

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUL 11 1984

date entered AUG 24 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

Green County Multiple Resource Area

historic

and/or common

**2. Location**

36 + 1/2 mi. + 2000s

street & number see individual inventory forms and continuation sheets for publication

city, town vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Green code

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> na. in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> na. being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name SEE INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORMS AND CONTINUATION SHEETS

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Green County Courthouse

street & number 203 West Court Street

city, town Greensburg state Kentucky

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1971 and Supplements federal  state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Commission

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The historic sites survey of Green County was conducted during the fall of 1979 by Kenneth T. Gibbs, architectural historian. The survey is part of a ten-year project of the Kentucky Heritage Commission to survey the state's historical and archaeological resources on a county-by county basis.

National Register criteria were applied to all structures viewed in the county; all of those meeting National Register criteria are included in this nomination and those not meeting National Register criteria are omitted. The survey process involved examining every standing structure in the county by traveling every passable road. To supplement the visual survey of Green County, published histories of the area were consulted, historical research was conducted in local and state depositories, and local historians and owners of properties were interviewed to identify properties possessing local significance. City maps were used for the largest town, Greensburg, and USGS maps were used elsewhere in the county. Individual structures that met minimum standards of architectural or historical significance were mapped, described documented, photographed and given a site identification number consisting of the Smithsonian designation for Green County, Gn, and a number. Sites in Greensburg were given the designation Gn-G and a number. All of this information was recorded on Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory forms.

Because of time limitations and the abundance of common types of late nineteenth and early twentieth century structures, a typology system was developed which allowed the recording of a large number of post-Civil War structures that did not meet minimum standards of architectural significance. Each of these structures was mapped and given a letter designation corresponding to its particular type, but it was not photographed or recorded on an inventory form. A typed structure later found to possess local historical significance would be revisited, photographed, documented, and recorded on an inventory form. The typology is based on primary exterior characteristics and original use.

Following the completion of the visual survey and the completion of interviews and historical research, each site surveyed (excluding typed structures) was evaluated and placed in one of three categories: National Register (those sites meeting National Register criteria individually), Kentucky Survey and Inventory. The Green County Multiple Resource Area nomination includes all of those sites in the National Register category as well as all of those sites of any category that were judged to contribute to the overall character of a historic district.

Of the 77 sites surveyed in Green County outside of Greensburg, 30 are nominated individually. Of the 48 sites survey in Greensburg, 11 are nominated individually and 27 are included in the Greensburg Historic District, a district with a total of 61 properties.

Situated in south-central Kentucky, Green County is one of the state's smallest counties. The Green River, a major river in the state meanders through the center of the county east to west. Major tributaries include the Little Barren River and Russell Creek in the southern portion of the county and Brush and Pitman creeks in the north. Most of the

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relatively flat to gently rolling land in the county is found in a band crossing the center of the county east to west, while the extreme northern and southern areas of the county are hilly. The major transportation routes pass through either Greensburg, the county seat, or Summersville, the county's second largest town.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Green County is both one of the oldest counties in Kentucky, formed in 1792 as the state's thirteenth county, and one of the smallest, consisting of only 282 square miles. Because of a spurt in building activity in the early years of the county's history and because of fewer pressures for demolition and development here than in other sections of south-central Kentucky, Green County contains a relatively large number of significant historic structures. The county's population grew dramatically during the first decade of the nineteenth century. It declined after about 1840, however, and there was comparatively little construction from that time until well into the twentieth century. For these reasons, most of the architectural riches of Green County date from 1800 through the 1840s.

The majority of these important buildings were constructed of log or brick with Federal or Greek Revival stylistic details. Although the architectural heritage of Green County does not lie in finely composed examples of national styles, there is an abundance of significant nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture that shows the local adaptation of popular styles and a tradition of architectural conservatism. Green County has a large body of log buildings in a variety of forms, a small but important group of stone buildings and a significant collection of early brick structures in the Federal style. In addition, the town plan of Greensburg, the county seat, is a fine, largely intact example of a plan type popular in Kentucky at the turn of the nineteenth century: a regular grid of streets with a central courthouse square.

Named for Major General Nathaniel Greene, a Revolutionary War officer from Rhode Island, Green County was partitioned eight times to form other counties, first in 1798 and last in 1860. The Green River, one of Kentucky's major rivers, meanders through the center of the county east to west. Important tributaries include the Little Barren River and Russell Creek in the southern portion of the county and Brush and Pitman Creeks in the north. The main transportation routes pass through either Greensburg or Summersville, the county's second largest town. Most of the relatively flat to gently rolling land in the county, together with the largest farms, is found in the eastern half, while much of the land in the western half is hilly and more heavily wooded.

