

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **JAN 4 1980**  
DATE ENTERED **FEB 20 1980**

**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

Ripy, T.B., House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

320 South Main Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

\_\_ VICINITY OF

2

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Anderson

CODE

005

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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

Dr. & Mrs. George Gilbert

STREET & NUMBER

320 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky 40342

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anderson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

STATE

Kentucky 40342

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1975

\_\_ 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

Located at 320 South Main Street in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, the T.B. Ripy House is two blocks south of the downtown commercial area. Lawrenceburg, with a population of 3,579 (1970 census), is the county seat of Anderson and lies fifteen miles south of Frankfort, the state capital. Anderson County is situated in the western portion of the Bluegrass region.

Facing eastward, the Ripy House sits approximately 300 feet from the road and is sheltered from view by a sweep of pine trees (see photo 1). Completed in 1888, the 2½ story Queen Anne residence is composed of brick accentuated by stone bands. The entrance (see photo 2) is sheltered by a projecting frame porch with gabled roof and a connecting verandah encircles the northeast section of the house. Above the entrance is a recessed area protected by a lattice-like balcony. Windows are generally straight-headed and faced with stone resembling quoins. The gabled section of the facade contains a tripartite window arrangement capped by a wide segmental arch stone band. Paired round arch windows pierce the attic level (see photo 3).

The most striking feature is the octagonal tower at the southeast corner of the house (see photo 4). Stone banding and window facings have been employed here as well to provide visual contrast, while oval windows pierce the upper level. The tower is surmounted by a polychromatic, mansard roof pierced by gabled dormers. A cupola employing the same red and bluish-grey slate shingles and capped with a weathervane completes the tower.

On the south side is a two-story, semi-octagonal bay with a conical roof (see photo 5). A small side entrance with gabled porch is located on the north facade (see photo 6).

A hipped roof with balustraded deck covers the central section of the house, while the other sections are gable-roofed. Pedimented dormers punctuate the various roof planes, and tall panelled chimneys rise above the roofline. A small, single-story unit has been appended to the rear (see photo 7).

On the interior (see floor plan), the wide entrance hall contains a two-tiered, wooden mantle on the north wall. A broad staircase is situated at the rear of the hall also along the north wall. Massive, square newel posts with panelled sides revealing floral motifs are topped with the original gas light fixtures, now adapted to electricity. A four-foot, raised panel, mahogany wainscot encompasses the hall, and the rear wall is panelled above the wainscot with beaded boards in a chevron pattern. Wide arched openings with sliding doors give access from the hall to the parlor and from the parlor to the dining room. The arched transoms above the openings contain stained glass. Wainscoting in both the parlor and the dining room resembles that of the hall but is of walnut. The south end of the dining room opens into a bay. Heavy, squat, cast iron mantles are in both the parlor and dining room. These are marbelized and display gold stenciling. Elaborate cornice moldings with dentils and modillions are in the hall, parlor, dining room and library. Chandeliers in all the major rooms are suspended from ornamental plaster medallions. Transoms over the front door and windows contain mosaic-like stained glass. The back hall is panelled with beaded

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Completed in 1888, the T.B. Ripy House is a locally outstanding example of the Queen Anne style. The variety of materials, textures, and colors employed in its design produce a visually rich composition. The exuberant style and high quality of craftsmanship are reflected on the interior as well in the elaborate woodwork, mantles, and hardware, making the Ripy House one of Lawrenceburg's most noteworthy residences and a local landmark. In addition to its architectural merit, the house was built by Thomas Beebe Ripy, one of the most prominent Anderson county distillers whose whiskey gained international fame (see also Dowling House, listed on the National Register July 10, 1979).

