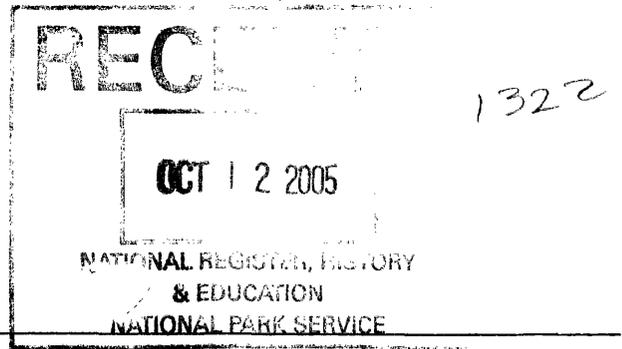


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Pogue House

other names/site number MS-M-745

2. Location

street & number 716 West Second Street not for publication N/A

city or town Maysville vicinity N/A

state Kentucky code KY county Mason code 161 zip code 40202

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan
Signature of certifying official
David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive Director, KHC

10-6-05
Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of certifying official / Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper
11-25-05
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A
(Do not count the number of previously listed resources above.)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Add more category and subcategory lines if needed)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Add more category and subcategory lines if needed)

Cat: WORK IN PROGRESS

Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Cat: MID 19th CENTURY
Sub: Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
 roof Asphalt Shingle
 walls Brick
 other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

N / A

Areas of Significance

Industry

Period of Significance

1890-1918

Significant Dates

1890

Significant Person

Pogue, Henry
(enter only if Criterion B selected)

Cultural Affiliation

N / A
(enter only if Criterion D selected)

Architect/Builder

Unknown

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.0 acres

UTM References Zone Easting Northing Quad Name
Coordinate 1: 17 258120 4282710 Maysville West

Verbal Boundary Description

The area proposed for listing encompasses the entire property now addressed as 716 West Second Street, Maysville (Mason County), Kentucky. The property's legal description is a parcel defined by the Mason County Property Valuation Assessor as account number 1739100-04 and the Mason County Register of Deeds under Deed Book 301, Page 294.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the historic Pogue House and the grounds surrounding the property that have integrity of setting to the period of Pogue family ownership. The property includes only the main house and the historic setting, which is an appropriate area to recognize the Pogue family's association with the property. The property across West Second Street, i.e., the site of the former Pogue Distillery, has lost its historic integrity due to the demolition of its historic buildings. Consequently, the residential site proposed for listing has the best ability to recall the importance of the family whose importance is derived from the locally significant distilling industry.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Phil Breen
organization N / A
street & number 3250 Hardisty Avenue telephone 513- 871-3827
city or town Cincinnati state Ohio zip code 45208 date 6/15/05

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Scaled Floor plan** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Heritage Properties of Mason County LLC
street & number 214 Court Street telephone 513-871-3827
city or town Maysville state KY zip code 41056

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

Section number 7 Page 1

The Pogue House (MS-M-745) is located in Maysville, seat of Mason County, Kentucky, at 716 West Second Street, several blocks from the western edge of the Maysville Historic District, in one of the city's oldest neighborhoods.

The county is roughly square in shape and is bordered by the Ohio River to the North. The county's economy is largely agricultural in basis and it is the second largest burley tobacco market in the United States. All of the towns and communities in the county are oriented towards agriculture in the goods and services they provide.

Mason County was established by the Virginia Legislature in 1787. In 1787 Maysville was established as a town, the third in Mason County, Virginia, on land owned by Simon Kenton and John May, for whom it was named. In 1848 Maysville became the county seat of Mason County.

The Pogue House was built in 1845 for industrialist Michael Ryan, who named it "Riverside". It is beautifully situated on a three-acre hillside lot 200 feet above the Ohio River and enjoys sweeping ten-mile views of the river and the surrounding countryside.

The original hillside lot in 1845 measured fifteen acres and included space for a small barn, hen yard, pasture, root cellar, cistern, and privy. The acreage was the same when purchased by Henry D. Pogue II in 1890. The lot was divided in 1955 into two parcels. Parcel #1 contains three acres and the original Pogue House. Parcel #2 contains twelve acres and a newer house built for Marguerite Pogue, daughter of Henry E. and Annabelle Pogue II. (Mason County Deed Book 127, page 318; DB 151, page 505)

This stately "L" plan home was built in the Greek revival style and follows a center hall floor plan, two rooms wide and two rooms deep, with three stories of living space. The house is constructed of brick with an ashlar-cut limestone foundation. It provides 4,850 square feet of living space, plus the basement work area, and was one of Northern Kentucky's largest domiciles in 1845.

