

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received OCT 31 1984  
date entered NOV 29 1984

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

1. Name

historic Burgess, Joseph Fields, House

and/or common Smith-Gano House SC 250

2. Location

street & number ~~U.S. 25 at southwest corner of Ky. 608~~ <sup>SK</sup> N/A not for publication

city, town Sadieville  vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Scott code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sally Gano Hays

street & number 416 East Main Street

city, town Georgetown vicinity of state Kentucky 40324

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Clerk's Office

street & number Scott County Courthouse, Main & Broadway

city, town Georgetown state Kentucky 40324

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1971  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

Joseph Fields Burgess House with its cluster of six outbuildings and stone fence bordering the east and north lawns stands unrivaled as the most elaborate 19th century dwelling in the northern section of Scott County, an area of 21,813 people located in the north central section of Kentucky. The southern one-third of Scott County lies within the rich loam soils with underlying limestone strata belt known as the Inner Bluegrass Region, while the northern two-thirds where Burgess House is situated falls within the Eden Shale region characterized by clay soils, steep hills, and considerable ridgeland. Joseph Burgess House and its outbuildings stand at the southwest angle of the junction of Kentucky 608 with U.S. 25, a major federal highway which since pioneer days has carried traffic from Lexington 27 miles to the south to Cincinnati, Ohio, 55 miles north. Burgess House is four miles northwest of Sadieville, a town of 300 persons established circa 1876 on the then new Cincinnati Southern Railroad, and five and one-half miles south of Corinth, a similar Cincinnati Southern shipping village developed at the junction of Scott, Grant, Owen, and Harrison counties. Interstate Highway 75 lies less than one-half mile to the east. Highway 356 leads east a short distance north of the point where the road number 608 leads west. Georgetown, the county seat of Scott, has a population of 10,972 people. The Burgess property is drained by Rays Fork Branch of Eagle Creek into which it flows about two and one-half miles east of this property.

The property being proposed for nomination includes the Joseph Burgess house and a cabin on the north lawn, both in good condition; a cabin in deteriorated condition back of the house; an outhouse and chicken house in deteriorated condition back of the lawn; and a garage or "buggy house" and a shed-roofed building south of the lawn, both in fair condition. Also proposed is the stone fence lining the road-bordered lawn, and the sidewalk constructed of huge stones leading to the main entrance. There is a mound of earth between the house and cabin, suggesting a root cellar. A graveyard is located down a steep hill about fifty yards from the house.

Joseph Burgess House is a two-story L-shaped frame house about 65 feet in width along the main facade and 70 feet along the north side of the ell (photo 1). The lawn is set above a stone fence part of which serves as a retaining wall; the fence has a coping of long stone slabs (photo 2). The fence borders the lawn along the front and the north side and may account for the name of the village to the north being called Stonewall. A long porch with an entablature decorated with brackets and small triangles (photos 1 - 4) spans the lower story; it is supported by ten nine-foot tall graduated piers ten inches wide at the base and nine at the top. Applied pilasters join the porch to the facade at each end (photos 2 - 4). Concrete has been applied over this front porch floor. The porch has a plank ceiling. There is a plain but deep cornice above the upper story windows. An exterior chimney of stone is positioned on the gable end. A second chimney is located between the fourth and fifth bays. The main facade is visually broken into three irregularly spaced sections: the southernmost one having the entrance bay with a large Grecian entablature and door and a window to the left; the center one being set off by two windows; and the larger block on the right having a large Grecian door central to two windows. All windows retain their wooden shutters and are hung with six-over-six double-hung sash. Behind the main entrance is a hall with large Grecian entablatures leading to rooms on either side and a stairway (photo 5) which bends to the second floor. Doors have single long panels

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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** ca. 1840 - 1850      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Joseph Fields Burgess House with its related outbuildings on a spacious stone-fence lined lawn is being proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places because of its architectural significance as an extremely exceptional and elaborate dwelling for its region, and because of the place it played in the life of an important large scale Eden Shale soils belt farmer and his family of important farmers. Later association (1923) of the property with one of the better works of American fiction also contributes to its importance.

