

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 20 1977  
DATE ENTERED JUL 31 1978

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 William Fox House  
AND/OR COMMON St. Patrick's Parish House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 206 West Columbia Street  
CITY, TOWN Somerset VICINITY OF  
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Pulaski CODE 199  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 05

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees of the Diocese of Lexington - *The Right Reverend Addison Hosca*  
STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 610  
CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky 40501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pulaski County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER Fountain Square  
CITY, TOWN Somerset STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)  
DATE 1977  
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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Fox House in Somerset, Kentucky, is located on the western side of Gibson Court and is two blocks northwest of the Pulaski County Courthouse. Numerous alterations have occurred to this residence erected c. 1819 (see photo 1) that is now used as a parish hall and rectory for St. Patrick's Episcopal Mission Church whose worship house is to the immediate south.

In its original state, the Fox House presented a two-story, five-bay street facade with Federal massing. During the period 1863-1910 many changes were made to this one-time rectangular structure of brick laid in Flemish bond. A one-story porch enveloping the eastern and southern sides was added in the 1860s but has since been removed. Its lines are still discernable and a small pedimented portico now shelters the entrance. The summits of the exterior walls were given a plain entablature and cornice, and the gable roof was transformed into a hipped roof containing a total of five dormers. Two of these are on the north and south (see photos 1, 2 and 3). They project widely and their centers are pierced by vertically extended chimneys. Three dormers appear on the eastern or main facade. The central one is gabled and contains a squat Palladian window, while those flanking it are comparatively slender and are hipped on three sides.

A two-story inverted "L" section of brick laid in common bond was added to the rear in 1910. Its roof is hipped and is covered with tin; this addition concludes with an octagonal tower on the north. In an apparent attempt to counter-balance the latter, a five-sided, two-story projection was added to the oldest section's southern wall (see photo 2). Later, a two-story frame porch with a pent roof attached to the brick addition was covered with clapboards.

The interior, which seems to have had four rooms above and below originally, has undergone an equal number of changes. Among the few surviving features contemporary with the house's erection is a mantel on the second floor (see photo 5) that is treated with an elliptical sunburst, fluted engaged colonettes, and cable molding. Others date from as many as 90 years later, specifically one in the downstairs den added in 1910 (see photo 6). Reaching from floor to ceiling and made of brick with an inlaid panel of travertine between the fireplace opening and the shelf, this mantel-and-chimney-piece is also adorned with egg-and-dart, cable, and Greek fret moldings of terra-cotta.

(continued)

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" 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 1818-1819

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Established in 1798, Pulaski County in southeastern Kentucky had been formed for only some twenty years when William Fox built the two-story brick house on what was then the edge of the small community of Somerset, the county seat. The house remains today as the oldest extant brick structure in the city. Fox was a prominent figure in the town, serving as the first county clerk from 1799 until 1845 (Collins, II, p. 684; Fox tombstone). Locally the house is perhaps best remembered as the place to which Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer was brought in January 1862 after being mortally wounded during the Battle of Mill Springs. It is said he lay in state at the house for three days before being taken to Nashville, Tennessee, for burial.

William Fox (1770-1855), originally from Hanover County, Virginia, emigrated to the hilly, mountainous area now known as Pulaski County some time during the 1790s. He did well for himself; he was appointed the first county clerk in 1799, and, in 1801 was one of six commissioners selected by the court to plan the town, "to lay off forty acres of land...granted to the court...into convenient lots, streets, etc.; as they think proper" (Tibbals, p. 12). Fox and his fellow commissioners were also to select the locations of the public buildings and superintend their construction. In 1800 Fox was also appointed by the General Assembly as one of three trustees of "Summerset Academy," the first educational institution to be established in Somerset (Pulaski County Historical Research, II, p. 127).

In addition to his official positions, Fox, operated a tavern from 1807-1815. He was known, too, to have acquired a large amount of property in Somerset, including twenty-one lots at the time of his death (Tibbals, p. 38; Pulaski County Historical Research, p. 73).

Fox first lived in a log house on Columbia Street when Somerset was first established. He later built a brick house on the site of the old Somerset General Hospital. Around 1819 he built the brick structure on Gibson Court. Quite possibly the house was also used as the clerk's office for a period between 1828 until 1835. The original stone building

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Catton, Bruce. Terrible Swift Sword. Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Co., 1963, p. 140.

"Felix Kirk Zollicoffer." Dictionary of American Biography, Vol X, pp. 659-660.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6	7	1	2	6	5	0	4	1	0	7	6	2	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

C 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

D 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gloria Mills, Historian; Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

April 1977

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

*Edred W. Melton*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

June 13, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*[Signature]*

DATE

7-3-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Wanda Sherfy*

DATE

7-25-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Other replaced mantels add to the variety. In the first floor's south parlor is a mantel of an earlier date than that of the den (see photo 7). Centered above the opening is a rinceaux motif on a cast-iron piece and the wooden shelf is enriched with bands of dentils and bead-and-reel molding. The mantel's cast-iron side pieces decorated with rinceaux in their upper portions taper to form animal legs resting on plinths. In the opposite parlor is a mantel of a more advanced Victorian mode (see photo 8). Made of cherry with decorative tiles around the opening, this is surmounted by a chimney-piece containing a rectangular mirror.

