

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 12 1988

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Multiple Resources of Johnson County, Kentucky

and or common

2. Location

street & number Johnson County, Kentucky NA not for publication

city, town (see individual forms) vicinity of

state Kentucky code KY county Johnson code 115

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (see individual forms and continuation sheets)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnson County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Paintsville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources of Kentucky Survey (Site #JO-3)
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 - 84 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

<u>X</u> excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	<u>X</u> original site	(all except Fishtrap Church)
<u>X</u> good	___ ruins	<u>X</u> altered	<u>X</u> moved	date <u>Fishtrap United Baptist Church - 1982</u>
<u>X</u> fair	___ unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Johnson County is located in the Big Sandy Valley area of northeastern Kentucky. The Big Sandy River watershed contains seven counties all of which are located in the Cumberland Plateau area which is part of the historic context known as the Appalachian Cultural Landscape Region. Johnson County is approximately halfway between the source and mouth of the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy. Within the county, the elevation of the Cumberland Mountains increases dramatically as one proceeds from the northwest to southeast. While most of the counties' 264 square miles are steeply wooded mountain sides which are unsuitable for agriculture, the Big Sandy and its major tributaries in the county are paralleled by narrow creek bottoms which have provided opportunities for agriculture since settlement. Johnson County possesses significant amounts of natural resources whose exploitation have had a major impact on its economic and political history. These are timber, coal, natural gas, and oil.

The Levisa Fork is a narrow river with a limited flow of water. As a consequence, a reliable water transportation system could not be developed during the 19th century. Timber and crops could be floated downstream to larger markets in the winter and spring and a limited amount of goods could be brought upstream on the small steamboats that began to ply the Big Sandy in the mid-19th century. Overland transportation to the Bluegrass Region to the west or into the State of Virginia to the east was severely hampered by the rugged terrain. Given the limited amount of arable land and the difficulty and expense of developing an effective transportation system, the Big Sandy Valley became Kentucky's Last Frontier, according to historian Henry Scalf—the area was the last region of Kentucky to be fully settled.

Survey Methodology

An intensive survey of historic buildings was begun in 1983 when the Kentucky Heritage Council awarded a grant to the Johnson County Historic Sites Survey Committee. The committee contracted with Helen Powell to carry out a field survey of all buildings fifty-years old or older in Johnson County. The committee organized a research effort of volunteers from throughout the county to carry out deed research at the courthouse, to assemble other written materials, and to carry out interviews with knowledgeable residents in the various communities of the county.

The Johnson County survey was the first effort sponsored by the Kentucky Heritage Council to systematically survey the rural areas of an eastern Kentucky county. The Huntington District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers had sponsored a survey of part of the Paint Creek watershed during the mid 1970s which provided information on buildings in a limited area. The limited scope of the Corps survey and the almost non-existent rural survey data available at the Kentucky Heritage Council meant that the Johnson County survey was unable to benefit from previous analyses and efforts in the development of typologies or descriptive overviews.

The surveyor accompanied by volunteers from the survey committee drove every public road in Johnson County and evaluated more than 95% of the buildings appearing on the U.S.G.S. maps. In some cases, abandoned buildings beyond the end of currently maintained roads were surveyed after local informants had made a case for their inclusion in the project. Most extremely altered buildings were not surveyed if the surveyor determined that the extent of their alterations would prevent consideration for Kentucky Landmark or National Register status. A total of 131 buildings were inventoried during the project of which 41 were located in Paintsville the county seat and the balance located in rural, unincorporated areas of the county. The low number is attributable

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to the factors of late settlement and the tremendous loss of buildings due to the need to use and reuse the limited developable space for roads, housing, and mining operations. Post World War II surface mining practices have also destroyed a significant amount of pre-war building stock in rural areas.

At the conclusion of the field survey and the historic research phase of the project, the National Register Coordinator for the Kentucky Heritage Council made two separate on-site visits to consider the National Register eligibility of surveyed sites. On-site inspections with the consultant to the more marginal sites, resulted in the identification of forty potentially eligible sites. The Johnson County Historic Sites Committee then applied for and received a follow-up grant for the purpose of preparing a Multiple Resource Area nomination. Additional grant assistance was provided for the completion of the project in the form of the 50/50 matching survey and planning grant which was made directly to the survey consultant Helen Powell.

