

PH 0508454

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 31 1977
DATE ENTERED

FEB 8 1978

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Howard-Gettys House

AND/OR COMMON "Bates Court"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1226 Bates Court
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF 3 and 4
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Jefferson CODE III

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 Mr. and Mrs. Briggs Gettys

STREET & NUMBER 1226 Bates Court
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Sixth and Jefferson Streets
CITY, TOWN Louisville STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE 1971 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

(continued)

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Howard - Gettys House is a one - and - one-half story brick structure in a transitional style displaying both Federal and Greek Revival characteristics. The house is located on Bates Court, a quiet cul-de-sac just off heavily-traveled Barret Avenue near the western edge of Louisville's Highlands area. The site is near Beargrass Creek, and in the early nineteenth century the area was farmland, pasture and timber lots. The house is presently situated in a large yard with many trees and plantings. A tall hedge separates the yard from the street, and a herringbone brick walk leads from the street to the house.

The main block of the house, facing northeast, is square with a low roof and end gables which terminate in parapet chimneys. The foundation is brick, and there is a brick water table. A one-story brick wing, believed to antedate the main building, is at the rear of the house and joined to it by a second story addition and a glassed-in porch. The rear wing has been painted white, and the bricks of the main block were, sometime in the past, painted with red oxide. The site slopes gently upward to the rear of the house, allowing a raised basement at the front.

Two tall, six-over-six pane, double-hung windows on the facade are set into recessed panels formed by brick pilasters at the corners and on either side of the portico. The pilasters have stone capitals, painted white which appear to support a brick frieze beneath a dentilled cornice with corner returns. The windows have bold lintels of stone and stone sills. Similar windows are on the first story of the east side of the house, but none are visible on the west side because of the additions. Each parapet gable contains a shorter, six-over-six pane, double-hung window set in a segmentally arched opening (photos 1, 2, and 3).

The portico of white-painted wood, reached by a flight of wooden steps, has a low pediment gable supported by slender square pillars. There is a low railing with plain balusters around the portico, while the railings alongside the steps have turned, "Eastlake" style balusters. The portico pillars are identical to those on the porch at the west side and are probably twentieth century replacements added when the porch was built. The front entrance has a six-panel door beneath a simple, elliptical fanlight with radiating muntins. There are no sidelights, and the door is recessed between pilasters supporting an "eared" cornice with dentils and a wide, plain frieze (photo 4).

The main block of the house is two rooms deep on the first story. There is a wide transverse hall with a rather steep stairway at the rear on the west side. A door at the rear of the hall leads to a terraced courtyard added in the twentieth century (photos 6 and 7).

In the 1920s, the house was extensively renovated. Some alterations were made, and though tastefully carried out, they changed the original simplicity of the interior to something more formal.

(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 c. 1830s; 20th century additions

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Howard-Gettys House is a transitional style of vernacular Kentucky architecture which is rare in Jefferson County. The raised basement and parapet chimney are elements which place it in the early nineteenth century but are not typical of extant structures in the immediate area. A house existed on the site as early as 1838; however, it is not known if it was the entire current structure.

According to oral tradition, the main block of the Howard-Gettys House was built about 1825; the one-story rear wing dates from 1810 and the brick section joining the two was built about 1865. No documentation has been found which either proves or refutes this tradition. Thus, attribution of the Howard-Gettys House to a specific builder/owner at a particular time is a matter of conjecture based upon information found in deeds, tax lists, and court records along with consideration of the style of the house and its similarities to other nineteenth century structures.

The site of the Howard-Gettys House was a part of William Preston's Military Survey of 1000 acres of land. After Preston's death, a memorandum of agreement between two of his sons, Francis and William, dated 28 November 1811, divided most of the 1000 acres between the two. Francis Preston's share included the area where the Howard-Gettys House is located. Preston, who lived in Virginia, owned the land for 22 years, and if the house was built during that time, it would fit the dates traditionally assigned to the main section and the rear wing. However, no evidence has been found which indicates any structure on this portion of the Preston land.

