

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

APR 10 1980

DATE ENTERED

**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

Ralph Morgan Stone House

AND/OR COMMON

Morgan's Station

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E of Mount Sterling on

Harper's Ridge Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mount Sterling M.C. X VICINITY OF

7

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Montgomery

173

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. F.C. Lewis

STREET & NUMBER

1119 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Mount Sterling

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1978

__FEDERAL X 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in northeast Montgomery County is the Ralph Morgan Stone House, situated on a knoll above Harpers and Slate Creek and commanding one of the highest elevations in the vicinity.¹

Built in 1796, this two-story, three-bay stone house is basically Federal in style. Two exterior stone chimneys flank the main block and a recent one-story frame ell projects from the rear. Exterior detail is minimal with a simple cornice and returns beneath, flat arches with keystone over openings and bulls eye corner blocks. The entrance way has a rectangular transom, but no surround.

The interior, incorporating a three-room plan, displays interesting woodwork, particularly in the parlor. A panelled, pilastered wainscot with guilloche motif was employed in this room only. The pedimented mantle has a panelled frieze, with Greek fretwork and brackets beneath the mantle shelf. A cable mold and spiral motif pattern can be discerned in the pediment typanum. One of the interior doors also has a pedimented surround; the other is covered by a panelled frieze and egg and dart motif on a cornice. Six panel doors and panelled and reeded jambs complete the door treatment. (See photos 5-9)

The two smaller rooms have corner fireplaces which share a common chimney. The mantles are much simpler with a simple shelf, plain frieze and panelled pilasters. Enclosed stairs in the rear room lead up to the second floor.

The second floor also has extremely fine door detailing with Greek ears, a frieze with projecting center and end tablets, fretwork motif, and egg and dart enrichment on the cornice. The stairs to the attic are open with a bannistered railing. The detail work is finer and more ornate than that of the first floor stairs. A panelled wainscot is located beneath the stairs. (See photos 10 & 11)

The boundaries of the Ralph Morgan Stone House are drawn to include the house and 1½ acres of surrounding land which encompasses the rise upon which the structure sits. The acreage is important visually and historically to the interpretation of the nominated property.

On August 1, 1979, staff archaeologist Jason Fenwick visited the Morgan Stone House. He reported as follows: "No evidence of the earlier station was noted and the archaeological significance cannot be fully determined without test excavations. Material from disturbed areas near the house indicate an earlier prehistoric occupation, as well as the later historic. The construction (the twentieth century ell) has disturbed a portion of the site but much is probably intact."

1

The house was identified during the process of comprehensively surveying Montgomery County, carried out in 1977-78 by the Kentucky Heritage Commission survey team of Philip Cochran and Edward Chappell.

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1796

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ralph Morgan

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ralph Morgan Stone House is of a very early plan and contains the finest Federal style woodwork in the region and among the finest in the state. Constructed in 1796 by Ralph Morgan this is perhaps the oldest structure in Montgomery County, Kentucky. It was built on the site of one of the earliest stockaded stations in the area, which in 1793 was the victim of the last large organized Indian attack in Kentucky.

Ralph Morgan was born in Frederick County, Virginia and came to Kentucky with his father and uncle in 1779.¹ They settled first at Fort Boonesborough, established by his cousin Daniel Boone, and later at Strode's Station, located near present day Winchester.² Morgan received a tract of land on Slate Creek in Montgomery County for his surveying services and established a station there in 1790. Some of the other stations located within a five-mile radius of Morgan's include: Harper's Station established in 1790, Fort's Station established in 1791, and Troutman's Station. Due to a crop failure in 1789, most of Morgan's settlers moved to Strode's Station which offered more protection. They did not return until late 1790 or early 1791.

By 1793 Morgan's Station was a thriving community. The previous year Mount Sterling had been formally organized and Kentucky had become the 15th state. (Morgan's Station stood in Clark County, Montgomery not being formed until 1796.) Indian attacks had been rare, so the stockade was taken down and burned as firewood. On April 1, 1793, the last major Indian insurrection in Kentucky occurred at Morgan's Station. In all, nineteen women and children were captured or killed and the station was burned to the ground. After this incident, the area was abandoned until 1796 when Ralph Morgan returned and constructed the present stone house.

Built of sandstone instead of fieldstone as is more common in Kentucky, this Federal style house contains some of the most elaborate woodwork in the state. The main parlor mantle is pedimented with an unusual tree-of-life pattern distinguishable in tympanum. The interior door trim exhibits fine quality Federal design. This is one of the few stone structures in the state which contains still intact interior woodwork.

¹One resource stated that Revolutionary War hero General Daniel Morgan, was Ralph Morgan's uncle.

²Daniel Boone's mother was a sister of General Daniel Morgan's father.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information received of James W. Browning, Montgomery County Chairman of the Historical Highway Marker Program.

Reid, Richard. Historical Sketches of Montgomery County, Lexington, Ky: James Brynes Company, 1926.

Typed manuscript kept by present occupants of house--source unknown.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 1/2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Preston, Kentucky

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 6 2 5 1 7 6 0 4 2 1 3 3 8 0

B 1 6 2 5 1 7 4 0 4 2 1 3 3 0 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1 6 2 5 1 7 0 0 4 2 3 1 3 0 0

D 1 6 2 5 1 7 2 0 4 2 1 3 4 0 0

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular lot approximately 400 feet wide and 300 feet deep- bounded on the east by Harpers Ridge Road. The house sits in the approximate center of the lot.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jayne C. Henderson/Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Eddes W. Shelton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-9-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce

DATE

4/10/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Kristen J. O'Connell*

DATE

4/10/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 7 1980
DATE ENTERED	APR 10 1980

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

Ralph Morgan Stone House
Montgomery County
Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

ADDENDUM

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the point on the eastern side of Harpers Ridge Road, where the drive begins, 100 feet north of the house, the boundary travels east 300 feet; then west 400 feet; then north along the eastern side of Harpers Ridge Road to the point of origin.