

PH 0508268

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 31 1977
DATE ENTERED FEB 8 1978SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John Field House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

111 East Fortune Street

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

05

STATE

Kentucky

-- VICINITY OF

CODE
021COUNTY
AdairCODE
001**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Ralph R. Walker

STREET & NUMBER

111 East Fortune Street

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

-- VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Adair County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Field House is situated on a sloping site at the corner of Fortune and Reed Streets in Columbia (see photo 1). The Adair County Courthouse is two blocks northeast, and the house now faces a largely commercialized area.

Erected in 1812 by the local craftsmen, James and Benjamin McDowell, this Federal two-and-one-half-story residence is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond on the front and sides; common bond on the rear. The front facade of five bays faces northwest, and has a rather delicate frontispiece with pilasters, a keystone arch and cornice framing the centered entrance (see photo 2).

All windows are sash with six-over-six panes. These have wooden lintels at their sills and heads, with flat brick arches above. On either side are restrained eaves and a chimney built into the wall; that on the west is centered while that on the east is not. As a result, a garret window occupies the peak of the latter gable (see photo 3), but the garret window in the former is to the chimney's side.

The brick portion was separated from later frame additions to the rear by an open porch with brick flooring. This has been enclosed, transforming the over-all shape of the appendages into an "L".

The interior of the original section features a central hall flanked by a large drawing room on the west and a parlor and dining room on the east (see floor plan). At the rear of the hall is an open dog-leg staircase (see photo 4) having slender cherry newels and a decoratively carved stringer. A second approach to the upper level is by an enclosed quarter-turn with winders staircase off the dining room.

The Federal mantels were later replaced with chaste examples of the Greek Revival mode (see photos 5 and 6). Original interior woodwork maintained includes chair-railing, low baseboards, and paneled door jambs (see photo 7), along with yellow poplar flooring throughout. At present, the structure is in fair condition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1812

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James and Benjamin McDowell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Field House, occupying a prominent location on the corner of East Fortune and Reed Streets in Columbia, is the finest remaining Federal house in the town. The residence also attains significance by having played an important role in the history of Columbia, and by having been built for one of the town's leading citizens.

John Field was born in Bedford County, Virginia, and was the stepson of John Hurt, a Revolutionary War veteran and an early pioneer of what is now Adair County. Field owned a general store on the corner of Jamestown Street and the Town Square, and owned half interest in a nail factory. These business interests were quite successful, and Field was reputed to have been among the wealthiest men in the area. In addition, he served as Adair County's first jailor.

In 1812, Field employed two local master craftsmen, James and Benjamin McDowell, to construct a substantial residence on lot 76, one of the most desirable locations in Columbia due to its proximity to the Town Square. The product is a rather fine Federal house of brick laid in Flemish bond on the front and sides. The openings of the main facade are well proportioned, and the entrance is given a refined air with its attractive frontispiece.

John Marshall Clemens, father of the famed writer Samuel Clemens, boarded with the Fields and practiced law in the second floor's hall. In 1836, he married Jane Lampton of Columbia, and this was their home for two years. Jane Clemens' biographer recorded that Jane thought the Field House to be the handsomest place in town.¹ A biographer of Samuel Clemens reiterates this assertion by stating that this was undoubtedly "the handsomest of the dwellings in which they [the Clemens] lived, during a quarter century of steadily waning fortunes."²

After the Fields' deaths, the house became the residence of the Reverend David Page, a Presbyterian minister who came to Columbia to serve as President of the Columbia College (est. 1836). This institution was an outgrowth of the former Robertson Academy (est. 1812), the first school in Columbia. For several years, Reverend Page's wife, Hannah, taught the college's Girls Department in the large drawing

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Privately printed, 1975.

Varble, Rachel. Jane Clemens. Garden City, N.J.: Doubleday and Co., 1964.

