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FAMOUS HOMES IN KENTUCKY

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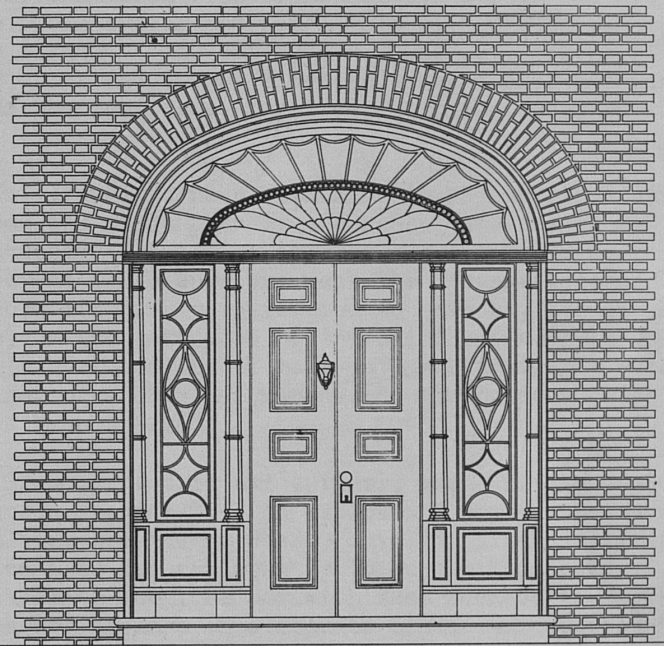
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KENTUCKY DEPT. OF LIBRARIES

FAMOUS HOMES IN KENTUCKY

Ten houses, chosen because of historical significance and as examples of the types of architecture in vogue at the time they were built, comprise this group of famous homes in Kentucky. The models which this monograph accompanies, each built on the scale of one-eighth of an inch to a foot, are as exact replicas of the houses at the time of their original construction as could be made from available research data.

Davis Buckner Home



Fayette County, Ky.

One of the best examples of British Colonial architecture in this country, in the opinion of many prominent architects, is the Buckner house, Rose Hill, at the corner of North Limestone and Fifth streets, in Lexington, Kentucky. Named originally after its builder, John Brand, this old residence was modeled on the English farm-house style and was built about 1820 on the Government highway which extended from Pittsburgh to Georgia. It was erected on the outskirts of Lexington but the location now is in the heart of the developed city. The present owner is Dr. G. Davis Buckner.

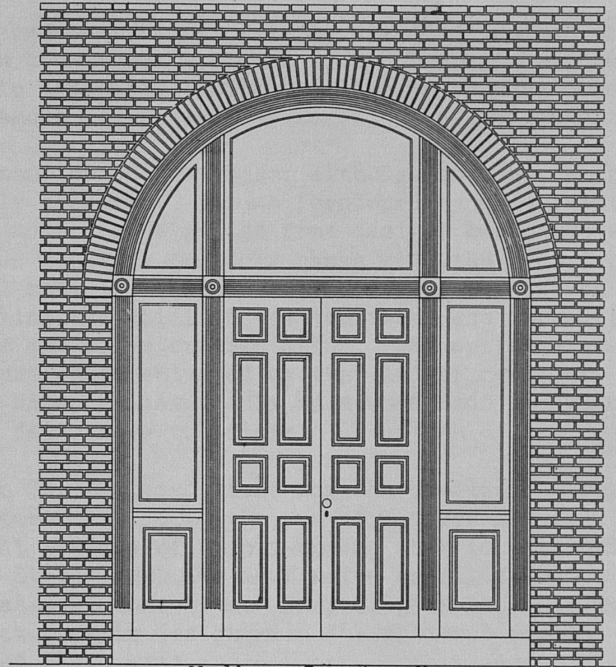
The Buckner home is a one-story building with exterior walls of solid brick, resting upon a foundation of native stone. A brick

walk, framed with lilac bushes forming an archway, leads from the iron gate at the street to the doorway, which is decorated with detailed carving of unusual design. On either side of this doorway is a group of columns supporting the fan, or window light, above the cornices. These columns, together with the broad base-boards, express the ideals and magnificence of the old world designing. The entrance hall is square, with a living room on the right and a bedroom on the left. Low, white doors open into these rooms. Straight down the hall from the front entrance, wide double doors lead into the dining room, which is made rich by its fine paneling and comfortable by its wide log fireplace. The library is entered from the living room and above the door between these rooms are arched fan-lights with leaded panes, similar in design to the lights of the outer door. The interior partitions of the house are brick and frame, plastered; the floors are wooden, random width ash; and the roof is of frame construction, covered with wood shingles.

Several additions have been made to the original structure and variations from the first plan of the house have resulted. The original kitchen was a separate building and was not indicated on the old plan of the floor. The slave quarters near the northwest corner of the house, opposite the old kitchen, were removed to make way for an addition. The old ice house, on the west side of the building, also has been dismantled. The side lights of the original main entrance evidently were divided by lead muntins, or arches, as markers on the present glass indicate the design has been changed.

