

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 10 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name May-Latta House  
other names/site number n/a Site # FD-65

2. Location

street & number 33 North Arnold Avenue n/a  not for publication  
city, town Prestonsburg n/a  vicinity  
state Kentucky code KY county Floyd code 071 zip code 41653

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan  
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan Date 3-30-89  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Commonwealth of Kentucky  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Helene Byers Entered in the National Register 5/18/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic: Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Century  
American: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Tile

other Brick, Stone

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    n/a

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1917-1918

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1917-1918

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See Overview Form

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a  
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:  
 State historic preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Specify repository:  
Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	7	3	4	3	4	8	0	4	1	7	0	3	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

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D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Margaret Warminski, Historic Preservation Consultant  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date December 1988  
street & number 340 East Second Street telephone 606/581-2883  
city or town Newport state Kentucky zip code 41071

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

May-Latta House, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

Section number 7 Page 1

The May-Latta House is a large-scale and stylish American Foursquare dwelling dating from 1917-1918. The influence of the Craftsman style is clearly visible in the robust character of its ornamentation. The house is faced with wire-cut brick and stands two-and-a-half stories high with a hipped roof and arcaded brick and stone veranda. The May-Latta House is located near the B. F. Combs House on North Arnold Avenue, one block north of Prestonsburg's downtown business district. The house's neighborhood is largely residential in character and includes several dwellings of the 1910's and 1920's as well as numerous newer residences. Opposite the May-Latta House are the city's former high school, now used as an office building, and the c. 1970's Floyd County Library. Adjoining the house on the north is a ranch house built during the 1960's; a 1920's-vintage Colonial Revival retail building is located just south of the May-Latta House. Included in the nominated area are the house and its surrounding yard: there are no outbuildings.

The May-Latta House is sited close to the front line of its generously-sized lot, the rear portion of which slopes down toward a creek. A driveway runs along the south edge of the lot. Solid and massive in appearance, the May-Latta House stands two and a half stories high with a distinct horizontal emphasis. Its gently-pitched hipped roof is covered in red Spanish tile, and features hipped dormers and wide eaves supported by oversized paired brackets. The house is faced with dark reddish-brown wire-cut brick laid in running bond. Its facade is three bays wide with a centered entry. Windows are double-hung, with nine-pane upper sash; most are paired. The main entrance features a rather narrow single door, with long, multi-paned glass panels. A broad veranda encircles the facade and south face, with shallow segmental wooden arches suspended between brick piers; it is approached by wide sandstone steps. Adjacent to the house's rear elevation is a single-bay entry porch whose details echo those of the veranda. A one-story rectangular bay, sheathed in wood siding, adjoins the north elevation.

The interior of the May-Latta House has been little changed over the years, and continues to represent a comfortable home of the World War I era with its original floor plan, and many decorative details. Its plan represents a modification of the so-called bungalow scheme, with no formal hall on the first floor, and a transverse hall on the second. Four large rooms can be found on each of the first and second floors. Each displays a gas-burning fireplace, with hand-carved wooden mantelpiece (no two are alike) and highly glazed tile surround. Floors and woodwork are oak, but the trim was painted and floors carpeted after the 1957 flood. "French" pocket doors with leaded-glass panels were also damaged by the high water, and were pushed into the walls afterward. Paneled wainscoting can be found in the dining room, and plaster crown molding (recently restored) in the living room. Other original features include a butler's pantry with built-in cabinets with panels of machine-rolled glass, a handsome "Mission oak" staircase with square newel, and several brass chandeliers with etched-glass globes; these have recently been polished and restored. The attic was originally used as servants' quarters and is now used as storage space. Many family furnishings and mementoes remain in the house, include the papers of Congressman May. The house remains in very good condition, with much restoration work completed.

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May-Latta House, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

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The May-Latta House is significant under Criterion C in the context of the architectural resources of Prestonsburg as a distinguished example of the American Foursquare type, dating from 1917-1918. Although the American Foursquare mode was popular in Prestonsburg during c. 1900-1919, the May-Latta House's large scale, high quality materials, and aesthetic qualities distinguish it from other examples. It illustrates better than any other property in Prestonsburg the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement on architecture of the early twentieth century. Although other residences in Prestonsburg exhibit typically Craftsman details, the May-Latta House is the only one whose inspiration is clearly derived from landmark examples of the style. Notable features of the house include an arcaded veranda and Spanish tile roof. The house has been well preserved and has survived virtually intact inside and out.