Wecter, Dixon. Sam Clemens of Hannibal. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1952.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	65,0	2,15	4,10,7	2,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

September 1977

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

~~FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE~~ SIGNATURE

Cedric W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Chad Adams

DATE

2-8-78

DATE

2-7-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 31 1977
DATE ENTERED	FEB 8 1978

John Field House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

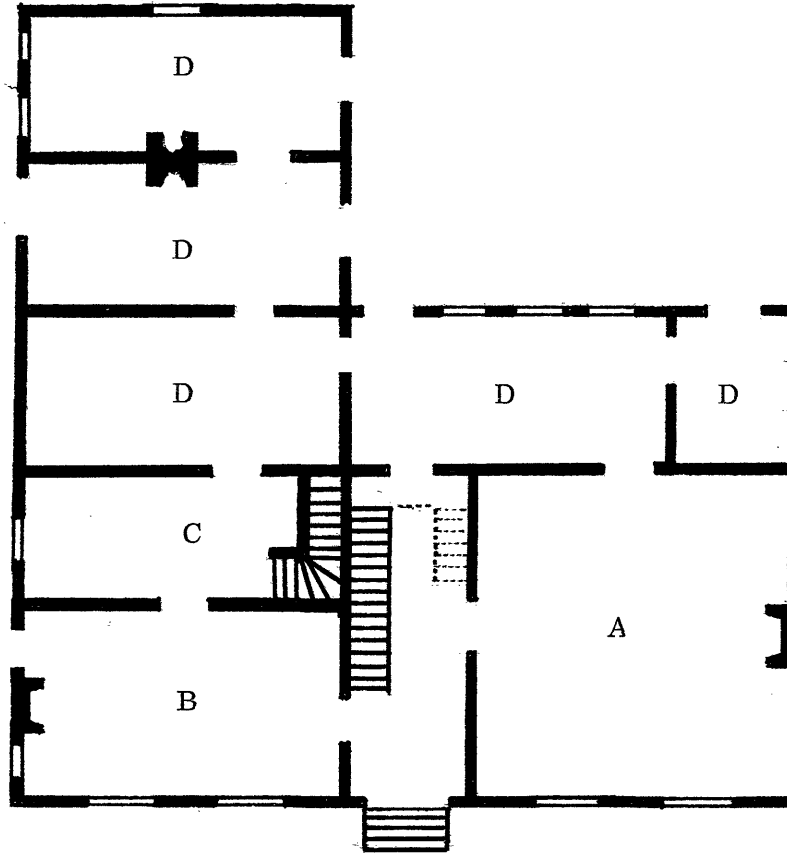
room on the first floor. The school later moved to a more permanent location, and the Field House has since been used continuously as a private residence. Frame appendages have been added to the rear, but the front facade and the exterior side walls remain unaltered.

¹Rachel Varbel, Jane Clemens (Garden City, New Jersey, Doubleday and Co., 1964), p. 83.

²Dixon Wecter, Sam Clemens of Hannibal (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1952), p. 29.

