1202

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



| 1. Na | me of Property | 1 7 | S. C. C. C. | | | | 9-2-3-3 |
|------------|--|---|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| histor | ic nameL | yles, Pet | e, House | | | | |
| other | name/site nur | mber G | V-88 | | | | |
| 2. Lo | cation | | | | 5.00 | | |
| street | & town 3 | 302 State | Route 348 | 3 East | | N/A | not for publication |
| city or | town Sy | msonia | | | | | X vicinity |
| state_ | Kentucky | _ code | KY | county Graves | code 083 | _ zip code | 42082 |
| 3. Sta | ate/Federal Age | ency Certi | fication | | | | |
| | Signature of serify Kentucky Heritage State or Federal as | ing official/T e Council/Stagency and bu | itle David I | | onal comments.) //- / Date | 9-06 | |
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| I hereby o | entered in the Nation See continue determined eligible for National Register See continue determined not eligible National Register. removed from the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:) | nal Register. ation sheet. or the lation sheet. ble for the | fication | Signature of the K | eeper V | íne_ | Date of Action /2 /26 / 06 |

| Lyles, Pete, House | | Graves | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Name of Property | | County | and State | |
| 5. Classification | 4 - 4 - 4 | | | 15 5 1 |
| Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply) | Category of F (check only one box) | | er of Resource iously listed resources in | s within Proper of the count.) |
| | | Contri | buting N | loncontributing |
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| public-Federal | structure | - | | objects |
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| Name of related multiple property is not part of a m | | Number of cont in the Nation | | s previously listed |
| N/A | | 0 | | |
| 6. Function or Use Historic Function (Enter only categories from instructions) Cat: Domestic | | | Function y categories from instruc | ctions) |
| Sub: Single Dwelling | | Sub: Singl | e Dwelling | |
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| 7. Description Architectural Classification Enter only categories from instructions) | - An | Materials (Enter only | s categories from instruc | tions) |
| Greek Revival | | foundation | | M |
| | | walls | Plaster | |
| | | = ===================================== | Brick | |
| | | roof | Dimensional S | |
| | | other | 4 Brick Chimne | eys, Tin Ceilings |

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

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Pete Lyles House Graves County, KY Page 1

Description

The Pete Lyles House (GV-88) is a two-story Greek Revival-styled house built between the years of 1865 and 1880. It is located on the west side of State Route 348 in Symsonia (Graves County) Kentucky, 1/3 mile from the intersection of State Route 131, also known as Said Road. The house is still used as a private residence. Over the years, the Pete Lyles House has experienced very few physical changes and is presently undergoing rehabilitation. There are no plans to change the overall form of the house. Instead, rehabilitation efforts will maintain the house's original appearance and style. The nominated area includes a contributing carriage house and non-contributing garage.

Site Characteristics

The house today sits on a 3.26-acre parcel of mostly flat land. The site's primary natural features are trees. Sitting in a subordinate position to the house is a carriage house, about 50 feet west of the house, described below. Originally, just behind the main house, was a kitchen; a connection with the kitchen was made, incorporating it into the house, about 1930. Subtly tucked on the west rear side of the house is an in-ground pool and covered brick porch area also added by previous owners. The area is partially surrounded by a solid brick-columned fence matching the color of the house's brick. The other part of the fence, not visible at the front of the house, is wood. Sitting about 50 feet behind the house is a modern brick garage. The site has several other features on it attached to the house: a carport, deck, and back patio.

The Lyles House Exterior

Both the exterior and interior walls are strictly brick masonry and are sunk deep into the ground to form the ouse foundation, which is anchored by brick footers. The brick used in the house is mainly composed of clay, very common in the area. According to oral accounts, clay for the brick was found about 1/3 mile from the construction site. Much of the masonry is original, although a few areas indicate efforts to preserve the structure by tuck pointing in a matching color. The front façade of the house faces south.

The hipped roof of the Pete Lyles house has a very steep pitch, enough to accommodate second floor living space beneath its contour. Though the roof structure is unchanged, the original wood shingles have been replaced by the same color of dimensional shingles. Four of the five original brick chimneys remain, exceeding the height of the roof; there were originally two along each side and one in the rear of the house. The second chimney on the side of the house facing east was removed some time ago. Also contributing to the perfect symmetry of the house are three hipped dormers, one centered over the front porch and others centered on each side of the main house.

The Lyles House possesses the band of trim beneath the cornice that the McAlesters describe as "an almost universal feature of Greek Revival houses" (p. 181). Another decorative feature provided by the brick masonry is a plain "border" beneath the wood trim. The brick wall drops down one foot from the trim and overhangs the remainder of the façade by about one inch.

Though not quite spanning the full width of the façade, the full height porch is supported by four original Doric columns of the Roman Tuscan design. Also commonly found in Greek Revival houses are two pilasters flanking each corner of the porch as it meets the façade of the house. Covering the porch is a flat, hipped shed-like roof, providing interesting dimension against the steep pitch of the house roof.

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The original wood door surround features a transom window accenting the top of the front door with the glass curved on each side to accommodate a slight arch. Slender pilasters flanking door enhance the elaborate enframement. Sidelights consisting of three panes complete the door frame, which sits slightly recessed behind the front wall, creating a three-dimensional effect.

While the overall design of the house reflects Greek Revival elements, the Italianate windows lend elegance and added flair to otherwise modest details. With two-pane glazing, the windows feature a full arch complimented by a U-shaped hooded crown. Though the crown simply follows the contour of the full arch, three courses of brick are laid in varying directions to accentuate the curves and provide an artistic touch.

At the rear of the house, on the east side, stands a well-executed brick carport added by the previous owners. The brick is similar in color to the original house and does not compromise the house's original structure. Instead, it simply extends the east façade's roofline, at a slightly more gradual pitch. While the back side of the structure is solid, the front side of the carport is supported by three Greek fluted columns sitting atop a four-foot retaining wall. The current owners have since enclosed part of the carport to serve as a utility and mud room.

A wooden deck and steps added by previous owners to the west side of the house offset the addition of the carport, preserving the symmetry of the house. Painted white, it matches the trim on the house. The deck also provides a much needed fire escape if the need should arise for second floor inhabitants.

Originally, just behind the main house was a kitchen, separated from it as was typical of the style and era. Previous owners brought the kitchen and the main house under one roof and enclosed the passageway during the 1930s. On the east side of the kitchen, the façade is white siding, complementing the trim of the house. On the west side, matching brick was used to blend the two structures. Again, there was no movement of the original walls; instead, bringing the two structures together made the original kitchen a more viable part of current living quarters while providing access to the mud room, carport, and what is now a pool area.

The large covered porch is supported by six fluted columns and is an attachment to the original kitchen. Access to the porch is gained through the original kitchen on its west wall. There, previous owners added a glass door flanked by two windows. Above those, transoms complete the design.

