

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 5 1986  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic THE STILLEY HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 925 Birch Street

not for publication

city, town Benton

vicinity of

state Kentucky

code

021

county

Marshall

code

157

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 checked="" 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 Dr. J. D. Gammel, Jr. and Theo Gammel

street & number 200 East 12th Street

city, town Benton

vicinity of

state

Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marshall County Courthouse, Registry of Deeds

street & number Court Square

city, town Benton

state

Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title KY Historic Resources Inventory (MLB-2) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort

state

Kentucky

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

Located on Birch Street in Benton, Marshall County, Kentucky, the Stilley House is a four-bay, two-story dwelling constructed of brick circa 1903. The house, built for the prominent local physician Dr. Van Allen Stilley, is stylistically that simplified version of Queen Anne often referred to as "Princess Anne." While the property on which the Stilley House is located was originally farmland, subsequent residential development has engulfed it.

Benton is a small farming community in Marshall County, Kentucky. The county is located in the Purchase Cultural Landscape Region, which is characterized by flat, fertile farmland. This region was the last area of the state to be opened for development, and as a result, most of the towns reflect the planning and architectural concepts of the post Civil War era. The bulk of Marshall County's historic buildings date from the early twentieth century; the Stilley House is one of the older and one of the few remaining brick residences in Benton. Two buildings in Marshall County are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These are Oak Hill (listed 31 December 1974) and the James R. Lemon House (listed 28 August 1975). The Dycus house is considered eligible for National Register listing.

The Stilley House is a four-bay, two-story dwelling constructed of brick laid in seven-course common bond (photo 1). The massing of the dwelling is asymmetrical and consists of a central pyramidal-roofed section with two projecting cross-gables, one at each the west (front) and south facades (photos 1 & 2). An "ell" at the rear (east facade) of the house bears a half-hipped roof (photos 2, 3 & 4). A recent garage addition is located at the southeastern corner of the dwelling. Four internal chimneys pierce the roofline; one of these is located in the central section, another is along the eastern wall of the ell projection, and the remaining two are along the northern wall.

A shed-roofed porch of curved outline and simple carpenter work wraps around the southwestern corner of the dwelling and covers three bays of the front (west) facade and one of the southern (photo 5 & 6). The Stilley House retains most of its original windows with one-over-one, double-hung sash. (Two windows on the north facade and one of the east have been replaced, while a third window on the north facade has received minor alterations.) The front windows have rectangular limestone lintels, while those of the sides and rear have arched lintels composed of double rows of headers. The three front entrances from the porch have double doors that are early twentieth-century replacements of the originals (photo 11).

The ornamentation of the interior of the house reflects this early-twentieth century remodeling. The stairway was relocated at this time and is ornamented in a neo-colonial manner, having a boxed newel with inset panels, panels at the string and below, and a balustrade of turnings (photos 7 & 8). The mantels with their fluted column supports and urn and vine ornamentation on the frieze are of a similar style (photo 9). The floors are tongue-and-groove pine (presently covered with carpeting). One interesting feature of the interior is an original built-in cabinet which is said to have served as storage for Dr. Stilley's medicines (photo 10).

Although the Stilley House has undergone changes since its initial construction, these alterations and additions are minor and do not significantly decrease the building's integrity. The present owner of the house plans to remove the garage constructed during the 1950s. Window replacements are confined to the sides and the rear. Interior changes were made during Dr. Stilley's lifetime and some of them, particularly the relocation of the stair, were reputedly made to accommodate his use of the dwelling as an office as well as a residence. Although the property being nominated was farmland when the house was built ca. 1903, it was farmland immediately adjacent to the town of Benton. The residential development of the area began shortly after the Stilley House was built and continued throughout Dr. Stilley's lifetime. The area was annexed by Benton in the 1930s.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Circa 1903	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stilley House, constructed ca. 1903, is significant under Criterion B due to its association with Dr. Van Allen Stilley. The house remains a local reminder of one of Benton's most respected citizens. In addition, the Stilley House is notable as one of the oldest surviving buildings in the community and one of the few built of brick. According to local tradition, it was the first brick dwelling of its style to be built in Benton.

