

PH00 71546

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky

COUNTY: Marshall

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE: DEC 31 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Oak Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC: Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 26 Aspen Street

CITY OR TOWN: Calvert City CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 01

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021 COUNTY: Marshall CODE: 157

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify)

Yes:
 Restricted
 Unrestricted
 No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. William R. Draffen

STREET AND NUMBER: 26 Aspen Street, P. O. Box 216

CITY OR TOWN: Calvert City STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Marshall County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Benton STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

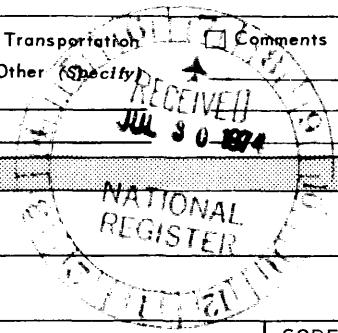
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
 Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered
 Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved
 Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oak Hill is located on a low rise several hundred yards from the site of the railroad "whistle-stop" which provided the initial impetus for the development of Calvert City. It dominates the tiny community, stores, a bank, and the few houses around it by means of this slight eminence as well as the magnificent trees that give it its name.

The house seems to have been built in several periods, but its structural history is disguised by Potilla Calvert's having clad the old as well as the new portions--some of the former actually of brick construction--in a uniform coat of weatherboard, although there are some visible seams on the side and rear walls.

In 1949 the present owner removed what exterior Victorian features the house may have had and has given the main front a new character with a full-width two-story porch roof supported on four square wooden piers, a "Georgian" door frame, and a delicate iron balcony under the windows above the entrance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1853 and later**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Potilla Calvert came to western Kentucky in 1840's after receiving 2,000 acres of land grants along the Tennessee River. Calvert was a great-great-grandson of the founder of Maryland, Lord Baltimore, and Potilla's father migrated from Maryland into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

In 1853, Potilla Calvert married Helen Wilson. It was in anticipation of this union that Calvert began building Oak Hill. Calvert chose a rural site 1 1/2 miles south of the river, on a sloping knoll, to build his house. Helen had two children, Franklin who lived only one month and Helen. Mrs. Calvert died in 1859.

In 1870 Potilla married Margaret Jane Carr of Henry County, Tennessee. Their first child was born on June 1, 1872, and named Williford; she was nicknamed "Willie" and that name was to accompany her for the rest of her life. A second child and daughter, christened Minnie, was born in 1874.

When the Paducah and Elizabethtown Railroad Company began surveying for a railroad, Calvert donated the right-of-way across his property. In return the railroad put the track near his home and with a shipping station on his land. Thus Calvert City, Kentucky, was born; it was incorporated in 1871.

Oak Hill became the center of the social and civic life of the community. It was in the dining room of Oak Hill that the future of the community was planned. Mr. Calvert was one of the founders of Calvert City's first Baptist Church in 1876.

In 1890 Willie married John M. Tichenor at Oak Hill. They had five children, three of whom reached maturity: Paul, Calvert, and their daughter Jessie. Mr. Calvert built a

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Draffen, William R. Oak Hill, Its History and Its People. 1972

Freeman, Leon R. The History of Marshall County. Benton, Kentucky: Tribune Democrat, 1933.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

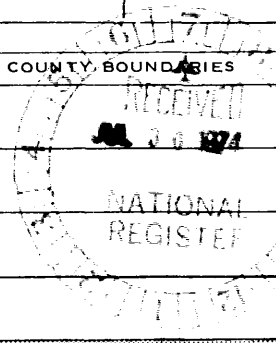
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 01' 50"	88° 20' 53"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

16/380136
4098910

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ouida Jewell, Fulton County Representative

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **Summer, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
315 Carr Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Fulton** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *Cedric W. Milton*
 Title *State Liaison Officer*
 Date *7-23-74*

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

R. F. Workman
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *DEC 31 1974*

ATTEST:
W. P. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date *DEC 31 1974*

