UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 3 0 1980

AUG | 1 1980

DATE ENTERED

1111 Z111 OK				
SEE	INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO TYPE ALL ENTRIES O			RMS
1 NAME				
HISTORIC	Gatliff, Dr. Ancil, Ho	use		
AND/OR COMMON	Same			,
2 LOCATIO				
STREET & NUMBER				
	South Fifth Street		NOT FOR PUBLICAT	TION
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL	DISTRICT
	Williamsburg	VICINITY OF	5	
STATE	Kentucky	021	COUNTY Whitley	235
3 CLASSIFI	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	P	RESENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTUF	
$X_{BUILDING(S)}$	X PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIA	
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATION/	X
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINN	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMEN	
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
4 OWNER O	F PROPERTY			
NAME				
MAME	Mrs. T. E. Mahan			
STREET & NUMBER		<del></del>		
	South Fifth Street			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	77 4 1
	<del></del>	VICINITY OF		Kentucky
5 LOCATIO	N OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEED	s <sub>ETC</sub> Whitley Co	unty Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
	Williamsburg			Kentucky
6 REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TÏTLE				
	Survey of Historic Sit	es in Kentucky		
DATE	19.71	FEDERAL	XSTATECOUNTYL	OCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Kentucky Heritage Comm	nission		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
	Frankfort			Kentucky 40601

#### CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

DATE\_

\_XEXCELLENT

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED
X\_ALTERED

X\_ORIGINAL SITE

....GOOD

\_\_RUINS

\_\_MOVED

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

The Dr. Ancil Gatliff House is located in southeast Kentucky in the small rural community of Williamsburg, county seat of Whitley County. The residence is appropriately situated at the base of a hill on the crest of which is found Cumberland College, an institution that Dr. Gatliff was instrumental in developing. The front of the house faces northeast toward the commercial section of town, with the northwest side facing Main Street. It is well placed on a slight rise with a spacious, manicured lawn surrounding it, which serves as a visual reminder of the prominence of Dr. Gatliff in the community.

The building represents the most outstanding example of Victorian residential architecture remaining in Williamsburg. Constructed in 1885, the two-story frame dwelling exhibits a graceful front entrance with fanlight and sidelights, reflecting the influence of the Colonial Revival. Other notable exterior details include a small Palladian window in the right projecting gable and a rounded corner tower with fish scale shingles. (The tower and wraparound porch were added at a later date by Dr. Gatliff.) The rear sun porch added by the present owner further reflects the Colonial Revival motif, as is evidenced by the arched windows on the exposed sides.

The interior incorporates a central hall with double parlors to either side. At the rear of the central hall is an unusually fine Palladian window with beveled glass. A similar Palladian treatment is found on the northwest elevation.

The grounds are beautifully landscaped with a formal garden located at the back of the residence. The nominated area includes the entire front, northwest side, and rear areas composing the "lawn," important to the visual integrity of the house. The southeast boundary is marked by the entrance drive to the house.

#### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1885	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT			
		INVENTION				
<u>×</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)		
<u>×</u> 1800-1899	_ <b>X</b> COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION		
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER		
_1600-1699	_XARCHITECTURE	. X_EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE		
_1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE		
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION		
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Set on a slight rise overlooking downtown Williamsburg, the Dr. Ancil Gatliff House remains as the best example of residential Victorian architecture in this small rural community in southeast Kentucky. The house was built in 1885 by Dr. Ancil Gatliff, a prominent local physician, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. In addition to his contributions to the local economy as a result of his considerable coal interests in the area, Dr. Gatliff is remembered as one of the founders and sustainers of Williamsburg Institute (1888-1913), which was renamed Cumberland College in 1913 and still remains as an important higher education institution in this section of the Appalachian region of Kentucky.

Dr. Gatliff's role in providing educational opportunities for local and regional students were considerable. He was the single most important individual in the establishment of Williamsburg Institute, later assisting the struggling new school with several sizeable financial donations. He was the first president of the school's board of trustees and served in that capacity until his death on October 14, 1918.

In 1907 Dr. Gatliff was instrumental in assisting in the purchase from the Congregationalists of three buildings which then comprised Highland College, formerly the Williamsburg Academy. This consolidation made the Institute with its Baptist affiliations the only mission school in the city. In 1911 he gave the school a gymnasium and in 1913 enlarged Johnson Hall at a cost of \$20,000. In 1917 Gatliff gave his water works system in Williamsburg to the college in order that it could have a good water supply.

An incident illustrative of Dr. Gatliff's concern for the still youthful institution took place during the Panic of 1907, when the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company halted construction of a rail line extending to Dr. Gatliff's new mine. In order for him to financially aid the Institute, Gatliff needed to have the new mine in operation. Gatliff went to Louisville, Kentucky, to talk with Milton H. Smith, president of the railroad, and told Smith that he had to have that road built, panic or no panic—for the mountain boys and girls simply had to have a chance for an education. He reminded Smith that he and his railroad had more need for the mountain people to be educated than anybody else. Smith finally said, "Well, Doctor, I reckon I will have to do what you say," and sent the construction crew back to finish that spur of the railroad.

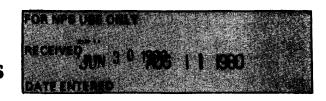
When the name of the institution was changed in 1913, Dr. Gatliff would not agree that it should be called Gatliff College in his honor as many of the students recommended. It was instead named Cumberland, probably because of its location.