Four properties in Johnson County had been listed in the National Register of Historic Places prior to the survey. The John C. C. Mayo House and Office (National Register listed 1971) is the largest and most pretentious house in Johnson County and Eastern Kentucky. The F. M. Stafford House in Paintsville (National Register listed 1974) and the Daniel Davis House (National Register listed 1974) were other turn of the century monuments to business and political associates of Mayo. The McKenzie Cabin (JO-5), the oldest building in the Paint Creek Reservoir area was listed in 1982. One property in this nomination, the Fishtrap Church (JO-3) was determined eligible by the Keeper in 1977 in the course of the mitigation for the Paint Creek Reservoir Project.

Folk Architecture of Johnson County

The buildings being nominated as examples of the domestic architecture of Johnson County include four dwellings built from 1860 to 1900 which demonstrate local traditional methods of organizing space and accommodating additions and five dwellings built from 1880 to 1915 which demonstrate a developing awareness of national styles and building materials.

Despite the fact that late-eighteenth century pioneer settlements in Johnson County, especially those located at the mouth of John's Creek, are well-documented, no architectural evidence of the block houses or stations is visible today. The majority of the residences inventoried in the survey date from the middle of the nineteenth century through the first quarter of the twentieth century. During this period, log and wood frame construction was overwhelmingly favored over brick or stone for domestic structures. Hewn and notched log construction persisted in Johnson County until the end of the nineteenth century. The rugged nature of much of the terrain, with roadways confined to the stream beds, as well as a tradition of self-sufficiency made log construction a natural choice for remote home sites. Log construction was also used in community buildings constructed cooperatively by several families as in the case of the Fishtrap United Baptist Church (JO-3).

The log houses in Johnson County are typically one or one and a half stories in height, with gable roofs and exterior chimneys on the gable-end(s) or in the center of the house. Where they are visible, it can be observed that the logs have been hewn square, chinked with sticks, clay and rock,

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and joined at the corners with half-dovetailed or squared notches. Most of the log houses have been covered with weatherboarding. Many of the houses retain the slope-shouldered, cut sandstone chimneys which are typical in the area. The five log houses in the nomination exemplify the following four traditional types of plans: hall-parlor, double-pen, saddlebag, and one or two-story single pen, and many demonstrate traditional means of increasing space through additions constructed of log or frame.

The Wiley Rice House (JO-79) is a one and one-half story, hall-parlor house with three bays on the front facade. A centrally located window is flanked on each side by a single door. The interior of the house is divided into two rooms of unequal size. The second level or loft is accessed by an enclosed corner stairway. There is a two-tiered porch across the entire front facade. The porch roof is an extension of the raised-seam gable roof which covers the house. The logs are covered by flat vertical weatherboarding on the front facade and horizontal weatherboarding on the gable ends and the shed-roofed addition to the rear. One slope-shouldered, cut-standstone chimney is located in one of the gable-ends of the rectangular pen and another similar, but smaller, chimney is located on one end of the addition. The Wiley Rice House faces Asa's Creek which was named after Asa Fairchild, Rice's father-in-law. Fairchild obtained the land on which the Rice House was built in 1855.

The Lemaster House (JO-72) has a form using elements from both the double-pen plan and the saddlebag plan. Two rectangular pens with gable-end chimneys are placed side by side, but have a narrow space between them. The space contains a narrow stairway which leads from the porches to a loft. The front and back porches also serve as the means of circulation between the two pens. In most saddlebag plans, access to the loft is gained by enclosed staircases in one or both of the pens and the space between the two pens contains the chimney. In the Lemaster House, the hewn logs are visible and are held together by both square and half-dovetailed notches. The foundation is not continuous, but is composed of stacks of stones at each of the corners of the house and at the mid-points of the sills.

