

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received SEP 27 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Myrtle Hill

and/or common

2. Location

S of Owingsville off US 64

street & number Route #3, Kendall Springs Road not for publication

city, town Owingsville vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Kentucky code 021 county Bath code 006

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ingram

street & number Route # 3, Kendall Springs Road

city, town Owingsville vicinity of state Kentucky 40360

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bath County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Owingsville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

7. Description

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

Myrtle Hill is a one and one-half story brick dwelling located in a serene rural setting approximately two miles southwest of Owingsville, Kentucky. The main house and dependencies are situated on a gently rolling, high elevation which overlooks the Slate Creek Valley. This area lies at the eastern edge of the Bluegrass, a culturally and physiologically distinctive region of central Kentucky.

Built c.1815, Myrtle Hill is an imposing double pile plan dwelling with single story attached ell. The main block is 58' wide and 41' deep and rests on a tooled, gray limestone foundation. The symmetrical five-bay front (north) elevation is distinguished by period 12/12 lights, louvered shutters, and Flemish bond masonry with Queen closers. Each of the bays exhibits distinctive gauged jack arch lintels and the windows have wooden slipsills. Among the many important features on this house is the exceptional quality of the beaded mortar joints on all four elevations.

The stylistic Federal entrance is particularly impressive, featuring a multiple pane transom window and flanking sidelights. However, rather than having the characteristic rectangular panes, this entrance has panes that are set in delicate oval shaped mullions. The double door entry appears to be an original feature. Perhaps the singularly most important feature on this house is the gabled pediment and lunette window, which transform an otherwise vernacular form into a highly stylistic example of Federal architecture. The small bulls eye motif and lancet tracery are particularly characteristic.

The side elevations of Myrtle Hill are marked by the wide, sweeping gables and balanced location of the double end chimney. The two upper story windows have 6/6 lights while those on the first floor are 9/9. One of the bays on the east elevation is blind because of an interior press. The front roof gable is asbestos shingle while both the long rear gable and ell are standing seam metal.

Attached to the west side of the rear elevation is a one-story, two room brick ell with off-center ridge chimney. A contemporary feature, the ell rests on a rubble limestone foundation and employs the same fenestration as does the front block. Both the ell and main block have a continuous open rear porch.

The interior spaces, although somewhat restrained, are remarkably intact. Flanking the grand center hall (13' X 39') and stairway are double parlors of identical configuration, each measuring 19' square. The woodwork consists of 16" baseboards, two-paneled doors with molded stiles, Federal window and door frames, and wainscoted panels under the windows. All of the mantels are original although only the rear parlor and ell have beaded chairrails. Three large pocket doors with blind paneled transom separate the formal parlors on the east elevation. Built-in presses enhance these two compartments.

The upper story has two large bedrooms that flank the main hall. There are no fireplaces or other distinguishing features on this floor. An enclosed staircase connects the west bedroom to a rear first floor parlor.

ALTERATIONS: Since the wooden posts on the rear porch were deteriorating, the owners decided to mill new but identical chamfered style posts. The porch foundation was reinforced with concrete block and a new utility room built into the corner of the porch. The Colonial Revival porch was added to the front elevation circa 1920.

OUTBUILDINGS: The nominated property includes 4 outbuildings, three of which (continued)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Circa 1815 **Builder/Architect** Henry Herndon, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Myrtle Hill, built c. 1815, is significant for its association with the development of an agricultural economy in Bath County, Kentucky, and as a locally distinctive example of Federal architecture. Although this style and period house is characteristically seen on the landscapes of central Kentucky, few examples are known to exist outside the area defined as the "Inner Blue Grass."¹ Reconnaissance surveys indicate Myrtle Hill is one of the earliest and most sophisticated embodiments of rural Federal architecture in Bath County.