In February 1832, Francis Preston sold 321 acres of his land on the South Fork of Beargrass Creek to Robert Jefferson Breckinridge of Fayette County, Kentucky, who was married to Preston's daughter Sophonisba. The tract included the site of the Howard-Gettys House. Two months later in April, 1832, Breckinridge sold 318 acres of this tract to John Howard, Jr. and Samuel K. Page of Louisville who were partners in the firm of Howard and Page, brickmakers. In August, 1833, Howard and Page divided the 318 acres into ten tracts. The plat for this division (Deed Book KK, page 410) shows that John Howard took title to five tracts known as Lots 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. Page acquired the other five, Lots 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. The Howard-Gettys House is located on a portion of Lot 6.

Little is known about John Howard, Jr. He was listed intermittently in city directories from 1832 to 1855 as a brickmaker located at the southeast corner of the city. He was married twice. His first wife, Ann, died in 1830 at the age of 19. In 1844, he married Paulina A. Langhorne, a widow, and she died in 1849. Howard died in 1863 at the age of 63, and his will mentioned only two nieces as heirs.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments (Louisville). Metropolitan Preservation Plan. (Text and selection by Walter E. Langsam.) Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1973.

Howard and Page Day and Cash Book, April, 1832-March, 1834. The Filson Club, 118 West Breckinridge St., Louisville, Ky

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	6	1	1	6	5	0	4	2	3	1	9	7	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 28-A, Lot 48
City of Louisville

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

Mary Jean Kinsman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Commission

DATE

August 25, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

617 West Jefferson

TELEPHONE

587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville

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

Edward W. Miller

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles R. ...

DATE 2-7-78

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Metropolitan Preservation Plan
1973 Local
KIPDA
Louisville, Kentucky

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The dining room was paneled, and parquet floors were installed in the living room and hall. A black and white tile floor was laid in the dining room. The dividing wall between the two rooms on the west was removed to create a large, formal living room. One doorway leading into this room from the hall was closed up, and a fireplace was closed and made into a bookcase.

The one-story brick wing at the rear contains two rooms. The interior of this wing was also remodeled in the 1920s. The first floor of the two-story portion of the wing is a nineteenth century construction. The second-story, frame dormer was added in the 1940s, as was the frame dormer on the roof at the rear. The side porch was built in the 1920s, and the glass was added by the present owners (photos 3 and 5).

Original woodwork of a very simple style remains in much of the main portion of the house, and several windows contain the old, wavy glass panes.

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Evidence of the brickmaking partnership of Howard and Samuel Page remains in the form of an account book titled, Howard and Page Day and Cash Book. It covers the period from April 1832, through March 1834, but contains entries dating back to October 1831. There is no evidence that the partnership continued after 1834, although Howard apparently continued to operate a brickyard.

As early as 1834, Howard began mortgaging his five lots to creditors and securors of his notes. His financial affairs worsened, and he was named defendant in numerous lawsuits. These various indentures, deeds, and lawsuits, along with tax records, have provided some basis for assuming that the Howard-Gettys House was probably built during John Howard's ownership of the land even though it cannot be proved that he built the house or ever lived there.

According to a mortgage deed of 1837 (Deed Book 49, page 139), Lot 2 (not Lot 6) was the site of John Howard's dwelling house. This was also mentioned in a lawsuit (Hardin and Cockrell vs. John Howard, Jr.) along with references to a distillery and mill being located on Howard's property.

Tax records indicate an increase in the total value of Howard's property from \$10,570 in 1835 to \$23,215 in 1836. In 1839, the value had increased to \$32,100. Since there were no significant changes in numbers of slaves, horses, or cattle, the increases could mean that improvements were made on the property--perhaps construction of new buildings or alteration of existing buildings. However, there was no indication of specific improvements on a particular lot. The 1838 tax list recorded Howard's 159 acres in five tracts, and the 48 acre tract (Lot 2) had the highest value at \$12,000. This would corroborate the references to Lot 2 as the site of a house, mill, and distillery. The remaining four lots were valued at \$7,624 in 1838, and their value increased to \$10,000 in 1839. This could mean that a structure was erected on one of the lots, presumably the house on Lot 6, but there is no proof for this assumption.

