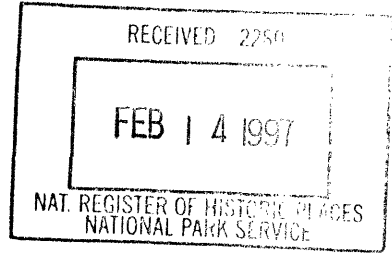
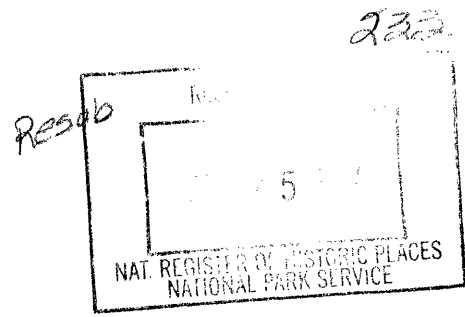


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Frankfort Greenhouses  
Other names/site number Power's Flowers; The Power Flower Shop; (FR-F-52).

2. Location

street & number 210, 212 & 216 E. Main St. not for publication n/a  
city or town Frankfort vicinity n/a  
state Kentucky code KY county Franklin code 073 zip code 40601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally.

David L. Morgan 2-7-97  
Signature of certifying official Date  
David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Kentucky Heritage Council, State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official \* 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Andrus \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action 10/9/97

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)  
 private  public-local  public-State  public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)  
 building(s)  district  site  structure  object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

Name of related multiple property listing n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce Sub: specialty store  
Domestic single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: commerce Sub: specialty store  
domestic single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate (210 E. Main)  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Builder's Colonial (216 E. Main)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone  
roof      Glass, Asphalt  
walls      Glass,  
     Wood Weatherboard  
other                                     

Narrative Description (Describe the condition of the property on continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for listing)

- X 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.

Areas of Significance Commerce

Period of Significance 1870-1947

Significant Dates 1870 (business established)

1934 (residence built)

1956 (210 purchased for office)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Residence at 216 E. Main St. -- Power, Edmond, builder

Frankfort Greenhouses, 212 E. Main St. -- Power, Edmond, builder

Residence at 210 E. Main St. -- Builder/Architect Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on continuation sheets.)

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(See 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Kentucky Heritage Council

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 2 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>686 790</u>	<u>4229 770</u>	<u>3</u>
2	_____	_____	<u>4</u>	_____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Melissa Lamb, organization private consultant date December 1, 1996  
street & number 401 Ewing Street telephone (502) 227-0939  
city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

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Property Owner

name Frances P. Canty street & number 216 E. Main St. telephone (502) 223-3408  
city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1FRANKFORT GREENHOUSES  
(FR-F-52) Franklin Co., KY**Description**

Sitting on the rise of East Main Street directly across from the historic Frankfort Cemetery, is Frankfort Greenhouses and the associated residences (FR-F-52). These structures, 210, 212 and 216 East Main St., have served as a long-standing Frankfort flower business and home to the Power-Canty family since 1870. The greenhouses are a local landmark on East Main, one of the heavily-traveled thoroughfares into Frankfort's downtown, also designated as highway U.S. 60 and formerly known as the Georgetown & Versailles Turnpike. The oldest of the four attached greenhouses sits below the street level, running on a north-south axis parallel to the east side of 210 East Main Street. Three additional greenhouses run along an east-west axis between the houses at 210 and 216 East Main. The house at 216 E. Main is home to the Power-Canty family, founders and lifelong proprietors of the Frankfort Greenhouses; 210 East Main Street serves as the business office for the property. The entire property extends northward from Main Street to a steep drop-off at its rear. As the four primary structures, the greenhouses occupy most of the northern portion of the lot. The area proposed for nomination consists in approximately 2 acres and is counted as <sup>one</sup> contributing building, one contributing structure, and one non-contributing building.

