

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 19 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC AND/OR COMMON
* * John Pope House
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
207 Walnut Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Springfield VICINITY OF 02 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Washington CODE 229

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
L. F. Sims, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER
207 Walnut Street

CITY, TOWN
Springfield VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Springfield STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE
1971 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN
Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house John Pope had built as a retirement residence at the northern edge of Springfield (now a built-up residential area) in 1839 was constructed by John Riley. The fact that the builder-contractor was the designer, in contrast to the prominent architects Pope chose for some of his earlier commissions, may account for the relatively conservative style of the house. It is one-and-a-half-story brick building, with the usual four rooms on both stories, each with a fireplace served by the two projecting chimneys at the ends of the main block. An unusual feature for a house of this standard early 19th-century type in Kentucky is the presence of two front doors, side by side (perhaps to separate visitors to Pope's library-office from personal acquaintances). Such double doors are extremely common throughout Kentucky in far more modest, usually frame cottages, often apparently built for tenants; they are rare on houses of this scale and elegance of detail.

A long brick ell is attached to the north rear of the main block; this wing contains the kitchen, pantry, and servant's room, with a gallery running the length of the south wall.

The interior of the house is correspondingly unusual (and backward-looking) in that there is no central hall, and the staircase is enclosed in one corner of the chamber room. Most of the millwork, mantels (see photo 3), and seven-panelled doors in the main block are intact and in excellent condition.

There is difference of opinion over the date of the delicate Gothic or Tudor Revival bargeboards on the end-gables and the attractive seven-bay porch (whose pierced upper railing was removed when a large, gabled, dentillated dormer with two windows facing forward was recently located on the roof over the two doors). The porch has openwork trefoil spandrels and diminutive coupled brackets over the chamfered posts. Whether original or added in the mid-19th century, this Gothic trim has a charm of its own.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Riley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house was built in 1835 by John Pope, as his retirement residence. John Pope (1770-1845) was a prominent and sometimes controversial politician and a respected lawyer, who served most of his life in state and national politics. From 1802 to 1804 Pope represented Shelby County in the State legislature, and Fayette County in 1806. A year later he was elected to the United States Senate and served a full six-year term, acting as president pro tem in 1810 and 1811. In 1816 he was appointed secretary of the state of Kentucky by Governor Gabriel Slaughter, but resigned after a few years, perhaps because of public reaction to his espousal of Federalism, unpopular in Kentucky. From 1825 to 1829 he served in the State senate. He relinquished this position to serve as Governor of the Arkansas Territory, having been appointed by President Andrew Jackson, until he again played a controversial role in the conflict over the charter of the Bank of the United States. Between 1837 and 1843 he served as a member of Congress. In the 1878 Biographical Encyclopedia (Armstrong, 1878), John Pope is described as "undoubtedly one of the most distinguished men and able lawyers of his day" (p. 207). He was also a far-sighted architectural patron, having his Lexington mansion designed by B. H. Latrobe and probably being instrumental in the choice of Gideon Shryock for designer of the Arkansas capitol. His last residence in Washington County, however, is a rather conservative late Federal story-and-a-half brick house.

John Pope was born in Prince William County, Virginia, in 1770, the son of Colonel William Pope and Penelope Edwards Pope. His father, a Revolutionary War soldier, brought his family to Kentucky in 1779, and settled at the Falls of Ohio River (what is now Louisville) on a farm. William Pope immediately played a prominent role in the community, serving as one of the nine original trustees of the city of Louisville, established by an act of the Virginia Legislature in 1780. He also served for many years as a justice of the peace. In 1784 he was appointed colonel of the Militia of General Benjamin Harrison, and at the same time was appointed high sheriff. A year later he was elected to represent Jefferson County in the Virginia Assembly.

John Pope received his early schooling at the famous Salem Academy in Bardstown, Kentucky (founded in 1788), operated by Dr. James Priestly, a Presbyterian minister. Other students in Pope's class later prominent citizens were John Rowan (see Federal Hill, Nelson County, listed on the National Register March 11, 1971); Felix Grundy, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals; John Allen, an officer in the War of 1812; and John Daviess, a lawyer and leader in the battle of Tippecanoe. At an early age Pope lost one arm in a mill accident. As a result he

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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 . "The Life and Times of John Pope, 1770-1845," The Filson Club History Quarterly Vol. V. April 1974, pp. 59-77.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 6 | 6 5 6 9 7 0 | 4 1 7 2 2 0 0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

D [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. E. O. Kelly

MC

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

October 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Charles W. Minton

12-18-75

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Tom F. [Signature]
Charles [Signature]

DATE

5/13/96

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

5.12.26

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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decided to turn to the study and practice of law. In later years he referred to his handicap in political campaigns by saying, "he had only one hand to thrust into the treasury of the United States" (The Lawyers and Law Makers of Kentucky, 1879, p. 576).

After completing his studies at the Salem Academy, it is believed that Pope studied law in the office of George Nicholas in Lexington, Kentucky. Nicholas, an eminent lawyer, was credited with being the author of the first constitution of Kentucky, the first attorney general of Kentucky, and the founder of Transylvania Law School in Lexington.

