

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Peyton-Cooper House

Other names/site number: JF 580

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 7849 Wolf Pen Branch Road

City or town: Prospect State: Kentucky County: Jefferson

Not For Publication NA Vicinity NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.
I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following

level(s) of significance: national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Craig Potts/SHPO** Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date:** _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Private:

X

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

--

Category of Property

Building(s)

X

District

--

Site

Structure

--

Object

--

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

3

3

Noncontributing

0

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other - Log House

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Stone, Concrete

Exterior Walls: Log, Wood Weatherboard

Chimneys: Stone, Brick

Fenestration: Wood

Roof: Wood Shake, Metal

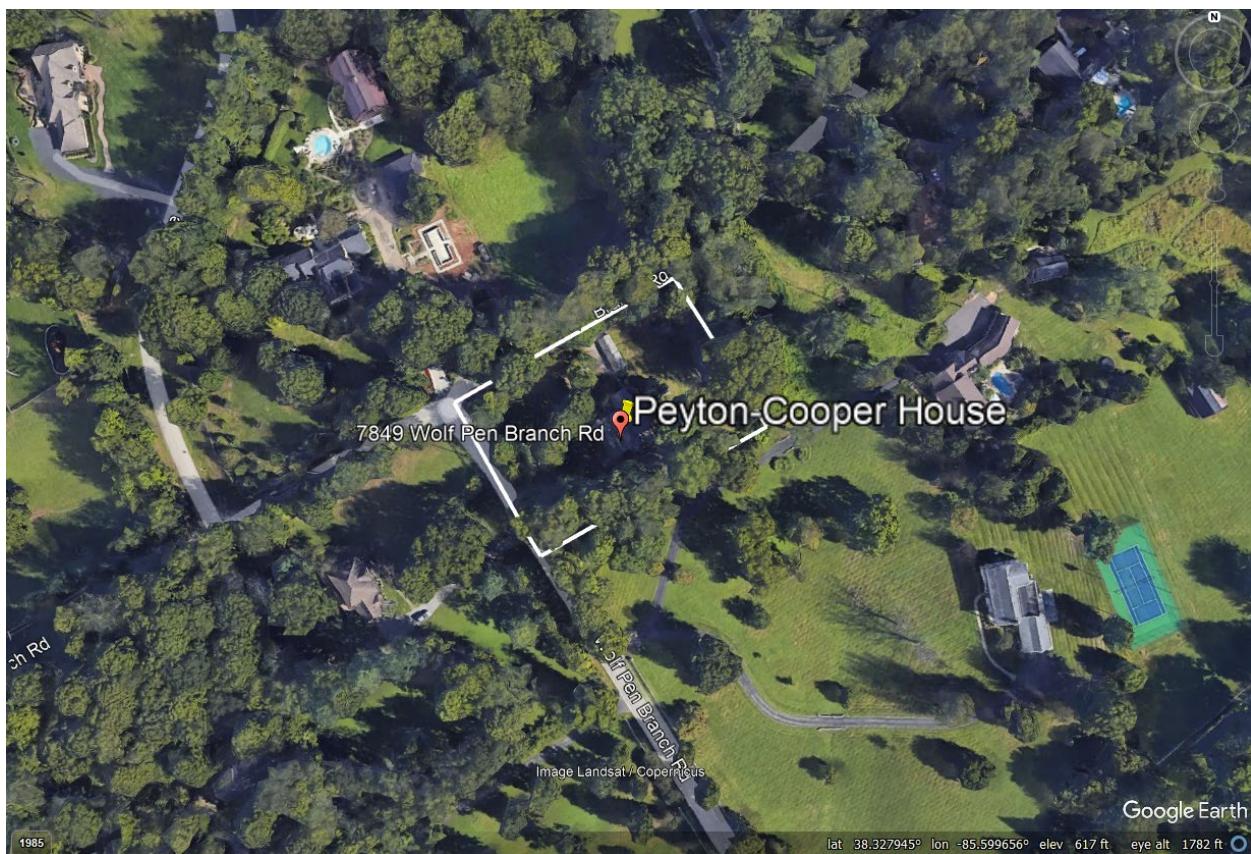
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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Peyton-Cooper House (JF 580) is a single-family residence constructed originally c. 1858 as a single-pen structure. In 1936 an additional single-pen log cabin was relocated from another county and was connected in a dogtrot style, thus connecting the two pens. The house is located in eastern Jefferson County, at 7849 Wolf Pen Branch Road, just east of the intersection between Wolf Pen Branch Road and Wolf Pen Trace, on the east side of the road. The property lies south of the town of Prospect and north and east of I-265 (Gene Snyder Freeway). The property proposed for listing consists of an approximately 1.17-acre lot, consisting of the property that is associated with the building. The Period of Significance is 1936-1954. The area proposed for listing contains three contributing buildings: the Peyton-Cooper House, a detached garage (C. 1947), and one other outbuilding (date unknown).



Peyton-Cooper House, Jefferson County, KY Latitude: 38.327945° Longitude: -85.599656°

Character of Site and General Setting

The surrounding area is generally characterized by heavy tree coverage. Surrounding this area are modern housing developments and single-family homes. The house itself is surrounded by mature trees and a large, grassy lawn space. The house sits on the corner lot of Wolf Pen Branch Road and Branch Road with an approximate 100-foot setback. An asphalt drive leads from Branch Road

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to the house. A wooden fence lines the property, separating the lawn from the road. A wooden, single bay garage sits north of the house. To the rear (southeast) of the house is a small, gabled outbuilding that is located down a slope in the rear yard (date unknown).

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Boundary of the Peyton-Cooper House, as shown on an aerial map (Google Earth). Immediate vicinity can be seen in the corner insert. A larger area map is at end of form.

Description of Main House

Exterior

The Peyton-Cooper House is a c. 1858-1880 enclosed dog trot log cabin with additions located on the rear. The front elevation or original log cabin portion of the building was originally two separate cabins that were separated by the open space called the "dogtrot." In 1936 the two pens were connected with an opening between them; this opening was enclosed in the mid-1940s. A shed addition was added to the rear of the north pen (date unknown). The later additions were added to the rear of the log house in 1947 and 1954 (see below for detailed changes).

West Facade

The main facade of the property is located on the west elevation of the house facing Wolf Pen Branch Road. This portion of the building contains the original one-and-a-half-story log house with two pens connected by the central dogtrot (Photos 001, 002, 009-011). The main log house consists of a stone foundation and large hand-hewn logs with square notching, along with chinking in the interstices filled with a type of lime mortar plaster. It extends five bays.

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Views of the West Facade

The central bay contains the dogtrot with wood siding and a tripartite window. The central portion of the window contains four-over-five-lite sashes, flanked by two-over-five sidelites. The north pen features a single central, entry door that is raised on a stone stoop. Flanking the door are two wood six-over-six lite, double-hung windows. The south pen features a central window that matches that of the north pen. The original cabin has a gabled, cedar shake roof. Exterior chimneys are located on ends of each pen. The north pen's chimney is constructed of rough limestone, while the south pen's chimney has a rough limestone base and a brick top, patched with stone (Photos 003, 007). To the west of the south pen's chimney is a two-over-three-lite casement window located on the upper floor (Photo 009).

East side

On the east side (rear) of the original cabin are two additions added in 1947 and 1954. The addition extends down the rear of the original cabin creating a saltbox profile before turning into a gabled one-and-a-half-story addition. The east elevation contains an extended one-story addition with six bays (Photos 006-007). The addition has a concrete block and stone foundation with dark grey siding that matches the dogtrot. Wings are located on either end of the addition that match the rear.



East side

On the rear addition is a centrally located, exterior chimney that extends above the roofline. Four-over-four-lite double-hung windows flank the chimney. A three-over-six-lite casement window is

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located north of the chimney. A raised porch is located on the south side of the rear elevation. Two sets of wood steps lead up to the screened, wood porch with a recessed entry into the addition. The porch extends south along the extended wing. Double glass doors with three-over-five-lite openings are on the south elevation of the addition and are located on the porch. Six-over-six double-hung windows flank the porch doors. Additionally, the porch features six-over-six and four-over-four-lite, double-hung windows. An additional three-over-six glass door is located between the two windows on the east elevation. A gabled metal roof with a small, square skylight is located on the addition.

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North side

The side elevations feature the wing additions. The north elevation contains three bays (Photo 004-005). The westernmost bay on the north elevation in the saltbox addition contains two glass double entry doors with a seven-over-two lite transom window. The rear portion of the addition protrudes from the elevation and contains a stone foundation and wood siding. A double-hung six-over-six window is located east on the gabled protrusion on this elevation. A small covered, gabled porch is located on the south side of this protrusion with a recessed single door entry (added in 2009). Also located on the recessed porch is a two-over-three casement window. A small gable semi-elliptical window is centrally located on this wing addition.



North Side



South Side

South side

The south elevation contains the shed addition. The south wing on the addition is less ornate than the opposite (Photos 007-009). It has a stone foundation, wood siding, and a single three-over-four lite casement window on the south elevation and a three-over-three light casement window on the west elevation of this wing. A low-pitched gabled roof is present. A double-hung window matching the one on the opposite side of the saltbox portion is located on this elevation as well. The additions contain replacement metal roofs. Additionally, the south elevation features the raised, wooden porch and the screened in sunroom. Large screens cover the sunroom with a side gabled roof present above it.

