### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received DEC 3 0 1335
date entered

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

1. Nan	1e			
historic Th	e Posey Flats			
and/or common	same			
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	r 101-103 E. Third	Street		not for publication
city, town	Newport	vicinity of		
state Kentuc	ky cod	le 021 county	Campbell	code 037
3. Clas	sification			1
Category districtX building(s) structure site object	Ownership publicX private both Public Acquisition NA in process NA being considered	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
street & number	211 East Seventh Newport			Kentucky
city, town		vicinity of	state	
5. LUC		al Description  npbell County Court	5.5	
	Fourth and York		louse	
street & number	Newport		I	Kentucky
city, town	пежроге		state	tenedeky
C D		in Enriching		
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Surveys	
Curvoi	resentation y of Historic Sites	in UV	pperty been determined eli	igible?yes <sup>X</sup> no
title Survey	y of Historic Sites	in UV		
title Survey	y of Historic Sites	in UV	operty been determined eli	

### 7. Description

Condition excellent	X deteriorated ruins	Check one unaltered X altered	X original site	site date	
good	unexposed			uuto	-

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Section 7a. Summary.

The Posey Flats, located at the northeast corner of Third and Monmouth Streets in downtown Newport, is a high-style apartment block dating from 1890. The four-story twin structures, imposing in scale, dominate the streetscape. Outstanding examples of the Queen Anne patterned masonry style, the Flats buildings feature complex massing and lively detailing. They are notable for their elaborate roof treatment and profusion of brick and stone ornament. Numerous Eastlake-inspired interior features also remain intact.

Section 7b. Description.

The Posey Flats, located at 101-103 East Third Street, is one of many distinguished Victorian buildings in the city of Newport, Kentucky. Newport (1980 population: 21,600) is located in Campbell County, on the south bank of the Ohio River opposite Cincinnati. The city is one of several adjacent river communities with rich inventories of nineteenth century architecture. A comprehensive survey of Newport's resources, conducted by the State Preservation Office in 1978-1979. documented over 200 significant structures. The Mansion Hill Historic District, located in the east end of the city, was listed on the National Register in 1980 and expanded in 1985. The adjacent East Newport District was added to the Register in 1983. Historic designation was also proposed for part of Monmouth Street, the city's main commercial corridor, in 1982. However, strong local opposition prevented its listing. Numerous individual landmarks have also been included in the Register, including the Southgate-Maddox House (listed 1974), St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1979), and Salem Methodist Church (1986).

The Posey Flats is located on the northern edge of Newport's central business district. Its neighborhood, once a fashionable residential district, lost its prestige as it was gradually taken over by commercial uses. Urban renewal, repeated floods, and general disinvestment further altered it almost beyond recognition. Thus the Posey Flats is one of the few buildings to maintain a link with the neighborhood's past.

Because of their imposing scale, and the relatively modest nature of surrounding new construction, the Posey buildings dominate the streetscape. They are clearly visible from Cincinnati, and

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101-103 E. 3rd St., Newport KY

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their distinctive rooflines are icons of the Newport skyline. The Flats buildings are sited on the crest of a gentle slope and offer dramatic views of downtown Cincinnati and the Ohio River.

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The Posey buildings are four-story twin structures, separated by a narrow passageway. Commercial uses have historically occupied the ground floors, with apartments above. The buildings are rectangular in shape, with slightly recessed north courtyards. (See outlines of buildings as depicted on 1894 and 1910 Sanborn maps.) Ornament is confined to the elevations facing Third Street (south) and Monmouth Street (west); their north and east faces, not intended to be seen, are hence devoid of detail. (See photos 1, 9, 10, 11.)

The Flats buildings are exceptional examples of the Queen Anne patterned masonry style, complex in massing and lively in detail. A focal point is formed by their richly ornamented, mansarded roofs, still clad in their original polychrome, imbricated slate. An array of varied dormers, and six corbeled chimneys, also add visual interest. An elaborate pressed-metal cornice, with a double row of alternating brackets, surmounts a fluted frieze. (Photos 2, 10.)

A series of bays and turrets lends a pleasing rhythym to the buildings' facades. Most prominent is the hexagonal turret rising from the second story of 101; it culminates in a "witch's cap" peak. A four-story rectangular bay, crowned by a convex mansarded dormer, dominates the facade of 103. (Photos 2, 10.)

