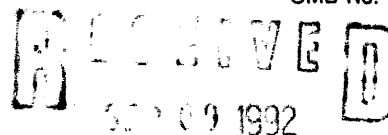


1389

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A)*. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brodnax-Conn House

other names/site number Glen Auchry/ #LO-126

2. Location

street & number 3288 Conn Road n/a not for publication

city or town Adairville vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Logan codetba zip code 42202

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David W. Meyer 8-28-92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kentucky Heritage Council, State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Delores Byer

~~Entered in FSW~~
~~National Register~~

Date of Action

10.23.92

Brodnax-Conn House
Name of Property

Logan Co., KY
County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

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)

same as historic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls brick
wood weatherboard
roof asphalt
other n/a

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Exploration and Settlement

Period of Significance

ca. 1830-1860

Significant Dates

ca. 1830
ca. 1860

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Brodnax, Judge H.P.

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Brodnax-Conn House
Name of Property

Logan County, KY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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

3

Zone			Easting					Northing						

2

Zone			Easting					Northing						

4

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title L. Martin Perry/National Register Coordinator & W.Clark Conn/Owner

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date 5/5/92

street & number 677 Comanche Trail telephone 502-564-7005 (Perry)

502-539-9717 (Conn)

city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Brodnax-Conn House
Logan County, KY

The Brodnax-Conn House (LO-126) is a two-story single-pile brick I-house with two-story ell constructed for Judge H. P. Brodnax, circa 1830. The house faces northerly toward Conn Road and is located in the Schochoh community (Adairville Post Office) of Logan County, some twelve miles south of Russellville, the county seat and principal city. The nominated area includes the house, a protective margin of ten feet around its perimeter, and the front yard.

The house is situated on a small farm of 22 acres with frontage on both sides of the Red River which flows south of the house. The terrain is generally level to rolling. The greater property contains a tenant house (circa 1930), and several agricultural structures (circa 1910 - circa 1960). These buildings postdate the architectural and historical significance of the property. Their eligibility within other historic contexts, particularly those relating to local agricultural history, has not been considered in this evaluation.

The front facade of the Brodnax-Conn House is organized into a symmetrical five bay arrangement. A central door opens into both stories, and is lit by sidelights and overlights, with red glass lighting the ground level entry. The upper door opens to a single-bay porch which is supported by two small brackets underneath. Fenestration on the front facade is typical around the remainder of the house, with six-over-six light double-hung sash with wooden lintels. The primary element of Greek Revival styling is the building's central hall form and two-story portico; Victorian-era flourish is seen in the scroll-cut brackets attached to the friezeboard.

The interior and exterior walls of the house are solid brick, about 18 inches thick. this brick forms the foundation and encloses a crawl space and a cellar measuring some 400 square feet which is accessible via a hinged door of floorboards extant in the downstairs's enclosed porch.

The rhythm of wall openings on the remainder of the house vary from side to side. The west gable of the main block of the house has two small fixed-sash attic window openings, each which flanks the partially exterior end chimney. The east gable side of the main block is lit by a window on both the first and second floors, each to the left of the chimney. this side is extended by the two-story ell, which appears to be five bays wide left (south) of the chimney. On the first floor of that ell addition is a door into the kitchen.

The west side of the ell addition is brick for one story and wood frame and clapboards on the second floor level; the west side is brick for both stories. The west side can be entered through a ground floor door. Large, one-over-one double sash windows light the upper floor of the west side of the ell, which is an enclosure of a once-open porch.

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The interior of the house retains much of its historic room configurations, historic woodwork, and finishes. Major changes, such as enclosure of the ell's ground level porch and upper level gallery, are consistent with typical house changes locally. In the rear portion of the ell, the kitchen, bathrooms, and utility rooms blend modern fixtures with historic hardware.