The first white visitors to Green County were part of a hunting expedition known as the Long Hunters because of the duration of their hunts. They arrived in the county about 1770 (see Gn-19). Hunters and explorers were followed closely by the establishment of stations, which greatly aided settlement. Gray's Station was the first, set up by Jesse Gray on Caney Fork, in the Haskinsville vicinity, sometime prior to 1775. Three

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other stations were established in 1779 and 1780; Glover's Station in the fall of 1779 on the hills above the Green River at the present site of Greensburg; Pitman's Station by William and Thomas Pitman in March, 1780, on the north bank of Pitman Creek, at or near the Narrows of Pitman Creek (see Gn-52); and Skagg's Station in the fall of 1780 by James Skaggs and his son, William, in the Brush Creek area.

The relative speed with which Green County was settled from the 1780s was due in part to the Cumberland Trace, an important settlement route that passed across the middle of Green County from east to west. Green County experienced its greatest population rise during the settlement period, from an unrecorded number in 1790, perhaps no more than 1,000 to 6,096 in 1800. A similar growth rate was recorded between 1810 and 1820, when the population increased from 6,735 to 11,943.

The county's greatest population recorded in a census year was 14,212 in 1840. However, by 1850, the population dropped to 9,060, the county's largest drop in a single decade, largely due to the creation of Taylor County in 1848. Since 1850, the population has fluctuated between 9,000 and 12,000, signifying an unusual degree of social and economic stability.

Most of the settlers came from Virginia, North Carolina and other parts of Kentucky, chiefly from the Bluegrass region. Other states of origin included Maryland, South Carolina, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. As in much of Kentucky, a large number of Green County settlers were veterans of the Revolutionary War.

Black slaves reportedly first appeared in the county in the middle 1790s, brought from the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. They were used in local industries such as mills, tanyards and iron furnaces, as well as in agriculture. Statistics are scanty for blacks in Green County before 1900, but most slave owners seem to have owned fewer than fifteen, although slave holdings ranged from as many as one hundred to as few as one. Considering that slaveholding was common before the Civil War, that blacks did not form a major part of the labor force afterward, and, considering the county's black population currently accounts for less than one-tenth of the total, it may be assumed that a significant number of freed blacks left the county in the decades following 1865.

From its beginning Green County has been an agriculturally based society, and its labor force, including slaves, has been directed toward producing tobacco, an early cash crop that remains profitable. Most of the cured tobacco was shipped to New Orleans by way of the Green River, which was navigable for flatboats. Between 1815 and 1820, about 300 flatboats a year were built in Greensburg for the shipment of tobacco.

Given its essentially rural nature, formal town planning played a limited role in Green County. Only Greensburg and Summersville had formal town plans while other communities developed as crossroad type communities.

Greensburg, established in 1792, on 100 acres owned by Walter Beall, was the single town-planning venture during Green County's settlement period that has remained intact. Beall's Contract, a letter dated 30 August 1792 from Beall to Col. William Barnett, stipu-

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lated that a square be reserved for "the public building in the most convenient part" and that the unreserved lots were to be "improved by any person with a House not less than 16 by 18 feet with a stone or Brick Chimney not less than four feet in the clear of the fireplace." If Barnett surveyed the town for Beall, he carried out the main feature requested: a central public square containing the seat of government.

The Public Square is crossed by the town's two main streets, which enter the square in the center of each of the four sides. The rest of the plan consists of square blocks, each divided into quarters by a system of alleys. This type of plan, stressing regularity and centrality, was especially popular in county seats settled in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In many versions of this plan, the courthouse was placed in the center of the square. However, probably to avoid obstructing the flow of traffic through town, in Greensburg the courthouse was located in one of the corners.

In its dimensions the plan was overly optimistic. Although that portion of the town around the Public Square and about half a block away from the square in each direction was almost solidly built by 1850, the outer edges filled in only in the mid-twentieth century. Compromises to the original plan were due both to slow growth in the last half of the nineteenth century and to the difficulty of the terrain (see Gn-G-10). The alleys were carried out fully only in the central group of blocks, and toward the fringes of the town even the streets were not laid as initially drawn.

While Greensburg was laid out in 180 lots, Summersville, the only other formal plan, had 140 lots laid in the same grid fashion of Greensburg. Recorded in 1816, the Summersville town plan shows the similar one-half acre lot size laid regularly along streets and alleys, and the identical one acre public square. Although lots were sold, Summersville never assumed its designed arrangement leaving Greensburg as the county's only planned community.

Most of Green County's churches were established in the settlement period, especially in the 1790s, 1820s, and 1830s. While the oldest church building was erected for the Baptists, about 1800, the Methodists and the Presbyterians were particularly active in the early years of the county's history. The Presbyterians were represented by three apparently dynamic preacher-missionaries. The Reverend David Rice was an important figure in state-wide Presbyterian efforts. He served congregations in Green County and surrounding counties from the 1790s while living on a 400 acre farm he owned in southern Green County near Liletown. The Reverend Jeremiah Abell, a missionary-preacher who lived in Greensburg (see Gn-G-34), also arrived in the 1790s and worked in the region until he left for Illinois in the 1820s. The Reverend John Howe (1769-1856) was not only a preacher for three Green County congregations but also an educator, teaching the New Athens Academy, founded in 1805 or 1806, in the east jury room of the county courthouse (see Gn-G-15).