There is no other house in northern Scott County which compares with the Joseph Burgess House in style, execution, size, and elegance. Its stone-fence lined lawn lies adjacent to a private lane which is located next to and parallel to U.S. 25, a major north-south road which has served the region from pioneer times. An undocumented tradition recalls the house as an important early tavern. The house dates from 1838 and retains the various hallmarks of the Greek Revival period of building -- a long graduated pier-supported front porch with entablature spanning the main facade, a large two-story porch spanning the L at the back, long-panel doors set within Grecian enframements, and Grecian mantels. Its stone kitchen, appended to the ell by an open breezeway, has attracted considerable attention in this region where construction with stone was usually limited to foundations, fences, and bridge abutments. There are two other houses of comparable substantiality and ostentation in northern Scott County, the William Penn House (SC 225) three miles east of Sadieville's east limits on Kentucky 32; and Charity Hill (SC 226) one mile east of Sadieville on the same road. Charity Hill dates from 1870 and is in failing condition. William Penn House similarly has experienced serious decline in recent years.

Northern Scott County lies within the Eden Shale soils belt where cultivation of steep hillsides proved to be the bane of many energetic landowners. Suitable mainly for grazing, the once heavily forested region with its second and third timber growth lies north of the rich loam soils of the Inner Bluegrass. The area was settled early, between 1785 and 1790, by members of important families from the eastern states. Much of the land in the area was also acquired by wealthy Inner Bluegrass farmers who invested in it for speculation and for marketing timber.\* Milling was an important occupation as well in this well watered countryside. However, the real value of this land lay in grazing. The wealth yielded by 200 acres of Inner Bluegrass land was roughly equivalent to that produced by five to ten times as much hill land, accounting for the fact that no early brick or Victorian brick houses survive in the Eden Shale area of Scott County. Thus ostentation in residential building is manifested in houses built of wood upon foundations of stone and with chimneys likewise being constructed of stone.

Joseph Fields Burgess (1809-1892) came from northern Scott County stock, and during his lifetime he acquired so much land that he was able to enjoy both cultivation and pasturing aspects of farming. A son of Edward (Ned) Burgess (1777-1858) and Sarah Fields, a daughter of Revolutionary War veteran Joseph Fields of Frederick County, Maryland, he grew up on a farm located between present Turkeyfoot and Davis villages, an area southeast of present Sadieville. By 1835 he was buying land in the Turkeyfoot area.

\*Cultivation of the limited bottomlands in pioneer and up to the Civil War in this area yielded hemp, corn, and tobacco.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bevins, Ann. A History of Scott County As Told By Selected Buildings. Georgetown, Ky.: Kreative Grafiks, Ink, 1981, 190-191.
- Bevins, Ann, and J. Robert Snyder. Scott County Church Histories: A Collection. Georgetown, 1979, 16-19. continued, Cont. Sheet # 3

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5.74  
 Quadrangle name Sadieville Quadrangle scale 1"=24,000

### UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>7124110</u>	<u>42564100</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the southwest corner of the junction of U.S. 25 with Ky. 608 at the edge of the road bordering the Joseph Burgess lawn, following Ky.608 west 500 feet, then due south for 500 feet, due east 500 feet, and at edge (Continuation Sheet # 3)

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Bolton Bevins

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date August 28, 1984

street & number Capital Plaza Tower telephone (502) 564-7005

city or town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

# 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 David L. Morgan  
 title Director, Kentucky Heritage Council and State Historic Preservation Officer date October 15, 1984

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
Entered in the National Register	date <u>11-29-84</u>
Signature of Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

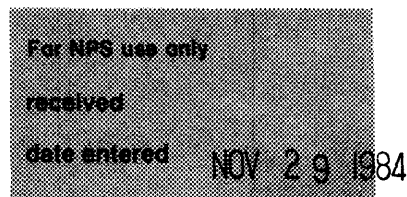
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Joseph Burgess House  
Scott County, Kentucky  
Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 2



with parallel mouldings (photo 6). Mantels are of the plain Grecian style (photo 7). Floors are poplar throughout the house. There is only one stairway inside the house; the other is located ancillary to the north back porch.

The north facade, which is visible for some distance from two approaches, has a gabled-roof which is joined to the gabled roof of the front section, creating a hipped-roof effect when it is viewed from the front. The two visible exterior delineations of the frame two-story block serve the corner room (with two windows) and the room at the end of the ell which has a Grecian-framed doorway. A stone chimney attached to the west end of the ell has been relieved of its stack. The ell has a plain cornice which joins that of the main facade. A tin roof covers the dwelling.