**Description of the site**

Frankfort's East Main Street rises steeply from its lowest point in the downtown area, not much above the Kentucky River's level at about 470 feet, and climbs on the shoulder of a hill, to a high point above 700 feet, where it levels out between two large governmental complexes, the historic Kentucky State University (FR-F-6 and FR-F-26, National Register listed) and the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources building, which now houses the Cabinets for Health Services and Families and Children. To negotiate the quick change in elevation, road builders cut gentle curves into the hill to carve out Main Street. While two lanes originally defined Main, heightened travel demands after World War II called for an expansion of the corridor. Two additional traffic lanes were squeezed into the space, though little actual widening took place.

Buildings flanking East Main occupy lots of varied height in relation to the road during its climb from the downtown. Rows of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century small dwellings sit on terraced sites on the south side of the road, some more than 10 feet above the road. Residents of these houses enjoy an unobstructed view of Frankfort's downtown several hundred feet below. The rows of houses terminate at the Frankfort Cemetery (FR-F-4, National Register listed).

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Buildings have occupied sites on the north side of Main, as well, though their lots are sometimes shortened abruptly by the fall of the large hill. These building lots are, for the most part, at the same level as East Main. Lots on this side of Main have seen a greater mix of residential and non-residential use than on the opposite side of the street. In addition to the Frankfort Greenhouses, nearby properties have included Cozine Monument at 190 E. Main, which sells gravestones, and the historic King's Daughters' Hospital (FR-F-2) at 220 East Main.

The appearance of Frankfort Greenhouses from Main Street is deceptive. Travelers going downhill pass closer to the property, easily viewing the two houses, 210 and 216 E. Main, at grade level. The site can be easily misread as two houses separated by a vacant lot as three of the four greenhouses sit entirely below grade. A small greenhouse-like glassed structure, which served as the first office for the business, is attached to the north-south running greenhouse and appears as part of the front of 210 East Main. This structure is used for seasonal floral displays and appears as a greenhouse, signaling the commercial nature of the property and alluding to its particular function.

Frankfort Greenhouses and the associated buildings, then, form something of a U-shaped complex, with the two houses standing as the uprights of the U, and the four major greenhouses forming the base. A vacant expanse, which has been terraced for outdoor gardening, is framed by the two buildings and greenhouse structures.

**The Greenhouses (one contributing structure)**

This first greenhouse was built on the site around 1870 alongside the Edmond Power residence. It retains its original stone walls, now covered with moss and ferns. All of the greenhouses were built between 1870 and 1920 (Interview with Canty) and are situated on the lot running lengthwise from east to west, so as to receive greatest exposure to the sun. Each greenhouse is framed with wood and iron and enclosed in glass panes, which form the roof and above-grade portion of the walls. Estimated at 30' x 80' each, the greenhouses were constructed below ground level to conserve heat and incorporated climate-control technology of their day. Only one of the greenhouses is still actively used for the growing of plants.

The oldest greenhouse runs along the north-south axis and has a subterranean foundation of mortared masonry. The original hot water pipes used to heat the greenhouses, first fueled by coal and then by gas, are evident in this greenhouse. Concrete steps have obscured those pipes at the point where they cross the floors of the structure. The space is divided into three rooms. The furthest of these three rooms is completely

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(FR-F-52) Franklin Co., KY

underground, as it occupies an area which is closer to the street. In that well-insulated room, the owners created a flower cooler from plumbing pipes filled with water and ice, a fabrication that seems both ingenious and unique in its day. The other two rooms have window light, and have served for work and storage of flowers. On the east side wall of the middle room is a stairway which climbs to the glass-walled structure showing prominently from the street. At the rear of that upper structure is an office lit by a single double-hung window.

These three greenhouses, which run along the east-west axes, connect to the basement of 210 East Main St. through the fourth greenhouse. The three greenhouses are partially subterranean, with walls constructed of coursed stone blocks below grade. Above ground level, the metal framework contains glass that comprises the roof and a short glass wall. The supporting framework for these structures is metal tubing and plumbing connections, galvanized iron for the most part. A variety of platforms and raised box beds give maximum utility to the space. Flooring consists of various materials: stone rubble, bricks, and some wooden planks. At the eastern end of one of the three greenhouses is the heating plant. Its warming air is carried through large sheet-metal ductwork that meanders unobtrusively through the structures.

