

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0692531

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NOV 29 1978

MAR 1 1979

DATE ENTERED

**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

Dr. Nathan Gaither House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

100 South High Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Adair

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Mary H. Patteson

STREET & NUMBER

100 South High Street

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Adair County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

500 Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

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

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dr. Nathan Gaither House (see photo 1) is located on the northwest corner of High and Main (Greensburg) Streets in Columbia, Kentucky. The structure is situated on a rise facing Main Street and is two blocks northwest of the Adair County courthouse. Columbia, with a population of approximately 3300, is the seat of government for this south central Kentucky county.

Erected ca. 1814, the Dr. Nathan Gaither House is a one and one-half story, five-bay, ell-shaped structure laid in Flemish bond on the facade and common bond on the sides and rear. Nine-over-six pane windows with jack arches pierce the main facade, and flanking the exterior end chimneys are small, gable windows. The most striking element is the rather Palladian treatment of the frontispiece, created by the arrangement of the sidelights and the semi-circular fanlight with keystone arch (see photo 2). The narrow, reeded pilasters and the deep, panelled door jamb further enhance the gracefulness of the overall composition.

The original, one-story gallery runs along the south side of the one and one-half story rear ell. Lattice-work has been added between the chamfered posts partially enclosing the porch area, and corner stairs with winders which lead to the attic space above the ell remain in the western end of the gallery. A second gallery extended across the northern portion of the ell. This has been enclosed by the present owner, creating a dining room and kitchen. A screened-porch and carport, neither of which seriously detracts from the house, have been added to the rear of the ell.

The interior consists of a central hall flanked by what were originally a living room and parlor (see floor plan). An open, dog-leg staircase (see photo 3) revealing a delicate stringer is located at the rear of the hall. The door beneath the stairs now leads to the more recent dining room and adjoining kitchen. Access to the ell may be obtained through the dining room and kitchen or from the southern parlor. The two rooms in the ell are connected by a door located to the south of the fireplaces, and, in addition, each contains a door leading onto the south gallery (see floor plan).

The delicate detail of the original Federal mantles (see photos 4 and 5) may have been the work of local carpenters James and Benjamin McDowell who executed the woodwork in the John Field House (entered on the National Register February 8, 1978). In addition to the mantles the original chair railing, baseboards, and panelled door and window jambs have been retained. The house is in good condition with, at present, the north living room and the second floor serving as apartments.

To the north of the house facing Main Street is a small, one-story, brick structure which dates from the mid-nineteenth century. To the rear of this is another building constructed from the remaining parts of various outbuildings no longer extant. Both of these structures currently serve as apartments.

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 checked="" 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 ca. 1814

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. Nathan Gaither House, located on Main (Greensburg) Street in close proximity to the county courthouse and public square, is one of the two finest Federal houses remaining in Columbia. (The other notable structure is the John Field House, entered on the National Register February 8, 1978.) The house attains additional historical significance by having been the home of Dr. Nathan Gaither, a prominent local physician and politician.

The Dr. Nathan Gaither House on town lot 14 two blocks north of the courthouse was completed ca. 1814. The diminutive brick structure is a noteworthy expression of the Federal style. The focal point of the facade is the rather Palladian effect created by the arrangement of the sidelights and fanlight surrounding the front door. Further evidence of the master craftsmanship employed in the construction of this building is visible in the interior trim, especially the delicately tooled Federal mantles. This work is attributed to local carpenters James and Benjamin McDowell who are known to have been responsible for the construction of the 1812 John Field House.

Born in Rowan County, North Carolina, Nathan Gaither (1788-1862) came to Kentucky in 1808. He attended Bardstown College before beginning his medical studies, first with his cousin, Dr. Edward Gaither of Springfield, Kentucky, and then at the Philadelphia School of Medicine. During this time, Nathan Gaither volunteered to undergo the vaccination for smallpox which had only recently been developed by Dr. Edward Jenner and was still in the experimental stage. Dr. Gaither also served as surgeon in the War of 1812.

By the end of the war, Dr. Gaither had settled permanently in Columbia and for the next twenty years was active in political affairs as well as his medical profession. From 1812 to 1817, he held the position of trustee of the town of Columbia. In addition, he was elected to the Kentucky legislature from 1815 to 1818. Dr. Gaither served two consecutive terms in the United States House of Representatives from 1829 to 1833, during which time he unsuccessfully opposed the building of a turnpike road through Kentucky and the chartering of the Bank of the United States.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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"Notes on Adair County." Adair County News, 30 July 1919.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Columbia Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

650 A

1	6	6	4	8	3	9	0	4	1	0	7	5	5	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

C													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

E													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

G													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

D													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

F													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

H													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house is bounded on the northeast by Greensburg Road, on the southeast by High Street, and on the southwest and northwest by the property lines.