ALTERATIONS OF THE BRODNAX-CONN HOUSE

It appears the first major alteration of the house occurred ca. 1860 under the ownership of J.M. Conn. The front portico and brackets are believed to have been attached at that time. Some of the heaviest interior woodwork may also date to that time, as well as the raising of the ell from one to two stories in height. Another member of the Conn family owned the Conn Lumber Yard in adjacent Simpson County in the later nineteenth century, from which these materials may have been drawn. All closets and stairs from the salon to the upstairs drawing room were apparently added by Conn.

Conn probably also enlarged the ell. Its eastern second-story wall has been skillfully added to make detection of two building campaigns difficult. The west side wall, however, mixes brick bond patterns to show phases of construction. The exterior brick on the first floor is laid in common bond and on the second floor was laid in running bond.

Stairs to the second-floor porch were removed, circa 1916, and were formerly in what is now the downstairs bath, probably originally a store room. Also in circa 1916, the ell porches were enclosed.

The current owner has undertaken extensive preservation of the home since acquiring the property in 1986. Since that time enclosure of the upper ell porch has been completed, as have measures to counteract water penetration of the walls in the northwest living room.

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Logan County, KY

The Brodnax-Conn House (LO-126) is eligible under National Register Criterion B for association with an important individual, Henry Power Brodnax, and under Criterion C, as a good example of local architectural styling. The period of significance extends from the date of construction, ca. 1830, until the time when the major significant exterior styling changes were made, ca. 1860. The house is seen as architecturally important for its design within the historic context **Rural Architecture in Logan County (Until 1900)**, which was developed to support nomination of a nearby property, Longview Farm House (listed 3/19/92). The house is also important through associations with Brodnax, a circuit court justice during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, when southwestern Kentucky was becoming populated and social institutions were emerging. His importance is viewed within the theme of Settlement and Exploration. His influence on this process is assumed because of his role as an early jurist, a person empowered to stabilize social and legal relationships on the frontier. Because few facts are known of his actual impact on the early judicial system, his importance within the theme of Politics and Government can not be evaluated by contrasting his deeds with those of his peers. Brodnax is associated with the house from his initial tenure, ca. 1830, until he sold the property in 1839, which is late in the time when he influenced early social development in this part of the state. During this time his judicial career was behind him, but the house continued to signal his status as a cultured gentleman.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Henry Power Brodnax was born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, in 1769, where he was liberally educated. He was admitted to the Bar of Kentucky in 1796. He began his career in Bardstown, where he served as legal mentor to the Honorable William Pope Duval. Duval became a leading attorney, an early Congressman from Kentucky, and Florida's first territorial governor. Their relationship was immortalized in Washington Irving's quasi-fictional short story account of Duval entitled "The Early Experiences of Ralph Ringwood," one of America's earliest short stories, in which Brodnax appeared as the character Sir Charles Grandison--Kentuckianized.

In 1804, when Brodnax was appointed by Governor Christopher Greenup to the circuit court bench, propelling him even further from the graces of Virginia society, to Green River country. His biographers continued that theme initiated by Irving: the gentleman with social graces transplanted to the frontier. They remembered him less for his decisions and more about the properness with which he conducted the affairs of his court. Dulaney noted Brodnax to be a stickler for rules, one who demanded decorum in frontier courtrooms (1897: 463-464). Armstrong complimented him on being an "able judge and a lawyer of fine attainments," then continued to remark on his aristocratic bearing: "a man of great uprightness of character...shrewd and

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Logan County, KY

firm in his opinions...severe in his habits" (1878: 49). The portrait that emerges is one in which Brodnax used the power of his occupation to underline the importance of proper breeding in the unruly frontier situation in which he found himself. Not only in his courtrooms, but also in his residence, did he state his views toward orderly social conduct.