The McKenzie Cabin (JO-5) is an example of the saddlebag floor plan or the juxtaposition of two log pens in such a way as to have the chimney between the pens instead of at the gable ends. The McKenzie Cabin, built after 1860, presents a variation on the saddlebag plan by having two chimneys in the space between pens instead of one. The two pens were built at different times. The east pen is composed of poplar logs while the west end is pine. The corners of both pens are joined by half-dovetail notches. The staircase to the loft is located in the space between the pens where the chimneys are. The gable roof extends over the porch which extends the full length of the five-bay facade (door, window, staircase, window, door). There are single windows in the gable ends. David McKenzie, the builder of the house, bought the land on which the house stood in 1860. The McKenzie Cabin was moved because its original site was impacted by the Paints Creek Reservoir project.

Rectangular single pen houses in Johnson County could be enlarged with vertical as well as horizontal additions. In the case of the Williams House (JO-52) located near Red Bush, the original log pen was built in 1842. The house was enlarged by the original builder's grandson at the turn of the century by the addition of one rectangular frame module over the original log cell and a

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two-story rectangular frame module to the gable end of the original house. The result is a two-story, six-bay, frame house composed of four rectangular units, each of which has three bays (window, door, window). Another example of this phenomenon is the Yates-Salyer House (JO-80) located at the head of Asa's Creek. The Yates-Salyer House began as a two-story, rectangular log cell and was expanded on the chimney gable end by an identical three-bay, two-story frame addition in 1890.

Rectangular log pens were also adaptable for church buildings. The Fishtrap United Baptist Church (JO-3) was built of log in 1905 and covered with weatherboarding. Entered through the gable end, this rectangular building has a window on either side of the door and two windows on both axial sides.

Despite the fact that the Williams House and the Yates-Salyer House are each combinations of log and frame, their facades and floor plans have characteristics of both the double-pen plan and the saddlebag plan. Each rectangular unit has access to the outside so that the porch can be used for horizontal circulation. The chimney or stovepipe is located between the two cells or in the space created by the chimney in the saddlebag plan or the stairway in the double-pen plan. The interior spaces, circulation pattern, and door and window arrangements from log construction have been perpetuated as a traditional house form in Johnson County and continues to be used with modern materials.

Coexisting with the traditional incremental log plans were examples of central-passage plans ornamented with some details referencing national styles. In this plan type, interior rooms open onto a passage or hallway instead of using the porches for circulation between the rooms. The two-story facade is symmetrical with either one or two windows on either side of a central doorway. Additional rooms were added by means of an ell at the rear of the house. The ell provided additional floor space without destroying the symmetry of the front facade.

Popular Architecture in Johnson County

National styles used on houses in Johnson County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries include the Gothic Revival, Classical Revival, and the Queen Anne. Ornamental elements of the Gothic Revival style include steeply pitched roofs, usually with steeply pitched cross gables, gables with decorated bargeboards, windows with the Gothic or pointed arch shape. The Addison Slayer House (JO-13), built in 1880, has a steeply pitched roof and a central wall gable with cross-bracing over the central door. The Classical Revival style has a facade dominated by a full-height porch with the roof supported by classical columns with Ionic or Corinthian capitals on a symmetrical facade. The Stambaugh House (JO-88), built in 1889, has a two-story pedimented porch supported by fluted Doric columns. The central doorway is highlighted by a fanlight and sidelights.

The Queen Anne style is characterized by a steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows, and other devices used to create multi-textured, multi-planned facade. The Tom Mayo House (JO-P-39), built in 1892 by John C. C. Mayo for his father is an outstanding local example of the Queen Anne style. The front facade of the house is divided into multiple planes and combined with different exterior materials to create a picturesque look similar

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to the Queen Anne style. The Patterson House (JO-P-40), built in 1907, demonstrates an eclectic choice of detailing for the ornamentation of a central-passage, double-pile plan. The symmetry of the four-square plan is disguised by a two-story, conical-roofed tower, two-story polygonal bay window, and one-story, wrap-around porch. The high-hipped roof has flaired, overhanging eaves. There is a slight reference to the classical styles in details such as the Palladian windows, garlands, and Tuscan columns.