According to unpublished sources, Myrtle Hill was built in 1815 by Henry Herndon. Little is known about Herndon and his family except that in the late 1830's and early 1840's one Samuel G. Herndon appears in the Bath County tax records as owning a 400 acre farm along Slate Creek. In January, 1845, John Strother Hughes (1780-1859), a native of Culpepper County, Virginia, purchased the farm and moved there with his family and a number of slaves. Tax assessment records indicate Hughes' farm ranked among the county's top ten in terms of cattle, number of slaves, and total evaluation.² Hughes' eldest son, James B. Hughes, who operated the farm after his father's death in 1859, was considered "one of the early scientific farmers of the county."³ Unfortunately, little additional information on the Hughes family appears to exist. Ownership of Myrtle Hill farm still remains in the Hughes family. Its overall integrity and high degree of craftsmanship make it a significant historic resource in Bath County.

¹Includes Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Jessamine, Mercer, Scott, and Woodford Counties.

²Bath County Tax Records, 1847.

³John Adair Richards, History of Bath County, Kentucky. (Yuma, Arizona: Southwest Printers, 1961), p.549.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Myrtle Hill." Handwritten account, Lucy Atkinson, 1940.
Bath County Tax Assessor's Records, 1817-1847.
Kentucky Vital Statistics, 1852-1859, Bath County, Kentucky. The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society 43 (October 1945):282.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.66

Quadrangle name Preston

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	5	5	9	3	0	4	2	2	2	8	7	1	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

The nominated property encompasses the immediate farmyard and related outbuildings. Adjacent pasture, tobacco barns, and cropland are not included. (Continued)

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 Steve Gordon, Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

date August, 1982

street & number 927 Capital Plaza Tower

telephone 564-7005

city or town Frankfort

state Kentucky 40601

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 Mary Loran Spill

title State Historic Preservation Officer date Sept 21, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/29/82

Melvin Byers
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**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet MYRTLE HILL

Item number 7,9,10

Page

ITEM #7, Continued:

