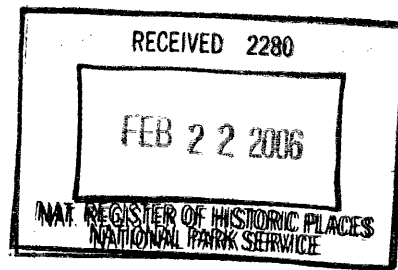


212



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Baker, James, House

other names/site number CU-26

2. Location

street & number Columbia Road not for publication N/A

city or town Burkesville vicinity X

state Kentucky code KY county Cumberland code 057 zip code 42717

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, SHPO

2-20-06
Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet)

Signature of certifying official / Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

for
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 4.5.06

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in
the National Register N/A
(Do not count the number of previously listed resources above.)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Add more category and subcategory lines if needed)
Cat: Domestic/Single Dwelling Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Add more category and subcategory lines if needed)
Cat: Vacant/Not in Use Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification
Cat: Early Republic
Sub: Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Brick
roof Metal
walls Brick
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1820

Significant Dates

Ca. 1820

Significant Person

N / A

(enter only if Criterion B selected)

Cultural Affiliation

N / A

(enter only if Criterion D selected)

Architect/Builder

Baker, Obediah (builder)

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References Zone Easting Northing Quad Name
Coordinate 1: 17 644705 4080235 Waterview

Verbal Boundary Description See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerral Barnstable/Owner
organization _____
street & number 411 Village Lake Drive telephone 502-254-3150
city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40245 date August 2005

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Scaled Floor plan** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Ruth Baker Libbert
street & number 5424 Southview Drive telephone 502-366-3691
city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40241

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 7 Page 1

Baker House
Cumberland County, KY

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The James Baker House (CU-26) is located along Columbia Road (KY 61) in Cumberland County, Kentucky, approximately 5 miles north of Burkesville, the county seat, and 15 miles north of Dale Hollow Lake State Park and the Tennessee border. The house is a one-and-one-half-story three-bay Federal-era brick hall and parlor house (20' x 38') with many fine architectural details. The house's east side chimney has the date 1820 etched on its upper exterior. All four walls are laid in Flemish bond on a brick foundation, with a flat brick arch above front windows, front and side doors. The house has a metal-covered gable roof and exterior chimneys on the gable ends. The interior includes many examples of classic Federal-style woodwork, with molded original chair rail throughout both first floor rooms. The interior has 12-foot ceilings with non-original beaded ceiling boards and two turned stairwells providing separate entrance to individual upstairs bedrooms. Since first built, members of the Baker family have continuously owned and lived in this house. Six years ago the house was vacated, and is currently in fair condition. Only the house itself, and the land on which it sits, is proposed for inclusion in the National Register.

The James Baker House sits on 135 acres of rural farmland, surrounded by undulating terrain, rolling and treed hills. Big Renox Creek meanders through the property, flowing to the west of KY 61, with the Baker house lying 200' east of KY 61. The house was built on a selected hill site to protect it from spring flooding. A large barn, and perhaps other outbuildings, were on the property in the 19th century. A second barn, a smokehouse, well house, and garage were built in the 20th century. A henhouse and pig house were demolished in the 1950s.

The only access to the land in 1805 was the Cumberland River, located approximately one-and-one-half miles to the east. In the 1920s SR 61 was built through the property and connected Columbia, Kentucky to Burkesville. The current landowner at the time, Thomas Martin Baker, was the construction straw boss and his 15-year-old son Stanley was one of the highway workers.

We do not know the original acreage of the farm, but do know that land was parceled to other family members who migrated west to join the Bakers in the 1800s. Additional plots were purchased at the same time from the Kentucky Land Grant System: 92 acres in January 10, 1829; an unknown amount in June 4, 1829; and 80 acres in January 16, 1855. A mill was an important part of the early settlement, and is mentioned in James Baker's will dated January 30, 1829 as being left to his heirs. The mill site is still part of the remaining acreage, and the family cemetery, where James Baker and other family members are buried, is located on a site just southeast of the house. The mill was dismantled during the 1950s. Approximately one third of the land is leased to a local farmer for crops and horses, with access to one of the barns. Since the 19th century, the acreage has been used for farming. Only the hillside terrain remains wild; it is used for hunting.

