

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # Sh 227
SHELBY County

1. Name of Resource:
CAMERON BROWN FARM / BROWNLEA

2. Original Owner:
CAMERON BROWN

3. Other Names:

4. Prehistoric Site Building
Historic Site Structure Object
Other

5. Location:
EMINENCE QUAD.; EAST SIDE KY 55,
DIRECTLY SOUTH OF CLEAR CREEK

6. Owner's Name:
MRS. E. LOGAN BROWN
[P]

7. Owner's Address:
ROUTE 1
SHELBYVILLE, KENTUCKY 40065

8. Evaluation: N.R. POTENTIAL [N]

9. Recognition & Date:
Nat. Landmark _____ Local Landmark _____
Nat. Register _____ HABS/HAER _____
Highway Marker _____ KY Inventory 1986 _____
KY Landmark Certificate _____

10. N.R. Status & Date:

11. N.R. Group:
District Name: []
Mult. Resource Area: SHELBY CO MRA []
Thematic Name: []

12. Historical Theme:
Primary: AGRICULTURE [010]
Secondary: []
Other: []

13. Statement of Significance:

THE CAMERON BROWN FARM IS SIGNI-
FICANT ON A LOCAL LEVEL UNDER
CRITERIA A AS A VERY GOOD EXAM-
PLE OF A LARGE, DIVERSIFIED FARM
ESTABLISHED AT THE TURN-OF-THE-
CENTURY. THE HOUSE. (CONTINUED) [G]

14. History:

BROWNLEA FARM WAS ESTABLISHED BY CAMERON
BROWN, A SHELBY COUNTY NATIVE, IN 1885,
AND THE RESIDENCE WAS BUILT SOON AFTER.
THREE GENERATIONS OF THE BROWN FAMILY
HAVE SUCCEEDED CAMERON IN OPERATING THE
FARM; JOHN EDWIN, EDWIN LOGAN AND
WILLIAM LEWIS BROWN. THE HOLDINGS ONCE
REACHED ALMOST 1800 ACRES, PRESENTLY RE-
DUCED TO APPROXIMATELY 750. FOR DECADES
BROWNLEA OPERATED AS A DIVERSIFIED FARM;
RAISING BEEF CATTLE, SHEEP AND HOGS,
EACH STOCK ROTATED THROUGH (CONTINUED)

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

FAMILY PAPERS; MRS. E. LOGAN BROWN;
WM. LEWIS BROWN; SHELBY SENTINEL

16. Date:
Original Building CA 1885 [5]
Addition CA 1948 [3]

17. Style:
TOD VERNACULAR [5V]
CLASSICAL REVIVAL [52]

18. Architect/Builder:
UNKNOWN

19. No. of Stories: 1.0 [2.0]

20. Original Floor Plan:
CENTER PASSAGE/ASYMMETRICAL [CP]

21. Single Pile Double Pile N.A. [X]

22. Roof Form & Material: Original
INTERSECT GABLE / ASPH-Not Original [X]

23. Structural Material:
FRAME [W]

24. Exterior Material: CLAPBOARD [W]

25. Foundation Material:
STONE [S]

26. Major Alterations: None
Moved/Rebuilt Other
Additions [X]

27. Special Features:
BUILDING AND SITE ASSOCIATION/PLAN

28. Outbuildings:
19; ONE NON-CONTRIBUTING [19]

29. Original Function:
AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX / FARM [09X]

30. Present Use:
AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX / FARM [09X]

31. Condition:
GOOD [G]

32. Endangered: Yes
No [X]

33. Attach Photos:
Roll: 3 Photo Nos: 19- No. of Slides: 36

34. Prepared by: CHRISTINE AMOS

35. Organization: SHELBY CO. HIST. SOC.

36. Date: 8/1986

37. New Survey [X] Resurvey

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
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Resource # SH 267

38. UTM Point of Primary Building: Quadrant: <u>Eminence</u>	Zone <u>16</u>	Easting <u>657670</u>	Northing <u>4235360</u>	39. G.I.S. Mod. []	40. Coordi.Accuracy []
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1. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):

A. <u>16</u> <u>657860</u> <u>4235640</u>	D. <u>16</u> <u>657460</u> <u>4235240</u>
B. <u>16</u> <u>657980</u> <u>4235280</u>	E. --- --- ---
C. <u>16</u> <u>657500</u> <u>4235060</u>	F. --- --- ---