Pete Lyles House interior

The first floor interior of the main house is almost perfectly symmetrical, with two front parlors of roughly equal size, a grand hallway, a bedroom to the left rear side, and the current kitchen on the right rear side. Original entrances at the rear of both the hallway and the kitchen provide access to the enclosed area. The original kitchen at the rear of the house is now a well-traveled family room, providing original entrances to the enclosed area, as well as the mudroom and carport. In this original kitchen, what used to be the pantry is now a spacious walk-in closet. The current kitchen is now located in the right room at the rear of the main house. There is a fireplace in every room, as well as the cellar, located directly under the kitchen and accessible through a trap door in the original kitchen. In the back left room of the main house, the fireplace has been sealed, and the current owners plan to restore it to its original form during renovation. In the current kitchen, the fireplace has been covered, and on the exterior of the house, only the base of the chimney remains.

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The house has 12-foot ceilings. With the exception of the enclosed area that connects the family room to the main house, pressed tin ceilings of varying designs complement each room. While the grand hallway has a flat tin ceiling, all other rooms exhibit a tin ceiling that curves into a concave form that fades into plaster walls. Though not likely original to the house, the tin ceilings were probably added around the turn of the 20th century when owners likely became tired of patching the cracks in their plaster ceilings.

As with the front entrance, all doorways have transoms. Other than the front door, and of course, the enclosed area, all doors are of oak and original to the house. Much of the door hardware, too, has been preserved.

During the late 1980s, the second floor of the Pete Lyles House was renovated. Previously, the second floor was one large room, perhaps originally used as a ballroom and later used for storage purposes. Still following the contour of the roof line, the upstairs now includes two bedrooms, a playroom and two baths, all arranged along the sides of a wide center hall. Originally reached by an outside plain stairway at the rear of the separate kitchen, the area is now accessible by a curved oak staircase in the enclosed area.

Carriage House

The carriage house located to the west of the house, sitting somewhat further from the road. It also has brick walls, though with a Flemish bond pattern. Most of the masonry is original, with a few small areas tuck pointed some time ago. The wood shingles on the carriage house are original materials, and a door has been added to the entrance to accommodate functional storage space.

Integrity of the Pete Lyles House

The Pete Lyles House meets National Register Criterion C and is significant for its Greek Revival Design and Italianate details. Most striking is that while most houses constructed during this period outside of Paducah, Kentucky, resembled little more than folk houses, the Pete Lyles House embraced a bold and elaborate Greek Revival design. Coupled with Italianate details, the construction of the house was surely a feat in its day, considering its distance from the river and relatively limited access to supplies. Compared with even the trendiest houses in Paducah and Mayfield, the Lyles House certainly rivaled, if not exceeded, comparable designs. In addition, while most residential structures in the Graves County seat of Mayfield were wood structures, the exterior and interior brick walls of the Pete Lyles House further enrich its uniqueness. Few of the structures identified in this application have weathered time as well as the Pete Lyles House, and to this day, the Lyles House projects a high level of architectural integrity in its feeling, materials, and design. Through the preservation of the original form of the house, including interior and exterior materials and the sustained use of complementary design and aesthetic qualities, the Pete Lyles House is an excellent instance of a hybrid Greek Revival and Italianate style in Graves County, Kentucky.

Over periods of various ownership, the Pete Lyles House has retained significant integrity. From the brick walls laid deep in the ground to make up the house foundation, to the interior features such as the door and window facings, including original doors and hardware, the overall form and character of the house has been very well maintained.

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In essence, if the <u>carport</u>, <u>deck</u>, <u>back patio</u>, <u>pool area</u>, and <u>enclosure</u> were stripped away from the house, the overall form of the Pete Lyles House would remain virtually unchanged from the way it appeared in a photo dated some time around the turn of the 20th century (See photo exhibit A). The only exception is that the right chimney on the back of the main house is no longer there. Also, though previous owners likely repaired the front porch foundation, possibly by replacing some of the original brick masonry, the appearance of the porch is identical to the way it appears in photo exhibit A.

From an interior perspective, the fireplace has been covered in what is now the house kitchen. Also, in the original kitchen, the west wall has been altered to accommodate an additional door, two windows, and a transom. However, the inclusion of a transom reflects efforts to make this change consistent with original design. The enclosure of the main area to the original kitchen has been accentuated by a beautiful oak staircase that fits in nicely among original materials.

Indeed, the Pete Lyles House emulates a feeling of catching a rare glimpse into the time period of its construction. The perfectly symmetrical floor plan, along with markedly Greek Revival variants and Italianate embellishments, form a basis for its architectural integrity. However, it is the eye-catching details such as the 12-foot tin ceilings, the stylistic windows and doors all featuring original materials, fireplaces in almost every room, and the wainscoting in the grand hallway, that all contribute to the Pete Lyles House' special character.

Pete Lyles House

Graves Co. KY

| Name of Property | County and State |
|---|--|
| 8. Description Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark *x* in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.) | Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) |
| A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. | Architecture |
| B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. | |
| X 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. | Period of Significance 1865 - 1880 |
| 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years. Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) | Significant Dates 1865 - 1880 Significant Person (only if Criterion B selected) N/A Cultural Affiliation N/A Architect/Builder (use last names first for individuals) unknown |
| 9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography | See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8 |
| (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more con in the 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 # | Primary location of additional data: X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository: |
| recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # | See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9 |

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Statement of Significance

The Pete Lyles House (GV-88) in Symsonia, Graves County, Kentucky, meets National Register Criterion C. It is significant within the historic context "Architecture in Graves and McCracken Counties, Kentucky, 1830-1870." Constructed in approximately 1865, the house demonstrates the strength of local attachment to Greek Revival design when nationally the style had passed from vogue. Its architectural significance arises from its designer's attempt to combine both Greek Revival and Italianate elements into a single composite. The Lyles House is an especially important marker of local concerns at the close of the Civil War, as it is Graves County's sole instance articulating an antebellum design elegance with the Victorian-era design exuberance. Sitting midway between the Graves County seat of Mayfield and the McCracken County seat of Paducah, the house was constructed close to the nineteenth century's emotional midpoint, when local sentiments stood at a crossroads in search of appropriate footing for forward movement.

Also contributing to the architectural significance of the house is its association with the man behind its construction. Pete Lyles (1837-1891) was a state representative who wanted, according to local accounts, a residence of prominent style. As a citizen of Symsonia, he used his economic status in visible ways, bequeathing land for public use, including a school, church, and cemetery (Reid, p. 6).

Upon its construction more than 140 years ago, the architectural elements of the Lyles House reveal clues as to the values of its first occupant. Furthermore, the design suggests prominence, elegance, and a hint of prosperity—definitely an intended investment in the community. Undoubtedly, through its preservation and listing on the National Register of Historic Houses, the Pete Lyles House will continue to be a valued reminder of the community's past.