John Brand, the original builder, was a native of Scotland, coming to America about 1800. He had been a prosperous manufacturer in Glasgow, Scotland, but became deeply involved financially after suffering reverses and came to the new country to recoup his losses. Trading in tobacco, cordage and hemp, he met with such success as to enable him to return to Glasgow, arrange an elaborate dinner and present to each of his guests - who had been his creditors - an envelope containing a check for the amount of each debt, with interest added. Returning to America, he continued his business success and, as a hobby, turned to the beautifying of his new home, deriving rare pleasure from the importation and installation of tasteful furnishings.

Castlewood



Madison County, Ky.

Castlewood, designed by Gideon Shryock and built in 1825 by James Estill, Junior, is located on Big Hill Road, five miles from Richmond, Kentucky. From an architectural standpoint, it is one of the most interesting houses in the state. It is of late Georgian style, which was very popular at that time. The long central hall flanked by rooms on either side and the small wings built on both sides of the main structure are features found frequently in this type of building.

The house was erected on a part of the original tract of fifteen thousand acres of land surveyed and owned by Captain James Estill, a Revolutionary soldier who came west from Augusta County, Virginia, and who enacted an important role in the development of Kentucky. He was killed in an encounter with Wyandotte Indians on March 19, 1782, near the present site of Mount Sterling. After his death, extensive litigation over his property was instituted and no definite settlement was agreed upon until forty years later, when eighty-five hundred acres of land were given to his five children. Castlewood was erected on a share of this inherited land.

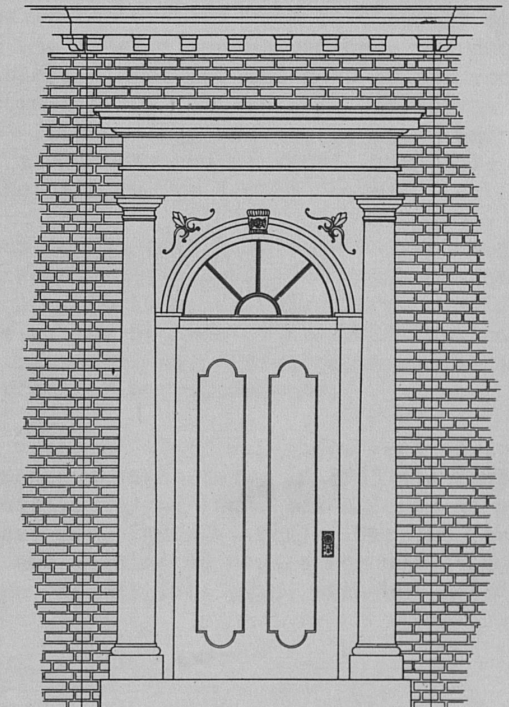
The structure is a two-story brick, with unfinished attic and a basement, resting upon a native stone foundation. The interior partitions are brick and frame, plastered. The roof is of frame construction and evidently was covered originally with wooden shingles which have been replaced with tin. Floors throughout the house are random-width, yellow

pine; but the basement flooring is merely hard pressed earth, an arrangement common in houses built around 1800. The kitchen and servants' quarters are in a separate building close to, but detached from the house. The original smoke house, made of logs, is in good condition.

The interior of the house, although bearing the signs of age, shows its early elegance. It was furnished by a resident cabinet-maker who fashioned most of the pieces from designs brought over from England. The hand-carved woodwork probably ranks with the best found in Kentucky. Each principal room is equipped with a fireplace, but no two mantels are alike, indicating the skill of the craftsman who carved the graceful sunbursts, leaves and other ornamentation. The ceilings are unusually high and this feature is accentuated by the lack of cornices. The walls in each room are bare, relieved only by a wood dado, or wainscot, of paneled design, a few feet above the floor.

Gideon Shryock, architect for the dwelling, was born in Lexington, Kentucky, November 15, 1802, the son of Mathias Shryock, a builder and contractor. At the age of twenty-one he went to Philadelphia to study under William Strickland, the most noted architect and civil engineer in the United States at that time. Shryock gave to Kentucky many beautiful buildings which rank in design with the national capitol at Washington and other noted structures.

Henry Clay Home



Fayette County, Ky.

On the Richmond Pike, one mile east of Lexington, is Ashland, the picturesque home originally built by Henry Clay, Kentucky's brilliant statesman and orator. Erected in 1806 on a six hundred acre tract of land, the house was dismantled after having been occupied nearly fifty years but was reconstructed a short time later. Lathrobe, the English architect, designed the original structure while L'Enfant, the landscape engineer who drew the plans for the nation's capitol, planned the landscaping. Clay's choice of the name Ashland probably resulted from his selection of the building site, which was almost surrounded by ash trees.