A standing-seam metal roof of low pitch and boxed eaves incorporates its gables into stepped end walls. Each gable end wall contains two chimneys and each chimney serves two or three fireplaces. These prominent end walls, measuring 42 feet x 38 feet, are particularly distinguishing feature of this house.

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**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

Section number 7 Page 2

The Pogue House utilizes symmetrically-spaced windows on all sides, including four blind windows. The windows are large, with each sash measuring 42"x42". The double-hung sashes utilize six-over-six lights. Windows are simple in style and originally included working exterior shutters which are now absent. Each window has a rectangular cut stone lintel and sill.

The house faces due North and the Ohio River. The front façade features an 8 ft x 8ft doorway that is recessed 3ft, which creates a strong feeling of enclosure at the house's entry point. The front entry is surrounded with an egg and dart design and is paneled elaborately. A shouldered architrave with pediment graces the front doorway. The door is surrounded by a tripartite transom elaborately paneled and includes a large single-light window of beveled glass. Additionally there are four other entry doors. All are grand in size, simple in styling, and utilize three-pane transoms.

The interior is organized around a center hall floor plan, with one room on each side of the hall and two rooms deep from front to back. The first floor consists of 1,800 square feet of living space divided into a kitchen, laundry, dining room, living room, library, and center hall. The second floor consists of 1,800 square feet of living space and includes four bedrooms, three bathrooms, and a large center hall. The third floor servant quarters consist of 1,250 square feet of living space and includes four rooms with board and batten doors, large center space, and additional storage space under the west eave.

The basement provides 700 square feet of workspace divided into three rooms, each with 8 ft ceilings. A small fireplace with a cut stone arch is located on the west wall of the west room.

The interior of this house contains many architecturally significant features, such as 15 inch baseboards and elaborate window and door surrounds. An especially attractive curving staircase connects the first and second floor halls and is the centerpiece of this home's many prominences. The staircase measure 22 ft x 3 ft and contains 22 individual steps. The curving cherry wood railing is 35 ft long and includes 66 cherry wood balusters anchored with a birdcage newel on the first step.

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Continuation Sheet**

**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

Section number 7 Page 3

The first floor living space has large rooms with 11 ft. ceilings. The most unusual feature of the first floor is that there are no doors between rooms. Instead, 8 foot archways bordered with classical Ionic columns connect rooms to each other and to the central hall. This creates a very spacious appearance and offers an uninterrupted traffic pattern between the rooms. This openness is both appealing to the eye and important functionally when the downstairs space is used for entertaining large numbers of guests.

Beautiful wood floors have survived. The first level floors are constructed of 3-inch tongue-and-groove quarter-sawn oak of random lengths set in a bordered format. On the second and third levels, the original floors remain and are constructed of 5 inch tongue-and-groove pine, natural in color, and set in a traditional parallel format.

This 1845 home was considerably upgraded circa 1890 after Henry E. Pogue II acquired the property that he renamed "Star Terrace." On the first floor he replaced three sets of pocket doors between the center hall, dining, library and living rooms with 8 ft open archways bordered with classical Ionic columns. Quarter-sawn flooring was installed throughout the first level. A bathroom, probably one of the first in Mason County, was installed on the second floor. It was walled and floored with a terrazzo composition that still survives.

The most significant upgrade to the property, circa 1900, was the replacement of the front wood-framed entry porch with a full-façade 42 ft x 18 ft roofed terrace constructed of imported stone and tile. A Victorian style door featuring an exotic fretwork motif in the panels was added to connect this terrace to the center hall.

Over time, the terrace deteriorated and was removed from the house in 1955. We suspect that the considerable weight of the stone and tiles caused lateral slippage to the front foundation area and pulled the terrace and the front wall away from the house. The brick front façade was replaced with a lighter wooded-framed wall and sheathed with shingles. The front wall of the original foundation was probably damaged by the same forces and it was rebuilt with cement blocks. The house has remained porchless since 1955.