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

Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August 1978

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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

Edna W. Meeter

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10-26-16

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: *Charles Spurgeon*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3-1-79

DATE 3/1/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Dr. Nathan Gaither House
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

At the conclusion of his second term in Congress, Dr. Gaither began devoting more time to his medical practice in Columbia. Burdened by security debts, Dr. Gaither was eventually forced to sell his house. However, he continued his medical profession until his death, entering politics only twice in later life to serve as a member of the state constitutional convention of 1850 and as a presidential elector in 1861.

Four other persons have owned the house since Dr. Gaither sold it. The present owner, who rents part of the building, has enclosed one of the galleries and added a porch and a carport onto the rear. However, these alterations have not detracted from the overall architectural integrity of the structure.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Dr. Nathan Gaither House

CONTINUATION SHEET

Addendum

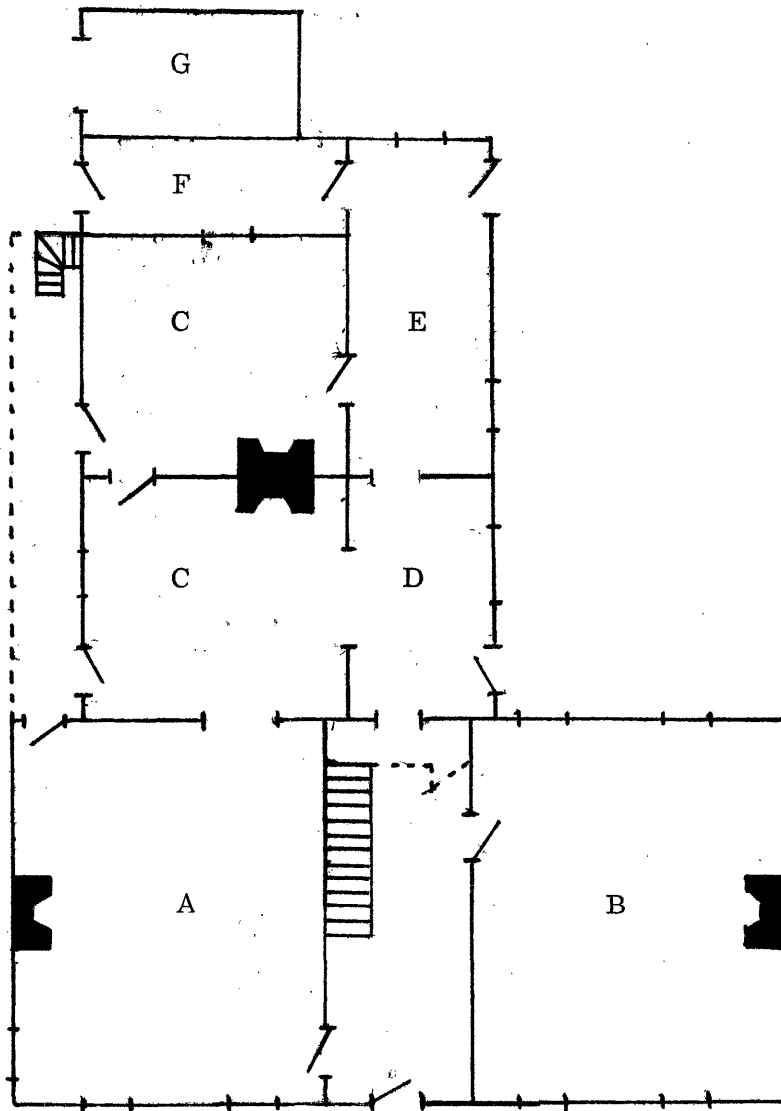
ITEM NUMBER

10

PAGE

Verbal Boundary Description--

Beginning at a point on the northwest corner of Greensburg and High Streets, the boundary runs southwest along the north side of High Street for approximately 125 feet, turns northwest along the rear property line for approximately 100 feet, northeast along the side property line for approximately 125 feet to Greensburg Street, southeast along the east side of Greensburg Street for approximately 100 feet to the point of origin.