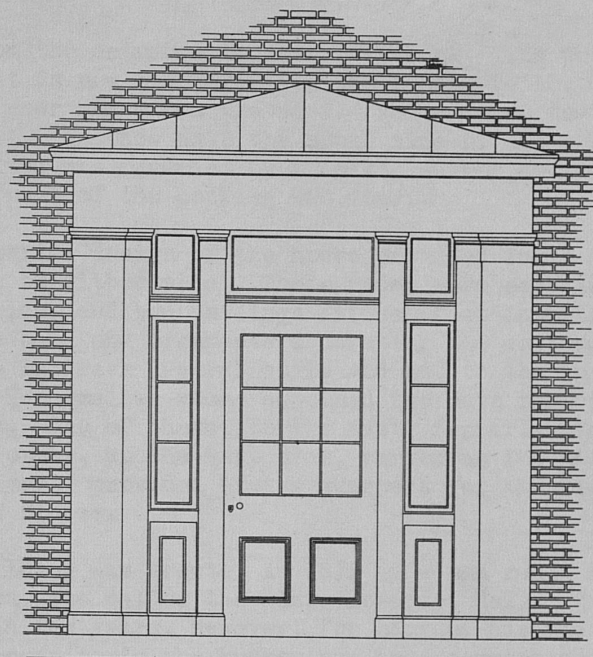
Ashland was built on the plan of a large house connected by narrow halls, or galleries, to lower wings. The main structure was two stories in height, with one-story wings. It had six chimneys, a distinctive feature of most of the big houses built before the Civil War. Brick was used in the exterior construction. The interior displayed woodwork fashioned from ash trees growing on the estate. Many of the rooms, including the master's study, were octagonal in shape. The old slave cabins, carriage houses, bath houses and ice house are still standing.

Sixty varieties of trees, many of which Clay planted, spread their foliage about the estate. Myrtle, planted by Mrs. Clay, fringes the walks of the grounds. Trailing ivy, honeysuckle and Virginia creeper cover the masonry. Above the doorway, which has full length windows on either side, is a small balcony with wrought-iron railing. This front entrance opens into an octagonal hall with a stairway at the right and a study on the left. An entrance to the drawing room is directly opposite the main door. In the hall, with its original, ash woodwork, the doorknobs and hinges are silver. The walls are a deep red and most of the rooms are in keeping with the rich decorations of this entry. The narrow arched windows have shuttered blinds. In the wings are two bedrooms and a billiard room, also the kitchen, storerooms and servants' quarters. Four bedrooms and a bath open off the hall on the second floor.

Many famous people have been entertained at Ashland, among them LaFayette, Daniel Webster, the Earl of Derby, President Van Buren, General Bertrand and Abraham Lincoln. Clay, prevented from spending much time there because of the demands of his political career, evinced a keen interest in the social activities centered in his home and maintained a close contact by correspondence.

After the death of Clay, his widow went to live with a son, John M. Clay; and Ashland was neglected. In 1853 the house, with three hundred and thirty-seven acres of land, was offered at auction and was purchased by another son, James B. Clay. Because parts of the house were in need of repair and considered unsafe for use, the old home was torn down and rebuilt on the original plan, with brick and other material salvaged.

Closson Home



Kenton County, Ky.

The Closson House in Ludlow, a suburb of Covington, Kentucky, is a fine example of the Greek Revival form in architecture. Located on a plot of terraced ground which extends north to the Ohio River, the old residence is an imposing sight when viewed from boats passing along that waterway. Purchased twelve years ago by the Unity Lodge of Masons, today it serves as the Ludlow Masonic Temple but is hemmed in by more modern buildings which occupy space formerly belonging to the Closson property.

The structure is a story and a half in height and has a basement. The foundation and exterior walls are of brick construction. The interior partitions are brick and frame, plastered. Wood shingles used in the original construction of the roof have been replaced with standing-seam tin and composition shingles. The wood flooring is composed of tongue-and-groove, white pine, in six and seven-inch widths, laid alternately. On the south side of the house, a porch one hundred and twenty feet long extends the entire length of the building. A smaller portico occupies the central portion of the north side. The design of both the north and south portals is in keeping with the general architectural pattern. The front of the building was originally at the north and faced the river. It became the rear as the result of a city street-construction.

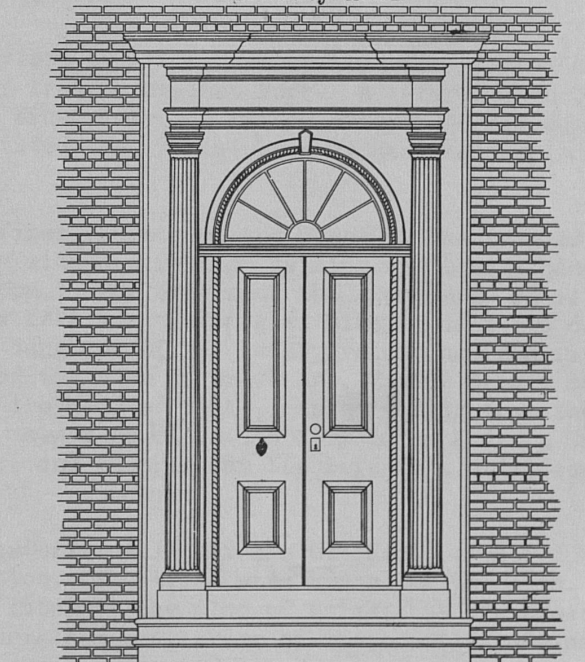
Originally built as a summer home, located in the center of an expansive plot of ground and surrounded by flower beds, the house presented a lovely aspect. On the terraced north lawn a walk, bordered by

shrubs, led from the entrance to the river bank. The property formerly extended to what is now Elm Street on the south, to the Ohio River on the north and to Kenner Street on the east. There is no road along the western side of the plot. A space near the south side of the property, at the eastern extremity, was occupied by a small, summer house, where, before the Civil War, part of the cooking was done.

