

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

historic name Woodstock
other names/site TO-7
number _____

2. Location

street & number 6338 Clarksville Road

NA	not for publication
X	vicinity

city or town Trenton
state Kentucky code KY county Todd code 219 zip code 42286-9746

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_____ national _____ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official Mark Dennen Date 9/24/10
Mark Dennen, SHPO

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
+ ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register ☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____

11/10/2010
Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
2	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

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.)

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick

walls: Brick

roof: Asphalt shingles

other:

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Woodstock (TO-7) is a property located in southwest Todd County, Kentucky, less than a quarter-mile north of the Kentucky-Tennessee State line. The house lies within 100 feet of north-south running State Route 104, sitting about 6 miles southwest of Trenton, a nearby town, and about 15 miles southwest of the centrally-located county seat of Elkton. The area proposed for listing is the current property of 7.4 acres, and is being interpreted for its association with Dorothy Dix, an important late-19th- through mid-20th-century writer. Within the nominated area are 4 features: the historic house, counted as a contributing feature, plus 3 farm buildings, one considered contributing, the other two, non-contributing.

Narrative Description

Todd County lies within the southwest portion of Kentucky's Pennyryle Cultural Landscape Region, in the middle of several counties with the region's highest agricultural potential due to good soil and relatively level topography. Woodstock was the center of a 3000-acre farm during the early-19th century. Today it remains in a remarkably agricultural setting, surrounded by neighboring farms in Kentucky; less than a mile to the south, across the state line, a great deal of urbanization has taken place in association with Interstate 24 and the development of Clarksville, Tennessee. Woodstock occupies higher land and is little impacted by developments in Tennessee.

Character and Development of the Larger Property

Planning of the property began about 1821, when Dr. Charles Meriwether gave his son, Charles Nicholas Minor Meriwether, 50 bondsmen and 3,000 acres of land. The family of Meriwether's new wife, Caroline Huntley Barker, offered an additional 20 enslaved servants, furniture, hand-woven sheets, blankets, and other household gear. The bride and groom began married life in a two-story log home while their brick residence was being completed. Meriwether planted oak trees near the western margin of the nominated area; one aged tree survives. In 1826, as work on the home progressed, Sir Walter Scott published *Woodstock*, a novel named for a royal estate in the British Isles. Soon Woodstock became the name of Charles N. M. Meriwether's house.

In the early 1830s, Charles N.M. Meriwether joined with General William G. Harding of the Belle Meade Plantation in middle Tennessee (Wills, 1993), to import Ambassador, a famed British stallion (Dix, 1936, p. 247). Ambassador and other imports made Woodstock a stud farm of note, especially since it had a race track that drew crowds to the farm and to the house. Andrew Jackson and other notable persons patronized the races at Woodstock (Turner, 1965, p. 24). Racing, stud fees, and the sale of blooded horses brought wealth to Woodstock's owners. Tobacco was a different source of income. At least in some years it went by prearrangement to England where a crop could bring \$20,000 or more. Sometimes the Meriwether tobacco money was deposited in British banks (Turner, 1965, p. 26).

To help feed visitors and family, a large smoke house was added north of the manor. An inscription on the door frame suggests it was in use by 1849. Within, 500 hams and quite a bit of sausage could be smoked.

When Woodstock was planned, the major road of the area ran east-west, connecting large farms. Woodstock's front porch faced southward to this road. A north-south road, joining Elkton with Clarksville, eventually became a dominant travel route. Soon the Meriwethers planted cedar trees, defining a

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driveway leading to the north-south road. Ten cedars survive. In the 1850s, with an extended family that included children, grandparents, and a live-in teacher, a complex north el was added to the house. The evolving estate remained in Meriwether hands for decades.

Todd County Kentucky Deed Books contain entries as early as 1821, 2 years after the county was formed and the year Dr. Charles Meriwether gave his son Charles Nicholas Minor Meriwether a gift of land. The following table traces ownership of the Kentucky portion of that land from the death of Charles N. M. Meriwether up to the present. In the year of his death, Charles N. M. Meriwether (1877a) filed a will dividing his land, or the money it would bring at sale, equally among his five children. Then he sold the land to his half-brother, William Douglas Meriwether, who followed the provisions of the will (Meriwether, C. N. M., 1877b). The history of their Kentucky land is best described in tabular form.

OWNERSHIP OF WOODSTOCK'S LAND IN KENTUCKY

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Acres
9/13/1877	C.N.M. Meriwether	William D. Meriwether	571
12/20/1877	Wm. D. Meriwether	James M. Meriwether	571
6/26/1909	J.M. Meriwether	Richard B. Meriwether	265.6
8/14/1918	Louise Meriwether	Day and Lillian Williams	265.7
6/3/1957	Lillian Williams Bodie	Dill and Mary Payne	269.93
8/27/1973	Dill & Mary Payne	Hunter M. Meriwether	7.4*
8/27/1973	Dill & Mary Payne	James H. Meriwether	269.6
10/20/1988	Hunter M. Meriwether	Elnor W. McMahan	7.4

*The deed identifies this transfer without indicating an exchange of money. The deed set apart the house lot from the rest of the farm. James H. Meriwether paid for all land, and gave the home and surrounding land to his son Hunter. He retained the farm.

The Williams family modernized the house, introduced generator-driven electricity, propane heating, and limited cistern-based indoor plumbing. With no background in farming the new owners had problems. In the early 1930s illness brought Mr. Williams to Birmingham, Alabama. He never returned. About 1942, Lillian Williams, a widow, divided the 1830 upstairs bedrooms. The east room became two bedrooms. The west room emerged as a single bedroom plus a full bathroom and an office. Then she began renting rooms. In 1953 she remarried and moved to California. While the house was left in the nominal care of her son, Harry Williams, there were no funds for maintenance.

In January 1974 the former Mrs. Williams, now Mrs. Lillian Bodie, sold her Kentucky land to F. Dillard Payne and his wife Mary (Bodie, 1974). Wealthy citizens of Todd County, the Paynes poured money into a 4.5-month renovation of the Woodstock home and farm buildings. They converted fireplaces from wood to coal, improved the electrical and plumbing systems, etc. They also retained a residence in the community of Trenton, north of Woodstock. Eventually the Paynes sold Woodstock to James H. Meriwether, a wealthy Californian. The transaction involved three deeds, one of which defined a 7.4 acre house lot that included the Woodstock residence.

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In 1973 Hunter McClure Meriwether, a Michigan lawyer, became an absentee landlord of Woodstock. He rented rooms but appears not to have completely maintained the property. By 1988, untended shrubbery grew tall, sewage emptied into a back yard ditch, 36 window panes were broken or missing, water pipes leaked, and the heating system had failed. Still some rooms were rented.

On November 30, 1988, Elnor W. McMahan, a university librarian and professor, bought Woodstock with the 7.4 acre house lot. She was a widow and working mother with two college-age sons. Agricultural land that once supported the house and farm passed to other ownership. Mrs. McMahan employed contractors but initially her two sons, her sister, two brothers-in law, and two nieces also helped get the home ready for occupancy. After the sons relocated, Mrs. McMahan briefly experimented with a bed and breakfast, then the house became a private home with strong ties to the local intellectual community. In June 2004, Mrs. McMahan married Dr. James X. Corgan, a widower and retired professor. The Corgans live in the residence and continue to maintain it.

Description of the House

Woodstock is a brick dwelling that grew in several building campaigns. It started as a southward-facing house with a central passage plan around 1830. Between 1831 and 1850 a brick room-sized East Wing addition was placed on the side of the original house. A major expansion occurred in 1851-1861, extending the house in an el to the north. The major portion of this el rises 2 floors, with high ceilings and a spacious attic. A further northward projection also has two stories but the ceiling is 8'4" and there is no overhead attic.

This addition reoriented the house's entry, placing it on the west side to address the main highway connecting Trenton, Kentucky, with Clarksville, Tennessee. Additions were made in the 1950s and 1960s to the less public facades. They are a sunroom on the east side of the 1850s el and a carport on the east side of the East Wing. Almost all parts of the expansion were done in brick, giving the resulting design a visual unity. The only exception is the small exterior sides of the utility room, which are wood board and painted to blend with the exterior trim. This area provides access for water, gas, electricity, and telephone.

Ca. 1830 portion

Exterior

The original central passage plan of Woodstock displays Federal-era styling. It is two stories with a full basement and a south-facing porch. The front (south) façade is three bays wide with three 9-over-9 double-hung-sash windows on the second floor, and a window-door-window rhythm on the first floor. The bricks are laid in a Flemish bond pattern. Windows have stone lintels and sills. Two windows punctured the west and east sides. North and south side windows in rooms on the second floor match those on the front side. The upper floor does not have windows on the east or west. The house has a gable roof with cornice returns on the sides. The frieze board in the front and back meets the lintel of the upper floor's windows. Construction of the house used local resources: clay for brick and seasoned lumber. Yellow poplar furnished the house's wood frame. Supports are 8" x 3" and variable in length. Bricks are about 8" long, 2.25" thick, and 4" wide.

The front door is 90" high, 2" thick, and 51" wide. It has 15 panels, 3 hinges, a massive frame, and a huge lock and key. The transom has 16 glass panes: two rows of 8 lights each. A complex hood overlies the transom, with molded wood. Its center bears the date 1830.

