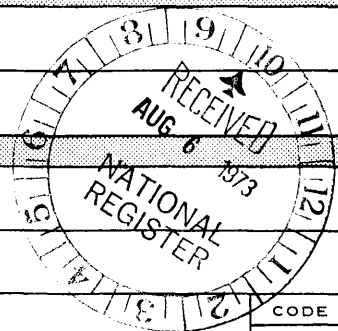


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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Kentucky</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Nicholas</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>OCT 2</b>	<b>1973</b>



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Forest Retreat <sup>and</sup> Tavern**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Same**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **NW of Carlisle at  
Junction of U.S. 68 and Ky. 32**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Carlisle Vicinity**

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21** COUNTY: **Nicholas** CODE: **181**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied * <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Forest Retreat Farms, Inc., Dr. Eslye Asbury, Chairman**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Route #3**

CITY OR TOWN: **Carlisle** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Nicholas County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: **Carlisle** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Kentucky Heritage Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**401 Wapping Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Frankfort** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ ENTRY NUMBER: **OCT 2 1973** DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

\* Residence - Occupied; Tavern - Unoccupied  
Stable - Used; Daniel Boone's Cabin - Unoccupied

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
SEE BELOW	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONDITION Residence - Excellent - Altered - Original Site  
 Tavern - Deteriorated - Altered - Original Site  
 Stable - Good - Altered - Original Site  
 Cabin - Fair - Altered - Moved 200 yards

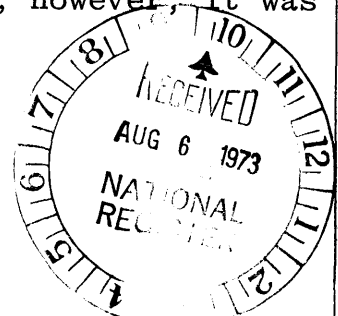
Forest Retreat, residence of Governor Thomas Metcalfe, is a large story-and-a-half brick house that he built circa 1817-1820. In Historic Kentucky, J. Winston Coleman, Jr. called attention to its "unique brick cornish on the front and side walls." He also mentioned that the shallow pedimented portico on the front porch with its slender posts is of a later period. The front facade is composed of a two-story central section bisecting the story-and-a-half portion. A broken pediment appears at the top of the two-story central section. Below the pediment is a shuttered window which was originally a door. The main entrance is a double door which is surmounted by a glass transom. Each half of the one-and-a-half story portion has two shuttered windows. Behind the main section of the house is a wing that has a graceful arched door and window.

According to Coleman, "the interior trim includes wide ash floors, beautiful reeded doors and window frames, exquisite Adam mantels and a spacious front hall with a graceful stairway and cherry handrail." The present owners restored Forest Retreat in 1934. At that time the dogwalk between the kitchen and house was enclosed to form a breakfast room. The front of the house was altered by removing the door on the second floor above the front entrance so this space could be converted into two bathrooms. More recently a screened back porch was added on the north side of the kitchen. Presently, Forest Retreat is in superb condition.

Forest Retreat Tavern was built circa 1806 by Thomas Metcalfe. The main section is of clapboarded log. The front section of the roof was extended to form a roof for the long front porch. At the center of the building is a two-story section, consisting of one room upstairs and one down. Another one-story section is on the far side of the two-story section. One of the additions was made by Governor Metcalfe in 1820. Earlier there was another room on the western side of the tavern; however, it was removed about 25 years ago.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

- Continued -



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                        |                                       |                                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Residence, 1820; Tavern, 1816; Stable, Circa 1820-30; Cabin, 1795

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                                    |                                                 |                                                    |                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                                    |                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |                                                 |                                                    |                                                |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Forest Retreat Farms, Inc. includes four buildings: Governor Thomas Metcalfe's residence, Forest Retreat Tavern, a stone stable, and Daniel Boone's cabin. All four are located on Thomas Metcalfe's original tract of land.

Forest Retreat, Governor Metcalfe's home, is a large story-and-a-half brick house. In Historic Kentucky Winston Coleman called attention to its "unique brick cornish on the front and side walls." Forest Retreat was built by Governor Thomas Metcalfe around 1817-1820. It was named by Henry Clay when he first visited the newly built house. He said to Metcalfe, "Tom, you have here a veritable Forest Retreat." Other famous visitors who stayed overnight at Forest Retreat included Andrew Jackson and William Henry Harrison. While teaching at nearby Western Military Institute in Blue Licks, Kentucky, James G. Blaine, unsuccessful Presidential candidate in the election of 1884, boarded at Forest Retreat.

