

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **NOV 28 1975**  
DATE ENTERED **MAR 26 1976**

**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

**\*\*** Todd-Montgomery Houses ("Beaten Biscuit Row")

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Boundaries as shown on annexed U. S. G. S. map

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Danville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

06

STATE

Kentucky

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Boyle

CODE

021

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE (S)
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See attached list

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Boyle County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Danville, Kentucky

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1970; 1972

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 proposed district is composed of four houses on the west side of North Third Street; Lexington Avenue passes between 251 North Third and 305 North Third. These houses were built between 1836-1842, and were part of the early residential development of the City. The structures included in the district are:

- c. 1837 The Todd-Cheek House, 229 North Third Street
- c. 1837 The Montgomery-Rodes House, 305 North Third Street
- c. 1841 The Proctor-Rowland House, 243 North Third Street
- c. 1842 The Bowman-Anderson House, 251 North Third Street

Although surrounded by a residential area, the Todd-Montgomery houses, built within a six year period, have character of their own. The Todd-Cheek house, the southernmost house, projects forward to the streetline; the other three houses are setback equally. The houses located on the east side of North Third Street, which face the Todd-Montgomery houses, date from a later period (1870-1900). The section of Lexington Avenue, east of the Todd-Montgomery houses, which runs north-south, deserves nomination to the National Register, but the street has a different character: the street is wider, the lots are larger, and the houses are unevenly setback from the avenue.

The Todd-Cheek house is a five-bay, two-story brick house. The facade is laid in Flemish bond while the sides are laid in common. There are jack arches over all the windows and stone lintels below. The front entrance is recessed and has fluted tapered Doric columns on each side of the door and three-pane sidelights. Above the door is a carved design (see photo 3). The entrance feature is framed by unfluted flat pilasters with inverted fluted "capitals" and a simple entablature surmounted by a simplified version of a Lafever frontispiece. Centered above the front entrance is a door with three-pane sidelights. A one-story porch spans three bays and is supported by four round columns. A pierced Tudor Revival decorative railing with octagonal posts, probably from another mid-Victorian house, extends across the top (see photo 1). At each end of the house is an interior chimney with a corbelled top.

A two-story brick wing extends west of the main block and has a one-story porch on the north side, enclosed by railing. At the rear of the house (west) is an exterior chimney and outside steps with modern iron railing leading to a second-story apartment (see photo 4).

The only surviving outbuilding is a brick smokehouse located fifty feet north of the house. The brick is laid in common bond and it has a shake-shingle roof. The date 1837 is above the door (see photo 5).

The Proctor-Rowland house is a five-bay, two-story brick structure with a central gable with a dormer on each side. The brick is laid in common bond on the facade and sides.

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

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1837-1842      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Dr. John Todd; Robert Montgomery

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Danville, located in the center of the State on the Old Wilderness Road (the major land route used by the settlers travelling from Virginia to Kentucky) was established by the Virginia legislature in 1787. The town was the site of a series of constitutional conventions which took place from 1785-1792. The last convention was held in 1792, when a constitution was formed and adopted and Kentucky entered the Union as the fifteenth state. The town first developed around Constitution Square, the site of these conventions (see National Register form, forwarded to Washington July 14, 1975).

James Birney, a wealthy merchant and father of the prominent abolitionist, was the first to develop the land north of the Square for residential use. In 1818 he purchased two blocks of land directly east of the proposed district and north of the Constitution Square, and divided it into small lots.

In 1836 development expanded west of Birney's to the west side of North Third Street. Dr. John Todd sold three lots to Robert Montgomery. Montgomery was a Danville land promoter and developer active in the 1830's and 1840's. During this time he built many homes and public buildings. On the lots he purchased from Todd he constructed three houses during the period of 1837-1842. The area in which these houses were located was known as the "beaten biscuit land" because at certain times of the day the sound of the biscuit beater filled the neighborhood.

