National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received MAR 4 1988

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

i ype a	II entries	complete appl	icable se	ctions					
1.	Nam	е							
historic		MELROSE ()	Rocheste	er-Cecil House)					
and/or ∈	common								
2.	Loca	ntion							
street 8	k number	U.S. 127 (Ha	rrodsbur	g Road)				not for publica	ition
city, to	wn	Danville		_X_ vicinity of					
state		Kentucky	code	021 county	,	Boyle		code	
3.	Clas	sificatio	n						
X bu str sit	strict ilding(s) ucture	Ownership public private both Public Acquisit na in process na being consid		Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no		sent Use agricultu commere educatio entertain governm industria military	re cial nal ment ent	museum park X private res religious scientific transporta other:	
4.	Own	er of Pro	per	ty					
name		Mrs. J. Paul	(Mildred) Benedict; Mr. &	Mrs. Jos	eph Gib	son		
street 8	k number	Route #2, Ha	arrodsbu	rg Road					
city, to	wn	Danville		X vicinity of			state	Kentucky	
5.	Loca	ition of I	Lega	I Descript	ion				
courtho	ouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	В	oyle County Court	house				
street &	k number		M	lain Street					
city, to	wn		D	anville			state	Kentucky	
6.	Repi	esentat	ion i	n Existing	Surv	eys			
	-	Historic Resou					nined eligit	ole? yes	X no
date		August 1976				federal	X state	county _	local
deposi	løry for su	rvey records	K	entucky Heritage (Council				
city, to	wn		F	rankfort			state	Kentucky	

Condition Check one X excellent good ruins A altered moved date unexposed Check one X original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

Melrose is a two-story, five-bay brick dwelling of Greek Revival design. It is situated in the gently rolling terrain of the Bluegrass Region in northeastern Boyle County, Kentucky, and is about a mile and three quarters northwest of the county seat, Danville, and a little less than two miles from the Mercer County line. The property is located on the east side of U.S. 127 (Harrodsburg Road), and the house, which faces westward toward the highway, sits at the end of a long drive of approximately eight hundred feet and on a small, cleared knoll (see site plan; photo 1).

The section of Boyle County in which **Melrose** is located is notable for its survival of historic dwellings, as it lies between Danville and Harrodsburg (Mercer County) in a corridor of early settlement between the two communities. A 1972 survey of Boyle County identified forty-two historic buildings in the Danville quadrangle (outside the city of Danville). Of these, seventeen have either been listed in the National Register of Historic Places or are eligible for listing, while thirteen of the seventeen are either Federal or Greek Revival in style. National Register properties in the vicinity of **Melrose** include four Federal dwellings (the Abner Knox Farm, the Elijah Harlan House, the Judge John Boyle House, and Pleasant Vale), and one house of each the Greek Revival (the Caldwell House), the Gothic Revival (the Helm-Gentry House), and the Italianate (Cambus-Kenneth) styles. Pending National Register listing are Roselawn, a Greek Revival dwelling on the farm neighboring **Melrose** and the property from which the **Melrose** Estate was formed, and several districts and properties within the city of Danville.

Melrose is a complex building having several phases in its evolution. The original portion of the dwelling, constructed in 1856, is a two-story, L-shaped block having five bays on the west (front) facade and four on the south (photos 2 & 3). Laid in five-course common bond, this section of the dwelling rests on a finely worked, coursed limestone foundation and bears a hipped roof. It is served by three interior chimneys. Five years later, a two-story, three-bay ell was added to the rear (east facade) of the building at its northern end, opposite the eastward projection of the first period fabric at the southern end (photo 4). The addition gave the building a U-shaped mass, and was constructed to resemble the original fabric as closely as possible: it was laid in five-course common bond and was given a hipped roof and limestone foundation. The foundation of the addition is, however, not as finely worked and coursed as the original. A single interior chimney, located at the eastern wall, serves the ell. Two other additions have been made to the building. A long, narrow room, constructed of frame and two stories high, was placed between the two arms of the "U" formed by the eastward projections of the original portion and the 1859 ell, while a small, one-story unit of brick was built behind the frame addition by Melrose's present owners (photo 5).