**Business Office at 210 E. Main (Non-Contributing Building)**

This one-and-a-half story building rises from a coursed-limestone foundation and exhibits an asymmetrical facade arrangement. The plan is irregular, formed around a roughly square building block capped by a pyramidal roof. To that block are attached various building bays which rise to gable roofs. The land drops off from the front to the rear of the building, resulting in a full-height basement story in the rear of the house. The house has been changed from a residence to a commercial operation over the years, yet still retains much of the feel of a historic residence. Its historic interior woodwork and room divisions remain intact. The interior of the upper half-story of the building was modernized as a separate apartment in 1996. The house is set back from the highway approximately 20 feet.

The front (south) facade of the building is balanced by a dormer with double one-over-one windows and a single one-over-one window at the second floor level of a one bay projection. At the first floor level, openings occur below these windows: on the left is the front door; to the right, a large picture window with diamond-shaped panes framed by tracery. Further to the right of the frontal plane is a glass-walled and -roofed structure, which itself looks like a small greenhouse projecting forward from the house and reaching very near to the road. The sidewalk, a retaining wall and guard rail provide

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protection for this display structure from the passing foot and vehicular traffic.

On the west side of the building is a large asphalt parking lot. The basement level is covered with lattice work. This side of the building has five openings on the main level, which vary between casement and jalousie types of windows. The upper floor's apartment is lit on its west side by a single two-over-two double hung sash window. A bay window projects from the middle bay of this side wall, and it is capped by a gable whose ridge runs on an east-west axis with overhangs forming consoles with scrollwork. This architectural massing and detailing relates the house to later-nineteenth century Italianate styling more so than any other part of the house.

The basement level of the rear (north side) of the house shows stone on the left and wood lattices on the right. A larger window was built into the stone portion of the basement. The joint formed by the junction of stone and lattice on the basement level reads above as the connection between the main house and what was probably an open porch, now enclosed. That porch contains a four-light door on this north side. Though with no stairway to the ground below, it is rendered unusable. The main bay of the house on the north side contains small paired double hung windows, and in the upper level, a single double hung sash window within the gable.

The east side of the building has been obscured partially by the extension of one of the greenhouses upward and toward the street. That extension terminates in a small greenhouse-like structure which is used as a prominent display area for the business' products. The small glass-walled structure is part of one of the greenhouses, though it is connected to the southeast corner of 210 by a false-front partition approximately four feet in width.

**216 East Main Street (Contributing Building)**

A small residence stands here, built around 1930 (Interview with Canty), which replaced another structure that occupied the site for at least 70 years prior. The current building possesses a Builder's Colonial style, with a symmetrical facade of five openings, a door flanked by two windows. The building has a central passage plan, with an entry stairway that climbs to two small attic rooms. Fenestration on the front facade is six-over-six windows. The entry door opens beneath a delicate fanlight and between narrow sidelights. The building's gable roof runs along an east-west axis, and is punctured by a central and an interior (east) end chimney, both of which rise from the front half of the roof surface.



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As the building's lot drops off from the front to the rear, a lower level is revealed. That basement contains an early integral garage which is shielded from the heating plant by a large, heavy, metal door mounted on a metal track. A kitchen, living and dining area are all located in the basement.

The main floor's sides and rear walls are punctured regularly by the original six-over-six windows, two on the sides and five across the back. The attic rooms are lit by a single double-hung window each.

The interior of the house is composed of several rooms which flow into one another, circling around the entry stairwell. A large and well-lit living room is to the left (west) of the entry hall, behind that a study, and bedrooms to the east. Little alteration of the historic interior building fabric is evident. Even the kitchen and heating plant appear to retain a good deal of their original fabric.

