

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Martin County Courthouse

other names/site number MT-I-6

2. Location

street & number 10 Courthouse Street not for publication NA
city or town Inez vicinity NA state Kentucky
code KY county Martin code 159 zip code 41224

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan

7-20-06
Date

Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, SHPO

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register *Doreen J. Viver*
- See continuation sheet,
- determined eligible for the 9/15/06
- National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
- National Register
- removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Jar Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: courthouse

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification Late 19th & Early 20th Century
American Movements - Other:
WPA-Era Construction

Materials foundation Stone - Sandstone
roof Asphalt
walls Stone - Sandstone
other Wood - (cupola)

Narrative Description (See continuation sheets.)

=====

Description

The Martin County Courthouse (MT-I-6) is the fourth courthouse to serve the county. The current building was constructed with assistance to the County by a Public Works Administration grant during the New Deal era. Construction began on the two-story building on August 10, 1938, and was completed on April 23, 1941. Built in the town of Inez, the County seat, the building's sandstone foundation and exterior was quarried from the mountains of Martin County utilizing local labor as was typical during WPA-era construction. It was designed by Paul J. Arnett. The primary entrance faces to the northeast, toward State Route 40. The historic building has a T-plan footprint, and has an addition behind each bar of the T.

The Martin County Courthouse sits on approximately one acre at the junction of Rt. 3 and Rt. 40 in Inez and is a freestanding structure constructed with sandstone foundation and walls. This corner lot is located along the central main street of the City in what is currently a mixture of commercial, government-use buildings, and residential properties. Three historical markers referencing events and individuals associated with Martin County stand in front of the courthouse property.

The building does not appear as a latter-1930s design funded by a New Deal-era grant; it resembles more the courthouses built in the early-20th century up until the first World War, i.e., it displays Neoclassical styling. The building's original T-plan has been added to twice, at the rear corners of the building. The first addition provided a two-story jailhouse during the 1940s with brick exterior walls; the second resulted in a one-story office in the 1980s with masonry block walls. The original cost for construction was \$108,217 (McDonald: 92).

The main façade of the building is grouped into three bays. Each bay has 3 window openings per floor. The central bay projects forward slightly from the bays that flank it on either side; it rises to an integral pediment. That central bay is topped by a gabled asphalt-covered roof, and has a wooden cupola with a stone base matching the wall and foundation material. A flat tarred roof covers each side extension. The primary façade has 2 entries, each a doorway on the recessed façade near where the central façade projects forward. Full-arches with keystones cap the windows in this central bay of the front façade and the corresponding windows on the opposite façade of the T; otherwise, the windows in the building are flat-arched. Each side elevation is articulated as 3 bays, with paired windows in each bay. The structure contains its original glass-paned windows.

The two main entryways each have a stairwell giving access to second floor offices. The building's first floor consists of office space along the main corridors along the perimeter of the building. The second floor consists of office spaces at each end of the "T" with the central portion of the building's original structure consisting of a large courtroom. The building's interior two floors consist of multiple offices with plaster walls and a large second-floor courtroom finished in hardwood details. Interior spaces are finished with plaster and wooden trim. The doors appear original except for a few with minor alterations throughout the building. Interior square footage of the original structure totals approximately 18,800. Constructed in the 1940s, the two-story jailhouse addition adds 3,558 to the square footage and includes a walkway from the second floor of the jail where cells are located to the second-floor courtroom. The office addition on the opposite side of the rear of the structure adds 1,872 square feet and houses the County Clerk's office space and deed room and was constructed in the 1980's.

No restoration work has taken place on or within the original structure since its construction. While structurally sound, the building's second-floor presently suffers from water damage resulting from roof deterioration. Over time, water leaks have led to a deteriorated roof and damage to portions of the ceilings and walls.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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.

Criteria Considerations

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance	<u>Politics and Government</u>
Period of Significance	<u>1938-1956</u>
Significant Dates	<u>1938, 1941</u>
Significant Person	<u>N/A</u>
Cultural Affiliation	<u>N/A</u>
Architect/Builder	<u>Arnett, Paul J. (architect)</u>

Narrative Statement of Significance (See continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See continuation sheets.)

- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary Location of Additional Data
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Martin County Public Library

Statement of Significance

The Martin County Courthouse (MT-I-6) meets criterion A and is significant in the area of Politics and Government from its construction in 1938 until the close of the historic period at the time of this nomination, 1956. The building is the County's most visible construction from the New Deal era, and specifically, from the Works Progress Administration. The local quarried stone used in its construction is a recognizable feature associated with New Deal-era public construction projects in eastern Kentucky in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Of significance to the region, the 'New Deal' relief projects helped combat the social effects of the Great Depression, putting to work many who had been idled by the national economic disaster, and used local building materials in those projects. The New Deal-era projects that were undertaken in Martin County are listed below, and show the Courthouse as the primary accomplishment. After construction, the Courthouse continued to possess great local importance as the headquarters for County government. Thus, the Period of Significance continues beyond the New Deal-era construction, to 1956.

Martin County was formed in 1870 from surrounding Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, and Pike Counties, the 116th county in Kentucky. The County was named after John P. Martin (1811-1862), A Kentucky legislator who later served as a US Representative and Senator from Prestonsburg. The county consists of 231 square miles. Early industry in the county centered in the community of Warfield, in which a salt works and natural gas wells arose. Typical eastern Kentucky extractive industries have been present in the county, such as timber and coal mining. Martin County's town of Himlerville (now Beauty) once was home to perhaps the nation's only cooperatively-owned mining company, organized by Hungarian journalist Martin Himler.

Upon establishing the county, the legislature appointed county commissioners, who named Warfield, the largest town, as the county seat. The community's decline after the Civil War led the Commissioners to petition the General Assembly to select Inez as county seat in 1872, as it occupied a more central location. The legislature required a local election to allow citizens to vote upon the county seat's location. Subsequently, the three commissioners met at the home of a resident overlooking what was known as Arminta Ward's bottom where the present courthouse now stands. They came to agreement that this location was "Eden". Voters decided in favor of Eden becoming the county seat in August 1873. The post office, however, was named "Inez" which led to some confusion. Therefore, the name "Eden" was dropped and the county seat became known as Inez. The town's population has not risen above 600 residents.

According to *Kentucky Courthouses*, the first Martin County Courthouse was built around 1873 and was a log structure that was used until 1881. The second courthouse was built the following year as a frame structure that suffered a fire in 1892. The third courthouse structure was built in 1892-93 and was used until 1933 giving way to the fourth and present structure. Paul J. Arnett is credited with the building's design, for which he was paid \$1200 (Fiscal Court Order Book, July 18, 1938). That same source did not yield the name of a general contractor on any entry 1938-1941. Arnett's name does not appear in connection with any other properties in the KHC database.

Functions and offices within the courthouse result in it being a gathering spot for the community. The County Judge Executive, the Sheriff, the County Court Clerk, Property Valuation Administrator, Economic Development Office, Emergency Management, the Jailor, and the Tax Administrator have offices within the building. The Administrative Office of the Courts once occupied the building but is now located in a new structure that was constructed during the 1990s that sits behind the current courthouse and shares the same parking area. From its beginning, the courthouse square has functioned as a point of socializing among community members.

People in even the most rural Kentucky counties have looked to their local governments to take care of a variety of functions that foster a good social environment: running schools, road building, provision of water, crime response, etc. The effects of the Great Depression fell upon Martin County as on others. The projects that it applied for and undertook demonstrate the importance of those basic functions of county government:

Civil Works Administration Projects Completed in Martin County

<u>Project ID #</u>	<u>Description</u>
82-2	Road from Buffalo Creek; ends on tug River
82-4	Construction of Stone Wall around Courthouse Square
82-5	Reconstruction of County Road, Highway 40, at Tomahawk, approx. 4 miles
82-6	Reconstruction, grad, and drain of road in Wolf Creek Section of county, 3 miles



Martin County Culvert project

Martin County Dynamite Magazine

Martin County Road Project

(All photos courtesy Goodman-Paxton photo collection, University of KY)

Works Progress Administration Projects Completed in Martin County

<u>Name of Resource</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>
Martin County CH	1938
Inez High School/gym	1936
Tomahawk School	1938



Martin County Courthouse

Inez High School

Tomahawk School

Other New Deal Completed in Martin County, identified in Kennedy/Johnson (p. 226)



Warfield School



County Warehouse and Garage

In many counties of eastern Kentucky, the courthouse square has traditionally been the center of activity within the county and is associated by residents as a focal point and source of pride within a community. The Martin County Courthouse is a good example of that connection to community by its residents. Beyond county government administration, it is a structure associated with local history, social activities, court cases, and politics.