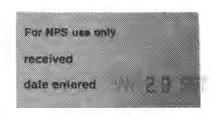
Both buildings are embellished with a profusion of masonry ornament. They feature continuous lintels and sills of smooth sandstone, with incised floral motives, egg-and-dart carvings, and "sawtooth"-patterned string courses. Narrow, half-fluted stone piers flank the windows of 103. Also noteworthy are the checkerboard-like brick panels found on both buildings, with alternating smooth-surface and rought-cut stretchers. A stone tablet over the east entrance to 103 bears the name "Posey Flats East." (Photos 2, 11.)

While the upper stories of the Posey buildings have remained virtually intact, their ground-floor commercial spaces have undergone some minor (and reversible) alterations. The original plate-glass windows have been cluttered and half-hidden by modern

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signs, but their basic configuration is still recognizeable. The iron storefront piers, obscured somewhat by paint and grime, remain intact. Suitably ornate in design, they feature floral, sunburst, and lattice-like patterns. Awning hardware, installed by the Kraus Awning Company of Newport, is still in place. The buildings' original balcony/fire escapes, of delicate wrought iron, can still be seen above the passageway that separates the two structures. (Photos 3, 4, 10, 5.)

Although numerous remodellings have altered the Posey buildings' interiors, their original floor plans are still recognizeable, and much of their historic fabric is intact. The Posey buildings were designed in in accordance with the latest notions of high-style apartment design, which specified large living spaces with an abundance of natural light and cross-ventilation. The long, shallow plan of the buildings made it possible for each apartment to be surrounded by windows, with none of the dark interior spaces that characterized earlier tenement houses. The buildings originally featured one apartment per floor, divided by a long central hallway, but these spaces were later partitioned into two units. Rooms are large and varied in shape, with high ceilings.

Spacious foyers extend the length of both buildings, and the vestibule of 101 retains its original encaustic tile flooring in shades of Pompeiian red and cream. Both buildings feature central staircases of stained and varnished oak, with rectangular newels and stout balusters styled in the Eastlake manner. The staircases wind to the top floors, with skylights centered above. (Photos 7, 8.)

High-quality materials were used throughout the buildings. Woodwork is "grooved" pine, with corner bullseyes. Hallways are paneled with pine wainscoting which, like the rest of the woodwork, was originally grained in imitation of oak. Flooring is narrow tongue and groove oak, with stained borders designed to resemble parquet; unfortunately much of this detailing has been damaged by water leaks. A few rooms feature pocket sliding doors. Some original iron mantlepieces remain, with elaborate tile hearths and surrounds. (Photos 6, 7.) The Posey buildings' storefronts are still in active use; their upper floors, however, are currently vacant.

#### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlemen industry invention	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	ca. 1890	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Section 8a. Significance.

The Posey Flats, built in 1890, was Newport's first apartment block. Built to house the well-to-do, it introduced a new lifestyle-elegant apartment living-to the city. The Posey was developed by industrialist L. O. Maddox, one of Campbell County's leading citizens of the late nineteenth century. The twin Flats buildings are among Newport's finest examples of the Queen Anne style. They are notable for their grand scale and exuberant detailing, much of which has been well preserved. The buildings enjoy great visual prominence, and together comprise one of the major landmarks of central Newport.

Section 8b. History.

The Posey Flats was developed as an investment by Lewis Oliver Maddox (also spelled "Maddux"), one of Campbell County's leading citizens of the late nineteenth century. Maddox was one of a number of entrepreneurs to move from Cincinnati to Newport in the late 1800's. He was proprietor of one of the major industries of nearby Dayton, Kentucky; a distillery that bore his name. Maddox's wife Fannie Foote was a descendant of the the Taylor family, founders and original developers of the adjacent cities of Newport and Bellevue. In 1894 Fannie Foote Maddox founded the Keturah Moss Taylor Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This chapter, the first in the Northern Kentucky area and the second in the state, is still in existence in Campbell County. Because of their social prominence, the Maddox family was listed in the Newport Social Register in 1890 and 1898. Maddox's widow was included in the 1910 edition. (1)

On September 13, 1889, Maddox bought a parcel of land at the northeast corner of Third and Monmouth Streets. The lot, which had been in foreclosure, was purchased for the relatively modest price of \$3523.00. (2) The 1886 Sanborn map of Newport shows the site occupied by two small residences. However, Maddox had more ambitious plans in mind. At an as-yet-undetermined date soon afterward, the existing buildings were destroyed, and construction of the "Posey Flats" began.

