

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JAN 31 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Edge Hill Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1661 Payne's Depot Pike not for publication

city, town Georgetown vic, X vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Scott code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Grover Craig Shropshire and Nancy Shropshire (Mrs. Paul) Blazer

street & number 1661 Payne's Depot Pike 1612 Bath Avenue

city, town Georgetown, KY Ashland, Kentucky state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Courthouse

street & number East Main at North Broadway

city, town Georgetown state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1971 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

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

Edge Hill Farm is located on Payne's Depot Pike (U.S. 62) about two miles southwest of Georgetown, Kentucky, and about two miles northeast of the Georgetown exit of Interstate Highway 64. Interstate Highway 75 is a little less than four miles to the east. The area in which the farm is located is the famed Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. Lexington is about 11 miles to the southeast; and Frankfort, 18 miles west. National Register properties in the vicinity are Allenhurst (Oakland) entered April 2, 1973; Audubon (Stephenson/Lewis House) entered December 4, 1973; John W. Bradley House, November 5, 1974; Antebellum (James Gaines House), November 7, 1976; George W. Johnson Slavequarters and Smokehouse, November 19, 1974; Payne's Depot Multiple Resource Area, August 28, 1979; Levi Prewitt House, November 1, 1974; General John Payne House, March 3, 1975; Robert Sanders House, October 15, 1973, Suggett House, part of the Stone Houses of Central Kentucky Thematic Nomination, June 23, 1983; and Ward Hall, entered April 2, 1973. These properties are within a three-mile radius from Edge Hill Farm.

That portion of the farm included in this nomination includes the 3,200 feet of stone fence lining U.S. 62, and that portion of the farm which includes the dwelling, its appendages, and the variety of agricultural buildings. The farm is watered by Cane Run, a branch of North Elkhorn Creek into which it flows about two miles northwest of Edge Hill's nucleus of buildings. The branch crosses U.S. 62 about 2,000 feet northwest of the residence, makes a bend in the direction of the hilltop buildings, and then angles slightly east of north toward a northwesterly course to its mouth.

The main dwelling and its residential appendages occupy the crest of a steep slope which leads toward the creek bottom. A cave spring emerges from the slope, a large stone abutment-style structure having been constructed in front of it, doubtlessly to protect livestock from entering the spring of the cave system of this area. A foundation of a small square building is situated at the northwest corner of the stone wall. The wall rises about 15 feet (photos 1 & 2). About 250 feet northeast of the spring is a unique small board-and-batten hog barn which has solar-type windows on the southeast side, where there is a line of 12 windows of nine-pane sash. Sliding doors on the east and west ends provide access to a central concrete passageway. Six windows of horizontal pattern with four-pane sash are located along the sides, and similar openings are above the doors. Small doors with latch-type closings open from the stall areas (photos 3, 4 & 5). Remnants of a stone fence which extends along the cliff as it develops beside Cane Run are visible here (photo 6). The most striking stone fence construction marks the farm's U.S. 62 frontage; precision cut and laid, it extends from Cane Run for about 3,200 feet (photo 7).

Buildings associated with the residential nucleus include the main house, a brick structure with Greek Revival and Dutch Colonial Revival detail; a stone slave house which has been restored and given a frame addition; a frame servants' quarters, a smokehouse, framework of a summer house, and a garage. The main dwelling is presumed to have been built around 1846 by Samuel West, father of Richard West, noted harness horse (Standardbred) breeder and trainer who made Edge Hill famous across America. Detail of the exterior includes a limestone basement-foundation, front and north walls laid in Flemish bond, and the south wall, in American bond. An addition across the back, added circa 1930, has a varied roof pattern; a low-pitch roof with gable to the back faces north. It is joined by a shed-roof section; and a third roof, shed in slope, extends from the east wall of the house (photos 8 & 9). The older part of the house was originally

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1846, 1909, 1930 **Builder/Architect** ----

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Edge Hill Farm includes a finely proportioned Greek Revival residence which was expanded circa 1909 with Dutch Colonial Revival upstairs extensions. A stone slavehouse has been restored as a second farm residence. There are a smokehouse, frame servants' quarters, early concrete block garage, framework of a gazebo, and a stone fence enclosed graveyard near the house. A group of agricultural buildings, most of which replace those destroyed by a 1913 tornado as well as a later storm, are located near the house and reflect structures used in the Bluegrass region's agriculture. The farm is lined on U.S. 62 by an outstanding example of stone fence, precisely cut and laid; other sections of stone fence extend toward an interesting hog barn and from it along Cane Run Creek. The residential buildings and their appendages are associated with Richard West, who made the farm nationally renowned as a Standardbred center; and the agricultural buildings, with the transitions of Central Kentucky's horse, tobacco, and small livestock industries.

