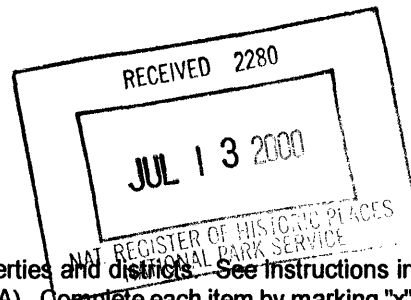


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

913



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name George-Vest House

other names/site number BE-226

2. Location

street & number 13815 Walton-Verona Road not for publication N/A

city or town Verona vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Boone code 015 zip code 41092

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan Executive Director, KHC 6-5-2000  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office/Kentucky Heritage Council

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

8/24/00

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously-listed resources in the count)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal  
structures  
  
objects

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
  
 object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>		sites
<u>1</u>		
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Historic & Architectural Resources of the County of Boone, Kentucky

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

LANDSCAPE/natural feature

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

LANDSCAPE/natural feature

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/sandstone

walls STONE/sandstone; STUCCO; WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Refer to continuation sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1842-c. 1931

Criteria Considerations

Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Significant Dates

1842

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unidentified

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

George-Vest, House  
Name of Property

Boone County, KY  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 2.06 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	704 800	4301 760	3			Verona Quad
2				4			

N/A See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal  
organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. date November, 1999  
street & number 9 Walnut Street telephone 814-849-4900  
city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. And Mrs. Stanley Legg  
street & number 13815 Walton-Verona Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Verona state KY zip code 41092

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

***George-Vest House***  
***(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)***

Section Number 7 Page 1

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**Description**

The George-Vest House (BE-226) is a two-story residential building of sandstone construction, L-shaped in plan and parged in stucco, with a five-bay facade, a lateral gable roof, interior gable-end chimneys, and a hipped-roof front porch which extends across the middle three bays of the facade (Photos 1, 2). With reference to the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources Boone County, Kentucky," the George-Vest House represents Property Type ID, *domestic architecture/I-House*.

The house is set on a continuous stone foundation which has been parged and scored. Centered on the first story of the facade is a Greek Revival-style entry, incorporating a five-light transom sash and both glazed and blind panel sidelights. The main door features a distinctive six-panel solid door (Photo 3). The fenestration on the house is flat-topped, with the first-story windows somewhat shorter than those on the second story. The windows on the first story employ nine-over-six sash, while those on the second story are six-over-six in form; the upper-story windows are set in close proximity to the eaves, in a characteristic antebellum arrangement. At the left rear corner of the house, just above the foundation, is the inscription, "BUILT 1842" (Photo 4). Since the exterior surfaces of house are parged, it is not known if this dating is original to the house or was added with the parging. At the rear of the main wing of the house is a gable-roofed one-story ell with a shed-roofed addition and two chimneys punctuating the roofline (Photo 2).

The exterior of the house was remodeled in 1931, including the application of the exterior stucco parging. The cornice and guttering was also reconstructed to include a fascia of beaded tongue-and-groove wood and flat rafter tails were added under the eaves. A modest wood frame addition was appended to the south side of the rear ell, with its shed roof following the slope of the roof of the ell. At that time, the present three-bay open porch was added, borne by restrained wood posts resting on brick piers and capped with a shallow hipped roof.

The interior of the George-Vest House incorporates the characteristic two-over-two plan of the I-house, in this case employing a broad central hallway which separates the interior spaces. The distinctive features of the interior include the curved stair with turned balusters and a handrail which terminates into a curvilinear newel. Other significant features include the unusually elaborate and sophisticated Greek Revival-style woodwork, incorporating interior openings enframed by tall paneled pilasters which support full pedimented entablatures (Photo 5). Other trim includes characteristically tall baseboards and wood mantles of a post-and-lintel design.

The George-Vest House is located atop a low rise overlooking and set at right angles to the Walton-Verona Road, in rural Boone County, southwest of the village of Verona. The natural landscape of the property is dotted by large shade trees, while its cultural landscape includes several outbuildings and associated landscape features. At the entrance to the property, along Walton-Verona Road, is a rubble stone pier capped with a stone ball (Photo 6); it appears to be a remnant from an earlier stone fence and is a representative of Property Type IIIA, *stone walls/rock fences*. Northwest of the house is a mid-nineteenth-century root cellar of stone, laid in a decorative and distinctive manner, incorporating radiating stones and a triangular keystone (Photo 7); this element is a representative of Property Type IIC, *cellars*. North of the house is a gambrel-roofed milk barn of wood construction, flanked by two silos (Photo 8); these are examples

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Continuation Sheet

***George-Vest House***  
***(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)***

Section Number 7 Page 2

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**Description, continued**

of Property Type IIG, *agricultural outbuildings*; the barn represents Property Subtype IIG(6), *dairy barns*, while the silos are categorized as "other agricultural outbuildings" in the MPDF. A gable roofed metal pole building stands northeast of the house; it dates from outside the Period of Significance of the property and is a non-contributing feature.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

***George-Vest House***  
***(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)***

Section Number 8 Page 1

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**Significance**

The George-Vest House (BE-226) is significant under National Register Criterion C for its architectural design, as a locally-distinctive example of an I-house executed in the Greek Revival style. The house retains integrity and meets fully the Registration Requirements for Property Type I buildings as set forth in the Boone County MPDF. Likewise, its historic dependencies retain their individual integrity and meet the Registration Requirements set forth for their respective property types.