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Interior

The basement contains three large rooms and a corridor separated by weight-bearing brick walls. Walls continue upward, defining rooms in the main wing. Ceilings are 10' high. The second floor's layout parallels that of the first floor. All rooms had wood-burning fireplaces. Windows are in their original locations and seem to retain their original woodwork. A stairway once joined the floors. It was at the northeast corner of the hall. The attic is large. Doors to the east and west rooms of the lower floor are like the front door but smaller. The door at the north end of the first floor corridor is slightly larger. It once connected to a single story el wing containing a dining room and adjoining pantries. The property had a free-standing kitchen "a Sabbath day's journey to the rear" (Dix, 1936, p. 246).

Woodwork follows a consistent styling throughout the 1830 and 1861 portions of the building. All doors are the same basic style but differ in detail depending upon their size. The massive 1830 front door, which has its original key, has 12 small panels above three large panels. The door frame, which covers the massive brick wall, has ornamentation matching the door: three small panels above and one below. This pattern occurs on both the east and west sides of the door frame. The door that once led to the dining room and now leads toward the 1860-era hall has three rows of two panels each above a row of three larger panels. Each half of the door frame has the same pattern.

Smaller doors into the 1830 east and west rooms on the ground floor are of simpler design. Doors in the 1942 bedrooms in the 1830 wing of the top floor have apparently been replaced. The door that separates this wing from the 1861 hall is similar to others but has raised panels. The door frame also has a raised area. This slightly augmented style persists in most door and door frame sets in the 1861 portion of the house. Both doors to the 1861 west porch on the ground floor open with the same key. They have the standard pattern of a raised area within a depression. The main door to the porch does not have an ornamented door frame but on both the interior and exterior sides wooden panels beneath the glass plates have the standard raised area within a depression. This is also true of the comparable door leading to the second floor porch. The only door that does not seem historic is the one that separates the ballroom from the small north room on the second floor. The door that was originally there was apparently lost in the fire of the 1960s. It was replaced with a six-panel colonial door.

Throughout the house baseboards and crown moldings are present and similar. In the 1830 rooms of the first floor, north-facing and south-facing windows end about 37 inches above the floor. The window surrounds have ornamentation similar to the door frames. East- and west-facing windows vary more in size but, in general, end just 24 inches above the floor. Their surrounds have a raised area in the center. North and south window surrounds of 1830 vintage have lateral panels. On the second floor of the 1830 portion, windows facings have simpler patterns. The sills are about 27 inches off the ground.

Today storm doors and storm windows are tailored to a specific location since many doors and windows are not standard sizes

1831-1850 East Wing

Exterior

A one-story brick unit was added as a wing to the east side of the original house. It has a gable roof and a small attic. It is roughly 13' east-west and 23' north-south. In height and character, it matches the first

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floor of the original house. It has two 9-over-9 double-hung-sash windows on the front, on the east side, and once had similar windows on the back. Its entry door is on the east side, near the southeast corner.

Interior

The East Wing's exterior door adjoins a similar door that leads to stairs to the basement. The basement consists of one large room with a corridor connecting to the original portion's basement. The East Wing functioned on its main floor as a food preparation area.

Perhaps because this room, which is now a kitchen, was designed for workers, it is utilitarian. The ceiling is about 9' high with simple baseboards and crown molding. Single pine boards reach from floor to ceiling in a rhythmic pattern. A wide plain wood board is followed by a smaller board with a central trough and a complex lateral pattern of small grooves and ridges. The present room has all the amenities of modern kitchens—an off-white dish washer, refrigerator, etc. Cabinet work is modern and made of pine, matching the walls. Window treatments are pointed valences with flowers and fruits in red, green, and blue. The floor covering is black and white squares with oval braided rugs in soft blue green.

1851-1861 North El Addition

Exterior

The North El addition is made up of three segments: a large 2-story portion connecting to the 1830 house, a 1½ -story portion containing bedrooms and topped with a jerkin-headed gable roof, and a one-story portion covered with a hipped roof. All portions are in brick.

The 2-story portion has a gable roof, Flemish bond masonry, and houses a hall and large room on each floor. On the first floor a one-story porch dominates the west side, with a flat roof held up by five square wooden columns. Wooden railing rises above the porch roof, with simple square wooden spindles interrupted by a short expanse in a Chippendale lattice pattern. A simple wooden floor completes the second story porch. Doors on the west side open to porches on both the first and second floor levels. The large room on each floor is lit by 4 windows on the west and 4 on the east. These windows are grouped in two sets of pairs. On the first floor each window is in a 4-over-4 double-hung sash system. The second floor windows and their surrounds rise to more than 10'. Each window has upper and middle units of about 3'6". Each has four glass panes. The lower window unit, with two glass panes, is about 2'6". Stone lintels and sills span each pair of windows on the second floor. An interior end chimney rises from the north end of the gable.

The one-story portion of this el is the el's most northward part. It attaches at the middle of the 1½ -story portion's north face. It is lit by a 4-over-4 double-hung window on its east and west sides.

The 1½ -story portion has 2 4-over-4 double-hung windows on each of its east and west first-floor sides. This portion is split by the one-story back projection into halves, with a 4-over-4 double-hung window on each side of the first floor, and a 2-over-2 double-hung window on the second floor. Its roof has partial gable returns.

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Interior

The 2-story portion of the el has a living room oriented north-south, and two bedrooms, oriented east-west, north of the new entrance on the first floor. At the north end, a bath room with one window connects the bedrooms. A half-spiral staircase in the first-floor entry hall leads to a large hall on the upper floor. A ballroom stands above the living room. Its immense windows have six feet of clearance. They opened onto porches, creating a dance floor area wider than the house. The ballroom ceiling is about 10'9". A large attic overlies it.

The 1½ -story portion of the el contains a second-floor bedroom and bath. This part of the second floor has 8'4" ceilings. In addition to conventional rooms, this portion's second floor has lateral attics that are floored and function as storage areas. On the west the lateral attic extends slightly beyond the porch. On the east the corresponding porch has not survived. The geometry of attic-porch was the same when that porch was intact.

1862-1957

Exterior

During this time span, there were no changes to the exterior.

Interior

In 1942, Mrs. Lillian Williams had the two 1930 bedrooms on the second floor modified. The east room became two bedrooms. The west room evolved into a bedroom, an office, and a full bathroom. The Williams family also made changes to the interior associated with electrification and plumbing.

1957-1974

In June of 1957 ownership passed to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dillard (Dill) Payne (Bodie, 1957). The house received a 4.5 month overhaul. Floors were refinished, wall board replaced cracked plaster, paint improved the ambiance, and an irreparable southwest chimney was removed. Plumbing and electrical systems were renovated or replaced. Fire places were converted to coal. The earthen floor of the basement was concreted and the west porch was lengthened from north to south and broadened from east to west.

During this time, wrought iron railing was installed on the south porch. A car port, also decorated with wrought iron, was added to the east side of the East Wing, a room which became a kitchen. A new 9' x 10' utility room was installed north of the kitchen. That room provides space for a half-bath, a washer-dryer, and freezer. A sun porch was added on the east, running from the 1861 east bedroom to the vicinity of the east door and the utility room. It was about 10' wide. On the south it connected to a new casual dining area which ran about 8' from north to south, and the walls of the 1830 house formed its west and south walls. On the east it opened into the utility room.

In 1958, the owners added a swimming pool to the west yard, making Woodstock a social center for local youth. On January 20, 1966, a chimney on the north side of Woodstock caught fire. Two fire trucks responded. With water scarce, firemen drew water from the swimming pool, saving the house. After the home was repaired, fireplaces ceased to be used. The small bedroom north of the ballroom remained without a proper floor, abandoned.

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1974-1988

Woodstock returned to Meriwether ownership in August of 1974, resulting in the current 7.4-acre parcel being separately defined from the rest of the farm. There were no other changes to the property.

1988-Present

In October 1988 ownership passed to Mrs. Elnor Weaks McMahan. Contractors painted the exterior, installed central heat and air, and rewired the home. A professional decorator helped plan the color scheme for the interior. The family moved in on October 5, 1989, before repairs were completed. Fire places were converted to gas logs. The swimming pool was removed. New roofs were put on Woodstock and the smoke house. Shrubbery and the lawn were tended. New plumbing, including two large septic tanks, was installed. After 2004 the sun porch was widened, and a flagstone patio was added on the east side. The unfinished north room on the upper floor became a bedroom and bath.

At present Woodstock has approximately 7400 square feet of living space with three external porches and a patio. There are 18 conventional rooms, a dressing room near the master bath, and 4.5 bathrooms.

Outbuildings

The Smokehouse (contributing building)

The very large smokehouse stands to the north of the house, the closest of the 3 remaining outbuildings. It has a gable roof, standing-seam metal roof, wooden clapboards that rise from the 6' cut-stone foundation walls. A beadboard wooden door, with three metal strap hinges, is on the south (primary) side of the building. It was present during the Period of Significance.

