

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # Be-237
Boone County

1. Name of Resource: Ransom house

2. Original Owner: Edward Ransom

3. Other Names: Ransom-Hudson-Messmer house

4. Prehistoric Site Building X Object
Historic Site Structure Other

5. Location: 1842 Messmer Road
Crittenden, KY

6. Owner's Name: James L. Messmer Est.
c/o Bonnie Messmer []

7. Owner's Address: 1842 Messmer Road
Crittenden, KY 41030

8. Evaluation: National Register []

9. Recognition & Date:
Nat.Landmark _____ Local Landmark _____
Nat.Register _____ HABS/HAER _____
Highway Marker _____ KY Inventory 1977
KY Landmark Certificate _____

10. N.R.Status & Date:

11. N.R.Group:
District Name: []
Mult.Resource Area: Boone County []
Thematic Name: []

12. Historical Theme:
Primary: Architecture []
Secondary: Agriculture []
Other: []

13. Statement of Significance:
This property is significant under criterion C as a good example of the Greek Revival style, significant to Boone County in the period 1840-1880. The house is one of 33 Greek Revival resources identified in the county. It is a notable illustration of house building by
(Continued) []

14. History:
Edward Ransom built the earliest portion of the house, the single-pen log building. His son, J. S. Ransom (the owner listed in the 1883 atlas), added the frame Greek Revival section in the 1850s or 1860s. The farm passed to his grand-daughter Nanny and her husband Dale Hudson, and in the mid-20th century to the Messmers.

15. Source of historical information and/or contact person: owner

16. Date: Original Building 1st 1/4 19th c. []
Addition mid-19th c. (1860s) []

17. Style: vernacular []
Greek Revival []

18. Architect/Builder: unknown

19. No. of Stories: one/two []

20. Original Floor Plan: one-room/side passage []

21. Single Pile X Double Pile N.A.

22. Roof Form & Material: Original X
gable/asph. shingle Not Original

23. Structural Material: log/wood frame []

24. Exterior Material: weatherboard/vinyl siding []

25. Foundation Material: fieldstone []

26. Major Alterations: None
Moved/Rebuilt Other
Additions X

27. Special Features: none

28. Outbuildings: five - 2 barns,
smokehouse, chicken house, privy []

29. Original Function: farm dwelling []

30. Present Use: farm dwelling []

31. Condition: good []

32. Endangered: Yes
No X

33. Attach Photos:
Roll: 5 Photo Nos: No. of Slides:
30-36A
6 1 - 4

34. Prepared by: Kenneth T. Gibbs

35. Organization: Boone Hist. Pres. Rev. Brd.

36. Date: September 1986

37. New Survey _____ Resurvey X

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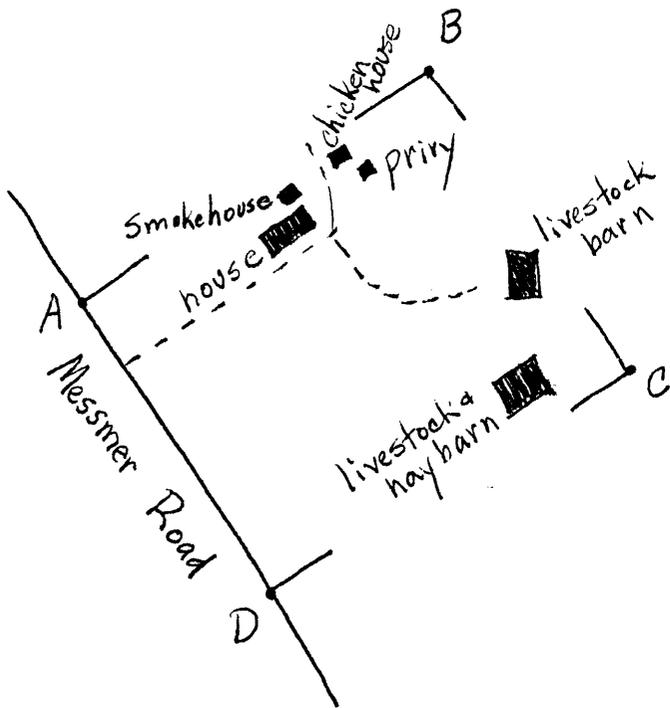
38. UTM Point of Primary Building: Zone Easting Northing 39. G.I.S. Mod. []
 Quadrant: Verona -16 704280 -4297860 40. Coordi.Accuracy []

41. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):

A. ----- D. -----
 B. ----- E. -----
 C. ----- F. -----

42. Total Acreage in Present Property: 140 43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary: 3.4

44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):



Beginning at a point 75' northwest of the driveway on Messmer Road (A), proceed northeast 425' (B). Then proceed southeast 350' to a point 50' east from the southeast corner of the livestock barn (C), turning southwest 425' to the east side of Messmer Road (D). Then proceed northwest 350' to the point of origin.