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**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

Section number 7 Page 4

Immediate Past – The Pogue family sold the subject property in 1955 and a series of owners have allowed the house and grounds to deteriorate from their original splendor. The most recent past owner actually abandoned the property, leaving it open to looters and the elements for nearly seven years. As a consequence of nearly 50 years of neglect, the property is currently in a degraded state. For example, the front porch, which was removed in 1955, has not been replaced. A badly leaking roof has allowed rain water to damage several ceilings, walls and floors in an area representing about twenty percent of the living space of the house. There is no central heat/air conditioning or public sewer, and the lighting, plumbing and electrical systems are dangerously old. Exterior retaining walls have crumbled and the hillside driveway is eroded. Walkways and lawns have been overcome with downed trees, vines and underbrush, which have choked out all desirable grass and plantings. Nevertheless, the property's immense scale and classic lines show through and fairly shout about the grandeur that was first name "Riverside".

Present Condition

The current owner acquired this property in 2002 and began to take steps to stop further deterioration. The roof was immediately repaired to eliminate water damage to the interior. Broken window panes were replaced. Deadbolts and window locks were installed to prevent unauthorized entry. A new electric service was connected. Motion activated exterior lights were installed to discourage night-time prowlers. The house and lot were cleared of trash and brush to lessen the chance of damage by fire. The driveway was repaired to provide accessibility for service and emergency vehicles.

This year, the front porch will be replaced after a 50-year absence. The house will undergo a complete interior and exterior cleaning and painting. All windows and doors will be scraped, primed and painted. Seven one-over-one double-hung windows will be converted back to the original six-over-six light double-hung windows to match windows in the remainder of the house. New plumbing, sewer, gas, heating and AC systems will be installed. By year end, we expect to complete much of the exterior, landscaping work including shrubs, plantings, retaining walls and a finished driveway. By early 2006, we expect to have the Pogue House and lot totally renovated.

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Continuation Sheet

Pogue House
Mason County, KY

Section Number 8 Page 1

The Pogue House (MS-M-745) in Maysville, Kentucky, meets National Register Criterion B. The house is significant through its association with the Pogue family who were leaders in Maysville's development as a commercial center. Bourbon distilling was an important industry in Maysville, a product that has become synonymous with Kentucky. Maysville supported three distilleries during the latter quarter of the 19th century until national prohibition began in 1919. Through several generations, the Pogue's family members successfully operated the most productive of the town's distilleries, one which gained national exposure for the quality of its products. Today, the fifth generation of the Pogue family continues to be involved in making bourbon. The town's distilleries remain as undeveloped industrial sites, for the most part, devoid of their historic production buildings. The Pogue House today transmits important messages of the family's economic and social success in turn-of-the-century Maysville. The house's significance is evaluated within the context "Bourbon Distilling in Maysville, Kentucky, 1886-1933."

Bourbon Distilling in Maysville, Kentucky, 1876-1933

Sam Cecil's The Evolution of the Bourbon Whiskey Industry in Kentucky (1999) mentions the Pogue family in his listing of "Master Distillers". In this publication he lists thirty-four families that have contributed in the most significant ways to the development of the whiskey industry in Kentucky and he calls these families "the master distillers."

Typically, the "master distiller" families began with small, family operated distilleries. The distiller performed all tasks from receiving raw materials, to cleaning, grinding, mashing, fermenting, distilling, storage, sale, and delivery. These families developed a special talent through experience and experimentation to improve the product. In time, as the business grew larger, the owners passed on their methods to sons, daughters, and in-laws to create much of the whisky industry as it exists today.

The list of "Master Distiller" families includes families that have been in the whiskey business through three to seven generations. The Pogue family proudly claims five generations that have been involved in the whiskey industry in Kentucky.

By contrast to the image of the skilled craftsman implied by the title "Master Distiller," were countless farm families who operated their own stills in the Maysville area and elsewhere, as a part of a farmer's production for home use. When a farmer's fields produced extra grain crops, they converted it to whiskey, which could be easily bartered or sold, and conveniently shipped in jugs and barrels. These stills were mainly non-registered whiskey producers, the difference being that registered producers paid Federal and state taxes.

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**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

Section number 8 Page 2

Much of this portrait of the distilling industry in Maysville has been pieced together through inspection of Sanborn Insurance maps for Maysville, dated 1886, 1890, 1895, 1901, 1908, and 1914. In 1869, O. J. P. Thomas produced "Old Time" Sour Mash and "Old Maysville Club" Rye Whiskey in his distillery in Maysville. His distiller, H. E. Pogue, bought the Thomas Distillery and opened in a nearby location on the west side of Maysville on February 6, 1876. This is Kentucky Registered Distillery No. 3, 7th District.