2. Total Acreage in Present Property: 724 43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary: 32

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

The boundaries of SH 267, the Cameron Brown farm, encompass approximately 35 acres. The area is justifiable as the original and contemporary surroundings of the house, domestic buildings, man-made ponds, planted and natural vegetation and nineteen outbuildings and features that serve as major shelters, stock and crop buildings used in the working of a major agricultural stock raising complex. The significance of the property is tied to the use of the land, features and buildings within the site boundaries. Portions of the north and south boundaries are formed by an unnamed drainage and Clear Creek, respectively. To the north, a steep, densely vegetated hillside that separates the domestic yard area and buildings from the creek is justifiable as a natural boundary, both visual and topographic. The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked and situated as follows: (SEE USGS MAP AND SKETCH PLAN).

A: 16 657860 4235640
 B: 16 657980 4235280
 C: 16 657500 4235060
 D: 16 657460 4235240

15. Description and House Plan:

The property is the Cameron Brown farm, also known as Brownlea, the 1885 established agricultural complex of Cameron Brown, a native Shelby Countian, and the first of four generations to operate this farm. The house, nineteen domestic and farm associated buildings and features, man-made ponds, a small lake, the planted and natural vegetation, and fences that delineate various areas are included within the nomination that contains approximately 35 acres. The property is located in north-central Shelby County, in productive Shelbyville soil, an area of gently rolling, well drained agricultural land. The house and buildings are set back from Ky. 55, Eminence Pike, about 1000 feet, and accessed by a private drive, marked by a stone masonry entry fence. An unnamed drainage and Clear Creek form the south and north boundaries of this stone fence (photo 19-20). A dense, natural growth of trees buffers the buildings on the north from Clear Creek.

The house is a two story, frame, enlarged T-plan, with an asymmetrical plan and a compound hip and intersecting gable roof (photos 16;28-30). Material and design details include slate tile roofing; gable returns and boxed guttering; plain, 4" clapboard siding; single light sash windows with simply molded hoods; a full front porch, (continued)

13. Statement of Significance, continued

domestic out buildings and yard, stock and crop buildings and man-made water system features (stone lined-pond, earthen dam, small lake), interrelate and form a rather elaborate agricultural complex of that era. Excellent overall site integrity helps to convey how such a successful farm would operate, meet a variety of challenges and evolve with changes in agricultural practices. (PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE 1880-1935)

14. History, continued

pastures in that order, to assure the most efficient use of the farms natural resources. Fences were and remain of woven wire to keep in hogs and sheep, which easily maneuver through board fences. For many years, the farm managed an extensive mule business, breeding and raising mules for local and out-of-state sale. The mule/horse barn, which dates prior to WW I is a remnant of this activity.

Like most farms, the location of the stock barns were together and near dependable supplies of water. In winter, the stock stayed near these buildings for supplemental feeding, and in summers ranged on the outer pastures. The sizes of these barns indicates the number of stock that was raised at any one time. Near the mule/horse barn are the scales used to weigh cattle prior to shipping or sale. In the early 1830's John Edwin Brown, son of Cameron, had the earthen dam in the southwest area of the site built to create the lake now behind it. The lake assured a reliable supply of water for farm and domestic yard and garden use. The project included a pump house and pump station to regulate the flow of water for these uses. Domestic water was supplied by cisterns near the house.

45. Description and House Plan, continued

south side port cochere and enclosed second floor rear (all additions); random coursed limestone foundation, and original entry with fanlight and sidelights. The interior features a central passage with curved stair; routed window and door trim with bullseye corner blocks (painted, but appears to be oak), iron mantles in upstairs rooms and wood mantles down. Originally, the dining room (see plan) was connected to the rear, one story kitchen with a large, fireplace wall in the kitchen. A second story was added above the kitchen at an undetermined date (possibly 1940's) and the kitchen fireplace closed over. It was at this time that the owners believe the port cochere addition and possibly the front alterations were made which include an enlarged porch with columns and installation of larger front downstairs windows. The interior trim was retained during this remodeling.

45. Description and House Plan, continued

To the north of the house, in the rear of the domestic yard area, are a small frame cabin, a meat house and wood shed (photo 16-31). The cabin, lived in by domestic help in the past contains three rooms, is of box frame construction with asphalt shingled gable roof; stone pad foundation; six-over-six sash windows, and solid and half light doors. A wood shed is located north of the cabin. The meathouse has a metal clad gable roof, single entry beneath the gable end, and board and batten walls.

