

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

982

1. Name

historic McMahan House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 203 Washington Street

NA not for publication

city, town LaGrange

NA vicinity of

congressional district 2

state Kentucky

code 021

county Oldham

code 185

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military

museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other: undergoing
rehabilitation

4. Owner of Property

name Pike, Rosenblum & Oliver; Attorneys at Law

street & number 104 North Second Street

city, town LaGrange

NA vicinity of

state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Oldham County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town LaGrange

state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Heritage Division

city, town Frankfort

state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The McMahan House is located in LaGrange, a small county seat town of approximately 2,720 in eastern Oldham County, Kentucky. Primarily agricultural, Oldham County lies in the northcentral portion of the state along the Ohio River northeast of metropolitan Jefferson County. Facing northwestward, the house is situated on the southeast corner of Washington and Walnut streets, roughly two blocks southeast of the courthouse and one block south of Main Street.

Constructed ca. 1820, the brick structure embodies the standard I-house form, consisting of a five-bay, single-pile, center-passage plan with a two-story brick ell on the rear (see photos 1 & 2). The main (north) facade is laid in double-stretcher Flemish bond with queen closers while American bond was used for the rear and gable ends. Most of the original stencilled, grapevine mortar joints appear to remain intact above the level of the first floor window sills. Jack arches surmount the openings on the first floor; however 2/2 sash have replaced the original smaller panes. Evidence remains on the brickwork of a one-story porch which sheltered the center entrance. A new cornice, rake boards, and asphalt roof have been added and all three interior chimneys are being rebuilt. A late nineteenth-century, two-story frame porch which occupied the angle of the ell has been removed (see photo 3).

On the interior, a significant amount of the early woodwork remains, although subsequent nineteenth century modifications are evident (see photo 4) in the iron fireplace grates and stove flues, the rounded arch moldings of the front door, and the deep, molded baseboards on the first floor and throughout the ell. Each room, however, retains a Federal mantle, the most elaborate one being in the east chamber of the main block (see photos 5, 6, & 7). In addition, the original architrave moldings around the doors and windows remain (see photos 8 & 9) as do the panelled doors. The latter consist of four graduated horizontal panels in the upper two-thirds of the door and two vertical panels in the lower third. Built-in cupboards are located on each side of the fireplace in the first floor east chamber. Stairs run along the west wall of the center hall (see photos 10 & 11). In the ell, a partition separates the large south room from a small passage which contains corner stairs along the east wall and against the rear of the main block.

The owners are currently in the process of renovating the building for use as office space and plan to utilize the incentives of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 to aid in the rehabilitation.

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1st ¼ 19th century **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The McMahan House is the only remaining early nineteenth century structure in LaGrange, Kentucky. As such, the five-bay brick I-house is the town's only tangible link with its early settlement and building period. The double-stretcher Flemish bond of the north facade and the remaining interior Federal moldings and mantles are evidence of the building's early construction date; however, the existence of later nineteenth century details demonstrates the structure's continued use which account to some extent for its current state of preservation.

Oldham County was established in 1823 from parts of Jefferson, Shelby and Henry counties. Laid out in 1825, the county seat of LaGrange was named after the French country estate of the Marquis de LaFayette whose well-publicized visit to Kentucky occurred in the same year as the founding of LaGrange. Land for the new town was donated by Colonel William Berry Taylor who had settled in the area in the late eighteenth century.¹ The provisions of his donation required that lots be set aside for a courthouse, church, school, and a graveyard.

Historically, Oldham County has been a rich agricultural region. Although expanding development from Louisville in neighboring Jefferson County encroaches upon the rural landscape and has caused property values to rise dramatically in recent years, overall, the county still manages to retain its agrarian character.

¹ Col. Taylor's residence, Spring Hill, is located approximately four miles south of LaGrange and was listed in the National Register on 2 April 1980.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Collins, Lewis & Richard H. History of Kentucky. 2 vols. Berea, Kentucky: Kentucke Imprints, 1976.

