Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 2 3 1977

DATE ENTERED

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AND/OR COMMON				
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	_BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	$\mathbf{X}_{PRIVATE}$ resider
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	XACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
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x	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
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OWNER O	FPROPERTY	NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME	F <b>PROPERTY</b> Laurence Simpson	NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
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## 7 DESCRIPTION

#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNEXPOSED

RUINS

XEXCELLENT	
GOOD	
FAIR	

#### CHECK ONE <u>X</u>UNALTERED \_\_ALTERED

CHECK ONE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The imposing stone house, known as Kiser Station, is located in a rural setting off Peacock Road, approximately five miles north of Paris, the county seat of Bourbon County. The structure is situated near the west bank of Stoner Creek. The L & N Railroad tracks run by the house on the west.

The original portion of the house is the two-story stone block which faced north. The rough creek stone is laid in irregular courses. Larger, squarer stones are placed at the corners to form quoins. Interior stone chimneys are located at the ends of the main block.

The original facade was four bays wide with the front entrance placed slightly off centered to the west. The door probably had a four light transom above, like the present rear entrance, which was directly opposite. The windows on the north had six-over six pane sash with jack arches above with a central key stone. The original boxed cornice with a shaped molding below still extends across the facade, although interrupted by the wing ( see photo 1).

The south side of the main block, or rear, retains what must have been its original appearance. The rear entrance is reached by simple stone steps. A wooden grill, opening onto the basement is to the left of the door, and the entrance to the cellar is to the right. The first-floor openings have the original pegged frames, although the panes have been altered to two-over-two. The second-floor openings have six-over-six pane sash. Lookout windows flank the chimney on the east gable end. A boxed cornice like the one across the front, extends across the rear ( see photos 2 & 3).

Originally a one-story log kitchen extended off the west side of the main block, but it has been removed. An old photograph shows a one-story Victorian porch which spanned the rear entrance and the log kitchen.

The interior layout of the original portion is based on the hall and parlor plan. The front entrance opened onto the west room with a door to an enclosed stair in the east wall (see sketch plan). Both rooms have the original mantels with cupboards to one side.

At an early date a one-and-a-half story stone addition was extended off the front (north) of the house. The stones are rectangular and laid in a more regular course. An interior stone chimney is located in the north end. The roof on the east side of the wing sweeps down to form a low shed porch on stout chamfered posts on short stone piers. Three dormers are spaced along the roofline of the east side, while only one is located towards the south end of the west side.

The present front entrance, with a five-light transon, is placed on the east side in the third bay from the north. An identical door is placed directly opposite in the west wall.

1800-1899 1900-	COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT LINDUSTRY INVENTION	PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
PERIOD PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799	AF ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC XAGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING	HECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC	— RELIGION — SCIENCE — SCULPTURE — SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN — THEATER

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Kiser Station, located five miles north of Paris on the west bank of Stoner Creek, was built in 1785 by John Kiser, Sr., a farmer, millwright, and distiller. Three generations of the Kiser family lived in the house and continued to farm the land. The house was also the location of the second and third sessions of the Bourbon County court, held in June and July, 1786. Moreover, the early stone house remains essentially unaltered and retains the original woodwork, as well as a hand painted mural.

John Kiser, Sr., with his wife and family, moved from Frederick County, Maryland to Fayette County (in what is now Kentucky) in 1780. A year later Kiser headed a party, composed of several families, and establised a log fort near the present site of the stone house at the confluence of Stoner and Cooper's Run Creeks in the rich fertile area which now composes Bourbon County (Kiser Family). This section of the Bluegrass was among the earliest regions settled in the state, the first survey being made in 1775 by John Floyd (Collins, p.70). In 1785 Kiser built the sturdy stone house. A year after it was completed, the second and third sessions of the Bourbon County court were held there. The county had been formed out of Fayette County in 1785 and was one of the nine counties organized by the Virginia legislature before Kentucky became a state (Garr, p.28).

In addition to being a farmer, John Kiser built and operated a saw and grist mill. He later constructed a distillery, in order to convert surplus grain into a more marketable form, since it was less bulky (Perrin, p. 579). In 1802 Kiser conveyed the house, along with the mill and distillery, to his youngest son, John Kiser, Jr. Kiser (1777-1849) lived in the stone house and continued his father's business operations. In 1805, he married Ursula Rout, daughter of John Rout, who was originally from Virginia.