Carriage House (non-contributing building)

The Carriage House is located along the perimeter fencing, near the property's southeast corner, and to the southeast of the house. This residential-looking building has 2 pedestrian doors on its west (primary) side. A small shed-roof covering over a small masonry porch is held up with Victorian-era wooden posts. Three windows light the side, all 2-over-2 fixed sash windows—one to the left of the doors and two to the right. The exterior walls are wooden board and batten. A gable roof caps the building, and standing-seam metal covers the roof. Its age is not known, but it assumed to post-date the Period of Significance.

Stables (non-contributing building)

The Stables are a simple wood-framed and clapboard-covered structure. It has what appears to be a half-monitor roof, though lacking in clerestory windows where the back roof ridge rises above the front roof ridge. The roof is covered in standing seam metal. Three main doors are on the west side, and the building sits north of the main house, beyond the smokehouse. Its age is not known, but it assumed to post-date the Period of Significance.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1896-1918

Significant Dates

1896, 1901, 1917

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Gilmer, Elizabeth Meriwether (aka Dorothy Dix)

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

unknown

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance (1896-1918) is chosen to indicate the time when Mrs. Gilmer, the person on whom the claim for Criterion B is made, became an important national and international figure in the world of journalism. In 1896, at the request of an editor, she chose her professional name, Dorothy Dix. In that era, many female journalists used pseudonyms. For all of her life, Gilmer viewed Woodstock as part of her family identity. In 1936, for example, she published a detailed history of the building (Dix, 1936). Her direct ties to the property ended in 1918 when the Meriwether family member who owned Woodstock sold it.

Criteria Considerations NA

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

Woodstock (TO-7) meets Criterion B, significant for its association with a nationally important person, Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer (1861-1951), who wrote under the pseudonym Dorothy Dix. The house also has association with two other interesting and important female members of the Meriwether family, Caroline Ferguson Gordon (1895-1981), and Caroline Meriwether Goodlett (1833-1914), who also gained national reputations in their respective fields. Beginning in 1821, "Woodstock" referred to the 3000-acre farm that Dr. Charles Meriwether gave his son, Charles Nicholas Minor Meriwether. While the story of Woodstock opens in a traditional manner—a father granting property to his son—this nomination focuses on three women associated with the property, whose efforts do not fit into what was then the traditional notion of female activity. Each woman, a member of the Meriwether clan, rose to national attention, and relate to the property in various ways. The historic context that supports this nomination focuses on the most prolific of the three, Gilmer, who wrote under the pseudonym Dorothy Dix. That context shows how Mrs. Gilmer, an internationally important newspaper columnist, general journalist, and book author, through her words and life, helped shape thought about the place women occupied in relation to men in this country from the late 19th through the middle 20th century. The information below about Caroline Gordon, who was Mrs. Gilmer's grand-niece, and Caroline Meriwether Goodlett, Mrs. Gilmer's aunt, will concentrate on how they add to that broad theme, though this nomination will not also qualify these two as important individuals. While the Woodstock property was not Mrs. Gilmer's residence during the Period of Significance, her experience in this family home shaped her thoughts and her writing during her entire career, in ways clearly recognizable.

In the 1830s, the Meriwether farm reached to the southern border of Kentucky, in Todd County, and spilled over into Montgomery County, Tennessee. Today, Woodstock is a 7.4-acre parcel of Kentucky land on which the family house stands. The house was built around 1830, expanded as the Meriwether family grew, and served as their home until 1918. It continues to have strong associations with these three members of the family, as demonstrated by numerous interactions between the public and the property—efforts to recall the contributions these three made to regional and national culture.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Historic Context: Contributions of Dorothy Dix to American Culture, 1895-1948

Elizabeth Meriwether was born November 18, 1861, in a cabin on Woodstock land, because the main house was under renovation. According to her primary biographer, she lived in Woodstock, as well as in other Meriwether family residences in Kentucky and adjacent Tennessee, until she was 32 (Kane, 1952).

Elizabeth Meriwether's adult life began conventionally, marrying George Gilmer in 1880s, but shortly came apart. George quickly succumbed to mental illness, which eventually left him institutionalized until his death in 1931 (<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/233822/Elizabeth-Meriwether-Gilmer>). The illness left Elizabeth without a means of support. In desperation she turned to writing short fiction which she sent to newspapers in Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana, and perhaps in other states. Some were published, yielding a few dollars each. Her earliest real success came in 1899 when the *Nashville American* held an essay contest with a \$100 prize. Her "How Dan Won the Christmas Stakes" won the much needed money. Rooted in the horse culture of Woodstock, it was recently reprinted and remains easy reading and entertaining (Gilmer, 2007).

In 1892, she turned professional starting as a low-level employee of the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, at \$5 per week. The paper gradually gave her more responsibilities, largely writing opinion columns and arts criticism. In 1896 she first used the by-line "Dorothy Dix" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Dix). The following year, 1897, was the diamond jubilee of England's Queen Victoria. It became a global media event, with newspapers from all over the world sending reporters to London. The *Times-Picayune* sent a woman to write about a woman (Kane, 1952, p. 79-83). Following the conventions of the era, a woman could not travel alone. Since her husband was not available, Gilmer/Dix was accompanied by her father. Before traveling, she left a sufficient number of columns to assure that she would not lose her primary readership.

For the rising career of Gilmer/Dorothy Dix and for her paper, a European venture was a wise decision. Like all reporters, she captured the pageantry of the celebration. She also sent home volumes of copy on things that would appeal to women readers at the time, such as shopping in London's bargain basements and visiting historic sites. Her work in London showed she could write skillfully about numerous topics. The *Times-Picayune* permitted other newspapers to print some of her reporting, an early version of syndicating her work.

Once she returned to New Orleans, the paper began sending her to cover events throughout the nation. To a large extent, it remained a woman's job to write about women. For instance, she covered a Milwaukee convention of suffragettes in 1900. When she was asked to deliver a speech, she became the star of that convention (Kane, 1952, p. 86). As an emerging voice on the woman's world, she covered female leaders in the temperance movement (e.g.: Kane, 1952, p. 88-97) and wrote about women of earlier centuries (e.g.: Welker, 1993). It is possible to view her as a leader in the feminist movement (Culley, 1977) but she was not always pro-female. For example, she thought a sweet, attractive, well-

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mannered housewife might occasionally commit adultery—and possibly even cold blooded murder (Kane, 1952, p. 104-106, Culley, 1979).

Despite her growing reportorial involvements, Gilmer's advice column, "Dorothy Dix Talks," stayed vibrant and successful. Perhaps to avoid monotony, she occasionally offered essays. For example, on January 1, 1900 she began the new century with "The Outlook for Bachelors is Gloomy." She claimed that in the coming century women would play a less passive role in choosing mates. That would lead to an acute shortage of 50-year-old balding bachelors. There were other "light" diversions.

Her ambitions and skills were noticed rapidly. In 1901 she joined *The New York Journal*, a paper in the Hearst Syndicate. In 1917 it was the Wheeler Syndicate, in 1923 the *Philadelphia Ledger* Syndicate, and in 1942 the Bell Syndicate. Columns ended in 1949 when Dix retired—at nearly 90 years of age!

In the early-20th century, she had reached a level of international celebrity few women knew. It was primarily rooted in an advice column that made public the intimate details of an individual's personal problems and offered that person solutions. At a time when women had few places to work outside the home, she was handsomely rewarded for her efforts. Her column ran in over 200 American newspapers and in England, Canada, South Africa, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and in English-language papers in China and India. She made \$90,000 per year, with additional money coming from book sales. She prospered from a willingness to offer opinions and views on many subjects, doing this in a way that connected with public interest.

From the earliest days, women gave advice, at least to their children. Before the 20th century, most published advice from women to those outside of their family came in a prescriptive mode, often with a tone of moralizing. Dorothy Dix's column differed from moral tracts that preceded it, taking a dialogue form. Not only that, but the conversation originated with the public, not with the advisor. This enabled Gilmer to maintain a new tone among advice-givers: she was compassionate as well as assertive.

The Dorothy Dix column presented an image of the modern woman in the first half of the 20th century—confident in her opinions and ready to offer them to those in need of direction. She was the forerunner of the latter-20th century's best-known advice columnist, Pauline Phillips, the original "Dear Abby." Both columns reflect American culture at the time they appeared. Kanervo, White, and Jones (1993) analyzed columns from early, middle, and late stages in each columnist's career, and found differences that indicate changes within American culture and readership. Each author's work remained consistent over her own career. Columns by Dix, however, were three times longer and her sentences were 25% longer than what was found in Dear Abby. Dorothy Dix wrote at the 8-10 grade level; Dear Abby wrote at the 6th-7th grade level. The Dix column rarely included challenges to her advice; Abby's readers regularly questioned her guidance. Dix's discussions focused on the problems of teens to middle age; Abby also advised older adults. While both Dorothy Dix and Abby were fictive constructions, they each offered readers a strong image of a woman who relied on her own knowledge and wisdom to address life's problems. The Dorothy Dix column, as well as Gilmer's other writings, made demands on the literacy of readers, giving the impression that she held greater power within the world of publishing. It was an unusual posture for a female writer during 58 years of an active and diverse journalistic career.