Private schools constituted the major educational facilities in Green County until the spread of public schools following the Civil War. The New Athens Academy was one of

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four private academies known to have operated before 1820. The other academies were Mt. Gilead Academy, near Mt. Gilead Baptist Church (Gn-19), Brush Creek Academy in northern Green County, and Greensburg Academy (Gn-G-46), the only one of the four apparently built solely for educational purposes.

One of the county's best-known educators, Mentor Graham, was associated with two of these schools. Born in northern Green County and credited with educating Abraham Lincoln, Graham attended Brush Creek Academy, located in the home of his uncle, Nathaniel Owens, the first county sheriff, and taught at Greensburg Academy before leaving Greensburg in 1823.

As in many rural sections of Kentucky, Green County's nineteenth century architecture was dominated by the Federal and Greek Revival styles alongside a tradition of simple, straightforward building with little reference to styles. In Green County, however, historic Structures reveal an architectural conservatism unusual even among the state's rural areas. Both builders and clients seem to have preferred traditional forms, symmetry and a sense of propriety that dictated exterior simplicity. The asymmetrical, picturesque and highly ornamental styles of the last half of the century were all but ignored. Self-conscious architectural displays of the sort found in the urban centers of the state and in the richer agricultural areas are non-existent. Eccentric or idiosyncratic features are extremely rare, and they are nearly always found on the inside, in floor plans or in wooden decorative devices. Reasons for Green County's architectural propriety and reliance on traditional values include the cultural background of its settlers and the decline in building activity from the 1850s when the highly decorative and innovative styles were gaining popularity elsewhere in the state. While the relative lull in building from the 1850s to 1950s deprived the county of examples of the robust architecture characteristic of the late nineteenth century, it also extended the usefulness of structures built in first half of the century and helped preserve the county's rural and agricultural character and scale.

There is a regrettable lack of information about the builders, architects, and craftsmen who worked in Green County. The names of a few builders have survived, associated with the Christopher Columbus Christie house (Gn-14), the George W. Edwards house (Gn-40), the David Edwards house (Gn-41), and the former Green County Courthouse (Gn-G-15), but because they are connected with only one or two buildings, their careers cannot be traced through a body of works.

Nevertheless, Green County's building types are predominantly rural and residential. The major commercial buildings are found in Greensburg and in the surrounding rural areas. The main building materials used in the first half of the nineteenth century were log and brick, and, although log structures are believed to have been erected in the county as late as the 1880s, wooden frame construction was the major method from about the 1850s.

Log construction was the most popular method of building during the settlement period. Adopted for a wide variety of building uses, log construction remained popular

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in Green County until about 1870. Today the greatest concentration of log structures is in the west-central portion of the county, a section of small farmsteads. This is partly explained by greater pressure for demolition of log structures in Greensburg and in the flatter, richer farmland of the east and by the comparative isolation of the western section of the county.

The problems of dating structures based on architectural evidence are compounded with log buildings, because exterior details are often absent or altered. The log houses that can be dated with some certainty to the first quarter of the nineteenth century are few compared to the number built later. Among the early log houses are the Gaines house (Gn-10), the Workman house (Gn-22), the Samuel Brents house (Gn-36), the Daniel Williams house (Gn-67) and the Reverend Jeremiah Abell house (Gn-G-34).

The three forms of log houses found in Green County are the single-pen, dogtrot and saddlebag forms. The single pen was the basic unit of construction, and the other forms are variations in the placement of additional pens. The single-pen house consists of a square or rectangular log pen of one or two stories with one or two end chimneys. Pens with square proportions commonly had a single room on each floor (fig. 1), while rectangular pens were typically divided into two rooms of equal or unequal dimensions, a plan type frequently known as the hall-parlor plan (fig. 2). The Chapman Davenport house (Gn-47) illustrates the square single-pen form, and the Campbell Judd house (Gn-49) is a good example of the rectangular pen. Forty-eight of the seventy-one log houses recorded in the county have the single-pen form, and they were nearly evenly divided between square and rectangular shapes.

The second most popular form was the dogtrot log house, consisting of two pens placed end to end a short distance from one another (fig. 3). The space or dog trot between the pens was usually enclosed, either originally or during a later alteration, to form a central passage, an axial hallway between the principal rooms. In the Joseph Blakey Thompson house (Gn-44), a two-story version of the form, the dogtrot was enclosed with log walls at the time the two pens were erected, while in the Aylett Larimore house (Gn-63), one story high, the dogtrot was enclosed with frame walls decades after the house was built. Seventeen of the seventy-one log houses documented have the dogtrot form.