Context: Architecture in Graves and McCracken Counties, Kentucky, 1830-1870

Research Design

The architectural styles prevalent in the early history of Graves and McCracken Counties have not been outlined comprehensively, though Camille Wells' Architecture of Paducah and McCracken County, published by the Kentucky Heritage Commission in 1981, comes close. This document contains descriptions of extant buildings found in a county-wide survey, typical of the Commission's publications. Wells does not attempt reference historic photographs to extrapolate the nature of the county's early architecture.

General histories of Graves and McCracken Counties were examined for evidence of the earlier built environment. Those examined included *Graves County Kentucky*, *History and Families* (2001), *Story of Mayfield Through a Century*, *1823-1923* by D. Trabue Davis (1923), and *Jackson Purchase* by Danny Hatcher (1969). These volumes were found in the Kentucky Historical Society's collection, which has several other volumes on the two counties, but none more relevant to this project than these.

The National Register Information System (NRIS) database was queried for listings in both counties that contained buildings dating from 1820-1870. It provided these properties: Meacham Manor in Graves County, and Anderson-Smith House, Smedley-Yeiser House, and Lower Town Historic District in McCracken County. Those nominations were read to learn about comparative properties to glean clues on whether the Lyles House might be typical or atypical.

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Finally, the a KHC Database search was conducted, searching for properties in both counties dating from 1825-1849, and 1850-1874. This search was an attempt to learn what of the comparable built environment remains and can shed additional light on the meaning of the Lyles House.

Early Development of Symsonia and Graves County

The western Kentucky area known as The Jackson Purchase was acquired by the United States by treaty from the Chickasaw Indians in the year of 1818 (http://sos.ky.gov/land/nonmilitary/jacksonpurchase/). The first known non-native settler in the Mayfield area was John Anderson, who built a log cabin in 1819 (Davis, p. 12). Graves County was established on December 19, 1821 and named in honor of Major Benjamin Graves of the US Army. The county seat was located in Mayfield, Kentucky in the center of Graves County (Reid, p. 1).

Many settlers from Virginia, middle Tennessee and south-central Kentucky came to the county hoping to profit from the inevitable rise in land prices. Shortly after Graves was established as a county, land could be found for a mere 25ϕ an acre. Not only was the land cheap, but it was also a fertile treeless grassland known as the barrens - the perfect area for farming dark fire-cured tobacco. This would eventually become the county's primary cash crop and economic base. Roads to the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee rivers, as well as the New Orleans and Ohio Railroad, connected county tobacco farms with New Orleans markets. By the 1920s, Mayfield's market had become the leading exporter of dark fire-cured tobacco in the nation.

There are few records documenting early development of the Graves County community of Symsonia, where the Lyles House stands. However, "based on a conglomeration of hand-me-down stories, family documents, deeds, grave markers, and other items, it can be stated that settlers were located in the Symsonia area prior to the date of 1821" (Reid, p. 1). Around the 1830s, the town came into being on the Wadesboro Road which ran from north central Calloway County to Paducah. Locals explain its original name, "Slabtown," as coming from the many early sawmills operating in the area, which produced log cut-offs, or "slabs," some of which were used to surface the early wagon road. With the arrival of a Post Office in 1847, the town became Symsonia (History and Families, p. 39).

A dozen miles to the south, surveyors laid off lots in Mayfield in 1823, which, along with its status as center of county government, should have enabled the town to blossom. Growth, however, came slowly to Mayfield. By 1848, two years before the county's population had risen to 11,397, Mayfield could only boast of "several hundred" residents (Davis, p. 25).

A decade of tremendous growth in Mayfield, Symsonia, and the rest of Graves County began in 1850. Small industries such as tanneries, grist mills, potteries, distilleries and cotton plants, along with the many sawmills, were in full swing by the end of the decade. In 1855, Mayfield saw its first church erected; all denominations used the courthouse until building their own house of worship. In Symsonia, the Methodist Church organized in 1854. The Memphis, New Orleans, and Northern Railroad arrived in Mayfield in 1858 (*History and Families*, p. 39; Davis, p. 25, 67). The county's population—16,233 in 1860—had increased more than 600% over its 1830 level of 2,504 (Wikipedia, "Graves County, Kentucky, Demographics").

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While the people of Graves County sent several companies of soldiers to both Northern and Southern forces, the area was highly Confederate in sentiment. Early in the war, a meeting was held in Mayfield to discuss the idea of seceding a portion of western Kentucky from Kentucky in order to become a Confederate district. This movement failed, and Graves County remained part of the Union, along with Kentucky, through the end of the war (www.mayfieldtourism.com).

Following the Civil War, the citizens of Graves County awoke to the bleak realization of the severe economic and institutional damage their area had sustained. Furthermore, "property was greatly devalued, crops were virtually uncultivated, and commercial operations drastically reduced. Schools and churches had suspended activity, and the local government was almost bankrupt. In less than ten years, however, local industries, such as the Mayfield Woolen Mills, had been revitalized, and tobacco cultivation was again vigorously pushed." In fact, from the 1880s until the end of the century, the agricultural economy, particularly dark tobacco farming, performed more strongly than before 1860 (Graves County, Kentucky, pp. 11-12).

Early Development of Paducah

Relating the early development of Paducah helps explain the Pete Lyles House because the location of the house in Graves County is just as close to the McCracken County seat of Paducah as it is to the Graves County seat of Mayfield.

McCracken County was established in 1824, and Wilmington, an inland town, was named its seat in 1827. The community on the Ohio River, established in 1830 as "Pekin," became the County seat when it incorporated in 1831 under the name Paducah.

The industrial development that Paducah experienced in the 1840s was "based on the growing need to process and transport the crops and raw materials that converged on the city from the surrounding rural areas." These activities contributed not only to Pete Lyles' occupation as a miller and store owner, but also made construction resources available during the building of his home. By 1850, "Paducah exported such commodities as dressed lumber, barrel staves, railroad ties, tobacco twists and plugs, flour and meal. Drawing from the agricultural produce of a broad area, wholesale grocerying was a major enterprise, worth over a million dollars a year by 1860" (Wells, p. 13).

Citizens in Paducah, as elsewhere in the state during the 1850s, recognized the importance of establishing a railway. As early as 1852, the City appropriated \$200,000 to encourage construction of the New Orleans and Ohio Railroad, which would connect Paducah to major routes spanning Chicago to New Orleans. With both river and rail traffic firmly developed, Paducah arose as regional market town. This progress was interrupted, of course, by the outbreak of the Civil War, but shortly after 1865, Paducah returned to greater industrial expansion (Wells, 13-14).

Greek Revival Architecture Nationally

The rise of Greek Revival styling coincided with the settlement of Graves and McCracken Counties. This was the era when the area was being settled by people looking to capitalize on the relatively cheap land and the promising agricultural future of dark-fired cured tobacco. Likewise, Paducah's reputation as a hub for exporting this product and other commodities was rapidly drawing new settlers as well. As these new settlers

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moved from the older states and crossed into Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Old Northwest Territory (today's Midwest), they brought with them the Greek Revival architectural trend (p. 182).