A quarter-turn with landing staircase in the first floor's central hall connects the two levels (see photo 9). Installed in the 1890s, its stringer is rather plain, but the spindles are decoratively turned and the heavy, square-shaped newel is enriched with several varieties of gouge work. At the second floor landing are three tall windows containing stained glass (see photo 10). These date from 1895, but lost their function with the 1910 exterior addition to the rear.

The passage leading from the landing into the second floor's hall is flanked by Ionic pilasters and the hall contains a heavy, denticulated entablature and cornice (see photo 11). The dates of these embellishments is unsure. Original flooring throughout was of ash, but sections have been replaced with various materials. Presently, the structure's exterior and interior are in fair condition.

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constructed for Fox's office was declared "entirely too small for that purpose in 1828" (Order Book V, p. 294). Fox was then authorized to procure adequate space, after which the office was moved to his home (Pulaski County Historical Research, Vol. II, p. 13). A larger clerk's office to the rear of the present courthouse was completed in 1835.

At the time of Fox's death, his "enormous amount of property, slaves, and stock" were divided among his six children (Tibbals, p. 38). In 1860 the property was sold to James Burdette, who apparently was the owner when General Felix Zollicoffer was brought to the house after being fatally shot during the Battle of Mill Springs (Myers, p. 127; Deed Book 19, p. 305). The battle was an important confrontation that took place near Somerset in which Confederate troops under Zollicoffer and General George B. Crittenden engaged Union forces of General George H. Thomas. (For additional information on the conflict see the National Register form for the West-Metcalf House, in Wayne County.) The battle, which resulted in a disastrous defeat for the Confederates, commenced on the cold rainy Sunday morning of January 19, 1862. Zollicoffer unfortunately lost his sense of direction, rode into enemy lines, was shot and killed. News of the death of the famous general spread quickly, demoralizing the Confederates just as the battle had begun and just prior to Thomas' massive counterattack (Catton, p. 140).

As Zollicoffer lay dead on the battlefield, his clothing was torn by Union soldiers for souvenirs, whereupon General Thomas ordered the body removed to the Union camp and detailed a guard of soldiers to prevent it from being further outraged. The Union troops expected the Confederates to send for the corpse, but when they failed to do so, "it was removed to Somerset, clothed from Colonel Fry's<sup>1</sup> own wardrobe and placed in a wooden coffin" (Myers, p. 126). The body was said to have been taken to the Fox House where it apparently remained for two to three days.<sup>2</sup>

On January 24, General Thomas, "without instruction or solicitation...arranged to have Zollicoffer's body, together with his horse, saddle, pistols, sword and spy glass sent to Nashville" (Myers, p. 127). On arrival in Nashville, Zollicoffer's

<sup>1</sup>Colonel Fry was the Union officer who allegedly shot and killed General Zollicoffer.

<sup>2</sup>According to Raymond Myers (p. 127) the body was brought to "the Robert Gibson home." Although the property was later known as the Gibson House, it was then owned by James Burdette.

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remains lay in state in the Hall of Representatives at the Capital, where throngs of Nashville citizens and Confederate soldiers passed by his bier to pay him honor. "Although he was not the first Confederate general killed in action," states one historian, "his death shocked the entire South, and brought forth universal and deserved tribute to his bravery and ability" (Dictionary of American Biography, p. 660).

In 1865, Burdette sold the house to Robert Gibson (b. 1827), a native of Ireland who came to the United States in 1837 (Deed Book 21, p. 301). He moved to Somerset in 1856 where he engaged in the mercantile business (Tibbals, p. 42). Gibson was the first director of the First National Bank, formed in 1871 and presently the oldest continuing bank in operation in Pulaski County (now called First and Farmer's National Bank).

The house descended to the Gibson's daughter Lucy, whose husband, John M. ("Jack") Richardson, was also a prominent banker in town. It was during the ownership of Mrs. Lucy Richardson that the house was so drastically altered and remodeled. Their son Robert G. Richardson, a local physician, and their daughter Amelia Richardson Dexheimer, sold the house out of the family in 1944 (Deed Bood 133, p. 507). The property was deeded to the Trustees of the Diocese of Lexington in 1958. It is currently being used as a parish house and a pre-school for children.

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"General Zollicoffer." Harper's Weekly, February 8, 1862.

Myers, Raymond E. The Zollie Tree. Louisville: The Filson Club Press, 1964.

Pulaski County Historical Research, Vol. II, n. p., n. d.