Located on the southern boundary of the proposed district, facing east on North Third Street, is the Todd-Cheek House, built in 1836 by Dr. John Todd. Todd was a first cousin of Robert Todd, the father of Mary Todd Lincoln. Dr. Todd practiced medicine in Danville for many years. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees for Centre College 1833-1841.

In 1850, the house was purchased by Dr. Alexander McKee. Dr. McKee was born in Lancaster, Kentucky, on February 1816. He was the son of Samuel McKee (a member of Congress 1808-1816 and a member of the State legislature and Judge of the Circuit Court) and Martha Robertson, daughter of Alexander Robertson of Mercer County, Kentucky.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fackler, Calvin Morgan. Early Days in Danville. Louisville: The Standard Printing Co., 1941.

"Dr. Alexander R. McKee, " "Clifton Rodes, " and "Hon. William C. Anderson." The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky. Cincinnati: Armstrong & Co., 1878.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10

UTM REFERENCES

D A	1.6	69.6	50.0	4.1	69.0	5.0	A B	1.6	69.6	5.6	4.1	6.9	0.5	0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
B C	1.6	69.6	5.4	4.1	6.8	8.9	C D	1.6	69.6	4.9	4.1	6.8	8.9	0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*See telephone report*  
 Bounded on the north by the northernmost property line north of Lexington Avenue, on the south by the southernmost property line south of Lexington Avenue, on the east by North Third Street, and on the west by the rear property lines west of North Third Street.

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

Mrs. George Grider

MC/WEL

ORGANIZATION

DATE  
October 1975

STREET & NUMBER

309 W. Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Danville

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.

SIGNATURE

*Cedred W. Melton*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE 11-24-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting *[Signature]*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 3/26/98

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-26-76

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Todd-Montgomery Houses ('Beaten Biscuit Row')

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Miss Mary Ashby Cheek  
229 N. Third Street  
Danville, Kentucky

Mrs. John C. Robinson  
243 N. Third Street  
Danville, Kentucky

Mrs. Henry Albers  
251 N. Third Street  
Danville, Kentucky

Mr. Nelson D. Rodes, Jr.  
305 N. Third Street  
Danville, Kentucky

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In the front there are stone lintels above and below the windows (see photo 6). The front entrance, framed with Greek "ear" moldings, does not appear to be original. The upper part of the door is glass, while the bottom is paneled (see photo 12). The entrance is framed by a one-bay, one-story porch supported by four small square columns that may be original. A dentilated cornice on the porch echoes the cornice on the facade and central gable.

A back ell extends off the main block to the west. The windows on the sides and back have six-over-six pane sash. A back door is located to the side of the west end, with modern iron railing placed along the two steps leading to the door (see photo 8).

The Bowman-Anderson House is a five-bay, two-story structure with a small central gable. The house has been stuccoed. The first-floor windows have been lengthened and have twelve-over-twelve pane sash. The second-story windows, which are smaller, also have twelve-over-twelve pane sash. A door is located on each side of the central second-story window (see photo 9). The front entrance has been made into two single doors, side by side under one shallow segmental fan-light (see photo 10). There is a porch with four pairs of columns which extends across the front of the house (see photo 9). An interior chimney is located at each end of the main block. A rear ell extends off the main block.

The main block of the Montgomery-Rodes House is a five-bay, two-story brick unit one room deep. The brick is laid in Flemish bond on the front, with queen closers at the ends, and common bonding on the sides. The fenestration of the facade is six-over-six pane sash with jack arches above the windows. The front entrance consists of double doors, each with five horizontal panels. There is a seven-light transom with three-pane sidelights. Framing the front entrance is one-bay, one-story porch supported by large Ionic columns. Centered above the porch is a window with three-pane sidelights (see photo 12). Located at the center of each of the main block is an interior chimney with a corbelled top.