John Field House
Columbia, Adair County, Kentucky

First-floor plan
No scale

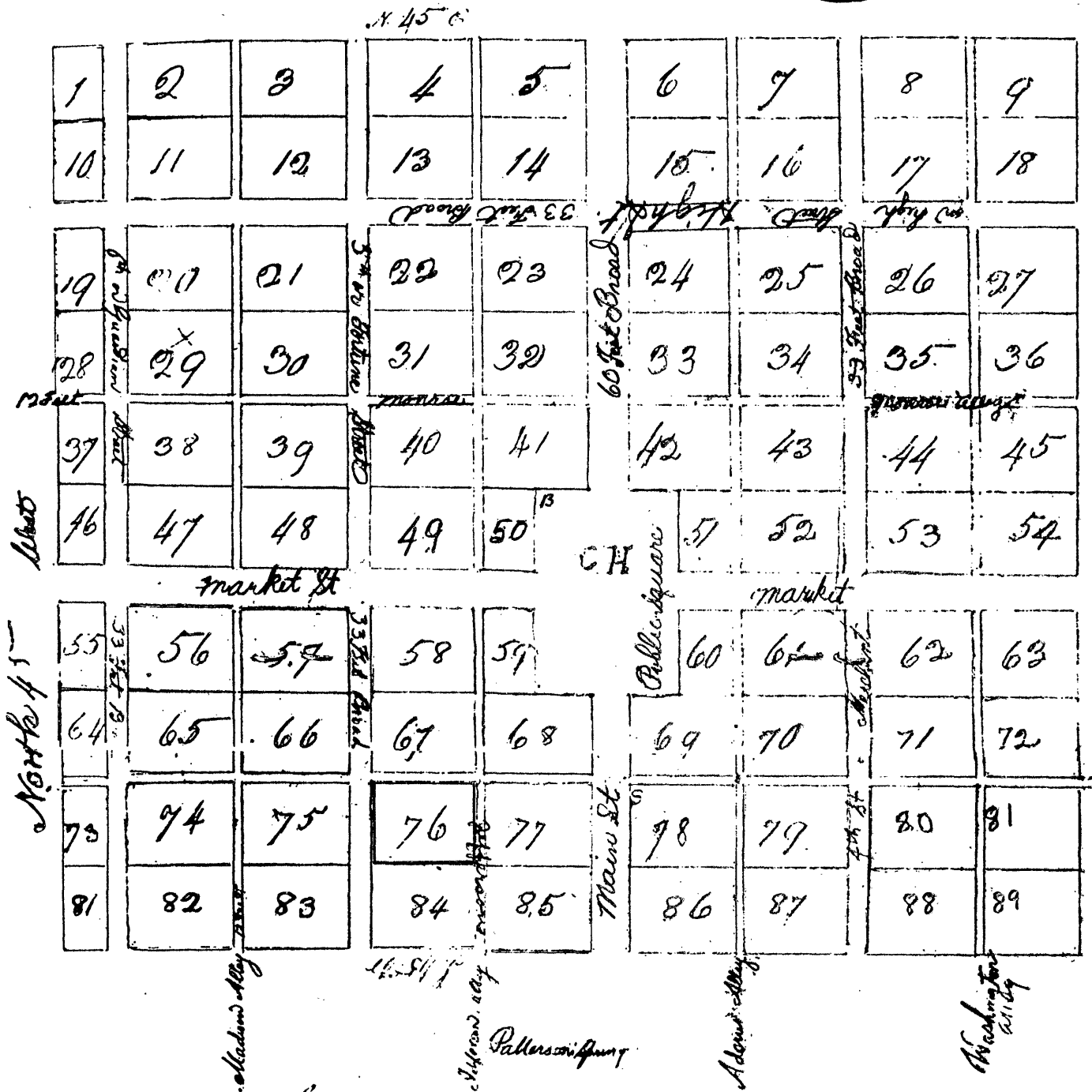


- A Drawing room
- B Parlor
- C Dining room
- D Later frame additions

John Field House FEB 8 1978
Columbia
Adair County OCT 31 1977
Kentucky

Daniel Kidd, Kentucky Heritage
Commission
Sketch map, no scale, 1977.
Map 4. First-floor plan.

Map of the Town of Columbia



EARLY COLUMBIA
 EARLY COLUMBIA

Scale 10 feet per inch

Explanation: As a town planted at the distant corner of the Publicly
 established beginning of the survey of the Town lots the Spring and lot 78
 the Spring also below the Town except lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 19
 27, 46, 55, 64, 73, 81, 18, 27, 36, 45, 54, 63, 72, 80, 87, 50, 51, 59.
 which contain a full half acre of grounds and are laid off eight
 by Ten poles.