Interior

The interior of the Peyton-Cooper House is generally laid out with the oldest portion of the double pen, dog trot in the front of the house with the additions in the rear. The northern pen of the original

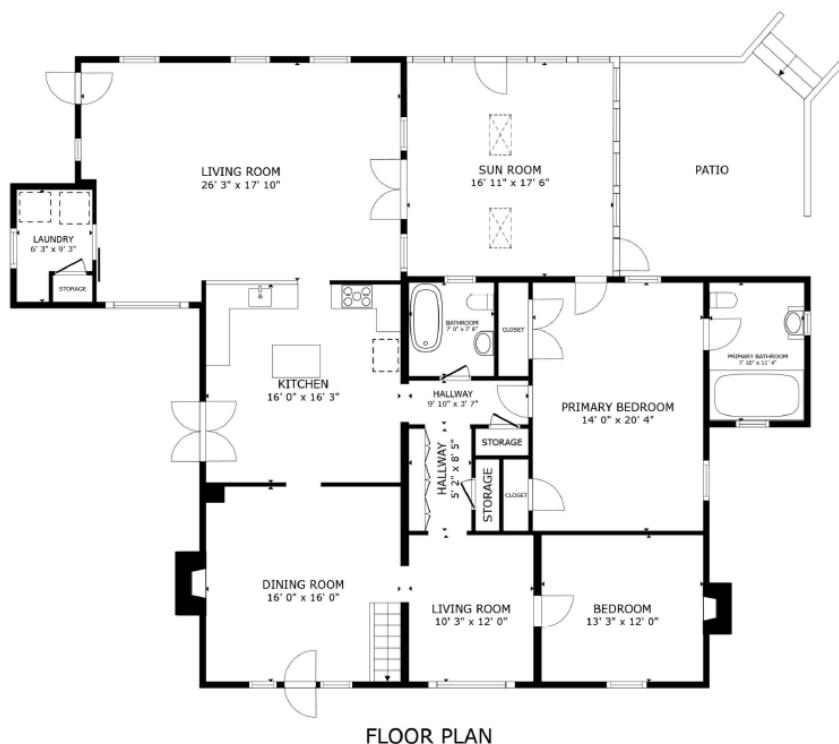
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log house contains what is now a dining room (Photo 014-015). It is rectangular in shape with historic wood flooring. The log cabin siding is exposed throughout the room with large round, wooden beams running across the ceiling and paired with perpendicular wood boards. A stone fireplace is located on the north side of the pen. It features a large, rough stone block surround and a wood mantle. At the front of this room is a replacement entry door flanked by double-hung windows – one of which is original to the pen. The south side of this pen is a wood staircase that leads up to an upstairs addition that is now a bedroom. At the rear of this pen is an entryway to the rear addition.



GROSS INTERNAL AREA
FLOOR PLAN 1,889 sq.ft.
EXCLUDED AREAS : SUN ROOM 297 sq.ft. PATIO 285 sq.ft.
TOTAL : 1,989 sq.ft.
SIZES AND DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE, ACTUAL MAY VARY.

↖ North

 Matterport®

Figure 1. Peyton-Cooper House Floor Plan.

The dogtrot connects two pens (Photo 016). The interior of this remains historically intact from when it was constructed c. 1930s. Because of this, it features the exterior elevations of the two pens with the exposed wooden logs. The dogtrot has wooden floors that were installed with the construction and have been treated and maintained over time. Openings exist on each side of the dogtrot that lead into the two pens. The front (west) elevation of this room contains the historic wood wall with wallpaper over top of it. This also contains the large, front tripartite window on the main elevation. Above the side openings into the two pens are square trap door openings that allow for airflow to the upper floor bedrooms. The ceiling slants slightly upward and then peaks, transitioning downwards as it extends towards the rear additions. The ceiling is plaster with square

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wooden beams that run vertically along the length of the dogtrot. The rear of the dogtrot connects to a long hallway that runs towards the rear of the additions, added in 1954 (Photo 021). It has wood flooring and is connected through a series of three steps. Historic wall paneling and non-historic built-in cabinets run the length of this hallway. Additionally, it has a plaster ceiling. At the end of this hallway is a modernized bathroom that was added with the hallway addition (Photo 022). The bathroom has tile flooring, wood paneled wainscotting that extends partway up the wall where it meets wallpaper covering plaster.



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 18

The southern pen on the original cabin matches much of the northern. It features wood flooring, large wood beam walls, and a wooden ceiling (Photo 018). However, the ceiling in this pen does not contain the large, round wood beams. A large, rough stone fireplace is located on the south side of the room with a stone semi-elliptical arch and a wooden mantle. This fireplace was installed with the c. 1930 connection of the two cabins. This pen does not have entry access, but rather a double-hung window located on the main elevation. A small trap door is located on the ceiling.

Located off the north pen of the original cabin is the current kitchen, which was added as part of the ca. 1947 extension then enlarged in 1954 (Photo 013). It is located in the shed addition off the rear of the cabin (date unknown). It contains original wood flooring and plaster walls covered with wallpaper. The kitchen has modern cabinets and appliances. A set of double doors leads to the exterior of the cabin on the north elevation (Photo 004). The shed roof addition is evident in this room, slanting downward towards the rear of the house. It is made of wood paneling and contains two skylights.

The main room on the rear (east) elevation contains a large family room (Photo 012). It features original wood flooring, plaster walls, and a gabled wood panel roof with large logs. There is a series of casement and double-hung windows. A single door on the north elevation leads outside and a set of double doors on the south elevation lead out onto the back patio.

The addition on the rear south side of the cabin contains a bedroom and attached bathroom. The bedroom's west wall features the exposed exterior logs for the original cabin (Photo 019). The rest of the bedroom contains wood flooring, plaster walls and ceiling, and two double-hung windows. The bathroom has been updated to feature tile flooring, plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling (Photo 020). It also contains two casement windows. A large built-in bathtub is located on the south portion of the bathroom.

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There is an upstairs bedroom above the south pen cabin, originally accessed by a trap door in the ceiling (Photo 023). It is a simple square room with carpeted floors, wood logs from the cabin that extend partially up the walls, and a gabled wood paneled ceiling. A single two-over-three casement window is located at the side of the room on the south elevation off the cabin. On the opposite side there is also an interior window which opens to the dog-trot below. The other upstairs bedroom is accessed by the stairway in the north pen (Photos 024-025) at the top of which is trap door operated by a weight and pulley. It contains carpet, original logs that extend part way up the walls and a painted drywall ceiling. The room contains a beadboard paneled closet. Two skylights are located on the ceiling along with a small-two-over-three casement window.

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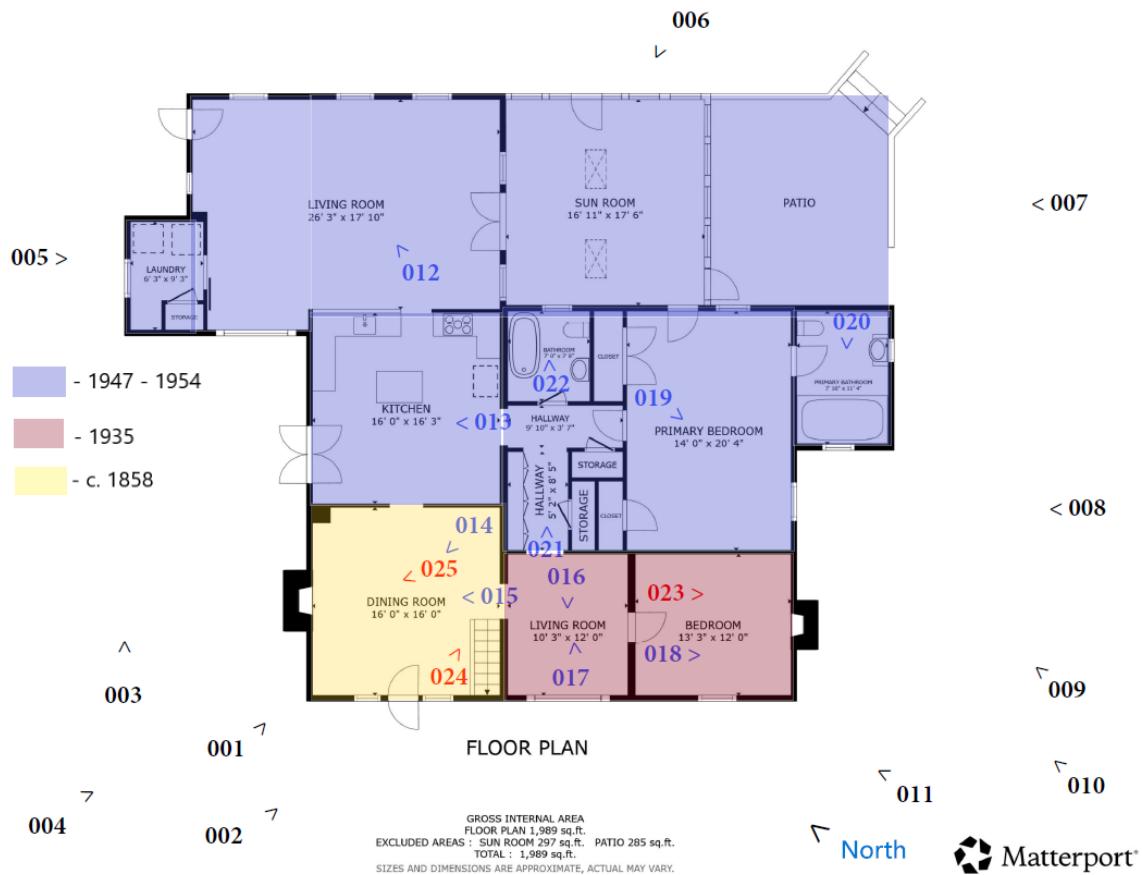


Photo Key: Black Keyed Notes - Exterior; Blue Keyed Notes - First Floor; Red Keyed Notes - Second Floor

Garage (ca. 1940, contributing building)

A contributing detached garage was constructed in the 1940s and extended in 1956 (Photo 002-003). It is a single bay, wood framed structure located on the north side of the house. The garage sits at the rear of the asphalt driveway and has a concrete foundation. It is deep, single bay garage with wood siding and a cedar shake gabled roof. The side elevations each contain two, three-over-three wood casement windows. The rear elevation (southeast) has two, two-over-two wooden fixed windows.

