

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 10 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Combs, B. F., House  
other names/site number n/a Site # FD-68

2. Location

street & number 41 North Arnold Avenue n/n not for publication  
city, town Prestonsburg n/n 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>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>0</u> objects
			<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.  
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. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 5/18/89  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

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

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

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

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Century

Revivals: Colonial Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

\_\_\_\_\_

roof Composition Shingle

other Stone, Concrete

\_\_\_\_\_

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

1922  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1922  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

n/a  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

n/a  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Architects: Tyson and Foster:  
Archer and Dean  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See Overview Form

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other

Specify repository:  
Kentucky Heritage Council

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

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

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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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

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Continuation Sheet**

Combs, B. F., House, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

Section number 7 Page 1

The B. F. Combs House is a dignified and well-preserved example of the Colonial Revival style dating from 1922. It stands two-and-a-half stories high with a side-gabled roof and flanking one-story wings and exhibits a formal center-passage plan. A pedimented portico graces the front entrance. Completing the ensemble are a garage designed to resemble the house, and two brick pillars that flank the driveway. Included in the nominated area are the house, garage, pillars and surrounding yard.

The B. F. Combs House is sited on a generously-sized lot on the east side of South Arnold Avenue between West Court Street and U. S. 23-460, one block north of the city's downtown business district. A driveway extends along the south side of this lot, the rear portion of which slopes downward toward a creek. The house's environs are primarily residential in character. Opposite, on the west side of South Arnold Avenue, is the former Prestonsburg High School building. To the south is a residence dating from the 1960's, which in turn adjoins the May-Latta House.

The house stands two-and-a-half stories tall with a side-gabled roof and flanking one-story wings. Adjoining the house's rear elevation is a two-and-a-half story gabled ell. To the north of this ell, at the rear of the main block, is a shallow two-story projection with a screened porch in the first story and an enclosed porch above. Adjoining the two-story projection on the north is another, somewhat larger screened porch, one story in height. The house's roof, originally clad in gray slate, is now sheathed in asphalt shingles. The cornice line is accented by flat wooden mutule blocks, corner returns at the gable ends, and a flat frieze. There are two interior chimneys at the gable ends. The symmetrical facade is five bays wide with a center doorway. A trio of pedimented dormers are evenly spaced across the front slope of the roof.

The house is built of orange-pink pressed brick in running bond. Distinctive splayed smooth sandstone lintels with keystones surmount the windows. Windows are double hung wooden sash with 6-6 lights and retain their original exterior blinds with cutout motifs. Pairs of quarter-circle windows can be seen in the attic stories of the gable ends, and multi-pane casements with rectangular transoms are used in the north and south (solarium) wings. The main entrance features a solid, paneled wooden door with narrow sidelights above wooden panels and a semicircular fanlight containing clear leaded glass. A small pedimented Neo-Classical wooden portico shelters the entranceway; it is borne by pairs of Tuscan columns. A row of dentils graces the entablature. Unlike the intricate wooden balustrades that encircle the upper decks of the wing sections, the wrought-iron railing above the portico is probably not original.

Except for the previously mentioned railing modification (which is inconspicuous and does not detract from the house's integrity), and replacement of the original slate roofing with asphalt shingles, the house's exterior appears to be unaltered.

There is one contributing outbuilding, a side-gabled brick garage whose design mimics that

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Combs, B. F., House, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

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of the main house. It features double rolling wooden doors and two roof dormers. Two pairs of squat brick pillars with concrete ball ornaments flank the entrances to the driveway and front walk and have been included as contributing objects. The garage and pillars appear to date from the period of the house's construction.

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Combs, B. F., House, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

Section number 8 Page 1

The B. F. Combs House, built in 1922, is significant under Criterion C in the context of the architectural resources of Prestonsburg as a distinguished and virtually unaltered example of the Colonial Revival style. Although other properties in the city exhibit elements of the Colonial Revival mode, the B. F. Combs House is unique in its stylish interpretation of the style and in its fine craftsmanship. Typically Colonial Revival elements include its symmetrical composition; formal center-passage plan; pedimented portico; fanlighted doorway, framed with sidelights; multi-pane windows; and use of pilasters, mutule blocks, and dentils. The house is also notable as one of several Prestonsburg residences with a garage whose design mimics that of the dwelling on site. The B. F. Combs House's significance in its local context is further discussed in the context statement.