In turn the estate was left to John Kiser's youngest son, James P. Kiser (b. 1828). James Kiser concentrated his efforts on stock raising, specializing in thoroughbred Southdown sheep. In 1852, James married Lucetta Current, a native of Bourbon County (Perrin, p. 574). According to tradition, during the Civil War a small group of Union soldiers were stationed at the house to protect the railroad bridge behind the house, which was on the main supply line from the north to the south. The Confederate forces were constantly attempting to interrupt the service of the line by destroying the bridges.

At James Kiser's death the house and land was inherited by his youngest son, Walker B. Kiser. The house was sold out of the Kiser family in 1952.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine and Woodford Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1877.

Collins, Richard H. History of Kentucky. Covington: By the author, 1874.

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STATE	CODE	COUNTY		- '	CODE
NAME / TITLE Mary Cronan Oppel ORGANIZATION Kentucky Heritage STREET & NUMBER 104 Bridge Street	-	<u>.</u>		DATE March TELEPHONE (502) 5	
CITY OR TOWN		:		STATE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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As the designated State Historic Preservation C hereby nominate this property for inclusion in criteria and procedures set forth by the Nationa STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATI	the National Real Park Service.		tify that it h	nas been eval	
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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER 7	7	PAGE	2		
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The windows in the wing have nine-over-six pane sash on the first floor and sixover-six in the dormers. Openings are also placed high in the gable end on each side of the chimney (see photos 1, 4, & 5).

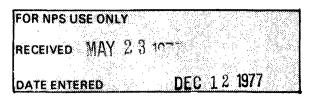
The front door opens onto a spacious stair-hall with a parlor on the right. A gently curving stair with a graceful cherry handrail is situated in the southwest corner (see photo 6).

Located in the parlor is a fine Federal mantel with a row of double gougework and a carved oval sunburst in the raised center panel. The corner blocks, which are supported by paired colonnettes, are decorated with urns. Traces of a very early mural, composed of a vase with roses and hummingbirds, remains above the mantel. Cherry presses, which extend to the ceiling, flank the fireplace. All the window casings in the wing are reeded. An elaborate chair-rail with a groove down the center remains intact. The original ash floors survive throughout the house ( see photo 7).

Several original outbuildings survive west of the house. They included a stone smokehouse and a tremendous double log pen. The pens, made of hewn logs and "V" notches, are approximately 20' X 20' and 15' high. The pens are connected about ten feet above the ground by two fifty foot logs which extend across both pens on each side. A larger barn has been constructed around the pens to shelter them (see photos 8, 9, & 11).

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Kiser Station					
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	8	PAGE	2	

The house remains essentially intact, retaining the hall and parlor floor plan and the original mantels and cupboards. Of particular interest is the fine Federal mantel and mural in the parlor in the wing. The mantel is composed of a row of double gougework with a carved oval sunburst in the raised center panel. Urns decorate the corner blocks which are supported by paired colonnettes. Above the mantel is a hand painted mural of a vase of roses with hummingbirds, which possibly dates from the construction of the wing.