Incorporated in 1824 as Kaufman's Station, Lawrenceburg was renamed in honor of tavern keeper William Lawrence in 1827 when the town became the seat of newly created Anderson County. Historically an agricultural county, the distilling industry has always played a major role in the economy, being the only manufacturing enterprise. At one time there were twenty-one distilleries in the county.<sup>1</sup> Various Anderson County whiskies, including the Ripy label have achieved world renown for their excellence and purity.<sup>2</sup> Joe Peyton is credited with establishing the first distillery in the county in 1818 producing the "Old Joe" label and by 1825, Lawrenceburg had become one of the state's six major centers in the production of whiskey.<sup>3</sup>

During the 1830's, two brothers, John and James Ripy, emigrated to Kentucky from Tyrone County, Ireland, and settled in Lawrenceburg where both engaged in business. John operated a dry goods store four miles south of Lawrenceburg in a community which became known as Ripyville, while James managed a grocery in Lawrenceburg. In 1868, James partnered with Monroe Walker and Samuel P. Martin in establishing the Walker, Martin and Company distillery. The distillery was located east of Lawrenceburg on the Kentucky River at Tyrone which was named by the Ripys for their native county in Ireland.<sup>4</sup>

At the age of 21, Thomas Beebe Ripy, James' youngest son, bought out the interests of Walker and Martin, becoming sole proprietor of the T.B. Ripy Distillery. He expanded and made improvements so that when he eventually sold the plant in 1899 to the Kentucky Distilleries and Warehouse Co. consolidation, he had increased the capacity from 100 bushels per day to 1,500 bushels per day. In 1881, T.B. Ripy joined with Waterfill, Dowling and Company in the founding of the Anderson County Distilling Company also at Tyrone. Ripy bought out his partners in 1885 and operated this plant until 1899 when it too was sold to the Kentucky Distilleries and Warehouse Company. Under his ownership, the plant's capacity grew from 300 bushels per day to 1,500 bushels per day, constituting a daily output of 150 barrels of whiskey.<sup>5</sup>

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Distillery Now Bottling Plant." The Anderson News, Centennial Edition (Lawrenceburg, Kentucky), 1 August 1977, p.19.

Kroll, Harry Harrison. Bluegrass, Belles, and Bourbon. South Brunswick and New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, 1967.  
(see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Lawrenceburg, Ky.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 684690 4211320  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the T.B. Ripy House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Anderson County Property Identification map, drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charlotte Schneider/Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August 1979

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Edward W. Meeter*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-19-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

2/20/80

ATTEST:

*W. Ray Luce*  
FOR KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

2/19/80

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Ripy, T.B., House  
Anderson County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

wainscoting while on the second floor, the woodwork is much less elaborate. Hardware throughout the house is original.

The nominated property comprises the house and property under single ownership.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Other members of the Ripy family figured in the distilling industry. After serving under General John Hunt Morgan in the Civil War, T.B.'s older brother, Colonel James P. Ripy bought the Old Hickory Springs Distillery which he and his son, James B. Ripy, operated until 1899 when the Kentucky Distilleries and Warehouse Company bought the plant.<sup>6</sup> The descendants of both James P. and T.B. were active in the distilling business for many years.<sup>7</sup>

Large conglomerates began buying the small, family-owned distilleries after Prohibition; however, the Ripy name is still associated with the production of whiskey in Anderson County and with the establishment of the once bustling community of Tyrone.<sup>8</sup> Today, the plant at Tyrone is owned by the Austin Nichols Distillery and produces the famous "Wild Turkey" label, continuing to play a vital role in the economy of Anderson County.

<sup>1</sup>Harry Harrison Kroll, Bluegrass, Belles, and Bourbon (South Brunswick and New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, 1967), p.90.

<sup>2</sup>Alexander B. Lipscomb, The Commercial History of the Southern States (Press of John P. Morton and Company, 1903), p.23.

<sup>3</sup>J.F. Willkie, Beverage Spirits in America--A Brief History (New York: The Newcomen Society of England, American Branch, 1947), p.21.