Appendix to the ell on the south side of the stone chimney is a wooden breezeway which connects the main block of the ell to a fourteen foot three inch square stone room with five foot nine inch stone chimney which is known as the "old stone kitchen." Vertical boards and a doorway comprise the north side of this connecting passage which is open on the other side (photos 8 and 9). This appendage, with a gable roof extending over both the breezeway and the stone kitchen, joins both the ell and its upper and lower porches. The fireplace in the stone room is open, and wide planks cover the floor.

The L-shaped back porch and gallery retain their original posts and wooden floors (photo 9). A stairway leads from the back porch to a landing joined to the gallery (photos 9, 10). Long panels extending between upstairs porch posts have long panels similar to the theme of the doors of the house. There is a stepped cistern stand and cistern located by the junction of the porches (photos 8 and 9).

Entry to the basement is gained from the high south foundation wall at the west side of the south chimney (photo 11). Here one can discern also a retaining wall extending from the foundation of the house, and the joining point of the front block of the house to the corner of the back porch, which has been enclosed at the end for bathrooms (photos 9, 11). The basement extends under the two south rooms.

The gable-to-the-front frame building northwest of the house, built as a slave cabin, has a simple Grecian entablature and a loft window on the main facade, single windows on the sides, and a stone chimney on the back. It has a roof of asphalt shingles, and a cut stone foundation.

The building back of the house is set on a carefully laid stone foundation. It, too, has a gable to the front plan with centered door; framing is of vertical boards with weatherboarding with the gable. The back portion of the cabin has collapsed (photo 13). It may have served as a smokehouse.

The outhouse and chicken house are located on the opposite side of the drive which winds through the tract (photo 14). While the weatherboarded three-seat outhouse is in fair condition, the chickenhouse is in ruins.

The wooden garage or "buggy house" with its wide sliding door is framed with vertical boards. To its south is a shed with side entry. A hill slopes steeply to the south behind them (photos 15, 16).

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

Joseph Burgess House, Scott County, Kentucky

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

In 1839 he married Miranda Penn, his first wife Elizabeth Sharp having died six weeks after his 1835 marriage to her. Burgess served as a justice of the peace between 1840 and 1851.<sup>1</sup>

Burgess' land acquisitions in the vicinity of his Stonewall house included 3,698 acres bought from the heirs of Job Stevenson in 1837, and 212 acres bought from the Joseph I. Lemon estate at \$10 an acre in 1856. The 1879 Beers & Lanagan map (see section) shows Burgess with 3,500 acres. At his death 2,578 acres were apportioned among his four surviving children.

Burgess' house probably dates from his 1839 marriage to the end of the next decade, during which years his family of nine children were born. Only four of these children grew to adulthood, each of the four carrying on the tradition of industrious pursuit of ownership of land and profitable use of that resource. Eva (1840-1931) married Sterling Paul Smith in 1868 and became the lady of her father's former home after his death. Nancy E. "Nannie" (1844-1914) married Buford Hall (1827-1896) in 1868. Penelope "Neppie" (1847- ) married James F. Musselman in 1870. Thomas Jefferson Burgess (1849-1923) married Josephine C. Pack and became a leading commercial influence in the region. Hall and T.J. Burgess and their descendants have been among Scott County's largest landowners for many years. The family were members of the Elk Lick Particular Baptist Church, which had been founded by Burgess' father, Ned Burgess, in settlement days. In the years following the Civil War Joseph Burgess gave evidence of his efforts to produce with his land. He was recorded as having raised the largest crop of corn in Scott in 1866 with a yield of 6,000 bushels. That year he was also among the top four income producers of the county with \$4,851.<sup>3</sup>

Division of Burgess' lands after his death in 1892 found his home going first to T.J. Burgess, who transferred title to 216 acres at the intersection of the two roads to the Smiths.<sup>4</sup> B.O. Gaines' History of Scott County declared in 1906 that "Mr. Smith has the best hill farm. . . Weeds cannot grow on his place. The likeness of his home is enough to make one almost turn green with envy of his comfortableness."<sup>5</sup> In 1925 the Smiths conveyed title in the home tract, then 199 acres, to their daughter, Sarah Smith Gano, wife of John Allen Gano; and in 1939 Mrs. Gano deeded the property to her son, Sterling Gano, whose daughter, Sally Gano (Mrs. William) Hays, owns it today.