Southeast of the house, also within the domestic area beyond the driveway, are a newer shed roof garage, (photo 16-36, non-contributing) and the cow barn (photo 17:1,3). The cow barn and machine shop is one and one-half stories with a small hay mow and shed wing attached to the northeast, originally for the family cows. (This farm never operated as a commercial dairy.) It has a standing seam metal gable roof; horizontal board walls with corner trim; square hewn floor joists, and a sawn and nailed frame. The floor of one room in the machine shop has a convex curve, possibly needed when working on implement gears. Immediately beyond these out buildings are the post and board and post and wire fences of the barn areas.

Southeast of the cow barn is a fenced area that contains the crib, mule barn and scales (photos 17:4,5,8). The crib is a conventional, driver-through with gable roof, stone pier foundation, notched floor joists and square nailed frame.

The mule barn represents a past commercial enterprise for the farm. Cameron Brown raised mule stock for sale and used the animals to work the fields. The interior is divided into three functioning levels: the ground level length partitioned into stalls with larger stalls for mules and smaller compartments for saddle and buggy horses; the center raised mid-way up the stall height to feed down into the stalls; and the loft area up another half height, to either side and above the center walk area. The hayloft has gable end doors that swing open and the still operable hay fork is an old, roller type.

Southeast of the mule barn is a cattle loading chute with board pens and a scale house (photos 13-35, 36). The building has a standing seam metal roof, plain board walls, and Army surplus scales for weighing stock before shipping.

Northeast of the above described buildings are seven other major farm buildings: two tobacco barns; the "garden barn"; hog barn; granary; implement/feed barn, and cattle barn. There is also a stripping room near one of the tobacco barns, a grease house and two concrete silos, (see site plan).

The tobacco barn located near the crib, (photo 17-5), has stone piers,

45. Description and House Plan, continued

vertical, hinged wall vents, metal ridge vents and center drive.

The tobacco barn north of this has a west two bent addition on the original barn and a continuous ridge vent topping the original portion (photo 13-26). The barn is used to feed cattle in winters and for curing tobacco in summer. Beyond to the north is the "garden barn", so called because of its proximity to the domestic garden area. This barn is a cattle feeding barn with central feed trough and mow above (photo 13-24). A tongue and groove wood grain feeder chutes grain from the grain room above down to the trough area for feeding. There is a nearly-continuous ridge vent and a mow overhang on the south gable end. In the mid-1930's a single bent was added to the east end. A small, gable roofed, board-sided grease house, about the size of the scale house, is located west of the garden barn.

The hog barn is a low, shed roofed building northeast of the garden barn. Small pens, accessed by low doors flank a center walk area and a feed box occupies one corner. The stock access into the barn is deliberately low to bar access to cattle.

East of the hog barn is a newer granary with concrete slab floor; center drive through with sliding drive doors, lower concrete block walls for durability and ventilation (strengthened by concrete buttresses), and a shed wing to the north for machinery storage (photo 13-19). East of the granary and in the northeast corner of the site, are two silos (photo 13-21) the older of clay tile with metal roof (about 70-75 x 16, measuring height by diameter) and a newer of concrete, also with a metal roof (40 x 16).

To the southwest is the implement / feed barn (photo 13-25), a low gabled building used to store implements with a raised platform to store feed corn and a concrete slab poured outside the south wall to throw feed out to smaller stock.

The final, and largest building of the site is the cattle barn, a gambrel roofed barn with oversized loft and slotted floor to drop hay through into the wood slat feed troughs that align the center floor and side walls (photos 13-27,29).