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Elizabeth Gilmer did more than write an advice column. When she joined the Hearst Syndicate in 1901, her workload expanded. She covered news events and became the *New York Journal's* standard critic for new Broadway plays. At Hearst she also began a 20 year career as *the* crime reporter, traveling to cover the nation's most sensational cases. In the *Journal* she also published fiction such as "Fables for the Elite." In these stories, lions, bears, and other creatures discussed life and love, ending with "morals" such as "... one of the sacred pleasures of life is getting even with the human hog" (Dix, 1902, p. 212). Whether as advice columnist, art critic, witness to sensational event, or general scribe, Gilmer's was not a mute observer, often not an objective reporter. She wrote with strong personal insight into human affairs.

Where did Elizabeth Gilmer observe a strong woman, someone who gave good advice? Within the Meriwether clan a slave, later a free woman, called "Mammy Emily," is one candidate. Emily was so much a part of the family that in 1913, when she died at 106, she was buried in the Meriwether family cemetery. As she helped to rear generations of Meriwether children, she grew famous for pithy advice to anyone who needed it. It is hard to imagine that this strong woman did not inspire a set of Dorothy Dix essays, the Mirandy series. They ran in the United States and England from 1911 through 1915. In "the Troubles of Women," "The Advantage of Invalidism," and almost a hundred other essays, a fictitious southern black woman, Mirandy, offered advice on life and love. The series was republished in two books (Dix, 1914; 1925). The last volume was recently reprinted (Dix, 2007).

Eventually a wealthy Elizabeth Gilmer became a world traveler. Few knew it, but when her husband George was relatively stable, he went with her. She published two known travel accounts (Dix, 1922; 1934). There are at least 8 unpublished hand-written travel diaries (Filippo and McMahan, 1993, p. 133). There are typed and edited texts for four (Thurman 2002a; 2002b, 2002c, 2002d). In 1929 Dix used her travel records to write a nine-part newspaper account: "In the Footsteps of Famous Fair Women" (Welker, 1993). When she traveled she left scores of manuscripts behind so her column could continue in her absence (Kane, 1952, p. 226), but her typewriter sometimes went with her. In addition to the column and travel, Dix had other interests. She wrote at least 17 texts that libraries list as books although some are probably pamphlets (Filippo and McMahan, 1993, p. 131; (www.hollisuniversity.edu/alumnae/booksbyHollisalumnae/dix)). It is hard to compile a complete bibliography because she had so many outlets for her writing. For instance, a speech made in New Orleans, in 1902, to a suffragette convention was published in New Zealand's *Otago Witness* (Dix, 1903).

Evaluation of the Significance of Elizabeth Meriwether and Her Association with Woodstock

Kane, Gilmer's biographer, considers his subject a child of Kentucky's Woodstock. Kane's biography is based on long acquaintance with Gilmer, and mentions Woodstock in lengthy discussions (e.g.: Kane, 1952, p. 23-25). She remained close to her roots, vacationing with relatives and, in New Orleans, generally living near her brother Ed. She stayed in touch with more distant relatives, both younger and older than herself. She declined to join her aunt Caroline Meriwether Goodlett in social causes (Kane, 1952, p. 78) and she delighted in the literary success of her grand niece Caroline Gordon (Dix, 1936, p. 247). The Meriwether family had reunions. Gilmer almost always attended (Kane, 1952, p. 229). Once she spoke to Nashville gardeners about her childhood home. Then she published a sentiment-ridden paper. It is the most detailed publication on the early history of the house (Dix, 1936).

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Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, is 12 miles from Woodstock. A suite of rooms in the University's library houses a Dorothy Dix archive (Filippo, 1995) with much of her correspondence and many of her works. The archive published a Dorothy Dix Symposium held at Woodstock in September 1991. About 200 people attended (McMahan, 1993). The University also has a Dorothy Dix scholarship, funded with money donated by a niece.

Elizabeth Gilmer was a Meriwether by birth and Woodstock was a Meriwether home. There is an active Meriwether Society of national scope. One to 15 or more Meriwethers visit Woodstock each year, usually from nearby states. Scholars of Mrs. Gilmer/Dorothy Dix from Austin Peay visit Woodstock, as do people with broader interest in local history. These casual visits have not been documented or quantified, but give general evidence of the widespread awareness of this woman whose career ended more than 60 years ago.

Elnor McMahan acquired Woodstock in 1988. By late 1990, she had rehabilitated Woodstock for family and public use. It soon began to function as a regional resource, both social and historical. It has frequently been a venue for local social events, such as retirement parties and weddings of the children and grandchildren of friends. In 1991 Mrs. McMahan made the first of three trips to New Orleans to document details of the career of Dorothy Dix. She also catalogued Austin Peay State University's holdings of Dix-related things. On January 25, 1992, McMahan and others made formal presentations at Le Petit Salon in New Orleans, with Mrs. Gilmer/Dorothy Dix as the subject. The Salon is a historic building owned by a women's discussion group. Mrs. Gilmer served as the group's President for 20 years. On May 22, 1991, the Kentucky Colonel organization honored Mrs. Gilmer and Woodstock by commissioning Mrs. McMahan as a Colonel, for her work in rehabilitating Woodstock, and for keeping alive the memory of Mrs. Gilmer.

The following list of visits testifies to the association between Gilmer, Gordon, Goodlett and Woodstock. Many meetings involve academic participants. Such visits confirm the significance of Gilmer, her grand niece, and her aunt in American social history and popular culture. There was never a charge for any use of Woodstock.

- October 11, 1990, "Celebrating the Arts" was the theme of a small evening gathering, the first social event in a restored Woodstock. People came from Kentucky and Tennessee.
- April 13, 1991, a book club from Elkton, Kentucky, met to discuss Caroline Gordon and photograph the house. See the discussion of Caroline Gordon below.
- In July 31, 1991, the Trenton Kentucky Book Club, with 20 women, held a luncheon meeting and toured the house.
- September 27, 1991, Woodstock hosted a "Dorothy Dix Symposium." One hundred eighty one people signed the register (Filippo and McMahan, 1993, p. v-vii). Many attended but did not sign. Papers were presented by people from Colby College, Watertown Maine; Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee; The University of Maryland at College Park; The University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa; and Tennessee State University, Nashville.

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- Fall of 1992, Woodstock hosted the Clarksville Area Library Association. The meeting included a discussion of Woodstock's literary history and a tour of the house.
- 1993, Todd County women organized a widely-publicized tour of older homes to raise money for a school play ground. About 400 people on the tour visited Woodstock.
- April 5, 1994, the John Montgomery Chapter of the Daughter of the American Revolution met and toured the house.
- April 8, 1994, the Garden Club of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, met at Woodstock and toured the house.
- May 23, 1994, the Clarksville Customs House Museum used Woodstock to host "Flying High," a fund raiser involving an auction and a catered dinner with a band and dancing. Three hundred fifty people bought \$60 tickets. With the auction the group collected \$60,000 plus a \$50,000 corporate donation to the museum.
- October 22, 1994, the United Daughters of the Confederacy had a Charter Ceremony and Reception at Woodstock. Delegates came from many chapters. There was a band, a color guard, etc. About 60 people participated. See the discussion of Caroline Meriwether Goodlett below.
- October 13-18, 1996, Austin Peay State University held an Elderhostel. It was a three part program with 49 participants. One unit was on local authors, including tours of two houses. Forty participants provided exit evaluations. University files show that the Woodstock tour fared better than the other tour, the professors, or the program itself.
- July 19, 1997, the Meriwether Society had a major meeting in this area. Buses brought 121 people to Woodstock.
- May 10, 2004, faculty and administrators from Aquinas College, in Nashville, came for a country brunch and a tour of Woodstock.
- May 30, 2005, a symposium on authors of this region was held at Austin Peay State University. Participants visited Woodstock for a guided tour of the house. Similar university-related symposia have been held about every two years since 1985. They sometimes come to Woodstock for a guided tour. Sometimes they just stop in the driveway.
- Sometimes without the owner's knowledge newspapers use Woodstock in multi-page photo essays on regional history. Examples are the *Clarksville Leaf Chronicle* for January 27, 1991, p. D1-D2 and Hopkinsville's *Kentucky New Era* for June 28, 1993, p. 10A-11A. Public events, such as those listed above, also bring Woodstock into the news.

Caroline Ferguson Gordon (1895-1981)

While Elizabeth Gilmer/Dorothy Dix is Woodstock's brightest star, a close second is Caroline Gordon, born 33 years later (Makowsky, 1989; Meriwether, N., 1964; Meriwether, D., 1988). Some sources cited above, say she was born at Woodstock. Other say she was born at Marymont, an estate carved out of Woodstock's land in about 1848. The land was a wedding gift to her great grandmother, Nancy Minor Meriwether Ferguson. Marymont land begins ¼ mile northwest of the area proposed for listing. Fortunately Gordon left an annotated map documenting the origin of Marymont and other Meriwether properties. Her handwritten annotations identify her place of birth on Marymont land. It was the home of a farm employee (Waldron, 1987, inside front cover). The main residence at Marymont is no longer standing. It was a two-story wooden house ruled by a domineering widow, Caroline Gordon's grand mother.

