

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 18 1984
date entered JUL 19 1984

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

1. Name

historic Newton Craig House and Penitentiary Buildings Complex ~~Spring Island~~

and/or common

2. Location

street & number U.S. 460 NA not for publication

city, town Georgetown vic. vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Scott code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Mitchell, III

street & number 2689 Frankfort Pike

city, town Georgetown vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office

street & number East Main Street

city, town Georgetown state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1971 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>NA</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Newton Craig House and Penitentiary Buildings Complex is a group of residential, agricultural, and industrial-converted-to-agricultural buildings located on 132.75 acres immediately north of U.S. 460 (Georgetown-Frankfort Pike) $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Georgetown, the seat of Scott County, and 12 miles east of Frankfort, the capital of Kentucky. Scott County is situated in the northcentral section of Kentucky, the southern third of the county lying in the Inner Bluegrass section of Kentucky. The Newton Craig farm is bounded on the north by North Elkhorn Creek, a major tributary of the Kentucky River, and on the east and west by similar farms of Lowell-Nicholson, and Maury-McAfee soil associations. Included on this tract are the brick residence of federal-Greek Revival and Italianate style, a brick fence with toothed stone coping, a gazebo in deteriorated condition, a smokehouse in deteriorated condition, a brick winery with shed additions, a 20th century brick garage, an early wooden crib, a brick prisoners' holding pen, an early barn, two large ponds with stone sides, and a later barn.

National Register properties nearby include St. Francis Church, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west, entered April 11, 1973; Warwick, 5 miles northwest, April 13, 1977; Longview, 2 miles northwest, October 25, 1973; Clifton, 3 miles northwest, October 8, 1976; Dr. Henry C. Herndon House, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast, April 10, 1980; Elkwood, $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles northeast, January 20, 1978; William G. Craig House, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast, April 2, 1973; John Wickliffe Bradley House, 2 miles southeast, Nov. 5, 1974; Edge Hill Farm, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast, March 1, 1984; Audubon, 4 miles southeast, December 4, 1973; Payne's Depot Multiple Resources Area, 4 miles southeast, August 28, 1979; Ward Hall, 3 miles east, April 2, 1973; and John and Betsey Johnson Payne House, 3 miles east, March 3, 1975; Pence House, 1 mile northeast, November 20, 1978; Craig-Johnson Mill Dam, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east, June 18, 1975; Choctaw Academy, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north, March 7, 1973. The property being nominated contains the core of the Newton Craig Farm of 332 acres which he owned at his death in 1890. His farm at one point consisted of 460 acres. The property was divided into tracts to settle the estate of L.L. Herndon, who purchased the land from the Craig estate; the present boundaries remain from the Herndon division in 1902.

The brick fence lining the front lawn of the Craig house breaks at midpoint for a carriage entrance. The drive cuts through the yard to the northwest leading toward a hipped roof two-car brick garage built between 1910 and 1920. At the left of the drive is an ancient hitching post (photo 1). A long three-step stile is in the yard (photo 2), as is a gazebo in decaying condition (photo 3). Facing the highway to the south about 125 feet away is a large 2-story brick Italianate house with central tower, the later of the 2 blocks of the home of Newton Craig, keeper of Kentucky's penitentiary from 1844 to 1854 and assistant keeper for a time after that.

The front section of the house is an elaborately symmetrical design retaining its ornate cast metal and metal trim. Brick on this dominant block is laid in Flemish bond; there is a belt course two bricks deep between first and second stories. Sides and back are laid in $1/6$ American bond. Foundation rock is bush-hammered. The house is five bays wide and one room deep in this section. The centered portal is set within the projecting central bay which rises three stories to a mansard roof with acroteria; small three-sided gables with louvered lancets in their centers are affixed to the front and sides of the tower roof; they bear smaller acroteria. Pedimented hoodmolds of cast metal crown upstairs and downstairs windows on either side of the tower; similar ones are placed over the narrower second story tower windows, while third story tower windows have round arched openings and hoodmolds with applied keystone effect. Paired brackets are placed at corners and between windows, with a single bracket being positioned between windows flanking the tower and the tower. Gable ends have

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 checked="" 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 1830, 1870

Builder/Architect Newton Craig

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The home, farm, and penitentiary buildings complex of Newton Craig, Kentucky's colorful and controversial keeper of its penitentiary between 1844 and 1854 and assistant to the keeper for some time after that are important from the standpoint of architecture, both residential and industrial, with the elegance of the residence, the uniqueness of the penitentiary-related structures, the durability of the farm ponds and the older barn, and the role played by prisoners in their construction. Craig prided himself in his role as a scientific farmer, with vineyards being used not only to produce large varieties of grapes but also to develop new ones. The name Spring Island which appears on the 1879 Beers & Lanagan map refers not only to a new variety of grape developed by Craig by 1866, but to the name he gave to his farm because of it. Craig saw an opportunity to profit considerably from Kentucky's system of "renting" its penitentiary, and later its prisoners; his farm complex reveals some ways the means he used to accomplish this goal.