The H. E. Pogue Distillery was an important contributor to Maysville's early development as a commercial center. It was a large-scale operation from all aspects. The distillery purchased tens of thousands of bushels of corn each year from local farmers. It could grind up to five hundred bushels of corn per day, making it the largest user of corn in the area. This grinding yielded up to 2,000 gallons of whiskey daily. Its four massive warehouses provided 120,000 square feet of storage space, and it regularly had on hand up to 15,000 barrels of aging whiskey. At its peak the distillery employed over one hundred workers, making it one of the largest employers in the region.

The H. E. Pogue Distillery was a highly visible company which gave Maysville extensive publicity throughout the entire United States. For example, the distillery itself was prominently located both on the banks of the Ohio River and on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway line. Its signage was clearly visible to tens of thousands of river and rail travelers alike. Additionally, thousands of bottles of Pogue's whiskeys residing in homes, bars, and clubs throughout the United States reminded the consumer that the product was "distilled in Maysville, Kentucky." Early brands in the late 1800's and early 1900's were "Old Time" Sour Mash Pure Whiskey, "Belle of Maysville" Fire Copper Whiskey, "Old Pogue" Bourbon Whiskey, "Royal Club" Pure Rye Whiskey, Niagara Whiskey, "Old 57" Gentleman's Whiskey, and "Lincoln Club."

H. E. Pogue I died November 1, 1890. His son, H. E. Pogue II, ran the distillery until 1918. His son, Henry E. Pogue III, worked in the distillery until enlisting in the Navy at the age of twenty-three. In 1918, while in the U. S. Navy, he received word his father had been killed in a distillery accident. About two years later, in 1920, the United States implemented the Volstead Act which resulted in the national prohibition of the manufacture, sale, and distribution of whiskey, wine, and beer.

At this time the Pogue Distillery began producing legal alcoholic products for medicinal purposes. This work lasted until 1926, at which time the plant was closed. Henry E. Pogue III moved to Covington, Kentucky to join the New England Distillery, producers of American medicinal spirits and rum used for commercial products. Later he was an important consultant to companies attempting to restart distilleries after Prohibition.

Following the end of Prohibition in 1933, the Pogue Distillery was sold to Schenley Distillers, who operated the distillery until 1963. The business was closed in 1963 and the buildings were razed in 1973.

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**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

Section number 8 Page 3

By comparison with the Pogue Distillery, all other producers in this area were much smaller. The Poyntz Brothers Distillery (Registered Distillery No. 6, 7th District) was founded in 1878. Its buildings were located on Blue Run Road and next to the Pogue Distillery. Poyntz Brothers could produce up to 1,000 gallons of whiskey daily, or about fifty percent of the production at the Pogue Distillery. Poyntz Brother closed in 1908. It did not reopen. Of interest, a Poyntz Brothers billboard is still visible today on a building at 125 Market Street, Maysville, nearly one hundred years after the distillery closed.

The well-known James H. Rogers Distillery (Registered Distillery No. 24, 7th District) was founded in 1879. It was located on Rogers Creek on the western edge of Maysville and within sight of the Pogue Distillery. During its peak years, it had the capacity to produce up to six hundred gallons of whiskey daily, which was about one-third the size of the Pogue Distillery. Rogers Distillery closed in 1919 to comply with the restrictions imposed by National Prohibition. It did not reopen after Prohibition.

By all accounts, the Pogue Distillery was the most important and enduring producer of distilled spirits in Maysville and the surrounding area. Currently the fourth and fifth generations of Pogues, direct descendants of H. E. Pogue I, II, and III, including H. E. Pogue IV and V, are marketing "Old Pogue." "Old Pogue Master's Select" is a small batch, nine-year-old, 91-proof Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey which has been fashioned from one of the original Pogue recipes.

It is impossible to calculate the value of the publicity for Maysville which was created by the H. E. Pogue Distillery, but it undoubtedly put the city "on the map" nationally in a pre-radio, pre-television era. Supportive of this point is a 1903 newspaper article, which details an order from Kansas City for twelve thousand cases of Pogue Whiskey. By any standard, this was a large order, but from the sparsely populated western United States, this was huge! Another newspaper article describes the Pogue Distillery grinding six hundred bushels of corn daily, and warehousing fifteen thousand barrels of whiskey. This article further reported that the Pogue Distillery "had built up a large business strictly through honorable methods" and "enjoyed the reputation of being one of the best known and best patronized distilleries in Kentucky."

