegant entablature that, like the balustrade around the roof, rings the building. The side entrances, probably used ordinarily by the public, have elaborate frames in contrast to the abstract treatment of the walls above, on which the patterns of the windows express the internal circulation of the building. The dome repeats the same elements at smaller and somewhat more intensive scale. The upper drum with its corner niches and the cupola roof with its Baroque clock-faces are probably metal imitations of masonry.

Although Milburn was not able to realize here the lush clusters of statuary that adorn the skyline of his sketch for Frankfort, there is a naive but charming carved cartouche over the main entrance combining the three accomplishments for which the County (and, indeed, the Bluegrass) is noted: Fast horses, beautiful women, and good whiskey, named for the County itself.

The interior of the building is as pretentious yet handsome as the exterior, although the ground floor, like its rough-hewn walls, is utilitarian and used for offices. On the main floor are the County Courtrooms--the Judge's, Attorney's and Sheriff's offices, along with the County and Circuit Clerks'.

There is a divided stone stairway under the dome that leads up to the second floor and the circuit court room. Over the Judge's bench is a half-moon shaped mural with Justice in the center, flanked by two other allegorical figures.

Beneath the dome the four walls are decorated with panels depicting the four seasons. The winter scene shows hemp breaking. The panel spring displays livestock: horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry. Summer is blue-grass stripping, and autumn, tobacco. These murals are interesting but hard to reconcile with the enthusiasm of a contemporary account from the Kentucky.

(Continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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Bourbon County Courthouse

7. Description (Continued)

Page Three

Citizen (February 15, 1905):

The Building Committee of the Bourbon County Court House on yesterday awarded the contract for the interior decoration of the new structure. F. Pedretti & Son of Cincinnati were the successful contestants. There were seven applicants in all. The sum of \$3,000 is to be expended. The walls and ceilings of the various rooms are all to be frescoed in oil, and no water colors are to be permitted. The various designs for decorations and sketches of the pictures to be painted will be at once outlined and presented to the committee for approval.

The ceilings of the two courtrooms and the dome will all be covered with splendid pictures depicting typical Kentucky scenes such as growing tobacco and hemp fields in all their natural beauty. The work will be commenced about March 1 and will occupy about 8 weeks. The Messrs. Pedretti are the same parties who decorated the Paris Christian Church and also just completed a \$10,000 courthouse job at Bloomington, Ills.

This most impressive of Kentucky's courthouses is also a fine application of the architect's Beaux-Arts training and manner to a realized commission. Although changes in taste during the last half-century may have made it seem florid and insincere, the tide of taste is turning again, and the splendor and competence of the architect's and his craftsmen's achievement can again be appreciated.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Bourbon County Courthouse

8. Significance (Continued)

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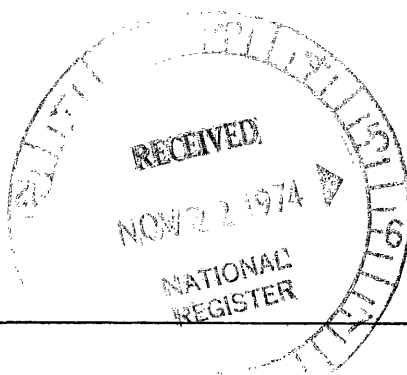
a credit to those magistrates who selected the location nearly 200 years ago. It is roughly 100' by 125' on a spacious square, and after seventy years is still adequate for the county's business. The courthouse square is and will hopefully continue to be the center of downtown Paris.

The architect of the courthouse was Frank Milburn of Charleston, South Carolina, and Lexington, Kentucky. He had submitted unsuccessfully a proposal for the statehouse in Frankfort in 1903 and the plan for the Bourbon County Courthouse appears to follow that plan with minor deletions and possibly on a smaller scale.

When the building was finished there was great dissatisfaction with the front steps. In one letter to the editor the writer complained "These steps, too steep and high, without break or relief, mar the otherwise splendid effect of the building. . . a serious architectural error, as they stand like a nose on the human face." They asked that the steps be changed to "give to Bourbon County the most imposing public building in Kentucky." Accordingly, the steps were reconstructed. Mr. Milburn's plans for changing the steps were rejected by the building committee in favor of plans submitted by an architect Roe of Fayette County.

The courthouse yard was also widened by 20' on the Broadway and Bank Row sides.

The Bourbon County records in the courthouse go back to 1786. They survived intact although the second and third courthouses burned, and provide one of the best surviving sources on early Kentucky history. They include bonds, deeds and depositions of Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton. On the back of one is the endorsement "Too dangerous to go where Kenton is" (out among the Indians).



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Bourbon County Courthouse

9. Bibliographical References (Continued)

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Kentucky Citizen.

