

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCAS use only

received MAY 31 1983

date entered

1. Name

historic Magowan, Abraham, House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Maddox Pike NA not for publication

city, town Flemingsburg *vic.* vicinity of congressional district 7

state Kentucky code 021 county Fleming code 069

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Alexander

street & number Maddox Pike

city, town Flemingsburg NA vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fleming County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Flemingsburg state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Ky. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Federal residence, which dates to the first quarter of the nineteenth century, is composed of a five-bay I-house with a rear ell constructed in two sections. It is of brick laid in Flemish bond, with jack-arched openings. The Federal woodwork is best represented by the round-headed entrance with a reeded surround that includes bull's eye corner blocks and a keystone. The center window at the second level has similar wood trim and tracery in the semi-elliptical light. (The main facade originally had a two-story portico, a fragment of which has survived on the property.)

The interior space of the Magowan House is more than doubled by the device of the rear ell additions, both of which were built shortly after the construction of the main block. The larger ell section has the detail and proportions of a two-story hall-parlor dwelling. The smaller kitchen ell is a brick rectangular pen. In 1839, a parapeted facade was added to the end wall of the ell, thus formalizing the junction of the ell with the principal block.

The interior woodwork is exceptional and remarkably intact. Federal in design, the most important surviving features include twelve-over-twelve pane original sash, chairrailing, mantels, staircase with fielded paneling, and painted and grained woodwork.

¹The physical description is based upon information provided by Camille Wells, who completed a comprehensive survey of Fleming County in 1977.

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 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 c. 1820 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) 1839 (additions)

The Abraham Magowan House has architectural significance for the Fleming County area in being one of the most outstanding Federal I-houses remaining in the county. It is remarkably intact on the interior and exterior and displays exceptional craftsmanship in its design and detailing.

The house is located about four miles northeast of Flemingsburg, the county seat, in the northeast section of the Bluegrass at the juncture of that fertile region with the Knobs area. Because of its location and attractive features, Fleming County was settled early in Kentucky's history. By the second decade of the nineteenth century, it had reached its peak as a regional trade center, which explains the reason for the early and densely settled county seat "filled with much Federal architecture that was confidently invested with money and skilled craftsmanship."²

One of the settlers drawn to the area was Abraham Magowan (1787-1863), an emigrant from Virginia who purchased a large parcel of land near the neighborhood of Mt. Carmel. There he built his house and established a profitable tanning business. He proved to be generous in his success as a businessman, as indicated by his \$10,000 donation toward the foundation of Kentucky Wesleyan College, located in Winchester, forty miles southwest of Flemingsburg.³

The most characteristic rural house form constructed in Fleming County during this period was the hall-parlor house, built almost exclusively of brick. However, several early I-houses were also erected at this time, including Abraham Magowan's residence. The major characteristics of the form include classical correctness and rigid symmetry in the pattern and detail of the facades. (These features grew in popularity and by 1850 the I-house had superceded all alternative dwelling forms.)⁴

The Magowan house, constructed in Flemish bond, is an excellently detailed example of the Federal period I-house in Fleming County. Of special note are the round-headed center bays on the front facade and the interior wood trim, including ornate Federal mantels, and painted and grained woodwork.

¹Fleming County was established in 1798.(Richard Collins, p. 230).

²Camille Wells, p. 14.

³From information provided by Julian Dorsey.

⁴Camille Wells, p. 3.

9. Major Bibliographical References

An Atlas of Bath and Fleming County, Ky. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1884.

Collins, Richard and Collins, Lewis. History of Kentucky. Vol. II. Berea: Kentucke Imprints, 1976 (originally published 1874).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 21

Quadrangle name Flemingsburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	6	6	6	5	0	4	2	5	9	3	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	7	2	6	7	1	1	0	4	2	5	9	4	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	7	2	6	7	0	4	0	4	2	5	9	6	2	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	7	2	6	6	6	3	0	4	2	0	9	6	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Kentucky Historic Resource Inventory Supplement Boundary and Location Information.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
NA			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gloria Mills, National Register Coordinator / William Gus Johnson, Historian Senior

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date February 1982

street & number 9th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower telephone 502/564-7005

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Annan Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 9, 1983

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Milton Byers Entered in the National Register date 6/30/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Abraham Magowan House
Fleming County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

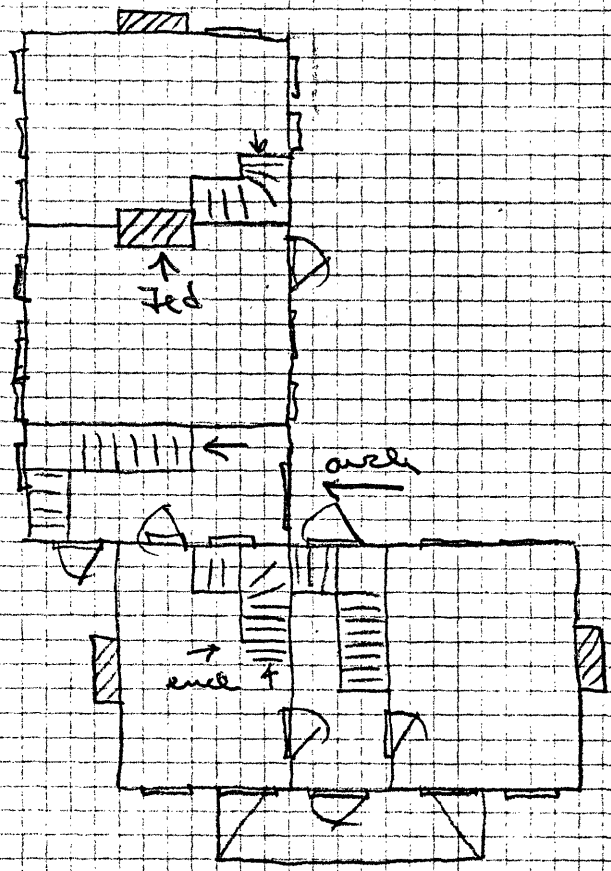
PAGE 2

Bibliography (continued)

Wells, Camille. Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky: Fleming County. Frankfort:
Kentucky Heritage Commission, 1979.