In 1901, famed southwestern artist Charles M. Russell memorialized Pogue's "Old Time" Whiskey in his painting "In Without Knocking." He painted a Pogue bottle and a case of Pogue Whiskey on the stoop of the saloon the cowboys were entering on horse-back. This was the ultimate acknowledgment of Pogue's products and their broad-based recognition by the American public.

The Pogue Family

The Pogue (originally Poague) family is of Scotch-Irish ancestry and migrated from Ireland to Orange County, Virginia, in 1740. The American branch of the family descends from Robert and Elizabeth Poague of Virginia. Early family members served in the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War,

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**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

Section Number 8 Page 4

and the War of 1812. It is probable that these experiences allowed the early Pogues to see first-hand the richness and potential of the frontier area which is now Kentucky. The family expanded into Mason County and Maysville, Kentucky, and married and settled into these communities.

In 1891, Henry E. Pogue II, with his new bride, Annabelle (Maltby) Pogue, moved into the Pogue House, which they named "Star Terrace." This was to be the Pogue family home for sixty-five years. At this time the Pogue House was magnificently upgraded with interior archways, classical columns, elaborate moldings, and fine woodwork. A roofed terrace and a two-story tower were incorporated into the front facade overlooking the river and the adjacent J. E. Pogue Distillery. Pogue's house was located on a lot which was contiguous to the distillery property, allowing Henry E. Pogue II to walk to work and to be continuously close by the distillation processes. In fact, the business office for the H. E. Pogue Distillery was located on the front grounds of the Pogue House, though nothing of that building is visible on the landscape today. Almost from the beginning this house was identified with the Pogue Distillery business. The Pogue House continued to be occupied by Mrs. Henry E. Pogue II (Annabelle) until 1955 when she sold her home of sixty-five years and moved nearby to her daughter's home.

The Pogue House's original construction predates by decades the rise to prominence of the Pogue family, with which we associate the house today. The building was constructed in the 1840s by another of the town's important industrialists, Michael Ryan. Ryan is not claimed as a significant person for this nomination because the many changes that the Pogue family made to the house around 1890 either erased or reshaped its earlier association with Ryan. Still, Ryan's story is a meaningful part of the Pogue House's past, and worthy of documenting here, even though the house today cannot be said to support an integrity of association with Ryan.

Michael Ryan Family

Michael Ryan's father was Dr. Michael Ryan, a native of Dublin, Ireland, and a mathematics professor at the University of Dublin. He migrated to America in 1803. He married Elizabeth Hampton of New Jersey and later, at the solicitation of his long-time friend William Hodge, moved to Maysville, Kentucky. Their third, son, Michael was born in Maysville in 1816. Michael Ryan married Maria Richeson in 1841.

The Pogue House was built in 1845 for Michael Ryan and his wife Maria (Richeson) Ryan. They named their beautiful home overlooking the Ohio River "Riverside." At the time of their marriage in 1841, Michael Ryan was prospering as a grain dealer and hemp merchant in Maysville. In fact he was the largest hemp dealer in the area and one of the largest dealers in Kentucky.

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**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

Section number 8 Page 5

The importance of Maysville and Mason County to Hemp production in Kentucky and nationally is illustrated by these comments excerpted from James Hopkins' A History of the Hemp Industry in Kentucky (1951):

“In 1835 Maysville was considered second only to Louisville in production of hemp in Kentucky.”

“In 1845 the Merchants Magazine gave publicity to the statement that Maysville had at that time the most extensive hemp market in the Union.”

“In 1869 Kentucky was the leading hemp producing state in the Union and Fayette and Mason counties produced nearly half of Kentucky's total production.”

Aside from hemp, Michael Ryan had other significant business interests. In partnership with George Wurts, he successfully mined channel and bituminous coal in Greenup County. Firewood was becoming increasingly scarce, and therefore expensive, and coal represented an economical alternative fuel. Additionally, he partnered with several investors to bring a railroad to Northern Kentucky. They created the Maysville and Big Sandy Railroad, which eventually was merged into the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway system. Today, the C&O still utilizes many of the railbeds and bridges built by Michael Ryan and his associates.

In addition to his commercial achievements, Michael Ryan was widely and favorably known for his extraordinary kindness and generosity. His obituary reports that Michael Ryan was “renown” for his fairness, honesty, and charity to people from all directions”. In fact most of the historical records about Michael Ryan exclaim about his integrity, charity, and devotion to community, church, and family. If he had a business card or signage, it might have stated, “Fairness is the only policy.”

