

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form**

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See *Instructions on How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

☒ New Submission ☐ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Historic and Architectural Resources of Monroe County, Kentucky

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Residential Architecture in Monroe County, Kentucky, 1800 - 1910

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Philip Thomason/Principal

organization Thomason and Associates date March 29, 2001

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city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO
Signature and title of certifying official

6-27-01
Date

Kentucky Heritage Council, State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Edison H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

8/2/01
Date

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The multiple property group submittal for the historic and architectural resources of Monroe County, Kentucky includes an historical overview of the county, and the context of Residential Architecture in Monroe County, Kentucky, 1800 - 1910. This nomination discusses buildings and structures, and no archaeological resources are included within this multiple property group.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Monroe County, Kentucky (1997 estimated population, 11,223) is located in the south central portion of the state along the Kentucky-Tennessee border. It is part of what is known as the Pennyryle (Pennyroyal) region, an area named for the native medicinal plant, and situated between the Central Lowlands of the Midwest and the Appalachian Plateau. Monroe County's hilly topography is heavy with limestone and shale deposits, and the soil ranges from medium to low in fertility. The Cumberland River is the county's major waterway and winds through the eastern portion of the county, while the Barren River lies in its southwestern section. Monroe County is largely rural in nature with agriculture as the historically dominant economic base. Manufacturing concerns are limited and currently employ approximately 2,000 people. Wholesale and retail trades hire around 700 workers. Tompkinsville, which is centrally located in the county, serves as the county seat and is the county's largest town with a 1996 population of approximately 2,827 residents.¹ A number of small communities dot the rural landscape of Monroe County and include Gamaliel, Fountain Run, Mud Lick, Sulphur Lick, Persimmon, Meshack, Flippin, and Hestand.

¹Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Division of Research, in cooperation with Tompkinsville Industrial Authority "Kentucky Resources for Economic Development: Tompkinsville and Gamaliel (Monroe County) April 1999;" Charles E. Martin, "The Pennyryle Cultural Landscape" (Prepared for The United States Department of Interior, National Park Service and the Kentucky Heritage Council, State Historic Preservation Office, 1988), ii-4.

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In 1769, Daniel Boone and other frontiersmen explored Kentucky and a move toward white settlement soon followed. After the defeat of the Shawnee in the Ohio Valley in 1774 and subsequent treaties with the Cherokee, lands south of the Ohio River became open to settlers. In January 1775, Judge Richard Henderson of North Carolina formed the Transylvania Land Company and hired Daniel Boone and others to clear a passage to provide access to the land.² This Wilderness Road was a primitive path but still provided a route to the west.

The disruption of the Revolutionary War initially stalled settlement in Kentucky, but in the 1780s, pioneers began to arrive. Central Kentucky with its rich farmland was the destination of the majority of newcomers. At this time the region was part of the State of Virginia, and that portion south of the Green River was reserved for Virginia's Revolutionary War veterans, thus non-veterans had little chance to acquire the lands.³

Settlement in what became Monroe County began in the late 1780s and was slow to develop. The land was not as fertile as in surrounding areas, and many pioneers chose to pass through the area and continue westward. Those who decided to homestead in the area primarily came from Virginia, East Tennessee, and North Carolina and were of English, Scotch-Irish, German, and French ancestry.⁴ The earliest permanent settlements were established by 1790. These were in Fountain Run and Flippin in the western portion of the county, Meshack Creek near the eastern border, and centrally located Tompkinsville.

²William Lynwood Montell, Ph.D., comp., *Monroe County History, 1820-1970*, 2d ed. (Tompkinsville, KY: Tompkinsville Lions Club, 1970), 1-7.

³Ibid, 6-7.

⁴Ibid, 9-10.

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In 1787, Thomas Flippin left his East Tennessee home to explore the southern Kentucky region. He returned with his family in 1790 to settle permanently near Indian Creek. The village that developed was known as Pikeville for many years, but eventually became Flippin after its founder. Around this same time, several families including those of Moses Kirkpatrick and John C. Bedford settled along the Cumberland River in the Center Point and Meshack areas.⁵

Upon arriving in the area ca. 1790, Moses Kirkpatrick (1763-1835) erected a one-and-one-half-story log dwelling for his family. He became a successful farmer and miller, and he also initiated trade in the region by establishing the first home market and individual flatboating business. He purchased surplus from other farmers, built his own flatboats, and floated a substantial quantity of goods to the market in New Orleans.⁶ Kirkpatrick's success is reflected in the expansion of his home ca. 1810 when he constructed a one-and-one-half-story brick wing, which doubled the size of the original log structure. Brick dwellings were rarely built in Monroe County during this period due to their high cost. The Moses Kirkpatrick House remains extant today; however it has undergone significant alterations such as the addition of aluminum siding, concrete porches, and replacement windows (MR-224). Another two-story brick dwelling was constructed near the Moses Kirkpatrick House ca. 1810. This dwelling was also associated with the Kirkpatrick family and was probably that of Moses's son William Kirkpatrick (1785-1883). This dwelling was destroyed by fire ca. 1990 and only portions of exterior walls remain (MR-225).

What is now Gamaliel began to form in 1798 when James Crawford and John Hays settled at the head of Line Creek in 1798. The Welch family were also early settlers in this area. Around 1836, Hays and Crawford donated ten acres to the community to

⁵Ibid, 12-13.

⁶Dayton Birdwell, comp., *The History of Monroe County Kentucky, 1820-1988*, (Tompkinsville, KY: Monroe County Press, Inc., 1992), 35.

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be used for educational and religious purposes. By 1840, a log structure was built on the property and used as both a school and church. This building has been replaced several times after being destroyed by fire.⁷ Several other small communities throughout the county, such as Mt. Gilead and Sulphur Lick, also got their start between 1795 and 1810.

On June 1, 1792, the State of Kentucky was formed, and in 1797 the state legislature ruled that lands south of the Green River, which were once reserved for Virginia veterans, were open for purchase to anyone. The land was underpriced and settlers flocked to the southern Kentucky region. Monroe County was formed January 19, 1820 out of portions of Barren and Cumberland Counties and named in honor of president James Monroe. Residents chose a central location in the county to serve as the county seat, and named it Tompkinsville after Vice-President Daniel Tompkins. Boundaries of the county fluctuated in the early 1800s, but became fixed to the present borders by 1860.

As the area became more settled, distinct travel routes began to emerge. Old Trace Road in the eastern portion of the county was one of the first passageways initiated. Early settler Moses Kirkpatrick is credited with discovering the route, which travels northwest from Black's Ferry through the communities of Meshack and Pleasant Hill and leads into Metcalfe County. Originally known as Kirkpatrick's Trace, the route was well known and used by 1801.⁸ In western Monroe County, the Pikeville or Flippin Road served a similar purpose and traversed northeast from the Kentucky-Tennessee state line through Flippin and then Sulphur Lick before reaching Metcalfe County.

⁷Ibid, 63-64.

⁸Montell, *Monroe County History, 1820-1970*, 35.

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Rapid road construction took place throughout Monroe County in the years following the War of 1812, and a series of primitive roads connecting the fledgling communities were established. Little more than paths, these roads served as avenues of transportation, communication, and access to markets. River travel was also important to early Monroe County settlers and provided a major link to other areas. Keel or flat boats were used during the frontier period to transport people and goods to southern destinations. The Cumberland River, in the eastern portion of the county, was particularly important in the exchange of goods and the transport of agricultural products to markets.

Throughout the 1800s, Monroe County's economy was heavily based on agriculture. Industry was minimal and typical of frontier life. Sawmills, grain mills, tan yards, and wagon makers could be found near most settlements, and many residents were involved in the distilling of whiskey. Agriculture, however, remained the primary occupation. The variety of crops raised included wheat, rye, oats, peas, beans, potatoes, and tobacco. The most fertile lands were those in the Cumberland River area, and larger, more productive farms developed in that region. The majority of the county was not as fertile as its northern and eastern neighbors, and agriculture, although the main source of income in Monroe County, was not as lucrative as it was in surrounding areas.

