

PH0354171

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 30 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 20 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

****** Leatherer-Lemon House

AND/OR COMMON

Beb-Clair

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Lemon's Mill Pike, 1/2 mile west of Newtown Pike

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

06

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Scott

CODE

209

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil D. Bell

STREET & NUMBER

Rural Route 1, Lemon's Mill Pike

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Scott County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Bel-Clair is located on a 475-acre farm on Lemon's Mill Pike, a lovely tree-lined country road in the southeast corner of Scott County, Kentucky. Georgetown, the county seat, is approximately four miles to the west. The house sits back from the main road on high ground about 500 feet from the highway with numerous large trees dotting the grounds. From the house one can see the small community of New Zion to the east.

The house is a five-bay, two-story brick structure with the minimum of ornamentation (see photos 1 and 2). The first-floor windows have single stretcher jack arches; the entrance is extremely plain, but given greater prominence by a one-story columned porch added in 1938 which replaced a flat wooden porch that was approximately 25' by 8'. It is very probable that the south facade which is six bays in width, was originally the front of the house, indicated by the transomed door on the south wall of the main block and the presence of a belt course (see photo 6). There are two interior chimneys on each end of the steeply pitched roof. On the east side is a one-story, two-bay window of undetermined age. Within the past few years a frame addition has been attached to the rear of the small wing (see photo 4). In 1960 an old four-post screened porch off the main block was enclosed by the present owners (see photo 3).

The wing to the left of the house contains only two rooms. (The fireplace which once existed in the middle as indicated by the chimney has since been plastered over.) The wing once served as the kitchen.

To the left (east) of the house is an interesting one-story brick structure formerly used as servants' quarters and as a schoolhouse. Directly to the right rear of the house is a garage.

The house presently contains a central hall with two rooms on each side. Originally there were double parlors (or two adjacent rooms) on the west side, but, during the course of remodeling, was turned into one large bedroom with a corner bathroom. The L-shaped staircase on the left side of the hall appears to have been added during the turn of the century. The north portion of the hall was enlarged at this time by removal of the original central partition.

(continued)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1788-1799

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A wealthy pioneer Baptist preacher, the Reverend Joshua Leatherer, pastor of the no longer extant North Elkhorn Baptist Church, erected this large substantial brick house overlooking the North Elkhorn River. The next owner, Joseph Lemon, Joshua Leatherer's son-in-law, was an important farmer and miller in the county.

Upon Leatherer's death, the house came into the possession of the minister's only daughter, Margaretta Ann, who, in 1817, was married to Joseph Innes Lemon. A captain during the War of 1812, Lemon was considered before his death in 1841 to be "the wealthiest and one of the most influential citizens of the county." He made his fortune from farming and milling, and at one time he operated a rope and bagging establishment.

Lemon continued operation of his father-in-law's mill. Lemon's Mill, as it came to be called, occupied the picturesque site below the house and "had a tremendous patronage." The scenic location, stated historian J. Winston Coleman, was the rendezvous for militia musters, picnics, and political gatherings. Around 1830 the mill was rebuilt on the opposite side of the creek, and around 1908, it was torn down. Fortunately the first mill was reproduced in oils on an upstairs wall of the main house and it is now preserved under the wallpaper.

The approximately five hundred acres of farmland surrounding Bel-Clair was known as Ingleside. A private school in the corner of the yard was taught by a governess from Vermont for both the youngsters from the "big house" and for the tenants' children.

One of the more prominent children to grow up at Ingleside was J. M. Frost, grandson of Margaretta Lemon. Frost was later to found the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and served for twenty-two years as its corresponding secretary.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scott County Deed and Will Books.

Coleman, J. Winston. Historic Kentucky. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1967, pp. 36, 194.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	7 1 9 5 0 0	4 2 2 8 8 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ann B. Bevins, Scott County Representative/Gloria Mills, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

February 1974

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4, Lexington Pike/104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Georgetown/Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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

Eldred W. Meeter

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE *Nov. 24, 1976*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Ann B. Bevins

DATE

7/20/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

6-15-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Leatherer-Lemon House

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Probably the only original mantel in the house is that in the northeast bedroom with its fine gougework dentils under the detached shelf over a recessed panel and frame (see photo 7).

~~Chair railing~~ is intact on the second floor. Windows at the upper level are pegged. Ash floors are present throughout.

The upstairs landing has an earlier cutout pattern along the upper edge of the opening, and there is a finely shaped walnut railing both on the second-floor landing and leading up to the attic; the latter railing and chair rail has a greenish paint or stain that appears old. There is also indication of a staircase communicating between the northeast chambers. Thus, there is some evidence that might make authentic restoration possible, if desired.

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In 1853 the Lemon heirs deeded their interest in the farm to the senior James M. Frost. It was sold in 1864 to W. D. Crockett, who sold it the same year to Harvey C. Graves. In 1872, the farm was bought by Claudius and Samuel Smith, and subsequently sold to Claudius L. Garth. C. H. Garth bought the farm in 1892. In 1935 it came into the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil D. Bell, the present owners, who named the property "Bel-Clair."

The house was a standard example of a two-story, six-bay, two-room deep brick house with such features as a brick belt course between the first and second stories on the original front facade, which faced south. Probably at the turn of the century interior alterations were made and the house was reoriented toward the north. A recent addition has been made on the south side, but the handsome original three-panel wide entrance door remains intact. Near the house remains a virtually intact one-story brick slave quarters with characteristic paired doors; it was later used, as was mentioned previously, as a schoolhouse.