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Unidentified Outbuilding (date unknown, contributing building)

A contributing small outbuilding is located to the rear of the house located down the slope of the hill (Photo 005 and 007). This is an 11'x12' building. The exact construction date is unknown, however it was constructed within the period of significance and is considered contributing as such. It is of wood construction with the original wood floor intact. The door is wood with two large vertical glass panels dividing the top half of the door. It has two, two-over-two wood windows on the south and east elevations. Also, on the exterior east wall there remains a metal stove pipe cover, which suggests it was used as a kitchen and/or sleeping quarters possibly prior to 1936 but more likely during the 1940s renovations.



Garage



Unidentified Outbuilding

Changes to the Property Since the Period of Significance

Alterations to the building after 1954 were made to modernize the house in a manner that is consistent with its suburban house identity. In 2003, the plumbing and electric were updated, central air was added, the oil furnace was converted to propane and a new septic tank and field were relocated. A 1962 two stall shed horse barn attached to the east elevation of the garage was demolished due to neglect. In 2006, a replacement cedar shake roof was added and the gutters were restored to copper gutters. In 2009 the porch was extended and screened in. The small extended gabled entryway on the west elevation was added as well. Lastly, the asphalt shingle roof areas above the additions were replaced with a standing seam metal roof.¹

¹ This information was provided by the property owner. Her parents were the Gunnisons that purchased the property and was provided this information by a neighbor (Eva Lee Cooper) who had been living in the area since the 1920s. Longstanding family occupancy provided oral histories that the original cabin dates to c. 1850-1880.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

B. Removed from its original location

C. A birthplace or grave

D. A cemetery

E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

F. A commemorative property

G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

Community Planning and Development

Significant Person

NA

Period of Significance

1936-1954

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Dates

1936

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Summary Paragraph

The Peyton-Cooper House (JF 580) meets National Register Criterion A and is significant in the Area of Community Planning and Development. Its significance is understood within the context of eastern Jefferson County's suburban development. In the 1890s, wealthy Louisvillians sought to escape the stresses of urban life, seeking rural, agrarian places as a respite. While some suburbanites displayed wealth through the construction of high style, modern summer homes in the early to mid-twentieth century, others favored adapting already-constructed farmsteads and log houses to an emerging suburban ideal. The Peyton-Cooper House is significant as a log house that transitioned into a suburban home during this era in which Jefferson County was transformed from a rural to suburban landscape. The Period of Significance for the house begins in 1936 when Eva Cooper and her sons connected the c. 1858 single pen log cabin with a relocated log cabin with an open dogtrot, and the Period extends to 1954, when the Strange family further modernized the house to meet suburban standards. Today, the Peyton-Cooper House is a significant link to twentieth century suburban trends to maintain a rural, historic aesthetic while meeting modern amenities. The Peyton-Cooper House retains historic integrity, providing a tangible connection to this context.

Historic Context: The Transition of Eastern Jefferson County into a Suburban Ideal, Twentieth Century: 1890-1970

Background Information of the Location of the Peyton-Cooper House

The Peyton-Cooper house is located in the Wolf Pen Corridor near Harrods Creek, a community northeast of Louisville on the outskirts of Prospect, Kentucky in east Jefferson County. The Wolf Pen Branch Corridor is defined by its rural, wooded area and location along Harrods Creek.

The area has access to inland waterways, the Ohio River, and historically, some of the most fertile land in the state. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the area's water access, river bluffs, and bottomlands attracted settlers moving westward. The rural areas were plotted and sold off, which is when the original plot for the Peyton-Cooper House was sectioned and sold.

“Agricultural uses were arranged in a stringent linear plan with fence lines running perpendicular to Upper River Road. Steep hillsides and creekbanks were left wooded, but the hilltops were cleared for agricultural use. The lowland fields along Upper River Road...were farmed extensively.”²

Settlement of the area now known as Harrods Creek and Prospect by settlers of European descent can be traced back to the late eighteenth century as settlers passed through on flatboats.³ In the early nineteenth century, prior to the arrival of the railroad, several prominent farming families settled in the area, including the Wilhoytes, the Clores, the Skinners, the Peytons and the Triggs.

² Carey, Daniel, Keys, Leslee, and Nearly, Donna, “Harrods Creek Historic District”, NRIS 91001679, 1991.

³ Strohmaier, James. “Prospect” in *The Encyclopedia of Louisville*, edited by John E. Kleber, pp. 730-73. The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky. 2001.

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In many cases, the large tracts of land that were acquired by these families covered hundreds of acres and often spanned the county line.⁴

The area remained sparsely settled into the mid-nineteenth century, with farmsteads and a few buildings along the Louisville & Westport Plank Road, which followed a path similar to that traveled today by US 42.⁵ Construction of the Louisville, Harrods Creek, and Westport Railroad (LHC&W) began in the early 1870s and reached Harrods Creek in 1874 and Prospect in 1876.⁶ This quickly led to increased settlement and commercial activity in the far eastern reaches of Jefferson County. This initial activity concentrated on developing the communities as self-supporting villages.

The potential of the LHC&W reaching Harrods Creek and Prospect was met with excitement. The narrow-gauge railroad followed along the path of the road that was already graded. Residents believed that the railroad would “develop hundreds of building sites for those of our people who desire a pleasant country home” and would provide “cheap, speedy and reliable transportation” for the produce and goods yielded by the country farmers.⁷ Halfway through the railroad’s construction, it was noted that the land was beautiful, and property values were already beginning to rise, confirming the hoped-for outcome that made transportation projects a worthwhile investment.⁸ Although the company planned to continue construction to Westport, the line never reached beyond Prospect.⁹ Prior to the turn of the century, the LHC&W had been improved, presumably to increase comfort and ease of access. Local newspapers touted the potential of newly accessible real estate along the Ohio River. As the Louisville *Courier-Journal* observed in 1892, the area “is exceedingly beautiful and attractive” and “there are along the [railroad] line many of the finest sites for suburban houses to be found in the vicinity of Louisville.¹⁰

In the last decade of the nineteenth century, the Louisville and Interurban Railroad (L&I), an electric rail line, began operating passenger services throughout the city. Following the incorporation of the company in 1903, it began branching into suburbs in the metropolitan area.¹¹ In the following years, the L&I developed lines serving Jeffersontown, Okolona, Orell, Fern Creek, and Prospect.¹² During this period of expansion, the L&I leased old rail lines from

⁴ National Register of Historic Places, James Clore House, Jefferson County, Kentucky. #84000387.

⁵ Bergmann, G.T.. *Map of Jefferson County, Kentucky: showing the names of property holders, division lines of farms, position of houses, churches, school-houses, roads, water-courses, distances, and the topographical features of the county: distinctly exhibiting the country around the falls of the Ohio, including New Albany and Jeffersonville, Indiana.* G.T. Bergmann, Louisville, KY 1858.

⁶ “Narrow-Guage.” In *The Courier-Journal*. April 13, 1877, Louisville, Kentucky.

⁷ “Up the River. The Louisville, Harrod’s Creek, and Westport Railroad Route Indicated.” In *The Courier-Journal*. September 26, 1871. Louisville, Kentucky.

⁸ “Our New Railway to Westport on a Tennessee Locomotive – A Short Trip Over the Louisville, Harrod’s Creek and Westport Railroad.” In *The Courier-Journal*. May 30, 1874, Louisville, Kentucky.

⁹ “Narrow-Guage” 1877.

¹⁰ “Our New Railway to Westport on a Tennessee Locomotive – A Short Trip Over the Louisville, Harrod’s Creek and Westport Railroad.” In *The Courier-Journal*. May 30, 1892, Louisville, Kentucky.

¹¹ Calvert, James Burnley, “Interurbans.” In *The Encyclopedia of Louisville*, edited by John E. Kleber, pp. 418-420. The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.

¹² Ibid.