Apartment buildings were no longer a novelty in Cincinnati, having

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical D	ata
Acreage of nominated property <u>less that</u> Quadrangle name <u>Newport</u> UTM References	1 acre Quadrangle scale 1:24000
A 1 6 7 1 6 3 6 0 4 3 3 0 0  Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
C	
	#
See continuation sheet	
List all states and counties for propert state $n/a$	es overlapping state or county boundaries county $n/a$ code
state	
11. Form Prepared	
name/title Margaret Warminski, Ar	
organization	date August 1986
street & number 236 East Fourth St	eet <b>telephone</b> (606) 291-1242
city or town Newport	state Kentucky
12. State Historic I	reservation Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property v	
national state	X local
665), I hereby nominate this property for incl according to the criteria and procedures set	Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89 sion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated orth by the National Park Service.
State Historic Preservation Officer signature  STATE HISTORIC PRESERVA	TION OFFICER date DECEMBER 23, 1986
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is included by the second of the	ded in the National Register    Reftered in the   1/29/87
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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been introduced in the 1880's by the Emery Brothers development firm. But the Posey buildings were the first of their kind in Newport, a city of small-scale homes and rowhouses. The Third and Monmouth site was ideal for such a development, since the surrounding neighborhood was then a fashionable residential district. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the vicinity of East Third St. was home to many of the city's "first families," who lived in gracious mansions of the Civil War era. A city park, developed at Second and Monmouth Streets after the turn of the century, added to the desirability of the neighborhood. (See 1910 Sanborn map.) Maddox himself resided in the landmark Southgate-Maddox house at 24 East Third, diagonally opposite the Posey buildings. (3)

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Although evidence is still inconclusive, it appears the Posey was developed in the flurry of real estate speculation that greeted Newport's decision to build a second bridge across the Ohio. The Central Railway Bridge, as the new span would be called, would connect York Street in Newport with Broadway and Pearl Streets in Cincinnati. The new bridge would be Newport's first efficient link with its larger neighbor and would enable the city to upgrade and expand its street railway system. Subscriptions for the new span began to be raised in late 1889, which coincided with Maddox's purchase of the land. The Posey site was strategically located at the junction of two streetcar lines, one block east of the proposed bridge; a site that would prove very desirable once the span was completed.

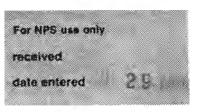
Research has not yet revealed the identity of the architect who designed the Posey Flats. However, architectural clues point to Samuel B. Hannaford, Cincinnati's premier nineteenth-century designer. Hannaford was also responsible for the Emery Brothers' early apartment blocks in Cincinnati, some of which are similar in basic plan and execution.

The first tenant of the Posey Flats' commercial space, according to the 1892 Newport Directory, was the Herman Koegel Drugstore. During the 1920's, the storefront of the east building housed one of the early stores of the Kroger Grocery and Baking Company, predecessor of the nationally-known supermarket chain. (4) Apartment dwellers included William Elden, proprietor of an iron foundry, and his

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family. The wealthy and prominent Eldens moved into the east building in the late 1890's. They were listed in the Social Register of 1910. (5)

The heirs of L. O. Maddox sold the Posey Flats in 1912. It is not known whether the buildings were damaged by the devastating flood of 1937, with its 80-foot crest, which destroyed a number of nearby structures. During the height of the Great Depression, the Posey buildings went into foreclosure. Since then, they have had a series of owners. (6)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Mrs. Devereux's Blue Books of Cincinnati, 1890, 1910. Cincinnati. Address book and Elite Family Director, 1898.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Master Commissioner Deedbook, page 108.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The Southgate-Maddox House was listed in the National Register in 1974.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Blue Book, 1910.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Williams' Newport Directories, 1892, 1926.

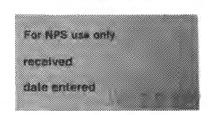
 $<sup>^6</sup>$ Deed book 131, page 184. Master Commissioner Deedbook 11, page 30.