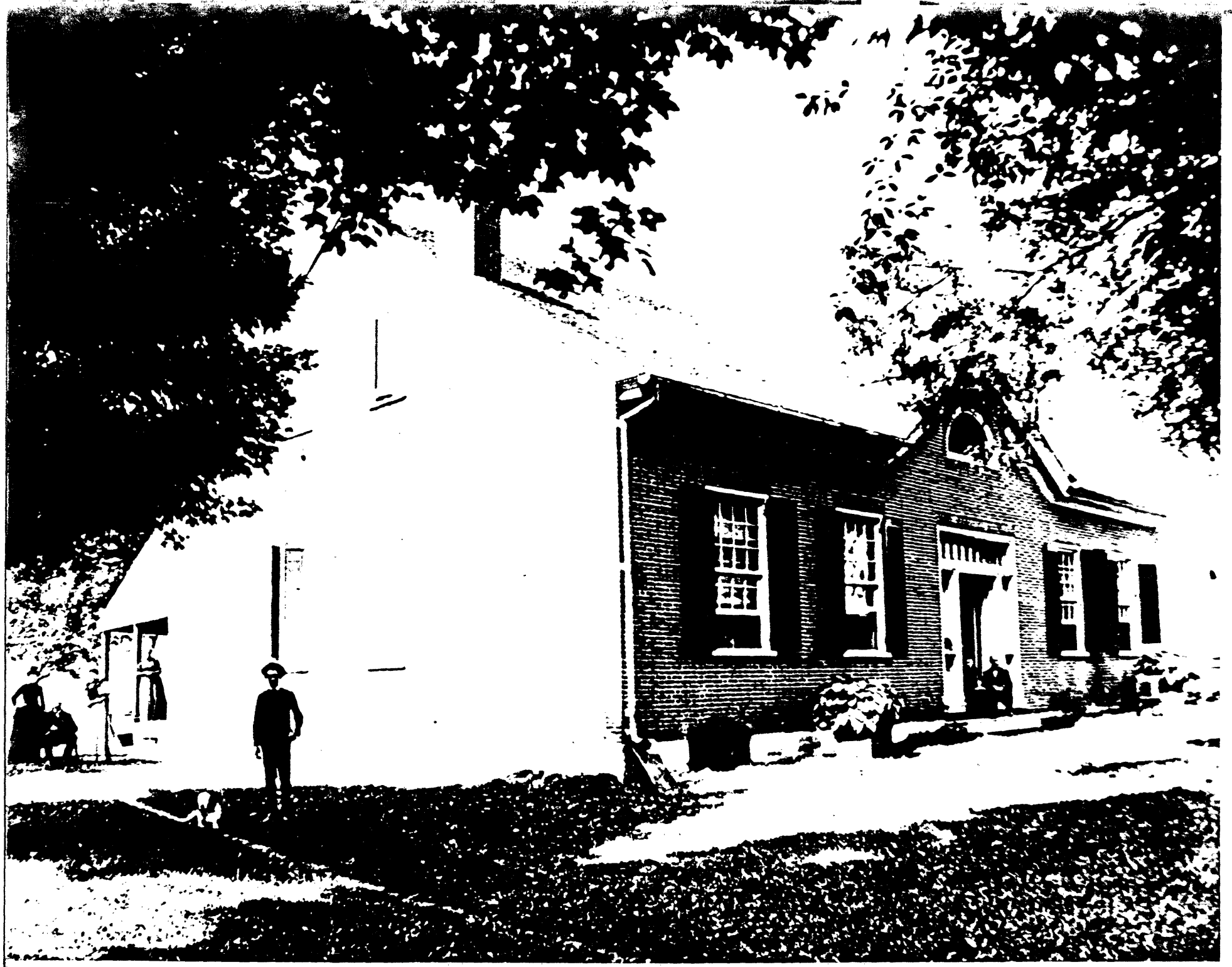
contribute to the architectural character of this complex. The frame tenant house, located approximately 40' behind the main house, is a simple one-story vernacular form which appears to have been built in the last half of the nineteenth century. It is characterized by a small center ridge chimney, open chamfered port porch, and weatherboard wall treatment. Immediately east of the tenant house is a rectangular plan, one-story buggy shed, which exhibits horizontal clapboard nailed over vertical board wall siding. At the southeastern corner of the farmyard is a double pen, drive through corn crib. The northern compartment of the corn crib is constructed of unhewn, V-notch logs and measures 12' x 18'. It has been noticeably enlarged through the years. A simple tongue and groove outhouse delineates the southwestern corner of the farmyard area.

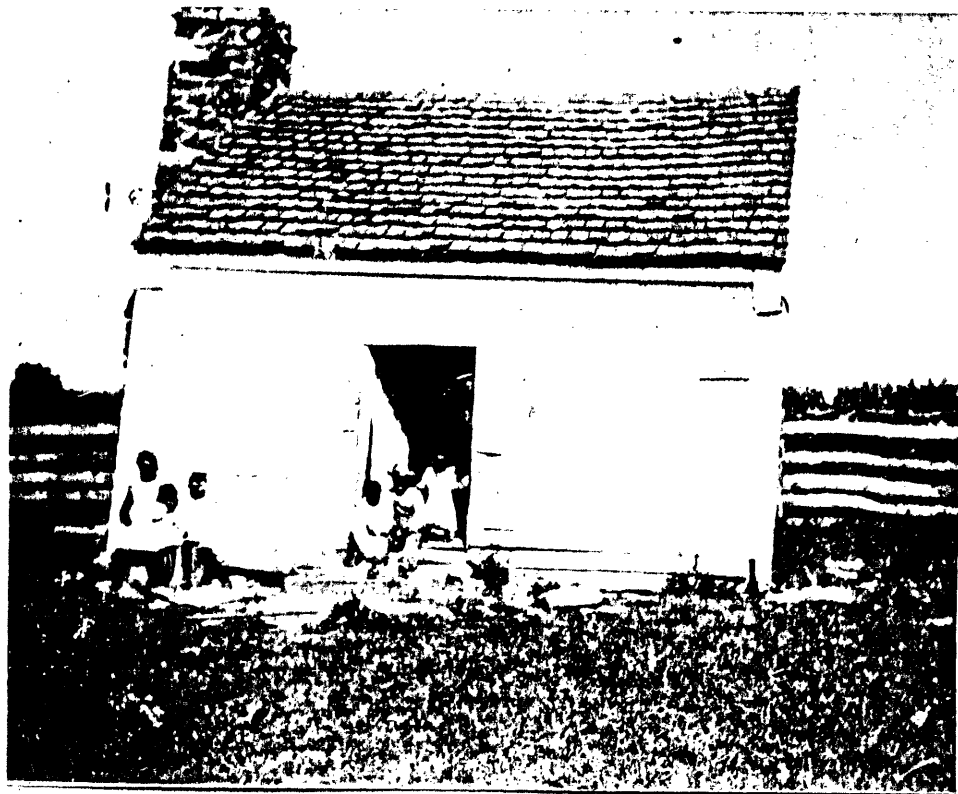
ITEM #9, Continued:

