

PHØ 364924

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 27 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 12 1977

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**

HISTORIC

Benjamin Washburn House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bellevue Pike, 8 miles north of Shelbyville

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF Shelbyville

06

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Shelby

211

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Homer Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Pleasureville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Shelby County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located eight miles north of Shelbyville on the Bellevue Pike, a narrow country lane, is the Benjamin Washburn House. Situated on a prominent rise in a grove of trees, the structure faces south, while the road runs by it on the east. The house, abandoned for the past twenty years, is in very poor condition and is deteriorating rapidly.

The Washburn house is a three-bay, two-story stone structure with a one-bay, one-story frame addition on the west side. As is characteristic of early construction, the proportion of the openings to the wall surface is fairly small, although the windows themselves are quite large. Interior stone chimneys are located at the ends. Shuttered lookout windows flank the chimney on the east, while only one opening is present on the west gable end. Centered between the windows on the east end is a stone inscribed with the date 1791. The front entrance with a six-light transom is located in the central bay. A simple returned cornice extends across the facade. (See photos 1 and 2.)

An old photograph, taken in the 1860s or 1870s, shows the house closer to its original appearance. A one-story porch, composed of four stout posts, spanned the central bay. It was crowned by a balcony with a balustrade as well as having a balustrade on the ground level.* The windows had twelve-over-twelve-pane sash and were flanked by shutters. A one-story frame addition on a stone foundation extended off the west side of the house. The center bay of this was recessed, forming a latticed porch. A narrow brick chimney was located in the center of the wing. The stone fence, in the foreground of the picture, encircled the house. (See photo 3.)

Several alterations have been made to the house since the photograph was taken. A narrower one-story porch, which is crowned by a pediment, replaces the earlier one. It is supported by chamfered posts with decorative bric-a-brac in the corners. A balustrade connects the side posts. Probably at the same time, the twelve-over-twelve-pane sash windows on the first floor were changed to two-over-two. The only other exterior change appears to be the siding on the frame addition.

The floor plan of the house is based on the two-room, central-hall plan. The front entrance opens onto a central hall, which has an identical door directly across from it. The simple staircase with a full landing is located in the northwest corner. Opening off the west side of the hall is the dining room, with a fireplace centered in the west wall, flanked by a built-in cupboard on the right, and a door leading to the frame

*It is believed that originally the house would not have had a front porch.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1791

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard Fallis, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The stone house, located eight miles north of Shelbyville on the Bellevue Pike, was built between 1789 and 1791 by Benjamin Washburn (1763-1847), a Revolutionary War veteran and farmer. Direct descendants of Benjamin Washburn owned the property until the 1940s. The amply proportioned stone house is one of the earliest structures remaining in Shelby County, as well as being one of the few surviving stone structures in the county. Although based on a rather typical two-room, central-hall plan, it has the unusual feature of two identical fireplaces placed side-by-side in the end wall of the east parlor.

Benjamin Washburn, the son of English emigrants, was born in Culpeper County, Virginia, in August 1763. At the age of fifteen or sixteen he joined the army to fight in the Revolution. The regiment to which he belonged guarded the Albemarle Barracks when General Burgoyne's army was held there as prisoners. He also served as a militiaman and was present at the surrender of Yorktown on October 19, 1781.

After the close of the war, Washburn married Mary Beason (1755-1830), a native of Culpeper County, Virginia, and shortly thereafter in 1784 moved to what is now Kentucky. The Washburns first settled near Paris, Bourbon County, Kentucky, and after four years settled permanently in Shelby County, where Washburn received a land warrant of 320 acres for his service in the war. Here Benjamin Washburn became a prosperous farmer and stock raiser. Records indicate that in 1789 he contracted with Richard Fallis, a builder, to construct the stone house which was completed in 1791. In Richard Collins' History of Kentucky 1874, Vol. I, Washburn is listed as a Revolutionary War veteran who resided in Shelby County in 1840.