In their Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia and Lee McAlister contend that "Greek Revival was the dominant style of American domestic architecture during the interval from about 1830 to 1850 (to 1860 in the Gulf Coast states) during which its popularity led it to be called the National Style. It occurs in all areas settled by 1860...and especially flourished in those regions that were being rapidly settled in the decades of the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s.

The McAlisters list the features that define Greek Revival style:

Hipped roof of low pitch; cornice line of main roof and porch roofs emphasized with wide band of trim (including...the frieze above and architrave below); most have porches (either entry or full-width) supported by prominent square or rounded columns, typically of Doric style; front door surrounded by narrow sidelights and a rectangular line of transom lights above, door and lights usually incorporated into more elaborate door surround (p. 179).

Indeed, with the exception of the low pitch, many of these identifying elements are also found in the Pete Lyles House, from its wide band of trim beneath the cornice of the main roof and the porch roofs, the unfluted Doric columns, to the front door encased by pilasters and narrow sidelights. Though the porch isn't quite the full width of the façade, it is covered by a flat "shed-style extension" which yields itself to a subtype of the Greek Revival design that is most common in the southern states. Another geographic-specific feature is the full-height entry porch which also is very common in Kentucky and other southeast states.

"The decline of the Greek Revival influence was gradual, and in rural areas everywhere, it remained a dominant style for domestic buildings until the early 1860s" (p. 184). At the same time, Gothic Revival and Italianate designs became more prominent nationally in urban areas. Thus, when building shortly after the end of the Civil War, Pete Lyles' house began with a familiar Greek Revival block and enhanced that with Italianate details, such as the window hoods. In an area struggling to mend its Civil War divisions, Lyles projected a consciousness of fashion and a nod to progress. This was not always the local response. According to the authors, Italianate design is "especially uncommon in the southern states area where the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the 1870s depression led to little new building until after the style had passed from fashion" (p. 212). By incorporating features from this style, he exhibited a social savvy, an awareness of fashionable building.

Greek Revival Architecture dominates Graves County

Research of the KHC database reveals that homes constructed during roughly the same period as the Lyles House in Graves County show lesser willingness to display elements of Italianate styling, agreeing much with what the McAlesters suggest. Certainly, though, Greek Revival architecture persisted in this part of Kentucky later than in other parts of the nation, identifying more conservative tastes and possibly a southern sensibility in the county. These inferences must be tentative, however, in light of the small population of architecture surviving from the 1870s.

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The tiny community of Symsonia contains a key example only 1/3 mile from the Pete Lyles House. Originally owned by the Washington family, the house was constructed in 1840, and as expected, exhibits Greek Revival styling exclusively. While undoubtedly an influence on the Lyles House, the design of the Washington House is markedly more modest. The two-story symmetrically-designed brick home has a hipped roof of low pitch. The front porch is missing, possibly having deteriorated and never replaced. Like the Lyles House, the front door is surrounded by narrow sidelights and is beneath a rectangular transom. Unlike the more elaborate Italianate windows in the Lyles house, the windows in the Washington House reflect typical Greek Revival style. Because no known records exist on the Washington family, it is difficult to assess whether their choice of Greek Revival reflected the same values as Pete Lyles.

A truly unusual Graves County home is Meacham Manor (GV-2, National Register listed 1974). For the area, its Gothic Revival design probably was considered quite bold when erected around 1850. Its segmental-arched windows, however, are more part of the Italianate vocabulary than Gothic.







Meacham Manor, Graves County (GV-2)

Washington House, Symsonia

Barton House, Mayfield

The two oldest known houses in Mayfield are the Anderson House, constructed in 1852 and Barton House, constructed in 1856. Despite being located in a more populous area, the homes are relatively modest when compared to the design and architectural details of the Lyles House. Both are symmetrically-designed wood structures with full-façade porches. In addition, both have hipped roofs of low pitch. The Anderson House is a one-story structure, and the Barton House is a two-story structure. Unlike the Lyles House, however, there are no elaborate door surrounds and no presence of Italianate details. At the time, these two houses were considered relatively stylish in comparison to the simple wood folk houses that dominated Mayfield's and rural Graves County's landscape ("History and Families," p. 49).

Consistent with the McAlesters' view, the KHC database search of Graves County produced no examples of residential structures with full Italianate composition locally from 1850-1875. Most buildings continued to be traditional forms with applied Italianate ornament. The 1859 Jenkins House (GV-7), a T-plan whose primary Italianate feature are its pronounced window hood molds. The Benson Place (GV-8), a clapboard I-House from about 1865, contains eave brackets. The 1873 Morrill Home (GV-8), much the same as the Benson place except in brick, also exhibits eave brackets.

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After Mayfield and Graves County recovered from the War and Reconstruction, architectural preferences in the Mayfield's downtown reflected Classical Revival and late-Victorian designs, rather than Italianate. The primary features drawn from the Italianate style are segmental arch windows.



The sole High Victorian Italianate building, at left, in Mayfield Downtown

Commercial District (from the 1984 nomination). Within this local context, the Lyles House's mixture of Greek Revival and Italianate features seems normal, even striking.

Italianate Influences in Antebellum Paducah and McCracken County

Some structures found in nearby McCracken County indicate a slightly less conservative approach to architectural design, and so might be seen as having influenced the Lyles House's builder to incorporate some Italianate elements from that arena. This awareness of fashionable architecture seems confined more to Paducah; folk houses remained the common dwelling in rural McCracken County. For instance, the Wurtz-Blackburn House (McN-4) off of Krebs Road, is a one-story dogtrot log dwelling, possibly built as late as 1860, and the Johnson-Potter House (McN-8), a one-story 3-bay central passage plan with a rear ell with decidedly Greek Revival expression. The Anderson-Smith House is typical of rural McCracken County design choices, with a very traditional 5-bay, 2-story, central passage plan, executed in 1865, without any overt cues from Italianate vocabulary. The incorporation of Italianate features in McCracken County happened more forcefully in Paducah than in the surrounding area, and traditional forms persist in their popularity for much of the 19th century.

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Anderson-Smith House, 1865 (front porch added 1903)

Tilghman-Woolfolk House, 1857

Perhaps the two McCracken County houses to exhibit Italianate features the earliest are Annefield (McN-20) and the Smedlev-Yeiser House (McN-P-88). Annefield was originally occupied by John Noble, a Lexington native who had the house built shortly after settling in Paducah in 1850. The single-story 5-bay central-passage plan structure is weatherboarded and has Italianate trim that appears original (Wells, p. 55). The Smedley-Yeiser House, built in 1852 for Captain William Smedley, a marine supply dealer and part owner of the Excelsior Warf Boat. It is a 3-bay 1- story single-pile brick building with Italianate brackets at the eaves (Wells, p. 116).

One early and clever re-working of Greek Revival massing is the Tilghman-Woolfolk House (McN-P-102, National Register listed 1998) from 1857. It essentially cut off the right 1/3 of a typical Greek Revival central passage plan, creating what appears much like a fashionable rural Italianate Villa in its blocky massing and hipped roof. The segmental arch windows under the eave further enhance that effect. It was at once traditional and new.

