### Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

Frankfort

#### PH0353728

## DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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HISTORIC				
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AND/OR COMMON		or coor House,		
Same				
2 LOCATION 3 M	in woof Dami	the off or 1	27	
		£ 51		
<del></del>	h, Harrodsburg Pike		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
city, town near <b>Danvill</b>	•		CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	RICT
STATE	e <u>A</u>	VICINITY OF	COUNTY	CODE
Kentucky		021	Bovle	021
	TION	VAI		Vai
3 CLASSIFICA	LIIUN		. :	
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	XAGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
	XPRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	XPRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE		
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
			GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
4 OWNER OF	PROPERTY	. *	*	
Mrs. Joe A. W	/allace	•		•
STREET & NUMBER				
	th, Harrodsburg Pike			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Danville		VICINITY OF	Kentucky	40422
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ET	Boyle County	Counthouge		
	Boyle County	Courtnouse	·	<u></u>
STREET & NUMBER	Main Street			•
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CITY, TOWN	Danville		STATE	
			Kentucky	·
6 REPRESENT	'ATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS	<b>5</b>	
TITLE				
1	Survey of Historic S	ites in Kentucky		
DATE			~	
	1971	FEDERAL	XSTATE _COUNTY _LOCAL	-
DEPOSITORY FOR				
SURVEY RECORDS	Kentucky Heritage (	Commission		
CITY, TOWN	ISOMOTHY HOLIOTHOOP		STATE	<del></del>

#### 7 DESCRIPTION

#### CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

XEXCELLENT \_\_GOOD

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_RUINS

ATED XUNALTERED

Xoriginal site

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cambus-Kenneth House is set in gently rolling farmland, characteristic of the finest and oldest landscape environment shaped by the white man in the outer Bluegrass region. Portions of the Old Wilderness Road lie on the estate near the main house, from which are visible low ridges crowned by huge, ancient trees scattered in the fields. The Victorian house itself is surrounded by newer woods, the lawns dotted by a few older specimens. Nearby are the various early outbuildings, with the modern farm services to the west. The recent highway 127, which replaces the old road, passes at the present east side of the property, barely visible from the house, with Danville beyond to the southeast.

The main house faces south. From the front it appears to be a rectangular block of slightly irregular but balanced composition. The hipped roof provides compactness and an interestingly detailed porch across the first story unifies the facade. placement of a large three-sided, two-story bay on one side of the central entrance is compensated for by the irregular placement of the prominent chimneys with their corbelled stacks (photo 1). Along the east side the suite of three formal rooms on the first floor is terminated by the broad two-story bay that marks the dining room and bedroom above (photo 2). Beyond to the north is the service wing, with segmental arched windows that include several of the fine frames from the original house: these are delicately reeded with hand-carved sunburst rosettes in the corners. in the style associated with the noted local cabinetmaker Matthew Lowery (since he and his firm are not known to have worked in the area prior to 1800 it is possible that the original house may have received up-to-date millwork during the early 19th century; since little is known of Nowerv's career, however, this remains a matter of speculation).

While the service wing is constructed largely of reused old bricks kilned on the place, the main block consists of new brick said to have been kilned elsewhere. The main facade is unbonded except for occasional rows of alternating headers and stretchers. The foundations throughout are of carefully shaped local stone. There are stretches of bare wall between the bays and many double windows. Surface trim is minimal, with flat stone lintels that descend slightly at the outer ends of the openings; the double windows are also divided by flat stone members. The double doors of the main entrance are given no special treatment. The inset frames are plain, although the surfaces of the bay window in the south facade are

#### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	X <sub>6</sub> CIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	f Xsocial/humanitarian
$\underline{\mathbf{X}}_{1700-1799}$	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
$X_{1800-1899}$	Xcommerce	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
07701510 547		BUILDER/ARCH	LITECT A VIV VIVOIT-OR	Dirildon
SPECIFIC DAT	1885-86 house and q	uarters Builder/Arci	HITECT A. W. Walker.	Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The estate Cambus-Kenneth, composed of an impressive Victorian house surrounded by brick outbuildings which date from c. 1790, is located three miles northwest of Danville on the Harrodsburg-Danville Road. (This road essentially follows the Old Wilderness Road which led from Hazel Patch in southeastern Kentucky to the Falls of the Ohio at Louisville.) The original house and outbuildings were built by William Kennedy c. 1790. Kennedy, an early settler, was one of the first trustees of the city of Danville. From about 1816 to 1830 the estate served as the summer residence of Dr. Ephraim McDowell (1771-1830), the famous pioneer surgeon who performed the first ovariotomy (see the McDowell House, Danville, Boyle County, listed on the National Register prior to the 1966 Preservation Act and declared a National Historic Landmark). A later owner of the property was James G. Cecil, a wealthy merchant, farmer, and stock trader. Cecil's son, Charles P. Cecil, built the present imposing residence between 1885 and 1886 The house is a fine example of late Victorian architecture on an unusually large scale for a farm residence. The massing is varied yet compact, and the ornament handsome yet restrained. The outstanding feature of the interior of the house is the large free-standing staircase in the central hall. Also included in the interior are several frames and paneling salvaged from the original house. An unusual array of outbuildings, including a three-story brick springhouse, remains around the main house.

The original owner of the property, which included 284 acres of farm land, was William Kennedy. Kennedy, an early settler in the area, was a delegate to the second constitutional convention. A series of nine conventions were held in Danville between 1787 and 1792, when a state constitution was adopted and Kentucky became a state. Kennedy was also a member of the prestigious Danville Political Club, which was composed of men attending the conventions who gathered informally to discuss the pressing political issues of the day. This small group of men was very influential in forming the political thought of the Commonwealth. (See Constitution Square Historic District, listed on the National Register April 2, 1976.) In addition, when the town of Danville was established in 1787, Kennedy was appointed one of the first trustees.

It is believed that Kennedy built a late Georgian brick house around 1790 on the site of the present structure. The brick dependencies also appear to have been built at that time. About eleven years later Kennedy moved to Campbell County, Kentucky (near Cincinnati), where he died in 1802. Evidently before his death Kennedy had contracted to sell his estate to David Gillespie.

(continue)

Fackler, Calvin M. <u>Early Days in Danville</u> . Louisville: The Standard Printing Company, 1941.	
. <u>Historic Homes of Boyle County, Kentucky.</u> Danville, Kentucky: The Danville and Boyle County Historical Society, 1959.	
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA  ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 81 acres  UTM REFERENCES	14
A 1 6 6 9 3 8 9 0 4 1 7 1 4 4 0 B 1 6 6 9 4 2 3 0 4 1 7 1 4 1 0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING C 1 6 9 4 2 3 0 4 1 7 1 1 6 0 D 1 6 9 3 8 8 0 4 1 7 1 1 9 0 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	
The boundaries of the nominated property form a rectangular area 1,500 feet east-west and 1,000 feet north-south. The rectangle includes the main house and the outbuildings which are located west of the house.	
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES	_
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE	٠.
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE	
FORM PREPARED BY  NAME / TITLE  Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian  Walter E. Langsam, Architectural Historian	
ORGANIZATION DATE	<del></del>
Kentucky Heritage Commission December 1, 1976  STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE	
104 Bridge Street	
Frankfort, STATE  Kentucky	
	<b>→</b>
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.  STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE CHARACTER TREATMENT	<b>-</b>
TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 3/15/17	
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER  Robert B. Rettion (M. 1977)	
ATTEST Charles State 11:16:17	3.18