One marker of the central place this building occupies in local affairs is the presence of three Kentucky Historical Highway Markers located on the Courthouse lawn near the entrance to the building. One marker notes Martin County's beginnings in 1870 and its naming after John P. Martin. The second recognizes pioneer James Ward who settled in Martin County after having served in the Revolutionary War with the Virginia Regiment, and his descendent, William B. Ward, an educator, author, and leader in the education for 50 years. The third marker memorializes two individuals, William McCoy, Sr. and Lewis Dempsey, who were well-known community leaders in education and economic development. These highway markers contrast with those that tell an "it happened here" story. Instead, these markers tell of particular citizens' achievements that become a source of collective pride for county residents. The placement of these markers of accomplishment in front of the county courthouse teaches an important civic lesson: the great action of the few should become the inspiration for the many, as the county building houses the collective identity of the county's citizens.

=====

Bibliography

Major books consulted:

- Carpenter, John and Scott, William B., *Kentucky Courthouses*. London, KY: John W. Carpenter. 1988.
- Kennedy, Rachel and Cynthia Johnson, *The New Deal Builds: A Historic Context of the New Deal in East Kentucky, 1933 to 1943*. Frankfort: Kentucky Heritage Council, 2005.
- McDonald, Nancy Stovall, *A Book of Kentucky Courthouses*. n.p., n.d.
- Scalf, Henry P., *Kentucky's Last Frontier*. Pikeville, KY: Pikeville College Press. 1972.

Other Sources:

- *Martin Countian*. Inez, Kentucky. Aug. 10, 1988.
- Interview – Kelly Callaham, Martin County Judge Executive, March 28, 2006.
- Deed – Martin County Courthouse property. Martin County Clerk. Inez, KY.
- Kentucky Historical Marker Database. <http://kentucky.gov/kyhs/hmdb/MarkerSearch.aspx>
- Goodman-Paxton Photographic Collection, original photos at University of Kentucky, available on line at <http://kdl.kyvl.org/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?xc=1:c=kukead:idno=kukavpa64m1>.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References	Zone	Easting	Northing
	<u>17</u>	<u>364 620</u>	<u>4191 860</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (See continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name	<u>Denise Thomas</u>	<u>L. Martin Perry</u>
title	<u>Community & Economic Development Associate</u>	<u>National Register Coordinator</u>
organiz.	<u>Big Sandy Area Development District</u>	<u>Kentucky Heritage Council</u>
address	<u>110 Resource Court, Prestonsburg KY 41563</u>	<u>300 Washington St Frankfort KY 40601</u>
telephone	<u>606-886-2374</u>	<u>502-564-7005 ext. 132</u>
	<u>date May 12, 2006</u>	

Property Owner

name Martin County Fiscal Court

street & number PO Box telephone 606-

city or town Inez state KY zip code

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1 Martin County Courthouse
name of property
Martin County, KY
county and State

=====

Verbal Boundary Description:

The property as described on the deed is as follows:

About one acre of land situated in said County and State in the bottom just above Arminta Wards house on the Cold Water Fork of Rockcastle Creek, it being the same site or situation selected for the public square in County by Commissioners Whiten Hatcher and Wells and bounded as follows beginning at a Stone situated in said bottom out from said Creek on the line that divides James Wards lot from Arminta Wards farm; then North 23E 210 feet to a stake; then South 64 E 210 feet to a stake; then South 23 West 210 feet to a stake, then North 64 W 210 feet to the beginning, containing about one acre.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the property were selected that encompass the courthouse structure and immediate area included within the property boundaries of the courthouse square.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photographs Page 1

Martin County Courthouse
name of property
Martin County, KY
county and State

=====

Applies to all photos:

Property: Martin County Courthouse

Location: Martin County, KY

Photographer: Denise Thomas (photos 1-5); John Carpenter (photo 6)

Location of digital files: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort KY

Date of Photographs: March 29, 2006 (photos 1-5); 1988 (photo 6)

Specific information per photo:

Photo #	Description of shot	Photo identification on disc
1	Auditor's office, rear of courthouse.	KY_MartinCounty_Courthouse1.tif
2	Main rear entrance to courthouse	KY_MartinCounty_Courthouse2.tif
3	Entry to Jail addition (at left)	KY_MartinCounty_Courthouse3.tif
4	2-story Jail addition on rear.	KY_MartinCounty_Courthouse4.tif
5	Front façade of courthouse	KY_MartinCounty_Courthouse5.tif
6	Front facade of courthouse from Rt. 40	Supplemental image, not on disc

