

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 23 1980

DATE ENTERED

JAN 10 1980

**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

Octagon Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Andrew Jackson Caldwell House

2 LOCATION

SE of Franklin on KY 31W

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 31W

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Franklin

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE
021

COUNTY

Simpson

CODE

213

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

Mrs. Sara Piper

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 842

CITY, TOWN

Bessemer

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama 35020

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Simpson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Franklin

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

___ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Situated on the main road from Bowling Green to Franklin, in rural Simpson County, is Octagon Hall. The structure faces west and can be viewed from the highway.

This two-story octagon house has Flemish bond brickwork on the three front (west) facades, and common bond on the remaining ones. Each side contains three openings, with the exception of the extreme east and west sides, which have only two. The house has a very high basement, which is brick above ground, and stone below. Victorian gratework adorns the basement windows (see photos 1-2).

The main entrance element is simple with a cornice mold and pilasters. The front door is slightly recessed. Cut stone steps and an iron rail lead up to the door. The rear porch is wooden, with a bannistered rail and standing seam roof (see photos 3-4).

The interior plan is simple with a rear, central stair hall which radiates into each room. All interior woodwork is intact. Panelled pilasters with panelled aprons and cornice molding above make up the door trim (see photos 5-6). All the mantles are similar, and each has a simple panelled frieze and sides (see photos 7-8). Eight inch baseboards with a deep profile complete the interior treatment.

The nominated area encompasses the main house, a small 20th century garage, a 19th century frame tenant house which complete the visual integrity of the site.

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 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 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. 1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Octagon Hall, an eight-sided house built circa 1860, exhibits a rare and unusual house form not only in the state of Kentucky but is also uncommon throughout the United States. It is significant as being one of less than ten octagonal houses remaining in Kentucky.

During the 1850s, the concept of the octagon in domestic architecture incited the imagination of the country. This movement was given impetus by Orson S. Fowler in his book The Octagon House A Home For All, first published in 1848. Fowler espoused the octagon as the perfect shape for architecture. He introduced to his readers "not merely a new concept of building but a fresh attitude toward housing."¹ Fowler's book was unlike the other "cottage manuals" of the day because he advocated revolutionary ideas concerning the dwellings of all classes of society. "Why continue to build in the same square form of all past ages? Nature's forms are mostly spherical,"² instructed Fowler.

By 1857 at least 1,000 octagon houses had been built across the country, as well as a number of octagonal churches, schoolhouses, barns and pig sties. It was during this period between 1842 and 1860 that Andrew Jackson Caldwell (1818-1866) built Octagon Hall. It has been reported that Caldwell, an ardent Southern sympathizer, hid rebel soldiers in the house after the Battle of Bowling Green.

One of the features of note of Octagon Hall is the fine brickwork which is consistent throughout the structure. The Flemish bond on the three front sides is perfectly laid, evidenced by the symmetry of the corner headers and window closers.

The interior woodwork, although simple, is finely crafted. All sills, door frames and aprons have a deep but faultless profile.

¹ Orson S. Fowler. The Octagon House A Home for All (New York: Dover Publications, 1973), p. 2.

² Ibid.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Coleman, J. Winston, Jr. Historic Kentucky. Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1968.
- Fowler, Orson S. The Octagon House A Home For All. New York: Dover Publications, 1973.
- "History House." Kentucky Farm Bureau News, October 1972, Vol. 35, No. 10.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA See letter dated 1-14-82

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1.5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Woodburn, Kentucky QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	5 4 0 5 0 0	4 0 7 3 3 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property forms a square with each side approximately 400' in length. The western boundary line runs along the east side of Ky. 31W. Octagon Hall is situated in the northeast corner of the square.

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 Jayne C. Henderson/Historian

ORGANIZATION Kentucky Heritage Commission DATE November 1979

STREET & NUMBER 104 Bridge Street TELEPHONE 502/564-3741

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 *Edward W. Miller*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 1-2-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John W. Ray DATE 4/10/80
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Kristin O'Connell* DATE 4/10/80
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Octagon Hall
Simpson County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

#10

Acreage: Approx. 1.8 acres

Quadrangle: Woodburn, KY.

UTM References: 16/539510/4073360

VBD Description: Beginning at a point on the east side of Hwy. 31W 150' from the NW corner of the main house, the boundary extends south along the east side of Hwy. 31W 350'; turning eastward, the line extends 300'; turning northward, extending 350'; then westward 300' to the point of beginning.

Justification: The house sits on a large tree-shaded lot. The boundary is drawn to incorporate the setting and the two outbuildings which lie approximately 200' to the south of the main house.