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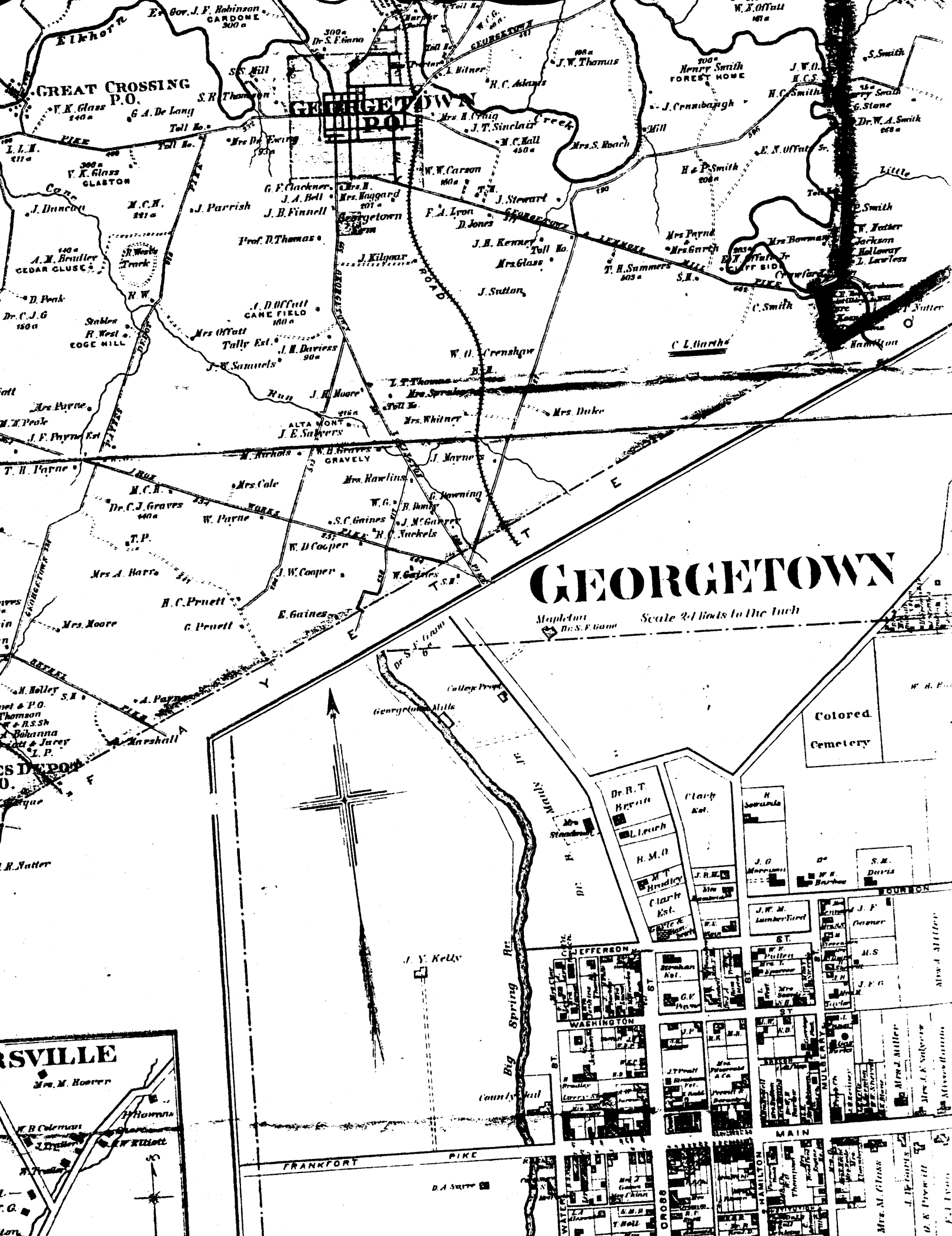
CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 2

Kay, Joan. "Georgetown Homes Dress Up For a Holiday Tour." The Louisville Courier-Journal, December 2, 1971.

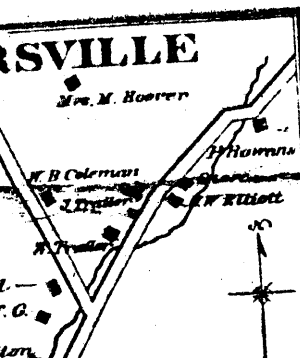
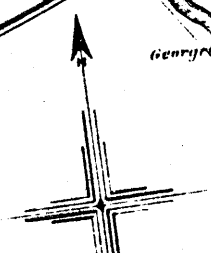
Bevins, Ann. "Wassailing Tour Planned for Sunday Afternoon." The Graphic.
Georgetown, Kentucky, December 9, 1971.



GEORGETOWN

GEORGETOWN

Map Amt Dr. S. F. Gunn Scale 2-1/2 fms to the Inch



Colored Cemetery

FRANKFORT PIKE

WASHINGTON ST

JEFFERSON ST

WASHINGTON ST

WASHINGTON ST

CROSS

HAMILTON

MAIN

WALTON

GREAT CROSSING P.O.

GEORGETOWN P.O.

GEORGETOWN

Colored Cemetery

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WASHINGTON ST

JEFFERSON ST

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WASHINGTON ST

WASHINGTON ST

CROSS

HAMILTON

MAIN

WALTON

"Map of Scott County, Kentucky."
Philadelphia: Beers & Lanagan,
1879

^A map of Scott Co, Ky
plw: Beers + Lanagan
1879

Leatherer-Lemon House
Georgetown, Kentucky

NOV 30 1976

Map 2.