The house inspired a major setting for Weeds, a novel written by Edith Summers Kelley (1884-1956) about tenant life in the Kentucky outer Bluegrass region in the 1910s. Mrs. Kelley and her artist-sculptor husband C. Fred Kelley leased 700 acres in Northern Scott as part of a return-to-nature movement in the pre-World War I years, leaving around 1918 for California and a chicken farm. Publication of the novel which took place in 1923 was highly recommended by Mrs. Kelly's former boss Upton Sinclair and former fiance Sinclair Lewis, "praised by the critics and ignored by the reading public." It received good reviews in Lexington, Boston, Literary Digest, International Book Review, Los Angeles Times, Boston Herald, and Chicago Daily News. The novel in its 1923 New York edition and its 1924 London edition along with correspondence between Mrs. Kelly and John Wilson Townsend, Lexington author and collector, were discovered in 1968 by Matthew J. Bruccoli, who induced Southern Illinois University to publish it in 1972 as part of its Lost American Fiction Series. Popular Library published the book in paperback; and in 1982 The Feminist Press published it again, adding a theretofore unpublished chapter dealing with childbirth. The plot of the book evolves from the life of Judith Pippinger, a tenant farmer's wife who tries various ways of escape from her seemingly inextricable bouts with poverty and the apparent meaninglessess of her life. Mrs.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Joseph Burgess House  
Scott County, Kentucky  
Continuation sheet

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Item number 8 ; 9 ; 10 Page 3 ; 2 ; 2

Kelly identified with the tenant folk of the region as she gave a graphic account of the geography of the area as well as the predicament of its tenant farmers. She wrote to Townsend that she and her husband had lived between 1915 and 1918 in a rough unpainted three-room tenant house raising tobacco and sheep and directing the tenants; however she declined to be explicit as to places and people for fear of hurting people's feelings.

There is a tradition that during the Civil War when John Hunt Morgan was conducting raids for the Confederacy in the area that the family hid their silver and drove their horses off into the hills but provided a hiding place for the celebrated leader, Morgan.

FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup>M.R. Burgess, The House of the Burgesses (San Bernardino, California: The Borgo Press, 1983), 51, 52.
- <sup>2</sup>Ann Bevins and Bob Snyder, Scott County Church Histories (Georgetown, 1979), 76-78.
- <sup>3</sup>Georgetown Times, Georgetown, Ky., June 8, 1867; June 12, 1867.
- <sup>4</sup>B.O. Gaines, A History of Scott County (Georgetown, 1906, reprinted 1961), II, 170.
- <sup>5</sup>Scott County Deed Book 28-153.
- <sup>6</sup>Matthew Bruccoli, "Afterword," Edith Summers Kelley, Weeds, (New York, 1923), 335-343. (From 1972 facsimile reprint by Southern Illinois University)
- <sup>7</sup>Information from Sally Gano Hays, present owner of Joseph Burgess House, great-great-granddaughter of Joseph Burgess.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (Continued: # 9, p.2)

- Burgess, M.R. The House of the Burgesses. San Bernardino, California: The Borgo Press, 1983.
- Gaines, B.O. A History of Scott County (two vols.) Originally published in Georgetown in 1904 and 1906, reprinted in 1961 by Frye Printing Company, Georgetown. II, 170.
- Georgetown Times, Georgetown, Kentucky, June 8, 1867; June 12, 1867.
- Kelley, Edith Summers Weeds. New York: Harcourt, Brace, & Co., 1923, reprinted by Southern Illinois University Press, 1972.
- Proctor, Mary. Review of Weeds, The Louisville Courier-Journal, June 11, 1982.
- Scott County deed books, Georgetown, Kentucky.
- Other information from Sally Gano Hays, present owner of Burgess House.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION (continued, # 10)

of U.S. 25 along road for 500 feet to beginning, including 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acres. Boundaries are drawn to include the house, outbuildings, fence, lane parallel to U.S. 25, and the graveyard.