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LHC&W, which expedited the company's efforts to offer passenger service to Prospect and various stops in between.¹³

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Prospect grew as a separate town, with features that supported its function and identity as a separate place. According to the Beers & Lanagan *Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Kentucky*, a railroad depot and store existed in the community by 1879 and the first post office was constructed in 1886.¹⁴ In 1903, the Bank of Prospect opened, and the Prospect store, which functioned as the community center, was constructed in 1911 (Courier-Journal 1903; Stewart 1989).¹⁵

The early twentieth century additions to Prospect signaled the start of a transition in the town's identity. What started out as a nineteenth century rural community became an investment interest for wealthy Louisvillians. Investments such as the above-mentioned bank and community center signify the town's economic-civic transition from an autonomous community to one that began to function as a suburb of Louisville.

At the turn of the Twentieth Century, the bucolic nature of eastern Jefferson County, coupled with transportation infrastructure, made this area attractive to upper-middle- and upper-class residents of urban Louisville. Eastern Jefferson County became a popular place for suburbanites to relocate, especially those who sought a home life outside the high density, urban environment, but who remained employed in the city. The striking beauty of the countryside was a stark contrast to the bustling city of Louisville. Upper-class residents began to idealize this place as an escape from urban ills in exchange for the rural landscape.¹⁶

Suburbanization and the Desire for the Rural Landscape

Improved transportation systems enabled suburbanization throughout the United States. In most of the nineteenth century, this confined the suburban response to developments surrounding downtown business districts. At the same time, a significant number of middle- and upper-class citizens also began choosing properties in the county's outlying areas as well as within towns that served as satellites to Louisville.

Harrods Creek and Prospect attracted Louisville's elite. Railroad service first encouraged acquisition of rural property for recreational and seasonal use. The development of summer houses, country estates, and similar properties became a prominent development pattern along the bluffs overlooking the Ohio River between the northeast edge of Louisville and the Oldham county line, a distance of approximately eight miles. Many Americans idealized the perception of agricultural lifestyles and longed for the perceived wholesomeness of rural life. Many also wished to own

¹³ Hilton, George W. and John F. Duel. *The Electric Interurban Railways in America*. 2nd Edition, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, 1964.

¹⁴ Beers, D.G. and J. Lanagan. *Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Kentucky: From New and Actual Surveys*. Beers & Lanagan, Philadelphia, PA. 1879; Rennick, Robert M. *Kentucky Place Names*. The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. 1984.

¹⁵ "Bank is Incorporated" In *The Courier-Journal*. April 17, 1903, Louisville, KY; Stewart, Kay. "Prospect." In *A Place in Time*. Edited by David Hawpe and Nina Walforth, pp 98. The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Co. Louisville, Kentucky.

¹⁶ "Suburban Development in Louisville and Jefferson County", 1868-1940," JCOHPA & Louisville Landmarks Commission, *National Register of Historic Places MPD*, Oct. 17, 1988.

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sizeable acreages for recreational and scenic purposes. In addition, many people longed to escape urban life, which they perceived as unhealthy, crowded, dirty, polluted, and apt to encourage vice.

The Harrods Creek Historic District (NRIS 91001679), situated just west of the Peyton-Cooper House, tells the story of the early suburban development in eastern Jefferson County stretching from the late 19th century through the early 20th century.¹⁷ It featured five large country estates settled by wealthy Louisvillians from the 1870s through the 1930s, spurred by the extension of railway lines running east from the city. The Nitta Yuma Historic District (NRIS 83002714), which is located south of Prospect, was settled by several prominent Louisvillians in 1890.¹⁸ These men included “George Garvin Brown the founder of Brown-Forman Distillers Corp., Charles Peaslee and William Frederick Booker who were both associated with the Peaslee-Gaulbert Co.” and Major Joseph D. Claybrook who “was a military man, an engineer and a physician” who “was superintendent of the building of the Louisville Southern Railroad and the Mexican Central Railroad and was superintendent of the Portland Canal, appointed by President Cleveland”.¹⁹

Much like the growth of Harrods Creek and Prospect, the residences of the Nitta Yuma historic district exist because of the accessibility offered by the LHC&W and eventually the L&I. George Garvin Brown’s nephew also settled nearby, building Glen Rhea (OL 297) in ca. 1903 northwest of the Prospect passenger depot and store.²⁰ This area in the easternmost portion of Louisville continued to be a residential destination for many successful Louisvillians throughout the years.

Throughout the first two decades of the twentieth century, the L&I continued to grow and thrive around Louisville, including the Harrods Creek/Prospect line. Over the years, the company was consistently expanding until the widespread availability and use of automobiles in the 1920s drastically hampered its passenger use. Furthermore, the beginning of the Great Depression in 1929 hit the railroad hard. The combined effects of the Depression and increasing automobile ownership caused interurban railroads across the country to suffer. Ridership on L&I lines declined dramatically. From 1931 to 1935, the L&I ended service on at least one line a year. The company discontinued service to Prospect on Halloween in 1935 and dissolved the following year.²¹

An important truth in the idealization of the rural was the perception of the agricultural lifestyle as opposed to its reality. While the city dweller sought these fantasies, many of the owners of the suburban residences either did not pursue agriculture at all or would hire others to work and manage the farmland that they owned. Nonetheless, suburbanization was rooted in this agrarian ideology.

For people of means, different styles of housing or summer estates outside of city centers received attention. High style country estates in trending architectural styles began to dot the countryside in early-twentieth century eastern Jefferson County. Local estates in the Wolf Pen Branch Corridor exhibit more modern architectural construction of styles within a suburban developmental history

¹⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Harrods Creek Historic District, Jefferson County, Kentucky. #91001679.

¹⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Nitta Yuma Historic District, Jefferson County, Kentucky. #83002714.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Kentucky Individual Buildings Survey Form, *Glen Rhea*, OL 297, Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY.

²¹ Calvert, 2001.

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as a “historically, socioeconomically, and topographically distinguishable region of Eastern Jefferson County”.²²

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One ideal of the eastern Jefferson County suburban home would be a site away from city limits, not within a subdivision. Such a choice would give the owner freedom to erect something to their tastes, whose effect did not come from the repetitive design of neighboring houses. Such choices could migrate away from traditional construction methods, employing treatments such as log house construction.

Some affluent Louisvillians built grand country estates to announce their status. Architectural styles such as English Tudor, Greek Revival, and Colonial Revival began emerging in the Wolf Pen Branch Corridor. For example, the English Manor style Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF 557; NRIS 80001583) that was constructed in 1927 was commissioned by wealthy Louisville judge, Robert Worth Bingham, for his son. The location of this high style manor’s design incorporated new construction with the current rural landscape. Well known landscape architect Arthur W. Cowell designed the manor within the rural landscape to blend the estate into the idyllic countryside fantasy.²³ Many of these are nearby to the Peyton Cooper House and have been listed within the large Country Estates of River Road district (NRIS 99000495).

While many wealthy Louisvillians opted for the construction of modern, high style estates in the area, others were intrigued with earlier housing forms. Some searched for extant nineteenth century farmsteads in this desirable, rural landscape. Farmhouses, log cabins, and other rural properties were purchased with the intent to connect to the ideology of an agrarian lifestyle. As owners transformed these properties into suburban homes, often they retrofitted the house with modern amenities while retaining the historic exterior aesthetic of pre-twentieth century residences. Constructing additions, modernizing kitchens and bathrooms, and enlarging bedrooms and common spaces provided comforts that wealthy urbanites, fleeing the city, were not willing to leave behind in the pursuit of the agrarian fantasy. Preservation sensibilities in the first half of the twentieth century permitted a mishmash of new and old, with the owner proud of their status of owning a historic house. Thus, revival architects could take liberties to create new designs that departed from perfect copies of ancient landmarks. Designers also attempted to modernize old residences, with large additions and other alterations becoming common practice. Examples of these can be found in the Garr Log House (JF632), the Gilliland House (JF291), and the J.W. Knuckles House (JF584). The Garr Log House, built c. 1837, and the Gilliland House, built c. 1830, are both two-story three-bay side-gabled log houses.²⁴²⁵ The Garr House’s exterior has been clad in clapboard siding since at least 1976 and the Gilliland house has been covered since 1977 as evidenced by their original Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Forms and recent PVA photographs. Smaller in stature and more similar to the Peyton-Cooper House the J.W. Knuckles

²² Ibid, pg. 20.

²³ “Bingham/Hilliard House”, Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory, JF-557, 1977.

²⁴ Kentucky Individual Buildings Survey Form, *Dalton Et. All*, JF 632, Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY.

²⁵ Kentucky Individual Buildings Survey Form, *Carol B. Tobe*, OL 291, Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY.

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House is a single-pen one and one-half story house also clad in wood clapboards.²⁶ The Knuckles house has been covered since 1977.

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It is within this context that the Peyton-Cooper House's transition from an early log house to a "modern" suburban home is significant as it follows this suburbanization practice and retains the historic integrity to display this history.

The Early Ownership of Land on which the Peyton-Cooper House was Built

In order to understand the evolution of a resource such as the Peyton-Cooper House, one must comprehend the property's history and how it relates to the overall settlement and development of the Harrods Creek and Prospect areas. Placing this building in the context of the region's earliest establishment while also acknowledging the people, their social standing, and the trends that would follow the first and second waves of white settlement in the area, one is able to more fully grasp the longevity and significance of the property as it pertains to the eventual suburbanization of the area and the extension of Louisville into the county's eastern expanse.