<sup>4</sup>"A Gigantic Industry in Historic Tyrone", The Anderson News, Souvenir Supplement, June 1906, p.51.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Lewis W. McKee and Lydia K. Bond, A History of Anderson County (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1975), p.204

<sup>7</sup>"Ripy Brothers Distilling Company," The Anderson News, Souvenir Supplement, June 1906, p.38; "Distillery Now Bottling Plant," The Anderson News, Centennial Edition, 1 August 1977, p.19.

<sup>8</sup>Kroll, p.87.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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McKee, Lewis W., and Bond, Lydia K. A History of Anderson County. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1975.

"Ripy Brothers Distilling Company." The Anderson News. Souvenir Supplement (Lawrenceburg, Kentucky), June 1906, p.38.

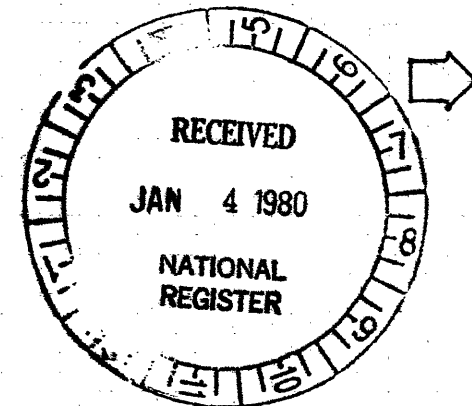
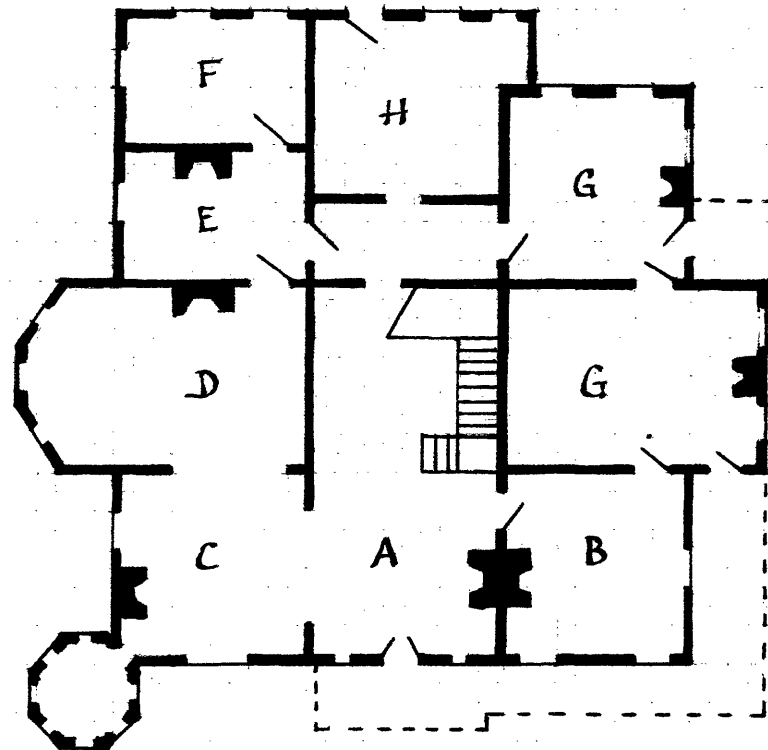
Willkie, H.F. Beverage Spirits in American--A Brief History. New York: The Newcomen Society of England, American Branch, 1947.