Pope began law practice in Shelbyville, Kentucky, around 1790. In 1795 he married Anne Henry Christian, daughter of General William Christian, one of the first settlers of Louisville, and niece of the famous statesman, Patrick Henry. By 1798 Pope had established a successful practice and had a reputation as an ardent Federalist, supporting the principles of Alexander Hamilton. As a result, in 1799 he advocated the amendment of the Kentucky Resolutions of 1789, which developed the states-rights theory of the Constitution, which he opposed. By 1800, however, Pope reversed his opinion and supported Thomas Jefferson, becoming a Republican. In 1801 he was elected as one of Kentucky's Presidential Electors and cast his vote for Jefferson.

In 1802 Pope was elected as representative to the Kentucky legislature. Upon the end of his term in 1804, he moved from Shelbyville to Lexington and once again opened a law practice. In 1807 he was elected to a full term in the United States Senate, defeating John Adair who was later Governor of Kentucky in 1820. In the Senate Pope was recognized as the leader of the Republican party, serving as president pro tem in 1810, 1811. In 1807 Pope's wife died. He was remarried in 1810 to Elizabeth Janet Dorcas Johnson, daughter of Joshua Johnson, the first American Consul-General to England. Her sister, Louisa, was the wife of John Quincy Adams, then U.S. Minister to Russia. Elizabeth Johnson's mother was English and Elizabeth had spent a great deal of her youth in England. Before the outbreak of war with Great Britain in 1812, Pope leaned toward the Federalist party, in that he was opposed to war with Great Britain while most Republicans supported it. Sentiment for war with England in Kentucky was particularly strong and when Pope ignored the State legislature's resolutions to vote for war and voted against it he became very unpopular in the State. It is believed that he was influenced by his wife to vote against the war. As a result of this disfavor he did not run for re-election at the end of his term in 1813.

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From 1813 to 1816 Pope returned to Lexington and concentrated on his private practice. He also taught at the Transylvania Law School while Dr. Horace Holley served as president. He was later elected to the Board of Trustees, but resigned in 1820 when he moved to Springfield, Kentucky. During this time he built a mansion in Lexington which was designed by the noted American architect, Benjamin H. Latrobe.

In 1816 Pope was appointed the secretary of state of Kentucky by Governor Gabriel Slaughter, who had been elected Lieutenant Governor and became acting Governor at the death of George Madison in 1816. Pope's appointment was strongly opposed by Kentucky Republicans because of his Federalist associations. The ill feeling toward Pope was soon reflected on Slaughter and as a result the question of whether a Lieutenant Governor could succeed a Governor at the Governor's demise, became an issue in State politics. It is unclear whether Pope resigned in 1819 in order to curtail the disfavor of Governor Slaughter, or if he resigned to run for a seat in the State house of Representatives, but Pope was defeated.

Pope remarried in 1820, his second wife having died in 1818. His third wife was Mrs. Frances Watkins Walton of Washington County, widow of General Mathew Walton, an early settler and state politician. At the time of his death in 1819, General Walton was one of the wealthiest men in the state. After his marriage he moved to Springfield, Kentucky, and lived in Walton Manor, the mansion built by General Walton (see the National Register form on the Walton Manor house and law office later used by Pope; approved at the State level June 10, 1975).

In 1825 he was elected to the State legislature from Washington County. In the Presidential election he supported General Andrew Jackson and canvassed Kentucky and Virginia for votes for him. In return Jackson appointed John Pope Governor of the Arkansas Territory. The last three years of Pope's governorship, however, were marked with bitter disagreement between the two men, which ultimately resulted in Pope's resignation in 1835. Pope differed with Jackson over his fiscal policies, particularly Jackson's veto of the renewal of the charter of the Bank of the United States. Pope, a firm supporter of the Bank, which conflicted with the popular sentiment in the South, offered his opinion and advice to the President. Jackson opposed and resented the advice and subsequently, did not re-appoint Pope governor in 1835.

Disappointed, Pope returned to Kentucky and ran for Congress, openly denouncing Jackson and the Democratic party. He ran against Benjamin Hardin (see Edgewood, Nelson County, listed on the National Register July 31, 1975), but was defeated. He ran again in 1837 and was elected and served until 1843. During this time, when many abolitionists were speaking against

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slavery, he opposed them, for he foresaw that the issue would divide the Union.

Pope was defeated for re-election in 1843 and this time he retired from public office to his home in Springfield.

Pope had only two children, one dying in infancy. His only surviving daughter, Elizabeth Trotter Pope, married John Watkins Cocke in 1829. At this time Pope sold Walton Manor to his son-in-law. At Elizabeth Cocke's death in 1835, Cocke sold it back to Pope. Apparently the house held too many sad memories for both, for Pope immediately sold the property and constructed the present brick house at the northern limit of Springfield. This residence was considered for many years to be one of the most pretentious houses in the area. Pope's long and eventful life ended here in July 1845.

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