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Continuation sheet

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#### REFERENCES

Campbell County Deed Books, Campbell County Courthouse, Newport. Deed Book 131, page 184. Master Commissioner Deed Book 2 page 108; Book 11, page 30.

CINCINNATI ADDRESS BOOK AND ELITE FAMILY DIRECTORY. Cincinnati, Ohio: 1898.

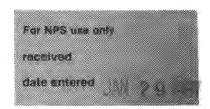
MRS. DEVEREUX'S BLUE BOOKS OF CINCINNATI. Cincinnati, Ohio: 1890, 1910.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Newport, Kentucky. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1886, 1894, 1910.

Williams' Newport City Directories for the following years: 1885, 1892 1898, 1926.

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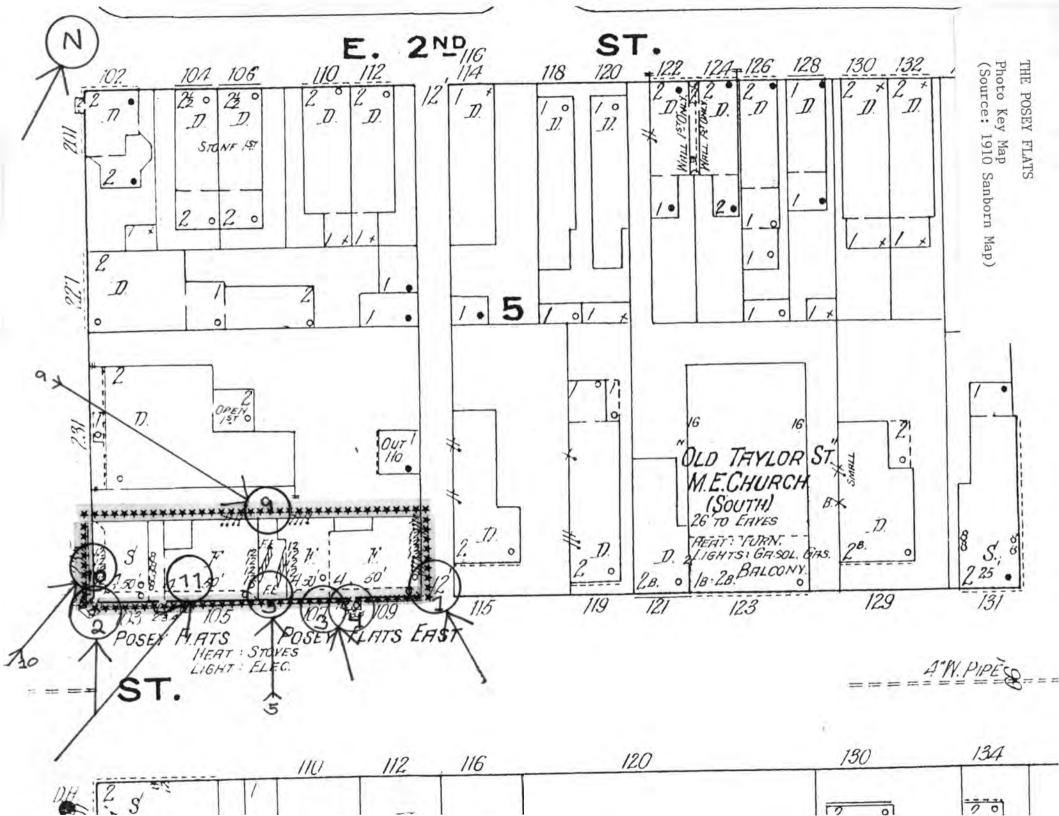
Section 10. Legal Description.

This property includes all of Parcel 23 of Lots 121 and 122, Original Plan of Newport.

