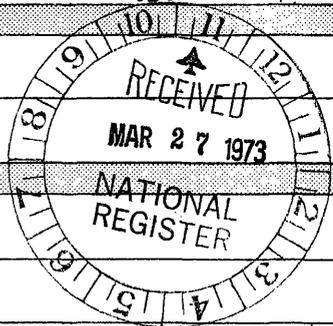


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: KENTUCKY  
 COUNTY: BOURBON  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: APR 11 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON: Duncan Tavern  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Same

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 323 High Street (U.S. Hwy. 68)  
 CITY OR TOWN: Paris  
 STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 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"/> Public <input checked="" 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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted, fee <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Historical	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	library	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Kentucky Society, Daughters of the American Revolution  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 323 High Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Paris STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Bourbon County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY OR TOWN: Paris STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites In Kentucky  
 DATE OF SURVEY: \_\_\_\_\_  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kentucky Heritage Commission  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

APR 11 1973

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Duncan Tavern was built by Major Joseph Duncan in 1788. Constructed four years before Kentucky became a state, this elegant 20-room stone building was by far finer than most taverns of the day. Rexford Newcomb offers a description of the tavern in his book, Architecture In Old Kentucky. "A two-story mass, with high basement and attic, this old hostelry turns a typical Georgian frontal pediment toward the public square. On the roof are two dormers. Double stone steps with wrought-iron rails lead up to a portal with transom and side lights. This portal is flanked by pilasters bearing a neat entablature. Above the portal is a fine Palladian window and in the frontal pediment a semicircular sunburst opening."

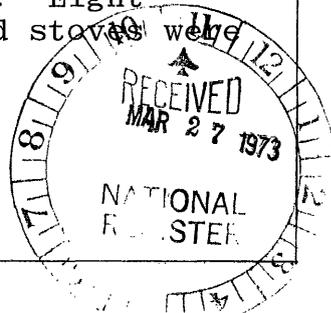
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In the 1890's the tavern building housed a reputable boarding house. During the next fifty years it declined to the point where it became a slum tenement occupied by thirteen families. Flimsy partitions divided the dining room into three small rooms.

Folding doors were added between the two assembly rooms. The doors interfered with and weakened the arch that braced the floor joists of the two rooms above. This arch was removed and lost. Access to some of the quarters had been gained by taking apart the cherry-railed stairway and reversing it. The fanlight window, when broken, was taken out, boarded over, and covered with stucco like the rest of the exterior, then painted with red barn paint. Eight fine stone-faced fireplaces were boarded up and stoves were installed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)



## SIGNIFICANCE

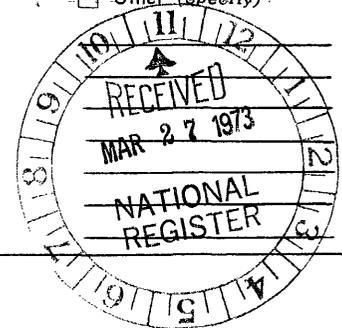
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1788

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                 |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Major Joseph Duncan built this stone tavern-inn in 1788, four years before Kentucky became a state. In 1803 it was described as a "large and elegant stone building in Paris, which belonged to Major Duncan and occupied by him as a tavern, and since his death by Mrs. Duncan, at the sign of The Goddess of Liberty." This twenty-room structure was much more impressive than most taverns of its period. It was described by Rexford Newcomb in Architecture In Old Kentucky. "A two-story mass, with high basement and attic, this old hostelry turns a typical Georgian frontal pediment toward the public square. On the roof are two dormers. Double stone steps with wrought iron rails lead up to a portal with transom and side lights. This portal is flanked by pilasters bearing a neat entablature. Above the portal is a fine Palladian window and in the frontal pediment a semicircular sunburst opening."

Because of overlapping claims to land in the Blue Grass region of Kentucky, thousands of suits were filed in the Bourbon County Courthouse at Paris, which was located only a very short distance from Duncan Tavern. Many depositions in these suits were taken in the tavern, and among those early Kentucky pioneers who gathered at the inn were Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, Michael Stoner, James Garrard, Jack Jouett and others.

Much of the social life in the early Blue Grass region centered around Duncan Tavern, where theatricals were presented as early as 1808, and where the ballroom was the scene of many gatherings. An old lease, date 1815, describes it as "the old stone building on the square, with kitchen, billard room, smokehouse, lower stables, etc., and two partitions to be run across the ballroom." Under various names Duncan Tavern was in continuous operation for more than 150 years.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Coleman, J. Winston: Historic Kentucky, Henry Clay Press, Lexington, Kentucky, 1968.

Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture In Old Kentucky; University of Illinois, Urbana, 1953.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	12'	47"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	84°	15'	3"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

UTM  
16/740720/  
422820  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{4}$  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:  
**Charles E. Parrish, Assistant Director**

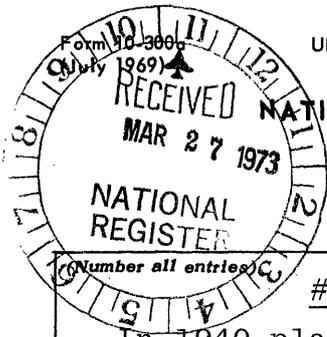
ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission**      DATE: **March 15, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**401 Wapping Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Frankfort**      STATE: **Kentucky**      CODE: **21**

**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>Mrs. Simeon Willis</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>March 27, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert W. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>4/11/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>4 4 73</u></p>
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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
		APR 11 1973

# 7 Description

In 1940 plans were being made to tear down the building. Responding to an urgent appeal by the Kentucky Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, the city of Paris gave it to them on the condition that they restore and maintain it as a shrine, open to the public. Aided by contributions they began to restore the building. The stucco on the exterior walls was removed and the stone work was pointed up with cement; the eight stone fireplaces which had been boarded up were opened. When the stucco was removed the outline of the fanlight was clearly revealed, so it was replaced. A carved arch was found in a house of the period of Duncan Tavern that was being razed in Danville, Kentucky. The style of the arch was in harmony with both the carved arch in the hallway and the carved mantels, so it was installed, replacing the missing arch. An unsanitary and unsafe ramshackle wooden wing, several stories in height, that had been added at the rear, was razed.

To use the building as a museum, the D.A.R. had to add some restrooms and a kitchen for the caretaker, but these are not shown as part of the original tavern. Nor is the John Fox Library so represented. It was excavated from a rear cellar room to house the historical books used by the organization and to display relics and souvenirs of the local novelist, John Fox. A narrow covered stairway was added at the rear to connect the first floor and the parking lot. To keep it in harmony with the rest of the building it was enclosed by a wall of handmade brick that was saved from the old kitchen of the Anne Duncan House which was torn down. South of and adjoining the Duncan Tavern is the Anne Duncan House. Built between 1800-1803 of log it was covered by clapboard. It was also restored and its walls were faced with old stone from "Fairfield" which was built by Governor James Garrard prior to 1786 and was where the first court of Bourbon County was held. Flanking the building on the north is the old Bourbon County Court House gate of wrought iron with surmounting spread eagle, imported from Wales.

A study of the interior reveals the rich timber resources of the day which were used in its construction. Oak and ash girders, beams and joists give support to the structure. The laths are hand-split hickory; the floor of blue ash. There are numerous hand carved mantels and stone fireplaces. A small opening was framed in the second floor hall to show the hand hewn laths and the square-headed nails, which when available, substituted for wooden pegs in the construction. Despite the interior changes that occurred over the years, many of the rooms still have their original hog-hair plaster.

(continued)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
KENTUCKY	
COUNTY	
BOURBON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	1
APR	1973

(Number all entries)

# 7 Description

The Daughters of the American Revolution have carefully attempted to restore Duncan Tavern to its original condition.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
KENTUCKY	
COUNTY	
BOURBON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

(Number all entries)

# 8 Statement of Significance

Sometime shortly after the death of Major Duncan in 1803 his widow, Anne Maria McLaughlin Duncan, built a house flush with the walls of the tavern, and moved there with her children. This house still standing is of log construction and clapboarded over.