B. F. (Bert French) Combs was a successful attorney who practiced law in Prestonsburg during the early twentieth century. His firm of Combs and Combs included his two sons Leroy and Paul and was housed in a building that the elder Combs commissioned for that purpose, the Combs Building on South Front Street. In addition to his private practice, B. F. Combs served as Prestonsburg city solicitor and Floyd County attorney at different times during his career. The Combs family was also involved in local politics. One of B. F. Combs' cousins, Bert T. Combs (also an attorney), later became the first eastern Kentucky resident to be elected governor of Kentucky.

The history of the house itself is unusually well documented. Its design was executed by the architectural firm of Tyson and Foster of Ashland, Kentucky on July 10, 1922. As originally designed, the house had no porch, and is depicted in this manner on the 1926 Sanborn map of Prestonsburg. On September 30, 1931 architect Henry N. Foster (presumably of the firm of Tyson and Foster) produced a design for an elaborate and rather pretentious full-height tetrastyle portico with upper deck. Combs later rejected this scheme in favor of the more modest present porch, designed by the firm of Archer and Dean Associates, with offices in Louisville and in Huntington, West Virginia, at an undetermined date (the blueprints are undated).

It is interesting to note that the stone lintels of the B. F. Combs House are nearly identical to these of the Brown Building, a very distinctive (albeit altered) commercial building on the eastern edge of downtown Prestonsburg, suggesting a connection with the same architectural firm. But at present, little has yet been learned about the work of Tyson and Foster or Archer and Dean in Kentucky. It appears the partnership of Ralph S. Tyson and Henry N. Foster was short-lived. The firm is first listed in Ashland city directories in 1924, and five years later had apparently been dissolved; in the 1929 edition, only Foster is listed. There are no entries for either after 1933. The Kentucky Heritage Council's survey database does not list any properties associated with either Tyson and Foster or Archer and Dean. It is likely, however, that numerous buildings designed by those firms exist and have yet to be documented. Further research may one day establish the B. F. Combs House's place in the context of their work.

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Combs, B. F., House, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

Section number 8 & 10 Page 2 & 1

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The B. F. Combs House is being nominated on the basis of its architectural quality. However, it may possess additional importance because of its association with its original owner, and future research efforts may one day determine the role he played in the community.

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10. Geographic Information

Beginning at a point in the east line of North Arnold Avenue, approximately 500 feet north of West Court Street, this point being the northwest corner of the property known as 41 North Arnold Avenue; then proceeding in an easterly direction along the north line of said property (at right angles to said street) to its northeast corner, a distance of 150 feet more or less; then in a southerly direction along its east line to its southeast corner (parallel with North Arnold Avenue) a distance of 100 feet more or less; then in a westerly direction along its south line (at right angles to North Arnold Avenue) to its southwest corner and the east line of North Arnold Avenue, a distance of 150 feet, more or less; then proceeding in a northerly direction along said line a distance of 100 feet more or less to the place of beginning.

The nominated area includes the entire legal parcel and contains the house, garage, pillars, and surrounding yard. Excluded are other houses and commercial buildings to the north, east, and south. The nominated area includes all the property visually associated with the house and contributing to its significance. Areas adjacent to the house are described in Section 7.



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Section number        Photos        Page        Combs, B.F., House      Historic Resources of  
Prestonsburg MPL, Floyd County, KY

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Photo 24

Prestonsburg Multiple Properties Submission (same for all photos)

B. F. Combs House

41 North Arnold Avenue (same for photos 24 through 27)

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)

Streetscape view showing facade, north elevation, and north wing, looking southwest from  
west side of North Arnold Avenue

Photo 25

B. F. Combs House

February 1988

View of facade, south elevation, and solarium, with pillar (adjoining driveway) in  
foreground; looking northeast from the east side of North Arnold Avenue.