Beginning at a point in the east line of Monmouth St., this point being its intersection with the north right of way line of E. Third St.:

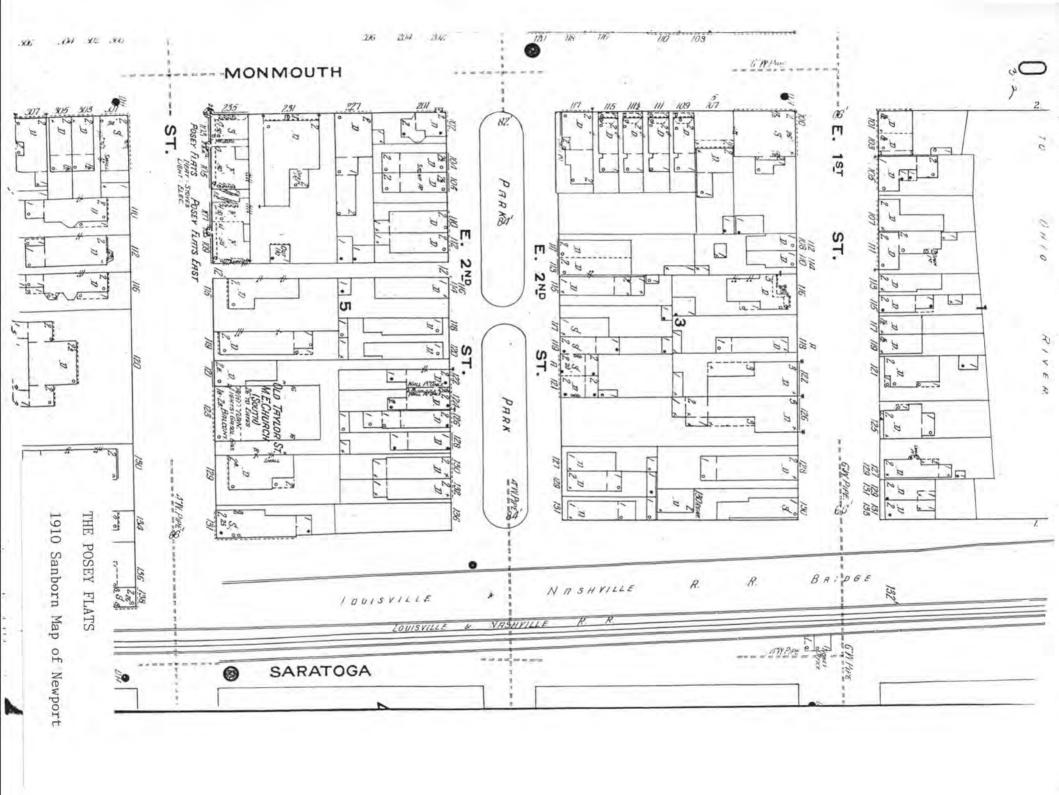
then proceeding north along Monmouth St. at right angles to E. Third St. a distance of 30 feet to a point; then proceeding east at right angles to Monmouth St. a distance of 120 feet to the west right of way line of McClure Alley; then south along said alley, parallel to Monmouth St., a distance of 30 feet to the north right of way line of E. Third St.; then proceeding west along said line for 120 feet to its intersection with the east line of Monmouth St.: the place of beginning.

The above description includes all the property traditionally associated with the Posey Buildings. It excludes non-contributing elements to the north and east.



