

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES  
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # SH 221  
SHELBY County

1. Name of Resource:

MUIR HOUSE

2. Original Owner:

COMMANDER W.C.P. MUIR

3. Other Names:

4. Prehistoric Site	Building X Historic Site	Object Structure	Other

5. Location:

SHELBYVILLE QUAD.; S.S. OF MONTANA ST., S. OF SHELBYVILLE ON DEAD END

6. Owner's Name:

JOSEPH J. AND ANN T. SOLOMON

[ P ]

7. Owner's Address:

ROUTE 8  
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: ARCHITECTURE	[ 30 ]
Secondary:	[ ]
Other:	[ ]

13. Statement of Significance:

THE MUIR HOUSE IS SIGNIFICANT ON A LOCAL LEVEL FOR ARCHITECTURAL MERIT. IT IS ONE OF THE FINEST AND MOST ELABORATE EXAMPLES OF THE AMERICAN SHINGLE STYLE IN THE COUNTY. THE PLANNED LAND

[ ]

14. History:

THE MUIR HOUSE WAS CONSTRUCTED ON A 12 ACRE PARCEL OF LAND "BOUNDED BY THE CLEAR CREEK BRIDGE (GONE) AND THE SHELBYVILLE-TAYLORSVILLE TURNPIKE ROAD" IN 1910 FOR COMMANDER W.C.P. MUIR.

16. Date:

Original Building	1910	[ 4 ]
Addition	CA 1980	[ ]

17. Style:

AMERICAN SHINGLE STYLE	[ 80 ]
CLASSICAL REVIVAL (INTERIOR)	[ 52 ]

18. Architect/Builder:

UNKNOWN

19. No. of Stories: TWO [ 2.0 ]

20. Original Floor Plan:

ASYMETRICAL/PICTURESQUE [ AP ]

21. Single Pile Double Pile x N.A. x

22. Roof Form & Material: Original

HIP/ASPHALT SHINGLE Not Original x

23. Structural Material:

MASONRY 1ST, FRAME 2ND [ W ]

24. Exterior Material: WOOD SHINGLES [ W ]

ASHLAR LIMESTONE [ S ]

25. Foundation Material:

STONE [ S ]

26. Major Alterations: None

Moved/Rebuilt Other x

Additions

27. Special Features:

DESIGN, LANDSCAPING, PORT-COCHERE

28. Outbuildings:

ROOT CELLAR [ 4 ]

29. Original Function:

RESIDENTIAL [ 61A ]

30. Present Use:

RESIDENTIAL [ 61A ]

31. Condition:

GOOD [ 6 ]

32. Endangered: Yes

No x

33. Attach Photos:

Roll:	Photo Nos: 2-	No. of Slides:
		13

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

SHELBY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

34. Prepared by:

CHRISTINE AMOS

35. Organization: SHELBY CO. HIST. SOC.

36. Date: 8/1986

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>654480</u>	Northing <u>4229140</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>10.6</u>	43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary: <u>5</u>				
44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):					

The site boundaries contain the house, root cellar, a non-contributing garage and the landscaped yard area including the dry-laid stone wall that defines the front boundary along the road (photo 6-13). The total property is 10.6 acres, but the justifiable site area contains about five acres that includes the landscaped portions enclosed by the property fences and contour edge boundaries above the creek. From the north end of the stone fence at point A, the boundary runs along the east side of the county road 500' to point B; then along the 700' contour line of the hillside above Clear Creek to point C, 50' south of the south wall of the garage; then then 250' in a straight northeasterly direction to point D at the board fenceline; then 1000 feet along that fenceline to the point of origin.

45. Description and House Plan:

The property is located on a hillside or bluff above Clear Creek, south of Shelbyville. The house is a fine example of the American Shingle style, a mode most popular in Eastern seaboard states, and infrequently found in the more urban areas of Kentucky. The Muir house is the only significant interpretation of the style in the county. The grounds are beautifully landscaped with locust, oak, pine, maple and other trees and shrubs. A dry-laid stone fence, post and board fences and curved driveway contribute to the landscape plan and the integrity of the site. Together, the house and its surroundings have maintained excellent integrity of design materials, craftsmanship, location, setting, feeling and association.

The house is sited to the south of the property with its rectangular mass oriented east-west beneath a low hip roof pierced by small, gabled, ridge vents and two interior, stone chimneys. The entire second floor is clad with cedar shingles and the first floor is of roughly-dressed limestone ashlar masonry. Local tradition holds that the house is "built like a ship". Perhaps Muir once boasted of the second floor and roof framing techniques which may have been based on ship construction or, more improbably, someone thought that if you could turn the house upside down the long hip roof (continued)

SH 221

Muir House

## 13. Statement of Significance, continued

scape, and location on a bluff overlooking Clear Creek and what historically was the Old Taylorsville Road contribute to the significance of the site. As the only high-style American Shingle style residence in the county it is significant for architectural merit during the first decade of the 20th century on a local level.

## 45. Description and House Plan

resembled the prow of a ship. The seaworthiness of such a vessel is doubted.

A symmetrical form places room-sized second floor hip dormers above wrapping end porches that are supported by round, stone pillars with solid stone rails to the north and south (photos 6-11,12). The stone rails parallel the south side of the house creating a twelve foot wide stone patio between their edge and the house. The formal entry is centered on this south wall; double french doors with circular fan light centered on a projecting polygonal bay, and surmounted by a gabled pediment with console brackets. A proportionately larger gable dormer projects above the second floor of the bay (photo 6-8). The balancing north facade element is a hip roofed, port-cochere with eyebrowed eaves that follow the curve of the massive stone arches beneath (photos 6-6,10,12).