One of the most important crops to early settlers was corn due to its many uses and its adaptability to various terrains and soil. Corn produced foods such as hominy, mush, hoe cake, and bread, was distilled into whiskey, used as livestock feed, and could be equally grown in hills and flatlands. As areas were cleared of woodlands, rather than having to take the time and effort to burn and remove the stumps of trees, settlers could plant corn directly around the stumps. After the fruit of the plant was consumed or used, the cobs were burned and the stalks used to feed livestock.⁹ Small

⁹Martin, "The Pennyryle Cultural Landscape," 2.

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family farms cultivated approximately twenty acres of corn annually. The twenty bushels harvested from this acreage supplied the family and its livestock. The poorer the soil, the more a farm depended on corn.¹⁰

Hemp was another important agricultural product of the early 19th century, useful in making rope, twine, and bagging. Its growth in Monroe County was accelerated with the rise of the Southern cotton industry, which required hemp bags and twine. Rope and twine were also greatly used by Naval ships. In 1840, Kentucky grew most of the hemp used in the United States, and its value was so high, the product could be substituted for cash in many parts of the state. However, by century's end, the hemp market had faded. Three major factors contributed to this downfall: superior fibers were developed and created increasing competition; steamboats gradually replaced sailing ships and use of hemp was no longer needed for rigging; and the end of slavery after the Civil War eliminated the free labor source vital for antebellum cotton and hemp production.¹¹

Livestock were also essential to Monroe County farms. Horses and mules were used for labor, and cows, hogs, goats, and sheep were commonly found on most farms. Livestock provided meat for family consumption, but it also was a key market product. The rocky terrain and often less than average soil of Monroe County limited its agricultural potential, and livestock, particularly hogs, became a significant export trade. Livestock required less cost and maintenance than crops, depended less on weather and soil conditions, and were more easily transported to market. Hogs were much preferred over cattle because "hogs did not require the careful breeding that beef did; hogs also could feed themselves on mast or be fed from the dried corn

¹⁰Ibid, 9.

¹¹Ibid, 13-14.

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stored for such purpose."¹² During the mid- 19th century, the Pennyryle region of Kentucky was one of the principal hog producing areas in the country, raising forty-four percent of the state's swine. Hogs were driven to markets in the east, and salted pork was sent down river to markets in the south, where farms produced cotton exclusively rather than devoting some acreage to the production of food products.¹³

A variety of outbuildings were commonly erected on Monroe County farms to support their agricultural activities. Assorted barns were used to store hay, livestock, and equipment. Due to the area's heavy corn production, corn cribs were numerous with at least one on every farm. Early cribs were constructed of "unchinked logs covered by a gabled roof with adequate overhang to keep rain off the walls."¹⁴ The soil in Monroe County was not as suitable for tobacco as that in surrounding counties, although the crop was grown to some extent. For those farms that raised tobacco, tobacco barns for drying the leaves were part of the landscape. Smokehouses for the preserving of meat were also common structures on 19th century Monroe County farms. A chinked log construction provided a tight seal to keep the smoke in and pests out. As it became available, milled lumber replaced logs. Spring houses were found on farms with a nearby water source. These small outbuildings were constructed over the stream, which allowed the water to cool perishables such as dairy products.¹⁵

By 1790, the area that developed into Tompkinsville was home to around eight farms. The second largest community in the area, the settlement was primarily a subsistence

¹²Ibid, 15.

¹³Ibid, 14-16.

¹⁴Ibid, 9.

¹⁵Ibid, 17.

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farming community with a blacksmith as the only business. Settlers traveled to Glasgow for supplies until 1809 when J. C. Watson opened the area's first store. The village eventually grew into a proper town due to the encouragement of the Mars family. Through his service in the War of 1812, local resident Abijah Mars visited several small towns and returned home with the idea of developing a similar design. He encouraged his father, Samuel, to donate a portion of his property to the community, and Abijah laid out a network of streets. In 1817, the town was incorporated.¹⁶

Several churches were established throughout the area during the early 1800s. Many were affiliated with the Baptist faith, and various local and regional associations developed. One of the earliest churches established in Monroe County was the Mill Creek Church, built along that stream southeast of Tompkinsville in the late 1700s. Founded by traveling preacher Jonathan Mulkey, the church became commonly known as the Mulkey Church or Meeting House. A new meeting house was built in 1804 to replace the original log church. This building, which remains standing today, was constructed in the shape of a cross with twelve corners to represent the twelve apostles. The congregation split in 1809 with Mulkey's followers remaining at the Mill Creek site. By 1856, the building had fallen into disuse and was abandoned. Efforts to restore it in 1890 resulted in its use for weekly meetings until ca. 1910, when it again fell into disuse. A second effort to save the building arose in 1925, at which time the roof, doors, and windows were missing. In November 1931, the Old Mulkey Meeting House and associated cemetery were designated a state park and in 1973, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.¹⁷

¹⁶Montell, *Monroe County History, 1820-1970*, 13-16.

¹⁷Kentucky State Department of Parks, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, "Old Mulkey Meeting House State Shrine," May 7, 1973, On file at the Kentucky Historical Council, Frankfort, KY.

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Monroe County's first courthouse was built in Tompkinsville in 1823 and was the first brick and stone building erected in the county. This building was burned by Confederate troops in 1863, and an identical courthouse was constructed in its place in 1865. Fire also destroyed this second building, and another courthouse was completed in 1889. This third courthouse remains as the county judicial center.¹⁸ At the time of its 1817 incorporation, Tompkinsville had a population of approximately 100. By 1830, this number had risen to 220.

Postal service was established in Tompkinsville in 1819. As the century progressed, service was initiated in Center Point in 1835, Fountain Run in 1847, and Sulphur Lick in 1850. Flippin received postal service in 1858, as did Gamaliel in 1870.¹⁹ Often these early post offices were established in a resident's home and later relocated to a general store. By 1889, a stage coach line from Tompkinsville to Glasgow also aided transportation and communication. The coach made three round trips each week between the two communities. The community of Hestand established its first post office in 1888 and located it in a small log cabin behind a general store, and then later moved to an old water mill on the Barlow Baxter farm. In 1904, Barlow Baxter was appointed postmaster. At this same time a new general store was erected across the street from the Baxter residence, and the post office was housed in this building. The position of Hestand postmaster remained in the Baxter family over 100 years, and the 1904 structure remains intact and continues to serve as the community's post office.

River transportation remained crucial to Monroe County's economic development and was enhanced by the evolution of the steamboat. Use of these large steam powered vessels began in the 1830s and was well established by the 1840s. Faster, more reliable, and more versatile than previous transportation methods, the steamboat

¹⁸Montell, *Monroe County History, 1820-1970*, 16.

¹⁹Ibid, 46.

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allowed large quantities of livestock, tobacco, and other products to be shipped to a greater number of outside markets. One of the first steamboat landings established in Monroe County was McMillan's Landing in the Turkey Neck Bend area of the Cumberland River. Other prominent landings were situated at Black's Ferry and Martinsburg.²⁰ Around 1880, Clark C. Fowler, a local merchant and postmaster constructed a two-story dwelling facing the Cumberland River in the Martinsburg area. This dwelling also served as an inn for travelers on the river and had access to upstairs bedrooms via an entrance and staircase located off the rear porch (MR-290). This dwelling remains extant and retains much of its original design.

The steamboat era also saw the arrival of an increased variety of goods into Monroe County. Able to travel upstream, the ships returned to the area with goods from Nashville, which had connections to numerous other markets. Monroe Countians now had access to a variety of foods, cloth, and other products that had previously been out of their reach. Steamboats also eased travel and mobility, thus increasing the county's accessibility to settlers.

As settlers continued to move into Monroe County in the 1800s, many of them brought slaves. The slave population grew steadily as more farms were established and became the basis for today's Monroe County African-American population. The following table reveals the increase in slave ownership countywide prior to the Civil War, as well as the disproportionate amount of free blacks in Monroe County.²¹

²⁰Ibid, 38-40.

