

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 29 1980
DATE ENTERED APR 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

William T. Lafferty House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

548 East Pike Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cynthiana

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Harrison

CODE

097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Opsa Guthrie

STREET & NUMBER

548 East Pike Street

CITY, TOWN

Cynthiana

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harrison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cynthiana

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Kentucky Sites

DATE

May 1979

FEDERAL X 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

The William T. Lafferty House is located in Cynthiana, the seat of Harrison County, in a residential area east of the downtown commercial district.

Constructed in the Queen Anne style, the house is three stories high, covered by a truncated pyramidal roof with flared eaves. The main features in this house are a combination of medieval and classic elements, which exemplify the Queen Anne mode.

The most obvious medieval element is the conical-roofed, polygonal turret, which takes in the entire height of the house. The encircling verandah has some classical details, including the main entrance element and the bracketed cornice. The house has a cut-stone foundation, and rough-cut stone belt course and window details. There are hip-roofed dormers and a Palladian window is incorporated into the facade.

Basically a free plan, the house has a main hall with a corner fireplace, flanked by leaded glass windows. The mantelpiece consists of a simple mantle shelf with dentils and two fluted Ionic columns. The frieze contains a wreath motif. The main staircase is open with a bead-and-reel molding variation and a panelled wainscot beneath. The hall is lighted by a large oval leaded glass window on the stair landing.

There are sliding doors between the entrance hall and the parlor. A major part of the woodwork in the parlor is burled maple with oak floors and trim. The ornamentation in the parlor consists of a plaster relief medallion surrounding the chandelier and leaded glass transoms in the turret windows.

Directly behind the parlor is the dining room which contains the most ornamental woodwork. This room has a four foot wainscot, built-in buffet and an alcove with a fireplace and overmantle. The alcove is arcaded with fluted Ionic columns and panelled pilasters. There are swag motifs located in panels above the arches. The mantle consists of a square opening with a tile surround, colonettes, sunburst motif, beaded consoles, and a flower motif on the frieze. The over mantle is mirrored and also has colonettes. The buffet is flanked by fluted pilasters and has a round arched opening.

The library, located behind the entrance hall, is richly decorated with built-in bookshelves along one wall. The second floor woodwork is simple, but similar to that of the first floor.

The nominated area includes the main house, the front, side, and back yards of the structure which are enclosed by a fence and are important to the visual elements of the house.

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 checked="" 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

1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Victorian style house in Cynthiana is significant as being the home of William Thornton Lafferty (1856-1922), the first dean of the University of Kentucky's law school. Built in 1890 for Lafferty, the house exhibits characteristics of the late Victorian period.

W.T. Lafferty was born in Cynthiana, Kentucky, March 1, 1856, one of twelve children. His father, John A. Lafferty, served his native Harrison County as both sheriff and county judge. William Thornton received his formal education from the State University (later the University of Kentucky) and after returning to Cynthiana, studied law under A.H. and J.Q. Ward. He was admitted to the bar in 1879.

Following his admission to the bar, Lafferty established a lucrative law practice in Harrison County. He served as Harrison County attorney from 1882 to 1894 and two terms as county judge. After holding a short term of office as a member of the Kentucky Legislature in 1900, Lafferty's period of political service ended. He was appointed a trustee of the State University of Kentucky and became secretary and a member of the executive committee.

In 1908 William Lafferty was asked to organize the new law school and serve as the first dean. The early years were difficult, but Lafferty overcame the many problems presented to him. He donated 300 of his own books to help create the law library, and personally lobbied the Legislature for funds.

Besides his duties as dean, Lafferty received the new title of comptroller, with powers second only to those of the president of the University. His new duties included authorization to audit and settle all school accounts, attorney for the school, supervise the collection and expenditure of funds, location of departments in various buildings, and general oversight of moral standards and maintenance of discipline. In order to be closer to his work, Judge Lafferty officially established his residence in Lexington in 1910.

Judge Lafferty went before the American Bar Association and obtained formal recognition of Kentucky as an accredited law school. The Bar's comment sums up Lafferty's role in the development of the law department. "We now have three Southern states accredited--Virginia with her prestige, Texas with her wealth, and Kentucky with the Judge." William T. Lafferty died on November 9, 1922 and sixteen years later Lafferty Hall, named in his honor, was built to house the law school.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boyd, Lucinda. Chronicles of Cynthiana, Cincinnati: Robert Clark and Co., 1894.