Photo 26

B. F. Combs House

February 1988

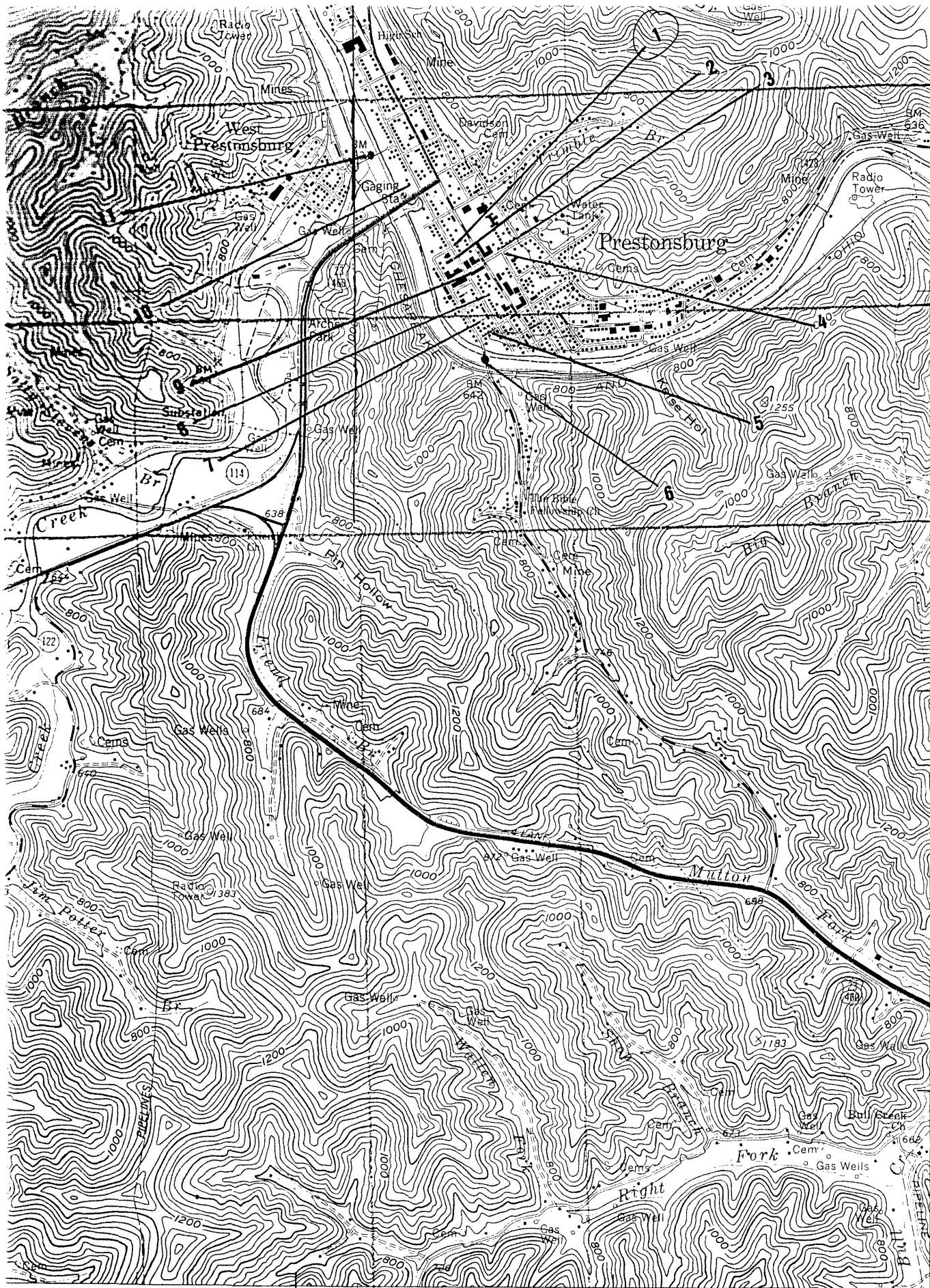
View of rear elevation with garage at left and porches at right, looking west.

Photo 27

B. F. Combs House

February 1988

View of garage, looking east from the east side of North Arnold Avenue.



#1  
 Combs, B.F., House  
 Floyd Co., Ky  
 17/343440/  
 4170340

4171  
 40'  
 4170  
 4169  
 4168  
 4166000m N.  
 NEW ALLEN 1.2 MI.  
 PIKEVILLE 22 MI.

47°30' 342 343 344 345000m E. 82°45' 37°37'30"

1 MILE  
 0 FEET  
 ER

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

(HAROLD)  
 14.5 11 SW