

PH0193812

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 27 1975  
DATE ENTERED JUL 1 1975

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

Richard Masterson House

AND/OR COMMON

Masterson's

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Highway 42

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Carrollton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

04

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Carroll

CODE

041

Foot jct. of us 227 and

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

M & T Chemical Company

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Carrollton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Carrollton

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house was built circa 1790 by Richard Masterson and his family and slaves. It is situated right above a steep river bank. From the start, the original brick portion of the house must have faced both the river and the road. The plan is a simple form of the early hall-and kitchen-type: a single large space divided into two unequal spaces by a frame partition. The doors faced each other (the one toward the river has been bricked up to window level). It is located on the river side of the old road between Ghent and Carrollton, two miles east of the latter; most later houses are on the other side of the road, away from the river, which is prone to flooding.

The structure is of brick, burned on the site and laid in Flemish bond with vertical and horizontal grooved mortar and brick foundations. There are queen closers on both fronts and a rounded brick water table about two feet above ground level, along the fronts. The original openings in both the main story and the basement, had brick jack arches. Several of the frames appear to be original. There are plain box cornices at present. The facade is asymmetrical, reflecting the interior layout. (See photo 1) Originally there was one room to the left and a smaller room with the entrance slightly off centered, two windows on the left side and one on the other. Upstairs was a single large room, presumably used as a dormitory, and the kitchen was in the basement.

A partition was later added, on the west side of the entrance dividing the original large room and making an entrance hall. In the west room is a panelled Federal mantel and evidence of chair railing. In the east room is an enclosed staircase with diagonal beaded boards, adjacent to a later mantel. Later a plain weatherboarded wing was added to one side and used as a kitchen. It has a door flanked by long 19th-century windows and turned posts.

The slope of the roof on the original structure is quite steep to accommodate the upper story. Chimneys are at the end and project slightly from the wall surfaces. They are flanked by small lookout windows in the garret. The narrow front door has a four-light transom characteristic of the period. The windows retain the original wooden pegs, although the sash has been replaced with four large panes.

The interior floors of ash are still in good condition, and the house is structurally sound in spite of long neglect.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 c. 1790

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Masterson house is reputed to be one of the oldest standing two-story structures along the Ohio River west of Pittsburgh. It was built circa 1790 by Richard Masterson. The house was the meeting place for all Methodist services held in the area up until 1795. The men who incorporated the town of Port William (now Carrollton) in 1794 met at Masterson's house and in 1799 the first court of Gallatin County convened there. Thus, the house is greatly tied in with the early religious and political history of Carrollton.

Shortly after Richard and Sarah Masterson were married in Virginia in 1784, they moved to Fayette County and built a home which became known as Masterson's Station (which is now the site of the N. I. C. H., five miles northwest of Lexington on Leestown Pike). At this time Masterson was registered as a deputy surveyor working with Thomas Marshall. (Marshall was appointed a surveyor of Fayette County by Thomas Jefferson in 1781.) In 1788 Richard built the first Methodist Church west of the Allegheny Mountains. Bishop Francis Asbury (Bishop Asbury, originally from England, was appointed Superintendent of work in America by Wesley in 1771), the presiding minister and six circuit riders were entertained by the Mastersons. The station was the site of four more conferences during the next eight years.

About 1790 Masterson and his family moved to what was to become Port William, two miles east of the mouth of the Kentucky River. At this time the area was a part of Franklin County and a radiating point for trappers and traders. On his new tract of land Richard farmed on a large scale and owned many slaves. The Mastersons organized the first Society of Methodists among the settlers and opened their new home for meetings. Their house was also the resting place for weary Methodist circuit riders. All services of the Methodist Church were held in the house until 1795 when Henry Ogburn located across and a few miles down from the Mastersons. Ogburn, a retired circuit rider, from Muhlenberg County, Virginia, was the first minister of any denomination to settle in the area. After he built his home services alternated between his house and Masterson's until the first church was built in 1810.

The town of Port William, now Carrollton, was first laid out by Benjamin Craig in 1792. By 1794 it became the first settlement on the Ohio to be established by Kentucky. The group of men who met to incorporate Port William and became the town's first trustees included Richard Masterson. Masterson's house was the site of the meeting in 1792

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Atlas of Carroll and Gallatin Counties, Kentucky, 1883.
- Rea Arnold, A History of Methodism in Kentucky, Vol. I, Harold Press, 1935.
- J. Winston Coleman, The Squire's Sketches of Lexington, Lexington, 1972.
- Lewis Collins, History of Kentucky, Vol. I, P. 446, Vol. II, p. 287, 1877.
- Gypsy Gray, History of Gallatin County, Kentucky, Covington, 1968.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

*VIM OK HF*

A	1,6	66,07,7,0	4,218,36,6,0	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. Rex Diuguid, Carroll County Representative, and Kathryn Salyers, Asst.

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

Box #66

TELEPHONE

(WEL & MC)

CITY OR TOWN

Ghent

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Cedric W. Melton*

TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*5/20/75*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Ad W. G. Jensen*

DATE

*7/1/75*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

*W. Melton*

DATE

*JUN 27 1975*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Richard Masterson House

and again on May 14, 1799, when the first court of Gallatin County, Kentucky, was convened. John Grimes, Martin Hawkins, William Thomas, Hugh Gatewood, Gresham Lee, and Benjamin Craig produced a commission of the peace under the seal of the state and took the necessary oaths as justices of the peace, thus constituting the first court. Percival Butler, father of General W. O. Butler, for whom General Butler State Park was named, was appointed clerk of the court.

The house remained in the Masterson family until about 1850 when it was sold. The house has had a number of owners and residents over the years. (It is shown as belonging to Mrs. E. Leep on the 1883 Atlas of Carroll and Gallatin Counties) The house has been vacant for the last three years.

In front of the Masterson house is the cemetery where Richard Masterson, his wife Sarah and members of his family, as well as Henry Ogburn and some of his family, are buried.

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PAGE 2

Richard Masterson House

Methodist Church Pamphlets, P. V. 2 #5.

Robert Peters, History of Fayette County, Kentucky, Edited by William H. Perrin.

Chicago: O. L. Baskin & Co., 1882.

# CARROLLTON

Atlas of Carroll & Gallatin  
Counties, Kentucky, 1883

## PRECINCT CARROLL CO.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile

