

PH# 364673

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **FEB 18 1977**
DATE ENTERED **AUG 29 1977**

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

1 NAME

**** HISTORIC
Jesse Whitesell House
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Fulton on KY116*
Route #5, Box 391
CITY, TOWN *nic* VICINITY OF **01**
STATE **Kentucky** CODE **021** COUNTY **Fulton** CODE **075**

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 type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Hunter Whitesell**
STREET & NUMBER **Route # 5, Box 391**
CITY, TOWN **Fulton** VICINITY OF STATE **Kentucky**

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Fulton County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office,**
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN **Hickman** 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

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

The Whitesell House is located on State Route 116 approximately 1/2 mile west of the town of Fulton in the extreme southwestern section of the state. The highway marks the boundary between Kentucky and Tennessee. Just west of the house, in close proximity, is the four-lane Purchase Parkway skirting Fulton, connecting Union City, Tennessee, with Mayfield, Kentucky.

Built in 1871 for Jesse Whitesell, grandfather of the present owner, the Whitesell House is essentially in its original state. Based on a T-plan, the house is two stories high with a three-story tower set in one of the angles of the "T." The main (south) elevation of the house is thus a triple composition, consisting of gable-end to the left, tower in the middle and recessed, two-bay block to the right (see photo 1). The dominance of the entrance tower is guaranteed by its added height and by the relatively elaborate hooded balcony, at the second stage (both balcony and hood are supported by elongated scroll brackets), but this emphasis also results from subtler devices: the main door is recessed behind the entrance portal, and the portal is round-headed whereas all other openings are segmentally-headed. A note of whimsy is provided by the entablature-like courses of brick that give the impression of supporting the large brackets of the balcony; moreover, this "entablature" does not extend beyond the front face of the tower, whereas at the third stage of the tower the courses marking the floor and impost lines extend around all four faces.

The subsidiary entrance to the tower is sheltered by a delicate wooden porch of arches set on chamfered posts. This porch shades the right-hand flank of the main elevation and is matched on the north by another long and narrow porch, of much simpler design appropriate to its function as a service area (see photo 2).

The two projecting bay windows of the first floor are treated differently: that of the southern gable-end is rectangular in plan, while that of the eastern gable-end is semi-octagonal. The latter is unorthodox in that the bricks at the angles are recessed, creating an impression of raised panels on each face of the bay. The brickwork is nonbonded, and the plain water table runs continuously around the main body of the house. All cornices are bracketted, and the low, pyramidal roof of the tower is topped with a finial.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1871

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Whitesell house, built in 1871 by Jesse Whitesell, is a fine example of rural adaptation of the Italianate villa style of architecture and is representative of many similar houses constructed at this time in southwest Kentucky and northwest Tennessee. The house is in very near its original condition except for a modern addition off the back.

Although the Whitesell house belongs as a whole to a standard type of the so-called Italian villa of the mid-19th century, it has a number of distinctive features, both inside and out. The asymmetrical massing includes the standard three-story entrance tower, projecting parlor with bay window, and verandas. As usual, the roof and gables are almost flat, the wide eaves supported by brackets. Unusual, however, are the raised brick arches, belt courses, and elaborate corbelled chimneys; the delicate, somewhat Gothic trim of the front porch; and the rhythmic balcony over the main entrance. The interior also contains many interesting features, particularly the woodwork in the east parlor, which was apparently always painted white and inspired, according to family tradition, by the drawing room of a steamboat on which the owner had been a passenger. Animals painted on the baseboards on the two first-floor bedrooms is another rather curious feature. The brick smokehouse, of the same period of construction as the house, is two-story, unusually large for 19th-century smokehouses in Kentucky. Of locally historic significance is the fact that the house has remained in the family of the original owner--a period of over one hundred years.

Jesse Whitesell was a wealthy large landholder in Fulton County, Kentucky, and Weakley (now Obion) County, Tennessee (which adjoins Fulton County on the south). His father, Peter Whitesell, of German descent, was a native of North Carolina. Sometime prior to 1820, Peter Whitesell migrated to Tennessee and then to Kentucky after receiving a land grant northeast of the town of Fulton in 1828.

According to tradition, Jesse Whitesell was impressed by a particular house he saw in Cincinnati while on a trip to sell his tobacco crop. Afterwards he made

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fulton Daily Leader (Fulton), July 24, 1974; October 1974.

Jewell, Ouida. Backward Glance. Fulton, Kentucky: Fulton Publishing Co., 1973.

Williamson, Ruth. History in Houses in the Jackson Purchase. Fulton, Ky: 1967.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	3 2 9 6 8 0	4 0 4 1 1 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Nominated area includes several outbuildings (two smokehouses a few feet northeast of the main house, a frame storage house, and two original cisterns), house site and frontage.

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

Robert D. Whitesell/Kenneth Gibbs, Mary Cronan Oppel, and Gloria Mills

ORGANIZATION

/Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

February 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Route 5, Box 392/104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

/502 564-2471

CITY OR TOWN

Fulton/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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edred W. Meeter

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/15/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Wm. H. Hunt

DATE

8/29/77

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-25-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Jesse Whitesell House

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The doors of the tower enter directly into the stair hall that divides the suite of three rooms on the west (left) from the large parlor on the east (right). The mantel of the parlor is marbelized, and the woodwork in this room was apparently always painted white, inspired, according to family tradition, by the drawing room of a steamboat on which the owner had been a passenger (see photo 6). Each of the three rooms on the other side of the hall is 18' x 18' square; the south and central rooms, originally bedrooms, are entered from the stair hall, while the north room, apparently a combined dining room and kitchen, is entered from the central room.

The second-floor plan mirrors that of the first floor, with the exception that there is no room over the dining-kitchen room. The north bedrooms on both floors are connected by an enclosed staircase. Both first and second floors have 13-foot high ceilings, and all rooms are furnished with fireplaces. The third stage of the tower is reached by a ladder. Animals were painted on the baseboards of the two first-floor bedrooms: in the south room, a snake crawling from one hole to another and in the north room, a mouse scampering from one hole to another.

Modern alterations include the addition of a bathroom in the northern angle of the "T" and the addition of a kitchen to the west of the one-story kitchen-dining room.

Included within the nominated area are the following outbuildings built about the time of the main house: 2 two-story brick smokehouses, 20' x 30' in plan located a few feet northeast of the main house (see photos 3 and 4); a frame storage house; and two original cisterns--one in a typical lattice well house in close proximity to the rear porch and the other behind the smokehouse.

For other examples of Italian villas in Kentucky see the Barret House, Henderson, Henderson County (approved by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board March 25, 1975) also in western Kentucky; Vinewood (Benjamin Groom House), near Winchester, Clark County (approved by the Kentucky Review Board October 21, 1975), in central Kentucky; and the John B. Graves House in the East Main Street Residential District, Georgetown, Scott County (1877); district nomination approved by the Kentucky Review Board June 5, 1973).

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Jesse Whitesell House

CONTINUATION SHEET

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arrangements to secure the plans and to hire the Cincinnati workmen to return to Fulton with him to build a residence identical to it.

Jesse Whitesell's son, Robert Peter Whitesell, graduated from Vanderbilt University and the University of Virginia Law School. In addition to practicing law, Whitesell was a large landholder and served as the president of the First National Bank and of the National Bank of Union City, Tennessee.

The house remains in the Whitesell family at the present time.