For example, from the manuscript the Delaware Tree (1940), “a genial gentleman, a loyal friend, unflinchingly honest, extremely charitable to the less fortunate, generous to his church.” Also from the Delaware Tree, these comments give us a peek at the soul of the man whom everyone admired. “He was a lifelong teetotaler and an accomplished musician with the flute, cornet, and violin. Often when a storm was coming up the river, he would be seen on the porch of his house, letting the storm play an accompaniment to his flute.”

The Maysville Eagle newspaper reported in its May 16, 1879 edition:

His mercantile life brought him into contact with most all of the farmers and business men of this county, as well as with many in neighboring counties and cities. His integrity was unflinching, and many who had transactions with him who are now living, are fond of referring to his scrupulous fidelity to trusts and his unflinching honesty. His opinion upon matters of business

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**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

Section number 8 Page 6

were eagerly sought and relied upon confidently. But we take special pleasure in contemplating his religious activity. From the time he united with the Presbyterian Church, in this city, at that time under the pastorate of the Rev. R. C. Grundy, he never ceased to participate actively in the interests of the Church as one of its officers, having been elected a Deacon in 1836. He was gifted with rare and accurate musical talent and this he put into requisition to lead to aid in the worship of God's house.

Michael Ryan, "Emancipator"

Caroline Miller, a local historian and author, lists Michael Ryan as one of thirty-two men living in Mason County who were known as "emancipators." Essentially, they would borrow money to purchase a slave and then allow the slave to earn wages which would then be used to pay off the loan and secure his freedom. This practice emancipated many slaves in the Mason County area and was the basis for the growing "free black" population in this area prior to the Civil War.

The U. S. Census of 1860 reports that the population of Mason County (including Maysville) was about 18,000 people including 4,500 slaves. Freedom from slavery was just across the river in Ohio. This proximity to freedom had to be especially frustrating for slaves living in Mason County and Maysville. Michael Ryan was part of an accepted mechanism which allowed slaves to become emancipated. This practice offered hope and a chance to be free versus the alternative of permanent enslavement.

The following document is recorded in Mason County, Kentucky Deed Book 69, Page 439. It describes how Michael Ryan assisted a specific slave, Peter Morton, in obtaining his freedom.

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**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

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“Know all men that several years ago, M. Ryan bought a Negro boy Peter Morton of Caleb White, which purchase was made with the understanding and agreement that said boy should be hired out from year to year, and that his hire should be first appropriated to the payment of interest on his price which was borrowed for the purpose of buying the boy, and his hire from year to year after paying the interest was to be used in payment of the principal and when the interest and principal were fully paid, it was agreed and understood that Peter Morton was to be entitled to his freedom. The undersigned bound themselves to M. Ryan, that Peter should not run away, but remain in Kentucky and be hired out until his hire might pay his price as above indicated. Now this is to certify and publish that Peter has paid the full principal and interest, aforesaid, and that he is entitled to his freedom under and by virtue of the agreement and understanding which we all in common as his friends had with each other when said White sold him to said Ryan. And we now and hereby relinquish all claim he said boy Peter and state that we have no property, title, or interest in him whatever. We make this agreement among and with ourselves and with and in behalf of said boy, Peter.

February 21st, 1863

M. Ryan/Thomas A. Ross/J. G..Hickman/James H. Johnson”

His sister-in-law, Mollie Richeson, who for more than twenty-five years was a member of the family, wrote of him:

Michael Ryan was one of the most popular men in Maysville, Kentucky where he lived, boy and man, except for two years in Louisville when first grown. Always, before and after marriage, he moved in the highest circles, thought he was considerate of the working class and a favorite with everybody, rich and poor. A liberal giver to the church and the needy, but it was never spoken of by him. His honesty and integrity were often referred to. Was never hasty, but prompt in his decisions. Was fond of the company of Presbyterian preachers and Professor Morton, who lived there for awhile, said he was the most intellectual man in Maysville. He was one of the best men I every knew, and none but his wife knew him more intimately.”