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Cambus-Kenneth House
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slightly recessed to provide vertical articulation. An unusual high coved cornice surrounds the house. Constructed of galvanized metal, it has groups of verbally spaced ribbed ornament with rosettes below, suggesting classical triglyphs. The handsome front porch is said to have been an inadvertent modern equivalent of the Grecian portico intended by the wife of the Victorian patron, who patterned the overall design after a ca. 1848 family mansion in Columbia, Tennessee. Nevertheless, it is a fine example of its own period, with widely spaced, slender, paired and belted posts set closer together at the ends. The shallowness of the veranda contributes to the compact appearance of the facade. A delicate openwork arcade under the roof edge repeats the arched form of the low pedestals that support and connect the posts. The jigsaw spandrel ornament has an elongated, stylized floral pattern with a proto-Art Nouveau flavor that foretells the effect of some of the interior detail. (A more informal porch that follows the indentations of the rear of the main block has plain chamfered posts.)

The plan of Cambus-Kenneth house is almost square, with the service ell projecting north of the northeast corner, and the northwest corner indented. The wide central hall is divided by an elliptical arch that frames a vista of the elaborate staircase as seen from the entrance. The arch has a keystone and suggests a Victorian version of a Georgian or Federal model. Its curve prepares the eye for the curves of the staircase, which rises in a straight flight from the outwardly-turned newel posts and bowed first step up to a high landing across the back of the hall over the rear entrance (see photo 3) Short flights return forward on either side of the main flight. At the top of the latter, climaxing the view from the entrance hall, is a colored glass window of geometric pattern and bright primary colors set in a deeply curved niche. turned balustrade curves continuously around the corners of the square well. stringer patterns are also curvaceous. The elegantly elongated and finely crafted brass lamp fixtures atop the newel posts seem to set the whole elaborate composition in motion.

The entrance hall has a mantel on the left side beyond one of the sets of wide double doors that open on either side. The formal suite lies east of the central hall, as mentioned above. It consists of a "front parlor" with a wide south bay, a "back parlor," and a dining room extended by another full-width bay facing east. The

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Cambus-Kenneth House
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kitchen wing is beyond. The fine ebonized or marbelized Neo-Grec or Eastlake mantels are centered on the east sides of the two front rooms and the inner west end of the dining room. This last has intact wainscotting as well. The library or sitting room in the southwest corner of the main block has a corner fireplace with a mantel copied ca. 1932 from the Federal mantel that survived from the original house. There is a small room with corner fireplace beyond, and a bathroom beyond; although the fixtures have been replaced, this seems to have been an unusually early example of a downstairs lavatory in a Victorian house.

Upstairs there are the enormous central living hall and the usual bedrooms, several with more fine Victorian mantels, including one replaced by the Federal reproduction in the corner sitting room below and another exchanged for that in the east living room. Only a few modern bathrooms and closets have been inserted; a few old fixtures remain as well. The enormous attic is unfinished, and contains the large zinc tank that made possible the original water system (the 1880s heating system—the first central system installed in Boyle County—recently had to be replaced).

The rear service wing, situated behind the three formal rooms on the east side, was constructed of the old bricks and woodwork from the original house. The door and window moldings are grooved with carved beehives in the corner blocks. There are two built-in cupboards with grooved moldings with an inner rope molding, located in the kitchen. The room above also contains some of the original woodwork.

Manyyof the original dependencies, dating from c. 1790, remain around the house. A few yards to the rear (north) of the residence is a two-bay, two-story servants quarters. Partially exposed brick chimneys are located at the ends. A modern one-story, frame addition has been added on the east. The quarters were built in 1885 from the material remaining from the original house (see photo 4).

Fifty yards west of the main house is a small brick smokehouse c. 1790, with a small brick privy, which is set back, extending off the north side (see photo 5). A much larger one-bay, one-story brick outbuilding is located a hundred yards south of the

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house. The entrance in the north wall is composed of double doors and on the opposite end is an interior brick chimney. This structure is believed to have been used as Dr. McDowell's office. Below the ground floor is an ice house (see photo 6).

Several hundred yards southwest of the residence, on a slope is an unusual three-story stone and brick structure. The lowest level is built of stone and contains a spring and dairy. The second and third stories are brick, the second being used for storage and the third being used for travelers, since it contains a fireplace. The entrance is located on the north side (see photo 7). Actwo-room, one-story brick slavequarters survives west of the springhouse. Also included in the group of outbuildings is a small frame "scale house" which contains scales that have been in continuous use since they were installed in 1875.