He retired from a the bench in 1830 to reside in the subject property. He had acquired the land more than a decade before, operating it as a dairy farm. After moving to the site he built a church there at his own expense; this was destroyed by arson. He sold the property then consisting of 1,200 acres to H. P. Murrell, 1839, and removed to Russellville where he spent the remainder of his life, a convert to the Presbyterian faith and characterized as a "hard-headed Presbyterian elder." He dies testate in 1857 endowing a professorship at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Danville (now Centre College), emancipating his slaves, and bequeathing personalty to Kentucky statesman, Governor John J. Crittenden, and other distinguished friends. He never married. He spent the majority of his natural and professional life in Logan County, and the nominated property is the last extant residential structure associated with him.

The subject property was encumbered by Murrell, and in 1848, the Honorable W. V. Loving, an elected successor of Brodnax on the circuit bench, and the Honorable J. B. Helm, "adviser" to Abraham Lincoln, perfected trusteeship interests; the property was subdivided. The Brodnax homeplace and some 347 acres were conveyed to William Walker, 1851, by Judge Loving, et al. Mr. and Mrs. Walker conveyed the tract in 1854 to Dr. Notley Conn, who in turn conveyed the property as an intervivos gift to his second oldest son (one of three), John Maddox Conn, who resided in the subject property till his death in 1906.

Dr. Notley Conn was born in 1800 in Bourbon County, Kentucky, the son of Captain John Maddox Conn, a veteran of the War of 1812, the grandson of Captain Thomas Conn, a Revolutionary patriot and first white settler of the Centerville Precinct of Bourbon County, and the nephew and namesake of Major Notley Conn, an early Kentucky Congressman. Dr. Conn studied medicine at Transylvania University in Lexington, 1823-24, and was a successful practitioner of medicine, 1825-35, in Scott County. In 1835, Dr. Conn and family removed to the Schochoh area of Logan County as pioneers. It is said by the late Carolyn (Conn) Moore (et al), a Schochoh native and the great granddaughter of Dr. Conn, the first woman to hold a seat in the Kentucky Senate, that Conn was the principal landowner of South Logan. He acquired some 6,000 acres by purchase in South Logan, 1835-69. It would appear that Conn founded Schochoh's first community school, circa 1835, and one of the area's earliest extant churches; to wit, the New Hope Baptist Church, 1849, in adjacent Simpson County. Dr. Conn's younger Logan contemporary, Dr. D. G. Simmons, wrote of Dr. Conn and sons: "The sons inherited from their

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father a love of farming, and they developed into the leading and most successful farmers in Southern Kentucky."

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The subject property also meets Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. The house's value is seen within the context of rural architecture in Logan County. First, it is a typical and well-preserved, central-passage house. Central-passage houses were present in the county during the first three quarters of the 19th century. Their large size and architectural detail cause them to stand out as the most prominent historic landmarks of the rural built landscape. Second, the house follows the local architectural trends at mid-nineteenth century by emphasizing the front porch through the addition of its portico. A more thorough discussion of Logan County architectural development follows to support these conclusions.

RURAL ARCHITECTURE IN LOGAN COUNTY (Until 1900)Overview

Logan County was created in 1792, the year in which Kentucky became a state, as the Commonwealth's 13th county. Its original size was much larger than today, comprised of nearly all land south of the Green River, which eventually was subdivided into 29 counties. Logan was reduced by the formation of Christian and Warren Counties in 1796, Muhlenburg in 1798, Butler in 1810, and Simpson and Todd Counties in 1819. Russellville is the county seat (Collins: 25, 479-489).

Logan County is located in the Pennyryle Cultural Landscape (Kentucky Heritage Council, 1989). Cultural Landscapes are areas of Kentucky defined by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for preservation planning. These regions are marked by similarity of natural geography, cultural activities, and built environment. While defining the similarity among the Pennyryle's resources has benefit for preservation planning, the cultural and architectural diversity within the Pennyryle region must also be appreciated (Martin: ii-iii).

Two activities have dominated much development of the Pennyryle region since nearly the beginning of the nineteenth century: farming and coal mining. These two activities created distinctive groups of landscape features and influenced the process of urbanization within the landscape region.