The Howard and Page Day and Cash Book contains entries of payments to workmen for "house building," "work on house," "finishing dwelling house," and "building chimneys." However there is no mention of whose house or the location. Also the entries were made in 1831, 1832, and 1833. Howard and Page bought the 318 acres in April 1832, and divided the land in 1833. It would seem unlikely that a house was built in 1831 and early 1832 on property not yet owned by either John Howard or Samuel Page, unless the brickyard already existed on the land, and Howard and Page entered into some sort of lease arrangement prior to their purchase of the land. No record of such a lease or agreement has been found.

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By 1838, Howard's affairs had apparently become a confusion of debts, unpaid notes, and multiple mortgages on the lots. With the exception of Lot 6, the other lots (4, 8, and 10) belonging to Howard were generally mortgaged as lots of 27 3/4 acres each. However, in 1840, Howard relinquished title to three-fourths of Lot 6 and retained title to one-fourth of the lot--approximately six acres. That six acre portion of Lot 6 was the present site of the Howard-Gettys House. It could be assumed that Howard retained title to that portion because some sort of structure which was valuable or useful to him was on the site. Howard also retained possession of Lot 2 according to depositions in a law suit (Hardin and Cockrell vs. John Howard, Jr., Louisville Ch. Court, case No. 2387). The depositions indicated that Howard may have retained possession of Lots 2 and 6 for the purpose of cutting wood for burning bricks, making and selling bricks and using the profits to repay his notes. Evidently, Howard did not do this, and the result of the lawsuits was a court ordered sale of Howard's property. A commissioner's report stated that a house was on Lot 6 in 1838.

In 1849, James Guthrie, Louisville financier and later Secretary of the United States Treasury, acquired some of Howard's property including the six acres of Lot 6. There is no indication in either city directories or in the Guthrie papers at The Filson Club that Guthrie ever used the Howard-Gettys House as even a country residence. In 1850, Guthrie sold a half-interest in the six acres to Thomas Y. Brent, and in 1851, he sold Brent the remaining half share. Brent was a native of Paris, Kentucky, a banker and wealthy landowner who moved to Louisville in 1850. He also acquired the tract known as Lot 2, formerly owned by John Howard, and it is thought that he and his family lived in a house on that site, now part of the Baptist Hospital grounds just south of Broadway on Barret Avenue.

In 1854, Brent sold the six acre site of the Howard-Gettys House to James Timmons. Timmons owned it until 1865, and during this period, he purchased an additional seven acres from the adjoining tract on the north. Timmons did live on the site according to a deposition in 1863 in a lawsuit involving a property line dispute. Timmons was listed in the 1855 directory as a trader living on Walnut Street. He was not listed again until 1865 when his residence was at 392 Third Street. Since county residents were frequently not listed in the early directories, this could also indicate that Timmons was living in the Howard-Gettys House.

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Several owners succeeded Timmons, and in 1885, John H. Bates bought the property. It remained in the Bates family until 1923 when it was sold to Winthrop Allen who did extensive remodeling. Allen owned the house until 1953 when the George D. Caldwell family bought it. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Briggs Gettys acquired the house in 1972. During the Allen's ownership, the surrounding lots were subdivided and sold.

Stylistically, the Howard-Gettys House can be placed in the period from 1810-1850. It is a transitional style with Federal characteristics such as the fanlighted doorway, raised basement, and the rather delicate scale of the portico, and the Greek Revival motifs of corner pilasters and recessed panels on the facade. There is some resemblance to Farmington (c. 1810) though it is a much simpler, more vernacular structure. It also bears some similarities to Mansfield (c. 1845), a fine Greek Revival residence in Lexington, Kentucky, designed by Thomas Lewinski. The Greek Revival character of the Howard-Gettys House is much less elegant and refined than that of Mansfield.