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Cambus-Kenneth (Kennedy-McDowell-Cecil Estate)

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But Gillespie died before Kennedy, so the property was left to Gillespie's heir, James Gillespie. James Gillespie held onto the farm until around 1816 when it came into the hands of Dr. Ephraim McDowell. According to tradition Gillespie lost the property to Dr. McDowell in a card game.

Ephraim McDowell, born in 1771 in Rockbridge County, Virginia, was the son of Samuel and Sarah McClung McDowell. Samuel McDowell moved his family to Kentucky near Danville in 1782, when he was appointed land commissioner for Kentucky. Ephraim McDowell received his early education at classical schools in Georgetown and Bardstown, Kentucky. He then moved to Stanton, Virginia, where he began the study of medicine under a Dr. Humphreys. Between 1793 and 1794, McDowell attended medical lectures at the University of Edinburgh. In 1795, McDowell returned to Danville where he began the practice of medicine. In a few years he developed an extensive practice and gained a wide reputation in Kentucky and neighboring states as the first surgeon west of Philadelphia. In 1809 he operated successfully on a Mrs. Crawford to remove an ovarian tumor. It was the first time surgery such as this had been attempted successfully.

In 1802 McDowell had married Sarah Shelby of Lincoln County, daughter of Isaac Shelby (1750-1826), first Governor of Kentucky (see Traveler's Rest, listed on the National Register May 3, 1976). Around 1816 McDowell either purchased or won the property known as Cambus-Kenneth, which he and his family used as a summer retreat. According to tradition, McDowell used the brick building south of the present house as his office. The estate was named Cambus-Kenneth by Dr. McDowell for the ruins of the Abbey of Cambuskenneth in Sterling, Scotland, thirty-five miles northwest of Edinburgh. It is likely that McDowell visited the abbey ruins while studying in Scotland.

Dr. McDowell died at Cambus-Kenneth in June 1830, from a ruptured appendix; a death which in later years would have been prevented, in part because of his famous abdominal surgery in 1809.

In 1844 Dr. McDowell's son, William Wallace McDowell, sold the property, which had increased to 4ll acres, to John R. Ford. The estate passed through several owners until 1862 when it was purchased by James Granville Cecil.

James G. Cecil, a native of Montgomery County, Virginia, was born in 1803. He moved to Wayne County, Kentucky, at the age of 16. Here he met and married Sarah Ann Buster of Wayne County. Cecil worked on his brother-in-law's farm for six years before he entered the mercantile and stock trading business. He soon established a successful enterprise, making extensive buying trips to Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 1848 Cecil relocated in Boyle County on a 430-acre farm three miles west of Danville. By buying Cambus-Kenneth in 1862, Cecil increased his holdings to 900 acres.

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The same year Cecil purchased Cambus-Kenneth his wife, Sarah Buster, died. Shortly afterward, Cecil married Margaret St. Clair, a native of Lexington.

Besides being one of the largest and most successful farmers in Boyle County, Cecil was president of the Farmers National Bank of Danville from its organization to his death in 1881. He was also director of the Central National Bank. At the time of his death James Granville Cecil was considered the wealthiest man in Boyle County.

The farm was inherited by his youngest son, Charles P. Cecil. In 1885 the original house was dismantled, because it was too small and because there was a severe flaw in the foundation. The early Georgian house was replaced by the present Victorian one.\* An original mantel mantel with carved oval sunbursts was saved from the old residence and copied in the new. Some original paneling was saved for use in the new kitchen wing. The remaining brick and woodwork were saved and used to build the two-story servants' quarters which are located north of the house. Charles Cecil continued to operate the farm and bred and raced fine trotting horses.