In 1897 when Edge Hill Farm was advertised for sale, it was noted that "the farm enjoys notoriety from New York to San Francisco."¹ The notice read that of the 235 acres, 100 were in Bluegrass, with the remainder in hemp, tobacco, and potatoes. The spread included, according to the advertisement, a double-pile, two-story brick house with 8 rooms, 3 servants' houses in the yard, a "splendid large log barn," the famed Edge Hill training track, and a 35-stall horse stock barn.

Edge Hill Farm had acquired its fame between 1868 and 1880 when Richard West, whose father Samuel West had bought the farm in 1846, developed it as a center for the breeding and training of the Standardbred or trotting or harness horse. Ken McCarr's authoritative source, The Kentucky Harness Horse, records that "Richard West's Edge Hill Farm lasted about one decade but it exerted a great influence and was a prominent factor in the founding of both the trotting and pacing families. No man connected with the trotting industry was ever more respected and beloved by all who came in contact with him."²

Born February 26, 1819, Richard West was a son of Samuel and Eleanor Middleton West, who came to Kentucky from Montgomery County, Maryland, about 1815. After being educated in the common schools of Kentucky, he entered Georgetown College at the age of fourteen, and after graduation, returned to the farm where he became involved in the scientific improvement of livestock. In 1868 he elected to devote most of his attention to the improvement of trotting stock.³

The development of trotting horses in Kentucky did not gain much momentum until 1854 when James B. Clay, son of Henry Clay, brought Mambrino Chief from Dutchess County, New York, to become the first successful trotting sire in the Bluegrass country. Previously the prejudice of Kentucky horsemen against any but the Thoroughbred had made the trotting and pacing horses anathema in the Commonwealth. But with Clay's prestige

9. Major Bibliographical References

Armstrong, J. M., Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky of the Dead and Living Men of the Nineteenth Century. Cincinnati: J.M. Armstrong, 1878, 614-615.
 Bevins, Ann Bolton. A History of Scott County as Told By Selected Buildings. Georgetown: Kreative Grafiks, Inc., 1981, 185-186, 138-139.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 62

Quadrangle name Georgetown, KY

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 6	7 1 1 1 2 0	4 2 2 9 4 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 6	7 1 0 2 2 0	4 2 2 9 0 8 0
E			
G			

B	1 6	7 1 0 6 8 0	4 2 2 8 4 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 6	7 1 0 3 6 0	4 2 2 9 4 0 0
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at southwest corner of Shropshire-Blazer Farm on U.S. 62, along road 5' either side of stone fence N30°E 1100', then N60°W 2100', then N30°E 1000', then S60°W 2100', then along road N30°E 800', N60°E 300' to Cane Run Creek. These boundaries include the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Bolton Bevins
 organization Kentucky Heritage Council date December 23, 1983
 street & number Capitol Plaza Tower telephone 502/564-7005
 city or town 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 Mary Annan Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date January 27, 1984

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

3/1/84

J. Selous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
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a two-pile central passage house of Greek Revival design with a pair of chimneys appearing in outline on both side walls. The original upstairs was a half-story. Between 1909 and 1913 the upstairs was enlarged by addition of a Dutch Colonial roof covered with wooden shingles. Additional fireplaces were constructed upstairs, so that the gambrel roofline now reveals three narrow stacks on each side. Gable ends are shingled. Upper sashes of the end windows and sidelights of the triple openings on the front have diamond-shaped panes (photos 9 & 10). The first floor facade, like the original section of the first floor, is unaltered except for the diamond panes of glass. There is an in-antis entrance sheltered by a portico of graduated paneled wooden piers set atop five steps. The portico has a deep entablature supporting a balustraded balcony. Pilasters of similar size and proportion are applied to the facade on either side of the central doorway. There is a large central dormer on the gambrel roof which has garlands above the triple window and a sunburst within the pediment above. Dormers with double windows and similar classical trim are set above the triple windows of the lower level. Framework for a gazebo stands at the southwest corner of the house. There is an unfinished basement with hall, three rooms.