The list of antebellum houses in Paducah is less than a dozen, and not all of those bear Italianate features. One striking aspect of these houses that have early Italianate features is the cosmopolitan nature of their owners. It's tempting to conclude that these owners—some well traveled, others of wide experience—were early to embrace these design elements because they had seen them while visiting far-distant ports or in popular literature of the day. A short list includes Annefield's John Noble came to Paducah from Lexington and published a newspaper; William Smedley, connected to shipping; General Lloyd Tilghman, surveyor and engineer for the New Orleans and Ohio Railroad; Quintus Q. Quigley, owner of the Angles (McN-P-168, National Register listed 1976), a lawyer from Tennessee who drew up Paducah's new city charter in 1856; and Valentine Owen, owner of the Owen-Alliston House (McN-P-177), who operated a ferry across the Ohio. It's interesting to speculate how this group reacted to their experience of a growing Paducah and the world outside it, and what part that experience played in their decision to build in a new mode before many others in their community did so. It's not difficult to imagine that the houses erected for these civic achievers-leaders became iconic markers of social prestige, laying the foundation for local acceptance of more pronounced Italianate and Victorian-era eclecticism. Perhaps these groundbreaking designs came to the awareness of Pete Lyles, and led him to incorporate some of them into the house he had erected shortly after the close of sectional conflict.

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History of the Pete Lyles House

Pete Lyles chose to build his home in Graves County rather than in McCracken County, so that he could reside closer to his business interests that clustered around Symsonia. McCracken County was platted in 1827 by William Clark, and comparatively, Graves County had greater landholding opportunity. Lyles was able to take advantage of the New Orleans and Ohio Railroad which ended at Paducah and was operational by 1860 ("Images of America: Paducah, p. 9"). Furthermore, the volatile environment spawned by the aftermath of the Civil War could have further influenced Pete Lyles to build a few miles away from Paducah, just outside of McCracken County, as well as a fair distance from the Graves County seat of Mayfield.

As one of Symsonia's first millers, store owners, and significant landowners, Pete Lyles had his residence constructed between 1865-1880. The D.J. Lake Graves County atlas shows that Pete Lyles House had a house in its current location by 1880. The atlas lists Pete Lyles in its Business References as a manufacturer of all grades of Family Flour. Custom Work done and solicited. All kinds of Sawing done with neatness, and promptly. Also, Propr. Of Woolen Mills on Clark's river. Cotton Gin, etc. Also, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Notions, etc., and all goods usually kept in a first-class Country Store.

The township map in the Lake atlas shows several of Lyles' interests in Symsonia. Lyles' Mill complex is located on Clarks River just 2 miles northwest of town. The complex consisted of at least 3 separate mills, a cotton gin-woolen mill, a grist mill, and a sawmill. That atlas' detailed map of Symsonia shows Lyles owning 3 buildings across the Main Street from his home, each of which has a square or rectangular form. These were almost certainly would have been his store buildings, though they are only labeled "P. Lyles." The map also shows another Lyles house on Main Street, owned by Washington Lyles, Pete's elder brother.

Lyles was one of leading citizens of this part of Graves County. He demonstrated his civic good will by donating land near his 3 store buildings to the Symsonia Methodists in 1854 for the construction of their church. The building was referred to as Lyles Chapel until the early 1930s. Postal records also indicate he served as postmaster for the Symsonia Post Office from September 26, 1860-July 19, 1862, and then again from May 28, 1877-July 24, 1883. He married LouRenda Crowell and had 5 children between the years 1871-1879: Sallie, Susan, Rosa, Josephine, and Thomas Rollie Lyles.

The following statistical information was drawn from property tax records on the Pete Lyles property from 1865-1886, the window of time that the house was supposed to have been built. The purpose of this survey of information was to find a large jump in the property's value, which might have indicated that the house was constructed some time between 1865-1886. While the collection of information on Pete Lyles' property's value does not support a more precise construction date for the house, it does show that Mr. Lyles was a continuously more prosperous entrepreneur in his locale:

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Pete Lyles: Value of land and holdings

| Year | Acres | Land | # Town lots/ | #Stores/ | Total Value @ X |
|------|-------|--------|--------------|----------|-----------------------|
| | | Value | Value | Value | Cents/\$100 |
| 1865 | 172 | \$1720 | 2/\$100 | | \$1945 |
| 1866 | 172 | \$1720 | 2/\$100 | /\$500 | \$2430 |
| 1867 | 170 | \$1700 | 2/\$200 | 1/\$100 | \$4210 |
| 1869 | 172 | \$1720 | 4/\$400 | 1/\$100 | \$5030 @ .30/\$100 |
| 1871 | 172 | \$1720 | 4/\$1000 | 1/\$1500 | \$7295 @ .45/\$100 |
| 1873 | 172 | \$3440 | 6/\$860 | 2/\$2500 | \$9670 @ . 45/\$100 |
| 1875 | 172 | \$4300 | 3/\$300 | 2/\$100 | \$7617 @ . 45/\$100 |
| 1880 | 160 | \$3200 | 2/\$300 | 2/\$1100 | \$14999 @ .40/\$100 |
| 1883 | 160 | \$3200 | 4/\$200 | 1/\$1000 | \$12221 @ .47.5/\$100 |
| 1886 | 160 | \$3200 | 4/\$300 | 1/\$2000 | \$13550 @ .47.5/\$100 |

Pete Lyles: Agricultural Productivity

| Year | # Horses | # Mules | # Cattle | # Hogs | Tons Hay | Bu.Corn | Bu. Wheat |
|------|----------|---------|----------|--------|----------|---------|-----------|
| 1865 | 1 | 245 | 199 | 199 | 277 | 77 | |
| 1866 | 2 | P 44 1 | | | | Dee C. | |
| 1867 | 3 | 1 | | | 122 | | 144 |
| 1869 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 200 | |
| 1871 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | | | -4 |
| 1873 | 3 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 1-1-2 | 500 | 60 |
| 1875 | 3 | 18 | 5 | 15 | 1 1 | 22 | |
| 1880 | 5 | 18 | 12 | 4 | | II. Au | 40 |
| 1883 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 30 | 10 | 2500 | 475 |
| 1886 | 4 | 15 | 32 | 100 | 20 | 1000 | 30 |

Despite this apparent success, in 1887 Pete Lyles deeded the house to his son, T. R. Lyles, citing financial difficulties (See Original Deed). Pete Lyles died in 1891. The house remained in the Lyles name until 1898 when Pete Lyles' son, T. Rollie Lyles and his sister Josie B., sold the property at the door of the Graves County Courthouse to C. M. McCain, who was married to Pete Lyles' daughter, Susie. According to the Master of Commissioner's Deed Book, p. 282, the purchase price was seven hundred dollars. The McCain's possession of the property was short-lived, however, as they sold the house and property to Thomas Adams in 1900 for \$1130 (Graves County Deed Book 23: 649). In 1903, Thomas Adams sold the estate to Dr. H.C. and Mrs. Josephine Redwine for \$1485 (Graves County Deed Book 33:2).