The dwelling's primary entrance, located in the central bay of the western facade, is a panelled double door with sidelights having replaced panes (photo 6). Two fluted pilasters separate the door and sidelights, and, along with two plain pilasters, support plain entablature over the door. Centered on this entrance is a tetrastyle portico, which is supported by columns with Ionic capitals. These columns are replacements of the fluted originals. The entablature of this portico is simply molded. The windows throughout the nineteenth-century portions of the building are replacements having two-over-two sash, but the original openings and their moldings have been retained, as have the splayed jack arches that surmount each window. The windows of the southern facade are blank-built to appear closed with shutters-in order to preserve the symmetry of this facade yet accommodate the closets built near the chimney jambs inside (see photos 3 & 9). A secondary entrance is located in the building's southern facade. Cut from an original window opening late in the nineteenth century, this entrance has a glazed door and single-pane transom. The doorway is ornamented with a wooden hood that has a pointed gable and curved sides, is supported by brackets, and is decorated with pendant drops and cutwork (photo 7).

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic X_ agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics	music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1854; 1859	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Melrose is significant under Criterion B, due to its association with Granville Cecil, an enterprising agriculturalist of the late nineteenth century. Granville Cecil, born May 3, 1850, was the son of the wealthy and influential James G. Cecil, who is best remembered locally as the founder of the Farmer's National Bank in Danville. A Boyle County native, Granville Cecil grew up on Cambus-Kenneth Estate (listed in the National Register 1977) and purchased nearby Melrose in 1878. Together with his brother, Charles Perry Cecil who had inherited Cambus-Kenneth, Granville Cecil established at Melrose a center for standardbred breeding and sales. The two brothers owned 150 head of nationally recognized trotting horses, including the famous Gambetta Wilkes, a horse voted "first stallion" by the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders for eight consecutive years. In addition, Granville and Charles Perry Cecil owned and managed Cecilian Park, a racetrack in Danville. Granville Cecil was also a director of the Kentucky Agricultural Association and involved with the experimental breeding of Shorthorn cattle, Berkshire hogs, and Southdown sheep.

The history of **Melrose** is closely linked with that of the adjoining farm, Roselawn, which was the home of Kentucky Governor William Owsley between 1844 and 1848. Owsley lived at Roselawn following his tenure as governor although he had purchased the property in 1838. This purchase did not include the tract upon which **Melrose** stands, but the governor's son, Erasmus Boyle Owsley, enlarged the holdings associated with Roselawn during the 1840s by accumulating many smaller surrounding tracts. In 1845, William and Erasmus Owsley sold three hundred acres, including the land on which **Melrose** was to be built, to the governor's son-in-law, Albert Gallatin Talbot. Talbot was an influential politician in his own right, and won a seat to the state legislature in 1850. Upon his 1855 election to U.S. Congress, Talbot sold this property, which he had named **Melrose**, to Charles Hannah Rochester, Sr. Rochester had the house built shortly thereafter. The property was sold at auction upon Rochester's death in 1863 and passed through several hands until acquired by Granville Cecil and his wife Emma, who was A. G. Talbot's daughter, in 1878.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached

10. Ge	naran	hical Data		
~		0.04	· · ·	
Acreage of nom Quadrangle name	Donrei		and the second s	Quadrangle scale 1:24000
UT M Reference				duadiangle scale
A 1 6 6 9 Zone East	0 4 3 9 0	4 1 7 3 3 5 0 Northing	B	Northing
C			D	
F			F , ,	
			HIIII	
Verbal bound				
See Atta		on and justification		
see Atta	ached			
List all states	and countie	es for properties overla	pping state or county bo	oundaries
state		code	county	code
state		code	county	code
11. Fo	rm Pre	pared By		
name/title	Julie Rie	senweber, Senior Histo	orian	
organization	Kentucky	Heritage Council	date	February, 1986
street & numbe	· 12th Floo	r, Capital Plaza Towe	er telephone	502/564-7005
city or town	Frankfort		state	Kentucky
12. Sta	ate His	storic Prese	rvation Offic	cer Certification
The evaluated s	ignificance of	this property within the st	ate is:	
	national	_X state _	local	
665), I hereby no	ominate this p	ric Preservation Officer for roperty for inclusion in the procedures set forth by the	National Register and cert	ervation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– ify that it has been evaluated
State Historic P	reservation Of	ficer signature	& C. Mayon	
				_
title STATE	HISTORIC	PRESERVATION OFF	ICER	date 2-24-86
For NPS use	•	property is included in the	n National Register	
		01	Struck in the	data 4/3/cr
de Konor of the	e National Re	<u> </u>	nlosel Resister	date 7/3/86
0				4.4.
Attest:	-i-tatio			date

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Melrose

Continuation sheet Boyle County, Kentucky

Item number

7

Page

2

The only change to the exterior of the building not mentioned above is that it has been sandblasted.

The plan of **Melrose**'s original block is central passage, with one room on the north side of the passage and two on the south. The passage contains a half-turn stair with full landing, while the newel is a simple cherry turning and the handrail is cherry (photo 8). The string is decorated with a scroll design. While the mantles in these rooms have been replaced with late nineteenth-century, cast-iron fireplace surrounds, the original woodwork remains. In the central passage and the two south rooms, the door and window surrounds are heavy and Greek-eared. The rear room of the south side contains closets built on either side of the chimney jambs (photo 9). The woodwork of the north room is reeded with plain corner blocks (photo 10). The mantels of the second floor have not been altered; these fireplaces were converted to coal with inserts (photo 11).

The 1859 ell consists of a small room (formerly a porch) with a larger room behind it. A modern bathroom and kitchen, respectively, have been installed in these rooms and they retain none of their original fittings.

The nomination includes a one-story, brick slavequarters, which is located a short distance behind (east of) the house (photo 12). The double-pen building is laid in common bond, has two interior gable-end chimneys (stacks rebuilt), and a gable roof with an extended eave at the south side. The foundation is dry-laid limestone. Concrete stucco has been applied to the south facade of the building from ground level to a height of approximately three feet.

This nomination of 3.94 acres includes two buildings, the dwelling and the slavequarters. Within the boundaries as defined (see photo 10; site plan) are a recently constructed carport with breezeway and a patio.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (Continued)

Title:

Historic American Buildings Survey

Determined Eligible:

No

Date:

January 1976

Federal:

X

Depository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

Frankfort, Kentucky

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Melrose

For NPS use only received date entered 2

Boyle County, Kentucky Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

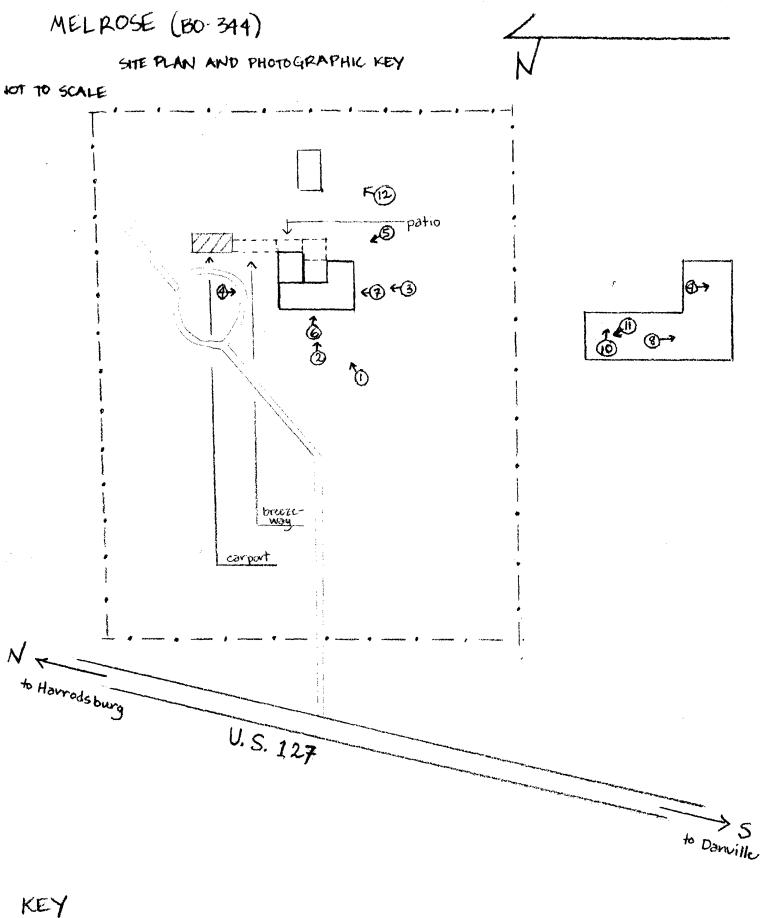
Perrin, William Henry, Kentucky: A History of the State, (Louisville: F. A. Battey and Co., 1887). Toles, Sterling, "Cecilian Park Farm Sold," Danville Advocate-Messenger, July 24, 1920. "Champion Saddle Harness Horses," Danville Advocate-Messenger, August 15, 1939.

Wallace, J. H., American Trotting Horse Registry, Yearbook. Vols. 2, 3, 4, & 5. (New York: National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders, Office of Wallace's Monthly.).

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description & Justification:

The boundaries of this property follow the present fenceline and are defined to preserve its setback from the highway and to include the house and slavequarters, as follows: beginning at the northwestern corner of the yard, 246 feet southward; 702 feet eastward; 246 feet northward; and 702 feet westward to point of origin.



NONCONTRIBUTING FABRIC

RECENT CONSTRUCTION

O-> PHOTOGRAPHS

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received MAR 4 1988

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

i ype a	II entries	complete appl	icable se	ctions					
1.	Nam	е							
historic		MELROSE ()	Rocheste	er-Cecil House)					
and/or ∈	common								
2.	Loca	ntion							
street 8	k number	U.S. 127 (Ha	rrodsbur	g Road)				not for publica	ition
city, to	wn	Danville		_X_ vicinity of					
state		Kentucky	code	021 county	,	Boyle		code	
3.	Clas	sificatio	n						
X bu str sit	strict ilding(s) ucture	Ownership public private both Public Acquisit na in process na being consid		Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no		sent Use agricultu commere educatio entertain governm industria military	re cial nal ment ent	museum park X private res religious scientific transporta other:	
4.	Own	er of Pro	per	ty					
name		Mrs. J. Paul	(Mildred) Benedict; Mr. &	Mrs. Jos	eph Gib	son		
street 8	k number	Route #2, Ha	arrodsbu	rg Road					
city, to	wn	Danville		X vicinity of			state	Kentucky	
5.	Loca	ition of I	Lega	I Descript	ion				
courtho	ouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	В	oyle County Court	house				
street &	k number		M	lain Street					
city, to	wn		D	anville			state	Kentucky	
6.	Repi	esentat	ion i	n Existing	Surv	eys			
	-	Historic Resou					nined eligit	ole? yes	X no
date		August 1976				federal	X state	county _	local
deposi	løry for su	rvey records	K	entucky Heritage (Council				
city, to	wn		F	rankfort			state	Kentucky	

Condition Check one X excellent good ruins A altered moved date unexposed Check one X original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

Melrose is a two-story, five-bay brick dwelling of Greek Revival design. It is situated in the gently rolling terrain of the Bluegrass Region in northeastern Boyle County, Kentucky, and is about a mile and three quarters northwest of the county seat, Danville, and a little less than two miles from the Mercer County line. The property is located on the east side of U.S. 127 (Harrodsburg Road), and the house, which faces westward toward the highway, sits at the end of a long drive of approximately eight hundred feet and on a small, cleared knoll (see site plan; photo 1).