The saddlebag form of log house, in which two pens share a central chimney (fig. 4), was a relatively uncommon method of log house construction in Kentucky. Only six of the county's log houses used this form. In the Ward house (Gn-61), both pens are square, while one of the pens of the Workman house (Gn-22) is rectangular. The spaces between the walls on either side of the chimney were frequently enclosed to provide interior space.

A fourth form, the double-pen log house, was more common than the saddlebag form through much of Kentucky, but no examples were found in Green County. The double-pen house consists of two square or rectangular units of equal height joined in such a way that the chimneys occur at the ends rather than in the common wall.

Beyond a general belief that builders of log houses used those forms with which

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they were most familiar, students of log construction have yet to settle on a single theory of the derivation of forms that would account for both folk traditions and regional variations. Nonetheless, the forms used in Green County are found throughout Kentucky and seem closely related to popular forms in the Piedmont Valley of Virginia.

Because of its long popularity, log construction cut across the major stylistic division of antebellum Kentucky, the shift from Federal to Greek Revival. In Green County's early log structures the Federal style appeared primarily in the moldings around doors and windows and in the mantels. Later log houses, the majority of those remaining, tend to reflect the transition between the Federal and Greek Revival styles or the Greek Revival styles alone.

Although the Federal style appeared in the county's early log, stone and wooden frame buildings, it is in the brick structures that the qualities of the style were most fully realized. The Federal style has been called the first national style, and to an extent this is accurate. The style developed in the first years of American independence and may be seen as a reaction against the Georgian Style, which was so closely associated with England, and it was popular in most of the territory settled by Americans in the first decades of the nineteenth century. Whereas the Georgian style was heavy, and even ponderous, the Federal style was light and delicate. It used simple geometric forms lightened by hipped or shallow-pitched roofs. Other characteristics of the style included barely projecting eaves, regular disposition of openings, and graceful door enframements with thin moldings occasionally reeded or provided with corner blocks.

Brickwork was typically laid with precision in Flemish bond on the most important fronts of the building, while the less demanding American bond was used on the ends. However, in one Green County building, the Howe-Penick house (Gn-6), Flemish bond appears on all faces. Jack arches, or flat arches, strengthened the walls over the rectangular openings.

Federal exterior details in Green County commonly included narrow, delicate cornices of wood that returned against the facade short of the corners of the building. While Federal buildings in other parts of the state featured decorative doorways, using elliptical or semicircular fanlights or Palladian motifs, a form of triple openings, the doors of Green County's Federal structures were typically lighted by simple rectangular transoms. There are only three exceptions to the general preference locally for plain doors and windows: the Elmore-Carter-Hodges house (Gn-68), the White-Penick House (Gn-G-3), and the Elijah Creel house (Gn-G-5).

The majority of the county's brick Federal houses were planned with central passages (fig. 5) rather than with the more informal hall-parlor or two-room plan. The central passage plan emphasized the classical symmetry and balance of three parts, two rooms with a hallway between. Although only a few Federal brick houses in the county have alternatives to the hall-parlor and central passage plans, they are more significant for their scarcity. The side passage plan (fig. 6), in which the passage or hallway occurs at one of the end walls, was adopted in the Barnett-Mears house (Gn-69) and the Bartlett Hilliard house (Gn-G-20). The first stages of the Brents-Wax house (Gn-G-42) and Greensburg Academy (Gn-G-46) were built with single-room plans. The double-pile plan (fig. 7),

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in which two rooms are located on either side of a central passage, is found only in the Richard Aylett Buckner house (Gn-51). Three-part compositions, such as the Francis Cowherd house (Gn-70), are most unusual in this region of Kentucky. As the Cowherd house originally appeared, the two-story central block with a side passage plan was flanked by two one-story wings.

Interiors of the county's Federal period houses featured well-executed woodwork having the same delicacy as exterior detail. Chairrails around the rooms and mantels framed with pilasters, flattened versions of columns were typical. Occasionally cupboards were built into the walls beside the chimney breast. Good illustrations of Federal style interiors are found in the Garland Anderson house (Gn-15), the James B. Montgomery house (Gn-59), the White-Penick house (Gn-G-3) and the John Barret house (Gn-G-4).

Staircases in central passages were usually left open, while those in hall-parlor houses were customarily enclosed, placed either against the partition wall separating the rooms or against one of the end walls. Three hall-parlor houses in the county have unusual staircase placements. In the Howe-Penick house (Gn-6) and the John C. Allen house (Gn-3) the staircase has a single run instead of the customary two, and it rises between the two main rooms, enclosed between partition walls. In the James B. Montgomery house (Gn-59) the two corner staircases were left open, rising on opposite sides of the partition wall.