The Gothic Revival was the preferred style for the new churches built in Paintsville after the turn of the century. The Mayo Methodist Church (JO-P-4) was built between 1904 and 1909 by John C. C. Mayo across the street from his mansion which was under construction from 1905 to 1912. Italian stone masons were hired to work on both the house and the church. The plan of the church is cruciform with a three-story crenelated bell tower. The detailing on the ashlar stone church is decidedly Gothic with double-lancet windows, stained glass, and pointed-arched doors.

During the same period of time, the congregation of the First Baptist Church (JO-P-38) was completing a simpler church on the corner of College and Fourth Streets. Rusticated concrete block was used in the facades of the rectangular building and its three-story squared entry tower. The entry tower is to one side of the gable end of the building. The axial facades are three bays deep and have Gothic double lancet windows.

The First Methodist Church (JO-P-10), built of brick in 1914, is basically a rectangular plan, but displays a very eclectic use of detailing which virtually obscures the form of the church. The entrance is in the corner tower on the gable end. The entry tower itself is three stories with stone quoins and battlements. The horizontal and vertical planes of the facades are punctuated and broken with projecting bays. The stained-glass windows come in rounded, arched, rectangular, and Palladian shapes. The building resembles another Methodist Church built at approximately the same time in Pikeville, an eastern Kentucky community located south, but up river, from Paintsville on the Levisa Fork.

The early twentieth century architectural styles used in Johnson County include Romanesque Revival, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Art Deco. The Romanesque Revival style is characterized by round-topped arches over windows or entrances and the use of masonry walls, usually with rough-faced stone work. Some examples of this style have towers, usually rounded with conical roof. The facades are asymmetrical in their appearance. The Paintsville National Bank (JO-P-3) was built in 1902 to house the bank and John C. C. Mayo's coal business. It presents a three-story, brick facade which is highlighted by rusticated stone work. The off-center entrance is recessed beneath an arched opening. The two central bays on the Main Street facade are capped by a cross-gable and framed by square corner towers which have pyramidal roofs.

The Craftsman style is characterized by low-pitched, gable roof with wide, unenclosed eaves which have decorative braces. In 1915, one of John C. C. Mayo's business associates built the Turner House (JO-P-5) which has detailing inspired by the Craftsman style then current in California. The gable roof overhangs the porch, stone is used to highlight the brick facade, and the wood joints and beams are exposed.

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The new Paintsville High School built in 1918 also utilized the Classical Revival style in vogue around the nation. The Paintsville High School is brick with stone trim. On the twelve-bay, two-story facade, the six central bays are recessed. The entrance occupies two bays of the raised first floor and is recessed beneath an arched opening trimmed in rusticated stonework. The six central bays have a gable roof while the two three-bay wings have parapets concealing flat roofs.

Depression Era Public Building Architecture

The Depression era saw the Federal Government build many public buildings in Johnson County. The Paintsville Post Office was the first. Begun in 1931, it is an excellent example of Colonial Revival architecture. Its front door is accented with a decorative crown and flanked by pilasters. There are usually overhead fanlights or sidelights around the door which is centered in a symmetrical facade. In the Paintsville Post Office (JO-P-8) the doorway is centrally located in the seven-bay facade which has English bond brickwork. Two round-arched windows with multiple panes flank the doorway. The other windows in the facade are rectangular and accented by keystones. The top of the door is ornamented by a swan's neck motif from the Georgian period.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) created by President Roosevelt to give work to construction workers, architects, writers, and artists, had a major impact in Johnson County. Much-needed school buildings, public facilities, and roads were built under the supervision of the WPA from 1934 to 1940. The design motifs such as stepped parapets and projecting bays used on the ashlar stone facades of these buildings added to the variety of Johnson County architecture. A total of eight buildings from the WPA era were documented in Johnson County during the survey. Several of these buildings such as the Johnson County Jail have undergone substantial modification and have subsequently lost integrity while others such as the Van Lear High School have been partially torn down and are no longer in use.