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FRANKFORT GREENHOUSES  
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**Statement of Significance**

The Frankfort Greenhouses (FR-F-52), established in 1870, meets National Register Criterion A and is significant as one of the first commercial greenhouses in the city of Frankfort, having survived in continuous operation under the proprietorship of the same family for more than 100 years. It has been evaluated within the historic context, "Greenhouses as a Frankfort Business, 1870-1947," developed to support this nomination. The years 1870-1956 have been selected as the period of significance to represent the historic activity of the greenhouses as a successful family business in Kentucky's capital city. The greenhouse was established in 1870 and 1956 marks the year the last building used for the business complex was purchased by the family.

**Historic Context: Greenhouses as a Frankfort Business, 1870-1947**

An understanding of Frankfort Greenhouses' place in the local and state past requires investigation of relevant data on the subject. A search of the Kentucky Heritage Council's statewide database did not elicit any entries for greenhouses in Kentucky. To develop a perspective on the growth of greenhouses as a structural type, general histories of those constructions were consulted. Census data for the Commonwealth also were consulted to view flower-raising as a business.

The nineteenth century saw the perfection of the greenhouse as an environment suitable for the growth of exotic plants. Most of the great private and public greenhouses were built at this time, including the Chatsworth Conservatory and the Palm House at Kew, both in England, and the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory (National Historic Landmark, listed 1967) at the New York Botanical Gardens. The nineteenth century also saw the construction of the great glass exhibition palaces, the London and New York Crystal Palaces, built with the same technology as the plant houses. After the middle of the century, prefabricated wood and glass greenhouses were manufactured in large numbers in both England and America.

While the Frankfort Greenhouses is not an example of the jewel-like Victorian glass houses and conservatories of the 19th century which arose on both sides of the Atlantic, it is certainly a functional derivative of the estate greenhouses which flourished at that time. The owners achieved their purposes by creatively adapting existing technologies to support their business, which has sustained three generations of the Power-Canty family for more than 100 years.

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The Frankfort Greenhouse fits into a context of flower raising businesses in Kentucky, which although small in number, left a tangible record. According to 1900 U.S. Census tables, Kentucky had 77 farms which derived their primary income from flowers and plants. These data reveal flower operations as quite distinct from other farming types. The table below outlines some of these characteristics.

	Typical KY Farm	Flower Farms
Average Size	93.7 Acres	4.75 acres
Total value per farm	\$2007	\$6984
Value of products sold	\$525	\$2825
Total value of buildings	\$387	\$3314
Labor costs	\$28	\$583
Fertilizer costs	\$ 4	\$26

These data, from Census table 16, reveal a portrait of operations such as the Frankfort Greenhouses. When viewed as agricultural complexes, they are much more compact, much more profitable overall and more profitable per acre than conventional farms. To receive such a payback, though, their owners had to invest much more in buildings, fertilizers and labor costs.

When viewed according to these factors, the Frankfort Greenhouses is very much within the norm of a turn-of-the-century flower growing operation in Kentucky. While it occupied an apparently urban lot, its two-acres size is within the norm for a flower farm in Kentucky. Its extremely intensive use of its land, with the construction of buildings and the terracing of outdoor flower beds, followed patterns that must have been common for similar farms elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

The financial success of the Frankfort Greenhouse is inferred by the survival of this family business for more than a century, even during national economic downturns, the death of the founder and other key figures, and the re-construction of their home in the 1930s. Frankfort Greenhouses is one of only 125 businesses in the state listed as a "Kentucky Centennial Business" by the Kentucky Historical Society, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet. This program honors and certifies historic commercial enterprises in continuous operation for at least 100 years by January 1, 1996. Only two floral operations are represented among the 125 listed -- Frankfort Greenhouses and Nanz and Craft Florists of Louisville

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FRANKFORT GREENHOUSES  
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**A History of the Frankfort Greenhouses**

