

P110079677

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky
COUNTY: Scott
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 27 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Vivion Upshaw Brooking House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION *W of Georgetown*

STREET AND NUMBER:
Stamping Ground Pike (Ky. 227), 1 1/2 miles southwest of highway

CITY OR TOWN:
Georgetown *vicinity*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
6th

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021** COUNTY: **Scott** CODE: **209**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Joe Gaines

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Georgetown

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Scott County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Georgetown

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1974** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

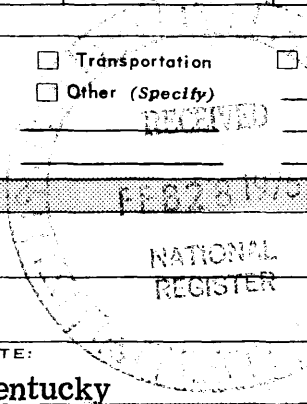
STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set atop a low rise overlooking a wide bottomland in the midst of a particularly full bend of North Elkhorn Creek in the rich Bluegrass area of central Kentucky, one of Scott County's finest examples of Federal architecture lies hidden. The house, facing east towards Galloway Pike with a view of Elkhorn Creek, is in an isolated area near Georgetown with no other structures in the immediate vicinity.

The house originally had two wings, probably symmetrical pavilions flanking the main existing block like many one-story (or one-and-a-half story) Federal houses in Kentucky. These wings were removed at some time after 1881 when the property was purchased by A. P. Grover. Although no visual depiction of these wings is known, archaeological investigation would no doubt indicate their location and extent. There is a long low kitchen ell to the rear, with simple wooden gallery to one side.

The surviving main block seems self-sufficient, although there is an odd discrepancy between the generous scale of the first story with fanlighted central entrance and two nine-over-nine paned sash windows on either side of it, and the diminutive Palladian window of the gable over the entrance and two gabled dormers with arched lights. The gable extends not only over the wider central bay of the entrance but also part way over the flanking windows; the dormers, which could be original to the house, are set back on the low slope of the roof midway between the windows below, creating another contrast of rhythm between stories.

The house is set on a foundation of local stone. In spite of the size of the windows, they are surrounded by an ample display of fine Flemish bond brickwork. There is a subtle graduation of moldings from the cornice that extends across the front (with returns on the front at the ends) under the gable; through that of the gable; to the delicate pediments of the dormers and the woodwork of the openings. The front windows have wide-splayed one-and-a-half stretcher brick voussoirs.

The end walls of the main block are bare except for small "lookout" windows flanking the large inset chimneys under flat eave-boards. A still larger chimney breaks the length of the kitchen ell.

The simplified Palladian window of the tympanum seems like a narrowed form of the elliptical fanlight of the entrance below, which has a double door and attenuated colonnettes. Some of the glass panes--in the dormers and probably the fanlight--were replaced by larger lights; others are originals.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1830-1835**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

This Federal structure of very fine proportion and detail is one of the better examples of that period of construction in Scott County when emphasis was placed on stability rather than elegance. The house displays many features common to late 18th and early 19th century construction--the Palladian window, the fanlighted doorway, and the small gable in the roof centered over the entranceway. Although the combination of the Palladian window, gable, and dormers is somewhat unusual in Scott County, numerous examples of similar gable and window treatment can be found elsewhere in central Kentucky (cf. "Pleasant Lawn" Woodford County; see Lancaster, pp. 76-77).

Other features of the Brooking House common to the period and region are the wide brick chimneys, corbelled near the top, and end walls unadorned except for small attic windows. The house can therefore be called typical of the area and period with slight variations also common with regional builders.

The builder of the house was Vivion Upshaw Brooking, a descendant of General Thomas Vivion, refugee from England. His daughter Frances married Robert Brooking, whose family was from Virginia. The patriotic Brookings contributed three soldiers to the Revolutionary War effort--Vivion, Charles, and Samuel. John Brooking, the father of Vivion, was the first member of his family to come to Kentucky.

The house which was built for Brooking between 1830 and 1835 was constructed on a 300-acre farm acquired from Betsy Thomson and George and Mileta Smith. In 1851 Brooking's heirs deeded the tract to L. L. Herndon, who sold it in 1853 to James W. Briscoe. The Briscoe heirs sold the farm to Asa P. Grover in 1881.

Asa Grover (1819-1887), born in New York, had come to Kentucky in 1837. He became a lawyer and for many years lived and had his practice in Owenton, Kentucky. He served as a member of the State Senate from 1857-1865; member of the Democratic State Convention in 1863; and as a Democrat to the 40th Congress (March 4, 1867-March 3, 1869). After

(continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1961. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961, p. 980.
 Brooking Family File. Kentucky Historical Society Library, Frankfort, Ky.
 Gaines, B. O. History of Scott County, Vol. II. Scott County: Published by Author, 1905. p. 79, 354.
 Lancaster, Clay. Antebellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1961, pp. 76-77.
 Scott County Deed and Will Books.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

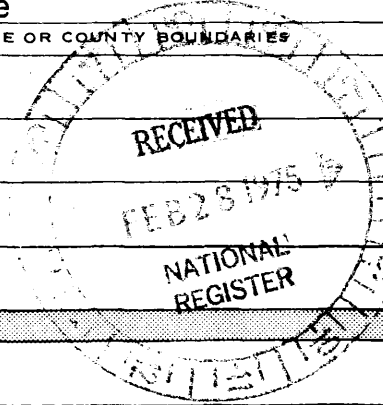
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	38°	13'	14"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	84°	38'	18"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
16706710
4232770
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One Acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ann B. Bevins, Scott County Representative

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **Feb. 5, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route # 4, Lexington Pike (GM)

CITY OR TOWN: **Georgetown** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Clyde W. Melton

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 2-10-75

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. P. Monteen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/28/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date MAY 1 1975

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Kentucky	
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Vivion Upshaw Brooking House

#7. Description (continued)

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During the late 19th century a modest porch with four chamfered posts, half-posts against the wall, and latticework trim was added over the entrance. Although not in itself unattractive, it is the only incongruous element in this interesting exterior.

The millwork both outside and in has features indicative of the transitional period preceding the Greek Revival era, called by Clay Lancaster the "Geometric Plan." The main entrance, some of whose finely-laid header-and-stretcher voussoirs are hidden under the Victorian porch ceiling, introduces these transitional features. The four three-quarter-round unfluted columns flanking the double door and sidelights are attenuated in the Federal fashion yet have fully-rounded rings at base and capital. The panels below the sidelights, with their multiple moldings, and the horizontal bands between door and fanlight are slightly heavy and emphatic--the latter even suggests Minard Lafever's Grecian details. The vertical muntins of the fanlight--not really a fan at all, but a semi-elliptical window--may be original, as their proportions conform to the unusually larger panes of the sidelights. The graduated panels of the door, from the squares at the bottom to the narrow horizontals at the top, are more vigorously spaced than is often the case.

Similar vigor can be seen in the interior millwork, particularly the bold concentric squares at the upper corners of the doorways and the inside of the gable window (photos 3 & 5). On the other hand, the mantels and some details, especially on the upper floor, have a retardataire Federal quality (photos 4 & 6).

In spite of the interior litter the house is structurally sound.



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Vivion Upshaw Brooking House

#8. Significance (continued)

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concluding his public career as a representative in Congress, Grover resumed the practice of law. In 1881 he purchased the Brooking House, moved to Georgetown and practiced law there until his death on July 30, 1887. Grover is described in B. O. Gaines' history as having been 'known for his sterling qualities, his fearless loyalty to his convictions, his unwavering fidelity to all the duties of public and private life.' His granddaughter, Mrs. Joe Gaines, owns the farm today.

The farm is located in Scott County, formed in 1792, and is within five miles of Georgetown, the county seat. The community nearest the house, however, is Great Crossing, a small town which was incorporated in 1849. The area took its name from the fact that the great buffalo trace from the southern part of Kentucky to the Ohio River crossed the North Elkhorn at that point.