The house's southern facade has a circa 1925 front porch with shed roof and square posts on a concrete block foundation. A circa 1920 photograph shows a shingle roof and a centered front door with no porch. The door is located just to left of interior wall and opens into hall. A single-story northeast rear frame ell (12' x 25') addition was added around 1900 and is covered with asbestos shingle siding and has a gable end internal brick chimney. A weatherboard and glass enclosed porch extends the length of the east side of the ell. A cement block bath abuts the north rear center of the brick structure. A second outside door on the north side was enclosed when the bath was added. All of these appendages post-date the year of construction.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 7 Page 2

Baker House
Cumberland County, KY

The front door leads into the hall, the larger of the two first-floor rooms. There are two two-over-two double-hung sash windows, one on each side of the door, lighting the hall and the parlor. Each is centered on either side of the front door and has a flat brick arch. The north side contains one two-over-two double-hung sash window directly opposite the front window in the hall. On both gable ends there are second-floor two-over-two double-hung sash windows piercing the end wall on each side of the chimney stack. The right gable end has an exterior door under left window. The placement of the doors and windows results in a symmetrical design; that symmetry suggests a window on the parlor side was removed for the circa 1900 ell addition. What remains of such a window is currently located in the nearby well house. A centered parlor room door on the north side of the house opens into the circa 1900 addition. The exterior doors have been replaced. The windowpanes are original but three have been vandalized.

The house's interior consists of four rooms. The parlor, the smaller first floor room, is situated to the east. The hall, the larger first floor room, is located to the west. Each room has a turned stairwell providing separate entrance to upstairs bedrooms. Both bedrooms cover about 2/3 of the upper level, the remaining area being a storage attic. The original door at the turn of the stair remains at each turn. An enclosed storage area under each stairwell also contains original doors.

The house's interior contains many fine examples of Federal-style woodwork. Both the hall and parlor retain their original chair rails, except for an area in the hall where the rail was replaced when an outside door was enclosed. Also remaining are the original interior doors, one separating the first floor rooms and the other leading to the circa 1900 addition. The first floor's 12-foot ceilings have beaded ceiling boards and remain in place uncovered by any other ceiling material.

Federal-style mantels with a reeded frieze and reeded pilasters are found around the fireplaces in the two first-floor rooms. Both fireplace interiors were concrete-blocked in the 1950s due to birds nesting in the chimney. The original floor boards remain, but some warping has occurred in the parlor floor. Wallpaper has been applied over the years, but the walls show no signs of any other cover than the original brick.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 8 Page 1

Baker House
Cumberland County, KY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James Baker House meets National Register Criterion C and is important to us today as an intact example of settlement-era design and construction in Cumberland County, Kentucky. The building is significant within the historic context "Settlement-era Architecture in Cumberland County, Kentucky." Its value comes from demonstrating how Virginia served as a source area for architectural ideas in this part of Kentucky, which was still being settled in 1820, the year of the house's construction. This house is typical of mid-18th-century Virginia vernacular housing, and gives insight to the continued influence of the English settlements on the pioneers relocating to the West. The Flemish Bond exterior and the elaborate detail of the Federal style interior were found in Kentucky's highly designed homes in 1820. This house may have been an effort by wealthy rural residents to convey their social status through fashionable architectural style, while at the same time retaining a traditional hall and parlor plan that was deemed serviceable for that period. The design reveals how 18th-century Virginia spatial design and exterior treatments have served well into 20th -, and now 21st-century Kentucky.

Historic Context: Settlement-era Architecture in Cumberland County, Kentucky

Cumberland County, Kentucky was established in 1798 and began the nineteenth century somewhat isolated from its nearby environs, yet well-connected to distant points through the Cumberland River that runs through the County's center. That waterway once served as a vital conduit for people and new ideas, as well as an outlet for goods, travel, and commerce. While the river has become a recreational corridor over time, much of Cumberland County today still lacks the ease of automobile contact with nearby towns or to major interstate systems. Today little new housing exists on the major state highway, SR 61, north of Burkesville.

The major wave of pioneer settlement to Cumberland County (1790-1840) came through the famous Cumberland Gap Trail. The earliest pioneer settlement was encouraged by land grants given first by the Virginia Legislature to Revolutionary War soldiers and later by the Kentucky Legislature who in 1790 granted land in 200-acre plots for \$30 per hundred acres (Wells, 1947:14-15).

The majority of settlement dwellings were log, and most have long since passed from the landscape or become victims of modernization. Much of what is known of the County's historic buildings was recorded by Geography Department field workers from Western Kentucky University in the Summer and Fall 1985, led by professor Albert Petersen. Petersen produced a draft Multiple Resource Area (MRA) nomination in June 1986, a revised version in March 1987, neither of which appear to have been submitted to the National Register. Currently the County has over 230 sites recorded; of those, just over 200 lie outside the County seat, Burkesville.