Benjamin and Mary Washburn had twelve children. At Washburn's death in 1847, the property was left to his second oldest son, Benjamin, Jr. In turn Benjamin Washburn, III, inherited the house and land and lived there until his death in the 1940s, when it was sold outside of the Washburn family.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Atlas of Henry and Shelby Countys, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1882.
 Collins, Richard. History of Kentucky Vol. II. Covington: Collins & Co., 1874.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

Latitude: $38^{\circ} 18' 09''$
 Longitude: $85^{\circ} 09' 42'' 32$

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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

Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3471

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.

SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/21/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

8/12/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8.11.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Benjamin Washburn House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

addition on the left. The chair-railing remains intact and is painted white, like the other woodwork in the room.

Two doors at the north and south end of the hall open into the east parlor. Twin fireplaces with keystone arches are set side-by-side in the center of the east wall. A plain shelf mantel, which does not appear to be original, extends across both openings. A built-in cupboard is situated to the left of the fireplace, while originally an exterior door was to the right. This door was removed and the opening filled with stone. A chair-railing extends around the entire room. All the woodwork in this room appears to be walnut.

The arrangement of the east parlor is very unusual. The placement of the fireplaces and the position of the doors seem to indicate that the original intention was to add a center partition dividing the room into two small parlors with a fireplace in each. This layout would have been a variation of Penn's three-room plan which called for the first floor to be divided into two by an off-centered partition and then the smaller space divided in half again. Penn's plan was used fairly frequently in the stone houses built by Kentucky's earliest settlers (see the National Register nomination form for Harlan's Station, Boyle County, approved by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board on June 15, 1976).

The second floor of the Washburn house has a central hall with a room to each side. A fireplace is located in each room. Although the roof of the structure retains wooden shingles, it is in very poor condition and has large holes in it.

The foundation of a stone smokehouse is located about 50 feet southwest of the house, and a stone cellar or dairy remains in excellent condition immediately north of the frame addition. Four walls of a stone springhouse also survive several hundred yards south of the structure. On the other side of Bellevue Pike, opposite the house, is the Washburn family cemetery. (See photos 6&7.)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The house is essentially built on the two-room, central-hall plan. An unusual feature, however, is the twin fireplaces set side-by-side in the north parlor. Although there is no evidence indicating that a center partition between the fireplaces ever existed, the two doors on each side of the room that open onto the hall and the position of the hearths, strongly suggest that this was the original intention. If so, the division of this space into two small parlors would be a variation or a carryover of the Quaker or Penn's three-room plan which has not been seen in any other Kentucky stone house.

Unfortunately, the original intention of the builder regarding this room cannot be known at this time. Nevertheless, even if a partition was never meant to have been placed between the two hearths, as in the three-room plan, the arrangement of the Washburn house remains a unique variation in the layout of a Kentucky stone house.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Craig, Ruth Moore. "Inside Two States." Courier-Journal Magazine (Louisville),
December 4, 1955, pp. 51-52.

Fritts, Ava Lee Washburn. Descendants of Benjamin A. Washburn. Rochester,
New York: no publisher, 1937.