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Oak Hill

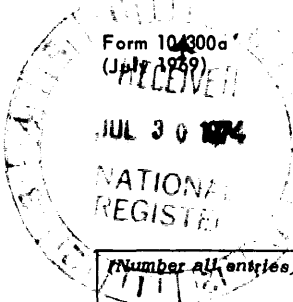
7. Description (continued)

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The original house, built in 1853, consisted of four rooms flanking a central hall--a parlor, dining room, bedroom, and kitchen. Before 1860 three rooms were added upstairs: two bedrooms and a large playroom over the brick kitchen (since covered with clapboard). Later, to accommodate a growing family, two bedrooms were added over the front rooms; these bedrooms are on a slightly different floor level from the earlier rooms at the rear of the house. The north side of the house has now two full stories along its length, broken by a dining-room bay window in the middle. A vertical seam marks the separation of front and rear additions. The south side has also two stories with a closed-in porch at the southeast corner.

After the elimination of the one-story porch which extended across the front and around the north side to the bay window, a colossal portico of two stories was added across the front of the house. It rests on four tall redwood piers (painted white like the house itself) on a concrete terrace. Over the Georgian Revival front door with its broken pediment and fluted pilasters was also added a wrought-iron balcony, bolted into the foot-thick front wall. The original hipped roof was extended over the portico. The single-pane sash were retained. The house in its present pretentious form bears little resemblance to the ample but plain Victorian structure erected by Calvert, but is intended to evoke Virginia associations and to enhance the prominence of the historic structure within the community.





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8. Significance (continued)

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On August 21, 1901, Potilla Calvert died. In 1905 his daughter and son-in-law moved into Oak Hill to join Mrs. Calvert. During the next twenty years John Tichenor was to play a leading role in the community life of Calvert City. He and Willie were instrumental in getting a new two-story frame schoolhouse built by organizing ice cream suppers, selling chances on quilts, and soliciting donations. Tichenor was instrumental in founding Calvert City's first bank in 1908 and was on the Board of Directors. He played a leading role with other men in bringing a community telephone system to Calvert City.

On August 10, 1922, Tichenor was thrown from his buggy, striking his head against an oak tree, and was killed instantly. Between 1925 and 1929 financial reverses beset Willie Tichenor. Calvert Tichenor, her son, accumulated gambling debts and therefore Paul and his mother mortgaged everything they owned--store, both homes, and their farms. They also financed a building so Calvert could open a car agency. This failed and Calvert was sentenced to prison for fraudulent car deals.

In November 1928 Oak Hill passed out of the hand of the Calvert family. Jessie married a Baptist preacher and left Calvert City. Paul moved to Florida and Calvert disappeared. Willie rented a downstairs apartment at Oak Hill from the new owners, the Kunneckes. In 1933 "Machine Gun Kelley," the nation's most wanted killer, was captured in Memphis in the home of Calvert Tichenor. Shortly thereafter Willie left Oak Hill to live with Jessie, and died in Buffalo in 1944 at the age of 72.

The dynasty had come to an end. The Calverts and Tichenors had been the guiding lights of the community for over seventy-five years. The community was now well established and has successfully carried on. The community and the state of Kentucky have not forgotten the contributions of the Calverts. To commemorate Calvert City's centennial, the Kentucky Historical Society erected

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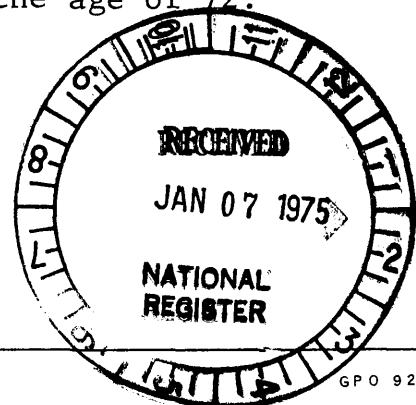
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an historical marker to the entrance to Oak Hill in 1971. That same year Calvert City honored the home by having a picture of Oak Hill on the cover of its centennial brochure.