The land on which the house sits was owned, occupied, and farmed by some of eastern Jefferson County's wealthiest and largest landowners and farmers, many of whom were related. One of the earliest families to own this property was the Skinner family, who were well established in the Harrods Creek area in the early-to-mid 1800s (Figure 3).²⁷

In the late 1850s, the land was conveyed to Timothy G. Peyton. Similar to the Skinners, the Peyton family had been in the area since the turn of the nineteenth century. These families ran successful agricultural operations around the Harrods Creek area in the early- to mid-nineteenth century, both families employing numerous farm hands and were also enslavers according to the 1850 and 1860 U.S. Federal Census Slave Schedules.²⁸ These facts, along with the family's prominence and their landholdings, suggest that they were among the more affluent families in the area. John H. Skinner and Timothy G. Peyton were both married to women with the maiden name DeHaven, Elizabeth and Jane respectively, making them brothers-in-law. A benefit to the social standing of their families, which was considerable in their own right, John and Timothy married into a family that was even more deeply established in Jefferson County's aristocratic class than their own. Their father-in-law was prominent local farmer, Christopher DeHaven, whose son, Samuel E. DeHaven, was a successful lawyer and banker, who served in the state House and Senate before and during the Civil War and was later a Circuit Court Judge.²⁹

The Peyton-Cooper house is believed to have been constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, ca. 1858, and the materials, style, and workmanship of the original cabin corroborate this estimated date. Originally the log house was built as a single pen log cabin. Each of the families that owned

²⁶ Kentucky Individual Buildings Survey Form, *Mary Oppel*, JF 584, Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY.

²⁷ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census. Federal Census of the United States, Jefferson County, Kentucky. 1800-1950; Bergmann, 1858.

²⁸ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census. Federal Census of the United States Slave Schedule, Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1850-1860.

²⁹ Perrin W.H., J.H. Battle, & G.C. Kniffen. *Kentucky: A History of the State*. Sixth Edition. F.A. Battey Publishing Company, Louisville, KY. 1887; US Census 1800-1950; Kentucky Historical Society, "S.E. DeHaven." Electronic document, <https://www.kyhistory.com/digital/collection/PH/id/7585/>, accessed September 2025.

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this property, when the cabin is believed to have been built, more than likely used the labor of their enslaved people to build it. It is unlikely that the cabin was used as an enslaved persons' dwelling, given the method of construction, the durability and permanence of the materials and workmanship, and the building's use and enumeration in 19th century documents, all of which are not consistent with houses associated with enslaved individuals. It is more likely that this dwelling and others like it in the area were occupied by workers for the mill sites and farmsteads.

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According to the records, the land on which the Peyton-Cooper House sits was owned by John H. Skinner in the mid-1850s. A map from 1858 shows Skinner's house was present but does not indicate that there was a house at the site of the Peyton-Cooper House.³⁰ This, however, does not mean that the building was not there, as the map only shows more substantial structures such as larger dwellings, post offices, schoolhouses, mills etc. and at this time, the Peyton-Cooper House was a simple log cabin.

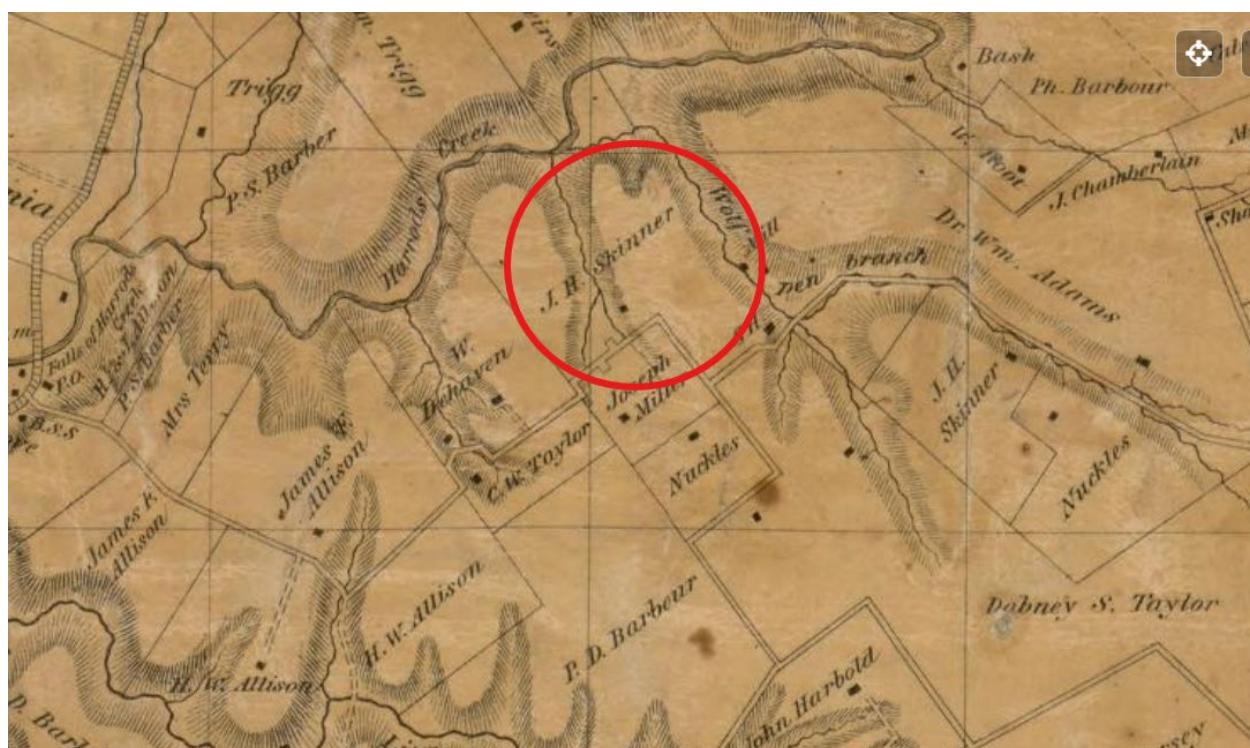


Figure 3. 1858 Map of Jefferson County showing rural Wolf Pen Branch area and original Skinner ownership.³¹

In the late 1850s, Skinner conveyed a portion of his property to his brother-in-law, Timothy Peyton. Peyton owned the property for the next several decades, constructing his own house just north of the Peyton-Cooper House, along the Wolf Pen Branch waterway, both of which are shown in the 1879 Atlas.³² In 1880, the U.S. Census records show that Peyton employed an African

³⁰ Bergmann, 1858.

³¹ Bergmann, 1858.

³²Beers, D.G. and J. Lanagan. *Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Kentucky: From New and Actual Surveys*. Beers & Lanagan, Philadelphia, PA. 1879.

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American, James Randall, as a farmhand/laborer who lived with the family, perhaps in the cabin, which could account for why both the Peyton House (not the nominated building) and the Peyton-Cooper House (the nominated building) were enumerated in the 1879 Atlas, (Figure 4).³³

In the early 1900s, records indicate that the Peyton family conveyed the property to Cyrus Hunt. Cyrus Hunt was married to TG Peyton's niece, Susan Skinner, and they lived at the old Skinner house next to the cabin. Hunt farmed the land until the opening years of the twentieth century, housing his large family and mother-in-law, Elizabeth, at the property.



Figure 4. 1879 Atlas showing location of Peyton-Cooper House, noted as "TGP".

To further the familial connection between the early white settlers of the Harrods Creek/Wolf Pen Branch area, both the Peyton and Skinner families appear to have ties with the Postlethwaites, who were among the first to hold the deed connected with the land on which the Wolf Pen Branch Mill (NRIS 78001344) sits. William Postlethwaite purchased the land in 1813 and is believed to have built the first mill at this site before conveying the land to his son Thomas.³⁴ It was at this site that, in the 1870s, that Herman Miller constructed the mill that is still standing today.³⁵ The familial connection comes from the fact that Esther Postlethwaite was enumerated under John Skinner's household in the 1860 U.S. Census and that William is buried in the Postlethwaite (sp) Cemetery alongside Timothy Peyton and his wife and daughter.³⁶ This peripheral story is of note because the Wolf Pen Branch Mill site was at the center of the earliest preservation efforts in the area. Those preservation impulses also are expressed in the choice to use the Peyton-Cooper log house as a residence in the 1930s.

³³ U.S. Census, 1800-1950.

³⁴ Thomas, Samuel W. *Wolf Pen Branch Mill*. "The Filson Newsmagazine, Volume 5, Number 3. Electronic document, https://www.filsonhistorical.org/archive/news_v5n3_wolffpen.html, accessed September 2025.

³⁵Kentucky Heritage Commission, "Wolf Pen Branch Mill", National Register of Historic Places Nomination, July 19, 1997.

³⁶ Findagrave.com

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After the death of Cyrus Hunt in 1910, records show that his son, Clay Hunt, owned, occupied, and worked the nearby land, likely including that which encompasses the Peyton-Cooper House. However, it was the purchase of the property in ca. 1936 by Eva Cooper that began to shape the resource into what it is today. In 1925, Ms. Eva Cooper, who had been widowed years before, showed an interest in the land and the history of eastern Jefferson County. Ms. Cooper's deceased father, Mr. Milton H. Smith, was the president of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad (L&N), making him one of the most influential railroaders in the country, and subsequently, a prominent force in Louisville. By the 1920s, Eva set sights on the old Wolf Pen Branch Mill as a wonderful property worthy of restoration. The property had sat vacant for years, was severely rotted, and had been misused in recent years by moonshiners during prohibition. She not only restored the mill, getting it back in working order to grind corn meal, but she also built new structures in the area to house the miller, and restored the old miller's cabin and added a substantial addition to it to serve as her summer home. The original miller's cabin (JF 578), which was owned and occupied by Herman Miller who built the still-standing mill in the 1870s, was a simple log residence until Ms. Cooper built a large two-story portion off the north end.³⁷ This context relates to the suburbanization ideology of purchasing the extant resources in rural areas by wealthy families and modernizing them to meet current needs, much like the Peyton-Cooper House.