The house and lands, which contain many aged trees and other features representative of the finest outer Bluegrass landscape, continue to be held by the Cecil family, being owned by Mrs. Joe A. Wallace, Charles Cecil's granddaughter.

\*The present house was designed by Mrs. Charles Cecil, who based the plans on a family house in Columbia, Tennessee: the Mayes-Hutton House, Maury County (listed Mrs. Cecil's maiden name was Whitthorne. on the National Register 1976). lived in the Mayes-Hutton House for a brief time after the Civil War.

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Cambus-Kenneth (Kennedy-McDowell-Cecil Estate)

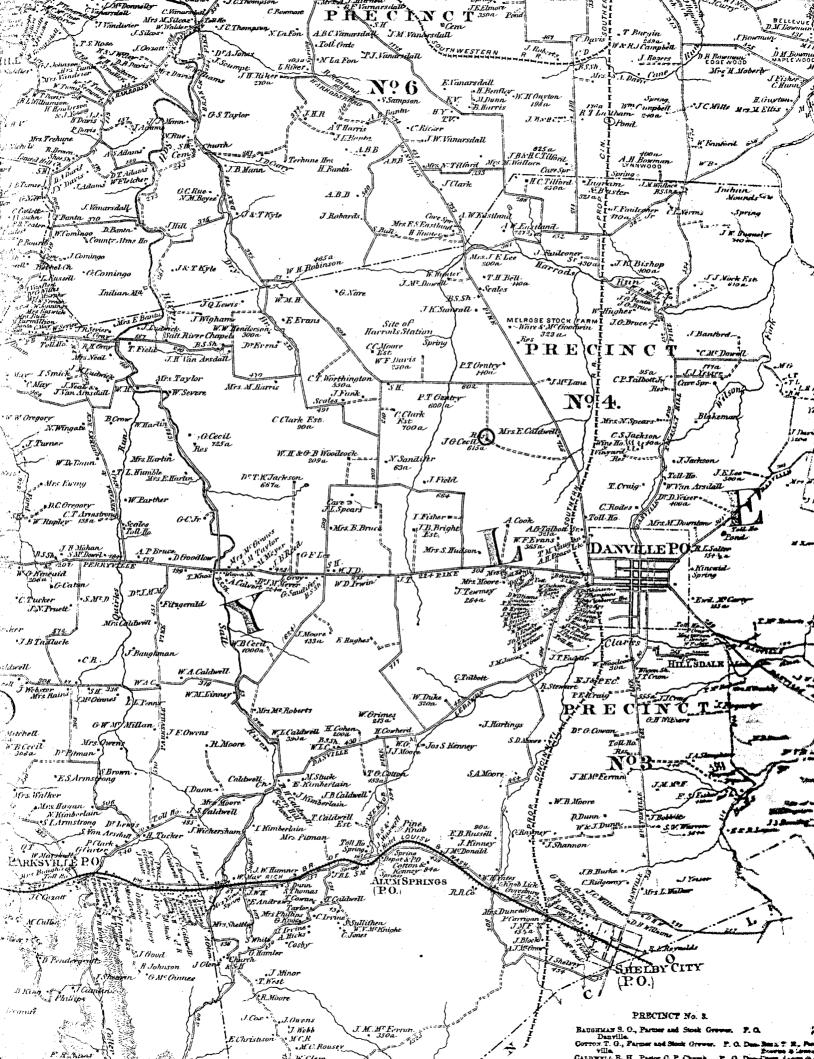
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- Mastin, Bettye Lee. "Cambus-Kenneth Outside Danville was named, Owned by Pioneer Surgeon Ephraim McDowell." (Lexington) Herald-Leader. November 5, 1961.
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- Schachner, August, M. D. <u>Ephraim McDowell Father of Ovariatomy</u>. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincot Company, 1921.
- Atlas of Boyle and Mercer Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Lanagan Company, 1876.



Cambus-Kenneth House near Danville Boyle County Kentucky MAR 1 8 1977

Map of Boyle and Mercer Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1876. Map 2. Cambus-Kenneth is outlined in red.