²¹U.S. Census information as quoted in Montell, *Monroe County History, 1820-1970*, 80.

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>SLAVES</u>	<u>FREE BLACKS</u>
1820	498	5
1830	645	5
1840	703	12
1850	831	23
1860	922	17

Although few free blacks lived in Monroe County, a small community did develop between Tompkinsville and Gamaliel. Known as Freetown, the community was established by former slaves of William Howard, a local farmer. Howard commonly freed his slaves when they reached the age of twenty-one and gave them a small piece of land at the edge of his property.²² Freetown, the county's first black community, was the result. In 1848, residents of Freetown erected the Mount Vernon African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church just south of the community. This one-room log structure was the first black church building constructed in Monroe County and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places May 10, 1977.²³

Freetown and William Howard, however, were the exceptions rather than the rule in early 19th century Monroe County. By far, the majority of African Americans in the county at this time were slaves and remained so throughout their lives. In 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, Monroe County was home to 191 slaveowners. Fifty-seven of this number owned only one slave. The average number of slaves owned fell between two and ten.²⁴ Most slaves were located in the Cumberland River area,

²²Lynwood Montell, *Monroe County Folklife*, (n.p., 1975), 99.

²³Kentucky Heritage Commission, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, "Mount Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church," April 1977, On file at the Kentucky Historical Council, Frankfort, KY.

²⁴Birdwell, *The History of Monroe County, Kentucky, 1820-1988*, 39.

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which had the richest soil and supported the largest farms. Prosperous slaveholders in this area owned anywhere between forty and seventy slaves.²⁵ Slaves were primarily used for labor-intensive crops, such as tobacco and hemp.

As the Civil War erupted, loyalties of Monroe County residents were divided along geographic lines with many of those residing along the Cumberland River supporting the Confederacy. This area was home to prosperous farms with the county's largest slaveholding population. The remainder of the county gave much of their support to the Union. Although many slaveowners also lived in this region, they strongly opposed secession.²⁶ Flippin resident John M. Fraim established Camp Anderson in support of the Union. The camp quickly became a target of Confederate troops and was burned in October of 1861.

One of the greatest impacts on Monroe County during the Civil War was the activity of guerilla soldiers. Groups with both northern and southern sympathies consistently conducted raids and robberies throughout the county. In addition, official troops in the area placed heavy demands on the population for food, supplies, and other resources. This burdened Monroe County citizens, who were often in a state of fear and apprehension as the county changed hands between Union and Confederate forces several times during the war.

Various skirmishes occurred in the county during the Civil War. The most significant took place in July of 1862 when Confederate Colonel John Hunt Morgan surprised Union forces camped in Tompkinsville. Morgan reported 22 Union dead and 30 to 40 captured, with no Confederate fatalities. Union Major Thomas Jordon, who was captured in the raid, gave a conflicting report of 4 Union soldiers killed, 7 wounded, and 19 taken prisoner. Jordon also noted that 19 Confederates were killed and 28

²⁵Montell, *Monroe County History, 1820-1970*, 80.

²⁶Ibid, 22-23.

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wounded. After the raid Morgan proceeded north into central Kentucky and Union troops reoccupied the Tompkinsville area. Two more skirmishes occurred the following November as Confederate troops engaged Union forces in scouting missions. Confederate efforts proved successful each time and took major supplies including 5,000 hogs. On April 22, 1863, Confederate troops again entered Tompkinsville and caused major damage by burning the courthouse, Baptist church, and other buildings.²⁷

Monroe County emerged from the Civil War intact but not totally unchanged. Many families left the area both during and after the War due to sectional loyalties and animosities fueled by the conflict. In turn, a new free black population existed in the county and sought to build new productive lives. This was often difficult given the political, economic, and social situation in which they found themselves. Some slaveowners assisted their former slaves by giving them land on which to build homes. As a result, small pockets of black communities began to develop.

Former slaves in the Kettle Creek region, located in the southeast corner of the county, established the Coe Ridge colony, or Zeketown, on the rear portion of an old plantation. A similar community formed in the Meshack area on property donated by Jimmy Gerald. In addition, the already established community of Freetown continued to grow.²⁸ Earning a living was the most difficult task for Monroe County blacks in the decades following the Civil War. In 1870, 789 African Americans resided in Monroe County. The majority of these were engaged in some form of tenant farming or sharecropping. In more populated areas, blacks were hired as laborers and domestic servants.²⁹

²⁷Ibid, 24-27.

²⁸Ibid, 80.

²⁹Ibid, 80-81.

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Only a few properties were surveyed in the county which have associations with the county's African American community. In addition to the National Register-listed Mt. Vernon A.M.E. Church, another African American church is the Mt. Olive Church of Christ (MR-118). This small frame building was built ca. 1910, and was also used as a schoolhouse. This simple rectangular building retains much of its original design, and may be National Register-eligible for its African American heritage.

Agriculture remained the primary source of income for whites as well. Between 1860 and 1880, Monroe County farms ranged from 50 to 500 acres with the average size around 150 acres. By 1900, between twenty-five and fifty percent of land in the county had been cleared for agricultural products. At this time the county was home to 2,236 farms, 64 of which were owned by black farmers and the remaining 2,172 were white owned. These farms collectively produced between \$1,000 and \$2,500 of agricultural products annually.³⁰ Farms still depended heavily on steamboat transportation to get their products to market. The railroad boom of the late 19th century, which had brought industry and profitable trade businesses to many towns, had bypassed Monroe County and surrounding counties. The region's rugged terrain and strong economic attachment to river transportation discouraged railroad companies. Steamboats remained the dominant transportation method in the region until the late 1920s with the emergence of automobile travel and the trucking industry.³¹

Bypassed by the railroads and having a sufficient, but not exceptionally lucrative, agricultural economic base, Monroe County remained largely rural in character at the close of the 19th century. Towns and communities scattered throughout the county held steady with small populations and little industrial development. In 1890, both Tompkinsville and Fountain Run had 350 residents, and the village of Martinsburg

³⁰Ibid, 74.

³¹Ibid, 38.

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had 151.³² The exploitation of the county's timber resources increased during the late 19th century with the growing demand for sawn lumber. Numerous sawmills were built throughout the county, especially near the Cumberland River where log rafts were created for transport downriver.

As the population gradually rose, schools became an increasing concern. Schools had been established in the county as early as the 1790s with lessons being administered in the Old Mulkey Church. By 1850, twenty-six public schools for white students existed in the county, and in 1870, nearly 2,000 white and twenty-four black students attended Monroe schools. To accommodate the rural population, which was widely spread throughout the county, several one-room schools were erected in communities around 1900. By 1920, Monroe County had forty-six white schools and nine black schools. In 1934, the total number of schools reached sixty-one and included four high schools, those at Tompkinsville, Gamaliel, Fountain Run, and Flippin. During the 1930s, various Monroe County School buildings were constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Many of the one-room country schools remained in use until the 1950s, when a move to consolidate the schools resulted in the construction of a series of larger, modern facilities.³³ Although largely abandoned, a reconnaissance level survey in 2000 identified over a dozen of these frame, one-room school buildings of the early 20th century still standing in Monroe County.

In the early 20th century, several one- and two-room schools were constructed throughout Monroe County to serve the children of its residents. These were typically one-story, frame, gable end buildings with weatherboard siding and four-over-four wood sash windows. A common feature of the schools was a central projecting gable bay, which contained the main entrance. Many of these schools remained in use until the 1950s. The 1983 survey inventoried over a dozen of these schools, however, since

³²Ibid, 14-15.

³³Ibid, 63-65.

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that time many of these buildings have been razed or are now in ruins. At least two schools retain integrity of construction and design from this period; the Flippin School built in 1938 at Flippin (MR-116), and the Hickory Ridge School built in 1920 on Hickory Ridge Road (MR-149).