In the Flat Gap Elementary School (JO-63), the stepped stone pilasters around the entrance evoke some of the streamlined design motifs popular nationally as the Art Deco style. The Art Deco style is characterized by a smooth wall surface which is ornamented by zigzags, chevrons, or other stylized geometric motifs. Towers or other vertical projections are used to give a vertical emphasis. In the Flat Gap Elementary School (JO-63), the stepped stone pilasters evoke the vertical elements used in the Art Deco style. An open breezeway has been built across the front facade to connect the WPA portion of the school to a modern addition. The scale and openness of the breezeway do not compromise the integrity of the WPA portion of the school. The Oil Springs High School Gymnasium is rectangular in form with two entrances on the gable end. The entrances and the slightly recessed alcove between them are framed by rounded arches. The Oil Springs School Gymnasium is also connected to a more modern portion of the school. The connection is made in such a way that three of the four facades of the WPA gymnasium are still visible.

The Paintsville Country Clubhouse (JO-12) was built for the City of Paintsville by the WPA. The clubhouse is open to the public, but the golf course on which it is sited is private. The two-story, five-bay building is residential in its proportions and two-tiered veranda. Paintsville City Hall (JO-P-18) is a nine-bay, two-story building still in use for city offices and fire department.

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Rectangular wood pieces were used to provide an accent and contrast of materials on the stone facade. The Paintsville Public Library (JO-P-33) built by the WPA now houses the City School Board. It is characterized by its projecting central bays which create spaces for shallow balustraded balconies on the front facade.

Federally funded projects constituted the only significant architecture in Johnson County during the Depression era.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates c. 1840 - 1938

Builder/Architect

Various/Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Historic Resources of Johnson County are significant in relation to three historic contexts. The first context is that of the pre-industrial, subsistence agriculture based, Traditional Settlement. Beginning with initial scattered settlement in the 1780s and continuing into the first decade of the twentieth century, the traditional period in Johnson County was characterized by small farms, extended family settlements, limited involvement in the national cash economy, absence of slavery, anti-slavery politics, post Civil War feuds, and an isolated scattered population.

Although the first settlement in present day Johnson County dates from the 1780s, the area did not have sufficient population to qualify as a county until 1843. Paintsville was incorporated in 1834 and became the county seat when Johnson County was formed in 1844. The county seat's population was 200 in 1860 when the county numbered 5,306 of which only 46 were black. Only one building in the county remains from the pre-Civil War years. Outside Paintsville, in the rural areas of the county, a number of post Civil War traditional form buildings have survived. As a group, they provide a clear picture of traditional domestic architecture and how traditional architectural forms could accommodate the use of new building materials.

Criterion C was used to structure the evaluation of properties significant under the context of Traditional Settlement. Properties which exemplified a county-wide building tradition were selected for nomination. Each represents a building type within the local folk building tradition. That tradition utilized hewn logs initially and gradually began incorporating sawn lumber as a building material late in the 19th century. House types within the local tradition included the single pen, the double pen, the saddlebag, and the dog trot in one or two-story versions. Traditional houses which effectively showed the pattern of building expansion and/or the incorporation of new building materials were included as well. Although domestic outbuildings were documented, they were not included as contributing unless they could be shown to date from the period of the primary building. Traditional form public and commercial buildings were not encountered during the survey. Two churches were found to be consistent with this traditional architectural theme. No buildings in Paintsville nor in any of the small villages in the county related to this theme were surveyed.

The historic context of the Lumber/Coal Boom began in 1890 and continued until 1929. The harvesting of timber began to have a major economic impact in Johnson County beginning in the 1890s as the demand for wood to build the great industrial cities of the Midwest brought timber companies to the Big Sandy Valley. The extensive harvesting and sale of timber brought a new era to Johnson County. Lumber was available in quantity for the first time and some Johnson Countians who profited from the harvesting of timber began to build houses in the popular national and regional styles of the day. Limited to Paintsville and a few other locations, the buildings associated with the timber industry were soon surpassed by the edifices associated with the exploitation of coal in Johnson County and the entire region of East Kentucky.