Newton Craig was born in 1807, a son of Reuben and Fanny Twyman Craig and a grandson of Reverend Joseph Craig, Baptist preacher and a son of Talliaferro and Polly Hawkins Craig. The Craig family was one of Central Kentucky's important pioneer families. Converts to the Baptist faith in the 1760s, several members of the family joined Reverend Lewis Craig and some 200 Baptists in an emigration from Spotsylvania County, Virginia, to Kentucky in the winter of 1781. A number of these families were in Bryan Station Fort in Fayette County by August 1782 when the fort was attacked. John Craig, a brother of Joseph and Lewis, established Craig's Station in Woodford County. Another brother, the Reverend Elijah Craig, became the founder of Georgetown in 1786. Toliver Craig, Jr., another brother, settled in Scott a short distance from the Newton Craig house, and was an early leader in commerce of the area. In 1827 Newton Craig married Lucy, a daughter of Joseph Craig and a first cousin. There were several Craig homes in this area; Toliver, Jr., bought a large section of the Patrick Henry land grant acquired by Colonel Robert Johnson.

There were 9 children born to the Newton and Lucy Craig union, as listed on a monument in the Lexington Cemetery. Craig was a sort of 19th century "Renaissance man" who traveled on horseback to Cincinnati and Philadelphia to buy books of a high literary quality, numbering them as he bought them. By the 1840s these bookplates numbered in the 700s. He was fascinated with horticulture, his cousin Jefferson Craig's diary recounting a variety of trees brought into Georgetown from Newton's farm. He was a founder of the Kentucky Beekeepers Association. In 1866 he authored a lengthy article on grape culture and winemaking for the Louisville Democrat, announcing his Spring Island variety. He also experimented with a number of vegetables, providing friends with choice new seeds. He played a Stratavarius and Amati violin.

On February 21, 1843 Newton Craig of Scott and William Henry of Christian were hired by the Kentucky legislature to take charge of the penitentiary. They were to receive 1/3 of the profits from industries, guaranteeing the state no less than \$5,000. At that time there were 169 convicts. On August 30, 1844, the prison burned at a loss of \$22,355. On September 30 of that year another signal event in the life of Newton Craig occurred: Delia Webster, enchanting 26-year-old headmistress of a girls school in Lexington was arrested for aiding in the escape of slave Lewis

9. Major Bibliographical References

Coleman, J. Winston, Jr. Slavery Times in Kentucky. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1940), 196-206,

Collins, Richard and Lewis. History of Kentucky. Maysville, 1876. I-49.79,149,210.

Craig, Jefferson. Diary, 1854 and 1855. Scott County Public Library Kentucky Room. (con't)

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 122 acres

Quadrangle name Midway

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	7	0	7	5	0	0	4	2	3	1	5	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	6	7	0	7	5	1	0	4	2	3	1	0	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	6	7	0	6	7	6	0	4	2	3	1	2	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	6	7	0	6	6	0	0	4	2	3	1	8	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

1	6	7	0	7	0	3	0	4	2	3	1	8	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Site enclosed by A-B-C-D-E as shown on accompanying USGS map. B-C is with US 460, C-D is with a branch of Elkhorn and D-E is with North Elkhorn Creek. Boundary includes all buildings shown in Craig House Complex Diagram and Surrounding fields.

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

state Kentucky code county Scott code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Bolton Bevins

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date April 20, 1984

street & number Capital Plaza Office Tower telephone (502) 564-7005

city or town Frankfort state KY

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 Mary Sumay, Japp

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 31, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 7/19/84

for Shelby Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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

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Newton Craig Penitentiary Complex

Continuation sheet 1 Scott County, Kentucky Item number 7

Page 2

round attic windows and brackets. Decorative chimneys are set inside the gable-end walls. Window sash is of the single pane and double hung variety; original interior shutters are retained. An elaborate millwork front porch approached by scored and bush-hammered Kentucky marble steps has a brick base and a brick floor which replaces an earlier floor of ash and cedar boards. See photos 4, 5 and 6.