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Logan County straddles two subregions of the Pennyryle Cultural Landscape: its north half is in the Western Coal Field and its southern half in the Pennyryle plain. With the region's most level land and fertile soil, the southern half is ideally suited for cultivation of row crops. The northern half of Logan is slightly less fertile and somewhat more hilly, but its soils are related more to the fertile soils in the southern part of the county than to those underlain by sandstone and loess in the Western Coal Field to the north (USDA Soil Conservation Service: General Soil Map, Kentucky).

Logan County sits at the center of a five-county area which possesses topography and fertility conducive to agricultural use. Outside of the Bluegrass, this area in the largest continuous region of Kentucky so well suited to farming. This activity continues as an important activity in the study area. In 1990 Logan County ranked first in the state in production of barley, wheat, and dark air tobacco among all of Kentucky counties, and placed third among all counties in total crop receipts (Lenz: 120). Thus, analysis of its rural architecture aids in understanding larger important patterns of agricultural activity.

Survey and Registration of Logan County's Rural Architecture

The Kentucky Heritage Commission, the SHPO, undertook a survey of Logan County in the Summer of 1980. A total of 103 sites outside of Russellville were recorded. Of those, 74 were residences outside of the county's other two towns, Adairville and Auburn. Martin's architectural analysis of the Pennyryle Cultural Landscape (1988: 226-276) provides some perspective from which to evaluate Logan County's rural sites, but the work does not appear to have used the 1980 survey forms in forging its conclusions--hence, it is a bit too general.

The survey is regarded as a biased sample of rural residences. The strength of this work is in its evaluation of the sites its investigator found most interesting: farmhouses influenced by nationally prevalent architectural styles. Virtually no recording of farm complexes occurred; the non-residential rural properties inventoried include churches, bridges, and two farm outbuildings. The survey also excluded residences built after 1900. A survey report was not completed at the conclusion of the project. This survey is not considered a comprehensive survey of all rural resources in Logan County, but does contain sufficient information to evaluate the National Register eligibility of the main residence at Longview Farm (LO-63).

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Those sites judged to be eligible for the National Register by that survey included (all Logan County sites are designated with the prefix "LO-"): 5, 6, 9, 26, 43, 47, 48, 54, 62, 63, 64, 73, 74, 80, 82, 86, 87, 92, 95. Since that survey additional survey work has been done and another site, LO-126, has been suggested for National Register listing. The following sites in the County, outside of Russellville, have been placed on the National Register: David Sawyer House, Shakertown at South Union, South Union Railroad Complex, McCutchen Meadows, and the Reverend James McGready House.

Current perspectives on the values of vernacular architecture, historical significance, and other bases for eligibility should be considered in evaluating these sites and planning for future survey. At present, the Logan County Chamber of Commerce Quality of Life Committee is applying for funding to complete a comprehensive survey of Auburn. That group plans surveys for the entire county in subsequent years. Those surveys will evaluate the historic significance of surveyed properties within all relevant historic themes.

Development of Rural Residential Architecture

The evolving face of architecture in nineteenth century rural Logan County can be seen in three phases: a federal period that extended through the first quarter; the popular Greek Revival phase during the second quarter and which continued into the third; and Victorian-era expressions, which were complex and eclectic, beginning in the last quarter. Of course, these temporal periods are recent conceptions that help focus analysis of field examples. These forms and phases of house design were not nearly as rigid, nor probably any more apparent to the mid-nineteenth century builder, than are house types today that future historians will define for the late twentieth century.

Information from the survey forms was catalogued to allow comparisons. A second important factor upon which houses were differentiated was building form. Houses were classified into two groups: Central Passage and others. Thus, the variables construction date and form help frame the analysis.