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Martin County Courthouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Martin

DATE RECEIVED: 8/02/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/25/06
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/09/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/15/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000811

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Martin County Courthouse is locally significant under Criterion A as the hub of politics and government in Martin County. Built in 1938, it is the most visible reminder of the federal programs that provided economic assistance to Martin County during the Great Depression. By utilizing local labor and local materials in building campaigns, the Works Progress Administration sought to revitalize local economies devastated by the economic crisis. The courthouse is one of thousands of such buildings that were built across the country with WPA assistance. The stone quarried for its construction can also be seen in other examples of New Deal-era public architecture in eastern Kentucky. The courthouse reflects the history of politics and government in Martin County and retains integrity from its period of significance.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A
REVIEWER Daniel Vivian DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE (252) 354-2252 DATE 9/15/06

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

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



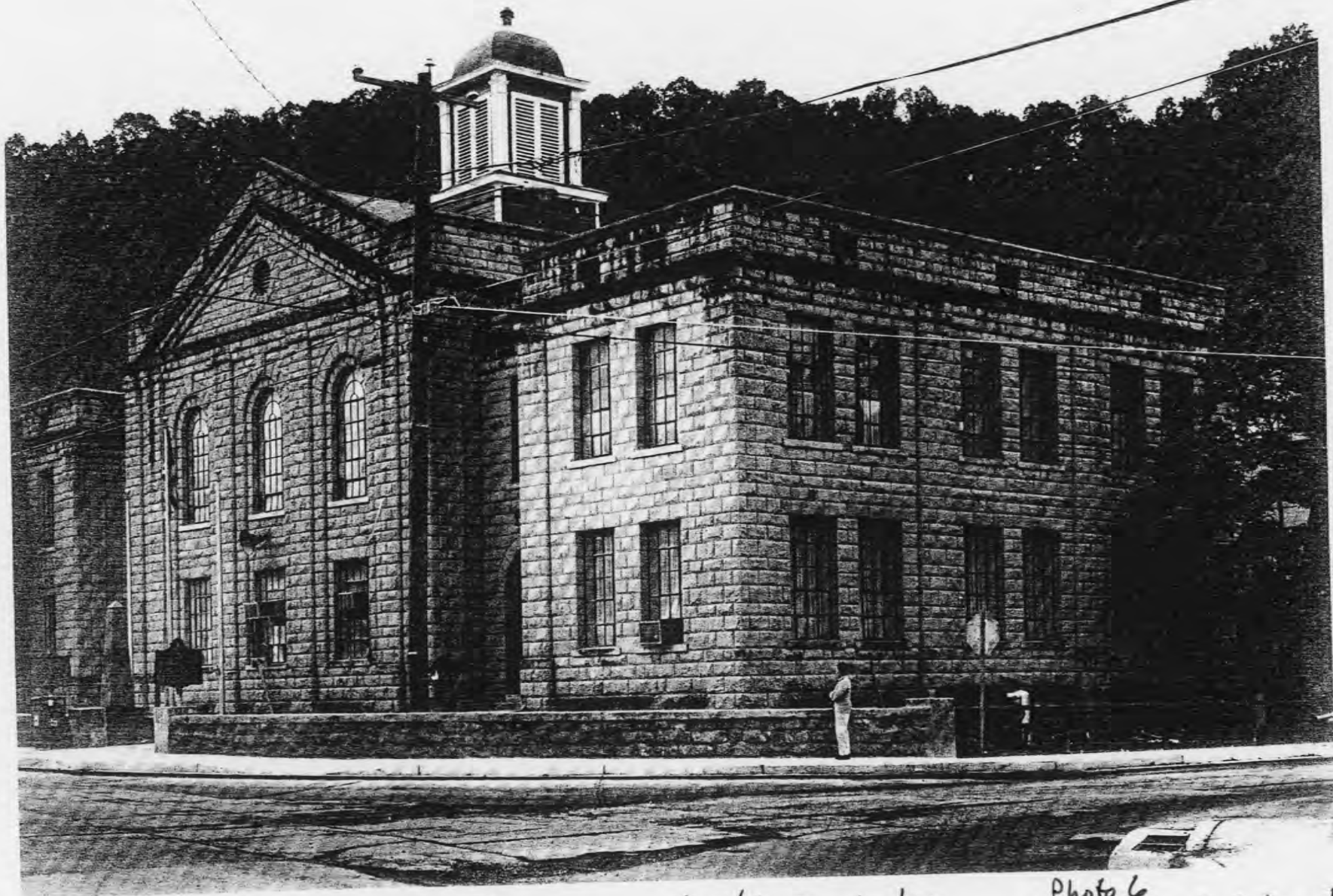
Conf. to Bldg. North County Club











Martin County Courthouse

Martin County, Ky

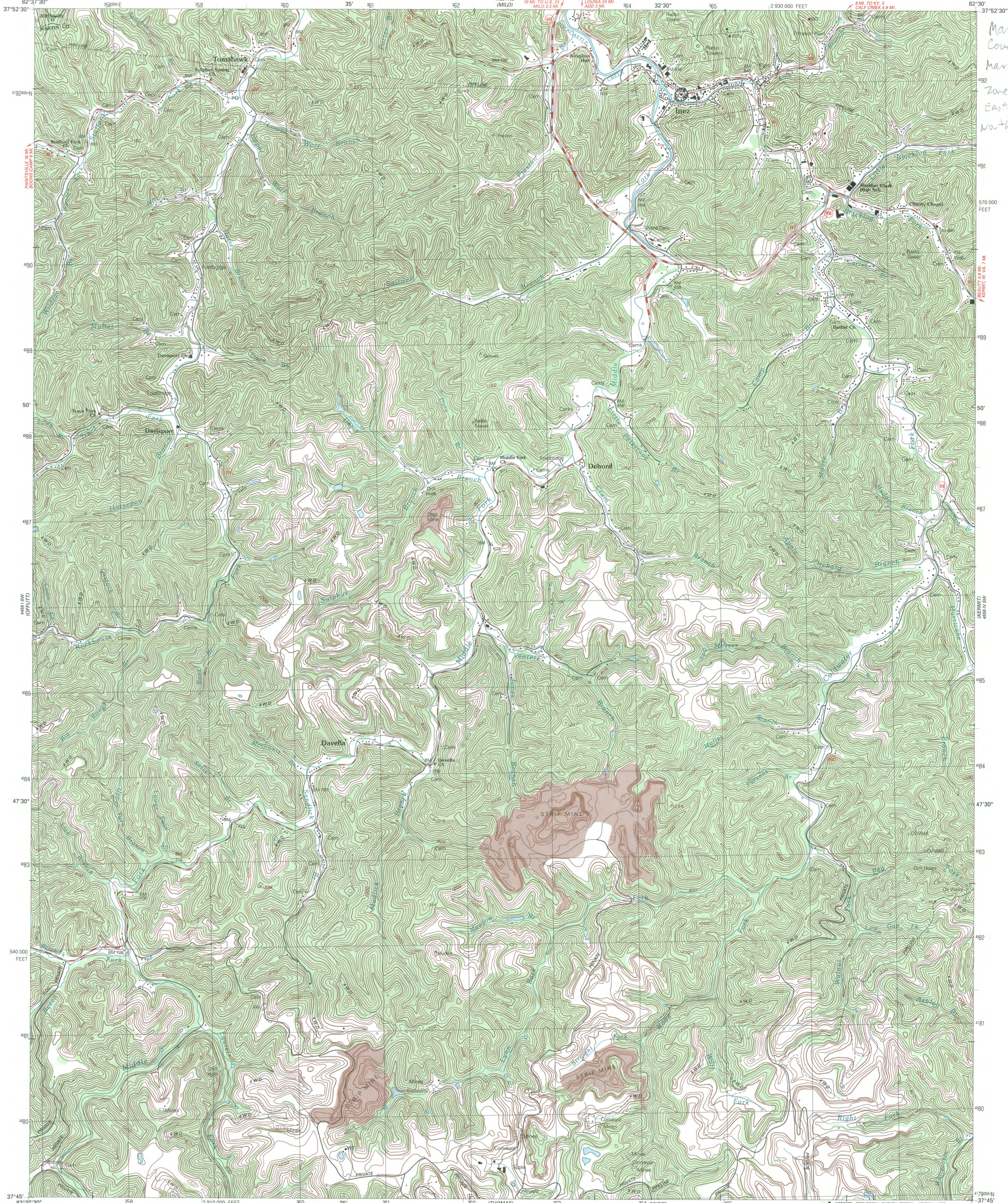
Photo &
supplemental photography





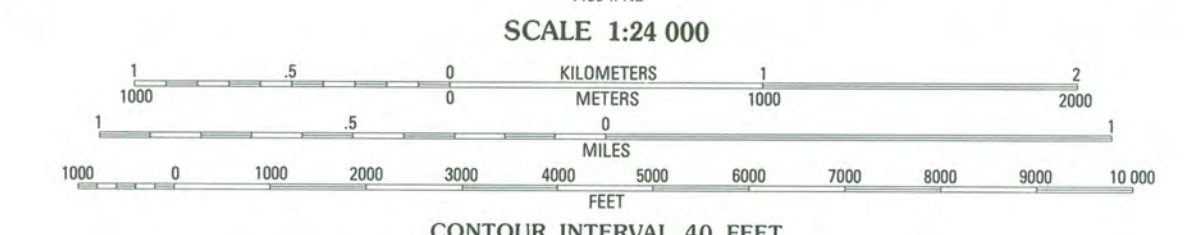
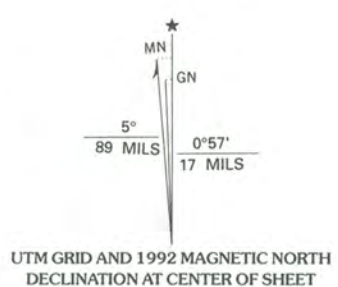
Cold On 8th - Marble County Court



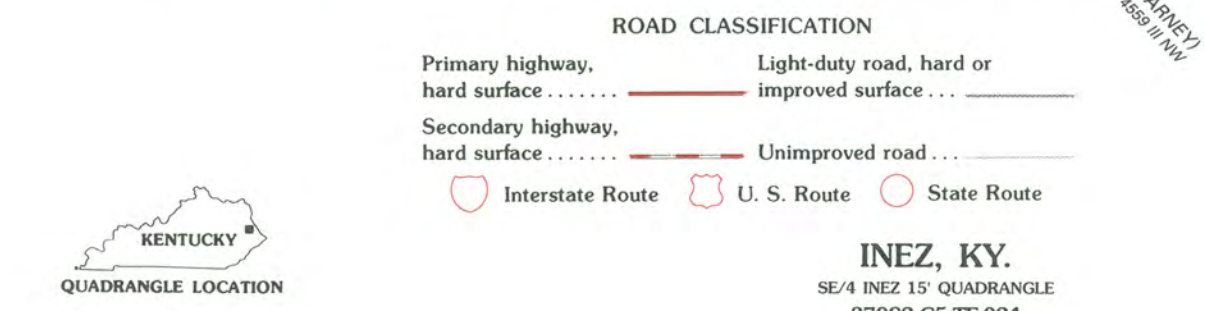


Martin County
Courthouse
Martin Co, Ky
Zone 17
Easting 364 620
Northing 4191 860

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Kentucky Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1951. Field checked 1954. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1988. Field checked 1990. Map edited 1992
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Kentucky coordinate
system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 17
1927 North American Datum
The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North
American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections
is given in USGS Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by
dashed corner ticks
Unlabeled wells are gas wells
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
NATIONAL SURVEY STANDARDS FOR SPATIAL ACCURACY - CLASS 2
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



INEZ, KY
SE/4 INEZ 15' QUADRANGLE
37082-G5-TT-024
1992
DMA 4459 I SE-SERIES V853



**COMMERCE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

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

George Ward
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Secretary

David L. Morgan
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

Ernie Fletcher
Governor

July 6, 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 Kentucky property approved at the 6/14/06 Review Board meeting:


- Mockingbird Valley Historic District**, Jefferson County, KY
- Portland Proper**, Jefferson County, KY
- Whitesburg Commercial District**, Letcher County, KY
- Tate Building, Madison County, KY**
- ✓ **Martin County Courthouse**, Martin County, KY
- Wooldridge-Rose House**, Oldham County, KY
- Modern Automotive District**, Warren County, KY

The Board approved two forms proposing boundary increases to properties already listed:

- Wildcat Mountain Battlefield (Boundary Increase)**, Laurel County, KY
- Battle of Tebbs Bend (Boundary Increase)**, Taylor County, KY

We appreciate your assistance with these nominations.

Sincerely,


David L. Morgan, SHPO and
Executive Director
Kentucky Heritage Council



COMMERCE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL



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
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Secretary

David L. Morgan
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

October 3, 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 photographs for a Kentucky under consideration by the National Register:

Martin County Courthouse, Martin County, KY

We appreciate your delivery of these photos directly to **Dan Vivian**.

Sincerely,

Marty Perry
National Register Coordinator
Kentucky Heritage Council/SHPO office