The design of the May-Latta House, like that of many Prestonsburg dwellings of the early twentieth century, design borrows freely from a number of sources. Its horizontal massing is atypical of the American Foursquare dwellings in Prestonsburg, which tend to be more cubic. The influence of the Craftsman movement is evident in the house's roofscape, with its low-pitched tile roof, overhanging eaves and oversized scrolled brackets, and in its broad veranda. It is also demonstrated in the house's interior, which features abundant milled hardwood and massive fireplaces. Yet, the house's window and door treatments hint at the Colonial Revival. Further discussion of the significance of the May-Latta House in Prestonsburg is discussed in the context statement.

The May-Latta House has remained in the same family since it was built. It was constructed by Andrew Jackson May, who also owned several adjacent lots in the vicinity of North Arnold Avenue and North Lake Drive. May, the youngest of twelve children, was related by marriage to the Mayo family, local pioneers of Scottish descent who moved from Virginia to Floyd County in the early 1800's. He was admitted to the bar in 1898 and by the early 1900's had built up a flourishing legal practice in conjunction with one of his brothers. Their first office was located in a house on Front Street which no longer stands, a space they shared with the First Commonwealth Bank. During the 1920's (the exact date is uncertain) May, a Democrat, ran for Congress and lost, but his next attempt was successful. May served in the House of Representatives from 1928 to 1946. During his tenure he gained some notoriety for his opposition to the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority during the Great Depression. May's argument, which ultimately was unsuccessful, was that the damming of the Tennessee River for flood control and hydroelectric generation would wreak havoc on the surrounding eastern Kentucky countryside, destroying rich and valuable bottom land prized by farmers. May held the position of chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee during World War II. He remains one of the most famous politicians in the history of Floyd County.

According to the owners, construction of the house began in 1917. Progress was interrupted by a flood, which washed away much of what had already been erected, and finished in 1918.

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May-Latta House, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

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The builder's name has been lost to history, but the owners suspect the house may have been built from plans ordered by mail. Its art glass and furniture were ordered from sources in Cincinnati, whose names have also been forgotten.

The house survived the devastating flood of 1957, the worst in the city's history. At the height of the disaster, water reached almost to the second story. During the deluge, May, who was ill at the time, stayed in bed upstairs, with provisions brought in by boat. After his death the house passed to his daughter Olga May Latta, and then to her son Clifford B. Latta.

The May-Latta House property originally included the lot just north of the house. During the 1960's the Latta family built a house on that parcel, but it has since been sold to another owner.

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10. Geographic Information

Beginning at a point in the east line of North Arnold Avenue, approximately 300 feet north of West Court Street, this point being the northwest corner of the property known as 33 North Arnold Avenue; then proceeding in an easterly direction along said property's north line (at right angles to North Arnold Avenue) to its northeast corner, a distance of 110 feet more or less; then in a southerly direction along said property's east line to its southeast corner (at right angles to said street) a distance of 60 feet more or less; then proceeding in a westerly direction along said property's south line to its southwest corner, in the east line of North Arnold Avenue, a distance of 110 feet more or less; then in a northerly direction along said east line, a distance of 60 feet more or less, to the place of beginning.

This boundary includes the entire legal parcel containing the house and its surrounding yard. It excludes other residences and buildings to the north, east and south. The boundary includes all the area visually associated with the house and contributing to its significance.

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May-Latta House  
Historic Resources of Prestonsburg MPS, Floyd Co., KY

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Photo 28

Prestonsburg Multiple Properties Submission (same for all photos)

May-Latta House

33 North Arnold Avenue (same for photos 28 through 30)

Prestonsburg, Kentucky (same for all photos)

Margaret Warminski (same for all photos)

December 1987

Negative location: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky (same for all photos)

View of facade, south elevation and veranda, with driveway at right, looking northeast from the east side of North Arnold Avenue