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The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad completed the first railroad line through Johnson County in 1905 thereby making the exploitation of Johnson County's coal reserves possible. Within ten years, Paintsville's and Johnson County's leadership in the coal industry was reflected in the buildings erected by John C. C. Mayo and his associates. Mayo had taken the lead in attracting northeastern capital to invest in East Kentucky and he was able to convince many of his fellow East Kentuckians to sell coal rights. His brokering efforts brought great wealth to him and his Paintsville associates who built homes, churches, banks, and a high school, the likes of which this region had never seen before. The Mayo Methodist Church, the First Methodist Church, the First Baptist Church, and the First National Bank Building were built in a short time during the first decade of the twentieth century. Along with the John C. C. Mayo House and Office (N. R. listed in 1974) these buildings effectively projected the image of a modern Paintsville, the most prosperous city in the Big Sandy Valley. The properties associated with this context have all been considered under Criterion C as significant examples of popular national styles (see description section).

Popular interpretations of national styles were utilized in the construction of residential, commercial, and educational buildings in Paintsville from 1890 to 1920. The multiple resource area nomination includes commercial buildings in Paintsville and the largest coal camp in Johnson County—Van Lear.

Most of the commercial architecture which remains in Paintsville relates to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century development associated with the timber and coal boom. The H. B. Rice Building (JO-P-13) is the best example of the late nineteenth century commercial facades which once lined Main Street. Built in 1890, the brick building has pressed metal in the cornice and hood moldings over the elongated second-story windows. The hood moldings are distinctly Gothic with their pointed centers. The metal cornice caps a brick parapet whose purpose is to make the building seem taller.

The Store at Mine #5 is significant to the industrial history of the county. It was built in 1911 as part of Consolidation Coal's Van Lear operation. The town of Van Lear, located four miles east of Paintsville, was totally planned and constructed by the coal company. It was named for Van Lear Black, the president of Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland. Consolidation Coal Company built frame houses for the workers as well as office buildings, stores, and even a club house. Van Lear was largely self-sufficient and even had movies, billiards, pool room, soda fountain, and barber shop. By 1918, Van Lear had a population approaching 2,500 in contrast to the thinly settled farming sections which surrounded it. The Store at Mine #5 is one of the utilitarian buildings constructed by the coal company to serve one section of Van Lear. The other buildings built during the same era by the coal company have been torn down or extensively modernized as a result of the sale of the coal company's properties to individual owners.

The properties associated with the historic context of Depression Era Public Architecture were also evaluated in relation to Criterion C. The Paintsville Post Office and the various public buildings constructed by the W.P.A. are important local examples of national styles. As a group, they also represent the significant impact which the federal government had on Johnson County. These buildings will be evaluated in relation to Criterion A when a more definitive study of the W.P.A. in East Kentucky has been completed.

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History

The first permanent settlement in Johnson County was Harmon's Station at what is now known as Block House Bottom. Located one-half mile below the mouth of John's Creek on the Levisa Fork, it was first established in 1787. By 1790, Colonel John Preston and other Virginia land speculators had established a trading station on the present site of Paintsville and called it Paint Lick.

In 1820, the Reverend Henry Dixon bought land around the trading station to establish a grist mill in Paint Creek. He was soon joined in his endeavors by two other businessmen, Franklin and Stafford. By 1830, in this same area, there were several industries including a grist mill, saw mill, and carding machine. In 1826, Dixon platted off three rows of lots in the bottom land for home sites and the present form of Paintsville began to emerge.

Other commercial enterprises were started by 1830 and Paintsville was incorporated as a town in 1834. The importance of the river trade made it necessary to appeal to the Kentucky State Legislature for funds to dredge the Levisa Fork. In 1840, some parts of the river channel were actually improved, but shifting sand bars and loose timbers remained a problem for river traffic throughout the 19th century.

The timber trade began around 1840 and consisted of floating the logs to Catlettsburg, where the Big Sandy empties into the Ohio River, during the winter and spring floods. Mountain products of sorghum, dried beans, hides, herbs, feathers, wool, poultry, chestnuts, and livestock were sent to markets in Cincinnati. The flat bottomed river boats were pushed or poled back upstream to Paintsville with cargoes of green coffee, salt, kerosene, and manufactured goods.

Hunting and trapping remained a major industry until the 1850s when the trading posts evolved into general stores. These commercial and social centers sold hardware, wool, pelts, and salt. Paintsville became the county seat in 1844 when Johnson County was formed from portions of Lawrence, Morgan, and Floyd Counties.

