UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 2 5 1980

DATE ENTERED AUG 18 1980

SEE	INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO TYPE ALL ENTRIES O					
1 NAME						
	12.16	Å.				
HISTORIC	Crawford, A.J. Jackso	n ^{/i} , Building				
AND/OR COMMON	Slawiold, A.p., Sackso	ir , buriuring				
(Crosstown Real Estate C	ompany				
2 LOCATIO	N					
STREET & NUMBER						
2	207 South Main Street			NOT FOR PUBLICATION		
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT			
	Somerset	VICINITY OF	5	0005		
STATE K	Centucky	021	county Pulaski	CODE 199		
3 CLASSIFIC			1010001			
 .						
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENT USE		
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM		
XBUILDING(S)	XPRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	X.COMMERCIAL	PARK		
STRUCTURE	_BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC		
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS		
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC		
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION		
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:		
4 OWNER O	F PROPERTY					
NAME						
	ír. & Mrs. Carter G. Ro	ss, Jr.				
STREET & NUMBER						
	Route #3, Box 214C					
CITY, TOWN		VICINITY OF	STATE			
	Somerset	VICINITY OF	Kentuck	<u>y</u>		
5 LOCATIO	N OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION				
COURTHOUSE,						
REGISTRY OF DEEDS	S,ETC. Pulaski County	Courthouse				
STREET & NUMBER						
	Main Street, Pu	blic Square				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	0501		
	Somerset		Kentucky 4	2501		
6 REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS				
TÏTLE						
5	Survey of Historic Site	s in Kentucky				
DATE						
	L979	FEDERAL X_	STATECOUNTYLOCAL			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _K	Kentucky Heritage Commi	ssion				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	·		
Frankfort			Kentucky			



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT	
GOOD	

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE

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 $1\frac{1}{2}$ -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 dogleg-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 $1\frac{1}{2}$ ' 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 __PREHISTORIC __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __1400-1499 __CONSERVATION __LAW __SCIENCE __1500-1599 _AGRICULTURE __ECONOMICS __LITERATURE __SCULPTURE __1600-1699 __ARCHITECTURE __EDUCATION __MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN _1700-1799 __ART __MUSIC __ENGINEERING __THEATER __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY X1800-1899 __COMMERCE __TRANSPORTATION __COMMUNICATIONS __1900-__INDUSTRY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT X-OTHER (SPECIFY) __INVENTION black history 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 mannamed 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 fron 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 Gover, a niece of A. J. Crawford's daughter, Mariah Crawford, indicated that Crawford "worked for Judge Morrow."

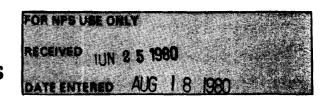
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information secured from Mrs. Mary Catherine Green Gover, a niece of A. J. Crawford's daughter, Mariah Crawford. Somerset, Ky. March 7, 1980. (continued) DGEOGRAPHICAL DATA AGREAGE OF MONIMATED PROPERTY LIZ GIVE AGREAGE NOT VERIFED ALLO 1712, 219, 3, 51 4, 110, 713, 6, 0) ZONE BASTING CHARLES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE COUNTY CODE STATE CODE COUNTY CODE TFORM PREPARED BY NAME TITLE CALVIN P. Jones, Historian; Cloria J. Mills, Historian ORGANIZATION Kentucky Heritage Commission March 1980 STREET RUMBER 104 Bridge Street COSE TOTOR TOWN Frankfort Frankfort STATE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: NATIONAL As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986 (Public Law 89-865).1 hereby norminate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set for the the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set for the the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set for the the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set for the the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set for the the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set for the type the National Account of State Market State Ma	Gosser, Gib. Fr	om our Past, The (So	merset) <u>commonwealtr</u>	1 Journal (March 9, 1976).
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Crawford, A. J. "Jackson", Building Somerset, Pulaski County, Kentucky



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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

A throrough 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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