Reynolds, Alice P., comp. The 1850 Census: Bath County, Kentucky

ITEM #10, Continued:

Beginning at a point where the driveway intersects perpendicularly with the road proceed south approximately 300' parallel with the driveway, then proceed east approximately 60', thence proceed south 45' to the southeastern corner of the corn crib lot, thence proceed west approximately 260' along the rear boundary of the farmyard to a point where the outhouse now stands. Then proceed north approximately 350' along the fencerow that separates the farmyard from the pasture. Then proceed east 200' along the front perimeter of the farmyard to the point of origin.





Myrtle Hill, Kendall Springs Road
Bath County, Kentucky
Photographer Unknown
Mrs. Gerald Ingram, Owingsville, Ky.
Slave house at Myrtle Hill, date unknown.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received SEP 27 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Myrtle Hill
and/or common

2. Location

S of Owingsville off US 64

street & number Route #3, Kendall Springs Road not for publication
city, town Owingsville vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~
state Kentucky code 021 county Bath code 006

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ingram
street & number Route # 3, Kendall Springs Road
city, town Owingsville vicinity of state Kentucky 40360

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bath County Courthouse
street & number Main Street
city, town Owingsville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date August 1981 federal state county local
depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council
city, town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

7. Description

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

Myrtle Hill is a one and one-half story brick dwelling located in a serene rural setting approximately two miles southwest of Owingsville, Kentucky. The main house and dependencies are situated on a gently rolling, high elevation which overlooks the Slate Creek Valley. This area lies at the eastern edge of the Bluegrass, a culturally and physiologically distinctive region of central Kentucky.

Built c.1815, Myrtle Hill is an imposing double pile plan dwelling with single story attached ell. The main block is 58' wide and 41' deep and rests on a tooled, gray limestone foundation. The symmetrical five-bay front (north) elevation is distinguished by period 12/12 lights, louvered shutters, and Flemish bond masonry with Queen closers. Each of the bays exhibits distinctive gauged jack arch lintels and the windows have wooden slipsills. Among the many important features on this house is the exceptional quality of the beaded mortar joints on all four elevations.

The stylistic Federal entrance is particularly impressive, featuring a multiple pane transom window and flanking sidelights. However, rather than having the characteristic rectangular panes, this entrance has panes that are set in delicate oval shaped mullions. The double door entry appears to be an original feature. Perhaps the singularly most important feature on this house is the gabled pediment and lunette window, which transform an otherwise vernacular form into a highly stylistic example of Federal architecture. The small bulls eye motif and lancet tracery are particularly characteristic.

The side elevations of Myrtle Hill are marked by the wide, sweeping gables and balanced location of the double end chimney. The two upper story windows have 6/6 lights while those on the first floor are 9/9. One of the bays on the east elevation is blind because of an interior press. The front roof gable is asbestos shingle while both the long rear gable and ell are standing seam metal.