The balcony of the third story of the tower has a railing of large wooden balusters supported by consoles which have acorn-like appendages. (Photo 7).

An elliptical staircase with a grained newel post and turned balusters is positioned inside the portal. A smaller stairway of identical design but much smaller proportions leads to the tower room. Large rooms flank the central halls on both floors. (Photos 8, 9). Woodwork is of the heavy early Victorian variety.

Foundation of the circa 1830 house, which became the ell when the circa 1870 section was built, is laid in long blocks of cut stone. Entrance to the basement located under the two most southerly bays is within the west side of the house and just inside the entrance. This doorway to the house is hung with a batten door and occupies the second bay south of the large end chimney centered in the gable end (north or back) wall. Partition walls extending on either side of the hall are brick. Walls are laid in 1/5 common bond. The pair of windows south of the entrance have been elongated with Victorian woodwork applied to that room. Window frames are wide and splayed with mitered corners; those on the west side have splayed flat brick arches, while those that can be seen on the east side have undressed flat arches. Gable-end openings have been boarded over. Chairrailing and evidence of it is absent downstairs, but is a feature of upstairs rooms. Unaltered windows have 6 over 6 pane sash. (Photos 4, 10, 11). A 2-room 2-story brick addition to this block was removed in the 1920s

Additions to the east side of this ell obscure most of the original exterior detail. In the 1920s and 1930s a large brick terrace at the L was screened-in and an upstairs porch was boarded in. The formerly outside stairs were repositioned in front of the arched entry (photos 12, 13, 14). A small brick room connects these revisions to the main blocks of the house. Interior detail includes a built-in cabinet of Greek Revival design in the dining room (photo 15).

Remaining early outbuildings include a smokehouse directly back of the house; portions of its walls have recently fallen (photo 16); and the prisoners' holding pen. The latter structure is built on a high stone basement which rises from a knoll and has barred windows (Photos 17, 18). Removed are an ice house, blacksmith shop, and a brickyard once located near the house. The garage was built by J. Gano Shopshire, owner of the farm from 1903 to 1918. (Photo 19)

Just east of the winery is an older wooden crib with a wide-plank wooden floor (see photo 20). The winery, located about 450 feet northwest of the residential complex, is a three-story brick building set on cut stone, the battered lower foundation blocks not being finished, with the hill location accommodating a share of the ground level (photos 21, 22). A gabled elevator shaft rises from the west end of the gabled roof. Some of the barred windows of this penitentiary industrial structure remain. The ground level (photo 23) was used for fermenting. On the south (right) side are racks located below an open area along the south wall of the second level. Second floor joists are a mixture of sawed boards and round logs (photo 24). The second floor, entered from ground level on the east end was for pressing, shipping, and storage. A piece of machinery stamped "Clelland Mfg. Co., Minneapolis, Minn." stands just to the south of the east entrance (photo 25). There is a large shelf (not visible due to hay storage) above the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Newton Craig Penitentiary Complex

Continuation sheet 2 Scott County, KY

Item number 7

Page 3

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opening to the ground level. A large wooden cog-wheel-operated elevator, controlled from the third floor wheels system, (see photo 26) mechanized the handling of Craig's well known "prison wines." Photo 27 shows second and third levels of shaft opening. When J. Gano Shorpshire bought the farm in 1903, he converted the winery into a barn. Stable and shed attachments of wood may have been added at this time. However, old materials were used in tying in this part of the structure and in its construction.

There are five stalls, all fitted with huge older batten doors and some with hand-forged hinges (photos 28, 29). On the north side is a drive-through tools and equipment shed (photo 30).

On the hill to the northwest of the winery is an older barn and a pond. The barn is known to have been standing in the earlier years of the 20th century. A shed added to the west side dates from 1919; the original west wall is gone. Hewn timbers provide vertical and horizontal supports of the structure which is set on huge posts believed to be cedar. Tier rails for the hanging of tobacco are held in place by bolts, a later addition. Doors for the curing of tobacco hang on the lower section of the siding (photos 31, 32, 33). A barn north of the house is an addition made by the present owners who acquired the farm in 1958.

