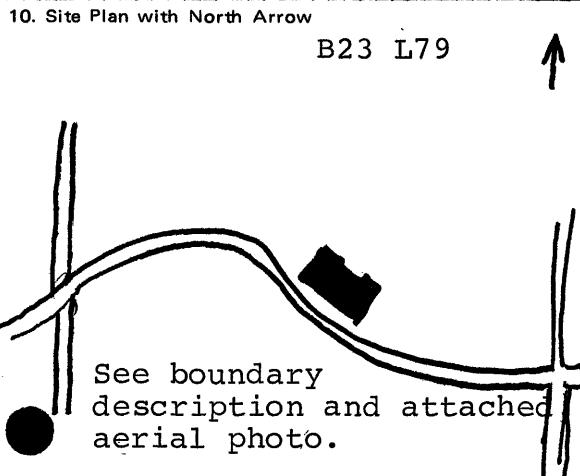


KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

JF-354

1. Historic Name (s) **Davis Tavern**
 Original Owner **William White**
 Present Name **Wetherby House**
 3. Owner's Name **Mrs E. Skiles Jones**
Dr. Luther W. Pearce
 4. Owner's Address **11117 Owl Creek Lane, Anchorage, Ky.**
2120 Newburg Road, Louisville, Ky.
 5. Location **11180 Old Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Ky.**
 6. Open to Public Yes No
 7. Visible from road Yes No
 8. Ownership Private
 Local
 State
 Federal
 9. Local Contact/Organization **Blaine Guthrie/Middletown**

22. ADD/County **VI Jefferson/Jefferson**
 23. Zoning Classification **Magisterial District**
 24. U.S.G. S. Quadrant (15'/75') **Jeffersontown, Kentucky**
 25. UTM Reference
 Zone **16** Easting **628000** Northing **4233840**
 26. Prehistoric Site Object
 Historic Site Structure
 Building
 27. District Yes No
 Name: _____
 28. Significance Evaluation



10. Site Plan with North Arrow **B23 L79**
 11. Architect _____
 12. Builder _____
 13. Date **Late 1790s**
 14. Style **Federal**
 15. Original Use **Dwelling**
 16. Present Use **Apartments**
 17. Condition Interior Good Exterior Excellent

29. Status _____ Date _____
 National Landmark
 National Register
 Landmark Certificate **1971**
 Kentucky Survey
 Local Landmark
 HABS/HAER
 30. Theme **Architecture**
 Primary **Commerce**
 Secondary _____
 Other _____
 31. Endangered Yes No
 32. _____

18. Description **The Davis Tavern is a two-story brick structure with eight bays on the facade. The wall area beneath the porch is exposed brick, but the end bays and sides were stuccoed in the 1920s. A brick cornice extends across the facade and west end. There are two front entrances with four-light transoms above and doors with double, vertical panels. Brick jack arches are above the doors and there are paneled reveals. (see next page)**

19. History **William White, who came to Kentucky from Westmoreland County, Virginia about 1796, was an early trustee of Middletown and drew the first town plan. He built this structure, or part of it, as his residence. In 1824 the house and land became the property of White's son-in-law, Lawrence Young, who is believed to have had a school in the building. In 1841 Young sold the house to (see next page)**

20. Significance **The Davis Tavern is significant as a fine Federal-style structure which dates from the early years of Middletown's founding. It is also significant for its historical association with the builder William White, who was an early trustee of the town and who platted the town in 1797. The inn was also an important part of (see next page)**

21. Source of Information **Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Ky. Philadelphia: Beers and Lanagan, 1879. (see next page)**

ATTACH PHOTO
 Roll No. _____
 Picture No. _____
 Direction _____
 33. Tape No. _____ Negative No. _____
 34. Prepared by: **Mary Cronan Oppel**
Historian
 35. Organization **Kentucky Heritage Commission**
 36. Date **February 1977**
 37. Revision Dates **October 4, 1979**
JCOHP
December 10, 1982
JCOHP
 38. Staff Review

18. Continued

The rear wings of the building are probably late nineteenth-century additions. The one-story porch has Tudor arches and octagonal posts. The porch base and steps are of large blocks of bush hammered limestone. The porch dates from the late nineteenth century. The present owner renovated the building in 1947 but made few changes other than minor alterations to adapt the building for commercial use on the first floor and apartments on the second floor. Original mantels, doors, and floors remain on the first floor.

19. Continued

Susan B. Davis and it became the Davis Tavern. The building may have been enlarged at that time. The tavern was operated by Davis descendants until 1880. The building is still owned by family descendants.

20. Continued

commercial life in Middletown from 1841 to 1880.

21. Continued

Wood, Edith. Middletown's Days and Deeds. By the author, 1946, pp. 54-56.

Boundary Description

The boundary of the Davis Tavern site is shown as a red line on the attached aerial photo. (SCALE: 1" = 200'). The nominated site contains approximately 7500 sq. ft. There are no outbuildings.