Churches have been an important part of Monroe County's heritage, and a number of small community churches were constructed throughout the county in the 19th and early 20th century. These are primarily modest frame, gable front structures. Many of these churches continue to be used for religious services, and several examples were documented in the 1983 survey. Many of these have been altered through the addition of synthetic siding materials, replacement doors and windows, or added wings. However, there are examples of churches that retain their original materials and architectural integrity. One example is the Corinth Church (MR-192). Built ca. 1902, this frame, gable front church retains its original weatherboard siding, four-over-four wood sash windows, and interior chamfered support columns as well as wood floors, walls, and ceilings. Other churches retaining much of their original design and detailing include the Fountain Run General Baptist Church (MR-9), a vacant church east of Fountain Run (MR-23), the Lebanon Church of Christ (MR-58), the Liberty Methodist Church (MR-107), the Berea Chapel (MR-122), and the Vernon Church (MR-237).

In the early 20th century, Monroe County began to experience a small amount of industrial growth, although the county's economy continued to remain reliant on agriculture. Sawmills remained a strong business, with mills located throughout the county. Some of the more prominent mills in the 1920s were the McClendon Brothers, Monroe Stave Co., and Casey Singletree Co. A few small industries emerged near Tompkinsville in the early 20th century. W.D. White, Jr., established an ax handle factory in 1916, and in the 1940s, a casket factory and a smoke pipe factory came to the area. These industries never grew to a substantial size and had little economic impact on the county.

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Few historic industrial buildings remain intact in Monroe County, and only small industries were located in the county in its early history. Grain mills were perhaps the most common industrial buildings of the 19th century, and many remained in use well into the 20th century. However, advancements in the late 20th century have resulted in the disuse of these buildings and many have been razed or abandoned. Moore's Mill, which was located on Route 163 just west of the community of Hestand, was an excellent example of an early industrial building (MR-97), however, it has been razed since it was surveyed in 1983. Burnett's Feed Mill in Fountain Run remains standing, however, it suffers from neglect and deterioration (MR-13).

In the 1920s and 1930s, many of the county's gravel and dirt roads were paved which improved vehicular access throughout the county. These improvements to the county's road system came at the expense of the steamboat trade. The rise in the trucking industry hastened the decline of steamboat traffic on the Cumberland, and activity at the river landings of Black's Ferry and Martinsburg greatly decreased. These decades also witnessed the construction of major federal highways through central Kentucky such as US 31W, US 31E and US 127. Residents hoped that one of these highways would be built through the county but these roads, along with their associated economic benefits, were built elsewhere.

By the end of the 19th century, Monroe County continued to be largely rural in character with only a few sizeable communities. In addition to the county seat of Tompkinsville, other significant communities included Gamaliel, Fountain Run, Flippen, Martinsburg, and Hestand. At their height, these communities boasted populations of less than two hundred. Several other smaller crossroads communities such as Gum Tree and Meshack consisted of twenty to thirty residents, one or two stores, and sometimes a feed mill or blacksmith shop.

Pre-1910 commercial buildings are primarily found in Tompkinsville or the other small towns, which were centers for trade in the 19th century. They housed banks, general merchandise stores, grocery markets, and other enterprises. These buildings

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are typically one-story in height and are of brick or frame construction. Common details include a parapeted roofline, corbelled brick cornices, and recessed storefront entries. Several intact examples of 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings remain extant in Monroe County. Properties surveyed in 1983 which may be eligible for the National Register include the Bailey Howe Grocery at Fountain Run (MR-5), a commercial building in downtown Fountain Run (MR-8), and the Baxter Brothers Store and Hestand Post Office at Hestand (MR-147). Other commercial buildings which appear to meet National Register criteria in the county include the Gamaliel Bank built in 1903 in Gamaliel, and the Tompkinsville Service Station built ca. 1930 at Third and Main Streets in Tompkinsville.

Agriculture remained the major source of income for Monroe Countians into the 20th century. Throughout the early 20th century, various agencies were established in the county to promote advancement in agricultural activities. In 1928, the County Extension office was established. This office introduced and encouraged the use of scientific methods. The Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service was established in 1933, and in the 1940s, the Monroe County Farm Bureau was founded and the Soil Conservation Service was organized. The latter agency controlled erosion and established watershed projects and farm ponds.³⁴ The Cudahy Cheese Manufacturing Company opened in Tompkinsville in 1949. Its presence led to a significant increase in the county's dairy farms and in cheese production. It was later acquired by the Dairymen, and the plant was in operation until 1983.³⁵

Farmsteads are another property type inventoried in the county. These properties possess original dwellings along with numerous original domestic and farm outbuildings. Such properties may be eligible under National Register criterion A for their significance in demonstrating agricultural practices of the 19th and early 20th

³⁴Ibid, 75-98.

³⁵Birdwell, *The History of Monroe County, Kentucky, 1820-1988*, 39.

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centuries. Potentially eligible properties include the Vanus Hayes Farm (MR-119), and the Robert Pedigo Farm (MR-128).

One of the more substantial developments in Monroe County in the 20th century was the discovery of oil on various farms. Oil first appeared in the Kettle Creek area, east of the Cumberland River, and near Sand Lick in the 1920s. Mineral and drilling rights were quickly sought and sporadic drilling took place, but no major oil supplies were identified. The fever for "black gold" surfaced again around 1950. This time oil had been located in the Meredith and McFarland Creek areas near Hestand and Vernon. Although drilling in these areas proved to be more successful than those of the 1920s, they too eventually proved to be insignificant. The largest Monroe County oil strike occurred in late November of 1965. A "gusher" was established on the Jack Hayes Farm along the banks of Skaggs Creek in the Sulphur Lick community. The well's pressure produced over 7,000 barrels a day, and oilmen from Texas and Florida rushed to buy land in the area. Landowners were paid from \$2 to \$100 an acre for oil leases resulting in over \$700,000 paid to Monroe County property owners. By mid-December over 60,000 barrels of oil had been taken from Sulphur Lick wells. However, in a few weeks, the pressure diminished and the promise of a lucrative oil industry in the county again vanished.³⁶

More industrial growth came to Monroe County in the 1960s, although it still remained limited. In 1969, the county contained twelve manufacturing firms, which employed approximately 1,080 people. Sixty-four percent of this total were female. The largest manufacturers were in the apparel industry. The Monroe Manufacturing Company in Gamaliel produced slacks and employed over 300; the Key Manufacturing Company in Tompkinsville made jeans and had 200 employees; and the Tompkinsville Manufacturing Company, makers of pants, employed over 250

³⁶*Kentucky Historical Chronicle*, vol. 4, no. 16, April 28, 1975.

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persons. Other industries included lumber, fertilizer, concrete, printing, and cabinet manufacturers.³⁷

Today, Monroe County remains largely rural in character with agriculture continuing to be the primary occupation. Small communities are scattered throughout the county, and Tompkinsville remains the area's largest town with a population of approximately 3,000 residents.

Historic Context - Residential Architecture in Monroe County, Kentucky, 1800 - 1910

Monroe County contains a notable collection of residential architecture in its rural countryside and small towns. This architecture is significant in expressing the county's growth and development of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The county's pre-1910 architecture provides information on the patterns and dates of early settlement, agricultural expansion, relationship to transportation networks, ethnicity and changes in social structure, expansion of wealth and community development, and the evolution of construction techniques and methodology. The existing and recorded residential architecture is essential to understanding the county's overall heritage. Because of this importance, the historic context of residential architecture was the first selected by local historians and residents to be included in Monroe County's multiple property listing.

This Multiple Property Submission primarily supports the nomination of residential buildings; however, churches, schools, commercial and industrial buildings are also an important part of Monroe County's historic landscape. Each of these building types constitutes an individual property type which should be addressed in later property

³⁷Montell, *Monroe County History, 1820-1970*, 78.

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type nominations. Examples in each of these building types were documented in the 1983 survey, and many remain extant today.