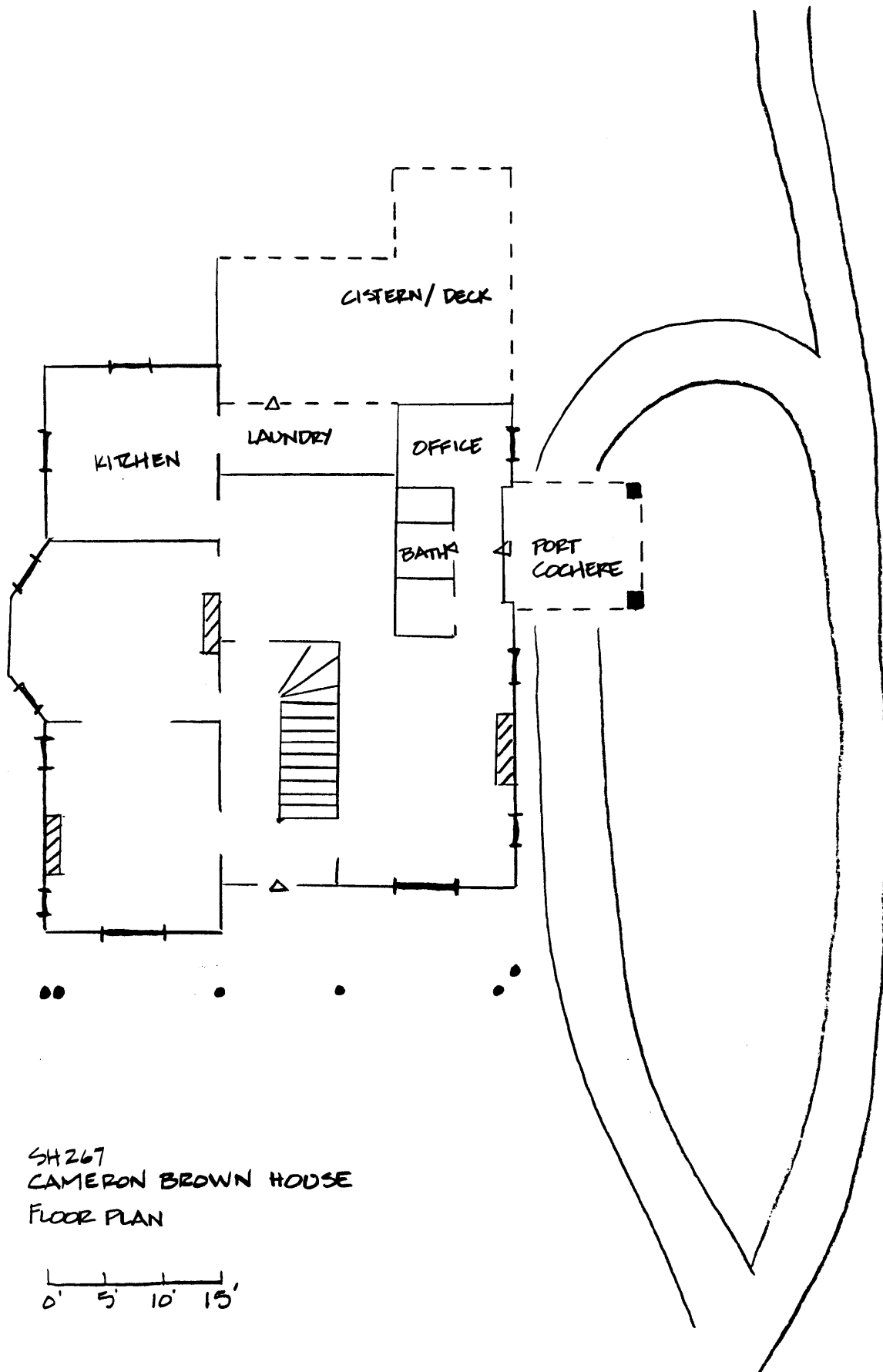
In addition to these buildings, two man-made water features, a stone lined pond (photo 13-31) and small lake held back by an earthen dam (photo 19-17) are located in the southern areas of the site. The pond is a 19th century feature and the dam was built by John Edwin Brown (second generation) when roadwork was being done on the Eminence Pike. The lake was built to provide domestic and barnyard water with a pumphouse and pump station to regulate flow.

Continuation Sheet
SH 267
Cameron Brown Farm

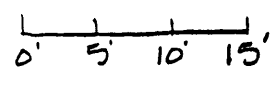
45. Description and house plan, continued

The property boundaries include a total of 20 elements, 19 of which are contributing. There are 16 contributing buildings, two contributing structures and one contributing object. Only one building is non-contributing to the site.