To further understand the context of upper-class families such as the Cooper's and their reliance on working class and enslaved people - Eva Cooper connected with the Taylor Family, another local, affluent family, to assist in restoring and operating the Wolf Pen Branch Mill. The Taylor family were slave owners who brought a formerly enslaved gentleman known as "Uncle Bob" to the mill to operate the gears of the water wheel. A 1926 newspaper article highlights the mill's restoration and Uncle Bob's dangerous work environment with oiling the gears under the millstone where he recalls a life-threatening encounter when his jacket was caught in one of the gears and he barely escaped. Uncle Bob was later given freedom by the Taylor family.³⁸ This context is important in understanding the development of the land in east Jefferson County as the history of suburbanization is discussed. This was widely done by affluent families who would construct county estates that contained large swaths of land and required management. The smaller dwellings that existed were often constructed for workers and enslaved people.

Over the next ten years, Eva Cooper increased her holdings in the area from the approximately ten acres that came with the mill to over 200 acres of adjoining forest and bottomland and she moved from her mother's house in the Old Louisville suburbs to the Harrods Creek house full time instead of using it only as her summer home.³⁹ It was around this time that Ms. Cooper purchased the Peyton-Cooper House, furthering her suburban residential holdings. When Eva moved to Wolf Pen Branch, she did so with her three sons, and in continuing her efforts of preservation, restoration, and attempting to fabricate something that was physically connected to the rural American myth, they together worked to add to the Peyton-Cooper House to make it more accommodating and livable, all while not sacrificing the rustic aesthetic of the building.

³⁷"Railroad Pioneer's Daughter Turns Miller". In The Courier-Journal, Louisville Kentucky, May 16, 1926; Franke, Wilhelmine, *Domestic Pageant in Old Kentucky – Wolf Pen Mill*. In The Courier-Journal, August 25, 1935.

³⁸"Railroad Pioneer's Daughter Turns Miller".

³⁹Ibid.

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Figure 5. Newspaper clipping showing Ms. Eva Cooper, Wolf Pen Branch Mill, Ms. Eva Cooper's summer home, and "Uncle Bob".

by a man who only lived a few years to enjoy the fruit of his planning.
"Butterbean Miller," or "Mil-

Transition of the Peyton-Cooper House from a Log Cabin to a Suburban Log House

Early cabins that remained on the landscape often would transition into buildings with improvements: windows, plastered interior walls, and room additions. These transitions and features distinguish cabins from houses. As suburbanites transformed these rustic dwellings into suburban residences, they maintained some features that transmitted the house's historic identity and idyllic rural aesthetic, while improving it on the interior with modern amenities.

In 1936, the sons of Ms. Cooper connected the original c. 1858 single pen cabin to another log house that had been relocated to the site. This was done by constructing an open dogtrot between the two pens (Figures 7, 8). This spatial arrangement saw popular use in early nineteenth century Kentucky. Years after that initial construction, many Kentuckians filled in this breezeway between the two pens, and later owners did this very thing to the Peyton-Cooper House. This transformed the dogtrot to a central passage floor plan. This use of space has roots in Pennsylvania log

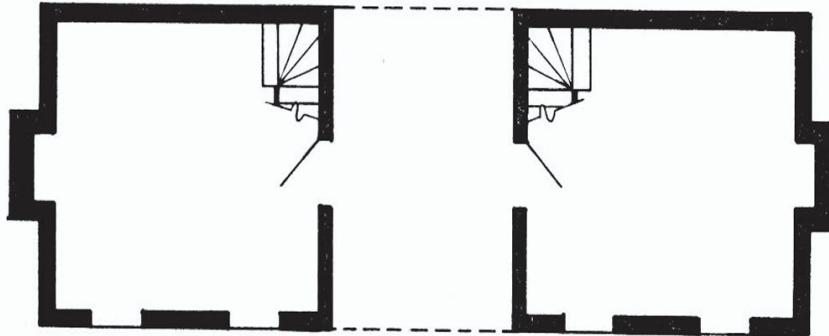
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construction traditions. This practice spread to the Eastern, Upper South, and Southern United States (Figure 6)⁴⁰

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Dogtrot floor plan

Figure 6. General floor plan of a Dogtrot Style house.



Figure 7. Original cabin, ca. 1936.

⁴⁰“Wolf House Special Resource Study”, National Park Service, April 2014, pg. 19.

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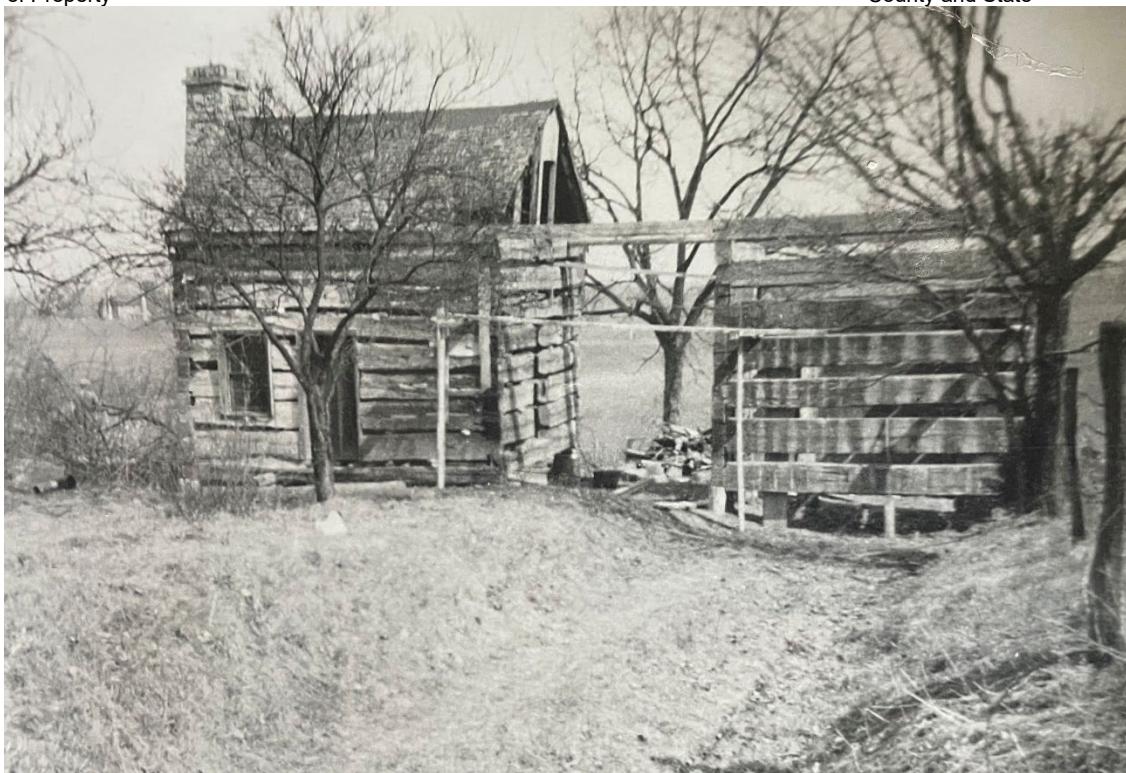


Figure 8. The two cabins being connected to create the dogtrot, ca. 1936.



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Figures 7 and 8. Historic Images C. 1940s showing the completed dogtrot and the screened-in opening (which occurred ca. 1947) before fully enclosing it in ca. 1950.

Eva Cooper's life also had undergone many transitions. She emerged as a young socialite attending high-society parties in downtown Louisville. She married a successful attorney in Nashville who was murdered. She, as a widow with children, moved back to Jefferson County to live with her parents, brother, and servants in Old Louisville. She gravitated to a much more serene, quiet life in Jefferson County's suburbanizing east end. She was among the first wave of wealthy Louisvillians who not only sought to live in the quieter and peaceful east end and to bring the opulence of the city with them, but to restore and preserve rural buildings from the mid-nineteenth century in an effort to experience the qualities and appealing nature of the original cabins and farmhouses while adding onto them to modernize and still enjoy the modern amenities and comforts they were used to.

From the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries, this area of Jefferson County profited from Louisville's success as a commercial hub along the Ohio River. As urban development became denser and the economy grew, wealthy Louisvillians "sought to display their success and enjoy the fruits of it by emulating the leisure lifestyle".⁴¹ Often this meant having suburban vacation or summer homes outside of city centers that were rural and secluded, but often still exhibited high style and class for convenience. It was common that these families would be accompanied by servants. This suburbanization idea was rooted in what affluent families believed that a rural, agrarian lifestyle entailed. This often led to the display of wealth through suburbanization of historic residences such as the Peyton-Cooper House.

⁴¹ "Suburban Development in Louisville and Jefferson County".