The Cynthiana Democrat, May 11, 1972.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Hopkins, James F. The University of Kentucky: Origins and Early years,
Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1951.

Information received of or supplemented by the owner: Mrs. Opsa Guthrie.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1 acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Cynthiana Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 73174410 42521010
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular lot approximately 60' wide and 120' deep, bounded on the south by Pike Street and on the north, east and west by fences.

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

ORGANIZATION Jayne C. Henderson DATE July 1979

STREET & NUMBER Kentucky Heritage Commission TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN 104 Bridge Street STATE 564-3741

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

Cedric W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1-8-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Paul W. Ray Luce*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Martin O'Connell
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 4/10/80
DATE 4/10/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Lafferty, William T., House
Harrison County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8 PAGE 2

Situated on a major residential street in Cynthiana, the William T. Lafferty House is an impressive Queen Anne structure representing one of Cynthiana's better examples of late nineteenth century domestic architecture. Set back from the road on a large lot, the 2½-story brick building displays the variety of detail and ornamentation which characterizes the Victorian period. In addition, a high quality of craftsmanship and creativity is evidenced in the interior treatment.

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William T. Lafferty House
Cynthiana Harrison County, Kentucky

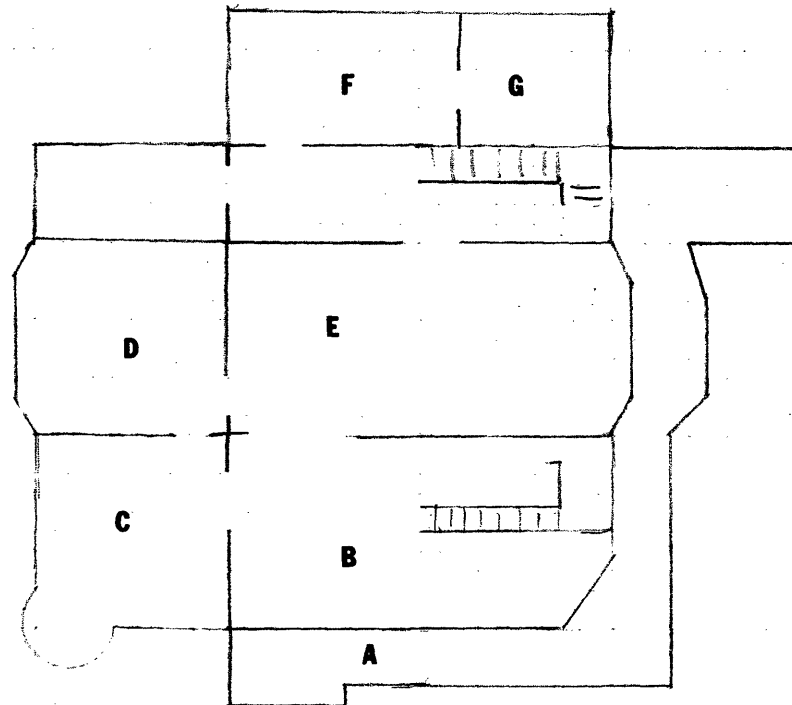
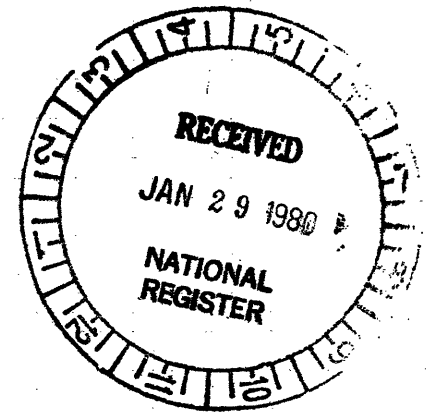
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

ADDENDUM

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the point where the eastern edge of the drive meets Pike Street, the boundary travels east 60 feet along the north edge of Pike Street; then north 120 feet; then west 60 feet; then south 120 feet to return to the point of origin. The house sits in the center of the lot.



William T. Lafferty House
Cynthiana, Harrison County, Ky.
Jayne C. Henderson
Kentucky Heritage Commission
Frankfort, Kentucky

Diagram 1
First floor only. Not to scale.

A. Porch
B. Main Hall
C. Parlor
D. Dining Room

E. Library
F. Kitchen
G. Enclosed Porch