

PH 0687260

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 24 1978
DATE ENTERED FEB 9 1979

**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

g
The Beeches

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

438
Leestown Pike, U.S. 421

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

073

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

Mrs. Thomas Games

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 327

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

St. Clair Street

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

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, 104 Bridge Street

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 Beeches is an early-nineteenth century residence situated in the middle of an expansive lawn immediately southeast of the Leestown Pike (U.S. 421) and within the corporate limits of Frankfort, Kentucky. This brick house combines a 1 1/2-story section of an earlier residence with a 2 1/2-story main block erected in 1818. Later brick and frame additions are at the rear and on the east. Across Leestown Pike (four-laned in recent years) are the brick warehouses of the Stagg Distillery Company. To the east is the Fort Boone Shopping Plaza, and to the west and south are one-story dwellings of fairly new construction.

The 1 1/2-story wing on the east (see photo 1 and roof plan/site location map) is thought to be a remnant of a ca. 1800 house. The asymmetrical 1818 main block is crowned by a high, pediment-like gable, with the principal entrance containing double doors that have four-pane sidelights and an elliptical fanlight. All windows of the main block's facade, including a smaller one in the gable, are tripartite interpretations of a truncated or "puritanical" Palladian opening (see photo 1). The fenestration on the west (see photo 2) is more asymmetrical, and two additional tripartite windows pierce this wall. The chimney of the west side, like that of the earlier east wing, is flush with the wall, and the local limestone for the foundation was chosen carefully to match.

Originally, a frame double porch served the rear, but this element has been enclosed and incorporated into rooms added in the very early twentieth century. To the rear of the earlier wing is a one-room frame addition whose roof continues flush with that of the brick portion. An L-shaped, one-story enclosure is on the east and south, and a 1 1/2-story brick addition is on the southeast (see roof plan).

The earlier wing has original flooring and woodwork, and an attic space well suited for storage. The hall contains a return staircase with a fine cherry newel and balustrade, and the west parlor has 12-inch baseboards and fluted door and window frames with concentric corner blocks (see photo 3).

The dining room behind the west parlor (see photo 4) has an off-center fireplace flanked by multi-paneled presses. The baseboards are 18 inches high--several sections being elaborated with a raised diamond-within-a-rectangle motif (see photo 5) which also appears on the outside and inside of the main entrance. The mantel is somewhat transitional, like the mantel of the earlier wing. The dining room retains a sidelighted entrance which originally opened onto a porch that has since been enclosed (see left side of photo 5).

The brick and frame additions were made ca. 1900 and, during that time, a two-story, three-bay brick servants' house and a pyramidal-roofed brick smokehouse were built to the rear of the residence (see photo 6 and roof plan/site location map). Since then, a frame section has been appended to the rear of the servants' quarters.

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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Beeches is significant as one of the two remaining nineteenth-century buildings along the Leestown Pike in Franklin County, Kentucky. (The other building, Glen Willis, located one-fourth mile southwest, was entered on the National Register of Historic Places on June 13, 1972.) This outstanding Federal residence amidst park-like grounds contrasts sharply with the twentieth-century encroachments on all sides.

The community of Leestown was founded by George Rogers Clark, Hancock Lee, Willis Lee, and others while surveying for the Ohio Company in 1775. The noted nineteenth-century Kentucky historian, Lewis Collins, described Leestown in his History of Kentucky in 1874:

Leestown, one mile below Frankfort, was the first spot settled by whites [in Franklin County], and as early as 1775 was a kind of stopping-place or resting-place for the explorers or improvers from the Pitt or Monongohela country who came in canoes down the Ohio and up the Kentucky River, to "look out the land"...It is regularly laid out and is flourishing (Vol. II, p. 242).

This area has been incorporated into the limits of Frankfort whose downtown is one mile south. Leestown Pike was widened and altered in the early 1970s.

