

MULTIPLE NOMINATION HISTORIC DISTRICT SUMMARY FORM

MRA/THEMATIC NOMINATION TITLE: Historic Resources of Mercer Co., Ky.

HISTORIC DISTRICT NAME: McAfee Farm Historic District

OWNER OF PROPERTY: Hudson Nichols

(On Continuation Sheets list all properties by address which are included within the district and provide the names and addresses of their owners.)

DESCRIPTION:

Condition: X excellent, good, fair; deteriorated, ruins, unexposed; Check one: X unaltered, altered; Check one: original site, moved, date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

(Use Continuation Sheets)

See Kentucky Historic Resource forms for descriptions of buildings.

SIGNIFICANCE

Period: prehistoric, 1400-1499, 1500-1599, 1600-1699, 1700-1799, X 1800-1899, 1900-; Areas of Significance: archeology, agriculture, architecture, art, commerce, communications, etc.

Specific dates ca. 1800-1870 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

(Use Continuation Sheets) See significance statements.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of nominated property 3.5

Quadrangle name Harrodsburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 16 688000 4189840

B 16 688900 4189760

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

(Use Continuation Sheets) See attached.

DISTRICT MAPS ATTACHED:

- 1. District Boundary Map Showing Contributing & Noncontributing Properties.
2. District Map Showing Location & Direction of Numbered Photographs.

McAfee Farm (Me-151 A and B)
Continuation sheet

Description

The McAfee Farm is located on the east side of a bend in the Old Louisville Road north of Harrodsburg. The north-south traffic once carried by the Old Louisville Road now goes on US 127 which is located east of the farm.

The 3.5 acre site contains two buildings. On the south end of the site is the John Armstrong McAfee House (Me-151 B) built in the early nineteenth century. The house is one story and contains two pens, one of which is log while the other is hewn timber with mud infill. West of the John Armstrong McAfee House is a spring which quite possibly was a deciding factor in John Armstrong McAfee's decision to build his house in this location.

Approximately 280 feet north of the John Armstrong McAfee House is the James Jackson McAfee House (Me-151 A) built circa 1865. The James Jackson McAfee House is a single-pile, three-bay, two story house ornamented with elements from both the Greek revival and Italianate styles.

History

The earlier of the two buildings comprising the McAfee Farm was built by John Armstrong McAfee (1775-1833) who was the son of Samuel McAfee (1748-1801). Samuel McAfee was one of the five McAfee brothers who were important settlers in Mercer County. John Armstrong McAfee was born in Virginia and came with his family to Kentucky in 1779. when he reached his majority at twenty-one in 1796, his father gave him a portion of the farm. McAfee's first child was born in the house circa 1800.

The later house (Me-151A) on the site was built for James Jackson McAfee (1824-1906) after the Civil War.

Continuation Sheet: McAfee Houses

Me-151A James Jackson McAfee House

Me-151B John Armstrong McAfee House

Significance Statement

The McAfee Houses are significant under Criterion A for the period circa 1800 to 1870 and the area of architecture. Together these dwellings represent an important theme in the rebuilding which occurred in the county. While some property owners rebuilt by updating their dwellings with fashionable ornament, enclosing dogtrots to create central passages and/or adding rooms, ells, or entire central passage units to their existing houses, others built entirely new houses on the same site they had previously occupied. In some cases where a desirable site was reused, the older house was demolished and a new one erected in its stead. In others, the pre-existing dwelling remained, but ceased to function as a dwelling and became an outbuilding. At the McAfee property, the original house (Me-151B) which, like many dwellings of the settlement period, had been sited in relation to a spring, apparently continued to function as a dwelling for some time after the second house (151A) was built in the mid-nineteenth century.

In addition, each individual house is significant under Criterion C. The James Jackson McAfee House (Me-151 A) is significant under Criterion C for the period from 1860 to 1870 as an example of the persistence of elements of the Greek Revival in combination with elements associated with the Italianate style. On the entrance to a single pile, central passage plan, it displays elements associated with the Greek Revival style including a simple entablature, sidelights, transom as well as wide baseboards, heavy mantels, and drip moldings on the interior. The Italianate details include windows which are paired and elongated and wide eaves.

The John Armstrong McAfee House (Me-151B) is significant under Criterion C for the period from 1800 to 1810 as an example of the forms and materials to expand houses by early settlers in Mercer County. It demonstrates that the material of construction was not always consistent throughout the house.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary was chosen to incorporate two successive houses of the McAfee family which are historically related. The incorporation of both dwellings within a single boundary highlights their significance in representing an important trend in local history: the reuse of a site (Me-151A) selected during the settlement period (Me-151 B). Because the total extent of the settlement period property and its changes in acreage over time have not been documented, the nominated area contains only the domestic portions of the potential McAfee site. The west boundary of the site along the Old Louisville Road was chosen to preserve the setback of the

McAfee Houses (151 A and B)

Verbal Boundary Justification continued:

houses and to include the spring which was an important factor in the original choice of the site. The north, south, and east boundaries were chosen to provide a setting for the houses and to exclude elements which did not relate to the domestic spaces and therefore could not be evaluated.

The boundary contains two contributing buildings.