

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES  
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # SH 266  
SHELBY County

1. Name of Resource:  
GRAY HOUSE

2. Original Owner:  
DAVID ROBERT GRAY

3. Other Names:

4. Prehistoric Site	Building <sup>X</sup> Historic Site	Object Structure	Other
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5. Location:  
SHELBYVILLE QUAD.; W.S. ZARING MILL ROAD, @ 3/10 MI. S. OF LOCUST GROVE

6. Owner's Name:  
ROBERT GRAY  
[ P ]

7. Owner's Address:  
ROUTE 5  
SHELBYVILLE, KENTUCKY 40065

8. Evaluation: N.R. POTENTIAL [ N ]

9. Recognition & Date:  
 Nat. Landmark \_\_\_\_\_ Local Landmark \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nat. Register \_\_\_\_\_ HABS/HAER \_\_\_\_\_  
 Highway Marker \_\_\_\_\_ KY Inventory 1986 \_\_\_\_\_  
 KY Landmark Certificate \_\_\_\_\_

10. N.R. Status & Date:

11. N.R. Group:  
 District Name: [ ]  
 Mult. Resource Area SHELBY CO MRA [ ]  
 Thematic Name: [ ]

12. Historical Theme:  
 Primary: AGRICULTURE [010 ]  
 Secondary: ARCHITECTURE [030 ]  
 Other: [ ]

13. Statement of Significance:

THE GRAY HOUSE IS LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT UNDER CRITERION C AS THE RESIDENCE OF A DIVERSIFIED FARM ESTABLISHED IN THE EARLY 20 TH CENTURY AND AS THE BEST SURVIVING EXAMPLE OF (CONTINUED) [ C ]

14. History:

THE GRAY HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1908 FOR D.R GRAY BY SOUTHVILLE CARPENTER JAMES ADAMS (SEE SH 216, 227, 260 IN SOUTHVILLE). GRAY MOVED TO SHELBY COUNTY FROM LONDON, KENTUCKY AND SOON AFTER PURCHASED THE ORIGINAL 166 ACRES THIS FARM WAS BUILT ON. GRAY OPERATED A DIVERSIFIED FARM, RAISING WHEAT, CORN, TOBACCO, SHORT HORN CATTLE AND HOGS. THE FARM HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 84 ACRES AND REMAINS IN THE GRAY FAMILY.

15. Source of historical information and/or contact person:

ROBERT GRAY; SHELBY COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER'S OFFICE

16. Date:  
 Original Building 1908 [ 4 ]  
 Addition 1969 [ 2 ]

17. Style:  
 PRINCESS ANNE [4P ]  
 TOC VERNACULAR [5V ]

18. Architect/Builder:  
JAMES W. ADAMS

19. No. of Stories: TWO [2.0 ]

20. Original Floor Plan:  
CENTER PASSAGE [CP ]

21. Single Pile X Double Pile N.A. X

22. Roof Form & Material: Original  
GABLE/ ASPHALT SHINGLE Not Original X

23. Structural Material:  
FRAME [W ]

24. Exterior Material: CLAPBOARD [W ]  
FANCY TRIM [W ]

25. Foundation Material:  
LIMESTONE [S ]

26. Major Alterations: None  
Moved/Rebuilt Other  
Additions X

27. Special Features:

28. Outbuildings:  
ROOT CELLAR, NON-CON FARM BLDG [1 ]

29. Original Function:  
RESIDENTIAL [01A ]

30. Present Use:  
RESIDENTIAL [01A ]

31. Condition:  
GOOD [G ]

32. Endangered: Yes  
No X

33. Attach Photos:  
Roll: 5 Photo Nos: 25- No. of Slides: 32

34. Prepared by: CHRISTINE AMOS

35. Organization: SHELBY CO. HIST. SOC.

36. Date: 7/1986

37. New Survey X Resurvey

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38. UTM Point of Primary Building: Quadrant: <u>Shelbyville</u>	Zone <u>16</u>	Easting <u>653400</u>	Northing <u>4222040</u>	39. G.I.S. Mod. [ ]	40. Coordi.Accuracy [ ]
41. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):					
A. ---				D. ---	
B. ---				E. ---	
C. ---				F. ---	
42. Total Acreage in Present Property: <u>unknown</u>			43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary: [ ]		
44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):					