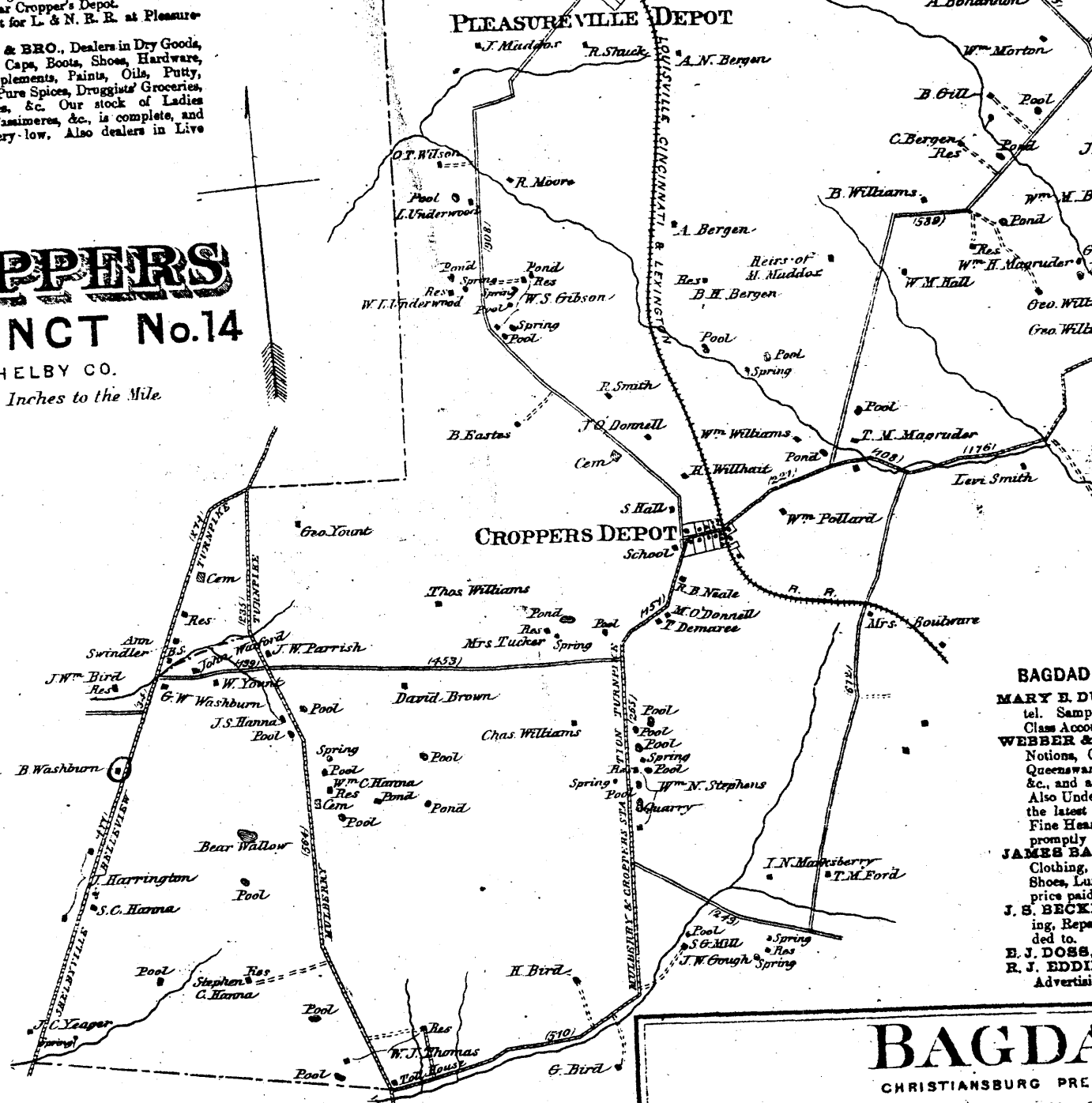
Article on the Washburn House found in the Shelby County file in the Kentucky
Historical Society Library, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Additional information from Mrs. Francis Cottongim, Shelby County Representative,
Shelbyville, Kentucky.