Edmond Power, an Irish immigrant, founded Frankfort Greenhouses with little ceremony when he lifted the first shovel of dirt for a rose pit alongside his residence at 216 E. Main Street. The first greenhouse later was constructed between 1870 and 1880 on the very site of the Mr. Power's rose pit (Frankfort-Franklin County Atlas, 1870-1880). A dealer in stoves and tin and a manufacturer of galvanized iron cornice, Mr. Power gave priority to climate control within the building over its aesthetic impact from the outside. Interviews with Frances Power Canty, granddaughter of Edmond Power, indicate that a German immigrant assisted Mr. Power in constructing the first greenhouse and became the first gardener for the family business. With the German assistant's knowledge of flowers and greenhouses, and Power's mechanical know-how, promotional skills, and advantageous location, the Frankfort Greenhouses had the foundation for a thriving floral business

Most greenhouses at that time relied on ground beds for growing (Canty Interview). The Frankfort Greenhouses, however, used raised beds, with hot pipes routed underneath and vents near the top to keep the plants' "feet warm and heads cool." (Canty Interview). According to Canty, "everything depended on the grower, and the ability to keep the furnace going." Originally, the furnace in the Frankfort Greenhouses was heated with coal and the hot pipes provided even heat. Eventually, gas boilers replaced the coal furnaces at a reduced cost, but as Canty maintains, never quite as satisfactory heat. The greenhouses themselves, also were terraced as to make best use of available light. Exposed on the south, east and west, only on the north side of the greenhouses were enclosed with solid walls.

The survival and growth of Frankfort Greenhouses may be attributed in no small part to its location directly across from the historic Frankfort Cemetery, an important feature of Frankfort's 19th century landscape known as Kentucky's Westminster Abbey. The original gates of the cemetery, established in 1845, stood directly across from the greenhouses. Two doors away, King's Daughter's Hospital, the city's only infirmary, was established in 1896. The exceptionally beautiful roses may have captured the attention of passersby strolling on Cemetery hill or those visiting friends and family at the city hospital.

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The rose pit from which the greenhouse was established was only yards away from the family home. Mr. Power lived at 216 E. Main Street with his first wife Norah, whom he married in 1870 (Franklin County Marriage Bonds 1852-1878). Norah Welch Power later died in childbirth with the couple's first child (Canty Interview). Mr. Power later purchased the house at 216 E. Main Street and the adjacent tracts, where the greenhouses now stand, from Norah's family. Deed records indicate the purchase was made from the heirs of Michael Welch in January 1882, probably about the time of his re-marriage to Frances (Fannie) Ryan (Frankfort Deed Book, 19, pg. 203). The house at 216 E. Main is believed to have been built at the site of the old Penn Tavern (Interview with Canty). The tavern was established in 1844 and served as a English pub house and stopping place for wagoners. It was located on the north side of Main Street several blocks up East Main from the State Arsenal (State Journal, 1919) and is believed to have been a popular stop-off for travelers visiting the grave sites of Daniel and Rebecca Boone, which were relocated to the Frankfort Cemetery in 1845 (The History of the Frankfort Cemetery, pg. 41)

Though the business grew from a personal interest, Mr. Power quickly learned the value of advertising for turning his passion into a profit. Already listed in the 1884-85 Frankfort City Directory, advertisements for his primary work -- as a dealer of stoves and tin -- Mr. Power is also listed as a florist at his residence in the individual listings (Frankfort City Directory 1884-85, pg. 129).

A business ledger from the years 1897-98 maintained by the family attests that the greenhouse was indeed quickly profitable. The gross profit for the greenhouse in 1898 was \$423.90 with the net profit listed at \$357.72. One month in January of 1897 listed sales of nearly \$200, with four dozen white roses selling for \$6, a moss wreath for \$1 and an arrangement of cut violets for 40 cents (Frankfort Greenhouse ledger, 1897-98). Moss and holly wreaths, sold year round for \$1 and less, were most likely used to beautify the grave sites at the nearby Frankfort Cemetery.