The remaining examples of Monroe County's residential architecture from 1800 to 1910 are significant to understanding the settlement of the county, and its 19th and early 20th century growth and development. Both log and brick dwellings remain extant from this period which document the county's initial settlement. The remaining log and brick dwellings from this period are significant for the information they can impart in social history, settlement patterns, and construction techniques. Residential architecture from this period provides information on which areas of the county were first settled, the relationship of dwellings with water sources, and the spatial relationship of dwellings through land ownership and subdivision of property. Residential architecture can also provide important data on how the reliance on agriculture from this period was reflected in the types of dwellings and outbuilding constructed and their relationships.

Residential architecture from this period can also impart information on construction techniques and similarities or dissimilarities with residential architecture elsewhere in the state and region. Such information can include the origins of construction designs and patterns, influence of the county's road systems and Cumberland River transport on building forms and materials, and specific ethnic influences. For log and brick dwellings, the arrangement of pens, notching forms and masonry patterns, chimney construction, and other features are integral to understanding the relationship of the county's early residents to their environment and available materials. Over time, many of the log dwellings were covered with weatherboard siding or enlarged. These modifications are also significant to explain changes in attitude towards living in a log dwelling, increased wealth and status necessitating additions, and increased exposure to popular and national architectural styles.

Of particular note are log and brick dwellings which retain their original design and detailing of the 19th century. Based upon the 1983 and 2000 reconnaissance level

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surveys, such properties are rare in Monroe County. These properties will be of particular significance since they will illustrate the original design, form, and plan of the builder, and lack later additions which may make the evolution of the dwelling difficult to discern. Such dwellings more easily allow an understanding of 19th century construction design without also having to evaluate later additions.

Residential architecture from 1865 to 1910 is significant for the information it can provide concerning the evolving economic patterns in the county, the growth and development of the county seat of Tompkinsville and other small towns, the influence of the Cumberland River on the importation of building materials, and the influence of national styles popularized by pattern books. Residential architecture from this period can also be significant in illustrating changing building techniques such as the rise of balloon frame construction, the use of new materials such as concrete block and milled decorative lumber.

In the mid-19th century sawmills became increasingly common in Monroe County and sawn lumber became more widely available and affordable. As a result, dwellings built after the Civil War and into the 1900s were primarily of frame construction. In the second half of the 19th century, the I-House was the dominant house form in the county. This two rooms wide and one room deep house plan often included a rear ell or shed roof wing.³⁸ In Monroe County, the construction of a two-story I-House was a status symbol and a sign of a successful farmer or merchant. Architectural historians and cultural geographers have both identified the prominence of this house form and its popularity among affluent rural and small-town residents.³⁹ Built

³⁸Montell and Morse, Kentucky Folk Architecture, 32.

³⁹ John A. Jakle, Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer, *Common Houses in America's Small Towns*, (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1989), 120-121; Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), 96; William Lynwood Montell and Michael Lynn Morse, *Kentucky Folk Architecture*, (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1976), 32; Jean Sizemore, *Ozark Vernacular*

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throughout the Midwest and South, this house form was first identified in 1936 by Fred Kniffen, and it was noted for its association with economic prosperity in an agricultural society.⁴⁰ The importance of I-House forms as "an icon of success" is particularly identified with residents of Kentucky and Tennessee.⁴¹

Because of their prominence, popularity, and symbol of success, I-Houses are some of Monroe County's most significant architectural resources of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They embody one of the most comfortable and spacious homes readily available to the county's well-to-do farmers and merchants of the period. The simplicity of the overall house form did not tax the abilities of county builders and carpenters, and decorative detailing of sawn lumber or porch columns were readily available through local sawmills or mail order plans. Over fifty I-House dwellings built prior to 1910 remain extant in the rural areas of the county.

In addition to the many I-House dwellings, the 1983 survey also inventoried numerous ca. 1880 - 1910 frame dwellings. These dwellings are generally associated with small farmsteads of the period, and were built in forms addressed in varying ways by architectural historians and cultural geographers. Architectural historians such as Virginia and Lee McAlester place these dwellings within the terminology of "National Folk Houses."⁴² These are house forms which were popularized in the late 19th century through balloon frame construction techniques, widespread availability of house pattern books, and improved rail transportation throughout the country which allowed less expensive costs for materials. Rather than address these dwellings by

Houses, (Fayetteville, Arkansas: University of Arkansas Press, 1994), 74.

⁴⁰ Sizemore, *Ozark Vernacular Houses*, 74.

⁴¹ Jakle, Bastian, and Meyer, *Common Houses*, 121.

⁴² McAlester and McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 89.

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style, cultural geographers such as John Jakle look more at house form and distribution.⁴³ Both approaches have some agreement on descriptions of house forms, and this terminology is utilized for this nomination.

The 1983 county survey focused primarily on the more prominent 19th and early 20th century dwellings such as those of log, brick, and two-story frame houses. As a result, many of the county's ca. 1880 - ca. 1910 dwellings were not inventoried. In addition to these dwellings, Craftsman and Bungalow style dwellings were also largely omitted from this inventory. These early 20th century properties have yet to be assessed, and represent a large number of county resources remaining to be evaluated.

⁴³ Jakle, Bastian, and Meyer, *Common Houses*, 5.

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PROPERTY TYPES

Residential Architecture, ca. 1800 - ca. 1910

Monroe County, Kentucky contains a wide variety of property types from the 19th and early 20th centuries. These include residential and commercial buildings, schools, churches, industrial buildings, and government buildings. This nomination details the property type of selected residential architecture dating from the early 19th century to ca. 1910. Based upon the previous intensive and reconnaissance level surveys, residential architecture appears to be the property type containing the largest number of National Register-eligible properties within the county. A new county survey of properties fifty years old or older, and development of other relevant historic contexts will be required to fully support this prediction.

Description:

The oldest residential buildings remaining in Monroe County are of log construction. These are typically double-pen or dogtrot plan dwellings built from ca. 1820 to ca. 1850. The design of these dwellings are typical of those previously studied and identified in the Pennyryle region, and neighboring mid-South.⁴⁴ Two-story log dwellings also exist in the county. Their sturdiness has enabled them to survive over the years, but few remain unaltered from their original design. Most have been covered with exterior weatherboard siding and have added rear shed roof wings, ells, or other new construction. The General Emmert House demonstrates a number of these changes (MR-101). The west pen of this one-story dwelling is of log construction and dates to ca. 1840. The remainder of the dwelling is frame and

⁴⁴William Lynwood Montell and Michael Lynn Morse, Kentucky Folk Architecture, (Lexington, Kentucky: University of Kentucky Press, 1976), 18; Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), 82-85; John Morgan, The Log House in East Tennessee, (Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 1990), 10-14.

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includes a rear ell. In recent decades vinyl siding has been added to the dwelling's exterior and the porch has been rebuilt. Another example of a log house that has been transformed is a two-story log and frame dwelling located on Route 2170 in Fountain Run (MR-71). The original portion of this dwelling is a log dog-trot that dates to ca. 1830. The house has an exterior of ca. 1900 weatherboard siding. Late 20th century alterations to the dwelling include a rebuilt front porch, rebuilt chimneys, and replacement sash windows.

Other examples of log dwellings include the John Welch House on Jesse Compton Road (MR-127), the Daniel Isenberg House on Virgil Comer Road (MR-112), and the Murphy House in Gamaliel (MR-143). The John Welch House consists of two log pens constructed ca. 1888 and connected with a dogtrot. The Daniel Isenberg House is a two-story, double-pen dwelling built ca. 1845. This dwelling has been covered with weatherboard, and has an original log kitchen attached at the rear. The dwelling retains a 19th century porch, and original vertical board doors. The Murphy House in Gamaliel is a two-story log structure built in 1867 and later covered with weatherboard siding. The house has a two-story full-width porch on the main facade. These three dwellings retain a high degree of their 19th century exterior appearance, and may meet the criteria of the National Register depending on their interior integrity. Other potentially eligible 19th century log homes include the Brown House on Lebanon Church Road (MR-66), and the McClendon House off Mud Lick School Road (MR-81).