The interior design of the house provided for a central hall with two large rooms on either side. These rooms were each twenty-two feet long, eighteen feet wide, and had ceilings fifteen feet in height. Plaster cornices in the hall and ornaments decorating the ceilings of these large rooms were done in Greek Revival style and add to the interesting character of the house. Two smaller rooms adjoined the main structure and opened on the south porch. One of these, to the east, formerly was used as a dining room while the other, at the west side, served as the kitchen. The basement, which formerly provided living quarters for the slaves, was dry and airy, with wood floors.

The building was erected in 1832 by a man named Kenner, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who called the place Somerset Hall. Mr. Kenner retained ownership only a few years, however, for many of his slaves yielded to the temptation of escaping to the beckoning, free country on the northern shore of the Ohio. He sold the estate to William Ludlow and later it was purchased by a Cincinnati jeweler named Jenkins. The house assumed its present name in 1885 when it was bought by A. B. Closson, Junior.

Liberty Hall



Franklin County, Ky.

JEFFERSON NEVER
CAME TO FRANKFORT

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Liberty Hall in Frankfort is a splendid specimen of Georgian architecture. The house was designed by Thomas Jefferson and erected in 1796 by John Brown for use as his home. It occupied an entire block in the section of Frankfort laid out by General James Wilkinson, a pioneer military and political leader of Kentucky. The main structure was rectangular in shape and two stories in height. A two-storied ell extension, lower in elevation, adjoined the rear of the building. There was a finished attic and a basement which originally provided quarters for slaves.

Erected three years prior to the marriage of its builder, Liberty Hall first served as a home for the parents of John Brown and was named after a school over which the builder's father had presided in Virginia. Following his marriage to Margaretta Mason, of New York, Brown threw wide the doors of his home which since has been ranked with the most hospitable of Kentucky's countless mansions. Numerous and famed were the guests upon whom this hospitality was bestowed. Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Aaron Burr, Andrew Jackson, and General LaFayette were included in the list, and various incidents associated with the visits of these callers have been retold with pride by Brown's descendants. For example, the cup from which LaFayette drank his tea while a guest at Liberty Hall has remained in the china cabinet of the Brown family, a treasured heirloom. LaFayette visited Kentucky during May, 1825, and was the guest of honor at a dinner served in the Public Square at Frankfort. The meal was followed by a pretentious ball. Drawing away from the press of this elaborately staged affair, the French general relaxed for an hour at Liberty Hall, where he was received by the hostess, Mrs. Margaretta Brown.

The visit of Aaron Burr to Frankfort preceded but shortly an accusation of treason against Burr. A reference to this visit is contained in an excerpt from a letter written to his daughter by Burr, wherein he stated that he had been "magnificently lodged at the house of John Brown."

The first bedroom on the right at the head of the stairs is a spacious room with a very high ceiling and long windows. This is called the "Ghost Room." The origin of the expression is as follows: A Mrs. Vareck of New York was visiting at Liberty Hall and died there quite suddenly. A daughter of the house, returning from finishing school, later occupied the room in which Mrs. Vareck died. Sometime afterward the girl, in the dead of night, ran screaming from the room exclaiming that she had seen a ghost in the form of a "Lady in Gray," as she described her, and to this day the legend is still connected with Liberty Hall.

The exterior walls of the building, of solid brick, stand on a brick foundation. The brick were burned on the site. The major partition walls of the interior are also of brick; but the cross partitions are frame. The original plastering of these walls remains intact except where

alterations required its removal. Random width oak flooring was used on the first and second floors, although the beauty of this was hidden for many decades by luxurious carpets which extended over the entire floors. The original roof was of frame construction covered with white poplar shingles. Later these were replaced with shingles of cedar. Some of the window glass originally used still remains. This was brought from Philadelphia over the Alleghany Mountains by pack mule.

The entrance to the house is sheltered by a portico, the two columns of which are particularly attractive because of their fine carving. Above the portal is one of the most handsome Palladian windows in Kentucky. Within the house is a central hall, lighted by a fan-shaped transom and spanned by a classically designed arch, customarily employed in Georgian houses. The width of the hall, with its large, flanking, drawing rooms, library and dining room, provided ample space for dancing that punctuated the formal entertainment for which Liberty Hall was best known. Elaborate accessories were on every hand and of these remaining are the finely carved woodwork, the quaint mantels, the andirons and the heavy brass fenders. The polished brass doorbell now in use bears the inscription, "Liberty Hall, 1796."

The garden at the rear of the house is extensive and beautiful. A central walk leads to that section known as the "Limberlost," a haven for songbirds. The flower garden extends to the very edge of the Kentucky River and contains a wide variety of shrubs and plants.

John Brown, the builder of Liberty Hall, was born in Staunton, Virginia, September 12, 1757. He was the son of John Brown, a distinguished Presbyterian minister. The younger Brown had entered Princeton just prior to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Putting aside his text books, he joined the army to serve under General Washington and later as an aid to LaFayette. After the war he enrolled at William and Mary College, graduating from that institution. He read law with Thomas Jefferson after leaving college.

Brown held the following public offices during his life:

Member of the Virginia Senate for the
"District of Kentucke," 1784-1788

Member of the "Kentucke District of
Virginia" to the Continental
Congress, 1787-1788

Elected from Virginia, "Kentucke District,"
to the First and Second United States
Congresses, 1789-1792.