Another greenhouse is known to have operated in Franklin County during the Frankfort Greenhouses' early period. R.H. Nichol, the owner of 170 acres along Benson Creek about a half-mile west of the city, operated as a horticulturist, florist, gardener, and a dealer in fancy plants and shrubs (Atlas, p. 27). Mr. Nichol was from Scotland and settled in Frankfort in 1854 (Atlas, p. 45). In the Frankfort City Directory for 1884-85, Mr. Nichol is also listed as a florist, dealer in ice and a dairyman (Directory, pg. 123).

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An advertisement from the City Directory of 1891-92 again refers to Edmond Power as a dealer of stoves, tinware and a manufacture of galvanized Iron Cornices at 236 Ann Street. But it also announces that "plants and cut flowers are for sale at the greenhouse at his residence opposite the cemetery gate" (Directory, pg. 105). By this time, R. H. Nichol had joined his brother Jacob in business to form the Nichol Brothers, primarily as ice dealers. They were still, however, listed as proprietors of a greenhouse on their farm (Directory, pg. 140).

Both Power and Nichol survived the early years of the Great Panic of the 1890s, which eliminated nearly 50 of Frankfort's then 190 businesses (Capitol on the Kentucky, pg., 122). That the Frankfort Greenhouses survived may be due in part to its operation from the family's residence. The greenhouse also initially provided ancillary income for the family. Power, a craftsman of many skills, could support the family through lean years of the flower business. Nichol, however, may not have survived the subsequent depression that followed the panic. By 1908, he is no longer listed as a Frankfort greenhouse proprietor (Frankfort City Directory 1908).

Meanwhile, a new greenhouse operation is evidenced in the local business scene that year. Emma C. Henry, of Thorn Hill, appears in the City Directory of 1908 as a florist in Thorn Hill (Directory, pg., 226). Ms. Henry is the wife of A.C. Henry, at one time an insurance adjuster and saloon proprietor (1884-85 Directory, pg. 95). Mr. Henry also owned greenhouses on the old Owenton Road in Thorn Hill. These structures appear on the 1907 Sanborn Insurance maps in a configuration very similar to the Power's greenhouse. They consist of three side-by-side, glass-roofed structures, whose parallel gable ridges run along an east-west axis. By 1912, the complex had grown with the addition of a smaller detached greenhouse and two detached outbuildings

By the early twentieth century, Mrs. Edmond Power, or Fannie as she was known, emerges as the central business figure for the greenhouses following the death of her husband (Frankfort City Directory, 1912-13-14). Edmond Power is believed to have died between 1910 and 1912 (Canty Interview). In the directory for that year, Mrs. Power is listed as residing with three of her children: Edmond Power Jr., an accountant with Hoge-Montgomery; Gerald Power, a clerk with the business, and Mary Power, a stenographer at Kentucky Highlands (Directory, pg. 183). According to interviews with Canty, it was following the death of Edmond Power that the family became truly invested in and dependent on the greenhouse business. Ms. Canty said that the florist business was from then on affectionately known as "the umbrella," referring to its status as a refuge for the family against financial storms.

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FRANKFORT GREENHOUSES  
(FR-F-52) Franklin Co., KY

During that same period, Louis Singer emerged as a merchant of cut flowers from a greenhouse at Thornhill (Frankfort City Directory 1912-13-14, pg. 305) Singer leased a substantial greenhouse plant from A.C. Henry, whose wife Emma previously ran the floral business.

Under the management of Mrs. Edmond Power, the greenhouses, which up to that time had only been known as such, because the Power Flower Shops and Greenhouses (Frankfort City Directory of 1917-18-19, pg. 181). Advertisements for the greenhouses offered "cut flowers for all occasions." The Power Flower Shops are the only business listed as a greenhouse or florist in the city at that time. One wonders whether the demands of the first World War may have eliminated the substantial Henry-Singer floral business from the directory, perhaps from actual operation, for those years. The Henry-Singer enterprise appears on the 1925 edition of the Sanborn maps, but had been demolished by 1940 for construction of a series of small dwellings.