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During her childhood, nearby Woodstock offered more stable relatives and it retained a touch of opulence. Then in 1918, when she was a young adult, it passed out of Meriwether hands. Though a Ferguson and a Gordon, like Elizabeth Gilmer, Caroline Gordon was Woodstock's child. That shows in many ways, including her first novel *Penhally* (Gordon, 1931). It was dedicated to her great-great grandfather, Charles Nicholas Minor Meriwether, founder of Woodstock, and to her uncle Robert Emmet Meriwether. It traces the history of a plantation-based family, like the Meriwethers, from the early-19th century into the years after the Civil War. A later novel, *None Shall Look Back* (Gordon, 1937), tells the story of the War's impact on Kentucky planters. One character lived in Clarksville, Tennessee, the sizeable town nearest Woodstock. An old house permeates this book. It shares many features with the actual Woodstock. While Caroline Gordon lived and wrote in many European and American cities, the imprint of her childhood guided so much of her writings that Kentucky claims her (<http://www.english.eku.edu/SERVICES/KYLIT/GORDON.HTM>).

A much-honored poet and novelist, Robert Penn Warren (1905-1989) spent his youth in Guthrie, Kentucky, 14 miles east of Woodstock (Blotner, 1997, p. 6-30). In the year she died (1981) a book of Gordon's short stories was published. Warren, a long-time friend, wrote the introduction. Boone (1992) called the narrow band of land where Dix, Gordon, and Warren lived "The Literary Soil of Todd County." It is an apt description.

During her life Gordon received two notable honors. In 1932, soon after she published *Penhally*, she received a Guggenheim Fellowship. The award funded a lengthy stay in Europe (<http://www.lib.utk.edu/refs/tnauthors/authorsAZ.html>). Then, in 1934, "Old Red," a short story, produced an O. Henry award. "Old Red" is still discussed (Brown, 1990). The 1932 O. Henry Awards were tiered: one first place and one second place. Third place was an also-ran cluster of 17. First place went to Louis Paul ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O. Henry Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O._Henry_Award)). Gordon was second. Third place included William Saroyan, Pearl S. Buck, Erskine Caldwell, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, and Thomas Wolfe.

Gordon has been honored posthumously as well. Makowsky (1989) provides a full biography. Waldron (1987) traces her life and works from 1937 through 1981 (Waldron, 1987). She is the subject of a special edition of *The Southern Quarterly* (Beiswinger and Ryan, 1990). Some of her correspondence has been published (Wood, 1984). She is in literary histories such as Perry and Weak's (2002). Biographies of writers of her era can be laced with references to her life and works (e.g.: Blotner, 1997). While some posthumous accolades have little to do with her Kentucky roots, they do establish that she was a significant figure in the world of literature.

When Gordon began living her adult life, in the 1920s, on the surface it appeared that she enjoyed the freedoms that some American women began to aspire to in the 1950s. She lived a libertine life, conceiving a child out of wedlock with Allan Tate, a promising master of poetry and prose ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John orley allan tate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_orley_allan_tate)). When the couple married in 1925, she retained her maiden name. Eventually Gordon and Tate settled in Clarksville, Tennessee, near Gordon's birthplace. Their home provided a refuge for writers to work at their art and enjoy social interaction. Writers no less than F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, T.S. Eliot, Robert Penn Warren, and Ford Madox Ford were their guests.

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While the public might have seen Caroline Gordon's work and life as championing women's equality, she held a more ambiguous feeling about her place in the world. She apparently did not feel the same freedom that her great aunt, Elizabeth Gilmer, enjoyed. Her aunt was a gushing fountain of short, clear prose on simple topics. Caroline's topics were more complex and her craft more labored. At home, she felt bound to her relationship with Tate, despite his philandering. The couple divorced (1945), remarried (1946), and again divorced (1959), though they remained close during the portion of their lives they were separate (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caroline_Gordon). For those who knew her more as a public figure, her literary accomplishments probably offered hope for the goals that later became known as the Women's Movement.

Caroline Meriwether Goodlett (1833-1914)

The historic marker on Kentucky State Road 104 in the yard of Woodstock identifies it as the birthplace of Caroline Meriwether Goodlett (Turner, 1965). She lived at, or near, Woodstock from 1833 until 1866 and from about 1898 to 1900. At other times she lived in Tennessee but returned to Woodstock frequently for extended stays. She had two biological children and two step-children. She wanted them, especially the youngest, to enjoy life in the country, the life that she knew as a child. She was motherly. Younger Meriwethers, like Caroline Gordon, remembered playing games with "Aunt Cal."

As with the two Meriwether women profiled above, Caroline Meriwether met with difficult marital relations. In 1853 she wed John Sturdevant, from Christian County, Kentucky. For the first few years they lived at Woodstock. Then Caroline's father, Charles Nicholas Minor Meriwether, gave her 300 acres in Montgomery County, Tennessee. On this tract stood the log house in which her father and mother lived from 1821-1830, when the nominated brick house was being built. Not long after the move the couple separated. Caroline returned to Woodstock with a child to rear. After the Civil War ended, she obtained a divorce from Sturdevant, and restored her maiden name to herself and to her son (<http://www.hqudc.org/about/founder.html>).

Caroline Meriwether's brother Edward was killed in the Battle of Sacramento (McLean County Kentucky, listed on the NR 1997) in 1861. It had a profound impact on Caroline. After the war she became very active in finding social and economic support for veterans of the conflict, as well as memorial and monument associations to honor the confederate effort. In 1869 she married veteran and widower Col. Michael Campbell Goodlett, and continued her social activities. In 1890, she helped establish the Auxiliary of the Confederate Soldiers' Home, which sought to assist people still struggling with the aftermath of the Civil War, particularly orphans, widows, and wives and children of soldiers. She was elected the Auxiliary's President. By 1892, this organization became the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and took on a state-wide program. It became a multi-state organization two years later. Mrs. Goodlett served as President throughout this entire time (<http://www.hqudc.org/about/founder.html>). In 1905 she was publically recognized as the group's founder (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=9521311>).

In the late 19th century Caroline Meriwether Goodlett knew success and tragedy (Meriwether, N., 1964, p. 171-172; Turner, 1965, p. 44-46). Her only son died in the early 1880s at the age of 25. In August 1897 her only daughter and her son-in-law died on the same day in a cholera epidemic. From the daughter, 64 year old Caroline inherited a boy, not quite 2, and another barely 3. Then, 3 weeks later her

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husband died. She and the boys moved to Woodstock. For her it was coming home. They stayed as full-time residents for about two years.

If organizing the United Daughters of the Confederacy was motivated by the death of her brother, Edward, then Caroline Goodlett could be dismissed as little more than the original Meriwether "sob sister." However, she was one of the models of female accomplishment that other women in her family could take strength from. She did not begin with the formation of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, nor did she stop after it was underway. In 1898, she was a Commissioner for the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, Oregon. The group considered moving the remains of her relative, Meriwether Lewis, from Tennessee to Oregon (Anonymous, 1969, p. 893). She successfully opposed the effort. At other times she served on a World's Fair Board of Managers, brought drinking fountains to Nashville's horses, belonged to humane societies, helped with care for the mentally disabled, promoted a law that made it illegal to flog women prison inmates, and supported care for orphans. She found ways to accomplish many things, despite the limits that Southern and Victorian-era social constraints imposed on women.

Evaluation of the integrity of Woodstock

Despite the passage of time, Woodstock retains much of its appearance from the date of its last major enlargement, in 1861. This property is being evaluated for its physical intactness to the Period of Significance, 1896-1918, which defines two relevant spans of time: when the property was owned by the Meriwether family and when Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer, aka, Dorothy Dix, attained national fame as a newspaper journalist. This property is said to meet Criterion B, important for its association with Ms. Gilmer. To maintain the integrity of those associations, the property must retain integrity of location, setting, materials, and design. If it retains all 4 of those qualities, it will retain the essential factor, integrity of association, necessary for the property to convey its significance under Criterion B, and thus be eligible for listing.

The property possesses integrity of **location**. The house is in the same spot where it has been since its earliest portion was completed in 1830. The location is important, in that the Meriwether family owned this location and the surrounding agricultural acreage, and Ms. Gilmer identified herself with that family. The location is important more for explaining where Ms. Gilmer came from than for explaining her accomplishments made elsewhere. In her writing career, she recalled the house, and drew upon her experience there for some of her writings.

The property possesses a modest but sufficient amount of integrity of **setting** at its current 7.4-acre size. The ideal retention of setting would involve hundreds acres, as the Meriwether family held more than 250 acres surrounding Woodstock during the Period of Significance, owned more than 500 acres when Ms. Gilmer was born in 1861, and owned some 3000 acres when the house was erected in 1830. Since its early-19th-century construction, Woodstock has been the center of agricultural activity. Its rural nature still is conveyed on just 7.4 acres. The surrounding properties in southern Todd County, Kentucky, still are large acreages devoted to farm use. While not nominated, those surrounding farms still enable Woodstock to be seen amidst agricultural fields, its historic setting.

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The property possesses integrity of **materials**. The house contains its historic woodwork, its exterior brick materials, almost all of its historic windows. The house was expanded and developed fully as an architectural resource by the time the Period of Significance began. The house has undergone change since the close of the Period of Significance in 1918, yet, most of those changes have been confined to the interior of the house. The house went through a period of neglect, which did not introduce many new materials to the physical plant. The current owner is committed to retaining the historic character of the house, which guides decisions about which materials are retained and which might be added.

