

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Stockton-Ray House
other names/site number MC-27

2. Location

street & number U.S. 68/S.R. 80 not for publication
city, town Edmonton vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Metcalfe code 169 zip code 42129

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | <u> </u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <u> </u> | <u> </u> structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> objects |
| | | | <u> </u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan Date 2-21-92
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 4/13/92
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

Wood Clapboard

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
Ca. 1808

Significant Dates
Ca. 1808

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 16 619760 4094905
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

Summer Shade Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is part of property #9 on Metcalfe Co. Property Identification Map #37 contained in the Kentucky Department of Revenue and Metcalfe County Property Valuation Assessor's Office. The nominated area lies between the Cumberland Parkway and U.S. 68, and includes the historic residence and a ten-foot margin extending beyond the house's perimeter.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title L. Martin Perry, National Register Coordinator
organization Kentucky Heritage Council date January 6, 1992
street & number 677 Comanche Trail telephone 502/564-7005
city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Stockton-Ray House
Edmonton, Metcalfe County, Kentucky

The Stockton-Ray House (MC-27) is a two-story brick house in an Hall-and-Parlor form. The oldest part of the house was built around 1808 and stands three bays wide, one bay deep, and has a symmetrical facade. A frame addition was attached to the rear around 1865. The house faces southwesterly, toward US 68 and SR 80, its primary access road. The house is located one-and-one-half miles northwest of Edmonton, seat of Metcalfe County. The area proposed for nomination consists of one building, the house.

Three major building campaigns determined the outside appearance of the Stockton-Ray House. The original part was built as a brick Hall-and-Parlor House. The second portion of the house, a frame dining room and kitchen, was built in 1865, and connects with the original portion via a hallway. Finally, the porch on the frame addition's northwest side was enclosed around 1970.

The earliest part of the house sits above a raised foundation of stone. Its brick are laid in flemish bond on all four sides. Windows on the structure have jack arches and contain double-hung sashes with six-over-six lights. A small entry cover appears to have been added sometime after 1920. The original entry seems to have been very plain, without transom or sidelights; it is capped by a jack arch as are the windows. Exterior end chimneys are found in each gable side.

On the interior of the historic house block, each of the two first floor cells has a stair to reach the two rooms upstairs. Those upper floor rooms have no door opening between them. Throughout the house, door and window facings have pronounced molded architraves. Each room on the upper and lower floors has a fireplace.

The wood frame addition originally consisted of a porch, hall, and two rooms. That porch has been enclosed so that it now functions as a utility area. Many of the historic trim and wall finishes appear to have been altered as needed. The configuration of space in the two rooms, one for kitchen and the other for dining, appear to be historic. A large chimney stands between the two rooms; its hearth is shared by the two rooms. This addition has had new windows, roof, and siding put on it.

INTEGRITY

See end of Statement of Significance

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Stockton-Ray House
Edmonton, Metcalfe County, Kentucky

The Stockton-Ray House (MC-27) in Metcalfe County, Kentucky, meets National Register Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of construction, i.e., brick. Within the historic context, **Architecture in Metcalfe County Before 1900**, the house can be seen as a locally significant historic resource. The tremendous number of extant log buildings in Metcalfe County makes an early brick house something of an anomaly. This material, along with its architectural design, show that the original owner intended to erect a house that was as fine as local technologies would allow in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The historic context appears below, and was completed to support nomination of the property.

ARCHITECTURE IN METCALFE COUNTY BEFORE 1900

Survey and Registration of Houses in Metcalfe County

Metcalfe County was surveyed for historic resources in 1984 by members of the Green County Historical society. During that project the survey team recorded 327 rural sites and 19 sites in the county seat, Edmonton. While surveyors emphasized residential architecture, more attention was given to agricultural outbuildings than was typical in a county-wide survey.

An analytical report was not completed at the conclusion of the survey. History books about Metcalfe County were consulted, but none discussed the local architectural context. Evaluation of Metcalfe County's architecture is accomplished in this project with the aid of a computerized database. Information from the 1984 survey forms has been entered into a computer, allowing comparison of a number of variables. For this project, rural sites were grouped according to period of construction of the primary historic resource. All sites, then, were assigned to one of seven periods. These periods of construction begin with sites which predate 1800, and then divide the time between 1800-1949 into six twenty-five-year increments. For each computer entry the construction material was indicated. As a result, the different construction materials could be compared rapidly within a given time period. These findings support the claim that the Stockton-Ray House is significant.

Currently no sites in the county are listed on the National Register. This nomination is an effort to provide Metcalfe County's first listing.