Mary Power Canty, daughter of Mrs. Edmond Power, assumed management of the business upon the death of her mother in March 1921 (Deed Book 225, pg.300). Mary Power married John Canty, a treasurer for Collins Hardware, in the fall of that year (Interview with Canty). The following year, Mary Canty gave birth to Frances P. Canty. John Canty died only three years later and again the greenhouses, still known then as The Power Flower Shop, became the umbrella for a struggling young family.

With the aid of her two brothers, and their helpful business and accounting skills, Mary Canty developed the greenhouse business into its local prominence (Interview with Canty) and managed the greenhouse throughout the remainder of its period of significance. It was she, again, aided by her brothers, who saw the rebuilding of the family residence at 216 E. Main Street in 1934 -- this time on a firm foundation (Interview with Canty). The original house, built at least some 60 years prior, had been built right on the ground. Mary saw to it that the house was rebuilt using the old timbers and the same plan. She was determined to plant her family firmly. Mary also purchased the house at 210 E. Main Street in 1956 (Deed Book 19, pg. 203), which later became the enlarged business office and showroom for the business.

Mary Canty and the Power Flower Shop, which became known as the Frankfort Greenhouses between 1928-30 (1928-29-30 Frankfort City Directory, pg. 66), weathered various floral competitors over the years. But none had the staying power of the Frankfort Greenhouses. F.G. Mitchell, another Thornhill florist, appeared in the late 1920s and perhaps made use of the greenhouses once owned by A.C. Henry (1928-29-30 Frankfort City Directory, pg. 300). For a few years in the late 1920s, the Stuart Shop on

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St. Clair also served as a representative for a Lexington floral shop, the Keller Floral Company (1926-27-28 Frankfort City Directory, pg. 135). In the 1930s, the Darlington Flower Shop appeared to give the Frankfort Greenhouses perhaps its greatest competition (Canty Interview). Beginning with a store on St. Clair, Ida Darlington opened a larger store on Main Street by 1936 and then a more visible floral shop at the corner of 2nd Street and Capitol Avenue by 1945 (1936 Directory, pg. 93 and 1945 Directory, pg. 264).

In the next available City Directory for Frankfort in 1950, Frances P. Canty is listed as the designer for the Frankfort Greenhouses at 216 E. Main Street. By the 1960s Frances Canty became the third woman in her family to manage the greenhouse. She presided over the greenhouse during decades which saw significant change in the floral business, with the development of the FTD Network, and even greater change in business itself. Canty notes that today, just as in the 19th century before the development and proliferation of greenhouses allowed owners to grow exotic plants at home, most flowers and plants are shipped from exotic growing locations from all over the world. Canty adds that technology and global marketplaces have allowed the local grocery store to become the greatest, and often the successful, competitor, in the floral business. Locally-owned commercial greenhouses used for the cultivation of roses and other plants are time and cost-intensive when compared to the efficiency and convenience of the local grocery, making their existence and continued competition significant in the flower-growing business.



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**Boundary Description:**

The area proposed for nomination is the entire property of 210, 212 and 216 East Main Street in Frankfort, Kentucky and is described as below:

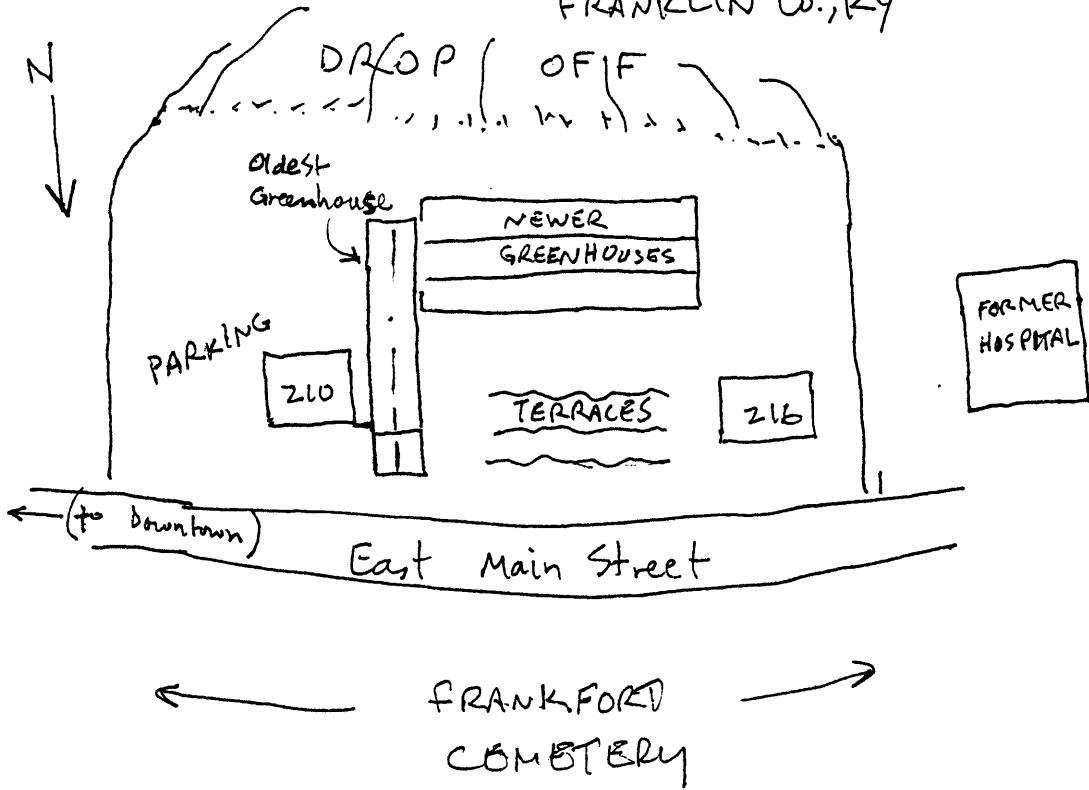
**Tract No. 1:** Beginning at a post on the Turnpike Road and running with General James Taylor's line North 88 West 233 feet 7 inches to a stake on the edge of said road: thence North 2 east 172 feet to a stake on the South edge of the old railroad, and with the same North 83 East 123 feet 6 inches to a stake, corner to said James Taylor and with his line South 30 East 221 feet to the beginning. Also, another lot adjoining the above lot fronting 30 feet on the Lexington, Versailles and Frankfort turnpike road and running back to the alley on the railroad from Frankfort to Lexington.

**Tract No. 2:** All that lot or parcel of land, with the improvements thereon, in the City of Frankfort, Kentucky, fronting on the north side of Main Street 50 feet, and extending back that width 166 feet, more or less, to the old railroad track, and bounded as follows: Beginning at e. Power's southwest corner on Main Street; thence West with Main Street 50 feet; thence North 166 feet, more or less, to the old railroad track; thence East with the railroad track 50 feet to E. Power's northwest corner; thence South with Power's line 166 feet, more or less to the beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

This area has been historically associated with the Frankfort Greenhouse business since it was established around 1870 until the acquisition of 210 E. Main Street at the end of the period of significance. The area contains the family residence, the greenhouses, and the office which represent the historic business.

SKETCH MAP OF  
FRANKFORD GREENHOUSES  
FRANKLIN CO., KY



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Photographic Identification sheet

Same for all photos:

Property: Frankfort Greenhouses (FR-F-52)  
Location: 110, 112, 116 East Main St., Frankfort (FranklinCounty), Kentucky  
Photographer: Melissa Lamb  
Date: November, 1996  
Location of Negatives: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY

Photo 1: Oldest Greenhouse at center, 110 E. Main at left, camera facing northwest  
Photo 2: 110 E. Main (building) and glass addition to oldest greenhouse; camera faces northwest  
Photo 3: 116 E. Main Street, camera facing northeast  
Photo 4: Interior of greenhouse, camera facing east