Although comparatively few in number, Federal style houses built of brick constitute one of the most important architectural groups in Green County historic buildings. They are generally well-preserved, they are found in both the city of Greensburg and in the surrounding rural area, and they represent the county's settlement and its period of greatest growth and economic activity. Most of those located outside of Greensburg are found in the eastern half of the county, clustered in two areas: the south-east corner of the county, in the Caney Fork vicinity, and in the north-central section, in the area of Little Pitman Creek.

Stone construction in Green County's settlement period was limited to a few major public and commercial buildings in Greensburg and a small number of outbuildings, mostly springhouses. The four most significant stone buildings, known collectively as Old Stone Row (Gn-G-12 through 15), were built in the Federal style, but because of alterations to both the exteriors and interiors they have less to reveal about the style and craftsmanship of the period than the larger group of Federal brick houses. These stone buildings ought to receive the highest priority in future preservation efforts, however, because of their key location in the historic core of Greensburg and the comparative rarity of stone structures in the region.

Consistent with the greatest years for stone construction in the rest of Kentucky, a relatively short period of time between 1795 and 1820, the buildings in Old Stone Row were completed by 1820. Two of the four served public uses, while two were built for commercial purposes. A fifth stone structure in Greensburg was used as a subsidiary building of the Green River House (Gn-G-17); a sixth stone building, the first county jail,

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was destroyed. No major projects in stone were built in the county until the end of the century, when the Barret Memorial Presbyterian Church (Gn-G-35) was erected.

Early frame buildings are even scarcer than those of stone. A house in the Haskinsville community (Gn-16) is the single frame structure with Federal stylistic traits. The lack of early frame structures is partly explained by their susceptibility to fire, but it is also likely that the county's settlers were more familiar with or simply preferred brick and log construction.

This single example of a frame Federal style house was built toward the end of the Federal period, and it has features of the Greek Revival style as well. The way the Federal and Greek Revival elements in this house war with one another shows how this change in styles was visually more dramatic than the earlier shift from Georgian to Federal. Several reasons for the widespread interest from the late 1830s in the forms of Greek architecture are sympathy for the Greeks in their war for independence and a feeling that the architecture of ancient Greece was suitable for American democracy. There was also an appreciation for the simplicity and boldness of Greek forms and new interest in the historical accuracy of revival architecture. During the Greek Revival period architectural pattern-books were widely used by builders and carpenters as sources of both building forms and architectural detail. General characteristics of the Greek Revival style include the conspicuous use of Greek columns and entablatures, strong forms, plain wall surfaces, large scale and bold detail.

Whereas Kentucky possesses many notable examples of the Greek Revival, there are few fully developed Greek buildings in Green County. This is perhaps due to the county's decline in population and the consequent lull in building activity during the 1840s and 1850s, at the height of the Greek Revival style in the state, and not to any isolation of the county from national architectural developments. The county's economy was not entirely stagnant during these years of population decline, however. Commerce and agriculture were aided from the 1830s by navigation improvements on the Green River that helped the marketing of goods.

Green County structures erected during the Greek Revival period, roughly between 1840 and 1880, were largely simplified versions of the style, omitting nearly all of the distinctive exterior ornament. The tendency of local builders toward plain, unadorned buildings seems to have intensified during the middle nineteenth century. Whereas in other areas of the state buildings of the time featured the extensive use of columns, pilasters and other historically accurate detail, exterior ornament in Green County was all but eliminated.

Some of the Greek-style porticoes that were built in the county were removed or replaced with later porches, but it is nonetheless surprising that there are now only three porticoes with links to the Greek Revival: on the house in the Haskinsville area mentioned above (Gn-16), on the Thomas Waller Lisle house (Gn-2) and on the George W. Edwards house (Gn-40). Most of the Greek-inspired detail in the county is found in interior ornament, chiefly in the form of pilastered mantels and occasionally in doors

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and windows flanked with pilasters, as in the Lisle house and the Riley H. Wilson house (Gn-G-1). Even in these interiors the decorative effects are quite restrained.

The use of brick construction in houses declined dramatically in the 1840s, while the popularity of frame construction rose. Whereas only one frame structure is known to have links with the Federal style, there are only three brick structures with Greek Revival traits: the Thomas Waller Lisle house (Gn-2), the Riley H. Wilson house (Gn-G-1) and the second stage of the Josiah Brummal house (Gn-G-19). Log construction maintained its popularity to about 1850.

The central passage plan was by far the most common plan type during the middle decades of the century. The more informal hall-parlor plan, frequently used in Federal style houses, all but disappeared by 1850, except in rectangular log houses, for which it was still a convenient plan. In other regions of Kentucky, the side passage plan was a viable alternative during the Greek Revival period, but only five examples of this plan type were recorded in Green County. Two of these are the Richard Howell house (Gn-65) and the second stage of the Josiah Brummal house (Gn-G-19). One of the most notable developments in residential architecture of this period was the growth in size of service ells. Long ells two stories high sometimes visually competed with the main blocks.

