

3476

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District

Other names/site number: Wilderness Road

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Wilderness Road between East Broadway and Fitzpatrick Street

City or town: Danville State: Kentucky (KY) County: Boyle (021)

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

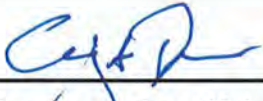
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B C D

	<u>Director of SHPO</u> <u>1-25-19</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

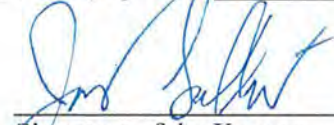
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____


Signature of the Keeper

3-7-2019

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Vernacular
LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman
MODERN MOVEMENT/Ranch Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Stone/concrete/brick

Walls: Brick/Aluminum/Vinyl/Weatherboard/stucco

Roof: Asphalt/metal

Other: n/a

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District is located northeast of downtown Danville, Boyle County, along present-day Wilderness Road (Figure 1). The historic district, comprised of 16 resources, is situated on both sides of Wilderness Road. The contributing resources include residences dating from 1806 to 1950. African Americans purchased lots within the historic district in the third quarter of the nineteenth century from George W. Welsh, a successful local white businessman, or from a local African American couple, James Kincaid and his wife Alvira. The houses comprising the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District reflect vernacular styles favored during the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century, including simple side-gable forms along with Craftsman and bungalow-style dwellings. The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District is one of the best and oldest preserved African American neighborhoods remaining near downtown Danville. The historic district reveals the post-Civil War realization of property ownership and increasing economic independence for African Americans.

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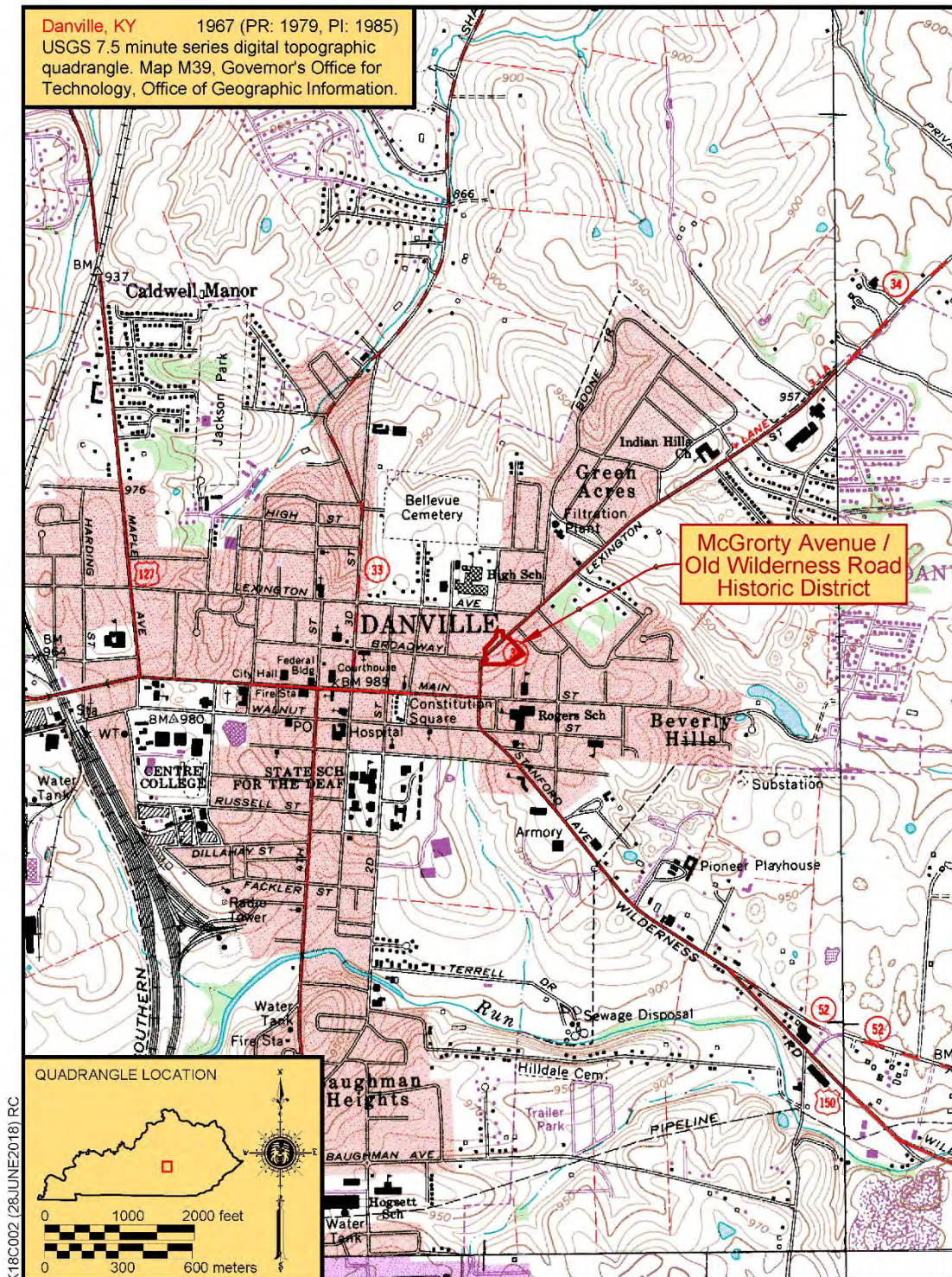


Figure 1. McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District boundary on Danville, Kentucky topographic quadrangle map (USGS 1967 [PR 1979; PI 1985]).

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Narrative Description

The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District is located approximately .39 miles northeast of the Boyle County courthouse, situated in the county seat of Danville, Kentucky along Wilderness Road. Wilderness Road, previously known as McGrorty Avenue and Old Wilderness Road, is a narrow two-lane paved street with concrete curbing extending to the northeast-southwest. The historic district is located in northeast Danville between the intersections of East Broadway and Fitzpatrick Street. The Lexington Avenue-Broadway Historic District (Reference Number 87000198 [DIC 204]), listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, is northeast and north of the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District boundary. The Lexington Avenue-Broadway Historic District is northeast of Fitzpatrick Street and along the southern property boundaries of houses oriented to East Lexington Avenue. The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District, a residential neighborhood, is comprised of sixteen resources, three of which are non-contributing to the historic district. The three non-contributing resources include an empty lot and two houses that replaced earlier residences. The house lots primarily have narrow street frontages while those on the southeast side are much deeper than those on the northwest side of the street. The residences have small front yards and shallow setbacks from the street. The southeast side of the street exhibits a concrete sidewalk while only one property on the northwest side of the street has a public sidewalk. The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District developed as a small, working-class African American neighborhood on the northeast fringe of downtown Danville in the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. The resources within the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District reflect the evolution of housing styles, from vernacular through the bungalow and Craftsman period, prominent during the development of the historic district. The composition of the contributing and non-contributing resources are presented in the table below and are described following.

Evaluation of Resources

Contributing resources of the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District are those that were constructed in or existed during the period of significance (1871–1950) and retain sufficient integrity to convey their significance. Non-contributing resources were constructed after the period of significance or have alterations that diminish the resource's ability to convey its significance to the historic district. Vacant lots that had structures located on them during the period of significance are also recommended as non-contributing to the historic district. National Register Bulletin No. 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation was utilized in the evaluation of resources within the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District.

Resources considered contributing to the historic district must meet the following criteria:

- The resources were constructed during or prior to the historic district's period of significance (1871–1950).
- The resources retain integrity of location and setting and continue to convey their association with the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District.

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- Modifications to resources within the historic district are to be expected over time, including additions and replacement materials such as siding and windows. Contributing resources to the historic district must retain the form, massing, and fenestration dating to the period of significance. Individual buildings and structures should also retain sufficient character defining details to convey their significance as contributing resources dating to the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District's period of significance.

All of the contributing properties within the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District exhibit alterations and modifications. Although exhibiting modifications, the contributing resources within the historic district retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Non-contributing resources within the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District were constructed after the historic district's period of significance (1871-1950). One vacant lot in the historic district is also non-contributing as structures were located on the property during the period of significance and have since been removed.

Inventory of Resources in the historic district

Map #	KHC Site Number	Name	Address	Status	Date
1	BOD 412	House	202 Wilderness Road	C	1880-1900
2	BOD 411	House	206 Wilderness Road	C	1880-1900
3	BOD 410	House	210 Wilderness Road	C	1860-1876
4	BOD 409	House	218 Wilderness Road	C	1860-1876
5	BOD 408	House	222 Wilderness Road	C	1938-1950
6	BOD 407	House	224 Wilderness Road	C	1927-1947
7	BOD 406	House	226 Wilderness Road	C	1914-1927
8	BOD 405	House	228 Wilderness Road	C	1914-1927
9	BOD 404	House	232 Wilderness Road	NC	1960-1970
10	BOD 403	House	234 Wilderness Road	C	1914-1927
11	BOD 397	House	239 Wilderness Road	C	1880-1900
12	n/a	Vacant lot	233 Wilderness Road	NC	n/a
13	BOD 396	House and garage	227 Wilderness Road	C	1880-1900
14	BOD 395	House	219 Wilderness Road	NC	2000-2010
15	BOD 394	House	217 Wilderness Road	C	1880-1900
16	BOD 116/ BOD 393	Hemp/Rope Walk Office	211 Wilderness Road	C	1806

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Descriptions of Contributing Resources:

1. 202 Wilderness Road (BOD 412) is a two-story, three-bay (w/d/w), side-gable, frame house clad in wide aluminum siding. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The foundation material could not be determined. A brick chimney pierces the center of the ridgeline. The windows are filled with two-over-two or six-over-six, double-hung wood sashes. Oriented to the northwest, the off-center front entry is sheltered by a partial-width, shed-roof porch featuring decorative scroll-sawn brackets and trim. A one-story, gable-roof ell extends from the northeast portion of the rear elevation while the southwest portion of the rear elevation has a shed-roof addition.
2. 206 Wilderness Road (BOD 411) is a two-story, two-bay (d/w), side-gable, frame house clad in wide aluminum siding over rolled asphalt siding. A small portion of vinyl siding is located on the southwest (side) elevation of the house. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The foundation material was not determined. A brick chimney pierces the rear roof slope. The windows are filled with two-over-two, double-hung wood sashes. Oriented to the northwest, the single-leaf entry is located near the northeast (side) elevation. The façade features a partial-width, shed-roof porch featuring decorative brackets and scroll-sawn trim. A two-story, full-width, gable-roof ell extends from the rear of the main block of the house.
3. 210 Wilderness Road (BOD 410) is a two-story, three-bay (d/w/w), side-gable, frame house clad in wide aluminum siding. Oriented to the northwest, the dwelling's roof is clad in replacement metal panels. The foundation is obscured by vinyl panels. A gable-end brick chimney pierces the ridgeline. The windows are filled with one-over-one, double-hung wood sashes, and the two façade, first-floor windows are filled with replacement, fixed, single-light sashes. The nearly full-width porch is supported by decorative wood posts on a brick railing. The porch is embellished with decorative brackets and dentil molding. The house has a one-story, gable-roof rear ell.
4. 218 Wilderness Road (BOD 409) is a two-story, two-bay (d/w), side-gable, frame house clad in weatherboard siding. Oriented to the northwest, the roof of the house is sheathed in asphalt shingles and partially replaced with metal panels. The foundation material could not be determined. The windows are filled with two-over-two, double-hung wood sashes although one second-floor façade window is filled with a four-light wood sash. An off-center brick chimney pierces the ridgeline. The façade's single-leaf entry is located near the northeast (side) elevation. The façade entry is sheltered by a partial-width, shed-roof porch supported by turned wood posts and exhibits decorative brackets and trim. A one-story, gable-roof ell extends from the rear of the house. A shed-roof addition, indicated on Sanborn maps, is clad in replacement metal panels.
5. 222 Wilderness Road (BOD 408) is a one-and-one-half-story, two-bay (d/www), front-gable, frame house with the façade clad in aluminum siding and the sides clad in vinyl siding. The roof is sheathed in replacement metal panels. The house rests on a continuous concrete block foundation. A brick chimney pierces the northeast roof slope near the rear elevation. The windows are filled with one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl replacement sashes. A single gable-roof dormer is located on the roof of the side elevations. Oriented to the northwest, the façade features a shed-roof, partial-width, aluminum porch supported by decorative metal posts. A full-width shed-roof addition is located along the rear elevation.
6. 224 Wilderness Road (BOD 407) is a two-story, two-bay (d/ww), front-gable, frame house clad in stucco. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The house is supported by a poured concrete basement foundation. A brick chimney pierces the southwest roof slope near the ridgeline. The windows are filled with three-over-one, double-hung wood sashes normally associated with

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Craftsman-style homes. Oriented to the northwest, a front-gable, partial-width façade porch is supported by square brick columns. A two-story, gable-roof section on the rear of the house is clad in composite wood panels and vinyl siding.

7. 226 Wilderness Road (BOD 406) is a one-and-one-half-story, two-bay (d/www), front-gable frame house exhibiting side-gables. A shed-roof projection is located on the southwest (side) elevation. The roof is sheathed in metal panels. The dwelling is clad in wide aluminum siding. A poured concrete foundation supports the residence. A brick chimney pierces the roof near the ridgeline. The majority of windows are filled with three-over-one, double-hung wood sashes although four-over-four, double-hung vinyl replacement sashes have been installed on the northeast (side) elevation. Oriented to the northwest, the hip-roof, full-width front porch is supported by square, wood box columns resting on brick piers. The house form, porch, and window sashes are indicative of the Craftsman-style.
8. 228 Wilderness Road (BOD 405) is a one-and-one-half-story, four-bay (w/d/d/w), hip-roof, frame house oriented to the northwest. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The exterior of the dwelling is clad in aluminum siding. A poured concrete basement foundation supports the residence. One of the façade entries has been enclosed. Two brick chimneys, one of which has been parged, pierce the roof of the side elevations. A third brick chimney is located in the gable-roof rear extension from the main block. A hip-roof façade dormer is filled with paired windows with three-over-two, double-hung wood sashes. One-over-one, double-hung wood sashes fill the remainder of the dwelling's windows. A partial-width, shed-roof porch shelters the façade bays. A partial-width gable-roof addition is located on the rear elevation.
10. 234 Wilderness Road (BOD 403) is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay (w/d/w), hip-roof, frame house oriented to the northwest. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and the exterior is clad in aluminum siding. The house rests on a stone basement foundation. The façade features a hip-roof dormer while a shed-roof dormer is located on the northeast (side) elevation. Brick chimneys pierce the roof of the side elevations. The windows are filled with one-over-one, double-hung wood sashes. The façade features two single-leaf entries, one perpendicular to the façade's wall plane. The partial-width, shed-roof porch is supported by square brick columns.
11. 239 Wilderness Road (BOD 397) is a one-story, three-bay (w/d/w), side-gable, frame residence oriented to the southeast. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and the house is clad in vinyl siding. A mortared stone foundation supports the main block of the house. A brick chimney pierces the roof's ridgeline. The windows are filled with one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sashes. A replacement porch with a wood railing provides access to the façade entry. A gable-roof ell extends from the rear of the house. At the west corner of the house is a one-story, hip-roof addition resting on a rusticated concrete block foundation. This one-story section is indicated as a separate residence on Sanborn maps.
13. 227 Wilderness Road (BOD 396) is a two-story, three-bay (ww/d/ww), side-gable, frame dwelling oriented to the southeast. The dwelling's roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and the exterior is clad in vinyl siding. The foundation material could not be determined. The windows are filled with one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement sashes. The partial-width, shed-roof façade porch is supported by square, brick columns. A one-story, gable-roof ell extends from the rear elevation. A hip-roof projection is located on the northeast elevation of the rear ell. A one-story, front-gable, single-bay, frame garage clad in vinyl siding is associated with the dwelling.
15. 217 Wilderness Road (BOD 394) is a one-story, two-bay (w/d), front-gable, frame house oriented to the southeast. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and the exterior is clad in vinyl siding. A

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mortared stone foundation supports the residence. The windows are filled with six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl replacement sashes. The partial-width, hip-roof porch is supported by turned wood posts. Window bays are found along the northeast (side) elevation but not on the southwest (side) elevation.

16. 211 Wilderness Road (BOD 116/BOD 393) was constructed as a Hemp/Rope Walk Office circa 1806 but currently serves as a residence. The one-and-one-half-story, four-bay (w/d/d/w), side-gable, brick dwelling is oriented to the southeast. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and a mortared stone foundation supports the dwelling. The brick is laid in Flemish bond along the façade and five-course common bond on the side elevations. Jack arches are found above the façade bays. A gable-roof dormer with four windows is located on the façade roof slope. Brick end chimneys are found at each end of the main block of the house. Half-story windows flank the chimney on the southwest elevation. The windows throughout the majority of the dwelling are filled with six-over-six, double-hung wood sashes. A gable-roof ell extends from the rear of the house with a porch on the southwest elevation. This porch has a double-leaf entry. Above the porch is a gable-roof dormer filled with two windows. A brick chimney pierces the southwest roof slope of the ell. A hip-roof brick addition with segmental arched windows extends along the northeast (side) and rear elevations of the house.

Descriptions of Non-Contributing Resources:

9. 232 Wilderness Road (BOD 404) is a one-story, two-bay (w/w), side-gable, frame Compact Ranch house oriented to the northwest. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and the exterior is clad in vinyl siding. A continuous concrete block foundation supports the dwelling. The windows are filled with one-over-one, double-hung, metal sashes. The façade's picture window, located in a gable-roof projection, is filled with a nine-light fixed sash. The single-leaf façade entry is located on the southwest elevation of the façade projection, perpendicular to the façade's wall plane.
12. 233 Wilderness Road is a vacant lot that originally had a dwelling situated on it. Sanborn maps reveal it was a two-story frame residence. Aerials indicate the house has been demolished since at least 2008.
14. 219 Wilderness Road (BOD 395) is a two-story, two-bay (w/d), front-gable, frame residence oriented to the southeast. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and the exterior of the house is clad in vinyl siding. A continuous concrete block foundation supports the dwelling. The windows are filled with six-over-six, double-hung vinyl sashes. The house was constructed circa 2000 to 2010, replacing an earlier one-story frame residence.

INTEGRITY

The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District was carefully evaluated to determine if it retains integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The historic district retains integrity of **location** as it occupies the same location since the development of the neighborhood began in the early 1870s. Integrity of **design** and **setting** remains intact as the neighborhood's architecture reflects its development from the last three decades of the nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. The houses, flanking the street, continue their orientation to McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road. The setbacks from the street remain unchanged. The loss of three of the houses has negatively impacted the neighborhood's integrity of design and setting, especially the one vacant lot; however, the two

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replacement dwellings, while clearly constructed after the period of significance, maintain the spatial pattern that was historically associated with the neighborhood. The houses dating to the period of significance (thirteen) far outnumber the empty lot and replacement dwellings (three). Additionally, the replacement residences are not out of scale with the other houses of the neighborhood. The lot sizes of the historic district have remained unchanged for over 100 years except for the subdividing of some lots during its later development in the twentieth century. Older neighborhoods encompass the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District, reflecting the development of this portion of Danville. The historic district retains integrity of **materials** and **workmanship** through the extant historic materials of the houses such as wood windows and doors, brick, wood, and stucco siding, and stone and poured concrete foundations. Many of the porches retain their historic supports. None of the houses feature architecturally high-style elements, although a few retain decorative components such as brackets and scroll-sawn trim. Most of the houses exhibit modern replacement materials, such as aluminum or vinyl siding, and replacement doors and/or window sashes. Additions, many fifty years or older, are located to the rear of the dwellings and are not easily visible from the public right-of-way. Despite the replacement materials impacting the dwellings' integrity of materials and workmanship, the replacement materials do not detract from the residences forms, footprints, and spatial organization, and the houses of the district continue to convey their historic linkage and continuity as a group. The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District retains its integrity of **feeling** and **association** of a late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century neighborhood through its narrow street, shallow setbacks, and single-family homes exhibiting vernacular interpretations of architectural styles popular during its period of significance.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

Period of Significance

1871-1950

Significant Dates

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Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District is eligible for **local significance** under **Criterion A** in the area of **Ethnic Heritage/Black** within the context of African American neighborhoods in Danville, Kentucky, 1870–1950. The historic district was developed on the outskirts of downtown Danville beginning in the 1870s and continued its development through to 1950 with vernacular dwellings reflective of national trends during the period. Early deed transactions for the neighborhood reveal lots were purchased by African Americans from a prosperous, local white businessman or from an African American couple that also resided in the neighborhood. During the period of significance, racial segregation was practiced in the city, limiting African Americans’ access to certain areas of the city for housing, shopping, educational and employment opportunities. Locations of social and religious functions and interactions were also racially segregated within the city. The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road neighborhood, although small, reflects the realization of African Americans’ pursuit of home ownership and creation of community on the periphery of Danville beginning in the years following the end of the Civil War through the mid-twentieth century. The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District is one of the earliest and most intact African American neighborhoods remaining in Danville. The loss of the African American business district and the loss, alterations, or later development of other African American neighborhoods in Danville have left little of the city’s African American heritage intact. The period of significance begins with the date of the initial sale of property to African Americans for development within the district circa 1871 and extends through 1950, the date of the last contributing house to the historic district.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A

The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District developed in the last three decades of the nineteenth and first five decades of the twentieth century as an African American neighborhood originally located on the outskirts of downtown Danville. Lots were initially sold by an African American couple that lived in the neighborhood and by a prosperous, local white merchant to African Americans beginning in the 1870s. Development of adjacent neighborhoods soon encompassed the African American neighborhood, limiting its ability to expand beyond the sixteen residences that came to comprise the historic district. Exhibiting an architecturally cohesive grouping of residences from the late nineteenth through mid-twentieth century comprised of vernacular interpretations of nationally popular styles constructed by their middle-class African American owners, the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District is one of the oldest and best preserved African American neighborhoods remaining near downtown Danville, Kentucky. The historic district provides insight into the ambitions of local African Americans home ownership and increasing economic independence in the late nineteenth through the early twentieth century. The McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District is eligible under **Criterion A** in the area of **Ethnic Heritage/Black** with **local significance** for its association with the development of an early, post-Civil War African American neighborhood in Danville, Kentucky.

Historic Context: African American neighborhoods in Danville, Kentucky 1870–1950

Danville and Boyle County have a rich African American history. Throughout the years after the Civil War, African Americans strived to create their own communities within the larger city of Danville. These neighborhoods were in response to segregation practices and social barriers forcing the separation of white and African American residents throughout the city. In response to racial segregation, the African American community created their own churches, social clubs, recreational facilities, and business district in Danville, catering to their religious, social, and business needs. The African American neighborhoods created in Danville were separate from white neighborhoods but located within the corporate city limits. These neighborhoods produced a sense of community, with racially similar residents sharing comparable backgrounds and experiences. The creation of these African American neighborhoods spanned many years and were located in the county seat of Danville and in hamlets in rural areas of the county, such as Wilsonville, Needmore, and Clifton near the Dix River.¹ The following context provides a brief background into the development of the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District.

Brief discussion of Boyle County and Danville's history

Wilderness Road followed a buffalo trace through the Cumberland Gap, providing a path for early settlers to enter the area that would become the southeastern portion of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Wilderness Road continued to the northwest, as it diverted from the Warrior's Trace near the present-day community of Flat Lick. Boone's Trace separated from the Wilderness Road and continued in a northward track to Fort Boonesborough on the Kentucky River. The Wilderness Road continued northwest from

¹ Amanda Bradley and Christine Amos, Clifton Baptist Church Complex National Register of Historic Places nomination. Burry and Amos, Inc., Shelbyville, Kentucky, 1996:8:7

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present-day London, Kentucky to Crab Orchard and Stanford. Different paths continued to the northwest, including to Harrodsburg and the Salt River before terminating at the Falls of the Ohio River in present-day Louisville. A divergent path extended to the west to present-day Danville, Kentucky. The area surrounding present-day Danville was then in Lincoln County, Virginia. The Virginia legislature created the District of Kentucky in 1783 with a court to be located at Crow's Station. Danville, established in 1782, was originally known as Crow's Station and was probably named for an early settler in the area, attorney Walker Daniel. Although historically referred to as Old Wilderness Road and currently as Wilderness Road, the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road may not be situated on the actual alignment of the historic route.²

Conventions for the establishment of the state were held in Danville, leading to the state's creation in 1792. Danville was also the location of the drafting of the state's first constitution. The Commonwealth's seat of government moved from Danville to Lexington and then to its current location in Frankfort. Danville was originally located in Mercer County, Kentucky. Perryville, also originally in Mercer County, was settled soon after Danville and was originally known as Fort Harbison. Perryville was renamed in honor of Captain Oliver Hazard Perry, an American naval hero of the War of 1812. Other communities were established in the area that would later become Boyle County, including Parksville, Mitchellsburg, Shelby, and Junction City. Three rivers serve as major drainages for Boyle County: the Dix (originally referred to as the Dick's River), Salt, and Chaplin. Two major turnpikes were opened by the late 1830s connecting the area's residents to nearby towns, including the Danville, Lancaster, and Nicholasville Turnpike Road and the Springfield, Perryville, and Danville Turnpike Road. Boyle County, Kentucky was created from Mercer County by the state legislature on February 15, 1842.³

The county's residents were afforded educational opportunities early in the nineteenth century for those with the economic ability to attend schools of higher learning. Two of these schools remain in operation: Centre College, established in 1819; and currently known as the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the Asylum for the Tuition of the Deaf and Dumb was established in 1822. The Kentucky School for the Deaf moved to its present location in 1827.⁴ Transylvania University was first established in Danville in 1783 but moved to Lexington in 1789. The Caldwell Institute for Young Ladies was created in the county seat in 1860.⁵

Boyle County, like all central Kentucky counties, was primarily an agriculturally based economy. The principal agricultural products of the county in the 1840s were livestock and hemp. Many farms in the county relied on enslaved labor in the production of their livestock and crops. In the mid-1840s, soon after its creation, Danville's prosperous downtown included at least five churches, including an African American church, a branch of the Bank of Kentucky, a drug store, bookstore, a newspaper, twelve dry

² Karl Raitz, Nancy O'Malley, Jeff Levy, Dick Gilbreath, and Collie Rulo, *Kentucky's Frontier Trails: Warrior's Path, Boone's Trace, and Wilderness Road* (Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, 2008); Mary Jo Joseph and Janet Hamner, *Danville and Boyle County in the Bluegrass Region in Kentucky, An Architectural History* (Paducah, Kentucky: Turner Publishing Company, 1999): 13.

³ Richard C. Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774-1992* (Bicentennial Books, 1992): 3-4.

⁴ Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774-1992*, 1992: 5; Sanders, "School for the Deaf," ExploreKYHistory website, accessed May 24, 2018, <http://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/119>.

⁵ Richard C. Brown, "Danville," *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, John E. Kleber, editor (Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 1992): 252.

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goods businesses, mechanics shops, and two hotels. The town of approximately 2,000 residents also supported nine attorneys and 10 doctors.⁶

In the 1850s Boyle County ranked eighth in the state in the number of manufacturing operations, including brickyards, carpenter shops, sawmills, and clothing manufacturers. Danville residents endured a disastrous fire in 1860 that destroyed or damaged almost half of the buildings in town. The courthouse and numerous downtown businesses were razed, including a hotel, groceries, wagon factory, a drug store owned by Captain A. S. McGrorty, and the Welsh and Wiseman dry goods store owned in part by George W. Welsh, Sr. Approximately eighty houses were also impacted by the fire.⁷

The Danville Female Seminary, which was associated with Danville's First Baptist Church, and the Caldwell Institute merged in 1870. The Caldwell Institute moved into the Female Seminary's buildings located on Lexington Road but a fire in 1876 damaged the buildings of the school. New buildings were constructed in the 1880s and the school was renamed the Caldwell Female College.⁸

Danville's waterworks and sewer system was operating by 1907. In that same year, a hospital with eight rooms was started by a local doctor in the city. Other local improvements in the early years of the twentieth century included the establishment of two fire departments, the city police department, and the Danville High School was opened in 1917.

Danville benefited from the New Deal's Work Progress Administration with street improvements and county roads, among other new construction projects. No banks in Danville failed during the Great Depression and the worst of its effects in Danville were over by the mid-1930s. This could be attributed to the mixed economy of the town and county and also on the federal government's many support programs.⁹

African American antebellum history in Boyle County/Danville

The first African American church to be organized in Danville was the African or Green Street Church. The church was established with the blessing of the Baptist Broadway church in 1846. Church members first met in homes and other structures over the following ten years. Early ministers to the Green Street Church were Jordan Meaux and Elissah Henry Green. Also in the early 1840s, a Presbyterian church with a mix of white and African American members was abandoned by its white members. This group of Presbyterian African American members could not obtain a black minister so they were served by a committee of three church members. Black membership in churches remained a small percentage of Boyle County's African American population. Many enslaved African Americans met secretly in small groups, singing hymns and discussing lessons from the Bible. These gatherings provided a sense of community and a time to visit friends, relatives, and for couples to meet.¹⁰

Dennis and Diadamia Doram were one of the most prosperous free African American couples in Danville during the first half of the nineteenth century. Dennis Doram was born into slavery in 1796 and was freed on his thirty-first birthday. Dennis Doram's owner provided for his education. At the time of his

⁶ Lewis Collins, *Historical Sketches of Kentucky* (1847; repr., Lexington, Kentucky: Henry Clay Press, 1968): 204–205.

⁷ Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774–1992*, 1992:15–17.

⁸ Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774–1992*, 1992: 61–62.

⁹ Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774–1992*, 1992:109–111.

¹⁰ Richard C. Brown, "Blacks frequently worshipped through 'invisible institution,'" *Kentucky Advocate* (Danville, Kentucky), February 7, 1993.

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emancipation, Dennis Doram was farming. Within ten years he would be purchasing lots in Danville. Dennis Doram and Diadamia Taylor married in 1830. The couple purchased lots on Main and Green Streets between 1837 and 1860 and also nearly 300 acres near the Dix River in Boyle County. Dennis and Diadamia Doram were the wealthiest free African Americans in Boyle County prior to and during the Civil War.¹¹

Enslaved African Americans were the primary labor force utilized on large farms in the central Bluegrass counties of Kentucky, including Boyle County. As Boyle County was created in 1842, its first Federal census was completed in 1850. There were 9,116 residents enumerated by the Federal census and slave census in Boyle County in 1850. Of this total, 3,424 (37.5 percent) were enslaved persons. There were also 317 free blacks living in the county at the time. A total of 572 persons living in Boyle County in 1850 owned enslaved persons, with one individual owning forty-six enslaved persons. Boyle County claimed three Baptist, two Christian, one Episcopal, four Methodist, one Union, and four Presbyterian churches in the 1850 census.¹²

Boyle County had over 53,000 acres of improved land in farms in 1850 and just over 43,000 acres of unimproved land. Farmers in the county produced nearly 24,000 bushels of wheat, over 103,000 bushels of oats, and nearly 690,000 bushels of corn. Tobacco was a small crop in the county at the time, with only 1,600 pounds produced in 1850. Although declining in production, hemp remained an important cash crop for Boyle County farmers, with 307 tons produced.¹³

The total population of Boyle County enumerated by the 1860 Federal census was 9,304 residents living in 969 houses. Of this total 5,590 were white and 435 were free blacks. Boyle County numbered fourth in the state in the number of free blacks, exceeded only by Jefferson, Fayette, and Franklin Counties. The enslaved population of the county totaled 3,279 persons, comprising 35.2 percent of the county's total population. Boyle County ranked fiftieth in the state for total population in 1860 but twenty-fifth in the number of enslaved persons. There were 495 people that owned enslaved persons in the county. Some of the larger owners of enslaved persons included: John Kincaid (35 persons); Daniel Yeiser (31); Albert G. Talbott (29); and Simeon Walton, Sr. (28). John Kincaid was a politician and farmer who served in the United States House of Representatives and was also a circuit court judge. John Kincaid died in Tennessee in 1873 and was predeceased in death by his wife Mary in 1863. Danville was the largest town in the county, containing 4,962 residents, and ranked as the fifth largest city in the state in 1860. Of the total number of people in Danville, 2,886 (58.2 percent) were white, 378 were free blacks, and 1,698 (34.2 percent) were

¹¹ Julie Kemper, "Dennis and Diamamia Doram: A View of the American Dream," Kentucky Ancestors, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky, 2013, accessed May 30, 2018, <http://kentuckyancestors.org/dennis-and-diadamia-doram-a-view-of-the-american-dream/>.

¹² Reinette Jones and University of Kentucky Libraries, "Boyle County (KY) Slaves, Free Blacks, and Free Mulattoes, 1850–1870," Notable Kentucky African Americans Database website, accessed May 24, 2018, <https://nkaa.uky.edu/nkaa/items/show/2285>; "Danville and Boyle County, Kentucky, African American Records," Danville-Boyle County African American Historical Society website, accessed May 24, 2018, <http://dbcaahs.x10host.com/>; United States Bureau of the Census, *The Seventh Census of the United States: 1850* (Washington, D.C.: United States Bureau of the Census, 1853).

¹³ Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774–1992*, 1992: 21; United States Bureau of the Census, 1850.

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enslaved persons. Danville's number of enslaved persons was the third highest of towns located in Kentucky's Central Bluegrass Region.¹⁴

The number of acres of improved land in farms had increased to 78,746 acres in 1860 and unimproved acreage decreased to 32,628 acres. Farms in the county produced 90,772 bushels of wheat, nearly 25,000 bushels of rye, over 741,000 bushels of corn, and just over 137,000 bushels of oats. Over 8,200 pounds of tobacco was raised in Boyle County in 1860, although hemp remained the primary cash crop, with over 500 tons produced in 1860. By 1900, burley tobacco would far surpass hemp as the primary cash crop for Boyle County farmers.¹⁵

Postbellum African American history

Religious and educational organizations, population changes

Educational opportunities for African Americans began to increase in Boyle County following the Civil War. Three schools with 120 students were open in Danville and Boyle County in 1866. Realizing many potential students were still not being reached, African American leaders met in Danville in 1868 to address the educational shortfall. During their meeting, the leaders elected trustees and started raising funds to provide additional schooling for black children.¹⁶

After the Civil War and the freeing of enslaved persons in Kentucky, the growth in the number of black churches greatly increased. By the end of the Civil War there were only seventeen independent black churches throughout the state, including Green Street Baptist Church in Danville. The Green Street Baptist Church assisted in the creation of the First Baptist Church of Perryville in 1866. Within five years from the end of slavery in Kentucky, the General Association of Colored Baptists in Kentucky was formed in a meeting in Lexington.¹⁷

African American churches were cornerstones of the black neighborhoods of Danville, providing religious and social support to the city's black community. The churches were originally located in the city's African American neighborhoods. The Green Street Church moved to its location at the corner of Second and Walnut Streets under the leadership of Reverend John Edmond Wood. Reverend Wood began his affiliation of the Baptist congregation's church in 1898. Under his leadership, the church assisted in the establishment of the New Mission Baptist Church and Bethel Baptist Church in Danville. The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was organized in Danville in 1867 with the creation of the St. James AME Church. A second African American Methodist church was located on Walnut Street near its intersection with Stanford Avenue for many years. The Christian Church established by African Americans was

¹⁴ Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774–1992*, 1992: 17–19; “Danville and Boyle County, Kentucky, African American Records,” Danville-Boyle County African American Historical Society website, accessed May 24, 2018, <http://dbcaahs.x10host.com/>; Find a Grave, “Judge John Kincaid,” accessed June 4, 2018, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/19063692/john-kincaid>; Marion B. Lucas, *A History of Blacks in Kentucky, From Slavery to Segregation, 1760–1891* (Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Historical Society, 1992: xviii; United States Bureau of the Census, 1850.

¹⁵ Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774–1992*, 1992: 56; United States Bureau of the Census, Agriculture, Year Ending June 1, 1860, accessed on May 24, 2018, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1864/dec/1860b.html>.

¹⁶ Lucas, 1992: 241.

¹⁷ Richard C. Brown, “Black churches exploded in number in Danville,” *Kentucky Advocate* (Danville, Kentucky), February 14, 1993.

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originally located near the intersection of Fourth and Walnut Streets then moved to Green Street. The congregation then purchased the New Mission Baptist Church and established the Second Street Christian Church in its place.¹⁸

Boyle County contained a total of 3,714 African Americans in 1860 just prior to the start of the Civil War, 435 (11.7 percent) of which were free blacks.¹⁹ There were 3,679 African Americans living in Boyle County in 1870. Danville's school for African American children, like those throughout the state, were underfunded after the Civil War. The Danville Colored School's first graduation took place in 1888.²⁰

By 1890, the African American population of Boyle County had increased to 4,809 residents, an increase of over 23 percent. But soon the county's black population started declining as residents began moving to larger and more urban areas in search of better opportunities and employment. In 1900, there were 4,718 African Americans living in Boyle County, representing 34.6 percent of the county's total population of 13,817 residents. The percentage of blacks living in Danville was higher than the county as a whole, as 37 percent of the county seat's 5,420 residents were African American. Danville's population decreased from 5,420 in 1910 to 5,099 residents in 1920, although the percentage of African Americans living in the city remained virtually unchanged from the previous decade at about 37 percent. Boyle County's African American population declined to 3,190 residents in 1920, a loss of a third of the black population in a span of three decades. The number of African Americans in Boyle County in 1920 represented only 21.2 percent of the total county's population. By 1990 Boyle County's population was comprised of 25,641 residents, with 2,444 African American residents, representing 9.5 percent of the county's total population.²¹

African American Communities/Neighborhoods within Boyle County and Danville

Amanda Bradley and Christiane Amos briefly discuss the rural African American hamlets that developed in Boyle County in their National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Clifton Baptist Church Complex (Reference Number 98000085 [BO 377]) completed in 1996. Bradley and Amos stated that African Americans created at least five hamlets in rural areas of Boyle County after the Civil War: Clifton, Stoney Point, Wilsonville, East Needmore (also known as Little Needmore), and West Needmore. According to Peter Smith and Karl B. Raitz, hamlets in the Inner Bluegrass counties of Kentucky were small communities usually comprised of less than fifty dwellings, although some also included a church and country grocery store. The hamlets were created by large landowners as a means of keeping a labor force close at hand to work on their farms and for domestic help such as cooks and housekeepers. These prosperous landowners set aside land and divided it into lots ranging from a quarter to five acres. The land was sold to potential African American farm laborers rather inexpensively as an inducement to work at the large farm, and in some instances these new landowners were assisted with the construction of their often simply built homes. The large farm owner was supplied with a readily available labor force without the burden of providing housing, food, and clothing for their workers as was done prior to the Civil War. In

¹⁸ Brown, "Black churches exploded in number in Danville," February 14, 1993.

¹⁹ Richard C. Brown, "Blacks frequently worshipped through 'invisible institution,'" *Kentucky Advocate* (Danville, Kentucky), February 7, 1993.

²⁰ Richard C. Brown, "Black churches offered comfort, education and leadership roles," *Kentucky Advocate* (Danville, Kentucky), February 28, 1993; Brown 1992:66.

²¹ Richard C. Brown, "Black churches offered comfort, education and leadership roles," February 28, 1993; Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774-1992*, 1992: 95.

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certain instances, the hamlets were developments created by white speculators specifically for African Americans. Hamlets developed in this manner were often established near the end of the nineteenth century but were still occupied by farm laborers.²²

The hamlets in Boyle County were created after the Civil War by farmers that either sold or donated lots to African Americans who were potential farm laborers. Many of the residents of the hamlets worked as farm laborers or other support occupations such as blacksmiths, working with horses, and carpenters. The African American hamlets in Boyle County were often situated on secondary roads and comprised of few residences. Churches were located at one time in Clifton, East Needmore (or Little Needmore), West Needmore, and Wilsonville. None of the hamlets are indicated by name on the 1876 map while some are shown on the 1926 Map of Boyle County, Kentucky.²³ By 1993, African American churches outside Danville and Perryville were struggling to survive. In the past, the congregation of the Wilson Chapel AME Church in the hamlet of Wilsonville numbered over 100 members. By 1993, the membership of the hamlet's church had decreased to 10. Similarly, the Clifton Baptist Church had only six members in 1993.²⁴ By 1996, Bradley and Amos stated that of the African American hamlets in Boyle County, "only Clifton and Wilsonville retain physical evidence of historic community structures."²⁵

During the Antebellum years, white owners that lived in towns, such as Lexington, housed their enslaved servants in close proximity to the owners' residences. These small houses were placed along back alleys or side streets adjacent the owners' property. In the years following the Civil War, African Americans continued to live in these areas while working as domestic servants and other manual labor occupations. While most were unskilled, a few had specialized skills such as carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, and horse trainers, among other talents. These groups of alley homes were at times comprised of two-bay Shotgun dwellings that filled the narrow lots with little frontage along the alley. These alley developments did not have churches or businesses to support the African American residents, who had to depend on nearby neighborhoods for community services. The alleys and side streets occupied by blacks in Lexington and Georgetown were soon overflowing with new occupants as freedmen and their families moved into these houses from surrounding rural areas after the Civil War. Many of the new occupants had relatives living in the towns. They were also inclined to move to the area by the local Freedman's Bureaus that were created to help formerly enslaved people find housing and employment. Lexington's African American population by 1870 was nearly 50 percent of the town's inhabitants.²⁶

Rural African Americans moving to towns in central Kentucky after the Civil War often moved into houses with relatives. Unfortunately, the new arrivals often found that the current African American inhabitants had numerous advantages over them, including existing employment, housing, and familiarity with the

²² Amanda Bradley and Christine Amos, Clifton Baptist Church Complex National Register of Historic Places nomination. Burry and Amos, Inc., Shelbyville, Kentucky, 1996:8:5; Brown, February 14, 1993; Peter C. Smith and Karl B. Raitz, "Negro Hamlets and Agricultural Estates in Kentucky's Inner Bluegrass," *Geographical Review* 64, no. 2 (April 1974): 218, 227.

²³ Bradley and Amos, 1996: 8:7; D. G. Beers and Company, *Map of Boyle and Mercer Counties, Kentucky*. (D. G. Beers and Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1876); C. D. Hunter, *Map of Boyle County, Kentucky* (Kentucky Geological Survey, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1926); Brown, February 14, 1993.

²⁴ Richard C. Brown, "Cities have drawn members away from black churches," *Kentucky Advocate* (Danville, Kentucky), February 21, 1993.

²⁵ Bradley and Amos, 1996:8:7.

²⁶ R. Gerald Alvey, *Kentucky Bluegrass Country* (University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, Mississippi, 1992): 73–75.

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town. The overcrowded, cheaply built homes began to deteriorate, creating unhealthy conditions in the alley neighborhoods. The overcrowded living conditions prompted many African Americans to purchase their own property as soon as they were able. In many instances, white owners sold undesirable lots to African Americans, such as in poorly drained areas. Other areas purchased by blacks were on the outskirts of towns in undeveloped areas. The number of lots in Lexington owned by African Americans increased significantly, from seventy-three town parcels in 1865 to 666 parcels by 1879. The developments led to segregated housing areas, with blacks living in small neighborhoods along alleys and secondary streets or in newly developed areas on the edge of towns away from larger neighborhoods in which whites lived. As cities such as Lexington expanded, white developments surrounded the African American neighborhoods, creating separated, small communities of blacks with no possibility to expand. These black neighborhoods, with no opportunity to expand and add improvements, often became impoverished, undesirable areas in which to live.²⁷

The 1876 Map of Boyle and Mercer Counties, Kentucky by D. G. Beers and Company is the earliest showing the neighborhood along McGrorty Avenue in eastern Danville. At this time, Danville had a population of 2,542 people comprised nearly evenly of white and black residents, with 1,332 whites (52.3 percent) and 1,210 African Americans (47.6 percent). McGrorty Avenue was known as Lexington Pike at the time (Figure 2). Only three structures in the vicinity are oriented to the street: the former brick Hemp/Rope Walk Office located at 211 McGrorty Avenue, which at the time was situated on the Female Seminary Grounds; and two houses on the southeast side of the street, one owned by “G.W. W. Sen.” (in all likelihood George W. Welsh, Sr.) and a second belonging to “J. Davis.” No other buildings were indicated on the Female Seminary Grounds property. Undeveloped parcels are located to the west, east, and southeast of these two houses. A large undeveloped parcel owned by the Kentucky Deaf and Dumb Institute is located to the south of the two residences on the east side of the street between Broadway and Main Street. The home of A. S. McGrorty, oriented south to Main Street, is located on a substantial lot on the west side of the street opposite land owned by the Kentucky Deaf and Dumb Institute. The actual campus of the Kentucky Deaf and Dumb Institute was located between Second and Third Streets and south of Green Street (present-day Martin Luther King Boulevard).²⁸

The 1870 Federal Census enumerates sixty-year-old George Winston Welsh as a dry goods merchant living in Danville, Kentucky with his fifty-year-old wife Mary and their three sons. One son (Edward) clerked in the store while the other two (James and William) were students. Also living in the Welsh household was Fletcher Combs, an eighteen-year-old student. The family was listed as white in the census. Born on September 16, 1809, George W. Welsh was no doubt a prosperous merchant as he reported owning \$25,000 in real estate and the same amount in personal property. His wealth in property was indicated on the 1876 map by the house on Lexington Pike but also a large lot in downtown Danville along Third Street at the corner with Green Street (present-day Martin Luther King Boulevard) which may have been where he and his family resided. This lot had three large buildings: two facing Third Street and a third along Green Street. Welsh was also shown owning another lot with commercial buildings on Third Street north of Main Street. George W. Welsh and his wife, Mary, continued to live in Danville in 1880. The house was filled with two sons, both working as clerks in a store, a daughter-in-law, a grandson, and two African American servants. George W. Welsh, Sr. and Gavin Winston Wiseman operated the Welsh and Wiseman mercantile firm in Danville for many years. George W. Welsh, Sr. moved from Hustonville in Lincoln County circa 1852 to

²⁷ Alvey, 75–77.

²⁸ D. G. Beers and Company, 1876.

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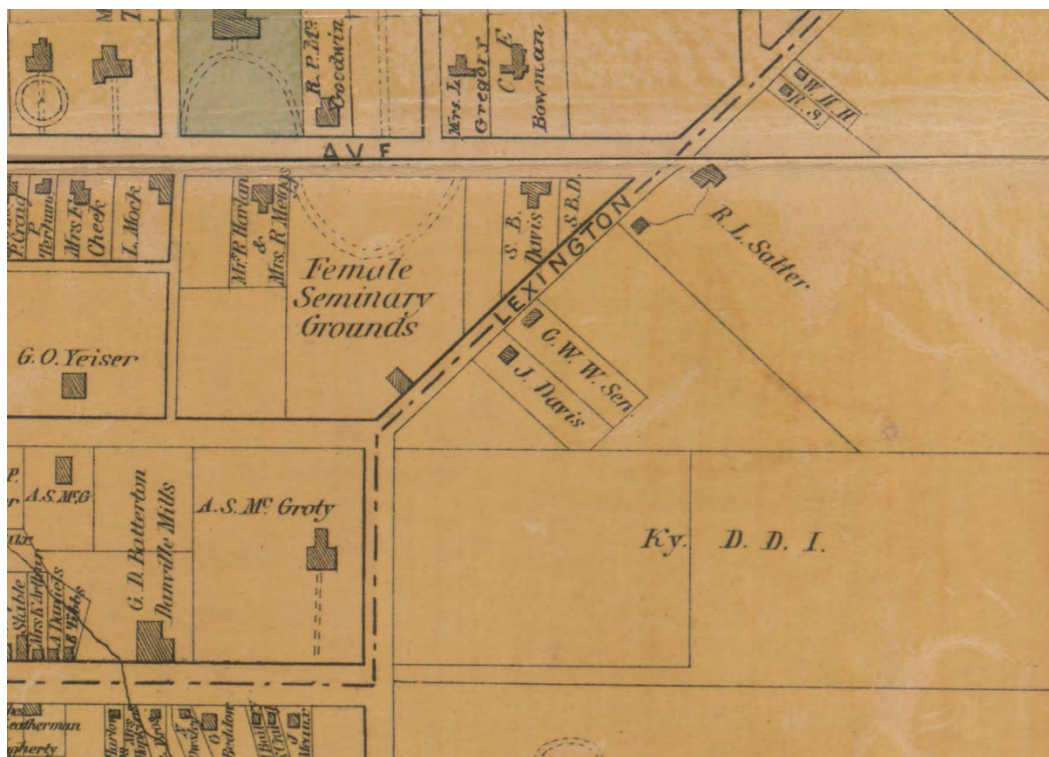
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open a dry goods store in Danville. Wiseman joined the store around 1862. The business continued in operation until 1938. George W. Welsh, Sr. also served as president of the First National Bank. George Winston Welch, Sr. died on October 12, 1889.²⁹

The 1897 City Directory for Danville includes fourteen churches in the city, with half of them African American religious institutions. Churches were racially segregated as few African Americans were members of white churches in the city. The African American churches in Danville at the time included: Green Street Baptist Church that would soon relocate to the corner of Walnut and Second Streets; the New Mission Baptist Church on Second Street; two Methodist churches were located on East Walnut Street, including the St. James AME Church; a Cumberland Presbyterian Church was located on Main Street near Fifth Street; a second Presbyterian church was situated on Walnut Street near Fourth Street; and a Christian church was located on Green Street near Fourth Street.³⁰ The First Baptist Church located at Second and Walnut Streets was destroyed by fire in December 1946. The congregation remained intact and in 1967 constructed a new building on the same site.³¹ The number of African American churches in Danville declined over a hundred year span from seven in 1897 to five in 1993.³²



²⁹ United States Bureau of the Census 1870; United States Bureau of the Census 1880; “Company was in business 86 years,” *Advocate-Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), November 12, 1989; “George Winston Welch, Sr,” Find a Grave, Ancestry.com, accessed May 22, 2018, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13490234>.

³⁰ Richard C. Brown, February 21, 1993.

³¹ Brown, February 21, 1993.

³² Brown, February 21, 1993.

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Figure 2. Portion of 1876 Map of Boyle and Mercer Counties, Kentucky showing the neighborhood along Lexington Pike extending to the northeast and southwest (D. G. Beers and Company, 1876).

Danville's African American business district developed along Second Street, primarily between Main and Walnut Streets, but continued eastward along Walnut Street and south along Second Street. During the one hundred years of racial segregation following the Civil War, African Americans were not allowed to frequent stores and restaurants owned by whites. African Americans responded to the discrimination of segregation by creating their own areas of business and entertainment within towns throughout the South, including Danville. African Americans from throughout Boyle County and neighboring counties would travel to Danville's Second Street to attend church, eat at restaurants, purchase goods, and visit entertainment venues. These businesses were owned and operated by black entrepreneurs catering to an underserved audience.

The 1931 Danville City Directory listed the residents and businesses operated by African Americans along South Second Street between Main and Walnut Streets, including four restaurants, three barber shops, two billiard halls, and an insurance office. Also located on the street were two gasoline stations. Continuing south of Walnut Street was Dr. John Fry's office, a second-hand store, and an African American Christian Church. No businesses were indicated along First Street. An African American funeral home was located along Walnut Street as was a shoe repair shop, First Baptist Church, and the Knights of Pythias (K of P) Hall/Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (GUOOF) Hall.³³

The Ephraim McDowell House and Apothecary Shop are located on the west side of Second Street between Main and Walnut Streets in the heart of what was the African American business district. McDowell performed the first successful removal of an ovarian tumor in Danville in 1809. McDowell died in 1830. From the 1870s through the 1930s the Ephraim McDowell house was utilized for varying commercial endeavors such as a boarding house, restaurant, and barbershop. The house went through a number of owners before Emma Weisiger inherited the house in the early twentieth century. Ms. Weisiger sold the house to the Kentucky State Medical Association in 1935. Kentucky's Department of Parks along with assistance from the New Deal's Public Works Administration restored the house. The small building adjacent to the McDowell House was restored or basically reconstructed, as an Apothecary Shop although it originally served as McDowell's medical office. As a building in the heart of the African American business district, the restored Apothecary Shop had served as a billiards parlor, barber shop, beer hall, and restaurant.³⁴ The restoration of the Ephraim McDowell House and Apothecary Shop was one of the first steps in the future demise of Danville's African American downtown business district, as future alterations of the area erased nearly all traces of this commercial area's past.

Historic and Current African American Neighborhoods Within Danville

The following are brief descriptions of other African American neighborhoods that were historically or currently located within Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky. Information for these neighborhoods was taken from brochures and a driving tour of the county created by the Danville Boyle County African American

³³ R. L. Polk and Company, *Polk's Danville (Kentucky) City Directory 1931-32* (R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, Columbus, Ohio, 1931).

³⁴ Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774-1992*, 1992: 163-165.

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Historical Society, Heart of Danville, and Centre College. Information was also provided by personal communication with board members of the Danville Boyle County African American Historical Society.³⁵

East Walnut and East Green Streets (current Martin Luther King Boulevard) were home to many African American families, and some businesses were situated along East Walnut Street. The St. James AME Church on East Walnut Street moved to the street in 1877, and a Gothic Revival building was constructed in 1882 to house the congregation. The church was remodeled in the 1920s, and additions have been added to the rear of the building. The Willis Russell Memorial Cabin is also located along this portion of East Walnut Street, honoring Danville's first African American teacher. The Bright Funeral Home, originally located on Second Street, was also once located on East Walnut Street. This area may have been the earliest African American neighborhood in Danville, with its proximity of downtown and the African American business district. The area along East Walnut Street has seen numerous changes over the years, including the creation of Constitution Square Park at the west end and three large, multi-family apartments opposite St. James AME Church. Older homes are located along the street but so are Ranch-style houses and other intrusions. East Martin Luther King Boulevard has a collection of older homes but also numerous empty lots and Ranch-style houses scattered along the street. At the east end of Martin Luther King Boulevard is the Doram-Sledd House, constructed circa 1845 by Dennis Doram, a prosperous free African American. The Dorams were the wealthiest African American family in Danville prior to the Civil War and owned lots in Danville and about 300 acres in eastern Boyle County.

Russell Street to the west of South Fourth Street, approximately .3 miles south of Main Street, is a neighborhood of middle class African American houses. Russell Street is comprised of houses dating from the late nineteenth century through the period prior to the Great Depression, including T-plans, bungalows, and houses with Craftsman-style elements. The street also exhibits some empty lots, Ranch houses, and newer infill residences. Grant Street, parallel and to the north of Russell Street, exhibits a similar development of housing stock. Professor John William Bate's residence, dating to 1870, is located on Russell Street. Professor Bate, who lived in the dwelling from 1899 to 1945, began teaching in a one-room African American school which through his and others efforts became a standard high school. The school was located on Stanford Road just south of its intersection with Martin Luther King Boulevard. Formerly a high school constructed in 1907, Bate High School was renamed in 1925 in honor of Professor Bate. In 1964 after integration, the school became Bate Junior High School. The building was razed in 1978 with the construction of John W. Bate Middle School to the rear of the old high school. Professor Bate taught and served as a principal for 59 years. Although his home is no longer extant, Dr. Thomas Madison Doram, Kentucky's first African American veterinarian, once lived along Russell Street.

Intersection of Fackler and Third Streets was at one time comprised of many African American families. The area has been altered with light industrial businesses and a large electric substation. Currently, there

³⁵ Danville Boyle County African American Historical Society, "Driving Tour of African American Sites in Boyle County, Eastern and Western Tours," 2017, accessed May 31, 2018, <https://www.amnews.com/2017/12/04/african-american-historical-society-creating-driving-tour-brochure-seeking-submissions/>; Danville Boyle County African American Historical Society, Heart of Danville, and Centre College, "Forgotten Landmarks: African American Sites in Boyle County," n.d., accessed May 31, 2018, https://chambermaster.blob.core.windows.net/userfiles/UserFiles/chambers/1681/CMS/1_NEW_Site_files/AA-Driving-Tour-Brochure-1.0.pdf; Michael Hughes, personal conversation with author, April 24, 2018; Michael Denis, personal conversation with author, April 24, 2018 and May 14, 2018.

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are a few shotgun houses, T-plans, and more recent Ranch-style houses in this area situated approximately half a mile south of Main Street.

The *Duncan Hill area* comprised of Circle Drive, Dorothy Avenue, and also North and South Streets is located approximately .8 miles south of Main Street. Duncan Hill at one time contained businesses and residences that catered to African Americans. At times, the entertainment venues in the area had disreputable reputations. Hillside Cemetery, located on the south side of Duncan Hill Road, is the largest traditionally African American cemetery in Danville and is still in use. The earliest recorded burial dates to 1869. Residences along Circle Drive and Dorothy Avenue are a mixture of side-gable dwellings and Ranch houses developed between 1950 and 1960. North and South Streets are comprised of Ranch houses and was developed after 1960. Duncan Hill Road itself is primarily undeveloped although older homes and Ranch houses are found at its western end. At the eastern end of Duncan Hill Road was Foag's Park Baseball Field, which was in use until the 1980s. The park was utilized by African Americans for picnics, baseball games, and other festivities.

Terrill Drive Swimming Pool was located in Terrill Drive Park, which developed around the swimming pool. The swimming pool and park were primarily privately funded to serve Danville's African American community at a time of segregated public recreational facilities. The swimming pool was located on South Second Street in Danville, next to Batewood Homes, an African American public housing development. Donations for the swimming pool, which began in 1959, were nearing an end in early 1960 with construction to begin that summer. Cecil Cohen served as chairman of the Community Construction Committee that raised \$20,000 for the construction of the swimming pool. The swimming pool was dedicated on Sunday, July 10, 1960, comprised of the pool and bathhouse and surrounded by fencing. The dedication was attended by approximately 650 people. Principal of the Bate School, Professor William Summers, was one of the speakers at the dedication. The swimming pool offered African American children a recreational opportunity that had been lacking previously due to the segregation of public facilities. The Boyle County Recreation Department provided funds for the swimming pool's operation during the summer of 1961. The bathhouse was demolished and swimming pool filled in in 1974. Terrill Drive has been renamed J. E. Woods Drive and the park is currently known as Batewood Park.³⁶

In *West Danville*, along West Walnut and McCowan Streets, was traditionally an African American neighborhood. The Danville Bethel Baptist Church is located on McCowan Street. This church was organized in 1925 with later buildings built in 1962 and 2013. This is not an architecturally cohesive neighborhood, with a mixture of T-plans, side- and front-gable dwellings, and newer houses.

McMillian and Rowe Streets, located approximately .2 miles northwest of the courthouse and south of West Lexington Avenue, was traditionally an African American neighborhood. The area is currently comprised primarily of Ranch houses developed in the 1960s and 1970s. The area changed dramatically through urban renewal efforts.

³⁶ "Drive For Pool Fund, Delayed By Weather, To Resume Speeded Up," *Advocate-Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), March 13, 1960; "Terrell Drive Swimming Pool Dedication Sunday, July 10, At 2:30 P.M.," unknown newspaper, undated, located in the files of the Boyle County Public Library, Danville, Kentucky; "Swimming Pool Is Dedicated Before 650," *Advocate-Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), July 11, 1960; "Terrell Drive Pool Opens 2nd Week In June," *Advocate-Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), May 21, 1961; "Colored Notes: Terrill Drive Park," *Advocate-Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), September 10, 1963; "City Manager," *Advocate-Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), July 1, 1974.

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Other African American neighborhoods in Danville were impacted by urban renewal efforts in the 1970s or later development pressures, including Oak and Dillehay Streets.

Demise (Destruction) of Danville's African American Commercial District

Circa 1936–1937, Emma Weisiger donated land along an alley to the rear of Second Street eastward to First Street between Main and Walnut Streets to the state to be utilized as a park in honor of her brother, Malcolm Weisiger. The Works Progress Administration demolished a building on the land and the Chamber of Commerce constructed reproductions of the jail, log courthouse, and a meeting house, all buildings that were situated in the public square at the time of the state's formation in Danville. A brick wall utilizing brick from the Old Seminary building was constructed along the alley between the park and the rear of the business buildings along Second Street. The park was dedicated in April 1942. The park was later renamed Constitution Square Park in honor of Kentucky's first constitution having been written in Danville.³⁷

A number of businesses and organizations continued to be located in the African American business district along Walnut Street and Second Street extending south of Main Street in 1948. The Smith-Jackson Funeral Home, a coal and junk store, the First Baptist Church, a gasoline station, sheet metal shop, grocery, the GUOOF, and Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (IBPOE) lodges, and a beauty shop were located along Walnut Street. Dr. Christopher Dotye's office was located at 216 Walnut Street at this time. Situated along Second Street south of Main Street were buildings containing multiple apartments, two barber shops, the Ephraim McDowell Memorial House, two taxi offices, four restaurants, a beauty shop, a billiard hall, a gasoline station, a building housing the Doric Lodge No. 18 F and AM on the third floor, and the office of Dr. John H. Frye.³⁸

In 1960, Danville's African American business district remained a thriving neighborhood. Businesses and organizations in the neighborhood included two taxi cab offices, a shoe shine business, a restaurant, the Ephraim McDowell Memorial House, a barber shop, billiard hall, the Doric Lodge No. 18 F and AM remained on the third floor of 128 Second Street, the Woman's Federation Home, two gasoline stations, the Christian Church at South Second Street, a used furniture store, Smith-Jackson Funeral Home, and First Baptist Church.³⁹ The Doric Lodge No. 18 was established in 1888 by leaders of Danville's African American community. The Doric Lodge Masonic building was erected by Doric Lodge No. 18 on Second Street in 1918. Women joined Celestine No. 9, order of the Eastern Star, which also met in the Doric Lodge Masonic building. Businesses such as barber shops, restaurants, and billiard halls were community spaces that provided social interaction and community bonding for Danville's and Boyle County's African American residents. The Smith-Jackson Funeral Home was originally located at 106 West Walnut Street but was relocated to 466 Bate Street.⁴⁰

Integration of most commercial establishments took place after passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Supreme Court's ruling on the law. The end of segregation, which in actuality occurred over a period of years, had unintended consequences for Danville's active African American business community. The

³⁷ Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774–1992*, 1992:159–162.

³⁸ R. L. Polk and Company, *Polk's Danville (Boyle County, Kentucky) City Directory 1948* (R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1948).

³⁹ R. L. Polk and Company, *Polk's Danville (Boyle County, KY) City Directory 1960* (R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1961).

⁴⁰ Centre College and Heart of Danville Main Street Program, "Danville's African-American Business District: A Retrospective Guide." (Centre College and Heart of Danville Main Street Program, Danville, Kentucky, n.d.).

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integration of businesses that previously did not allow African American shoppers meant consumers could now frequent stores in the downtown commercial district that had previously been off-limits to them. With greater shopping opportunities, existing businesses in the African American business district along Second and Walnut Streets began to fail and close. This also led to deterioration of the physical fabric of the African American business district, with buildings in disrepair, the vital and thriving businesses no longer filled them, leading to vacancies.⁴¹

Several alterations occurred to Constitution Square Park over the ensuing years. Danville's first post office was moved to the park in 1951 from Walnut Street. Urban renewal funds were used to increase the size of the park to the east and west in the 1970s. First Street extending between Main and Walnut Streets was closed. The first school in Danville, the Fisher Row Houses, and the Watts-Bell House were renovated. The brick walls along the alley east of Second Street was demolished. The buildings of the African American commercial district along the east side of Second Street were demolished for the expansion of the park, also through the use of urban renewal funds in the early 1970s. The Doric Lodge No. 18 was demolished in 1973. Only one building along the east side of the street, the Dr. Alban Goldsmith house, which was approximately 150 years old at the time, was saved and renovated. In 1982, a memorial to the state's governors was also placed in Constitution Square Park, later renamed Constitution Square Historic Site.⁴² The destruction of Danville's African American business district was further evidence of the dominance of white history over that of the local black minority community.

African American Residency Along McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road

McGrorty Avenue was named for Captain Alexander Scott McGrorty, a resident along the street for approximately 80 years. The street was previously known as Lexington Pike on the 1876 map and variously referred to as Old Wilderness Road. In 1901, the portion perpendicular to Main Street was known as McGrorty Street while Lexington Pike extended northeast from East Broadway. The 1908 Sanborn map indicates the street as McGrorty with Lexington Avenue in parenthesis. Captain McGrorty lived in a large home on the north side of Main Street at its intersection with McGrorty Avenue. In 1915, Captain McGrorty, a native of Ireland, was the oldest member of Danville's Trinity Episcopal Church and a longtime druggist in the community. Captain McGrorty died on October 6, 1915.⁴³

By 1917, efforts were underway to rename McGrorty Avenue as the Old Wilderness Road. At least one resident of the street was inclined to retain the McGrorty Avenue name with Old Wilderness Road as a

⁴¹ Centre College and Heart of Danville Main Street Program, "Danville's African-American Business District: A Retrospective Guide." (Centre College and Heart of Danville Main Street Program, Danville, Kentucky, n.d.).

⁴² Brown, *A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774-1992*, 1992:161-162; Danville/Boyle County Convention and Visitors Bureau, "African American History in Danville, Kentucky, Danville, Kentucky, n.d., accessed May 30, 2018, <http://www.danvillekentucky.com/blog/destination-danville-ky-72/post/african-american-history-in-danville-kentucky-184>.

⁴³ D. G. Beers and Company, 1876; Sanborn-Perris Map Company, *Danville, Boyle Co., KY*. (Sanborn-Perris Map Company, Limited, New York, New York, 1901); Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Danville, Kentucky, Boyle County* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1908); "Capt Alexander Scott McGrorty," Find a Grave Index, Ancestry.com, accessed May 17, 2018, <https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=60525&h=8845641&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&phsrc=dGi31&phstart=successSource>; "Ninety-Seventh, Milestone on the Journey of Life Reached by Capt. A.S. McGrorty Today - Oldest Living Resident of Danville;" *Kentucky Advocate* (Danville, Kentucky), May 21, 1915; "Death of Joseph McGrorty," *Danville Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), January 24, 1919.

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secondary designation for the street, to continue to honor Captain McGrorty, especially so soon after his death. Included in the local newspaper in 1917, this resident stated that he and his wife had lived on the street “for about twenty-two years, which is longer than any other white person, besides my wife, has resided on that street. McGrorty Avenue is one of the oldest streets in Danville.”⁴⁴ This letter to the editor provides a glimpse into the neighborhood’s racial composition, especially at the turn of the twentieth century. The 1914, 1927, and 1938 Sanborn maps indicated the street between East Main Street and East Lexington Avenue as North McGrorty.⁴⁵ A 1936 newspaper article stated that the correct name for the street was Old Wilderness Road. In mid-October 1936 the Danville city council changed the name from McGrorty Avenue to Wilderness Road at the request of several citizens. The Wilderness Road name change extended from Lexington Avenue southward to the city limits along Stanford Road.⁴⁶ The writer of the newspaper article stated residents referring to the street as McGrorty Avenue “are doing so in utter ignorance.”⁴⁷ By 1947, the Sanborn map referred to the street as N. Old Wilderness Road with N. McGrorty in parenthesis.⁴⁸

One of the homes that may be indicated on the 1876 map as owned by George W. Welsh, Sr. or J. Davis is the house at 218 McGrorty Avenue. The lot on which this two-story, two-bay, side-gable, frame residence is located was sold by James Kincaid and his wife Alvira, to Jennie Jones, all of Danville, on August 28, 1878, for \$175. There are numerous prior transactions by James Kincaid or J. S. Kincaid in the deed book indexes but none clearly identify this tract. It is unclear if the J. Kincaid in the previous deed transactions was the same African American James Kincaid or Judge John Kincaid, a prosperous white politician and farmer who died in 1873. Jennie Jones was a 45-year-old African American woman at the time of the 1900 Federal census. She was married to Sam Jones, a wagon driver, and five of the couple’s children lived in the home. The family lived on McGrorty Avenue, probably on the property she purchased in 1878. The 1897 city directory did not list anyone living at that address, and the only person with that surname living on McGrorty Avenue at that time was William Jones, a married farmer. James and Alvira Kincaid, from whom Jennie Jones purchased the property, are enumerated two houses down from Jennie and Sam Jones on the 1900 Federal census. James and Alvira Kincaid were living on Lexington Pike in 1880 in the area of the current McGrorty Avenue neighborhood. The African American couple also had their two children living with them. James was employed as a carpenter and Alvira as a laundress. The Kincaids, then a 55 and 59-year-old African American couple, are included in the 1897 city directory as living on McGrorty Avenue but with no address identified. James Kincaid continued to list his occupation in the 1900 Federal census as a house carpenter.⁴⁹

The two-story, three-bay, side-gable, frame house at 210 McGrorty Avenue is another of the earlier residences along this portion of the street. The lot is adjacent to and southwest of 218 McGrorty Avenue

⁴⁴ “McGrorty Avenue,” *Kentucky Advocate*, January 10, 1917.

⁴⁵ Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Danville, Kentucky, Boyle County* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1914); Sanborn Map Company, *Danville including West Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1927); Sanborn Map Company, *Danville including West Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1938).

⁴⁶ “‘Old Wilderness Road’ Is Correct,” *Advocate-Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), October 14, 1936; “McGrorty or ‘McGroty’! Now Its Wilderness Road,” *Kentucky Advocate* (Danville, Kentucky), October 14, 1936.

⁴⁷ “‘Old Wilderness Road’ Is Correct,” *Advocate-Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), October 14, 1936.

⁴⁸ Sanborn Map Company, *Danville including West Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1947).

⁴⁹ Boyle County Clerk’s Office, Deed Book 14, page 580. Danville, Kentucky, 1878; United States Bureau of the Census 1880; United States Bureau of the Census 1900; W. T. Thornton, *Directory City of Danville, Ky. 1897*.

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that was purchased by Jennie Jones. The lot at 210 McGrorty Avenue was sold by James and Alvira Kincaid to Mrs. Art Caldwell on March 26, 1878, for \$150 approximately five months before Jennie Jones purchased her property. The Caldwell surname does not appear in the 1897 city directory for this portion of McGrorty Avenue while Clay Pruett, a married, African American farmer, is indicated as living at 210 McGrorty Avenue at the time. The 1900 Federal census enumerated Artimesia Caldwell, the wife of Albert Caldwell, as living next door to Sam and Jennie Jones on McGrorty Avenue. The African American couple, ages 52 and 55, were living in the home with their son, daughter, adopted son, and Green Jones, Artimesia's 88-year-old father. Albert Caldwell was employed as a house plasterer. In 1916, Art Caldwell, a single woman, sold the property to William Caldwell for \$1 and further consideration.⁵⁰

The residence at 202 McGrorty Avenue, a two-story, three-bay, side-gable, frame dwelling, is another of the early residences within the neighborhood. G. W. Welsh (probably George W. Welsh, Sr.) purchased the property on March 18, 1876, at a commissioner's sale. Welsh paid \$175 from the heirs of Matilda Taylor, who was deceased. The property was described as 1.25 acres bounded to the south by the lands of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, to the west by a dirt road, and to the north by a lot owned by G. W. Welsh. George W. Welsh and his wife Mary sold a portion of the lot known as the Jack Taylor lot for \$500 to Matilda Yeiser. The substantial price paid for the property after nine months suggests an improvement, such as a residence, may have been built on the parcel, although this is speculative. Matilda Yeiser was the African American head-of-household living on Lexington Pike in 1880. This is probably the house on McGrorty Avenue as her neighbors included Sam and Jennie Jones and James and Alvira Kincaid, two African American couples. Matilda Yeiser sold the property to Jerome Gray, her grandson, on December 4, 1895, for \$1.00 and further consideration. Jerome Gray is living at the residence in 1900 along with his wife, three daughters, and sister-in-law. The members of the Gray's African American family ranged in age from seven to twenty-eight years old. Jerome Gray was employed as a horse trainer and his wife, Mary, as a laundress.⁵¹

Deed research on an additional four properties in the neighborhood revealed a similar pattern of sales and development. The parcel containing 217 McGrorty Avenue was sold in 1883 by James and Alvira Kincaid to Monroe and wife Fannie Baughman, an African American couple, for \$75. The lower sales price indicates a residence was not located on the property.⁵² In 1872, George W. Welsh and wife Mary sold the parcel associated with 226 McGrorty Avenue to James Kincaid for \$300.⁵³ Frank and wife Sallie Hubble purchased the lot associated with 227 McGrorty Avenue for \$160 from Alvira and husband James Kincaid in 1884. The property had previously been conveyed to Alvira Kincaid by O. T. Satfield and his wife. Frank and wife Sallie Hubble, an African American couple, were living in Lincoln County in 1880. The couple was living on McGrorty Avenue in Danville in 1900. At that time Frank was a grocery wagon driver, and

⁵⁰ Boyle County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 14, page 461. Danville, Kentucky, 1878; W. T. Thornton, *Directory City of Danville, Ky. 1897*; United States Bureau of the Census 1900; Boyle County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 43, page 236. Danville, Kentucky, 1916.

⁵¹ Boyle County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 13, page 543. Danville, Kentucky, 1876; United States Bureau of the Census 1880; Boyle County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 19, page 117. Danville, Kentucky, 1876; United States Bureau of the Census 1900.

⁵² Boyle County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 17, page 449. Danville, Kentucky, 1883; United States Bureau of the Census 1900.

⁵³ Boyle County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 12, page 177. Danville, Kentucky, 1872.

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Sallie was employed as a laundress. Frank Hubble died in 1908.⁵⁴ Ambrose Scott of Boyle County purchased the tract at 234 McGrorty Avenue from George W. and Mary Welsh on June 26, 1871 for \$700. Forty-five-year-old Ambrose Scott and his wife, Salama, and two sons were living in Danville in 1870. The Scotts were an African American family with Ambrose working as a farm laborer and Salama as a house keeper. Another African American couple also lived in the residence. It is unclear from census research as to the movements of the Scott family after 1870. A Sillemma Scott was living with James Kinnaird and his wife Anna, a white couple, as a house servant in 1880, although her age is seven years older than Salama's in the 1870 census.⁵⁵

An overview of the 1897 Danville city directory revealed eight residences along McGrorty Avenue between its intersection with East Broadway and Lexington Avenue have addresses occupied by African Americans. Another thirteen single or married African Americans are indicated as living along McGrorty Avenue but their specific addresses are not included in the directory. At the time, McGrorty Avenue started to the south at the intersection of Stanford Avenue and Walnut Street and continued north to Lexington Avenue. The 1900 Federal census delineated McGrorty Avenue in the First Ward of Danville, Kentucky. Although street addresses are not indicated in the Federal census, residences were typically enumerated in sequence. Monroe Baughman, an African American resident, was living at 219 (later renumbered to 221) McGrorty Avenue according to the 1897 Danville city directory. Mr. Baughman was listed in the 1900 census with his wife Fannie Baughman. Residences to either side of the Baughman residence were occupied by African American families, including boarders not related to the head of the households. Fourteen dwellings along McGrorty Avenue were occupied by African American families and boarders in 1900, with three residences near East Main Street along McGrorty Avenue occupied by white residents. This follows a pattern through the first half of the twentieth century with houses primarily occupied with African American residents along McGrorty Avenue (later renamed Old Wilderness Road) between its intersection with East Broadway and Fitzpatrick Street, while those in the 100 block closer to the Main Street intersection occupied by white residents. The 1897 city directory and the 1900 census confirmed this portion of McGrorty Avenue was an African American neighborhood by the turn of the twentieth century.⁵⁶

In 1900, Monroe Baughman was eighty-two years old and working as a road rock breaker while his seventy-five-year-old wife, Fannie, was employed washing and ironing. Most of the African American male residents' occupations along McGrorty Avenue were unskilled, labor-intensive jobs including laborer for the railroad, working odd jobs, grocery wagon driver, carriage driver, farm laborer, day laborer, horse trainer, house servant, house plasterer, and house carpenter. Women were also employed in labor-intensive positions, often as domestic servants, such as washing and ironing, cooks for private families or in hotels, housekeeping, seamstress, and laborer in a factory. At least one African American female living along the street was employed as a teacher.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ Boyle County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 18, page 5. Danville, Kentucky, 1884; United States Bureau of the Census 1880; United States Bureau of the Census 1890; "Frank Hubble," Find a Grave, Ancestry.com, accessed May 23, 2018, https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=FindAGraveUS&h=9135493&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=7602.

⁵⁵ Boyle County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 11, page 585. Danville, Kentucky, 1871; United States Bureau of the Census 1870; United States Bureau of the Census 1880.

⁵⁶ United States Bureau of the Census 1900; W. T. Thornton, 1897.

⁵⁷ United States Bureau of the Census 1900.

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The 1901 Perris-Sanborn map has eight dwellings along the southeast side of Lexington Pike and five residences on the northwest side of the street. The houses indicated on the 1901 map that continue to exist in the neighborhood include the five two-story houses located at 202, 206, 210, 218, and 227 and single-story residences at 211, 217, and 239 McGrorty Avenue. A two-story residence is also shown on the 1901 map at 228 McGrorty Avenue, although it does not have a similar footprint to the existing house at this location.⁵⁸ The 1908 Sanborn map is very similar to the previous 1901 map although a single story house had been constructed at 219 McGrorty Avenue (name has changed on the 1908 Sanborn map) and large additions made to 239 McGrorty Avenue.⁵⁹

The 1909 city directory lists ten residences in the neighborhood occupied by African American families and boarders. One boarder living at 226 McGrorty Avenue is listed in the directory as white and working as a cook, although this could be a mistake as the household also included a widower and widow with the same last name (Brent Kincaid and Elvira Kincaid, probably James' widow Alvira), and a single female (Annie Parr) working as a seamstress, all African Americans. Six of the dwellings appear to have boarders and seven of the residents were widows. Boarders provided additional income to the owners while offering a safe and home-like atmosphere to those living in the houses with widows or families. Female occupations listed in the 1909 directory included cook, caterer's cook, laundress, monthly nurse, house woman (probably keeper), house cleaner, and teacher. The men continued to be employed in physically demanding occupations such as brick layer, farming, coachman, carriage painter, hemp hackler, stone mason, and hostler.⁶⁰

Harriet Pennington, a 64-year-old widow, was living on McGrorty Avenue in 1909 with her daughters Tabitha and Sadie and son Josephus, along with Georgia Nelson, a widow. The 1910 Federal census lists eleven residences along McGrorty Avenue with black or mulatto occupants. Boarders are indicated in two of the dwellings. Harriet Pennington listed her occupation as a laundress. Her three daughters living in the home (Georgia, Tabitha, and Elizabeth) were employed as cooks, and her son, Joseph, was a laborer. The men in the neighborhood listed their occupations as stone mason, laborers, mill hand lumber mill, farm laborer, stock driver, waiter in a restaurant, driver, and a house servant. The women continued to work mainly in domestic occupations, including cooks, house servants, housekeeping, and washing. Harriet Pennington rented her home, as did one other resident, but the remaining residents owned their homes free of mortgages.⁶¹ In 1914, the housing stock in the neighborhood remained much as it did in 1908. Outbuildings had been constructed or removed but no new dwellings had been built in the neighborhood.⁶²

Harriet Pennington continued to live at 206 McGrorty Avenue with her two daughters and son in 1916. Harriet and daughter Lizzie were employed as laundresses while Tabitha worked as a cook and Josephus as a janitor. Also living in the house, probably as boarders, were Georgia Nelson, a widow working as a cook, and Joshua Shannon who was employed as a barber's assistant. Mr. Shannon is indicated as white in the 1916 city directory. Archie Doneghy and wife Malinda were living at 234 McGrorty Avenue in 1916.

⁵⁸ Sanborn-Perris Map Company, *Danville, Boyle Co., KY.* (Sanborn-Perris Map Company, Limited, New York, New York, 1901).

⁵⁹ Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Danville, Kentucky, Boyle County* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1908).

⁶⁰ C. M. Fackler, compiler. *Danville City Directory. 1909.*

⁶¹ Fackler, 1909; United States Bureau of the Census 1910.

⁶² Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Danville, Kentucky, Boyle County* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1914).

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Mr. Doneghy was employed as a janitor and Malinda as a teacher. Sixteen houses are listed in the 1916 city directory located along McGrorty Avenue between East Broadway and Fitzpatrick Street, all occupied by African American residents. Nine of the dwellings contain persons with more than one surname, although it is unclear if these residents are boarders or if they are rental properties with more than one family or single occupant. Examples of this multiple family occupancy includes 226 McGrorty Avenue where Brent Kincaid, working as a janitor, shares the dwelling with Theodore Tarrants and his wife Mary. Theodore Tarrants was employed as a farm hand. At 239 McGrorty Avenue, Horace Graves and his wife Cordelia shared the residence with Charles McDowell and his wife Emma. Both Mr. Graves and McDowell were employed as farm laborers and their wives worked as a house cleaner and cook. The male residents along this section of McGrorty Avenue were employed in 1916 as laborers, farm laborers, janitors, barber's assistant, plasterer, porter, carriage painter, houseman, hackmen (carriage drivers), concrete laborer, hod carrier (pertaining to brick laying), and working at the laundry. One of the men, Sherman Pennington, the son of Hannah Pennington living at 228 McGrorty Avenue, was employed as an insurance agent. The women's occupations continued to be focused on domestic employment, including cooks, laundresses, house cleaning, and caterer's cook.⁶³

Thirteen dwellings enumerated along McGrorty Avenue in the 1920 Federal census are occupied by African American residents. Of these thirteen residences, five were rented, eight owner-occupied, and one had a mortgage on it. Brent Kincaid, who was living at 226 McGrorty Avenue in 1916, had two male lodgers living in his home that he owned in 1920. The majority of dwellings had family members living in the households, including children, grandchildren, and daughters-in-law. The occupants continued to be employed, for the most part, in physically demanding and low skilled positions. The 1920 Federal census enumerated the African American men living along McGrorty Avenue working as mechanics, a laborer in a laundry, a taxi driver, a laborer in a tobacco warehouse, working in railroad yard, a janitor at the opera house, occupied in job work, training horses, as a school janitor, making deliveries for the gas company, operating a taxi for the trains, a laborer at a mill, and as a stone mason. The African American women of the neighborhood continued to work in private homes as domestic cooks and cleaners, although other women were employed cleaning a school, as a school cook, an elevator operator in a store, as a laundress in their own home, and as a teacher.⁶⁴

By 1927, changes to the housing stock had occurred since 1914 at the northeast portion of the neighborhood along the southeast side of McGrorty Avenue. Three of the residences in this section of the neighborhood had been replaced by 1927 and another lot subdivided with another house constructed on it. Three of the four residences, located at 226, 228, and 234 McGrorty Avenue, have forms and characteristics dating to the 1910s and 1920s, further providing proof of their construction dates. The house shown on the 1927 Sanborn map at 232 McGrorty Avenue was also constructed during this period but is no longer extant as it has been replaced by a newer residence. The house at 239 McGrorty Avenue is indicated on the 1927 Sanborn map as a duplex with the northwest addition shown as a separate residence with a front porch.⁶⁵

The 1931–1932 city directory lists seventeen residences along the portion of McGrorty Avenue between East Broadway and Fitzpatrick Street, although it only lists the head of household. The city directory no

⁶³ Fackler, C. M., compiler. *The Greater Danville City Directory*. 1916.

⁶⁴ United States Bureau of the Census 1920.

⁶⁵ Sanborn Map Company, *Danville including West Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1927).

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longer lists all the occupants of the dwelling or their occupations. Two of the residences were vacant at the time the survey was taken for the city directory. The 1930 Federal census enumerated twelve residences along this portion of McGrorty Avenue with African American occupants, including three serving as multi-family dwellings. Five of the homes were owned by the occupants, five were rented, and two are unknown. The address of many of the residents can be derived by combining information from both the census and city directory. Charles Simpson and his wife Josephine were residing at 202 McGrorty Avenue, at the intersection with East Broadway. Charles was employed as a church janitor and Josephine worked as a cook in a private home. Sisters Georgia and Tabitha Pennington resided at 206 McGrorty Avenue. Georgia was a cook at the hospital and Tabitha was a laundress in their home. William Caldwell's family resided at 210 McGrorty Avenue. William worked at a laundry and wife Bessie was a maid for a private family. Their four children lived in the home, including a daughter that worked as a family cook. John Segar was living at 217 McGrorty Avenue in 1931. George Jefferson's family lived at 222 McGrorty Avenue where his occupation was as a house carpenter. His wife Lena Jefferson was employed as a family cook and nephew Allison Logan worked in a hotel as a waiter. Sallie Hubble resided in a house with boarder Fanny McFerran. Ms. Hubble was a laundress and Ms. McFerran was a family cook. The Hubble home had three apartments filled with two couples and Sam Moore, who was single. Other occupations for the African American residents along this portion of McGrorty Avenue include farm laborers, a laborer at the Kentucky School for the Deaf, an office worker for a doctor, a porter at the hospital, a janitor at a school, a barber, laborer for an undertaker, a laborer for the railroad, a school teacher, and employed as private family cooks.⁶⁶ No changes to the streetscape and housing stock took place in the neighborhood between 1927 and 1938 according to a review of Sanborn maps, including the outbuildings (Figure 3).⁶⁷

By the 1942 city directory a number of dwellings had new residents while others remained unchanged. In 1940 African American Charles McKitrick and his family were renting 202 McGrorty Avenue. At that time all the houses south of the McKitrick's on McGrorty Avenue to Main Street were occupied by white residents while those to the northeast through the 200 block to Fitzpatrick Street had African American occupants. Charles McKitrick was employed as a farm laborer while a daughter was a cook for a family and another daughter was employed as a presser at a laundry. Nine members of the McKitrick family lived at the residence, including a son-in-law, grandmother, and two of Charles McKitrick's sisters. Both sisters were employed by private families as cooks. By 1942 Raymond Steele had moved into the residence, indicating the McKitrick family had relocated. Raymond Steele remained a resident of the dwelling through at least 1960. Sisters Tabitha Pennington and Georgia Nelson continued to reside at 206 McGrorty Avenue, and sister Sadie Van Holts had moved into the residence by 1940. Sisters Georgia and Sadie were employed by private families as cooks. Sisters Tabitha and/or Georgia continued to reside at the residence through at least 1960. William Caldwell's residence at 210 McGrorty Avenue, which he continued to own, was occupied by his wife, Bessie, along with his daughter and son-in-law. All four were employed in unskilled occupations such as a church janitor, a cook and waitress at the college, and as a farm laborer. William and Bessie continued to live at the residence through 1958, although Bessie is shown as the owner in 1960, indicating William's death during the previous two years. The rental property duplex at 211 McGrorty

⁶⁶ R. L. Polk and Company, *Polk's Danville (Kentucky) City Directory 1931-32* (R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, Columbus, Ohio, 1931); United States Bureau of the Census 1930.

⁶⁷ Sanborn Map Company, *Danville including West Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1927); Sanborn Map Company, *Danville including West Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1938).

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Avenue was occupied by the Ingram and Gentry families. John Segar continued to live at 217 McGrorty Avenue along with his wife, Maria, in the home they owned. John Segar would reside in the home through at least 1960. The residence at 218 McGrorty Avenue served as a rental property in 1940 with a family of four living in the house. Leva Jefferson and her two sons lived in her home at 222 McGrorty Avenue in 1940 and their household included a female lodger who was employed as a housekeeper. Of the remaining houses on the street four were rental properties and two

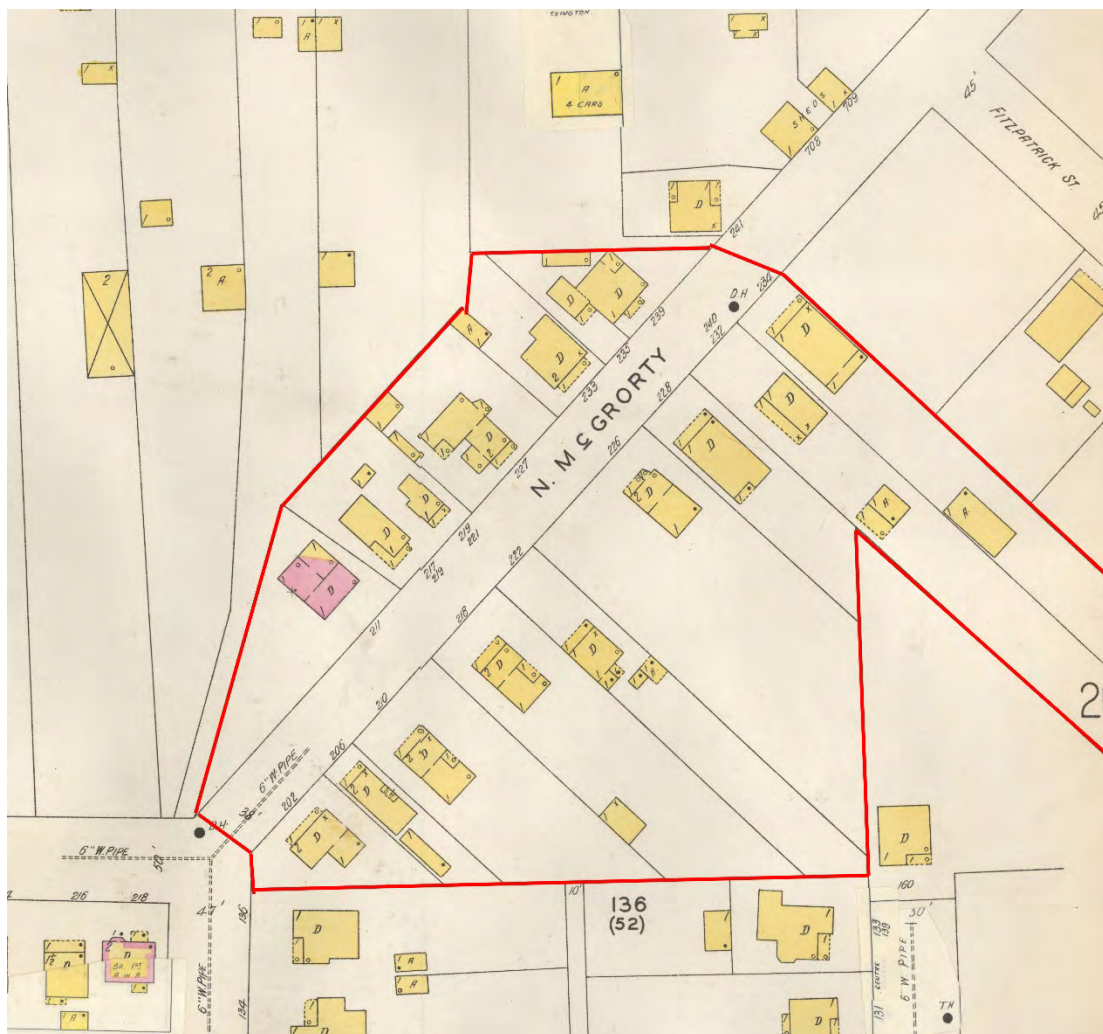


Figure 3. 1938 Sanborn map showing residences and an outline of property boundaries at that time (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1938).

were owner-occupied in 1940, although one of the owner-occupied houses, 228 McGrorty Avenue, also had two rental units. The trend of the previous years of the majority of residents employed in unskilled and labor-intensive occupations continued at the beginning of the 1940s. Men were employed as farm laborers, janitors, waiters, at stables, at the local laundry, and working at private residents' homes. The women were employed as domestic labor for white families as cooks and housekeepers. Exceptions to the rule included

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Sue Baughman who was employed as a nurse, Maggie Jones was a high school teacher, and James Walker who was a carpenter for a contractor.⁶⁸

No alterations to the overall housing stock of the neighborhood occurred between 1938 and 1947 according to a review of Sanborn maps. The name of the street has changed to Old Wilderness Road with McGrorty in parenthesis. Fifteen residences comprised the neighborhood, all frame except for the brick dwelling at 211 Old Wilderness Road. Seven of the dwellings were indicated as two-stories and the remainder were a single story. Except for the four most recently constructed houses in the northeast portion of the neighborhood, the majority of the earlier dwellings had one-story rear ell sections or additions.⁶⁹

The 1951–1952 city directory for Danville reveals that fourteen of the seventeen residences along Old Wilderness Road in the historic district were owner-occupied. Twelve residents had lived in their homes for the past decade, including Raymond Steele, who was a member of the Saint James AME Church and worked in the trucking business. He had previously been employed by the Southern Railway System. Steele resided at 202 Old Wilderness Road since circa 1942 along with his wife, Helen Steele. Steele was a member of the Mason's Doric Lodge No. 18, a Shriner, and was on the board of the Terrill Drive Swimming Pool and assisted in raising funds for its construction. Raymond Steele died on November 31, 1964, at his home at age sixty-eight and the newspaper included a photograph with his obituary.⁷⁰ Bessie Caldwell, the widow of William H. Caldwell, continued to live at their home at 210 Wilderness Road in 1960. Other longtime residents continuing to live in the neighborhood in 1960 included: John Segar (217 Old Wilderness Road); Sonora Jones (218 Wilderness Road); and Archie Doneghy (234 Wilderness Road). By the time of the 1960 city directory, ten of the seventeen residences in the neighborhood were owner occupied.⁷¹

According to Sanborn maps the house located at 224 Old Wilderness Road was built between 1947 and 1955, as the lot for its neighboring parcel was subdivided during this time. The two-story dwelling does not have the form, materials, or other characteristics from this period and was probably constructed between the 1927 and 1947 when the Sanborn maps were revised. This house was in all likelihood not included in the updating of the Sanborn maps. As of 1955, the neighborhood was comprised of sixteen houses, all frame except for the brick house at 211 McGrorty Avenue. Half of the houses are two stories. The only dwelling indicated as a duplex on the 1955 Sanborn map is 239 Old Wilderness Road.⁷² The residence at 222 Old Wilderness Road replaced an earlier house at this location that had a deeper setback from the street. The original house is still indicated on the 1964 revised Sanborn map, although the form and other characteristics of the dwelling at 222 Old Wilderness Road suggest it was constructed between 1938 and

⁶⁸ R. L. Polk and Company, *Polk's Danville (Boyle County, Kentucky) City Directory 1942* (R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1942); R. L. Polk and Company, *Polk's Danville (Boyle County, KY) City Directory 1960* (R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, Cincinnati, Ohio 1961); United States Bureau of the Census 1940.

⁶⁹ Sanborn Map Company, *Danville including West Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1938); Sanborn Map Company, *Danville including West Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1947).

⁷⁰ "Heart Attack Fatal to Raymond Steele, Local Civic Worker," *Advocate-Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), December 1, 1964;" "Colored Notes: Steele Rites;" *Advocate-Messenger* (Danville, Kentucky), December 2, 1964;

⁷¹ R. L. Polk and Company, 1960.

⁷² Sanborn Map Company, *Danville including West Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky* (Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1955).

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1950. As with the residence at 224 Old Wilderness Road, the revised Sanborn maps are probably incorrect in the construction date for 222 Old Wilderness Road.⁷³

One of the more prominent African American residents of the neighborhood in the mid-twentieth century was Dr. Christopher B. Dotye. Dr. Dotye set up his practice in Danville in September 1939 in the former office of Dr. B. F. Jones at 118 East Walnut Street. Dr. Dotye graduated from Knoxville College and taught in the Winchester, Kentucky school system for two years before attending Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. He practiced medicine in Abbeville Louisiana for two years and prior to moving his practice to Danville, he had a medical and surgical practice in Richmond, Kentucky for five years. Dr. Dotye first appears in the 1942 city directory as living at 226 Wilderness Road which he owned. Dr. Dotye and his wife moved into the dwelling between the 1940 census and the 1942 city directory. He was a native of Richmond, Kentucky. Beginning his medical practice in Danville in 1940, Dr. Dotye was then thirty-four years old. He may have begun practice with an existing African American doctor in town, Dr. Jones, but soon had his own office located at 216 West Walnut Street. In 1951 Dr. Dotye was the only African American doctor practicing in Danville. He was a member of the Blue Grass Medical Society, the Masonic Lodge, the Elks, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1955 the house containing Dr. Dotye's office was sold at auction and was to be removed from the tract for the construction of the new Kroger's parking lot. In July 1957 a program to honor Dr. Dotye's seventeen years of service to Danville's residents was held at First Baptist Church on Second and Walnut Streets, at which Dr. Dotye was a trustee. The announcement for the program stated that Danville had not been without an African American doctor in the past fifty years. Dr. Dotye continued to live on Wilderness Road but started practicing medicine in Lexington. Dr. Dotye was no longer living in the neighborhood at the time of the 1958 city directory, as he died in December 1957 after a lingering illness. After Dr. Dotye's death, his wife, Helen Dotye, sold their house at 226 Old Wilderness Road to Benjamin A. and Norma Kathleen Jenkins in 1958. Kathleen Jenkins operated a beauty shop. Helen Dotye died in 1981 in Nashville, Tennessee.⁷⁴

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- ____ previously listed in the National Register
- ____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ____ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- ____ Other State agency
- ____ Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- ____ University
- Other

Name of repository: Boyle County Public Library; Danville Boyle County African American Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic
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Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.27 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.647120 | Longitude: -84.764563 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.646742 | Longitude: -84.765271 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.646773 | Longitude: -84.766361 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.646920 | Longitude: -84.766241 |
| 5. Latitude: 37.646989 | Longitude: -84.766299 |
| 6. Latitude: 37.647295 | Longitude: -84.766320 |
| 7. Latitude: 37.647740 | Longitude: -84.765792 |
| 8. Latitude: 37.647966 | Longitude: -84.765765 |
| 9. Latitude: 37.647944 | Longitude: -84.765485 |
| 10. Latitude: 37.647760 | Longitude: -84.765487 |
| 11. Latitude: 37.647725 | Longitude: -84.765266 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at a point in the rear yard of 234 Wilderness Road at its southeast corner at Lat 37.647120 Long -84.764563; extending to the southwest along the rear property lines for houses at 222-234 Wilderness Road for approximately 265 ft to Lat 37.646742 Long -84.765271; then west along the rear property lines for 202-218 Wilderness Road for approximately 300 ft to the east edge of Wilderness Road at Lat 37.646773 Long -84.766361; then along the property boundary along the east and southeast edge of the Wilderness Road right-of-way for approximately 70 ft to the northeast to Lat 37.646920 Long -84.766241; then to the northwest, crossing Wilderness Road to the northwest side of the street at the southwest corner of 211 Wilderness Road for approximately 30 ft to Lat 37.646989 Long -84.766299; then approximately 115 ft north along the west property line of 211 Wilderness Road to the northwest corner of the property at Lat 37.647295 Long -84.766320; then to the northeast for approximately 225 ft along the rear of the property boundaries for 211-227 Wilderness Road to Lat 37.647740 Long -84.765792; then following the property line for 239 Wilderness Road to the northwest for approximately 10 ft and turning to the north-northeast for approximately 75 ft to Lat 37.647966 Long -84.765765; then to the east-southeast following the property line for approximately 77 ft to Lat 37.647944 Long -

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84.765485; continuing to follow the northeast property line for 230 Wilderness Road for approximately 65 ft to the south-southwest to the edge of the driveway at Lat 37.647760 Long -84.765487; continuing along the property line to the southeast to the northwest edge of Wilderness Road for approximately 65 ft to Lat 37.647725 Long -84.765266; then crossing Wilderness Road to the southeast and continuing on to the southeast along the northeast property boundary of 234 Wilderness Road for approximately ft to the beginning point.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all properties directly associated with the historic development of the neighborhood that retain sufficient physical integrity to reflect their historical associations.

McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District

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K18C002 (28JUNE2018) RC

McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District boundary depicted on an aerial.

McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District
District
Name of Property

Boyle, Kentucky
County and State



McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District boundary (from Danville-Boyle County Planning and Zoning Commission website)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Trent Spurlock/Architectural Historian
organization: Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.
street & number: 151 Walton Avenue
city or town: Lexington state: KY zip code: 40508
e-mail wtspurlock@crai-ky.com
telephone: 859-252-4737
date: July 2, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic
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- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District

City or Vicinity: Danville

County: Boyle

State: KY

Photographer: Trent Spurlock

Date Photographed: April 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 18. Overview of Wilderness Road from intersection with East Broadway, looking northeast.

2 of 18. Overview of Wilderness Road from northeast end of historic district, looking southwest.

3 of 18. Façade of 202 Wilderness Road (BOD 412), looking southeast.

4 of 18. Northeast and façade elevations of 206 Wilderness Road (BOD 411), looking south-southwest.

McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic
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5 of 18. Façade and southwest elevations of 210 Wilderness Road (BOD 410), looking east-southeast.

6 of 18. Northeast and façade elevations of 218 Wilderness Road (BOD 409), looking south.

7 of 18. Northeast and façade elevations of 222 Wilderness Road (BOD 408), looking south.

8 of 18. Façade and southwest elevations of 224 Wilderness Road (BOD 407), looking east-southeast.

9 of 18. Façade and southwest elevations of 226 Wilderness Road (BOD 406), looking southeast.

10 of 18. Northeast and façade elevations of 228 Wilderness Road (BOD 405), looking south.

11 of 18. Façade and southwest elevations of 232 Wilderness Road (BOD 404), looking east-southeast.

12 of 18. Façade and southwest elevations of 234 Wilderness Road (BOD 403), looking southeast.

13 of 18. Southwest and façade elevations of 239 Wilderness Road (BOD 397), looking north.

14 of 18. Vacant lot located at 233 Wilderness Road, looking north-northeast.

15 of 18. Façade and northeast elevations of 227 Wilderness Road (BOD 396), looking west-northwest.

16 of 18. Southwest and façade elevations of 219 Wilderness Road (BOD 395), looking north.

17 of 18. Façade and northeast elevations of 217 Wilderness Road (BOD 394), looking northwest.

18 of 18. Façade and northeast elevations of 211 Wilderness Road (BOD 116/393), looking northwest.

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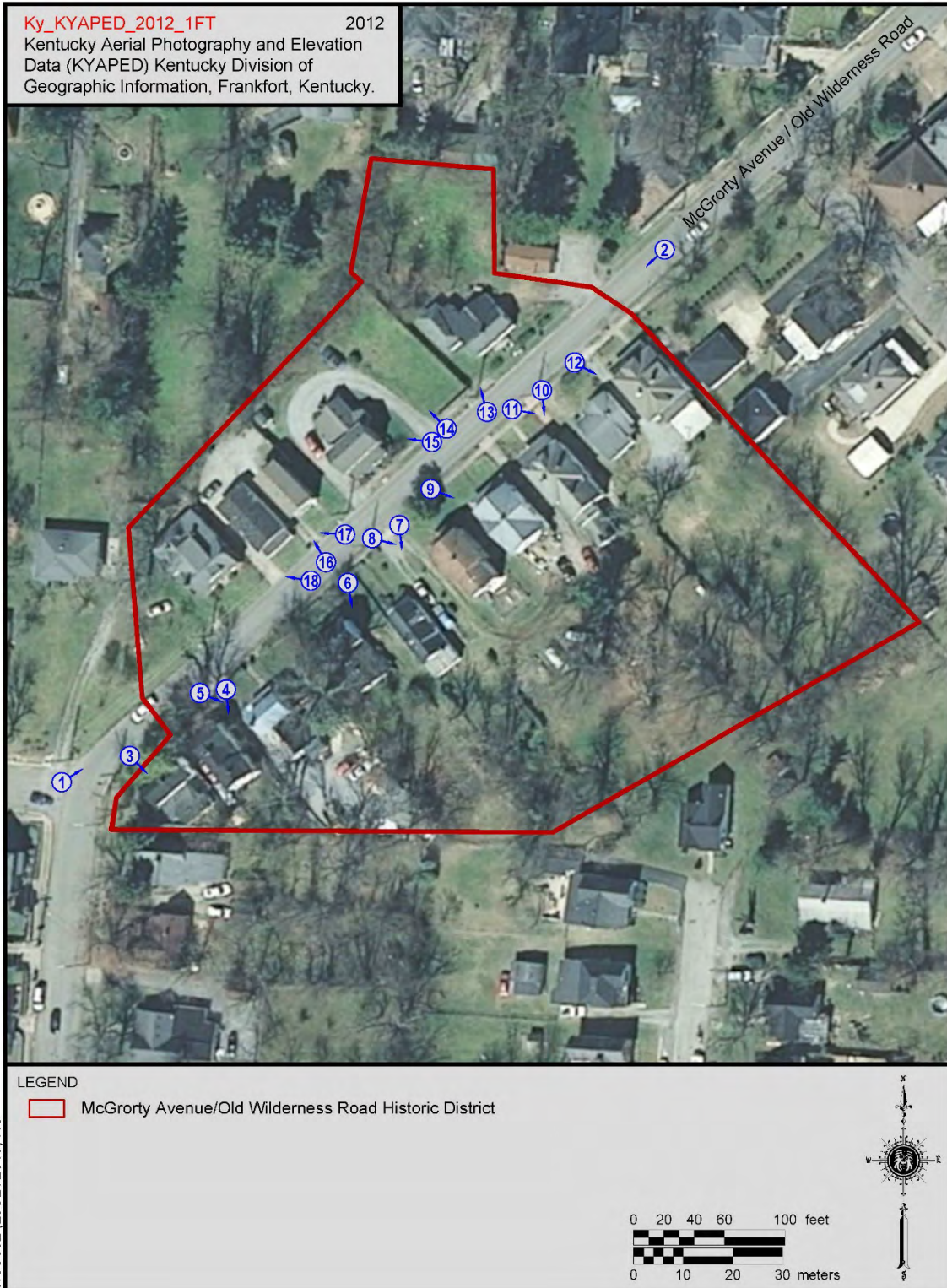


Photo log key.

McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



VOTE
BOBBY J. POTTS





202



















234

234









White planter box on the porch of the house to the left.

M&M
402-383-4665

219





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: McGrorty Avenue-Old Wilderness Road Historic District

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: KENTUCKY, Boyle

Date Received: 1/31/2019 Date of Pending List: 2/12/2019 Date of 16th Day: 2/27/2019 Date of 45th Day: 3/18/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003476

Nominator: Other Agency, SHPO

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 3/7/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Locally significant neighborhood comprising homes of African Americans who began to purchase property in the 1870s. Although small, it remains one the few areas of the city that retains integrity for this associative period. The area of significance is Ethnic History: Black, but could easily have been Community Planning/Development.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Kentucky Certified Local Government Report Form
Review of National Register Nomination by Local Authority

(Type and print your responses, then sign and return to the Kentucky Heritage Council, which is the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The document has been set up as an electronic form for convenience.)

Name of Certified Local Government (CLG): City of Danville, Kentucky

Name of Property under Review: Old Wilderness Road/McGourty Ave.

Initiation: *(Check one response. Enter this date, and all others, using the m/d/yy format).*

The nomination was submitted by the CLG to the Kentucky Heritage Council with this form and requests that the nomination be reviewed by KHC as soon as possible. Date submitted to KHC:

KHC submitted nomination to the CLG for review. The CLG has 60 days to review the nomination and return this report form to KHC. Date nomination was received by CLG:

Date of Public Meeting in which Nomination was reviewed by the CLG: 7/18/18

No. of public attendees in addition to commission members and staff: 10

Review Basis: *(Check at least one box of Resource Type/Criterion).*

Resource Type

- Historical
- Architectural
- Archaeological

Criterion Selected on Nomination Form

- National Register Criterion A or B
- National Register Criterion C
- National Register Criterion D

Name of Commission Member(s) with Expertise in Area of Significance *(Fill in if applicable to your commission).*

Historian (when property meets Criterion A or B):
Architectural Historian/Architect (for Criterion C):
Archaeologist (when property meets Criterion D):

Recommendation: *(Please check the box that is appropriate to the nomination. Attach any relevant documentation, such as commission reports, staff reports/recommendations, public comments, and/or meeting minutes).*

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should *not* be listed in the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

Commission Chair or Representative: Approved Not Approved

Print Name: Tom Tyner

Signature: _____ Date: 8/6/2018

Chief Elected Official: Approved Not Approved

Print Name/Title:

Signature: _____ Date: 8/5/18



Nov. 19, 2018

MR. CRAIG A. POTT
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
410 HIGH ST.
FRANKFORT, KY. 40601

Reg. 224 Wilderness Rd / McGRORTY Ave.
Danville (Boyle Co.) Ky.

DEAR MR. POTT,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER DATED
OCT. 10, 2018. I WOULD ENJOY MY PROPERTY
ON WILDERNESS RD TO BE NOMINATED
TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
PLACES.

MRS. BARBARA HULETTE OF THE
Boyle County LANDMARK TRUST HAS
BEEN A BIG ENCOURAGEMENT TO ME,
IN THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION
OF THIS PROPERTY. HER ENDLESS
EFFORTS AND GUIDANCE, HAVE BEEN
VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER
OF CORRESPONDENCE AND HOPE TO HEAR
FROM YOU SOON.

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF I CAN BE
OF ADDITIONAL HELP

Sincerely
Brew Springate

cc: MRS. BARBARA HULETTE



MATTHEW G. BEVIN
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

REGINA STIVERS
DEPUTY SECRETARY

DON PARKINSON
SECRETARY

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

410 HIGH STREET
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
PHONE (502) 564-7005
FAX (502) 564-5820
www.heritage.ky.gov

CRAIG A. POTTS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
& STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICER

January 29, 2019

Mr. James Gabbert
Historian
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: National Register Nomination

Dear Jim:

I am pleased to submit a National Register nomination to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register for:

McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District, Boyle County

The nomination was approved by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board on December 17, 2018. The enclosed disk (1 of 2) contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the McGrorty Avenue/Old Wilderness Road Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please don't hesitate to call me at 502-892-3609 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mullins Thompson
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures: As stated