Member of the Committee that formed the
State of Kentucky.

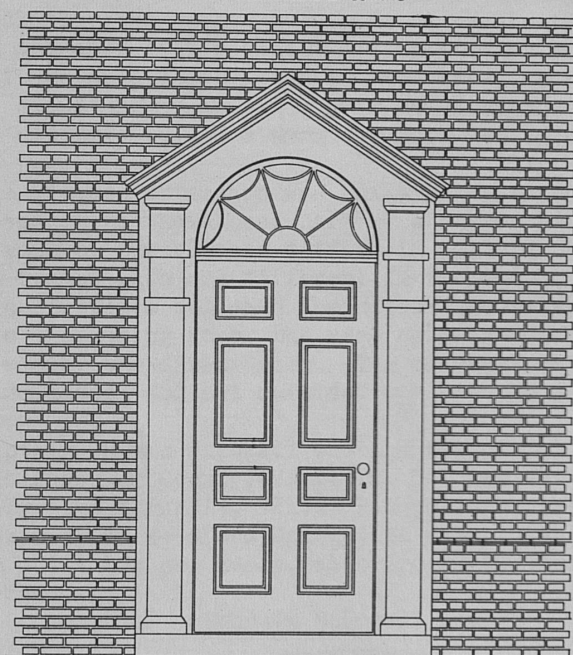
United States Senator from Kentucky,
1792-1805.

President pro tempore of the U. S. Senate
from October 17, 1803 to January 23, 1804.

The Kentucky Historical Society ascertained that Mr. Brown was the last surviving member of the Continental Congress when he died at Liberty Hall on August 29, 1837.

Uninterrupted generations of the Brown family made their home in the old mansion for one hundred and thirty-nine years, until one of the last owners died in 1935. The original furnishings have been retained, largely, and funds are being raised to purchase and perpetuate the historic house.

Marshall Home



Mason County, Ky.

The Marshall House, built about 1802 by Captain Thomas Marshall, Junior, in the village of Washington, Mason County, Kentucky, has been the residence of generations of this illustrious family. The old brick home is owned and occupied, at the present time, by Miss Louise Marshall.

Built when the region west of the Alleghenies was practically an unbroken wilderness, the house must have assumed palatial proportions at that time. Erected on a native stone foundation, with solid brick exterior walls strong enough to withstand a siege, the building served not only as a frontier fortress but also as a meeting place where loyal patriots assembled to gather and impart news and to swap yarns. Captain Marshall, host at these gatherings, had been a Revolutionary soldier and is reputed to have been a sparkling conversationalist. John Marhsall, a brother of

the builder of the Hill, as the place is known locally, served as Chief Justice of the United States from 1801 to 1835.

The house is two stories in height, with a finished attic and a basement under part of the building. The inner partitions are brick and frame, plastered. The floors are random width ash except in the basement, where the flooring is earthen. The roof is of frame construction, covered with galvanized iron, a comparatively recent improvement. Originally, the roof was covered with pine shingles, all of which were hand split. Some of these shingles have been found under the pediment, or low arch, on the west slope of the roof, indicating this pediment has been added to the old roof. A porch across the east side of the house evidently has replaced a former one and a similar change has been made on the west side. The building of a porch on the west side probably was an attempt to repair, or conceal, a settling of the wall which occurred soon after the house was completed. The entire structure is in bad repair and boasts no modern conveniences other than electricity and a warm air furnace, recently installed.

The kitchen extension was built prior to the erection of the main structure and it may have been part of a former building occupying the site. The brick work of the kitchen differs in pattern from that of the house and the window frames also are different in the two structures. The old kitchen had a large fireplace but when the present house was built this fireplace was used in the dining room, the same chimney serving also the fireplace in the bedroom over the dining room. The original chimney was built inside but later was relocated and set outside.

Captain Thomas Marshall was the son of Colonel Thomas Marshall. He was born in Fauquier County, Virginia, October 27, 1761 and died at his Mason County home March 19, 1817. His parents, who had come from their place, Buckpond, in Woodford County, to make their home with the son when the latter built his new house, also are buried there, in the Marshall burying ground.

Ephraim McDowell Home



Danville, Ky.

The house occupied by Dr. Ephraim McDowell when he performed the world's first ovariectomy stands on Second between Main and Walnut Streets, in Danville, Kentucky. For years after Dr. McDowell's death the house was used by negro tenants and reached a dilapidated state. Rescued by the Kentucky State Medical Association, it has been restored to the condition in which it was left by the world-famous surgeon.

The house is typical of the home built by the man of moderate means during that period. It is a two-and-a-half story frame structure without ornament and bespeaks the simplicity of its former owner, when he was a struggling, medical practitioner. The original furnishings of the house and office are being returned as they are acquired. Many of the old surgical instruments will be on display. The brick additions to the building, probably added at different dates, were used during his occupancy of the house.