There are two ponds with stone sides on the farm, both located near the highway. The smaller pond is about 1,000 feet west of the house; three ancient baldcypress trees stand at its west end. The larger pond, an oval design about 125 feet long, is fed by a spring. A large rectangular pond of the same type is located across the highway near Craig Lane on a farm which was a part of the earlier Craig holdings. See photos 24, 25.

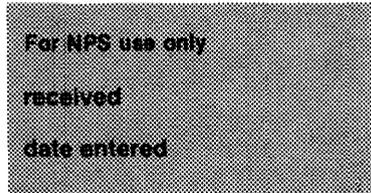
In the field west of the field containing the two stone-lined ponds is a small gable to the front tenant house with enclosed shed-roofed room on the west side. It is in a state of disrepair. West of it flows a small spring (see map).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Newton Craig Penitentiary Complex

Continuation sheet 3 Scott County, Kentucky Item number 8 Page 2



Hayden, his wife, and son. Arrested with her was Calvin Fairbank. They were tried in Lexington in December in a highly publicized trial, Delia being sentenced to two years in the penitentiary; and Fairbank, to 15 years. Craig, uncertain what to do with his lady prisoner, took the "petticoat abolitionist" to his home. Although she was pardoned by Governor Owsley on February 24, 1845, the brief imprisonment was adequate time for keeper and prisoner to become irretrievably infatuated with each other. Letters written by Craig (he avowed them forgeries) were published by the Louisville Democrat in 1854 when Craig's reappointment as keeper was being considered by the legislature, revealing passionate intentions between Delia and Craig. At the time that elections were taking place, Delia Webster was in Madison, Indiana, where she was to be tried in July. That month Craig and a group of Kentuckians went to Madison with a requisition for Delia, the result being that Craig was seriously wounded in gunfire, the bullet apparently passing through a lung. His cousin Jefferson Craig's diary records a speech made by Craig in late August about "the Madison outrage" in response to which Newton was determined to shell Madison with cannons from the Kentucky side of the river. The romance had cut incredibly into his business success.

On July 12 the next year a public sale was held of Craig's stock and penitentiary manufactures. His last report to the legislature showed that between ^March 1, 1844 and ^March 1, 1853 profits had totaled \$67,154.15. An audit of March 1855 showed a deficit of \$17,973.21, making profits total \$56,848.95. In January 1856 the legislature claimed that Craig owed \$3,847.89. A lengthy period of litigation continuing until the December 1870 term of the legislature brought Craig payment from the state of \$21,826.06 of a total of \$59,725.36. The popular Craig was also vindicated in Richard Collins' History of Kentucky with the comment "Slow Justice! and perseveringly sought for over 25 years!" (Craig served in the legislature between 1873 and 1875.)

On record is the inventory of the state penitentiary for 1855, a revelation of the many skills applied by Kentucky's prisoners in this ultimately lucrative profession. Included were a large iron lathe with sliding rest, 3 circular saws and frames, a saw mill, mortise machines, a large pully drill, 12 carpenters' benches, carpenters' tools smith's tools, cooper's tools, painters' brushes, a copper plate press, 12 tombstones, 20 head and footstones, a "tomb table," 2112 flour barrels, 41 pictures, 30 whisky barrels, 14 hemp looms, 3 freedom hats, German silver hinges, and 325 feet of glass. In addition to the various structures on the Craig farm, Newton Craig's prisoners are by tradition considered builders of the William G. Craig House a short distance southeast of Newton's farm (National Register April 2, 1973). It is likely that time will produce evidence that other Central Kentucky buildings were constructed by prison labor. Since Craig's neighbor Joel Scott and Georgetown resident Thomas Theobald preceded him as keeper of the penitentiary, the tradition that the circa 1830 section of his house was built by prison labor may be verifiable also.

Adaptive uses for penitentiary buildings on the farm can always be found, yielding the possibility that these vestiges of the exciting career of Newton Craig will be around for many years to come.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Newton Craig and Penitentiary Buildings Complex

Continuation sheet 4 Scott County, KY Item number 9

Page 2

Craig, Newton, "Gra pe Culture," The Georgetown Times, March 8, 1867, reprint from
the Louisville Courier Journal.

Davis, William A.,^{Lexington, KY} historian, data on Newton Craig, Delia Webster, and the Craig family.