John Field House
Columbia
Adair County
Kentucky

FEB 8 1978

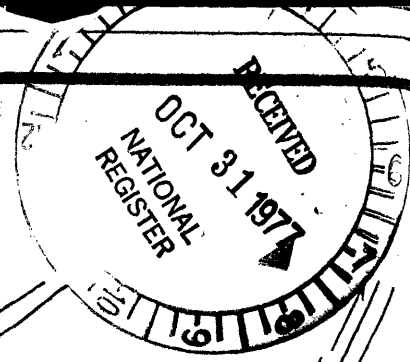
Early Columbia. Ruth Paul Burdette.
Privately printed 1975.

Map 3. House outlined in
red. —

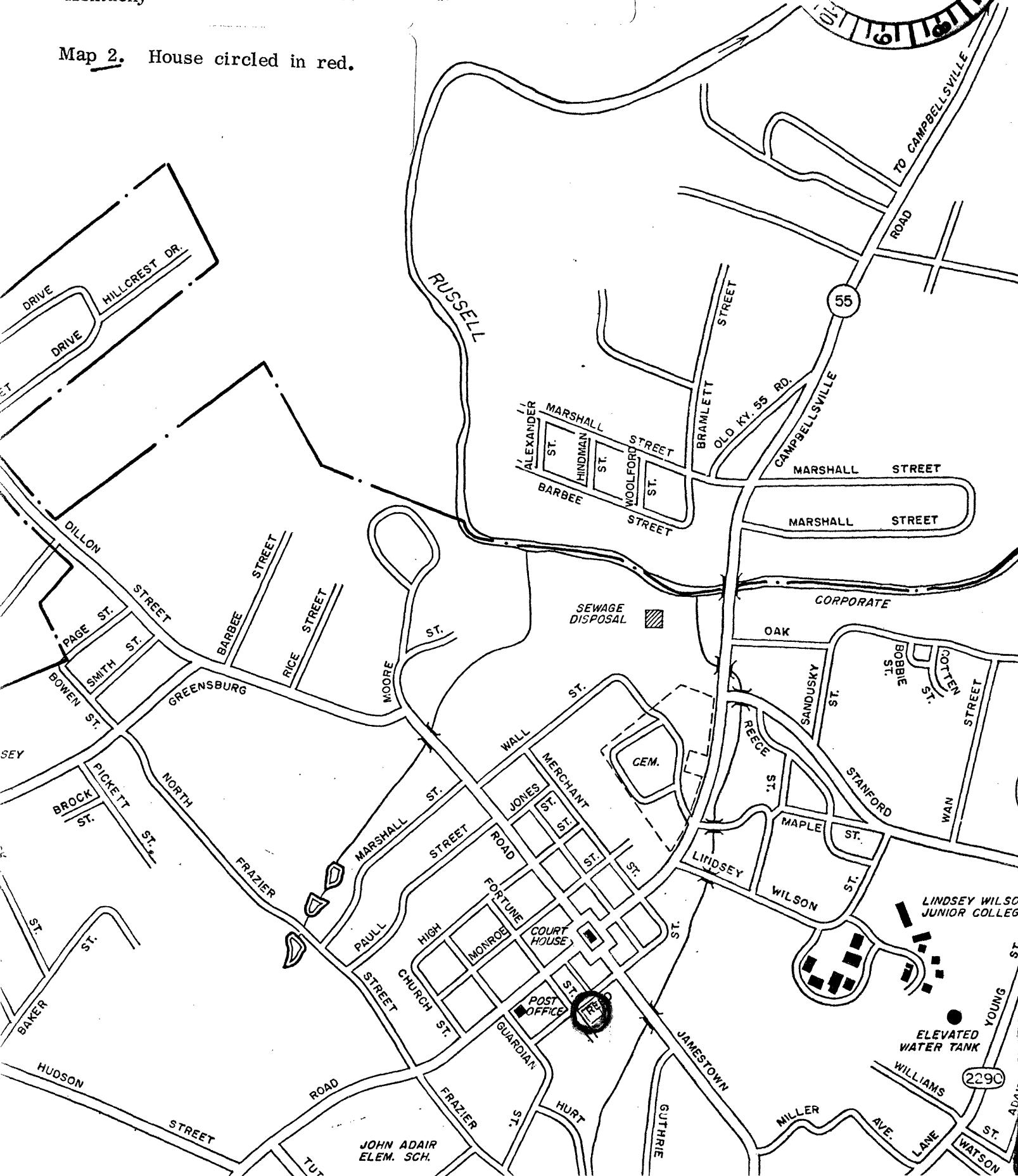
OCT 31 1977

John Field House
Columbia
Adair County
Kentucky

Prepared by Ky. Department of
Transportation in cooperation with
U. S. Department of Transportation,
1" = 800' 1973



Map 2. House circled in red.



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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

05