The section of Boyle County in which **Melrose** is located is notable for its survival of historic dwellings, as it lies between Danville and Harrodsburg (Mercer County) in a corridor of early settlement between the two communities. A 1972 survey of Boyle County identified forty-two historic buildings in the Danville quadrangle (outside the city of Danville). Of these, seventeen have either been listed in the National Register of Historic Places or are eligible for listing, while thirteen of the seventeen are either Federal or Greek Revival in style. National Register properties in the vicinity of **Melrose** include four Federal dwellings (the Abner Knox Farm, the Elijah Harlan House, the Judge John Boyle House, and Pleasant Vale), and one house of each the Greek Revival (the Caldwell House), the Gothic Revival (the Helm-Gentry House), and the Italianate (Cambus-Kenneth) styles. Pending National Register listing are Roselawn, a Greek Revival dwelling on the farm neighboring **Melrose** and the property from which the **Melrose** Estate was formed, and several districts and properties within the city of Danville.

Melrose is a complex building having several phases in its evolution. The original portion of the dwelling, constructed in 1856, is a two-story, L-shaped block having five bays on the west (front) facade and four on the south (photos 2 & 3). Laid in five-course common bond, this section of the dwelling rests on a finely worked, coursed limestone foundation and bears a hipped roof. It is served by three interior chimneys. Five years later, a two-story, three-bay ell was added to the rear (east facade) of the building at its northern end, opposite the eastward projection of the first period fabric at the southern end (photo 4). The addition gave the building a U-shaped mass, and was constructed to resemble the original fabric as closely as possible: it was laid in five-course common bond and was given a hipped roof and limestone foundation. The foundation of the addition is, however, not as finely worked and coursed as the original. A single interior chimney, located at the eastern wall, serves the ell. Two other additions have been made to the building. A long, narrow room, constructed of frame and two stories high, was placed between the two arms of the "U" formed by the eastward projections of the original portion and the 1859 ell, while a small, one-story unit of brick was built behind the frame addition by Melrose's present owners (photo 5).

The dwelling's primary entrance, located in the central bay of the western facade, is a panelled double door with sidelights having replaced panes (photo 6). Two fluted pilasters separate the door and sidelights, and, along with two plain pilasters, support plain entablature over the door. Centered on this entrance is a tetrastyle portico, which is supported by columns with Ionic capitals. These columns are replacements of the fluted originals. The entablature of this portico is simply molded. The windows throughout the nineteenth-century portions of the building are replacements having two-over-two sash, but the original openings and their moldings have been retained, as have the splayed jack arches that surmount each window. The windows of the southern facade are blank-built to appear closed with shutters-in order to preserve the symmetry of this facade yet accommodate the closets built near the chimney jambs inside (see photos 3 & 9). A secondary entrance is located in the building's southern facade. Cut from an original window opening late in the nineteenth century, this entrance has a glazed door and single-pane transom. The doorway is ornamented with a wooden hood that has a pointed gable and curved sides, is supported by brackets, and is decorated with pendant drops and cutwork (photo 7).

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic X_ agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics	music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1854; 1859	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Melrose is significant under Criterion B, due to its association with Granville Cecil, an enterprising agriculturalist of the late nineteenth century. Granville Cecil, born May 3, 1850, was the son of the wealthy and influential James G. Cecil, who is best remembered locally as the founder of the Farmer's National Bank in Danville. A Boyle County native, Granville Cecil grew up on Cambus-Kenneth Estate (listed in the National Register 1977) and purchased nearby Melrose in 1878. Together with his brother, Charles Perry Cecil who had inherited Cambus-Kenneth, Granville Cecil established at Melrose a center for standardbred breeding and sales. The two brothers owned 150 head of nationally recognized trotting horses, including the famous Gambetta Wilkes, a horse voted "first stallion" by the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders for eight consecutive years. In addition, Granville and Charles Perry Cecil owned and managed Cecilian Park, a racetrack in Danville. Granville Cecil was also a director of the Kentucky Agricultural Association and involved with the experimental breeding of Shorthorn cattle, Berkshire hogs, and Southdown sheep.