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

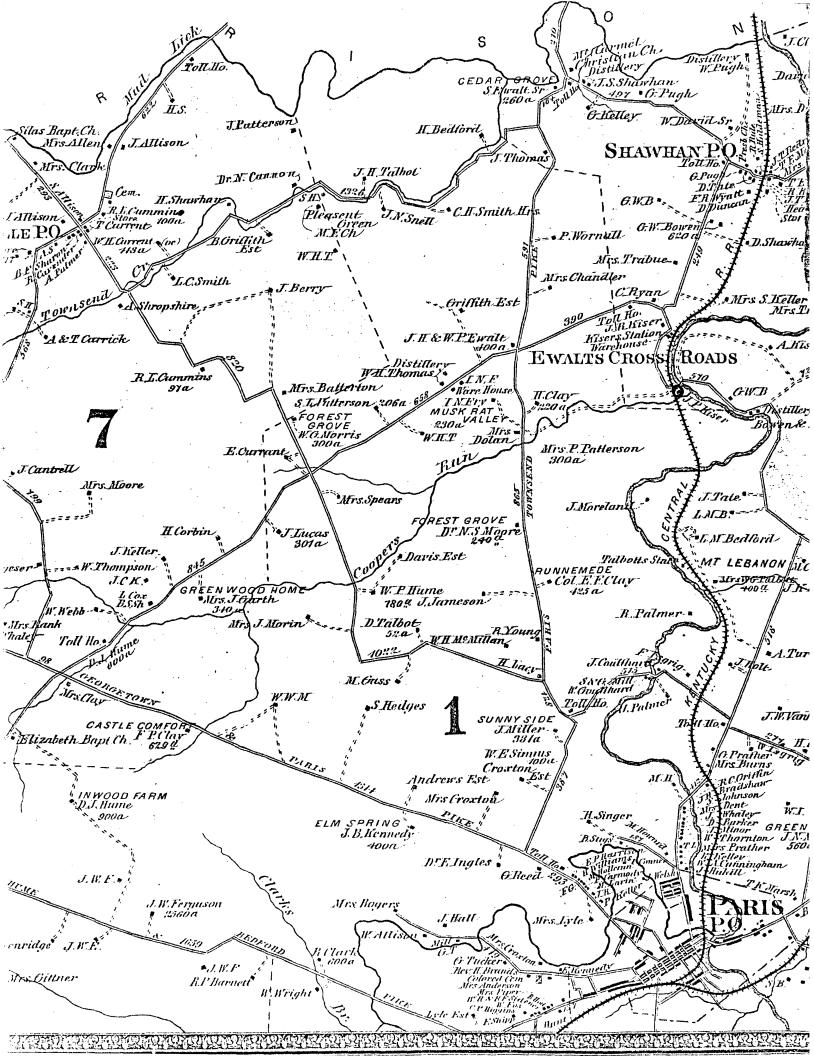
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Kiser Station

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER <sup>9</sup> PAGE <sup>2</sup>

- Garr, Elizabeth H. <u>History of Kentucky Courthouses</u>. Louisville: Colonial Dames of America, 1972.
- "Kiser Family of Bourbon County." Unpublished manuscript on file at the Kentucky Historical Society Library, Frankfort, Kentucky.
- Mastin, Bettye Lee. 'Bourbon Court Twice Held at Laurence Simpson Home.'' Sunday Herald-Leader (Lexington, Kentucky). July 17, 1966.
- Perrin, William H. <u>History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties,</u> Kentucky. Chicago: O. L. Baskin and Co., 1882.
- Additional information from Mrs. Wade Hampton Whitley, Bourbon County Representative, Paris, Kentucky.



Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine, and Woodford Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co., 1877.

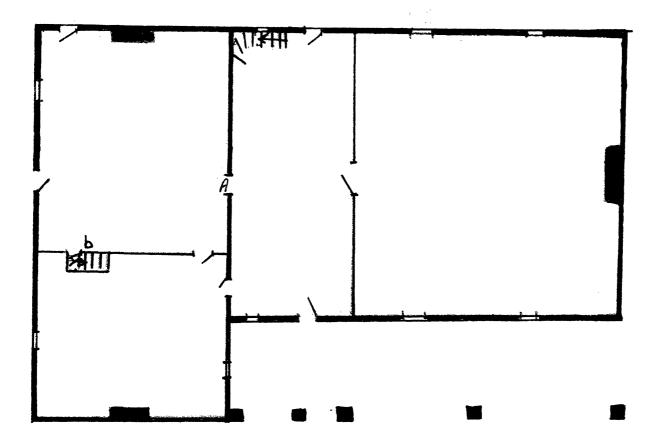
Map 2. Site circled in red at center right.

MAY 2 3 1977

PROPERTY OF THE MATONAL NEW TYPE

Kiser Station, Bourbon County Sketch of floor plan No scale

a) original front entranceb) original enclosed staircasethat has been removed



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MAY 23 1911

Sketch of floor plan no scale. 1977 Map 3. DEC 12 1977

# PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Kiser Station, located five miles north of Paris on the west bank of Stoner Creek, was built in 1785 by John Kiser, Sr., a farmer, millwright, and distiller. Three generations of the Kiser family lived in the house and continued to farm the land. The house was also the location of the second and third sessions of the Bourbon County court, held in June and July, 1786. Moreover, the early stone house remains essentially unaltered and retains the original woodwork, as well as a hand painted mural.