The property is the residence of a turn-of-th-century diversidied farm, established on Zaring Mill Road in south central Shelby County, in 1908. The house is a hybrid center passage I-house, identical to several other area farm houses built by Southville carpenter James W. Adams. The Gray house, however, maintains a hgher degree of integrity than similar dwellings. A stock barn, built in 1923, 1961 tobacco barn and chicken house are not included within the site area because of general condition or non-historic dates of construction. The west oedge of the Zaring Mill Road forms the east property boundary. Beginning at point A, 120'south of the south edge of the driveway, then west 120'to the rear yard fenceline, then north 30' beyond the north wall of the garage, then east 120' to the point of origin.

45. Description and House Plan:

The property, a 1908 farm house, faces east to Zaring Mill Road (aka Old Taylorsville Road), set back approximately 60 feet with maple, fruit trees and flowering shrubs and bushes informally framing the house. Eighty four acres remain of the original 166 of the David Gray farm. Although the interior of this two-story frame is a single pile, center passage plan, the facade suggests a combination I-house with front gable and/or a T-plan with an abbreviated front gable cell. It is a hybrid cross of these two locally popular plans. Imbricated gable ends, decorative porch frieze, turned columns and gable pediment above the porch entry recall the Princess Anne, a more functional, vernacular interpretation of the earlier, elaborate Queen Anne. By 1908, Victorian forms had lost favor in most urban areas to more utilitarian house types such as the Craftsman or Arts and Crafts bungalow and foursquare. But in slow-to-change rural areas, such late vernacular adaptations continued to be built, upholding the re-use of a favored plan shrouded in a slightly different form. Materials and features include 5" weatherboard walls; dry-laid stone foundation; sash windows with molded heads; twin interior corbelled chimneys and a paneled, half-light, oak entry door. Interior details include: 16 square foot rooms; pine woodwork with bullseye corner blocks; and (continued)

13. Statement of Significance, continued

this popular house form built by Southville builder, James W. Adams. The exterior form is an amalgam of the familiar I and T types with vernacular Victorian embellishments while the interior maintains local tradition in the ordering of domestic spaces into 16 square foot rooms in an I-house configuration.

45. Description and House Plan, continued unelaborate oak mantles. A one story frame addition with shed roof extends across the rear elevation and it is visible on the north side as a small, covered porch entry. Although this house has been altered with this addition, it is the best surviving example of this popular house plan built by J.W. Adams that was allowed to be surveyed. At least four other originally identical houses are known to exist within the vicinity, three with lesser degrees of integrity.

A gable roofed garage/storage building with board walls and a small, gable roofed shed directly west of the garage, are located within the site boundaries, but do not contribute.

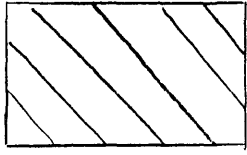
An earth roofed cellar with dry laid limestone circular retaining wall and wood frame entry vestibule with gable roof and stairs leading down to the interior is located directly west of the rear of the house. The root cellar is a contributing building.

There are three buildings within the property boundaries, two are contributing and one is non contributing

house	C
root cellar	C
garage/storage	NC

TO BARNIS ↗

• C



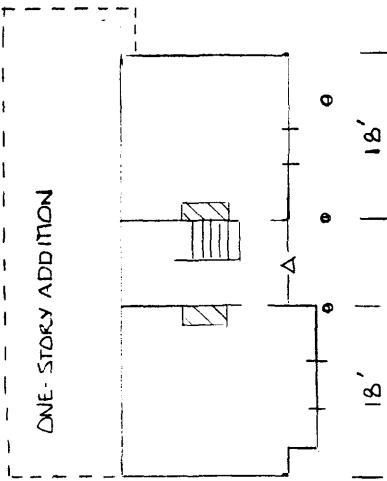
GARAGE /  
STORAGE  
(N.C.)

④ ↘



ROOT CELLAR

⑤ →



ONE-STORY ADDITION

③ ↗

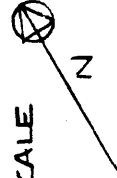
② ↗

① ↖

SH 266  
GRAY HOUSE  
SITE PLAN

NOT TO SCALE

↖ PHOTO



• D

ZARING MILL ROAD

• A