The Montgomery-Rodes house has a modified H-shape (see sketch plan). The floor plan of the front main block, which runs north-south, has a hall with flanking parlors but no staircase. A wing extends off the center of the main block (to the west) which contains a separate stair hall and the dining room.

At the rear of the house is another wing, running north-south, which contains the kitchen and family room. The original, two-story gallery with square brick piers is located on

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on the north side of the center wing and has been screened in and partially enclosed (see photo 13). Located on the south side of the center wing is a one-story open porch with square wooden columns, onto which a later Victorian bay window opens. The windows on the sides and in the back have twelve-over-twelve pane sash.

Modern mantels with oval sunburst design are found in the two parlors in the front main block (see photo 1).

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Dr. McKee was graduated from Centre College and took his degree in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1839. He then returned to Richmond, Kentucky, where he practiced medicine until 1857. A few years after his arrival in Richmond he married Mary Ashby. In 1857, Dr. McKee moved to Clay County, Missouri, for two years, whereupon he moved to Danville, Kentucky, where he practiced at least up until 1878. While residing in Danville McKee served a number of times on the city council and was one of the organizers of the First National Bank and later served as director.

Immediately north of the Todd house, facing east on North Third Street is the Proctor-Rowland House erected circa 1841 by Robert Montgomery on a lot adjoining the property of Dr. Todd. It was included in the tract of land Montgomery purchased from Todd in 1836. After completing the house Montgomery sold it to Benjamin Proctor. The Proctor-Rowland house was for many years the home of the Centre College professor, John Redd.

Immediately north of the Proctor-Rowland House facing east on North Third Street, is the Bowman-Anderson House built by Robert Montgomery in 1842. Upon completion, the house was sold to S.N. Bowman. For many years the house was the residence of the Honorable William C. Anderson. W.C. Anderson, born in Garrard County, Kentucky, in 1816, was the son of Simeon Anderson and the grandson of Governor William Owsley (1844-1848; see the National Register nomination form on Owsley's house "Pleasant Retreat" near Lancaster, Garrard County, placed on the Register May 6, 1975). Anderson attended Centre College and studied law under his grandfather, Governor Owsley, in Frankfort. He first began his law practice in Lancaster, Kentucky, but shortly afterwards moved to Danville, where he shared a large, lucrative practice with his brother-in-law, General Boyle.

In 1851 Anderson was elected to represent Boyle County in the Legislature and at the end of his term he was re-elected without opposition. He served as Presidential Elector on the Fillmore ticket in 1856 and a year later he became a candidate for Congress from the Fourth Congressional district but was defeated by a small margin. In 1859 and 1861 he was again nominated for Congress and elected. He served until his death in 1862.

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Located on the southwest corner of Lexington Avenue and North Third Street north of the Bowman-Anderson house is the Montgomery-Rodes House constructed in 1837 by Robert Montgomery. Montgomery began construction of the house shortly after purchasing the land from Dr. Todd. He resided there until 1848 when he sold the property to Clifton Rodes. Rodes was born in Madison County, Kentucky, in August 1798. His father, a native of Virginia, was one of the earliest settlers of Kentucky. Rodes attended Transylvania College under Dr. Horace Holley. At the death of his father in 1819, he took over the management of the family farm. Three years later he married a daughter of Governor Owsley.

In 1853 Rodes was elected president of the Deposit Bank of Danville. During the reorganization of the banking system of the country, his residence became the Central National Bank of Danville. Rodes was also influential in securing and furthering the interests of the Southern Railroad. At his death the house was left to his son, Charles H., a prominent Danville lawyer.

In 1957 the movie, Raintree County, starring Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift, was filmed at the Montgomery-Rodes house. The interior and exterior of the house was selected for use as Clift's family home. The story Raintree County, was set during the Civil War in Indiana. The choice no doubt reflected the property's remarkably intact ante bellum character and setting.