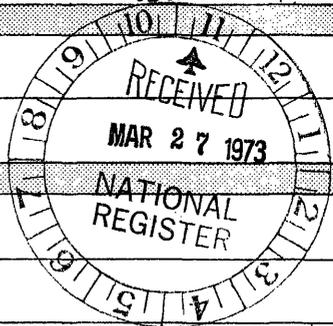
In the 1950's the Kentucky Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution acquired both buildings and began restoration, and Duncan Tavern now serves as its state headquarters. Now restored expertly and furnished with period antiques the Tavern serves as a historic shrine, and is open to the public. The tavern contains a fine historical and genealogical library dedicated to John Fox, Jr., famed author and native of Bourbon County. The adjacent "Anne Duncan House" has been restored, but has been covered with stone from a nearby historic house which was razed. A memorial garden has been developed in the rear of the tavern.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: KENTUCKY  
 COUNTY: BOURBON  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: APR 11 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON: Duncan Tavern  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Same

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 323 High Street (U.S. Hwy. 68)  
 CITY OR TOWN: Paris  
 STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 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"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted, fee <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Historical	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	library	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Kentucky Society, Daughters of the American Revolution  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 323 High Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Paris STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Bourbon County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Paris STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites In Kentucky  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kentucky Heritage Commission  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

APR 11 1973

DATE

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

Duncan Tavern was built by Major Joseph Duncan in 1788. Constructed four years before Kentucky became a state, this elegant 20-room stone building was by far finer than most taverns of the day. Rexford Newcomb offers a description of the tavern in his book, Architecture In Old Kentucky. "A two-story mass, with high basement and attic, this old hostelry turns a typical Georgian frontal pediment toward the public square. On the roof are two dormers. Double stone steps with wrought-iron rails lead up to a portal with transom and side lights. This portal is flanked by pilasters bearing a neat entablature. Above the portal is a fine Palladian window and in the frontal pediment a semicircular sunburst opening."

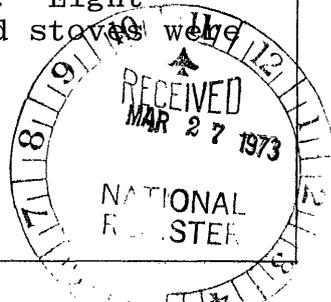
While the tavern was under construction between 1786 and 1788, Duncan apparently lived in the right rear room. All four of its walls are of rock. A secret panel in a cupboard there can be lifted to disclose a place where money and valuables could be hidden. Above a billiard room, a bar, and two basement kitchens Major Duncan built the main structure of the building consisting of two stories, each containing four large rooms and a hall. Above these was a ballroom in the attic area. As soon as his trade warranted, Major Duncan added a brick dining room wing next to the assembly room; building it the same height as the rest of the structure. In the rear wall he placed a Palladian window matching the one over the front door.

In the 1890's the tavern building housed a reputable boarding house. During the next fifty years it declined to the point where it became a slum tenement occupied by thirteen families. Flimsy partitions divided the dining room into three small rooms.

Folding doors were added between the two assembly rooms. The doors interfered with and weakened the arch that braced the floor joists of the two rooms above. This arch was removed and lost. Access to some of the quarters had been gained by taking apart the cherry-railed stairway and reversing it. The fanlight window, when broken, was taken out, boarded over, and covered with stucco like the rest of the exterior, then painted with red barn paint. Eight fine stone-faced fireplaces were boarded up and stoves were installed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)



## SIGNIFICANCE

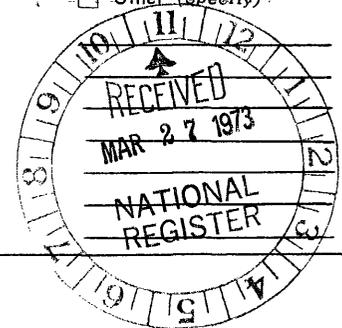
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1788

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                 |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Major Joseph Duncan built this stone tavern-inn in 1788, four years before Kentucky became a state. In 1803 it was described as a "large and elegant stone building in Paris, which belonged to Major Duncan and occupied by him as a tavern, and since his death by Mrs. Duncan, at the sign of The Goddess of Liberty." This twenty-room structure was much more impressive than most taverns of its period. It was described by Rexford Newcomb in Architecture In Old Kentucky. "A two-story mass, with high basement and attic, this old hostelry turns a typical Georgian frontal pediment toward the public square. On the roof are two dormers. Double stone steps with wrought iron rails lead up to a portal with transom and side lights. This portal is flanked by pilasters bearing a neat entablature. Above the portal is a fine Palladian window and in the frontal pediment a semicircular sunburst opening."

Because of overlapping claims to land in the Blue Grass region of Kentucky, thousands of suits were filed in the Bourbon County Courthouse at Paris, which was located only a very short distance from Duncan Tavern. Many depositions in these suits were taken in the tavern, and among those early Kentucky pioneers who gathered at the inn were Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, Michael Stoner, James Garrard, Jack Jouett and others.