Harrison Blanton (1791-1879) bought the property around the Beeches in the early 1800s and transformed a section of an earlier house into the wing of a substantial residence he had built in 1818. Blanton, whose family came to central Kentucky from Frederick County, Virginia, in 1799, owned a building supply business, and it is thought that masons and craftsmen in his employ were responsible for the construction of his house (Interview with Alice Bacon Blanton Games, July 10, 1978). Blanton's business furnished the local limestone for the construction of Kentucky's Old State House (declared a National Historic Landmark prior to 1966), and the building materials for other significant buildings in Frankfort.

Harrison's son, Benjamin H. Blanton, was born in 1829 in Franklin County, but moved to the western United States as a young man. In what is now downtown Denver, he operated a business and owned real estate. With the outbreak of the Civil War, however, he returned to Kentucky and enlisted in the Confederate Army. Benjamin fought under General Hood throughout the Siege of Atlanta, and following the War's end, he resided in the Beeches and became associated with the Stagg Distillery Company in close proximity to the house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blanton, Harrison. Letter to L.H. Blanton, 1875. Original in the possession of Alice Bacon Blanton Games, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Collins, Lewis. History of Kentucky, Vol. II. Berea: Kentucke Imprints, 1976, (originally published in 1874).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular lot on the southeast side of U.S. 421 within the limits of Frankfort, Kentucky. The north is bounded by the highway, the east by the western extent of the property occupied by Fort Boone Plaza, the south by an imaginary line to the immediate rear of the brick smokehouse, and the west by the eastern lots along Compton Drive.

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

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

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

Charles W. Melton

TITLE

DATE 10-19-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MONUMENTS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 2-9-79

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2/9/79

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The Beeches

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The three buildings are in good condition, and the six acres included in the nomination comprise a rectangular lot. Mature trees (mostly American beeches that replaced European beeches) and shrubbery are scattered throughout the acreage. These grounds contribute greatly to the integrity of the site.

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The Beeches
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Benjamin's son, James Bacon Blanton, was the third owner of the residence, and in the early 1900s, he started a concrete and lumber business in Frankfort that continues in operation under his daughter, Alice Bacon Blanton Games, who currently resides in the Beeches. Thus the house, since its major construction, has been continuously owned by the same family.

The Beeches ranks as one of the finest Federal residences in Franklin County and central Kentucky. Especially notable are the six tripartite windows of Palladian inspiration. The steeply-pitched gabled front facade provides a vertical emphasis that balances the horizontality of the building. Also, this house exemplifies the fine fashion in which some builders incorporated older sections into new constructions.

In its early days, the Beeches had a very large garden "with vegetable squares bordered with flowers and a fine orchard which extended for quite a distance at the rear of the handsome residence" (Elizabeth Patterson Thomas, Old Kentucky Homes and Gardens, p. 48). The garden no longer exists. Neither do the European beeches that originally surrounded the house and gave it the historic name still used; the ancient trees were destroyed by a blight in the early twentieth century, but were replaced by an American variety that have grown to maturity to greatly enhance the grounds. With the widening of Leestown Pike (U.S. 421) in recent years, a considerable amount of frontage was taken and a century-old mortarless stone wall was dismantled. Nevertheless, the setting retains its site integrity and the Beeches serves as a landmark residence for Franklin County.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Beeches
 Addendum ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The Beeches is one of Franklin County's few surviving Federal style houses, and its setting and present condition distinguish the house as a significant example of the county's early nineteenth century dwelling types; the only other structure of similar distinction known to exist in the county is Glen Willis (entered in the National Register June 13, 1972). Although the increasing commercial development along Leestown Pike (U.S. 421) brought about the widening of that thoroughfare in recent years and detrimentally altered the approach to the Beeches, the core of the original setting remains intact.

The 1818 residence embodies several features which make it one of the area's more notable Federal structures. The two-bay facade is laid in Flemish bond and reveals tripartite windows capped by jack arches. The fluted window and door trim with concentric circle corner blocks are carefully executed and are repeated on the interior woodwork. The main feature of the entrance is the graceful fanlight over the door set in an elliptical arch. The door is flanked by four-pane sidelights with panelled aprons beneath. The main block of the building rests on a low, stone foundation laid in courses to resemble Flemish bond(see photo 2). The interior treatment consists of fluted door and window trim, reeded window jambs, and high baseboards such as those in the dining room which display geometric panels.