The four houses, three of which were probably originally almost identical, represent a mid-19th-century upper middle-class residential development which through the years, in spite of superficial alterations, has retained not only its original appearance and ambience, but also a continuity of socio-economic habitation. The early residents, like many of those at present, have been lawyers, doctors, professors and others associated with nearby Centre College. They were plain, substantial, architecturally conservative brick blocks, except for the northernmost Montgomery-Rodes House, located on a larger lot separated from the other three by Lexington Avenue, a major east-west thoroughfare that narrows at the intersection beside the house, which is protected by a fine Victorian castiron fence. The house Robert Montgomery built for himself is a superb version of the early Greek Revival in Kentucky, even in a town noted for its impressive and imaginative adaptations of the Greek Revival style. Although it lacks the wide full-scale temple fronts for which Danville is noted, the Montgomery house has a handsome one-story portico without pediment framing the main entrance, with slightly tapered unfluted voluted columns under an impressive entablature. Aside from the triple window in the second story over the similar triple entrance,

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there are no other Grecian features on the facade, in accord with the transitional character of the design of the main block, which otherwise resembles that of the three other houses.

The plan is also transitional, and a fascinating one, somewhat resembling the famous Waveland (Joseph Bryan House, now Kentucky Life Museum, listed on the National Register August 12, 1971; not to be confused with the Willis Green House also named Waveland, near Danville) near Lexington, which dates from 1847, a decade after the Montgomery House. Both have a front block only one room deep with two rooms in a two-story longitudinal wing behind extending to the rear and a cross-axial service wing at the rear. Like Waveland there is a two-story recessed gallery on square piers at the right side and a more modest porch on the opposite side. Waveland has a secondary stairway in the first room back of the front block in addition to one in the main central hall; in its present condition the Montgomery house has only one, a rather conservative three-stage Federal stair. The Montgomery House rear wing, however, extends further north, forming almost an askew counter-part to the front block. Even the portico of the Montgomery House could be seen as a truncated version if not a prototype of the Waveland type discussed by Clay Lancaster in his Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass (1961).

The earliest of the three other houses, which was built by Dr. Todd for himself, also has architectural interest. The entrance, which may be original, is an extraordinary primitive version of a Lafever pattern. The wooden fluted tapered Doric columns flanking the recessed entrance are quite "correct" interpretations of Greek sources; the framing pilasters, flat and unfluted, have odd grooved capitals splayed upward under the Roman entablature; but the frontispiece above the entablature is a drastically simplified and probably quite misunderstood version of Lafever's typical anthemion and acroteria, albeit vigorous and effective -- both awkward and sweeping -- in itself. This bizarre entrance contrasts with the staid Tuscan columns of the turn-of-the-century porch, which is surmounted even more surprisingly by a characteristic Tudor Revival railing whose octagonal posts are aligned with the classical columns below! (See the added porch to Waveland near Danville for another example of this style, frequently found in outstanding interpretations in the Danville area.)

The adjoining Proctor-Rowland House has a more standard square Greek one-story porch, and the third house has another turn-of-the-century porch and "Federal" fan-

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lighted doorway. The ells of these houses are also interesting, harking back to the standard early 19th-century forms, in contrast to the imaginative functional plan of Montgomery's own house. The Todd-Cheek House also retains a typical brick smokehouse with a shingle roof. Together, these four properties make a fascinating study in similarity and contrast, in real estate development, and architectural innovation.



Todd-Montgomery Houses

NO SCALE

Third Street

150

242

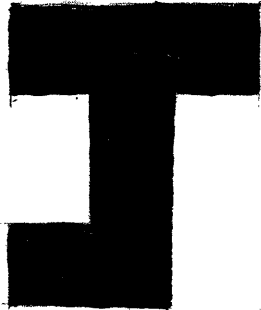
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Lexington Avenue

