

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 25 1980
DATE ENTERED AUG 18 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Crawford, A.J. "Jackson", Building

AND/OR COMMON

Crosstown Real Estate Company

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

207 South Main Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Somerset

— VICINITY OF
CODE

5

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

199

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 checked="" 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 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 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. & Mrs. Carter G. Ross, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

Route #3, Box 214C

CITY, TOWN

Somerset

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pulaski County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street, Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Somerset

STATE

Kentucky 42501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1979

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 Crawford House is located on the south end of Main Street, about one block from the commercial core of downtown Somerset. County seat of Pulaski County, Somerset is a rural community (1970 pop. 10,436) on the fringe of the Bluegrass in a region known as the Mississippian Plateau. The town is seventy-six miles south of Lexington and approximately forty miles north of the Tennessee-Kentucky state line.

Constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, the Crawford House is a 1½-story brick building, originally one room deep. It has a two-bay facade with arched openings. The entrance is to the left of a double window and opens into a side hall, with a parlor to the right. A hall staircase (replacing an earlier dog-leg-stairway) is to the rear, and leads to an attic room. The attic area consists of one room with sloping walls with the dormer permitting additional light and greater use of the space.

The original wood trim includes door and window frames displaying concentric circle corner blocks.

One large room extending the width of the building was recently added to the rear. The original brick rear wall was left exposed.

The building facade abuts the sidewalk with a parking lot directly to the rear and paved drive to the south. The north wall is within six feet of the adjacent building the former Beecher Hotel, now Beecher House. The eastern boundary extends from the western edge of the sidewalk, and extends approximately 5' to the north of the northern exterior wall and 1½' to the south of the southern exterior wall and approximately 2' to the rear of the back wall.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) black history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The A. J. "Jackson" Crawford Building, in downtown Somerset in Pulaski County, Kentucky, has long associations with A. J. "Jackson" Crawford from 1880 until 1915. "Uncle Jack" was a well-known figure in the city during that period as an attorney for local black people. He purchased this property at public auction in 1880 and used it both as a law office and residence until his death in 1915.

As a result of the Civil War, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution completely altered the former status of black people as slaves and converted them into freed men and new citizens. Consequently, blacks then had need on occasion for legal assistance. In Somerset, one of the local blacks, a capable man named A. J. "Jackson" Crawford, became the individual who filled the need for black people in that community. Very little is known about his early life. He was evidently born a slave in 1844. It is not known how he spent his early years. It appears likely that after the Civil War he served as a law clerk and apprentice in the practice of Thomas Zantzinger Morrow, a prominent attorney in Somerset who served as circuit judge after 1891.

Judge Morrow had also served as county attorney of Pulaski County from 1858 to 1861. In 1861 he helped to organize the Thirty-Second Kentucky Regiment for the Federal Army and served as its lieutenant-colonel for nine months. He served in the state House of Representatives from 1861 to 1863 and from 1865 to 1869 served in the state Senate. He was an important figure in the Republican party serving as a delegate to the 1876 and 1880 national conventions. In 1883 he was the Republican nominee for governor of Kentucky but was defeated by J. Proctor Knott who served until 1887. Morrow's son, Edwin P. Morrow, served as governor from 1919 to 1923.

There is no proof that A. J. "Jackson" Crawford was ever admitted to the Bar in Kentucky. Judge H. C. Kennedy in an unpublished address concerning the history of the Somerset Bar Association in 1941 just briefly mentioned Crawford as being "the only colored man who ever practiced before the Somerset Bar." No record has been found in the Pulaski Circuit Court Record Books to indicate that Crawford was ever admitted. However, his death certificate lists his occupation as "Lawyer." Testimony of an oral history nature from Mrs. Mary Catherine Green Cover, a niece of A. J. Crawford's daughter, Mariah Crawford, indicated that Crawford "worked for Judge Morrow."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gosser, Gib. "From Our Past," The (Somerset) Commonwealth Journal (March 9, 1976).

Information secured from Mrs. Mary Catherine Green Gover, a niece of A. J. Crawford's daughter, Mariah Crawford. Somerset, Ky. March 7, 1980.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .12 acre
QUADRANGLE NAME Somerset QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	7, 1, 2, 9, 3, 5	4, 1, 0, 7, 3, 6, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
See accompanying map part 7 + telephone slip 8/14/80

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Calvin P. Jones, Historian; Gloria J. Mills, Historian

ORGANIZATION
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET & NUMBER
104 Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN
Frankfort

DATE
March 1980

TELEPHONE
(502) 564-3741

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 Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 6-20-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
W. Ray Juice DATE 8/18/80

ATTEST: Kristin O'Connell DATE 8/14/80

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

It appears likely, therefore, that whether Crawford was actually a member of the Somerset Bar or not, he was in fact providing the legal services needed by black people in this community from 1880 when he and his wife bought this property next to the Beecher Hotel by public auction, and perhaps before, until his death on July 17, 1915.¹

Crawford was also known to be an ordained minister, although he never served as a full-time pastor. Very likely he was an elder, deacon, or trustee of the church. He was known as one of the "pioneers" of his local church.

Mr. Crawford, or "Uncle Jack" as he was familiarly called, was a significant figure in black history in Somerset during the period after the war until his death in 1915 at the age of seventy-one. He was evidently the first black man to provide legal services to his people in that community.²

¹A thorough and complete search of the records in the Pulaski Circuit Court during the period 1865 to 1915 might reveal that at some point he was certified by Judge Morrow or some of his predecessors to practice law in his own right as a result of successful experience as a law clerk.

²It is even possible that he was the first black man ever to practice in Kentucky. Only further intensive research could establish this fact for certain.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Kennedy, Judge H. C. "The History of the Somerset Bar Association," unpublished address in 1941. Somerset, Kentucky: Law Office of John G. Prather, Jr.

Levin, H. (ed.). Lawyers and Lawmakers of Kentucky. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1897.

Pulaski County Historical Research. Somerset, Kentucky: Somerset Community College, no date.

Tibbals, Alma Owens. A History of Pulaski County, Kentucky. Bagdad, Kentucky: Grace Owens Moore, 1952.

Vital Statistics of Kentucky. "Death Certificate of Jack Crawford, July 17, 1915," Vol. 37. File No. 18087, Registered No. 68, Registration District No. 980, Primary Registration District No. 2490. Frankfort, Kentucky: Department for Human Resources.