

PH0365068

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 20 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 16 1977

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 **J. B. Gatliff** House
AND/OR COMMON
Gatliff House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Corner of 10th and Main Streets
CITY, TOWN
Williamsburg
STATE
Kentucky
VICINITY OF
05
COUNTY
Whitley
CODE
235

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie D. Walden
STREET & NUMBER
Corner of 10th and Main Streets
CITY, TOWN
Williamsburg
STATE
Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Whitley County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Williamsburg
STATE
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)
DATE
1974
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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 J. B. Gatliff House occupies a large lot on the southeast corner of Main and Tenth Streets in Williamsburg. Two stories in height, it is a Georgian Revival residence designed by Samuel W. Easley (1858-1934) and was built between 1909-10. The house is of frame construction, is topped with a deck-on-hip roof, and presents a three-bay facade to Main Street (see photos 1 and 2). The central bay consists of a door framed by engaged colonnettes that flank narrow side lights and by an elliptical fan window with tracery. Flanking these are two Doric pilasters in low relief that support a denticulated entablature (see photo 3), and atop this is a wrought-iron balcony serving the second floor's central door.

Enclosing the middle bay is a semi-circular portico possibly inspired by the south portico of the White House in Washington D. C. That of the Gatliff House is supported by four colossal, unfluted Ionic columns and by two colossal pilasters of the same order. The entablature of the portico is heavy and full--complete with fascias and talon, a frieze enriched with widely spaced swags, and a row of dentils. Modillions are placed beneath the projecting cornice which spans all sides of the structure. Visual emphasis is placed on the portico for all other sides are absent of a frieze and modillions.

A balustrade of turned spindles with piers above columns and corners runs from the chimney on the west to the conclusion of the side portico on the east. This second portico was added in 1942. The addition did upset the house's original symmetry and its four colossal Ionic columns supporting the simple entablature are awkwardly placed since they partially block the view from several windows of the second level. However, this added portico does not harm the over-all composition.

A porte-cochere on the west is visually related with the main mass by a one-story porch enveloping the northwest exterior. An identical porch served the northeast before the second portico's addition. That between the two porticos remains. These porches are surmounted by decks of narrow square posts and are supported by small Ionic columns. The arrangement of the decks is such that thicker posts with flaming urns are centered above each column, and sections of Chippendale latticework are placed at all corners.

(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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1909-1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Samuel W. Easley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The J. B. Gatliff House, located on the fringe of the Cumberland College campus in Williamsburg in southeastern Kentucky, is one of few examples of Georgian Revival residential architecture on a grand scale in that area of the state. The house also attains significance by its association with the prominent Gatliff family, important developers of coal resources in Whitley County in the early part of the 20th century.

Dr. Ansel Gatliff (b. 1850), father of the builder, was a local physician in Williamsburg before deciding to give up his medical practice to go into the coal business. Around the turn of the century, during an era of rapid development of natural resources in eastern Kentucky, Gatliff established the Gatliff Coal Company, and became one of the leading coal developers in that region of Kentucky.¹ Although several coal companies were established in Whitley County, only two led to the founding of coal camps or coal towns--Gatliff, the location of the Gatliff Coal Company approximately 18 miles southwest of Williamsburg, and Packard, situated nearby. Dr. Gatliff had another town named for him--Gatliff, Tennessee. Gatliff also served as President of the Bank of Williamsburg.

Dr. Gatliff was well known in the community for his philanthropic works, particularly with regard to Cumberland College. He donated considerable sums of money to the school in the early days of its founding, and served as one of its first trustees.

The coal business established by Dr. Gatliff was inherited by his son, J. B. Gatliff (b. 1882), who also took an active interest in the local community. His special concern was architecture and, although not formally trained as an architect, he was said to have assisted with the design of the First Baptist Church in Williamsburg, and with the construction of Gatliff Auditorium and the Dining Hall

¹Dr. Gatliff was also part owner at one time of High Splint Coal Company in Harlan County, Kentucky.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"S. W. Easley Dies at Home Here." The Whitley Republican, 1934.