John Kiser, Sr., with his wife and family, moved from Frederick County, Maryland to Fayette County (in what is now Kentucky) in 1780. A year later Kiser headed a party, composed of several families, and establised a log fort near the present site of the stone house at the confluence of Stoner and Cooper's Run Creeks in the rich fertile area which now composes Bourbon County (Kiser Family). This section of the Bluegrass was among the earliest regions settled in the state, the first survey being made in 1775 by John Floyd (Collins, p.70). In 1785 Kiser built the sturdy stone house. A year after it was completed, the second and third sessions of the Bourbon County court were held there. The county had been formed out of Fayette County in 1785 and was one of the nine counties organized by the Virginia legislature before Kentucky became a state (Garr, p.28).

In addition to being a farmer, John Kiser built and operated a saw and grist mill. He later constructed a distillery, in order to convert surplus grain into a more marketable form, since it was less bulky (Perrin, p. 579). In 1802 Kiser conveyed the house, along with the mill and distillery, to his youngest son, John Kiser, Jr. Kiser (1777-1849) lived in the stone house and continued his father's business operations. In 1805, he married Ursula Rout, daughter of John Rout, who was originally from Virginia.

In turn the estate was left to John Kiser's youngest son, James P. Kiser (b. 1828). James Kiser concentrated his efforts on stock raising, specializing in thoroughbred Southdown sheep. In 1852, James married Lucetta Current, a native of Bourbon County (Perrin, p. 574). According to tradition, during the Civil War a small group of Union soldiers were stationed at the house to protect the railroad bridge behind the house, which was on the main supply line from the north to the south. The Confederate forces were constantly attempting to interrupt the service of the line by destroying the bridges.

At James Kiser's death the house and land was inherited by his youngest son, Walker B. Kiser. The house was sold out of the Kiser family in 1952.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine and Woodford Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1877.

Collins, Richard H. History of Kentucky. Covington: By the author, 1874.

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER 7	7	PAGE	2	
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The windows in the wing have nine-over-six pane sash on the first floor and sixover-six in the dormers. Openings are also placed high in the gable end on each side of the chimney (see photos 1, 4, & 5).

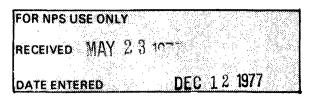
The front door opens onto a spacious stair-hall with a parlor on the right. A gently curving stair with a graceful cherry handrail is situated in the southwest corner (see photo 6).

Located in the parlor is a fine Federal mantel with a row of double gougework and a carved oval sunburst in the raised center panel. The corner blocks, which are supported by paired colonnettes, are decorated with urns. Traces of a very early mural, composed of a vase with roses and hummingbirds, remains above the mantel. Cherry presses, which extend to the ceiling, flank the fireplace. All the window casings in the wing are reeded. An elaborate chair-rail with a groove down the center remains intact. The original ash floors survive throughout the house ( see photo 7).

Several original outbuildings survive west of the house. They included a stone smokehouse and a tremendous double log pen. The pens, made of hewn logs and "V" notches, are approximately 20' X 20' and 15' high. The pens are connected about ten feet above the ground by two fifty foot logs which extend across both pens on each side. A larger barn has been constructed around the pens to shelter them (see photos 8, 9, & 11).

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



Kiser Station					
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	8	PAGE	2	

The house remains essentially intact, retaining the hall and parlor floor plan and the original mantels and cupboards. Of particular interest is the fine Federal mantel and mural in the parlor in the wing. The mantel is composed of a row of double gougework with a carved oval sunburst in the raised center panel. Urns decorate the corner blocks which are supported by paired colonnettes. Above the mantel is a hand painted mural of a vase of roses with hummingbirds, which possibly dates from the construction of the wing.