Historical Development of Metcalfe County

Metcalfe County was established in 1860, the 106th county of Kentucky, and was formed from parts of Barren, Green, Adair, Cumberland, and Monroe Counties. Its creation was a political reaction by residents in remote areas of those counties to the prospect of a railroad bond issue (Maynard: 1).

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Edmonton, Metcalfe County, Kentucky

Early settlement of the area that would become Metcalfe County occurred in 1800 when Edmund P. Rogers came to survey land for speculators and to claim his own grant for service during the Revolutionary War. He stayed, establishing Edmonton (today, "Edmonton") where he found good spring water (Maynard: 15).

Rogers and other settlers found this area of gently rolling plains and tillable soil would support agriculture. Barren County is drained by the Little Barren River and its tributaries. Its plentiful native trees included oak, beech, hickory, cedar, and poplar, and supported house building and early industries (Maynard: 10). Much of the area southeast of Edmonton is very hilly and not suited for agriculture. Somewhat more settlement is found in the northern half of Metcalfe.

Little is written about those industries prior to 1900, but they surely involved lumber. By the turn of the century several stave mills dotted the county. Axe handle production also became an important early industry. By the Great Depression the area's wood supply had been depleted due to poor conservation practices by the lumber companies (Maynard: 10). Farming remains the important local industry, but a marginal one. Metcalfe County ranked no better than 11th statewide among counties in production of major crop (alfalfa hay) or livestock (milk) categories. Overall it was ranked 41st in 1989-90 (Lenz: 148). In 1988, government employment led all other categories in the county as the income source (Decker: 40-41).

Current economic conditions in Metcalfe County are discouraging according to two important economic indicators (Decker: 30, 36). From 1980 to 1990 the county population dropped 5.5%, from 9484 to 8963 people. But while there was an outmigration, Metcalfe led all Kentucky counties in the rate of increase in persons below the poverty level from 1979 to 1986, by seeing its total rise 32% (2800 to 3700). Presumably many people left for employment opportunities which could not be found locally. While little comfort, this economic decline can help guard historic resources against loss through development.

Architectural Development

Metcalfe County is among a block of counties in the southern Pennyrile Cultural Landscape which have the state's largest number of log structures recorded. Metcalfe with 187 sites, Hart with 156, Barren with 145, Monroe with 96, and Allen with 85, are unrivaled in the Commonwealth as a multi-county area with such a density of this type of construction. Metcalfe County has the highest number of log structures recorded for any county in Kentucky.

The county has not had railroad service, so the supply of building materials historically has been restricted to what was on hand locally or what was economical to transport by road. Rough terrain made overland travel difficult. Log construction was a reasonable solution, in that it was on hand at nearly any building site, given the county's vast timber resources. Survey data shows log construction was popular to the close of the nineteenth century.

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Edmonton, Metcalfe County, Kentucky

With a high quantity of log structures, early buildings in Metcalfe County constructed out of materials other than log are conspicuous and worthy of attention. The relative difficulty in transporting and building in brick, as well as the visual impact of a brick house, are aspects of brick construction which make it distinct and which lead to our evaluation of it as a significant type of construction.

Of the 163 recorded sites in the county that predate 1850, two are brick, four are wood frame, and one is stone. The Stockton-Ray House (MC-27) and the Race Thompson House (MC-256) are the brick structures. They have some similarities and some important differences.

Both are two-cell structures historically; the Stockton-Ray house has been added to in the rear. Both have flemish bond brickwork on their primary facades, an effect that was often reserved for more pretentious homes. An exterior balance was maintained on both houses: each has symmetrical facades and entry in the long side, gable walls on the short side, and exterior end chimneys in each gable side. Both were built during the federal period of house construction: Stockton Ray around 1808 and the Thompson House in 1827, according to their owners.

Despite these similarities the architectural impact of both houses is quite different. The Thompson House's has a single story with a tacked-on front porch roof, separate entry doors to each cell, and lack of ornamental detailing. These features relate it more to the simple log buildings that were constructed throughout the county. It was built at the time when rural house construction throughout Kentucky was moving to Greek Revival styling and the Central Passage plan. It can be seen as a late example of a vernacular type, the Hall-and-Parlor plan.

The design of the Stockton-Ray House, on the other hand, was quite advanced for its day. Even though it is also a two-room, hall-and-parlor house, its facade and scale attempt to convey it as a more elaborate house, one with a Central Passage plan. Its central entry masks the fact that the house contains no central entry hall. In the first decade of the nineteenth century, Central Passage-plan houses were being built by people of means in areas of Kentucky more thoroughly developed than this area which would become Metcalfe County. The Stockton-Ray House takes the external form of the I-House, a two story, two room wide and one room deep structure.