Alterations and additions to the house are contained in the southeast and northeast corners of the originally open, first floor porch (photos 6-9,10). The northeast corner now has shingled walls, sash windows and an atrium door with a concrete step and wrought iron railing. The southeast corner was enclosed with casement windows into a sun room with interior access from the dining room (see house plan) and to the outside via full glass doors. In both instances, the original perimeter lines of the building are maintained. The work compliments the original design, materials and craftsmanship and does not significantly compromise the building's integrity.

The interior of the house echos the symmetry of the exterior. A large entry hall highlights the first floor plan (see attachment), with central stair beneath an arcaded partition, paneled wainscoting, double entries to the east parlor and west dining room and subordinate double entries to the rear, east parlor or music room, and rear, west hall. Wood detailing is Classical Revival in style with Tuscan columns, broken pediments over doors and windows, acanthus carved springers, multi paned windows and doors, and elaborate mantles in the east and west rooms (photos 6-2,3,5,23,24).

45. Description and House Plan, continued

A root cellar is the only contributing dependency. It is located directly northeast of the house, has a shingled gable roof, random, rough coursed stone walls and a brick vent that pierces the roof of the cellar mound. Herbs, flowers and shrubs grow on and around the cellar, which is believed to be contemporary to the house.

A modern, two bay garage is located in the southeast corner of the site. It is partially hidden from view of the house by bushes. The garage does not contribute to the property's significance.

The boundaries enclose two contributing buildings, one non-contributing buildings, and two contributing structures.

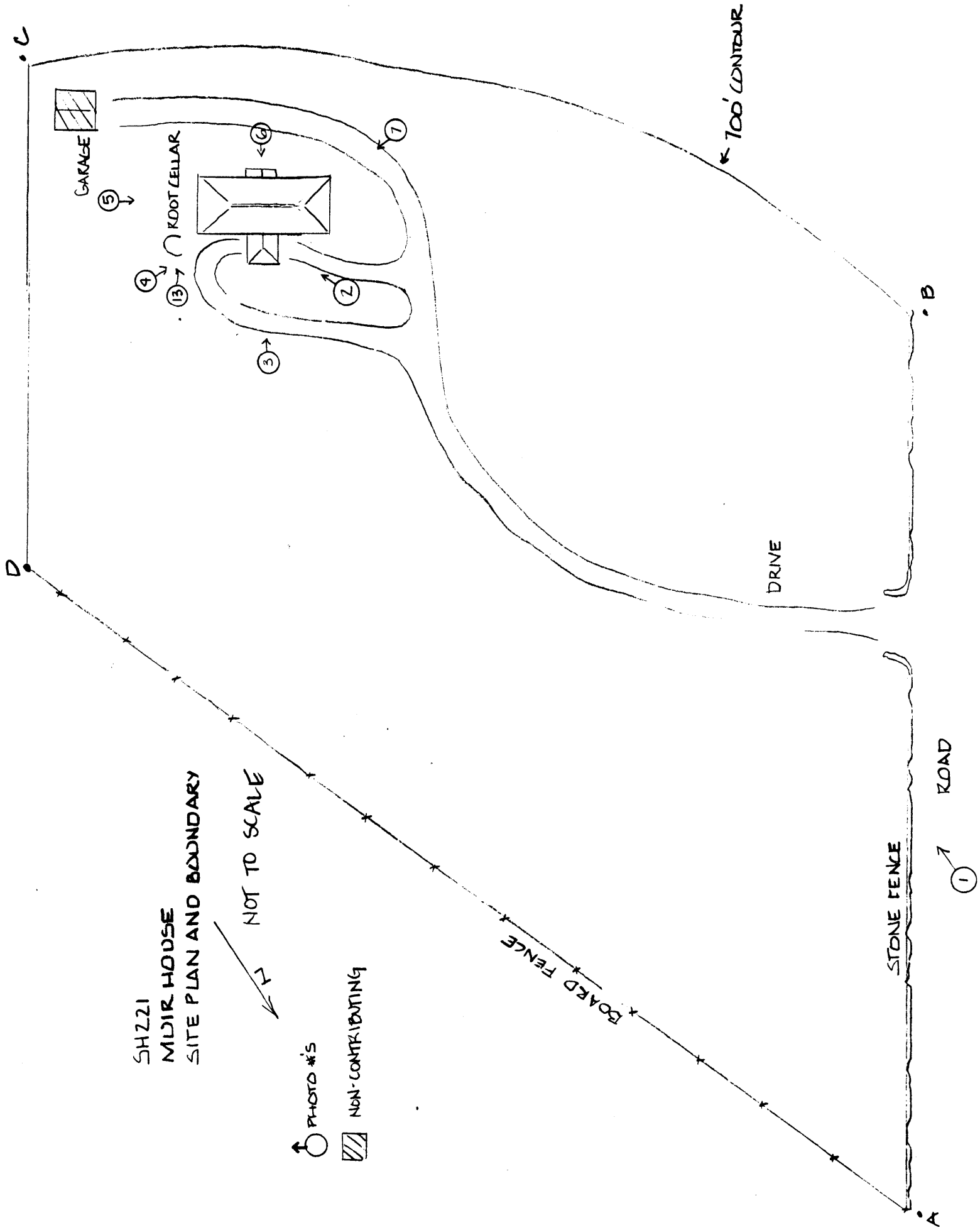
house	C
root cellar	C
garage	NC
stone fence	C
board fence	C

SHZZI  
MUDIR HOUSE  
SITE PLAN AND BOUNDARY

NOT TO SCALE

↑ PHOTO #'S

▨ NON-CONTRIBUTING



SH 221  
MUIR HOUSE  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

NOT TO SCALE ↗ N  
↑ PHOTOS