Kentucky Heritage Commission. "Spring Hill," Oldham County, Kentucky. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Frankfort, Kentucky. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property .29

Quadrangle name LaGrange

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	1	6
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6	4	1	7	1	0
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4	2	5	1	9	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated acreage consists of the city lot on which the house is located. The lot is rectangular in shape and located on the south-east corner of Walnut and Washington fronting 104' on Washington and 163' on Walnut.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charlotte Schneider/Architectural Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Commission

date December 1980

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

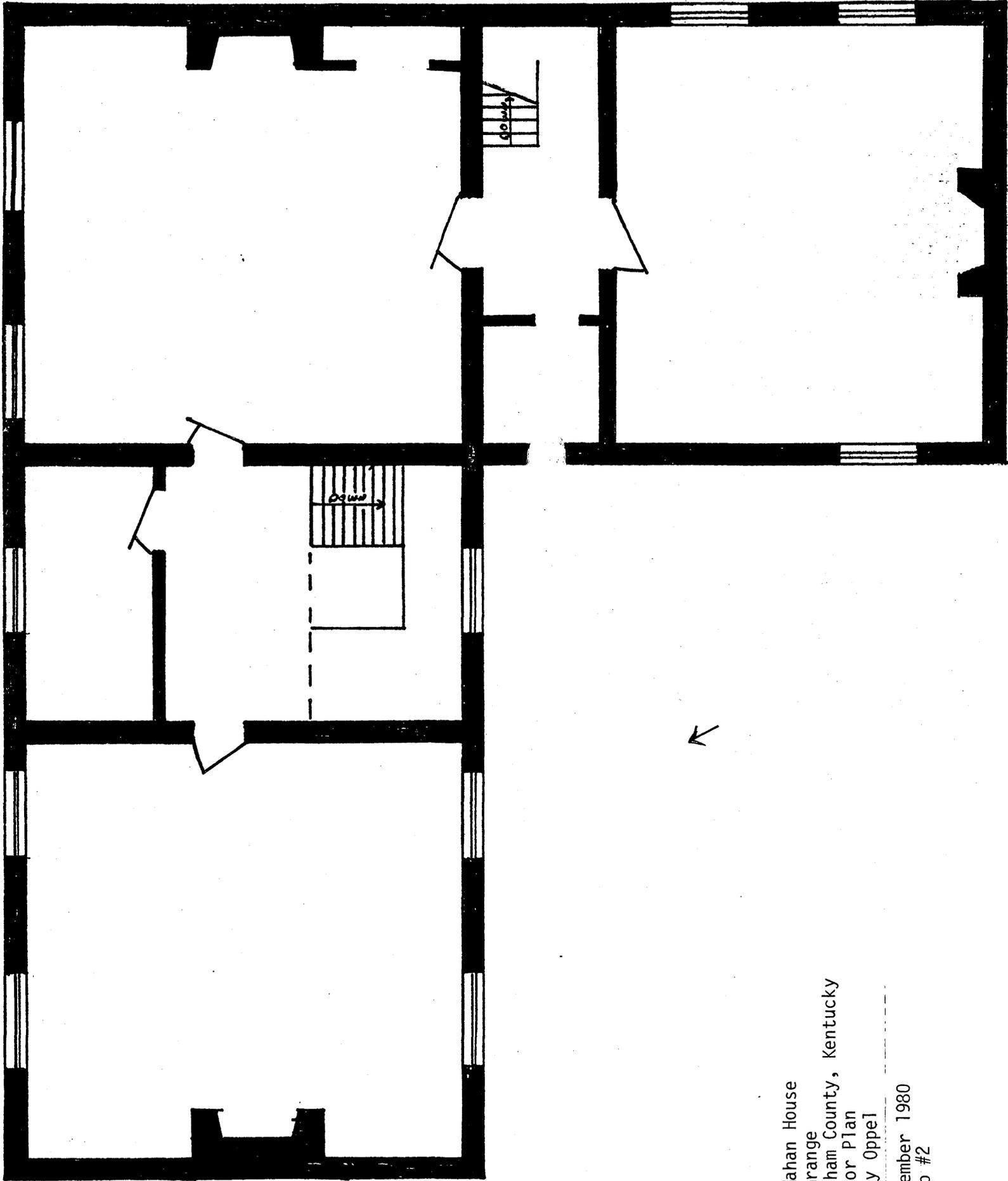
Mary Ann O'Connell

title SHPO

date 3/23/82

for *Mary Ann O'Connell* *SHPO*
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Special Agent in Charge, National Register
ADH
GPO 938 835



MaMahan House
LaGrange
Oldham County, Kentucky
Floor Plan
Mary Oppel

November 1980
Map #2