Photo 29

May-Latta House

February 1988

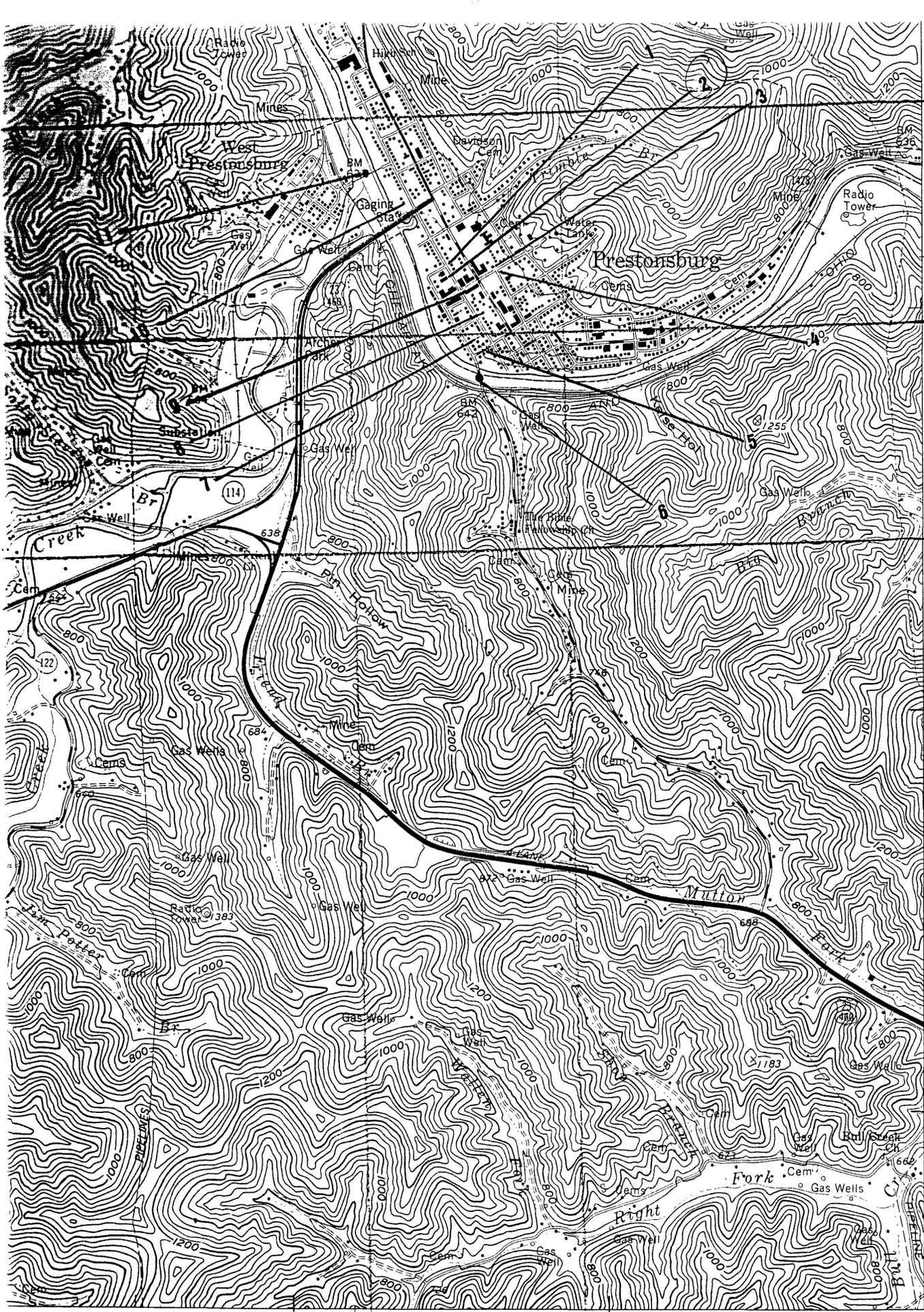
View of north and rear elevations, looking southwest.

Photo 30

May-Latta House

February 1988

View of south elevation and veranda, driveway in foreground; looking northeast from east side of North Arnold Avenue.



#2  
 May-Latta House  
 Floyd Co, Ky  
 17/3A3A80/  
 4170300

4171  
 40'  
 4170  
 4169  
 4168  
 4166000m N.  
 37°37'30"

47°30' 342 343 344 345000m. E. 82°45'

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978

1 MILE  
 0 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road

(HAROLD)  
 4.459 11 SW