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Having the second-longest tenure of the house (29 years), the Redwines used the main floor of the house as their residence while the second floor was used as a medical office. Oral tradition maintains that Dr. Redwine stored different medicines on the shelves next to the steps leading to the second floor between the main house and the original kitchen. After Dr. Redwine died and while the country was in the throes of depression, Mollie Redwine, surviving widow of Dr. H.C. Redwine, and Virginia R. Henderson, his heir, sold the house to Victor C. and Alma Wallace in 1932 for \$1001 (Graves County Deed Book 101:572).

In 1948, Fred Elzy and wife Christine, possibly from Chicago, purchased the house from Victor C. Wallace for \$10,500 (Graves County Deed Book 146: 578). The Elzy's sold the house to A.H. and Audrey Watkins in 1951 (Graves County Deed Book 149:210). In 1966, the Watkins sold the house to Clay and Sue Elrod for \$17,000 (Graves County Deed Book 202:251). The Pete Lyles House was then restored to the original family in 2000 when it was purchased by Terry McKee and Michelle Lyles McKee, great-great granddaughter of Pete Lyles (Graves County Deed Book 390:406).

A January 1, 1950, Paducah-Sun article written by area historian and Symsonia native Bill Powell cited the Pete Lyles House as "the town's most popular spot. Dances were held often at the beautiful old house, and all the people in town went there and had a good time." Ninety-year-old sisters MaeBelle Powell and Mary Roach who are life-long Symsonia residents talk of the early days when State Representative Pete Lyles hosted a ball for the governor in the house' second floor which, at that time, was one big room. Other stories include the house cellar being used as secret storage during Prohibition days. Still another speaks of a bullet lodged in a wall of the house following an argument between guests (to date, the bullet has not been discovered). Though difficult to authenticate, many of these tales express obvious affection for the old house.

Summary of the Pete Lyles House Significance

As an example of Greek Revival architecture, the Pete Lyles House in Symsonia (Graves County), Kentucky, meets the National Register Criterion C. The structure's symmetrical design, brick construction (likely made from the abundant local clay), roofline, windows, and front entrance, along with the Flemish bond brickwork of the nearby carriage house, all contribute to its existence as a finely designed Greek Revival styled house in Graves County, Kentucky, and, among that small population, the only one locally exhibiting Italianate details.

The striking resemblance of the house today, compared with a photograph of the house taken around the turn of the 20th century, reveals that very little has changed in its overall form and design. In spite of many owners, choices were made not to drastically alter the existing structure. Today, its stately appearance and embellished details provide area citizens with a connection to the community's roots—one that reflects prosperity in the early history of this small rural town. Coupling architecture with oral tradition, the Pete Lyles House retains its charm and elicits pride not only from current owners, but also from other families in the community who claim a small part of it as their own.

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| Lyles, Pete, House Name of Property | Page 4 | | s County, KY y and State | |
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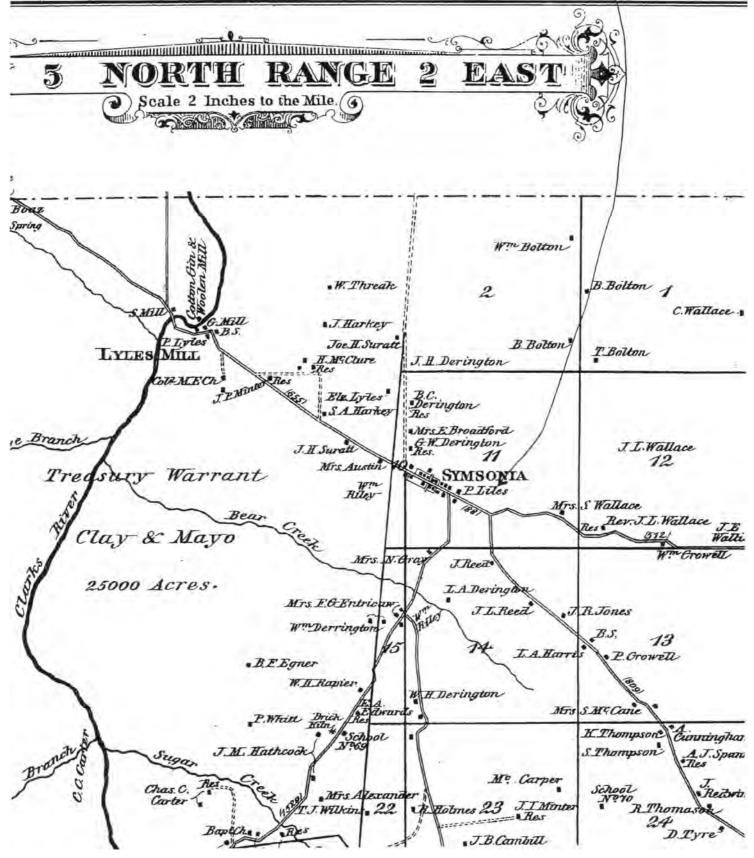
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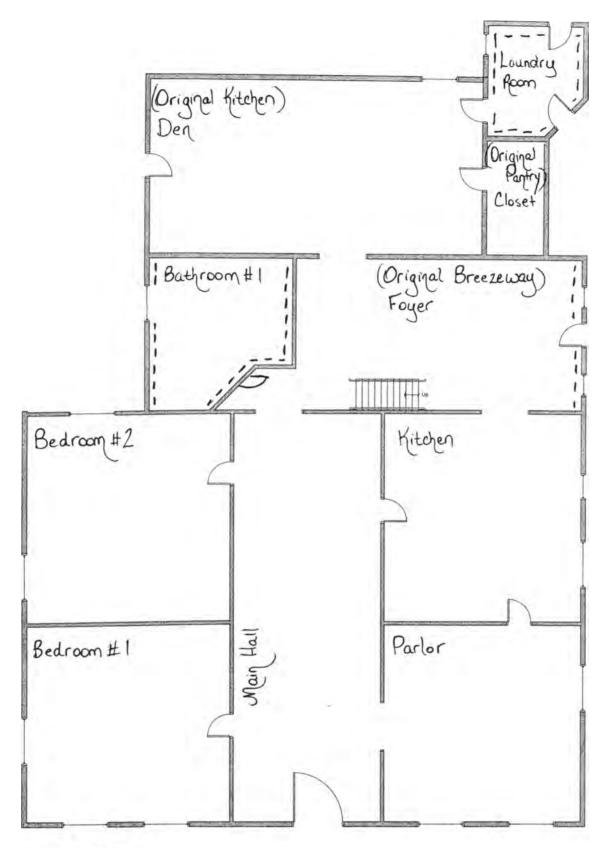
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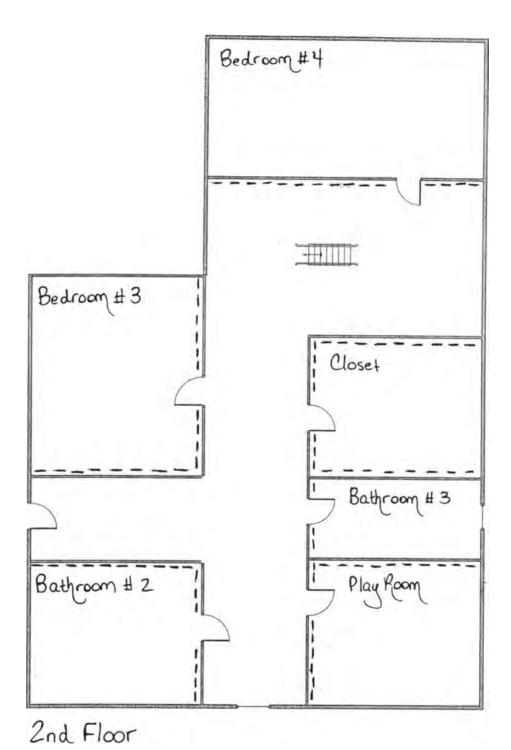
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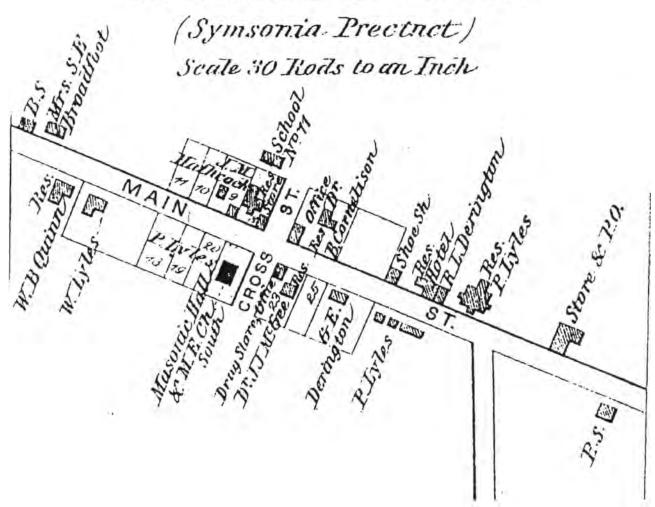