Information provided by Mr. Julian Dorsey, Flemingsburg, Kentucky.

Je-41 McGowan-Berxander House



A) Gothic Fence

Abraham Magowan House
Fleming County, Kentucky

Sketch plan of house.
No scale.
Camille Wells 1978

Map 1

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
 BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name Abraham Magowan House Site # F1-41

Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title _____

U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

A. 17 266650 4259390 D. 17 266630 4209610

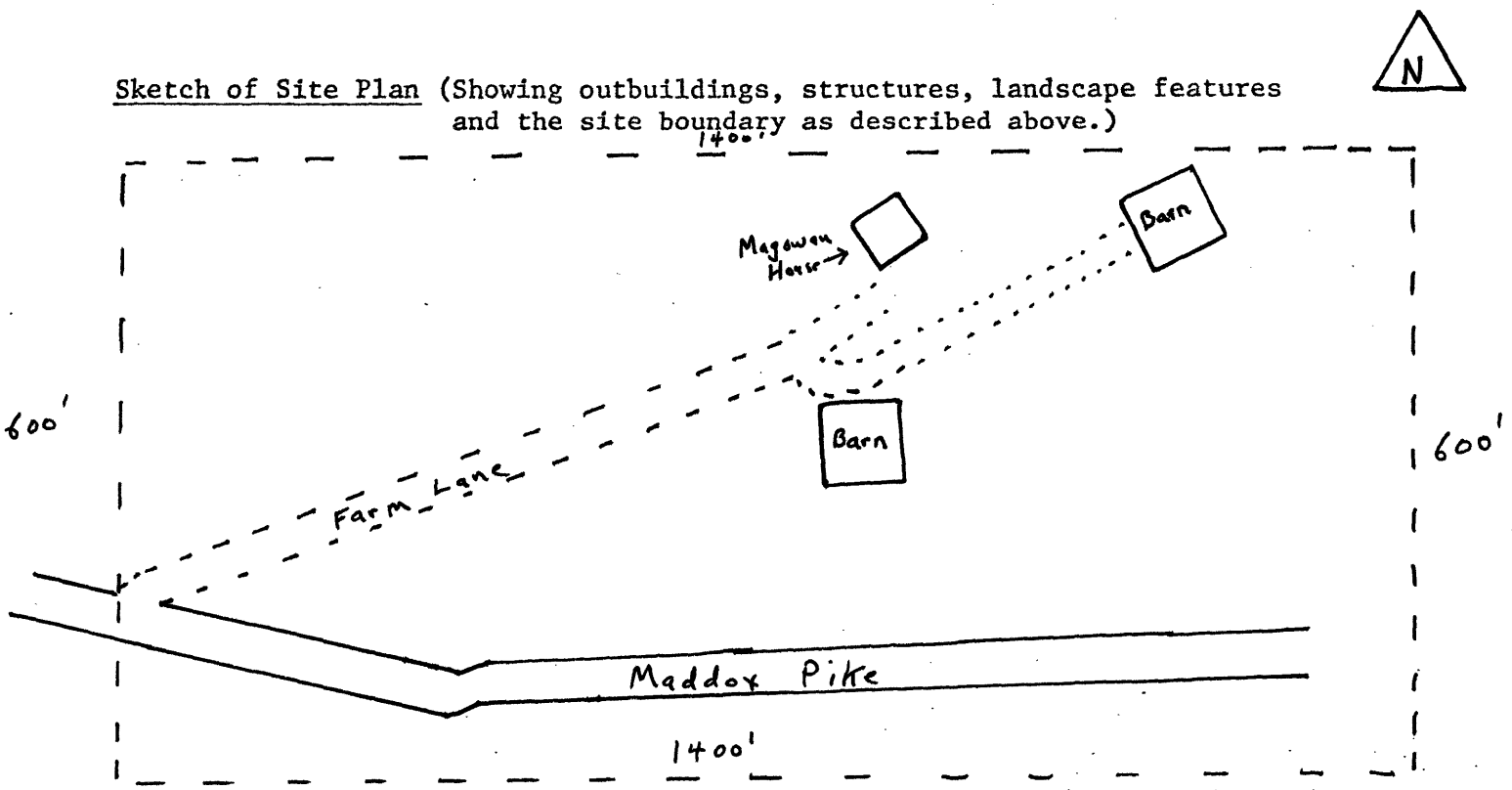
B. 17 267110 4259440 E. _____

C. 17 267040 4259625 F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description _____ Acreage 21

Beginning at the intersection of the farm lane and Maddox Pike, proceed 1,400 feet in an eastward direction along the north side of Maddox Pike; thence 600 feet in a northward direction; thence 1,400 feet in a westward direction; thence 600 feet in a southward direction to the point of origin. The boundary has been drawn to encompass the dwelling and outbuildings.

Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)



Official Courthouse Property Reference:

Not to scale