

PH0005398

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	Kentucky
COUNTY:	Clark
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	AUG 7 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Clark County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
None

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Winchester

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
06

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021 COUNTY: Clark CODE: 049

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

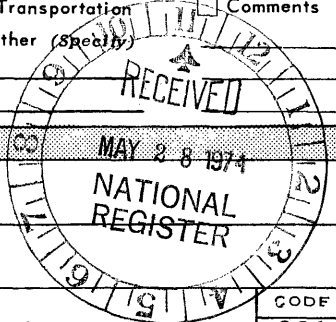
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Clark County Fiscal Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Winchester

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Clark County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Winchester

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

H/S
E 74000000

STATE:
COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: AUG 7 1974
DATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

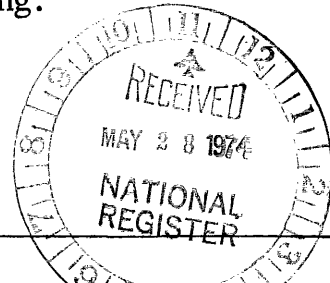
The present Clark County Courthouse is the fourth such building to be erected on this site. The present Courthouse was designed by the Kentucky architect John McMurtry and constructed in 1853-1855. A west wing, approximately one-third the area of the original building, was added to the rear in 1938.

McMurtry was influenced by the Greek Revival style in creating this building. The Courthouse is a long, T-shaped, two-story with a basement, masonry structure. The front facade (east) is a wide, pedimented pavilion. The front entrance is a central distyle-in-antis Ionic portico. The roof is now topped with a slender, two-tiered clock tower. The original tower was three-tiered and capped by a golden dome and a weather vane. However, one tier was removed, to the detriment of the architectural design. The ground slopes in such a manner as to allow a two-story frontal elevation and a three-story rear elevation.

Although the building has been added to and remodeled several times, documented records indicate that the plan of the original building used the first floor as the courtroom and the second floor for the various county offices. The courtroom was arranged so that the spectators, jurists, etc., were seated to the left and the right (north and south) and the Judge's bench was in the center toward the west. It is interesting to note that all town elections were originally held in the courtroom. The town was divided into two precincts, therefore, one group took the north side and one group the south side. The courtroom was also used as the local opera house. Plays, musical programs and similar activities were held here. In 1889 the local court decided to move the courtroom to the second floor where it is presently located.

The exterior of the courthouse is finely detailed. The workmanship in the column capitals, the cornice, eaves, etc. is excellent. Symmetry was rigidly adhered to by McMurtry. Since the interior has been remodeled several times, one has to assume that the original interior work was of the same quality as the exterior. Presently, the basement and first floor levels are being used to house all the county offices and the second floor for the courtroom. The arrangement of these spaces leaves no evidence of the original plan. It is also apparent that those responsible for the various remodeling projects have had little regard for the craftsmanship exhibited in the original building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century 1853-1855

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1855**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clark County Courthouse is the fourth courthouse to stand on this site. The first building was a two-room log structure which cost a total of \$16.00. The Clark County Court held its first session in this log building on July 22, 1794. The second courthouse of brick construction was completed in October, 1797. The third courthouse was completed in 1821.

When the 1821 structure was judged in dangerous and dilapidated condition, the fourth and present building, considered one of the most beautiful courthouses in the Blue Grass, was constructed. It was designed and built in 1855 by Kentucky architect John McMurtry, a one-time apprentice of architect Gideon Shryock, another Kentucky native.

Here in Clark County Henry Clay pled his first and last law cases. This case was the Joel Quisenberry will contest. Henry Clay was so feeble that he was granted permission to present the case seated at the table. Among his associate lawyers was the Honorable Richard French of Winchester.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Garr, Elizabeth Headley, ed.
The History of Kentucky Courthouses. Kentucky: National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1973.
 Kinkead, Elizabeth Shelby.
History of Kentucky. New York: American Book Co., 1909.
 Collins, Richard.
History of Kentucky. Covington: Collins & Co., 1874.
 Lancaster, Clay.
Anti Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lex.: University of Ky. Press 1961.

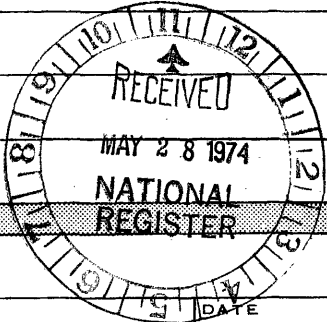
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 59' 35"	84° 10' 39"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 10 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John D. Walden, Architect

ORGANIZATION: John D. Walden, Architect DATE: 3/30/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 70 South Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Winchester STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Mrs Edred W Melton

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 15, 1974

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

A. R. Uertanen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/4/74

ATTEST:

W. S. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 8.5.74

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