The steamboat age on the Big Sandy began in 1850 and soon changed the essence of river trade. The small steamboats, both stern and sidewheelers, could accommodate little more than basic commodities. The first coal mining company formed in Johnson County in 1845 and steamboats soon exported their first loads of coal. Paintsville grew from a population of 120 in 1850 to 200 by 1860. Although Johnson County had voted for the neutral gubernatorial candidate Beriah Magoffin, the anti-secessionists gained the upper hand in the congressional races in 1861. Slavery was almost non-existent in Johnson County. Out of a population of 3,873 in 1850, only 30 were black. By 1860, the county population had risen to 5,306 of which 46 were black including 17 freed men.

Johnson County was the scene of several skirmishes during the Civil War between James Garfield's Union patrols and Humphrey Marshall's Confederate troops. The Southern force was out of the county into Floyd County by 1862. Despite Paintsville's Unionist sympathies, the Union Army garrisoned an occupation force there. Guerilla bands sprang up all over the county in defiance of this extension of Martial Law. Concerned citizens had the county records moved to Flat Gap for the duration of the War.

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With the discovery of the lubricating quality of oil in the 1860s, another aspect of Johnson County's mineral wealth came to the forefront. Early settlers in Johnson County had noted the numerous locations of natural oil seepages. In 1864, James Stafford organized a syndicate composed of F. M. Stafford, John Stambaugh, and Squire Hall to explore oil and mineral resources in Paint Creek. The community of Oil Springs was established during this endeavor.

The records concerning the history of formal education in Johnson County began with the election of school commissioners in the 1840s. The first school building appears to have been the Enterprize Academy in Flat Gap. It was established by Reverend William Jayne, a Baptist preacher who was a teacher. The academy began in 1851 and offered a basic education to its students as well as a normal course for the training of teachers. Paintsville's first school building was a frame structure built in the banks of Paint Creek in 1867. The Medina Seminary was opened in Oil Springs in the 1870s by the Reverend John R. Long. At the end of the nineteenth century Paintsville had two private schools, the Democratic and the Republican.

Paintsville's population continued to grow in the latter half of the nineteenth century from 270 in 1870 to 350 in 1880. With the turn of the century came John C. C. Mayo's ventures into mineral rights leasing and coal mining. He interested East Coast industrialists in Eastern Kentucky's vast coal reserves and convinced the Chesapeake and Ohio line to build a line into the Big Sandy Valley during the first decade of the 20th century.

Paintsville businessmen such as the Turners and the Staffords became partners in Mayo's various corporations concerned with mineral leasing and extraction. The financial capital and optimism generated by these endeavors benefited Paintsville. Other communities in the county such as Red Bush and Flat Gap were by-passed by the railroad and gradually lost their commercial centers. Today this area in the northwestern portion of the county remains primarily agricultural.

The first passenger train service to Paintsville began in 1904 and initiated an era of civic improvements. A bridge replaced the ferry on Paint Creek near the site of the Paintsville National Bank Building which also housed Mayo's offices. Telephone service became available in 1906 and a street paving program was underway from 1908 to 1909. By 1908, a city water works and electricity were available to the citizens of Paintsville. By 1910, the Mayo Methodist Church was in place as an imposing stone edifice on Third Street across from the Mayo Mansion. The commercial district still contained many residences in the center of downtown. Paintsville grocery was established and had a regional impact as a dry goods wholesaler. The other businesses carried staples such as hardware and lumber.

From 1911 to 1918, Consolidation Coal Company of Maryland developed the mining town of Van Lear--opened five mines in their 100,000 acre holding. Located four miles east of Paintsville, Van Lear was a self-sufficient community with rail service, water and electric power, and two company stores.

By 1921, Paintsville had a population of 1800. The business mix in the downtown was diversified with jewelers, novelties, patent medicine, and clothing stores in complement the grocery store, banks, and hardware stores already there. By 1930, additional hotels and the Golden Rule Hospital

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appeared in downtown Paintsville and the town's population was listed at 3,500. The Depression slowed the coal production in the county, but introduced the structures built by the Works Progress Administration, as a part of President Roosevelt's New Deal Program. The W.P.A. provided jobs for unemployed builders while erecting greatly needed school buildings and roads for communities in the county.