The property possesses integrity of **design**. The federal styling, matching patterns of historic door and door frame, retention of 19th-century windows, the floor boards with nails laid in white lead, and the general level of craftsmanship, all maintain a house design that Ms. Gilmer and other members of the Meriwether family would recognize as their home.

Since the house retains the 4 basic integrity aspects, we conclude that the house retains the essential quality, integrity of **association** with Ms. Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer's early career as a writer. The continued visitations to the house, by scholars and fans of this remarkable woman, testify to the integrity of associations which we today can hold, between the place and the person.

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Payne, F. D., and Mary Payne, 1984c, Deed Transferring 148.62 Acres of Kentucky Land to James H. Meriwether, *Todd County Deed Book 94*, p. 69-70.

Woodstock

Todd County,
Kentucky
County and State

Name of Property

Perry, Carolyn, and Weaks, Mary Louise, 2002, *The History of Southern Women's Literature*, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 689 pp.

Thurman, Elinor Howell, 2002a, "Dorothy Dix Travel Journal- Hawaii and Japan, 1917," Clarksville, Tennessee, Dorothy Dix Archive, Austin Peay State University, 25 ms. pp.

Thurman, Elinor Howell, 2002b, "Dorothy Dix Travel Journal- The Orient, 1919-1920," Clarksville, Tennessee, Dorothy Dix Archive, Austin Peay State University, 69 ms. pp.

Thurman, Elinor Howell, 2002c, "Dorothy Dix Travel Journal- Europe, 1922," Clarksville, Tennessee, Dorothy Dix Archive, Austin Peay State University, 30 ms. pp.

Thurman, Elinor, Howell, 2002d, "Dorothy Dix Travel Journal- Europe and North Africa, 1924," Clarksville, Tennessee, Dorothy Dix Archive, Austin Peay State University, 31 ms. pp.

Turner, Josephine M., 1965, *The Courageous Caroline, Founder of the UDC*, Montgomery, AL, Paragon Press, 63 pp.

Waldron, Ann, 1987, *Close Connections: Caroline Gordon and the Southern Renaissance*, New York, G. P. Putnam and Sons, 416 pp.

Welker, Marcelite, 1993, *The World Travels of Dorothy Dix*, p. 51-64 In Filippo, Inga A., and McMahan, Elnor W., 1993, *Dorothy Dix, Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer, "The First Woman Journalist, 1861-1951*, Clarksville, TN, F. G. Woodward Library, Austin Peay State University, 154 pp.

Wills, Ridley, Belle Meade Plantation, p. 60 In C. V. West. *The Encyclopedia of Tennessee History and Culture*, Nashville, Tennessee Historical Society, 1193 pp.

Wood, Sally, Editor, 1984, *The Southern Mandarins: Letters of Caroline Gordon to Sally Wood, 1924-1937*, Louisiana State University Press, 218 pp.

Internet Sources:

Information on Caroline Gordon:

<http://www.lib.utk.edu/refs/tnauthors/authorsAZ.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O._Henry_Award

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caroline_Gordon

<http://www.english.eku.edu/SERVICES/KYLIT/GORDON.HTM>

The years of Caroline Meriwether Goodlett's life came from:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=9521311>

<http://www.hqudc.org/about/founder.html>

Information on Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer's (Dorothy Dix's) life came from

Woodstock

Todd County,
Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/233822/Elizabeth-Meriwether-Gilmer>
<http://pressinamerica.pbworks.com/Elizabeth-Meriwether-Gilmer-Dorothy-Dix>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Dix
www.hollisuniversity.edu/alumnae/booksbyHollisalumnae/dix

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ 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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): TO-7

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

7.4 acres

UTM References

Based on 1927 North American Datum
Calculated via KYGeonet GIS

Trenton Quadrangle

1 16 472 084.87 4055 255.67
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is a 7.4-acre parcel of land described in Todd County Deed Book 124, Page 169. It corresponds with the area defined by the Todd County Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) as account number 185-618-01 at the time of this nomination's preparation.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The focal resource of this listing is the house, Woodstock. The boundary selected for this listing is the extent of acreage owned by the current owners. During the Period of Significance, the property consisted of a wider area under a single owner. Over time, that acreage has been subdivided and newer residences built, eradicating the identity of Woodstock as a house on a farm of moderate size.

Woodstock

Todd County,
Kentucky
County and State

Name of Property

The acreage proposed for listing is the amount of land which retains sufficient visual and associative properties to help recall the important individual, Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer, and her identity with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Corgan/owner L. Martin Perry/National Register Coordinator
organization Kentucky Heritage Council date June, 2010
street & number 6338 Clarksville Rd. 300 Washington St. Telephone
city or town Trenton Frankfort state KY zip code 42286
e-mail James Corgan: corganix@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

- Maps: A USGS map
- Sketch map

Photographs:

Name of Property: Woodstock
City or Vicinity: Trenton, Kentucky, vicinity
County: Todd State: Kentucky
Photographer: James Corgan
Date Photographed: June 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 7: Carriage House, camera facing east
- 2 of 7: East side of Woodstock, camera facing southwest
- 3 of 7: Back (north) side of Woodstock, camera facing south
- 4 of 7: Smokehouse, camera facing north
- 5 of 7: Historic front entry of Woodstock, camera facing north
- 6 of 7: Stables, camera facing east
- 7 of 7: West side of Woodstock, camera facing east

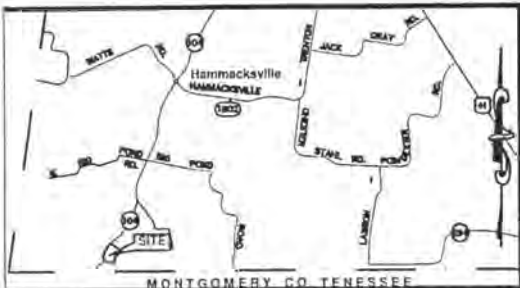
Woodstock

Todd County,
Kentucky
County and State

Name of Property

Property Owner:

name Elnor McMahan Corgan
street & 6338 Clarksville Road
number
city or Trenton KY
town state zip code 42286-9746



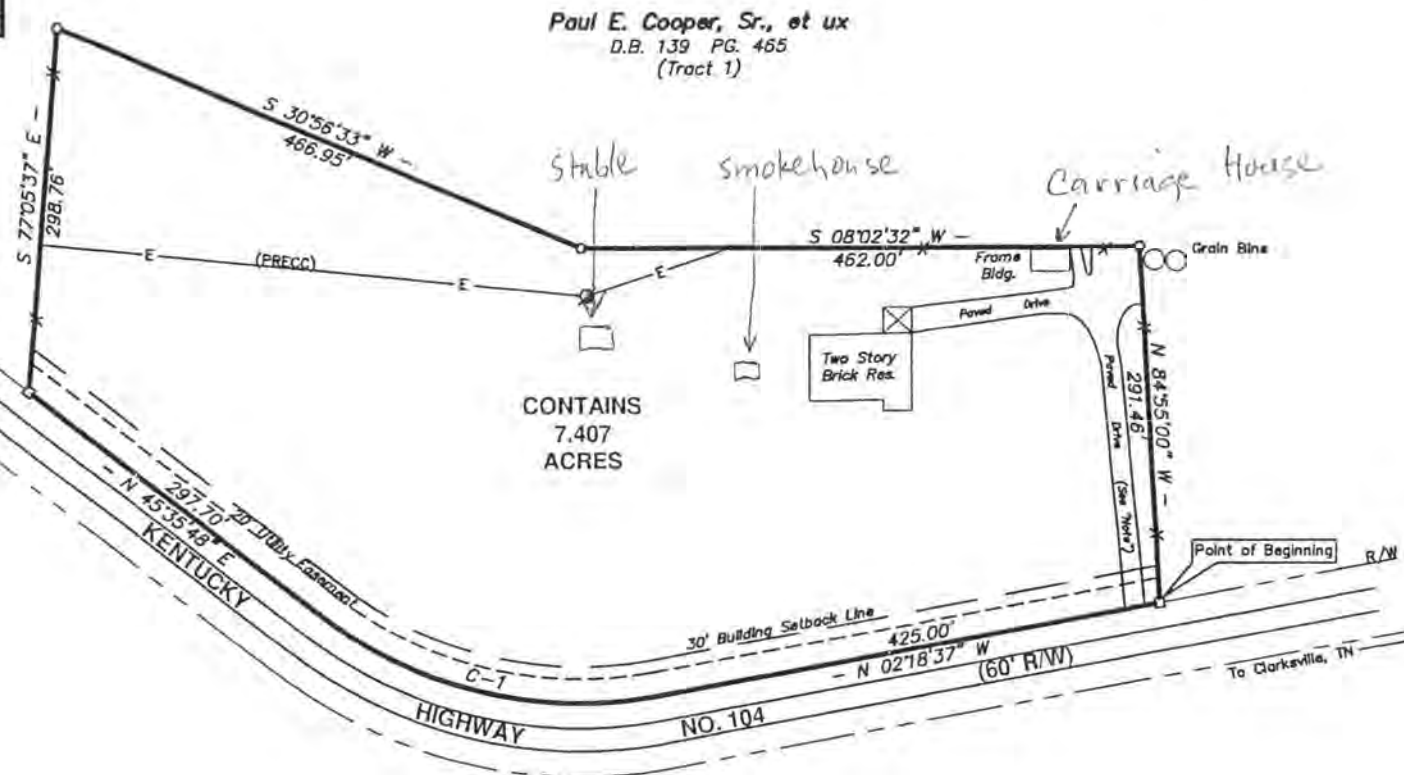
VICINITY MAP

Paul E. Cooper, Sr., et ux
D.B. 139 PG. 465
(Tract 1)

Apx. 8.0 miles to
Trenton, KY

NOTES

1. The 7.407 Acre tract depicted hereon is subject to a permanent right to use and maintain a drain field from improvements on said 7.407 Acre tract to a sink hole located on a tract designated as Tract 1 conveyed to Paul E. Cooper, Sr., et ux, as recorded in Deed Book 139, Page 465, in the Office of the County Clerk of Todd County, Kentucky and being more particularly described in Deed Book 94, Page 66, in the aforementioned County Clerk's Office.
2. The 7.407 Acre tract depicted hereon is subject to a driveway easement for ingress and egress for agricultural purposes only, to a tract designated as Tract 1 conveyed to Paul E. Cooper, Sr., et ux, as recorded in Deed Book 139, Page 465, in the Office of the County Clerk of Todd County, Kentucky; said driveway easement being more particularly described in Deed Book 125, Page 483 and Deed Book 94, Page 66, in the aforementioned County Clerk's Office.



