

PH 5025318

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

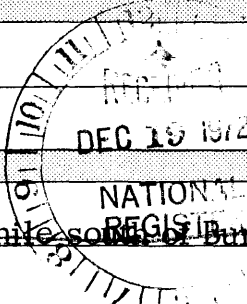
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Osburn House

AND/OR HISTORIC:



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *4 miles N of* U.S. 25 North, about 1/4 mile south of Burton Pike intersection

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 COUNTY: Scott CODE: 209

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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. Ben Miller Osborne

STREET AND NUMBER: Cincinnati Pike

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Scott County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Main & Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey Of Historic Sites In Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971  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

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

An early two bay cabin with large chimney joined to a second two bay cabin form the nucleus of this residence, to which was added a brick Greek Revival two bay section in 1842. An ell is being added at the present time in connection by a restoration.

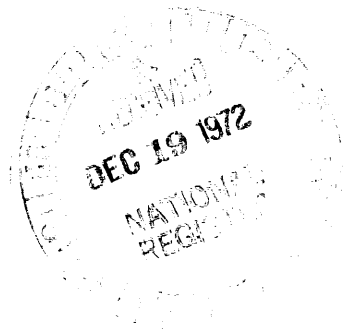
The south log section was constructed ca 1790 by a pioneer named Applegate, possibly Richard Applegate, who held a 30 acre tract said to have been awarded him for Revolutionary services. Ben Osburn came to Scott County during the last decade of the 18th century and married the widow of the pioneer, adding the north log block about 1797. Differences in construction and nails are apparent in the two sections.

The old cabin has ash floors, beaded ceiling beams, stone chimneys, pegged windows, The south block has holes for pegs, indicating that an ell may have been joined to it during the early days when the present back of the house faced an early road, now discontinued. Weatherboarded for many years, the logs will be exposed during the restoration and treated for permanancy.

The Greek Revival wing is very plain in detail. It has poplar floors, long panel doors and a Greek Revival mantel. Windows on the back side of the log section reveal the design of the house facade as it faced the older road. The upstairs of the present front has no windows. A few batten and six panel doors remain. Sloping door jams and window frames reveal the pragmatic personality of the builder who had large logs placed on small logs and small logs placed on large ones.

The house, it seems, is typical of the humble, basic pioneer dwellings, most of which were torn down or replaced when affluence came to the owners.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

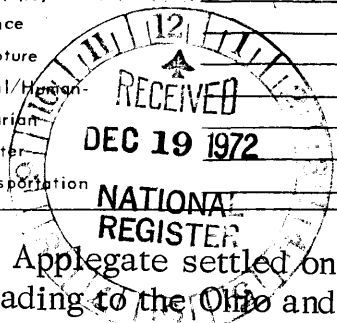
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify): <u>folklore</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |  |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Around 1790 a Revolutionary soldier named Applegate settled on a presumed 30-acre tract in Scott County on the road leading to the Ohio and built a small two bay, two story (or story and half) cabin of hewn logs and hand cut nails. Before the middle of the decade he had been killed by an Indian, tomahawked as he stood in the doorway of his house. Shortly afterwards Ben Osburn came from South Carolina, probably at the same time that other members of that family, married the widow and proceeded to become the legendary figure of this part of Central Kentucky. He built the second two bay block in 1797.

Before his death in 1866, Ben Osburn, although he could neither read nor write, had expanded that thirty acres into 3,600 acres of first quality land extending from North Elkhorn to Dry Run Baptist Church and from the Frankfort Pike to the Oxford Pike. Much of this land is still owned by his descendants.

Ben Osburn was a farmer, a trader in horses, ponies and mules. He was known to leave on such trading ventures only to return a year or two later, herding livestock overland to shipping points. His home is often referred to as a stagecoach stop, although a tavern license was never granted. A congenial man, his friends who like him traveled widely and often, stopped at his home so often that the place came to be considered a public stop.

After his first wife's death, Osburn at the age of 63 married a young woman named Agatha. Four children were produced by this union. He died in 1866. In 1868 Agatha married Ben Miller Osburn, nephew of Ben Osburn. Like his uncle, young Ben accumulated land totaling 3,392 acres in the hilly section of the county. His obituary stressed that "he paid cash at the time of purchase for every acre he owned." Ben's son, John W., inherited the home place and his grandson, Ben Miller Osburn, owns it today.

Ben Osburn's house reveals his cantankerous variety of pragmatism. Large logs on top of small ones and small logs on top of large ones resulted in sloping door and window jambs.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

W.H. Perrin, Perrin's History Of Scott County (Georgetown, 1964, reprint of 1882, volume) p. 36, 75.  
 The Osburn (Osborne) Family Bible in possession of Ben Miller Osburn, Georgetown.  
 Family legends as handed down and related by Ben Miller Osburn, M.G. Price.  
 Scott County Records, especially Deed Book D, beginning on page 325, various burned records copied.

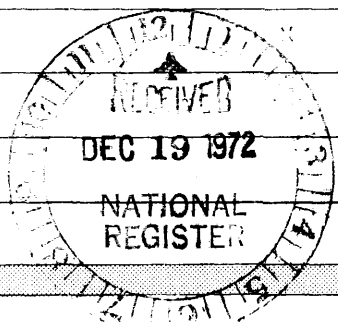
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 15' 44"	84° 0' 34" Q1	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM  
 16/712852  
 4237770  
 CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Ann B. Bevins, Scott County Representative**

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **10-23-72**  
**Scott County Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Route # 4 - Lexington Pike**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National  State  Local

Name: Mrs. Simeon Willis

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: December 15, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert W. Wiley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4 4 73

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(Continuation Sheet)

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# 8 Statement of Significance

It is fortunate that this house built by "the legend of the Dry Ridge Turnpike" survives in spite of the fact that it was put together to provide what was necessary "but little else." It is typical of the basic pioneer cabin, generally abandoned or replaced once the "land was cleared and the first crops brought in."