Dr. Nathan Gaither House
 Columbia
 Adair County
 Kentucky

Sketch plan
 Not to scale

A - Parlor
 B - Living Room
 C - Chambers
 D - Dining Room
 E - Kitchen
 F - Porch
 G - Carport



Dr. Nathan Gaither House

Columbia

Adair County, Kentucky

MAR 1979

Map 2

NOV 2 1978

Sketch Plan

Charlotte Schneider

Kentucky Heritage Commission

Frankfort, Kentucky

August 1978

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Dr. Nathan Gaither House

AND/OR COMMON

same

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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Columbia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

VICINITY OF

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Kentucky

CODE

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COUNTY

Adair

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

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- PRIVATE
- BOTH
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STATE

Kentucky

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Adair County Courthouse

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STATE

Kentucky

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TITLE

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DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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

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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
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<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 checked="" 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 ca. 1814

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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QUADRANGLE NAME Columbia Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

650 A

1	6	6	4	8	3	9	0	4	1	0	7	5	5	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

C													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

E													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

G													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

D													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

F													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

H													
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house is bounded on the northeast by Greensburg Road, on the southeast by High Street, and on the southwest and northwest by the property lines.

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

Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August 1978

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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. Meeter

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10-26-16

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: *Charles Spurgeon*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3-1-79

DATE 3/1/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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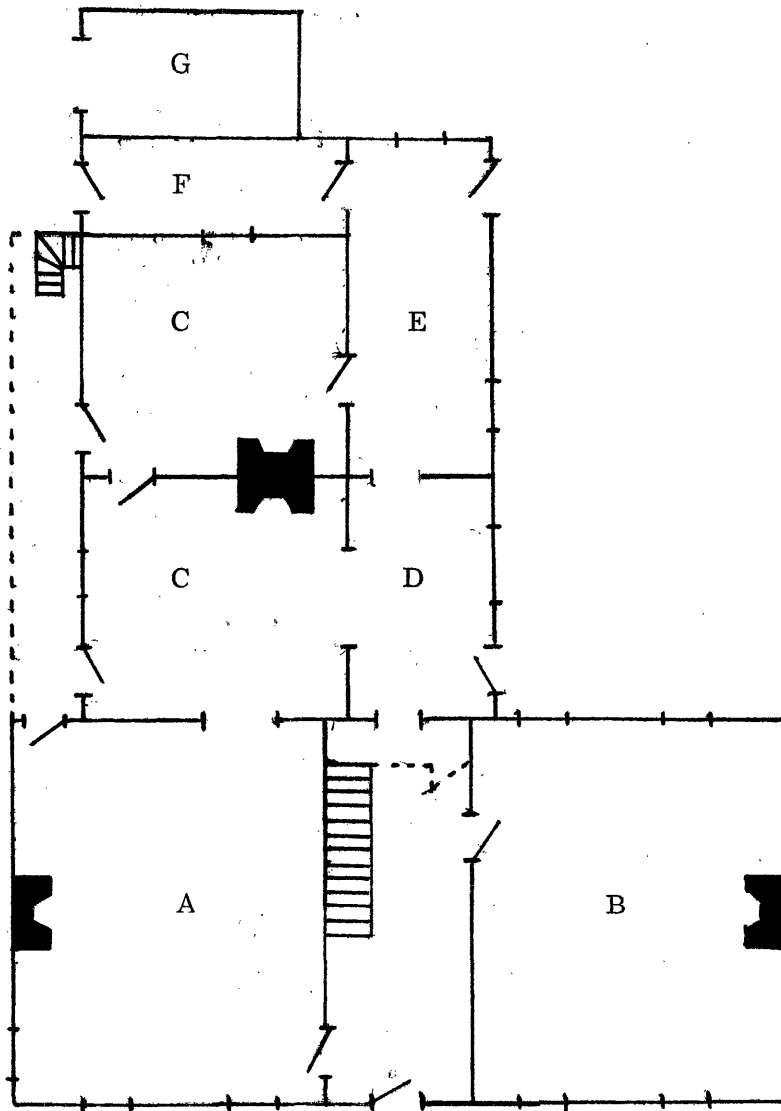
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Verbal Boundary Description--

Beginning at a point on the northwest corner of Greensburg and High Streets, the boundary runs southwest along the north side of High Street for approximately 125 feet, turns northwest along the rear property line for approximately 100 feet, northeast along the side property line for approximately 125 feet to Greensburg Street, southeast along the east side of Greensburg Street for approximately 100 feet to the point of origin.



Dr. Nathan Gaither House
 Columbia
 Adair County
 Kentucky

Sketch plan
 Not to scale

A - Parlor
 B - Living Room
 C - Chambers
 D - Dining Room
 E - Kitchen
 F - Porch
 G - Carport



Dr. Nathan Gaither House

Columbia

Adair County, Kentucky

Map 2

Sketch Plan

Charlotte Schneider

Kentucky Heritage Commission

Frankfort, Kentucky

August 1978

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