Section of Map of Scott County, KY  
 Prepared by Beers & Lanagan, Phila-  
 delphia, Pa., 1879

Joseph Burgess House, Scott  
 County, KY

MAP 2

Georgetown 1

ATTO

CANTRELL JAS. B.  
 DANNHART W. B.  
 FINNELL JAS. B.  
 FRENCH GEB. B.  
 ROBINSON J. F.  
 STEVENSON M.

BAR

KELLY JAS. Y., Clerk  
 SPRANSON, Clerk

COUNTY

ABRAM J. M., Coroner  
 ARNEY JAS. P., Master  
 BRADLEY BEN. V., Clerk  
 JOHNSON H. V., County  
 HEALD W. J., Sheriff  
 PATTERSON G. V., County  
 SUPPLEY J. T., Sheriff  
 WOLFE J. HENRY, Clerk

NEW

BELL JOHN A., Editor

FEMALE

BOGGS J. J., Principal

GEORGETOWN

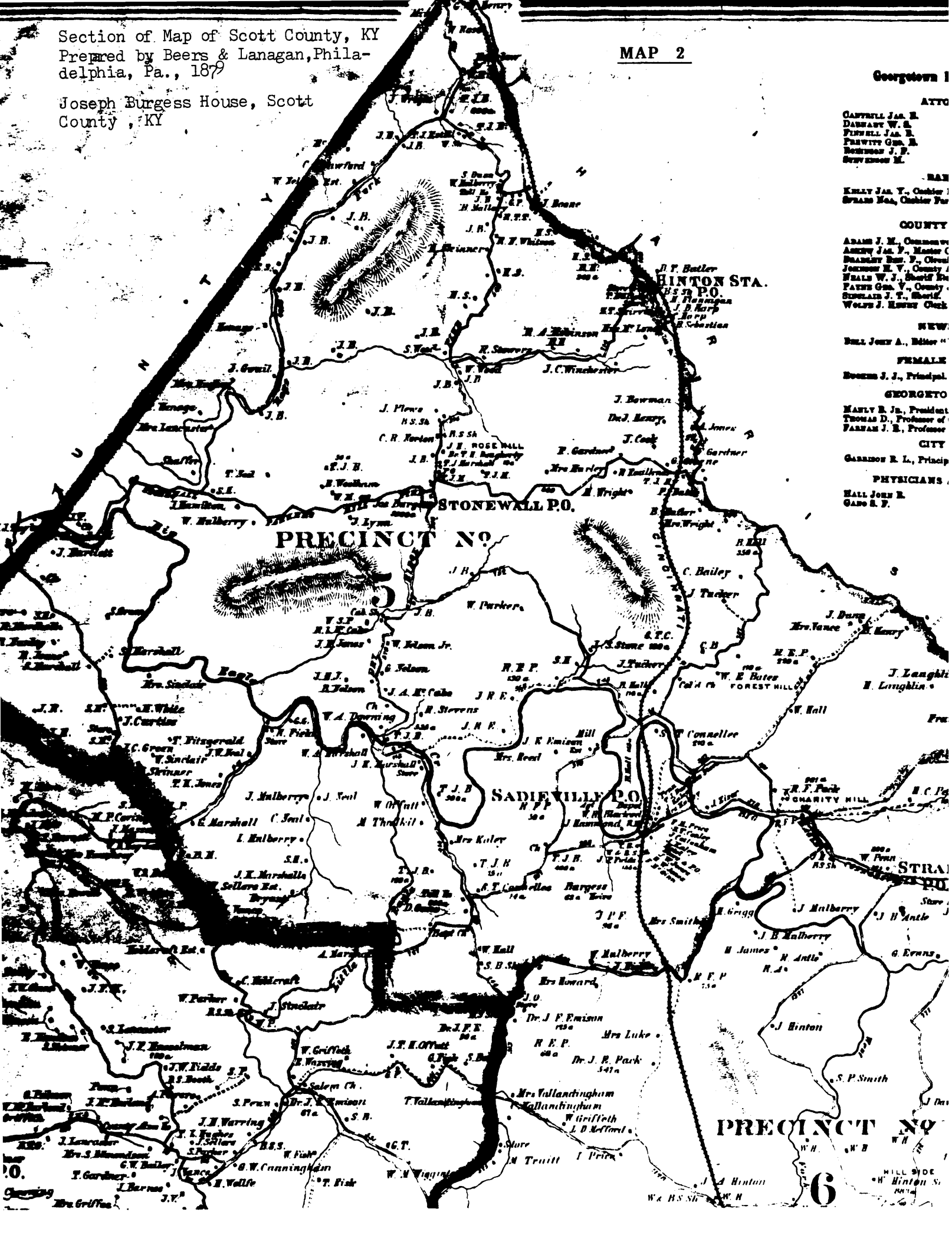
MARLY B. JR., President  
 THOMAS D., Professor  
 FARMAN J. B., Professor

