

PH0367631

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 9 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

**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
Locust Hill/Scotland (Scott-Mason-Taylor House)
AND/OR COMMON
Scotland

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Versailles Road
CITY, TOWN
5 miles east of Frankfort
STATE
Kentucky

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
06

--- VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY
Franklin

CODE
073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
E. H. Taylor Hay
STREET & NUMBER
Route 3, Box 224
CITY, TOWN
Frankfort
STATE
Kentucky

--- VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
DATE
1971
--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission, 104 Bridge Street
CITY, TOWN
Frankfort
STATE
Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally the formal approach to the portico on the north front of the residence was up a straight drive from the Leestown Road. As described in 8 (because of its significance and determinative effect for the distinctive character of the house), Scotland is--and has always been--located between several major transportation routes. The main house is now approached by a winding drive that leads off the Versailles Road between low exposed stone bluffs through informally maintained grounds parallel to I-64, past several cottages, up to the top of the knoll on which the house is set. West of the house, leading to the ample screened 1920s porch that is now used as the main entrance, the drive forms a circle with a Victorian fountain in the center. On the south is the quaint stone overseer's house, with its exterior staircase, facing the ell of the main house. To the south are the remains of the formal gardens laid out in the 1920s by Mrs. C. W. Hay, with a shingled guesthouse at the end of the former allée (the elaborate gardens, laid out by Mrs. Hay with the intent of preserving those maintained since the Scott's original gardens, were extensively described by Elizabeth Thompson in her 1939 book, Old Kentucky Homes and Gardens, pp. 52-54). Barns and other farm buildings complete the complex to the west and south. The ground falls off steeply east of the house to the site of the spring, with rolling fields and barn-dotted ridges beyond. The highway is, of course, across the north end of the property with, unfortunately, a factory across from the house. In all other directions, however, the land is still actively farmed.

The house faces approximately north at the edge of the knoll. It consists of the square main block, with its ungabled portico, and a long rear ell extending from the west end of the south side of the main block. The ell seems to incorporate at least one earlier structure, and has been added onto and altered several times. Except for a large one-story porch added on the west side in the 1920s, parquet floors in several first-floor rooms, and some minor functional improvements, the main block is virtually in its original form.

The north front has five bays, the portico across the center three. The main block is two stories high, two rooms deep with a fairly narrow center hall. (There is a secondary cross-stair at the rear of the main block in the ell.) There are two flush chimneys on each side, flanked by symmetrical windows, some of them blind with closed shutters. The windows are very large with six-over-six-pane sash, extending almost to the floor inside. There is a very low hipped roof covered with standing seam metal, surmounted by a flat deck or belvedere, and invisible from the ground (see photo 3).

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1845-47

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The imposing Greek Revival mansion, located off Versailles Road, five miles east of Frankfort, was built between 1845 and 1847 by Robert Wilmot Scott, a prominent lawyer, politician, and innovative farmer and stock raiser. He was also instrumental in establishing the Kentucky public school and constructed the first common school in the State on his estate. The land on which the house was built had been the estate of Martin D. Hardin (1780-1823), another eminent lawyer and politician. Later owners of the property include Horatio P. Mason, a famous contractor and engineer; and Colonel J. Swigert Taylor, a respected Frankfort distiller and thoroughbred horse breeder. The property remains in the Taylor family at the present time.

Scotland, as it is now called, is the largest Greek Revival house in Franklin County, and one of the largest in Kentucky. Its imposing bulk is well-known to motorists driving on Interstate Route 64, the present main connector between Louisville at the Falls of the Ohio River and Lexington in the heart of the Bluegrass region of Central Kentucky. The house, surrounded by aged trees, lies at the top of a knoll several hundred feet south of the highway just east of the Frankfort interchange (see photo 2). The extensive property is entered off the road between Frankfort and Versailles, Woodford County, where it passes under I-64 half-a-mile west of the house. The present rear of the property abuts on the Old Frankfort Pike, a narrow scenic road now seldom used but once a major thoroughfare linking the State capital with Lexington, the "Athens of the West." Before I-64 was routed across the north side of the property, the house was approached from the old Leestown Road (now 421), which has, however, changed its course several times in the last century-and-a-half. By the mid-19th century, the early L & N Railroad had already been located between the house at the Leestown Road. Thus the mansion has always faced at least one major transportation route and the property has been defined by others; the apparently unfortunate proximity of I-64 is, therefore, only an extension of a feature in fact boasted about by Robert Wilmot Scott, the builder of the house, in an advertisement for the sale of the property. he personally prepared in 1871 (see photo 1): "The Louisville and Lexington Railroad, and the State road from Frankfort to Lexington, pass through it, under the same lines of fence--affording a commanding front view of the principal dwelling-house and adjacent grounds; the Frankfort and Versailles Turnpike is on the western boundary; Ducker Depot is within a mile and a half, and thus easy access is had, from all directions, it being five miles from Frankfort, nineteen from Lexington, and seventy from Louisville!"