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

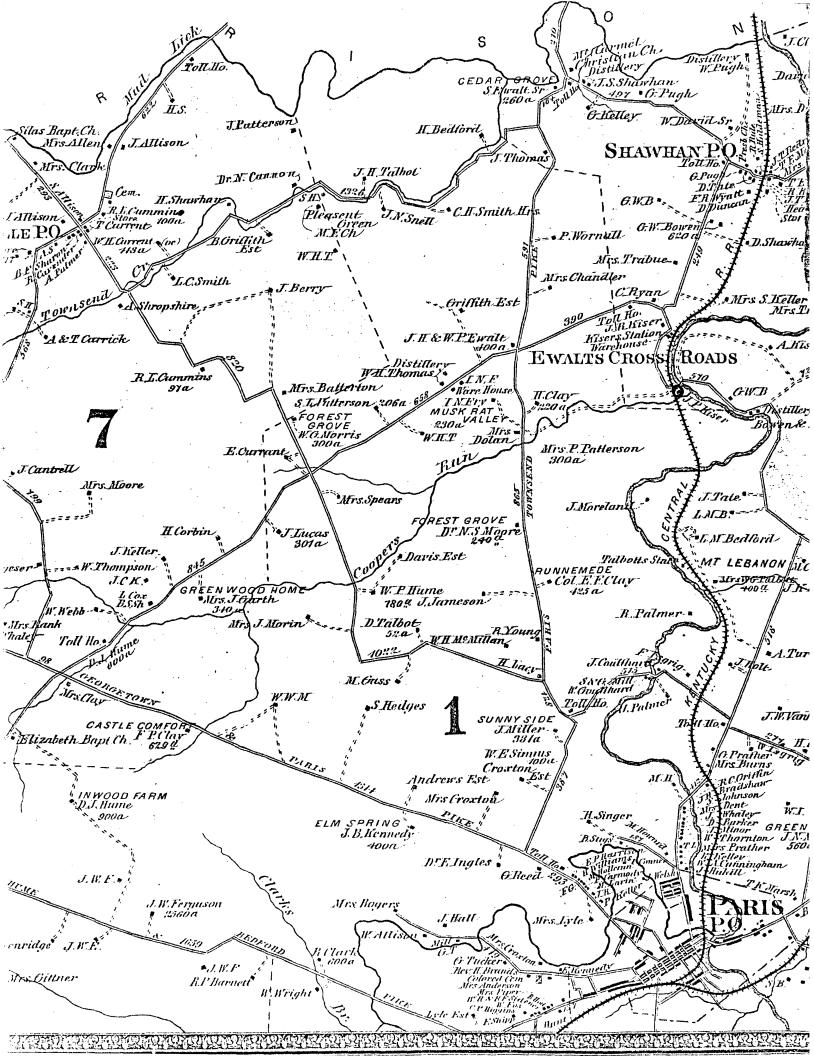
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Kiser Station

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- Garr, Elizabeth H. <u>History of Kentucky Courthouses</u>. Louisville: Colonial Dames of America, 1972.
- "Kiser Family of Bourbon County." Unpublished manuscript on file at the Kentucky Historical Society Library, Frankfort, Kentucky.
- Mastin, Bettye Lee. 'Bourbon Court Twice Held at Laurence Simpson Home.'' Sunday Herald-Leader (Lexington, Kentucky). July 17, 1966.
- Perrin, William H. <u>History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties,</u> Kentucky. Chicago: O. L. Baskin and Co., 1882.
- Additional information from Mrs. Wade Hampton Whitley, Bourbon County Representative, Paris, Kentucky.



Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine, and Woodford Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co., 1877.

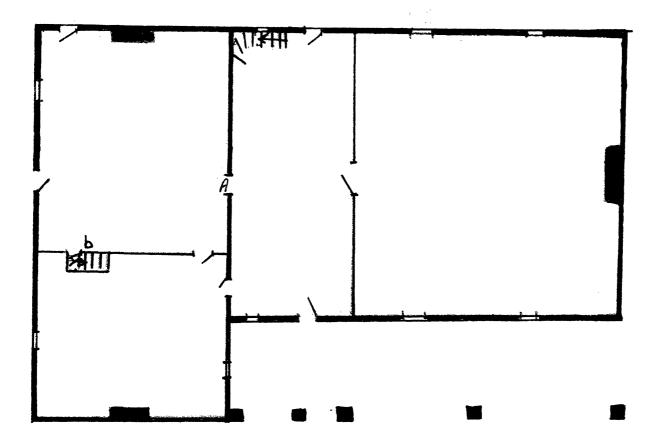
Map 2. Site circled in red at center right.

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PROPERTY OF THE MATONAL NEW TYPE

Kiser Station, Bourbon County Sketch of floor plan No scale

a) original front entranceb) original enclosed staircasethat has been removed



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MAY 23 1911

Sketch of floor plan no scale. 1977 Map 3. DEC 12 1977

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