Fourth Street

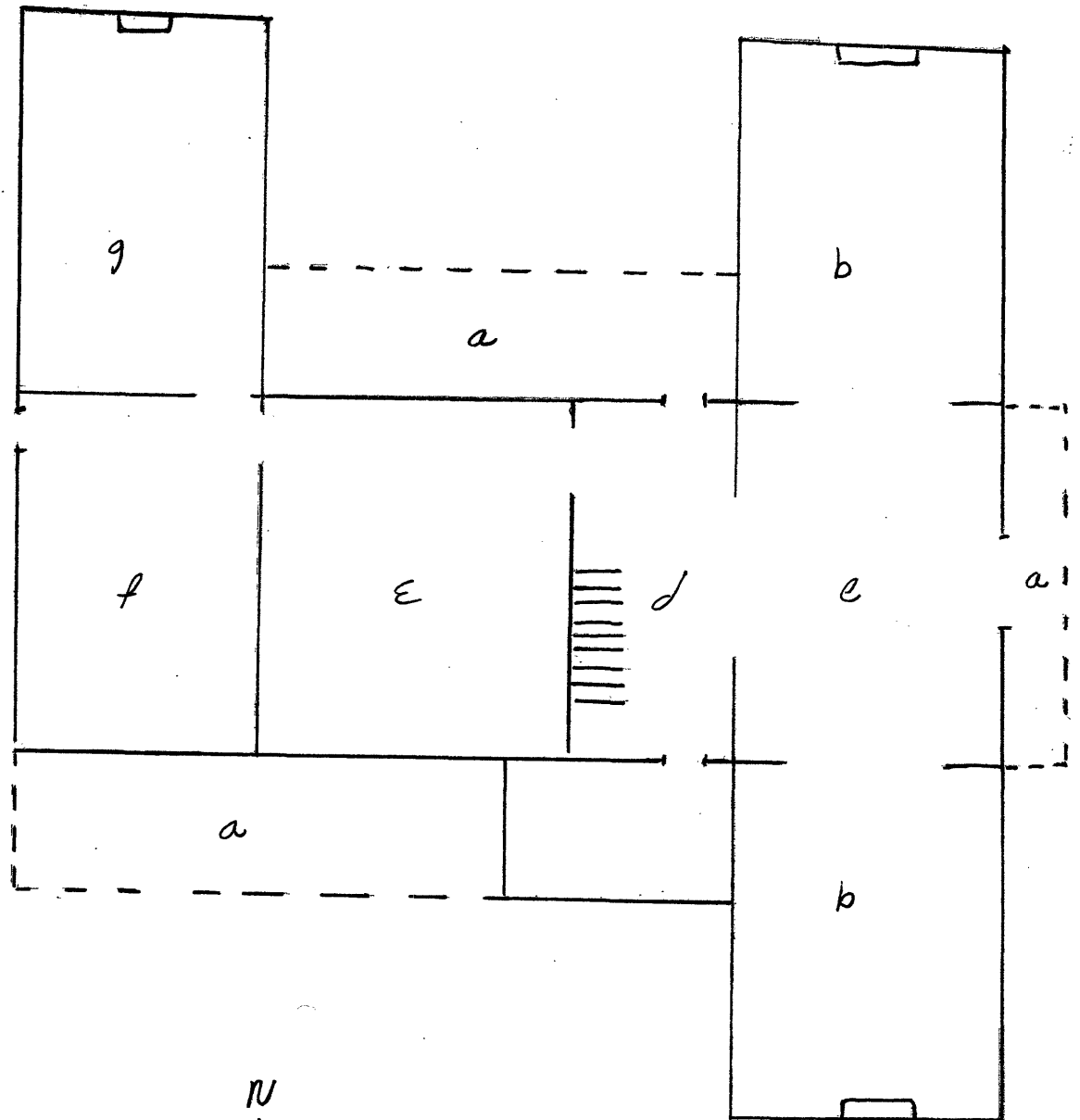
300



↑ N

# Montgomery - Rodes House

- a - porches
- b - front parlors
- c - central hall
- d - stair hall
- e - dining room
- f - kitchen
- g - family room



NO SCALE