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- Scalf, Henry. Kentucky's Last Frontier. Pikeville: 1966. Jenny Wiley: A Saga of Tragedy and Courage in the Land of Western Waters. Prestonsburg, KY: Prestonsburg Publishing Co., 1964.
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Because the Johnson County Historic Resources nomination focused on the architectural significance of historic properties surveyed in Johnson County, boundaries were drawn to include the primary building with architectural significance and a small area around it. The boundaries for properties in Paintsville followed lot line boundaries. For rural sites, a relatively small area was included. In most cases, this area was determined by the visible articulation of domestic space by fences and tree lines. When the delineation of domestic space was not readily apparent, an area consistent with the domestic space area of similar surveyed properties was included. Outbuildings within the historic property boundary were considered to be non-contributing unless documentation linking their construction to that of the primary building was available.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Johnson County MRA
State KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover ~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper Patrick Andrews 1/26/89
Determined Eligible

1. Van Hoose House ~~DOE/OWNER OBJECTION~~
~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper Patrick Andrews 1/26/89

Attest _____

S 2. Akers, Thomas, House ~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper Patrick Andrews 1/26/89

Attest _____

3. Archer House ~~Entered in the National Register~~

for Keeper Melores Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

4. Bond, Jeff, House ~~Entered in the National Register~~

for Keeper Melores Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

5. Davis, John, House ~~Entered in the National Register~~

for Keeper Melores Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

6. First Baptist Church ~~Entered in the National Register~~

for Keeper Melores Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

7. First Methodist Church ~~Entered in the National Register~~

for Keeper Melores Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

8. First National Bank Building ~~Entered in the National Register~~

for Keeper Melores Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

9. Flat Gap School ~~Entered in the National Register~~

for Keeper Melores Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

10. Foster Hardware ~~Entered in the National Register~~

for Keeper Melores Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Johnson County MRA
State KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | |
|---|---|
| 11. Lemaster, John J. and Ellen, House
Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> <u>1/26/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 12. Mayo Methodist Church
Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> <u>1/26/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 13. Mayo, Thomas, House
Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> <u>1/26/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 14. Meade Memorial Gymnasium
Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> <u>1/26/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 15. Mine No. 5 Store
Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> <u>1/26/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 16. Mollett, Ben, Cabin
Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> <u>1/26/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 17. Mott, Lloyd Hamilton, House
Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> <u>1/26/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 18. Oil Springs High School Gymnasium
Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> <u>1/26/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 19. Oil Springs Methodist Church
Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> <u>1/26/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 20. Paintsville City Hall
Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> <u>1/26/89</u>
Attest _____ |

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Johnson County MRA
State KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Paintsville Country Club

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alvora Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

22. Paintsville High School

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alvora Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

23. Paintsville Public Library

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alvora Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

24. Patterson House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alvora Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

25. Rice, H.B., Insurance Building

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alvora Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

26. Rice, Wiley, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alvora Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

27. Salyer House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alvora Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

28. Salyer, Addison, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alvora Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

29. Stambaugh Church of Christ

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alvora Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

30. Stambaugh House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alvora Byers 1/26/89

Attest _____

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Thematic Group

Name Johnson County MRA
State KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Turner, Judge Jim, House
**Entered in the
National Register**

Keeper Alvord Byers 1/26/89
Attest _____

32. Webb House
**Entered in the
National Register**

Keeper Alvord Byers 1/26/89
Attest _____

33. Webb, Byrd and Leona, House
**Entered in the
National Register**

Keeper Alvord Byers 1/26/89
Attest _____

34. Wiley, Tobe, House
**Entered in the
National Register**

Keeper Alvord Byers 1/26/89
Attest _____

35. Williams House
**Entered in the
National Register**

Keeper Alvord Byers 1/26/89
Attest _____

36. Keeper _____

Attest _____

37. Keeper _____

Attest _____

38. Keeper _____

Attest _____

39. Keeper _____

Attest _____

40. Keeper _____

Attest _____