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Simpson County, Kentucky

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CONTINUATION SHEET

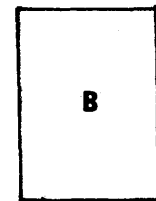
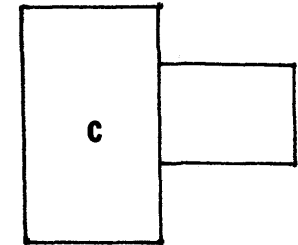
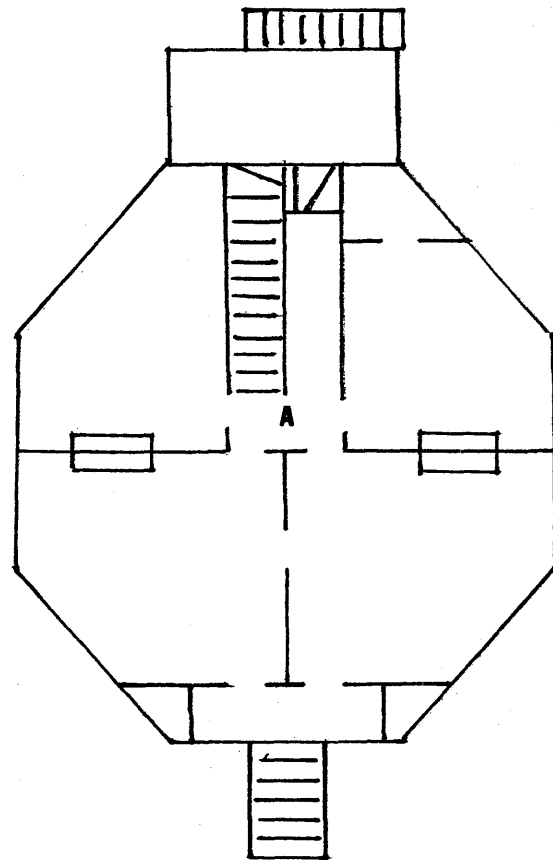
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

ADDENDUM

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is a line parallel to the foundation of the building, at a distance of 50 feet.

D

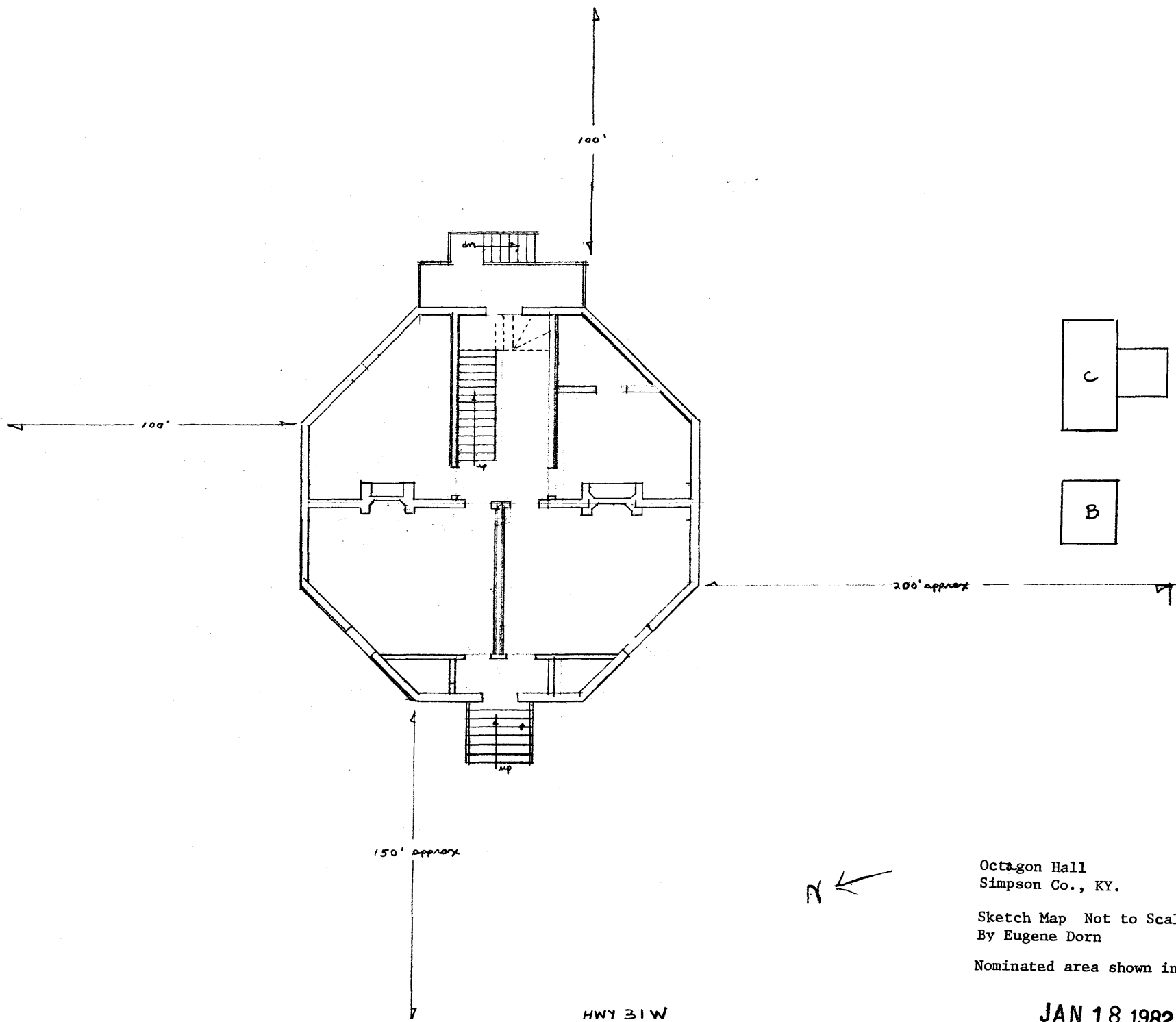


Octagon Hall
Simpson County, Kentucky
Jayne C. Henderson
Kentucky Heritage Commission
Frankfort, Kentucky

Diagram 1
Floor and site plan--
not to scale.

APR 10

JAN 23 1980



Octagon Hall
Simpson Co., KY.

Sketch Map Not to Scale
By Eugene Dorn

Nominated area shown in red.

JAN 18 1982