

88001786

Historic Resources of Hardin County

AUG 26 1988

Historic Name: Ditto-Prewitt House (HDWP-5) Classification: Building  
Common Name: Prewitt House

Owner: Samuel Coody, 306 Elm Street, West Point, KY 40177.

Location: 306 Elm Street, West Point, KY

<u>Contributing:</u>		<u>Non-Contributing:</u>	
Buildings	1	Buildings	1
Structures	0	Structures	0
Sites	0	Sites	0
<u>Total:</u>	1	<u>Total:</u>	1

Description:

The Ditto-Prewitt House is a two-story brick central passage plan building constructed in 1826. The house is a five bay, single pile structure built in an ell plan. On the main (south) facade is a ca. 1960 one-story porch with wrought iron posts and a metal awning. The house has ca. 1900 one-over-one sash windows with stone lintels and corner blocks, a gable roof with a metal standing seam surface, interior end brick chimneys and a brick foundation. On the rear ell is a ca. 1890 two-story frame porch with chamfered posts and turned balusters on the second story and ca. 1960 replacement posts on the first story. The house is of English bond brick construction. The interior of the house was inaccessible. At the rear of the house is a ca. 1970 outbuilding which is non-contributing.

Period of Significance: 1826 - ca. 1900

Area of Significance: Commerce/Military

Criterion: A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Ditto-Prewitt House is notable for its role in the commercial history of West Point and as a center for military operations during the Civil War. The house was built in 1826 for Abraham Ditto, a prominent West Point merchant, and his brother-in-law, Samuel Lansdale. They had the house built as an inn to supply lodging for Ohio River travellers. West Point was a major port along the Ohio River in the 19th century and it was one of several inns supplying overnight lodging along the river. The inn was built on the bluff overlooking the river and was operated by Ditto for several years. Later Ditto made the building his residence. During the Civil War, the house was used for three years as a military hospital and as a base hospital for the 9th Michigan Infantry. After the Civil War the house was purchased by Thomas Reed who used the building as a hotel. Known as the Reed Place, the hotel was in operation until the early 1900s. The property was purchased about 1905 by Dr. J.V. Prewitt who used the building as his residence and doctor's office. The building is presently used as a

boarding house. The house was heavily damaged in the flood of 1937 but its essential form and original plan remain. There are no significant outbuildings.

Acreage: Less than one acre.

UTM References: Kosmosdale Quad 16/592510/4206085

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The boundary for the Ditto-Prewitt House is illustrated on the accompanying Hardin County property tax map 158-10, Block 1, lot 31, and is defined by the legal property boundary. The boundary includes the house, a non-contributing modern outbuilding, and property sufficient to preserve the historical setting of the site.

NON-CONTRIBUTING  
OUTBUILDINGS



HDWP-5 Ditto-Prewitt House  
Property Location  
Tax map 158-10, Block 1, lot 31  
1"=200'