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	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C								D							

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NAME / TITLE

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ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

September 1977

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TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

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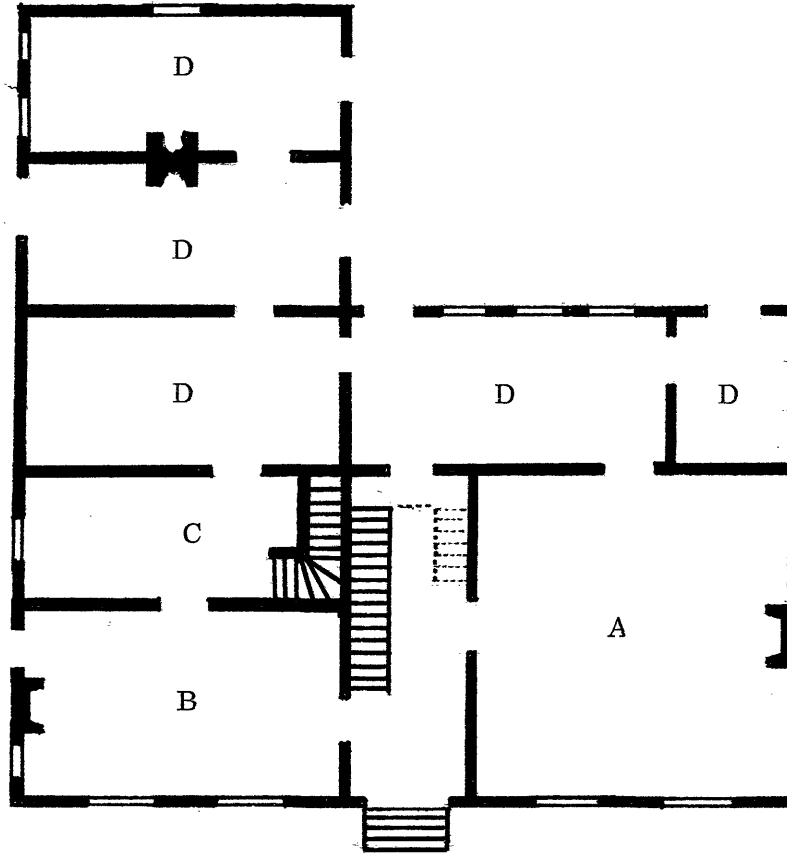
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Columbia, Adair County, Kentucky