During the Greek Revival period a particular house form came to dominate the landscape. Commonly known as the I-house, this form consists of two stories with a central passage plan one room deep. Eighty-eight I-houses were recorded in Green County. Nearly all of them are undistinguished by ornament or unusual features. As a group they may be seen as plain versions of what came to be known as the classic American farmhouse of the late nineteenth century. The E. E. Perkins house (Gn-30) is a good example. Through such simplified, distant derivatives of the Greek Revival style, it remained an important source in residential architecture until the 1890s.

Although Green County suffered no physical destruction from the Civil War, it was subject to the same economic slowdown that affected much of Kentucky. This downturn was due in part to the disruption of markets and the shift from a predominantly slaveholding agricultural economy to one based on a paid labor force. As in many other areas of the state, there was a lack of industrial development in Green County in the decades after the war. Among the causes were the continuing decline in population, the absence of a large, low-paid labor force and the lack of a rail line that passed through the county. A line of the Cumberland and Ohio Railroad was built to Greensburg during the 1870s (see Gn-G-2 and 9), but it was never extended through the county and did not provide Greensburg the industrial growth afforded towns located on main lines. The industries that existed were apparently directed toward local markets, and Green County remained largely dependent on agriculture.

Because of the short distance between the point at which the rail line entered the county and Greensburg, the railroad had little impact on Green County's architecture or town planning. No significant towns developed along the line, and the only industrial and warehouse zone served by the railroad was a group of mills and tobacco warehouses

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Green County Multiple Resource Area

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in Greensburg extending along Goose Creek in the vicinity of the tracks.

While the county's economy was in many ways dormant until about the middle 1890s, there were modest gains in transportation, manufacturing, commerce and the growth of rural communities. These crossroads communities made up of a few clustered residences, a store, a church or school, served as focal points on the landscape and met the social needs of a population within a two or three mile radius. The bulk of the building stock of the county's crossroads villages dates from the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first of the twentieth. In these communities, typical single story, gable-ended, commercial frame structures remain, testifying to the former importance of such places as Crailhope, Donansburg, Exie and Webbs.

As in other parts of Kentucky, the pattern of farming in Green County shifted around the turn of the twentieth century from owner-operated farmsteads to tenant farming. Numerous tenant or sharecropper houses scattered through the county are the visible results of this change. About the same time farmers began to de-emphasize single cash crops in favor of diversified agriculture, producing corn, wheat and livestock in addition to tobacco.

For the most part, Green County was not influenced by rapid changes in American architecture during the late nineteenth century. National trends toward richly modeled ornamentation, asymmetrical massing, complex and free-flowing floor plans and combinations of widely varied materials were largely ignored in preference to traditional forms and plans known before the Civil War. In much of the county, historic architectural styles were enthusiastically revived. The Romanesque Revival, Italianate, Second Empire and other styles were built in either pure form or in mixes of two or more, often referred to as a style in itself, the eclectic style. In Green County, however, outside architectural influences were limited, and no fully developed or textbook examples of these styles remain.

The few structures with links to these highly ornamental modes were conservative versions of the national styles, evidence of the local tendency toward plain architecture observed as early as the Federal period. The picturesque Italianate style, inspired by Italian villas, featured asymmetrical massing, broadly overhanging eaves, prominent towers and round- or segmental-arched openings. Only two houses with Italianate characteristics were recorded in Green County. The Groves-Cabell house (Gn-20) and the William Newton Philpot house (Gn-77) are symmetrical versions of the style in which Italianate traits were mixed with those of other styles. The Queen Anne style, especially popular from the 1890s in America, drew from late medieval English residential architecture. It is represented in Green County by only three houses, two of which are the Christopher Columbus Christie house (Gn-14) and the Leona Penick Spalding house (Gn-G-4).

The scarcity in Green County of significant examples of late nineteenth century architectural styles was due in part to the lull in house-building that stemmed from the population decline. This period and the early years of the twentieth century were important, however, for nonresidential building. The 1870s and 1890s were major decades

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for the establishment of church congregations and construction of churches, as shown by the numerous frame churches remaining in rural portions of the county and by the impos-Barret Memorial Presbyterian Church (Gn-G-35) in Greensburg. Also, much of Greensburg's commercial architecture was erected in the decades before and after 1900. These structures were typically brick loft buildings of two or three stories, accommodating stores on the street level and storage or offices above. Decorative features were commonly limited to hoodmolds, that is, raised, arched bands over door or windows, wooden or metal cornices, and corbel tables, projecting bands of brickwork at the top. Among the good examples remaining are the Woodson Lewis Store (Gn-G-21), the J. L. Durham Building (Gn-G-26) and the Buchanan and Phillips Dry Goods Store (Gn-G-32).