There are few houses extant in Louisville and Jefferson County having a raised basement or the particularly unique feature of the parapet chimneys. Aside from Farmington, Selema Hall (c. 1837) has a raised basement. Two known buildings in downtown Louisville have parapet chimneys. One is a small, two-story house on Preston Street between Main and Market Streets which can be dated in the 1830s or 1840s, and the other is the two-story structure (formerly a residence) at Third and York Streets which housed the Louisville Automobile Club. It is believed to date from the 1850s. The Blankenbaker Home on the corner of River Road and Blankenbaker Lane is a two-story, brick structure, c. 1830, which has a parapet chimney. A house remarkably similar to the Howard-Gettys House was "Calorama," the home of Episcopal bishop Thomas Smith. Now demolished, it stood at the end of Tyler Lane and was said to have been built for Bishop Smith about 1832. Photographs made in 1911 show its raised basement and parapet chimneys (see xerox no. 1).

The original elements of the Howard-Gettys House which remain seem to indicate that the house was not a formal, elegant residence but rather a small structure with simple detailing. The interior woodwork is quite plain as is the stairway whose urn-design finial was probably added (photos 8 and 9).

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The extensive renovation carried out in the 1920s by the owner, Winthrop Allen, altered much of the simplicity of the interior, making it more formal in feeling. The alterations were tastefully done, and good materials were used, as in the complete paneling of the dining room and the parquet floors added in the hall and living room, but these alterations were not in keeping with the original interior. The one-story, brick wing was remodeled, creating bedrooms and baths, and evidently changes were made in window and door placement. Evidence of earlier openings can be detected on the rear wall of the wing. Other additions such as the dormers and the side porch served to make the house more livable.

Since no photographs of the house prior to renovation have been found, it is difficult to determine if such things as the portico and doorway were part of the remodeling. Most likely the pillars on the portico were replaced when the house was renovated since they are identical to those on the side porch. The front door enframingent seems a bit large and more formal than it might have been originally.

The Howard-Gettys House, despite its alterations, merits consideration as a type of early nineteenth century residential architecture which has few surviving examples in Louisville and Jefferson County.

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James Guthrie Papers. The Filson Club, 118 West Breckinridge Street, Louisville Kentucky.

Jefferson County Deed Book 4577, p. 38 (1972); Book 3004, p. 234 (1953); Book 1938, p. 315 (1944); Book 1218, p. 218 (1926); Book 1139, p. 522 (1925); Book 1053, p. 155 (1923); Book 945, p. 13 (1920); Book 228, p. 481 (1885); Book 219, p. 497 (1878); Book 163, p. 65 (1872); Book 124, p. 195 (1865); Book 88, p. 639 (1854); Book 79, p. 497 (1851); Book 78, p. 573 (1851); Book 75, p. 609 (1850); Book 75, pp. 605, 607 (1849); Book KK, p. 410 (1833); Book HH, p. 125 (1832); Book GG, p. 185 (1832); Book 49, p. 139 (1837); Book 55, p. 99 (1840); Book 123, p. 438 (1865); Book 91, p. 383 (1854); Book 51, p. 357 (1838).

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Kiser, Walter. "Neighborhood Sketches." The Louisville Times. 22 March 1938.

Lawton, Helen. "A Living Reminder of the Past." The Courier-Journal Magazine. 9 May 1954.