Houses similar to the Stockton-Ray House could have been very simple or quite elaborate. They were popular among wealthy Kentucky planters in the early nineteenth century, until the I-House, with its formal central passage, became the most popular form. These earlier houses were popular because they could satisfy two impulses: numerous stylistic layers could be imposed onto their exterior, making them appear to be up-to-date on the outside, while inside, while they could retain a traditional arrangement of interior space. The Stockton-Ray House shows the extreme simplicity of exterior treatment on a Hall-and-Parlor plan. Within the context of the county's early architecture it is important as a very early example of the form. Its brick material and exterior design show it to be a house whose owners intended to distinguish it from others in the area.

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Stockton-Ray House
Edmonton, Metcalfe County, Kentucky

The Stockton Family

The Stockton family was responsible for erecting the Stockton Ray House. Robert Stockton (?-1824) served seven years as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, one of three brothers involved in the rebellion. His brother Richard was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He came to Kentucky in 1799 and to the current Metcalfe County area the following year.

After claiming area near Edmund Rogers' settlement, he soon amassed one of the county's largest landholdings, with over 7000 acres and many slaves. At the same time, he served for over fifty years as an ordained minister of the Baptist Church.

Stockton's estate passed to his son, Joseph B. Stockton, Sr. (1798-1870). The younger Stockton was schooled in the area and was a recognized doctor. He eventually lost most of the family's estate, though, by lending substantial sums to many friends without being able to collect. In 1848 he moved his family to Edmonton where he continued to practice medicine and operated a hotel (Westerfield: Volume II, p., 97).

Integrity

The house has very good integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The 1860s addition at the rear of the historic house is placed in such a way that the integrity of design is intact for people viewing the house on the approach from the driveway on the south. The subdued appearance of the addition results from its placement in the rear and its offset position. The changes made to connect the addition do not seem to have caused much loss of historic fabric or decorative features.

Because the house is one of only two antebellum brick houses, comparisons for the evaluation of integrity are difficult. While the Race Thompson House appears to have been altered less than the Stockton-Ray house has, both structures retain the features which make them significant.

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Stockton-Ray House
Edmonton, Metcalfe County, Kentucky

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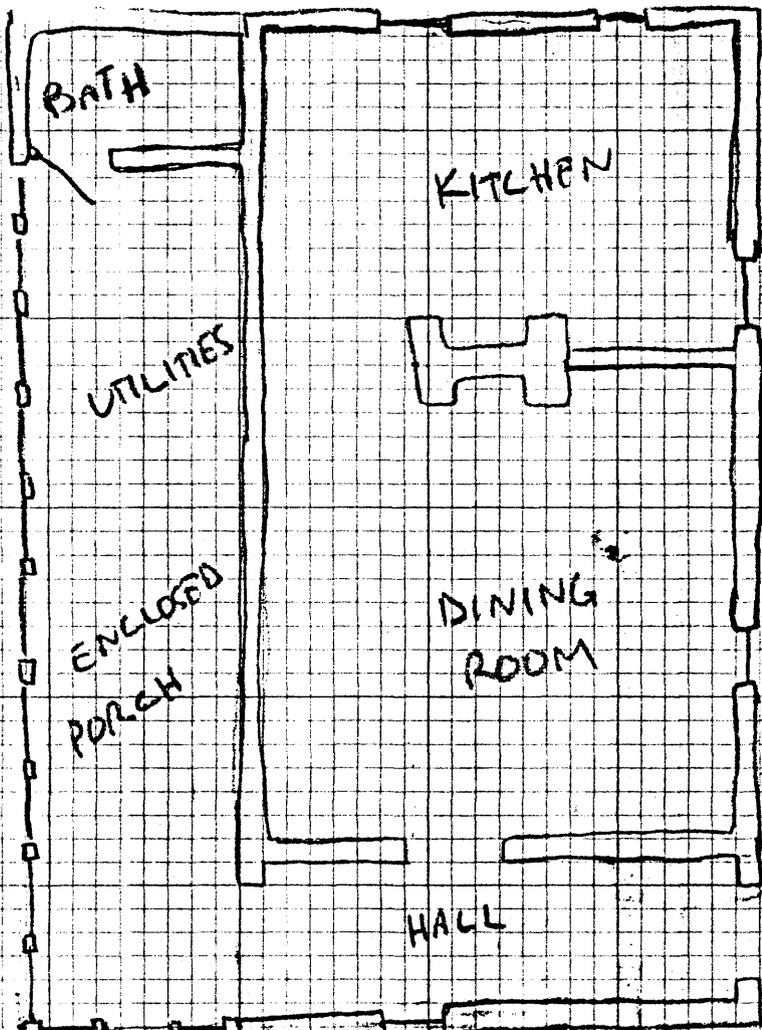
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Stockton-Ray House
Edmonton, Metcalfe County, Kentucky