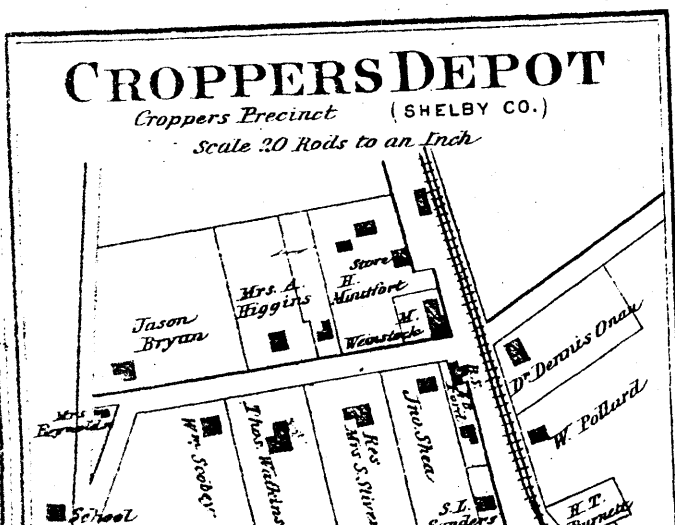
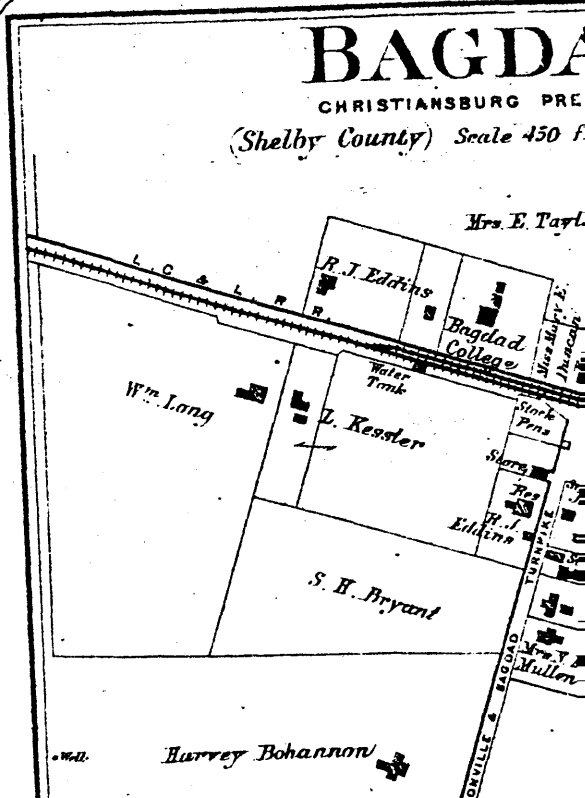
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OCT 27 1976