1	house	C	building
2	caretaker cabin	C	"
3	meat house	C	"
4	cow barn/shop	C	"
5	garage	NC	"
6	mule/horse barn	C	"
7	crib	C	"
8	stripping room	C	"
9	tobacco barn	C	"
10	tobacco barn	C	"
11	grease house	C	"
12	garden barn	C	"
13	hog barn	C	"
14	silo	C	"
15	silo	C	"
16	implement barn	C	"
17	cattle barn	C	"
18	scales	C	object
19	stone pond	C	structure
20	pond and dam	C	structure



SH 267
CAMERON BROWN HOUSE
FLOOR PLAN

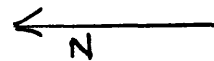


SITE PLAN

SH 267

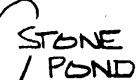
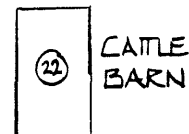
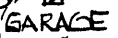
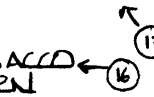
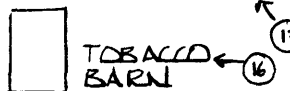
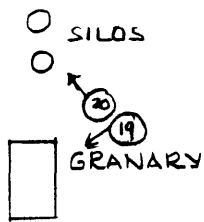
CAMERON BROWN FARM
"BROWNLEA"

NOT TO SCALE

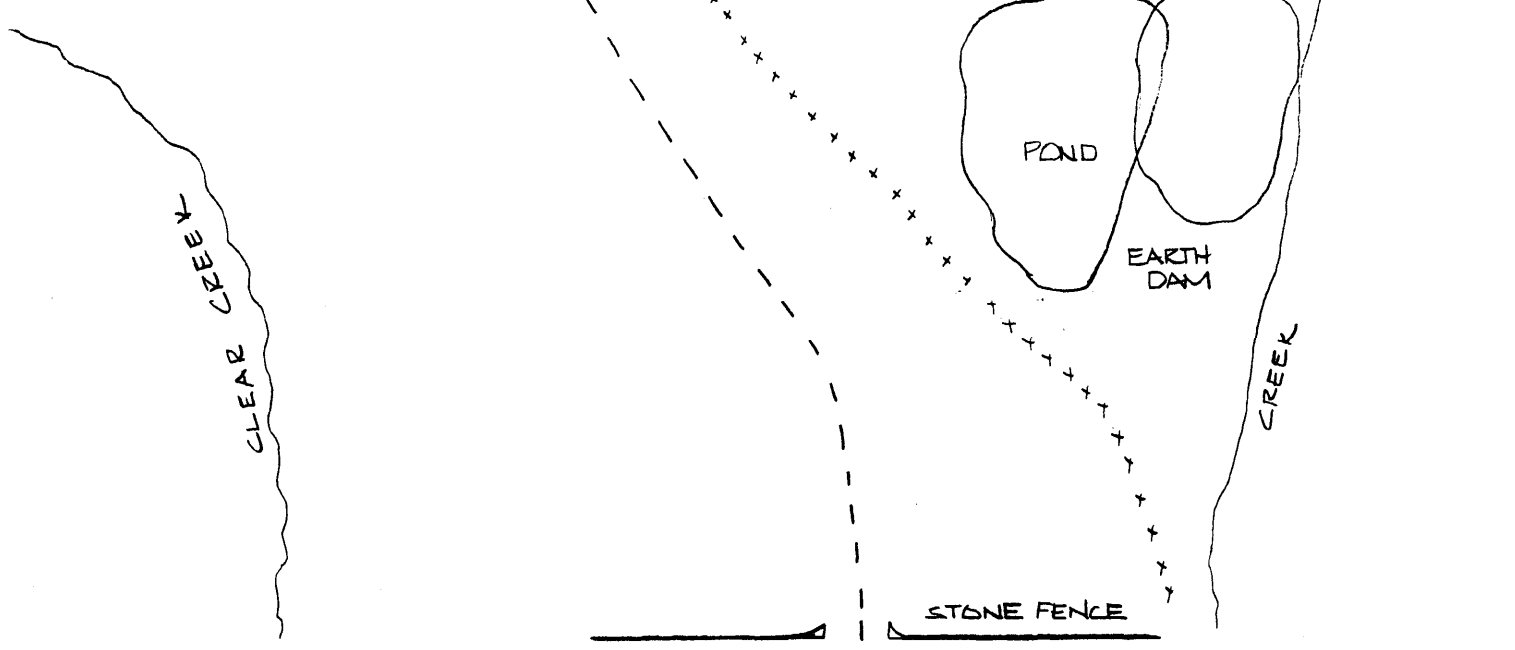


▨ NON-CONTRIBUTING

⊕ PHOTOS



TREES,
LANDSCAPING



B.

①

A.

KY. HWY 55