Michael Ryan died in 1879 and in 1890 his house passed on to Henry E. Pogue of distillery fame.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Page**

**Pogue House
Mason County, KY**

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Photographic Identification Sheet

Same information for all photos:

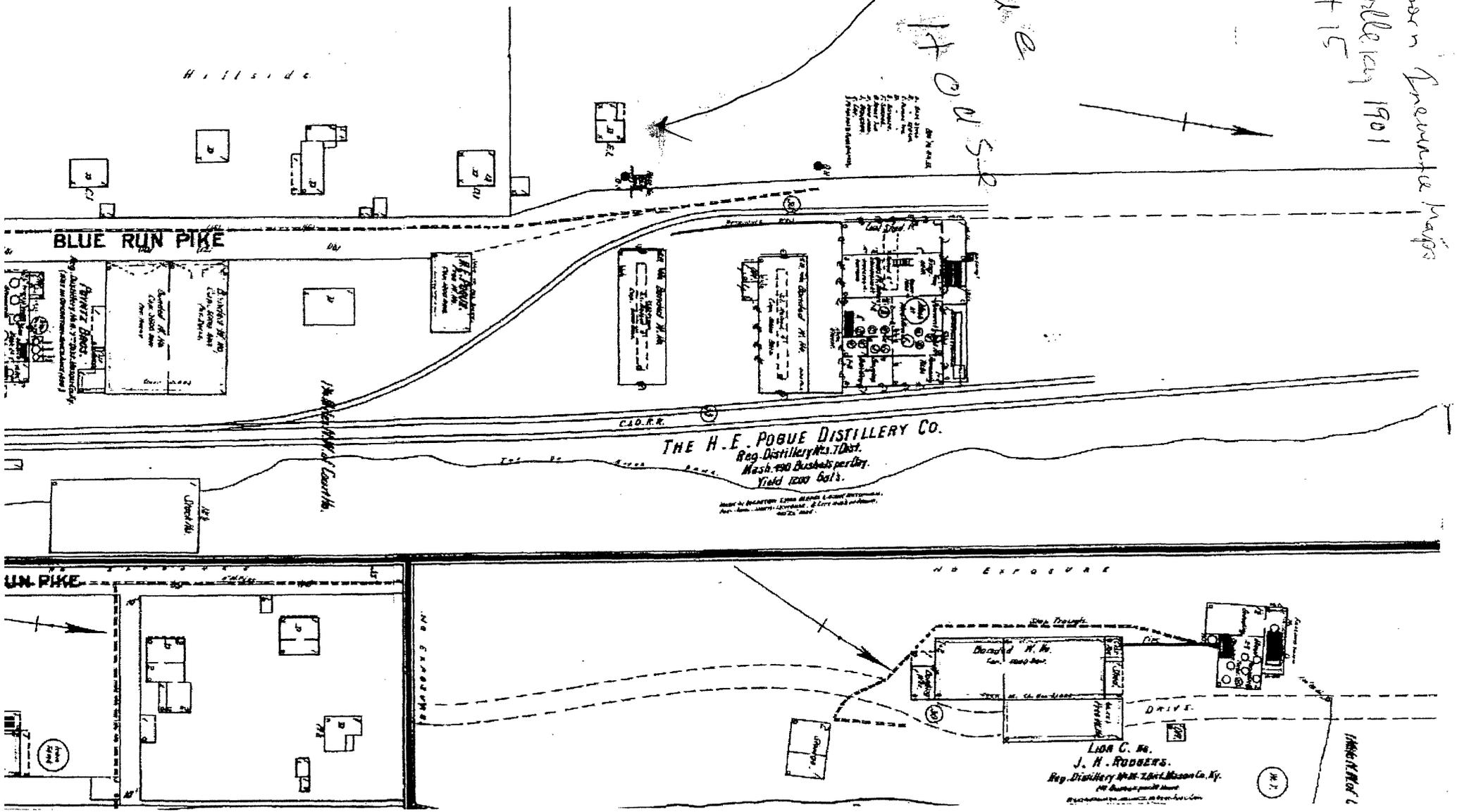
Name: Pogue House
Location: Mason County, KY
Photographer: Philip Breen
Date: April and November 2001
Location of Negatives: 3250 Hardisty Avenue, Cincinnati, OH, 45208

Photographic Specific Information:

Photo 1: To north, rear façade looking toward Ohio River
Photo 2: to west, east façade
Photo 3: to east, west façade
Photo 4: to south, front (north) façade
Photo 5: to front hall from rear entry
Photo 6: staircase from first to second floors
Photo 7: classical columns between first floor and parlor and library

Sinkhorn Brewster maps
Mapville 1901
Sheet 15

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