According to a date inscribed on the building, the house was built in 1842. Local land records indicate that John George acquired a 103-acre tract in 1835 for \$279, suggesting that some sort of building was on the site at that time. Thomas Vest, Sr. (c. 1797-1885), was a member of a prominent local family who owned considerable land in the vicinity of Verona and Walton.<sup>1</sup> He began acquiring property in the area in 1827, following his 1820 marriage to Elizabeth Alexander. Between 1827 and c. 1845, Vest amassed between 600 and 700 acres, including the parcel containing the house which he purchased from George. Vest resided here until his death in 1885; the property remained in the Vest family until 1925. According to the 1870 U. S. Census, Thomas Vest was a farmer who had been born in Virginia and at that time was living in the house with his wife, Rachel, who was seven years his junior. Rachel was apparently Vest's second wife, since a gravestone in a nearby cemetery indicates that his first wife died in 1859. The house appears under the name, "T. H. Vest" on the 1883 D. J. Lake **Atlas of Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties, Kentucky** (See Fig. 1). The Census also indicated that a fifty-year-old African-American servant shared the household. Vest owned real estate worth \$15,500 and personal property worth \$2,200. Land records suggest that family discord may have developed following the death of the elder Vest, since the 139-acre tract which contains the house was sold by the County Commissioners to James E. Ransom, the husband of Vest's daughter, Jerusha. The Ransoms transferred the house and adjacent property to their daughter, Juliet Edna Smith in 1905 and she retained ownership until 1925, when the property passed from the Vest family.

With respect to Criterion C, the George-Vest House is an excellent, well-preserved representation of the Greek Revival style in Boone County, particularly noteworthy for its sophisticated interior woodwork. It is one of a group of stylish, large-scale antebellum houses which were erected in the Verona area, exhibiting common traits that suggest a still-unidentified local master builder. All feature semi-spiral staircases winding around curved walls, and incorporating tall, slender newels. The 1930s-vintage remodeling of the house—including the stuccoing of the exterior and the installation of the porch and the small addition at the rear—was respectful of the historic character of the property and has since achieved significance in its own right.

The Greek Revival style is the predominant nineteenth-century academic architectural expression in Boone County. A 1976-77 survey identified thirty-three examples of the style county-wide. Eight were included in the 1986 National Register Multiple Resource Area nomination as significant examples of the mode. The Vest House compares favorably with those resources.

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<sup>1</sup>Lake, D. J. **Atlas of Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties, Kentucky** (New York: D. J. Lake, 1883), p. 24.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

***George-Vest House***  
***(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)***

Section Number 8 Page 2

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**Significance, continued**

The Greek Revival style reached its zenith in Boone County in the 1840s and 1850s, although it continued to be chosen for ecclesiastical design into the 1870s; the 1873 Salem Baptist Church clearly shows Greek Revival influence. Still other examples feature transitional Federal-to-Greek Revival or Greek Revival-to-Italianate styling, or were remodeled to reflect aspects of the Grecian style. The 1842 construction date of the Vest House, therefore, places it at the local apex of this particular design mode.

As with other historic styles in the county, Boone County Greek Revival domestic architecture is generally modest in its execution, and straightforward in its design. Attributes include symmetrical facades, the use of Doric or Ionic orders in doorways and mantles, crossette opening surrounds, multi-light sash, and trabeated porches or porticos, with double galleries sometimes appearing on secondary elevations. Doors and windows are usually topped by flat stone or wooden lintels, laid flush with the building plane. The Vest House's tripartite entrance, with multi-pane sidelights and transom sash, clearly represents the type of doorway most commonly seen in for m formally-derived Boone County houses during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century.

Local Greek Revival-style houses commonly utilize side- or center-passage plans; an occasional high-style example uses the temple-front form. Roofs are gently pitched and are laterally-gabled or hipped. The Vest House's classic I-house form, with a laterally-gabled roof, represents the plan type most often encountered. The classic I-house also represents the house type of choice for prosperous farmers during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century.

In keeping with their restrained character, most Greek Revival homes feature modest interiors characterized by simple, rectilinear woodwork and trabeated mantelpieces. The elaborate interior appointments of the Vest House, on the other hand, rank among the grandest in the county.