The history of **Melrose** is closely linked with that of the adjoining farm, Roselawn, which was the home of Kentucky Governor William Owsley between 1844 and 1848. Owsley lived at Roselawn following his tenure as governor although he had purchased the property in 1838. This purchase did not include the tract upon which **Melrose** stands, but the governor's son, Erasmus Boyle Owsley, enlarged the holdings associated with Roselawn during the 1840s by accumulating many smaller surrounding tracts. In 1845, William and Erasmus Owsley sold three hundred acres, including the land on which **Melrose** was to be built, to the governor's son-in-law, Albert Gallatin Talbot. Talbot was an influential politician in his own right, and won a seat to the state legislature in 1850. Upon his 1855 election to U.S. Congress, Talbot sold this property, which he had named **Melrose**, to Charles Hannah Rochester, Sr. Rochester had the house built shortly thereafter. The property was sold at auction upon Rochester's death in 1863 and passed through several hands until acquired by Granville Cecil and his wife Emma, who was A. G. Talbot's daughter, in 1878.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached

10. Ge	naran	hical Data		
~		0.04	· · ·	
Acreage of nom Quadrangle name	Donrei		and the second s	Quadrangle scale 1:24000
UT M Reference				duadiangle scale
A 1 6 6 9 Zone East	0 4 3 9 0	4 1 7 3 3 5 0 Northing	B	Northing
C			D	
F			F , ,	
			HIIII	
Verbal bound				
See Atta		on and justification		
see Atta	ached			
List all states	and countie	es for properties overla	pping state or county bo	oundaries
state		code	county	code
state		code	county	code
11. Fo	rm Pre	pared By		
name/title	Julie Rie	senweber, Senior Histo	orian	
organization	Kentucky	Heritage Council	date	February, 1986
street & numbe	· 12th Floo	r, Capital Plaza Towe	er telephone	502/564-7005
city or town	Frankfort		state	Kentucky
12. Sta	ate His	storic Prese	rvation Offic	cer Certification
The evaluated s	ignificance of	this property within the st	ate is:	
	national	_X state _	local	
665), I hereby no	ominate this p	ric Preservation Officer for roperty for inclusion in the procedures set forth by the	National Register and cert	ervation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– ify that it has been evaluated
State Historic P	reservation Of	ficer signature	& C. Mayon	
				_
title STATE	HISTORIC	PRESERVATION OFF	ICER	date 2-24-86
For NPS use	•	property is included in the	n National Register	
		01	Struck in the	data 4/3/cr
de Konor of the	e National Re	<u> </u>	nlosel Resister	date 7/3/86
07				4.4.
Attest:	-i-tatio			date

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Melrose

Continuation sheet Boyle County, Kentucky

Item number

7

Page

2

The only change to the exterior of the building not mentioned above is that it has been sandblasted.

The plan of **Melrose**'s original block is central passage, with one room on the north side of the passage and two on the south. The passage contains a half-turn stair with full landing, while the newel is a simple cherry turning and the handrail is cherry (photo 8). The string is decorated with a scroll design. While the mantles in these rooms have been replaced with late nineteenth-century, cast-iron fireplace surrounds, the original woodwork remains. In the central passage and the two south rooms, the door and window surrounds are heavy and Greek-eared. The rear room of the south side contains closets built on either side of the chimney jambs (photo 9). The woodwork of the north room is reeded with plain corner blocks (photo 10). The mantels of the second floor have not been altered; these fireplaces were converted to coal with inserts (photo 11).

The 1859 ell consists of a small room (formerly a porch) with a larger room behind it. A modern bathroom and kitchen, respectively, have been installed in these rooms and they retain none of their original fittings.

