

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

APR 10 1980

DATE ENTERED

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Idlewild

AND/OR COMMON

Colonel E.G. Sebree House

**2 LOCATION**

SE of Trenton on

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. 41

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Todd

CODE

219

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Miss Dolly M. Banks

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 22

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Todd County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1976

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Idlewild is located in rural Todd County in southwestern Kentucky. The house, which faces southwest, is approximately two miles from Trenton, and is situated above Spring Creek.

This two-story, five-bay brick structure is basically Greek Revival in style. Five course, common bond brickwork was used throughout the structure and the two end chimneys are flush with the walls. Stone lintels cap all the facade openings, with stone sills located beneath the windows.<sup>1</sup>

The portico, together with the front cornice, appear to have been added around the late 19th or early 20th century. The portico is composed of Corinthian columns, a modillioned cornice, and a pyramidal roof. A 20th century wrought iron balcony was also added at the second floor level.

The structure has an original one-and-one-half story ell with an end chimney. Two recent windows were added on either side of the end chimney. A separate brick kitchen is situated to the rear of the ell. The dogtrot between has been enclosed.

A central-hall plan, most of Idlewild's original woodwork is intact. The door trim is simple with panelled jambs and bull's eye cornerblocks. The mantelpiece in the dining room (left front) has a breakfront shelf and panelled sides. The original mantle in the parlor (right front) has been replaced by a Colonial Revival one.

The nominated area includes the main house and a frame outbuilding on the west side of the main house (see photo 7)--consisting of approximately one acre, incorporating the domestic space defined on the sides and to the rear by fencing, and, on the front, extending to Hwy. 41.

<sup>1</sup>All the windows throughout the remainder of the house have flat arches. Four windows on the northeast end have been altered to segmental arches.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1830

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Idlewild, one of the few remaining antebellum houses in Todd County, Kentucky, is important because of its historic association with Colonel Elisha G. Sebree, a notable early figure prominent in Kentucky because of his interests in commerce, farming, coal, and railways in this section of the state.

Colonel Elisha G. Sebree was born in the Trenton district of Todd County, Kentucky, in 1817. He was the eldest son of Fendal J. Sebree and Martha C. (Garth) Sebree, natives of Albemarle County, Virginia, who had settled two miles south of Trenton in 1813. At the age of 14, Elisha Sebree became a clerk in the store of his uncle, Granville Garth, in Trenton. After five years in this capacity he began merchandizing for himself at Trenton. He remained in this business for about seven years. He next turned his attention to farming. He purchased the nucleus of his land at \$11.50 per acre and at one time owned about 1,700 acres, much of which was divided among his children before his death. For many years he was an active speculator in cotton and was engaged to a considerable extent in developing the rich coal mines of Hopkins County. He served in the lower house of the Kentucky General Assembly for two sessions from 1853 to 1857 and during the Civil War was a prominent Union supporter.

Perhaps Sebree's chief claim to fame was the prominent role he played in the building of the Evansville, Henderson, and Nashville Railroad. It was primarily through his efforts that it was completed. It was planned to run from Henderson, Kentucky, to a point on the Kentucky and Tennessee state line to connect with the Edgefield and Kentucky Railroad thus making a line from Henderson to Nashville. For twenty-five years, from 1853 to 1878, Colonel Sebree's interests, energy, and fortune were tied up with this railroad venture. He finally obtained clear rights to the railroad in 1867 despite his failure to secure financing through bonds in London, England in 1854, the Civil War, and financial complications afterwards resulting in civil litigation. Much of the original grading before 1857 was done under his personal supervision. In 1878 he sold a controlling interest in the bonds of the railroad to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company. His faith in the enterprise and his energy and exertion finally pushed this railroad project to completion thereby opening to outside markets the fine mineral and agricultural

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Williams, Frances Marion. The Story of Todd County, Kentucky 1820-1970.  
Nashville: The Parthenon Press, 1972.

Battle, J.H. and W.H. Perrin, eds., Counties of Todd and Christian Kentucky: Historical and Biographical. Chicago and Louisville: F.A. Battey Publishing Co., 1884.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1 acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Guthrie Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 116 479360 4060000  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A square approximately 200' x 200' with the house at the apprixmately center. The southwestern boundary is Highway 41.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Calvin P. Jones, Sr. Historian; Jayne Henderson, Historian  
ORGANIZATION DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission  
STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street  
CITY OR TOWN STATE

Frankfort  
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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Edward W. Yelton*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 1-8-80

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*John W. Ray* DATE 4/10/80  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Kristin O'Connell* DATE 4/10/80  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Idlewild

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

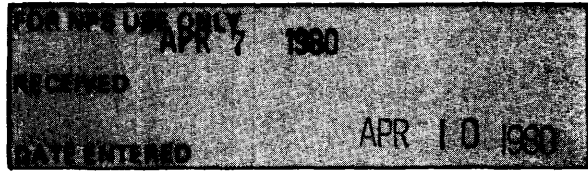
resources of this area. The completion of the railroad made the vast coal property owned by the St. Bernard Coal Company extremely valuable. Colonel Sebree served as its president upon its organization.

Colonel Sebree was married to Sidney Louise Morrison. In 1846 they purchased Idlewild, which had been built in 1830. It is still owned today by one of their grandchildren.

Constructed in 1830, Idelwild is one of few antebellum houses in the area of this style and proportion. The large scale and massing lend an imposing air to the house which can be viewed from the main road. The main portico is especially fine with Corinthian columns and scroll motifs under the cornice.

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Idlewild  
Todd County  
Kentucky

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

ADDENDUM

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the point where the southwestern edge of the driveway and Highway 41 meet, the boundary travels 200 feet northeast to a point at the rear property line; turns northwest 200 feet; turns southwest 200 feet; travels along the northeastern side of Highway 41, 200 feet returning to the point of origin.