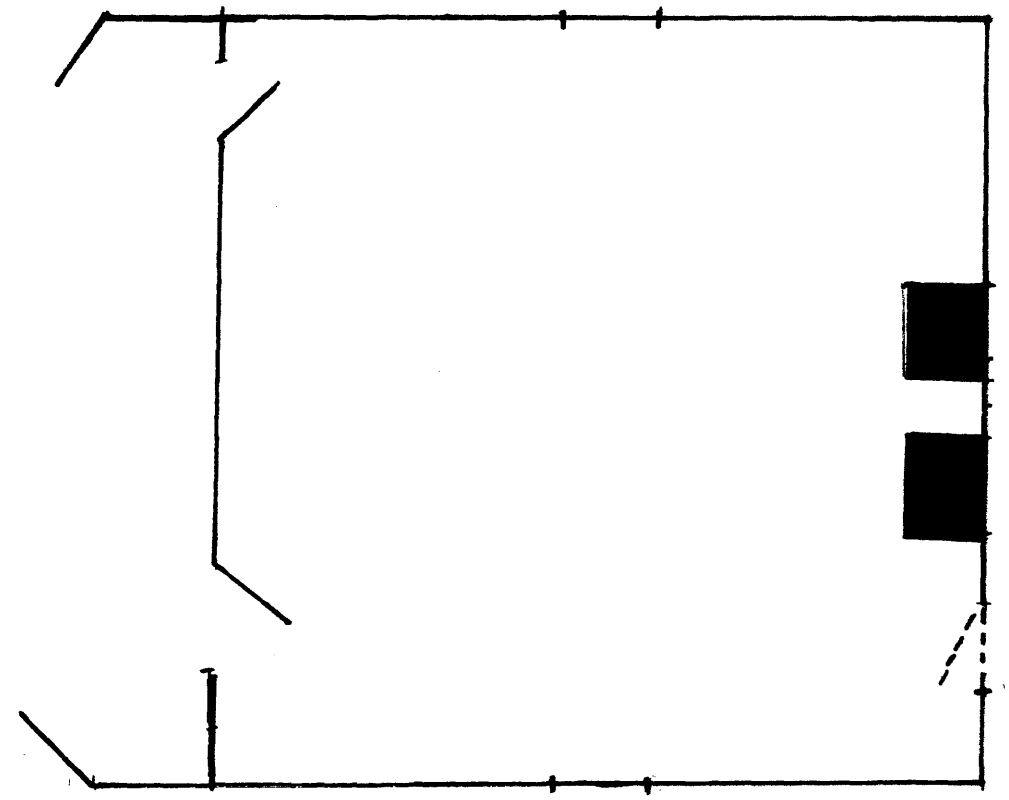
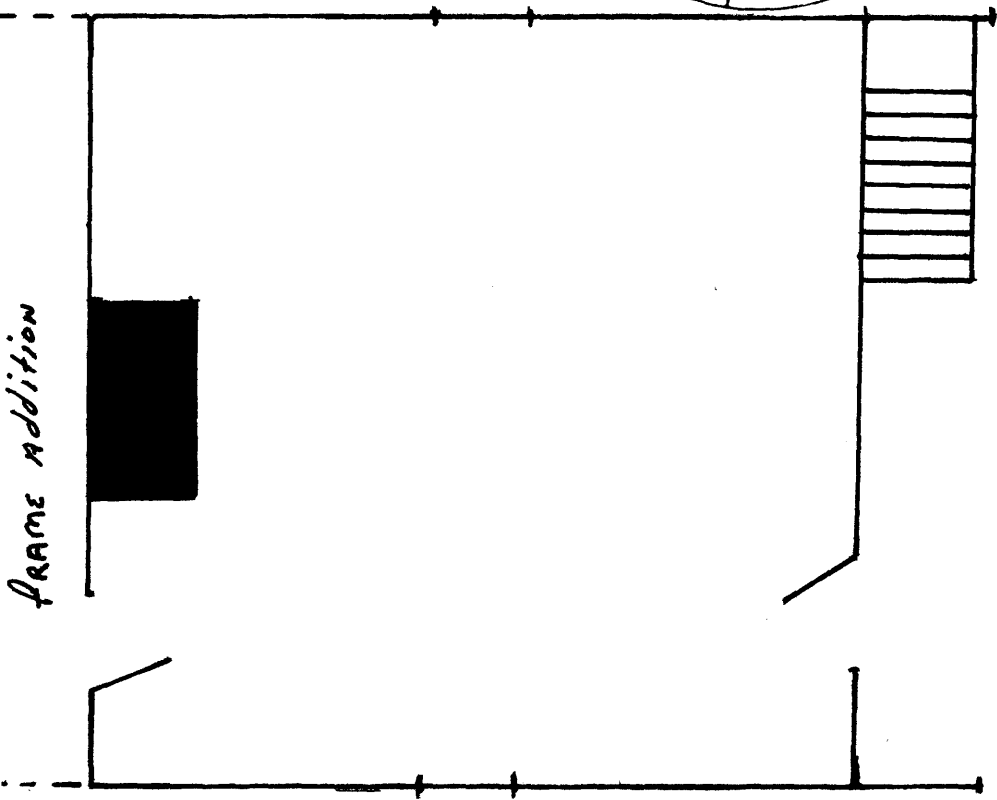
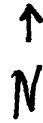
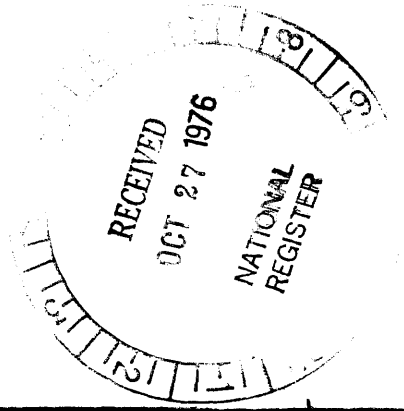
Benjamin Washburn House
near Shelbyville
Shelby County
Kentucky

AUG 12 1977

An Atlas of Henry & Shelby
Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia:
D. J. Lake & Co., 1882.
The Washburn house is circled in red.
Map 2



Washburn House
Sketch plan of 1st floor
No scale



Benjamin Washburn House
near Shelbyville
Shelby County
Kentucky

Sketch plan of 1st floor. Mary
Cronan. No scale.

AUG 12 1977

Map 3