The nomination includes a one-story, brick slavequarters, which is located a short distance behind (east of) the house (photo 12). The double-pen building is laid in common bond, has two interior gable-end chimneys (stacks rebuilt), and a gable roof with an extended eave at the south side. The foundation is dry-laid limestone. Concrete stucco has been applied to the south facade of the building from ground level to a height of approximately three feet.

This nomination of 3.94 acres includes two buildings, the dwelling and the slavequarters. Within the boundaries as defined (see photo 10; site plan) are a recently constructed carport with breezeway and a patio.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (Continued)

Title:

Historic American Buildings Survey

Determined Eligible:

No

Date:

January 1976

Federal:

X

Depository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

Frankfort, Kentucky

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Melrose

For NPS use only received date entered 2

Boyle County, Kentucky Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

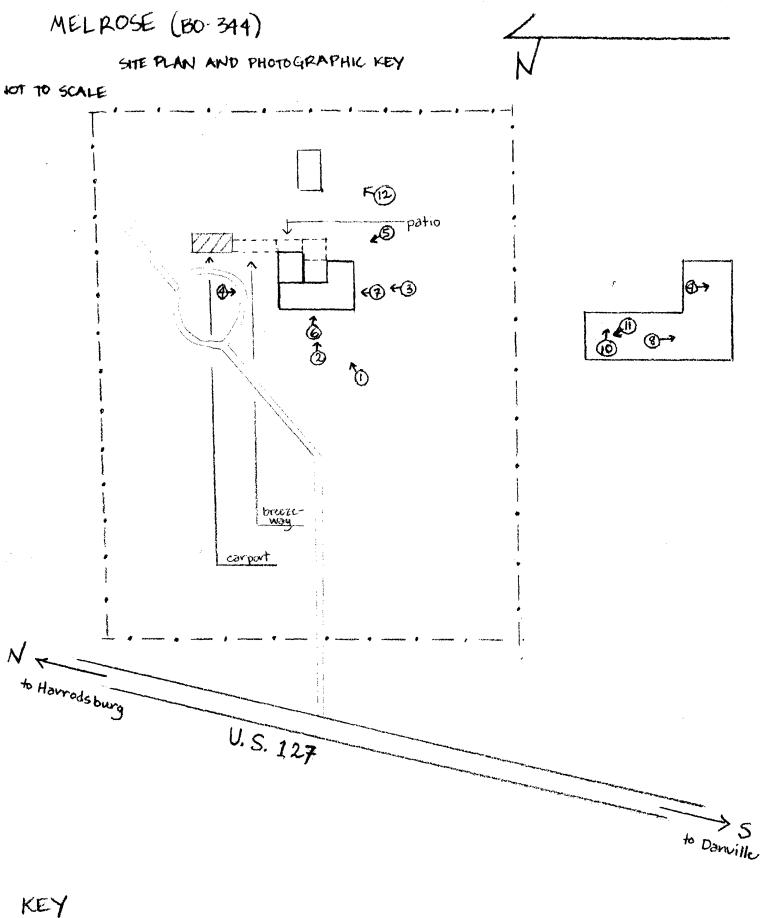
Perrin, William Henry, Kentucky: A History of the State, (Louisville: F. A. Battey and Co., 1887). Toles, Sterling, "Cecilian Park Farm Sold," Danville Advocate-Messenger, July 24, 1920. "Champion Saddle Harness Horses," Danville Advocate-Messenger, August 15, 1939.

Wallace, J. H., American Trotting Horse Registry, Yearbook. Vols. 2, 3, 4, & 5. (New York: National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders, Office of Wallace's Monthly.).

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description & Justification:

The boundaries of this property follow the present fenceline and are defined to preserve its setback from the highway and to include the house and slavequarters, as follows: beginning at the northwestern corner of the yard, 246 feet southward; 702 feet eastward; 246 feet northward; and 702 feet westward to point of origin.



NONCONTRIBUTING FABRIC

RECENT CONSTRUCTION

O-> PHOTOGRAPHS