The boundary includes the house and outbuildings under the same ownership and sufficient acreage to provide a setting.

Contributing: 6 buildings

45. Description and House Plan:

The house faces south and consists of multiple stages, originating in a square, single-pen log house in the north-central section. Additions include a two-story Greek Revival block, a hyphen between this and the log pen, and gabled and shed-roofed rooms on both sides. Except for the Greek Revival block, erected perhaps in the late 1860s, the additions, all of frame construction, were built between about 1895 and 1920. Most of the windows are six-over-six sash. The building is weatherboarded, with the exception of the recently enclosed porch on the east, which is vinyl-sided. The columned front porch was built in the 1910s.

The interior of the Greek Revival block features a curving staircase with an unusually broad, open well, and a heavy, fluted newel; the original graining remains in the stairhall, but it has been painted over in the other rooms. In the parlor, to the right (northeast) of the stairhall, the windows were given large-scale surrounds consisting of deep hoods, or drip moldings, and a simple trabeated mantel with coalgrate.

With the exception of two nineteenth century outbuildings (both thought to be contemporary with the house), a frame smokehouse incorporated in the later coal shed and a large livestock and hay barn (south of the house), the outbuildings date from the early to middle 20th century. All outbuildings are oriented orthogonally to a grid set by Messmer Road and the approach lane to the house; the small outbuildings near the house and the more distant barns are arranged in a broad oval, open in the center, roughly at the point where two farm lanes intersect.

45. Description and House Plan: (Continued)

The frame smokehouse, contemporary with and north of the house, is now imbedded in a long rectangular frame structure serving as a coal shed and a variety of storage functions; dating from the late 19th century, this structure is sheathed with vertical boards and roofed with standing-seam metal on a gable roof.

The livestock and hay barn south of the house is a broad, rectangular, gabled structure of frame construction and vertical-board sheathing. The north gable-end has multiple entry bays placed asymmetrically; one of these is concealed by an early shed-roofed addition of the same construction methods.

The chicken house, a rectangular, wood frame structure sheathed in vertical boards and roofed with standing seam metal, was equipped with a screen-enclosed, full width section on the south, and 6-pane clerestory windows above. This outbuilding is thought to have been built in the early 20th century.

The privy, located northeast of the house, is also thought to have been built in the early 20th century. Of frame construction, it is sheathed in vertical boards and shed-roofed.

The second livestock barn, east of the house, is a largely rebuilt version of an earlier barn, on the same site, which was damaged in a storm in the midly 20th century. Constructed of wood frame with vertical-board siding, it has a standing-seam, gabled roof, a central entry bay in the gable-end, and a shed-roofed section of the same construction methods across the south side (this section appears to have been added soon after the reconstruction).

All five outbuildings, including those built outside the period of significance of the house, contribute to the integrity of the property. They illustrate the specialized uses of agricultural and domestic outbuildings in Boone County in the 19th century and demonstrate the necessity of replacing outbuildings over time.

13. Statement of Significance: (Continued)

accretion. Additions made to the house do not significantly affect the overall form and design of the Greek Revival section. The property is also significant under criterion A as a good example of a medium-sized farm in Boone County in the period 1820-1938.

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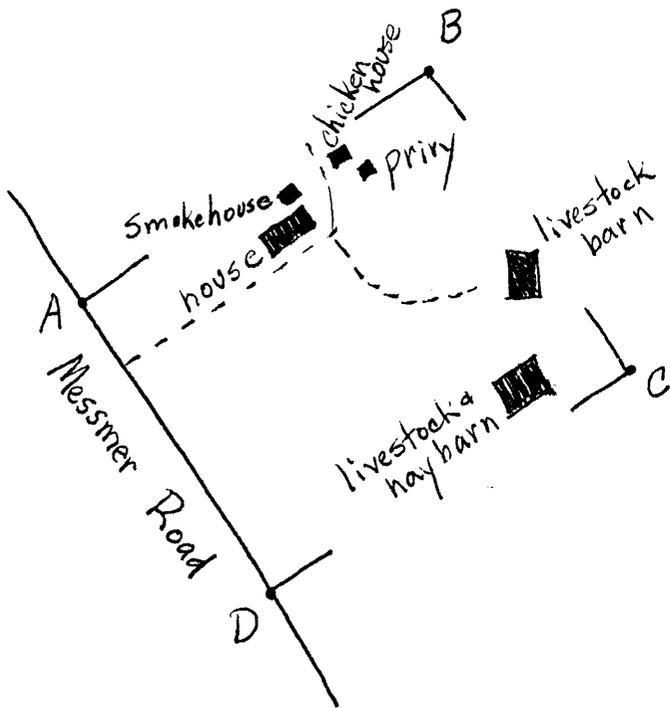
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