Pulaski County Will Book 4, p. 440; 9, p. 27; 19, pp. 224, 305.

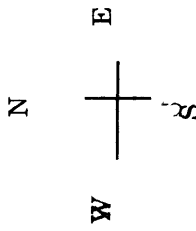
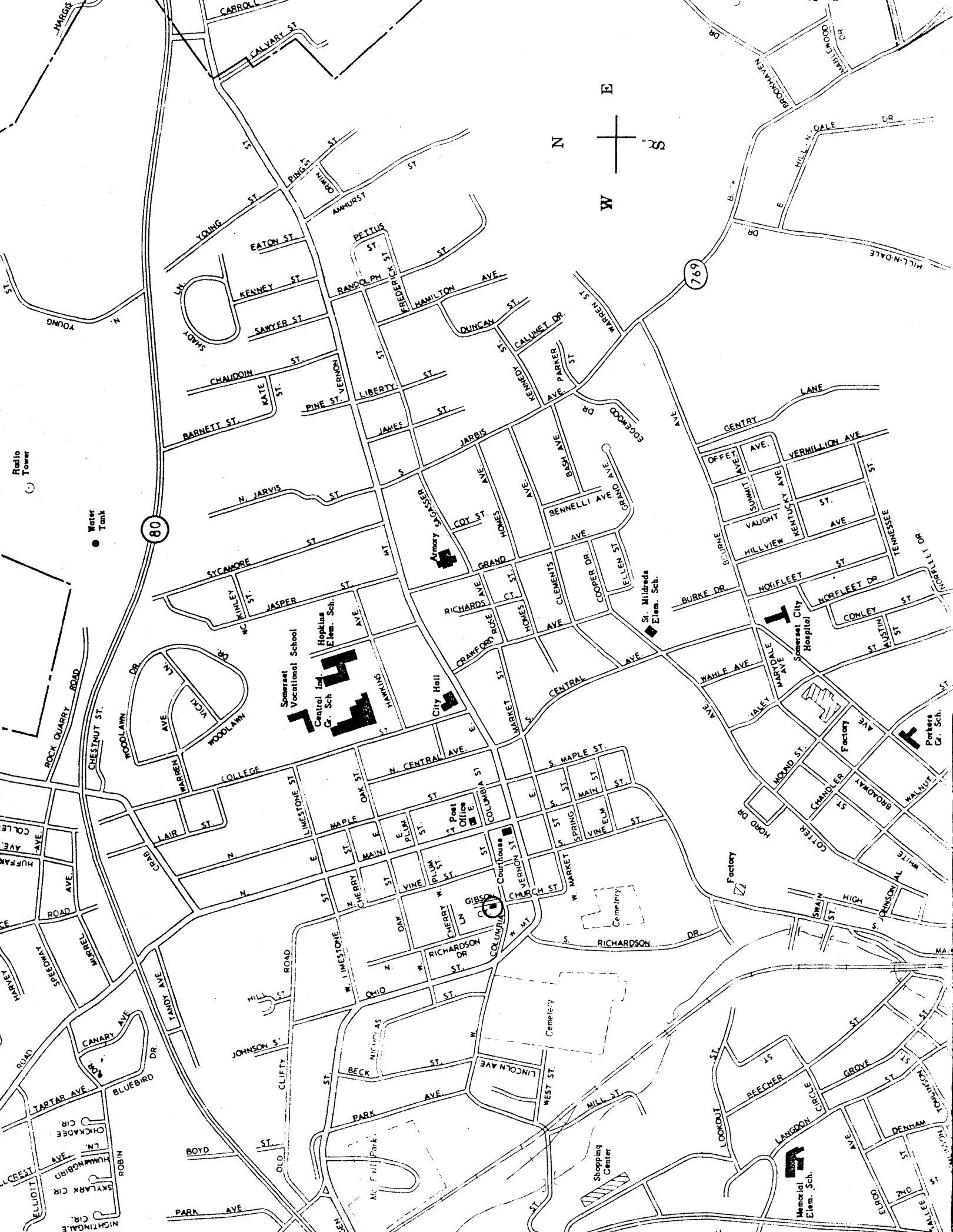
Pulaski County Deed Book 21, p. 301; 133, p. 507.

"The Battle of Mill Springs." Harper's Weekly. March 8, 1862, pp. 150-151.

Tibbals, Alma Owens. A History of Pulaski County. Bagdad, Kentucky: Grace Owens Moore, 1952.

Additional information provided by Mrs. Orville Stein, Somerset, Kentucky and Mrs. Amelia Richardson Dexheimer, Somerset, Kentucky.





80

769

Radio Tower

Water Tank

Somerset Vocational School

Central Ind. Hopkins Cr. Sch.

City Hall

St. Mildreds Elem. Sch.

Somerset City Hospital

Perkins Cr. Sch.

Shopping Center

Memorial Elem. Sch.