On December 25, 1809, Dr. McDowell performed the world's first surgical operation for the removal of an ovarian tumor. His patient, Mrs. Jane Todd Crawford of Greensburg, had been visited at her home by Dr. McDowell and her condition convinced him that an operation alone could save her life. In his own account of the accomplishment Dr. McDowell said, "Having never seen so large a substance extracted, nor heard of an attempt or success attending any operation such as this required, I gave to the unhappy woman information of her dangerous situation." Bravely, Mrs. Crawford agreed and soon after arrived at the McDowell house in Danville, used then as office and home by the physician. Removal of the growth, which weighed in excess of twenty pounds, was accomplished within less than half an hour, with a few simple instruments. After the operation, accomplished without anesthesia, she convalesced rapidly and after remaining at the McDowell house twenty-five days returned to her home, sixty miles distant, as she had come, on horseback. Mrs. Crawford lived for thirty-two years afterward.

Ephraim McDowell was born in Augusta County, Virginia, March 11, 1771, the son of Samuel McDowell. He was brought to Kentucky at the age of thirteen and received his early education at Georgetown. He then went to Virginia to enter the office of Dr. Humphrey, as a medical student, and remained there two years. In 1793 and 1794 he attended lectures at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Chemistry absorbed his interest at the outset but later he concentrated on anatomy and surgery. He is quoted as having referred to medicine as "more of a curse than a blessing to the human race." McDowell left Edinburgh without a degree but this was not unusual at that time as attendance at college was based upon the idea of securing knowledge. Upon leaving the University, chiefly because of a lack of funds, and in accordance with the custom of the day, McDowell became the pupil of John Bell, a Scotch surgeon. The discourses of this instructor apparently made a profound impression upon him, particularly during that portion of the course in which Bell lectured on the diseases of the ovaries and dwelt upon the inevitable death to which those so afflicted were doomed. A mere suggestion of the possibility of success attending an operation for the removal of these organs was, in all probability, the

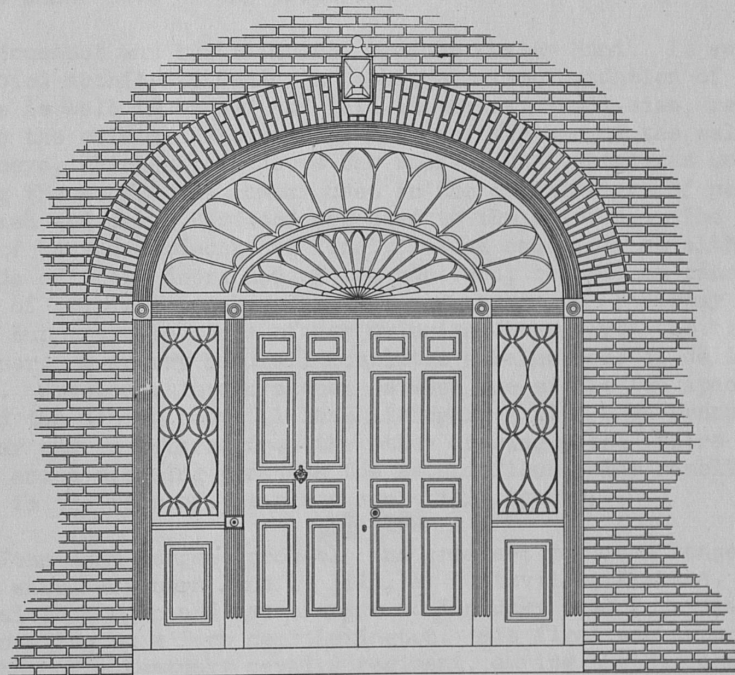
incentive for McDowell to attempt the operation which led to his fame.

Upon his return to Danville in 1795, McDowell at once entered upon the practice of medicine and surgery and soon attained a reputation as the ranking member of his profession in the community. Within a few years his reputation extended until he was recognized as the leading surgeon west of Philadelphia. He continued active practice until his death, his greatest achievement having been the operation successfully performed on Mrs. Crawford. A detailed account of that surgical treatment has been recorded in simple words by Dr. McDowell, who was assisted at an improvised operating table by his nephew, Dr. James McDowell.

In 1802, Dr. McDowell married Sarah Shelby, the daughter of Governor Isaac Shelby. He died June 20, 1830. His remains, with those of his wife, have been placed near the McDowell Memorial Monument erected in 1879 in Danville.

The McDowell House and its site are in the custody of the State, and are embraced in the Kentucky State Park System.

Morgan Home



Lexington, Ky.

The former home of General John Hunt Morgan, on Second and Mill Streets, in Lexington, Kentucky, is typical of an architectural style which characterized houses built in the Bluegrass region for half a century before the Civil War. It was restored to its original lines, with one exception, and redecorated throughout the interior in 1930. The old place has been converted into a museum by its present owner and the antique furnishings used by the Morgan family are now on exhibit. In effecting restoration of this Colonial Georgian house, formerly known as Hopenont, a front veranda which had been added, has been torn away. Venetian blinds used by the Morgans were brought out of the stable attic and set in place at the large, deep-set windows.

The front doorway has fan-lights, one above the other in even lines. A pillared veranda on the south side, flanking a paved courtway, is also a work of architectural grace. The massive chandeliers, heavy doors and circular stairway are intact. High-ceilinged rooms are features of the first two floors of the twelve room structure. A third floor attic extends the entire length and breadth of the house. A bay window near the southwest corner of the first floor occupies the space formerly used as an entrance to General Morgan's office and this is believed to be the only change in architectural design which has been made in the restoration work. There is an iron fence in front of the house and a high brick wall extends along the south side of the property.

