

PH0113392

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 12 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 11 1975

## 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

The Old Wash Place

AND/OR COMMON

Same

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

9 mi W of Lawrenceburg at jct.

Intersection of U. S. Hwy. 62 & State Hwy. 53

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Lawrenceburg 02

STATE

Kentucky

CODE  
021

COUNTY  
Anderson

CODE  
005

### 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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Winston Clifton

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anderson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

STATE

Kentucky

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE

1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Wash Place is located at the intersection of Highway 53 and Highway 62 (what used to be the old Wilderness Road). It is situated a few miles north of the small community of Sinai and ten miles west of Lawrenceburg. Beaver Creek flows west of the house and the mouth of man-made Beaver Lake is north. The house is set at the edge of a slight plateau perpendicular to the stream and parallel to the road. With its varied roofline, open porches on tree trunk posts, massive stone chimneys and foundations, and irregular apertures it seems almost a natural feature of the gently rolling but rocky landscape.

The original cabin built circa 1791, forms the nucleus of the present structure. Sometime after 1808, two log rooms were added to the west side of the original cabin with a narrow dogtrot connecting the two (see photo 4). An enclosed staircase is located in this wing; the date of its addition is uncertain. At a later date or possibly at the same time one large room was added on the east side of the original. The floors of both additions are about a foot lower than the original structure (see photo 1). The roofline is broken by the higher roof of the original central cabin, whose upper walls rise above, forming a sort of blind clerestory. Gable-dormers were added at the front and back of the west wing before World War I. The dormers are being removed by the present owners.

An unusual feature of the place is the long porches that extend across the front and the rear, helping to unify the three units. The porches are supported on thin stripped tree trunks, in a rustic manner. The front gallery is shorter than its roof, allowing a broad covered stair at the east end.

Simple wide plank doors open from each room onto the long front and back porches. The east room is now weatherboarded and all exposed logs have been painted or white-washed. A very large double fireplace is located in the central cabin and east room, but the chimney at the west end has been torn down (the present owner hopes to reconstruct it on the basis of old photographs). Located below the west room and the central portion of the cabin is a full-length, six foot high, dirt floor basement with a fireplace. From the basement many hewn beams supporting the floors above can be seen; some are at least forty feet long, and all are in good condition. The door and window frames (the latter are placed curiously adjacent to the doors of the central cabin) have moldings of an early character. Hand-made wooden gutters extended the full length of the house, both front and back. The roof was of hand-made shingles, now covered with asbestos shingles.

The interior is now plastered and has electricity, but essentially the original appearance of the structure has been maintained. Behind the house is a fairly large frame barn, 30 years old and two older wooden out buildings (see photo 7).

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The central portion of the cabin known as The Old Wash Place is believed to have been built by Benjamin Wash, a Revolutionary War veteran, about 1791. It is believed to be the oldest surviving structure of its kind in Anderson County. The original cabin was later expanded by Benjamin's son, John. John Wash was a farmer and also played an active political role in the formation of Anderson County. The Old Wash Place is significant as the home of one of Anderson County's first settlers and a respected family of the community, as well as an interesting example of the extended log house.

The Wash family was originally from Louisa County, Virginia. The brothers Thomas and Benjamin Wash (1738-1798) having served in the Revolutionary War, were given small land grants in Kentucky and moved there shortly thereafter. Benjamin Wash had been wounded in the leg at the Battle of King's Mountain, but this did not prevent him from establishing and operating a prosperous farm.

Benjamin Wash's land grant extended to the Salt River near the mouth of Indian Creek in what was then Nelson County (later Washington and now Anderson County). He settled on this land around 1791.

Before coming to Kentucky, Wash married Jemima Peyton. They had at least five children. Their son John Wash (1788-1871) had purchased land on his own right near Sinai (a small community 11 miles southwest of Lawrenceburg). Around 1819, when his father's will was executed, he inherited his father's land and bought his mother's adjoining property. John Wash married Rebecca Watkins in April 1808. They lived in the cabin located on the Wilderness Road and Beaver Creek.

In order to accommodate his growing family, Wash added two rooms to the west side with a dogtrot connecting it to the original cabin. At the same time, or perhaps a little later, a large room was added on the east side of the original.

John Wash had a keen interest in politics and civil welfare. Wash is credited with being responsible for the beginning of the educational and religious development of the Sinai (Shilo) community. He engaged a private teacher to instruct his children and other children of the community. Wash built a small log structure on his property near his home for use as a school. (It no longer exists.)

(continued)



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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The Old Wash Place

He was one of the eight original justices who formed the first Anderson County commission in 1827. He served on the committee to design and build the first Anderson County courthouse. In 1833 he was elected sheriff of Anderson County. In his History of Anderson County (1936), McKee describes Wash, "John Wash was a prominent justice of the court when the county was erected. He was a man of limited education, but of strong common sense and sound judgment. He was an original abolitionist and had the courage of his convictions, as was evidenced when he took his seat on the rostrum of the old courthouse when Cassius M. Clay spoke in Lawrenceburg in favor of the gradual emancipation of slavery" (p. 52).

Although the Old Wash Place was never an official station of the Underground Railroad, it has been a family tradition that it was a shelter for run-away slaves. Also according to tradition, horses and other livestock were hidden in the smoke house or in the sheep barn from guerrillas during the Civil War.

Another family tradition alleges that in the early days of Anderson County the house was a favorite stopping place for travelers, and was equipped somewhat as a tavern. Its location at the intersection of the old Delaney Road (now Highway 53) and the Bardstown Pike tends to support this tradition. (The Bardstown Pike was part of the original Wilderness Road, running from Hazel Patch near London, Kentucky, to the Falls of the Ohio.)

The Wash family maintained possession of the house for more than 160 years, although it is not clear which members lived there after the death of John Wash in 1871.

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<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
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<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
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