Magnetic
Date of Survey
05/01/07

Paul E. Cooper, Sr., et ux
D.B. 139 PG. 465
(Tract 1)

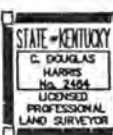
CONTAINS
7.407
ACRES

CURVE TABLE							
Curve	Radius	Tangent	Length	Delta	Degree	Chord	Chord Bear.
C-1	352.00'	157.22'	295.73'	48°08'09"	16°16'38"	287.10'	N 22°09'25" E

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE SURVEY HEREON WAS PERFORMED UNDER MY DIRECTION BY THE METHOD OF RANDOM TRAVERSE WITH SIDE SHOTS. THE UNADJUSTED PRECISION RATIO OF THE TRAVERSE EXCEEDS THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF 1:5,000. THE BEARINGS AND DISTANCES SHOWN HEREON HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED. THIS SURVEY IS A CLASS "B" SURVEY AND MEETS THE ACCURACY, PRECISION AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THIS CLASS FOR MINIMUM STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR LAND SURVEYING IN KENTUCKY.

NAME _____ DATE _____



SEAL

DEED REFERENCE

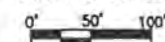
RETRACEMENT SURVEY OF THE
ELNOR W. McMAHAN (Corgan)
Property
D.B. 124 PG. 469
TODD COUNTY, KENTUCKY



HARRIS & HARRIS SURVEYING COMPANY, LLC
P.O. Box 244 83 East Public Square
Elkton, Kentucky 42220
Phone: 270-245-8181
Fax: 270-245-8181
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

DRAWN BY: C.D.H. DATE: 05-07-07
CHECKED BY: T.S.S. SCALE: 1" = 100'
DRAWING NO: 07-020

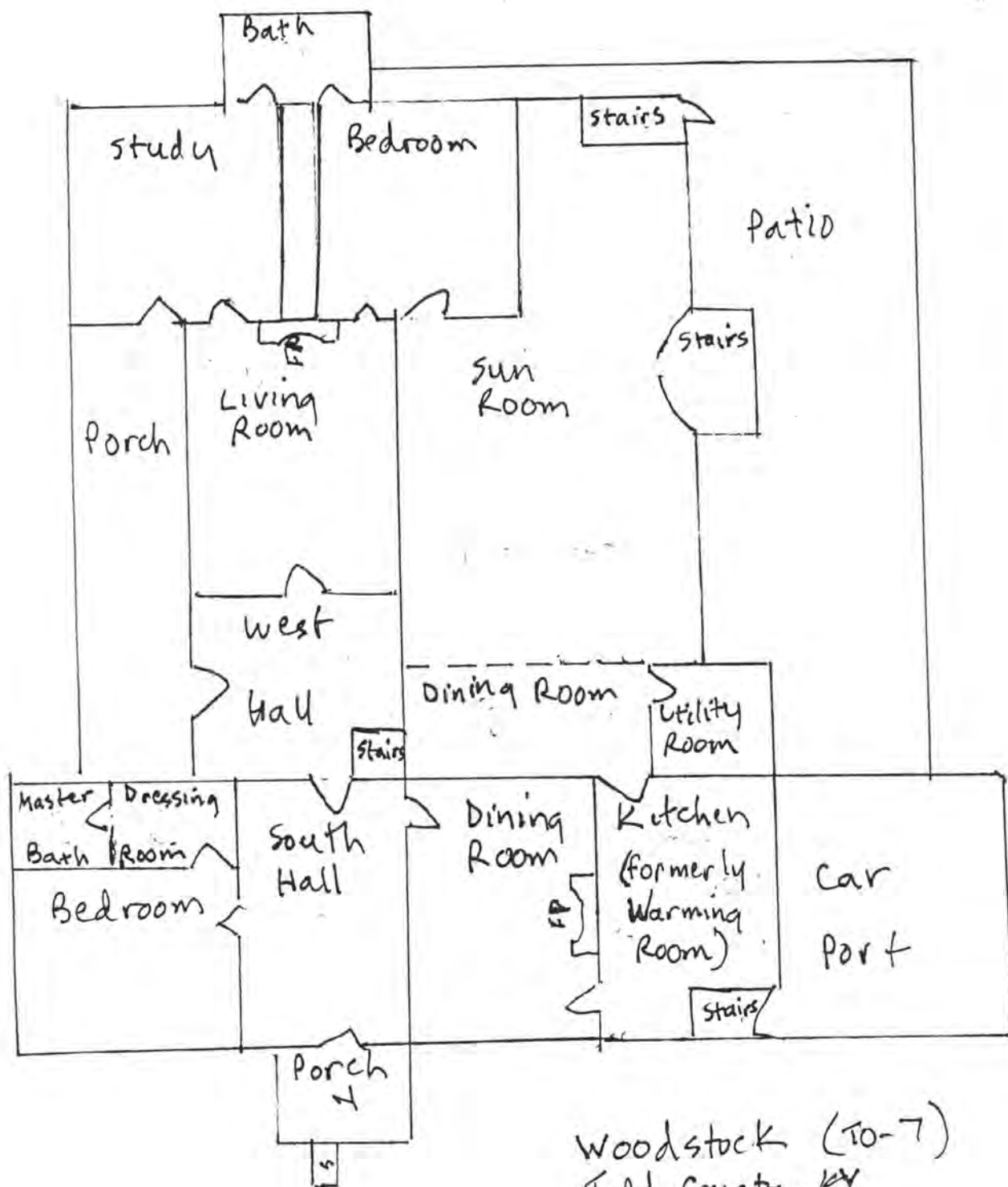
GRAPHIC SCALE



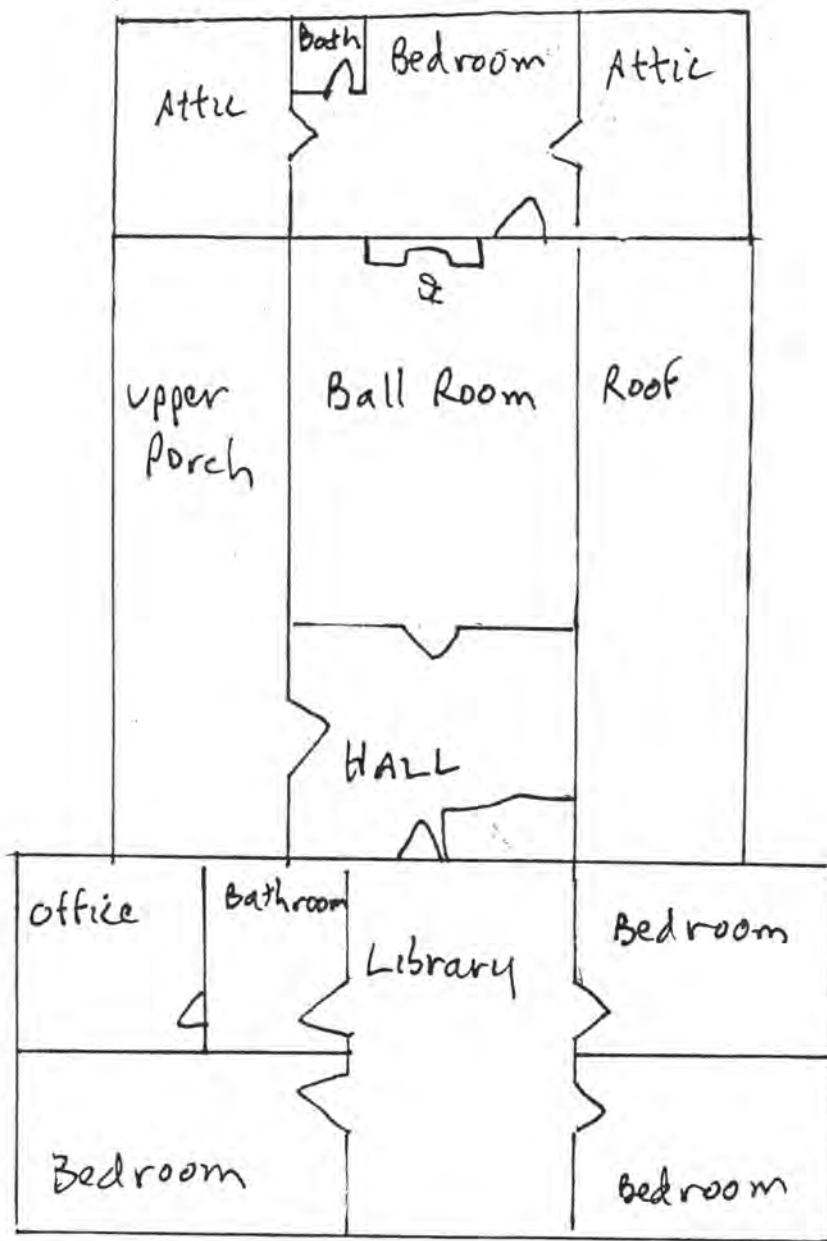
CLIENT
JAMES & ELMOR CORGAN
6338 CLARKSVILLE ROAD
TRENTON, KENTUCKY 42288
OWNER
ELNOR W. McMAHAN (Corgan)
6338 CLARKSVILLE ROAD
TRENTON, KENTUCKY 42288