T. B. RIPPY HOUSE  
LAWRENCEBURG

KENTUCKY

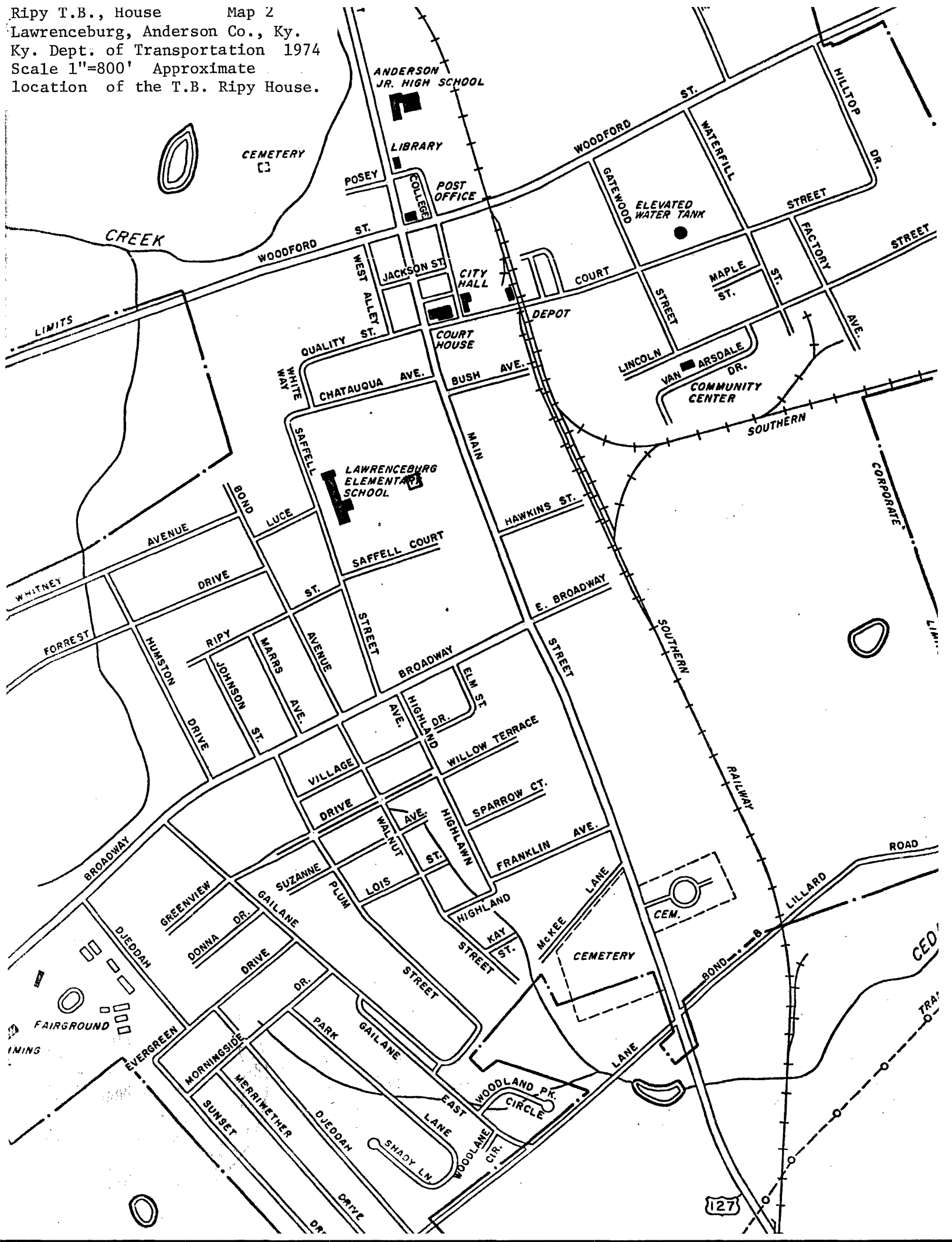
NOT TO SCALE

- A - HALL
- B - LIBRARY
- C - PARLOR
- D - DINING ROOM
- E - BREAKFAST ROOM
- F - KITCHEN
- G - CHAMBER
- H - ADDITION





Ripy T.B., House Map 2  
Lawrenceburg, Anderson Co., Ky.  
Ky. Dept. of Transportation 1974  
Scale 1"=800' Approximate  
location of the T.B. Ripy House.



Ripy, T. B., House  
Lawrenceburg, Anderson  
County, Ky.  
Ky. Dept. of Revenue  
scale 1"=200'  
Map 3