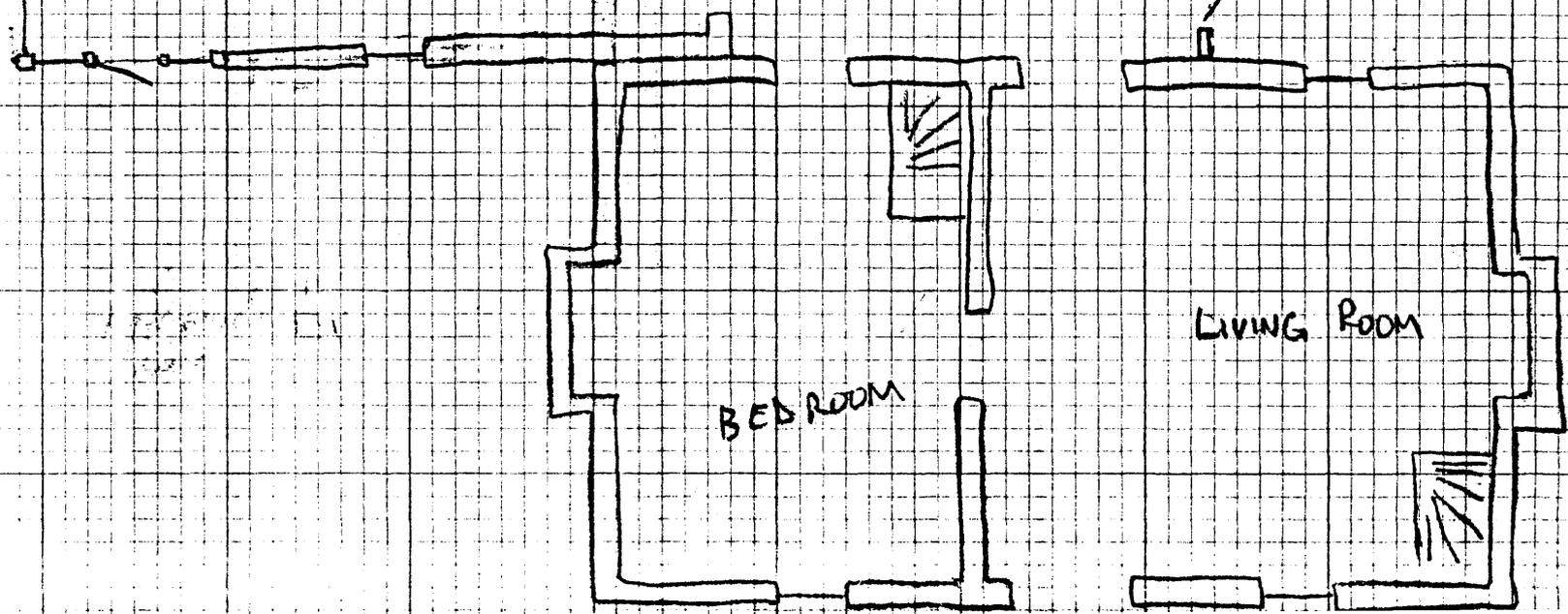
VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area is restricted to the house and a small protective margin at its perimeter. This is appropriate according to the architectural basis of the nomination. The site once included several outbuildings relating to its agricultural use. As many as five log slave cabins were standing within memory of current residents. Today, none of those outbuildings are standing. If additional evaluation of the site takes place, the nominated area could be expanded. The reasons for this could include the determination that the site has sufficient integrity for eligibility as a resource associated with an important person, or for its historic archeological data content, or as an early prosperous farm. Such determinations can only be made after completing more fieldwork and completion of additional historic contexts.



STOLICKTON-RAY HOUSE
(MC-27) METCALFE COUNTY

APPROXIMATE SCALE  10 feet



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Stockton-Ray House
Edmonton, Metcalfe County, Kentucky

Section number PHOTOS Page 1

For All Photos

Historic Name: Stockton-Ray House
Location: Edmonton, Metcalfe Co., Ky.
Photographer: L. Martin Perry
Negative Location: Kentucky Heritage Council
677 Comanche Trail, Frankfort, Ky. 40601
Date Taken: August, 1991

| <u>Photo No.</u> | <u>View or Elevation</u> |
|------------------|---|
| 1 | Front facade, view to north |
| 2 | Ca. 1865 addition (to right), view to southwest |
| 3 | Ca. 1865 addition (to left), view to northeast |
| 4 | Interior, living room gable end |
| 5 | Interior, living room stairs |
| 6 | Interior, upstairs bedroom mantel |