

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received OCT 15 1984

date entered NOV 15 1984

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic BENNETT HIATT LOG HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number U.S. 25 ___ not for publication

city, town Renfro Valley v.c. -X- vicinity of

state Kentucky code 021 county Rockcastle code 203

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> na in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> na being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jones B. Hiatt

street & number 133 St. Margaret Drive

city, town Lexington ___ vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockcastle County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Mt. Vernon state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites of Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 1984 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on level terrain in close proximity to Renfro Creek, the **Bennett Hiatt House** is a one and one-half story log dwelling which has been weatherboarded with a one and one-half story frame ell. The rectangular single-pen log house presents a fenestration of three bays with a central entrance flanked by double-hung rectangular windows of 6/6 pane. A later one-story, three-bay porch supported by square newel posts completes the facade. Exterior gable-end limestone slope shouldered chimneys, each with two 2/2 pane gable windows, set off the log portion, while the ell has an interior gable-end chimney. The west gable-end chimney is original to the log dwelling, but the east gable-end chimney was rebuilt in 1895 to replace the original deteriorated chimney. The gable roof is covered with galvanized tin, and a boxed cornice completes the structure. Ell fenestration is three-bay, and the original one-story, three-bay porch was enclosed many years ago.

The rectangular log dwelling has a hall-parlor plan with a thin partition dividing the two rooms. Interior woodwork is well-preserved and features reeded woodwork on the west room mantel, and on the front door and window frames. The entrance is enhanced by a six panel door, and an enclosed stairway with a board and batten door with a metal box lock is located in the rear corner of the west room. A plain but large mantel measuring over eight feet in length is found in the east room. Interior appointments for the ell include simple woodwork and four panel doors.

In close proximity are several outbuildings associated with the dwelling, and include a one-story frame privy, a single-story frame meathouse, a one-story frame woodshed, and a stuccoed limestone rootcellar. In addition, a one and one-half story weatherboarded log barn with saddle notching is situated behind the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	..... community planning	..... landscape architecture	..... religion	
..... 1400-1499	..... archeology-historic	..... conservation	..... law	..... science	
..... 1500-1599	..... agriculture	..... economics	..... literature	..... sculpture	
..... 1600-1699	X architecture	..... education	..... military	..... social/	
..... 1700-1799	..... art	..... engineering	..... music	..... humanitarian	
X 1800-1899	..... commerce	X exploration/settlement	..... philosophy	..... theater	
..... 1900-	..... communications	..... industry	..... politics/government	..... transportation	
		..... invention		..... other (specify)	

.....
Specific dates ca.1828-1829 **Builder/Architect** Bennett Hiatt

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The **Bennett Hiatt Log House** is significant for its historical association with the exploration and settlement of Rockcastle County. The dwelling also possesses architectural significance as one of the best representations of a rectangular single-pen log structure in the county. As such, it is a good illustration of the first shelters built by early settlers in the Kentucky territory.

Rockcastle County was established in 1810 as the fifty-second county in Kentucky from parts of Knox, Lincoln, Madison, and Pulaski Counties. The first excursion by white men into Rockcastle County occurred in 1769 when Daniel Boone, John Findley, John Stewart, Joseph Holder, James Mooney, and William Cool from the Yadkin River Valley in North Carolina made their first exploration of the Kentucky Territory. By 1785 Samuel Taylor, who had obtained a Treasury Warrant for 2,000 acres from the Virginia Land Office, constructed a stone dwelling in the region. Five years later other settlements were established at Spout's Spring in the present town of Mt. Vernon, the county seat.

Bennett Hiatt was a son of Abner Hiatt who emigrated to Kentucky from Virginia ca.1804, and established a homestead near the town of Mt. Vernon. About 1828-29, Bennett Hiatt purchased land from John Cobb, an early settler in the region who had obtained Treasury Warrent #7281 issued by the Virginia Land Office on October 14, 1781, for a 1,000 acre tract in the Kentucky Territory. The younger Hiatt built the one and one-half story rectangular, single-pen log dwelling on level terrain near Renfro Creek which traversed his property. Having obtained fertile bottomland well-suited for agricultural pursuits, Hiatt engaged in general farming. It is probable that the log barn also was constructed at the same time as the dwelling. The one and one-half story frame ell was built after the Civil War.

The farmstead is still owned by the Hiatt Family. Mr. Jones B. Hiatt, the current owner, plans to rehabilitate the log dwelling as a house museum. Since the log dwelling is in close proximity to the Renfro Valley Tourist and Music Establishment, Mr. Hiatt is of the opinion that his proposal would be a successful venture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Wildie

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 1 6 7 3 6 1 0 0 4 1 4 0 8 0 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on the north side of the farm lane leading to the house, approximately 180 feet from the center of the dwelling, proceed 200 feet in a northward direction; thence 400 feet in a westward direction; thence 200 feet in a southward direction; thence 400 feet in an eastward direction to the point of origin. The boundary is drawn to include the log dwelling and the five outbuildings associated with the house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Gus Johnson, Senior Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date September 1984

street & number 12th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower telephone 502/564-7005

city or town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature David L. Magan

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 3, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 11-15-84

for Helene Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered
NOV 15 1984

Bennett Hiatt Log House

Continuation sheet Rockcastle County, Kentucky Item number 9 Page 1

Clark, Thomas, A History of Kentucky. Lexington, KY: The John Bradford Press, 1960.

Clift, G. Glenn. Second Census of Kentucky, 1800. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1966.

Collins, Richard. History of Kentucky. Vols. I, II. Maysville, Kentucky: by the Author, 1874.

Kentucky Deskbook of Economic Statistics. Frankfort: Kentucky Department of Commerce, 1975.

Perrin, William H. Kentucky, A History of the State. Louisville: F. A. Battey & Company, 1887.

Rockcastle County Deed Book A

Rockcastle County Tax Assessment Records, 1829-1838.

Virginia Land Office Record Book 3, p.382.