Brick dwellings were rarely constructed in Monroe County in the early 19th century due to their expense. Five brick dwellings were recorded as existing in Tompkinsville by 1850, but none of these survive. Outside of Tompkinsville only five brick dwellings are known to have been built in the county. The oldest 19th century brick dwelling in the county is the Berry House located on Kettle Creek Road (MR-248). This one and-one-half-story brick dwelling was constructed ca. 1810 with Flemish bond on the main (northwest) facade. Frame wings were added to the dwelling ca. 1850, and in the late 1920s or early 1930s the house received shed roof dormers on

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the front and rear elevations, and a Bungalow style porch on the southeast elevation, which now serves as the main facade. The interior of the house retains its original plank wood siding, wood floors, mantels, and wainscoting. Windows in the dwelling are original six-over-six wood sash design with jack arches. There are also many original outbuildings associated with the dwelling including a smokehouse, garage, barn, chicken house, hay crib, and privy.

The Berry House is one of the earliest homes remaining in Monroe County, and illustrates both its original construction and alterations into the early 20th century. The intact associated outbuildings also reflect the property's historical agricultural use and setting. In the opinion of the Consultant, the Berry House is significant for its early architectural design, and evolution into the early 20th century. This property may also be potentially eligible under agriculture for its intact collection of 19th and early 20th century domestic and farm outbuildings, illustrative of the county's agricultural heritage.

Another early brick dwelling is the Moses Kirkpatrick House located southeast of Tompkinsville (MR-224). This dwelling was the home of one of Monroe County's earliest settlers and was built in two stages as his wealth increased. Moses Kirkpatrick built the one and- one-half-story log portion of the house ca. 1790, and twenty years later, after he became a successful farmer and miller, he constructed the one- and- one-half-story brick connecting structure. In the 1970s a National Register nomination was submitted for the Moses Kirkpatrick House. By this time though the house had undergone alterations that compromised its historic architectural integrity. Aluminum siding now covers the log section and concrete porches have been added to the front and rear facades. The brick portion has had numerous alterations including replacement windows, an enclosed fireplace, reconfiguration of interior floor plan, and added plaster walls. Due to the extent of these changes the dwelling was determined to no longer meet the criteria of the National Register.

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Another brick dwelling associated with the Kirkpatrick family was constructed near the Moses Kirkpatrick House ca. 1810 (MR-225). This two-story brick house was vacant at the time of the 1983 survey and burned ca. 1990. Only portions of exterior walls remain. Although not eligible under criterion C, the ruins of this property may be of sufficient significance to meet National Register criterion D for the archaeological potential of the site.

The William Howard House, commonly known as the Old Brick House, on Route 1366 is a two-story brick dwelling constructed ca. 1810 (MR-137). The dwelling remains extant and in good condition; unfortunately, recent alterations to the dwelling have seriously compromised its architectural integrity. A large two-story frame addition was added to the rear elevation in 1994 and has an attached carport and an exterior of vinyl siding. Around this same time, the two-story front porch was rebuilt with hollow core aluminum columns, and original windows and doors were replaced with late 20th century designs. Due to the extent of these alterations, the dwelling no longer resembles its original design.

Another 19th century brick dwelling is the Rollin Railey House located off State Route 163 (MR-87). This two-story brick dwelling was constructed in 1851, and originally consisted of a two-story, single-pen house. This dwelling was enlarged in the 1870s through the addition of a two-story lateral frame wing, and rear shed roof wing. Much of its 19th century detailing remains intact, and although vacant, this property appears to meet National Register criteria for its architectural design.

The 1983 county survey did not identify any unaltered surviving timber frame dwellings from the early 19th century. Frame dwellings surveyed in the county primarily date to after the Civil War. Dwellings built in popular 19th century styles such as Greek Revival and Italianate were not built in extensive numbers. The Greek Revival style is distinguished by its porticos on the main facade with Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian columns. In Kentucky, this style is associated with wealthy planters and farmers, and most of Monroe County did not possess the type of rich soils necessary

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to support large prosperous farms. A two-story pedimented portico was utilized on the Frank Button House, built in 1872 (MR-64). This dwelling displayed square Doric columns, and an entrance with transom and sidelights. This dwelling burned in the 1990s. The most representative Italianate style dwelling remaining in the county is the Thomas P. Evans House, located at 701 N. Main Street in Tompkinsville (MR-T-12). Built in 1893, this two-story brick dwelling was designed with pedimented cornices over the windows, and retains an original porch with milled columns. The dwelling was listed on the National Register in 1992 for its architectural significance, and is the only residential building listed on the National Register in the county.

The I-House form provided owners with homes considered spacious for the period. On the first floor was a central hall flanked by a formal parlor or living room, and master bedroom. The upstairs often contained two large bedrooms and a central hall. Most I-Houses were also built with a rear one- or two-story ell wing containing the kitchen and dining room. Decorative elements for these dwellings were generally expressed through Greek Revival or Italianate influenced porticos on the main facade, or full-width porches with Italianate, Eastlake, or Colonial Revival derivation.

A representative I-House dwelling in the county is the C.H. Dodson House on Route 214 (MR-246). This I-House design dwelling was constructed in 1873 and retains original four-panel wood doors, four-over-four and six-over-six wood sash windows, and exterior weatherboard siding. The house also has a two-story full-width porch and a rear board and batten ell that were added in 1914. This dwelling also has associated period outbuildings. Another intact I-House dwelling is the Clark C. Fowler House (MR-290). Built ca. 1880, this two-story frame dwelling faces the Cumberland River, and served both as a dwelling and as an inn for riverboat traffic. The house retains an original open breezeway. It also has original four-over-four wood sash windows, four-panel wood doors, interior wall stone chimneys, and exterior weatherboard siding. The main facade has four original gable wall dormers with drop pendants. The only alteration to the dwelling's exterior is the replacement of the original entry porch columns. The larger rear porch retains its original milled

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columns, brackets, and milled valence. The interior of the dwelling retains original mantels, stairs, and wall and ceiling finishes.

Both the C.H. Dodson House and Clark C. Fowler House are indicative of the growing wealth and prosperity of the county as well as changes in construction techniques. Prior to the Civil War, two-story frame houses were rarely built due to the expense and time required to construct a large timber framed house. After the war, the widespread use of balloon frame construction and more affordable sawn lumber allowed a much larger range of Monroe County residents to build substantial two-story homes. Increasingly, as farmers and merchants prospered in the late 19th century these I-House forms appeared with some degree of frequency. The C.H. Dodson House and Clark C. Fowler House are of particular note since they possess much of their original design and detailing.

Other notable examples of two-story frame I-House dwellings include the John Patterson House near Fountain Run (MR-59), the Joel Moore House on State Route 163 (MR-99), the Duncan House off State Route 87 (MR-142), and the Ike Short House on State Route 214 (MR-242). The John Patterson House is a five-bay I-House, and retains its original doors, windows, and one-story rear ell wing. The house was built in 1895, and is presently vacant. The Joel Moore House was built ca. 1890 and is a five-bay I-House with a one-story rear ell. This dwelling is presently vacant and its original front porch is in poor condition. The Duncan House was built ca. 1890, and has square Doric motif columns on the main facade, and an entrance with sidelights and transom. The three-bay Ike Short House was constructed in 1904, and has a two-story rear ell. This property has been restored in recent decades.

Throughout Monroe County are house forms built from ca. 1880 to ca. 1910, in hall-and-parlor, pyramid square, and gabled ell plans. These dwellings are generally of frame construction, one- to one-half stories in height, and of balloon frame construction. These dwellings represent the largest number of extant pre-1950 houses in the county. Hall-and-parlor house forms are two rooms wide and one room deep,

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and are one of the dominant house forms in the Southeast.⁴⁵ These dwellings were often expanded through the addition of rear ell wings or shed roof wings. Pyramid square plans are rectangular plan, one-story dwellings which have a hipped or pyramidal roof rising from the four corners of the house. This house form was built in the county from ca. 1890 to ca. 1925, and several examples remain extant. These include the Mard Murphy House built at Fountain Run in 1890 (MR-2), and a dwelling on State Route 63 (MR-282). Gabled ell dwellings were widely built throughout the county from ca. 1880 to ca. 1920. These are generally one-story frame dwellings with a projecting bay extending from the main block of the house. This house form is also known as "L-Shaped Cottages," and "Gable-Front-and-Wing."⁴⁶ These dwellings were generally built with milled columns and decorative millwork on their porches and primary facades. An example of this house form is the Sam Chism House built ca. 1910 in Fountain Run (MR-16).