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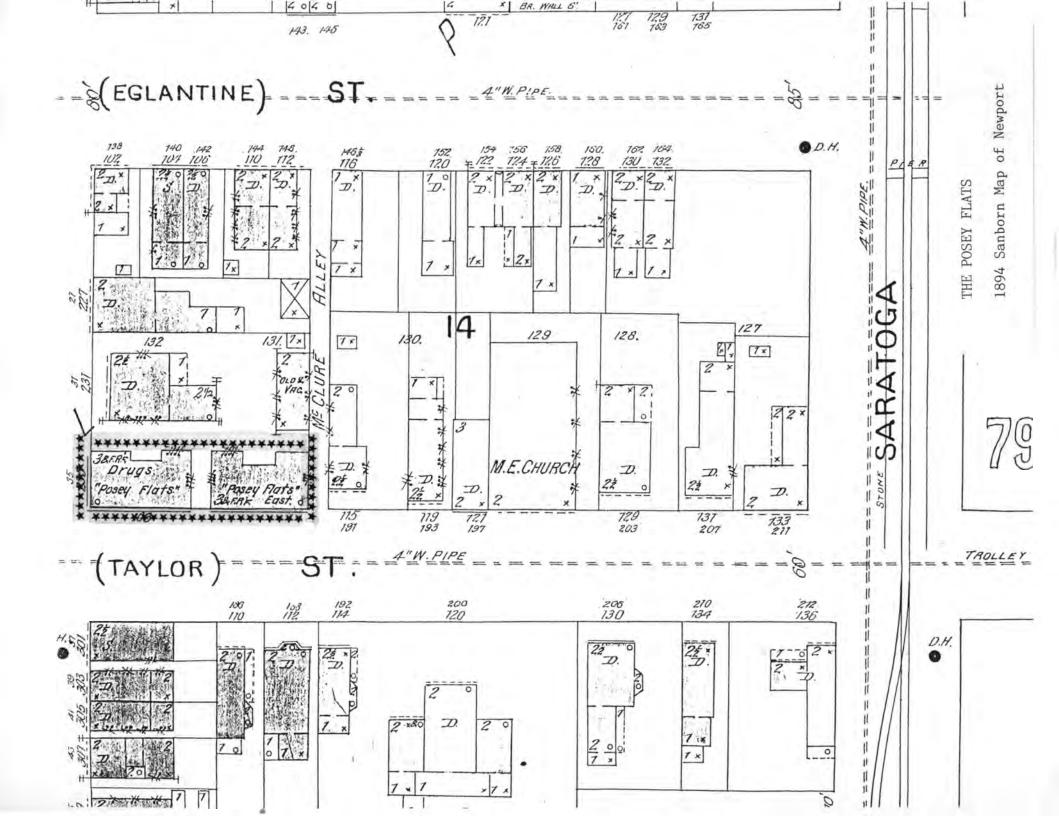
KY. HERITAGE COUNCIL



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WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

☐ boundary selection

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Posey Flats Campbell County KENTUCKY			Working No. DEC 3 0 1986
			Fed. Reg. Date:
			Date Due: //29/87 - 3/13/87
		Manual III	Action:ACCEPT/-28-87
resubmission		But area	
nomination by person	nomination by person or local government		REJECT
owner objection			Federal Agency:
☐ appeal			
Substantive Review:	□ sample □ request	appeal	☐ NR decision
Reviewer's comments:			
			Recom./Criteria
			Reviewer
			Discipline
			Date
			see continuation sheet
Nomination returned for:	technical corrections cited substantive reasons discuss		
1. Name			
2. Location			
3. Classification			
Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
4. Owner of Property			
5. Location of Legal Des	cription		
6. Representation in Exi	sting Surveys		To-
Has this property been de	etermined eligible?	no	
7. Description			
Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	original site
good	ruins	altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		
Describe the present and	original (if known) physical appea	rance	
O aumment necessaria			
summary paragraph			
completeness			
clarity			
alterations/integrity dates			
uates			

8. Signi	ficance				
Period	Areas of Signifi	cance—Check and justify	y below		
Specific Stateme	dates ent of Significance (	Builder/Archite in one paragraph)	ect		
com	icable criteria fication of areas che ting significance to se text tionship of integrity fication of exception	the resource to significance			
9. Majo	or Bibliographical R	eferences			
10. Ge	ographical Data				
		perty		44	
	ngle name eferences				
UTMR	eterences				
Verbal	boundary description	on and justification			
11. Fo	rm Prepared By				
12. Sta	te Historic Preserva	tion Officer Certification	n		
The eva	luated significance	of this property within t	the state is:		
	national	state	local		
State L	istoric Preservation	Officer cianature			
State II	istoric Freservation	Officer signature			
title		date			
13. Ot	her				
☐ Map ☐ Pho ☐ Oth	tographs				
Questio	ons concerning this	nomination may be direc	cted to		
6:				2.00.0	
Signed.			Date	Phone:	



























## KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL The State Historic Preservation Office

December 23, 1986

Mr. Jerry Rogers, Keeper National Register of Historic Places National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior 1100 L Street, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The following nomination to the National Register of Historic Places was approved at the state level by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board on September 23, 1986. As State Historic Preservation Officer, I recommend it be entered in the National Register.

#### Name & Location of Site

The Posey Flats

101-103 East Third Street, Newport, Campbell Co., KY

Your early consideration of this nomination will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

David L. Morgan, Director

Kentucky Heritage Council and

State Historic Preservation Officer

DLM:JR/bsc

Enclosures

0 6

DEC 30 1986