Collins, Rich Kentucke I	ard. <u>History of</u> mprints, Berea,	Kentucky. Kentucky.	Vol. II. 1874	by the author.	Reprinted 1976 by
Hall, Ida Jan Tennessee,	ie. "A History o July, 1962. Un	f Cumberland published M.	College." Kno	oxville, Tenness	see: University of
Interview with	h Mrs. T. E. Mah	an, daughter	of Dr. Gatli	ff. Williamsburg	y Ky Jan 1980.
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Gatliff entranc	e drive. The li	ne then turn	s southward,	following the ea	ast side of the
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STATE		CODE	COUNTY	<del></del>	CODE
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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

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



Gatliff, Dr. Ancil, House
Williamsburg, Whitley County, Kentucky
CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE

2

After the death of Dr. Gatliff's widow, Mrs. Florida E. Gatliff, this property was deeded to one of their daughters, Mrs. T. E. Mahan, who has also been a patron of the college for many years.

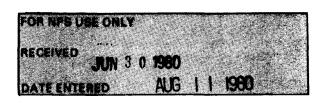
The house is located in the Cumberland Plateau, a mountainous region characterizing eastern Kentucky. There are few early buildings remaining in the area, with most dating to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. The house, built by Dr. Gatliff, is the finest example of Victorian residential architecture in Williamsburg. Notable features include a rounded corner tower, doorway with fanlight and sidelights, a rear Palladian window with beveled glass, and an attractive addition with large Colonial Revival windows on the exposed sides.

Gatliff Coal Company had its operations in Gatliff, Kentucky, located within ten miles east of Williamsburg. This small coal town, founded by Dr. Gatliff, was once a booming coal camp, with its own railroad depot. It is now virtually deserted.

<sup>2</sup>Later on the college turned the system over to E. C. Diesel and his associates but the college still receives 3,600,000 gallons of pure water annually without charge as long as the college continues to be operated as a school in the city of Williamsburg, Kentucky.

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

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

Chinn, Asa. A collection of photographs (ca. 1920).

Coleman, J. Winston. The Squire's Sketches of Lexington. Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1972.

Johnson, E. Polk. <u>A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians</u>. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1922

Lexington City Directories.

Lexington-Fayette County Deed and Will Books.

Perrin, W.H. <u>History of Fayette County</u>. Chicago, 1882.

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

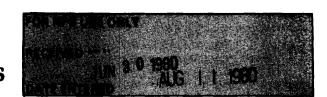
Dr. Ancil Gatliff House Whitley Co., Kentucky

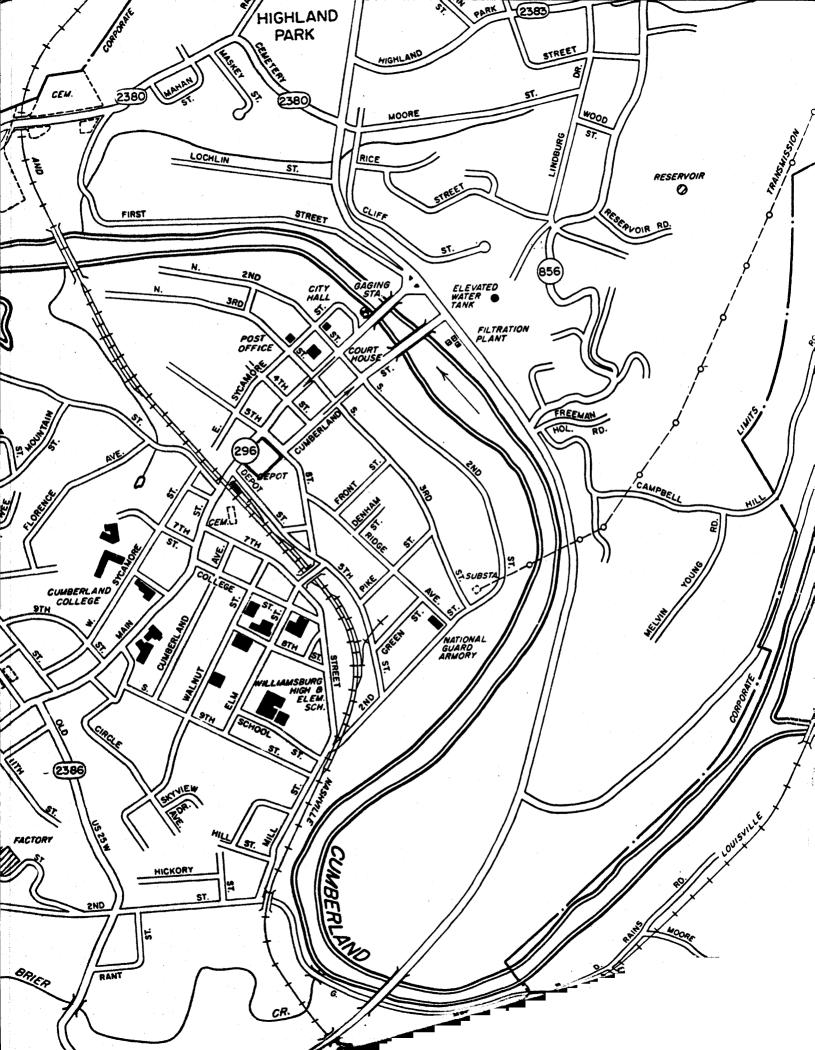
**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

drive approximately 300' to the rear (south) property line, marked by a fence. The boundary turns westward, following the rear property line approximately 200' until its intersection with Main. The line turns northward, following the west property line, or east side of Main Street to the point of beginning.





williams bury whiten to my Pragares by 5 Ky DOT

Dr. Ancil Gatliff House
Williamsburg
Whitley County
Kentucky
Map 2.

NN 3 0 1980

Prepared by Kentucky Department of Transportation. 1" = 800' Nominated area outlined in red.

JUN 3 0 1990