LEGEND
o 3/4" Rubber 1" Cap
Stamped P.L.S. 2454
e P-K Spike
□ Corner Post
□ Utility Pole
— Fence

Woodstock
Todd County, KY



Woodstock (10-7)
Todd County, KY
First floor plan



Woodstock (TN. 7)
Todd County, KY
2nd Floor plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 10000904

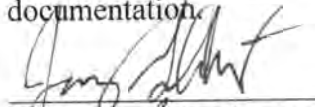
Date Listed: 11/10/2010

Property Name: Woodstock

County: Todd

State: KY

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

11/10/2010

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Area of Significance

The Area of Significance for this property is hereby changed to: LITERATURE

The property served as the inspiration for two prominent women writers, Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer (Dorothy Dix) and Caroline Ferguson Gordon. Their occupation at and close association with the property helped shape the direction of their careers, serving as the backdrop for two novels by Gordon and as the pragmatic root of the advice given by Gilmer (as Dorothy Dix).

The Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Woodstock
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Todd

DATE RECEIVED: 10/01/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/26/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/10/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/15/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000904

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT ☐ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Woodstock has association with the formative years of the Authors
Elizabeth Meriwether Gilman (Dorothy Dix) and Caroline F. Gordon, as well
as Caroline Meriwether Goodlet, Founder of the UDC, while all lived
for some part of their lives, not always the productive part, Woodstock
played an important part in shaping their character.

RECOM./CRITERIA Crit B

REVIEWER J. Gilbert DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.









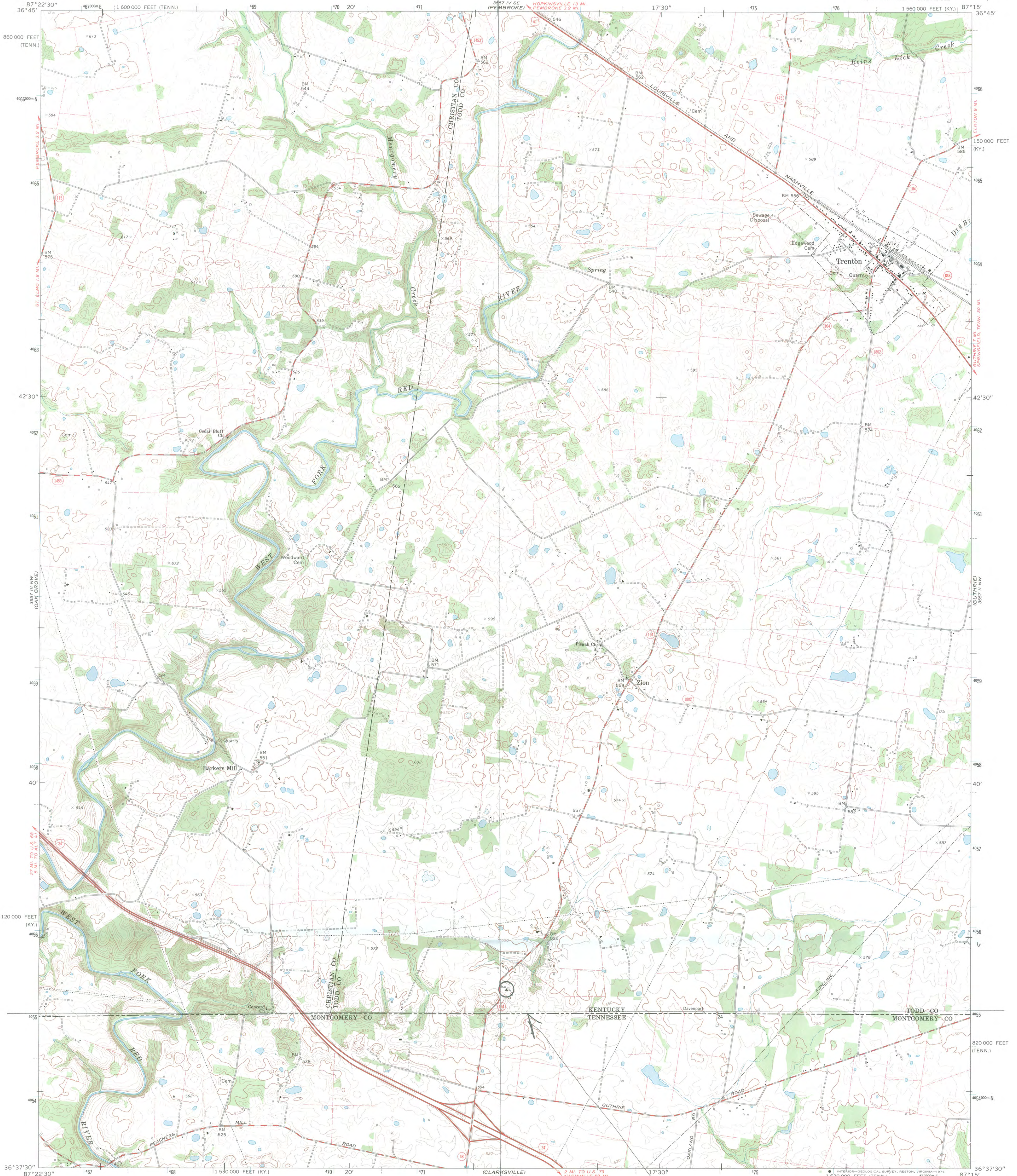




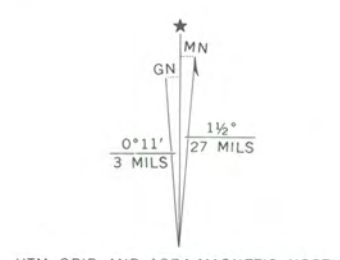


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TRENTON QUADRANGLE
KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 CLARKSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Revised by the Geological Survey in cooperation
with State of Kentucky agencies
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1951. Field checked 1957. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1974
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Kentucky coordinate system,
south zone, and Tennessee coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



SCALE 1:24 000
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETRE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092.
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506.
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
AND TENNESSEE DIVISION OF GEOLOGY, NASHVILLE, TENN. 37219
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Woodstock
Todd County, Ky
Zone 16
Easting 472 084
Northing 4055 255
NAD 27

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

TRENTON, KY. - TENN.
(FORMERLY HAMMACKSVILLE)
NE/4 CLARKSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3637.5-W8715/7.5

1974

AMS 3557 III NE—SERIES V853



STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

MARCHETA SPARROW
SECRETARY

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

300 WASHINGTON STREET
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
PHONE (502) 564-7005
FAX (502) 564-5820
www.heritage.ky.gov

September 24, 2010

MARK DENNEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW 8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are nominations approved at the September 8, 2010 Review Board meeting. We are submitting them for listing in the National Register:

Morris Fork Presbyterian Church and Community Center, Breathitt County, KY
Headley, Hal Price, Sr., House, Fayette County, KY
Arcadia Apartments, Jefferson County, Kentucky
Bradfordsville Christian Church, Marion County, KY
St. Joseph Church, Marion County, KY
Bardstown Historic District (Boundary Increase), Nelson County, KY
Woodstock, Todd County, KY

Two of these forms, the Bradfordsville Christian Church (# 09001141) and St. Joseph Church (# 09001142) are resubmissions. They were returned and have been revised according to the comments made on the return sheets.

We request substantive review for the **Hal Price Headley, Sr., House**. The local historic preservation commission and the State Review Board both recommended the property as eligible at the National level of significance, as the house's designers, architects Polhemus and Coffin, had a national reputation for defining the house's French Provincial Revival style. The argument on the form claims local level of significance, and cites Polhemus and Coffin's national accomplishments as support for a claim that the house is a locally significant instance of the style, as the style has not been fully studied locally. We have attached the draft minutes of the meeting, containing the Board's discussion. Note the comments of Dr. Patrick Snadon, the Board's sole member representing the discipline of Architectural History. As SHPO, I have selected Local significance as a more defensible level than National.

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

Mark Dennen, SHPO and
Executive Director
Kentucky Heritage Council