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| Weakley Co. Tenn. Calloway Co. Ky. Graves Co. Ky. Henry Co. Tenn. Graves Co. Ky. ST. Cowan Co. N. C. Vilson Co. Tenn. Marshall Co. Ky. Halifax Co. Va. | 1853 1851 1853 1854 1849 1833 1857 1876 1837 1838 | Carter, C. T. Crowell, Henry Cornelison, B. Dove, John Derington, J. H. Derington, G. W. Derington, R. L. Edwards, E. A. Hathcock, J. M. Hall, B. T. Hurrison, W. T. Lyles, P. Mead, H. C. Mack, John | 135 50 122 109 160 72 1131 205 240 | Boaz Station Symsonia. | Farmer Clerk Physician Surgeon and Dentist Farmer Farmer and Trader Farmer & Dep. Assessor. Prop. of Hotel & Trader Farmer, Trader & J. P. Merchant Physician and Surgeon Farmer Mercht. and Manufactur Teacher and Farmer Farmer | Amherst Co. Va. Graves Co. Ky. Montgomery Co.N.C. Jackson Co. Ala. Graves Co. Ky. Calloway Co. Ky. Chatham Co. N. C. Graves Co. Ky. Randolph Co. N. C. Graves Co. Ky. Perry Co. Ill | 1827 1864 1853 1876 1840 1855 1851 1861 1835 1844 1852 1869 1837 1877 |
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Pete Lyles Hs. Graves Co., Ky

SYMSONIA



Pete Lyles Hs. Graves Co., ky United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

| | Name of Property |
|--|--|
| | County and State |
| umber Page | Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) |
| | |
| SUPPLEMENTARY | LISTING RECORD |
| NRIS Reference Number: 06001202 | Date Listed: December 26, 2006 |
| Property Name: Pete Lyles House | |
| County: Graves | State: Kentucky |
| N/A | |
| Multiple Name | |
| This property is listed in the National Register of nomination documentation subject to the follows: | |
| | ing exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, |
| nomination documentation subject to the follow notwithstanding the National Park Service certification. Signature of the Keeper | ing exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, ication included in the nomination |
| nomination documentation subject to the follows notwithstanding the National Park Service certification. Signature of the Keeper Amended Items in Nomination: | ing exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, ication included in the nomination |
| nomination documentation subject to the follow notwithstanding the National Park Service certification. Signature of the Keeper | ing exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, ication included in the nomination December 26, 2006 Date of Action |
| nomination documentation subject to the follows notwithstanding the National Park Service certification. Signature of the Keeper Amended Items in Nomination: Section 10. Geographic Data | December 26, 2006 Date of Action 3.26 acres. |

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

NOMINATION

REQUESTED ACTION.

| | 40.000 | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----|--------|---|---|-------------|
| PROPERTY I | yles, Pete, Ho | ous | е | | | |
| MULTIPLE NAME: | | | | | | |
| STATE & COUN | TY: KENTUCKY | , G | raves | | | |
| | DAY: 12/2 | | | | PENDING LIST: 45TH DAY: | |
| REFERENCE NU | MBER: 060012 | 02 | | | | |
| REASONS FOR | REVIEW: | | | | | |
| OTHER: N | | N | | N | LESS THAN 50 Y PROGRAM UNAPPE NATIONAL: | N N N |
| COMMENT WAIV | ER: N | | | | | |
| ACCEPT | RETURN | _ | REJECT | | DATE | |
| ABSTRACT/SUM | MARY COMMENTS | : | | | | |
| | | | | | or its architectural des | |

The Pete Lyles House is locally significant under Criterion C for its architectural design, which includes elements of both the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Italianate windows with full arches and U-shaped hooded crowns dominate the facade, while the Greek Revival influence can be seen in the sidelights flanking the door, the trim band beneath the cornice, the Doric porch columns. Today, the Pete Lyles House reflects the architectural history of Graves County and retains integrity from its period of significance.