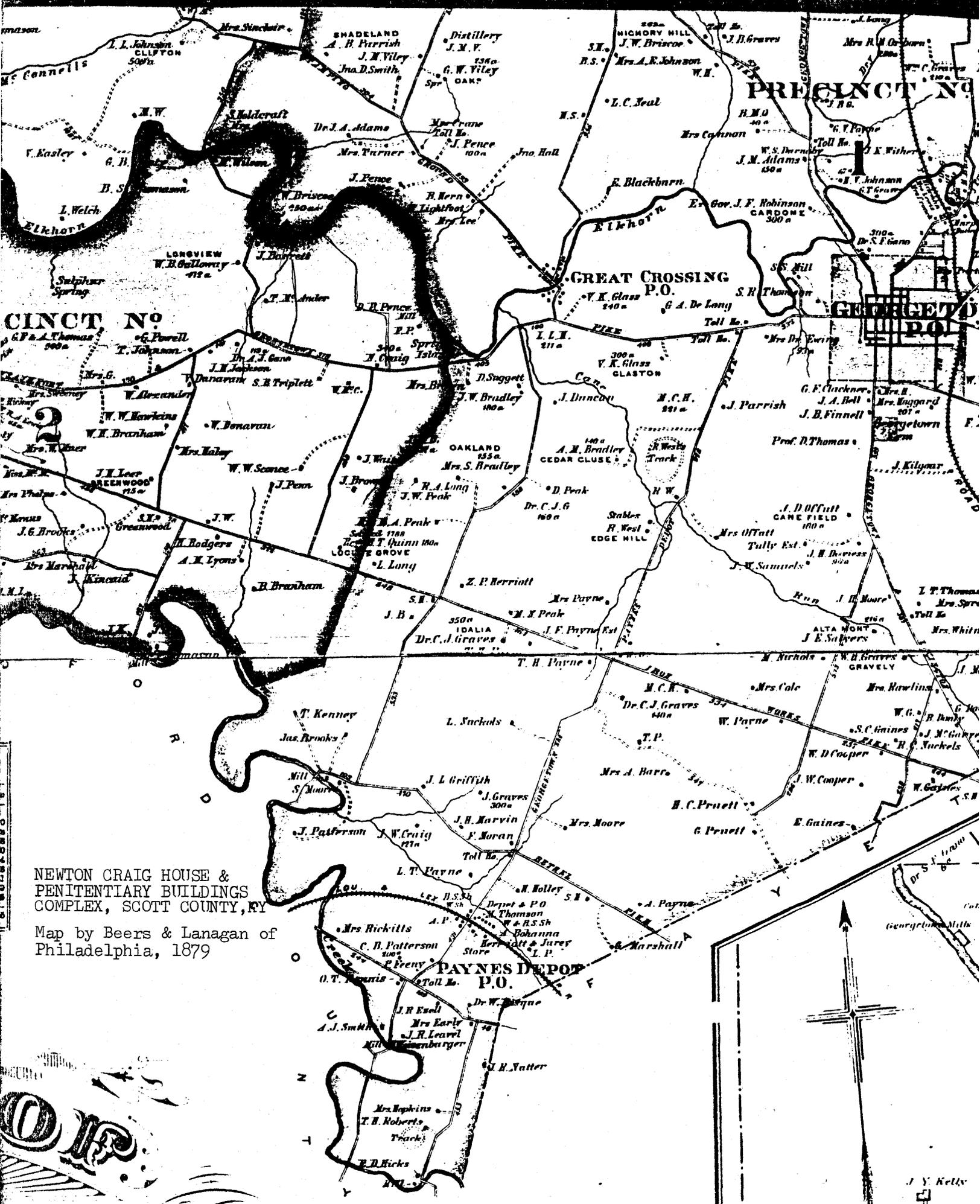
Landers, Elizabeth (Mrs. Fordyce), Bakersfield, California, Craig family information.

Scott County deed and will books.

Sneed, William C., M.D. A Report on the History and Mode of Management of the Kentucky
Penitentiary, 1798-1860. Frankfort: The Yeoman, 1860.

The Kentucky Penitentiary, 1799-1911. Frankfort, 1911. Copy in Kentucky Historical
Society Library.

Other information from former occupants of the property Nathan Hall and Burgess
Swope (the latter now deceased), and present owner-occupant Mrs. J.T. Mitchell.