First-floor plan
No scale

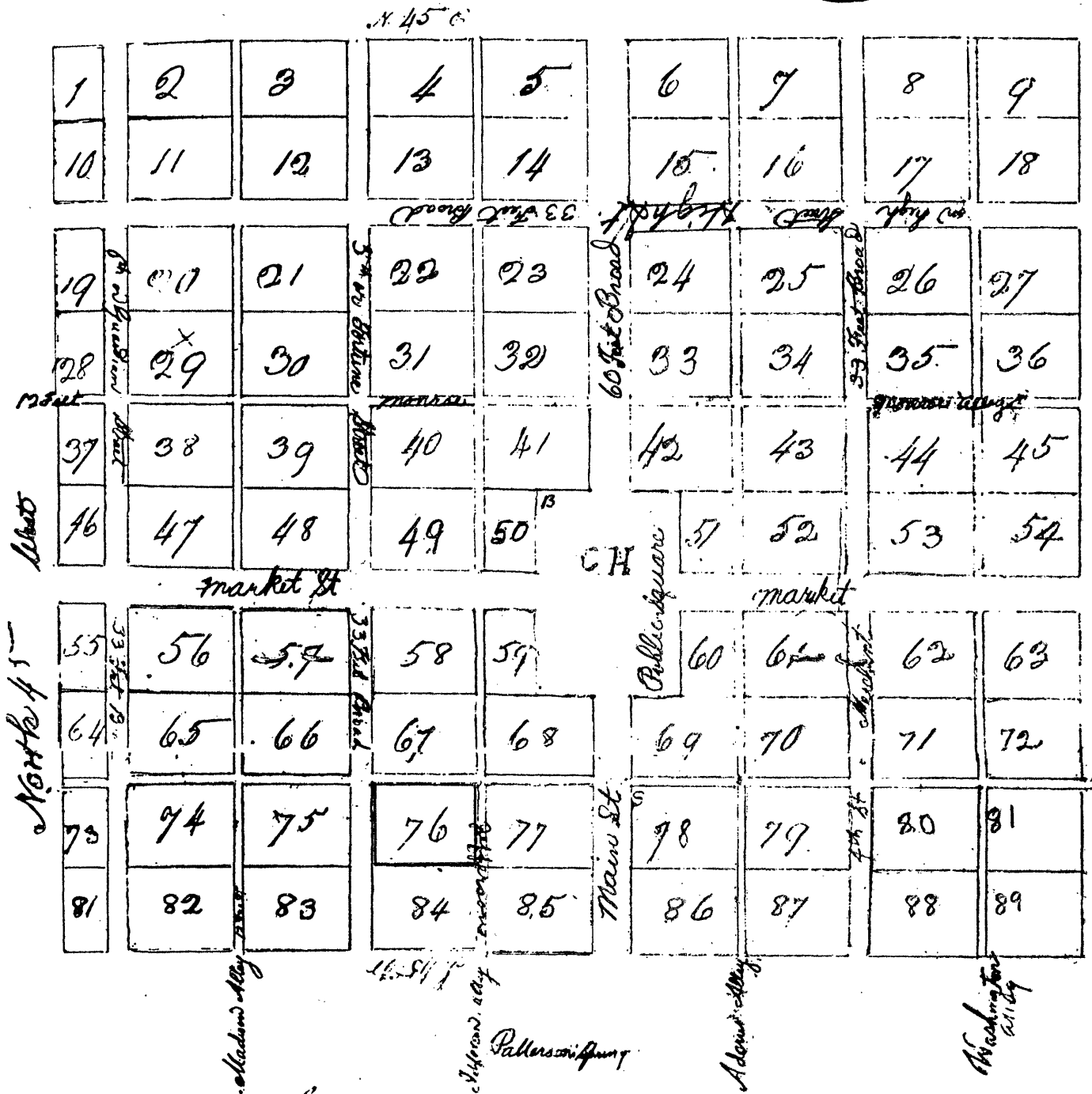


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Columbia
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Daniel Kidd, Kentucky Heritage
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Map 4. First-floor plan.

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Scale 10 feet per inch

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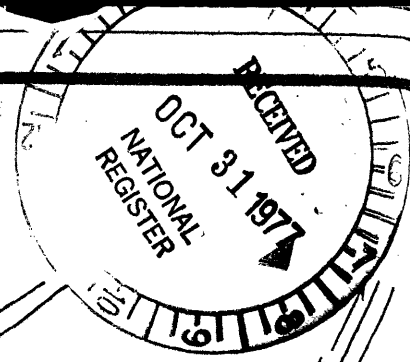
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