**1. NAME**

**COMMON:** JEFFERSON DAVIS MONUMENT

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** On KY 115 near junction with U.S. 68

**CITY OR TOWN:** FAIRVIEW

**STATE CODE COUNTY:** KENTUCKY 21 TODD 219

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY (Check One)**

- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**OWNER’S NAME:**

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:** TODD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE OF SURVEY:** SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES IN KENTUCKY

**DATE OF SURVEY:** 1971

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:** THE KENTUCKY HERITAGE COMMISSION

**STREET AND NUMBER:** 401 WAPPING STREET

**CITY OR TOWN:** FRANKFORT

**STATE CODE:** KENTUCKY 21
The Jefferson Davis Monument, 351 feet in height, is the fourth tallest monument in the United States and the tallest made from cast concrete. Resembling the Washington Monument in appearance, its dimensions are given by J. Winston Coleman in Historic Kentucky. Its base, 35 feet, one inch square, is exactly one-tenth of its height. "It was tapered up to 22 feet at the 314-foot mark where the square portion of the shaft was completed and where the last 36 feet came to a point. The walls range from 8$\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick at the base to two feet thick at the top. A 12-inch copper cap holding a lightning arrester raised the height to 351 feet. An elevator runs from the ground to the observation room near the top of the Monument from which Elkton and Hopkinsville can be seen on a clear day." On display in the observation room are exhibits illustrating the life and career of Jefferson Davis. The approximate weight of the Monument is 1,500,000 tons. The foundation of the obelisk consists of 19 feet of underground concrete resting on solid rock.

Work began on the Jefferson Davis Monument in 1917. After a delay caused by a shortage of materials, it was completed and dedicated June 7, 1924. Construction of the Monument was financed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Major S. F. Crecelius, the architect, was assisted by Ernest McCullogh; G. R. Gregg was the general contractor and builder.

Also located on the grounds of the park are a replica of the log cabin in which Jefferson Davis was born, a gift shop, and a picnic and playground area.
The Jefferson Davis Monument honors Jefferson Davis, the first, last and only president of the Confederate States of America. An appropriate tribute to Davis, this obelisk is the fourth tallest monument in the United States and the tallest made from cast concrete. The building costs, approximately $200,000, were raised by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

A replica of the two room log cabin where Jefferson Davis was born is near the base of the monument. The land upon which the Bethel Baptist Church of Fairview stands was donated by Jefferson Davis and dedicated by him in 1886. This was the original location of the two room log structure in which Davis was born.

Jefferson Davis was born on June 3, 1808 in what was then called Davisboro. In his youth, his family moved to Mississippi, but later returned to Kentucky where Davis attended first St. Thomas College near Springfield, Kentucky, and then Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky before his appointment to West Point Military Academy in 1824.

After he graduated from West Point in 1828, Davis had an illustrious career in the military, serving in both the Indian and Mexican Wars. In the Mexican War he attained the rank of Brigadier General. Between periods of service in the military, Davis served as a presidential elector in 1844 and was elected to the House of Representatives in 1845, resigning to serve in the Mexican War. After the Mexican War he was appointed to the Senate to fill a vacancy in 1847, and later elected to the Senate. During President Franklin Pierce's administration Davis was the Secretary of War. In 1857 he was re-elected to a six year term in the Senate where he became the Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. However, in 1861, when the controversy between the North and South
## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Correspondence of Mr. G.R. Gregg, Louisville, Ky. - Architect for the Jefferson Davis Monument, June, 1960.

Jefferson Davis Brochure; Ky. Department of Public Information (no date)


## 10. Geographical Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Define a Rectangle Locating the Property</th>
<th>Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Defining the Center Point of a Property of Less Than Ten Acres</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corner</td>
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### Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:

4

### List All States and Counties for Properties Overlapping State or County Boundaries

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<tr>
<th>STATE:</th>
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## 11. Form Prepared By

**Name and Title:**

Mrs. LouDelle McIntosh, Curator

**Organization:**

Kentucky Department of Parks

**Street and Number:**

Capital Plaza Office Building

**City or Town:**

Frankfort

**State:**

Kentucky

**Code:**

21

## 12. State Liaison Officer Certification

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 [X] State [X] Local [ ]

**Name:**

Mrs. Simeon Williams

**Title:**

State Liaison Officer

**Date:**

March 15, 1973

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

**Signature:**

Robertson Activity

**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**Date:**

5/7/73

**ATTEST:**

**Signature:**

Keeper of the National Register

**Date:**

5/7/73
reached the level of hostilities he resigned this office and was elected President of the Confederacy by acclamation. He served as Confederate President in Richmond, Virginia from 1861-1865. Captured in Georgia at the close of the war, he was imprisoned for two years. He died in New Orleans in 1889 after a short illness.

The Jefferson Davis Monument and birthplace are located roughly a hundred miles west of Hodgenville where Abraham Lincoln was born and where the log cabin that was his first home still stands. The Jefferson Davis Monument plays an integral part in celebrating the traditions of the Confederacy. Thousands of people visit the monument annually and every June hundreds of Civil War buffs gather at the foot of this structure for an old-fashioned "dinner on the grounds and speakin'.'"

Experts on the War Between the States, the Confederacy, and Jefferson Davis come to compare notes and pay oral tribute to the century-old traditions of the South. Many descendants of the Confederates still meet as the units that fought the Union Army. They wear Confederate uniforms, carry antique muskets, and fire the cannon.