The oldest standing brick structure in Cumberland County dates from 1816-17, built by George Traylor for John Edward King (CU-4). Traylor was a brick mason who came to Cumberland County from Pennsylvania. He built for King a one-and-one-half-story brick hall-and-parlor house with a rear brick ell kitchen and with interior fireplace chimneys. The house, executed in Flemish bond, popularized a brick bond construction that saw an unusually high rate of use in early Cumberland County. A brick craftsman was evidently at work in the County, as 11 of the 15 surviving brick structures exhibit Flemish bond; by contrast, none of the brick structures in adjacent Monroe County have Flemish bond (Cumberland County MRA p. 7-3, 7-4).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 8 Page 2

Baker House
Cumberland County, KY

At least three pioneer brick houses executed in Flemish bond were constructed on Big and Little Renox Creeks to the north of Burkesville, seat of Cumberland County. Two remain as evidence of excellent pioneer construction, one being the Obediah Baker House (CU-43), the James Baker House (CU-26) is the other. According to local history, both houses were built in 1820 by Obediah Baker and employ Federal details that indicate a Virginia Tidewater architectural influence.

American houses built between 1620-1800 were copies of the one- and two-room cottages from the homeland of England. Several centers of early settlement on the American seaboard exerted a force as settlement pushed westward. These source areas of cultural ideas, ideas which include architectural designs, have been termed by Cultural Geographers as "Hearths." The New England Hearth had the greatest influence on architecture and culture in the northern states. Kentucky was more influenced by the Chesapeake Bay Hearth area, where builders of early hall-and-parlor dwellings located the fireplaces at the ends of the house, rather than installing one fireplace in the center of the house. Tidewater Virginia 18th century homes were built with exterior end chimneys, were one room deep, were usually one-and-one-half-story with a hall and parlor, double hung sash windows, and when built of brick, employed Flemish Bond coursing. The kitchen was typically a separate structure.

The James Baker House suggests the English/Virginia influence in its serviceable hall-parlor plan with fine touches such as Flemish bond brickwork and carved interior woodwork. Such houses continued to be desirable in Kentucky in the 1820s. The James Baker House shares elements consistent with early-18th-century buildings in Virginia. The same low slung roof, end chimneys, and long rectangular form that was common in Central Virginia and in some parts of Southside and Piedmont from about 1750 to 1850. Houses with similar plans to the Baker House, dated from 1820s and 1830s, exist in Charlottesville and Lynchburg, though by that time they had abandoned Flemish bond-work. Early 19th-century hall-parlor houses survive in Chesterfield, Virginia, in frame not in brick, indicating lower economic status of the owner. The James Baker House exhibited what would have been considered a fancy house in 1750s Virginia, but would have seemed old-fashioned there by the 1820s. The Flemish bond on a small Virginia house is rare to find, unless the house pre-dates 1750. Thus Baker House indicates the long life span of cultural ideas embodied in architectural design. It also suggests that the somewhat unsettling process of establishing a culture on the frontier might be supported by invoking very traditional, even somewhat obsolete, architectural forms.

The Baker men may have utilized the expertise of the mason George Traylor, and Traylor might have encouraged the selection of Flemish bond. Certainly the builder of the James Baker House created a fine livable residence with Tidewater elements as well as with ideas of his own. The two upstairs bedrooms with individual staircases were separated by an interior wall, each opening to an attic storage area. The four exterior doors (as introduced in the French Huguenot design) suggest a possible influence of Margaret Morriset Baker, though similar Tidewater design houses were not uncommon to find with this element.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 8 Page 3

Baker House
Cumberland County, KY

Baker Family History

The James Baker family history has been traced to Martin Baker, a merchant from Plymouth, England who patented land in York County, Virginia in 1634. Martin would have been the grandfather of Martin Baker of New Kent County, Virginia (b.1690-93/d. after 1744 in Hanover County, Virginia). Son John (b.1729/d.1798), one of two known brothers, fathered ten children including James (b.1766 in Chesterfield County, Virginia /d.1840 in Cumberland County, Kentucky).

In late 1805 three Baker brothers, Martin, William and James came to Cumberland County, Kentucky from Chesterfield County, Virginia with their families.. James was married to Margaret Morriset, of French Huguenot descent, (b.1770 Virginia/d.1856 Kentucky) in May, 1790. Martin and William sold their land in Chesterfield County, Virginia in September that year, while James held on to his Virginia land until after settling in Kentucky. William had served in the Revolutionary War, and applied for his pension from Cumberland County, Kentucky.