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Atlas of Franklin County, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1882.
 Bodley, Temple, and Samuel M. Wilson. History of Kentucky. Chicago & Louisville:
 S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1928.
 Darnell, ~~Ermina~~ Jett. South Frankfort, Kentucky. Frankfort: Roberts Printing Co., 1947.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 150

UTM REFERENCES

E. 16/692070/4227080
¹¹⁰

A 1,6 | 69,3 | 11,0,0 | 4,2 | 2,7 | 10,9,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C 1,6 | 69,1 | 9,2,0 | 4,2 | 2,6 | 5,7,0

B 1,6 | 69,3 | 1,0,0 | 4,2 | 2,6 | 8,0,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D 1,6 | 69,1 | 8,1,0 | 4,2 | 2,7 | 0,4,0

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

Walter E. Langsam, Architectural Historian MC

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

June 15, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street
 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

Eddard W. Nelson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

12/12/96

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

12/6/76

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 9 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The exterior of the house is completely dominated by the colossal but austere classical order and the geometry it imposes. Broad, plain pilasters mark the corners and the ends of the portico, without interrupting the flat expanses of the side walls. The attic is contained in a very high brick entablature that encircles the entire main block and the portico, with only a single raised fillet that also serves for the sills of the attic windows on the sides. The stone capitals of the pilasters and the painted, shaped-brick columns of the portico, minimal in terms of the number of moldings and total lack of ornament, project far enough to cast clear shadows and articulate the juncture of horizontal and vertical elements. Brick pilasters and columns have no bases, but rest directly on a narrow ashlar water table, with separate cubic pedestals for each column. The foundations and portico floor are rectangular slabs or panels of textured stone, with carefully-controlled chisel marks defining the edges of each block.

There are projecting stone sills throughout, but flush stone lintels only on the north front. The entrance has flat wooden pilasters and a reduced version of the main entablature. As mentioned in 8, there is no ornament on the exterior, but a subtle diversity of structural textures. The wall surface on the north front is laid in normal Flemish bond, although the wide pilasters are unbonded. The west side, however, has an unusual, if not unique, bonding system of two stretchers and one header in each row, so that a vertical pattern of headers appears (and the meticulous quality of the brick-laying is displayed). The rear of the main block and the ell have the usual common bond (see photos 4, 5, and 8).

This purposeful austerity is only slightly relaxed inside the house. The layout has the standard four rooms on each floor of the main block, with a central hall and the double parlors on the east side opening into each other through very wide openings with sliding doors. The one unusual feature of the plan is the compartmentalization of the central hall (whose relative narrowness may reflect a desire for uniform bay-widths on the exterior). There is a recessed vestibule with two sets of double doors; then

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 9 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

a front hall with corner pilasters, full entablature, and square recessed panels in the ceiling, creating a rather compressed effect; then, past narrow double doors, the stair hall. Beyond was a door to the rear gallery along the ell, now enclosed. Although illustrated by Newcomb as a typical Greek Revival staircase, in fact the stair at Scotland is atypical in both its containment and its simple, pre-Victorian railing and fairly plain stringers. The side stairs are even plainer and more delicate, and could have come straight out of a Federal house. The overall arrangement of the halls and the modesty of the stairs suggests a desire on the part of the builder to separate the public from the private areas of the house: only the front parlors are accessible from the entrance hall, and access to the upper story is obviously not encouraged (see photo 12).

The woodwork throughout the interior--painted except for the handsomely panelled butternut (white walnut) doors--is quite plain except for the ceiling cornices in the formal rooms. All the openings, including the mantels, are "eared" and defined by wide flat borders. The interior edges are beaded. The cornices are, of course, most elaborate in the double parlors, relating to the tall openings as an entablature. The profiles of the moldings are very strong. Near the top of the frieze is a band of stylized foliage very similar, if not identical, to that in the parlors of Greentree Farm [the Whitney house on Paris Pike]. The upper and lower edges of the entablature are also defined by egg-and-dart moldings. The two rooms opposite on the west side of the hall have simple dentils at this point in the cornice; the dining room cornice has simple multiple moldings (see photo 14).

The rectangular recessed panels of the ceiling in the entrance hall and the circular panels in the double parlors are typical, finely-executed examples of pattern-book classical details, with stylized leaves radiating from the slightly raised centers, acroterion fans, and egg-and-dart borders. Newcomb in his Old Kentucky Architecture (1953) states that the decorative, modeled plaster cornices and medallions at Scotland are "excellent domestic examples" (p. 85). The chandelier medallions in the other rooms do not appear to be original, although some interesting mid-and late 19th-century light fixtures are suspended from them (see photos 15 and 16). The superb medallions in the double parlors no doubt derive from Minard Lafever's patternbooks; see The Beauties of Modern Architecture (New York, 1835, pl. 21, illustrated in Lancaster, "Adaptations," fig. 13).

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 9 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Handsome parquet floors of oak and other woods were installed over the original and poplar floors in most of the downstairs rooms at the turn-of-the-century. The entrance hall, for instance, has a basket-weave pattern with a wide border of Greek-key meander, no doubt intended to complement the original Grecian decoration. A brilliant bevelled-glass panel was inserted in the outer door of the front vestibule.

Altogether, the original interior had few frills, with a minimal amount of ornament disposed for maximum affect.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The residence Scott built in 1845-46 on the site of an earlier house is a pre-eminent example of the Greek Revival predilection for the pure geometry of the cube and the square. The basic block of the house is almost square in plan; the great flat-roofed portico is almost exactly square in elevation (see photo 3); the very high entablature, continuous around the main block, gives a sense of blockiness that evokes the cube. Even such minor elements as the stone pedestals of the baseless shaped-brick Tuscan (unfluted Doric) columns are cubic (photo 10). Ornament is absent from the exterior, except in the subtle play of structural textures--the brick walls are laid in four different kinds of bond, including an unusual double-Flemish bond on the sides (see photos 8-9), and the surfaces of all the stone foundations, water table, and porch floor slabs are also varied (photo 10); the interior woodwork and plasterwork is handsome, precisely classical, but charily disposed for architectonic affect (see photos 12-16), not lavishly profused for its own sake. Scotland, as it is now called, is an excellent example of the architectural power that can be achieved through fortunate siting, bold massing, good craftsmanship, and restraint in detail--all characteristic of the "plain style" of American Greek Revival architecture at its best. The house must always have seemed a point of stability for travelers on whichever route they traversed, by road or rail. The house was also, of course, intended to be the focal point for a large working farm. Although only a few of the outbuildings remain--a unique stone overseer's house and at least one old barn--and the property has been truncated by the highway and other factors, it remains a working farm. Since it was built, the house has been inhabited by members of only three families, most of them living there full-time, and all three of exceptional prominence in the history of the area.

History

Robert W. Scott, born in November 1808, was the son of Joel and Rebecca Ridgley Scott. A contemporary (1878) biography of Robert Wilmot gives information on his parents and enumerates his extensive contributions in law and agriculture:

Scott, Robert W., Lawyer, Politician, Farmer, and Stock-breeder, was born November 2, 1808, at the home of his grandfather, Col. Robert Wilmot, in Bourbon County, Kentucky. His parents were Joel and Rebecca Ridgley Scott. His father came from Madison County, Virginia, when a boy, with his parents, John and Hanna (Earle) Scott, and settled on a large tract of wild land of the best quality, on the waters of the North Elkhorn, in Scott County, in 1785. He was an extensive farmer and manufacturer, and, after the war of 1812, was a merchant and manufacturer of Georgetown, Kentucky, for many years; and was one of the most upright,

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 9 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

public-spirited, and influential **citizens** of his county. He was, for seven years, keeper of the State Penitentiary, and, doubtlessly, with greater and better moral and financial results to the State than has ever been attained under any other management. His last years were spent in the retirement of his farm, in Woodford County, where he died, several years ago, at the age of seventy-nine years. The farm referred to is Valley Farm, Franklin County (now a ruins); listed on the National Register July 24, 1975.⁷ His father, John Scott, was of Scotch origin. Rebecca Ridgley Wilmot Scott, the mother of Robert W. Scott, died while he was a small boy; and she was the daughter of Col. Robert Wilmot, who was a lieutenant of artillery from Baltimore County, Maryland, throughout the Revolutionary War; came to Kentucky before the organization of the State; settled, with his family, on a large tract of land in Bourbon County, in 1786; was first elected to the Legislature in 1796, and was several times re-elected; and was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1799, that frames the second Constitution of Kentucky; and was one of the most worthy and valuable of the pioneer settlers of the State.

Robert W. Scott received a regular collegiate education at Transylvania University, in its palmy days under Dr. Horace Holley; and when that worthy and able educator retired from the presidency of Transylvania, he was selected by his fellow-students to prepare an address of regret, sympathy, and respect to the departing president, which was duly performed; and the address was published, with the response, in the "Observer and Reporter," at Lexington at the time. He studied law in the office of Haggin & Loughboro at Frankfort, and afterwards under Judge John Boyle, in Mercer County; and was licensed to practice, by Judges Daniel Mayes and Thomas M. Hickey, in September, 1829, before reaching his twenty-first year. In the following Winter, he visited different parts of the country, and, while in Washington City, had the pleasure of hearing the famous debate between Webster and Hayne; attended the debates in the Second Constitutional Convention of Virginia, at Richmond, where he enjoyed the acquaintance of Ex-Presidents Madison and Monroe, Chief-Justice John Marshall, the famous John Randolph, of Roanoke, and others; and at Baltimore, was a passenger, with Charles Carroll and others, on the first trial trip on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, to Ellicott's Mills.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 9 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 4

In the Spring of 1830, he began the practice of the law, at Frankfort, in partnership with Judge Haggin, one of his law preceptors; but, after a successful practice of several years' duration, he was compelled, by failing health, to abandon his profession, and turn his attention to farming. He at once purchased the farm which had been owned by Hon. Martin D. Hardin, in Franklin County, five miles from Frankfort, and on the Louisville and Lexington Railroad and the turnpike to Versailles, where he has since resided. √Martin D. Hardin was born in June 1780 in Pennsylvania. Hardin moved to Kentucky and attended Transylvania University in Lexington where he studied law. In 1805 he was elected to the State legislature. During the War of 1812 he served as a major under General Harrison. At the outbreak of the war, Hardin had been appointed Secretary of State under Governor Shelby, and he served in this position until 1816, when he was elected to the U. S. Senate. Hardin has been described as "among the most eminent and eloquent lawyers of his day" (Haycraft, p. 252).7 This farm at first contained two hundred and five acres, but, at various times afterwards, he purchased additions, increasing it to nearly a thousand acres; lately, however, reducing its size. The spacious dwelling on this estate was erected by him, and is one of the most elegant country houses in the rich Blue Grass region of the State.

He soon turned his attention to stock-raising; and in 1835, purchased, at the sale of the late James Haggin, several of his best cattle, of the Improved Short-horn Durham breed, of the importation of 1817; subsequently, made other purchases, and established one of the largest and finest herds then in the State; and was one of the first, if not the first, to sell a native-bred animal as high as sixteen hundred and ten dollars. He still has many of the silver premiums awarded to his stock; and his cattle register shows an unbroken record of herd-book pedigrees up to the present time. He soon began to direct his attention to the raising of sheep; and, by careful selection of the best natives of the common breed, and by judicious crossing with the best of the various imported breeds, he has produced what is known as "The Improved Kentucky" sheep. He has widely circulated, and has long had an extensive sale for, these sheep throughout the country. In 1866, their history was published in the Government Agricultural Report; and premiums were awarded him, for them, at the Kentucky State Fair, in 1856; at the Fair of the United States Agricultural Society, held at Louisville, in 1857; and at the great Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, in 1876, as represented by various samples of their wool, and their skins with the wool on them.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 9 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 5

In 1860, he was the first to introduce into this part of the State the Cashmere, or Angora goat, as a practical farm stock for wool-bearing. With these, too, he has been very successful, and now has a large flock of them, and of his best sheep, on hand; and probably no man in the State of Kentucky has devoted more time, and with better results, to the improvement of the stock of the country.

In 1837, he assisted in establishing the "Franklin Farmer," at Frankfort, the second agricultural paper ever established in the West; wrote the first article in its first number, and afterwards contributed largely to its columns, in favor of State aid to agricultural societies, agricultural education, geological surveys, and on other subjects then new and interesting in the State. He still continues to contribute occasional articles to the agricultural journals of the country. In 1837, he, with others, was appointed by a public meeting to prepare the pedigrees of cattle for the "Kentucky Stock-book," which had been projected in a meeting of stock-raisers, at Lexington; and many of the prepared pedigrees for that work were published in the "Franklin Farmer" at the time, and, subsequently, in the American "Short-horn Herdbook." In 1834 or 1835, he was instrumental in organizing the Franklin County Agricultural Society, the second or third which had then been organized in the State, and was its first president. This Society was afterwards merged into one with Woodford and other counties. In 1838, he was prominently concerned organizing the Kentucky State Agricultural Society; and was its corresponding secretary, until after he had published the first large volume, containing full reports of all its proceedings, and of all the county agricultural and mechanical societies in the State, in 1857, when he declined to serve longer in that capacity; and, on retiring from the office, received some flattering testimonials, and a silver pitcher from the Society, which was the second State organization of the kind which went into operation in the United States.

In 1838, he received the appointment of School Commissioner for Franklin County from Rev. Joseph J. Bullock, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Kentucky; and, in 1841, had his appointment continued, under the superintendence of Bishop B. B. Smith. He divided the county into school districts, and, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Thirteenth District, in which he resided, memorialized the Legislature as to taking action in the organization of the common-school system of education in the State, and asking for the enactment of a general law for raising, by taxation, a common-

(continued)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 9 1976
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Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 6

school fund for the whole State, and succeeded in removing the former impediments to the law provided in general statute; built a house, established and carried on, with great success, a school for ten months in the year, as early as 1841; that being the first school put in operation in the State under the common-school law.

He was appointed, by Gov. Magoffin, a commissioner of the State institution for training and educating feeble-minded children; was also elected President of the Board of Commissioners, and for a long time took an active and leading interest in that institution. To him probably more than any other man in the State is due the credit of practically demonstrating and establishing the common-school system of education in Kentucky.

Mr. Scott has been a successful and systematic farmer; and he was the first in his county to introduce the grain threshing-machine, the roller, and the revolving harrow; and was the first agent of the United States Government Agricultural Department for his county.

In 1843, he became a member of the Baptist Church; and is now deacon, licentiate, and moderator of his Church, of the "Forks of Elkhorn;" was several times Moderator of the Franklin Association; in 1850, organized and superintended the first Sabbath-school of that Church; had been, in 1827, a teacher in the first Sabbath-school established by the Baptists in Frankfort; was sometime elected a Trustee of Georgetown College, under the control of that denomination; and was for several years President of the Board of Trustees of the Western Baptist Theological Institute, while it was located at Georgetown. He was appointed to settle up the affairs, and to free from debt, the estate of the late Rev. John L. Waller, an able and worthy Baptist minister, who had become involved through the publication of "The Baptist Banner," a religious journal; and fulfilled the trust to the great satisfaction of the parties concerned, and had a cash balance for the benefit of the family.

Mr. Scott was a candidate for election as a delegate to the last State Constitutional Convention, in 1849, but was defeated, owing to his opposition to making all office-holders ~~elective~~ by the people, and especially of the judiciary department of the State Government; and belonged to the Whig party until after the Presidential

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 7

election of 1860, since which he has been identified with the Democratic party. He was President of the Southern Rights Convention held in Frankfort, in 1861; united in the call, soon after the civil war, for a State Convention at Louisville, to reorganize the Democratic party; was appointed, by that convention, a member of the State Central Democratic Committee, at Frankfort; was subsequently made chairman of that committee; was largely instrumental in the thorough organization of the party throughout the State, resulting, finally, in passing all the affairs of the State Government into the control of the Democracy; and, when he declined re-election, received a vote of thanks from a State Convention.

In early life, he united with the temperance movement of the day, then in its beginning; made many public speeches in favor of the cause; and has lived, throughout his long, active, and eventful career, in accordance with the principles espoused in the beginning, and so trained his family; and has been one of the most energetic, upright, and useful men who have ever lived in Franklin County. His house has always been noted for its hospitality, and many noble acts of charity.

Mr. Scott was married, October 20, 1831 to Miss Elizabeth Watts Brown, daughter of Dr. Preston W. and Elizabeth Watts Brown, of Frankfort, Kentucky. She is still living, at the age of sixty-five, and has been a pillar of intelligence and strength by his side, for nearly half a century. Her father was a son of Rev. John Brown and Margaret Preston (daughter of John Preston and Elizabeth Patton, of Virginia, from whom descended several of the distinguished families of Kentucky and Virginia), and the youngest brother of Hon. John Brown [see Liberty Hall, Frankfort, Franklin County, designated a National Historic Landmark; listed on the National Register March 11, 1971, Hon. James Brown, and Dr. Samuel Brown; and was himself one of the first physicians of Kentucky. He died at Louisville in 1826 (Armstrong (1878), pp. 222-226).

In his later years, Scott suffered a decline in health and spent the last several years of his life in Florida. Apparently in 1871 R. W. Scott sought to sell the property, as indicated by the handbill he wrote at the time, which provides a firm date for the erection of the house and much additional fascinating information on the house, grounds, and farm (photo 1). Scott did not, however, sell the property, but continued to farm "the favorite herds and flocks" while spending the winters in Florida. The property remained in the Scott family until in 1886 it was sold to Horatio P. Mason.

(continued)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 9 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 8

Horatio Pleasants Mason (1840-1906), a prominent contractor, was the son of General Claiborne R. Mason (1800-1886), the chief engineer on General Stonewall Jackson's staff. Horatio Mason moved to Kentucky from Virginia in 1886. In addition to being a successful farmer, Mason's firm, Mason & Hoge Company, was the builder of the Louisville & Nashville, the Cincinnati and Ohio, the Queen and Crescent, the Baltimore and Ohio, and other railroads. The company later became the Mason and Hanger Company, which was responsible for the construction of the Hudson River Tunnel, the Grand Coulee Dam, and innumerable other major projects. (For a more detailed account of the Mason and Hanger Company see Merritt Dixon's Sons of Martha (1928).)

In 1924 the house and land were sold to Colonel J. Swigert Taylor, the son of Colonel Edmund H. Taylor, a Frankfort financier, and founder of several distilleries, including Old Crow and Old Taylor whiskies. He was also well known for his success as a breeder of Hereford cattle. Taylor renamed the property Scotland in honor of the builder of the house. The following account of Colonel Taylor is contained in Bodley and Wilson's History of Kentucky (1928):

Jacob Swigert Taylor . . . is now engaged in the business of producing and raising Kentucky thoroughbreds on a beautiful estate near Frankfort. He was born in that city, on the 30th of September, 1853, and is the eldest of the eight children of Colonel Edmund Haynes Taylor, Jr., and Frances Miller (Johnson) Taylor

In the acquirement of an education Jacob S. Taylor attended a select academy at West Chester, Pennsylvania, and also a well known private school at Frankfort, conducted by B. B. Sayre. At the age of eighteen Mr. Taylor entered his father's business, which he readily learned, possessing a keen mind and a capacity for detail. As his experience increased he was entrusted with heavier responsibilities and for many years ably directed the operations of the large distillery controlled by the firm of E. H. Taylor, Jr., & Sons After Colonel Taylor passed away and the estate was settled Jacob S. Taylor purchased a tract of five hundred acres in the vicinity of Frankfort. He has since devoted his attention to the breeding, training and racing of pedigreed horses. He has a highly specialized knowledge of the business, in which he has achieved marked success, and many stars of the turf have brought renown to the Taylor stables. He is also one of the directors of the Farmers Deposit Bank of Frankfort (p. 864).

The property is now owned by Colonel Taylor's grandson, E. H. Taylor Hay.

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Scotland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

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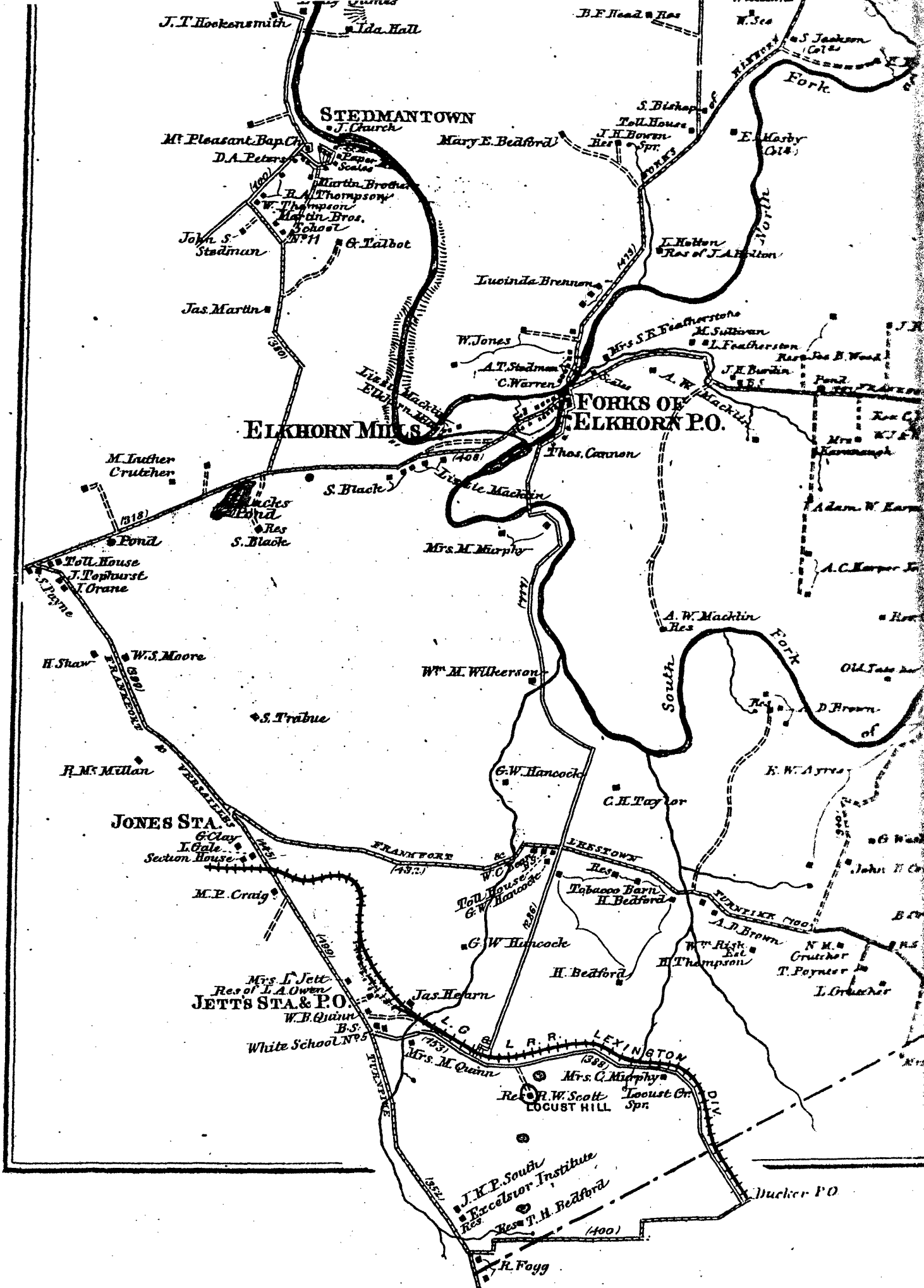
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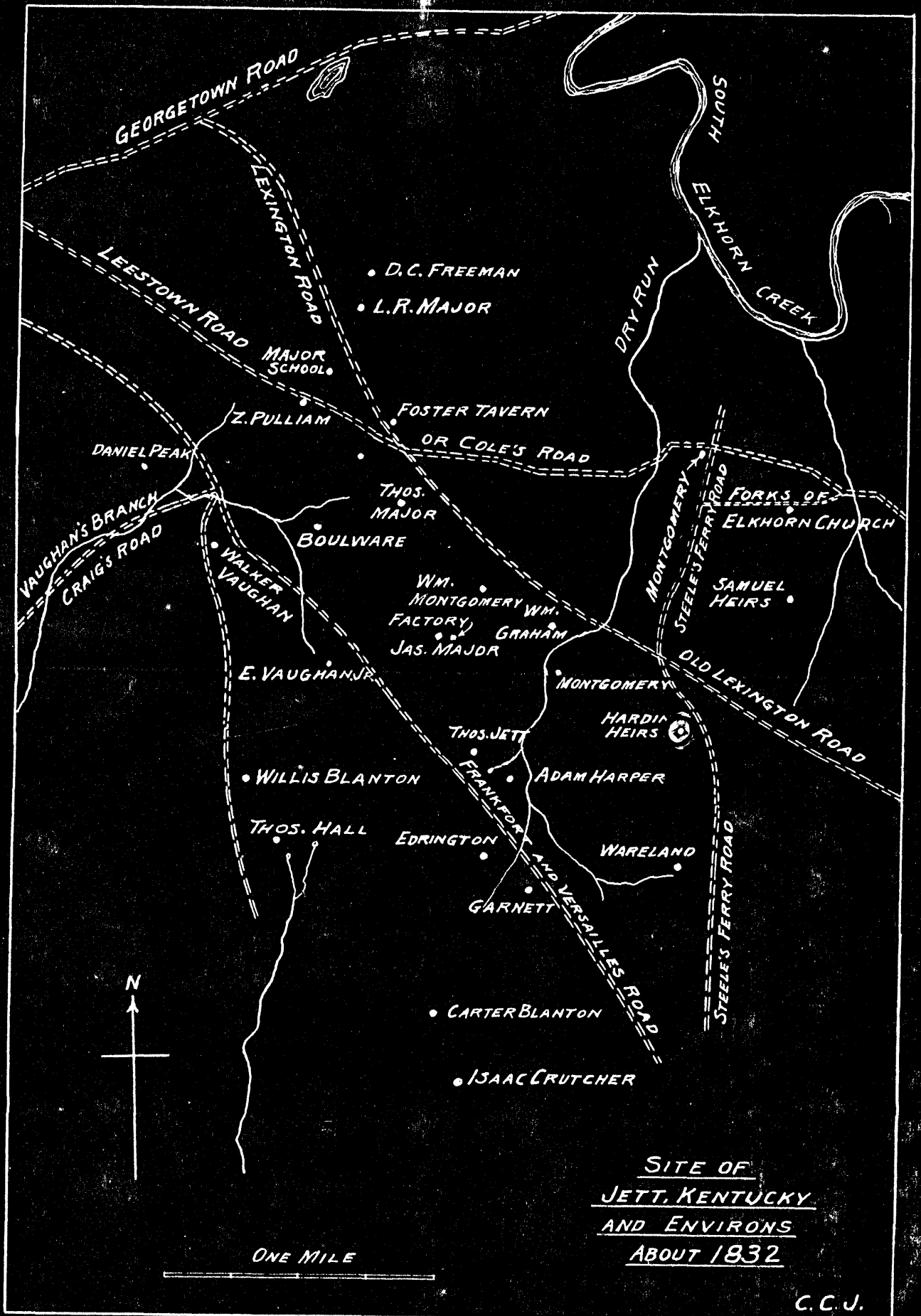
Scotland, Frankfort vicinity
Franklin County, Kentucky
An Atlas of Franklin County, Ky.
Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1882.

Map 3. R. W. Scott's residence
is shown near the bottom of the
map as "Locust Hill."

SEP 9 1976

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



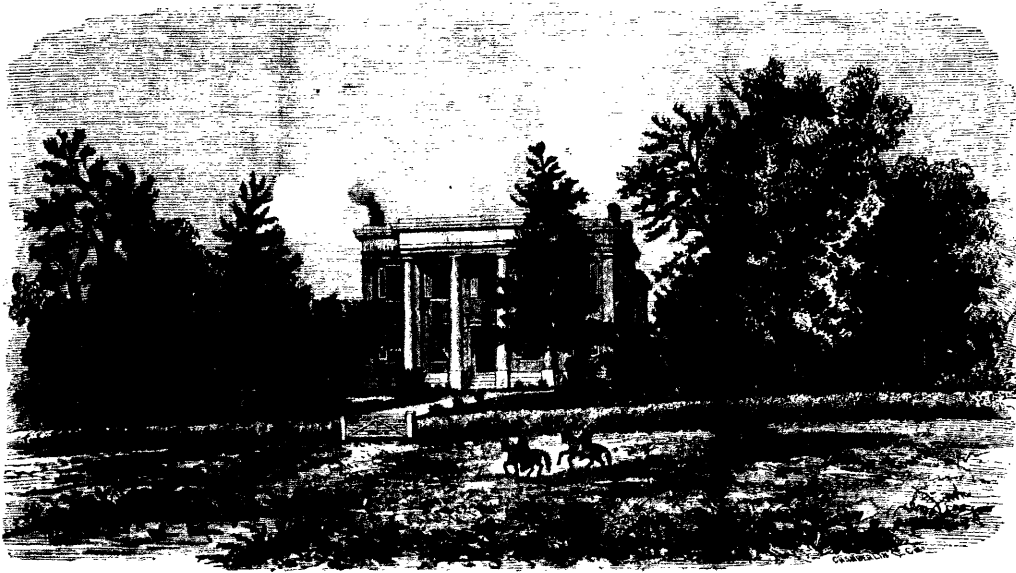
Scotland, Frankfort vicinity,
Franklin County, Kentucky.
Site of Jett, Kentucky and Environs
About 1832. map 2.

The earlier house on the site is
indicated as belonging to the Hardin
Heirs.

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

FOR SALE, A LARGE AND SPLENDID FARM, And Extensive and Various Personal Property.



MY HEALTH REQUIRING ME TO SPEND my remaining winters in Florida, I must discontinue Farming and Stock-raising, and I therefore desire to sell the farm on which I have long resided, known as "LOCUST HILL," situated on the Eastern border of Franklin county, Ky., and partly in Woodford, in an upland rolling country of great salubrity of climate and fertility of soil, and not surpassed, all things considered, if, indeed, it is equaled, by any other in the State.

ROADS.

The Louisville and Lexington Railroad, and the State road from Frankfort to Lexington, pass through it, under the same lines of fence—affording a commanding front view of the principal dwelling-house and adjacent grounds; the Frankfort and Versailles Turnpike is on the western boundary; Duckert Depot is within a mile and a half, and thus easy access is had, from all directions, it being five miles from Frankfort, nineteen from Lexington, and seventy from Louisville.

SOCIETY

Is excellent; and religious, educational, and social conveniences abundant and varied.

GENERAL FEATURES.

The farm contains over seven hundred and eighty acres, all under a high state of cultivation, subdivided into twenty fields and pastures, with numerous small lots for stock of all kinds, with four woodlands located on different parts of the farm; all securely and appropriately inclosed by rail, post-and-rail, hedge, and paling fencing, in good condition, made in the best manner, and of the best materials.

