

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 29 1980
DATE ENTERED

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

Gaines, Colonel Abner, House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

N of Walton at

STREET & NUMBER

84 Old Lexington Pike (Route 25)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Walton *mi*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Boone

CODE

015

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. John Gault

STREET & NUMBER

Old Lexington Pike

CITY, TOWN

Walton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Boone County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Colonel Abner Gaines House is just north of the small community of Walton in northeastern Boone County, Kentucky on U. S. 25 (the old Lexington-Covington Turnpike). Boone County lies a few miles downstream from Cincinnati and is Kentucky's northernmost county.

Facing eastward, the Gaines House is a two-story, seven-bay Federal structure dating from the 1790s. The building was stuccoed by the previous owner in the early part of this century, however some common and Flemish bond brickwork remains visible on the north and east elevations (see photos 1 & 2). Nine-over-six windows remain in the ell, but those in the main block have been altered; all are surmounted by jack arches. Although probably not original to the house, the front porch which is supported by fluted columns of solid cherry appears to have been built before 1840. Interior end chimneys are located on the north and south and are flanked by gable windows. Surmounted by a wide jack arch, the elegant Federal doorway consists of fanlights, fluted trim, and panelled jambs. Three-pane sidelights with panelled aprons flank the six-panel door (see photo 3). A similar entrance on the south side gives access to the ell (see photo 4). A frame section has been added to the north of the two-story ell (see photos 5 & 6).

On the interior, the house embodies a central passage plan and retains an abundance of delicate Federal woodwork. Fanlights echoing those over the exterior doors surmount the doors opening into the hall. The door jambs are panelled and a chevron pattern adorns the transom bars. In the south chamber, the mantle reveals sunbursts in the central and end tablets, dentils, and gouge work. Tall cupboards with panelled doors, fluted trim, and corner blocks flank the fireplace. Only on this south wall does the chair rail remain. A similar mantle is found in the north room and is flanked by removable panels revealing storage space on each side of the fireplace. To the right of the fireplace is a round arch cupboard exhibiting fluted molding. A third mantle in the ell displays reeded colonnettes, sunbursts set in diamond-shaped panels, and graceful urns and swags. Molding and trim on the second floor is equally refined.

Although of recent construction, the three outbuildings on the property add to the flavor of the house (see photo 7). The nomination of approximately one acre encompasses the main house, yard, and outbuildings.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1790s BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Colonel Abner Gaines House, one of the earliest structures along the Lexington-Covington Turnpike, is one of the few noteworthy buildings along the old turnpike in Boone County and the finest example of the Federal style in the Walton vicinity.¹ The house is an unusual seven bays wide and displays fanlights, a narrow wooden cornice with dentils, and jack arches. In addition, the interior contains an unusual abundance of delicate molding. Due to its prominent location on the turnpike, the house was used as an inn during much of the nineteenth century and still remains a well-known landmark. The Gaines House is also associated with the locally prominent nineteenth century political figure John Gaines, son of the builder, Colonel Abner Gaines.

John Pendleton Gaines represented Boone County in the state legislature from 1825 to 1832. In 1846, he volunteered for service in the Mexican War and became a major in the first regiment of the Kentucky cavalry. After the war, Major Gaines returned to Walton where he was elected to Congress, serving from 1847 to 1849. In 1850, he was appointed governor of the Oregon Territory by President Millard Fillmore and served in that capacity until 1853.

The house remained in the Gaines family for four generations and was sold shortly after the Civil War. The present owner has lived there since 1937 and until recently operated an antique business in the house. Current plans call for maintaining the house as a private residence.

¹The 1976-77 survey of Boone County revealed that, like its economic development, Boone's architectural development was overshadowed by the more prosperous Ohio River towns, Cincinnati in particular. Despite its location on main routes of architectural communication, the county was minimally affected by changes in stylistic tastes and by the flow of increasingly sophisticated builders, artisans, and architects into the Ohio River Valley and the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Most of the building activity along the Lexington-Covington Turnpike was in the Greek Revival period from about 1835 to about 1875 with the prevalent style being the frame I-house form. The Abner Gaines and an early log house are the only structures which do not fit the I-house form that dominates the turnpike.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Gaines, Colonel Abner, house
Boone County
Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The nomination of approximately 4½ acres comprises the southern portion of the property under single ownership encompassing the house, outbuildings, and yard which with its numerous large trees retains a rural quality.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Gaines, Colonel Abner
Boone County
Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Col. Abner Gaines house is shown as the red line on the accompanying Boone County Property Identification Map; map #77, the southern portion of parcel 46 (the northern boundary of the nomination parallels the northern city limits of Walton 1000' from the city line).

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

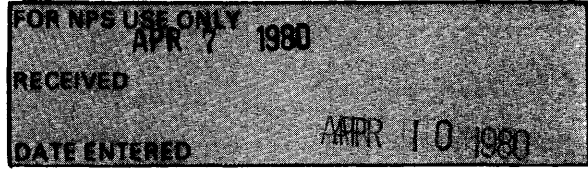
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