Attached to the west side of the rear elevation is a one-story, two room brick ell with off-center ridge chimney. A contemporary feature, the ell rests on a rubble limestone foundation and employs the same fenestration as does the front block. Both the ell and main block have a continuous open rear porch.

The interior spaces, although somewhat restrained, are remarkably intact. Flanking the grand center hall (13' X 39') and stairway are double parlors of identical configuration, each measuring 19' square. The woodwork consists of 16" baseboards, two-paneled doors with molded stiles, Federal window and door frames, and wainscoted panels under the windows. All of the mantels are original although only the rear parlor and ell have beaded chairrails. Three large pocket doors with blind paneled transom separate the formal parlors on the east elevation. Built-in presses enhance these two compartments.

The upper story has two large bedrooms that flank the main hall. There are no fireplaces or other distinguishing features on this floor. An enclosed staircase connects the west bedroom to a rear first floor parlor.

ALTERATIONS: Since the wooden posts on the rear porch were deteriorating, the owners decided to mill new but identical chamfered style posts. The porch foundation was reinforced with concrete block and a new utility room built into the corner of the porch. The Colonial Revival porch was added to the front elevation circa 1920.

OUTBUILDINGS: The nominated property includes 4 outbuildings, three of which (continued)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Circa 1815 **Builder/Architect** Henry Herndon, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Myrtle Hill, built c. 1815, is significant for its association with the development of an agricultural economy in Bath County, Kentucky, and as a locally distinctive example of Federal architecture. Although this style and period house is characteristically seen on the landscapes of central Kentucky, few examples are known to exist outside the area defined as the "Inner Blue Grass."¹ Reconnaissance surveys indicate Myrtle Hill is one of the earliest and most sophisticated embodiments of rural Federal architecture in Bath County.

According to unpublished sources, Myrtle Hill was built in 1815 by Henry Herndon. Little is known about Herndon and his family except that in the late 1830's and early 1840's one Samuel G. Herndon appears in the Bath County tax records as owning a 400 acre farm along Slate Creek. In January, 1845, John Strother Hughes (1780-1859), a native of Culpepper County, Virginia, purchased the farm and moved there with his family and a number of slaves. Tax assessment records indicate Hughes' farm ranked among the county's top ten in terms of cattle, number of slaves, and total evaluation.² Hughes' eldest son, James B. Hughes, who operated the farm after his father's death in 1859, was considered "one of the early scientific farmers of the county."³ Unfortunately, little additional information on the Hughes family appears to exist. Ownership of Myrtle Hill farm still remains in the Hughes family. Its overall integrity and high degree of craftsmanship make it a significant historic resource in Bath County.

¹Includes Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Jessamine, Mercer, Scott, and Woodford Counties.

²Bath County Tax Records, 1847.

³John Adair Richards, History of Bath County, Kentucky. (Yuma, Arizona: Southwest Printers, 1961), p.549.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Myrtle Hill." Handwritten account, Lucy Atkinson, 1940.
Bath County Tax Assessor's Records, 1817-1847.
Kentucky Vital Statistics, 1852-1859, Bath County, Kentucky. The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society 43 (October 1945):282.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.66

Quadrangle name Preston

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	5	5	9	3	0	4	2	2	2	8	7	1	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

The nominated property encompasses the immediate farmyard and related outbuildings. Adjacent pasture, tobacco barns, and cropland are not included. (Continued)

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 Steve Gordon, Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

date August, 1982

street & number 927 Capital Plaza Tower

telephone 564-7005

city or town Frankfort

state Kentucky 40601

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 Mary Loran Spill

title State Historic Preservation Officer date Sept 21, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/29/82

Melvin Byers
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**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet MYRTLE HILL

Item number 7,9,10

Page

ITEM #7, Continued:

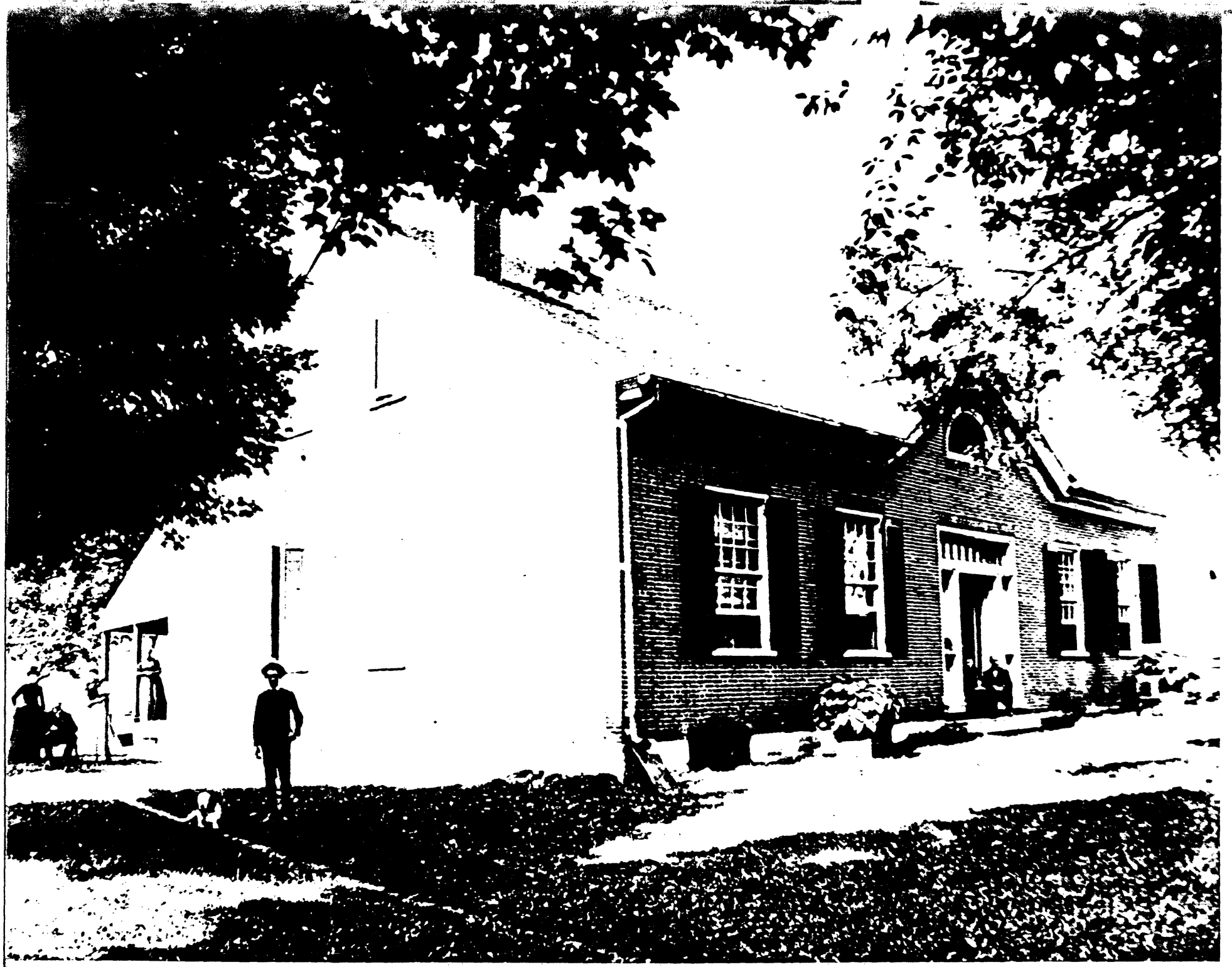
contribute to the architectural character of this complex. The frame tenant house, located approximately 40' behind the main house, is a simple one-story vernacular form which appears to have been built in the last half of the nineteenth century. It is characterized by a small center ridge chimney, open chamfered port porch, and weatherboard wall treatment. Immediately east of the tenant house is a rectangular plan, one-story buggy shed, which exhibits horizontal clapboard nailed over vertical board wall siding. At the southeastern corner of the farmyard is a double pen, drive through corn crib. The northern compartment of the corn crib is constructed of unhewn, V-notch logs and measures 12' x 18'. It has been noticeably enlarged through the years. A simple tongue and groove outhouse delineates the southwestern corner of the farmyard area.