CITY

GARRISON R. L., Principal

PHYSICIANS

HALL JOHN B.  
 GARDNER F.



PRECINCT NO. 9

STONEWALL P.O.

SADIEVILLE P.O.

PRECINCT NO. 10

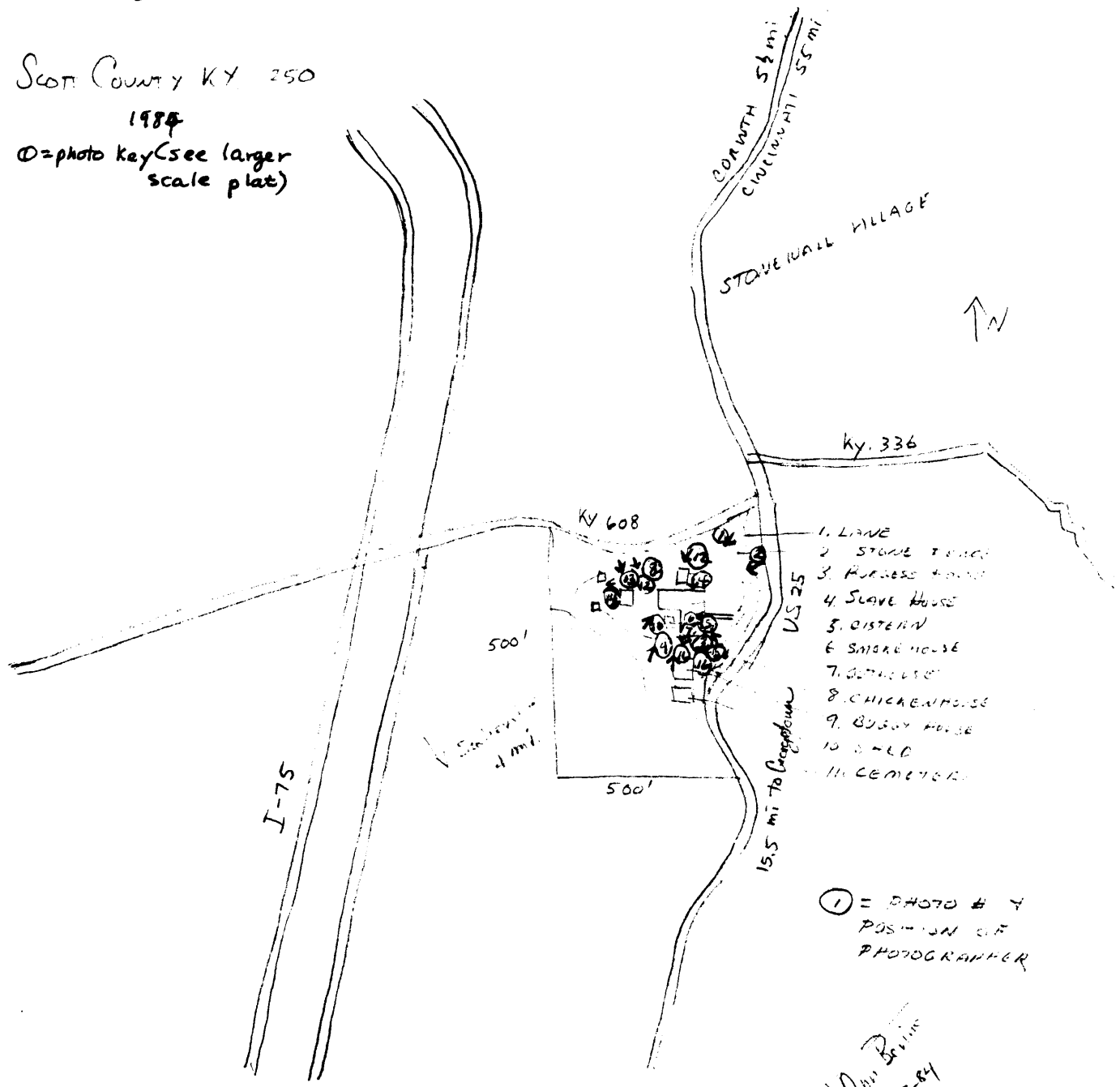
6



JOSEPH CURSESS HOUSE  
& OUTBUILDINGS

SCOTT COUNTY KY 250  
1984

⊙ = photo key (see larger  
scale plat)



⊙ = PHOTO # & POSITION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

A. B. B. B. B.  
8-28-84

OUTHOUSE