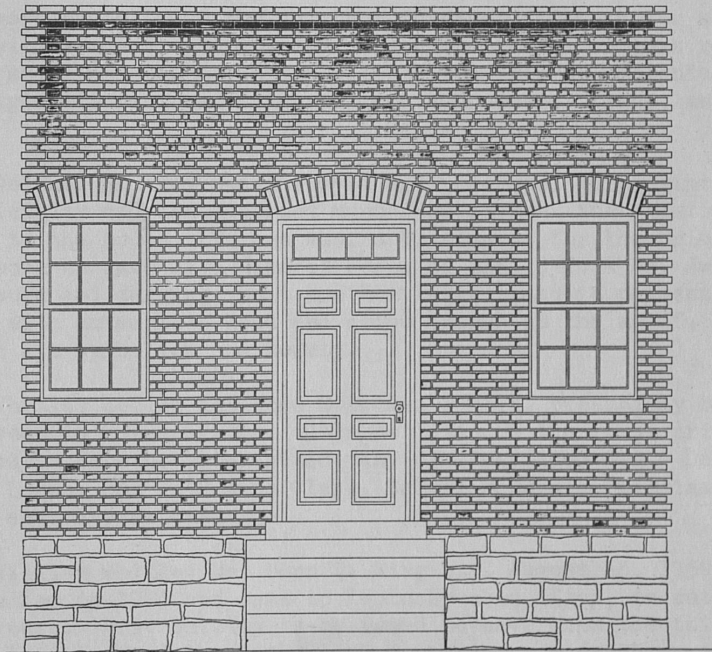
Hopenont was built in 1811 by John Wesley Hunt. It was designed by the noted architect, Benjamin Lathrobe. The foundation of native limestone is well fashioned and laid in mortar. Full-size, red brick, burned on the estate, were used in the construction of the walls and of the chimneys, which appear above the roof. Sheet metal was used in constructing the roof. The lumber used in the interior was of native timber, chiefly ash and oak. Hardwood was used in the flooring. The wide, double doorway of carved woodwork has finely leaded casements at either side and the inside of these doors and of the shutters, reeded and paneled, forms a design of triple crosses. There is a great spiral stairway without apparent support, the steps of ash swinging upward from the first to the third floor. A cherry handrail completes a balustrade of delicate, white spindles. Wide, double doors open between one of the two spacious drawing rooms and the dining room. A long living room with a cavernous fireplace at the far end is entered from the other drawing room. There are five bedrooms and a sleeping porch on the second floor. The rambling slave quarters in the rear of the place are still standing.

John Hunt Morgan, probably the greatest partisan ranger of all American wars, was born June 1, 1825, at Huntsville, Alabama. He was the son of Calvin Morgan and was brought to Kentucky when four years old, his family locating on a farm near Lexington. His first war experience was as a member of a Kentucky cavalry regiment, during the Mexican War; his first battle, that of Buena Vista, in 1840. Ten years later he was made captain of a volunteer infantry company, the Lexington Rifles, and on September 29, 1861, he linked his fortunes with the South, in the War

between the States. He was commissioned a colonel in 1862 and later in the same year was made a brigadier-general. His daring raids from Tennessee into Kentucky and on through the southern parts of Indiana and Ohio provided some of the notable exploits of the war, but eventually led to his capture in the last-named State in July, 1863. After an imprisonment lasting only a few months he contrived to escape and again led his men on dashing forays until he was killed at Greenville, Tennessee, on September 4, 1864. He is buried at Lexington.

Morgan's mother was the daughter of John Wesley Hunt, original builder of Hopemont, and she inherited the place at the death of her father, who had come to Kentucky from New Jersey in 1794 to engage in the mercantile business. The property was purchased by the present owner, Mrs. John Johnstone, from the estate of Mrs. Katherine Reed, who inherited it from relatives of the Morgan family.

William Whitley Home



Lincoln County, Ky.

Eight miles southeast of Stanford is the William Whitley home, said to have been the first brick house in Kentucky. Though still used as a dwelling, the house has not been kept in good repair. Then too, its original symmetrical contour was changed by the addition of a portico and a porch. The structure, two full stories in height exclusive of attic and basement, was built in 1786 by Colonel William Whitley, famous pioneer and

intrepid Indian fighter. The exterior brick walls were laid in Flemish bond upon a foundation of native stone. A variation in the color of the brick was employed to produce a diamond pattern in these walls. The initials of Whitley appeared over the front door and those of his wife over the back door of the house, through the use of the varicolored brick. Brick and frame partitions divided the interior. The floors were wooden, ash and yellow pine of random width. The roof was of frame construction, covered with wooden shingles. The basement floors were earthen. Two layers of wood with a heavy sheet of iron between were used in the construction of each door. Elaborately carved, the doors were swung on leather hinges. The windows were set more than six feet above the level of the ground floor in order that Indians would be unable to shoot effectively into the rooms. An added precaution was the construction of a removable plank on the stairway leading to the top floor. By removal of this plank, access to a secret hiding place was available.

The stairway in the lower hall had a hand-carved railing with the newel post in Italian harp design. Thirteen lower steps leading to a landing were symbolic of the Thirteen Colonies. The parlor also was adorned with hand-carved paneling. Over the mantel in this room were thirteen small panels, again symbolic of the Thirteen Colonies. The attic originally was used as a ballroom and several times, as a court-room.

