

AUG 26 1988

Historic Name: McKinney-Helm House (HDE-11) Classification: Building  
Common Name: Elizabeth McKinney House

Owner: Mrs. J.W. Hodges, 218 W. Poplar Street, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

Location: 218 W. Poplar Street, Elizabethtown, KY

| <u>Contributing:</u> |   | <u>Non-Contributing:</u> |   |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Buildings            | 1 | Buildings                | 0 |
| Structures           | 0 | Structures               | 0 |
| Sites                | 0 | Sites                    | 0 |
| <u>Total:</u>        | 1 | <u>Total:</u>            | 0 |

Description:

The McKinney-Helm House is a one-story, five bay brick residence built ca. 1825. The house was originally a Federal style home of Flemish bond brick. Alterations to the house include a ca. 1900 added brick gable on the main facade, a ca. 1910 front porch with Doric posts and one-story frame additions at the rear. The original section retains six-over-six windows with jack arching and brick pilasters on the main facade. The main entrance has a ca. 1900 frame door with a single light transom. The house has a gable roof with composition shingles. There are no outbuildings.

Period of Significance: 1881-1894

Area of Significance: Government

Criterion: B

Architect/Builder: John Y. Hill

Statement of Significance:

The McKinney-Helm House is notable for its association with Emily Todd Helm, a noted resident and postmistress of Elizabethtown. The original section of the house was constructed ca. 1825 as a residence for Elizabeth McKinney. The builder was John Y. Hill who was Hardin County's most notable mason and builder of the early 19th century. Due to later additions and alterations the house is ineligible under criterion C. In 1881, the house was purchased by Emily Todd Helm, widow of Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm and half-sister of Mary Todd Lincoln. Emily Todd married Ben Helm in 1856 and he refused command in the Union army to become a Confederate general. Helm was killed at the battle of Chickamauga and his widow quietly moved into the White House to live with her half-sister for the duration of the war. In 1881, she was appointed postmaster of Elizabethtown and purchased this house. She served as postmaster until 1894 and lived in the house until her death in 1930. Mrs. Helm was the first postmistress of Elizabethtown and one of the first woman government officials in the city. She is regarded as one of the most notable citizens to reside in Elizabethtown in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Acreage: Less than one acre.

UTM References: Elizabethtown Quad 16/600720/4172450

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The boundary for the McKinney-Helm House is illustrated on the accompanying Hardin County property tax map 221-1, block 12, lot 4, and is defined by the legal property boundary. The boundary includes the house and property sufficient to protect the historical setting of the site.

# MAP. 220-2

HDE-11 McKinney-Helm House se  
Property Location  
Tax map 221-1, Block 12, lot4  
1"=200'