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During the mid-twentieth century, the Peyton-Cooper house would change hands a few more times with the new owners, in the same vein as Ms. Cooper and several other wealthy families in the area, enclosing the dogtrot's breezeway, constructing new additions, and bringing the property into the mid-20th century with modern conveniences. The continued shaping of the property followed the norms of suburbanization of eastern Jefferson County. The house was updated in the second third of the twentieth century with features that allowed for comfort, such as electricity, a heating system, interior water, bathrooms, and additional living space. The owners retained the residence's emphasis on its log house identity, which preserved a simplistic association with early Jefferson County settlement. At the same time, they placed additions to the rear of the log house, to prevent the continued upgrading from disrupting the nostalgic impact of the main facade.

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Suburbanization and Preservation of Log Houses in East Jefferson County

There was another faction of wealthy suburbanites who viewed these older houses not as outdated, but as tangible expressions of refinement. The desire of the wealthy to preserve older homes on the outskirts of cities echoed an older American tradition of the "country seat." During the early-to-mid-20th century, many affluent families purchased 19th-century farmhouses, manors, or small estates and renovated them as second homes or permanent suburban residences. These properties offered spacious grounds, mature trees, architectural distinctiveness and higher status than what came from housing in newly-platted subdivisions. This trend continued as suburbanization increased following WWII.

In Jefferson County, preservation was sometimes a deliberate choice by elites who wished to distinguish themselves from the mass suburban culture of conformity. In the Harrods Creek and Prospect areas, suburbanization followed different trends. Some affluent suburbanites constructed high style, extravagant estates while others took advantage of the current building stock in an attempt to display wealth through the preservation and alteration of these dwellings. Restoring or adapting an older house conveyed cultural capital, linking owners to a lineage of refinement and regional history as well as the previous wealth. In some cases, these restorations were carried out with scholarly attention to authenticity, while in others, historic houses were remodeled in the revival styles to align with mid-century taste.

In 1954, Thomas and Virginia Strange took ownership of the Peyton-Cooper House and made such changes to the home. The Stranges closed in the open dogtrot that had been constructed by Eva's sons. Additionally, they constructed a half bath and an additional bedroom behind part of the dogtrot and south pen. The kitchen was modernized, and a second bath was added during the Strange's occupancy, as well as the conversion of the north pen upstairs bedroom. At this point in time, the attic space above the south pen remained open and could be accessed by a ladder and the opening at the top of the dogtrot. The main log construction remained uncovered, maintaining a physical connection to building's history. The Stranges furthered the suburbanization ideology with their alterations. During the mid-twentieth century, preservation was perceived differently from today's standards. This reuse of a log house was significant in generating interest in preservation efforts for people engaged in creating suburban landscapes. The Peyton-Cooper house is a significant attempt to look at the rural landscape and early built environment and give it value by maintaining the historic look at some capacity. Leaving the hand-hewn logs, notching, and

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interstices visible was a purposeful choice in the preservation of these homes to display one property's historic, rural association with the area's past.

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Ms. Cooper's initial preservation of the home and the Strange family's continuation of her actions are significant within this rural to suburban context. These actions were part of the suburbanization movement, where extant historic dwellings were reworked to achieve a desired effect in eastern Jefferson County. As evidenced in the Peyton-Cooper House, the desire to maintain a historic and rural feel can be observed through the physical remainder of the exposed historic materials on the main elevation of the house.

Evaluation of the Significance of the Property within the Historic Context

The Peyton-Cooper house and its physical evolution occupies a significant place within the wider tradition of twentieth century suburbanization in the Louisville area, and the United States in general. Suburbanization and the general trend away from urban life in the United States is a significant part of understanding the transition of the built landscape in the United States. As city dwellers moved away from city centers, the once-rural areas started to transform. The trends shown in Louisville's eastern rural expansion show that suburbanization was multi-faceted. Not all suburbanization was based on subdivisions and garages.

The Peyton-Cooper House's transition from a utilitarian dwelling to the materialization of the American desire to live out a rural lifestyle with modern conveniences can be seen through the changes to the house, especially in the twentieth century. Eva Cooper took advantage of the already developed, historic landscape to create a suburban home that wistfully referred to nineteenth century Jefferson County. As the demands of urban dwellers increased, the Peyton-Cooper House underwent further transformations. The twentieth century additions, additional infrastructure, and other modern features are examples of the creature comforts that these wealthy urbanites were requiring in their suburban retreats. By preserving the log structure and historic materials, the building continues to show the dedication to the rural, agrarian ideal that so many city dwellers desired to create in these rural dwellings. The purposeful retention of the historic nature of the building gave residents a link with the building's past, and its residents' past.

The general suburbanization trend in the Post WWII American landscape tended towards newly constructed subdevelopments and auto-centric construction. This often placed the urbanite in an area surrounded by others, all of whom had no familial connection to the locale. The few owners who could obtain an extant residence, and update it for current use, helped establish for the group a resource that provided a toehold connection with the past. The remodeling of historic properties provided a sense of continuity for people whose lives may have felt some displacement as a consequence of the suburban process.

Evaluation of the Integrity Between the Significance and the Property's Physical Condition

Criterion A was selected as the lens to understand the significance of the Peyton-Cooper House. That Criterion emphasizes the historic associations as the basis for eligibility. If the Peyton-Cooper House can be said to retain integrity, its physical presence must reinforce what is important in those historic associations. Those associations come from the delicate balance between the ideals of a newly created suburban lifestyle and the desire for having that lifestyle in places with a connection to the particular past and to the particular place.

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The house remains in its original **location** within the Wolf Pen Branch Corridor on the outskirts of Harrods Creek and Prospect. During its period of significance and today, the house is still surrounded by a rural, wooded **setting**, and is identifiable as a feature built during the outward spread from the urban settings of this area. Mature trees and landscaping continue to surround the house. Further out from the property, tree coverage has been removed and there has been new development. The Peyton-Cooper House maintains a rural setting within the National Register boundaries and the property's viewshed. The nature of the setting continues to reinforce the suburban desires to live in an idyllic rural environment. It shows how the Cooper family intended to mix the convenience of modern amenities with the bucolic setting of a more rural locale compared with the urban setting, which they, and their neighbors, had left behind.

The house possesses an integrity of **Workmanship** and **Materials**. The large wood hewn logs with square notches and filled interstices are still intact, and original entryways and window openings are maintained. On the interior, original wood flooring, plastering, and airflow openings in the dogtrot compose the design, materials, and workmanship from the period of significance. The original limestone chimney, referenced to be from the original construction, has been maintained and is in great condition. Early log house construction methods and materials from the transition of the house to a suburban home are identifiable and valuable to the significance of the Peyton-Cooper house in current physical status, which connects the property to the area's past.

While there have been additions and modifications to the house, they were made during the house's transitional phases, during the historic period. The additions themselves support the integrity of association and feeling to the Period of Significance. Those additions mark the house's transition from a simple, small, log cabin on the outskirts of an isolated community in Jefferson County, into a house that satisfied the desires of a suburbanizing population. Additionally, modifications on the interior are sensitive and do not cover any of the character-defining features from the Period of Significance. These simple, but unobtrusive interior additions were installed to modernize the house in the early twentieth century to add to the creature comforts that the Cooper family were used to in their urban main houses. In-kind replacements such as the cedar shake roof maintain the historic **feeling** and **association** of a nineteenth-twentieth century log house.

The Peyton-Cooper House is an excellent example of a historic structure remodeled into a comfortable suburban living space in eastern Jefferson County. The Wolf Pen Branch Corridor saw the twentieth century movement of wealthy urbanites and their desire to move to, or maintain summer homes, in this more rural, area. The trend to escape the dense urban environment and to have contact with the early American experience of pioneer living may have been a whimsy, but many instances of this are found in this large part of Jefferson County. The physical evolution of this log building, from a simple single pen, to dogtrot style, to its current state as a modernized house is a testament to continued vision of a series of occupants, satisfying their perceived housing needs.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Peyton-Cooper House

Name of Property

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): JF-580

Jefferson County, Kentucky

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.17 acres

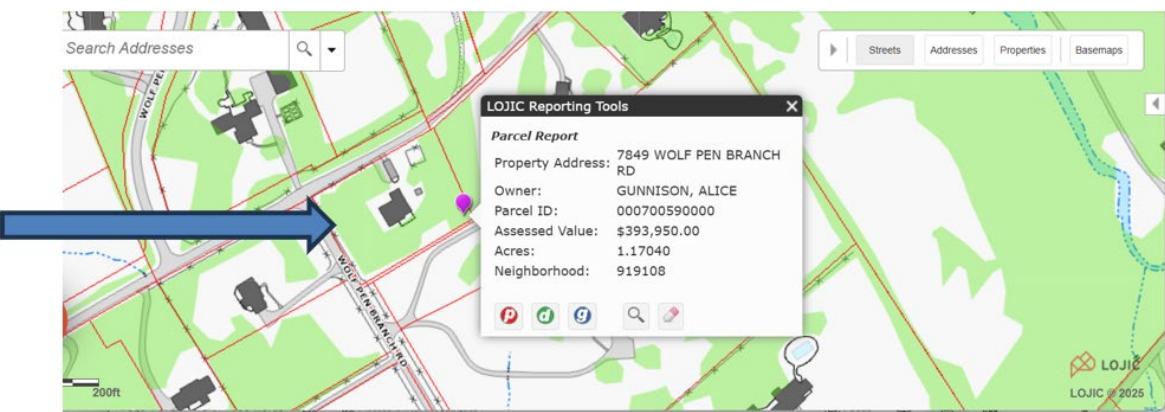
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 38.327922 Longitude: -85.599698