The families would have traveled in horse and carts, bringing all their household goods with them, and the route they probably followed was the North branch of the James River until it reached the mountains. They would then have turned south, going down the Valley of Virginia to Cumberland Gap, which they would have crossed into Kentucky, a trail made famous by Daniel Boone. Finding the upper reaches of the Cumberland River, they would have then followed that river to Cumberland County, Kentucky. They settled on land near Big and Little Renox Creeks, an area already inhabited by former Chesterfield County, Virginia, family members, John and Obediah Baker, who were skilled at building. The brothers worked together on the building of the Sugar Grove Church, built in 1815 on Big Renox Creek, after Obediah returned from serving in the War of 1812. There is no record of where James Baker and his family lived until 1820, but Ruth Baker Libbert remembers a one-room wood building with a porch on the north side of the brick house. That building could have served as the kitchen in the early years, but Ruth remembers it being the bath house in the 1920s. It is logical to assume that James Baker and others were making the bricks they would use in the building of the house, since local legend is that the bricks were made on-site.

James Baker died 16 years before his wife, Margaret. Possibly Margaret suggested her son Thomas and his family move in to help her with the farm. Certainly Thomas' son, and her grandson, Columbus (a member of the Kentucky legislature in mid-1800s) lived in the house after his elders died, and upon his death, his widow Victoria invited her son Thomas Martin, his wife Iva, and four young children to move in with her. Ruth Baker Libbert, mother of this nomination's author, claims Thomas' family was invited to live with their grandmother, rather than with any of the other seven children, because the Thomas family had fewer grandchildren (four). Whatever the reason, the author's grandmother Iva had the foresight to buy the house (including farm) from the other seven siblings in 1936. Ruth's sister Elsie Wright lived in the house until her death in 1999. Her husband Elmer Wright and brother Paul Baker farmed the acreage until their deaths in the early 1990s. Ruth Baker Libbert purchased the other heirs' portion of the estate after Elsie's death. The James Baker House has been kept in excellent condition, but is now suffering the detriment of vacancy.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 8 Page 4

Baker House
Cumberland County, KY

CONCLUSION

Only three 1820s-era Flemish Bond Tidewater "Virginia Houses" remain in rural Cumberland County according to the Kentucky Heritage Council's files. The James Baker House's original exterior and interior remain relatively unchanged and in fairly good condition. The rural farmland of the Big Renox area is gradually changing to Cumberland River recreational land. Soon there will be no visual evidence of how this area of Cumberland County was settled. Because this house stands as a fine example of 18th-century-Virginia vernacular construction, the James Baker House deserves a place on the National Historical Register.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 9 Page 1

Baker House
Cumberland County, KY

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- Personal Communication with Marc Wagner, National Register Manager, Va. Dept. of Historic Resources, 2005
- Personal Communication with Mike Pulice, Architectural Historian, Roanoke Regional Office, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2005
- Personal Interview by nomination author with Ruth Baker Libbert (b.Oct, 1917, lived in James Baker House from 1922 to 1939, still living) ongoing with emphasis 2003-2005.
- Personal Interview by author with Elsie Baker Wright (b. Sept., 1906, lived in James Baker House from 1922 to 1999, died 1999) interviewed ongoing 1960 until her death.
- Petersen, Albert J.
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 10 Page 1

Baker House
Cumberland County, KY

Verbal Boundary Description

The area proposed for listing includes the historic brick house and a 10' margin around it. This property is located within a larger parcel, on the east side of State Highway 61 in Cumberland County, Kentucky. The property's legal description corresponds to Cumberland County Property Valuation Assessor (PVA) account #053-00-00-005.00, which is parcel 5 on Map 53.

Boundary Justification

The basis for this nomination is the property's architectural value. The architectural resource alone, with a small protective margin surrounding it, is seen as the appropriate boundary to recognize that architectural significance.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section Photos Page 1

Baker House
Cumberland County, KY

Photographic Identification Sheet

Same information for all photos:

Name: James Baker House

Location: Cumberland County, KY

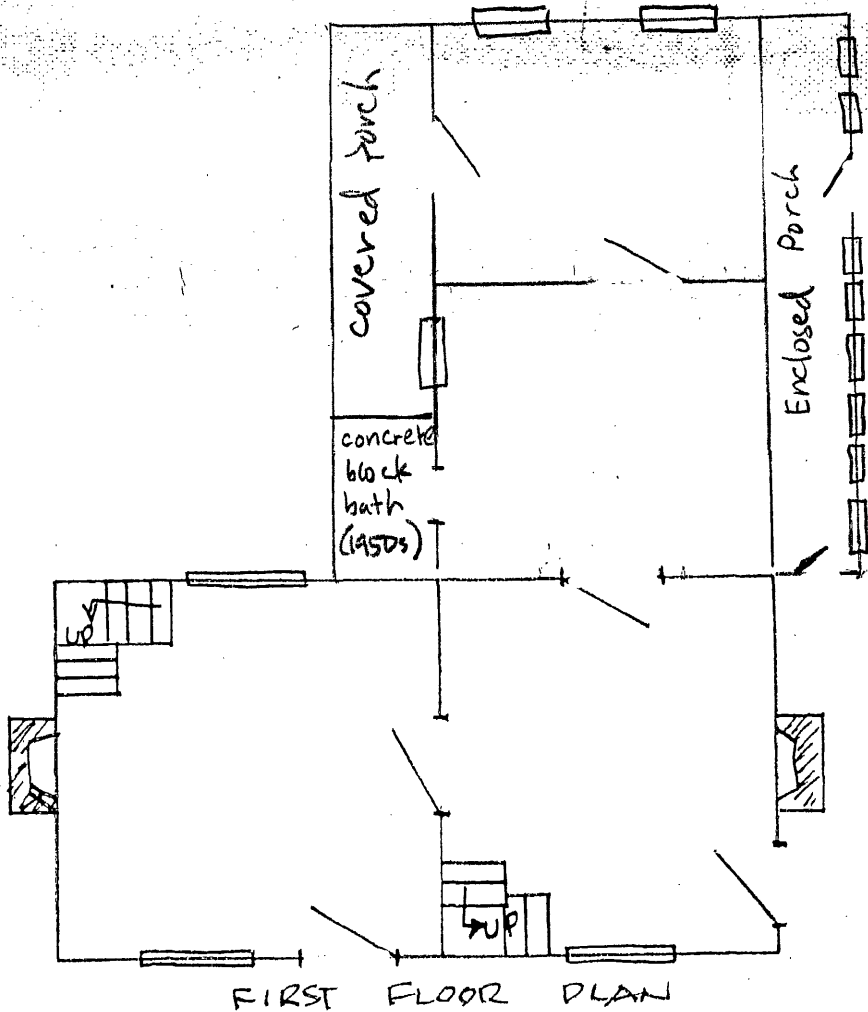
Photographer: Jerral Barnsdale

Date: 2005

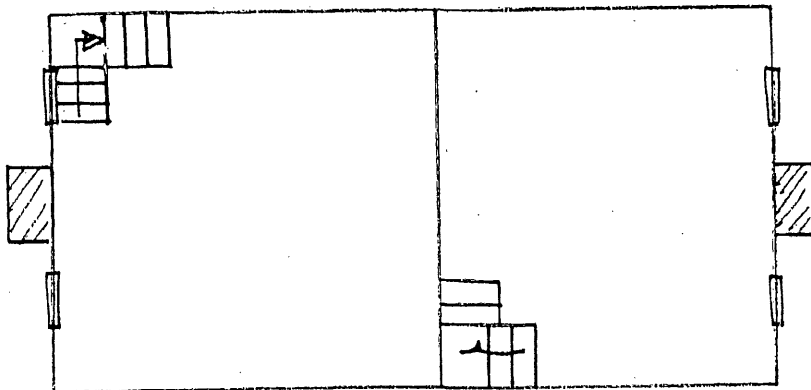
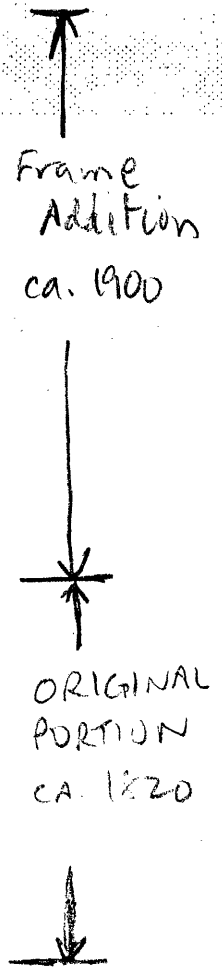
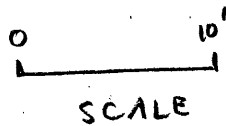
Location of Negatives: Kentucky Heritage Council, 300 Washington Street, Frankfort, KY 40601

Photograph-specific information:

Photo #	Photo Direction and Content:
Photo 1:	to northeast: west side and south (front) facade
Photo 2:	to southeast: west side of frame-el addition
Photo 3:	to northwest: east side of historic building and frame-el addition



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

JAMES BAKER HOUSE
 CUMBERLAND Co., KY
 CU-26
 FLOOR PLAN

1820s House Plan by
 Albert Petersen (1986)
 1900 Frame Addition
 plan by Terri
 Barnstable (2006)