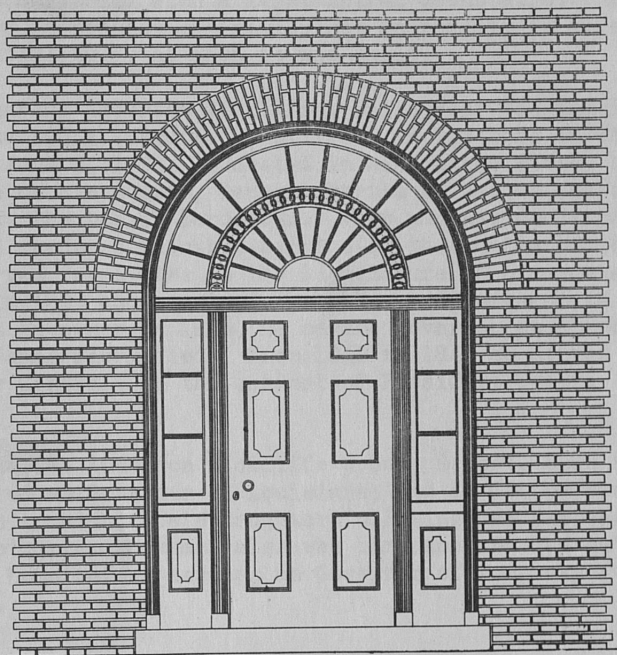
Colonel Whitley had surveyed and preempted large tracts of land in the vicinity and the recorded manner of payment for construction is peculiar to the house. To one man, a Mr. Lewis, for the brick and masonry work he gave five hundred acres of land. To a Mr. Swope, for the woodwork and carving, went another large tract in payment. This carving, with an eagle's head and olive branch as the motif, has become noted for its symbolism and beauty.

Whitley called his home Sportman's Hill, presumably because of his interest in horse racing. Here he laid out the first private track in Kentucky. Here he entertained many distinguished men - Daniel Boone, Benjamin Logan, George Rogers Clark, Samuel McDowell, William Henry Harrison and many others.

William Whitley was born in Virginia, August 15, 1759. He married Esther Fuller in 1775 and came to Kentucky soon after, to settle at Boonesborough. Mrs. Whitley is believed to have been the third white woman to have crossed the Cumberland Mountains. A daughter to whom she gave birth in Boonesborough was one of the first white children born in Kentucky. The Whitley family moved from Boonesborough to Harrod's Fort and then in 1781 erected Whitley's Fort at a location two miles northwest of what is now Crab Orchard, on the same tract of land on which Whitley five years later built his house.

Colonel Whitley was sixty-five years of age when war was declared with Great Britain in 1812; and though he had held the rank of colonel in the Kentucky militia, he enlisted as a private. He was killed in action at the Battle of the Thames in 1813.

Wickland



Nelson County, Ky.

Wickland, built in 1817 by Charles Anderson Wickliffe and located just east of Bardstown in Nelson County, is one of the best examples of Federal architecture in Kentucky. The stately mansion is referred to as "The Home of Three Governors" and is reputed to be the only home in the United States from which three governors from one family came.

The sixteen-room residence was designed by John Marshall Brown and John Rogers. Two stories in height, with finished attic and basement, it rests upon a foundation of native stone. Brick was used in the construction of the exterior walls. The interior partitions were brick and studs, plastered. The roof was of frame construction, covered with wood shingles. The house floors were of random width ash; the basement floor, earthen.

The perfection of detail and the general magnificence of the building makes it evident the planning was done on a grand scale with little

curtailing of cost. The handsomely carved mantels, paneled front door and the other woodwork display the most skilled craftsmanship of the period. Front and side entrances have sidelights and massive fan-shaped transoms. Much of the window glass originally used, remains. The main hall is spacious, fourteen feet wide and forty-four feet long. Soft ash flooring was used in order that carpet tacks could be pulled easily. The lift of the stairway is easy and graceful. The landing extends the full width of the hall. Beginning with a light spiral downstairs, the stairway presents a deceptive appearance of frailty but in reality is an enduring structure as substantial today as when it was built.

Charles Anderson Wickliffe, builder of the mansion, was the son of Charles and Lydia (Hardin) Wickliffe. He was born in Washington County, Kentucky, June 8, 1788. Educated in his native state, he studied law in the office of his cousin, General Martin D. Hardin, before entering into practice at the bar in Bardstown. When war was declared in 1812 he enlisted and rendered valuable service at the Battle of the Thames. After having served for a time in the legislature of his state, he was sent to Congress in 1823 and remained there for ten consecutive years. Elected lieutenant governor in 1836, he became governor on October 5, 1839, when Governor James Clark died. From 1841 to 1845 he served as United States Postmaster General, in the cabinet of President Tyler. He died October 31, 1869.

Charles Anderson Wickliffe's son, Robert, born and reared at Wickland, served as Governor of Louisiana; and J. Crepps Wickliffe Beckham, a son born to Wickliffe's daughter following her marriage to Colonel William Netherton Beckham, also was born and reached maturity at the Wickliffe home before serving as Governor of Kentucky for practically two terms.

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