These house forms persisted into the early 20th century, and a comprehensive survey of these properties has yet to be completed. While the 1983 survey inventoried dozens of these dwellings, many more were left unrecorded due to time and financial constraints. Further survey and analysis will provide additional information on their location and numbers.

The popular national house forms of the turn of the century such as Queen Anne and Colonial Revival were rarely built in Monroe County. Such dwellings are often associated with particularly prominent or wealthy residents who could afford to hire specialized craftsmen. Designs for these dwellings were available through pattern books or architectural firms. The most ornate Queen Anne style dwelling known to have been built in the county was the Robert Comer House in Gamaliel. Although no

⁴⁵ McAlester and McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, 94.

⁴⁶ Jakle, Bastian, and Meyer, Common Houses in America's Small Towns, 161; McAlester and McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, 92.

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longer standing, this dwelling was designed with a large wraparound porch, milled columns, and a third story balcony. This dwelling appears to have been a mail order design, and greatly resembles those available through the George Barber Company of Knoxville.

A one and-one-half-story Queen Anne dwelling is the Page House located at 122 Main Street in Gamaliel (not surveyed in 1983). Built in 1904, this asymmetrical plan dwelling retains original milled porch columns, railing, and decorative trim that are typical of the Queen Anne style. It also has an original pressed metal roof and corbelled chimneys. A number of supporting outbuildings are also associated with the dwelling. In the opinion of the Consultant, the Page House possesses sufficient architectural design and integrity to meet the criteria of the National Register. Another Queen Anne style dwelling at 112 E. Third Street in Tompkinsville was built ca. 1890 (not surveyed in 1983). This dwelling has a polygonal projecting bay on the main facade with an exterior of fish scale shingles. Windows have pedimented cornices, and the porch has ca. 1915 Doric motif porch columns.

The Will Webb House (MR-255) also reflects the influence of the Queen Anne style. This two-story log and frame dwelling features two projecting two-story polygonal bays on the main facade. Between the two bays is an original two-story porch with an exterior milled staircase and beadboard siding. The first story of this dwelling is of log construction and dates to ca. 1830. The second floor and the projecting bays were added around ca. 1890. The dwelling retains interior details such as original four-panel wood doors and original wood floors.

Related to the Queen Anne style is the two-story frame, "prow house" type dwelling built by Barlow Baxter at Hestand in 1904 (MR-294). The term prow house is generally applied to dwellings which have a prominent gabled wing on the main facade, and this wing often has wraparound porches which extend on all three sides. In most cases this one-room projecting wing is visually balanced by the two lateral wings of the rooms behind. The projecting bay has the effect of resembling a ship's

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"prow." Studies of prow houses suggest that this form "unquestionably demonstrates the far-flung influence of the decorative Queen Anne architectural style."⁴⁷ Prow House designs appear in numerous pattern books at the turn of the century. The Barlow Baxter House retains its original plan, two-story porch, weatherboard siding exterior, porch columns, eave brackets, and most original windows.

The Page House, Will Webb House, Barlow Baxter House, and house at 122 E. Third Street are all significant for their architectural design. These four dwellings express the wealth of their owners and their attempts to build a house in keeping with nationwide styles. They convey a deliberate effort to construct a dwelling at the forefront of architectural sophistication, rather than more traditional forms. Both the Page House and dwelling at 112 E. Third Street have traditional Queen Anne massing and decorative exterior detailing such as window surrounds and fishscale shingles. The Will Webb and Barlow Baxter Houses also possess the asymmetry of the style, and have particularly well crafted porches and exterior detailing. All four properties retain much of their original interior plan and detailing as well, and these dwellings meet National Register criterion C.

During the early 20th century, the Colonial Revival style also became popular as a residential style in Kentucky. This style drew upon the forms and designs of 18th-century colonial America. These designs included classical columns, symmetrical floor plans, and classical detailing such as dentils and modillion blocks. An illustrative example of the Colonial Revival style is the Thomas Howard House south of Fountain Run (MR-43). This two-story frame dwelling was remodeled into its present form in 1917, and displays a two-story porch with square Doric columns, and hipped dormers at the roofline. In August of 2000, this dwelling was being dismantled and no longer retained integrity of design or materials.

⁴⁷ Jean Sizemore. Ozark Vernacular Houses. (Fayetteville, Arkansas, University of Arkansas Press, 1994) 103.

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Significance:

Monroe County's pre-1910 residential properties may be significant for their role in the historical settlement and growth in the county, for their association with a specific event, and for their association with broad social patterns and/or ethnic history. Residential properties may also be significant for individuals whose specific contributions to the county's historical development can be identified and evaluated. Residential properties may also be significant for their architectural form and design. The county retains numerous brick and log dwellings dating from its settlement period of the early 19th century. These dwellings convey important information on settlement patterns, lifestyles, social history, construction methodology and techniques, and associations with individuals notable in the early development of the county. Such properties are the most tangible elements of the county's antebellum built environment.

Monroe County also possesses a large collection of late 19th and early 20th century frame dwellings. These display common building forms such as I-House, double-pen, hall and parlor, gabled ell, and pyramid square. Of particular note is the county's large collection (over fifty) of two-story central plan I-Houses. I-House dwellings retaining integrity will be significant for their associations with social history and county trends in the years following the Civil War, for their associations with individuals prominent in the county's growth and development, and for the information they can convey concerning community development and changes in demographics, and agrarian economics.

Based upon both the intensive and reconnaissance level survey, residential properties such as double-pen, pyramid square, gabled ell, and other house forms from this period appear to comprise the largest number of extant pre-1910 historic resources in the county. They collectively hold great potential to enlarge our knowledge and perspective on the county's 19th and early 20th century heritage. Such properties may be significant for the information they can convey concerning county demographics

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and social change, the impact of improvements to the county's road system, agricultural trends such as the increase or decline in owner/tenant farming, and the effects of the rise of the county's timber industry at the turn of the century. These properties may also be significant in documenting new approaches to house form and design, and the influence of national styles on local builders and construction techniques.

Numerous dwellings built between ca. 1800 and 1910 will be significant for their architectural form and design. The county's late 19th and early 20th century architectural legacy is a rich one, as expressed in its many log, frame, and brick dwellings. Dwellings from this period display high degrees of craftsmanship in their overall plan, design, and detailing. This approach to the design and construction of dwellings can take traditional forms such as the double-pen George W. Proffitt, Jr., House (MR-139), or designs in keeping with national styles of the period such as the Queen Anne influenced Barlow Baxter House (MR-294).

The county's many I-House plans are a particularly rich legacy of traditional building forms embellished with interior detailing and exterior decorative elements reflecting broad national styles. The Clark C. Fowler House is among the county's many I-Houses of the late 19th century which conveys a sense of time and place in its design and craftsmanship (MR-290). Other properties may fully embody a national architectural style's overall plan, design, and interior and exterior detailing in their construction. This approach to architectural significance resulted in the listing of the Thomas P. Evans House in Tompkinsville on the National Register in 1992 for its Italianate style design.

Residential properties will also be significant if a cohesive grouping of dwellings conveys a sense of time and place of a particular period or era. These will be areas or neighborhoods which express a finite period of growth and development, or effectively display a broad spectrum of architectural forms and styles. No such area has yet been identified in Monroe County.

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Registration Requirements:

Residential Architecture in Monroe County may be eligible for listing on the National Register under criteria A, B, and/or C. Residential properties may meet registration requirements if they possess the following attributes in accordance with National Register criteria.