A bathroom was added beneath the stairwell, and other than this structural change, the original section of the downstairs level has been unchanged. There is a transverse hall (photo 13) with four Greek-eared entrances to rooms on either side, a stairway with landing, and a door leading to the addition at the rear. Greek Revival woodwork and mantels (photos 14 & 15) are typical of the best of the period. Floors are ash. The back addition of circa 1930 provides kitchen and breakfast room and storage room. Originally a kitchen with entrance only from outside occupied this space; it had a porch on either side and probably a veranda above extending the length of the house. The upstairs layout retains the central hall which has been made into a sitting room. A pair of rooms are entered from either side of this hall. The 1913 expansion of the half upper story did not include a bathroom, so in the 1970s the present owners built one between the two rooms on the north side (see photo 16, upstairs hall).

About 100 feet back of the house is a stone building that was built as a slavehouse circa 1800, chimneys being of less depth than those built for main dwellings. There are two front entrances and a window between each of the doors and the corners. There is a steeply pitched roof which accommodates two upstairs rooms. Windows are pegged (photo 17). A frame addition was built onto the back in 1976, the interior was restored, including a poplar partition between downstairs rooms. Kitchen, breakfast room, storage are in the addition. Other outbuildings include a wooden smokehouse (photo 18); a small frame servants' house with loft, two bays wide, and of wood (photo 19); and a garage of early concrete blocks cast to look like rusticated stone, with diamond-pane windows and a hipped roof (photos 20 & 21). About 200 feet south of this complex is a stone-wall enclosed graveyard where members of the West family are interred (photo 22).

The famous Richard West trotting horse stables were located northwest of the residential nucleus (see 1879 map) and west of the steep hill leading to Cane Run; his track was north of Cane Run on land bought from Junius Ward in 1867. A large horse barn with windows and concrete foundation occupies the stables' location, a 1913 tornado being the supposed cause for the newer building (3 barns of Swope were destroyed by that storm). South of the horse barn is a drive-in crib with ridgeline perpendicular to the driveway.

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South of this is a granary or "grinding room." A small horse barn with entry on the side of the gable-front is located at the forks of the residence drive and farm road. The other barns, three in number, are of circa 1930 construction. Photos 23 to 26 reveal barn styles and locations.

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thrown into the trotting picture, Kentucky's entry into and ultimate control of the breed took its first giant step. Then Woodburn Farm's scientific developer of several types of bloodstock got into the business, and he, (R. A. Alexander), and several others, began to carve for Kentucky the niche of being the center of the trotting horse industry in the nation.

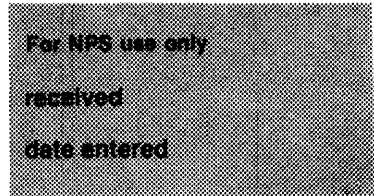
West's big plunge came in 1868. A horse named Almont was born to Alexander's Abdullah, and was so fast in his first race that West decided to acquire him at \$8,000, so high a figure that West's friends suspected insanity.⁴ However, this team of Richard West and Almont brought Edge Hill fame as a "trotting nursery" as West recovered his purchase price many times over in stud fees and sale of offsprings. Almont became the first horse from this area whose foals were to get world-wide attention.⁵ Almont was among the highest ranking stallions of his day.⁶ In 1875 General W. T. Withers bought Almont for \$15,000, and within a decade the horse had made Withers' Fairlawn Farm the most widely known harness horse stock farm in America.⁷ West then acquired his second great foundation sire, Dictator, a brother to world champion Dexter, model for the era's weathervanes, and a son of Hambletonian.⁸ Dictator stood at Edge Hill two years and left behind foals of sensational character. His owner John W. Conley came to Edge Hill from Long Island in 1879 to look over Dictator's foals and bought the two-year-old hauling the carriage in which he rode to the farm for \$2,500. Another famous son of Dictator was bought by J. I. Case and named Jay-Eye-See for Case's initials; he became the first trotter to do a mile in two minutes and ten seconds on both trot and pace.⁹ Other famous horses listed in West's biography were Allie West, Piedmont, Blackwood, Rosalind, Lula, May Queen, Mollie Long, Bill Thunder, General Garfield, and Kentucky Prince. West was involved as a behind the scenes leader of agricultural societies, including the Trotting Horse Breeders' Association, the presidency of which he declined because of an aversion to being in public view.¹⁰

In 1880 Richard West sold his 523-acre farm to Junius Ward Johnson at \$80 per acre, retaining ownership of the family cemetery. West died April 20, 1887, and was buried there, along with his various family members. Junius Johnson was a son of Kentucky's Confederate Governor George W. Johnson and had fought with his father and his brother-in-law J. Stoddard Johnston in the Civil War. In 1898 James D. and Laura Clayton bought the farm, and in 1909 May Viley McFerran Lansing acquired the farm. She made major changes in the appearance of the house, enlarging the upstairs by adding a gambrel roof. This tastefully executed rendering of the Dutch Colonial Revival style then sweeping America included construction of three classically detailed (garlands and sunbursts) dormers on the front roof. Windows with tiny diamond-shaped panes were applied on the side windows and on the upper sash of upstairs windows.