Additional information provided by Mrs. Lonnie Walden, present owner of the J. B. Gatliff House; Mr. Gene Siler, Williamsburg, Kentucky; and Mrs. T. E. Mahan, sister of J. B. Gatliff, Jr., Williamsburg, Kentucky.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	7,5,2	9,6,0	4,0	6,9	0,5,0	B				
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					
C							D				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Nominated area includes the house site, frontage north to Main Street, east approximately 50 feet, south approximately 25 feet, and west to Tenth Street to encompass the serpentine wall.

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

Gloria Mills, Historian and Dan 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

Eldred W. Milton

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

W. M. ...

DATE

12/16/77

ATTEST

Charles ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-15-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 20 1977
DATE ENTERED	DEC 16 1977

J. B. Gatliff House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The four windows of the north facade are rectangular and have side lights. Windows of the breakfast room on the west and of the portico's second level on the east have semi-circular heads. The latter are notable for the pleasing rhythm they create in respect to the wall's shape that they pierce. On the west is a door whose composition is obviously of Palladian inspiration (see photo 4). This entrance is flanked by four Doric pilasters in low relief and by two recessed panels, and is crowned with a wooden semi-circular arch. An admirable balance is maintained between vertical and horizontal elements of the Gatliff House and the added portico is well integrated with the original portions.

The interior is equally impressive. Of particular note is an open spiral staircase (see photo 7) that is separated from the living room by a Doric screen. Its balusters are decoratively turned and the stringer is enriched with repeated applied motifs on the open side of each riser. The mantels are said to have been designed by the builder, J. B. Gatliff, who was an amateur architect. No two mantels are alike, but all are treated with moderately elaborate decorations that include: fluted Ionic or Doric colonnettes, sunbursts, guilloches, beaded moldings, and five-pointed stars (see photos 8 and 9). Numerous other embellishments appear elsewhere; cornices have either egg-and-dart or dentil molding, curtain-rod screens are enriched with Greek fret designs, and interior passages are framed with fluted pilasters and entablatures having diminutive moldings (see photo 10). Flooring throughout is of poplar.

In the southwest area of the lot is a brick outbuilding constructed at the same time as the house. Immediately beyond this is a well-executed serpentine wall with an arched entrance. This enveloped a chicken house and a small barn that have been dismantled. Plans are in order to widen Tenth Street which would threaten the serpentine wall--one of the very few to be found in Kentucky or in the Appalachian region. The Gatliff House's short succession of owners have maintained this residence in an excellent state.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 20 1977

DATE ENTERED DEC 16 1977

J. B. Gatliff House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

on the Cumberland College campus. He was also very much involved in the design of his Georgian Revival style residence and is said to have done the drawings for the woodwork, spiral staircase, and the mantels in the house. J. B. Gatliff did employ Samuel W. Easley (1859-1934) as architect. Easley, from Henry County, Kentucky, was responsible for the design of several Williamsburg residences and commercial buildings, as well as other structures scattered over eastern Kentucky.²

Although Easley does not seem to have received any formal education in architecture, the Gatliff house nevertheless presents a pleasing composition with its fine proportions and with its balance between vertical and horizontal elements. The portico added to the east facade was obviously given special attention, for careful facsimiles were made of the north portico's Ionic columns and balustrade and of the windows with semi-circular heads of the breakfast room on the west to be incorporated into this addition. The interior details are indeed numerous and perhaps somewhat naive. But this shortcoming can be easily overlooked in view that the owner for whom the house was built, J. B. Gatliff, obviously took great delight in designing these embellishments himself. In addition, the Gatliff House possesses a grandeur uncommon to this area, its serpentine wall is perhaps the only one of its type in a large region, and the structure is well integrated into its site location.

Although coal continued to play a vital role in the economics of far eastern Kentucky, coal reserves in Whitley County were fairly well depleted by the 1940s. Slowly, over the years, the Gatliff family divested themselves of their land, timber, and logging holdings, finally selling the coal company itself in the 1960s.

²Easley constructed the A. V. Brown, B. E. Cheeley, Dr. N. A. Archer, Wesley Perkins, Gorman Jones and E. E. Wood houses, and was contractor for the Mason Building and the building now occupied by the Farmer's Bank and Trust Company in Williamsburg. He also built the First Baptist Churches at Harlan and Jellico and the First National Bank at Jellico.