To be eligible according to the terms of National Register criterion A, Residential Architecture in Monroe County must be of particular importance in the historical settlement and growth of the county, associated with a specific event which influenced county historical development, associated with a particular theme or social impact, or be associated with an important event, occurrence, or trend in ethnic history. Such a building must possess integrity from its period of significance. The building must remain at its original location and retain most of its historic setting. A building's original design, materials, and workmanship must be intact or be intact from its period of significance. A building must also possess integrity of feeling and association from the time of its significant event or contextual theme.

To be eligible according to the terms of National Register criterion B, Residential Architecture must be associated with an individual significant in Monroe County history. Such an individual will have identifiable contributions that demonstratively influenced the development and social fabric of the county. Such buildings must remain at their original locations and retain most of their historic settings. A building's original design, materials, and workmanship must be intact or be intact from its period of significance. A building must also possess integrity of feeling and association from the time of its significant occupant.

To be eligible according to the terms of National Register Criterion C, Residential Architecture must be a significant embodiment of a particular architectural style or house plan, and retain integrity from its period of significance. A residential property may also be significant if it embodies a combination of styles, and/or possesses

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unusual design elements and detailing.

Residential Architecture will also be significant if a cohesive grouping of dwellings conveys a sense of time and place of a particular period or era.

Residential Architecture may also meet registration requirements as a district if they form a cohesive collection of pre-1910 architecture. To be eligible, dwellings must be contiguous at their original locations and a majority of the buildings within the district must retain integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. Districts must retain visual integrity of their historic landscape, and modern intrusions must be minimal. Interior design and detailing is generally not a factor in evaluating the significance and integrity of an historic district.

In accordance with the terms of the National Register, Residential Architecture meeting criteria must retain integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. These seven aspects of integrity must be largely or wholly evident for a property to meet registration requirements. These aspects of integrity are defined as follows:

- ☐ Setting - A residential property must retain its physical environment from its period of significance. For rural properties the surrounding overall agrarian landscape must be present such as cultivated fields, pastures, and woodlands. For urban environments properties must retain the traditional relationships with adjacent buildings, and orientation to the street.

- ☐ Location - A residential property must be at the site related to its period of significance.

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- ☐ Design - Integrity will be based on those elements which embody a particular style or form such as arrangement of rooms, height, fenestration, porch location and dimensions, chimney placement, decorative embellishment, and the location of wings or additions. A residential property must retain its basic design features from its period of significance.
- ☐ Workmanship - The workmanship of a residential property must remain evident from its period of significance. This would include retention of the majority of original exterior features such as decorative millwork, porch columns, window and door treatments, and siding materials. Notable interior features such as original mantels, staircases, and window and door surrounds must also remain intact.
- ☐ Materials - A residential property must retain the majority of its original materials such as porch columns, exterior siding materials, and fenestration. Replacement roof materials shall not be considered to significantly impact the integrity of a dwelling's design unless the original material was a defining feature to its architectural style. The application of synthetic materials such as vinyl and aluminum siding will generally be considered a sufficient impact to eliminate a property's integrity. However, exceptions can be made if a property is of particular architectural significance, and the application of synthetic siding materials does not conceal key character defining features.
- ☐ Feeling - A residential property must retain its sense of time and place from its period of significance. It must retain those physical features that convey its historic character.

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- ☐ Association - A residential property must retain association with the physical elements, and overall qualities that imparts its historic character.

Under this criteria, three individual nomination forms accompany this multiple property documentation form for properties eligible under National Register criterion C. These are the Barlow Baxter House, the Clark C. Fowler House, and the George W. Proffitt Jr., House. Additional nominations for the property type of Residential Architecture are expected to be prepared in coming years.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

This multiple property documentation form was prepared to include historic properties within the boundaries of Monroe County, Kentucky.

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SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

Monroe County remains largely rural in character with an emphasis on agriculture, and little has occurred in the form of post-1950 large-scale housing, commercial, or industrial developments. In 1983, students from Western Kentucky University conducted an architectural survey of Monroe County. The project concentrated on 19th and early 20th century buildings, and focused on the county at large rather than its small towns. The largest number of surveyed properties were residential buildings, and the survey's concentration was on log, frame, and brick dwellings from the 19th century, and prominent early 20th century properties. As a result, few of the county's Folk Victorian house forms of the turn of the century, or house forms built after 1910 were documented.

Most inventoried buildings were residential properties, but the survey also included churches, schools, commercial buildings, and some industrial sites. Of the 292 properties inventoried, the 1983 survey noted approximately sixty-five log or log and frame dwellings and five brick dwellings from the early 19th century. Over ninety, or approximately one-third of all properties surveyed were late 19th or early 20th century one-and-one-half to two-story frame dwellings.

A re-evaluation of the 1983 survey occurred in 2000, by Thomason and Associates, Preservation Planners of Nashville, Tennessee (Consultant). This project was sponsored by a local committee interested in recognizing and preserving the county's historic resources. Since the 1983 survey, thirty-one properties have been razed or burned, and many others are in poor condition due to neglect. Dozens of other properties have been extensively altered through the application of new porches, synthetic sidings, and other changes.

Based upon this re-survey over a dozen residential properties were identified as meeting National Register criterion C, and in addition to the three accompanying nominations, other nominations are expected to be prepared for residential

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architecture over the next several years. With available current funding, the committee decided to have the Consultant prepare a multiple property documentation form with an emphasis on the property type of residential buildings. In addition to this documentation form, the Consultant agreed to prepare three individual nominations for residential properties meeting the registration requirements.

Currently, Monroe County has three properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, one of which is a residential building, the Thomas P. Evans House in Tompkinsville. Built in 1893, this two-story brick Italianate style dwelling was listed on the National Register for its architectural significance on May 19, 1992. Other National Register properties in Monroe County include the Mount Vernon African Episcopal Church (NR May 10, 1977) and the Old Mulkey Meeting House (NR May 7, 1973).

In the opinion of the Consultant, the following properties also appear to have the potential to meet National Register criteria, and nominations for these properties should be considered in the future:

MR-5 - Bailey Howe Grocery, Fountain Run.

MR-8 - Commercial Building, Fountain Run.

MR-9 - Mennonite Church, Fountain Run.

MR-52 - Dwelling, I-house.

MR-58 - Lebanon Church of Christ.

MR-59 - John Patterson House, I-house.

MR-66 - Brown House, log/frame I-house.

MR-81 - McClendon House, log dwelling.

MR-87 - Rollin Railey House, I-house.

MR-107 - Liberty Methodist Church.

MR-112 - Daniel Isenberg House, log/frame I-House.

MR-116 - Flippin School.

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MR-118 - Mt. Olive Church of Christ

MR-119 - Farmstead, Vanus Haynes Farm

MR-122 - Berea Chapel.

MR-127 - John Welch House, log dwelling.

MR-128 - Robert Pedigo Farmstead

MR-143 - Murphy House, log dwelling.

MR-147 - Hestand Post Office.

MR-149 - Hickory Creek School.

MR-192 - Corinth Church

MR-242 - Ike Short House, I-house.

MR-246 - Dwelling, I-house , C.H. Dodson House

MR-248 - Berry House, brick dwelling.

MR-255 - Will Webb House, log and frame dwelling.

No Survey Number. Gamaliel Bank, Gamaliel.

No Survey Number, 122 Main St., Gamaliel., Page House

**No Survey Number, Tompkinsville Service Station, 102 E. Third St.,
Tompkinsville.**

No Survey Number, 112 E. Third Street, Tompkinsville.

MR-290 Clark C. Fowler House (nominated)

MR-139 George W. Proffitt, Jr., House (nominated)

MR-294 Barlow Baxter House (nominated)

MR-23 Vacant church east of Fountain Run

MR-237 Vernon Church

MR-13 Burnett's Feed Mill

MR- Cudahy Cheese Manufacturing Company

MR- Berry House

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