Thomas Metcalfe, the 11th Governor of Kentucky and whose nickname was "Old Stone Hammer," was born March 20, 1780 in Fauquier County, Virginia. A few years later, his parents moved to Kentucky. Thomas Metcalfe had access to his father's large, well-chosen library of all the standard English works of his day. In 1796 Thomas was apprenticed to an older brother to become a stonemason and, in 1797 Thomas built the thick foundation of the Old Governor's Mansion, Frankfort, where he later resided as Governor. He also built a number of stone buildings in Kentucky. In 1806 he married Nancy Mason and they were the parents of four children. He made his first public speech in 1809, and later served from 1812 to 1816 in the Kentucky House of Representatives. In the War of 1812 he commanded a company of volunteers and led them at the Battle of Fort Meigs. Between 1819 and 1828 he was elected to five terms in the U.S. Congress. In 1828 he was elected Governor of

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Collins History  
 Stage Stops Bluegrass by J. Winston Coleman  
 Coleman, Winston. Historic Kentucky

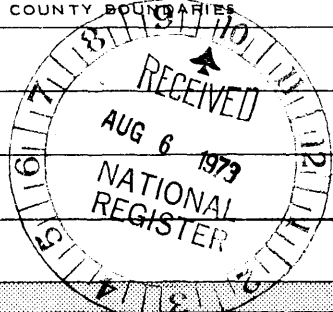
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES						
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38°	20'	21"	84°	3'	36"						
NE	38°	20'	20"	84°	3'	31"						
SE	38°	19'	48"	84°	3'	42"						
SW	38°	19'	49"	84°	3'	48"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 22 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NW 16/75° 6' 9.30" / 42° 47' 29.0"  
 SE 16/75° 2' 8.60" / 42° 46' 29.0"  
 SW 16/75° 6' 7.20" / 42° 46' 32.0"  
 CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: B. G. Hughes, Manager

ORGANIZATION: Forest Retreat Farms, Inc. DATE: 7/1/73

STREET AND NUMBER: Route # 3

CITY OR TOWN: Carlisle STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name Mrs. Simeon Willis

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date August 1, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Kelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/2/73

ATTEST: Wm. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 9.28.73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) # 1

STATE	Kentucky	
COUNTY	Nicholas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
	OCT 2	1973

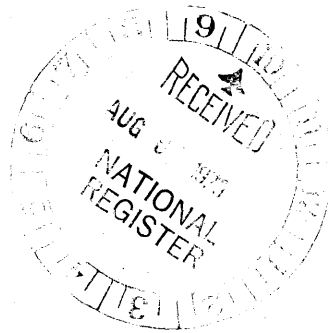
(Number all entries)

#7. DESCRIPTION - Cont'd

Directly across the road from the tavern is the post stable that was built circa 1820-1830 by one of Metcalfe's slaves. The walls of the stable are of native limestone, laid without mortar, and are still in very good condition. The ends of the loft are enclosed by clapboard. The long sloping roofline is extended to cover an open air section on either side of the stable. At a later date the stalls were added on the interior, but the original timbers supporting the loft are intact. The stable was restored by the present owners in 1935. It is in good condition and is used for stabling horses.

The log cabin was reportedly constructed circa 1795 by Daniel Boone. It was completely rebuilt in 1945 by the present owners. A few of the original timbers were used in rebuilding it. The cabin was also moved about 200 yards southeast of its original location.

All four of these buildings are located on Governor Thomas Metcalfe's original tract of land. In 1804 he bought 250 acres, which he later extended to 1500 acres.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) # 1

STATE	
Kentucky	
COUNTY	
Nicholas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 2	1973

(Number all entries)

**#8. SIGNIFICANCE - Cont'd**

Kentucky. However, for a few days after the inauguration outgoing Governor Joseph Desha did not allow him to move into the Governor's mansion. Desha disliked turning it over to the stonemason who had helped build it. Thomas Metcalfe served as Governor of Kentucky from 1828 until 1832. Between 1834 and 1838 he was a member of the Kentucky Senate. In 1840 he became the president of the board of internal improvements. Between 1848 and 1849 he was appointed and later elected to the U.S. Senate to fill the vacancy caused by John J. Crittenden's resignation to become Governor. He engaged in farming on his estate from 1849 until he died of cholera August 18, 1855 at 75 years of age. He is buried in the family graveyard located about 150 yards behind the house. Metcalfe County, Kentucky is named in his honor.

Also originally owned by Thomas Metcalfe are the post barn, which was constructed by his slaves circa 1820-1830, and the tavern which was built by Metcalfe in 1816. The well-known tavern was also called "Forest Retreat." It was one of the stops on a stagecoach route that stretched between Zanesville, Ohio and Florence, Alabama. Since it was also a mail route, Forest Retreat Tavern served as an early post office.

On the farm is a log cabin allegedly built circa 1795 by Daniel Boone with the help of Simon Kenton and in which Boone and his wife reportedly lived from 1795 to 1799 before they moved to Missouri. This cabin is very significant to local citizens.

The present owners who purchased Thomas Metcalfe's original 250 acre tract of land have spent nearly thirty years restoring three of the buildings and plan to begin restoration of the fourth, the tavern, in the near future.