On May 1, 1913, Felix Swope, a wealthy farmer from Woodford County, and his wife Burgess Shropshire Swope bought the farm, and on July 19 that year a devastating tornado swept through the region, destroying three of the Swopes' barns.¹¹ Mrs. Swope's husband Felix Swope erected replacements on the sites.* A large horse barn with concrete foundation along with a crib and granary or shelling barn occupy the crest of the west slope of the hill leading to the spring and creek bottom. He also built two tobacco barns in the vicinity of the house, both around 1930. A fire destroyed a barn near the house

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in the 1960s; it was not replaced. Nat "Bill" Lawson, who grew up on the farm and is today farm manager, recall the story of another tornado which carried a tobacco barn across the creek. Remaining from the earliest era is the stone house which is now a second residence. From the West era are possibly the crib, two small barns, possibly the south barn, the main residence, smokehouse, and frame servants' house.¹² Mr. Swope's hog barn, two tobacco barns, and stock farm have survived the fires and storms. Mrs. Swope died in 1972, leaving the farm to her niece and nephew Nancy Shropshire Blazer and Grover Craig Shropshire. The Shropshires live at Edge Hill today, and Martha Blazer lives in the restored and enlarged stone slavehouse. (The Swopes replaced the older kitchen and porch section at the back around 1930: entering the kitchen necessitated entering one of the two porches on the sides of the kitchen at the back of the house and entering from the outside. This earlier block probably had an upstairs veranda.) The stone house received a new back section in 1975-1976; it includes kitchen, dinette, hall, closets, and bathroom.

The earlier history of the farm finds its development as a farm and milling tract by Samuel Logan and John Suggett, Sr. In 1813 John and Winifred Suggett deeded part of their land to David Thomson, who in 1801 married Elizabeth Suggett, a sister of John. Thomson, a volunteer in the campaign of 1793 at the age of 18, made his living as a miller and operated a mill on Cane Run. In 1898 J. Wickliffe Bradley, 80 years of age, recalled the homes of the various Suggett children, declaring Betsey and David Thomson to have lived at the "Dick West place on Cane Run." In 1821 David and Betsey sold Gordon R. Saltenstall 201 acres on Cane Run, the deed mentioning a one-acre tract belonging to David Thomson's mill dam. Other deeds mention the large cave on an adjoining farm. In 1825 Saltenstall sold the farm to John Garth; and in 1846 Garth sold it to Samuel West.

Stone fences are an important part of this nomination, not only because of the precision with which the stones were cut and laid, but because of their location on a highway which leads from Interstate 64 into Georgetown. This road has two sharp elbows which eventually will face straightening, and it is important that the fence be preserved when that process takes place.

*Mr. Swope also erected the concrete block garage at this time.

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Bruce Denbo (ed.), Mary E. Wharton (assoc. Ed.), The Horse World of the Bluegrass.
Lexington: The John Bradford Press, 1980, 73-75.

The Times, Georgetown, Kentucky. July 23, 1913.

FOOTNOTES

¹Georgetown Times, September 15, 1897.

²Ken McCarr, The Kentucky Harness Horse (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1977), 80.

³J. M. Armstrong, Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky of the Dead and Living Men of the Nineteenth Century, Cincinnati: J. M. Armstrong, 1878, 614-615.

⁴McCarr, 36.

⁵McCarr, 35-36.

⁶Denbo (ed.) and Wharton (assoc.ed.), The Horse World of the Bluegrass (Lexington: The John Bradford Press, 1980), 73-75.

⁷McCarr, 38.

⁸McCarr, 75.

⁹McCarr, 76.

¹⁰Armstrong, 614-615.

¹¹Georgetown Times, July 23, 1913.

¹²Stone fences and the stone spring cover date from the pioneer and the West eras.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary description and justification

residential buildings and the agricultural buildings as well as the stone fences along the highway.