The history of Green County's architecture reflects its social and economic development. In their building, livelihoods and social groups Green Countians were conservative, slow to respond to external changes and respectful of traditional forms and values. The greatest body of historic architecture is from the early decades of the nineteenth century, the years of greatest growth in which architecture was dominated by the Federal style. Most of the remaining works of this period, especially those built of brick, warrant the highest priority in preservation efforts. The Greek Revival buildings from the middle of the century and the county's log buildings in both Federal and Greek Revival styles are far more numerous, and in general they also hold less architectural interest and are less remarkable in their craftsmanship. For these reasons their preservation potential requires more careful consideration. On the other hand, the few structures with links to national architectural trends of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries should, because of their scarcity, receive far more attention in preservation activities than they have to date. The variety of Green County's historical and architectural assets seems to dictate a balance in future preservation efforts between rural and urban preservation. While the rural portions of the county possess many significant examples of building types not found in Greensburg, the county seat offers an ensemble of buildings of varied architectural styles, uses and materials located in one of the state's most significant towns planned in the eighteenth century.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

**Specific dates** \_\_\_\_\_ **Builder/Architect** \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Green County, Kentucky contains an important collection of both architecturally and historically significant sites, domestic and commercial, which warrant the multiple resources nomination.

Resting on one of the earliest settlement sites in the county, Greensburg retains much of its early 19th century character through its town plan and its remaining architectural elements. Several Federal structures of stone and brick on the town square and other domestic structures built on original lots throughout the town, continue to give the city a sense of its early history. More recent commercial and domestic additions in the late 19th or early 20th centuries preserve the scale previously established, thus providing a continuity in the community's sense of place.

Other important Federal domestic structures dot the county reflecting the early settlement period. The quality and quantity of these remaining structures demonstrate the relative social and economic stability of the county and the importance the area held in its early history. These buildings exist in both log and brick with a variety of floor plans.

However, domestic architecture is not limited to Federal style as evidenced by numerous other structures. The Greek Revival, too, is exhibited throughout the county in both log, brick, and frame structures showing that the county's architectural tastes grew with the national trends. Later 19th century Italianate and Queen Anne styles are rare, but their presence shows the county's continuing growth and diversity in tastes.

The county's agricultural base is widely represented by remaining structures such as log barns and commercial buildings directly related to the agricultural economy. Further evidence of the rural nature is the crossroad community with its store. These communities continue in Green County, though not as prominent as previously. Yet, the remaining structures show the importance they once held in the county's commercial and rural base.

Sites related to the educational history of the county include not only the public buildings which once housed a classroom, but a historically important brick school, now a residence, and one room schools. Each of these provides a continuous link in the county's educational history and give further breadth to the nomination.

Finally, as one of Kentucky's oldest counties, Green County was an important political and governmental entity. The county is fortunate to have retained its second courthouse, one of the nation's most important stone buildings, in addition to an early county clerk's office. These buildings, along with the 20th century courthouse, comprise an extremely significant group of buildings which tout the governmental prominence Greensburg and Green County held for the early history and its importance as a county seat in the 20th century.

See individual forms and the summary in #7 on this form for more specific data on individual sites and general historical directions.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Allen, William B. History of Kentucky, Reprint, Green County Historical Society, 1967.  
 Scott, Gary and Marshall Lowe, Green County Factbook, Greensburg: Greensburg Printing, 197  
 Green County Deeds and Wills  
 See individual forms for specific references.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property See Individual KY Historic Resources Inventory Forms

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_ Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

A 


 Zone Easting Northing

B 


 Zone Easting Northing

C 


D 


E 


F 


G 


H 


Verbal boundary description and justification

See Individual Site Supplement Forms and Continuation Sheet for District  
 List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joe DeSpain  
 organization Green County Historical Society, Inc. date 4/5/84  
 street & number P. O. Box 276 telephone 502-465-3723  
 city or town Greensburg state Ky. 42743

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state  local

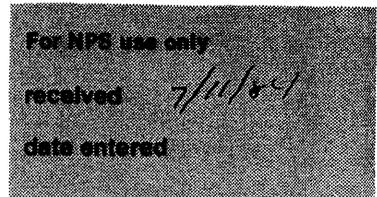
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665); I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Curran Opel  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 18, 1984

For NPS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 See Continuation sheet for listing's date  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Green County Multiple Resource Area  
State Green County, KENTUCKY