NEWTON CRAIG HOUSE &
PENITENTIARY BUILDINGS
COMPLEX, SCOTT COUNTY, KY

Map by Beers & Lanagan of
Philadelphia, 1879



J. Y. Kelly

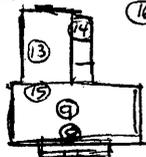
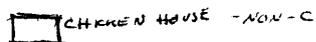
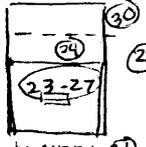
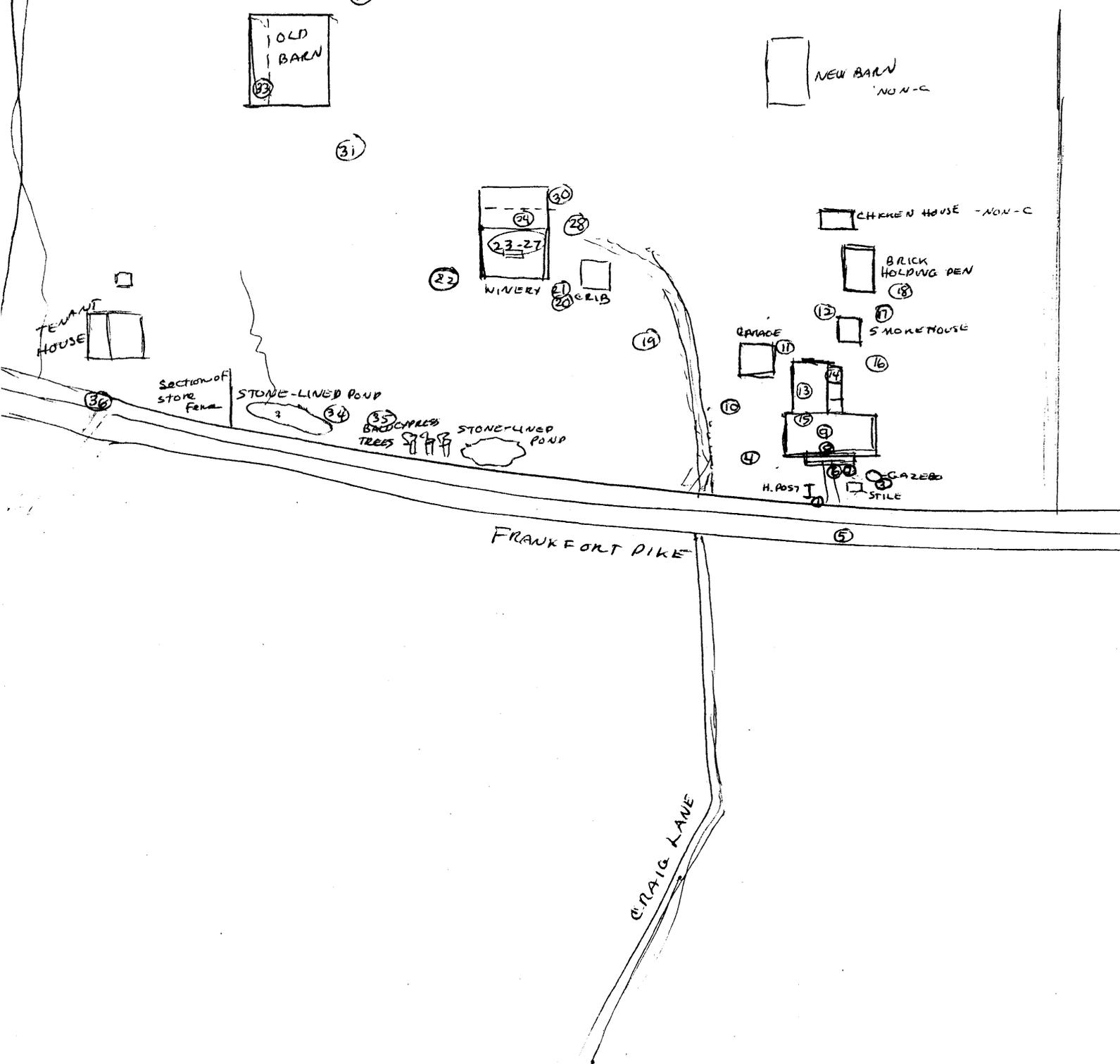
N. ELKHORN CREEK

NEWTON CRAIG HOUSE AND PENITENTIARY BUILDINGS COMPLEX

US 460 GEORGETOWN KX - 4 miles west of

132.75 ACRES

(CIRCLED NUMBERS INDICATE POSITION FROM WHICH PHOTOS TAKEN)



Section of stone fence

STONE-LINED POND

35
BROADLEAF TREES

STONE-LINED POND

FRANKFORT PIKE

CRAIG LANE