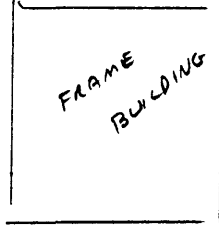
MAP 4

CHICKEN HOUSE

JOSEPH BURGESS HOUSE  
FLOOR PLAN

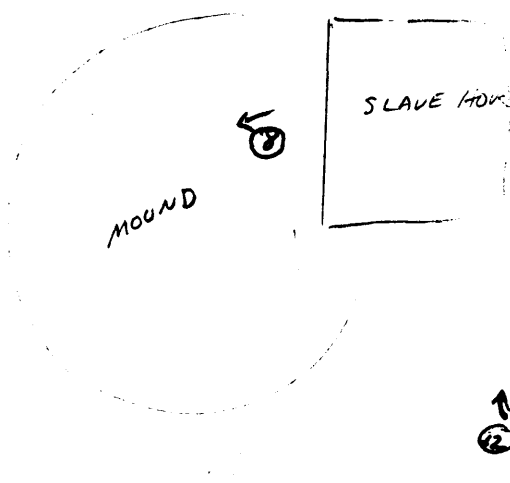
SCOTT COUNTY KY #250

ⓐ = photo key



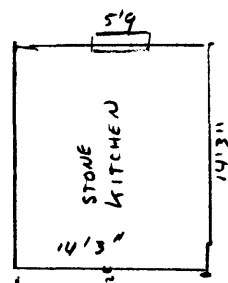
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ⓔ↙



ⓑ→

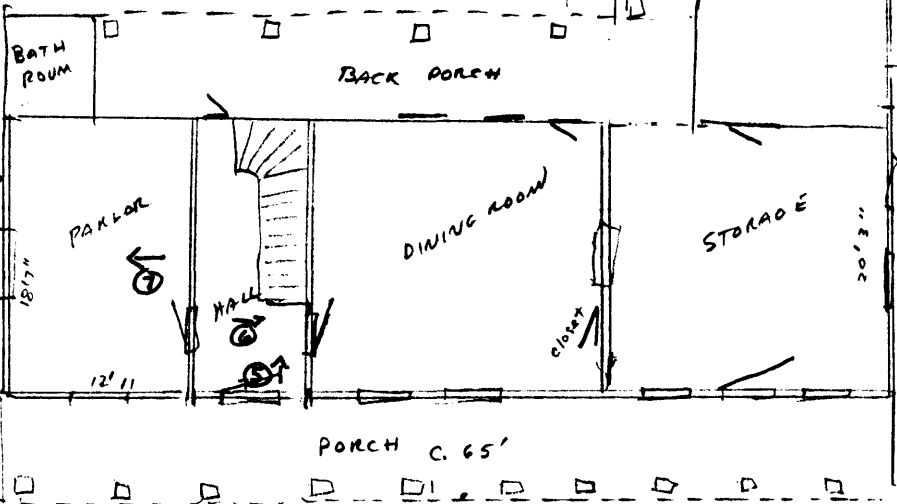
ⓑ↙



BRICK WAY 7"

STORAGE

ⓑ↙



BASEMENT ENTRY

ⓑ↙

BUGGY HOUSE

↓  
SHED

ⓑ↙

ⓑ↙

50'

20'3"

BBB

ⓑ↙

ⓑ↙