Federal Period Houses: Description

Houses began to appear in Logan County in the 1780s. In 1780 hunting parties entered the area and erected structures, called stations or stockades, to defend themselves against Indian attack. By 1784 a rude dwelling of poles and thatch was fastened together near the site of a boiling mineral springs where Russellville later would grow (Stratton: 2; Collins: 487). Those constructing houses until the 1820s in the rural part of the county selected the closest materials at hand: rock, log, and clay (brick).

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Brodnax-Conn House
Logan County, KY

A few structures survive from the late eighteenth century, according to data gathered or estimates made by surveyors. LO-113, LO-116, LO-114, all Central Passage houses, are believed to date before the nineteenth century. In addition twenty-four other structures were surveyed that date to 1800-1825. The Central Passage structures include LO-: 2, 5, 24, 53, 64, 82, 93, 98, 112, and 115. Early nineteenth-century structures with other forms dating to this time include LO-: 12, 14, 17, 43, 49, 54, 55, 61, 65, 85, 104, 108, 111, and 125.

Among those that survive, the Central Passage houses were larger, built of more permanent materials, more balanced in their facade treatment, and more clearly related to high style design than the other group of houses built during the period. Of the thirteen Central Passage structures dating before the 1830s, seven (LO- 5, 24, 53, 64, 82, 93, and 98) were built in masonry, which required more time and care, if not greater cost, than log to construct. Flemish bond brick patterning, a pretentious effect, was found on LO-53, LO-64, LO-82, and LO-93. The architectural program of a few of these structures was worked out sufficiently so that they incorporated an original -ell projection to the rear or a wing: LO-5, LO-64, LO-82, and LO-112. Others needed no expansion at all, being sufficiently large from the beginning. Logan County's Central Passage houses are two-story structures as a rule. None are believed to retain their original porches.

By contrast, the earliest houses built in the county which had other forms than Central Passage are smaller, less self conscious in their facade treatment, and more often built of log, and more frequently needed to be expanded for subsequent uses. Only five of the fourteen (LO- 43, 61, 85, 108, and 111) rose above 1-1/2 stories in height. Most appeared to be built in phases, starting with a log pen or two, separate in space. These separate pens often were tied together with clapboards at some later date, conceivably when a frame addition was grafted on to the original units. Two, LO-49 and LO-65, are believed to retain their original porches. Only two, LO-54 and LO-61, are built in brick, the latter of flemish bond pattern. Traditional house forms were represented among this group: Hall-and-parlor (LO-54, LO-61, LO-65), Dogtrot (LO-43, LO-54) and Saddlebag (LO-17). Others are difficult to classify or to identify under the layers of clapboarding because most of these survey forms do not contain building floor plans.

1825-1875: Popularity of Central Passage

Surveyors recorded twenty-eight Central Passage Houses in rural Logan County believed to have been built during this period, as compared with seventeen houses in other forms. No Central Passage house was identified with a construction date after 1875. Central Passage houses in Logan County from this period have a more definite stylistic expression than their predecessors. Greek Revival styling defines this period of construction.

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Logan County, KY

One important feature of Greek Revival styling for Logan County Central Passage houses is the porch. While none of those Central Passage houses built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century have retained an original porch, nine mid-century Central Passage houses (LO- 9, 26, 30, 56, 60, 68, 87, 95, 123) retain columned porches that date to the mid-nineteenth century.

This differential in the number of porches can have several explanations. One explanation relates to maintenance considerations. Porches tend to be vulnerable to decay from weather. Porches built on a house from 1800-1825 would have been attacked for more years than porches affixed after the 1830s, and so have a greater chance for rotting. If environmental factors explain the lack of porches on Central Passage houses built before the 1830s, then it is likely that some of those houses had original porches but that none of those porches have survived.

