

PH0004057

12-19-72

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: KENTUCKY	
COUNTY: FRANKLIN	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 13 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Glen Willis

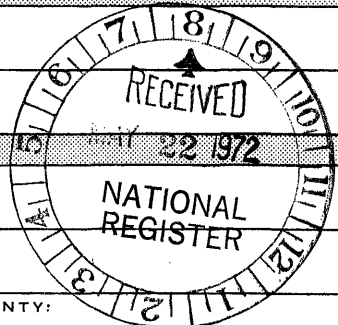
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Glen Willis

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Leestown Pike

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 COUNTY: Franklin CODE: 073



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>vacant at present</u>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>restoration planned</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
James A. Murray Family Estate

STREET AND NUMBER:
Leestown Pike

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Franklin County Courthouse - Deed book 20, page 313

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. Clair Street

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey Of Historic Sites In Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970-71 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

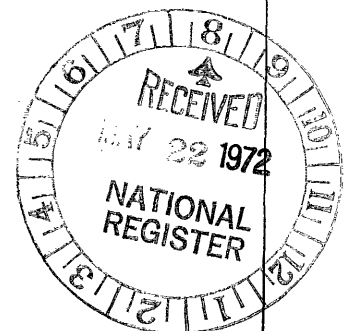
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

When Glen Willis was completed in 1815, it was a lovely brick house with four large rooms and a wide hall on the first floor and three large rooms on the second floor. Native hard woods, oak and yellow poplar were used for the beams of the house and the brick were made on the place. The floors were made of white ash boards. There is finely carved woodwork and mantels throughout the house. The wide center hall has a beautiful carved archway in the center and back of the arch, a graceful staircase rises to the second floor. The house faced the river and had white columns which rose to the top of the house. There were numerous out-buildings that were a necessary part of the houses in this era, i.e., smoke houses, ice houses, spring houses, etc.

When Henry Harrison Murray remodeled the house, the roof was lifted to make it a three-story house, four rooms and wide halls on both the first and second floors. The third floor which also had four rooms, one of which was very large, was being remodeled into a ball room, but was never completed due to the death of the young girl in the family for whom it was being done. At this time, the house was made to face a tree-lined driveway leading to the Leestown Pike. Sometime later, an eight-room wing was added to the side of the house where there had formerly been a detached kitchen. There was also a room in the basement that was used as a kitchen. This room had an enormous fireplace at one end.

The 1815 vintage of Glen Willis remains largely in the first floor. The floor plan is as it was originally built. The white ash floors, the carved arch dividing the hall, the mantel in one of the rooms, and one outside door all date from 1815. There is a large fan window, presently stored in the attic, that was originally over the double front doors when the house faced the river. There is also a smaller fan window that was either over a single door of the 1815 house or perhaps was used as a gable window. The house as described in paragraph one above, is a description of the house as it was originally built.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

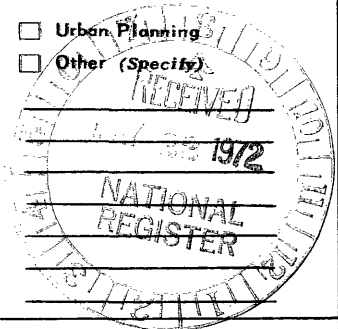
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1815; 1832 *1841?*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the left hand side of Leestown Pike, just north of Frankfort, is Glen Willis, one of the three remaining buildings of Leestown. This old brick house has its beginning in the earliest Kentucky history. Leestown was founded by George Rogers Clark, Hancock Lee, Willis Lee and others when they were doing a survey for the Ohio Company in 1775. The two Lee Brothers are of the same Lee family of Virginia as Robert E. Lee. Leestown appears on the first map of Kentucky by John Filson in 1784. Frankfort does not appear on this map because it had not been founded. Leestown was the first settlement in Franklin County and the oldest in the State north of the Kentucky River. Willis Lee was killed there in 1776 in an Indian attack. Hancock Lee gave his nephew, Willis Atwell Lee, Jr., an acre of land there and in 1793 Willis Lee, Jr. built a double two-story log house and called it Glen Willis. In 1815 he built a story and a half brick house on this same site and called it Glen Willis also. Willis Lee, Jr., died in 1824 and in 1832 his family sold Glen Willis to Humphrey Marshall, a soldier of the Revolution, Kentucky Legislatur, U.S. Senator and he wrote one of the first histories of Kentucky. As a delegate to the Danville Convention, he fought General Wilkinson in this plan to separate Kentucky from the Union and make her a part of Spain. He also fought a duel with Henry Clay in 1809 over their political differences. Marshall died in 1841 and shortly thereafter Glen Willis was sold to Henry Harrison Murray, a prominent Frankfort merchant and contractor. Murray remodeled the house to its present proportions.

Mary Willis Woodson, a granddaughter of Willis Lee was born at Glen Willis in 1819 and lived there fifteen years. In her letters (preserved at the Kentucky Historical Society) she gives a vivid description of life at Glen Willis. She even describes the wallpaper which had jungle scenes that captured the imagination of the children of the house and their friends. Glen Willis became the property of James A. Murray on the death of his father, Henry Harrison Murray, and is still owned by the heirs of James A. Murray.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jillson's, Early Frankfort & Franklin County
 Coleman's, Historic Kentucky
 The Register, Kentucky Historical Society, July, 1963.
 Numerous articles in Louisville, Frankfort, & Lexington papers.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 12 ' 36.74 "	84 ° 52 ' 18 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 OR 6

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

UTM
 16/686300
 4231070
 CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. George R. Gilpin

ORGANIZATION: Historic Frankfort, Inc. (Board member) DATE: 7-28-71

STREET AND NUMBER:
909 Crosshill Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: _____

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/13/72

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kentucky	
COUNTY	
Franklin	
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JUN 13	1972

(Number all entries)

#8 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Substantiation of Areas of Significance is as follows:

MILITARY - Glen Willis is built on the site of the Leestown Fort which was the oldest Fort in Kentucky north of the Kentucky River and second only to Fort Harrod in age in the entire State. The Fort at Leestown was destroyed under Indian attack in 1776 and Willis Lee was also killed during this attack. The settlers who survived fled to Fort Harrod.

POLITICAL - Glen Willis was the home of Humphrey Marshall, who bought the house from the original owners in 1832, and was his home till his death in 1841. There is a record that he requested to be buried at Glen Willis because of his love for the old place. So much has been written about the importance and the influential part that Humphrey Marshall played in early Kentucky history (Collin's History of Kentucky and many other histories) that it would be redundant and nearly impossible to include in such a short space, his part in the political life of early Kentucky. Some of his personal achievements are listed above.

COMMERCE - Henry Harrison Murray who purchased the house from Humphrey Marshall has been referred to as Kentucky's "Merchant Prince." His ships came from the Port of New Orleans up the Mississippi, Ohio and Kentucky Rivers to his docks in Frankfort carrying spices from the Orient, laces and linens from Ireland, France and Belgium and other imports. Glen Willis was operated as a plantation, and ferries were operated to transport goods across the Kentucky River.