THE SOIL,

Originally fertile and covered by dense forests and canabrades, and underlaid by stratified limestone convenient for fencing, is still kept in a high state of fertility by various enriching processes, thereby producing, in proper rotation, remunerating crops of hemp, corn, wheat, barley, tobacco, and oats, alternating with luxuriant crops of red and white clover, thimothy and orchard grass, and not least, the bluegrass, which is the gold and glory of Kentucky.

THE WOODLANDS,

Of ash, walnut, cherry, oak, hickory, and sugar maple, are well cleaned and set in bluegrass, and not encumbered with weeds or bushes, and afford abundant supplies of fuel and of valuable timber, not only for agricultural, but also for mechanical purposes. Beautiful and valuable groves and rows of black locust have been fostered and planted in various parts of the farm, and the supply of this valuable material is largely beyond the requirements of the farm, and would find ready sale. Several long lines of red cedar have been planted as screens to the fields, orchards, and stock lots, and are in luxuriant growth.

WATER FOR THE FARM

Is supplied by two large and permanent rivulets, numerous perennial springs and their branches, and by small stock ponds, thereby affording water in almost every lot, field, and pasture; while a large cistern and a deep well afford a household supply, and two larger ponds afford fish and bathing in summer, and ice and skating in winter.

THE BUILDINGS

Consist of the family mansion, of brick [herewith illustrated], and of adjacent buildings adequate to accommodate from fifty to one hundred persons; besides three other comfortable dwellings on other parts of the farm, one of which is of brick, with five rooms, another of frame, with six rooms, and the other of logs, &c., with three rooms—all in good repair, and supplied with appropriate out-buildings, making a division of the farm easy and convenient, if at any time it should be desirable, into four separate tracts, each of which would contain appropriate and comfortable dwellings and other improvements.

THE MANSION HOUSE

Was built by me in 1845-47; all the work of brick, cut stone, and wood, being of the best material, and executed in permanent and tasteful style. It contains twenty rooms, including basement and attic, all neatly and appropriately finished, and fire-proof as far as practicable, and warmed by a furnace, each room having fire-place and grate also. The dwelling fronts to the northeast, having a commanding elevation, and overlooking a grass lawn of eight acres, and a fish pond of two and a quarter acres, under hedge and post-and-rail fences, with the railroad and State road at the foot of the lawn, affording a fine view of passing trains, vehicles, &c.

THE SPACIOUS YARD

Is fully planted with deciduous and evergreen native and exotic trees and shrubs, interspersed with numerous and choice fruit trees of various kinds.

THE GARDEN,

Of over two acres, is inclosed by a paling fence; is of the best soil, and under high cultivation; and is abundantly stocked with trees, vines, bushes, and plants and flowers, conducing to the greatest profit, comfort, and beauty.

THE ORCHARD

Contains over six acres, securely inclosed, and with a cedar hedge on the northwest side of it; is of fertile soil, and is fully planted with a choice collection of apple, pear, peach, and cherry trees, all in bearing; and the location of it, and of the adjacent garden and yard, being high, and with a favorable exposure, the fruit rarely falls, and is abundant now.

THE OBSERVATORY

On the top of the house overlooks a large portion of the farm, and commands a cultivated landscape of uncommon beauty and loveliness. This property is not only well suited in all respects for a large farmer and stock-raiser, but also presents strong inducements as a location for a religious community, a literary or charitable institution, or for a body of immigrants.

A DIVISION OF THE FARM

Can be easily effected, and I will sell separately that part of it which lies on the north side of the railroad, containing over two hundred and sixty-eight acres, all of which is first-rate land, with lasting water, superabundant timber, with two comfortable tenements, one of brick and the other of logs, with appropriate out-buildings, all yielding valuable and heavy crops of all kinds.

POSSESSION

Can be delivered in time to sow small grain, and completely in October or November next.

THE PAYMENTS

Will be made easy, with one half cash on receiving possession, and the payment of interest on the deferred payments. Purchasers are invited to inspect the premises in person, or apply by mail for full description.

SALE OF STOCK & PERSONAL PROPERTY.

I will also sell, at public auction, on Tuesday, the fifth of September next, fifteen or twenty head of THOROUGHBRED DUTCH Cows and their calves, the thorough-bred bull DEXA of MAPLETON, 7863, and four young Bulls, all having Herd-book Pedigrees, and being of best milking stock;

Also, about one hundred head of my "IMPROVED KENTUCKY" SUMMER males and females;

Also, about one hundred head of CASHMERE OR ANGORA Goats, male and female, full blood, thorough-bred and grade, and all with wool long enough to be shorn;

Also, about one hundred head of PATTERNING Hogs, and sows and pigs of best practical farm breed;

Also, thirty or forty head of MARES and HORSES, of all ages, and good for farm, and draft, and saddle;

Also, fifty to one hundred acres of Corn in the shock or field, and Hay and Oats in the stack;

Also, Farm Machinery and Implements of all kinds, and Blacksmiths' and Carpenters' Tools, &c.

Full particulars will be given in handbill form, which will be sent to applicants by mail. Terms—Cash for all sums under one hundred dollars; and approved negotiable notes at four months for all sums over that amount.

ROBERT W. SCOTT.

NEAR FRANKFORT, KY., JUNE 27, 1871.

Scotland, Frankfort vicinity,

Franklin County, Ky. 1871

Advertisement of property by Robert

Wilmot Scott. Photo 1. Engraving

shows house from north. SEP 9 1976

1871

SEP 9 1976