Another explanation reflects aesthetic considerations: Greek Revival styling demanded the use of a porch to define the style, where this was not true for houses built earlier. That is, a Logan County house builder from 1800-1825 would only need to build a Central Passage house to distinguish his work from that of others. The form itself was new to the area and offered variation from the norm even without a porch. But by the 1830s, Logan County contained a number of urban and rural Central Passage houses. In contrast to other houses, these must have been seen as buildings of prestige and distinction. By the middle of the antebellum period, home owners and house builders alike were familiar with the aesthetic limits of the form. So after that time a builder needed to employ Greek Revival external features to distinguish a Central Passage house from an earlier residence with that form. This occurred nationally, as well (McAlester: 139-195). The vocabulary of Greek Revival features relied upon the visual impact of porches, often a two-story portico. Within this view, the porch serves as a useful feature to distinguish early from later Central Passage houses. The addition of a Greek Revival styled portico was an especially popular way to update a house from the late Federal period, eg., LO-126, the Brodnax-Conn House. Further, aesthetics, more so than environment, accounts for the evolution of the Central Passage house. If so, then perhaps fewer earlier houses were built with porches in the first place. Obviously, if no rural Central Passage houses were built with porches before the 1830s, none were to be found in the 1980 survey.

During the later nineteenth and early twentieth century owners certainly considered both maintenance and styling in the decision to attach a new porch onto an extant Central Passage house. A modern replacement for a decaying porch would correct the structural deficiency and allow an update for the simple three- or five-bay facade. Many later nineteenth century porches were a single story, contrasted with the two-story Greek Revival portico, and had delicate turned posts and scroll-cut brackets (eg., LO-109). After the turn of the

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century a number of these rural seats received two story porticos with mammoth columns that stretched sometimes three bays and which were accented with dentils and fanlights (eg., LO-46, LO-47).

Two houses in the county, the residence at Longview Farm (LO-63) and the **Brodnax-Conn House** (LO-126), employ replacement porches which are important signposts of styling during the period that they were added to the existing houses. The later porch, at Longview Farm, is one of the most impressive replacement porches in the rural county. Its two story height and five bay width places it among the largest on any Central Passage house. Its detail makes it more elaborate than others. That detailing is similar to the work on Italianate and Gothic farmhouses built throughout America after 1850s. Finally, its highly unusual attachment, i.e., suspension by metal rods, is like no other. Its combination of size and styling make it an important artifact from the final quarter of the nineteenth century. It indicates the continuing interest in the porch for late nineteenth-century house design. Its styling shows that an up-to-date architectural appearance was important to owners of homes, even when the style of the main house block had passed from fashion.

The porch on the **Brodnax-Conn House**, is typical of Greek Revival styling. Its form is restrained by comparison with the Longview Farmhouse's porch. It is only one bay wide and fairly simple in its ornament. Curiously, it employs an independent vertical support for the second floor porch, instead of tying that porch into the massive posts which hold up the portico's roof. No rural house in the county has a porch from the mid-nineteenth century which has more elaborate Greek Revival styling, and so, could be seen as a better representative of this nationally prominent style.

ARCHEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Historical or prehistoric archeology have not been considered as areas of possible significance for this site. These approaches should be undertaken in the future. The fact that Criterion D was not selected does not imply that the site was evaluated for eligibility under that criterion.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Brodnax-Conn House, Logan County, KY