The several nineteenth- and early twentieth century dependencies contribute greatly to the overall historicity of the property. The most distinctive of these is the stone root cellar, rebuilt in 1931 and bearing the inscription 1842-1931 on the lintel over the entrance. The other associated resources, including the barn, the farm pond, the barn and the entrance gateposts, are significant within the total context of the property's reflection of the domestic architectural character of Boone County from the mid-nineteenth century through the first three decades of the twentieth.

As a unit, the Vest House and its dependencies stand as significant representations of nineteenth-century upper-middle-class agrarian life in Boone County.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

*George-Vest House*  
*(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)*

Section Number 9 Page 1

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Lake, D. J. **Atlas of Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties, Kentucky** (Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1883).

Warminski, Margo. Kentucky Historic Resources Survey Form BE-226 ("Thomas Vest House"), filed at Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

*George-Vest House*  
*(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)*

Section Number 10 Page 1

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Being a portion of that property described in Boone County, Kentucky Deed Book 591, Page 221 and shown on Property Tax Parcel Map No. 64-37, and shown more particularly on the attached map prepared by the Boone County Planning Commission..

**JUSTIFICATION**

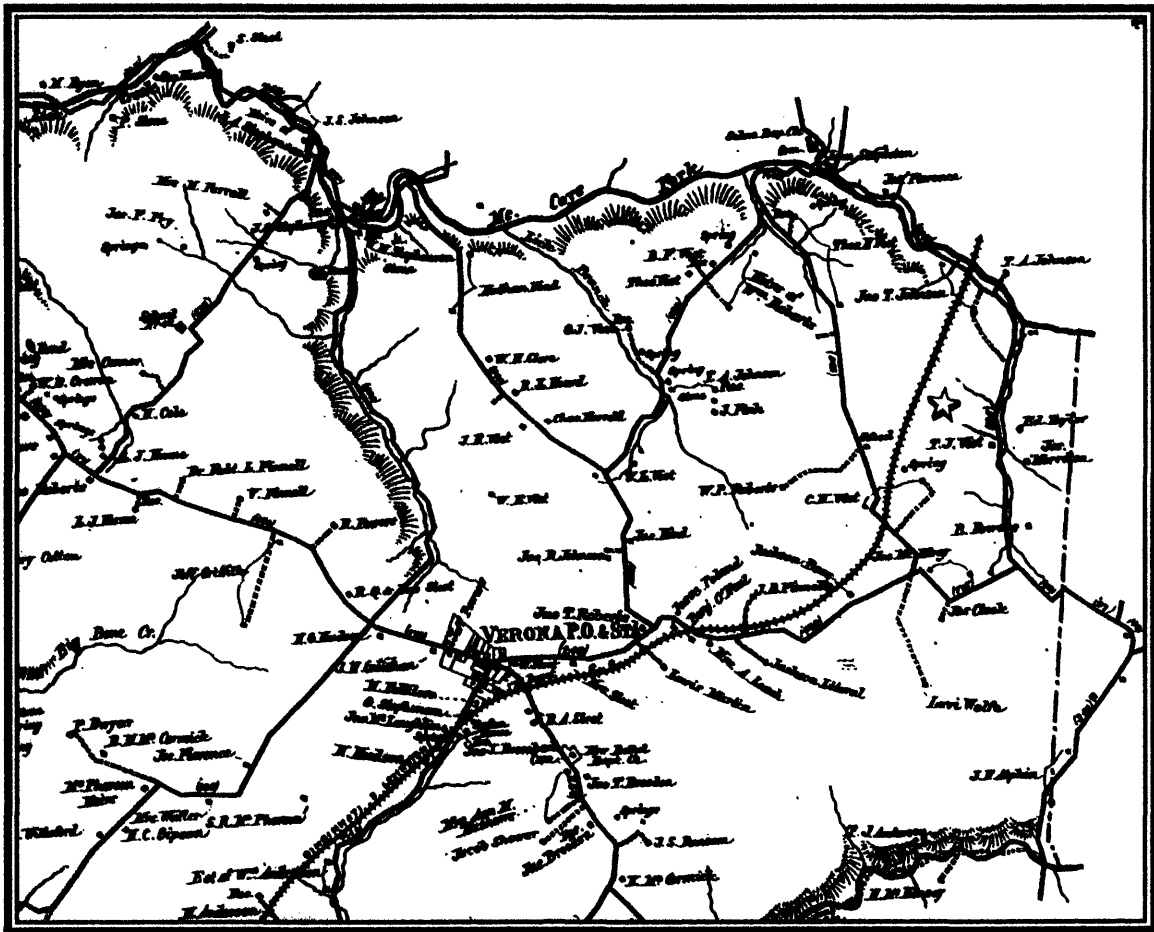
The boundaries for this property include the George-Vest residence, a nearby root cellar, a rubble stone pier entrance detail, and the dairy barn and silos, all of which have historically been a part of the property and retain their architectural integrity and significance.