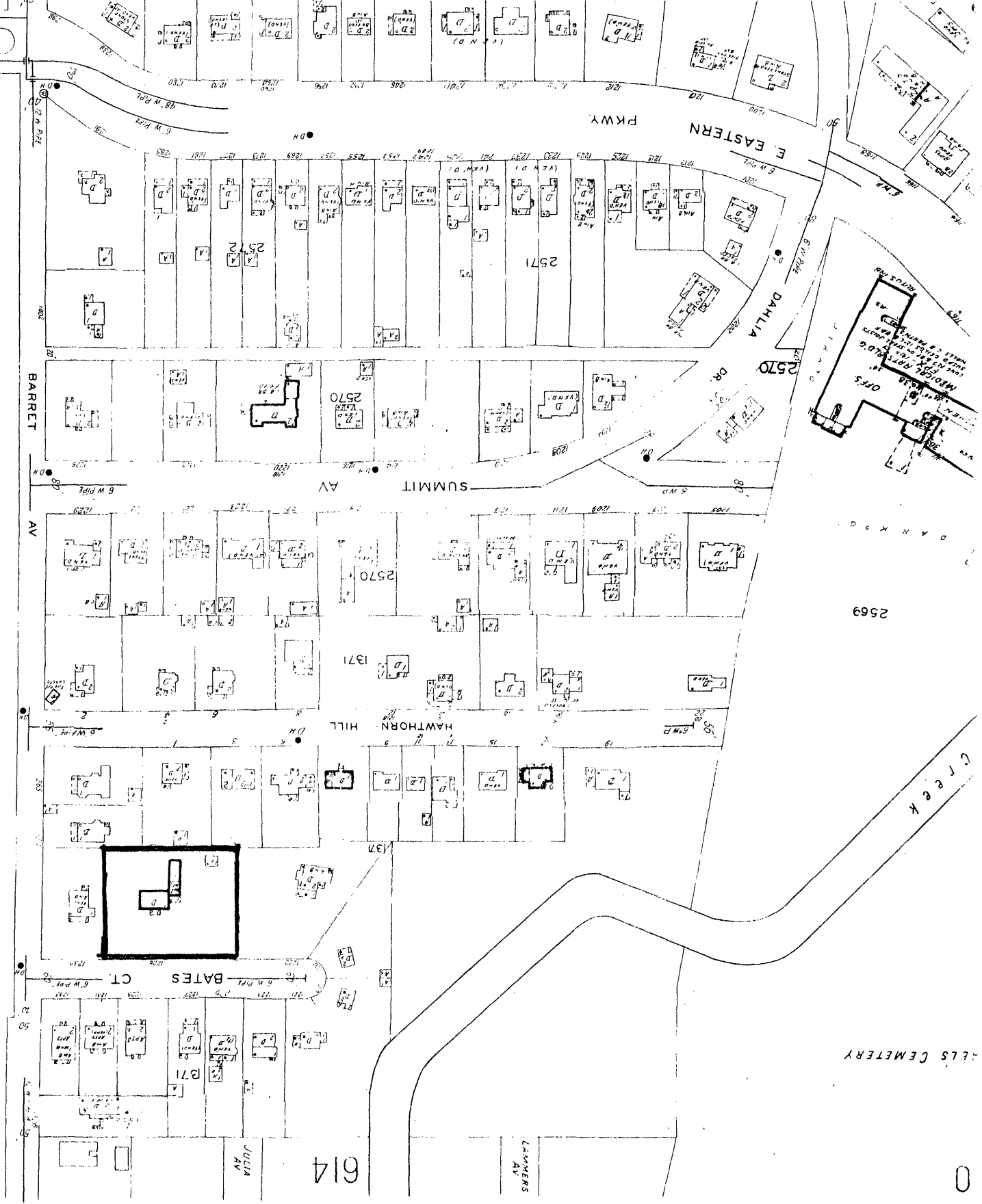
Louisville Chancery Court, Case No. 2387, Hardin and Cockerell vs. John Howard, Jr. (1840); Case No. 14049, Weissinger vs. Timmons (1858).

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Louisville City Directories, 1832 -1870.

Louisville Daily Journal, 4 May 1863: Death Notices, p. 3.

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ELLS CEMETERY

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Howard-Gettys House
Louisville, Jefferson, Ky.
Sanborn Map Company c 1974
Map # 2.

Map showing location of Bates
Court and Howard-Gettys House

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