The house and grounds are well preserved and carefully maintained. The Beeches is bounded on the north by U.S. 421, on the east by the western extent of the property occupied by Fort Boone Plaza, on the south by a line to the rear of the outbuildings, and on the west by the eastern lots along Compton Drive. The nominated acreage includes approximately 6 1/2 acres consisting of the house and outbuildings and encompassing the numerous mature beech trees and the shrubbery which contribute to the integrity of the site.

#10 - Geographical Data

Acreage on nominated property: approx. 6 1/2 acres

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at point C (see U.S.G.S. map) on the south side of U.S. 421 175 feet southwest of the private drive, the boundary runs southeast for approximately 500 feet to point B (see U.S.G.S. map). Turning at a right angle, the line runs northeast for approximately 600 feet along the rear of the smokehouse and servant's quarters to point A (see U.S.G.S. map). From here the boundary makes another right angle turn and proceeds northwest for approximately 500 feet to point D (see U.S.G.S. map) on the south side of U.S. 421. The

Continued

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Thomas, Elizabeth Patterson, Old Kentucky Homes and Gardens, Louisville:
The Standard Printing Co., 1936.

Additional information provided by Alice Bacon Blanton Games, Frankfort,
Kentucky, July 10, 1978.

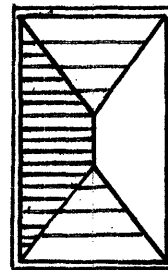
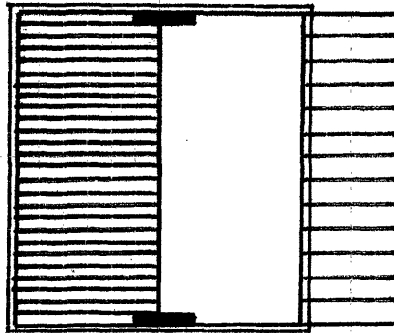
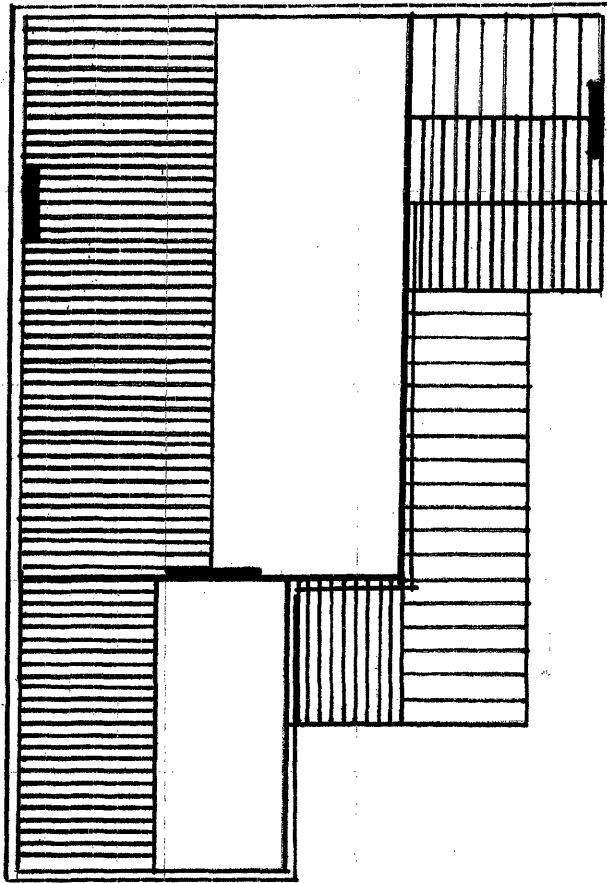
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CONTINUATION SHEET Beeches ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE
Addendum

line then turns southwest following the south side of U.S. 421 for approximately 600 feet to the point of origin.



"THE BEECHES," FRANKLIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
RESIDENCE -- CA. 1800, AND 1818
DEPENDENCIES -- CA. 1900

SITE LOCATION MAP AND ROOF PLAN
NO SCALE

BRICK PORTIONS OUTLINED IN RED