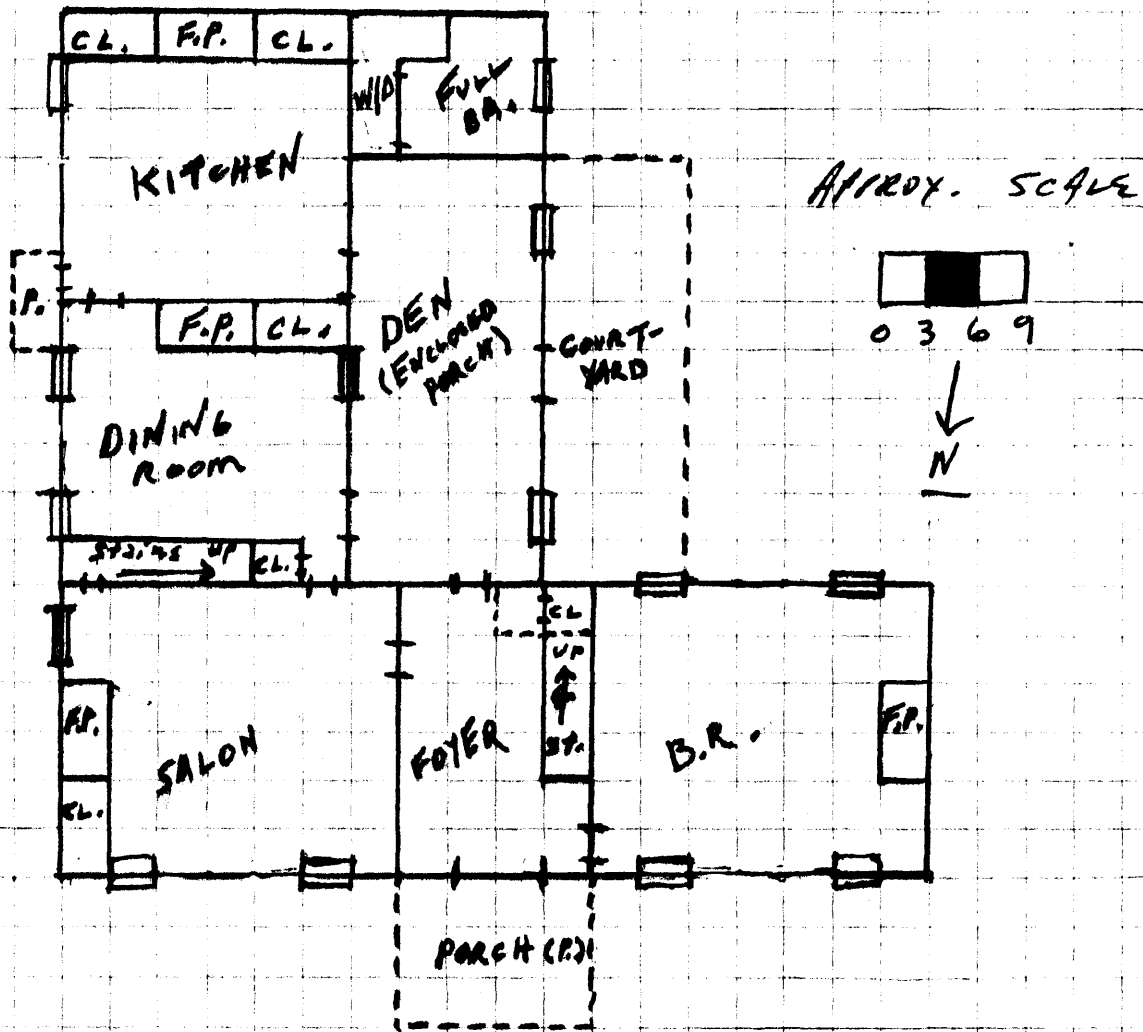
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area encompasses the main residence, a ten foot perimeter on the sides and back, and the front yard area between the main facade and Conn Road. The house occupies the parcel designated property #9-B on the Logan County Property Valuation Office map #129.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area includes the house and front yard area. This acreage includes the extent of resources known to date to the period of significance and reflects both the values of rural architecture and Judge Brodnax's association with the property. Many modern farming structures are on the west side and behind (south of) the house, obscuring the integrity of setting appropriate to preserving historic associations. The east portion of the property outside of the nominated area has better integrity, but has not been considered for eligibility under historic contexts it most strongly reflects: agriculture and landscape design. It may be eligible after those contexts have been developed for the local area.

FLOOR PLAN: 1 of 2
BRODNAX-CONN HOUSE
LOGAN Co. KY.