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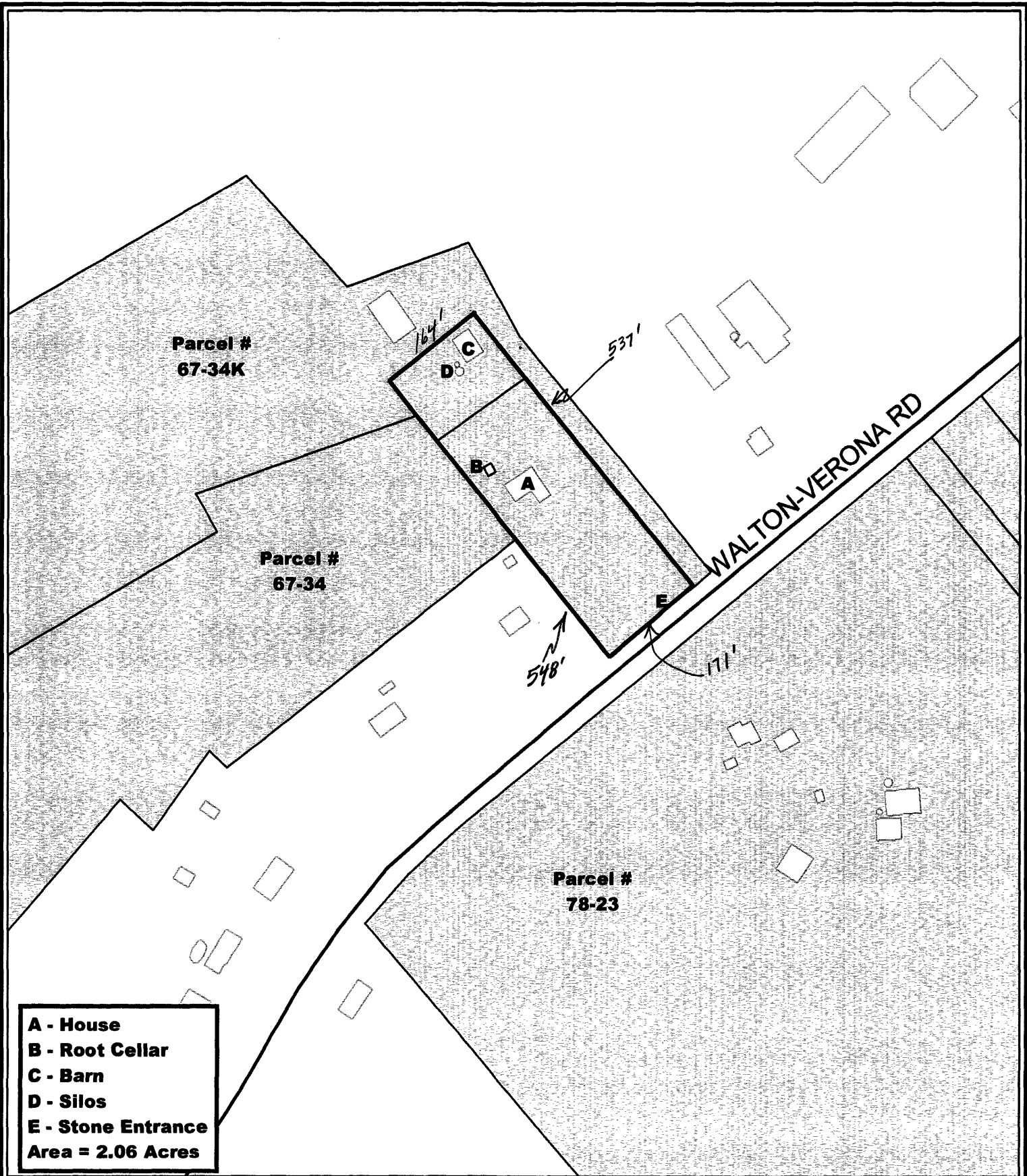
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*George-Vest House  
(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)*

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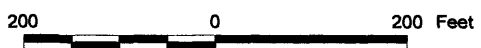


**Fig. 1** The George-Vest House is shown on this excerpt from the 1883 D. J. Lake **Atlas of Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties, Kentucky** near the upper right corner of the map. It is identified as being under the ownership of T. J. Vest and is indicated by a ☆.



- A - House**
- B - Root Cellar**
- C - Barn**
- D - Silos**
- E - Stone Entrance**
- Area = 2.06 Acres**

**Historic Resources of Boone County, KY**  
**George - Vest**  
**BE - 226**



1 inch equals 200 feet  
 Produced by the  
 Boone County Planning Commission  
 GIS Services Division  
 March 20, 2000