Latitude: 38.327945° Longitude: -85.599656°

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at an old bolt in the center line of Wolf Pen Branch Road and at a turn in said road, said bolt being North 58 degrees 46 minutes 30 seconds East 329.40 feet from a spike in the center of said road at a corner common to the property conveyed to George W. Norton, Jr. and wife, by deed dated June 7, 1935, and of record in Deed Book 1577, page 302, and the property conveyed to Robert D. Becker by deed dated April 26, 1946, and of record in Deed Book 2113, page 43, both in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Jefferson County, Kentucky, thence with the center line of Wolf Pen Branch Road and with the center line of a 30-foot private roadway (referred to as "First Roadway" in deed dated July 27, 1953, recorded in Deed Book 3067, page 43, in said Clerk's office), North 58 degrees 46 minutes 30 seconds East 285 60 feet to a pipe, thence South 25 degrees 28 minutes 30 seconds East passing a pipe in the South line of said private roadway at 15 08 feet, in all 205 07 feet to a pipe; thence South 58 degrees 46 minutes 30 seconds West, passing a pipe in the Easterly line of Wolf Pen Branch Road at 244 01 feet, in all 259.04 feet to a spike in the center of said Wolf Pen Branch Road, thence North 32 degrees 55 minutes 30 seconds West with the center line of Wolf Pen Branch Road, 204 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.275 acres. That area is depicted below:



Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property was selected as it encompasses the current parcel that maintains the log house, associated buildings, and land that was historically significant to the residence and maintain historic integrity.

Peyton-Cooper House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky

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Skinner-Peyton House



0 100 200ft

2/21/2025, 11:23:47 PM



Louisville Metro, MSD, LWC & PVA © 2025

This map is not a legal document and should only be used for general reference and identification.

Peyton-Cooper House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky
County and State

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Alice Gunnison
street & number 7849 Wolf Pen Branch Rd
city or town Prospect telephone _____
state KY zip code 40059

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Wes Cunningham, MA, Sr. Principal Investigator History/Architecture, Director of National Register Nominations & Research
organization: Pinion Advisors
street & number: 1131 Logan Street
city or town: Louisville state: Kentucky zip code: 40204
e-mail: wcunningham@pinionadvisors.com
telephone: 502-807-0575
date: August 2025

name/title: Abby Marshall, MS
organization: Architectural Historian
e-mail: abby_marshall@outlook.com
telephone: 260-229-4200

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Peyton-Cooper House
City or Vicinity: Prospect, Kentucky
County: Jefferson County
State: Kentucky
Photographer: Joe Pierson
Date Photographed: January 29, 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 25. Photo view of exterior, front elevation. Showing historic two pens and central dogtrot. Camera facing southeast.
- 2 of 25. Photo view of exterior, front elevation showing surrounding lot. NC garage to the left on the photo. Camera facing southeast.
- 3 of 25. Photo view showing rear addition off the north elevation. NC garage present. Camera facing east.

Peyton-Cooper House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky

County and State

4 of 25. Photo view showing north elevation and original limestone chimney. Camera facing southeast.

5 of 25. Photo view showing north elevation and modern 2009 entrance. NC outbuilding to the left of the photo. Camera facing south.

6 of 25. Photo view showing rear addition on the east elevation. Porch present. Camera facing west.

7 of 25. Photo view showing south elevation. Rear addition present. NC outbuilding to the right of the photo. Camera facing north.

8 of 25. Photo view showing south elevation. South pen with c. 1936 chimney present. Camera facing north.

9 of 25. Photo view of the west and south elevation. Showing original two pens and dogtrot. Camera facing northeast.

10 of 25. Photo view of the west and south elevation. Showing original two pens and dogtrot. Camera facing northeast.

11 of 25. Photo view of original front elevation. Camera facing northeast.

12 of 25. Photo view of rear addition showing living room space. Porch is located to the right side of the photo. Camera facing east.

13 of 25. Photo view of kitchen located in shed addition. Historic rear of the north pen present on west wall. Camera facing west.

14 of 25. Photo view of north pen. Staircase to second floor on the left. Historic round beams and limestone fireplace present. Camera faces northwest.

15 of 25. Photo view of north pen. Staircase to second floor on the left. Historic round beams and limestone fireplace present. Camera facing north.

16 of 25. Photo view of central dogtrot. Airflow openings present. Original wood beam walls present. Camera facing west.

17 of 25. Photo view of rear of dogtrot. Camera facing east.

18 of 25. Photo view of south pen. Original hatch to the attic space present in foreground. Camera facing south.

19 of 25. Photo view of rear addition bedroom. Historic house wood beam wall present on the west wall. Camera facing southwest.

20 of 25. Photo view of c. 1954 bathroom. Camera facing south.

21 of 25. Photo view of hallway located to the rear of central dogtrot. Leading to rear bathroom addition, C. 1954. Camera facing east.

22 of 25. Photo view of c. 1954 bathroom at the rear of the dogtrot hallway. Camera facing east.

23 of 25. Photo of second story bedroom located above the south pen. Camera facing south.

24 of 25. Photo view of second story bedroom located above north pen. Staircase leading to the first floor present. Camera facing southeast.

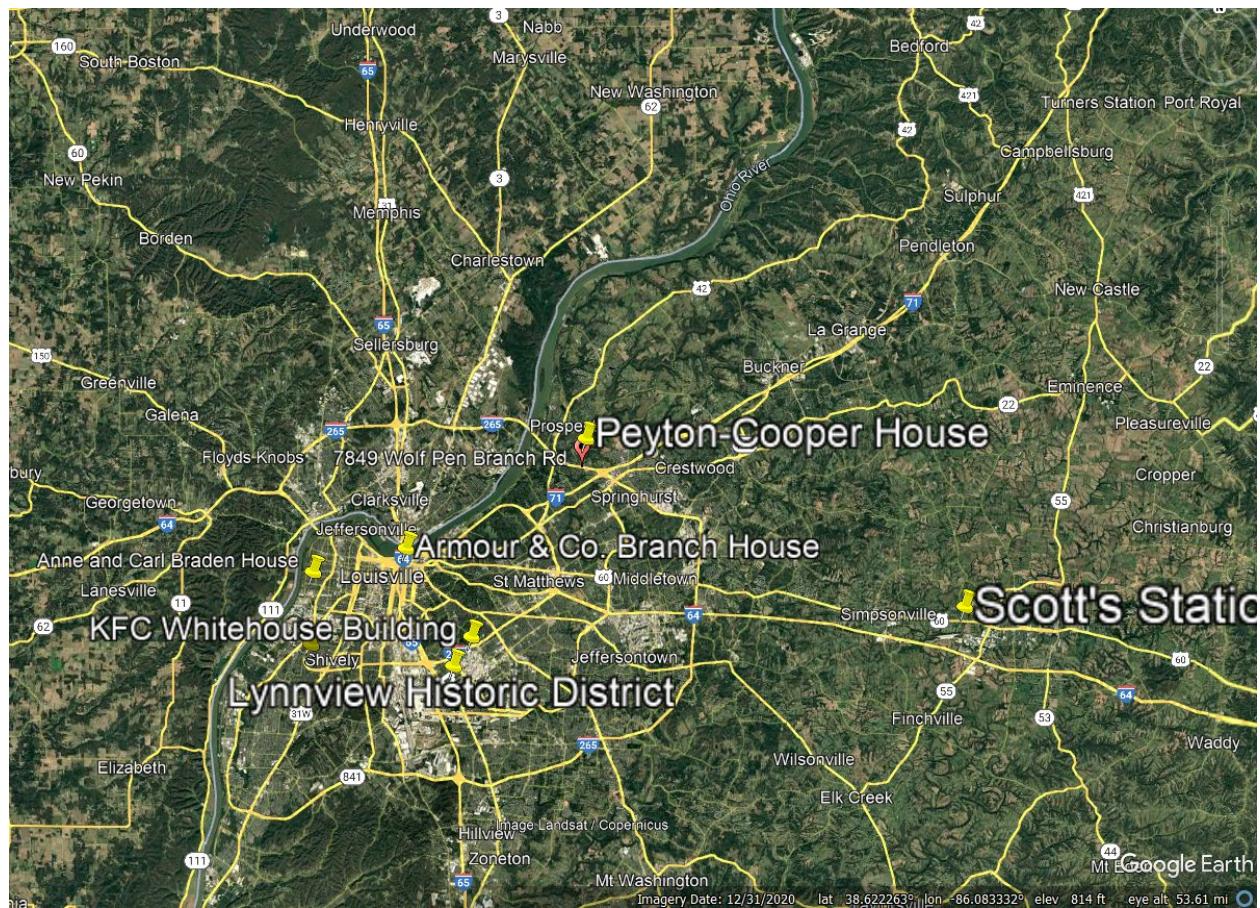
25 of 25. Additional photo of second-story bedroom above the north pen. Taken from staircase. Camera facing northwest.

Peyton-Cooper House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky

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Wide-area map showing Peyton-Cooper House in region along with several recent National Register listings.

Peyton-Cooper House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky

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