The oral history attached to the Stilley House maintains that it was built on the occasion of Dr. Stilley's marriage. Dr. V. A. Stilley was born in Calloway County, Kentucky, on May 19, 1866, and moved to Marshall County in 1873. After graduating from the Commercial Business College in Evansville, Indiana, Stilley returned to Benton and began to study medicine under local physician J. W. Johnson. He later entered the medical department at the University of Louisville and graduated in 1890. He immediately returned to Benton to practice. He married in 1903 and began construction on this two-story house in the modern "Queen Anne" style.

Dr. Stilley became Marshall County's leading physician during his fifty-year practice. Among his many posts and offices were secretary of the Marshall County Medical Society from 1890 to 1905, Health Officer of Marshall County from 1893 to 1924, member of the State Board of Health from 1924 to 1927, and Associate Director of the State Public Health Board during the 1930s. A testament to the doctor's local esteem was the large number of babies given the name of "Stilley."

The Stilley House remained in the Stilley family until recently. The current owners plan to preserve the house in tribute to its historical and architectural significance.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Tribune Courier (Newspaper), Benton, Kentucky, May 1977.

Interview with W. J. Brien, Jr., Circuit Court Clerk, Benton, Kentucky, April 4, 1986.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Hardin, KY

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	3	7	9	9	4	0	4	0	7	9	9	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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 Harold Fletcher, Architect

organization Kenar Architectural date April 8, 1986

street & number 200 East 12th Street telephone 502/527-1483

city or town Benton 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 David L. Meyer

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date July 30, 1986

For NPS use only

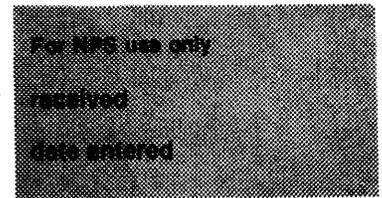
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

James Flores Brien date 9/4/86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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



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

The Stilley House  
Continuation sheet Benton, Marshall County, KY Item number 7 Page 2

The nominated area includes a modern iron fence that is non-contributing. The nomination includes one contributing building.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description & Justification**

An 11,930 square foot tract of land generally located in the city, on the east side of Birch Street and the north side of Tenth Street, and more particularly described as:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the herein described property, said corner being a 1/2 inch rebar iron pin located at the intersection of the east right-of-way of Birch Street with the north right-of-way of East Tenth Street (both right-of-ways being 50 feet total), said iron pin also being located 25.7 feet southeast of a PK nail in the centerline of the intersection of Birch Street and Tenth Street and 49.04 feet north of an existing pipe at the northwest corner of the Birmah Gammel property as described in Deed Book 82, page 528; thence, north 3° 45' 40" east - 100 feet, along the east right-of-way of Birch Street, to a point; thence north 87° 34' 40" - 120 feet, along a new line, to a point; thence south 3° 45' 40" west - 100 feet to a point in the north right-of-way of East Tenth Street, 25 feet north of the centerline of the said street; thence south 87° 34' 40" west - 120 feet, along the north right-of-way of East Tenth Street, to the point of beginning. And being a portion out the southwest corner of Tract I of the same property conveyed to Gammel and Gammel, a Kentucky Partnership, from Van A. Stilley III, single, by deed dated October 10, 1985, and recorded in Deed Book 211, page 578 of the Marshall County Court Clerk's Office.

The purpose of this description is to describe a tract of land on which the house previously constructed and owned by Dr. Van A. Stilley is located in Benton, Kentucky. The described tract of land is of sufficient size and orientation to provide a yard to complement the residence and to maintain its historical integrity.

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

<b>Name/Title:</b>	Julie Riesenweber, Staff Historian		
<b>Organization:</b>	Kentucky Heritage Council		
<b>Street &amp; Number:</b>	12th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower		
<b>City or Town:</b>	Frankfort	<b>State:</b>	Kentucky
<b>Telephone:</b>	502/564-7005		