Cover 8/24/84

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Allen, John C., House

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85

Attest

2. Barrett-Blakeman House

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85

Attest

3. Buchanan House

~~Substantive Review~~ **Determined Eligible**

Keeper

Wm Miller 8/24/1984

Attest

**DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**

4. Creel, Elijah, House

~~Substantive Review~~ **Determined Eligible**

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85

Attest

**DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**

5. Goose Creek Foot Bridge

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85

Attest

6. Greensburg Cumberland  
Presbyterian Church

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85

Attest

7. Greensburg Historic  
District

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

R. W. ... 8/24/84

Attest

8. White-Penick House

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85

Attest

9. Anderson House

**Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 8/24/84

Attest

10. Brents-Lisle House

**Entered in the  
National Register**

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 8/24/84

Attest

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National Park Service

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Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Green County Multiple Resource Area  
State Green County, KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
✓ 11. <i>11/18/84</i>	Buckner House	<del>Substantive Review</del> Keeper	<del>_____</del>
		Attest	_____
12.	Chewing House	<del>Entered in the National Register</del> <i>for</i> Keeper	<i>Melrose Byers 8/24/84</i>
		Attest	_____
13.	Christie, Christopher Columbus, House	<del>Entered in the National Register</del> <i>for</i> Keeper	<i>Melrose Byers 8/24/84</i>
		Attest	_____
✓ 14. <i>11/18/84</i>	Cowherd, Francis, House	<del>Substantive Review</del> Keeper	<i>Bob Brown 9/1/84</i>
		Attest	_____
15.	Creal Store	<del>Entered in the National Register</del> <i>for</i> Keeper	<i>Melrose Byers 8/24/84</i>
		Attest	_____
16. <i>11/18/84</i>	Ebenezer School	<del>Substantive Review</del> Keeper	<i>Wm Dmbi 8/24/84</i>
		Attest	_____
17.	Edwards, David, House	<del>Entered in the National Register</del> <i>for</i> Keeper	<i>Melrose Byers 8/24/84</i>
		Attest	_____
18.	Edwards House	<del>Entered in the National Register</del> <i>for</i> Keeper	<i>Melrose Byers 8/24/84</i>
		Attest	_____
19.	Elmore-Carter House	<del>Entered in the National Register</del> <i>for</i> Keeper	<i>Melrose Byers 8/24/84</i>
		Attest	_____
20.	Emory-Blakeman-Penick House	<del>Entered in the National Register</del> <i>for</i> Keeper	<i>Melrose Byers 8/24/84</i>
		Attest	_____

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National Park Service**

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Green County Multiple Resource Area  
State Green County, KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |       |                           |   |                   |                               |
|-------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 21.   | Groves-Cabell House       | Entered in the<br>National Register             | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|       |                           |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 22.   | Hilliard, David, House    | Entered in the<br>National Register             | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|       |                           |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| ✓ 23. | Hobson, William, House    | <del>Entered in the</del><br>Substantive Review | Keeper            | <u>Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85</u> |
|       |                           |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 24.   | Keltner House             | Entered in the<br>National Register             | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|       |                           |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 25.   | L & N Passenger Depot     | Entered in the<br>National Register             | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|       |                           |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 26.   | Livesay House             | Entered in the<br>National Register             | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|       |                           |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 27.   | Mears House               | Entered in the<br>National Register             | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|       |                           |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 28.   | Mt. Gilead Baptist Church | Entered in the<br>National Register             | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|       |                           |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 29.   | Montgomery House          | Entered in the<br>National Register             | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|       |                           |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 30.   | Montgomery's Mill         | Entered in the<br>National Register             | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|       |                           |   | Attest            | _____                         |

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date entered

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Thematic Group

Name Green County Multiple Resource Area  
State Green County, KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |     |                                |   |                   |                               |
|-----|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 31. | Philpot House                  | <b>Substantive Review</b>               | Keeper            | <u>Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85</u> |
|     |                                |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 32. | Sandidge House                 | <b>Entered in the National Register</b> | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|     |                                |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 33. | Simpson Log House              | <b>Entered in the National Register</b> | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|     |                                |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 34. | Wallace, Napoleon, House       | <b>Entered in the National Register</b> | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|     |                                |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 35. | Webbs Female Academy           | <b>Entered in the National Register</b> | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|     |                                |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 36. | Whitlock Log Cabin             | <b>Entered in the National Register</b> | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|     |                                |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 37. | Williams, Daniel Motley, House | <b>Entered in the National Register</b> | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|     |                                |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 38. | Wilson, R. H., House           | <b>Entered in the National Register</b> | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|     |                                |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 39. | Woodward House                 | <b>Entered in the National Register</b> | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/24/84</u>  |
|     |                                |   | Attest            | _____                         |
| 40. | Federal House                  | <b>Substantive Review</b>               | Keeper            | <u>Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85</u> |
|     |                                |   | Attest            | _____                         |

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Name Green County Multiple Resource Area  
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41. Herndon, William H., House *substantive review*

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85

Attest

42. Lewis, Woodson, House *Substantive Review*

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 4/19/85

Attest

43.

Keeper

Attest

44.

Keeper

Attest

45.

Keeper

Attest

46.

Keeper

Attest

47.

Keeper

Attest

48.

Keeper

Attest

49.

Keeper

Attest

50.

Keeper

Attest