Much of the social life in the early Blue Grass region centered around Duncan Tavern, where theatricals were presented as early as 1808, and where the ballroom was the scene of many gatherings. An old lease, date 1815, describes it as "the old stone building on the square, with kitchen, billard room, smokehouse, lower stables, etc., and two partitions to be run across the ballroom." Under various names Duncan Tavern was in continuous operation for more than 150 years.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture In Old Kentucky; University of Illinois, Urbana, 1953.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	12'	47"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	84°	15'	3"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM  
16/740720/  
422820  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Charles E. Parrish, Assistant Director**

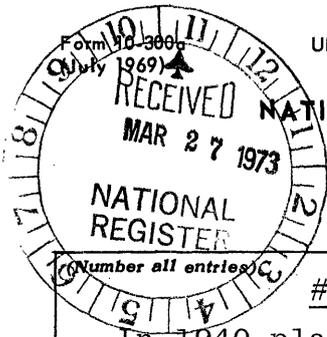
ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission**      DATE: **March 15, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**401 Wapping Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Frankfort**      STATE: **Kentucky**      CODE: **21**

**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>Mrs. Simeon Willis</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>March 27, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert W. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>4/11/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>4 4 73</u></p>
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	KENTUCKY	
COUNTY	BOURBON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		APR 11 1973

# 7 Description

In 1940 plans were being made to tear down the building. Responding to an urgent appeal by the Kentucky Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, the city of Paris gave it to them on the condition that they restore and maintain it as a shrine, open to the public. Aided by contributions they began to restore the building. The stucco on the exterior walls was removed and the stone work was pointed up with cement; the eight stone fireplaces which had been boarded up were opened. When the stucco was removed the outline of the fanlight was clearly revealed, so it was replaced. A carved arch was found in a house of the period of Duncan Tavern that was being razed in Danville, Kentucky. The style of the arch was in harmony with both the carved arch in the hallway and the carved mantels, so it was installed, replacing the missing arch. An unsanitary and unsafe ramshackle wooden wing, several stories in height, that had been added at the rear, was razed.

To use the building as a museum, the D.A.R. had to add some restrooms and a kitchen for the caretaker, but these are not shown as part of the original tavern. Nor is the John Fox Library so represented. It was excavated from a rear cellar room to house the historical books used by the organization and to display relics and souvenirs of the local novelist, John Fox. A narrow covered stairway was added at the rear to connect the first floor and the parking lot. To keep it in harmony with the rest of the building it was enclosed by a wall of handmade brick that was saved from the old kitchen of the Anne Duncan House which was torn down. South of and adjoining the Duncan Tavern is the Anne Duncan House. Built between 1800-1803 of log it was covered by clapboard. It was also restored and its walls were faced with old stone from "Fairfield" which was built by Governor James Garrard prior to 1786 and was where the first court of Bourbon County was held. Flanking the building on the north is the old Bourbon County Court House gate of wrought iron with surmounting spread eagle, imported from Wales.

A study of the interior reveals the rich timber resources of the day which were used in its construction. Oak and ash girders, beams and joists give support to the structure. The laths are hand-split hickory; the floor of blue ash. There are numerous hand carved mantels and stone fireplaces. A small opening was framed in the second floor hall to show the hand hewn laths and the square-headed nails, which when available, substituted for wooden pegs in the construction. Despite the interior changes that occurred over the years, many of the rooms still have their original hog-hair plaster.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
KENTUCKY	
COUNTY	
BOURBON	
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APR	1973

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# 7 Description

The Daughters of the American Revolution have carefully attempted to restore Duncan Tavern to its original condition.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
KENTUCKY	
COUNTY	
BOURBON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

# 8 Statement of Significance

Sometime shortly after the death of Major Duncan in 1803 his widow, Anne Maria McLaughlin Duncan, built a house flush with the walls of the tavern, and moved there with her children. This house still standing is of log construction and clapboarded over.

In the 1950's the Kentucky Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution acquired both buildings and began restoration, and Duncan Tavern now serves as its state headquarters. Now restored expertly and furnished with period antiques the Tavern serves as a historic shrine, and is open to the public. The tavern contains a fine historical and genealogical library dedicated to John Fox, Jr., famed author and native of Bourbon County. The adjacent "Anne Duncan House" has been restored, but has been covered with stone from a nearby historic house which was razed. A memorial garden has been developed in the rear of the tavern.

