

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 12 1975  
DATE ENTERED JUN 11 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The R. H. Crossfield House

AND/OR COMMON

The Crowe House; "The Mansion"

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

SIV of Lawrenceburg off  
Anderson City Road

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

vic

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Anderson

CODE

005

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Donald Crowe

STREET & NUMBER

R. F. D. Anderson City Road

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anderson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE

1974

\_\_FEDERAL STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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 Crossfield House is one of nine Anderson County two-story weatherboarded frame houses built during the same era and following the same pattern.

The exterior of the house is quite handsome. The double or two-story portico is supported by solid square wooden pillars, typical of the architectural style in the area. The front gable is complemented by the high gable at each end of the house. The house is unified by the cornice which encircles it even under the gables. The cornice sports two rows of primitive wooden dentils--three rows inside the pediment of the portico--giving a sawtooth effect.

The slender pilasters on the front corners of the house enclose the considerable expanse of unadorned walls that concentrate the viewer's attention on the paired windows. The chimneys are located on the inside walls flanking the central hall and emerge at the peak of the roof to flank the portico. A modified honeysuckle motif appears within the pediment.

The upstairs rooms are entered from a stairway in the main hall, and there is also a stairway from the dining room to an otherwise closed off room above. The house has wide poplar flooring, high baseboards, broad window facings, decorated cornices, window shutters, and four fireplaces. There is a one-story ell with recessed gallery at the rear.

An added attraction as one enters the front lawn is the stile block, consisting of several millstones on top of one another. The existing outbuildings are at least as old as the house.

As revealed by comparison with the recently discovered photograph of the house shortly after its erection, the house is remarkably unaltered on the exterior. The current owners are attempting to restore what few changes have been made inside.

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

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house was built in 1865 by Richard Henry Crossfield. The Crossfield house is one of nine Anderson County two-story houses built during the same era and following the same modified Greek Revival pattern, that remains in good condition. The country setting of the house remains unblemished. R. H. Crossfield was one of the most highly esteemed citizens of the county, and played an important role in Anderson County politics.

His son, R. H. Crossfield, Jr., who was born in this house in 1868, was a prominent theologian and served as President of Transylvania University in Lexington and William Woods College of Missouri.

R. H. Crossfield's father, Richard Henry Crossfield, was born in Culpeper County, Virginia and settled in Woodford County (now Anderson), Kentucky. He built a log cabin two miles from Fox Creek, five miles from Lawrenceburg, the county seat.

Richard Henry Crossfield, Sr., generally known as "Uncle Dick," was born in 1821 in the plantation cabin of his parents. Upon the exact site, and possibly retaining parts of the cabin, especially a rock chimney, he built his own house in 1865. This house was called "The Mansion" and was part of a 400-acre farm.

In McKee's History of Anderson County (1936, p. 128), R. H. Crossfield's house is described as one of the splendid farm houses in Fox Creek. Fox Creek is pictured as a thrifty and desirable little hamlet, surrounded by lovely farms.

Crossfield was a successful farmer, churchman, philanthropist, and politician. He gave substantial sums of money to Transylvania College and The College of the Bible in Lexington, Kentucky. He served three terms as sheriff of Anderson County, one 4-year term as county judge, 1886-1890, and was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1891. Crossfield died in 1908 and was buried in the century-old family cemetery located within view of the house.

Crossfield had twelve children. His namesake, Richard Henry Crossfield, Jr., was born and raised in "The Mansion" in 1868. He became one of Kentucky's, as well as Anderson County's, most famous theologians. He received an A. B. degree from Transylvania

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bond, Lydia K., and Lewis McKee. History of Anderson County (Frankfort, Kentucky: Roberts Printing Co., 1936).
- Ware, Charles Crossfield. Kentucky's Fox Creek (North Carolina, Wilson: 1957).
- The Anderson News (Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, 1906).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 10

*WEL*

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	6 7 7 1 9 0	4 2 0 5 8 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Wyatt Shely

MC:WEL

ORGANIZATION

Anderson County Historical Society

DATE

January 8, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

110 Center Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Lawrenceburg

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.

SIGNATURE

*Eldred W. Melton*

TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*5-9-75*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*R. W. Martensen*

DATE

*6/11/75*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*W. Martensen*

DATE

*JUN 10 1975*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

(The R. H. Crossfield House)

College an M.A. and a Ph. D. from Wooster College. He also held honorary degrees from Georgetown College, the University of Kentucky, and Transylvania College.

R. H. Crossfield, Jr., was elected President of Transylvania College in Lexington in 1918 and served in that capacity for thirteen years. He also served as President of William Woods College of Missouri for three years and was Executive Secretary of the Federal Council Churches of Christ in America for one year. He was minister of Christian Churches in Kentucky, Virginia, and Alabama for many years.

Crossfield, Jr., wrote many articles and pamphlets, the best known of which was "Pilgrimages of a Parson," written in 1901, giving an account of the author's adventures in Europe, Egypt, and Palestine. Crossfield, Jr., died in 1951 and upon his death a \$5,000 R. H. Crossfield Scholarship Fund was created for Transylvania College.

The architectural distinction of the Crossfield House--the most pretentious in its rural area, although not far from Frankfort, the capital of the State--is difficult to convey in photographs or words. Like the others of its type in Anderson and neighboring counties, it has a great deal of presence, owing partly to its considerable scale and rather vertical proportions and partly to the repetitive nature of the provincial Grecian ornament--no doubt derived ultimately from pattern books such as Lafever's, but given originality and force by the carpenter-builder's free adaptation. The houses of this type in the area all show slight variations of detail and plan, but their essential similarity suggests not only a common builder but also his patrons' satisfaction with his conservative but functional version of the Greek Revival farm mansion.

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\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

vic

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Anderson

CODE

005

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- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

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- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
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- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

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STREET & NUMBER

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CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

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Kentucky

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CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES     c. 1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wyatt Shely

ORGANIZATION

Anderson County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

110 Center Street

CITY OR TOWN

Lawrenceburg

MC:WEL

DATE

January 8, 1974

TELEPHONE

STATE

Kentucky

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

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DATE

*6/11/75*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*W. Martensen*

DATE

*JUN 10 1975*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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