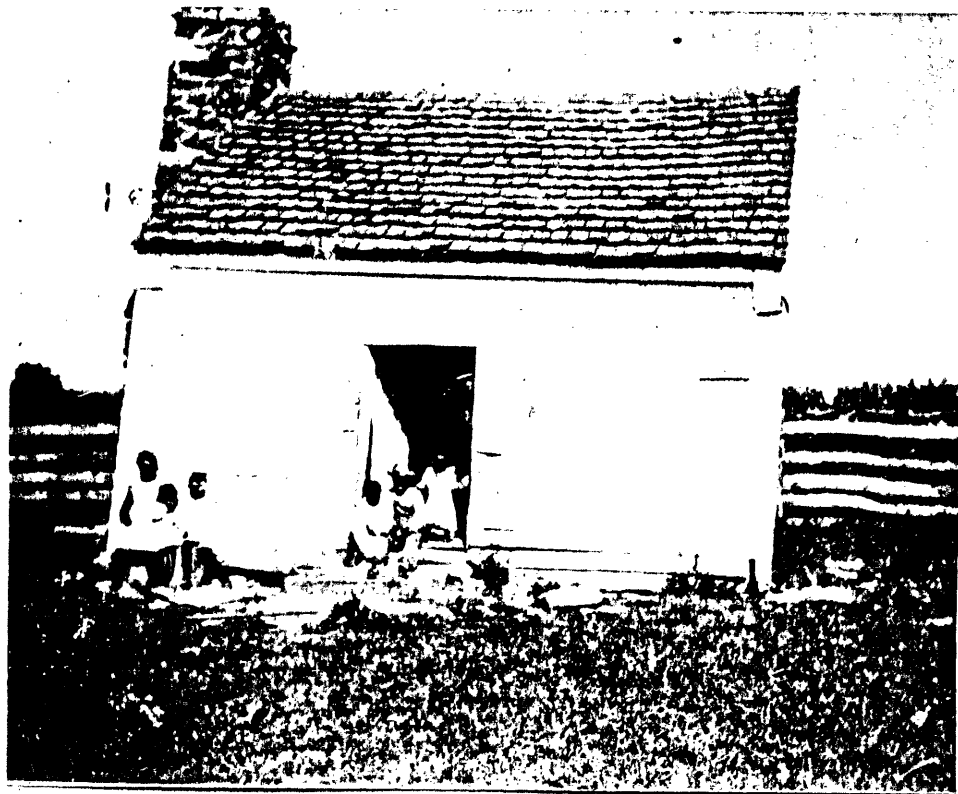
ITEM #9, Continued:

Reynolds, Alice P., comp. The 1850 Census: Bath County, Kentucky

ITEM #10, Continued:

Beginning at a point where the driveway intersects perpendicularly with the road proceed south approximately 300' parallel with the driveway, then proceed east approximately 60', thence proceed south 45' to the southeastern corner of the corn crib lot, thence proceed west approximately 260' along the rear boundary of the farmyard to a point where the outhouse now stands. Then proceed north approximately 350' along the fencerow that separates the farmyard from the pasture. Then proceed east 200' along the front perimeter of the farmyard to the point of origin.





Myrtle Hill, Kendall Springs Road
Bath County, Kentucky
Photographer Unknown
Mrs. Gerald Ingram, Owingsville, Ky.
Slave house at Myrtle Hill, date unknown.