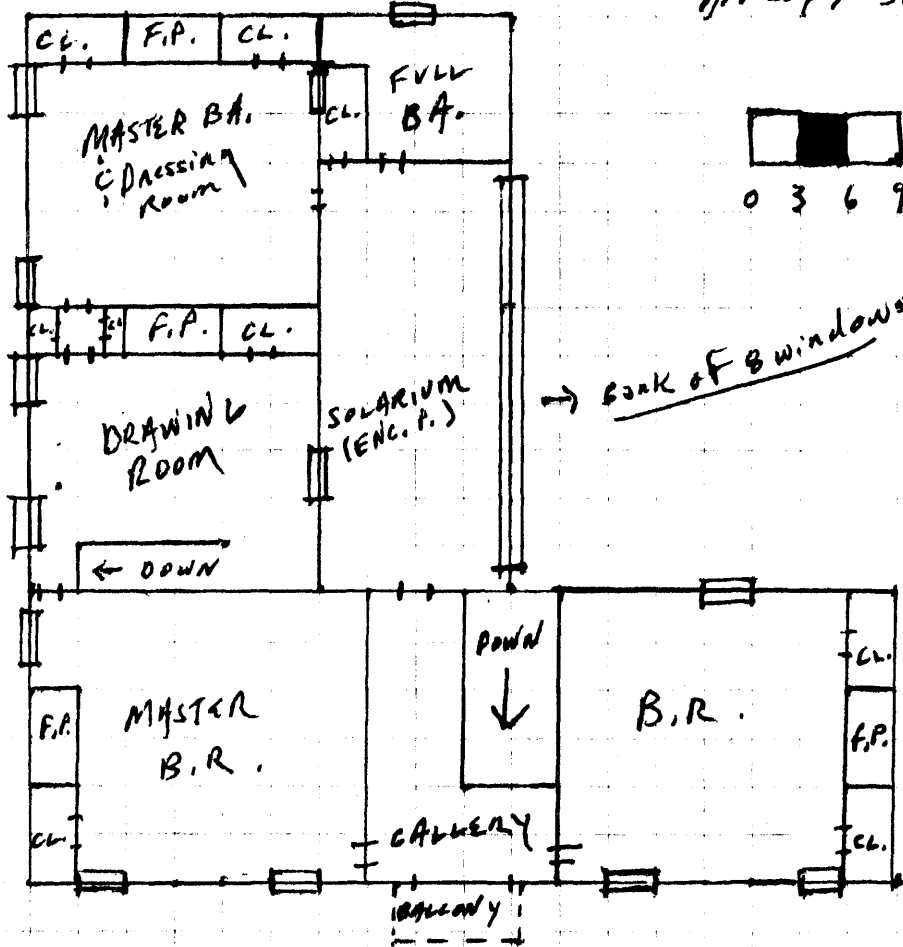


FLOOR PLAN: 2 of 2

BROSNAX-CONN HOUSE

LOGAN COUNTY, KY

APPLOY, SCALE



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number PHOTO Page 1 BRODNAX-CONN HOUSE, Logan County, KY

PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Same for all photographs:

Name of Property: Brodnax-Conn House

Location: 3288 Conn Road, rural Logan County, KY

Date of Photograph: Spring, 1992

Photographer: L. Martin Perry

Location of Negative: KY Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY

- Photo 1: Main residence, view to southwest
- Photo 2: Main residence, view to northwest
- Photo 3: Main residence, view to northeast
- Photo 4: Detail of porch post and column capital, main residence, view to south
- Photo 5: Stone coach step between house and Conn road, view to southeast
- Photo 6: Dining room, first floor main residence, view to south
- Photo 7: Current Den (enclosed historic porch), first floor, main residence, view to south
- Photo 8: Current Solarium (enclosed porch), second floor, main residence, view to north
- Photo 9: West Bedroom, main residence, view to west
- Photo 10: Salon, main residence, view to east

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