

2859

NOV 15 1988

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # 59
Shelby County

1. Name of Resource: Bird's Nest

2. Original Owner: Philemon Bird

3. Other Names: None

4. Prehistoric Site Building Object
Historic Site Structure Other

5. Location: East side KY 43, 3 mi S of Cropper

6. Owner's Name: Kent McElwain
Winfred P. Blackburn [P]

7. Owner's Address: 3400 First National Towers
600 W. Main St. Louisville, KY 40202

8. Evaluation: National Register [N]

9. Recognition & Date:
Nat.Landmark _____ Local Landmark _____
Nat.Register _____ HABS/HAER _____
Highway Marker _____ KY Inventory 8-15-80
KY Landmark Certificate _____

10. N.R.Status & Date:

11. N.R.Group:
District Name: []
Mult.Resource Area: Shelby County []
Thematic Name: []

12. Historical Theme:
Primary: Architecture [030]
Secondary: []
Other: []

13. Statement of Significance:

This property is significant under criterion C because it is a well-preserved example of the 2-story, center-passage, single-pile plan in Shelby County. Eight such structures have been identified, of these, this is the best preserved and clearest representation of the Greek Revival influence. Alterations do not affect [C]

14. History: the significance of the form.

Land with a house on it was purchased by Philemon Bird from Amos Hall in 1845. Hall dwelling demolished when Bird house was constructed in 1850-51. Family tradition states that a Louisville "architect" built the house. Property passed to Philemon's son, George Caldwell Bird, and then to his son, George Caldwell Bird, Jr.

15. Source of historical information and/or contact person:

Letter from Mary Virginia Bird to Al Miller, Dec. 27, 1971.

Research by Betty Matthews, Shelby Co. Hist. Society, 1986.

16. Date: Original Building 1850-51 [6]
Addition ca. 1900? [4]

17. Style: Greek Revival [31]

18. Architect/Builder: Unknown

19. No. of Stories: 2 plus attic [2.0]

20. Original Floor Plan: Center Passage [CP]

21. Single Pile Double Pile N.A.

22. Roof Form & Material: Original
Hipped, asphalt shingle Not Original

23. Structural Material: Wood frame [W]

24. Exterior Material: Weatherboard, plain []

25. Foundation Material: Stone [S]

26. Major Alterations: None
Moved/Rebuilt Other
 Additions

27. Special Features: None

28. Outbuildings: Board and batten [1]

29. Original Function: Residential/Domestic, single dwelling [01A]

30. Present Use: As above [01A]

31. Condition: Excellent [E]

32. Endangered: Yes _____
No

33. Attach Photos:

Roll:	Photo Nos:	No. of Slides:
5	21-24	3

34. Prepared by: C. Worsham

35. Organization: V, Shelby Co. Hist. Society

36. Date: March 1986

37. New Survey _____ Resurvey

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38. UTM Point of Primary Building: Zone Easting Northing 39. G.I.S. Mod. []
 Quadrant: No. Pleasureville 16 6 6 4 3 0 0 4 2 3 8 5 4 0 40. Coordi.Accuracy []

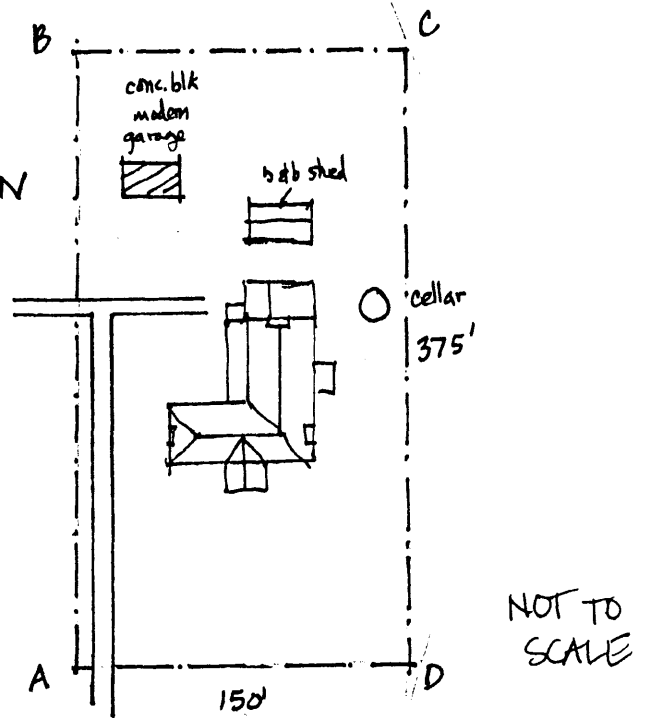
41. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):

A. ----- D. -----
 B. ----- E. -----
 C. ----- F. -----

42. Total Acreage in Present Property: 311 43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary: 1.29

44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):

Beginning at a point (A) of intersection of two fence-lines in the northwestern corner of the yard that is 10 ft. north of the westernmost fence meeting with the northern edge of the drive, 375 ft. eastward along fence to its intersection with another fence (B); 150 ft. southward along rear fence to its intersection with another fence (C); 375 ft. eastward along fence to its intersection with another fence (D); 150 ft. northward, crossing the drive, to the point of origin.

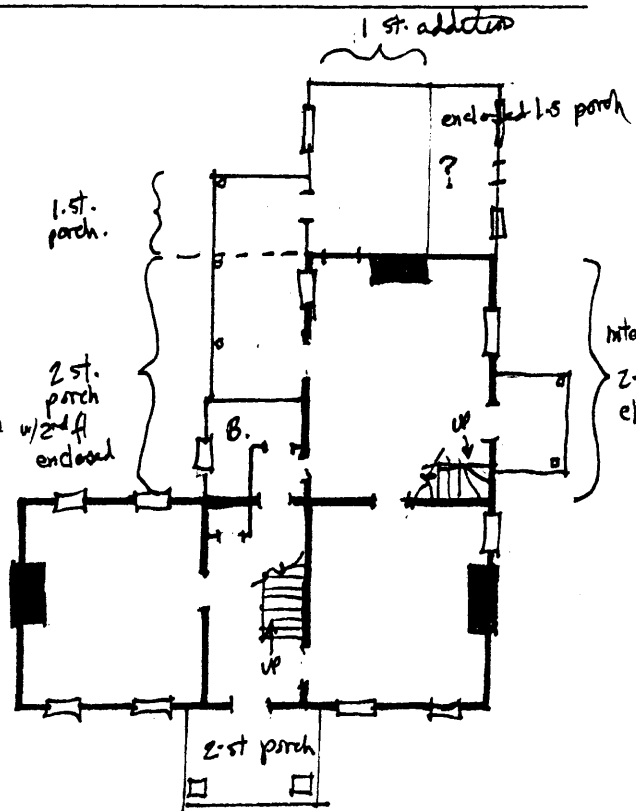


The boundaries were chosen to incorporate the house and domestic space within the fences. The area includes three outbuildings: a board-and-batten shed (meathouse? contributing), a concrete block garage (non-contributing) and a root cellar (contributing).

45. Description and House Plan:

Exterior

Two-story, 5-bay frame Greek Revival center-passage plan house, monumental portico on tapered, panelled piers, door and transom framed by pilasters and surmounted by dentilled cornice, similar treatment within doorway, dentilled cornice, ashlar foundation on front, coursed stone on sides and rear, partially exterior brick end chimneys, original 6/6 sash and original blinds, original 2-story ell with partially exterior end chimney and enclosed porch on north side, 1-story, shed-roofed porch abuts rear of 2-story porch, one-room, one-story frame kitchen at east end of ell with enclosed porch on south side, shed-roofed porch at entrance to ell on south side is addition.



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FORM KHC1985-2
Page 3 of 3 pages

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45. Description and House Plan: (continued)

Interior

Greek eared door surrounds, high baseboards, ceiling dropped in south rooms on 1st and 2nd floor and in ell, mantel removed in south room and in ell, Greek Revival mantel with raised sunburst in north room, 4-panel doors.

Outbuildings

Frame board and batten outbuilding (meathouse?) east of ell, a concrete block garage north of shed, root cellar off southeast corner of ell. The outbuilding appears to date to early in the house's history, as does the circular cellar. Both are significant in the placement in regard to the house, and in their typical form as food storage and curing structures. They are contributing, while the modern garage is not.

The nominated property includes three contributing buildings and one non-contributing building.