RECOM./CRETERIA # (Cept C

REVIEWER | United Vivian DISCIPLINE # 15torian

TELEPHONE (222)354-2252 DATE 12 | 26 | 06

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the

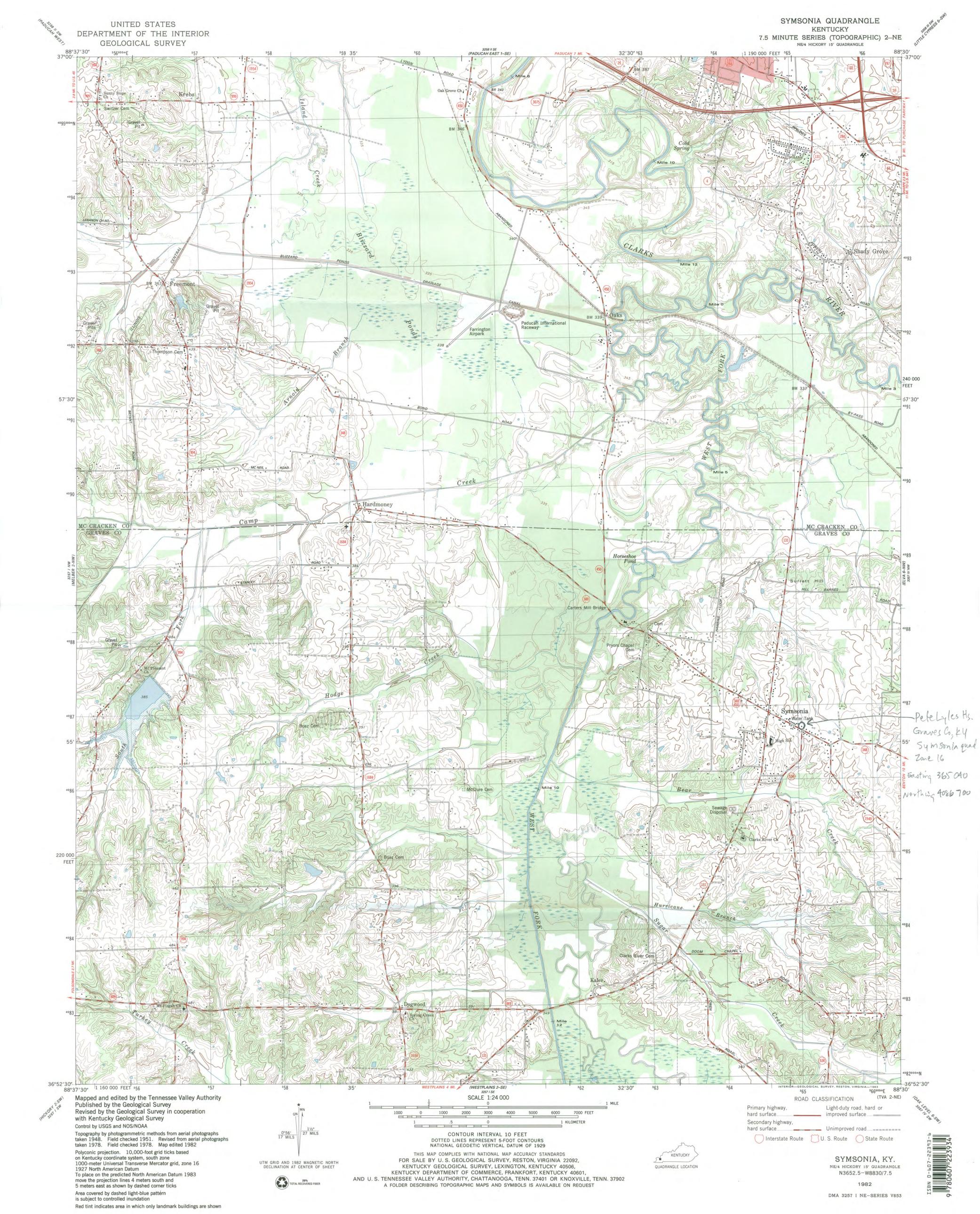
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.













COMMERCE CABINET KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIA KATIONAL PARK SERV

RECEIVED 2280

2 / 2006

NAT. RESESTER OF HISTERIOL PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ernie Fletcher Governor The State Historic Preservation Office 300 Washington Street Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 Phone (502) 564-7005 Fax (502) 564-5820 www.kentucky.gov George Ward Secretary

November 7, 2006

Jan Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Keeper National Park Service 2280 National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW 8th Floor Washington DC 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

Enclosed are nominations for 8 Kentucky properties approved at the 9/28/06 Review Board meeting:

Trimble House, Ballard County, KY
West Millersburg Rural Historic District, Bourbon County, KY
Hood-Tucker House, Clark County, KY
Whitesell, Jesse, Farm (Name Change, Boundary Enlargement), Fulton County, KY
and Obion County, TN
Lyles, Pete, House, Graves County, KY
Bannon, Martin Jeff (M.J.), House, Jefferson County, KY
Campbellsville High School, Stadium, & Athletic Field, Taylor County, KY
Smiths Grove Historic District (Boundary Increase), Warren County, KY

Please note the Jesse Whitesell Farm is a property in both Kentucky and Tennessee. The documentation includes a 2-page comment from the Tennessee SHPO on the property's eligibility.

Enclosed is documentation on two other properties. The first requests a change in the status of two buildings within a listed property, the **Thomson Neighborhood District**, Clark County, Kentucky (91001925). Those two buildings, currently considered a single non-contributing building, are proposed to be reassigned to the status of two contributing buildings. Second is additional documentation to clarify questions raised by Dan Vivian on the recently submitted form, the **Wildcat Mountain Battlefield** (**Boundary Increase**), Laurel County, Kentucky.

We appreciate your assistance with these actions.

David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive Director

Kentucky Heritage Council





"Perry, Marty \(Heritage Council\)" <Marty.Perry@ky.gov>

To: <Dan_Vivian@nps.gov> Subject: RE: Pete Lyles House

01/09/2007 10:14 AM

EST

She emailed back, saying that the 3.26 acres is the correct amount. Should I prepare a corrected page 4 cover form for sending to you, or can you handle the change with an SLR and be done with it?

Marty Perry

National Register Coordinator Kentucky Heritage Council

300 Washington Street, Frankfort KY 40601 mail:

phone: 502-564-7005 ext. 132 (fax: 502-564-5820)

CC.

e-mail: marty.perry@ky.gov

website: www.heritage.ky.gov

----Original Message----

Dan_Vivian@nps.gov [mailto:Dan_Vivian@nps.gov] From:

Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 8:08 AM To: Perry, Marty (Heritage Council) RE: Pete Lyles House Subject:

Okay, thanks. Don't hesitate to send a reminder -- this should be an easy matter to resolve, and as soon as I know the correct acreage, I can list the property.

Dan

"Perry, Marty \(Heritage

To: <Dan Vivian@nps.gov>

Council\)" cc:

<Marty.Perry@ky.g Subject: RE: Pete Lyles House

CVO

01/08/2007 02:36

PM EST

Emailed the question to the owner.

Marty Perry

National Register Coordinator Kentucky Heritage Council

mail: 300 Washington Street, Frankfort KY 40601

502-564-7005 ext. 132 (fax: 502-564-5820) phone:

e-mail: marty.perry@ky.gov

website: www.heritage.ky.gov

----Original Message----

From: Dan_Vivian@nps.gov [mailto:Dan_Vivian@nps.gov]

Monday, January 08, 2007 2:05 PM Sent: